



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

Bangla Ministries Worldwide
Spring 2025

REPORT OF YEAR 2024

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Executive Summary

People who prioritize reaching the unreached should invest in BMW. Now that BMW has uncovered a model 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 (260 million) unreached (less than 2% born again) people group in the world still awaits a move of God that could be called statistically significant (only about 0.3% are born again). Having 25X growth of participants in Bible study in the last ten years, 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 can multiply and spread and is capable of catalyzing existing networks of believers to have an effect far beyond what we ourselves could do.

Late in 2019, BMW committed to the vision of spreading this ministry to every district of Bangladesh within 10 years through a sustainable 20% growth every year, setting in motion a deliberate growth strategy all across the organization. This strategy goes by the name “Project Everest.” Winter of 2020 we celebrated 13 graduations. Winter of 2024 we celebrated 27 graduations after four more years of work. Six new districts were added in 2024, taking us over the half-way mark to 64 in our 5th year of Project Everest.

BMW STAFF



REV. DAVID L. DECOOK—Full-time BMW
Executive Director
—based in USA

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

2011-Present: Executive Director BMW
2007-2012: Pastor, County Line Community Church, MI
1996-2007: Pastor, First Baptist Church of Otsego, MI
1990-1996: Pastor, Open Bible Church, WV
1989: Youth Pastor, Faith Baptist Church, MN
1985-1989: Cornerstone Seminary (Grand Rapids Baptist Seminary)
1981-1985: Cornerstone University (Grand Rapids

Baptist College)

Lived in Bangladesh with missionary parents, 1969-1979

Married to Nannette Joy since 1985

Four adult married children, twelve grandchildren

Loves soccer, golf, and playing the guitar



REV. THOMAS MANIK ROY—Full-time BMW
Bangladesh Staff Trainer
—from Bangladesh, based in USA

Phone: 646-462-5232
Email: charanroy@gmail.com

2017-Present: staff trainer for our Bangladesh staff
2002-2017: Evangelizing, leading prayer meetings and Bible studies and founding a church in New York city.
2001: Volunteer pastor in Dhaka
1986-2000: Headmaster of Memorial Christian High School, Bangladesh
1975-1985: Teacher of Memorial Christian High School upper grades

Married to Gita since 1978

Three adult children, one granddaughter, two grandsons



REV. DWIGHT S. JACOBSEN—Part-time BMW
Development Director
—based in USA

Phone: (616) 450-2736

Email: dwight@banglaministries.org

1996- Present: Supporter, past and present board member, and former board chairman

1990-2024: Full time home remodeling and construction; And owner of Jacobsen Remodeling Inc.(25yrs) retired

1999-2002: Cornerstone University adjunct faculty

1997-2002: Part-time pastor

1985-1990: Full-time pastor

Graduate of Grand Rapids Baptist Seminary 1985

Graduate of Grand Rapids Baptist College 1980

Graduate of Grand Rapids School of the Bible and

Music 1978

Graduate of Kalamazoo Community College 1974

Married Joan in 2003. 8 children from previous marriages, now have 12 grand children

Dwight loves meeting people and getting them connected with Bangla Ministries.



RICHELE SCHAFFER—Full-time BMW
Administrative Assistant
—based in USA

Phone: (616) 422-1093

Email: info@banglaministries.org

2022-Present: BMW Administrative Assistant

2001-2022: Wife, Mother and Volunteer for multiple not-for-profit organization

1989-2001: Analyst, Educator, Assistant to the Executive Director of the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations

1984-1989: Research Associate (U of Arizona)

1984: MA University of Arizona

1982: BA University of Michigan

Widow since 2021 when Rich passed away. 2 grown daughters

BMW'S PARTNER, THE BETHEL CHURCH TRUST

In 2015, Matthew Roy and some other Christians in Bangladesh formed a board and made application to the government of Bangladesh to become a government-recognized religious trust. By God's grace "Bethel Church Trust" (BCT) was duly constituted and authorized to undertake many different ministries, including Bible study, evangelism, church planting, schools, medical, etc. This structure facilitates our "partner" relationship.

This legal entity is very important because it allows us to do three things. First, it allows us to send money from our BMW ministry account in the USA to Bangladesh. The money is deposited in the bank account of the trust and is administered by the National Director and Chairman of the BCT board. The main expenses are the salaries of the BMW workers and the expenses related to their ministry activities. These funds are sent over only after the BMW board has accepted their budget proposal.

Second the trust allows us to buy property. We were able to buy a piece of land and guarantee that no individual was the owner or beneficiary of it. The charter explicitly states that if the Trust is dissolved, the property will be turned over to a similar Christian organization.

Third, the BCT, being a national organization controlled by citizens of Bangladesh, can invite foreigners to come take part in the various programs. Dozens of visas have been issued to our supporters on this basis over the last ten years.



MATTHEW ROY—BMW National Director part -time 2010, full-time since 2014, based in Bangladesh

Served the Bible study ministry as a volunteer in Bangladesh beginning in 2010. Now manages our national staff of over 60 and a budget over \$200,000.

Completed a Master's Degree at Asia Biblical Theological Seminary.

Married to Jennifer since 2013
One daughter and one son

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 took 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.

Due to strong growth in the Bangladesh Bible studies, in 2014 Matthew Roy was hired as the full-time National Director. Continued growth there has been nurtured through increasing levels of training, material and finances, to the extent that the Bible Study ministry in Bangladesh is our main focus today.

In January 2020 we initiated a multi-team graduation strategy in which four teams of visitors representing the American BMW supporters conducted graduations simultaneously across the country so as to continue to stimulate the ministry as it grows. We also started a full-fledged Bible Institute training program for the Bangladesh staff with Thomas Roy doing the bulk of the teaching.

NINE MILESTONES THIS YEAR

1. The Bangladesh Bible studies grew from 7781 in 2023 to 8364 in 2024.
2. The two Regional Directors, were given new regions to supervise: Satish the south and Polash the north. The purpose was to train them in cultures different from their home area so they will be more capable of national leadership.
3. Bangladesh staff shrunk from 60 to 55. This was due to a major budget cut when end-of-year giving fell short significantly. All part-time staff were let go and we had to manage 6 new districts with fewer staff!
4. Thomas Roy added a fifth course to our BTCP (Bible Training Centre for Pastors -- bibletraining.org) training : Bible Doctrine Survey. Total staff in each cohort who are BTCP students: A=9, B=19, C=9.
5. We conducted graduations in 33 districts for this year, up from 27 the year before. This was accomplished not only by having multiple teams of USA visitors spending 2 weekends at graduations, but also by having two waves of teams, one after the other.
6. We trained over 290 students as Rapid Action Group members (RAG). They helped with the graduations. They share tracts, personal testimonies, the Bridge Illustration, distribute Bibles and many other volunteer works.
7. We held four local harvesting camps, two regional RAG camps and two national RAG camps. 242 registered their decision to receive salvation through Christ and six requested immediate baptism.
8. We opened the district of Mymensingh, the second in the large central-north area.
9. We completed the fifth year of Project Everest, still on target for the vision of making disciples in every district of Bangladesh by 2030.



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 (pictured below).

A third factor is the high quality character and leadership we find in Matthew Roy. He has a fervent love for the Lord and for the lost. His integrity is outstanding in the Christian community. 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 and feels like a family.

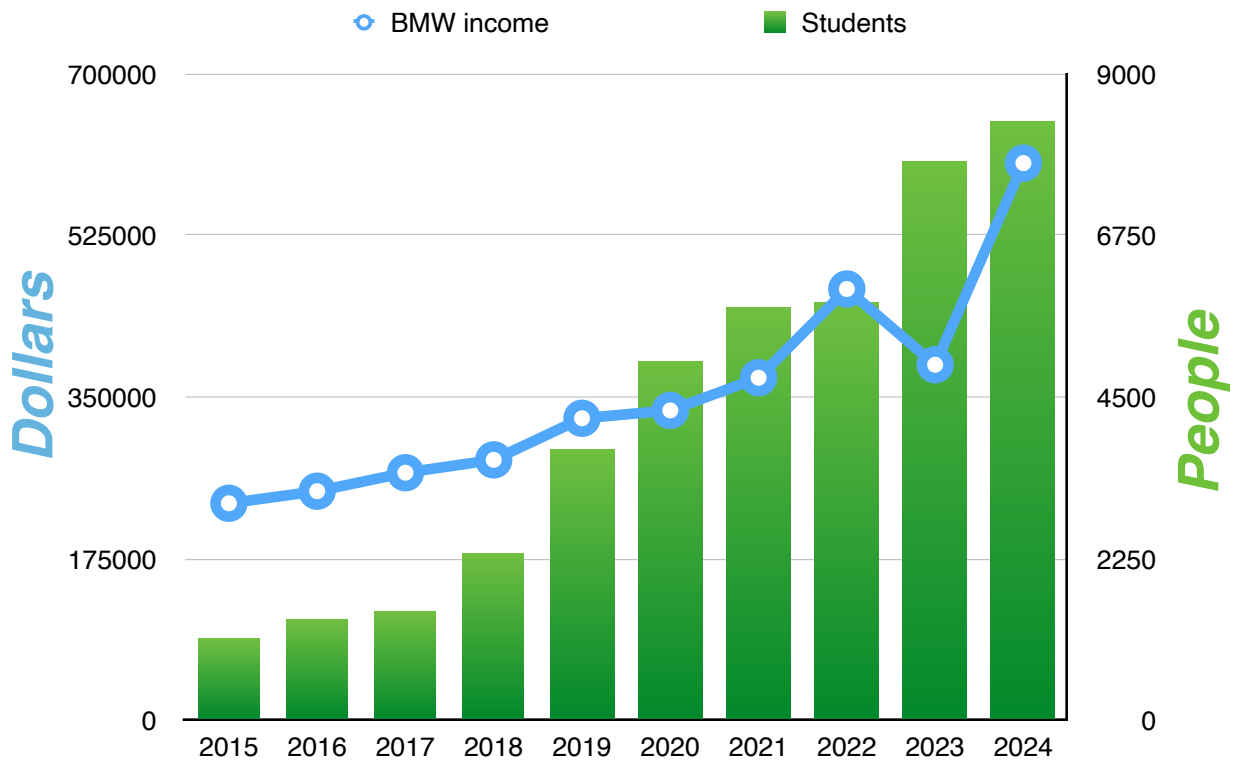
A fourth factor is a great dearth of programs for young people in the churches across the country. They are often neglected and have few opportunities suitable for their age. Often church leaders are eager to engage with us.



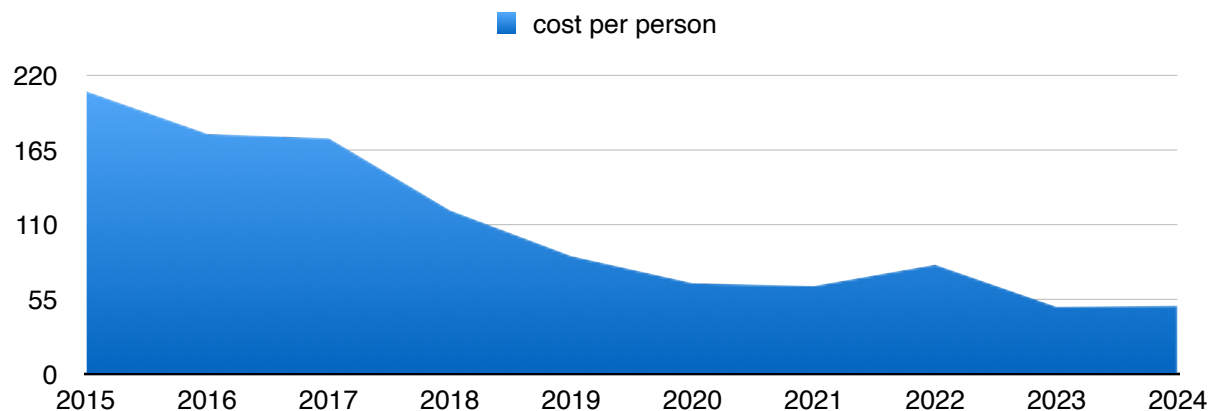
Trends by the Numbers

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 \$235K to \$603K.

The green bars are the graph of the impact on people BMW has had over the last 10 years. This is based on the number of active students. We have grown from 1130 people to 8364.



Over the last 10 years, a 2.6X income growth is set against a 7.4X growth in ministry impact. The annual per-person cost has moved from \$208 to \$50 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 ask permission of the parents rather than going around the parents.
6. We build relationships that last for years.
7. 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.
8. We follow Jesus' servant leadership model rather than the world's boss/servant model.
9. We prioritize the development of new leaders.
10. Games, snacks and peer-to-peer interaction are very attractive in this nascent youth culture.
11. We use Bengali leadership. This removes the language and culture barriers.
12. We invest very little in overhead. Investing in people, not property, makes us efficient, mobile, and almost invisible. Our focus is on a spiritual kingdom, not a physical one.
13. 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.
14. 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. We have fostered improved relationships among the existing Christians.
15. We strive for simplicity because if it is not memorable and repeatable, it is not likely to be passed on.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

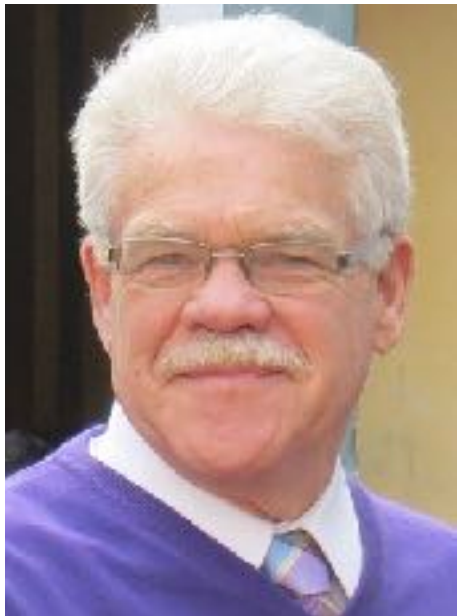


CHAD BENJAMIN MULDER—BMW board since 2023 and Chairperson since 2024

Phone: 616-836-4791

Email: chad.mulder@mulderbros.com

- 2005 Cornerstone University BA Management, BA Marketing
- 2005 to the present at Mulder Holding company, currently owner and sales manager
- Life-long member of Immanuel Church, Holland, MI. Service on missions committee, several missions trips, helped with youth group.
- Married to Jill, 5 children (one adopted)



BILL WOLF—BMW board member since founding in 1996 (former board Chairperson)

Yearly visits to Bangladesh. 14 Bangla Bible Camps

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

- 1990-2019 – Member of West Cannon Baptist Church, Belmont, MI; Involved in small group Bible study leadership. Grace Church of Rockford 2019-present.
- Married to Jayne Wolf since 1984
- Two adult children



LISA DUNLAP—BMW board member since 2023 and treasurer since 2024

Phone: (616) 644-8079

Email: voishka@charter.net

- 1976 Grand Valley State University Bachelor in History and Russian Studies
- Mission trips to Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, Ukraine, Bulgaria, and Malta.
- Life-long member of Immanuel Church of Holland 15 years on mission committee
- 40 years manager at Macatawa Bank
- 2 adult children



VICKI ANN KRAMER—BMW board member since 2020

Cell phone: 248-921-4536

Email: grmakramer@yahoo.com

- retired High School science/health/PE teacher
- 30 year Sunday School teacher, member of Northwest Fellowship Church for 35 years
- Married to Wesley Kramer
- children: two boys one girl, six grandkids

REV. DWIGHT S. JACOBSEN—rejoined board in 2024 (for biography, see page 5)



MIKE BRADLEY – BMW Board Member since 2024

Phone: 616-540-8016

Email: mike@smbradley.com

— 1986 Graduated with BA in Business Administration from Grand Rapids Baptist College (Cornerstone University).

— Played collegiate soccer with Dave DeCook

— 1984 married Rebecca my beautiful high school sweetheart and we have 5 children and 8 grands.

— Serving at New Hope Community Church in Rockford Michigan

— Participated in several mission projects domestically.

— Have enjoyed being a Contract Sales Hunter for the last 22 years.



PHILLIP SCHAAP—BMW board member 2020-2023, rejoined board in 2024

Address: 4807 Sandy Ridge Lane, Hamilton, MI

49419 Phone: (616) 414-2571

Email: pjmj70@gmail.com

— B.A. Elementary Ed, Hope College; M.A. Western Michigan University

— Public Schools, Dollar Bay, MI: 5th grade teacher 1972-1973

— Community Schools, Hamilton, MI: upper elementary teacher 1973-1984

— Trans World Radio Swaziland, Africa: teacher and radio tower construction 1984-1985

— Holland Public Schools, Holland, MI: upper elementary teacher 1985-2010

— Member of Immanuel Church, Holland 1949-

present; served as deacon, elder, mission committee

— Widowed after Mary's passing in 2023, 3 children, 11 grandchildren

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

1967 finished medical and residency training in OBGYN

1967 started medical practice in Holland, Michigan

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, 14 great grandchildren



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

Phone: 530-353-0177

Email: Lynns@abwe.cc

2012-Present: working from home on projects related to Bible translation, Bible study leader and mentor

1961-2012: missionary to Bangladesh with ABWE. Main ministry was Bible translation (for which the Doctor of Humane Letters awarded by Grand Rapids Theological Seminary)

—1958-1960: studies at Baptist Bible Seminary in Johnson City NY

—1958: B.Sc. Wheaton College

—1956 graduated from nurses training



CRAIG JOHNSON—BMW Advisory Council since 2017
Veteran Philippines missionary

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

2013-2018—Financial Advisor, VantagePointe Financial Group, Grand Rapids, Michigan

2019-present—Investment Advisor Representative at Upstream Investment Partners

Personal

Member of Calvary Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Married to Dorothy since 1986

Four children and nine grandchildren



LARRY GOLIN—BMW Advisory Council since 2023
Veteran Bangladesh missionary

Email: larrygolin@aol.com

1958 Michigan Tech B.S. in Forestry.

1969 Faith Theological Seminary, M.Div.

1973 University of Pa. Certificate in Physical Therapy

1964 Ordained by Fellowship Baptist Church

1967-1998 resident missionary in Bangladesh

1999-2007 yearly Jaipur Artificial Limb Camps in
Bangladesh

2008-2018 Eleven worldwide medical evangelism mission
trips with Dr. Jack Sorg.

2018 received the Humanitary Award from American Physical Therapists Association

With wife Jane has 6 children, 12 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren



SAMUEL LOGAN, MD—BMW Advisory Council since 2023

Retired Plastic, Hand, and Reconstructive Surgeon

California Institute of Technology (Caltech)
1964-72, BS Physics, MS, PhD, Engineering
UCLA 1972-1982 MD and General Surgery
Residency
UCSF 1982-84 Residency in Plastic Surgery
Assistant Professor, Surgery and Engineering,
Washington University St. Louis 1984-89
Private Practice, Plastic, Hand, and
Reconstructive Surgery, St. Joseph, MI
1990-2017

KAREN LOGAN—BMW Advisory Council since 2023

Phones: (269) 921-2168 (Sam); (269) 921-2166 (Karen)

Shared email: sklogan@att.net

Calvary Bible College, BS, Bible, Christian Education

University of Kansas School of Nursing, RN, BSN

Missionary Nurse, Bangladesh, 1974-76

Plastic Surgery Practice Administrator, 1990-2015

Board of Trustees, Baptist Bible College (Clarks Summit University) 2001-2013

Married in 1976, 4 adult sons, 3 daughters-in-law, 7 grandchildren

Members, Calvary Bible Church, Kalamazoo, MI, College and Young Adult Ministries

Multiple short-term medical mission trips

BMW Graduations 2022, 2023, 2024

Served together at Memorial Christian Hospital, Bangladesh, July 1978 – May 1979