



Dear Pastor,

We are the James Helterbran family. We believe it is God's will for us to serve Him as part of a team of missionaries in Tanzania, East Africa. In July of 2022, I surrendered my life to God at a Youth Conference in Hammond, Indiana. During the conference, it seemed that every preacher that spoke emphasized the need for laborers around the world. While I did not feel a "call," I wanted God to use me wherever and however He pleased. I said, "Here am I; send me." The next month I enrolled at Hyles-Anderson College, where I graduated.

In March of 2025, my wife, Stevanie, and I were married, and we are expecting our first child in March of 2026. We have enjoyed serving the Lord at our home church through the bus ministry where we both have the privilege of teaching Sunday School. Together we enjoy running a bus route. God has allowed us to go soul winning and bus visiting nearly every week. The greatest joy of our life is seeing souls saved and people become faithful to church through the bus ministry. We look forward to serving the same God in the same way on the other side of the world.

I was saved at the age of 16, at Triple S Christian Ranch in Rose Bud, Arkansas.

Stevanie was also saved at the age of 16, at our home church. We were both baptized at our home church the services following our salvations. We are very thankful that God allowed us to be raised in Christian homes and to be a part of a Bible believing, soul winning church. We have been blessed to serve in the ministries of Marion Avenue Baptist Church most of our lives.

In January of 2022, God allowed me to take a missions trip to Liberia and Sierra Leone. During the trip we distributed water purification systems, but more importantly, we shared the Living Water of Jesus Christ with the people. God allowed us to see several souls saved, and I had the opportunity to preach in two churches. Stevanie, along with a group from our church, visited Tanzania in July of 2024. While in Tanzania, she was able to be a part of the annual Stadium Crusade hosted by Faith Baptist Church.

We will be working with missionary Pastor Jerry Wyatt III at Faith Baptist Church in Morogoro, Tanzania. Lord willing, God will use us to expand the ministries of Faith Baptist Church. We will be working in Faith Baptist College, Morogoro, and assisting nationals as they start churches. Lord willing, we will be starting a "Timothy Home Project" (Young men who feel the call of God on their lives and will be training full time in and for the ministry.) During our survey trip, we are excited to be a part of the first annual "East Africa Pastors' and Workers' Conference."

Our mission board will be FBMI in Hammond, Indiana, and we will be starting deputation full time in August of 2026. Our sending church is Marion Avenue Baptist Church in Washington, Iowa.

Will you prayerfully consider supporting us as we strive to reach Tanzania for Christ? We would love the opportunity to come present our work and partner with you!

- James and Stevanie Helterbran
Worthy is the Lamb... (Rev. 5:12)

INFO AND SCHEDULE

SENDING CHURCH

Marion Avenue Baptist Church

215 S. Marion Ave.

Washington, IA 52353

www.marionavenuebaptist.com

855-825-4113

PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

James and Stevanie Helterbran

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2026 SCHEDULE

June 1-5.....FBMI Candidate School

June 26.....Quitting job and stepping out by faith

June 28 - July 17.....Survey Trip

July 20-23.....FBMI Missions University

July 26.....FBMI Commissioning Service

August.....Begin deputation full-time!!



STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. We believe in One True God (Deuteronomy. 6:4) in Three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost (1 John. 5:7).

- Our God is the Eternal Creator of all things (Isaiah. 40:28).

- Jesus Christ is the sinless, Son of God (Matthew. 16:16-17). Jesus is from everlasting (Micah. 5:2) and was born of a virgin (Isaiah. 7:14). Jesus became flesh (John. 1:14; Philippians. 2:6-7).

- The Holy Ghost is God (Acts 5:3-4). The Holy Ghost comes to dwell in us upon salvation (Romans 8:9). We are sealed by the Holy Ghost (Ephesians 4:30). The Holy Ghost empowers us to be witnesses (Acts 1:8).

2. We believe the sixty-six books (Genesis to Revelation) to be the perfect (Ps. 12:6) Word of God. It is verbally inspired (2 Pet. 1:21) by God and He has promised to preserve it forever (Ps. 12:7). We believe the **King James Bible** to be the inspired, preserved Word of God in the English language.

3. We believe God created all things in six literal days as recorded in Genesis 1 (John 1:3).

4. We believe God created man in His own image (Genesis 1:26). As a result of Adam's sin, death passed upon all men (Romans 5:12). The penalty for sin is death (Romans 6:23). The second death is eternal torment in a literal hell (Revelation 20:14).

5. We believe the Gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:3-4) and is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16). The shed blood of Christ grants salvation to all who accept Him (Hebrews 9:22; 1 Peter 1:18-19). Salvation is a gift (by grace through faith), not a reward (Ephesians 2:8-9). Salvation is available to all (Revelation 22:17; Romans 10:13), not just a select few (2 Peter 3:9). Salvation is only through Jesus Christ (John 14:6). Salvation is eternal (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 5:9). Once a person is saved, they cannot be plucked out of God's hand (John 10:28-29). The saved are kept by the power of God (1 Peter 3:5) and sealed by the Holy Ghost (Ephesians 4:30).

6. We believe Christians should strive to be holy (1 Peter 1:16). Christians are to be separated from the world (2 Corinthians 6:17). Christians are not to keep company with believers who fail to do so (1 Corinthians 5:9-13). Christians should not become friends with the world (James 4:4). While Christians cannot lose their salvation because of sin, it will bring chastisement from God (Revelation 3:19).

7. We believe that Christ is the head of the church (Ephesians 5:23). Christians are to join the church after baptism (Acts 2:41-42). God sets requirements for bishops (pastors) who are to oversee the church (1 Timothy 3:1-7). Deacons may be appointed to assist with the daily operations of the church (Acts 6:1-3).

8. We believe it is the duty of the church to take the Gospel into all the world (Mark 16:15). Christians are commanded to bring forth fruit: other Christians (John 15:16). We are commanded to go, preach, baptize, and teach (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15). The Holy Ghost empowers us to fulfill the Great Commission (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8).

9. We believe baptism is commanded after salvation to fulfill all righteousness (Matthew 3:15). Baptism is by immersion and is a picture of salvation, not a part of salvation (Romans 6:3-5). Baptism is to be done immediately after salvation (Acts 2:41). Salvation is the only requirement for baptism (Acts 8:36-37).



MARION AVENUE

BAPTIST CHURCH

Dear Pastor Friend,

The great need of our generation is not better programs, larger buildings, or more resources, but **faithful people reaching a lost and dying world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ**. While opportunities abound here at home, entire regions of the world still sit in darkness, waiting for someone to come and tell them that Christ died, was buried, and rose again. These places desperately need devoted, surrendered missionaries who love people and believe the Gospel is still the answer. **It is with that burden and conviction that I write this letter on behalf of James and Stevanie Helterbran.**

James Helterbran grew up at Marion Avenue Baptist Church, and I have known him his entire life. I have watched him grow from a boy into a godly young man who loves the Lord, loves the Word of God, and loves people. James is hard working, faithful, teachable, and dependable. He has been deeply involved in ministry for years, particularly in the bus ministry, where he has consistently demonstrated a heart for reaching souls. He is not afraid of hard work, sacrifice, or inconvenience if it means someone hearing the Gospel. **He is a proven soulwinner who faithfully goes soul-winning every Saturday and reaches people every single week.**

Stevanie, his wife, has also grown up here at Marion Avenue, and I have known her, her entire life as well. She is a godly young lady with a sincere walk with God, a servant's heart, and a deep love for people. Stevanie is a soulwinner, a hard worker, and truly an incredible help-meet to James. She understands ministry, embraces it joyfully, and supports her husband wholeheartedly in the work God has called them to do. **Her life has been marked by service and faithfulness.**

I am not merely offering a polite recommendation. **I am pleading with you to take James and Stevanie Helterbran on for support.** They are the real thing. They are proven, faithful, surrendered, and Gospel-centered. Supporting them is an **investment in souls, churches, and eternal fruit that will last far beyond this lifetime.**

If you have any questions or need further information, I would be glad to speak with you personally.

For Christ and for Souls,

Pastor Joseph

215 South Marion Avenue // Washington, IA 52353
www.marionavenuebaptist.com // 1.855.825.4113
Joseph Brown, Pastor // Randy Bingham, Spanish Pastor



James Belisle Missionary Evangelism Unto The World



Dear Pastor,

It is always a blessing to watch two people grow up in church, see them mature in the Lord, and then make the decision to surrender their lives to the Lord Jesus. That is the joy I have received in watching James and Stevanie Helterbran grow up here at Marion Avenue Baptist Church. I have known both these young people for their whole lives.

James has always been a hard-working young man. Since his salvation at the age of 16, I have seen spiritual growth in his life. I remember him coming to me and asking me if he could go soul winning with me. That does not happen often with a teenager. He then decided to go off to Bible college. And when it came to him being interested in a young lady, he chose one who has shown an interest in God's work for years.

Stevanie comes from a family whose whole life revolves around the bus ministry. She and her sisters (no brothers in the family) have helped mom and dad on the bus route for as long as I can remember. Stevanie has also been a helper in the church office at various times.

I rejoiced when I saw that once they got married, they continued in their service for Christ. They both go out bus calling and soul winning on Saturdays. They also continue to teach a Sunday School class. Their service for Christ did not diminish after marriage.

I highly recommend the James and Stevanie Helterbran family as missionaries to the country of Tanzania. I believe they will serve Christ with their whole hearts and will be a good investment of your support.

If you have any questions, feel free to call me. My phone number is 319-461-3321.

Yours truly,

Missionary Evangelist James Belisle
Missions Director, Marion Avenue Baptist Church



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Marion Ave. Baptist Church
215 S. Marion Ave.
Washington, IA 52353
855-825-4113

Sending Church
First Baptist Church
507 State Street
Hammond, IN 46320
219-932-0711

Support Address
Missionary Evangelist James Belisle
P. O. Box 407
Washington, IA 52353
319-461-3321



the WYATTS Tanzania

Dear Pastor Friend,

I am writing to you with joy to recommend James and Stevanie Helterbran, who will be coming to serve with us here in Tanzania, East Africa. The need here is truly great. We need faithful, surrendered servants who love God, love people, and are committed to the work of the ministry for the long haul. James and Stevanie are exactly that kind of family.

My wife and I have had the privilege of knowing the Helterbrans personally since their childhood and have observed their hearts for ministry. James is a steady, hardworking young man with a genuine love for souls and a deep respect for the Word of God. His background in the bus ministry, soul winning, and the many ministry outreaches of Marion Avenue Baptist Church has prepared him well for missionary life and cross-cultural ministry.

Stevanie is equally committed to serving the Lord. She has a servant's heart, a gracious spirit, and a sincere desire to help wherever there is a need. During her time in Tanzania, she willingly jumped into ministry and outreach while on their church's missions trip. She is a strong help to her husband and clearly embraces the calling God has placed on their family.

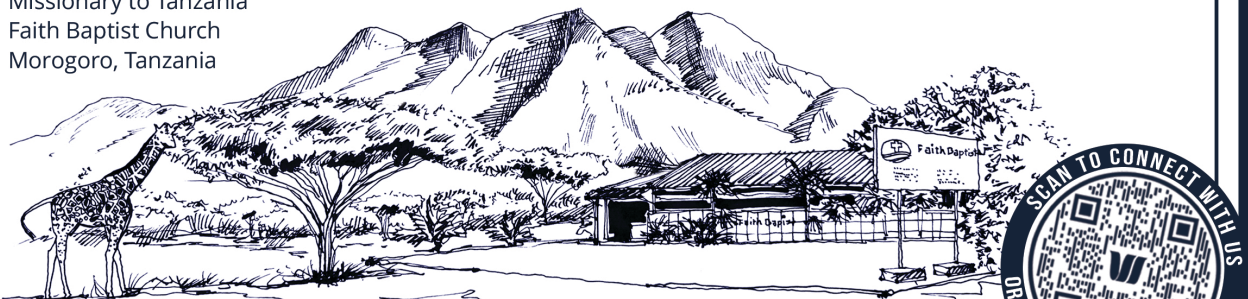
As they prepare to serve alongside us at Faith Baptist Church in Morogoro, and to assist in training nationals, working in Faith Baptist College, and helping expand the ministries here, I have full confidence that they will be a blessing and an asset to the work. Their desire to invest in future leaders through projects like the Timothy Home shows their long-term vision and commitment to the Great Commission.

I do not offer this recommendation lightly. I wholeheartedly encourage you to prayerfully consider supporting James and Stevanie Helterbran. Your partnership with them is truly an investment in souls, churches, and eternal fruit that God is producing here in East Africa.

If I can answer any questions or provide further information, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your faithfulness to the Lord and your heart for missions.

For Christ and for Souls,

Jerry Wyatt III
Missionary to Tanzania
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