

What's New?

- Investing in the *NEXT 35*
- A Church Sows, and God Gives the Increase
- Home with the Lord in 2025



Dear Friends,

Over these past weeks, I've been deeply encouraged by the way so many of you have already embraced the *NEXT 35* Campaign. By way of reminder, this three-year campaign has a goal of \$900,000. Your prayers, your commitments, and your words of encouragement remind me again that this is not just BCP's campaign—it's our shared mission.

What excites me most is not the numbers or goals, but the stories behind them. Each gift, each commitment, each prayer represents someone choosing to invest in gospel work: strengthening today's churches to plant tomorrow's. The gospel advances when God's people invest—in leaders, in churches, in communities.

As we move forward, I want to invite you to keep leaning in. Keep praying with us. As we have seen fruit from our labor and your partnership, I have found fresh encouragement in Ephesians 3:20, "Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine..."

Thank you for standing with us. Your partnership means more than I can say. If you haven't yet taken your step of engagement, I encourage you to prayerfully consider how God may want you to be part of this eternal investing.

With gratitude,



Eric Nihart

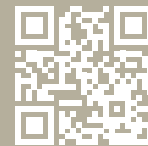
Eric Nihart, Vice President
of Advancement

STAY UP TO DATE

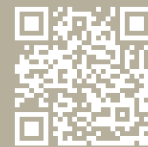
connect

Has Gone Digital!

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



SCAN TO SIGN UP
FOR UPDATES



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INVESTING IN THE *NEXT* 35

Fund managers often say, "Past performance is not a guarantee of future returns," right after detailing the incredible performance of a given fund. The implication being that, "While we have good reason to believe this fund will grow and produce a return on investment, we can't see the future."

BCP is in the same place as we look toward the end of 2025, with our eye toward the *NEXT* 35 campaign. We cannot promise a particular return on investments, but we can promise to keep serving the One who is faithful and true (Revelation 19:11). He has said that "those who are faithful in little will be given much" (Luke 16:10), and we intend to be found faithful. Our commitment is to pursue every opportunity He places before us and to invest our time, talents, and energy into the mission of helping local churches fulfill the Great Commission.

As we look back, we see fruit cultivated by God's plan and blessed by His hand, and we look forward with confidence to Him continuing that work in and through us.

The last three years have seen three churches more than double in attendance. Many churches have groups of 12 to 25 men trained as leaders who are reproducing in their churches. These mobilized men and women enable multiplication such that the next three years of fruit could equal the last eight years combined. God has mobilized over 90 churches that are training in discipleship. Twelve of them are now clearly multiplying within and impacting other churches by planting, helping with revitalization, training others or sending out missionaries to do this work. Some are even doing several of these endeavors.

With your help over the next three years, these 12 churches could swell to 35 churches: each helping or planting another church. I am amazed at the beauty of multiplication. Over 35 people have gone into full-time ministry from these churches. Could God send 100 more? I have no doubts.

Praise God with me for these churches and the hundreds of dedicated believers that are striving on mission. Many pastors with their people are sacrificing to make local impact and to extend themselves beyond. BCP's coaches and staff are working diligently to reach these ends. But we need you to join us for the first time or in a renewed way.

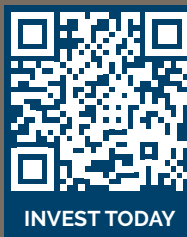
The need and the opportunity are right before us. With your partnership, 35 new churches could be planted and 35 more could be set on a path to multiply.

This is Holy Spirit vision like the early church: fulfilling the Great Commission for God's glory and by His power.

Will you join us in this work?



Jon Jenks
Jon Jenks, President



INVEST TODAY

A CHURCH SOWS, AND GOD GIVES THE INCREASE.

When we say *sending church*, it almost sounds like a church should experience a loss as they *send*. They are certainly *giving* prayer, money, and leadership direction. They experience a relational *change* with the one they send as they are often more distant from their local assembly.

But if you ask a church like Faith Baptist Tabernacle in Sherburne, NY, they will tell you that they have seen growth as a result from their sending. They have seen the fruit of increased prayer for the sent one. They have felt the joy of "cheerful giving" as a result of knowing they are supporting one of their own. And they now see all the more clearly the areas they need to address at home as a result from loaning their leadership somewhere else.

On top of all that, their sent missionary, Steve Wynn, has helped connect his sending church with local sister church, West Smyrna Baptist. They now annually worship together in the park and are united in investing in teens; there have been seven saved this year alone! They have done combined offerings for missions. Hurts have been mended, and a shared vision for helping yet another church is taking shape!



I just celebrated with the Wynn's and their sending church as Steve and Kristen's daughter, London, was baptized and joined the sending church. Her mentor testified how God used her to help a friend come to know Jesus this year. So, being a sending church probably should be called being an investing church. As a pastor and now as a mission president, I have seen this played out in so many different ways. A church sows, and God gives the increase.

-Jon Jenks, President

HOME WITH THE LORD IN 2025

This year, the Lord has called home seven of His faithful servants who labored alongside us in the work of Baptist Church Planters. Their lives remind us of Hebrews 13:7, which urges us to "remember those who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith." Four of these dear ones were part of the very foundation of our Mission in 1991, and their legacy of faithfulness continues to shape the work we do today. As we honor their memory, we rejoice that their race is finished. What a joy it has been to serve alongside so many faithful brothers and sisters in the Lord!

DONNA BENNETT

Donna began teaching Sunday school at 16 and never quit teaching. After marriage, Bob and Donna began serving together in their local church. God was preparing them for their BCP ministry: Bob's passion for discipleship; Donna's love for teaching and caring for people. Joining BCP in 2003, they traveled to assist churches and visit college campuses to minister to young people. In 2006, they became the Mission Candidate Coordinators and faithfully and effectively arranged candidate visits, training sessions, and materials until 2018 when they retired from active duty at the Mission. Both continued serving at their local church, Donna teaching those little ones and Bob leading both the senior saints and the college-age classes!



DELORES HAMMOND

Dee served first in New Brunswick, Canada, then transitioned to the states to serve with FBHM/BMNA before transitioning to BCP in 1991 (the start of the Mission). Her ministry focus was children's ministry, and she served faithfully in many venues in church and in her neighborhood. Her Hammond Herald always included

another report of a new JOY Club starting up. Other ministries seen in her prayer letters include jail ministry, ladies' prayer fellowship, and choir. Dee's legacy is one of hard work to see church ministries to their children strengthened.

DR. JOHN WILLIAMS

When John and Willie Mae joined BCP in 1991, they had already been serving as missionaries since 1965, planting or re-establishing five churches, and as college faculty and vice president! The passions that the Lord laid on their hearts were the right ones to direct our Mission into new ways and avenues of ministry. John presented the need for cross-cultural missions across the nation in churches, conferences, and colleges. He and Willie Mae also consulted struggling churches, and they were personally invested in a revitalization work in Lorain, OH, for several years. The impact of John's personal investment in the lives of young men, whether considering ministry or entrenched in ministry, in the states as well as in Africa, cannot be measured. But the Lord knows and has commended John for his faithfulness to the work entrusted to him.



SARIAN VUNK

Sarian became a nurse in 1962 before heading to Bible college. She met Merle at BBC, and they married in 1966. Shortly after, they embarked on a more than 50-year ministry life together, serving in local church ministry with BCP as home missionaries. The Lord used them to start or strengthen churches in NY, NC, PA, and IA, and finally in FL. Merle and Sarian also served as foster parents for 23 years, loving on over 50 foster kids in their home. They were known for opening their home to many people who needed temporary housing. Sarian is described as a wonderful Proverbs 31 woman.



JANET PATON

Jan married Terry Elliott in 1962, and during their 28 years together, they worked as home missionaries with BMNA and FBHM. They started over five new churches in their years together before the Lord took Terry Home. Jan loved serving the Lord in the areas of children's ministry, music, hosting guests, and supporting her pastor husband. In 1994, Jan married William Paton and continued serving with him in a similar ministry in four churches. They retired in 2010 and moved to Missionary Acres, but Jan kept on serving—teaching Sunday school, working in Kids' Club and youth group, and playing piano/organ for church services. Right up until her Homegoing, Jan faithfully prayed for and supported her church family.



VERNA DUNKIN

Born in Canada, Verna spent her early years in Ontario where she was trained to be a teacher. She began her career in a one-room schoolhouse in rural Canada before moving to Maine. Over the course of her life, she also resided in New York, Pennsylvania, and finally Ohio. Verna continued teaching while serving as a devoted pastor's wife to her husband David. Joining BCP in 1991 (and helping to establish the Mission) as an independent contractor, they served in over 18 churches together. Their pastoral journey concluded at Calvary Baptist Church in Oberlin, OH, and then at Abbe Road Baptist Church in Elyria, OH.

BEVERLY JANE HARGROVE MARTIN MCDONALD

Beverly served the Lord as a pastor's wife for 23 years prior to joining BCP, supporting him as secretary, teacher, program director, etc. After her first husband passed, Beverly felt that "God still wanted to use me..to be a helpmeet to a pastor. The Lord sent Walter..into my life, to be a completer and to be part of the work in Tallahassee." They married in March 1991 and transitioned smoothly to Baptist Church Planters in 2012 and continued ministering to the people of inner-city Tallahassee through Providence Baptist Church even after "retirement" in 2019. The Lord blessed their ministry there with many souls saved, regular Bible studies and baptisms, and a community ministry called The Bread Ministry.





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