

**Tabernáculo Bautista Bíblica "Amigos de Israel" -  
"Friends of Israel" Bible Baptist Tabernacle  
(fundado por "Hermano Toby," Edgar Lopez Bertrand)**

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**El Dr. Edgar López Bertrand** nació en Chalatenango, El Salvador, el 30 de septiembre de 1939. Sus estudios de Primaria y Secundaria los realizó en el Liceo Salvadoreño. Estudió su primera carrera en la Escuela Nacional de Agronomía (ENA). Continuó sus estudios en Los Estados Unidos de Norte América, en donde se gradúa como Ingeniero Mecánico.

Luego de unos años de trabajo como ejecutivo de multinacionales, se convirtió en un próspero empresario. Recibe a Jesucristo durante una campaña evangelística en Huichtla, México el 11 de septiembre de 1970.

Escuchando el llamado del Señor, deja sus empresas e ingresa a Temple University en Chattanooga, Tennessee, ordenándose como pastor el 17 de julio de 1975. Posteriormente obtiene 2 doctorados, en Teología y Psicología. Por más de 30 años ha predicado el Evangelio por los 5 continentes. Es el predicador preferido por muchas iglesias y denominaciones. Sus sermones se escuchan por la radio en todo El salvador, Guatemala y Honduras. A través del Internet se le escucha en todo el mundo.

Dios le ha utilizado grandemente, edificando una obra ministerial gigantesca. Su iglesia cuenta con más de 65,000 miembros, los cuales, con su fidelidad como diezmadores han hecho posible la apertura de más de 200 iglesias y 200 campos misioneros.

La historia de nuestra iglesia comienza hace 30 años [ca. 1978] en la casa de habitación de nuestro pastor general, aquí comienza a reunirse con un grupo de familias que querían estudiar la Biblia. Este grupo de personas aumentó a un punto que ya no cupieron, y buscaron otro lugar, pasando así al Centro comercial El Rosal, ubicándose en los locales comerciales.

Las personas que llegaban invitaban a otras, esto aunado a la tarea evangelizadora que siempre inculcó el pastor, hace que estos locales se queden pequeños, y después de un tiempo, nuevamente ya no cabían y buscan un nuevo lugar; llegan al local de La Sultana, en donde ya había un edificio para los cultos de los adultos y otro para la Escuela Bíblica, pero el crecimiento no se detuvo, y llegó un momento en que otra vez ya no se cupo; pero la visión fue mas allá, no se buscó un local, se buscó un terreno para construir un templo que cumpliera con los requisitos de espacio y comodidad, es así como llegamos al local que

actualmente tenemos; y aun así con el paso de los años poco a poco nos hemos ido expandiendo comprando los terrenos aledaños, construyendo edificios y parqueos para ofrecer las mejores comodidades a nuestra creciente congregación. El nuevo templo tiene capacidad para 10.000 personas.





<http://www.tabernaculo.net/biografias/bios.php?bio=pastorgeneral>

A popular Salvadoran Christian evangelical minister remains in the custody of US federal authorities in Houston, Texas. According to [news stories](#), Edgar Lopez Bertrand, known as "Brother Toby" was arrested in Houston for falsely claiming that a young girl was his daughter on a passport application. Because he is a naturalized US citizen, the false passport declaration obtained US citizenship for his purported daughter as well. He is said to be working out a plea agreement with prosecutors.

Brother Toby is one of the highest profile evangelical preachers in El Salvador. Since his May 16 arrest, his story has been front page news in El Salvador. He leads the church the Baptist Biblical Tabernacle Friends of Israel, which has 80,000 members in El Salvador. He also heads a television channel, a radio station, and a newspaper. His ministry has spread to the Internet as well: <http://www.tabernaculo.net/>. The web site of the church reports that 12 inmates have been converted in Christianity while Brother Toby was in custody with them. The faithful of his flock have been holding prayer vigils and tying yellow ribbons in hopes of his liberation from US custody.

SOURCE: <http://luterano.blogspot.com/2005/05/case-of-brother-toby.html>

**Affiliated with Baptist International Missions, Inc.**

<http://www.bimi.org/>

## **Our History**

BIMI had humble beginnings. In 1960 seven missionaries from the former **Congo Gospel Mission** joined with **Baptist International Missions** in addition to eight other missionary candidates. Since then the work has steadily matured as a testimony to God's faithfulness and grace. Our current operating budget is 1.8 MILLION dollars per month which is channelled through BIMI from 8,500 local churches to more than 1,000 missionaries now serving in 90 countries around the world. The result of this missionary endeavor will only be known in eternity. We rejoice in reports of many thousands of lives changed by the Gospel of Christ. Over 3,000 churches have been established in various parts of the world. These churches operate day schools, youth camps, and Bible schools and colleges that reach and train nationals to lead tomorrow's church.

INTEGRITY characterizes the financial services of BIMI. We operate as a tax exempt organization through which monetary contributions, materials or properties can be channelled. BIMI provides both the contributor and the missionary with gift receipts, progress checks, and speakers who are prepared to challenge assemblies afresh with the Word of God. BIMI furnishes their missionaries with a legal basis on which to operate in most countries, a liaison with potential supporting churches, an accounting of monthly support levels, information services and counsel concerning the country in which they intend to serve. BIMI's longevity and experience enable us to provide missionary candidates with information, statistics and services including:

- Group life, health, and cancer insurance
- Group retirement program
- Income tax preparation and aid in IRS matters
- Literature & printing, audiovisual and web presence services
- Guidance in securing vehicles, furniture, appliances, etc.
- Assistance in securing loans when needed & approved
- Stateside bill paying services
- Helps for families who choose to home-school their children
- Support through the avenue of a Field Director to advise and encourage
- Training through the avenue of Candidate School
- Refreshment through the avenue of Enrichment Week Seminars

**BIMI funds are raised primarily through independent Baptist churches that are involved in Faith Promise giving for missions.** Occasionally grants and gifts from individuals, corporations, or trusts are received. These gifts are invested in projects and ministries of Kingdom value both in the United States and abroad.

<http://www.bimi.org/content/abHistory.php>