December 2025

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A Publication of Baptist Church Planters

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Finding Peace in God's Timing

As we enter the Christmas season, we pause to rejoice in the greatest gift ever given—Jesus Christ, our Savior. This is a time of reflection, worship, and gratitude as we remember His humble birth, His saving work, and His faithful provision throughout another year of ministry.

One of the sweetest blessings of this Advent season is rehearsing the perfection of God's timetable. We believe that Jesus was born "when the fullness of time had come" (Galatians 4:4). Then when the hour had come (John 12:23), He obeyed the Father, even to death on a cross. Now He and we wait for that specific time when the Father sends Jesus back to us to fulfill yet other prophecies.

Rehearsing these perfectly-timed Divine appointments can produce a calm in our spirit when time seems to fly or when events are out of our control. Amid the busyness of life, we must humble ourselves and choose to trust His sovereignty over all our times. They are in His mighty, time-holding hands. "But I trust in You, O LORD; I say, 'You are my God.' My times are in Your hand..." (Psalm 31:15).

At Baptist Church Planters, we are deeply thankful for God's continued faithfulness and for you, our partners in prayer and generosity. We are especially grateful to those who have already pledged or given in support of *NEXT 35* through one-time or planned giving. Your partnership in this initiative, and throughout the year, will continue to bear fruit as churches are planted, strengthened, and renewed across the country.

From all of us at BCP, Merry Christmas and thank you for walking alongside us in the work the Lord has entrusted to us.vv

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5077 Waterford Drive Suite 306
Sheffield Village, OH 44035
440.748.1677
bcp@bcpusa.org

REFLECTING ON SEASONS OF CHANGE

By Steve Little

As I reflect on BCP's 35-year history, one theme stands out: **change is constant.** Change is seldom easy, but spiritually grounded leaders look beyond the moment, seek God's direction, and pivot wisely. We see this throughout Acts, and it has marked BCP's leadership from the beginning.

Church history tells a similar story. From the Reformation to the 17th and 18th centuries, sweeping change shaped the church's mission. After the Civil War and again following two world wars, the landscape shifted dramatically. Yet the post–World War II era brought remarkable growth—churches flourished, missionaries were sent, Bible colleges boomed, and ministries expanded. Many of you lived through that season and remember the energy of thriving churches and full children's ministries. I can still picture the 60–70 kids packed into Junior Church at Breesport Baptist in New York.

But the last 30 years have been different. Bible colleges saw enrollment collapse. Many closed or restructured. Mission agencies voiced the same concern: fewer candidates, fewer resources, and an uncertain future. Meanwhile, BCP began receiving calls from churches in serious decline. Under my brother David Little's leadership, ChurchCare was launched to help stabilize and guide struggling congregations. When BCP approached me about becoming president in 2013, I knew it would be a challenging season. For decades, Becky and I had rooted our ministry in this conviction: **missiology must remain under the umbrella of the doctrine of the church.** The issue facing agencies and colleges wasn't simply institutional—it was that churches had stepped away from intentional discipleship and from training the next generation of gospel laborers. So, we pivoted again. Early in my tenure, I asked Jon Jenks to join BCP and help churches return to intentional disciple-making which would lead to helping churches send more missionaries. The ministry grew quickly, reflecting the deep need across our churches. When I retired in 2020, the Council recognized that this focus must continue, and Jon became BCP's 4th president.

As I turn 70 and write what may be my final article for BCP, I want to express this: **healthy pivots require more than good leadership—they require united partners.** The Council, staff, and you—our prayer and financial supporters—have walked with us through every transition.

Thank you for standing with BCP through seasons of challenge and change. Thank you for being faithful prayer and financial partners! Your generosity and partnership are leaving a lasting legacy.

Steve Little

Steve Little, President of BCP, 2013–2020

MINISTRY UPDATES

Tim and Marsha Weeks

Tim and Marsha are heading into semi-retirement from active duty as a Church Facilitation Director, leaving an incredible legacy of faithful service for us to follow. After meeting at and graduating from Baptist Bible College, Tim and Marsha served in France as missionaries for almost twenty years. Upon returning from the field, Tim served as senior pastor of their sending church in New Jersey for three years, then as a development officer at BBC, and as hospice chaplain in PA.

They hit the ground running when they joined Baptist Church Planters in 2013, serving as a director and focusing primarily on care for missionaries. Tim also served as a trainer for Intentional Discipleship Training, consultant for church revitalization, and contributor to the training modules that the BCP leadership are producing. Marsha is passionate about discipleship, and manages to keep several discipleship opportunities going at a time. Tim will continue on as a Church Facilitation Guide. It has been a privilege to serve with this dear couple!

MINISTRY UPDATES

Wayne and Shanna Dale

Wayne and Shanna Dale have deep roots with Baptist Church Planters. The Lord brought them together on a survey trip to the Southwest led by BCP in 1999. After marriage, they felt the Lord's call in 2001 to pursue a church planting ministry in the Phoenix area and joined our Mission. Wayne and Shanna served as short-term missionaries in Peru to learn fluent Spanish, built relationships and raised support with churches and people nationwide, then moved to the Phoenix area in 2007. For the next 10 years, the Lord used them to assist in three different church plants, two of which have already graduated from BCP – Iglesia Bautista la Fe and Desert Hills Baptist Church.

In 2017 the Lord confirmed their call to serve the small body of believers at Grace Baptist Church in Scottsdale, AZ. Wayne, Shanna and their 4 children have faithfully served the Lord, strengthening these believers through an emphasis on personal discipleship and biblical leadership. The church has taken a great step of faith by inviting Wayne to continue as pastor, and the Dales have joyfully accepted the call. Join us in praising the Lord for His direction in their lives and the growth of the local church in Scottsdale. Please pray for the celebration service on January 18, 2026, that the Lord will be honored and exalted for all He has done in His church and through these special servants of His.

TIME CAPSULE

In an intriguing article by Jon Bloom, cofounder of Desiring God, he shared a fascinating fact: your head ages faster than your feet! The higher up from the earth something is, the weaker the gravitational pull and the faster time moves at that point. Bloom continues, "How we experience time depends on our frame of reference. And our particular frame of reference is not always the one we should trust."

There's only One whose framing of time is completely trustworthy, although He operates on a very different timeline than we do. "His timeline is relative to His purposes, so time in God's eyes moves at different speeds from time in our eyes (Psalm 90:4)." But His timeline is perfect, and Scripture tells us that "He makes everything beautiful in its time" (Ecclesiastes 3:1), His time, the time He purposely chooses. The Hebrew word translated as beautiful means "appropriate, fitting, right." Trusting Divine perspective provides wisdom, and it's critical that we learn to trust the speed of God's timing.

We are winding down the 35th year of BCP ministry. We've rehearsed many precious memories through the time capsule of what God has accomplished and the timing of His plans. Now as we launch the next 35 years of ministry, we must do our part. Individually, we must strive to align our purposes with His, becoming more and more like the One who we might meet today. As a Mission, we need to prayerfully set those short and long-term goals, then move forward with courage and determination, asking the Timekeeper to bring about the fruit in His time and in His fashion.

Pray with us for patient endurance. Timing isn't everything; trusting His timing is.

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