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OUR PRAYER CARD



Mission Board
Baptist World Mission
PO Box 2149
Decatur, AL 35602

Special Dates
Daniel – 6/28/98
Mary – 8/21/01
Anniversary – 12/10/22

Sending Church
Mukwonago Baptist Church
Pastor Rhon Roberts
1610 Honeywell Rd
Mukwonago, Wisconsin
53149

Contact Info
+254720128618
dsimonsen@baptistworldmission.org
danielsimonsen98@gmail.com
PO Box 38, Thika, Kenya
01000

And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." 2 Timothy 2:2

OUR SALVATION TESTIMONIES

Daniel:

Having grown up in a Christian home, I had the perfect environment in which to get saved. I was adopted by my parents at 8 months old and was taught the Bible from day 1 in my home. My mom and dad would teach me Bible lessons and Bible songs. Our family was in church for every service. Looking back today, I praise the Lord for allowing me to grow up in that environment.

As years went by, I began to think that salvation was praying a prayer. I would hear of people getting saved and praying. Sadly, like so many people today, I equated salvation with prayer. One day when I was, around 5 years old, I took one of the gospel tracts in the house, read through the prayer at the end and then concluded that I was saved. But was not true salvation.

A couple of years passed and the evidence of the fact that I wasn't saved really began to show through even as a 7-year-old boy. Through my temper tantrums, fits of anger, etc. I knew something was wrong. As I continued to hear preaching, I was getting extremely concerned and convicted about my eternal security. I came to realize one thing - Christians live differently than unbelievers. I really began to question whether I was really saved or not.

The Lord was really working in my heart and one day I simply came to the end of myself and asked my Dad to show me how to be saved. He went through a number of verses mostly from Romans and showed me God's simple plan of salvation. I then made the decision to repent of my sin and accept Jesus Christ as my Savior. Ephesians 2:8-9, "*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*" I can now confidently say that I am only a sinner saved by grace. To God be all the glory!

Mary:

As a child, I was born and raised in a Christian home, and I knew that I was not saved. I knew that I was born a sinner and that the wage of my sin is death, but that the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. I knew all the Sunday School memory verses by heart. One could say that I grew up in the soup of the Gospel, but I never had swallowed it.

However, when in church, one part of the invitation at the end of every sermon always struck me: "*If you were to die right now, are you one hundred percent sure that all your sins (past, present and future) are forgiven? Will you spend your eternity in heaven or in the lake of fire?*" This was not hard for an eight-year-old like me to understand. I downright knew that I was a hell-bound sinner and if I was to die, I would not end up in heaven where my other four family members would be. I would end up in the lake of fire and brimstone. Nevertheless, I always felt too shy to raise my hand during the invitation time. But one thing was certain: I knew that I needed Christ to save me. I wanted to spend my eternity with Him. I loved my family so much and the thought of being separated from them was terrible. I wanted to be saved, just like they were!

One week in 2010, my church, Bethel Baptist Church, was running the usual Vacation Bible School. After the end of VBS, I approached my sister and told her that I wanted to get saved. My sister explained what salvation is, and what happens when one gets saved. I had wanted to do that for so long. I was ready to do it. At that moment, I prayed and placed my entire belief in Christ and asked him to forgive and save me. My status changed from a hell bound sinner to a child of God.

OUR DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

THE BIBLE

We believe that the Bible in its original writings is the inerrant (without errors), verbal (every word), and plenary (every part) inspired Word of God (**Matt. 5:18; I Cor. 2:13, II Tim. 3:16**). The Bible is found in the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments (**Luke 24:44; John 16:12-13**). It was written as holy men of God were moved along by the Holy Spirit (**II Peter 1:20-21**) and it is the only source of God's plan of salvation and the only guide for the Christian life (**II Timothy 3:15-17**).

GOD

We believe that God is one in essence (**Deut. 6:4; Mark 12:29**), yet three in persons (**Matt. 28:19**). God is an infinite (**Ps. 139**), self-existent (**John 5:26**), and indivisible (**John 10:30**) eternal spirit (**John 5:24**). The three persons of the "Trinity" are co-equal and coeternal, each of whom possesses the totality of the divine essence simultaneously while existing as separate personal manifestations. The three persons of the Trinity were involved together in Creation (**Genesis 1:1-2; Colossians 1:16**). The Scriptures declare that these three persons are God (**1 John 5:7**). The Father is declared to be God (**James 3:9**); the Son is declared to be God (**John 1:1; Heb. 1:8-10**); the Holy Spirit is declared to be God (**Acts 5:3-4, 9**).

JESUS CHRIST

We believe that Jesus Christ is the second person of the Trinity, being co-equal and coexistent with God (**Phil. 2:6; John 10:30**). The Deity of Christ is seen in His possessing the attributes of God (**John 14:6; Heb. 13:8; Matt. 28:20**), and in His exercise of the prerogatives of God. He received worship (**Matt. 15:25**), forgave sin (**Mark 2:3-12**), and is the object of faith (**John 1:12**). God the Son was with the Father before the foundation of the world (**John 1:1, John 8:58**). In the incarnation, Christ humbled Himself and subordinated Himself to the power of the Holy Spirit and to the will of the Father (**Isa. 11:2; Matt. 4:1, 26:42; Phil. 2:5-8**). In the incarnation, He was born of a Virgin (**Matt. 1:23**), and conceived of the Holy Spirit (**Matt.**

1:20). He was one person with two unmixed natures, the perfect human and the perfect divine: fully man and fully God.

Christ lived a sinless life (**II Cor. 5:21**) and on the cross was the complete payment for the sins of the world (**Rom. 5:8; John 1:29, 3:16**). He was the sacrifice for our sins by the shedding of His blood (**Heb. 9:13-14; Heb. 10:12**). Christ was bodily resurrected (**Matt. 28:6**) and ascended bodily to the right hand of the Father to ever make intercession for His saints (**Acts 1:9; Heb. 7:25**).

Christ shall return for His saints in the event known as the pre-tribulational rapture of believers. (**I Thess. 4:16-17**). At the end of the tribulation period which follows the rapture, Christ will return with His saints as the King of kings, and will rule with power and glory on the throne of David for one thousand years (**Acts 1:10-11; Rev. 19:11; Rev. 20:3; Zech. 14:4-9**).

THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity and is co-equal and coexistent with God the Father and God the Son. He is declared to be God (**Acts 5:3-4; II Corinthians 3:17**) and as God possesses the attributes of God, such as: eternity (**Heb. 9:14**), omnipresence (**Psalms 139:7-10**), and omniscience (**I Corinthians 2:10, 11**). The Holy Spirit convicts the unsaved of sin and their need to receive Christ (**John 16:7-14**). He gives spiritual life in the new birth (**John 3:5**), seals the believer in guarantee of our inheritance (**Ephesians 4:30**), and He permanently indwells the believer with power for holy living and service (**I Corinthians 6:19**).

MAN

We believe that God created man a perfect being, without sin, and in God's own image and likeness (**Gen. 1:26-27**). Man was created a moral, rational, spiritual being consisting of a body, soul, and spirit (**I Thess. 5:23**). Man's original nature was good (**Gen. 1:26, 27, 31**); however, he had a free will, and when he chose to disobey God, he fell from that goodness, and sin entered the world (**Rom. 5:12**). At that time, man not only began to die physically (**Gen. 2:1**), but also did die spiritually. Adam being the

head of the human race, passed on this sinful nature to all humans (**Gen. 5:1-3; Psalm 51:5**). All men since Adam are born with a sinful nature and are not able to naturally please God (**Rom. 3:10-12**) and are in need of salvation through the new birth (**John 3:3-7**).

SIN

We believe that sin is lawlessness or disregard for the law of God (**I John 3:4**) and is the missing of the mark of the perfect holiness of God. Sin originated with Satan (**Isa. 14:12-17**) and came into the human race through the fall of Adam (**Gen. 3:1-7; Rom. 5:12**). As a result of Adam's sin, death passed upon all men. Because of the fall of man, man is evil and unable to please God through his own nature (**Rom. 3:10-12; Rom. 5:12-19**). He is born with a sinful nature which will naturally produce sin (**Ps. 51:5**). Man has no means of recovery from this sinful state apart from the work of Christ on the cross as the Divine provision for this sin nature (**Rom. 6:1-6; Eph. 2:8-9**), and its sin (**I John 2:2**).

SALVATION

We believe that salvation is a free gift through the grace of God (**Eph. 2:8-9**) and cannot be received on the basis of human merit or doing good works (**Rom. 4:4; Rom. 6:23**). Each man needs salvation because of his sinful condition (**Rom. 3:23**) and his only basis of salvation is the death of the Lord Jesus Christ upon the cross (**Eph. 1:7; Acts 4:12**). On the cross, Jesus paid the penalty for the sins of the world (**I John 2:2**) by the shedding of His blood (**Heb. 8:12; Matt. 26:28**) and becoming sin for us (**II Cor. 5:21**). Those who receive Christ by faith as their own Savior are justified on the ground of His shed blood (**Rom. 5:9**).

When a person by faith receives Jesus Christ as personal Savior, he becomes a child of God (**John 1:12-13**), he is instantly born again by the Spirit of God (**John 3:5**), he is converted and he becomes a new person in Christ (**II Cor. 5:1; Acts 3:19**). At the moment of salvation, he is justified, that is, judicially declared righteous by God - the righteousness of Christ being applied to him (**Rom. 5:1-2; Rom. 4:5**). He is likewise sanctified, being set apart for holy service (**I Cor.**

1:2, 6:11). The saved are eternally saved and are kept by the power of God (**John 10:28**) and have eternal life (**I John 5:11-13**).

Since Christ died for the sinful nature of all men and freed them from that guilt they had with Adam (**Rom. 6:10; I Tim. 4:10**), those infants who die before they are knowingly able to sin and reject Christ or before they are able to exercise true faith, will be saved and live eternally with Christ even as David's infant who died on the seventh day (**II Sam. 12:15-20**).

THE CHURCH

We believe that Jesus prophesied that He would build His church (**Matt. 16:18**). Christ empowered the disciples to serve when He was still on earth (**Matthew 10**) and He began His church during His earthly ministry as well (**Matt 18:17**). Before Jesus ascended to heaven, He instructed the disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit before venturing out into ministry (**Luke 24:49**). The success of a church is based on the power of God. On the day of Pentecost those first believers were empowered to serve God when the Holy Spirit came to permanently indwell all believers (**Acts 2**). The local church is the body of Christ (**1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 27; Ephesians 1:23, 5:23; Colossians 1:18**).

The local church (**I Cor. 12:27**) is the institution which God has started and chosen to carry out His work in this age. It is composed of saved, immersed (baptized) believers (**Acts 2:41**), who join together to carry out the Great Commission (**Matt. 28:19-20**), and meet for edification, fellowship, prayer, worship, and instruction in the Word, and for observing the ordinances (**Acts 2:42**). This body is independent of outside control and is under the immediate authority of Christ (**Rev. 2:1**), the Word of God being its sole authority for both faith and practice (**II Tim. 3:15-17**). The local church has only two divinely appointed offices which are Pastor and Deacon (**Phil. 1:1**). The local church observes two divinely appointed ordinances: namely, baptism by immersion (**Rom. 6:3-5; John 3:23; Acts 8:36-39**), and the Lord's Supper (**1 Corinthians 11:23-30**).

The first day of the week, Sunday, is the Lord's Day (**Rev. 1:10**), a day set apart for worship of the Lord. This was the day of the week on which the Lord Jesus was resurrected (**John 20:6**), and thus the church meets on this day as the early Christians did (**Acts 20:7**), in remembrance of His resurrection.

THE TWO ORDINANCES OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

Baptism is not necessary for salvation (**Eph. 2:8-9**), yet it is the privilege and duty of every child of God to follow the Lord in baptism as an open confession of his identification with Christ as Savior and with His death, burial, and resurrection (**Matt. 2:8-9; Acts 10:47-48; Rom. 6:3-5**). We believe that baptism is a step of obedience to Christ, therefore unbaptized believers (disobedient believers) may not be members of the local church. The Lord's Supper is to be observed by born again believers in remembrance of the Lord Jesus Christ (**I Cor. 11:20-32**). This observance shows forth His death until He comes and should always be preceded by self-examination. The cup and bread are symbolical of the blood and body of Christ (**Luke 22:19**); the cup being described as the "fruit of the vine," (**Matt. 26:26-29; Mark 14:25; Luke 22:18**), pure, unfermented (non-alcoholic) grape juice.

ANGELS

Angels are created beings and are divided into two groups: good angels, who obey the will of God (**Matt. 26:53; Ps. 103:20; Heb. 1:14**), and bad angels, (fallen angels) who left their first estate (**Jude 6**), obey Satan (**Matt. 25:41**), and will be cast into the lake of fire. Satan was created a perfect, anointed cherub (a type of angel), but because of pride he fell (**Ezekiel 28:11-19; Isaiah 14:12-25**). Today he works as the adversary (enemy) of God, and His work (**I Pet. 5:3**).

LAST THINGS

We believe that the next great prophetic event on God's time calendar is the pre-tribulational rapture of believers and the soon return of Christ for His own (**I Thess. 4:13-18; I Thess. 5:9**). Following the rapture, believers will appear before the judgment seat of Christ, and the works of each believer will be judged with the works of the flesh being consumed and the works of the spirit being rewarded (**II**

Cor. 5:10; I Cor. 3:9-15). The unbelievers who are left after the rapture will face seven years of tribulation in which the wrath of God is poured out upon this earth. This period is the seventieth week of Daniel (**Dan. 9:24-27**). The tribulation will end with Christ returning to the earth when all unbelievers will be cast into Hades (hell) and unbelieving nations will be destroyed (**Rev. 19:11-21**).

Christ will establish His promised millennial (1000 year long) kingdom with the earthly citizens being those believers who were living at His return. During the millennium, Satan will be bound and peace will prevail (**Rev. 20:1-3**). At the end of the 1,000 years, Satan will be released for a season, and many will rebel against Christ (**Rev. 20:8-10**). After being conquered by Christ, Satan will be cast into the lake of fire to spend eternity (**Rev. 20:10**).

Following the defeat of Satan, the great white throne judgment will take place at which time all the unsaved will be brought from their temporary place of torment in Hades, and their bodies will be resurrected from their place of abode. After this judgment, all the unsaved will be cast into the lake of fire to spend eternity, but this judgment will determine the degree of that eternal torment (**Rev. 20:11-15; Matt. 11:20-24**). Eternity will follow in which all believers will enjoy eternal blessedness in the presence of God, in the new heaven and earth (**Revelation 21-22**).

OUR VISION FOR TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH, GATUKUYU

1. We will seek to continue helping Daniel's parents and the members there to build the work in Gatukuyu.
2. We will take opportunities to minister to couples, families, and individuals on a weekly basis. We will organize discipleship and Bible Study lessons with families as well, all of which are gospel opportunities.
3. Through every ministry of the church, we will preach and teach the whole counsel of God's Word.
4. We will seek to have the church be characterized by soulwinning, discipleship, Spirit-led worship, fervent prayer, and healthy fellowship.
5. We will put great importance on new believers being discipled immediately and being baptized and added to the church as soon as possible.
6. We will encourage the members of the church to join us for soulwinning while encouraging them to share their testimony with others as a way to learn how to share the gospel.
7. We will teach the importance of tithes and offerings and God's plan for church growth and expansion.
8. We will teach how a New Testament Church must be self-propagating, self-supporting, and self-governing in every way.

Our long-term vision for Trinity Baptist Church is to see the church grow to where it is reaching out to surrounding areas such as Mwea, Makwa, Mangu, and others. I want to see Trinity Baptist Church grow to where it is reproducing itself (just as the book of Acts illustrates) in those surrounding towns where there is currently no Independent Baptist Church.

CALL TO SERVE

DANIEL'S CALLING AS A MISSIONARY

Back towards the beginning of this 2016, a question that I thought may be asked of me was "What are your plans for the future?" and "What do you want to be"? As that thought was ringing in my head one evening while simply playing basketball at our home, the Lord burdened my heart for full time missions here in Kenya. Up to that point in my life, I had never even considered being a full time missionary here in this country beyond the time spent in my parent's house. Well, the Lord worked through that and through fasting and prayer also and led me to where I surrendered to be a missionary in Kenya.

The question then was, "Where in Kenya?" From that time mentioned above where I surrendered to missions, I had been thinking and praying from time to time that the Lord would let me be a missionary in the Thika-Nairobi area. I had never surrendered to be a missionary anywhere in Kenya.

One morning, several days later, Pastor Stephen Zempel, Assistant Pastor at Falls Baptist Church in Menomonee Falls, WI, preached in our college chapel on letting God work out the impossible. (This now was in 2017.) I was greatly stirred during the message in this way: I had slacked off praying about being a missionary simply because I wasn't really seeing God answering or leading in His Word regarding that area. That morning, I had made the decision to renew fervency in prayer about it and seeking the Lord in His Word for where specifically He wanted me to go. God promises many times in His Word that whenever we truly seek Him, we will find Him. Soon after, on one evening as I was eating dinner and just thinking about how my day went, the Lord brought a thought like "Daniel, are you willing to go anywhere in Kenya? Are you willing to do anything you need to do to seek the Lord about this? Are you willing to do whatever God wants you to do at whichever place He wants you to go? Are you willing to go through anything for Jesus? Are you willing to let Him do the impossible?" Well, that evening I decided to let God do the impossible and to let Him lead me to whatever area of this country he wanted me to serve. I decided once again, but this time with fervency, to seek the Lord about what he wanted me to do in the future. I became willing to go through anything to get to Jesus. I decided to have faith and let God work everything out

Sometime later that year, one morning, I was having my personal devotions as normal and I reached the last section to read which was Isaiah 45. As I began reading, I sensed that the Lord was doing something. The chapter begins with the Lord's reminder of anointing/calling and then as I read verse 2 it's as if God was saying, "I'll show you where, I'll make it clear." Then as I continued reading, verses 4 & 5 really seemed to confirm that God was telling me something. Verse 6 then hit me, and I couldn't let it go. The thought of being a missionary in Western Kenya stayed with me since reading that verse. I struggled a bit until verse 9 where the Lord basically said, "Don't argue/resist, just submit and pray about it." And I did. I shared that moment with my dad who wisely advised me that God may have simply been testing my willingness to do ANYTHING and go ANYWHERE for Him.

I continued to pray about it that year and in to the next as well.

DANIEL'S CALLING AS A PREACHER

It was April of 2016. I was readying to preach at Open Bible Baptist Church. I had never preached before. I had my sermon ready, but now reality was clicking. I remember thinking to myself, "I don't know how I'm going to do this or what's going to happen." Well, the Lord reminded me of Philippians 4:13 which told me that I could do all things (preaching included) through Christ who was going to strengthen me. May 1 (Sunday) came and it was raining. It was raining so hard in fact. The attendance was lower, so as I began preaching, Pastor Nyaga proceeded to move the pulpit forward so that the people were closer to me. Now, they were right in front of me! It wasn't easy, but God's grace was and is sufficient. Despite the heavy downpour, the changed setting, and my own initial nervousness, the Lord took over by driving away my fear and giving me real liberty to preach. I preached for 45 minutes and was done. I sat down with joy overflowing in my soul. I couldn't believe it. To make the day even better, after church I had the privilege of leading my first soul to Jesus Christ. Little did I know that God was confirming his calling in my life. From that point onwards, preaching opportunities continued to come, and I embraced every opportunity. I remember specific instances where God obviously was at work in both my life, and also the lives of those I was speaking to. One Sunday evening, for example, at Lighthouse Baptist Church in Thika, the Lord gave incredible

liberty as I preached the Word, and 3 people made decisions to surrender their lives to Jesus Christ. It was unbelievable. The Lord continued to work in my life through various means to confirm my calling as a preacher, a full-time missionary in Kenya, and a pastor.

DANIEL'S CALLING AS A PASTOR

By 2018 I was sure of my calling as a preacher and I was beginning to see myself as a pastor one day. I realized that there is a definite and specific calling and giftedness for an evangelist and another for a pastor/teacher etc. Through prayer and Bible reading and other avenues such as comments from leaders, observation of others' preaching styles as compared to mine, several spiritual gift surveys at college, etc. I began to believe that God had truly called me to be a missionary pastor in Kenya. I began to wonder where God would put me and my future wife to serve. At that time (January 2018) our family had been ministering for a few months in our new church plant (Trinity Baptist Church) in Gatukuyu. For me, it had taken some time to surrender to being there and working among the people of that town, but I had since warmed up to the idea and begun enjoying going there and serving through a variety of different ways. And for several reasons such as my dad's age, my brothers plans to move on eventually, etc. I began to see myself staying in Gatukuyu full time as the pastor of that church and to build upon what my dad had started.

Well, I kept that thought in the back of my mind and honestly didn't pray much about it until one day when everything changed. On Thursday, January 4, 2018, Dr. Jim Van Gelderen, an evangelist from Falls Baptist Church, was preaching in our college chapel and through his message the Lord convicted me that I had been putting off/resisting the call to be the pastor of Trinity Baptist Church one day, that He had indeed called me, and that I needed to heed the call and be sure to tell my dad all about it. I was excited to be able to go home and share with my parents what God had been doing in my life and the call I believe He has placed upon me. My parents were excited to hear the news and promised to pray for me in that regard.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Steve Anderson, Field Administrator for Africa, UK, Ireland, Middle East with Baptist World Mission (BWM) in Kenya:

It is our pleasure to recommend to you Daniel Simonsen and his wife, Mary. We first met Daniel when he was just a young man of five, living in the home of his parents, Dr. Rick, and Sue Simonsen, who have served with BWM since 1997. Daniel was adopted from an orphanage there in Nairobi, Kenya when he was, as I remember, but eight months. We have visited in their home often enough to watch Daniel and his brother, Aaron (who was also adopted from the same orphanage) develop outstanding missionary hearts...and they are each unusually equipped for ministry. The boys are fluent in Swahili and have witnessed exemplary missionary hearts and lives in the lives and ministries of their parents for now over twenty years! Daniel and Mary Christine will be especially targeting people of the Kikuyu tribe and will be focusing for the present on a church plant in the village of Gatukuyu, about a mile East of their home. The Kikuyu tribe is predominant in this region, having a twice-a-week vegetable and clothing market in the village—which is very well known in the greater Nairobi area. Daniel envisions that the church plant may attain independence in the next five to ten years. Daniel and Mary are worthy of your every consideration.

Pastor Rhon Roberts, Senior pastor of Mukwonago Baptist Church - Wisconsin, USA:

Dear Brethren,

I, as pastor of Mukwonago Baptist Church, would like to commend to you as missionaries worthy of your prayers and support, Daniel and Mary Simonsen. We have watched Daniel from near and afar grow up and serving the Lord with his life and living a godly life. God has given him a good wife and we are confident that they will continue with the work of the Lord in Kenya with vigor and faithfulness to the Word of God.

Dr. Michael Mestler, Veteran Missionary with International Baptist Missions (IBM) in Kenya, East Africa:

My wife and I have been Independent Baptist missionaries in Kenya for 30 years serving under International Baptist Missions (Tri-City Baptist Church) in Chandler Arizona. We have known Daniel Simonsen since his adoption as an infant by Dr. Rick and Sue Simonsen and have known Mary Christine for over six years. This couple have a consistent Christian testimony and have always been very active serving the Lord in their local Independent Baptist churches. We believe they have the potential for a very effective ministry church planting in Kenya. Thank you for praying and supporting them financially as missionaries in Kenya. Dr. Michael and Gail Mestler (Thika, Kenya).