

connect

Meeting America's
Greatest Need

BCP
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BAPTIST CHURCH PLANTERS

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Everyone Needs a Hero *Stephen P. Little, President*

As I speak in churches, I often hear “hero stories” describing things that God did through men and women of faith. Many times those stories center around missionaries the church sent out years ago. These missionaries have given everything to serve church planting or church revitalization with little thought for their own well-being. One by one they stand before their Savior to hear, “Well done, good and faithful servant.” As I attend some of their memorial or graveside services, I ask, “Who will pick up the baton? Where is the next generation of missionaries going to come from?”

The answer to that question is still found in our Lord’s Church. I have a high regard for the local church. I often have opportunity to speak at conferences or teach a class at Bible colleges, but my favorite place to be is in a church. Jesus said He would build His church, not His missionary family or college or conference center or agency! Baptist Church Planters understands its place in God’s program. That is why we clearly make this statement in our governing documents: *“BCP exists to facilitate the process for churches and the missionaries they send to fulfill the Great Commission.”*

This is personal for Becky and me. As missionaries, our heroes have been our sending church, mother church, supporting churches and individuals from these churches who sacrificially supported us over decades! They are partners who came to our rescue in clearing land, building projects, outreach events, VBS, soccer camps, door-to-door flyer distribution and the list could go on and on. I cannot tell you how many times our support team “pulled it off”

and helped us reach people for Jesus!

They are our heroes!

I believe Jesus is still calling upon His church to send more laborers. But before He calls upon a church to send, He calls upon His church to disciple and train up another generation for the next wave of missionaries to be sent. As I travel from place to place in America, I see churches struggling to intentionally train the next generation for gospel impact. Most of the time it is not because they don’t want to; it is just that they don’t know where to start. Don’t misunderstand me. Some churches are intentionally training and sending, but the majority are struggling in this area.

BCP has a great team who is helping **churches train** another generation. Our team purpose is to facilitate the process for churches and the missionaries they send to fulfill the Great Commission. This means helping churches with the process of making disciples, discipling them in the disciplines of Christlikeness, training leaders and sending them into all the earth. These members of the team serve missionaries, but they serve local churches as well.

***JON JENKS** leads churches through Intentional Discipleship Ministries (IDM) which provides a 25-week Leadership Journey to help churches jump start the training of their leadership and the design of their intentional discipleship plan. This ministry also helps established churches that need revitalization.

***CHIP WOOD** helps churches through BCPym seminars on how to have an effective training program for children.

***DAVID WHIPPLE** helps churches with construction needs through

ChurchCare. Churches that are making disciples and training disciples are always in need of more room or updated facility!

***HERB TAYLOR**, Hispanic Coordinator, helps churches learn how to reach Hispanics in their community.

***TIM WEEKS**, Regional Field Director, helps sending churches and the missionaries they send with effective church planting processes and procedures.

***DR. MIKE PECK**, Retiree Coordinator, oversees and ministers to retired BCP missionaries.

***SCOTT OWEN** is the newest to our team and is presently raising support to help churches resolve internal conflict so they can effectively make gospel impact. Also, Scott will be helping churches going through a pastoral transition and in need of guidance.

***ERIC WILMETH** oversees the operating procedures of the Service Center which is a part of the team helping churches and the missionaries they send.

Please see the Administrative Directory for contact information to these men.

In this *Connect* you will see just a snapshot of what we do. As we reflect on what God has done, we would be remiss not to recognize OUR HEROES, the partners who have stood with us to make all of this possible. God has used many of you to help through your prayers, faithful financial support and overall partnership in the gospel. In order to do this kind of work we need more partners – Prayer Partners and Financial Partners. Would you consider joining the team so that together we can “Meet America’s Greatest Need”? We depend on you!

Nap Time Is Over

What does revitalization mean?

Truthfully, a good nap is often a God-given rest. There are two types of napping. First, the collapse into a chair, ballgame on, waking up a little while later knowing one was completely comatose. Type two, a zoned-out-300-miles-into-a-trip-and-startled-awake nap when that truck in front is uncomfortably close and one wonders how the last 100 miles disappeared.

Paul describes a similar awakening in Ephesians 5:14, which we might label as “revitalization.” Light exposes darkness, and then a believer wakes up to examine if their walk is wise. This spiritual startling can be like coming out of the dead, waking up to truth. Certainly, God causes this by His Spirit in believers’ lives at many distinct times as He shapes them into His image. Paul, though, is talking not just to individuals but to the entire church at Ephesus that needed to wake up together. They needed to see passionately their need for obedience, walk lovingly in it together, and be boldly on mission by speaking the gospel and building up one another.

Simply put, revitalization can only happen to those alive in Christ. Churches can have spiritually alive people in them but be spiritually zoned out. A revitalization process for a group like this usually requires that a couple of people be awakened and come alongside their brothers and sisters to nudge them awake. No doubt, some wake up grumpy as the light hits them. When the light of Christ hits, it produces the humble, likeminded, one Lord, one faith missional direction that Christ saved believers to be for His glory. Real spiritual awakensness cannot be caused by man. Paul directs believers to build, speak in love, and allow the light of Christ to expose and refine them. When this is experienced together as a church, certain fruits multiply. This cannot be

Jon Jenks, Vice President of Training



program-based or humanly-manufactured. Paul planned on the church at Ephesus to wake up through his outside nudge that was to direct them back to Christ Who made them alive and Who loves them.

BCP desires to facilitate the end of nap times by coming alongside church leaders who desire to wake up and guide their church into the “one anothers” in Christ. This requires a battle-determined focus being strong in the armor of God. This April 1-2 in Ames, IA, at the Iowa Association of Regular Baptist Churches’ spring conference, biblically-driven practical instruction in some of the specifics of fostering this awakening will be developed. All are welcome. In brief, take note of this progress that fits Paul’s direction:

1.

Evaluating the current spiritual and practical make-up of a church with input from “Jerusalem churches” for a non-self-supporting church.

2.

Working in prayer and study as a core group of leaders to see what might need to be changed to refine a church’s obedience before God.

3.

Fostering two years of step-by-step obedience with practical, examined steps with a Jerusalem church that walks alongside to encourage them.

4.

Celebrating God’s work and seeking to help a sister church in the same process.

Are we having fun yet?



*David Whipple,
Administrative
Vice President*

Why do we give? Is all giving based on specific needs or is it dependent on whose need is being met? Paul, writing to the Philippian believers, reminded them that their giving was not because he had a “want or need” but because he desired

“abundant fruit to accumulate in their account.” I think Paul is saying, “Philippians, you have a need to give.” I think it is clear that God has placed this need to give within each of our hearts.

I have been the finance officer at the mission

for twelve years and have been reminded how difficult it is to raise funds for the operating expenses of the mission. There is nothing to get excited about – no personal story about a missionary giving the gospel, no personal need that tugs at your heart, no great building project that will benefit a church. None of us get excited about paying the utility bills, replacing the tires on our cars, or painting the bathroom. All of these things are necessary in order to keep our homes and families functional.

The same is true for Baptist Church Planters. The mission has to raise approximately four hundred thousand dollars per year to cover the operating expenses of serving your missionaries. God has given BCP a mission to serve churches

and the missionaries they send to plant and revitalize churches. This mission requires administrative support. The need may not be exciting, but it is critical to our missionaries and churches. The need is real.

There is a better reason to give. **Give for the fun of it.** Giving is one of the most rewarding activities we do. It truly is an act of love. Jesus taught us that “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” The joy comes from considering others before oneself. Paul desired the gifts so that fruit produced by God through Him would be counted in glory for those who gave. Your gift allows you to **enjoy the blessing** of giving to **meet the need** of missions while **doubling the abundance of fruit.**

The Importance of a Partner

Church Planter in Tracy, CA, Tim Heinrich

Early in our work here in Tracy I heard one of our deaf missionaries speak on Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, and it impacted me as to the importance of not going it alone in ministry. It says, "Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up. Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone? Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken."



We have been privileged to have our long-time friends, Don and Joyce Shade, as tentmaker partners in the work here in Tracy, CA. Don and Joyce have served as friends, counselors and general supporters in the work here. As tentmakers, they sometimes raise

funds for special projects, but they have not had to raise support. They each simply found a job in the area and support their family through those jobs. They were willing to move to a new place and set up "tentmaking" where God had called them.



The Ecclesiastes passage starts by saying that two are better than one person alone because of the good reward that they will have by working together. Without the Shades I believe that the work here would have closed on several occasions because one family could not do all the work necessary. Because of their encouragement and perseverance, we are seeing good reward.

The passage goes on to say that by working together we can lift one another when we fall. I like to call this the principle of encouragement. It is easy to get discouraged in ministry; however, when you have someone beside you with your best interest at heart, they are there to encourage you and spur you on in ministry. Because of our close friendship, Don and Joyce and Susan and I can speak frankly with each other and solve problems before they grow. We are also much stronger together than we are separately. Together we can withstand the attacks of the wicked one. When we work together, twisting our lives in with one another, we are not easily broken by the trials and temptations that come our way. Although each of us individually get discouraged, there is always someone on the team who can lift up the others.

It has been Don and Joyce who have been these things for our family. We have literally raised our families together in the ministry and been blessed by the mutual support. They are our partners in seeking the good reward. They lift us up and help us to see clearly the path that God would have for us to walk together. They work closely in ministry, filling in the gaps until the Lord raises up people within the church to do the work, then diligently training them to do so. Because of them, we are strong and not easily broken. If tentmaking is something that you would be interested in learning more about, please contact Baptist Church Planters.

Meet Jean Morse, Retired and Still Praising the Lord!



Even though our retired missionaries are living from coast to coast in the United States, they all share something in common with each other.

The Baptist Church Planters retirees fit the description of S.A.L.T which stands for "Senior Adults Living Triumphantly." This certainly describes Jean.

She was married to her husband, Frank, for fifty-five years before he went Home to be with the Lord in 2005. The Morses were married in 1950. Four years later they arrived in the Philippines as they served with A.B.W.E. for eleven years. Their ministry included planting

churches and assisting Filipino pastors. What a dynamic ministry took place during these years! In 1960 they joined FBHM and "home missions" as she lovingly calls this. Serving stateside became their passion and ministry. Here in the United States Frank and Jean started ten churches and assisted several other missionary pastors in NJ, PA, DE, MD, TX and FL. Their children were a tremendous help in setting up chairs and equipment for their services. In every sense of the word, serving the Lord was a family project!

While this is wonderful to remember, Jean has tremendous blessings for which she daily gives thanks. She currently lives with her daughter and son-in-law, and on Sundays she and her

family worship at the Grace Baptist Church of Port Orange, Florida. What makes this even more special is that this is one of the churches that Frank and she started thirty-five years ago. There are still a dozen people at Grace Baptist who were there with the Morses at the very beginning. She misses her husband very much; however, until the Lord calls her Home, she is busy in her prayer life, witnessing, encouraging people around her, and thanking the Lord for BCP and those who support this ministry.



Priorities of a Servant-Sending Church PART II

Patrick Odle, Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church of Elyria, OH



One of the greatest joys of local church ministry is seeing God call members of your church to serve Him to do Great Commission ministry. Sadly, that joy is not shared by as many churches today as it was in the past. The trend in our circles is that fewer people are following God's call to the ministry. This alarming trend is reflected in shrinking classes of candidates for mission agencies and in the shortage of graduates to fill positions in different ministries – Christian schools, pastorates, youth ministries, and missions' ministries as well. The tendency might be to assume that the problem lies with the Bible colleges, seminaries and mission agencies, but honestly, the problem is not there.

The problem is in the pew. The problem is in the health of our churches. Spiritually vibrant and Biblically purposeful churches will disciple, recognize and send out called servants of the

Lord. God wants local churches to train and equip servants for His use.

The question we must ask ourselves is what the priorities of such servant-sending churches are and how our churches can be used to fulfill the Great Commission.

Priority #1 – Balancing Biblical Evangelism

In the first installment of this article, we discussed how a church that doesn't take the Gospel across the street won't produce people who will take the Gospel around the world.

Priority #2 – Training Rather than Entertaining

Notice what Ephesians 4 says in relationship to the ministry and to those that God has given to the local church and their role. Ephesians 4:11 puts it this way, "He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors

and teachers." For what? "For the equipping of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

The pastor's job is to work himself out of a job. The pastor's job is to equip the saints to do the work of the ministry. Pastors are to equip their people to serve the Lord. Someone put it this way, "I left the ministry when I became a pastor." Pastors are not the ministers! Every person in the church is a minister! As a pastor preaches and teaches God's Word he fulfills the role of preparing and equipping others to serve. A servant-sending church is all about equipping – training rather than entertaining. This is especially important in a local church's model for youth ministry. Many churches have large youth groups because they have adopted a youth ministry model that is entertainment-oriented. While in the short-term the numbers may make such youth ministry look like it is successful, in the long run it will not be! A Biblical philosophy of ministry teaches and trains teens to serve the Lord Jesus with the rest of their lives. As a former youth pastor, I have seen the training model bear amazing fruit. I have pictures of teen missions teams that we led. These trips were great proving grounds for ministry training. Interestingly, almost every teen that went on those trips is still serving the Lord twenty to twenty-five years later! Some are pastor, others are deacons, and almost all are actively serving in

Baptist Church Planters' Family Camp

Jon Jenks



BCP gathers as a total missionary family every three years in order to build our relationships, to grow in and worship Christ, to invest in our children, to foster our communication and to pray. Because of a generous gift given to BCP, the Council voted last year to pay the cost of Family Camp 2018. Our mission family is very thankful. Our missionaries invested some of their own support for the travel to and from Family Camp. Three local area churches gave above and beyond by loaning personnel to care for our children, teens, and enable a

special picnic time off sight. Thank you to First Baptist Church in Creston, IA, Altoona Regular Baptist in Altoona, IA, and Faith Baptist Church in Cambridge, IA, for your personal love for missionaries.

Family Camp was planned by a committee appointed by the Administration and the BCP training division. The Word of God builds and encourages, so this committee guided the focus of serving in the gospel of Christ. Workshops were given on peacemaking and relationship building.

their local church. That stands in stark contrast with the statistics that about two-thirds of teens today abandon the faith. A servant-sending church will train all its members to serve the Lord, especially the next generation!

*I wonder if we don't pray
the Lord of the hospital
more than we pray the
Lord of the harvest!*

Priority #3 – Praying For Harvest Laborers

Matthew 9:36-38 is a familiar text. There we are told to pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into the harvest. I have always thought it was interesting that Jesus didn't simply tell them to go. We know that He did that later, but He started with prayer. I think part of why Jesus did that is because when we pray about something long enough and hard enough, sometimes we become the answer to our own prayers. Warren Wiersbe put it this way, "When we pray as He commanded we will see what He saw, we will feel what He felt, and we will do what He did." All of us pray for what is important

to us. Think about your prayer life. Is praying for laborers for the harvest near the top of your list? Jesus specifically commanded us to pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into the harvest. What if we prayed persistently and passionately for a missionary to get into a region of the world where the Gospel is not proclaimed? What if we prayed as diligently and persistently for such a missionary as we pray for someone to get out of the hospital or to get out of some other illness or struggle? I wonder if we don't pray the Lord of the hospital more than we pray the Lord of the harvest! That's not to say that we shouldn't pray for sick people, but God is pretty specific when He tells us, "pray the Lord of the harvest." Churches that are servant-sending are churches that are consistently, passionately, and intentionally praying for more harvest laborers. Is that an important prayer in your life?

Priority #4 – Surrendering to the Will of God

I remember as a teenager that it seemed like every other youth rally I attended featured a sermon from Romans 12:1-2. I cut my spiritual teeth on "surrender messages." Unfortunately, as a result of that, as a youth pastor I decided I wasn't going to preach from Romans 12:1-2, thinking that every teen had already heard too many messages on surrender. Eventually, God began to convict me about my wrong thinking. I started to read about the topic we are considering - the shortage of people

who are being sent into ministry. I realized that I was a part of the problem! If I was not willing to preach texts like Romans 12:1-2 and the concept of surrender, I was contributing to the problem. The heart of the text is the command to present our bodies as living sacrifices. Living sacrifices have no will of their own. Surrender is saying to God, "I will do whatever You want me to do with my life." I can't help but wonder if that's not part of the problem in our churches today. So few people are willing to say that to God. It is amazing to me – our world contains 7 billion people, yet the Gospel in terms of percentages of population appears to be losing ground in a lot of places. The population growth is outgrowing the spread of the Gospel. That is especially true in the United States. When we combine that with fewer people who are headed into ministry, we shouldn't be surprised that this is the case. Is it that God is calling fewer people to the ministry? Would that not seem contradictory to the nature of God, that God is calling fewer to be missionaries, that God is calling fewer to be pastors? Is the problem that God is calling fewer people or that fewer people are surrendering to the call?! Churches that are used of God to send servants are churches where surrender is emphasized and is a priority, not just preached from the pulpit, but practiced in the pew. Is that true of your church? More importantly, are you truly surrendered?



Dave and Carolyn Culver, our guest instructors, team taught through 1 Peter 4:7-11 with practical God-centered instruction. Peter encourages believers to remember that the end is near so be soberly self-controlled and love one another. A special emphasis was placed upon hospitality which is the love of strangers. Church planters must use their gifts as missionaries and missionary couples in serving and speaking with a love of strangers that the gospel might be known and God be glorified. This was a great reminder.

Our president Steve Little unfolded BCP's focus and biblical ministry guidelines so that the missionaries might serve well in a likeminded way, but the best part of the event was the eating, praying, sharing, playing and picnicking together. Those conversations and relationships really are priceless. They produce fruit far beyond the days of Family Camp. What a worthwhile event; 2021 Family Camp can't come soon enough.



Psychologists study four to five years to work with the **brain**;
Nurses - six to eight years to help with the **body**;
Surgeons - thirteen years to heal the **heart**.

How much training have your **Teachers** received to impact the eternal **soul**?



Discipling Youth with fruit for life

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**We would like to help them
creatively and effectively
handle the Word of God.**
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Pastor Frank Odor

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