

Wilmeth Wire #07 – 11.13.2020

The following is an edited transcript based on the Audio Wilmeth Wire #7



Hey Everybody, welcome to another edition of the audio Wilmeth Wire. A lot has happened since my last audio update and we each have our own stories and experiences that we could share, I'm sure, from this crazy year of 2020. But as with one of the first lessons learned in church planting, and really in life, always be flexible. This year has really put that lesson and life ability to the test, to be flexible and to just roll with what is and continue to keep our eyes fixed on the Lord and serving Him in everything we do.

I want to bring you up to date on the different ministries and things that have been going on here (at Baptist Church Planters) that I've been able to have a part in. I have grouped my work in the office into four different main categories: Publications, Technology, Office, and Policies. In publications, I hope that you're getting our Connect. We put those out once every four months, so three times a year, and you might not see my name often on an article or in different things, but I'm involved in each one of them and I hope you've been enjoying them. We've gotten some good feedback on those and I hope that you are receiving them. A lot of what by extension we are doing here at the service center, you can find out through that Connect. Also in publications, within this year we have been able to publish two new books. One is by Paul Reimer. It's a funeral resource for pastors. It's an excellent book and highly recommended. I didn't have to do much on that project other than oversee the process. Then on the other book is by Dr. Peck called Lifelines and it's intended for widowers. Both are available at the bcpusa.org/shop and are highly recommended for those who would benefit from them. In the Lifelines book I was able to walk through with Dr. Peck, he and I are comrades-in-arms so to speak, having similar life experiences of being widowers. I actually had the opportunity to write a piece for that book as well as help with layout and ordering and all sorts of different pieces.

In the technology side of work, well, as with so many things, plans changed early in the year. Our March Council meetings instead of in-person, ended up becoming half in person and half online. We had just a few days of notice to get ready for that and to administrate an online council meeting. It went well and we were able to make things work and then we had to do the same thing again in September, but it was completely online. There was hardly anyone here in office so that one went smoother, but we had more time to get set up for it. Then here around the office we've taken some of the down time that came because of the quarantine and things being shut down to do some tech upgrades, upgrading the phone system and into Office 365. We're currently working on a new donor management software and other ongoing tech stuff that I don't mind doing...I would not want it to be my only bucket in life, but it is a way to be able to serve and to help here around the office.

Speaking of office, in my duties, I not only oversee our office staff and oversee the distribution of work between each of the different employees, but we also have had a retirement of one president and a bringing in of another president. We now have President Jon Jenks on board and in the office. With that comes a redistributing of work not only for our staff but for executives and for everybody around. Jon previously was a vice president and moved into that role of president. We went from having four executives down to three, and that takes some redistribution of work. One of the things that was redistributed to me was to oversee short-term missionaries and new candidates. Over the course of this year I've had opportunity to connect with several folks who have shown interest in church planting or short-term missions. I have been able to walk through the process with them to determine what God is doing in their lives and then how He's leading and directing. It's just been a joy to be able to work with folks who are seeking and sorting out what God is doing and trying to figure out which direction to go. That is one of the things that I have really enjoyed throughout most of my adult ministry. When I was ministering at Slater Baptist, I came up through the college aged group, the Yacs group is what we named it, and was able to work with college kids. Then while we were in Bennington I had several groups from Faith Baptist Bible College come out and got to be on the receiving end of short-term missions weekend trips. It's fun that I now have the opportunity to continue to do that here within the office and I hope in the

future to be able to share with you stories of new missionaries and connections that come along as I get to continue to minister in that.

Then the other bucket I have here in the office is the policies: overseeing the documentation and updating our handbook and Constitution and agreements. It's probably the least exciting aspect of the work, but it's one of the most important things, I think, to make sure to keep all of that stuff straight. So I've done quite a bit of work in those areas in the last many months to make some adjustments to those as well.

Outside of the office we still continue of course to minister and serve the Lord in whatever way He brings and makes available to us. Currently I would ask that you pray for my family. We are in a personal ministry change. The church that we had been going to has at this point now closed and handed over the building to another church organization. We are in the process now of figuring out where the Lord would have us to serve and what would be a home church for us here in Ohio. If you wouldn't mind praying with us to have wisdom to figure out where to land and where the Lord wants us to serve, we would greatly appreciate it.

For family, we had to just cancel a trip to see our family over in Iowa. We were planning a trip there for Thanksgiving; we just had to cancel that. So as a family we are kind of bummed that we're stuck here in Ohio and not able to see some family that we haven't seen for a while. We're disappointed by that but



looking forward to Thanksgiving at home. I don't know when the last time was that we've had one of those. The kids are doing well and adjusting to the school year. It's been a very different year in a hybrid model where they go to school a couple days and do the rest of the school at home. Faith is in her senior year so she's also has the added work of figuring out where to go to college and starting on scholarships and all of that stuff as well. They are all doing very well and have adjusted to the changes that have come along this year. They also are learning well the lesson of being flexible.

I do thank you for praying for us, for upholding us and supporting us in that way. We just can't thank you enough for your partnership and your walking alongside us. Serving the Lord where you are is an encouragement and strength to us as well. Thank you for those who have sent notes and different things along the way. We appreciate the encouragement from you and we hope that through the ministries here at Baptist Church Planters we are an encouragement to you. We thank you, we pray the Lord blesses you and strengthens you in the days to come.

In the service of the King,

Eric for the Wilmeths

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