

Wilmeth Wire #12 – 04.05.2023

Do you ever feel like your life is a whirlwind? Some days I feel that Taz, the Looney Toon character, has blown through! I am thankful in the midst of everything, God is not shaken. What may appear as chaos to us, He sees as His beautiful plan being orchestrated perfectly and His will being accomplished. I am overwhelmed by my Lord's love and care for each of us as He uses us for His good which works out for ours as well. I am unable to accomplish anything on my own and am thankful for the team God has placed around us. This includes you, our supporters, praying faithfully and being part of the Wilmeth team.



The team God has brought together here at Baptist Church Planters continues to be excellent in the work that is set before us. Ginny, Beth, and RYanne all continue to do all that is asked of them and juggle just as much as anyone to keep everything moving. I appreciate them and their willingness to learn and serve in whatever capacity is required.

We praise the Lord for He is a gracious provider! BCP finished the year in the black. The End of Year Campaign was very successful in helping close the end of year gap. Overseeing finances takes up half of my working hours typically. My learning curve is smoothing out and we have been able to streamline a lot of our processes which has been helpful.

In the past year we have seen a 300% increase in requests to the Mission from churches with all sorts of needs. I have created some Excel tools to track the flow of these requests...some revitalizations, some closures, some interim situations. For churches that need revitalization, we follow a process of gathering information, meeting with them to assess the needs, and then we deliver the plan to the church. Each plan ends up being unique and the church decides if they want to implement it themselves or want us to walk alongside them as they work on the plan.

I have entered a couple of local church revitalization processes with our president Jon Jenks which has included the evaluation meetings and setting of plans all to head the church toward healthy reproduction. I am thankful for these opportunities for problem solving and have enjoyed serving in this way. Jon has been gracious to not allow these involvements to require much more than attending meetings and depositing a cent or two here and there. I am thankful for the past experiences in church ministry that the Lord has brought me through and the ability to use them for Him is a joy.

The executive administration is exploring how best to grow our team to meet the continuing growing needs of churches. This has led to adding Eric Nihart to the team. In January he began as our VP of Advancement. He lives in the central Iowa area and is working remotely with BCP. The most recent Connect that just came out gives an overview of Eric's biographical information and role and responsibilities. We are looking forward to what he will add to BCP.



One additional task that has come back to my plate is walking with the new missionaries as they journey through support raising. I have been meeting with Stephen and Janelle Jespersen and assisting Yunior and Marilyn Gonzalez (through interpreter Shawn Haynie) to work through the candidate training schedule. Both families are progressing forward well and God is doing great things!



Yunior and Marilyn Gonzalez are from Cuba and were involved in church ministry there until 2020. Yunior was trained by his pastor in missionary work and assisted in starting four churches, two of which are still open today in Cuba. He completed seminary training and served as pastor as well as seminary professor there until February 2020 when he traveled to the U.S. They are now serving at Iglesia

Bautista Calvario in Plainfield, Wisconsin.



Stephen and Janelle Jespersen are serving with Grace Fellowship Church in Preston, Idaho. They met in Guam where they were both serving in ministry and have served together as a couple in Australia. They had begun exploring the possibility of returning there, but COVID restrictions closed the doors to that country. Jim Mitchell, missionary church planter in Idaho and Janelle's dad, asked if they would pray about joining the work at Grace Fellowship Church. Out of their involvement in this church has come the leading of the Lord to serve full-time and vocationally as associate church planters.

Both of these missionaries are continuing to raise support. Please pray for them and if you want to learn more about them, let me know.

I continue to oversee our facilities, and the building remains in mostly good shape. At times I found myself on the roof fixing some shingles and underneath the building in the crawl space trying to solve a problem!

I am still overseeing all our publications, with the assistance of TwoTone. I hope you can see the fruits of their work through our social feeds, Connect newsletters, and web site.

We were able to publish Dr. Michael Peck's new book "Just What I Needed!" You can find it on the BCP store page if interested.

My family is a whirlwind too, but in the best sort of ways.

Jacy continues to keep the household running and coordinating everyone's schedules, especially Adam and Ethan who are in high school and many activities. She unfortunately learned recently that she has degenerative discs in her neck and pinched nerves which has forced some adjustments at home for her and for 2 year old Micah. Micah is learning to be a bigger boy and do more things for himself. Jacy is improving with physical therapy. She is also getting more involved at church in the children's program, decorating for events, and was asked to coordinate the volunteers for a work project day that 5 local churches participate in. On May 4 several hundred church members will go into the community to clean up people's yards, school yards, and complete minor repairs as volunteer service. Jacy is busy helping to coordinate these projects and the volunteers from our church and she is really enjoying it.



Adam is finishing his junior year and thinking about what is next. He has a gift for photography and is considering photography school. He is taking pictures of all kinds of sports, activities and friends' senior and prom pictures. In addition to marching band, musical groups, and running the sound for the school productions, he decided to try wrestling this winter! He learned a lot and worked extremely hard. The coaches and other parents told us lots of great stories about his tenacity and bravery in learning a new sport in his junior year. Adam has also had some leadership in a Bible study at the high school and is active in 2 different church youth groups. He was nominated to attend a leadership camp at Lake Ann Camp in Michigan. He will attend that in June and we pray it will be a very profitable and refining time for him.

Ethan is finishing his sophomore year and has been taking college level calculus this year because the high school ran out of math courses for him! We run him to a local college on Monday nights for calculus, and he is also pondering what is next for him. He has really enjoyed marching band, jazz band, youth groups, and is currently juggling a busy schedule as track and pit band practice for the school musical are overlapping.

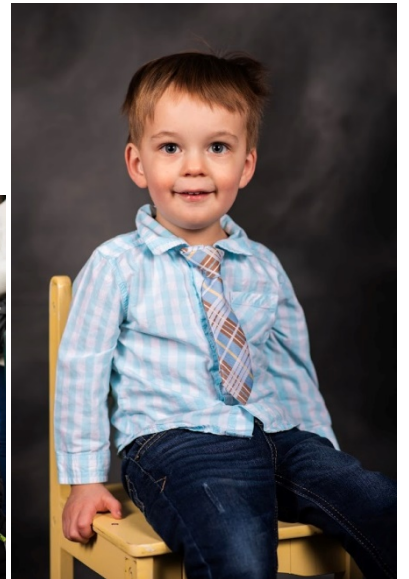
Asher has adjusted to middle school in fifth grade and is currently enjoying spring break! He has enjoyed learning percussion this year in beginner band and recently had his first set of percussion concerts. He really enjoyed a winter retreat with kids from our church last month and is excited to attend summer Bible camp in June.

Faith is doing well as a “grown up” with a job and her own apartment. She graduated from college in December and stayed in southern Ohio near campus. She is living with a roommate friend and working at Aldi until a publishing job or something in the writing field opens up.

I am the president of the music parent booster organization again this year and it’s been a good opportunity to connect with our school community. The directors and other parents are trying to convince me I’m in this role for the next 16 years until Micah graduates! Micah also loves music and is able to say which instrument and sound each of our family members play. “Doo doo doo” is a noise we hear a lot from him.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve on your behalf here in the service center. God is eternally good!

Have a great day serving your King



TEAM
WILMETH