

Dear Pastor,

I would like to begin by thanking you for taking time to read over the enclosed information concerning our burden for the Kenyan people. I know that as a pastor, your time is valuable and limited. I pray that God will use the information provided to burden your heart for the souls of Kenyan people as well as to help familiarize you with our family and the vision God has given us for Kenya.

Included in this packet you will find:

- General Information about Kenya, East Africa
- Testimonies:
  - B.J. Cormier
  - Jessica Cormier
- Our Statement of Faith and Beliefs
- Letters of recommendation
  1. Pastor Alan Bartlett—pastor of our sending church, Central Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
  2. Pastor B.G. Buchanan—former pastor of Central Baptist Church, who is now with the Lord in glory.
  3. Bro. Robert A. Ross—former Vice President of Oklahoma Baptist College where my wife and I trained for the ministry.
  4. Bro. Mike Lovell—college and career Sunday School teacher at Central Baptist Church, bus captain, and spiritual father of B.J. Cormier.

Once again, I want to thank you for your time and consideration of our family as we serve the Lord in Kenya, East Africa.

Sincerely,  
B.J. Cormier

## Kenya: Our Vision

Kenya is a beautiful country located on the eastern coast of Africa. Situated on the equator, Kenya experiences tropical weather year around. On the coast, the weather is hot and humid while the highland regions have 60-85 degree weather. The north and northeastern parts of the country are hot and arid.

Within these diverse regions, many forms of wildlife abound. Tourism is one of Kenya's top industries, and it draws people from around the world. Kenya is experiencing economic growth in its capital as well as in major cities across the nation.

Kenya has a population of over 54 million. More than 42 tribal groups, as well as refugees from other nearby African countries, make up Kenya's rich culture. Since the adoption of the 2010 Kenyan constitution, English, Swahili, and Kenya Sign Language are Kenya's official languages. Living in Kenya are an estimated 2.7 million Deaf.

Since our arrival in Kenya in 2010, we have been privileged to work with both the Deaf and the hearing. Ministry opportunities include:

- Karen Baptist Church in Nairobi, Kenya

I am privileged to be the missionary pastor of Karen Baptist Church. In addition to preaching and teaching the Bible, my family and I enjoy serving the Lord with the believers of KBC as we work together to reach our area for Christ. The various ministries of Karen Baptist Church include evangelism, in-home gospel Bible studies, Bible clubs for children in the community, youth ministry, Deaf ministry, and more.

- Indigenous church planting

In 2012, Karen Baptist Church sent Bro. Ephraim Olusi and his family to start a church in his home town of Butula, Kenya. It has been a blessing to work with Pastor Ephraim as he laborers to establish a Bible-believing Baptist church among his people.

- Training indigenous pastors and fellow laborers in the work of the ministry

Since 2011, I have had the privilege to teach alongside fellow missionaries and national pastors in the Rift Valley Baptist College, which is a ministry of Grace Bible Baptist Church in Nakuru, Kenya.

In 2013, the Rift Valley Baptist College expanded to include sessions for the Deaf where they can receive doctrinally sound Biblical instruction in their language.

In 2023, fellow missionary Billy Coley and I started a Bible institute as part of the ministry of Karen Baptist Church. Our goals for the Bible institute are to strengthen the membership of the church, further the church's ministry in our local area, and prepare men for full-time ministry.

- Assisting churches to establish Deaf ministries

Since coming to Kenya in 2010, my wife and I have had opportunity to help Baptist churches reach the Deaf in their areas by training interpreters in the use of Kenyan Sign Language.

## B.J.'s Testimony

I was born in south Louisiana in what would be considered a non-religious home. While my dad is Catholic and my mom is Baptist, neither of them attend church. When I was a boy, however, they taught me that God existed, and I learned a few rote prayers, namely grace and another prayer before bedtime. When I was eight years old, a friend invited me to attend church with him at a local Baptist church. After we attended for the first time, he quit going, but I continued to attend whenever my parents dropped me off on Sundays.

A few months after that, a man named Terry Schillings from a different church—Central Baptist Church of Baton Rouge, Louisiana—knocked on our door. He invited my sister and me to ride the church bus, and from that day forward, Central Baptist Church became my home church. After I had been going for about a month, a ten-year-old boy shared the gospel with me on the bus, and I was saved. Four years later on Easter Sunday, I was baptized. During those years, the bus ministry became my Christian home. Eventually, I became a helper and then a worker on the bus route I grew up on.

When I graduated high school in 2000, my academic performance allowed for free tuition at any state school in Louisiana. When I sought counsel from my parents, they encouraged me to pursue my interest in computers. I did this for two years at Louisiana Tech University, but God had other plans for my life.

During my time at Tech, I attended a small Independent Baptist church in the country. While I was there, I had the privilege of being the choir director and the song leader. The more I became involved in church work, the more I desired to learn how to serve God. After two years at Tech, the Lord laid on my heart the desire to go to Bible college.

After much prayer, God led me to Oklahoma Baptist College. It was wonderful to go to a Christian school and be around people who wanted to serve God. During my first semester, God called me to preach. Then a few months later, He called me to be a missionary.

In January 2003, I attended the missions conference at Windsor Hills Baptist Church, and in that conference God called me to Kenya. A visiting missionary told me about his ministry in Kenya and asked me to pray that God would send someone to Kenya. Before the week was over, I knew I was the one God wanted to send to Kenya.

In Bible College I learned a lot about God's Word, about standards and convictions, and about myself. During my time there, I worked in the bus ministry, and God allowed me to be a bus captain for two and a half years. This was one of God's greatest blessings to me, and it was definitely His most influential tool in my training.

During my senior year, the Lord showed me His will concerning the woman I was to marry. On July 1, 2006, I had the honor of marrying Jessica Harrelson. What a blessing it is to serve God together in the ministry!

## Jessica's Testimony

God graciously allowed me to be born into a preacher's home where I was daily taught the Bible. At a young age, I learned what was right and what was wrong. By the age of six, I knew I was a sinner, and I knew I had to be saved to go to Heaven. That day my Dad gently explained to me the way of salvation, and in tears I asked Jesus to save me.

One year later in 1987, my Dad surrendered to be a missionary to Papua New Guinea. After a year and a half of deputation, we arrived on the mission field. At that time, I was nine years old, and for me, living in the bush was a big adventure. It was fun hiking six hours to our remote village, and I had fun playing with the native children each day.

During the next twelve years, my family ministered in three tribes. As I grew up, I watched God do amazing things. He met our needs, protected us, and gave us victory in the spiritual battles we faced. The greatest blessing for me was getting to see firsthand how lives can change for the glory of God.

When I was a teenager, my parents encouraged me to be involved in the ministry. It was not just *their* ministry. Those New Guinea people were *our* people, and we ministered to them as a family. I believe God used my parents' example to place in my heart the desire to be a missionary myself.

When I was twenty-one years old, we returned to the States for our third furlough, and Dad suggested we pray about Bible college. As a family, we asked for the Lord's guidance, and He clearly led me to Oklahoma Baptist College. As a freshman in college, I did not know God's will for my life, but I longed to be a missionary. Home for me was not America. It was the mission field.

When I was in New Guinea, I saw Deaf people in mountain villages, and the Lord placed in my heart the desire to learn sign language. When I arrived at college, I was overjoyed to learn that they offered a Deaf Missions major. God was busy giving me all of my hearts desires. I learned a lot working in the various ministries there. God used the Deaf ministry, the nursing home ministry, and the bus ministry to break my heart for lost souls.

During my sophomore year, God led Mr. Right into my life. B.J. Cormier was a young missionary called to Kenya. At that time, he was also learning sign language, and God knit our hearts together. From the very beginning of our courtship, we knew God was leading us toward marriage. It seems that God delights in answering every prayer I ever prayed and fulfilling every desire of my heart. My life verse is Psalm 18:30, and it has definitely come true in my life: "As for God, His way is perfect . . ."

## Statement of Faith

Dear Pastor,

In today's society, the distinction between the world and the church is becoming less distinguishable every day. Among those who call themselves Christians, there is a great diversity of doctrines, convictions, standards, and practices, and most do not adhere to the Word of God. Hence, I feel it is important that a person should be well grounded in the truth of God's Word and possess a strong knowledge of his beliefs. The following paragraphs summarize my beliefs and convictions on the stated subject matters.

**God.** I believe there is only one God, and that He is the LORD Jehovah. I also believe that God is a Trinity, having three Persons in one—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. God is omniscient (all-knowing), omnipresent (all-present), and omnipotent (all-powerful). God is the supreme Creator of the universe, the Controller of the universe, and in the day of Judgment, He will be the Judge of the universe.

**Christ.** I believe the Lord Jesus Christ is God the Son (John 1:14) Who was born of a virgin (Matthew 1:18-25), lived a sinless life while on earth (II Corinthians 5:21), and willingly gave His life on the cross to be the propitiation for our sins (I John 4:10). Three days after His death, He physically resurrected, was seen of His disciples, and physically and visibly ascended into Heaven. Jesus Christ is the only Savior of the souls of mankind (John 14:6) and the only mediator between a holy God and His sinful creation (I Timothy 2:5). I believe Jesus Christ will return physically, just like He ascended, to take believers to Heaven before the Tribulation.

**The Bible.** I believe that God in His great mercy and love has preserved His Word (Psalms 119:89). I believe that the Bible, (KJV for English-speaking people) was verbally inspired of God, and God worked through men to deliver His Word unto us. The Bible, being God's Word, is as perfect, holy, and inerrant as the Author Himself. The Bible is living, powerful, and utterly life changing (Heb 4:12).

**Salvation.** Salvation, according to the Bible, is by grace through faith in Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8-9). This faith is a choice that results from the sinner repenting of his sin, acknowledging his need for a Savior, choosing to accept Christ as that all-sufficient Savior (Romans 5:8-9), and putting his trust in Christ. Through good works we cannot obtain salvation. Instead, good works are an outward expression of an inward change that has already taken place (II Corinthians 5:17). This includes baptism which is only by immersion.

**The local New Testament church.** I believe Jesus Christ established the local New Testament church on the Rock, Himself. Thus, faith in Christ should be the foundation of the church. Members of the church are to have a clear salvation testimony, and they must be baptized in the church or by a church of like faith and practice. Additionally, the local New Testament church is to be governed by the

pastor, and all its members, including missionaries sent out from that church, are to be under the pastor's authority.

**Baptist Distinctives.** I am a Baptist, not because I was raised a Baptist, but because the teachings and principles of the Bible are adhered to by Baptists. I believe in the distinctive doctrines of the Baptist church such as the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the priesthood of the believer, and the vicarious blood atonement of Christ. I also believe the only ordinances of the church are baptism and the Lord's supper, and the established offices of the church are pastors and deacons. Additionally, I believe the Bible teaches that we are to live a separated life unto God, apart from the world.



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February 14, 2024

Dear Pastor,

I am pleased to highly recommend to you B.J. and Jessica Cormier as missionaries to the deaf and hearing in Kenya. Bro. B. J. was reached through the bus ministry of our church, and I watched him grow in the Lord and follow His lead to prepare for ministry. Mrs. Jessi grew up on the mission field.

The Lord has done a marvelous work through this family especially among the non-hearing in Kenya – reaching, discipling, training and providing real-life skills to the deaf students in their Bible colleges without making them dependent on the American missionary. A strong foundation is being laid so that deaf Kenyan people will be able to reach other deaf Kenyans for generations.

This family is solid doctrinally and in their spiritual walk. Their testimony is above reproach. They have done an excellent work for the Lord, and I'm confident that He will continue to use them to reach Kenyans with the Gospel. They are worthy of your consideration to become a part of your mission family.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

In His Service,  
Pastor Alan Bartlett  
225.773.4023  
alan.bartlett@centralbaptistbr.org

# Central Baptist Church

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B.G. Buchanan, Pastor

Dear Brethren:

Once in a lifetime you meet an unusual young person such as B. J. Cormier who is completely surrendered to the Lord. He started riding a bus to Central Baptist Church as a young boy from a Catholic family. He was very, very faithful right through his teen years and became a bus helper when he was old enough. All this time B. J. was in a secular, public school.

After he graduated from high school, his parents asked that he enroll in a state college in northern Louisiana. While in this college he sought out a sound Fundamental Baptist Church and became very active. After two years in this secular college, B. J. knew that it was God's will for him to attend Oklahoma Baptist College. While there he had a successful bus route at Windsor Hills Baptist Church.

B. J. is very worthy of your support. If he does not become a good missionary I will personally apologize to you.

Thank you for your time in reading this letter!

Sincerely,

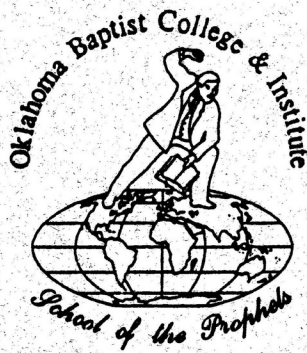


Pastor B.G. Buchanan, Sr.

BGB/sb

*"The Difference is Worth the Drive"*





A Ministry of Windsor Hills Baptist Church

**Dr. James Vineyard, President**  
**Dr. Robert Ross, Jr., Executive Vice-President**  
**Dr. Joe Finn, Dean**

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January, 2006

Dear Pastor:

We never grow tired of seeing young people step up and volunteer to carry the Gospel to the far reaches of this globe. B. J. Cormier is as fine a young man as you will ever meet. It is a genuine privilege to have the opportunity to recommend this young man to you for consideration of support as he embarks upon the deputation trail leading to Kenya, East Africa.

B. J. came to us here at Oklahoma Baptist College just a little over four years ago. He was a "bus kid" that grew up and developed a walk with God under his faithful Pastor, Brother B.G. Buchanan of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He never ceased growing when he came to college to train for the ministry.

Along the trail of his training, Billy distinguished himself as an able preacher, an aggressive soul winner, a faithful bus captain, and literally a "pastor" to the young people he brought to church each week. He has a "Servant's Spirit" that is refreshing, and is always available with a ready willingness to help others in any way possible.

B. J. is engaged to a young lady whose parents serve as Missionaries in Papua, New Guinea. Her name is Jessica Harrelson. As excited as I am to see what the Lord is going to do with Billy, I am twice as excited to see what the Lord will do with he and this dear young lady he is going to marry on July 1. Together, I have no doubt that this couple will be one that any church would want to invest in as they go to the field of Kenya, East Africa.

I know that many churches today are approached by Missionaries seeking support. A Pastor must be wise and discerning as to who he will lead the church to support. I have no doubt that B. J. Cormier and Jessica Harrelson will be one of those Missionary couples in whom you will realize a great return on your investment.

Any consideration of support that you would give to this couple would be greatly appreciated. If I can answer any questions that you may have concerning this couple, please do not hesitate to let me know. This young couple is special. I have every confidence they will do a great work for the Lord.

Sincerely your friend and servant,

  
Robert A. Ross, Jr.  
Executive Vice-president



8281 Lafayette St.  
Denham Springs, LA 70726

May 6, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I write this letter, as recommendation that you prayerfully consider B.J. Cormier as a missionary your church should offer support. I have known B.J. since his elementary school days as his bus captain. He was a faithful bus kid growing up in a Catholic family. At a young age he decided that what God wanted for his life was important, enough to avoid the pitfalls laid out for young people in these times.

I've also had the pleasure of being his youth pastor at Central Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, La. He has always exhibited a character that set itself apart from the norm. He was, and is, faithful to a fault to his church, his responsibility to the bus ministry as a captain, his Pastor and his family, and to his Lord.

He took the call to the ministry in a very humble and deliberate way, with much gravity of thought and prayer. I know that he will take the responsibilities of the mission field in the same dedicated manner as his approach to everything in his life, a "get the job done" mentality.

I can write for pages how I feel about this young man and the job I know he'll do in the Lord. He is the kind of person you want in front of your adults and young people. I have no hesitation at all in recommending B.J. as a candidate for your mission program.

Sincerely,

Mike Lovell