

## The Future of Church Leadership

Future men are being born every day around the world—and that means future leaders for the Church are out there, ready to be called to the task.

Will we be the generation that does it?

Will we lay our hands on the shoulders of the future leaders of the church, look them in the eye, and commission them for the work of ministry? Or will we despair like Elijah that faithful men are gone, and we are the only ones left?

In our latest article, we look at that very passage from 1 Kings 19 and set the course for what needs to be done—and it starts with raising up future leaders, and aligning our “ministry metrics” to meet the task.

The article is all the more timely as we announce two missionary couples who are being equipped and supported for the work of planting churches. Join us as we celebrate the journey they are embarking on, and join with us in praying for their ministry. May God grant them a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit and guard their hearts, minds, and families as they labor unto Him.



**SCAN TO  
READ THE  
FULL ARTICLE**

## Yunior and Marilyn Gonzalez Calvary Baptist Church Wisconsin Rapids, WI



When Yunior's family fragmented through divorce, Yunior turned to alcohol and became a young addict. Although he was exposed to the truth of Matthew 11:28, it wasn't until later when the Lord impressed on him the vanity of life that he surrendered his heart to Christ. He began attending church, and the Lord used His Word to begin the process of transformation. Marilyn was saved as a young teen, being impacted by a hymn that spoke about not being able to pray if you are at odds with your brother. During that church service, Marilyn gave her heart to Christ, reconciled with her sister, and began living for the Lord. Yunior's call to ministry came as a result of his pastor involving him intentionally in their church work in Cuba. Yunior was trained by his pastor in missionary work and assisted in starting four churches, two of which are still open today in Cuba. Yunior completed seminary training in Cuba and served as pastor as well as seminary professor there until February 2020 when he traveled to the US. Yunior and Marilyn have two young adults, Zabdiel and Keren, who are heavily involved in their ministry at Iglesia Bautista Calvario in Plainfield, WI.

# Stephen and Janelle Jespersen

## Grace Fellowship Church • Preston, ID

Both Stephen and Janelle received Christ as Savior at a young age and grew up in Christian homes. Stephen felt called by God to full-time ministry during high school and attended Northland International University where he acquired a Bible and Camp ministries degree. Graduating with the camp ministry degree opened doors for Stephen to go to Guam and serve as camp director, which is where he met Janelle, who had graduated from Bob Jones University, and was teaching there at the time. After marriage, God continued to lead them to be involved in several camp and church ministries, most recently in Australia. They had begun exploring the possibility of returning there, but COVID restrictions have closed the doors to that country at this time. Shortly after that Jim Mitchell, missionary church planter in Idaho and Janelle's dad, called and asked if they would pray about joining the work at Grace Fellowship Church in Preston, ID. Out of their involvement in this church has come the leading of the Lord to serve full-time and vocationally as associate church planters. Stephen and Janelle have two kids, Jessa and Liam, and are anticipating number three early next year.



## Why do we need a mission agency?

Jim Mitchell • Grace Fellowship Church • Preston, ID

"The only reason a parachurch organization exists is to be a facilitator of your church's vision for the world." -Paul Seger

Planting a church is a huge task and must be the result of much prayer and the leading of the Holy Spirit. Considering the fact that the average church is made up of less than 100 people, many local churches lack the staffing and expertise needed to effectively launch another church plant. This is where a mission agency can play a vital part in assisting a local church with a new church startup. When a local church has no experience, they can find help from an agency that has done it and is helping others do it.

As a mission church the goal of Grace Fellowship is to get to the point of calling our own full-time pastor to shepherd the flock. In the meantime, God is building a team of leaders that are either mission supported or tent-makers. Presently we have a young couple in our church that moved to Preston specifically to help in our revitalization. After almost 2 years of serving as tent-makers they believed God was leading them to pursue being full-time supported missionaries. BCP came alongside us as their sending church, and together we helped them through the candidate process. They are now approved as associate church planters! With BCP we will assist them in their desire to raise enough support so they can participate in the ministry of Grace Fellowship without secular employment.

Grace Fellowship Church is in the heart of LDS territory and close to 90% of the city's population claim to be LDS. It is the only active, evangelical church in Preston. There is a great need for this church to expand its ministry in this area. GFC recently faced some significant struggles due to two short-term pastors and the pandemic. In the last two years we have seen growth from 25 regular people to regularly over one hundred. Many people in the church are first generation Christians as well as ex-LDS. We are excited to consider being a sending church for this couple but realize at this point that the responsibilities we are facing with a growing but young and fragile congregation make it difficult to supply all the support and training they will need. We believe that Baptist Church Planters is the like-minded agency that can help us guide this couple through a successful transition from tent-makers to fully supported missionaries. BCP will bring valuable experience to the process and provide training that this couple needs to follow the Lord in this calling. The goal is to better equip them to assist in the ministry here at GFC, as well as to connect them with specific training for raising partners for support. This is critical since going on deputation and seeking donors is one of the most dreaded parts of becoming a missionary.

With the help of the ministry of BCP, we are grateful for answered prayer in becoming a sending church for the first time. With the assistance of this experienced mission agency, I am confident that we can duplicate this experience and better fulfill the Great Commission here in Preston, Idaho.

### 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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THE UPDATE

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