

True Servants are Wise Investors

The depth and intensity of Scripture puts one's mind into motion when read. It frames the believer's mind with the gospel and places our vision as Christ's Church upon the mission He has set before us. As I listened to Matthew 25 the other morning with this framework in my mind, several words caught my attention from the parables: *entrusted*, *hid*, *with interest*, and *has not*. Parables are notoriously difficult to speak to in a balanced, accurate way, but there is a truth Matthew seems to be developing in his gospel with this series of parables: the relationship provided with and by Jesus is a most precious commodity. This commodity, if really received by faith, will produce action by us His servants because true servants always produce something. With this simple context in my head, I was struck that God has *entrusted* us with an invaluable truth, a precious relationship, and a mission to accomplish. These treasures must not be *hid*, but rather we can and should produce based upon their wise investment. Simply put, we have been given the power of Christ to witness and disciple, and by faith we should expect Him to use us who He has entrusted to produce by Him and for Him. In one parable a servant hid the treasure and was chastised that he "should have invested my money with the bankers" and that "I should have received what was mine with interest."

This idea of *interest* caused my mind to wander to the churches I have been investing encouragement in these last four years. It gave me joy thinking of the many churches that BCP is partnering with who are now beginning to double or multiply their talents. This begins in a church with a desire for discipleship. Soon the church is training its own leaders who then begin to witness in their community. God inevitably multiplies with a new believer who begins to be disciplined. When this multiplication becomes common among the servants at a church, a new church can naturally be born or a church struggling to multiply what has been entrusted to them can be helped.

This parable is written to bother us, especially if we have not made more out of what has been given to us by our Master. In the last four years I have seen some churches no longer making more on what has been *entrusted*. But I also have seen

some who are teaching the truth and living out love amongst themselves such that their children stay and come to Christ as part of the blessing of God. You might call it *interest* on what was *entrusted*. These are churches who, with a little investment in intentional discipleship, might turn *interest* into multiplication. For those churches who stay hidden and are reaching no one, the natural question is if they have even been entrusted. For from the one who "*has not*," even what he has is taken away. True servants always produce something.

Celebrate with us the awakening and multiplying that we have seen in the last six months in BCP partnering churches. Attendance is up in most of these churches as they have faithfully worshipped amidst covid even under duress, and God has given fruit with not just visitors but disciples being made and baptized. One church has awakened with their first adult conversion in known memory! She is now being disciplined and has already brought a coworker to church. Pray that her family might also come to Christ. One church, out of the discipleship of their own people, has seen several new contacts saved and is helping BCP launch three new churches this spring in their own process of intentional discipleship and will be training one of those churches. Another church is helping a Hispanic church plant in their area build their doctrinal understanding and discipleship. Many other investments are being made by faithful followers of the Master, and these true servants are producing much from their investment of what has been *entrusted* to them.

Pray with us as we expect more than we might ask or think. BCP would love to partner with your church as you seek to multiply Christ's investment that He has *entrusted* to you.



Jon Jenks, President

FROM THE FIELD

Ulysses and Augustine Bestey have ministered faithfully in Kansas City, MO, for over 30 years, 19 of those at Faith Fellowship Baptist Church. Ulysses tries to live by the motto “serving the whole of man not just the soul of man.” In addition to ministering to the church, he currently teaches at an early education learning center, and he has been an instructor at Carver Baptist Bible College, Institute & Theological Seminary for over 20 years, equipping men and women to counsel biblically. Ulysses has also served for 15 years as a chaplain at a homeless shelter, City Union Mission, where he works with men on the road to recovery.



Like everyone, they have felt the effects of Covid-19. In 2020 the church was shut down for several months, and deputation travel was canceled. That gave the Besteys a chance to lead a church building revamp. The church kitchen underwent a makeover, a much-needed sound booth was built, each room received a fresh coat of paint, and a coffee bar, “Faith Café,” was added. Ulysses and Augustine were able to stay connected with the congregation via video outlets such as Facebook and Zoom. The church was also able to hold outdoor Sunday services with the community in a socially distant way. They also partnered with a district councilwoman to do a drive-thru PPE distribution at church.



Things are slowly getting back to normal with the limited capacity congregation. The church is now able to reach more people and families in the community with the continuation of their online services on Facebook Live and YouTube Live on Sundays and Wednesdays. “For this year, our prayer as a church is to be able to reach out to our local community in a greater way. There is so much hopelessness, hurt, and pain. We pray that we will stand beside them and show them the love of Jesus and the joy He brings and be the light in a dark world in any way we can.”

REJOICE WITH US! Many of you receive our weekly Praise and Prayer through email. God is doing wonderful works, and we want you to rejoice with us over some praises just since the start of 2021!

- Missionaries Miguel and Annie Quintana in Seminole, FL – salvation and discipleship of many (Francisca, Carolina, Pedro, Giannina,...)
- Missionaries Rob and Beth Worthington at Emmanuel Baptist in Hamlin, NY – salvation of a lady after a long absence of salvations.
- Missionaries Tim and Susan Heinrich at Crossroads Baptist in Tracy, CA – daughter Samantha – walking after 7 years dealing with Lyme’s disease and side effects.
- Numeric and spiritual growth in church plants despite (or because of) covid!
- Crossroads in Tracy, CA: “Ministry continues to look different as we PIVOT to find new ways to LOVE GOD and LOVE PEOPLE which is our theme for 2021.”
- Ministry move for missionaries Jim and Janice Mitchell – to Grace Fellowship in Preston, ID.
- Missionaries Peter and Mary Lou Jenks at Victory Baptist in Fullerton, NE, shared that the church exceeded last year’s budget in the midst of covid. “This will be the second year that we are putting money aside as we plan to call a pastor and graduate the church as God leads.”
- Missionaries Bob and Penny Toomer at Mountain View Baptist in February shared, “We have seen more visitors come to church in the past 6 weeks than we have in the past 11 years.
- Missionaries Jim and Sharon Solomon at Galilean Baptist in Fairmont, WV, shared, “Doing the message live on Facebook is expanding our ministry from coast to coast.”
- Missionary builders Brent and Michele Howard and Jimmy and Abby Stevenson completed the renovation at First Baptist of Elyria, OH. Just in time for the arrival of the Stevenson’s baby boy, Paul, on Wednesday, June 16!
- Promotion to Glory of two of our retired missionaries (Eunice Johnson and Warren Harris) and also of our missionaries’ parents (Jim Mitchell, Susan Heinrich, Shanna Dale).
- High school graduation for Katherine Wood, Faith Wilmeth and Rylie Dale.
- Great revitalization weekend at Grace Fellowship in Preston, ID, with Jim Mitchell.
- Baptism of Tim and Marsha Weeks’ grandson, Caleb.
- Completion of two 8-week ITM (transitional) ministries by missionaries Marty and Susan Basinger in Iowa and by missionaries Scott and Marti Owen in MN.
- March Council meetings completed (see report).
- Five 26-week Grove studies completed.
- Three short-termers assisted in their placement and ministries.
- Retirement for Ron and Sandy Cornell and Herb and Wanda Taylor.

If you do not currently receive our weekly updates and would like to, please let us know! We’d love to add you to the list. Send a request to Ginny at gsebok@bcpusa.org.

From the Director's Chair

Tim Weeks, Church Facilitation Director
with a Missionary Care emphasis



My son, who is in the US Air Force, shared with me the First Sergeant's Creed, which reads in part –

**My job is people – Every One is my Business.
I dedicate my time and energy to their needs;
Their health, morale, discipline and welfare.**

I was recently asked, “So what is a Director of Missionary Care anyway?” My job is people – everyone is my business – from missionaries (English or Spanish-speaking), builders, church plants, church revitalizations to their sending churches and pastors, as well as my own supporting churches. My job is to facilitate the relationship that Baptist Church Planters has with missionaries and the churches they plant or revitalize, as well as the churches that send them.

Caring for Missionaries

Missionary Care is a relational ministry that covers multiple areas. Missionaries need to be cared for financially to ensure that they have adequate funding, but they also need to be cared for physically and spiritually. Missionary Care involves providing encouragement for the missionary as a family – relationally. It can involve getting to know their children and interacting with them or providing counsel regarding marriage, even helping them prepare for retirement or develop a succession plan. Opportunities for listening and counsel include face-to-face visits as well as regular communication through texts, phone calls, emails and even Zoom or Teams meetings. We also provide resources such as books on church planting and revitalization, as well as leadership, discipleship and personal spiritual growth and development.

Missionary Care helps provide Leadership Training for each missionary in their respective locations so they can develop disciples who will in turn train other disciples. Each training exercise is provided to suit the varying situations and circumstances present. Some congregations include a younger demographic, others an older demographic, and some everything in between. BCP provides varying types of training to suit each church's need. The *Leadership Journey* study is designed to train men

for leadership in the local church; the Grove study is designed to help ladies in their roles in the local church, and *Teacher Journey Training* is designed to train teachers to disciple children and youth. Our care for the missionaries translates into their care for the people God has put in their lives.

Caring for Churches

As BCP has matured and developed, the responsibilities of the This shift in focus is reflected in the change of “Director of Missionary Care” to “Church Facilitation Director *with a Missionary Care emphasis*”. have expanded to include more care for churches. Remember the creed cited above – “*I care for people, everyone is my business*”? Since people are important and churches are not composed of buildings but people, I have been tasked with building relationships with the churches our missionaries are planting, revitalizing, building or remodeling and their sending churches. This shift in focus is reflected in the change of “Director of Missionary Care” to “Director of Church Facilitation *with a Missionary Care emphasis*.” This modification in focus has occurred to intentionally bring the sending church into conversations and collaboration with BCP beyond the initial sending of their missionary. A Director of Church Facilitation helps to proactively build relationships with churches we minister alongside of so that each person involved is properly cared for as they progress through the process they are in, be it

church planting, church revitalization, *Leadership Journey, Grove or Teacher Journey Training*.

Another phrase from the First Sergeant's Creed applies here as well – “*I dedicate my time and energy to their needs; Their health, morale, discipline and welfare.*” A normal follow-up question that comes is, “How do you spend your time?” Since our missionaries span the nation from Massachusetts to California, visits are usually limited to one every 12-18 months with regular monthly interactions through texts, emails and online visits. A face-to-face visit is intended to be a time of observation, encouragement and interaction regarding each missionary's needs. My wife, Marsha, accompanies me on these trips in order to provide insight and encouragement to missionary wives along the way. Caring for people involves holding them accountable for goals they set personally as well as action steps they have agreed to regarding their respective church plants or revitalizations.

Since I also care for sending churches, I also interact with sending pastors and their churches, listening to their needs and suggesting helpful ways they can encourage their missionary through active and regular communication as well as visits to their church plants or revitalizations. We also encourage sending churches to engage in active discipleship that will produce multiplying discipleship. Since I also serve as a trainer for Leadership Journey, this enables me to have a hands-on approach

to facilitating growth and development of church plants, church revitalizations and sending churches.

Missionary Care could easily be summarized as caring for people who care for people by providing resources and training to help them multiply their impact in the churches they serve.



Did you know...

12 – The number of BCP Mission churches

We currently have 35 active missionaries and 68 retired missionaries.

13 – The number of churches who are now leading other churches in the Leadership Journey

BCP supports these efforts through trainer meetings and more.

10 – The number of churches BCP is assisting in revitalization

Through an agreement we offer counsel or guidance or leadership, as needed.

12 – The number of churches who are in the first 2 years of the Leadership Journey study

This 26-week men's study focuses on the spiritual disciplines.

8 – The number of churches whose ladies have completed the 24-week Grove study

Ladies are able to do this study once the men of the church have completed the LJ.

3 – The number of churches who are engaged in the Teacher Journey Training

This study sharpens discipleship efforts with the young people in the church.

4 – The number of churches BCP has helped through a transitional time

A transitional pastor ministers to the church and seeks to guide decision-making.

Administrative Directory

Jon Jenks – President;
Director of Intentional Discipleship Ministries
jjenks@bcpusa.org

David Whipple –
BCP Executive Vice President;
Executive Director of ChurchCare
dwhipple@bcpusa.org

Eric Wilmeth –
Vice President of Operations
ewilmeth@bcpusa.org

Tim Weeks –
Church Facilitation Director
with a *Missionary Care* emphasis
tweeks@bcpusa.org

Chip Wood –
Church Facilitation Director
with an *Educational Ministry* emphasis
cwood@bcpusa.org

Scott Owen –
Church Facilitation Director
with a *Conciliation and ITM* emphasis
sowen@bcpusa.org

BCP

ChurchCare CONSTRUCTION

The Ministry Activity Center at First Baptist Church of Elyria, OH, is complete. The final touches have been made. The church will start using the building for summer ministries in July. The Lord blessed this project with minimal delays related to material or shipping, and the dozens of volunteers helped keep the project moving and finish under budget. A church

team from NY came at a critical time to finish interior metal sheeting. We are reminded often that God is sovereign, and He is always on time.

The Missionary Builders will next spend some time completing projects around the BCP Service Center for the summer months.



Council approaching normalcy!



Recently Council chairman Craig Johnson, Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Grinnell, IA, wrote in the monthly receipt letter, "It has been my privilege to serve on the Council of Baptist Church Planters since 2005! I have been able to observe firsthand how the Lord has provided time and again so the work could move forward. Whether it has been a matter of finances, personnel, or some other area, God has always faithfully supplied the need. It is truly a joy to be able to be a part of the Council meetings to read and hear the reports of what God is doing through BCP. These have been exciting days at BCP as God continues to bless our efforts to facilitate the process for churches and their missionaries to plant or

revitalize churches in North America."

The Council met again in March and approached normalcy with half of the Council able to be physically present for the meetings in the Service Center. The Council welcomed new councilmen, Pastor Jason Blunk of Ankeny Baptist Church in Iowa and Pastor Dave Culver of Shawnee Hills Baptist Church in Jamestown, Ohio. Directors Tim Weeks, Scott Owen and Chip Wood shared reports of their connections with missionaries and their sending church pastors, with churches they are serving through transitional ministry or teacher training, with interns serving through their local churches, with churches desiring intentional discipleship assistance,

and more! ChurchCare Executive Director David Whipple reported on the many churches the missionary builders are impacting. We recognized and honored Steve and Becky Little and Herb and Wanda Taylor in their retirements. It was a great time of fellowship and Mission business.



Partner Raising

These four couples are currently raising support. If you would like more information, please look them up on give.bcpusa.org. They each would appreciate your prayers and support and would love to share their ministry with you.

Marty & Susan Basinger
Intentional Transitional Ministries Pastor

48% monthly support raised

Jimmy & Abby Stevenson
Missionary Builder with ChurchCare

46% monthly support raised

Chip & Karen Wood
Church Facilitation Director

92% monthly support raised

Scott & Marti Owen
Church Facilitation Director

85% monthly support raised

Retiring but not quitting



For several years Herb and Wanda have been praying about how they can best serve in the next few years. They decided they need to reduce their ministry pace and so have moved to retirement status with BCP. Herb and Wanda have served with BCP in Hispanic ministries for 11 years, ministering to Hispanic missionary couples and assisting three ministries to graduation from mission status. They began and will continue leading the National Conference on Hispanic Outreach (NCHO) ministry to encourage and equip Hispanic leaders across the country. God bless you, friends, as you continue on in your passion - Reaching Hispanics, Our Neighbors.



BGP

36830 Royalton Road
Grafton, OH 44044
PH: 440.748.1677
FAX: 440.748.1837
Email: bcp@bcpusa.org

Nonprofit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 31
Randolph, NY

CHECK OUT
OUR WEBSITES!

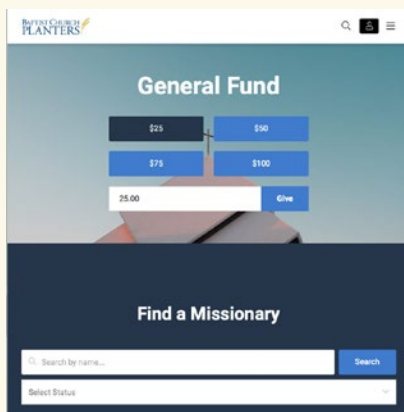
bcpusa.org
churchcare.org
bcpyouthministry.org
michaelpeck.org

From the Finance Department:

We just launched a new Give page in connection with our new financial software, so giving online has never been easier. You will be able to use your email address to log into a personal dashboard to track your giving, print receipts, and more. You will also see a change in our receipts and reporting formats. If you would like to use this new dashboard and receive your receipts and statements online, please go to our new Give page and click the link to create an account. If you are a current ACH giver, you can create a dashboard to see your giving history, but it is not necessary.

Our new Give page can be found by scanning the code below, from our homepage or directly at give.bcpusa.org.

We appreciate your feedback and patience as we adjust into the new systems. If you have any questions, please contact us at bcp@bcpusa.org or 440-748-1677.



MEMORIAL GIFTS

Since our last publication, gifts were given in loving memory of:

Bob Sauser
Eunice Johnson

If you would like to give a gift in memory of someone, we will list the name in the *Connect*.

If you would like to receive the *Connect* directly, visit bcpusa.org/Connect.

We'd love to hear your feedback and thoughts on our *Connect*. Contact us at bcp@bcpusa.org.

"GO PAPERLESS!"

Please visit www.bcpusa.org/go-paperless, where you will find a short form to complete. There you can designate the *Connect* and/or gift receipt as paperless.