

According to yourdictionary.com, "the word spring comes from the Old English *spring* or *sprung*, meaning 'a beginning,' particularly the beginning of a day. It refers to the action of springing forth—just like that metal coil does when you hold it tight and let it go."

At BCP, spring brings an anticipation of good things springing forth for the Mission and for God's Church as we pursue the goal of **strengthening local churches to do Great Commission work**.

During our online March Council Meeting, councilmen were engaged and enthusiastic as they heard reports from missionaries and conducted the business of the Mission. In this Connect we want to share with you these updates "from the field"—from California to New York, from lush and green Wisconsin to the deserts of Arizona. We trust that as you read these highlights, you will sense the **revitalization of local churches** for the sake of the Gospel which is springing forth for the glory of God!

In this season where life springs up from otherwise dead soil, we rejoice as we see the Lord do a similar work in the life of His elect.

May you be **encouraged, strengthened, and singing the praises of God** as a result of all that you read here.



Jon Jenks

Jon Jenks | **PRESIDENT**

What's new?

- Springtime in Gospel Ministry
- In the Fertile Soil of Plainfield, WI
- A Springboard in New York
- Desert Blooms in Arizona
- Fresh Produce from California

In the Fertile Soil of Plainfield, WI

Yunior and Marilyn Gonzalez are filled with gratitude for the abundant blessings unfolding at Iglesia Bautista Evangelio Eterno in Plainfield, WI. Since their arrival in November 2022, they've witnessed a **transformative journey** in the struggling church plant.

Initially greeted by a small group of six attendees, Yunior's leadership has steered them towards a new stage of missionary effort. By adjusting service times and enhancing the quality of worship, they've earned the trust and appreciation of believers.

Within six months, they have introduced prayer services and Bible studies on Fridays, alongside Sunday school and worship services, leading to a notable increase in attendance. Presently, 25–30 individuals regularly attend Sunday services, with ongoing **efforts to share the gospel** with both newcomers and those previously evangelized. This outreach has resulted in the establishment of two homes hosting Bible studies and discipleship meetings, with plans for baptisms in a nearby lake this summer.

Let's rejoice in these advancements and **fervently pray** for the continued **spread of the gospel**, impacting the Spanish-speaking community in Plainfield, WI.



A Springboard for the Wynns

Easter Sunday marked a bittersweet farewell for the Wynn family as they bid goodbye to Constantia Center Baptist Church after two years of cherished memories and faithful service. Though the departure is difficult, they take solace in Christ's sovereignty over the church, trusting in His promise to sustain and guide CCBC into the future.

The Wynns were blessed to have lived in the parsonage provided by the church during their tenure. They now wait in hopeful expectation for God to lead CCBC to its next pastor, inviting anyone aware of potential candidates to explore the church's pastoral portfolio and assist in spreading the word.

In light of these transitions, continue to **pray for the Wynn family** as they navigate homeschooling and prepare for their ministry shift to Faith Baptist Tabernacle through August. The Wynns will be focusing on raising support this summer, so prayer for Steve's scheduling efforts would be much appreciated. Pray also for wisdom and blessings for Faith Baptist Tabernacle's ongoing endeavors, especially the Timothy Initiative—which includes their audacious goal of equipping and sending 8 pastors for the work of ministry over the next 24 years. Talk about multiplication discipleship!

Pray also for fruitful meetings and ministry for Steve in the midst of this transition. God has prepared many **opportunities for gospel witness and encouragement** for the Wynn family in the coming months, including Kristen's Grove Study group, small group engagements, and upcoming events and weddings throughout the summer and into the fall.

Desert Blooms from Arizona

Despite the challenging physical and spiritual climate in South Scottsdale, **God's provision is evident**. With three other churches moving out of the area, God is bringing people to Grace Baptist Church. Recent events like "Food Truck Friendship Night" attracted around 45 attendees and provided fresh opportunities for fellowship and sharing the Gospel.

Wayne and Shanna Dale continue to **meet with** and **minister to** the couples and singles in their congregation. A few members will be traveling or temporarily relocating in the coming months, so continue to pray that God would provide numerical growth so that Grace Church can be self-supporting year-round.

On a more practical level, the church is making strides in building maintenance and upgrades, taking advantage of a grant to install energy-efficient LED lighting, as well as completing the installation of new AC units with the assistance of missionary Jeff Benner. These improvements, though costly, ensure comfort and cost-efficiency for the congregation, especially as summer temperatures approach.

"For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."
Psalms 100:5



Fresh Produce in California

In the fertile soil of the Central Valley in California, the Heinrichs' **ministry is flourishing** on multiple fronts. Their worship gatherings have seen a surge in participation, with new musicians like Liz and Jim enriching the experience. The diverse voices, including those signing in ASL, create a harmonious blend that surely echoes the diversity of heaven. **Multicultural worship** was celebrated during a joint Good Friday service with a Spanish sister church, highlighting the **beauty of unity in Christ**.

In terms of outreach, the ministry has taken a creative turn by forgoing traditional events like the community egg hunt in favor of neighborhood popcorn pop-ups. These gatherings provide opportunities for engaging conversations, like those with inquisitive Indian fathers exploring the scientific evidence for Jesus' resurrection. Vacation Bible School and participation in the Fourth of July Parade are coming soon, so continue to **pray for God's provision** and opportunities to engage the lost.

Discipleship efforts are thriving, evident in the bustling Wednesday night gatherings where energetic teenage boys delve into deep discussions about faith. Some are even preparing for baptism this spring, a testament to God's transformative work. Praise God for the training up of godly future men!

Meanwhile, the men of Crossroads Baptist Church are continuing with the Leadership Journey, and the women are finishing a college-level course in theology with plans to start The Grove, the ladies' version of Leadership Journey, in the fall.

Director's Corner

BCP currently has 77 churches with whom we are in some stage of agreement. These agreements represent a decision by each church to receive assistance from our coaches to help them move forward in the Lord's work. The Revitalization Agreement involves a series of consultations in which the current state of the church is determined and steps forward are set in collaboration with our coaches.

In 2021, I began leading our coaching team of a church in the western part of the US. The church had once been thriving, growing, and healthy, but had over time fallen away from their mandate from the Lord. The pastor was discouraged after having tried to promote growth and create a healthy atmosphere in the church but with no fruit. There was an overall sense of apathy, some mild conflict, and a general atmosphere of discouragement.

We led the pastor through an analysis of the adult members in his congregation. Through this he clearly saw where he needed to focus his energies: he needed to begin intentional discipleship. He began discipling ten believers from the church with an **emphasis on basic spiritual disciplines** such as Bible study, prayer, meditation, sharing the Gospel, and the significance of believer's baptism and church membership. The goal was 2 Timothy 2:2, "and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." That's multiplication discipleship. The Lord is **blessing their pursuit of personal godliness** through practicing the spiritual disciplines and is giving fruit for their hard work.

What are the key components in this personal and corporate revitalization process? First, **prayer is primary!** These believers were not motivated to do outreach until they began to pray specifically and ask God for fruit. Colossians 4:2-4 commands believers to "continue steadfastly in prayer...pray also...that God will open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ." We must pray **specifically, consistently, and fervently**. We suggest each person make a list of five individuals who do not know Jesus and begin to pray for them regularly. This is a New Testament mandate given to the church. We should also be praying with our fellow brothers and sisters for people on each other's lists.

Second, **practice simple humility to God's Great Commission** (Matthew 28:18-20). Humility is a fruit of the Holy Spirit produced as believers engage in the spiritual disciplines of Bible study and meditation on what is critical to God. Being His witness is not an option. We must pray that **God will open doors** to share His love, His hope, His life with people who He puts in our sphere of influence. We must look for opportunities to speak of how God has intervened in our lives and steward that opportunity in humble obedience.

Finally, **patiently obey Christ's command** to make disciples as we watch God give the increase. Notice how Paul sowed, Apollos watered, and God gave the increase (1 Cor. 3:6). We are not in this task alone! It should encourage us that He who began a good work in His children will complete it. Discipleship is hard work, but we are promised power as we **intentionally abide in Christ**. We can patiently plant and water the seeds of truth from God's Word and trust Him for the increase.

The church mentioned at the beginning has begun to embrace these three lessons, and God is growing their number and increasing their burden to see God bring even more fruit! They have baptized several recently, and the church is growing as disciples become disciplers!

Our team at BCP offers Outreach training and Discipleship training to churches who have chosen to work through revitalization. Feel free to contact our office for more information.



Tim Weeks
**DIRECTOR OF CHURCH
FACILITATION**

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