

# Foreign Missionary Programs & Application Process

## Baptist Medical & Dental Mission International

BMDMI currently offers two programs of foreign missionary service:

- 1) **Career Missionary Program:** Career missionaries serve fulltime on the foreign field for an indefinite period of time and are commissioned for missionary service by BMDMI at its National Mission Conference. Career Missionaries serve under the direct supervision of the Field Director (and/or another Career Missionary if working with an established ministry) and are responsible for creating and sustaining their ministry on the foreign field.
- 2) **Sojourner Missionary Program:** Sojourner Missionaries serve on the foreign field for a period of 8 months to 1 year. Sojourners usually serve in a support role with an established BMDMI ministry and therefore are under the direct supervision of a Career Missionary. At the end of the allotted time of service, a Sojourner Missionary may request that his/her assignment be extended for up to 12 additional months; this request must be approved by the BMDMI Administration as well as the supervising Career Missionary.

*All BMDMI missionaries are required to raise the financial support necessary to sustain his/her ministry budget as defined by the Administration.*

## Steps to Becoming a BMDMI Missionary

The process for applying to become a BMDMI missionary follows these general steps:

1. Send a résumé (if married, include a résumé for both) along with a cover letter expressing interest in the missionary program to Baptist Medical & Dental Mission International's administrative office at the following address:

BMDMI  
Missionary Program  
11 Plaza Drive  
Hattiesburg, MS 39402

In addition to sharing some of your "call" in your cover letter, please include information regarding the area of service you feel the Lord may be calling you to, what you may be able to offer as a missionary, and why you have chosen BMDMI as a possible sending agency.

2. Upon receiving your résumé and cover letter, a BMDMI representative will contact you to arrange an informal interview with Dwight Carr (BMDMI President) and Hunter Godsey (BMDMI Vice President) in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. The purpose of this interview is for you to gather more information about BMDMI and missionary service opportunities.
3. Following the initial interview, if you wish to continue to process, you should request a missionary application form and a Missionary Handbook from the BMDMI administrative office. The completed application should be mailed to the BMDMI administrative office at the address listed above. At this point, you are considered a Missionary Applicant and by submitting your written application you are confirming your desire to serve as a missionary and feel certain that God is

calling you serve with BMDMI. (Formal written applications should only be submitted when you are sure of this particular call to serve with BMDMI.)

4. Upon receiving the application, the BMDMI staff will review the application materials and if everything appears to be in order, you will be contacted to arrange for a formal interview with BMDMI's Personnel Committee in Hattiesburg.
5. After this interview, the Personnel Committee will decide if they will recommend approval for you as a Missionary Candidate to the BMDMI Board of Trustees at their next scheduled meeting. Following the Board meeting, you will be contacted by a BMDMI representative with the results of the Board vote.
6. If approved by the Board of Trustees, you then become a BMDMI Missionary Candidate and will continue in the appointment process by:
  - Submitting the remaining necessary documents (physical & psychological exam results) to the BMDMI Administration
  - Attending the BMDMI Missionary Training Program in Hattiesburg, Mississippi to prepare for individual fundraising and cultural adaptation
  - Beginning deputation (i.e. fundraising for language training and missionary service). Historically, deputation can last from six months to two years.
7. Upon completion of fundraising, candidates must receive language training at the Spanish Language Institute in Costa Rica. All Career Missionaries are required to attend Spanish language training at the Spanish Language Institute in Costa Rica, Central America before moving to the field of service. In most instances, missionaries with little or no knowledge of Spanish will study in Costa Rica for three trimesters (roughly the equivalent of one year). This time in language school may be reduced only if the missionary (if a couple, both spouses) reaches the Advanced Intermediate level of proficiency as documented by the Institute. Sojourner Missionaries who will be working directly with Central Americans may be required to attend a four-week, intensive Spanish language seminar at the Spanish Language Institute in Costa Rica.
8. As language studies draw to completion, Candidates will be commissioned at the BMDMI National Conference. Upon being commissioned at this service, the Candidate receives Missionary appointment.
9. Begin service on the Foreign Field as a BMDMI Missionary!

*Revised September 2011*