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A Publication of Baptist Church Planters

What's New?

- The *Waypoint* Launch and *Leadership Journey*
- Churches Strengthening Churches
- Missionary Update: Yunior and Marilyn Gonzalez

THE *WAYPOINT* LAUNCH AND *LEADERSHIP JOURNEY*

The word *launch* can be defined several ways.

It's used a lot at BCP, and appropriately so, because we are often "beginning a major plan or career with vigor," such as the launch of the *Next35* campaign, the launch of our new *Waypoint* (a church coaching collective), or the launch of new missionaries into ministry.

We've also seen the launch, or "the official start or blastoff," of prayer initiatives and workshops as we coach and offer training to churches.

Most recently, this fall has seen the launch of another season of the *Leadership Journey* and Grove 24-week discipleship studies.

The launch of a boat into the water for the first time can be beautifully smooth, or it can be surprisingly rough.

We invite you to pray for each of the new launches for smooth sailing and read on to celebrate the very unexpected (but amazingly smooth) launch of a couple into ministry!

BCP Administration

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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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CHURCHES STRENGTHENING CHURCHES



The church family of West Smyrna Baptist knows the importance of revitalization. Over a period of two years, the church was strengthened as intentional discipleship took off, thanks to the help of Baptist Church Planters and accountability church Faith Baptist Tabernacle. This is why West Smyrna stepped up to help sister church, Bible Baptist, in nearby New Hartford, NY. Bible Baptist was also in need of revitalization, but with no missionary pastor to lead the charge, they were in a difficult spot.

Tom Taylor, head deacon of West Smyrna, raised his hand early in West Smyrna's revitalization process and shared his aspiration to go into full-time ministry. Tom had faithfully served as a deacon for over 20 years, taught Sunday School, led Bible studies, and filled the pulpit. Well known in the community, he also served as mayor of his hometown and donned the red Santa outfit for the local fire department event every Christmas.





The church's leaders shared Tom's aspirations with Baptist Church Planters and asked for help. BCP worked with the leaders to develop a pastoral preparation process, provide resources and tools, offer pastoral oversight, and, more importantly, prayer and encouragement to ensure the church had everything it needed to be successful.

After a period of prayerful examination and preparation, Tom was licensed by the church for pastoral ministry and sent to serve for six months at Bible Baptist as their missionary pastor while working full-time. West Smyrna wholeheartedly agreed to serve as the accountability church and cover any ministry expenses. Tom implemented the revitalization plan, under the guidance of the steering committee, and the church began to experience growth and hope.

The greatest impact Tom had over this short period was with the young men of the church. Tom's intentional discipleship and mentorship helped them grow and, in turn, they helped others grow. One young man of the church remarked that he never thought his church would be a hub for discipleship. More young adults have begun coming to the church, excited to grow in their faith.



After completing their six months of ministry, Tom and his wife, Sherri, took a well-earned vacation. They left the church in a position of strength, with more leaders in place and their pastoral search process underway. But the time away was short—Bible Baptist asked Tom to candidate as their next pastor! Tom and Sherri are humbled by how the Lord has used them to strengthen His church.

They're excited for the next stage: full-time ministry!

As BCP, West Smyrna, and Bible Baptist rejoice at all the Lord has done, we're excited to continue this partnership and raise up more leaders.

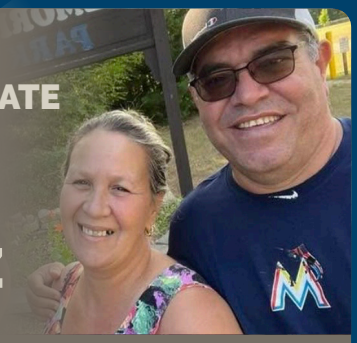
What a beautiful picture of churches strengthening churches!

Steve Wynn

Steve Wynn, Church Facilitation Guide
Baptist Church Planters

MISSIONARY UPDATE

YUNIOR & MARILYN GONZALEZ



Dear friends,

We thank God for another year in which He has allowed us as a family to continue serving in the church plant in Plainfield, Wisconsin. We have faced various challenges, but—thank God—we remain steadfast in the Lord! Most importantly, we rejoice in the great love the Lord has for us and for giving us the strength to keep moving forward.

1 Corinthians 15:57–58: *But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, stand firm and steadfast, always growing in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.*

We began serving as missionary pastor and wife of Iglesia Bautista Evangelio Eterno in Plainfield, WI, in November of 2022. Assisting in this revitalization are Calvary Baptist Church in Wisconsin Rapids, WI, and BCP, through the coaching of Shawn Haynie. Shortly after starting there, Yunior stated that it was "the genesis of a new stage for the missionary effort" at that struggling church plant.

In September 2026, the whole BCP Council, administration, and staff joined their Hispanic brothers and sisters for a Wednesday evening prayer service. Shawn Haynie interpreted for everyone visiting, and the congregation was encouraged by our presence and prayers.





Please praise with us and continue to pray for the following:

1. The Lord has provided continued good health for our family.
2. We rejoice over the faithfulness of the church group, but we have seen a drop in attendance at services. Some who used to attend have moved to larger cities in search of work. And, as is common throughout our country, others have stopped attending due to immigration-related issues.
3. The homegoing of a key discipler, sister Natividad de Gutierrez, has left a hole in hearts and ministry. She was the wife of the founding missionary/pastor Carlos, and they served the Lord faithfully there until Carlos' homegoing.
4. Yunior and Shawn Haynie are striving to support and instruct the church leaders. They are grateful for their service.
5. We are grateful for the new employment opportunities for Marilyn and our daughter, Keren, that provide connections for sharing the Gospel with Latino individuals. Yunior has been working with the husband of one of them as well. Our son, Zabdiel, has also invited young people who have visited our church. They are trusting God for the fruit from their efforts! And several leaders are starting to reach out into the community as well.
6. Please pray for Pastor Yunior's sister and Marilyn's mother in Cuba. We are burdened to help them as much as we are able. This includes the purchase of solar panels because, on a good day, they only get electricity for one hour. Where Marilyn's mother lives, they have been without electricity or water for a month. These panels will allow them to run a refrigerator to preserve their food and use a fan to help them cope with the stifling heat.

We deeply appreciate your support and prayers.
God bless you!