

February 2026

connect

A Publication of Baptist Church Planters

What's New?

- The greatest love
- Reteaching the command of hospitality
- Ministry Update: Marty & Susan Basinger
- Recap: FBBC's Refresh Conference



"The greatest of these..."

At the core of BCP's work is loving people! We serve churches ultimately to help each church member carry out loving God and loving others. This shows itself in many different forms and ways, and I pray this issue of the Connect is an encouragement to you in your own loving and helps you to pray for the ministry here.

"So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

1 CORINTHIANS 13:13



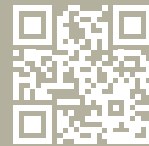
Eric Wilmeth

Eric Wilmeth, Vice President
of Operations

STAY UP TO DATE

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Has Gone Digital!

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



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RETEACHING HOSPITALITY

Restoring the Command to Have People Over

In a world where convenience and personal space often take precedence, the practice of hospitality has sadly fallen to the wayside.

Yet, hospitality is not just a cultural nicety or an event we host once in a while. It is a command from God to His disciples that embodies His love and the call for Christians to reflect His kingdom. In fact, hospitality is deeply woven into the fabric of Scripture, demonstrating the welcoming heart of God.



The apostle Peter wrote, "Show hospitality to one another without grumbling" (1 Peter 4:9). This simple command has profound implications for how we live out our faith. It is time to restore the biblical call to hospitality—redefining it not as an occasional event but as a lifestyle that deeply impacts the body of Christ and the world around us.

By understanding the history and significance of hospitality, being aware of cultural barriers, and taking practical steps forward, churches and individuals can live out the practice of hospitality in a powerful way.



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Ministry Update

UNITED, EXTRAORDINARY PRAYER

With pockets stuffed with cough drops and spearmint candies, we boarded the flight on January 9 to CA. I did not cough once during all my speaking engagements! Praise the Lord! On January 26, after almost three weeks of ministry in California and Iowa, Susan and I were able to fly home to Greenville, SC. While the Midwest was experiencing frigid below-zero temperatures and the Carolinas were iced over, we were able to get home safely and on time!

This ministry trip focused completely on prayer. I spoke on prayer and helped three churches launch six-week seasons of prayer: Pastor Tim Heinrich and Crossroads Baptist (Tracy, CA); Pastor Charlie Eldred and Fairway Park Baptist (Hayward, CA), and Pastor Jason Blunk and Ankeny Baptist (Des Moines area, IA).



Teaching workshop at Fairway Park Baptist Church

We used a detailed, biblical prayer guide with Scripture, giving the people direction and confidence in their praying. Participants sign up for 30-minute time slots and commit to pray for six consecutive Saturdays. Eighteenth-century pastor, Jonathan Edwards, called these seasons of prayer "a call to united extraordinary prayer." It gives churches the opportunity to push pause at the beginning of the year and unite in these focused prayer times. One Nebraska deacon whose church is entering into their third season of prayer said, "Every time we pause to pray, God does something!"

The season of prayer unites two spiritual disciplines: Scripture-reading and prayer. The participants read a particular Bible passage and then respond in prayer; in other words, God speaks to them, and then they speak to God, so they are not actually praying for 30 consecutive minutes. For many, their prayer time exceeds 30 minutes, causing great rejoicing in their hearts as they experience deep communion with God. Also, at any given moment during the day, they know their church is praying. The season of prayer is also effective in keeping prayer at the forefront of the people's minds throughout the year. We are thankful for the number of pastors who have made the season of prayer an annual event on their church calendar.



Marty and Susan Basinger with the Niharts in Ankeny, IA.

While many of us are rightly burdened about the drop in the number of men being called into the gospel ministry (resulting in more and more churches being without pastors), I recall Jesus' words to us in Matt. 9:37-38: "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Our first response to the lack of laborers is to pray earnestly! Later, Jesus would talk about going, but here, He reminds us that He is the Lord of the harvest and that He is the One who sends the laborers out. May united, extraordinary prayer become a welcome event on our church calendars. If you would like to talk more about launching a prayer initiative in your church, feel free to contact me.



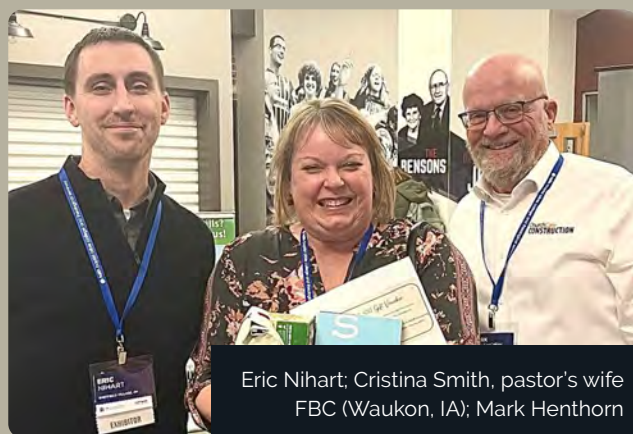
Marty & Susan Basinger

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REFRESH CONFERENCE RECAP

Attendance at Faith Baptist Bible College and Theological Seminary's Refresh Conference is always a blessing in so many ways. This was my fifth year of representing ChurchCare and BCP, and each year gets better.

Faith reports that 2026 was the largest Refresh yet. Their high purpose of providing spiritual refreshment for Christian leaders and spouses from across the globe and the USA is a blessing. I am thankful for the school's ministry to so many pastors and wives. The benefit to the kingdom work is immeasurable.



Eric Nihart; Cristina Smith, pastor's wife FBC (Waukon, IA); Mark Henthorn

This year's theme of **PRAYER – Come Boldly, Find Grace** gave me much to consider through the nine general session speakers and workshops grounded in the Word of God. I was blessed by the teaching and exhortation from the word, the worship music, both vocal and instrumentals, and fellowship with past and new brothers and sisters in Christ. Christian fellowship ranks right behind corporate worship in my book. I was also blessed to connect with college students from my home church during this week along with the other students. The church's future is positive!

It is always a blessing to chat with those from churches we get to come alongside in various ministry areas. Thank you for all who stopped by our exhibit table to reconnect. First Baptist Church of Waukon won our BCP/ChurchCare giveaway that included some of our favorite books and a coupon for a BCP church consult.



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NEXT35

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