2017 END OF YEAR REPORT

238 MEMBER BODIES 124 COUNTRIES 47 MILLION PEOPLE

BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE
With some 1.5 billion people continuing to live in areas where they have less than a 50 percent chance of ever hearing the Gospel and where 30 percent of our BWA member bodies have no Baptist theological educational institution within their country, there is much we can continue to do together.

**By God’s grace** and the ongoing generosity of many, the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) completed its 112th year of ministry engagement. With the close of 2017, the BWA acknowledges in deep gratitude the 10 years of faithful leadership given by Dr. Neville Callam, the first General Secretary to serve from the Global South. At the 2017 Annual Gathering in Bangkok, Thailand, I was deeply humbled by the call to build upon the legacy of this incredible, diverse and truly global family as the next General Secretary, a position that commenced on January 1, 2018.

At a time when more people face famine and more people live as refugees than at any point since World War II, we have an opportunity to live into this family connectivity. With 35 million members of the BWA family living in contexts characterized by high to very high religious persecution, discrimination and marginalization, I anticipate with you that the BWA will continue to be a leading voice advancing human rights, religious freedom and justice.

I envision with you missional witness remaining a hallmark of BWA commitment matched with ongoing theological education and reflection. With some 1.5 billion people continuing to live in areas where they have less than a 50 percent chance of ever hearing the Gospel and where 30 percent of our BWA member bodies have no Baptist theological educational institution within their country, there is much we can continue to do together.

**2017 was a strong year** with significant institutional and program advancements. With your help and partnership this will continue throughout 2018. It is deeply humbling to work toward these Kingdom endeavors with you. Thank you. Would you join with me in beginning to pray and work towards **Together 2020** and our celebration in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, that will see 3,000 BWA Baptists gather in prayer, worship, ministry action and a renewed and strengthened Baptist World Alliance?

With gratitude,

Dr. Elijah M. Brown
General Secretary and CEO
The Baptist World Alliance is a global movement of Baptists sharing a common confession of faith in Jesus Christ, bonded together by God’s love to support, encourage and strengthen one another, while proclaiming and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, before a lost and hurting world. We partner with Baptists around the world to accomplish the Great Commission with these outreach opportunities.
Living into Jesus’ prayer in John 17 and the vision of Revelation 7, the BWA hosts the most internationally diverse Baptist annual gathering in the world, touches thousands of lives through each five-year quinquennial celebration, provides pastoral presence and produces resources and leadership initiatives that promote worship, fellowship and unity.

“Since we have become members in 2016, we continue to be treated with respect, all our questions have been answered with efficiency and effectiveness and our body feels that we are truly part of this family of churches. We love the Baptist World Alliance.”
Vonnie James, President, Grenada Baptist Association

In 2017 BWA

Visited 15 countries to provide pastoral presence, leadership and program advancement

Called 885 to greater prayer through the weekly “Pray through the World Update”

Initiated a new Baptist-Catholic dialogue that brought together 19 representatives from 9 countries and included 6 younger theologians for a 5-year period focused on “The Dynamic of the Gospel and the Witness of the Church”

Planned 4 upcoming major gatherings: 2018 Annual Gathering, Zurich, Switzerland (July 1-7, 2018); 9th Baptist International Conference on Theological Education, Nassau, Bahamas (July 5-7, 2019); 2019 Annual Gathering, Nassau, Bahamas (July 7-13, 2019); and Celebration 2020, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (July 22-26, 2020)

Translated into 14 languages the annual BWA Christmas message

Welcomed 3 new member bodies in 2 new countries: Chad and Turkey

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Leading in Mission and Evangelism

Compelled by the Great Commission of Matthew 28, the BWA provides churches and pastors with resources for context-appropriate gospel sharing. In the past 20+ years, the BWA has held more than 25 events in 25 countries, trained more than 4,700 registrants and affected tens of thousands including supporting church planting and indigenous evangelistic outreach programs in Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guyana, India, Togo, Vietnam and elsewhere.

Established in 1961 after four years as a chapel, Kowloon International Baptist Church (KIBC) in Hong Kong is a growing congregation firmly committed to Colossians 2:7, “Let your roots grow down into Christ, and let your lives be built on him.” In recent years, members of KIBC have been involved in mission ventures in China, the Philippines, Mongolia and Myanmar. They are establishing a $250,000 BWA Evangelism Award to recognize a Baptist congregation for innovative engagement in evangelism, with an appreciation that worldwide Baptists come from different cultures. With the first BWA Evangelism Award to be given in 2020, this endowment will encourage innovative evangelism that is biblically-based, Christ-centered and culturally-sensitive in sharing the gospel to lead decisions into discipleship.

In 2017 BWA

Gave 2 grants through the Baptist Fund for World Evangelization and Discipleship to provide context-appropriate gospel sharing by indigenous leaders

10 new churches planted and 4,200 Pygmies directly reached with the hope of Christ by Baptists in the Central African Republic

35,000 evangelism tracts printed and distributed by Baptists in Nepal to 5 unreached villages in Nepal

Focused 9 articles in Baptist World magazine on educating, highlighting and calling for greater evangelism and church planting, with featured efforts by Baptists in Egypt, Israel, Rwanda and Turkey; and among refugees in Germany, Norway and South Sudan.

We are pleased to support the Baptist World Alliance and the global mission this organization pursues. Our church budgets annual mission support for the BWA, and we also support BWA as part of our own monthly giving to Christian causes. The BWA is commended for transparency and faithfulness to the mission of Baptists worldwide.”

John Chowning, Pastor, USA
Responding to People in Need

Hearing Jesus’ call in Luke 4, Baptist World Aid (BWAid) puts resources in the hands of Baptist churches and organizations around the world so they may pursue empowered, holistic transformation. In the last three years BWAid has distributed more than one million dollars to projects in 45 countries with wide-ranging initiatives for emergency shelter, refugee assistance, hunger and water relief, agriculture and husbandry developments, natural disaster responses, skill training projects and education.

In 2017, BWA brought fresh water through its Living Water Project to the village of Chinnanallaballi in India.

Only God knows what joy is filling my heart. I have lived in this village for over 25 years and this is the first time I am drinking clean water. We depend on a nearby lake for our water needs and it has dried up for the last few months as we did not have a good monsoon season. Many times I felt scared to go to another village to get water as I felt intimidated. My whole family is happy for this water well. Thank you, Lord.”

Vijayakanthi, India

In 2017 BWA

- **Relief**: $229,456
  - 18% Refugee/Displacement
  - 20% Hurricane
  - 20% Hunger/Water Relief
  - 27% Flood
  - 13% Emergency Shelter
  - 2% Earthquake

- **Capacity Building**: $2,000
  - 100% Asia Pacific Development Consultation

- **Development**: $168,260
  - 27% Agriculture/Husbandry
  - 1% Senior Care Services
  - 13% Water
  - 27% Skill Training Projects
  - 32% Education

43 Project Grants totalling over $375,000 impacting over 6,000 people in 30 countries.
Defending Human Rights and Justice

Responding to the commands of Proverbs 31:8-9 and Hebrews 13:3, the BWA speaks up for the persecuted, stands in solidarity with the marginalized and defends human rights and justice. 78 percent of all Baptists and 40 percent of all BWA member bodies, approximately 36 million Baptists, live in a context where injustice and persecution press upon their daily realities.

Cynthia Maung is an ethnic Karen from the country of Myanmar who was forced to flee as a refugee to the Mae Sot Refugee Camp in Thailand in 1988. She is a medical doctor who has devoted nearly 30 years to providing healthcare to the refugees living on the Thai-Myanmar border. In February 1989, five months after escaping Myanmar, Maung established the Mae Tao Medical Clinic with a staff of six in a dilapidated building to address the prevalence of infectious diseases such as malaria and pneumonia. In the early days, she sterilized her medical instruments in a rice cooker. By 2017, her courageous leadership had grown the clinic to a staff of more than 600, annually treating 150,000 patients, providing HIV counseling, delivering up to 15 babies per day and annually fitting 250 new and replacement prosthetic limbs.

Provided international influence by leading the United Nations (UN) Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Major Group Human Rights Cluster, serving as a board member of the UN Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations, speaking at the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and participating as members of the UN Committee for Religious NGOs and the NGO Committee for the Elimination of Racism, Afrophobia and Colorism

Accredited 8 individuals for action at the United Nations in New York, USA; Geneva, Switzerland; and Vienna, Austria

Released an open letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India following the 2017 Palm Sunday attacks that occurred across five states and resulted in multiple arrests of local church leaders and individual Christians being physically beaten

Visited 3 embassies and permanent missions to the UN: Kenya, Liberia and South Korea

Developed an 8-week study for churches and individuals to connect their Easter worship and devotion to God’s call to global engagement
Advancing Relevant Theological Reflection

Continuing the call of 2 Timothy 2:2, the BWA raises up new leaders and advances relevant theological reflection to broaden understanding and Christ-centered followership across nations, cultures and languages.

“There’s no other international organization designed to draw all Baptists together for sorely-needed encouragement, fellowship, training, theological reflection and mercy ministries. The Baptist World Alliance presents a most impressive united force of millions of baptized members who influence national leaders and open key doors for evangelism and religious freedom dialogue. The BWA is all of us -- in harmony, joy and mission.”

Don Sewell, Commission Member, USA

In 2017 BWA

Mobilized 16 BWA Commissions of 439 world-class Baptist leaders from 57 countries to strengthen meaningful theological reflection on the critical issues of our day, foster dialogue around praxis rooted in more than 120 countries, produce substantive resources for churches and individuals and enhance collaborative action.

Distributed 4 mini-libraries to strengthen 4 different theological institutions in India.

Produced 12 podcasts collectively downloaded hundreds of times.

Continued the Baptist-Methodist bilateral dialogue that brought together 11 representatives from 10 countries.

Initiated theological and practical reflection on “Helping Youth Develop Values and Purposes Based on Scripture,” “How to Communicate the Gospel to Buddhists” and “How to Deliver Top Quality Theological Education in a More Effective and Less Costly Way”
8-WEEK STUDY
Developed for churches & individuals to connect their Easter worship and devotion to God’s call to GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

7,200
Receive monthly Connect newsletter bringing together global Baptist news, stories of transformation and items for action

12,000
Baptist World magazines distributed worldwide

2017 BWA Year in Review

733
Member bodies, churches & individuals financially supported the BWA

43 PROJECT GRANTS
TOTALLING OVER $375,000
IMPACTING OVER 6,000 PEOPLE IN 30 COUNTRIES

10 NEW CHURCHES PLANTED
4,200 Pygmies directly reached with the hope of Christ in the Central African Republic

64
COUNTRIES TOUCHED IN 2017 through pastoral visits, BWAid assistance and mobilization of Baptist leaders for international engagement

885
MOBILIZED FOR GREATER PRAYER THROUGH THE WEEKLY PRAY THROUGH THE WORLD UPDATE

6 REGIONAL SECRETARIES GIVING REPRESENTATION AROUND THE WORLD
8 INDIVIDUALS ACCREDITED FOR ACTION AT THE UNITED NATIONS

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In presenting the 2017 Fiscal Report, BWA is deeply grateful for the member bodies, churches and individuals who generously gave. With a 10 percent increase in endowment fund investments and a 5 percent increase in support from Global Impact Churches in 2017, BWA continues to partner with many who share a passion for networking the Baptist family to impact the world for Christ.
### SUMMARIZED STATEMENTS OF POSITION

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<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2017*</th>
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<th>2015</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
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<td>$910,441</td>
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<td>Receivables and Prepaid</td>
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<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
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<td>Property and Equipment Net Investments</td>
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<td>Endowment Fund Investments and Other Investments</td>
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<td><strong>Total Investments</strong></td>
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<td>Other Assets</td>
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<td>Beneficial Interest in Perpetual Trusts</td>
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<td>Pledges Received – Net</td>
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<td><strong>Total Other Assets</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$7,712,969</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,704,592</strong></td>
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* unaudited (All figures in report are USD)

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**INCREASE IN SUPPORT FROM BWA GLOBAL IMPACT CHURCHES**

5%

**$146,502**

RECEIVED FROM ESTATES SINCE 2016

**GIVE FOR GLOBAL IMPACT**

**THE BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE IS YOUR NETWORK TO THE WORLD.**

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, your gift goes to support planting churches, holistic community development, theological reflection, justice for those silenced by persecution, raising up new leaders and strengthening a diverse and gifted Baptist family found in 124 countries and territories.

We are beginning to look toward a **new two-year initiative called Together 2020** and praying that God will raise up a renewed movement that will be celebrated at the July 2020 BWA Congress in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Your gift will truly have a global impact.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND HELPING ENSURE THAT THE BWA WILL CONTINUE TO LIVE OUT ITS MISSION IN THE NEXT GENERATION: NETWORKING THE BAPTIST FAMILY TO IMPACT THE WORLD FOR CHRIST.**

**YOU CAN GIVE TODAY AT** [WWW.BWANET.ORG/GIVE](http://WWW.BWANET.ORG/GIVE)

**OR CALL US AT** +1 (703) 790-8980

**CONSIDER MULTIPLE PLANNED GIVING OPTIONS AT** [WWW.BWAGIFT.ORG](http://WWW.BWAGIFT.ORG)
HELP US SPREAD HOPE
WWW.BWANET.ORG/GIVE

YOUR NETWORK TO THE WORLD

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