

In October, the National WWI Museum and Memorial unveiled the contents of a time capsule that had been sealed away by the citizens of Kansas City during the building's construction 100 years ago. There were 15 objects inside—the Constitution, the Declaration of War in April 1917, pictures of current national and local leaders, movie film, a Bible, several kinds of seeds, periodicals, and other items that represented life “as it was” then, in post-WWI America.

The opening of the time capsule, originally constructed in 1917, was a special moment for many attendees, especially those connected to its creators. It marked the unveiling of a deliberate communication from the past—a unique glimpse into history through its preserved contents. Time capsules serve as a bridge between generations, ensuring that a specific period, event, or people are remembered, symbolizing an investment in the future by those who knew they would not see its unveiling.

We look forward to a similar unveiling as we prepare to recognize BCP's 35 years of ministry during 2025. To mark the occasion, we will be “unveiling” the contents of a shorter “time capsule,” as it

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were, of the building of this Mission ministry and of the “way it was” during the four presidencies. The common thread throughout will be the constancy of the focus of this Mission, while also highlighting items that represent change, such as the refinement of the Mission’s relationship with local churches and our renewed focus on the sending churches of our missionaries.

This time capsule of Mission history will represent the investment of people, many people, into something that will outlast us all, should the Lord tarry His return. We begin with the leadership that God has raised up to create the vision and lead the Mission charge for God’s work. These are those first leaders to whom we are grateful to see become BCP presidents “for such a time as this.”

The National WWI Museum and Memorial was instructed in the capsule to prepare a next capsule for unveiling in 100 years, so they have issued a call for contributions. We are calling for items for our BCP history time capsule as well. This will be a way to show the investment of those before us into something that will certainly outlast us all—God’s Church.



Please donate your stories and pictures for consideration to BCP time capsule.

BCP Executive Administrative team

Faithfulness for a Lifetime



As we look ahead to celebrating 35 years of Mission existence during 2025, we naturally look back at where we have been and who was with us during those 35 years. We recently received a handwritten note from Mrs. Jeannine Garber. Skip and Jeannine joined the Mission in 1999; here is a couple whose history with us is long and fruitful. Jeannine has lived in an independent living facility since 2023, and her note reflected back on the goodness of the Lord through their years of service together, through husband Skip’s unexpected Homegoing in 2020, and through her own stroke and rehab. We had written a tribute to Skip, and as I read Jeannine’s note, I reflected back on all I had learned about this dear couple while writing that tribute. Indeed, here is a couple who has demonstrated total faithfulness to God for a lifetime, and we want to acknowledge that legacy here and lay their example before you.

Skip and Jeannine were both saved before the age of 10, and Skip rededicated his life to the Lord at youth camp. Although not led directly into full-time vocational ministry, Skip said, "I've always considered serving in our local church as God's calling for me."

And serve they did! Mapleview Baptist Church in Portage, Michigan, became their home church for over 30 years. While working in the general construction industry, Skip served as Sunday school teacher for over 25 years, as deacon and trustee, youth director for 12 years, all with Jeannine at his side in these ministries as deaconess, children's teacher in JOY Clubs, VBS, neighborhood Good News clubs, as well as through her musical abilities.

Jeannine's recent letter shared that she doesn't "do much to serve anymore, except I play the piano for chapel for the assisted living people and play the piano on Friday nights for people as they come to play Bingo. I play mostly hymns as that is about all the music I have with me. No one complains about it." Faithfulness for a lifetime exemplified.

After "retirement" from vocational employment, Skip and Jeannine were "exploring and searching for God's future directions," and when they mentioned to a pastor that they were considering some type of mission work, he encouraged them to consider joining Baptist Church Planters, which they did in 1999 as Tentmakers. Dave Little, president of BCP at that time, wrote in his letter of recommendation of the Garbers, "Tentmakers are a vital part of this

ministry. This program is designed for the layman who has been faithful in the local church and desires to be involved in missions. Skip and Jeannine surely qualify, serving faithfully in almost every ministry the local church offers." Their church wrote this for their sendoff: "We, the members and friends of Mapleview Baptist Church, commission you to be our missionaries/emissaries to a location of your choice. We commend you to share your gifts of encouragement and refreshment to those you visit. We have been blessed by your presence with us and wish to share you with other choice servants of God."

Skip and Jeannine served as "transitional" missionaries for 12 years, encouraging many BCP church planters who needed to step away from their ministry for a short time. They traveled over the years to Missouri, Colorado, Nebraska, Florida, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and probably others. Reports from these short-term investments into churches (anywhere from one week to many months) regularly included statements such as: "12 children who received Christ"; "intentional efforts to reach families"; "encouraging for the people to see God work and know that there is potential here for a children's ministry"; "we restarted the Sunday school"; and "we will work with the church and Mission to find a pastor." They helped many BCP church plants with their construction and maintenance needs, music needs,

Vacation Bible Schools and JOY Club programs, provided pulpit supply, taught discipleship seminars, did a whole bunch of canvassing, and so much more. Faithfulness continued for a lifetime. They did not let weariness, busyness, nor battle fog affect their focus.

Skip and Jeannine’s legacy will reflect their love for their Savior, their family, and for sharing Christ with others. In their 2012 letter requesting the change of status to retired, Skip and Jeannine wrote, “We were able to see changes in the lives of both young and old that have brought people into fellowship with God and the churches where they attend.”

Does this challenge you as it does me to consider how my faithfulness compares? To consider the level of faithfulness I am evidencing to the people who are in my life? Do I consider “serving in the local church as God’s calling” for me? Do you? Is there someone we each should lay that challenge before? Is there a child with whom I can share the Garber’s story of faithfulness for a lifetime whose faithfulness God strengthened and blessed and who wants to do the same for them? Oh, may we be diligent and focused on investing in the lives of the people, saved and unsaved, around us. Faithfulness for our lifetime.

Ginny Sebok

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