

A Robust Heritage Should Leave a Robust Legacy

By Jon Jenks and David Whipple



David Whipple memorial

Photo by Adam Wilmeth

Our mission has had an incredible heritage, including a series of godly men who helped form BCP. One of these men was David Whipple, who served as a BCP chief financial officer and executive director of ChurchCare for over 17 years. God saw fit to take him Home in 2021, but David left a legacy of stewarding skills, talents, and finances for God's glory. David often challenged readers of his articles regarding the legacies they were writing. This remains a timely challenge, so based upon our relationship and out of respect for his writing and thinking, I have used his article for the basis of this one, to reinforce that our robust heritage should leave a robust legacy. More specifically, I am inviting you to embrace the idea of leaving a legacy as families and churches.

We have little to say about the initial **heritage** we receive, but the **legacy** we leave is completely up to us. We cannot escape the **heritage** that has been passed down through the generations to us—we cannot rewrite history. Our past connections have had both good and bad influences. Many of us would rather not think of the past in many respects, but we can be thankful that by the grace of God we can overcome the bad influences. God takes us from our dead heritage and makes us alive in Christ, for by grace we have been saved by faith. This new life releases us from the power of our initial heritage and sets us free with a powerful, robust heritage of God's family. From this advantaged position we become responsible to leave a legacy that fits with our advantage.

Our **legacy**, which we hand down to future generations, will become *their* initial **heritage** by God's power. The legacy we leave to them will include the example we set in faith, discipleship, multiplication, integrity, habits, convictions, preferences, biases, attitudes, appetites, hobbies, and values. This should challenge us to be diligent each day in our efforts to submit to the Spirit's work of molding us into the image of Jesus Christ.

The legacy we leave behind also includes our physical possessions. We aren't taking them with us, after all. Solomon, writing the book of

Ecclesiastes, made the following statement: *"I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me, and who knows whether he will be wise or a fool?"*

Solomon was concerned about wasting the fruit of his labor in the hands of an unwise man.

Solomon's conclusion in chapter 12 was: *"Remember also your creator in the days of your youth."* The next several verses describe the effects of growing old. Because aging has an impact on our mental abilities, Solomon encourages us to take action now, when we can think clearly about the godly legacy we leave.

Your legacy to your children, grandchildren, your church, and to those who knew you will live on long after you depart this earth. Ask yourself, "Will my legacy remind those who remain that the Lord and His work are primary? Will the principles and priorities that I have lived all my life be carried out in my last will and testament?" As you consider these important questions, you may benefit from knowing you are leaving a godly legacy in these ways:

- I have a will. My executor and attorney have clear instructions.
- In my will is a written testimony of my faith in Christ.
- I have determined that the Lord's work will receive the major portion of any assets left.
- I have named my local church in my will.
- I have named other ministries that have similar desires to fulfill the Great Commission.

There are many creative ways to leave a godly legacy. Some of your legacy is left by your month-to-month investment in God's work, and some of it is written in your end-of-life plans. If you would like counsel on ways to leave an end-of-life legacy or add to your month-by-month legacy building, please contact us at Baptist Church Planters.

Month by month we are seeing the legacy of BCP being built from our robust heritage. Even this last month we saw a revitalization church come to unity on a hard decision, and every member of their core has had God or gospel conversations with people in the community this month. Another revitalization church had reconciliation between members on day 28 of 30 days of intense prayer. Pray for them; they have extended their intensive praying and must now agree upon their replant plan. A short-term missionary with BCP saw God enable his wife and daughter to legally immigrate and join him in our newest church plant. Pray as they adjust and join another couple that are applying to become full-time missionaries with BCP. Plans are being laid for eight discipleship retreats and two more consultation weekends this fall. In addition, our BCP administration is actively serving in our local churches in hands-on and teaching roles.

Join us in leaving a legacy—in your local church first and then in over 70 local churches who are reaching another layer of people and churches through BCP. Join us by giving, praying, and serving. God has continued to provide for our greatly increased budget this year—part of this provision came from a \$100,000 legacy gift from one family.

Please consider being a part of His provision month by month to help finish this year's need, or through planning a legacy gift that provides well into the future.



Jon Jenks



GIVE NOW

ChurchCare Update

By Mark Henthorn

In 2004 my home church, Walnut Park Baptist of Muscatine, IA, completed a building project that added much-needed space to support our desired ministry master plan. It consisted of a multipurpose gym-class space, a larger dedicated youth room, larger kitchen, new men's and women's ADA restrooms, and mezzanine storage space. The goal was to follow this 2004 construction with a new nursery and classroom addition.

Fast-forward to today, Walnut Park is about to contract an architectural-engineering firm to begin the design on the additional space. I cannot help but think of the legacy and long-lasting impact for the sake of the gospel that was made possible by the church building of 1978, which was increased by the addition of 2004, and that will be multiplied by this new construction.

Looking back to the time between 2004 and present, I think of the:

- Young lives that have been saved and nurtured through an enlarged AWANA program
- International and local college students exposed to the gospel through our gym, fellowship, and study nights
- Expanded number of adult Sunday School classes
- Various men's and women's outreach ministries
- Space for comfortable whole church fellowships

All of this fuels my excitement as I consider how Grace Baptist Church of

Canton, OH, will use their almost completed building addition for the increase of His Church. Even as the material prices significantly rose in the early days of COVID, Grace's congregation was in total unity in moving forward with their construction project. Their vision and trust in the Lord is commendable. Their legacy clearly reflects their priority of furthering the sharing of the gospel and they have been very active in day-to-day construction activities.



Better still, the legacy being created is multiplying. In June Grace Baptist of Canton sent a few of their men to accompany our ChurchCare Construction missionary builders to Galilean Baptist Church in Fairmont, WV, to reroof their church building. Men from Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Normantown also joined in the work, along with men and women from Galilean. There truly is an exponential impact created when churches send volunteer workers to come alongside our full-time missionary builders!

Come build your own legacy with us! Demonstrate to those who follow what your priorities are. ChurchCare Construction has opportunities available for church sponsored mission's trip alongside our full-time missionary builders, and we'd love to have you build alongside us.

"Come Build with Us!"



EMAIL US



Interior construction continues on Grace Baptist Church's project with the temporary partition wall coming down between the new construction and the existing building, making the foyer significantly larger. Ceilings are still going in along with tile in the restrooms. One of the two new HVAC units has arrived. There is still electrical work to be finished along with installing interior doors and finish work.

Since our last publication, gifts were given in loving memory of:

If you would like to honor and further the legacy of a loved one through a gift to BCP, please contact us directly so that we can include their names in the next *Connect*.

Paul Ernhout
James Spellman
Virginia Butcher
Priscilla Reyes
Charles Little

Margaret Trantham
Roy Cupples
Paul Reimer
Kathleen Ann Grimes

MISSIONARY UPDATE

Our Latest Missionary Update

Hear more about what our missionary teams are doing and how you can pray for their ministries.



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