

# Foreign Missionary Programs & Application Process

## Baptist Medical & Dental Mission International

BMDMI currently offers three programs of foreign missionary service:

- 1) **Career Missionary Program:** Career missionaries serve fulltime on the foreign field for an indefinite period of time, are commissioned and/or ordained by a local church in the U.S. for missionary service, and commissioned 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) **Affiliate Missionary Program:** Affiliate Missionaries serve fulltime on the foreign field in a support role for an indefinite period of time and are non-ordained. Affiliate Missionaries serve a) under the direct supervision of a Career Missionary if they will be working with an established ministry; or b) under the direct supervision of the Field Director if they will be creating a new ministry. The Affiliate Missionary program is open to people who have been divorced. Affiliate Missionaries may not perform those ordinances usually reserved for ordained individuals, e.g. baptism, the Lord's Supper, marriage ceremonies.
- 3) **Sojourner Missionary Program:** Sojourner Missionaries serve on the foreign field for a period of 8 months to 1 year. Sojourner Missionaries usually serve in a support role in an established ministry and therefore are under the direct supervision of a Career Missionary. At the end of the service, a Sojourner Missionary may request that his or 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.

*Since BMDMI operates solely off the monthly contributions of individuals and churches, each missionary is required to raise the financial support necessary to sustain his/her ministry.*

## Steps to Becoming a BMDMI Missionary

The process for applying to become a BMDMI missionary is as follows:

1. Send a résumé (if married, include résumé for each spouse) 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

2. A BMDMI representative will contact the applicant to set up an interview with Dwight Carr (BMDMI President) and Hunter Godsey (BMDMI Vice President) in Hattiesburg,

Mississippi. The main purpose of this interview is for the applicant to gather more information about BMDMI and missionary service opportunities.

3. If the applicant wishes to continue to process, he/she should request a missionary application form and a Missionary Handbook from the BMDMI administrative office. The completed application should then be mailed to the BMDMI administrative office at the address listed above.
4. Upon receiving the application, the BMDMI staff will review the materials and if everything appears to be in order, the applicant will be contacted to arrange for an interview with BMDMI's Personnel Committee in Hattiesburg.
5. After this interview, the Personnel Committee will decide if the applicant should be recommended for approval as a Missionary Candidate to the BMDMI Board of Trustees at the next scheduled Board meeting. After the Board meeting, the applicant will be contacted by a BMDMI representative with the results of the Board vote.
6. If approved by the Board of Trustees, the applicant becomes a BMDMI Missionary Candidate and may continue in the appointment process by:
  - Submitting the remaining necessary documents (physical & psychological exam results)
  - 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 and Affiliate Missionaries are required to attend Spanish language training at the Spanish Language Institute in Costa Rica, Central America after fundraising is complete and before moving to the field of service. In most instances, missionaries with little or no working knowledge of Spanish will study for one year. This time in language school may be reduced if the missionary reaches a certain level of proficiency documented by the Institute. Sojourner Missionaries who will be working directly with Central Americans are required to attend a four-week, intensive Spanish language seminar at the Spanish Language Institute in Costa Rica.
8. As language studies are drawing to completion, Candidates must be commissioned for Mission Service 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!