

An interview with Michael Horsey, Founder & President/CEO of Mission 2819

Q. What is Mission 2819?

It's a Veteran-owned, Christ-centered, missions-focused nonprofit organization with a singular mission: to #Go2819. 2819 reflects Jesus' final red letters to the world: "Go! Make disciples of all nations", the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19. Understand this was His legacy, His ultimate message to the world. He left us with a call to arms. #Go2819 is the message of Jesus! That's Mission 2819.

Q. You served a career in the military. Did that influence you to start Mission 2819?

Most certainly. Being military instills Service. Service to Country, Service to God. We're trained to put others first for the mission, even giving our life if so called. Jesus calls us to the same. Serving in the military also shrunk the globe. Only 5% of Americans travel abroad, and here I've been to over 30 countries. God opened my eyes to the truism that He doesn't see borders, but only His children. Being in third world countries, especially where Christians aren't welcome, reminds how much God has blessed America. Those two thoughts, learned during my career, are the foundational elements of Mission 2819. A God-dedicated work to enlist more Christ Warriors to His Army, while sharing blessings with our brothers and sisters in Christ, no matter where they are in the world.

Q. The "foundational elements" were set, but how did those ultimately lead to Mission 2819?

I retired from the Pentagon with my own plans to take on Corporate America. First morning of retirement, sitting outside, drinking my coffee, and enjoying the peacefulness of God's creation, clarity came to me. Without knowing where it would lead, I reaffirmed my service to God and took the prophet Isaiah's oath... Here am I Lord, send me. Six months later, in February 2017, I awoke from a dream that set the course for Mission 2819.

Without getting into specific details, the dream was God-inspired clarity to create something larger than myself that can impact the world for Christ. It was triggered by a discussion I just had with Joseph Baidya, Pastor of the Bangladesh Christian Church. He was describing how children of converted Christian parents are often exiled so need support to be safely raised as Christian. That, plus the 10,000 pieces of Christian literature they distribute every month costs money. Bangladesh is a poor country. The church doesn't get outside support since it's not an American church plant. I had told Joseph I was already doing everything I could for him. Then the dream; and a reminder: Here am I Lord, send me! I awoke with the entire vision of Mission 2819. How could I not act?

Q. Joseph inspired you to found Mission 2819. What can you tell us about him and Bangladesh?

Joseph is a modern day Apostle Paul; no matter what confronts him, Joseph preaches the Gospel. He leads the BCC in the world's most densely populated city in the world's fourth largest Muslim country that annually hosts the largest Muslim religious gathering. Bangladesh is 95% Muslim. In the center of it all is this tiny island of Christianity.

Joseph has been arrested and stood trial before a Sharia Law court for the crime of "being Christian." He preached the Gospel to them! He sees every opportunity as one to share Jesus. When in jail, he preached! When he and his wife travel to India for medical treatment, he preaches in waiting room. No matter what happens, he remains focused to #Go2819. The result? Over 100 new Christians join God's Army every year. That's more than even most American mega-churches!

Q. What else can you tell us about Bangladesh? Why is the work there more important than any other country?

If God doesn't see borders, as I alluded to, then all the world is important and no place more important than anywhere else. Jesus commanded to make disciples of ALL nations, not just a few. Bangladesh is a unique location that is ripe field for the harvest. Imagine over half the United States population squeezed into a country the size of Illinois, with its Capitol city having three times the population of Chicago at 1/10th the size. Outside Dhaka is mostly tribal regions, places so remote the people would never otherwise hear the name Jesus. Add on to it that most people live in extreme poverty and are searching for a Hope that nothing else has provided. This insanely dense populated country is only 0.3% Christian, creating something new they can look to for that hope. In the middle of it all is a small rag tag band of Christians risking their lives to preach the Gospel.

Our connection to the BCC and the Bangladesh government restricting outside Christian influences positioned Mission 2819 as the only official avenue of support to the Christian work in Bangladesh. Every presentation I give where I talk about Joseph, people are amazed and want to support the work. Mission 2819 gives that opportunity.

Q. Mission 2819 has expanded beyond Bangladesh. What can you tell us about that work?

Our first expansion was here in the U.S., supporting a mission in South Texas to improve the quality of life through residential home renovations for impoverished border community Christians living in sub-standard conditions. In 2018, I personally worked with this mission. "Substandard conditions" is putting it mildly. A house we worked on, the family was living on a dirt floor until the group before ours poured them a concrete slab. Our projects, we tiled over the concrete floor, tiled a shower, painted, and some other work. Every day, the family cooked us lunch and we fellowshiped together. Jesus tells us in Matthew 25:40 that how we care for the "least of these" is how we treat him. It was a memorable experience, so we're looking forward to future opportunities to return.

In 2020, we began our newest expansion. We partnered with Dominic Haygood of Branson Missouri's ultra-popular show The Haygoods. Dominic had recently visited a poor community in Costa Rica, inspired to support the community and especially the children. I've been to Costa Rica as well, and outside the touristy areas, know there's a need for Christian support. It seemed a good fit to work with Dominic. Our first effort is to raise sufficient funds to build a church/community center for the children to develop a relationship with Jesus. We might also work together on some other efforts as God wills.

Q. You mentioned Jesus' most important message, what final message would you leave us with?

To #Go2819. It's the same message, how could it not be? Jesus message wasn't just for preachers, or leaders, it was for all Christians... to #Go2819. However and whatever that means for you, do it. Live it out, open your ears and eyes to God and let Him lead you. Say this with me... Here am I Lord, Send me. It's Go Time!