Elijah Brown

The day Gabriel Ole was Killed

With a quivering voice, Blanche Ole quietly spoke over the phone from the Central
African Republic (CAR):

It is very, very difficult and I have no words to say what happened. My husband left the house as he does normally but he never came back. Later I just saw the cops. I don't know where to start. My husband left the house in the morning and never came back and you hear the news that he was killed by gunmen.

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Member Bodies in Action

Churchnet, a ministry of the Baptist General Convention of Missouri in the United States, describes itself as "a Baptist Network Serving Churches."

Its mission is to serve "churches by fostering collaboration and hope for engaging new generations and cultures." Its four major initiatives are to "facilitate mission collaboration, develop hope-filled strategies, engage new generations & cultures, [and] expand community involvement."

The network is reaching out to the newer or younger generation of believers through training events and resources, identifying models for best practices, digital communications and storytelling evangelism. The aim is to "help congregations understand, build relationships, and share the gospel with new generations and cultures."

Missourian Baptists affiliated with Churchnet endorse community-based initiatives and are engaged in community advocacy, training events and resources, community assessment and hands-on projects.

The mission-focused agenda includes help to victims of sexual abuse. The Sexual Abuse & Recovery Ministry provides "resources to churches and ministers on ministerial sexual ethics, clergy misconduct, and care for the victims of sexual abuse" with focus on education, prevention and care.

Churchnet, a member organization of the Baptist World Alliance, has various partnerships, including with Baptists in Guatemala, where it has conducted training sessions. This fulfills one of its goals to "provide training and logistical resources for mission collaboration" and to "foster a Kingdom mindset to encourage joint projects, partnerships, and collaboration."

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Church Spotlight
Providence Baptist Church (PBC) in Charlotte, North Carolina, in the United States, has an expansive mission program. It engages groups and organizations, both local and national, and has a broad global outlook.

Formed in 1954, PBC helped to found other churches, including Candlewyck Baptist Church, Carmel Baptist Church and Sharon Baptist Church. It hosts several immigrant congregations until they find their own facilities, Korean, Ukrainian, Congolese and Burmese.

PBC volunteers tutor children from nearby Rama Road Elementary, providing afterschool activities and homework help. Assistance is given to the homeless through the provision of breakfast at the Nalley Missions Center and housing solutions in collaboration with Urban Ministries.

Providence, a Baptist World Alliance Global Impact Church, extends assistance through Charlotte Rescue Mission, Community Culinary School and Pat's Place Advocacy Center, among others. The church plants its own garden of food and vegetables, which are donated to Friendship Trays and to the Burmese community in the city.

The church provides refugee support services and crisis assistance, as well as to a children's shelter and a local food bank.

Congregants take regular mission trips to Key West, Florida, Smyrna and Nashville in Tennessee, New York City, and elsewhere.

Trips to the Holy Land of Israel and Palestine were made in 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2016, while regular visits have been made to other countries such as Denmark, Sweden, Estonia, Finland and Russia; Switzerland, Austria, Italy and Germany; Greece, Malta and Italy.

"As a congregation of faith, we believe that our task is to bring people and God together in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord through worship, fellowship, and missions," PBC declares. "God-centered worship is a primary focus of our congregation. We must first reach up to God before we can reach out to others."
Movements and changes


Goatley has held many positions in the BWA since 1995. He is currently chair of the Mission, Evangelism and Justice Committee and a member of the General Council and the Commission on Theological Education.

BWA News

BWA renovates offices in partnership with Texas university
BWA executive makes important decisions; paid tribute to Billy Graham
BWA UN rep to receive human rights award
Billy Graham: A Personal Statement
BWA protests new Bolivian law
Baptist elected head of world's largest united church
Callam lauded for service to Baptists

BWA Newsfeed
Baptist World magazine

Take Action!

BWA statistics due May 1! Download forms on the BWA website

BWA podcast: Gifts from Global Baptists: Stories Engaging Churches in Conversation

Upcoming Events

Executive Committee | Annual Gathering | Celebration 2020 | Weekly Prayer Guide | BWA Calendar
*BWA Publications*

BAPTIST WORLD

A magazine of the Baptist World Alliance

April-June 2020
Volume 65-2

Baptists Making a Difference

Baptist World magazine

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About the Baptist World Alliance
The Baptist World Alliance, founded in 1905, is a fellowship of 238 conventions and unions in 124 countries and territories comprising 47 million members in 169,000 churches. Its priorities are nurturing the passion for mission and evangelism; promoting worship, fellowship and unity; responding to people in need; defending human rights and justice; and advancing relevant theological reflection.