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Meeting America's
Greatest Need

BCP
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BAPTIST CHURCH PLANTERS

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It Takes A Team

Stephen Little, President



Often I say, “There are no Rambos at BCP.” We all see ourselves as part of a team. Each member of the team brings a level of God-given talent, prayer and personal investment to the process of church planting or church revitalization.

Foundationally, the graphic below does not state the obvious team members—the missionary’s sending church and subsequent supporting churches. Our mission statement establishes that foundation: “To facilitate the process for Baptist churches and their missionaries to fulfill the Great Commission.”

Every church plant or church revitalization requires a lead church planter. This person is the key visionary regarding the church plant, but he is not the only person that moves a church plant forward. Paul is a good example as the lead church planter, but Paul was not a Rambo missionary.

The Scriptures are clear in the Acts account and the epistles that God used many people with varying talents to start churches or strengthen churches. Paul’s team was made up of associates like Timothy and Titus. There were men like Epaphroditus from Philippi who Paul regarded as a “brother,

fellow worker, and fellow soldier...one who ministered to my need.” There were women like Lydia who as a new believer hosted Paul’s team in her home, couples like Aquila and Priscilla and a host of other people with varying gifts and resources who worked together for the cause of Christ. The list could go on and on of those considered “partners in the gospel.”

So here is my question. As a follower of Jesus, where do you fit on the team? Maybe you are prepared to be a lead church planter, an associate church planter or a builder. Maybe you are ready to do a short-term missionary assignment or become a volunteer at a building site or at a church plant.

Maybe you cannot physically be on the project, but you can be a part of the financial team. Donors are just as important to the team! They give, pray and encourage. Will you partner with us through your local church to live out the Great Commission by planting and revitalizing churches in America? We need the entire team on the field!

In our latest campaign letter I wrote about a lady named Marie. Marie was on our team, and her active participation resulted in a domino effect for the cause of Christ. **JOIN THE TEAM!**



Please pray!

- * for God to build His team
- * for how you can be part of the team

From the Field:

Casting the Vision in Pennsauken, NJ



**Paul and Janet Robinson,
Cornerstone Bible Baptist Church, Camden, NJ**

“Man makes his plans, but God directs his steps...”

We have had a number of outreach opportunities into Pennsauken to make lasting connections with residents in that community. Saturday, July 29, was set for an Outreach Picnic. The Lord didn't see fit for us to have it on Saturday; the day was rainy, windy, cloudy and bleak. Our rain-date was Sunday, which turned out to be beautiful, sunny, low humidity and an exquisite day. The picnic was from 2 pm to 6 pm. Many people that had planned to come on Saturday were not able to come on Sunday; however, we had about eighty people altogether on Sunday. We had a great afternoon of food, fellowship

and connecting with our many guests. Each of our guests received a packet with the gospel tract “God's Bridge to Eternal Life” and a magnet with a Bible verse and the church's information on it. Many seeds were planted and everyone was informed that a church building was coming on the property soon.

Prayer requests include:

- prayer for continued transition of ministry to Pennsauken-finalization of a place to begin meeting once a month in Pennsauken
- prayer for the start of one or two evangelistic Bible studies by the end of December
- prayer for young men in the church who are involved in a discipleship program.



While summer can bring low attendance because many leave the Valley for cooler climates, we have remained steady and have even seen small growth. We have seen more visitors from the local area begin to attend and another younger couple has started to attend faithfully. Last month a family started attending that has nine children under 6th grade. It has quickly grown our children's class, and we will soon need another teacher. We have been running almost fifty, and it makes our small congregation look larger in our auditorium. We are grateful to see God's sovereign control in the ministry here and know that He will bring growth. We also have seen God

Revitalizing in Scottsdale, AZ

Wayne and Shanna Dale, Grace Baptist Church, Scottsdale, AZ

answer prayer in providing funds for a newer reliable vehicle for traveling across Phoenix.

Wayne continues to be involved with weekly Bible studies and many visits and calls. One individual who he has been discipling recently used the bridge tract to lead a co-worker to Christ and even started to attend a church. Another man has been very faithful to church and asks probing questions. He has not placed his faith in Christ yet. Shanna has been teaching English to minor league players from the Cleveland Indians and occasionally we have hosted them in our

home. It is always an adventure, and we are sure the grocery store wonders why we are buying so many rotisserie chickens!

Prayer requests include:

- safety in daily commute
- hosting state fellowship meetings in November
- prayer for increase in attendance
- prayer for mature believers to serve
- prayer for pianist for church
- prayer for housing next May 2018
- prayer for Christian friends for our children



Optimizing Short-Term Missions at Baptist Church Planters

With church plants, revitalizations, mother churches, and building opportunities as possible targets, Baptist Church Planters seeks to optimize your short-term missions experience by including several key components. First, a local church drives the experience, beginning with your home church's involvement in the sending and the impact of the local body where your mission experience occurs. Next, each short-term missions' trip mirrors long-term missions, so if God directs, you are ready for the next step. To accomplish this, BCP short-termers have requirements and coaching on partner-raising, communication, and reporting.

The greatest advantage of a short-term mission with Baptist Church Planters comes from the training element tailored to each experience. Short-term missions can be a great learning environment with many cultural, emotional, and life-challenging elements. These can discourage or confuse a young, inexperienced participant. In order to maximize these God-given experiences so that you can launch forward in ministry pursuit, the mission designs a training experience for each of its three short-term mission opportunities. This training includes a spiritual growth log, ministry



projects, and supervised skill-building events. All of this is proctored by a trained coach as well as local church pastors who seek to grow each person in Christ.

An overseas short-term missions' event can also be very expensive and complex. Baptist Church Planters encourages you to consider a stateside trip to begin to develop ministry skills



and endurance so that if an overseas trip is next, you might be better prepared. Because BCP wants to assist in your next ministry step, so you will be guided to raise appropriate funds for the situation which then extends the impact of the training.

For more information, check out our website at bcpusa.org/intentional-discipleship-ministries. Connect with us as a local church, pastor, or potential participant so you might enjoy the impact of this optimized short-term missions training.

Overheard and Quotables on the Leadership Journey

Our first *Leadership Journey* of this fall has launched with several more beginning soon. This ministry is a seamless extension of the local church training ministry of Calvary Baptist Church of Wisconsin Rapids that Jon Jenks developed and led for over twenty years. Below are some of the brief comments that have been made by *Leadership Journey* participants lately. We encourage you to contact us, so you can personally interact with some of these pastors to hear their stories in a complete form.

“The retreat a couple of weeks ago really helped me get a better grasp on the overall role of the ministry I lead in our church’s development, which helped me explain it to the guys who participate with me.”

“Through this training I shared the gospel at work for the first time, and to my boss no less.”

“I haven’t meditated on God’s Word like this in years; what is wrong with me! What have I been preaching.”

“I am just so upset at the Biblical actions we have not been training or doing as a church”

“This was the best 30 weeks of my life.”

“After I implemented this training for several months in my leadership at home, my wife remarked that she finds me more attractive.”

“I just see so many gaps in our discipling but I know I need to be patient and guide our church forward with understanding.”

“Reaching our Neighbors Next Door”

Bridging the Cultural Divide (part 1) **Wanda Taylor**



If you had asked us ten years ago about reaching into the Hispanic community around us, we would have probably answered, “That will never happen.” We would have reasoned, “We don’t personally know any Hispanics. We don’t understand their culture. We don’t know any Spanish, and we are not sure we could or would want to learn Spanish.” Well, God works in amazing ways! As a result of a mission trip to Mexico in 2007, our hearts became burdened to “Reach Hispanics: Our Neighbors” right here in the U.S. Now as we serve in Hispanic Ministries with Baptist Church Planters, we are seeking to do just that.

Do you realize that we presently have over 55 million Hispanics here in the United States? In fact, we are the second largest Spanish-speaking country in the world. Only Mexico has more Hispanics than the U.S. There’s no question that the mission field has come to America. Many believers have a desire to reach out to these people but are not sure exactly how to do this. May we ask a few questions as you consider reaching this culture within our culture?

1. Are you reaching people in your own culture and language?

If reaching people in our own culture and language is difficult, then reaching those of another culture will be even harder. Crossing cultural barriers adds a whole new dimension to seeking lost souls. Once we develop the habit of sharing the gospel with people that are like us, we can build on this experience, taking it to the next level of reaching those who are from a different background.

2. Are you seeing people from a spiritual perspective?

As we look around and see all the people God is bringing to our country, our natural tendency may be to look at them through the eyes of the news media, political stance or social status. As believers, we should ask God to help us to see everyone from a spiritual perspective, to see Hispanics (or any ethnicity) through the eyes of Scripture. Their ethnicity, economic level, social status, and political situation all take a back seat to the need of their eternal soul. Please consider these Scriptures: Exodus 22:21; 23:9; Deut. 10:19; Leviticus 19:33-34; Ephesians 2:11-13, 18-19.

3. Are you loving people through relationship-building?

Most people, but especially Hispanics, respond to people more than plans, and to relationship more than programs. If we want to reach this Hispanic culture for Christ, we must invest in building relationships with them. They will respond very well to an Anglo that shows genuine interest in them, especially since many of them are far from home and their extended family. In fact, people will know if we love them, regardless of the language spoken.

We believe this is the best way to reach people in our own culture, but in crossing cultural barriers, it is absolutely essential.

If your “neighbors” are Hispanic, let us offer the following suggestions as you seek to reach them for Christ.

- 1) Survey your community and determine the Hispanic population. Remember that all Hispanics are not from Mexico. In fact, there are actually 23 Hispanic categories.
- 2) Ask questions to learn about their culture, food, religious background, etc. Remember they are probably just as hesitant to speak to you as you are to speak to them. A smile and a few kind words can make great progress toward a relationship.
- 3) Take your neighbors a plate of cookies with a Spanish tract or CD. If you deliver the cookies on a non-disposable plate, they will most likely return it with a gift of their own.
- 4) Encourage teens to take Spanish in school. Challenge them to memorize and share their testimony in Spanish.
- 5) Teach an ESL (English as a Second Language) class. You do not have to know Spanish to teach this.
- 6) Pray specifically for a bilingual couple to be saved and disciplined in your church. They could be the beginning of a flourishing Spanish ministry.
- 7) Learn some basic Spanish phrases if only enough to give a tract, to invite someone to an English class, or to invite to special events at your church.
- 8) Buy a library for a Latino who is training for the ministry.

- 9) Sponsor an Hispanic family to attend an Hispanic retreat. We direct a Hispanic retreat each August at a camp in Clear Lake, IA. This would be a great way for your neighbors to clearly hear the gospel.

What a better way to teach missions than to just look into your own community and see the wide open door of Hispanics . . . your neighbors! They have come to us. We just have to notice.

Visit our website reachinghispanics.org for further information, resources and ideas, or contact us here at Baptist Church Planters. We would be glad to come evaluate the possibility of ministering to Hispanics in your community.



Watch for the second article in the spring Connect in which this important topic will be addressed in the context of the local church.

Herb and Wanda Taylor serve in Hispanic Ministries with Baptist Church Planters. Their theme is “Reaching Hispanics: Our Neighbors” by following their three-fold purpose:

1) PLANTING Hispanic Baptist churches, 2) PARTNERING with established churches to reach Hispanics, and 3) PREPARING Hispanic church leaders.

Web: www.herbandwanda.com; reachinghispanics.org;
nchothinktank.com

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Missionary Enrichment Happens in the Plural!

Jon Jenks, Director of Intentional Discipleship Ministries

Why go to the effort of attending events such as BPC's Leadership Summit? The answer to this question explains the idea of **missionary enrichment**. Enrichment happens in the plural, so it is realized when believers come together and engage in 'one another' activities.

God calls individuals to Himself and through His church and their submitted desire sends people into ministry efforts. Obeying the 'one another' commands forms the backbone of this submission. God calls His children to this obedience because in His all-wise plan it is best for His servants. Baptist Church Planters is committed to fostering this joyful obedience in our missionaries in several ways.

As missionaries make a simple connection for personal and ministry counsel with a fellow missionary, a Regional Field Director, the home office or administration, it just naturally enriches them as they consult God's Word together, share their relationship with the Lord, encourage and pray for each other. At *Leadership Summit*, they naturally practice multiple 'one another' commands such as greet one another, pray for one another, comfort one another, encourage one another, consider one another, and many more. This obedience brings joy and unity in our separate ministry endeavors that provide hope and togetherness beyond that week. The practical training coupled with interaction with others boosts clarity and wisdom unlike an online blog read alone.

The *BCP Family Camp* provides an optimum enrichment event for the whole family because they never know who they will meet, eat with, encourage, and build up. Missionaries are able, in a relaxed environment, to interact with co-laborers. This magnifies the enrichment potential of Family Camp.

Serving on the *Baptist Church Planters' Council* provides another opportunity for some of our missionaries. They enjoy the time and are enriched as they sharpen one another.

Two other BCP opportunities are designed to enrich and train missionaries, but they are also available to any church. One is a year-long *Leadership Journey* for a pastor and two or three men who will meet for a spiritual retreat and then meet online by Skype for thirty weeks of leadership mentoring. When



this is completed, God will use them to lead other men in the church in a similar manner.

Once a church is underway with leadership training, they might want to widen their influence by *hosting a short-term missionary church planter or builder* for a summer or for most of a year. BCP will provide the structure and mentoring guidance, so step-by-step both are able to grow together. Mentoring others always draws us closer to Christ, forms partnerships, and launches more ministry endeavors. This sounds like enrichment. Contact us at jjenks@bcpusa.org soon to get started!

Missionary enrichment is an important aspect of the support that Baptist Church Planters offers to churches and the missionaries that they send. Intentional Discipleship Ministries (IDM) is the avenue through which this support is provided. Leadership development of the Church's overseers will help missionaries become better leaders in their homes and church plants. The outcome will be stronger and healthier families and churches who then will be better equipped to do the work of the ministry.

DID YOU KNOW?

Baptist Church Planters is able to provide state associations, local church fellowships, and clusters of churches a conference on the topics of "Church Revitalization" or "Being a Mother Church." In the life cycle of a church, sometimes there are rough patches, and the church's heartbeat needs to be strengthened, reenergized by and focused on Christ. Once it is solid and moving forward, the goal shifts to mothering other churches.

Baptist Church Planters facilitates the process for churches and their sent missionaries to plant and revitalize churches. If we can serve by helping motivate and educate your local area through one of these conferences, please contact our Director of Intentional Discipleship Ministries, Jon Jenks at jjenks@bcpusa.org.

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Baptist Church Planters Youth Ministries



DISCIPLESHIP TOOLS & TRAINING



Chip and Karen have been traveling from coast to coast. The last three years have afforded many experiences within the churches of America. The stories upon their return are joyfully unique and eerily similar at the same time.

The uniqueness of their travels comes from meeting so many wonderfully different personalities and loving church people. The diversity of different cultures and dynamics that they minister to each day requires more than cookie cutter tactics. The great news is that the principles from God's Word transcend these barriers and stir today's youth to bear hearty and vibrant fruit for God. The key to unlocking today's youth is clearly written within its pages.

One similarity lies in the great need for tools and training for our teachers. It seems that everywhere that God sends them to talk about the curriculum Baptist Church Planters provides, they

encounter several people who ask good practical questions about application and organization, questions that are usually answered in training sessions. Conversely, in training sessions there are often questions about how they can find tools that are more Biblical, effective and affordable for them.

Another similarity in their travels is a deep love and concern of church leadership to impact their youth but also a weariness because of the lack of help and direction. They feel like they have been putting out maximum effort without dynamic results.

The last similarity is the excitement that has been generated in the lives of the teachers and leadership of the places that the Woods have been able to visit and minister. They consult and aid churches to develop a plan to reach their youth using the specific talents and gifts God has given their church people. If you would like to have Chip and Karen come to your church, feel free to contact them at cwood@bcpusa.org.

Welcome back, Dr. Peck!

We are very pleased to welcome back to the service center Dr. Michael Peck. Dr. Peck rejoins the staff of BCP as the Retiree Coordinator. He will minister to the many retired missionaries that BCP cares for by communicating with them personally to pray for and counsel each one as needed. He will also help to be a voice for our retirees within the service center so we all know how to pray and serve these



wonderful servants more effectively.

Dr. Mike continues to write various resources, such as his "Daily Pre-scriptions" devotional, which may be found on his website michaelpeck.org. We are extremely excited and privileged to have "Uncle Mike" back in the office, and we are overjoyed for the level of care and love our retired missionaries will receive now. Please join us in praising the Lord and welcoming Dr. Peck!

STILL GREAT NEED FOR HELP



Good News
Baptist Church in
Katy, TX and Berean Baptist Church in
Humble, TX both continue to have needs.

Baptist Church Planters is coordinating efforts to assist our brothers and sisters in Texas affected by Hurricane Harvey. If you desire to give funds or volunteer talents or muscle power, please contact dwhipple@bcpusa.org.

www.BCPUSA.org/Give

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