

THE Pape FAMILY



**SERVING
IN THE
DOMINICAN
REPUBLIC**

Dear praying friends,

November 2018

Greetings from Maryland! I hope this letter finds you all well and enjoying the blessings of the Lord.

As many of you have been praying for our Passport/ Visa renewal situation, I wanted to write to bring everyone up to speed as to the status of our family. October is always renewal month for us in the DR. This year we were caught unawares with a requirement that forced us to renew our passports before we could begin the visa process. During this time, our current visas expired, forcing us to come to the States to hunt down more documents. This was the purpose for our trip.

However, during all of the chaos of visa renewal, and even prior to the process, our family encountered several personal difficulties amongst our children that we began to work through. As time went on, these needs grew to a level that gave me and Cynthia great concern. We began counseling with our home pastor and the leadership of BIMI regarding the situation. We pursued many avenues of recourse to get the help that our family needed. But as these problems have developed and worsened, it has become overwhelmingly clear that the environment our children are in is contributing to the issues we are dealing with.

So, after much prayer and fasting, and a multitude of counsel, I am convinced that our immediate and direct attention must be turned to the safety and welfare of our family, before we can move further in future ministry. I do not believe that I am disqualified from the ministry in any way. There has been no infidelity in our marriage at all. Cynthia and I are stronger today than we have ever been before. But I do believe that my first responsibility and ministry is to my family.

The amount of time that I foresee needing to address these issues will take at least a year or more away from our work in Nagua. In that time, we will be returning to our home church, and I will be pursuing secular work to support our family. For that reason, I believe it to be prudent and ethical to resign officially from Baptist International Missions, Inc. while we care for our family's needs. At the end of that time, we will reevaluate the health of our family and determine our next step moving forward in the work of the Lord. I know that this announcement comes as a shock to many, but please know that we are acting in our family's best interests.

We want to thank each and every one of you for your prayers and sacrificial support of our family for the last 7 years of this journey. The Lord has knit us together, not only as partners in ministry, but also as dear friends. We love you all so much! Please continue to pray for us as this transition will be incredibly difficult. I would also like ask for our support to be maintained for the next 3 months in order to get our family transitioned back to the US. We certainly understand if that's not possible.

We are heartbroken for this premature departure of the work in Nagua. We are thankful for the souls that have been saved and for the folks being discipled at North Coast Baptist Church. Please continue to pray for Jeff and Pamela Polanco as they will be leading the work forward, and responsible for the entire burden of the ministry there. We love the Polancos dearly, and they have my upmost respect and confidence in carrying the church into the future.

We know that this stage of our family's life is temporary, but necessary. And we trust that the Lord will continue lead and direct us in His will throughout this process and into the future. We love you all so much, and may God continue to bless you greatly!

In His Service,
Chad Pape and family



BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS, INC.

Gary Sprunger, Caribbean Director, BIMI

December 5, 2018

Pastor «Pastor»
«LastName» «FirstName»
«City» «State» «Zip»

Dear Pastor «Pastor»,

I am writing this letter with heaviness of heart. Whenever a missionary family needs to leave the field, there is a gap in the hedge. As you know, Chad and Cynthia Pape recently moved to Nagua in the Dominican Republic, and North Coast Baptist Church was started. Jeffri and Pamela Polanco were working with them in this new church plant. The Lord was blessing in marvelous ways. Souls were being saved, and there was great anticipation for the future. As we all know, we are in a spiritual battle. Ephesians 6:12 says, *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.* Satan knows how to attack us.

Recently, Chad and Cynthia were made aware that their children were seriously being influenced in a bad way, and after much prayer and counsel, they felt the need of leaving the field for a time. They have expressed that they will hopefully return in a few years. Until that time, they are focusing on the needs of their children. Pastor Tyson, their sending pastor, fully supports their decision and is helping them in this transition. Presently, Brother Chad is back in the Dominican Republic settling their affairs and assisting Brother Polanco in the transition.

I know that you will be much in prayer for the Pape family and may want to help them for the near future. It is our policy at Baptist International Missions, Inc. (BIMI), to facilitate each resigning missionary for 90 days after the date of resignation. We encourage you to prayerfully consider helping them in this transition time. BIMI has accepted their resignation dated December 31, 2018.

If you desire any additional information, please feel free to call me at 864.266.4518 or email me at garysprunger@aol.com. Pastor Tyson is also available for information by calling him at 301.464.0433.

Your co-laborer in the Harvest,

Gary Sprunger
Caribbean Director

GS:hl

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