

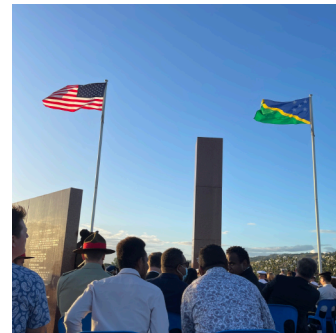
read about...

OURCOUNTRY



The Solomon Islands is a small island country located just northeast of Australia in the South Pacific Ocean. There are 992 islands that make up this beautiful tropical country. Three hundred fifty of these islands are spread over nine provinces and populated with over 700,000 souls. Solomon Islanders are mainly Melanesian in ethnicity, however, each island and tribe enjoys their own distinct culture. Over 70 languages are spoken across the Solomon Islands. When the Solomon Islands gained their independence from the British Empire in 1978, they chose English as their official language. Today, English is only spoken fluently by 1-2% of the population and is most people's third or fourth language. The language that could be considered the trade language of the Islands is Solomon Pijin. It is a mixture of English and many of their own languages.

Many people are familiar with the Solomon Islands because of their significance in World War II history. The capital, Honiara, is built around the battlefields and bases that were established on Guadalcanal. There is still an overall sense of appreciation for the United State's role in liberating them from the Japanese Empire and there is a memorial services every year on the anniversary of the Marines' landing.



The Solomon Islands is tied for the poorest country in the region with Papua New Guinea. Most Islanders depend on subsistence farming to survive. The capital is full of poverty as political corruption has resulted in a lack of work. A good wage is around \$13 USD a day in a city where the cost of living is even higher than the United States. This drives people to hopelessness and criminal activity. Many people live without the very basic necessities. Abuse of drugs and alcohol, as well as women, children and property, is rampant. People who have no hope live like people who have no hope.

The majority of Solomon Islanders are religious, although this number is declining rapidly as other activities draw the youth away from church. Most of the churches here teach a works based salvation and motivate faithfulness by fear. Roman Catholicism and Anglicanism make up over 50% of the belief systems. Seventh Day Adventists, Jehovah Witnesses, and Mormons all have a strong presence in the Islands as well. Many churches will give gifts to incentivize church attendance and faithfulness. These gifts range from a water tank for a village to overseas religious university scholarships for the youth. All of this adds an extra layer to the already thick cloud of confusion when it comes to people truly understanding the Bible and knowing that faith in Jesus alone is the only path that leads to eternal life and a relationship with the Creator. Clear Bible teaching is severely lacking and all of the confusion results in a hunger from many Islanders to know what God's Word really says. That makes it generally very easy to talk with people about the Bible. People are so hungry for someone to sit down with them, open God's Word, and just simply explain word by word what it says. This gives the opportunity for the truth of the Gospel to take hold in their lives and begin to make an impact.

read about... OUR FAMILY

Michael was born into a Pastor's home in Northeast Missouri. He was saved at the age of nine and soon after, he followed the Lord in baptism. Michael will always cherish the experience that he had as a pastor's son, and it has proven invaluable in the years ahead.

Finishing high school, Michael was intent on joining the U.S. Marine Corps. He knew the Lord was working on his heart for full-time Christian service, was terrified of that prospect as an introvert, and he thought that joining the USMC would be a way to serve God the way he wanted to serve Him. God used some medical issues in Michael's life to make him unfit for USMC. Though devastating to Michael's plan, God used these trials to bring him back to a life of surrender, completely open to God's leading in his life. As he was recovering from surgery, Michael was introduced to the need in the Solomon Islands. He, loving the Marine Corps and WW2 history, was immediately drawn to this small group of islands that were part of the Guadalcanal campaign. The Lord used this event to plant a burden in his heart for this country. Michael enrolled at Bible college and within the first week, he had surrendered to be a missionary. All through his time at college, the Lord began to develop Michael's burden for the Solomon Islands into a calling. He was able to visit the Islands for the first time with his dad and two other mentors in the summer of 2013. It was during that time, that God gave Michael confirmation that the Solomon Islands was where he was to serve the Lord with his life. Michael graduated with a bachelor's degree in Bible and missions in May 2015.



Michael Deatrick
August 4, 1991



Honorah Deatrick
January 16, 1993

Growing up in church from birth, Nora heard the Gospel countless times. Her memories from her childhood and teen years are few, but she made a profession of salvation at three years old. Because of her age and lack of memory of the specific day, words prayed, or even heart attitude, she struggled with a lot of doubts. At age 13, she spoke with a counselor at camp for assurance, yet does not have a good memory of that either. The Lord brought Nora the realization that her salvation is not based on a date, a prayer, or a memory; her salvation is based on her belief in Jesus and His sacrifice for the payment for her sin alone.

From the time she was a little girl, Nora's dreams were to be a wife, a mom, and a missionary. Her favorite books to read were missions biographies, and she loved talking to all the missionaries who would come by her church. She also had a love for all things medical and originally desired to pursue medical missions. God changed her plans and led her to Bible college. Her work as a nursing assistant helped pay her way through college, and the Lord used those years, and the missions internship included, to prepare her for life and ministry ahead. Nora graduated with a bachelor's degree in Bible and missions in May 2014.

During the fall semester of 2012, Michael and Nora ended up sitting together at dinner one evening and the topic of the Solomon Islands came up. It was well known to everyone on campus that Michael was going to the Solomon Islands and Nora wanted to hear all about it. After Michael spent the meal pouring out his heart for these Islands and people, Nora left dinner with an intense burden. In fact, that night she told her sister that regardless of whether or not God put her and Michael together, she believed God wanted her to be a missionary in the Solomon Islands. Michael had specifically been praying for a wife who was burdened for the Solomon Islands before they began dating. Soon thereafter, what was a casual friendship turned into a close one, which then blossomed into a relationship and May 31, 2014, Michael and Nora were married! The Lord provided for them to take a two-week survey trip to the Solomon Islands later that summer and they began full-time deputation in January 2015.



Corban Matthew
March 18, 2017

Corban is six years old and loves to be his daddy's little shadow. After losing our first two sons at 15- and 22-weeks gestation, Corban was our miracle gift from God, and what a wonderful gift he is to our family. He is a dreamer and we look forward to seeing the plans God has for his life.

Kezia is four years old and a little sunbeam in our home. She loves to be a little mommy to her siblings and our new kittens. Her exuberance and passion are contagious as she pours her heart into everything she does.



Kezia Florence
April 2, 2019



Michelle "Ellie" Hope
February 24, 2021

Ellie is two years old and has brought smiles to the faces of many aching hearts during her lifetime. Ellie was born just three weeks before her Aunt Jenny, and six weeks before Nora's mom, went to heaven. Her newborn cuddles provided much comfort, and she continues to give the best hugs and kisses.

God has blessed us with another precious baby due June 2023. Lord willing, we are planning to have the baby here at home in the Solomon Islands.



read about...

OUR MINISTRY

God has called us to preach the Gospel, teach His Word, equip people to study God's Word for themselves, plant churches, and train others to do the same in the Solomon Islands. On March 19, 2023, Pacific Light Baptist Church was officially chartered in the capital, Honiara, with 17 adult members. What an amazing day it was! It hasn't been an easy road to get to this point as there have been many roadblocks along the way, but God has been faithful every step.



When we landed in Honiara, Solomon Islands, as a young family of three in January 2018, there were no veteran missionaries for us to work alongside in the country. The last full-time independent Baptist missionaries that we knew of had left 40 years before. Pastors and missionaries from Australia had been making short trips over the past several years, which, in many ways, prepared the way for us to come. We are very grateful for their efforts and the fruit that abounds to their account.

The first service of Pacific Light Baptist Church in 2018 was held in our home with just one Solomon Islander in attendance. We began reaching out into the community and holding one-on-one Bible studies and God began to grow His church. From the ground up, it has been amazing to see Him reward our labors. Between medical trips and two years of being stuck out of the country during Covid, planting Pacific Light Baptist Church hasn't been easy and definitely hasn't gone according to our timetable, but God has been faithful and His timing can be trusted.



We are excited about the future as we look to purchase land, build a home for Pacific Light Baptist Church, and continue to grow. We are currently meeting in our home living room, which is overflowing on many Sundays. We have a vibrant children's ministry and are excited to see that grow, as they are the future of the Solomon Islands. Outreach, Bible studies, and discipleship keep us busy as we look to also beginning English, literacy classes, and Bible institute classes soon.

God has laid it on our hearts to establish a base of operations here in the capital of Honiara, to reach out to the 350 populated islands of the Solomon Islands. Our goal is to see Pacific Light Baptist Church grow to where we can begin a Christian school, Bible college, translation work, prison and addictions ministry, radio and networking ministries, aviation ministry, and other ministries to reach the Solomon Islands with the Gospel. We desire to see Solomon Islanders saved, discipled, and trained to be able to go back to their home provinces to preach the Gospel and start churches.



One lifetime seems so inadequate to give to God to accomplish His work here in the Solomon Islands, but we have given our all and, in His hands, that is enough. One of our greatest prayers is for colaborers here. We are just one young family and our efforts seem so very small in a field with such massive potential and so few laborers. Please pray with us for others to come and work alongside us in this amazing mission field of the Lord's. We are privileged to be a part of God's ministry here.

read about...

OUR NEED

As we have been ministering here in Honiara, Solomon Islands, over the past five years, the responsibility to get God's Word into hands in both an accurate and easy-to-understand translation has weighed heavily on our hearts. We believe both are important to God. Under our commitments to our missions agency and supporting churches at the time, we had just two options: the King James Version or the Solomon Island Pijin Bible. God made it clear that the Pijin Bible was not a good option, and the KJV was presenting an unnecessary obstacle to the people's personal growth and relationship with God when there were other easier-to-understand and accurate English options available.

After much prayer and study, God made it clear to us that the only reason we were not changing was the fear of man and fear of the loss of support. Neither of which are good reasons to decide anything. Making a change like this required a leap of faith and, in February of this year, we announced to our missions agency and supporting churches our intention to switch from using the KJV in the ministry here. We have since begun using the NKJV. If you would like further information on the language or Bible situation here, I would be happy to provide that for you.

This change ended our partnership with our missions agency and approximately 35% of our support has been discontinued this far. We knew this decision would cost us personally. We were not naive to the loss of support to come. However, none of that matters before God and when He makes a decision clear, we have committed to obeying Him. He is trustworthy and has always taken care of us and His work here. Our sending church is behind us, and we are excited to see what God has for the future.

Our greatest concern in making this decision was the ministry here and staying on the field. We just arrived back in August of last year and the ministry is flourishing. We have no desire to leave. Our prayer is to stay here and finish out our full term of 3-4 years before returning to the States to raise more money, if the Lord allows. The first big step in this goal was accomplished when Baptist World Mission in Decatur, Alabama, accepted us into their mission family in March. We are so grateful for their willingness to work with our situation and facilitate our application and approval from afar.

The next step in our goal of finishing out our term is raising back our lost support virtually. We are currently at 40% of our support level and waiting to hear final decisions from 25%. Many of our supporting churches have generously committed to give love offerings to help financially as we work to raise the lost support.

Would you prayerfully consider financial support of our family and the ministry here in the Solomon Islands? With technology as advanced as it is, we are happy to schedule meetings virtually over video calls or sending a video for you to play in your church. I understand it is not exactly conventional and certainly not the same as meeting us in person. If you would consider taking us on for support conditionally until we are able to take a furlough and come to meet you and your church in person, we believe that our staying here for now is important for the health of the ministry.

You can contact me by email at mdeatrick@me.com and via iMessage or FaceTime audio/video that way as well. My U.S. phone number is 660-324-5449. My WhatsApp is +677 7227100. I would be happy to set up a video call to introduce myself and family so you can get to know us. We are 15 hours ahead of eastern time, so if you are in the United States, your evening is the best time for us. However, I am willing to work around your schedule. Thank you for your consideration and most importantly, we covet your prayers for us and the ministry here.

Financial support and one time gifts can be sent to Baptist World Mission, P.O. Box 2149, Decatur, AL 35602 or given online via their website at baptistworldmission.org.

read about... OUR PROJECT

Pacific Light Baptist Church is a pioneer Independent Baptist Church in Honiara, Solomon Islands. There have been small works that have come and gone, but there are currently no other Independent Baptist churches that we are aware of in the country. Missionary Baptists and South Seas Evangelical churches would be the closest doctrinally, the biggest differences being eternal security, the Holy Spirit, and church polity. We have spent as much time teaching eternal security to already born again believers, as we have spent time preaching the gospel to people who have never heard it.

As a ministry based in the capital city, the prices for land are very high. However, it is the prime location to establish a base of operations in reaching out to the 350 populated Islands with the truth of Jesus Christ. The potential is massive! We have just submitted the necessary forms to be registered as a charitable organization with the government here. Pacific Light Baptist Church is currently meeting in our home living room which has worked well for this current time. However, the members and other Islanders have made it clear that culturally a church is not really viewed as a church until they have their own land and building. We believe this is very important as we plant a Solomon Island church. We are praying for God to provide land in a good central location.

Our dreams for the land include seeing it as the home of Pacific Light Baptist Church and eventually a Christian school, Bible College, radio and broadcasting center, addiction ministries, abused women and children ministry and shelter, among others. Honiara is the hub of the Solomon Islands and therefore the best location to have a base to train Solomon Islanders in the Word of God so that they can go back to their home provinces and villages to begin Biblical churches all over the Solomon Islands.

This initial project includes two phases. Phase one is the purchase of land and a temporary shelter to begin holding services there immediately. Phase two is the construction of a building that will initially be the church building along with solar panel installation to offset the expensive cost of electricity. Electricity here is the most expensive in the world. Lord willing, the initial building included in this project will be transitioned to an educational, classroom, and office building as the church and ministry grows and a bigger building is required down the road.

The total estimated cost is \$846,000, which includes the purchase of land in Honiara, materials, and all building and labor expenses for these first two phases. That number is massive and we have never raised anything like it before, but our God is the God of the impossible. He's the same God today as the God who multiplied the five loaves and two fishes. One dollar and \$846,000 is the same to Him, and we are excited to see how He provides! This is God's ministry and we have no doubt that He will provide as we are faithful to Him.

If God leads you to give a one-time gift towards this project, all donations can be sent to Baptist World Mission, PO Box 2149, Decatur, AL 35602 or given online via their website at baptistworldmission.org. Please specify that the donation is for the project Pacific Light Baptist Church building. Any excess money received above the \$846,000 will be set aside for future building phases of Pacific Light Baptist Church.





Planting Churches Worldwide

March 22, 2023

Dear Friends of Michael and Nora Deatrick,

Greetings from the home office of Baptist World Mission. I trust this note finds you enjoying the blessings of the Lord upon your life and ministry for our dear Savior!

I am writing today with great rejoicing to notify you that Michael and Nora Deatrick have been appointed as missionaries with BWM to the Solomon Islands. As a prayer and financial supporter of this sweet couple, you are already aware of their personal integrity and commitment to Christ as they seek to plant churches in a needy land where language and culture make evangelism and discipleship a daily challenge.

While the Deatricks are coming to Baptist World from a sister agency which recommended them to us, they are not strangers personally or corporately. I have known Michael since his college days, and his brother, Nathan, is a close personal friend and beloved member of our Board of Trustees. I have the greatest respect for them as uncompromising Baptist separatists, who are attempting to reach a lost people group for Jesus Christ.

Since its founding in 1961 Baptist World Mission has been committed to serving local churches of like faith and practice. Throughout the Deatrick's application process, our office has communicated with the pastor of their sending church, First Baptist Church of Wayland, Missouri. We have enjoyed a long-term partnership with this congregation in their support of a number of our BWM missionaries and are delighted to be serving them closely in helping Michael and Nora be successful on the field to which God has called them.

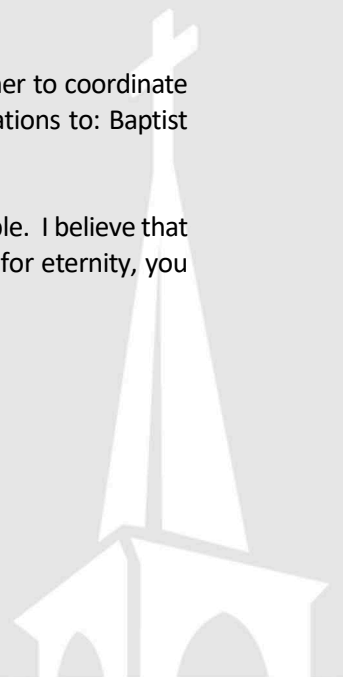
Our office is in communication with their former mission agency, and we are working together to coordinate the smooth transfer of finances to the Deatrick's account at BWM. Please send future donations to: Baptist World Mission, PO Box 2149, Decatur, AL 35602-2149.

Thank you for continuing to be a vital partner of the life and ministry of this choice young couple. I believe that time will reveal the wisdom and benefit of your ongoing investment in their work, and that for eternity, you will have the joy of sharing in the fruit of Melanesian souls for the glory of Jesus Christ.

For the Sake of His Name,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bud Steadman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "B" and "S".

Bud Steadman
Executive Director



First Baptist Church of Wayland
P.O. Box 281
Wayland, MO 63472
660 - 754 - 6312

April 24, 2023

Dear Brethren,

It is with great joy that I recommend the persons and ministry of Michael and Honorah (Nora) Deatrck, missionaries to the Solomon Islands. They have ministered there since January of 2018. God has given them three wonderful children, Corban, Kezia, and Ellie. They also are expecting their fourth child in June, 2023. God has been good to them as a family.

Since their arrival in 2018, they have been busy planting the Pacific Light Baptist Church in Honiara, the capital city. The first service of Pacific Light was in April of 2018. On Sunday, March 19, 2023, the church was constituted as a Bible-believing, independent Baptist Church. Most of those Island believers had never been part of a Baptist church!

As in every missions story, there have been difficult times. On one occasion it became necessary for Michael and Nora to come back to the States for a complicated birth. While they were here, Covid happened. Consequently, they were trapped here in the States and could not travel back. During the time they were here, Michael continued to pay the rent on the building, provide transportation for his helper Joseph Iro to pastor the people in his absence, and weekly teach and preach through zoom meetings to the people. As if the time were not hard enough, riots destroyed their building in Chinatown, and all their possessions were lost in fire. What a difficult time!

Yet through all that God has preserved the work. They have been back home with their church family for almost a year, and God has blessed. They have seven complete family units in their congregation, as well as, a number of singles, and many children. Pacific Light represents eight different tribal peoples gathered together in the name of Jesus. I have personally been with these people, and they do love the Lord. Weekly attendances challenge the meeting place they can rent. Pacific Light is growing, as we would hope, spiritually and numerically. Praise the Lord!

In closing, I can assure you that Michael Deatrck and Pacific Light Baptist Church will be a good investment of your missions dollar. If you have any questions, please feel free to call my personal cell – 660-341-6616. On behalf of First Baptist Church of Wayland, we are grateful that God has led us to be the sending church for this good missionary and his family.

In Him,
Dan Deatrck, Pastor