



BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE® *Your network to the world!®*

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Dear Friend,

Is there any question about Baptists' commitment to world evangelization? Ours is the mandate and joy of obeying the "Great Commission."

To that end, there are some evangelistic events coming up, for which we would greatly appreciate your prayers and support. Because so many people still need to acknowledge the lordship of Christ, your help in spreading the Gospel is critical.

The 2012 PEW Forum Report includes the percentage of national populations claiming to be religiously unaffiliated. These persons, called the "nones," number 1.1 billion and they represent one in six people worldwide! The "nones" include atheists, agnostics and people who declare to those conducting surveys that they do not identify with any particular religion.

In November this year, Baptist World Alliance (BWA) will hold two Bread of Life conferences. The first is for French-speaking European Baptists and will take place in France. It targets Baptists in Switzerland, France and Belgium with the respective "nones" being 11.9%, 28% and 29% of the national population. The second is for Baptists in Cuba where 23% of the population claims no affiliation with any religion.

Perhaps you have given support to similar efforts in the past. From 2005-2010, the BWA conducted the *Jesus Christ – the Living Water* program to promote the urgency of the evangelistic obligation of the church. In executing this program, we highlighted the relationship between servant leadership and evangelistic activity.

"...we will never turn away from promoting the vital importance of the ministry of evangelism..."

During this quinquennium (2010-2015,) the *Living Water* program has evolved into the *Bread of Life* program. *Bread of Life* aims at stirring the passion for mission and evangelism, but emphasizes the continuing urgency of the evangelistic vocation of the church. Over the last few years, BWA has targeted French-speaking countries as beneficiaries of this program. There are many reasons why we will never turn away from promoting the vital importance of the ministry of evangelism by BWA member organizations.

Consider the many persons we may reach through evangelistic materials produced in French! BWA member organizations are found in eleven of the twenty-eight African countries where French is a *lingua franca*. In these countries, many people claim to have no religious affiliation at all.

Countries with 5.0 to 8.1% of “nones” include Benin, Cameroon, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Madagascar and Togo. Those with 1.8 to 3.6% of “nones” include Guinea, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Chad, Mali and Rwanda. Meanwhile, those with 1% or less of “nones” include Burkina-Faso, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Niger and Senegal. Not surprisingly, the first *Bread of Life* was convened for Baptists in Francophone Africa. That conference took place in Lagos, Nigeria, November 2011.

The new church plants should help focus the evangelistic passion...

Baptists associated with BWA whose heart language is French or a French creole reside in three Caribbean islands – Martinique, Guadeloupe and Haiti with the percentage of their population claiming no religious affiliation being 2.3%, 2.5% and 10.6% respectively. At the *Bread of Life* conference held last year in Haiti, the response was overwhelming. We pray that the enthusiasm for evangelism that was displayed will flourish.

As BWA remains wholeheartedly committed to nurturing the passion for mission and evangelism through the *Bread of Life* conferences, participating BWA member organizations will continue to engage in self-evaluation of their faithfulness to the evangelistic mandate. They will also discuss the next steps to be taken to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

To complement the *Bread of Life* program during this quinquennium, BWA has given financial support to church planting ventures in Cambodia, Colombia, Congo, Ecuador and Vietnam. The new church plants should help focus of the evangelistic passion for believers who gather there for worship.

When you contribute to the BWA, you help us promote faithfulness to the Great Commission. You enable us to call members of the Baptist community to what lies at the center of our calling as Christians and churches.

We welcome your ongoing commitment to partner with us in the mission to make Jesus Christ known throughout the nations. Your contributions will be gratefully received.

Thank you for the partnership you provide and the ministry your generosity makes possible.

Sincerely, in Christ,



Neville Callam
BWA General Secretary/CEO

P.S. Help us reach the “nones.” The enclosed envelope will bring your generous gift to us quickly, or you may give online at www.bwanet.org. Thank you.