

TRANSITIONING THROUGH HARD TIMES WITH GRACE

Understanding, Enduring, and Growing: Congregational Transitions



SCAN TO READ
FULL ARTICLE

God writes His best stories in the bleakest of moments. It's for seasons like this that we have created and staffed an Intentional Transitional Ministry here at Baptist Church Planters. Led by **Scott Owen**, this ministry arm focuses on helping churches build biblical unity and mission during the difficult times of transition.



Meet Scott Owen, ITM Director

Scott has more than 35 years of ministry experience. The Intentional Transitional Ministry (ITM) was developed at Baptist Church Planters in 2019 when the Owens were sent as missionaries to help churches through BCP. As the ITM director, he is responsible for recruiting, training, and coaching a team of pastors to serve as intentional interim ministers. He also facilitates several churches in their intentional disciple-making process. Scott has been married to Marti for more than 40 years, and they have four children and several grandchildren.

Worms By Pastor Steve Schultz, State Shepherd for the WARBC

She had recently started attending our church. She was not yet a believer. Everything was new to her—including the hymns we sang. I will never forget the thoroughly amused expression on her face as she sang with us: "Would He devote that sacred head for such a WORM as I?" This was obviously the first time she had ever tried to picture herself as a worm.

Hymn writers are not the only ones to compare humans to worms. Bible writers did it too. Bildad, the "gifted" comforter, reminded Job: "Man is a maggot, and a son of man a worm" (Job 25:6). God encouraged His people in Isaiah 41:14: "Fear not, you worm Jacob, I will help you."

Which is greater—the gap between worms and humans, or the great gulf between mankind and his Creator? Seeing yourself in the lowly worm can be humiliating. But who couldn't use a good dose of humility every now and then?

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Thank You for Your Faithful Service, John and Willie Mae Williams

John was one of seven children, growing up in a Christian home in the hills of Mississippi. John accepted Christ as his personal Savior at the age of 13 after hearing the gospel at a revival meeting. Willie Mae was one of nine girls, also growing up in a Christian family in the hills of Mississippi. After hearing the gospel in chapel at school, Willie Mae accepted Christ as her personal Savior at the age of 9.

John and Willie Mae met in Chicago, IL, and married on April 2, 1953. They have seven children (six boys and one girl), 10 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. John has been a missionary pastor, with Willie at his side, since 1965. The Williamses have been involved with nine church plants across the USA. After the closing of their last church revitalization effort, John and Willie Mae continued serving with Baptist Church Planters as representatives. God opened the door for ministry through missions trips to Ghana and Kenya in Africa.



John and Willie Mae settled into First Baptist Church in Elyria, OH, where they continued to serve faithfully. They attended their last Family Camp in 2018 and were honored for their 60 years of faithful ministry. That was when they actually moved to retired status with BCP, at the ages of 85 and 84! And in March, their family gathered at their retirement facility to honor them for 70 years of marriage. It is hard to even imagine the impact this couple has had for the sake of the Church. Their marriage and ministry faithfulness is exemplary.




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