

## A Baton Pass on Every Level

My career in track and field was quite brief, but it did not escape my notice that in a relay, the passing of a baton must be executed with precision and care. Winning requires that the runners be going the same direction with the same goal before them, and each runner must run their best. The recent baton exchange between Steve Little and myself motivates me to run with fervor. This handoff was more than symbolic. He handed off a great opportunity to lead a mission that has been running at full speed. He challenged me to run hard but with balance, depending upon Christ and defending my heart. He pushed me to guard the mission and make definitive decisions that have a firmness yet softness to them. I must lead people and not just a concept, for the people are God's image-bearers equipped for good work. I am so thankful for this counsel because our hearts are running the same direction. Steve was not too surprised that I gave him a baton of his own because he is still running the race. As he steps aside at BCP, he is still stepping forward to hand off the gospel to a next man God will have him shape.

My heart overflows with joy to tell you how BCP, Steve and I have been running toward the same goal stride for stride. BCP exists to facilitate local churches in their processes of fulfilling the Great Commission which always erupts in the sending of missionaries and the planting and revitalizing of local churches. This is the race we are running, but unlike a track that has known surfaces and an oval shape, this is a cross country race with much variety. Our mission must be carried out with new pressures, needs, obstacles and blessings surrounding us. With this mission firmly in our grip, we must regularly adjust our vision in order to help the local church

accomplish its purpose.

BCP's vision over the last six years was focused upon strengthening local churches. As churches that desire to please God ask for help, BCP provides intentional discipleship help which has enabled over thirty churches to make disciples and to guide the spiritual growth of their people intentionally. This has also fostered outreach efforts, and as a result, these churches are beginning to multiply people. Some of these people are being sent into full-time ministry capacities. Six of these churches are now helping other churches produce this same discipling. One has begun to help another church be revitalized. Two are in the beginning stages of helping two Hispanic churches be planted. Four of BCP's current church plants and revitalizations are among the churches being strengthened through these efforts.

In Acts this type of church produced the next wave of church multiplication. Jerusalem and Antioch saw churches multiply from them into Asia Minor, Crete, Cyprus and then beyond. Faithful men training faithful men who will teach others and a church helping another church be planted or grown is God's design that we are seeking to emulate. We will

continue to help strengthen churches, and our vision includes helping these strengthened churches send missionaries, plant new churches, and revitalize stagnant churches.

Enjoy the rest of the Connect as it celebrates how God is enabling churches and Godly people to pass the baton in His multiplication process.

*Jon Jenks, President*



The official passing of the baton took place on September 10, 2020.



Our view of the Council during our September meeting

# FROM THE FIELD



## Pinecrest Baptist Church in Millbury, MA:



Roy and Karen Kinney, missionary church planters



“We are so thankful for our church building that God has blessed us with! Our land has sold, and we are settled into our “forever” worship home! We have paid off our ChurchCare loan and have repaired the parking lot. It is a great advertisement; besides, it looks so awesome! We had 42 in church one Sunday in October and had a new visitor two weeks in a row. We praise the Lord for His provision for His church here in Massachusetts.”

Stephen Little,  
retired President of BCP

## Desert Hills Baptist Church in Buckeye, AZ, graduated from mission status! June 2020

“Thank you for the partnership we have shared in ministry over these last many years! It has been a joy to know that while we have been laboring in the harvest field of Arizona, you have been holding the ropes of prayer and support for us in Ohio. We have especially appreciated the advice, the expertise in helping us to move forward with the construction of our building and helping us to secure financing. I am grateful that God allowed BCP to share ministry with us. Paul said in Philippians 4:17, ‘Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.’ As we reflect on the last few years of ministry and even look at the time we have occupied our building, we can honestly say that fruit has abounded towards the account of BCP in this shared ministry partnership.”

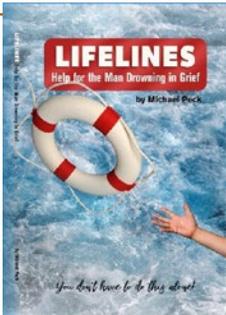


Adam and Elizabeth Zamora

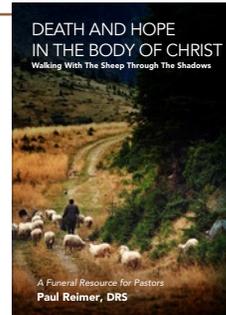


## New from our own “pair-o’-docs”

Visit [www.bcpusa.org/shop](http://www.bcpusa.org/shop).  
These books are our current Featured Products.



“Dr. Michael Peck has written a practical and biblically-based masterpiece for widowers. This book will stir up all kinds of emotions but always point back to the Source of our strength—namely, our wonderful, caring God! The examples are from real men in real situations, offering real solutions to help a man navigate life without the love of his life at his side. Pastors counseling widowers and students preparing to serve God’s people should all have this book as a guide and tool.”



“Dr. Paul A. Reimer has produced an exceptional and seriously needed book for those in pastoral ministry. Pastors, both new to ministry and those with years of service, will find the material in this book to be very profitable. The subject of death in the church is given both biblical-theological and practical treatment, and it is sure to be of benefit to all who read it.”

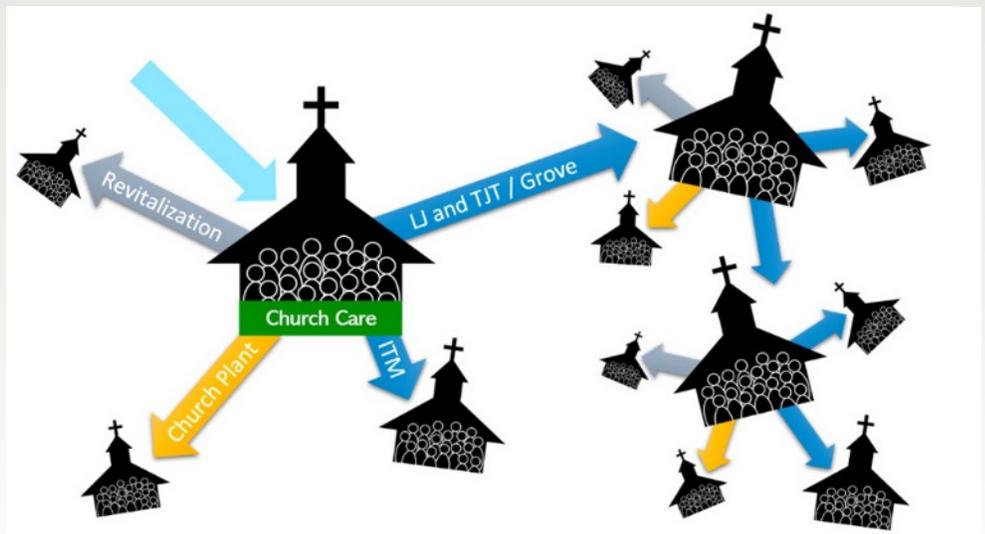
Johnathan Pritchett  
Vice President of Academic Affairs,  
Trinity College of the Bible and Theological Seminary

# IDM INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES

## God Has Multiplied

“God has multiplied” makes me think of loaves of bread on a hillside. Like the disciples, sometimes when Jesus multiplies around me, I understand and obey His plan, and sometimes I miss the point. In His grace, God has multiplied our Intentional Discipleship Ministry and helped me see and obey. This ministry includes the men’s track called *Leadership Journey* and the ladies’ track called *The Grove*. They were designed to multiply inside a church as mentors train mentees who then become mentors. Each church, as they multiply within, is to seek to multiply these intentional discipling efforts in another church with whom they have a relationship.

These levels of multiplication are happening faster and better than I could have imagined, from the four initial churches in 2017 to over thirty churches this fall! When God guided me from being the director of this ministry to becoming the next president of BCP, it became apparent that more aspects of this ministry must be multiplied so that I might continue to direct it but from a higher level. I thank God



for Godly pastors and lay people involved in this ministry who are stepping up to run all but one of the launch retreats and to train all of the new Leadership Journey churches. This is ahead of my schedule but not God's. On the ladies’ side, DeEtt Mann has trained five ladies from our three original Grove churches who have trained within their churches, and now these five are being sent out by their home churches to train five new Grove churches

this school year. This has freed me, with David Whipple, Scott Owen, and Tim Weeks’ help, to manage seven revitalization churches. Praise God for His multiplying work.

Pray for wisdom to fully engage in the work Christ is doing. Pray that we will continue to launch others in this discipleship work. Remember, if God desires it, He will provide and multiply to cause it in your church.

## Making Disciples is the Task of Every Church Member!

Scripture expresses that discipleship involves:

**EQUIPPING** Ephesians 4:12;  
**TRAINING** 2 Timothy 3:16;  
 and **OBEYING** Matthew 28:20

The question is, “What are we doing to actively and intentionally accomplish these?”

Answer the critical-to-GOD questions at [APPLYINGTRUTH.COM/AREWEDISCIPLINGQUIZ](http://APPLYINGTRUTH.COM/AREWEDISCIPLINGQUIZ)



Education



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Practice



Chip Wood  
 Director of BCP  
 Youth Ministries

**DISCIPLESHIP REQUIRES RELATIONSHIP**

FIND OUT HOW WE FACILITATE CHURCHES AT [APPLYINGTRUTH.COM](http://APPLYINGTRUTH.COM)

# Do not be squirrely!



David Whipple  
Executive Vice President

Recently I have been reading the many parables that Jesus told his disciples. We are told that Jesus taught more about finances than any other topic. Wherever Jesus went, He observed people concerned about building wealth. The people Jesus met were acting like squirrels storing up nuts for the winter. The Pharisees had come up with a loophole in their religious laws whereby they could deny their parents financial support to hoard a little more for themselves. The rich young ruler was afraid to part with what he had to follow Christ. Jesus encountered these individuals, and many more like them, storing up what they had, protecting it, expanding it, and bragging about it. Jesus' response and instruction to them was "Don't do that!"

In Luke 12 we have the account of one of these interactions. A brother asked Jesus to intercede for him and tell his brother to share more inheritance. The father had evidently died, and the law was that the elder son should receive a double portion of the estate. Apparently, this was the younger brother asking, and he felt slighted because the older brother received a larger portion of the estate. With this background Jesus told the parable of the rich man.

The parable begins with a greedy man who wants more. His attitude is that more money will bring him life. He had plenty for himself, but this year, he had a bumper crop. It appears that the rich man had not worked very hard for this result. Receiving something that you do not work for is a gift. Who was this gift from? God! "The ground brought forth plentifully." Before he died, God asked the question, "Who will own what you have prepared?"

We should learn from the rich man's mistakes:

1. The rich man thought he was the owner of his stuff.
2. The rich man was worried about the present and forgot about eternity.

3. The rich man was concerned about the physical and forgot about spiritual things.
4. The rich man treasured stuff more than people. He lived an isolated life. He "thought within himself;" normally men would seek counsel from the elders at the gate of the city.

We can only hope that the greedy brother caught these principles from the teaching of Jesus, and we must be careful to apply them to our lives as well:

1. The greedy brother was told by Jesus to "beware of covetousness" and that life does not consist of building wealth. Greed is wrong and so is self-sufficiency or self-satisfaction.
2. We must not put our emphasis on material possessions because they will not last. Everything will be left behind. We are all just stewards of our stuff!
3. When we define life in terms of finance, we leave God out, and when we die, we are bankrupt.
4. What counts is our relationship with God. Before the question came from the greedy brother, Jesus said (12:9), "He who denies Me before men shall be denied before the angels of God."
5. Jesus followed up the parable with instruction detailing the provision from God that all of creation enjoys (verses 22-34). Jesus said, "Seek first the kingdom of God; and **all these things** shall be added unto you."

This parable tells us how to define life. Have you been defining life by your career, your house, your stock portfolio, your physical ability, or assuming that you will live a long time? What will happen when you lose one or more of these things? What will happen when you lose your job, the stock market crashes, or the doctor tells you that you have six months to live?

Having possessions is not wrong, but it is wrong to put your security in them. The rich

man was not condemned for being rich. He became a fool for being self-centered, for not using his surplus to help others, and for leaving God out of his life. What do you choose? What do you treasure? "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." The greedy brother and the rich man seem to have had no relationships with others. They chose stuff instead of God or people.

Baptist Church Planters is investing heavily in missionaries planting churches and strengthening churches that will reproduce themselves. People are worth the investment. They are the only investment that we can take with us into eternity. **Do not be a squirrel!** Invest in eternity!

## BCP

### 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** –  
Director of Missionary Care  
tweeks@bcpusa.org

**Herb Taylor** –  
Coordinator of Hispanic Ministries;  
Director of Missionary Care  
htaylor@bcpusa.org

**Chip Wood** –  
Director of BCP Youth Ministries  
cwood@bcpusa.org

**Scott Owen** –  
Director of Intentional Transitional Ministry  
sowen@bcpusa.org



# Remembering Dr. Paul A. Reimer

(July 14, 1954 – July 4, 2020)

*Dr. Michael Peck*

The Apostle Paul reminded Timothy of the characteristics of the genuine servant of the Lord (2 Timothy 2:24-25a). First, he has a gentle, quiet, and patient spirit. He must not be quarrelsome and combative. Second, he must have a conviction and

desire to impact lives. How beautifully these characteristics were evidenced in the life of Dr. Paul Reimer. He possessed a quiet and gentle spirit, yet he was a man of rock solid conviction based on the Word of God. His words were instructive and encouraging. This wonderful balance of gentleness and conviction are what made possible a powerful and yet personal ministry amongst us.

Dr. Paul and Debbie were highly respected and deeply appreciated both at Bible Baptist Church in Newark, Ohio, where Paul pastored for 29 years and Baptist Church Planters. His ministry at Bible Baptist Church as Senior Pastor began in 1991. He has been part of the Newark community, serving as a chaplain for the Licking County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and playing taps for the Licking County Veteran's Alliance. While pastoring, Paul served on the Mission Council of Baptist Church Planters from 2009 until 2019 when he

was appointed Retiree Coordinator. As a councilman, when Paul spoke in meetings, the entire room listened. His wisdom, insight, and humor brought a great perspective.

Dr. Paul was committed to the work of missions, and it was evident that he loved missionaries! The entire BCP missionary family greatly appreciated the many touches of Dr. Paul. They were encouraged by cards and notes that he sent. His writings were creative and enjoyed by all. Missionary Tim Heinrich in California recounts the time that Paul visited their church. Upon entering the gymnasium, Paul commented, "You need a rug right here with the church name on it, so people will know where they are when they enter. You find it, and I will pay for it." To this day that church family calls it the "Reimer Rug!"

We all know Dr. Paul would want the glory to go to the Lord and not to him. Whenever he would be complimented for the sermon he preached or for his writing or his "Reimer Reason" (his counseling), Paul had a standard reply, "To God be the glory." That was his driving motive as he served the Lord. Truly the Lord was glorified in his life and ministry. Well done, Paul Reimer. We have greatly profited from your example and instruction to us.



**ChurchCare Construction gives priority to church plants. The projects approved by the ChurchCare Board for established churches are only scheduled when there are no church plant projects ready to begin. The ministry with established churches provides funds so that ChurchCare can minister to church plants at no cost. The strengthening of all churches we partner with is our goal.**



The builders have been busy. Early this year the addition to First Baptist Church in Niles, Ohio, was completed. The new entry, carport and additional classrooms provide additional space. The new carport made it clear for visitors where the main entrance is located.

The builders have moved on to the current project, the rebuilding of a Ministry Activity Center at First Baptist Church in Elyria, Ohio. The building was the first building built 40 years ago when the church moved to their current location. All of us show a little wear and tear after forty years, and that was true

with the building as well. The steel structure and the roof were all that was salvaged. New foundation, wall framing for the existing building and the addition of 4000 square feet of space for restrooms and storage have been started. The structure is all framed and closed in, and the mechanical work has been started.

Thank you for praying for our missionary builders and volunteers as they continue working through the fall and winter months.





36830 Royalton Road  
 Grafton, OH 44044  
 PH: 440.748.1677  
 FAX: 440.748.1837  
 Email: [bcp@bcpusa.org](mailto:bcp@bcpusa.org)

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## A Final Word of Greeting from Steve Little!

It has been our pleasure to serve BCP's missionaries, our constituency, our Administration, and our Council but most importantly many churches across the nation over the past six years. Jesus said, "I will build My Church," and Becky and I are thrilled that God chose Jon and Jen Jenks to lead BCP into the next phase of strengthening and planting churches across America!

### MEMORIAL GIFTS

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

**Gary Hunt  
 Daniel Hobbs  
 Charles Brown**

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