



## TBM News October 2022

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# Developing an International Training Program

Nathaniel and Kara McRae

### The McRae Family Moves to La Grange

When my wife Kara and I moved to LaGrange, Wyoming in 2020 with our four children, we didn't quite know what to expect. We had lived in LaGrange before, but never as TBM missionaries. We had some idea of what the work would entail, but also had many questions. Time has shown that our expectations were only partially correct. As we have worked at the home office of Tentmakers Bible Mission for over two years, we are continuing to recognize new ways that God can use us here. It was a bit of a whirlwind when we got started. When we moved here everything was a bit crazy due to shutdowns, restrictions, and everything that accompanied that. In the midst of it all, God demonstrated His faithfulness to us, allowing us to make the move, despite having almost all of our deputation plans be canceled. In fact, our support has continued to rise to almost 50% and God continues to make it clear that that it is because of His work, not ours, as we have consistently met with roadblocks when trying to travel to share our ministry. We are so grateful to serve such a great God who provides all of our needs and reveals and confirms His plan for us at every step.

### Focusing on the Bible Training Program

In my position, I have the privilege to help our director, Chuck Mathias, develop Tentmakers Bible Mission's International Training Program. The vision is multifaceted and sometimes intimidating, but it is exciting to see how it can be used, especially when there is visible progress! While the Holy Spirit and the Word of God are all that is necessary for growth, God has

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built His church to be interdependent. When a body of believers is growing, we want them to be self-sustaining, self-supporting, and self-propagating. This is the goal of each of our church planters. But

these autonomous goals do not contradict the interdependence of the individuals involved. Training is inherent to discipleship, and materials are not always available for some mission fields. Part of our role as a mission is to provide support for our church planters, and one of the greatest needs is availability of training materials. In the U.S.A. we often take for granted how many options we have for teaching and training leaders. There are often too many to choose from, and all of them readily available! This is often not the case on other mission fields. It is not uncommon for church planters, as they train national leaders, to be required to develop their own training programs, or try to adapt one that doesn't quite work. Our goal at TBM is to assist in developing these resources, customized for each of our church planting fields.



### Importance of the Needs of Specific Fields

Much of the work is learning about the specific field: What are unique issues to address? What illustrations and applications would communicate best to this culture? What format would be natural to their way of thinking? In answering these questions, we will communicate thoroughly with those who are on the ground and who are most familiar with the culture. The Word of God is transcultural, but our own cultural assumptions can get in the way if we're not careful.

### **Pray for Development of Effective Materials**

After taking each of these areas of study and stripping them down to the biblical truth, we need to work closely with our church planters to develop the materials that would be most effective in training national leaders in the church. Please pray for us as we do this as it is quite an involved and intricate process (despite being simple in concept!). I am eager to be able to visit foreign fields as international travel continues to open up.

### **Our Other Ministries at TBM**

While the international training is the “main” project, we have been able to serve in many other ways at TBM. I have been able to help with training modules for our candidate school, and we are working on some other resources as well. We have enjoyed helping to organize sessions, housing, and meals for candidate school, board meetings, workshops for students, and other meals and gatherings at the home office. Kara has been involved in the meal planning and logistics for these events. We are looking forward to field conferences, where we will be able to hear from

our missionaries in person, and learn more about what their needs and ministries are. We are eager to continue to learn how we can best serve at the mission.

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### **Our Local Ministries**

Ministry is, of course, not limited to the home office. We have been kept very busy helping with other projects, including the construction of a new home for our director and his family. We are all excited for them, and look forward to their being out of transition homes and into their permanent one.

We have also taken on the AWANA clubs for our local church, and have been heavily involved with VBS in the summers. We have been able to share the gospel with children from surrounding communities, and are teaching and discipling children with an emphasis on memorizing and studying Scripture.



Ariana, Grant, Nathaniel, Kara, Cassandra, Juliana  
McRae

### **Nathaniel's Personal Ministry**

This semester I have taken an opportunity to fill in for a semester at Frontier School of the Bible, teaching a class on Christian Evidences. It has been a great reminder to review and study so much clear evidence for the existence of God, the reliability of Scripture, and other Christian truths.

### **Kara's Personal Ministry**

Kara spends much time and energy in teaching our children as we homeschool. This is an important part of our ministry, as we are commanded in Scripture to raise our children well.

### **Keeping a Balanced Life**

We continue to learn to balance our time at home and with our family. When we over-commit, we find that we neglect each other all too quickly. It is so important for us to be intentional about prioritizing our marriage relationship, as well as the parent/child relationship with our four. Please **pray** for our family, and all families, as the world is increasingly vicious in its attacks on marriages, families, and children.

### **Stretching and Molding**

As we continue to adjust to new opportunities and projects, we are grateful that God put us with Tentmakers Bible Mission. While we may not always know what to expect, we can expect God to continually use us, stretch us beyond our comfort zone, and mold us into His image as we work to draw others to Him. We are so grateful for the work He gives us.

Serving with you all, Nathaniel McRae