

International Crisis Response



by BMA Missions

The average cross-cultural experience of our BMA Missions leadership (eight key leaders and field coordinators) is nearly 34 years. That calculates to 270 total years of experience living in other countries and/or working in cross-cultural situations. All these leaders lived full time for multiple years in their respective fields of service. This amount of time on the mission field and working with missionaries in dozens of countries has fostered **a deep love for God's mission, God's people, and their plight as they seem to move from one calamity to the next.**

One issue in missionary service that most all have to confront and none seem to come to grips with is abject poverty. In most places of the world you do not have to go looking for poverty, it will find you . . . **Under "normal" circumstances many of these great people live a subsistence lifestyle** where they do not dream about vacations, savings, or retirement leisure; they think about what will be eaten for the next meal. Since living on the edge of survival is a daily reality, any kind of added pressure from things like government oppression, natural disasters, war, drought, etc. can be the culprit that pushes them over the edge.

Some of the most conservative estimations are that in the coming months, upwards of **130 million people in the world will be in danger of death by starvation** as food chains are broken and unemployment rises as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

What are we doing? What can we do?

BMA Global Missions first of all cries out to God each day on behalf of people around the world who are most vulnerable. A quick glance at this potential situation can bring a sense of overwhelming helplessness. There is no way we can help all those who need help. Therefore, we do not cry out to God as a last resort but as the first and best option. In the realm of the supernatural, we believe and trust in God and pray to him on behalf of the threatened masses. And in the realm we are entrusted with leading, we act out of some very clear parameters and guidelines.

There are also two areas that we must be clear on before we proceed with simply throwing money at a situation:

First, the definition of poverty is not the lack of material things. In the U.S. we tend to measure everything in a monetary fashion. But truly, poverty is a broken relationship with God, self, others, and creation. Only God through the gospel of Jesus Christ and the effect of the gospel in our lives can truly bring a person out of poverty.

Second, we have to be able to evaluate the current situation for what it is. Corbett and Fickkert state in their book *When Helping Hurts* that most every situation fits into one of three categories: **relief, rehabilitation, or development**. The problem we often have as Americans is the application of our affluent standard to all peoples, but this, more often than not, leads to the determination that *every* situation is a relief situation.

Under “normal” circumstances around the world there is a great need for rehabilitation and development that demand great investments of time and energy, not just relief (money and goods). However, our present worldwide pandemic is quickly moving to a full-blown relief situation. **This simply means that if there is no intervention, people are going to die;** that is a relief situation.

We understand that most people in the world are in somewhat of a survival mode. When we are unsure of our futures we turn inward to protect me and mine. That is normal. **Let’s not be normal!**

Here are some of our practices and guidelines we would like for you to be aware of:

- 1) BMA Missions is present in over 80 countries of the world.
- 2) During this pandemic we are speaking to our leaders in those countries at least once a week to get updates.
- 3) So far each leader who has expressed the knowledge of people or families on the brink of starvation has been helped by our churches with aid from our **BMA disaster relief fund**.
- 4) We have been able to help thousands in multiple countries through the work of our churches and missionaries.
- 5) There is a very well identified system of implementing funds through missionaries, pastors, and churches who are all connected to our global network and accountable to someone beyond themselves.
- 6) No one should be soliciting funds from BMA churches in the U.S. on behalf of BMA entities or churches around the world without hearing from our recognized leadership in those places.
- 7) We certainly do not have unlimited funds, but we will help all we can.
- 8) If you desire to help out in some of these countries around the world, we would be glad to speak with you, put you in contact with the leaders in those places, and help in any way. We must apply the measure of a true relief situation in order to make sure that we are helping those who are the most vulnerable right now.

Please join us in praying for those who are on the edge both here at home and abroad: “Oh God, may you bring relief in a situation that could be catastrophic. May we extend unbridled compassion with divine wisdom. Amen.”

[Holly Meriweather](#)

BMAMissions.org

*If you want to help personally through NHBC please give online or directly to the church and be sure to designate your gift **BMA Disaster Fund***