



# NEWS BEAT

of Free Will Baptist International Missions

January 2019

## FAMILY HAPPENINGS



Former board member Greg McAllister's life was celebrated on December 5, on the campus of Randall University. He passed away from complications following heart surgery.

**Chris and Tori**, with their children **Ellie** and **Eli**, returned to Spain and their ministry among immigrants on December 28.



**Theo Lytle**, four-month-old grandson of former missionaries to Panama **Steve and Judy Lytle**, underwent a second open-heart surgery on December 12.



**Robert and Judy Bryan** completed 50 years of ministry with IM on December

31, 2018. The Bryans served faithfully in both Côte d'Ivoire and France. Robert, armed with a master's degree in journalism, produced literature in Lobi, Kulongo, and French. They worked with Jerry and Carol Pinkerton to plant churches in the capital city of Abidjan. In 2002, they began serving in the Nantes area of France. Leadership training and mentoring young Christian couples became a major focus of the Bryans in France.

## RIESGOS RESIGN



Antioch, TN— During the December meeting of the Board of IM, Inc., the board regretfully accepted the resignation of Lázaro and Ariadna Riesgo.

The couple extended a 90-day-notice effective November 1, stating they would encourage supporters to continue donations to their account through January 2019.

In a November letter, the Riesgos reflected, "We have much enjoyed and appreciated the opportunities... to meet a growing need for training Hispanics... God has blessed... with ministry opportunities in the United States, Mexico, Cuba, Panama, El Salvador, Peru, Uruguay, and several connections in other countries. IM provided the training, resources, encouragement, and occasion we needed to follow God with full and joyful hearts."

The Riesgos stated, "We want to continue training leaders in Latin

America with IM as the new ministry allows. As a result, we express our willingness to help with our transition."

General Director Clint Morgan stated, "True servants of God rise above the norm no matter where they are nor what the task. Lázaro and Ariadna fit in this group of committed believers. After serving humbly and joyfully with IM for four years, they sense God has another direction for their lives. We release them reluctantly because of our love and respect for them; but, willingly, knowing they have prayerfully discerned God's call to ministry in another area. We are confident their spiritual lights will continue to shine brightly."

Appointed as educational specialists for Hispanic ministry in 2014, Lázaro and Ariadna arrived in the States a little over a year later to begin their ministry. The couple grew up in Cuba and accepted Christ there. Following their 1998 marriage, they served together in various capacities within the Free Will Baptist movement. A desire to expand the gospel beyond the borders of Cuba took them to Panama, where they ministered at the Bible institute in Chame for four years.

Curt Holland stated, "Lázaro and Ariadna bring a spark of life, via their cultural background, which inspires everyone they meet. Their service and ministry with IM as leadership trainers prepared future national workers for fruitful ministries."

**NEWS**



**Panama—**  
The Buenas Nuevas (Good News) FWB Church in

Chitré, Panama, held their Christmas service on Saturday, December 22. Part of the celebration included a baptism.

**Côte d'Ivoire—**

The Youpougon FWB Church in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, held a camp for Sunday school children and teens December 27-30. Fifty youth attended.



**Panama—**The Asuero-region churches gathered at the Parita FWB Church on Sunday, December 2, for a joint service. The churches celebrated the 39th anniversary of the Parita church. Pastor Efrain González also baptized eight people from his church.

**PRAYER FOCUS**

Praise God for all those who heard the gospel, many for the first time, during Christmas events around the world. Pray the Holy Spirit will continue to use the words spoken to draw people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Pray for safety of travel for missionaries and staff as they navigate rainy, icy, and snowy roads during these winter months. Ask God to encourage people to attend services despite cold temperatures and messy weather. Pray individuals will listen diligently as missionaries share their passion for reaching those who have never heard the gospel. Ask God to move in hearts and challenge people to faithfully pray and financially support missions efforts.

**BOARD HOLDS YEAR-END MEETING**

Antioch, TN— The Board of IM, Inc. met December 5-6, 2018, in the Antioch, Tennessee, office.

General Director Clint Morgan reflected, “The December board meeting is over and, once again, I am reminded the National Association has elected an amazing group of people to oversee IM. The diversity of personalities and perspectives provide an amazingly clear view of the issues, opportunities, and options as we discuss matters of importance concerning FWB ministries around the world.”

The board heard reports from each of the leadership team, reviewed financial reports and budgets, considered and acted on proposals, approved handbook changes, and set the dates for the annual meeting in 2019 for April 29-May 1.

The board regretfully accepted the resignation of *Lázaro and Ariadna Riesgo*. (See front.)

*The board approved an operational budget of \$6.4 million for 2019.* Projected self-funded programs carry the total budget to \$9.7 million. IMPact projects, The Hanna Project trips and projects, student missions, etc. require fundraising separate from the operational budget.

Board chairman Jeff Manning summarized the two-day meeting, saying, “When hearing of souls being saved, disciples being made, and churches being planted around the world during our December mission board meeting, it feels like Christmas came early! I praise the Lord for the work of our missionaries and our partners as they advance God’s Kingdom globally.”

All board members (Jeff Manning, chairman, NC; Jeff Nichols, vice-chairman, TN; Mark Price, secretary, OH; Janice Banks, TX; Danny Gasperson, NC; Will Harmon, AR; Cameron Lane, AR; Robert Posner, TX; Rodney Yerby, AL) participated in the meeting, although Jan Banks (TX) attended via video conference.

**MISSIONARY BALANCES**

**Antioch, TN—**CFO Rob Conley released missionary account balances as of November 30, 2018.

*Those with deficit accounts:*

India Ministry/Carlisle Hanna	-\$196,203.71
Lázaro & Ariadna Riesgo	-\$31,414.58
Robert & Judy Bryan	-\$27,277.93
Dennis & Carol Teague	-\$6,559.62
Jerry & Barbara Gibbs	-\$6,533.77
Don & Ruth McDonald	-\$5,727.51
Steve & Lori Torrison	-\$4,020.71

*The following three accounts continue with dangerously low balances:*

Tyler & Kellie Penn	\$3,884.25
Ken & Judy Bailey	\$8,714.48
Nathan & Linda Snow	\$15,298.86

Individuals and groups may donate to deficit accounts online or by mailing a check to IM, Inc., PO Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37013.