

## Partnership is key to gaining momentum!

To be sure, we thank God for the numerical growth in partnerships we have seen. In 2022, Baptist Church Planters was working with 63 churches, and in 2023 we were blessed to see that number increase to 76. Looking ahead to 2024, we have ample cause to be filled with expectation and gratitude! As disciples sow the Word of God, we are seeing churches across the country growing and producing a crop, “some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times” (Mark 4:8).

**Thank you for your generous commitment to this vision. We are seeing fruit multiply through your generous partnership and through churches working together for the advancement of the Gospel.**

The End-of-Year Campaign cover letter referenced three such partnerships that are bearing fruit and showing potential for growth and impact. Rejoice with us as you read more about these fruitful partnerships.



## Moving forward in Michigan

The pastor from Trinity Baptist Church in Imlay City, MI, Tim Ericson, approached BCP because he believed the church, with his part-time pastoring and aging membership, was heading in a direction that was not desirable. After careful meetings with Tim and the deacons to understand the history and needs of the church, BCP encouraged a partnership with First Baptist Church in nearby Lapeer. This church, led by Pastor Ross Shannon, was excited to help another church in their area work toward being healthy. A revitalization steering committee was formed, putting leaders from both churches as well as BCP in a room without authority, and a plan for transitioning leadership of all services to First Baptist in Lapeer was set so the people of Trinity could receive training and focus on personal outreach through sharing the gospel and discipling people. Steering committee members committed to 30 days of prayer and fasting, expecting God to guide all involved into unity and to grow this prayer band.

As the Trinity core develops and begins “producing a crop,” much like a church plant, they will resume normal church responsibilities. First Baptist has also assisted by providing a fresh look at the building to prioritize changes. They have supplied the church with people who have painted, cleaned, installed a new sign and brighter entrance, all with an eye toward making First Baptist a more welcoming home for all who would enter. All this work is being generously paid for by First Baptist. **BCP is also encouraging other layers of partnership that are forming: one is with the Bridge Fellowship of GARB churches in Michigan which Trinity has joined, as well as a second layer of support from the GARBC itself. In all of this we are praising God for the work He is accomplishing through the fellowship of believers. What a blessing and witness it is to see churches helping churches for the glory of His name!**





## Baptist Church Planters seeks to nourish churches and those partnering with them

With each additional church we partner with, whether a new plant or a multiplying church, we find more disciples who need the right food and cultivation so that there can be abundant fruit that multiplies. Your involvement with Baptist Church Planters helps nurture strategic partnerships to meet that need. It provides crucial resources such as pastoral training, leadership development, discipleship programs, and community outreach efforts. Because of your generosity, our partnering churches receive the tools they need to thrive and make a lasting impact on their respective communities.

By investing in these endeavors, you are not only investing in the growth and sustainability of new churches, but also in the lives of countless individuals who will come to know Christ as their Savior in the years to come. Your partnership is playing a pivotal role in shaping the destiny of these communities, bringing hope, healing, and transformation to those in need.

Those stories are happening even as we speak. Recently a partnering church with men actively being trained as disciplers had a young man die. He had been recently married, and he left behind a grief-stricken family and church body. Yet, even in the midst of that heartbreak, there is fruit. The men in this church have reached out to this young man's coworkers, and the fruit from those efforts has yet to be realized. Please pray that it will be a hundred-fold! That kind of fruit-producing faith can only come from God working through the truth of His Word.

Please prayerfully consider investing in multiplying churches and multiplying disciples. The fruit of your generosity counts, and it continues to grow over the years. Perhaps you've seen apple trees produce fruit and seeds that in turn grow into new trees; the harvest of fruit multiplies year after year. Your support of Baptist Church Planters works in a similar way. We have a dozen churches that are planting and cultivating other churches. We may not see the fruit of those plantings in our lifetime, but we can have confidence that God will use our every effort to leave a legacy for our children's children.

May God give us faith to step forward together in this. **It may be that the Lord will work for us, for nothing can hinder the Lord... who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think. According to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations...** (1 Samuel 14:6; Ephesians 3:20-21).

## Lasting fruit

One of the great joys of my role with Baptist Church Planters is connecting with generous friends like you who have chosen to invest in the eternal fruit of new churches and new disciples. I recently was speaking with an older donor who has faithfully given over many years. With the challenges of aging, his capacity to make gifts was decreasing. He told me that he felt regret that he wouldn't be able to give as significantly to current initiatives. He felt that this meant he was no longer an important part of the growth we are seeing.

I was sad to hear him discount the value of his generosity. I told him, "The gifts you gave, even decades ago, are continuing to produce fruit. People who were redeemed then, or churches that are being planted now, will produce fruit long after you have gone to be with the Lord. And that fruit is to your account, as Paul tells us in Philippians 4."

**This godly, generous man, facing reduced mobility and other constraints, has little reason to be downcast and discouraged. He has given faithfully to the work of building the local church. I am filled with joy at the thought that one day, when Christ returns in glory, we will truly be able to trace the vast and glorious effects of his generosity.**

As you think about your investment in this ministry, I hope you are encouraged as well. Whatever amount you have given or are able to give currently, please know that it has multiplied and will continue to do so. Thank you for your commitment to lasting fruit for God's kingdom.

**Jon Jenks**  
PRESIDENT

## Deepening connections with BCP

As we eagerly approach the year 2024, we would like to extend an invitation to you, encouraging you to take the next step in your relationship with BCP and become even more connected with our mission. We're actively seeking dedicated prayer partners who can intercede for the diverse needs of our ministry, as well as individuals who are willing to journey alongside us, transforming from one-time supporters into ongoing pillars of support.

We invite you to scan the QR code or use the enclosed reply device to gain access to our newsletter and further your partnership through monthly giving or a planned legacy gift. Stay tuned for our upcoming communications on planned giving, as it offers a unique opportunity to leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

We genuinely appreciate your prayers and your thoughtful consideration of how you can become a more committed part of our mission. If you choose to support us through your resources, we kindly request that you do so after joyfully contributing to your local church. Your partnership is invaluable, and we are sincerely grateful for your ongoing support.



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