



SENDING CHURCH

Bible Baptist Church
3301 North First Street
Jacksonville, AR 72076
(501) 982-8826

Pastor: Dr. Jason Watford
Website: www.bbcjax.com
m.baker@bbcjax.com

Field Address

P.O. Box 1390
Kisumu 40100
Kenya, East Africa

Phone

501-251-9138

E-Mail

mail@shelbysinkenya.org

Website

www.shelbysinkenya.org

MISSION ADDRESS

Baptist International
Missions, Inc.
P.O. Box 9
Harrison, TN 37341
(423) 344-5050
Website: www.bimi.org

*"To give light to them
that sit in darkness
and in the shadow of
death..." Luke 1:79*

Dear Pastor,

My name is Luke Shelby, and we have been missionaries to Kenya since 1997. We are currently on furlough, and we will be heading back to the field in early 2024. We are reporting to a lot of our supporting churches, but we also need to raise our support level due to some dropped support since the Coronavirus pandemic and financial problems in several churches over the last few years.

We are very excited about our ministry in Kenya, and there are many open doors for opportunities that the Lord has opened up to us, that we would like to accomplish next term.

1. Church Planting, with those who will be graduating from our college soon.
2. College Expansion - Formal training of believers in all of our churches.
3. New open doors to win souls in Maasai Villages.
4. Open doors of evangelism and church planting in the villages around Lake Victoria.

I am sending this Introductory Packet with our family bio, our doctrinal statement, our prayer card, and some recommendation letters. With Other information like our past prayer letters and current presentation can be found on our website at: www.shelbysinkenya.org

Will you partner with us to spread the Gospel into every village in our area and to see souls saved for the glory of God?

Thank you and God bless you.

For Souls in Kenya,

Luke + Tonya Shelby

Luke & Tonya Shelby
Missionaries in Kenya



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Dear Pastor,

We have been church planting missionaries in Kenya since June of 1997, when we started deputation. We finished deputation and were on the field by April of 1999.

We share the blessing of coming from Christian homes and from families that are dedicated to the Lord's work, and are very supportive of us being on the mission field. I, Luke, was saved in October of 1981, at the age of 7, while Tonya was saved under her dad's preaching at the age of 15. I was called to preach when I was 16 years old, and surrendered to the mission field of Kenya the following year. Tonya also surrendered to be a missionary in her teen years. God allowed them to meet at Bethel Baptist College, which is a ministry of Bible Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Arkansas. We were married in July of 1995, and we have four children, Abigail, Breanne, Caleb, and Kay-Leigh.

Abigail is married to Robert Cepec and they have a son, Andrew and they are missionaries to Guyana.

Breanne is married to Jeremy Martin and they are missionaries to Mongolia.

Caleb has recently finished Bible College and is surrendered to the field of Israel, He will be part of two internships this year.

Kay-Leigh has just graduated from High school and is searching for direction in the next step in her life but wants to be a school teacher in the area of Secondary Education.

We are fluent in the Swahili language and is busy translating teaching material for our churches and Bible college. I am learning other languages that are spoken in the western region of Kenya, such as, Dholuo, Maasai, and Ekegusii. We lived in Kisii for nearly 20 years working in the villages around the area in soul-winning, training nationals, and planting churches. In 2020, we moved to the town of Kisumu on Lake Victoria and have been able to start another church there and hand it over to a new missionary and help them get adapted in the country. We are working with existing churches in the area around Kisumu to train men in their churches and we plan on starting several more churches in the village areas in the near future.

We have started 32 independent Baptist Churches throughout the region and we are mentoring and training the nationals to continue on with the work of reaching their own people. We started South Nyanza Baptist College which has grown to more than 10 branches, which are located in the churches that they have started. They are working with national pastors and students of over 60 churches to evangelize their areas by preaching in the markets, schools and prisons.

Thank you for your prayers and support for our family.

Luke + Tonya Shelby

Luke & Tonya Shelby
Missionaries in Kenya



What We Believe

The following points outline where we stand in our convictions:

The Scriptures

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God: that it was written by men who were moved by the Holy Spirit so that their writings, in the original, were supernaturally and verbally inspired and free from error, as no other writings have ever been or ever will be. They are the complete and final revelation of the will of God to man, and so are the supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

We further believe that the King James Bible is God's inerrant word divinely preserved for the English speaking of the world. We do not use, or recommend, the so called easy read modern Bibles of our day. We preach, and teach, only from the Authorized King James Bible.

The True God

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

- God the Father We believe in God the Father, perfect in holiness, boundless in love, infinite in wisdom, and measureless in power. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ, His son.

- God the Son We believe in Jesus Christ, God the Son, pre-existent with the Father, begotten by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary; sinless in His nature and life, infallible in His teaching, making atonement for the sins of the world by His substitution on the cross. We believe in His bodily resurrection, His ascension into Heaven, His perpetual intercession for His people, and His glorious second advent according to promise. We believe that the promise of His Second Coming includes: First, the "Blessed Hope" of the believer, namely the premillennial and pretribulation return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to rapture His church according to 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, second, His return later to earth with His saints to set up His millennial reign.

- God the Holy Spirit We believe in the deity and personality of the Holy Spirit. We believe that He came to convince and convict the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgement, and to regenerate, sanctify, indwell, comfort and empower those who believe in Jesus Christ.

Man

We believe that man was created in the image of God: that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death, which is separation from God. We believe that all human beings are born with a sinful nature, and in the case of those who reach moral responsibility become sinners in thought and deed by choice.

Satan

We believe in the reality and personality of Satan.

What We Believe Cont...

Salvation

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, as a representative and substitution sacrifice, and that all who by faith receive Him as their personal Savior are justified on the ground of His blood shed on Calvary and His resurrection from the dead, and are born again of the Holy Spirit, thereby becoming the children of God.

The Church

We believe in the visible church, which is a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized by immersion on a credible confession of faith, and associated for worship, word and fellowship. We believe that to these visible churches were committed for perpetual observance two ordinances: the baptism of believers by immersion, and the Lord's Supper. We believe that God has laid upon these churches the task of preaching the Gospel to every creature, and the edification of the individual members of the Body of Christ.

Last Things

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all the dead; the saved to eternal life and blessedness in Heaven, and the unsaved to eternal conscious suffering and woe in Hell (John 5:29)

Assurance

We believe in the eternal security of the believer. (John 10:27-29)

Church and State

We believe that every human being has direct relations with God, and is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith: that each church is independent and autonomous, and must be free from any interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority: that, therefore the church and state must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from the dictation or patronage of the other.

Christian Living

We believe that every saved person should manifest the Christian life in a consistent walk in the Holy Spirit fully and constantly yielding his members to the indwelling Christ, so that he may always in life and word show forth the praises of Him who has called him out of darkness into His marvelous light. We believe in a separated life for all believers as set forth in 2 Corinthians 6:14;7:1, including separation from unequally yoked marriages (believers with non-believers) and worldly alliances, pleasures, methods of work, worldly societies, etc.

Missions

We believe the command to give the Gospel to the world is clear and unmistakable and this Commission was given to the churches.

The Grace of Giving

We believe scriptural giving is one of the fundamentals of the faith. (2 Corinthians 8:7). We are commanded to bring our gifts into the storehouse (common treasury of the church) upon the first day of the week. (1 Corinthians 16:2) Under grace we give-and do not pay-the tithe. Abraham gave a tenth part of all, the tenth of the spoils. (Hebrews 7:2,4). This was four hundred years before the Law, and is confirmed in the New Testament. (Matthew 23:23).

The Shelby Family



your missionaries to
KENYA
EAST AFRICA since 1997

Luke 1/19
Tonya 6/20
Caleb 11/25
Kay-Leigh 11/23

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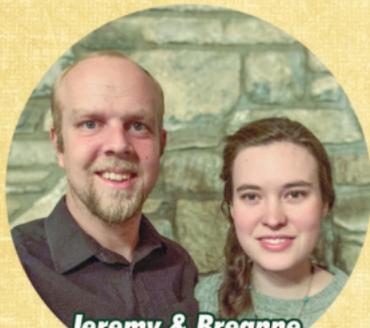
Pray for our Family



Preaching the WORD
Winning Lost SOULS
Baptizing New BELIEVERS



Planting CHURCHES
Training LEADERS



**Jeremy & Breanne
Martin - Mongolia**

As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord
Joshua 24:15



**Robert, Abigail &
Andrew Cepce - Guyana**

Bible Baptist Church

3301 North First Street
Jacksonville, Arkansas 72076

Rev. Mike Files, Pastor

Phone: 501-982-8826

April 27, 1999

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

RE: Letter of Recommendation - Luke Shelby

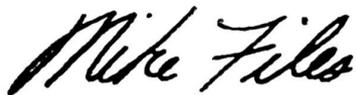
Dear Sirs,

We submit to you this heartfelt letter of recommendation for Rev. Luke Shelby and family. Luke comes from a very fine family and has always maintained a superior testimony among his peers.

We, the Pastor, staff, board of Trustees and the membership of Bible Baptist Church fully attest to his ability as a preacher and his desire to make a difference in the moral fabric of this world.

May you find it in your heart to give Rev. Luke Shelby and his family your full cooperation while in Kenya.

Thankfully submitted,



Pastor Mike Files

MF:mb

"A Church With A Heart For People"

October 18, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

I have had the privilege of knowing Luke and Tonya Shelby from the time they began deputation in order to go to Kenya. They were very successful in their deputation ministry. God blessed and they were able to raise the necessary funds and prayer support quickly.

These dear people have now been in Kenya for more than 25 years. Churches have been planted, a Bible college has been started, and many other ministries. God has and is using them in a wonderful way.

The Shelbys would be a blessing to any church that has them present their work or chooses to support them. For those who do choose to support them, they would have great dividends as a result of their ministry.

Brother Shelby is a good preacher and a good soul winner. He and his wife have been good parents to their children and they are now seeing the fruit of that. They love the people of Kenya and they prove their love by their faithfulness.

If I can be of any help to you in answering any questions, I will be glad to do so.

Yours because of Him,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Don Sisk P. 126.5.6". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name "Don Sisk".

Don Sisk

DS:ed



BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS, INC.

DR. RON BRAGG AFRICA INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE EMERITUS

October 20, 2022

To whom it may concern:

This letter is to verify that Luke Shelby and his family are missionaries in good standing with Baptist International Missions, Inc. since June of 1997.

I have personally known Luke since the beginning of his ministry as I was his Director for many years. Luke is a dedicated, soul winning, separated church planter serving in Kenya, West Africa.

I recommend him to you without reservation and I pray you will give him every consideration possible.

In His Service,

Ron Bragg

Dr. Ron Bragg

Africa International Representative Emeritus

RB:dkb

October 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to recommend to you Luke and Tonya Shelby, who have answered the Lord's calling to give their lives to God's service on the mission field of Kenya, East Africa. They have served with BIMI for over 25 years as church planting missionaries.

The Shelbys are experienced in the ministry and have proven themselves faithful in many areas of service. They have a love for people and a zeal for God's work. The Lord has used them to start multiple churches and Bible institutes to see hundreds come to know Christ as Savior and grow in their faith. May the Lord send forth more laborers such as the Shelbys into His harvest field.

Your co-laborer for Africa,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric Bohman". The signature is fluid and cursive, matching the printed name below it.

Eric Bohman
Africa Field Director

EB:hl