



David & Jenny Harris

Taking the Gospel to Asia and the North Pacific

BIMI Missionaries & Far East Director

August 2024

The summer months are a time of rest for some, but at BIMI, summer gives us an amazing time to serve our Lord and missionaries sent out of their local churches. There are many opportunities as we host several major events.

The first was our annual Candidate School the first week of June. This was followed by a week of encouragement for furloughing missionaries the last week of June called E-week (Enrichment Week). After that we hosted two weeks of missionary training during Camp BIMI (bi-me). It was such an exciting summer as we focused on missions!

Candidate School saw 48 attendees: 18 were screened and approved; 8 were already approved last December; 16 were here for their second year; and a few others. When our 20+ Board of Trustees come to help us approve our new candidates as well as our 10 Field Directors, the Leadership of BIMI (and wives), it is a crowded time at the World Missions Center!

The first thing that is done on Monday is that new candidates are screened by their prospective Field Director and local pastors from the Chattanooga area. Then those who pass the initial screening go before the men who make up the governing body of BIMI. These 20-30 men are Independent Baptist pastors as well as a few of our BIMI Leadership. Once their approval is given, we welcome the new candidates who then can relax and enjoy the rest of the week of training, fellowship, and challenges from God's Word.

The week consists of two tracks of classes going on simultaneously. The first year missionaries focus on preparation for deputation. The second year missionaries receive training in church ministries and essential mission's themes prior to heading to their fields. Some of the second year missionaries are only weeks or months away from their departure to their mission fields. After each day of training, we hold services at night except for Wednesdays when the missionaries can attend a church of their choice in the area. It is a very busy, but wonderfully exciting week. There is nothing like being involved in the Lord's harvest and helping churches see their missionaries heading to the fields.

This was a special Candidate School for our family as Jessica got to attend as a newly appointed missionary. She joined BIMI during our December screening and had just completed her teaching contract at Franklin Road Christian School. Later, she also helped with all the activities during the summer and is now a full-time missionary heading to New Zealand where she will be helping with outreach ministries in the church where her sister and brother-in-law, Juliana and Sam Hutchens, serve in Christchurch.

We were blessed as well to have Josiah home for the summer. As I write, he and Jessica are on one of our BIMI Connect missions trips to Scotland. They return in time for Josiah to wash his clothes, pack his bags, and head to his second year at Golden State Baptist College. By the way, Josiah just surrendered to the call to preach and announced in church that the Lord is leading him to return to Japan in the future. Please continue to pray for our family as it is our desire to do all we can to impact the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Pray also as we have a very busy fall schedule of meetings.

