



Making Reproducing Disciples of Jesus among the  
Largest Unreached People Group in the World

Bangla Ministries Worldwide  
2019 Annual Report

April 2019

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# Executive Summary

People who prioritize reaching the unreached should invest in BMW. Now that BMW has entered a season of fruitfulness and growth, it is an opportunity for partners to see their dollars make a significant difference in the spiritual landscape of our world.

There has been missionary effort among the Bengali people for over two centuries. Yet, today the largest unreached (less than 2% born again) people group (250 million) in the world still awaits a move of God that could be called statistically significant (only about 0.3% are born again). Having 15X growth of participants in Bible study in Bangladesh (BD) in six years (2012-2018), BMW shows signs of being such a movement.

In Bangladesh, a Muslim country, BMW has a working model in a “soft” demographic sector that is very low profile. There is no end to the opportunity before BMW, which opens the door to the BMW vision of establishing this ministry in every district of Bangladesh. Unlike most Bangladesh mission efforts, it is not an NGO social-development program or a program of handouts. It is presenting the Word of God to people in a small-group setting where discussion is the main activity. From what BMW has seen so far, this model could multiply and spread and catalyze existing networks of believers to have an effect far beyond what we ourselves could do.

This opportunity may not last for long as the Muslims of Bangladesh are becoming more radical. So, it is important to act in a timely manner. Growing from 150 to 2300 students in six years, BMW’s system is scalable for rapid multiplication and has low overhead, so it is easy to spread. BMW invests precious resources where they have the greatest effect. BMW believes the serious missions partner will see a significant return on their investment of prayer and funds.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



REV. DAVID L. DECOOK—BMW Executive Director since 2011  
Pastor, raised by missionary parents in Bangladesh

Address: 3879 Basswood Dr., Grandville, MI 49418  
Phone: 616-773-0290  
Email: [director@banglaministries.org](mailto:director@banglaministries.org)

Executive Director BMW since 2011  
Pastor, County Line Community Church, MI, 2007-2012  
Pastor, First Baptist Church of Otsego, MI 1996-2007  
Pastor, Open Bible Church, WV, 1990-1996  
Grand Rapids Baptist Seminary, 1985-1989  
Grand Rapids Baptist College, 1981-1985  
Lived in Bangladesh with missionary parents, 1969-1979  
Married to Nannette Joy since 1985  
Four adult children, five grandchildren  
Loves playing soccer and guitar

# STAFF



THOMAS MANIK ROY—BMW missionary since 2002  
From Bangladesh, based in USA

Fifteen years of ministry evangelizing, leading prayer meetings and Bible studies and founding a church in New York city. The last two years has served as Staff Trainer for our Bangladesh ministries.

Married to Gita since 1975  
Three adult children, one granddaughter



MATTHEW ROY—BMW National Director full-time since 2014, son of Thomas Roy, in Bangladesh

Served the Bible study ministry as a volunteer in Bangladesh beginning in 2010. Now manages our national staff of 20 and a budget over \$100,000.

Married to Jennifer since 2013  
One daughter

National Staff in Bangladesh: Moshi Roy, Rimi Biswas, Satish Saren, Rosemerry Biswas, Orvil Nath, Joya Das, Polash Sharma, Emon Roaza, Mridul Biswas, Premanondo Roy, Mohesh Roy, Regan Baroi. Not shown: Sanjoy Biswas, Richard Kot, Tithee Malakar, Happy Baroi, Shampa Bain, Milton Tudu, Mili Biswas



# The BMW Story

## from beginning to the present

BMW began as Bangla Bible Correspondence Institute in 1996 to reach out to the Bangla-speaking immigrants in North America, offering Bible correspondence courses. Thomas Roy was hired in 2002 to follow up respondents in New York City with Bible studies and to do evangelism within the large Bengali population there. In 2002 a one-week summer Bible youth camp, Bangla Bible Camp (BBC), was offered to help the Christian Bengali parents in discipling their children.

BMW experienced changes in 2005 and began to use the new name of Bangla Ministries Worldwide (BMW). The annual Bangla Bible Camp (BBC) continued as a ministry focus. In 2008 Thomas was ordained at Faith Baptist Church of Corona, NY, and founded Bangla Bible Church there. In 2010 Thomas organized Bible studies in three different areas of Bangladesh. He supported the work with his own money.

Rev. David DeCook was hired as part-time Executive Director in 2011. He was tasked with evaluating all aspects of the ministry and recommending needed improvements. Four basic fields were conceived: Thomas-NYC, BBC, West Michigan Bangla community and the Bible study ministry in Bangladesh. This necessitated involvement in every field, including a visit to Bangladesh in January of 2012. Finding a very responsive/fruitful field in Bangladesh, BMW initiated support to that field and took over direction of that work from Thomas. Dave resigned from his pastorate and began full-time service with BMW in 2012.

In the fall of 2013 BMW held a board retreat with a consultant to better define our mission and our strategic objectives. The BMW mission was changed from “To spread the Gospel of Christ to Bangla-speaking people and to nurture those who respond” to “Making reproducing disciples of Jesus among the Bengali people.” This brought a critical focus on reproduction. As a result, our resources and attention have shifted away from less productive endeavors and focused on what is happening through BMW in Bangladesh.

## MILESTONES THIS YEAR



(Pictured: students leading their peers in devotions in Bangladesh)

1. The Bangladesh Bible studies grew from 1500 in 2017 to 2300 students in 2018.
2. Matthew began a seminary degree with Asia Biblical Theological Seminary (under Cornerstone University)
3. Two “area-coordinators” were named and successfully supervised significant numbers of staff and students in significant geographic areas. This has not only facilitated better management of the growing ministry, but a clear plan of succession for the organization for the future.
4. Five new staff were added.
5. Thomas Roy began his major focus on staff training.
6. We conducted 7 graduations, up from 5 the year before.
7. The Prayer Force quarterly prayer meetings were begun, involving over 30 prayer warriors and featuring detailed prayer folders and a prayer page on the website.

## A LITTLE EXPLANATION

The continuous growth of BMW's ministry in Bangladesh is due to many factors. One is the suitability of the BMW model (see page 10) to the current social structures, including a nascent youth culture.

A second factor is the multi-level staff development system we have in place in Bangladesh. The theological competence and practical skills of the staff are continuously developed through training conducted by Thomas Roy and Matthew Roy. The staff in turn, develop a team of reliable volunteers under them (example below).

A third factor is the high quality character and leadership we find in Matthew Roy. His integrity contrasts strongly with the corruption that is rife even within the Christian community of Bangladesh. Under Matthew's direction, BMW keeps accurate records of finances, activities and attendance. He is very quick to grasp ministry concepts and put them into practice. He is building a spiritual team that operates on Biblical principles.

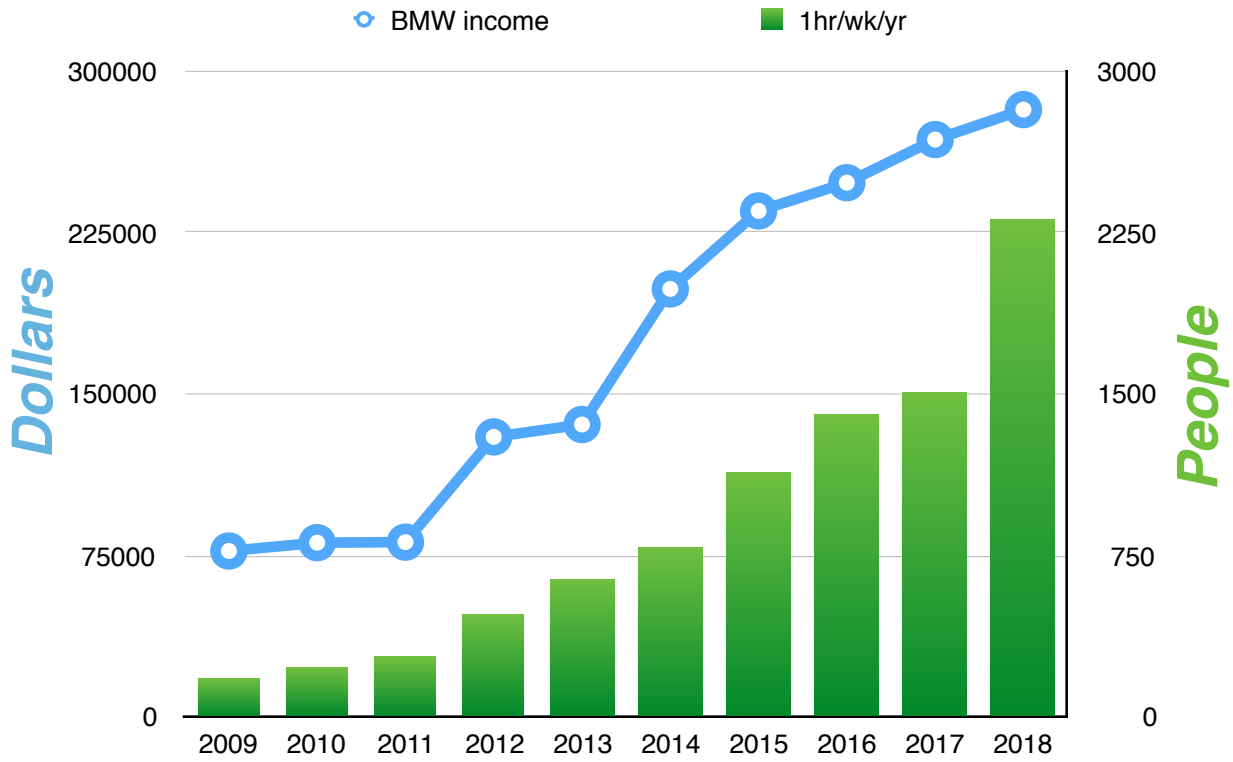




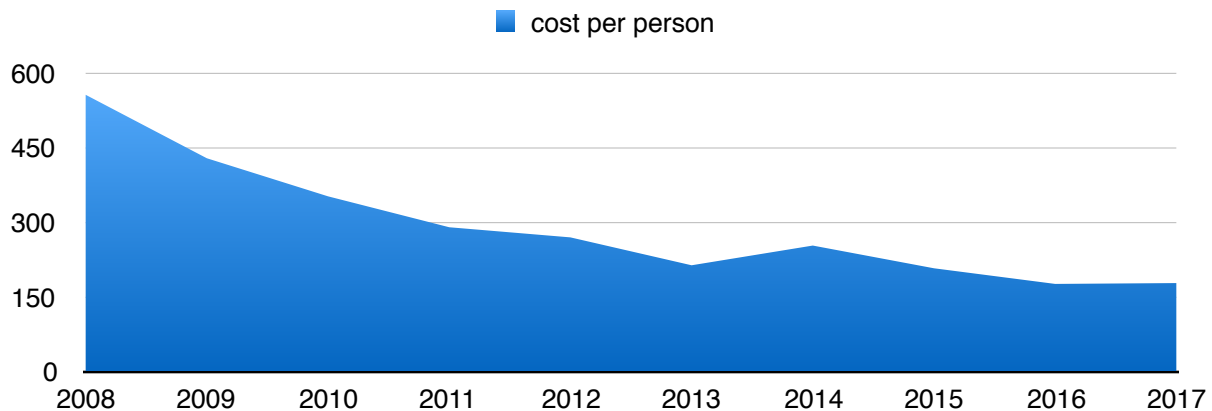
# Ministry Trends

Here is a graph of BMW income over the last 10 years, combined with a graph of ministry. The income is seen in the blue line, moving from about \$75,000 to \$282,000.

The green bars are the graph of the impact on people BMW has had over the last 10 years. This is based on one unit being a person who receives one hour of ministry per week for 52 weeks. We have grown from 180 people per year to 2300.



The four-fold income growth is set against a twelve-fold (15X in BD) growth in ministry impact. The per-person cost has moved from \$417 to \$122, as seen in the following graph, a drop of over 300% across the ministry as a whole. Your dollar is going farther!



# Why the BMW Model Works

In Bangladesh, BMW invites people to join small groups to complete Bible study courses. Through these small groups the Bible is read and discussed, content is learned, reasoning is developed, prayer and worship is practiced, relationships are built and new leaders are discovered and nurtured. What are the principles that make our model in Bangladesh work?

1. Our core unit is a small group, based on existing relationships.
2. Social structures of the village are not challenged at the outset.
3. We are primarily approaching young people, who tend to be more open than others to new ideas.
4. We use an educational model and parents appreciate free education. A certificate and graduation event highlight this aspect.
5. We use discussion as a primary method because understanding and faith are best developed in the context of open discussion of the Word of God.
6. We prioritize the development of new leaders.
7. Games, snacks and peer-to-peer interaction are very attractive in this nascent youth culture.
8. We use Bengali leadership. This removes the language and culture barriers.
9. We invest very little in overhead. Investing in people, not property, makes us efficient, mobile, and almost invisible.
10. We fight the dependency trap that comes with most foreign-funded efforts through a robust emphasis on volunteerism and a matching grant-approach to charity.
11. We are interdenominational in a country where Christian unity is a matter of survival. We are welcomed everywhere among the Christian community as a Biblical force for spiritual development, not as competition.
12. We strive for simplicity because if it is not memorable and repeatable, it is not likely to be passed on.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**BILL WOLF**—BMW board President since 2015  
BMW board member and supporter since founding in 1996  
Multiple visits to Bangladesh. 14 Bangla Bible Camps

Address: 11889 Stauffer Dr, Sparta MI 49345  
Phone: (616) 437-2539  
Email: bwolfdm@gmail.com

- Grad from University of Illinois in Biology Ed 1973
- Taught two years in HS Bio and Jr H general science
- On staff with the Navigators 1973-1985 serving on U of Ill, UMass UConn UNH (New Hampshire) then 4 years in Vienna

Austria working with students and traveling into iron curtain countries...mostly E. Germany, Czech. and Poland.

- Mission and Theological modules from Dallas Theological Seminary, Fuller School of World Missions and International School of Missions
- Former DreamMaker Bath and Kitchen franchise owner
- Leads bible studies at West Cannon Baptist Church
- Married to Jayne Wolf since 1984
- Two adult children



**BETH MARKHAM**—BMW board member since June 2017

Address: 6045 Meadowlark St NE Rockford MI 49342  
Phone: (616) 862-7564  
Email: bethannmark@comcast.net

- Graduated from Blodgett School of Nursing 1980 diploma in nursing and University of Michigan 1984 Bachelors in Nursing
- Graduated from Walden University 2008 Masters in Nursing

- Has worked as a psychiatric mental health nurse since 1985
- Has taught Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing for 14 years (Calvin College, Davenport University, and MCC)

- Currently is full time nursing faculty at Montcalm Community College (MCC)
- Currently is on staff at Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services
- Nurse educator at Visiting Faculty FSIL Léogâne Haiti
- Monthly volunteer for the Salvation Army Stop It (Human Trafficking) Program Chicago Illinois
- Attends Calvary Church, Grand Rapids Mi
- Three married daughters with 4 grandchildren



BRUCE BRADFORD—BMW board member since 2006

Address: 3869 Crystal Waters Lane NE  
Grand Rapids MI 49525  
Phone: (616) 862-0801  
Email: [bmjeb Bradford@att.net](mailto:bmjeb Bradford@att.net)

- B.A. English from Western Michigan University
- M.A. from Western Michigan University, in Counseling
- Additional 75 semesters from Michigan State University in Educational Administration
- Attended New York University, Queens College, Grand Valley State University
- Licensed professional Counselor (LPC), State of Michigan

- Grand Rapids Public Schools 1966 – 1995
  - Teacher, Counselor, Assistant Principal, Principal, Assistant Director of Elementary & Secondary Schools, Director of Student Services
- Cornerstone University (formerly Grand Rapids Baptist College) 1995-96
  - Career Counselor, Education Department
- National Heritage Academies 1997 – 2010
  - Principal, Director of School Quality

Member Calvary Church, Grand Rapids, 1983 – present  
Served as Elder 6 years, Board Chairman 2 years, various committees including FLOCK Class Outreach Committee



STEVEN POTHOVEN—BMW board member and treasurer since 2006

Address: 3075 Charlevoix Dr SE #150, Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
Phone: (616) 293-5233  
Email: [spothoven@aol.com](mailto:spothoven@aol.com)

- 1976 Western Michigan University Bachelor in Business Administration;
- 1975 Grand Rapids Junior College Associate in Arts degree.

- Member of Calvary Church Grand Rapids serving as deacon; assistant treasurer; Sunday School teacher; usher; committees: missions, media, and short term missions

- Owner/operator of accounting business
- 3 adult children



JAYNE WOLF— BMW board member and supporter since founding in 1996

Address: 11889 Stauffer Dr, Sparta MI 49345  
Phone: 616.887.1478  
email: wolfclan4@juno.com

- 1974 - Graduated with BS from Michigan State; involved in the ministry of The Navigators
- 1977 - Member of and Baptized by Rev. George Gardiner, Calvary Church
- 1977-1979 - On support staff with The Navigators, Bonn,

Germany.

- 1982-1985 - On support staff with The Navigators, Vienna, Austria.
- 1990 til present – Member of West Cannon Baptist Church, Belmont, MI  
Involved in small group Bible study leadership.
- Married to Bill Wolf since 1984.
- Two adult children.



JOE SHERMAN— BMW board member since November of 2018  
3 visits to Bangladesh to do and teach Photography. (2015, 2016, 2018)

Address: 7418 NC Hwy 42, Raleigh NC 27603  
Phone: 269-685-6010  
Email: [jdspa1234@gmail.com](mailto:jdspa1234@gmail.com)

-Graduated from Tennessee Temple University 1980 BA in Art

- Taught Art for 3 years at Colonial Hills Christian School
- Owned Photographic Artistry, a portrait studio for 23 years, Otsego and Plainwell MI
- Certified Professional Photographer through Professional Photographers of America 1991
- Attends Calvary Church, Grand Rapids MI in Summers, and Crossroads Fellowship, Raleigh NC the rest of the year.
- My ministry is supplying photography to ministries.
- Presently in the House Restoration Business
- Married to Mercedes De la Rosa-Sherman
- 2 adult children and 3 grandsons

## ADVISORY COUNCIL



JOSEPH L DECOOK, MD—BMW Advisory Council since 2011  
Veteran Bangladesh missionary

Address: 3747 40th St, Grandville, MI 49418

Phone: 616-644-5313

Email: [joedecook@mac.com](mailto:joedecook@mac.com)

1967 finished medical and residency training in OBGYN  
1969 -1980—Medical missionary to Bangladesh with ABWE  
1981-2004 —Private OBGYN practice in Holland, MI  
2005-2014—Executive Director of American Assn ProLife  
ObGyns

2014 to present—Retired

Member, Immanuel Church of Holland, Michigan

Married to Joyce since 1959

4 adult children all married. 15 grandchildren



REV. BRUCE HUSEBY—BMW Advisory Council since 2012  
Church leader, missions consultant

Phone: (616) 956-9377

Address: Calvary Church, P.O. Box 1600, Grand Rapids, MI  
49501

Email: [bruce@calvarygr.org](mailto:bruce@calvarygr.org)

Rev. Bruce Huseby serves as Pastor of Global Ministries at Calvary Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He had previously served in student ministries for twenty-four years in churches in Iowa, Michigan, Florida and Colorado. For the past eighteen years his focus has been on global ministries.

Bruce serves on the leadership team of the Central Asia Consultation and is currently chair. Bruce also serves on the Church in Mission Task Force and Global Leadership Council of the Mission Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance. He also is a member of the Advisory Boards for Bangla Ministries Worldwide and Evangelical Missions Quarterly. Bruce is married, and has four children and seven grandchildren. His passion is to see churches living out Great Commission priorities flowing from a Great Commandment heart. He holds degrees from Cornerstone University in Bible and Grand Rapids Theological Seminary in Ministry Leadership.



LYNN SILVERNALE—BMW Advisory Council since 2013  
 Veteran missionary to Bangladesh

Address: 17 Quiet Creek Dr, Apt 63, Florence, KY 41042  
 Phone: 530-353-0177  
 Email: Lynns@abwe.cc

Graduated from nurses training 1956 and from Wheaton College  
 B.Sc. in 1958; additional courses at Baptist Bible Seminary in  
 Johnson City NY 1958-1960

Retired ABWE missionary to Bangladesh 1961-2012; main ministry:  
 Bible translation (Doctor of Humane Letters awarded by Grand Rapids Theological  
 Seminary)

Still working from home on projects related to Bible translation in Bangladesh

Member, Calvary Baptist Church of Covington

Bible study leader and mentor



CRAIG JOHNSON—BMW Advisory Council since 2017  
 Veteran Philippines missionary

Address: 4036 Summit View Dr NE, Grand Rapids, MI  
 49525  
 Phone: (616) 258-1170  
 Email: Ctjohnson1960@gmail.com

Education

1978 Graduate of Cornerstone University, BA in Religion

1988 Graduate of Grand Rapids Theological Seminary,  
 M.Div with Missions Emphasis

2002 Graduate of Grand Rapids Theological Seminary,  
 Th.M in New Testament

Employment

1989-2011 —Missionaries with SEND International in the

Philippines

2011-2013—Program Coordinator for Kern Scholars Program, Grand Rapids  
 Theological Seminary

2013-Present—Financial Advisor, VantagePointe Financial Group, Grand Rapids,  
 Michigan

Personal

Member of Calvary Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Married to Dorothy since 1986

Four Children and Two Grandchildren