

Baptistries Around the World

Dr. Dale Underwood, Director

“Eliminating delays in immersing taught believers”

THIS FOURTH QUARTER REPORT

Baptistries Around the World is about to have its thirty-third birthday (having begun in 1991). This is our *fourth* quarter report to wrap up 2023. Our desire is to make you aware of progress, developments, and some current needs of this impactful ministry. Some information is found in our regular monthly newsletters. We also put a brief note in letters of acknowledgment for gifts to *Baptistries Around the World*, but space is limited. We want you to know much more and share our enthusiasm for making it possible for believers to put Christ on in baptism.

Due to the expanding interest of this phase of the ministry, too many stories are buried. Therefore, we are providing this *quarterly* bulletin of ***Baptistries Around the World***. It will not, however, keep us from sharing major news sooner. For instance, a couple visiting a few Sundays ago, took a baptistry back home. Their congregation supports a work in Zambia. It is the *second* baptistry we have supplied that country. They are winning many to Christ in Zambia!

We will also continue to note the history of this ministry. So far, we have shared *three chapters*. This issue will tell the fourth chapter. As you march through these 33 years with us, you see God at work in amazing ways. Only God knows the future, but the past has certainly been memorable.

What About After Baptism?

Last quarter we announced 100+ baptisms in 45 days locally! We are frequently asked: “What about AFTER baptism?”

If you recall, most baptisms were in a jail, prison, or half-way house. We are not allowed to ask for home addresses but it is OK if they *volunteer* it. A few are baptized at the church building because they are released before we can immerse them. We are seeing a record number also assembling with us on Sundays, attending CASA meetings on Wednesdays, and in our offices for further one-on-one studies.

We provide the 7-lesson “Study of Baptism” prior to baptism and the six-lesson, “Living the Better Way,” *after* baptism. The Great Commission instructs us not only to teach before baptism but, after baptism (Matthew 28:19-20).

Study of Baptism

(7 Lessons)

Living the Better Way

(6 Lessons)

A BRIEF HISTORY OF BAPTISTRIES AROUND THE WORLD

Part Four:

We began supplying more baptistries for non-prison needs. They are used to immerse the elderly in nursing homes, and ill persons unable to leave home. It is perfect for retreats, camps, and other events away from church buildings. Disaster relief teams call from devastated areas to have a baptistry quickly sent to immerse those being taught in communities where church buildings have been damaged. Some volunteers carry one in their trunk or pickup.

Amazingly, we heard from *foreign missionaries* and sponsoring congregations. To avoid custom fees and exorbitant shipping costs, the unit is sent to stateside brethren to take them on their next visit to the mission field. In some countries, there is a shortage of safe water sources, or the water is contaminated and dangerous. Rivers are infested with poisonous snakes or crocodiles. We have placed 478 permanent or portable baptistries in 38 states, including 145 in 41 foreign nations. This led us to change the name to ***Baptistries Around the World*** instead of “Baptistries Across America.” American Rehabilitation Ministries (ARM) has determined that one baptistry is used an average of 37 times a year. Thus, 17,686 immersions a year likely occur in the 478 baptistries we have placed thus far.

The latest addition to the unit is a *drain attachment*. To satisfy occasional requests, we discovered a solution. The attachment can be easily installed. Its pieces come from different commercial sources used in plants, refineries, and oilfields at a cost of \$50 each. The same 50-foot water hose used to *fill* the baptistry is attached for its *drainage*. Our *personal* preference is to empty the water by slowly dismantling one corner of the unit and releasing water on grass or in a nearby drain. This method works faster without puncturing the liner. Regardless of how the drain attachment is connected, some amount of leakage will occur over time.

(Part Five: **Next Quarter**)

BAPTISTRIES PROVIDED TO FOREIGN MISSION FIELDS



Due to your generosity, **Baptistries Around the World** has now supplied 145 baptistries to 41 countries. The units are generally taken by representatives of sponsoring congregations in the United States as they travel to visit and check on their work. Occasionally, a baptismal tank is carried back with the missionary who has come to this country to report in person on the progress of the work.

Shipping directly from Corpus Christi (Texas) has never been successful. One horror story after another is told. For example, the shipping fee for one cost us \$800. When it arrived, governmental authorities notified the missionary to come pick it up but when he got there, they informed him that “custom fees” of \$750 had to be paid on the \$500 baptismal tank first. The missionary had no money to pay the fee. Then, **we** were contacted. Our shipper tried to resolve it by explaining the baptismal tank was a gift to a non-profit *from* a non-profit and it was to be used for *religious* purposes only. It was not a “commercial” product. Every effort failed.

After several weeks, the government gave us a deadline and if the fees were not paid by then, the baptismal tank would be shipped back to us for the same amount (\$800) and **Baptistries Around the World** would have to pay it. We went back to the shipper and learned, according to the fine print, this was correct. So, we took the matter to our elders. They said we should pay the custom fees. By doing so, we would only pay **\$2,050** and the missionary could start baptizing souls. Otherwise, we would pay **\$2,850**, get the same baptismal tank back, and no one would be baptized! We paid the custom fees. Of course, the elders also *encouraged* us to send future baptismal tanks to stateside congregations and let them handle the delivery to foreign fields.

TAKING THE NEXT STEP

The long-range *proactive* dream of **Baptistries Around the World** is to be in a financial position to reach out to all of our congregations and find out about their mission involvement. Many donate monthly amounts to help support a missionary but they send their contributions to a sister congregation that is serving as the *sponsor*. There is also a large number of individual Christians supporting missionaries directly or through their home congregation.

We would love to be able to provide **“free” baptistries** to every missionary in every mission field throughout the world! A donor to **Baptistries Around the World** may designate that their support provides the “next” baptismal tank *wherever* the request comes from or state a specific mission field such as China.



“THE FIELDS ARE WHITE”

It is one thing to say 145 baptismal tanks have gone to 41 foreign countries. It helps to put “names” (like the one above that went to Ghana). Below are the nations in which **Baptistries Around the World** have placed portable baptismal tanks.

Australia (4)
Barbados (3)
Bolivia (3)
Canada (9)
Chili (4)
China (2)
Costa Rico (7)
Cuba (7)
Dominican Republic (2)
Germany (1)
Ghana (4)
Greece (1)

Honduras (3)
Hong Kong (1)
Hungary (1)
India (3)
Japan (2)
Kenya (4)
Liberia (1)
Mexico (9)
New Guinea (3)
Nicaragua (3)
Nigeria (3)
Panama (1)

Peru (7)
Philippines (7)
Portugal (2)
Puerto Rico (4)
Russia (6)
South Africa (4)
St. Vincent (3)
Tanzania (6)
Thailand (5)
Togo (1)
Trinidad (1)
Uganda (3)

Ukraine (2)
Venezuela (3)
Viet Nam (5)
West Africa (3)
Zambia (2)

Baptistries Around the World is overseen by the shepherds, Kings Crossing Church of Christ, 5901 Yorktown Boulevard, Corpus Christi, Texas 78414 (Kyde Eddleman, Robert Illgen, Stephen Johnston, and Richard Scanio).

Contact Information: The physical office of **Baptistries Around the World** is 3833 South Staples, Suite S-101, Corpus Christi, Texas 78411 (361) 855-3372
You may email us at kcprisonministries@gmail.com. Welcome to our website at www.kingscrossingprisonministries.org.