
Response from Larry Barker

Heidi Sorrells <heidi@bmaglobal.org>

Mon, Jul 20, 2026 at 4:59 PM

To: deidrawc@gmail.com

Hi Deidra,

I hope you're doing well!

Larry is traveling this week for a funeral and has also been preaching at camps, but he asked me to reach out and see if I could answer a few of the questions he hasn't been able to get back to you about.

We've shared the Senior Pastor Transition Booklet with many churches over the years and have also periodically made it available as a free download on our website. Because of that, it's difficult for us to know exactly which churches have used it or how extensively they've relied on it. We've certainly heard from churches that have found it helpful, but it's likely just one of several things they've used during their transition.

Our hope is that the booklet serves as a resource for BMA churches and pastor search committees as they prayerfully seek the Lord's direction. It offers sample ideas, suggestions, and reminders of details that can sometimes be overlooked during a transition. Unfortunately, it isn't meant to be a procedure that will fit every congregation or a guarantee of success.

One thing we've heard repeatedly from churches is that the most valuable step they took was intentionally setting aside time to seek the Lord together. Seasons of collective prayer and dependence on God have proven foundational for churches searching for a pastor, planting a new church, or navigating any significant season of change. We truly believe that's where the process begins, and that everything else flows from that posture of seeking God and trusting Him.

Please know that you aren't walking through this alone. Our BMA Global missions team here in Conway is praying for Rolling Hills and asking God to provide the shepherd He has already prepared for your congregation. If it would be helpful, we'd also be glad to share some prayer resources.

Regarding Fresh Encounter, we don't have firsthand knowledge of churches specifically using that resource. However, we've had several pastors share that they've used Henry Blackaby's *Experiencing God*, either individually or churchwide through Sunday School classes or small discipleship groups.

We are so grateful for your heart to help the church grow in their understanding of missions.

Here are a few resources that may be helpful:

- Video: <https://vimeo.com/1157643713?fl=pl&fe=sh>
- World Missions Day resources: <https://bmaglobal.org/worldmissionsdayresources/>

If you have questions about international missionaries or would like additional mission resources, Margaret Anderson helps with that side of things. You can reach her at margaret@bmaglobal.org.

If there's anything else we can do to serve you or Rolling Hills during this season, please don't hesitate to reach out. We'd be glad to help however we can.

Blessings,

Heidi Sorrells