

# connect

A Publication of Baptist Church Planters

## What's New?

- Discipleship on Display at a Men's Conference
- Relationship-Building Requires Intentional Time Investment
- Advancement Next Steps
- Missionary Updates



## DISCIPLESHIP ON DISPLAY AT A MEN'S CONFERENCE

Real discipleship takes time. It's built in small rooms, honest conversations, and years of showing up. One pastor we're connected with chose to build men instead of trying to do everything himself. The result was evident at a recent men's conference that Jon Jenks attended.

The circle wasn't large. Eight men, sitting around a table with a pastor who has been through Leadership Journey with us and had come to realize that his calling wasn't simply to preach sermons, but to raise men.

You could see the difference. These men leaned in, asked questions, spoke with clarity. They were a band of brothers with Christ as their chief aim in life. Later at the conference, a man stepped forward and levied an accusation at Jon.

"It's your fault."

But he wasn't angry. He was grateful.

"You came to our church and challenged my pastor. He asked where you get men who are willing to lead and disciple. You said... you build them."

So his pastor went home and started doing just that. Not building a name for himself. Instead, building men who could carry weight. Men who could open the Word, lead their homes, and step into hard places without flinching.

And then came the line that reveals how God actually works over time:

"You trained my pastor. He trained another man. That man shared the gospel with me at work."

That is how the Kingdom moves. Not with fanfare and laser lights, but like seed. Quiet, buried, and then suddenly everywhere, yielding a harvest that multiplies exponentially.

That circle of eight around that table will not stay eight. It will multiply, not because of strategy, but because of obedience. Because one man decided that instead of trying to gather a crowd, he would cultivate a few, and trust God to turn acorns into forests.



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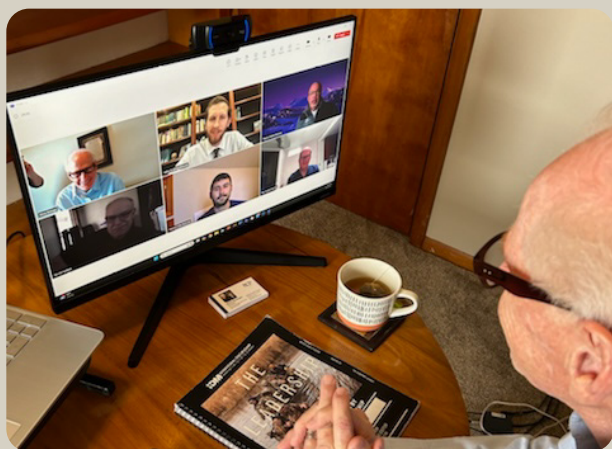
5077 Waterford Drive Suite 306  
Sheffield Village, OH 44035  
440.748.1677  
bcp@bcpusa.org

# RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING REQUIRES INTENTIONAL TIME INVESTMENT

According to several young business owners and The Mental Health Foundation, investing time in relationships is a high-return endeavor that compounds over time. It fosters trust, stability, and deeper connection, requiring intentional, consistent effort—prioritizing quality time and open communication—rather than waiting for opportunities to arise. From a believer's perspective, the same is true in both our relationship with God and with others, but with a greater, God-given mandate: to grow in our love for and obedience to Jesus Christ as we walk by faith together.

From the very beginning, God initiated and invested in relationship with mankind—walking and talking with Adam and Eve, speaking to and through the prophets, and ultimately revealing His very nature in the person of His Son and in the record of Scripture—all for the purpose of drawing out our love and obedience. He continues that pursuit today through the design of the Body of Christ, providing a means of intentional connectedness to Him for our good and His glory.

The Body of Christ also provides the context for connection between its members. We must invest time in corporate spiritual disciplines, true fellowship, and living out the "one anothers," so that we grow in our knowledge and love for Him as we share what God is doing in our lives and ministries.



Jesus prayed that His followers would be united (John 17:21), just as He and the Father are one. That becomes our aim in pursuing relationships, and that Spirit-produced unity requires both time and transparent communication. While this unity will be perfected in glory, when all believers are together "found in Him" (Philippians 3:3–11), wisdom calls us to pursue it now through intentional investment in our relationships.



Our investment of time in communicating with you, whether through Connect, letters, or in person, is meant to strengthen that connection and share what God is doing in our world. **We would love to hear from you as partners in the Body and in the work. Share how you have been encouraged to love God and others more, how God is shaping your walk of faith, and how we can praise and pray alongside you.** We will pray, we will rejoice, and together we will grow in our love for and obedience to Christ.

BCP Administration



SHARE YOUR  
STORY

# ADVANCEMENT

One of the many reasons I enjoy celebrating Easter each year is the opportunity to explore and meditate on a new aspect of the death and resurrection of Christ. This year I looked at what Easter must have been like for Peter. When Peter ate breakfast by the sea with the risen Lord, I imagine it was an incredibly intense moment in Peter's life. Not only did He restore Peter after his denial, but that conversation would have also given him a renewed sense of purpose and belonging. From that moment on, Peter knew he would be a fisher of men.

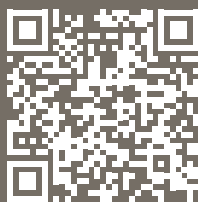
What about you? Is life moving merrily, merrily, down the stream or could you use a minute to stop paddling and have a conversation about your next steps in life and ministry?

At BCP, we love having conversations with folks about their partnership with us to strengthen churches to plant tomorrow's. What would that partnership look like? Well, that is the beauty of conversation! You might be surprised at the abundance of help we need - missionaries, missionary support, construction, finances, wisdom, internships...the list goes on. It may be that God has something for you that you didn't see coming, and we are happy to connect to help unlock that for you. I would invite you to schedule a meeting - maybe even breakfast by the sea!



*Eric Nihart*

Eric Nihart, Vice President of Advancement



START A  
CONVERSATION

# MISSIONARY UPDATES

Stay connected to what God is doing throughout our Mission! From church planting efforts to faithful, everyday ministry, these updates from **Stephen and Janelle Jespersen, Jim and Janice Mitchell,** and **Miguel and Ana Quintana** offer a glimpse into lives being changed through the gospel.

Read their latest updates and join us in praying for the work God is continuing through them.



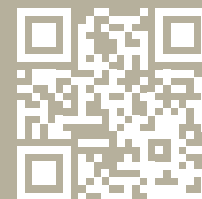
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LATEST UPDATES

STAY UP TO DATE

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5077 Waterford Drive Suite 306  
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*NEXT35*

STRENGTHENING TODAY'S  
CHURCHES TO PLANT TOMORROW'S