

Our City









Situated on the Caspian Sea in Central Asia, Baku, Azerbaijan is an ancient and unique city where the East meets the West. Thanks to vast oil reserves, the Muslim-majority nation has undergone rapid development after decades under the Soviet Union. Because of this development, Azerbaijan has been able to create a peaceful and stable society with many amenities that modern cities offer while still boasting a rich and unique cultural heritage.

Baku is a sprawling city with an estimated population of over two million. Being the capital city of an oil rich nation, there is a moderately sized expat population. Many of these expats are working in oil and gas companies, embassies, schools, NGOs, or are domestic laborers. In addition to this, Baku has also become home to refugees from countries like Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, and Syria.

Like most developing cities, you will find many of the inhabitants living on all sides of the economic spectrum. Some families live multi-generationally in a smaller apartment while other may own several homes. Some drive new Mercedes and others rely on public transportation. The city is modernizing quickly but it still has the feel of several eras clashing and working with each other. Now with Starbucks, western-styled shopping malls, and the new Hard Rock Café, you can shop and eat in western style. Or if you like to eat local, you can try some of the traditional Azeri dishes such as Dolma, Kebab, or Plov. Whichever you prefer, there are many options to find in Baku!

Our Story



The BIF Family on a Sunday morning.



A meeting of BIF's Women's Bible Study.



BIF Families gathering together for an evening of fun and fellowship!

Thank you for your interest in Baku International Fellowship! Below is a brief history of our Church.

BIF was formed in 1998 with the original desire of providing Sunday School for the families of Baku expats as well as an informal worship service for adults. With an informal, family oriented vision, the weekly meetings quickly grew in number and it became necessary for the church to begin meeting in a rented hall.

By 2000, God had continued to bless our fellowship and BIF was formally organized and a Statement of Faith and Mission Statement were created. Four years later, BIF registered with the Government of Azerbaijan and hired its first youth pastor. The subsequent year, we hired our first senior pastor and began meeting at a larger venue, the Baku International School. Since then, BIF has continued to grow and develop its ministries to better meet the needs of Baku. In this next year, we look forward to the Lord providing us with our next pastor who will lead us in serving God in Baku!



Roger Blain
Azer Gurbanov
Members of the Board of Elders

Who, How, Why



We are a multinational family of English speaking believers who live in Baku We are also a multi-denominational family

> In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things Love Archbishop of Split, 1617

≓how ≥this happen?

Baku International Fellowship

By each of us ...

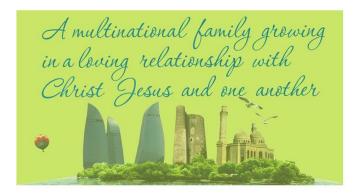
Actively Inviting,

Warmly Welcoming,
Quickly Adopting,

Tangibly Loving and Intentionally Sending

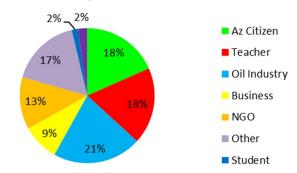
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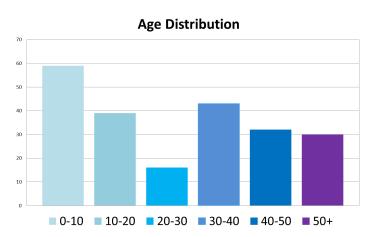
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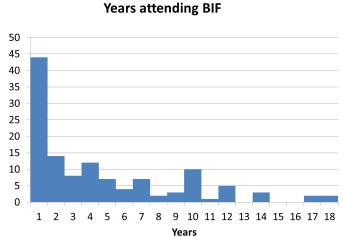


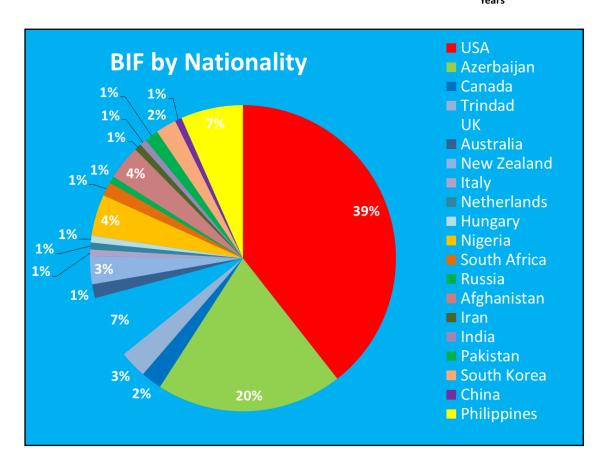
Main Purpose to be in Baku

BIF Today









Ministries



Children's Church

Children's Church is our Sunday morning program for children ages 4-14. We use a web-based curriculum with volunteer teachers.



Youth Group

Our youth program is designed to help teenagers grow in spiritual maturity as well as give them a space to meet other Christian kids to pray with and grow in faith together. Gatherings are every other week for grades 6-12.



Men's Ministry

BIF has several Men's Groups that meet throughout the Baku. BIF also hosts a Men's Retreat at a mountain retreat center annually.



Women's Ministry

BIF also has several Women's Groups that meet throughout the Baku and hosts a Women's Retreat at a mountain retreat center annually.



Small Groups

Small Groups are a great way for people to get to know others from the same area of town. BIF Small Group leaders host groups throughout the city with some of the groups lead in different languages.



Benevolence Ministry

BIF takes up a monthly Benevolence Ministry offering for the purpose of assisting members of our congregation who find themselves in difficult circumstances. The Benevolence Ministry is our team tasked with distributing material assistance to those of BIF in need.



Refugee Care Team

The refugee care team (RCT) is a group of individuals from BIF which formed with the vision of being the hands and feet of Jesus to refugee families living in Azerbaijan. They meet regularly to pray for the refugees community, organize and coordinate assistance projects and food drops, share testimonies, and fellowship.

Position

MINISTRY RESPONSIBILITIES

Mentor existing elders and volunteer leaders and raise up more; preach; develop church in cooperation with local staff and expat volunteers; jointly with the elders cast vision for the church; counsel members in times of difficulty; coach small group fellowship leaders, and represent BIF in inter-church fellowships and associations.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Experience in a multi-denominational / multi-cultural environment
- Strong gifting in Bible teaching / preaching
- BA, MA or M Div from an accredited theological institution
- Ordained
- Minimum of 5 years experience in leading a growing ministry
- Fluent English
- · Gifts and training in pastoral counseling
- International experience preferred

Process

QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPLICANTS

This person should have a deep love for the Lord, a healthy personal spiritual life, and a healthy family life. The pastor should be secure in identity and certain the calling to provide servant leadership for God's people. The pastor needs to be a team player who is committed to equipping others to do the work of ministry.

This person needs to be a leader and an initiator who can make things happen by recruiting and motivating others. The pastor must understand the importance of proper process, and be able to put proper procedures into place. English fluency in speaking and writing is a must. The pastor must enjoy connecting with people of all types and nationalities, have a Kingdom perspective, and relate well to people from different church backgrounds.

He should have a strong desire to help this local church grow in both quantity (seeing many come to faith and added to the church), and in quality (helping many to become intentional disciples of Christ).

This person should have at least a Bachelor's degree from an accredited theological institution. The pastor should have five years' experience in a growing ministry with some experience working in a multi-dominational or multi-cultural environment. The candidate should have gifting and significant experience in preaching, teaching, and discipleship. It is preferable that the pastor has some experience living in a foreign country and is ordained in a recognized denomination.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

February 28, 2018 - Deadline for Applications (although later applications may still be considered).

Feb-March, 2018 - Skype Interviews with those candidates who are short-listed.

April 2018 - The top candidate will be invited to visit BIF, have face to face interviews, and preach on a Sunday morning.

To receive an application, please send a request to Chris Roberts at redletters330@gmail.com.

Possibilities

PASTOR COUPLE WITHOUT CHILDREN

The simplest scenario is for a couple without children. Previous pastors have been using 1-year business visas without creating another visa platform.

PASTOR FAMILY WITH CHILD(REN)

This scenario is quite doable as there are many schools for young children. Baku has a wonderful Christian School that offers great K-12 education and community at an affordable price.

BAKU INTERNATIONAL Fellowskip

A multinational family growing in a loving relationship with Christ

Tesus and one another