

The Church Already Has Its Hero

His name is Christ and He is truly the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, and the Cornerstone of our churches. I say all that to say this—we are not lone warriors in the Lord's army. One day we will all receive our reward from His hand, but none of us will say, "I did it alone and in my own strength."

It is a profound truth that each of us is intricately woven into the tapestry of a team, a body united under Christ. We are each endowed with divine gifts given to us specifically by the hand of the God who created us and is sanctifying us more and more into the image of Christ through His work in our lives.

So as the years continue to march on, I'm reminded more and more that although the journey of every church plant or revitalization is spearheaded by a lead church planter, that man is far from being a solitary figure. As we see so clearly in the book of Acts and the epistles, Paul is not laboring alone for the establishment of new churches or the fortification of existing ones. Paul's companionship included figures like Timothy and Titus, and faithful brethren like Epaphroditus from Philippi, whom Paul cherished as "brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier...one who ministered to my need."

The final chapter in each Pauline epistle is often a sobering reminder of just how many people were involved in Paul's work—and received his commendation and the remarkable gift of being named in God's eternal Word.

Now, I pose this query to your heart. As a disciple of Jesus, where do you see your place within this divine symphony? Perhaps the Lord has prepared you to take up the mantle as a lead church planter, or maybe as an associate or tentmaker, or even as a builder of God's earthly church buildings.

Regardless of whether your path leads you physically onto the mission field, your role in the financial support team remains equally crucial. The contributors, those who give, pray, and uplift in encouragement, are pillars within the collective effort of reaching the lost for the cause of Christ.

Would you then, through the fellowship of your local church, join hands with us in living out the Great Commission, in planting and breathing new life into churches across America? We don't need a hero. We already have Him seated on the throne.

We do need you, though.



Jon Jenks

Jon Jenks | **PRESIDENT**

What's new?

- Vice President of Advancement
- A Word from the Newest BCP Team Member
- BCP is Growing and Going

Vice President of Advancement Announcement

We are excited to announce that Eric Nihart is joining Baptist Church Planters as our Vice President of Advancement.



Eric grew up in Iowa and had the privilege of being raised by godly parents. After graduation from high school, he attended Faith Baptist Bible College where he met his wife Jennifer before attending Iowa State University as a finance major.

In 2014 while attending Ankeny Baptist Church, Eric was asked to attend a discipleship retreat with Jon Jenks and a few others while Jon was pastoring at Calvary Baptist. It was at that retreat that the Lord began to work mightily in Eric's life, and he became more dedicated and purposeful in his discipleship at Ankeny Baptist.

Through the Lord working in both Eric's and Jennifer's lives over the last 10 years, they became open to using Eric's experience in the non-profit financial sector to potentially transition to a Christian organization where they could use those gifts for ministry purposes. After several years of praying for God to open a door, Jon presented an opportunity for Eric to join BCP as Vice President of Advancement.

Eric and Jennifer and their six daughters still live in Iowa and are excited to continue to support BCP through Eric's new role.



A Word from Eric Nihart: First Report Submitted to the BCP Council

It has been good to reflect on the goodness of God over the last few months as I have made the transition to BCP. I am so thankful for his GRACE in my life as my wife and I navigated the career move to join my friends and co-laborers in the gospel here at BCP.

My wife and kids have been in step with me throughout this process. This synergy of work, life and ministry has been what I thought it would be, difficult at times, but of the highest satisfaction and JOY.

The physical transition has also gone well. I have been able to build relationships with the staff who work there as God has shown Himself to be a PROVIDER above and beyond all that we ask or think.

The last piece of the transition was to visit the team in Grafton. What a blessing it was to see everyone in person and connect on non-work-related items. It was good to see all the



behind-the-scenes work that is done every day for our churches, missionaries, donors, friends, and partners. The staff was very welcoming and exudes the HUMILITY you would expect of an organization that seeks God's glory, not our own. I am grateful that God not only allows me to serve in this role, but that He has given me the tools and people that I need to be fruitful.

So...what about advancement?! Much of my time so far has been spent researching and asking questions to find both fruitful current practices as well as gaps that I can help to fill.

Thus far, I have identified two goals for myself. First, I will seek to make Jon's time more efficient around advancement. This will be essentially "teeing" him up well so that his available bandwidth is spent on real on-the-ground advancement. Secondly, I have set a target to try and replace my cost to BCP this year. I believe this will be a good target for budgetary reasons but also be a helpful reminder that God expects return on His investment, and I TRUST that God will provide as He sees fit.

GRACE. JOY. PROVIDER. HUMILITY. TRUST. These are just a few of the blessings of the first 30 days of work here at BCP—and I look forward to many more.

In Christ,
Eric Nihart

BCP is Growing and Going

As you consider your role in the planting of churches throughout North America, this is your invitation to partner with Baptist Church Planters in the manner in which God has gifted you.

Our network of churches and church planters is growing each year, and so too are the opportunities for you to be a part of this gospel-proclaiming work.

Will you join us?



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