

Hands Ready

Have you ever taught a child to catch a ball? If you've ever been so blessed, you'll know that the one thing you'll be repeating over and over throughout the process is, "Hands out. Get your hands out."

Without training, kids will wait until the ball is thrown to get their hands ready to catch it. They need to be reminded that to catch, they need hands that are ready to receive.

Ready hands—that's what we all need. This month's Connect is a testament to hands that are ready "in season and out of season" (1 Timothy 4:2) and are eager and "zealous for good works" (Titus 2:14).

May you be encouraged to have hands ready to catch the opportunities.



Jon Jenks

Jon Jenks | **PRESIDENT**

What's new?

- Hands Ready for Christ's Work
- Temple Baptist Continues to Build
- Plainfield Has a Firm Foundation
- Co-Laborers: The Weeks Family
- Building for Generations at Family Camp

STAY UP TO DATE

connect

Has Gone Digital!

To read it in its entirety and to make sure you don't miss future issues, please...



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ChurchCare: Temple Baptist Building Project Update

Our builders have been active at Temple Baptist Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, since October 2023. This project involves a 28,000-square-foot interior renovation and an elevator-stair tower addition. We've been blessed with six churches sending volunteer teams to "Come Build with Us" this year, and we're in discussions with two more. As we enter the most complex phase of the project, your prayers are especially needed! The congregation remains excited and is eagerly assisting our builders, as seen in these photos.

This past summer, our builders also contributed labor at Whispering Cedars Baptist Camp in Genoa, Nebraska, helping to finish a new cabin. It's always a blessing to assist with a smaller project while working on a larger one. We have a few sizable building projects in the pipeline, but we're looking for a smaller, three-to-four-month interior remodel to tackle in the first half of 2025. If you have a project in mind, let us know!

In September, we're also tackling phase two work at Evangelio Eterno Iglesia Bautista in Plainfield, Wisconsin, a Hispanic church plant. Alongside a team from their mother church, Calvary Baptist of Wisconsin Rapids, we're continuing this work with the help of a cost-sharing GARBC Generate Grant. Be sure to check out Pastor Gonzalez's article in this Connect issue to learn more about what God is doing in central Wisconsin.

While the field office is busy, our ChurchCare Construction front office is equally active, assisting 18 churches across the country this year. We've provided advice and various levels of consultation, from master planning and design to pre-construction activities.

We urge you to continue praying that God will raise up more full-time missionary builders and short-term volunteer laborers. Your involvement in any aspect of ChurchCare Construction will be a blessing to the church you serve, your own church, and you. After you pray, consider joining us—Come Build with Us!

Thoughts on a Real-Life Building Project

In 1900, the First Baptist Church of Plainfield, as it was then called, underwent a remodeling, having originally been built and founded in 1874. The church was adorned with large stained glass windows, some of which depicted familiar scenes, while others were dedicated in memory of the faithful who contributed to the local church. Though beautiful, the windows had deteriorated over time, with the harsh weather leaving them cracked and allowing the cold to seep through, making our auditorium difficult to heat despite the warm fellowship we have each Sunday.

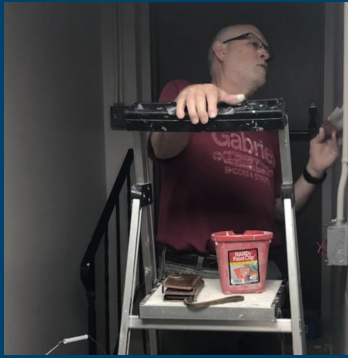
We are deeply grateful to ChurchCare, under the leadership of our dear brother Mark Henthorn, for their invaluable assistance in replacing these old windows with new ones. The new windows have brought not only clarity but also much-needed warmth to our auditorium. This project, completed in just one week, was made possible through the collaborative efforts of ChurchCare and our brothers from Calvary Baptist Church of Wisconsin Rapids. Despite the challenge posed by the size of four of the original windows, the work was carried out with remarkable efficiency.

We give infinite thanks to God for ChurchCare, brother Mark Henthorn, and all the co-workers who participated. Their help has been an immense blessing to us. Our continued prayer is that the Lord will richly bless ChurchCare and BCP, and that He will continue to use these ministries in the expansion of His Kingdom.

Junior Gonzalez

Eternal Gospel Baptist Church of Plainfield
Iglesia Bautista Evangelio Eterno de Plainfield





A Family Building Project

By Tim Weeks

It all began when I casually mentioned to my son-in-law Aaron that the ChurchCare builders had moved on to a new project and could use some help installing doorframes and doors. Marsha and I were planning to go, and I recalled how Aaron and two of his boys had helped with a previous weekend project.

A few weeks later, Aaron asked how long I'd be there. I said, "About a week." He then mentioned he had checked Airbnb prices and suggested that this time the whole family—my oldest daughter, wife, and two dogs—should join, making it 10 adults and two dogs!

We settled on June 29 to July 6 and caravanned to Temple Baptist Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, for their massive remodel. We worked from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, with a half-day off for the Fourth of July.

Our main goal was to encourage our missionary builders, Brent and Michele Howard, and Jimmy and Abby Stevenson. We focused on installing 15 doorframes and doors, complete with hardware. Aaron's sons learned to install drop ceilings, while I painted trim. As the Director of Missionary Care, it was a valuable time to have in-person conversations while working alongside them.

Looking back, it was a triple win! First, for our family—it was a bonding experience filled with laughter, sore muscles, and learning. My grandsons discovered how their God-given skills could serve a local church and help advance the gospel. They also got to know Brent and Jimmy, seeing their dedication to using their building skills for God's glory.

I am reminded of Paul's letter to the Romans in chapter 12 verse 6 & 7 – "Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: ... if service, in our serving..."

Second, it was a win for Brent and Jimmy. Our presence boosted their spirits and reminded them they're not alone in their ministry. The regular volunteers from Temple Baptist were also encouraged.

Finally, it was a win for Temple Baptist Church. Their pastor, Jeremy Penrod, repeatedly expressed his gratitude for our efforts. It was somewhat like what the apostle Paul recorded in Colossians 4:7-9 "Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you of everything that has taken place here." Though the project isn't complete, making progress is something to be thankful for.

You may be asking, "How can I help like Tim and his family did?" Please contact Mark Henthorn, our BCP ChurchCare Director, with your questions and explore the possibilities. Or call BCP and talk to our staff to see where you might help. We have BCP church planters and revitalizers in Massachusetts, California, Arizona, and Idaho who could use a helping hand. Ask God how you might be God's hands and feet to advance a church that may be close to you. Remember, you could be a Tychicus or Onesimus to another church and at the same time introduce your children and grandchildren to how God is at work in His vineyard right here in the USA!



Family Camp 2025: Families Built Up and Sent Out

When asked for highlights from Family Camp 2022, the majority of BCP missionaries noted hearing each other report on their ministries as the top highlight, followed by having time to connect and fellowship with other missionaries as well as the spiritual encouragement, prayer, and music. Clearly the BCP missionary family does not see their triennial family camp as simply a vacation.

That's a relief, because neither does the BCP administration! The schedule does include daily free time for family fun, and there is always a large group offsite activity that includes a special meal and some event. But the majority of each of the 3 days and 4 evenings is intentionally planned for personal encouragement, spiritual enrichment, and ministry enhancement.

Family Camp 2025 will be no different. With the theme of Advance! in the wisdom, power, and love of Christ,

intentional focus will be placed on spiritual enrichment and implementing the "one anothers" of Scripture to encourage personal growth and enrich ministry efforts.

The location will be Maumee Bay Lodge and Conference Center near Toledo, Ohio. The dates will be July 14-18, 2025. Planning will be intentional to target personal, couple, family, and ministry advancement for each of our dear missionaries. It's a tall order. We need God's clear direction in session planning for both our mature missionaries and our MKs (missionary kids).

Family Camp 2025 will be a very special one as it will be held during BCP's 35th anniversary year. We'll rejoice together over God's great work of strengthening His Church through BCP for these many years, and together we'll seek His direction to advance His Kingdom until Jesus returns and the work is done. We invite you to join us in praying for all the preparation and also to partner with us through a financial gift toward making this special time of connection with our missionaries a reality.

