

connect

Meeting America's Greatest Need

BCP
A PUBLICATION OF
BAPTIST CHURCH PLANTERS

Spring 2020

2020 Transitions

Stephen P. Little, President



I have received more feedback on my article in our Fall 2019 Connect on the subject of “transitions” than any other article. It struck a chord, so I think an update is necessary on the presidential transition at BCP as well as more on the subject of “transitions.”

BCP Presidential Search

At BCP the process toward a presidential transition is going well. The Council Search Committee is composed of five councilmen: three are pastors and two are BCP missionaries, and I served as an adviser/ex-officio member. The Search Committee chairman is one of the missionaries. Once a candidate was identified to pursue, I stepped aside. The Lord has directed, and there is a presidential candidate who will be presented at the spring Council meetings March 17-19, 2020. Would you continue to participate with us through this process by doing the following?

1. Continue to **pray** for God's wisdom for the BCP Council, the candidate and his family.
2. Transitions are expensive – would you **give** to help the transition team cover expenses?
3. Once the next president is inaugurated, Lord willing, in September, would you **pray for him daily for one year**? It will be a critical year for him because he will feel like he is drinking out of a firehose! He will need wisdom to know the will of the Lord!

Transitions, Part II: Personal Leadership Assessment

After last fall's article, questions came from pastors and ministry leaders wanting information on the subject of personal leadership assessment. For several years BCP's Council officers have done an

annual presidential review and assessment. Every year they asked me good questions, but the only feedback they received was from me, the president. A few years ago, I asked the officers to change the presidential review process and give my staff and the administration the questions about my leadership, integrity, vision casting, etc. After I went home that day, I said to myself, “WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?” This is when the fear factor sets in, but it was the right thing to do. The assessment results have been very helpful, and I have benefited from the whole process.

I have a huge respect for pastors and ministry leaders who do personal assessment of their effectiveness and are willing to do the hard work to either improve or step aside. Assessment can be a little scary because it can lead to some hard questions: Have they lost the fire in their belly for ministry? Are they ready to retire? Are they able financially to retire? Some have regrets because they fear they have waited too long to retire or step aside. It takes courage to talk about and even more courage to change based on this kind of assessment! Some don't want to talk about it because they believe the people around them will not understand and they will lose respect or, worse yet, be asked to leave. Personal assessment is still the right thing to do for the good of the Church and the glory of God.

Recently I was sitting with one of our missionaries in my office talking about how he could do an assessment of his leadership effectiveness as a missionary. The thought of it seemed to strike a little chord of fear until I pulled out my presidential assessment form and said to him, “*Assessment is not something I would ask you to consider if I am unwilling to do it myself.*” If you want to minimize the sting of assessment done on those serving, make

personal assessment a part of your annual assessment of ministry programs. This will create an open atmosphere of trust and a desire to do all to the glory of God.

If you are a pastor or ministry leader and want to see the personal leadership assessments we are using, please email me at slittle@bcpusa.org. I am with our ministry partners often, both pastors of churches and individuals, and they want to know if BCP is doing assessment with accountability. We know we have been entrusted with much, and we desire to be faithful stewards of what has been entrusted to us. The same is true for each of you in the ministry to which God has called you. Seek accountability and assessment so that you can be the effective servant God desires you to be.

Challenge to God's people

I think most lay people do not understand the internal struggle of their pastor/ministry leader. If it is not your regular practice to pray for your pastor or ministry leader, would you make it one of your goals in 2020? Your pastor/leader will be blessed by your commitment to regularly pray for him, and you will be better for the effort. Over the past years I have begun fasting and praying for myself and for others who are facing a major decision. When your pastor is facing big decisions, would you consider spending 24-48 hours fasting and praying for him?

BCP can help with transitions

There is an article in this Connect from our Intentional Transitional Ministry. It is a report on our first opportunity to serve a church transitioning to a new pastor. We can help you, too!



Reaping the Benefits of Collaboration

Our joy over the impact from the collaboration of churches, agencies, and their people in BCP's Intentional Discipleship Ministry (IDM) last year is difficult to contain. The joy and fruit resulting from this like-mindedness in action brings celebration and a motivation to continue abiding in Christ together. BCP thanks God for the fruit of many who nurture right missional pursuits in collaboration with others. Here are some of these fruits and their multifaceted impact:

Mutual training fruit – IDM facilitates discipleship training for churches through local churches. A church in New York, having attended a kickoff retreat last year in Wisconsin hosted by a church there, provided a retreat for a church from New Jersey and its men this year. One of the trainers from the Wisconsin church who helped the New York church is now training the church in New Jersey. This BCP trainer commented that he has been so stretched through this opportunity. It is causing him as a sheriff's deputy to work differently with his men on duty. It has caused him to apply for and accept a promotion that will set him up to make more spiritual impact on these men. He also said it has intensified his focus at his home church and the ministry there. Meanwhile, the pastor in New Jersey is thrilled by the impact this man is having on his men.

Peacemaking, theological thinking and encouraging fruit – The church revitalization process that BCP facilitates in one church always involves another church or two. This process often causes the hearts of men to struggle with their desires, and this struggle is against principalities of wickedness. Recently, God used a sending church pastor with two sister accountability churches to help provide stability in a revitalization **peacemaking** situation. Each of these pastors has commented on how this impacted how they were handling situations in their own heart and church. They shared how it has deepened their **theological thinking** as they worked together with others in putting their theology into action. Of course, this also helped the revitalization church and the BCP

missionary couple weather a storm and take their next ministry steps with confidence. Much more fruit was produced by their collaborative efforts.

In another revitalization effort in Iowa, a sister church is helping to encourage the revitalization core team and train its men by sharing a pastor for these two purposes. They are also planning to loan two couples to serve in the revitalization church for a year. The pastors and people involved have remarked about these same **encouraging and theological fruits**. This team also includes the Iowa Regular Baptist state representative who shares the load with these two churches and BCP. The fruits of humility and like-mindedness are sweet to watch in motion.

Generosity fruit – Great generosity is being shown by the churches, pastors, and people working together in IDM. Every situation has a multitude of prayers and providers that the others never see. This is God's generous plan that overwhelms our hearts at BCP which in turn motivates each of us to give as God has given to us. When BCP comes in to facilitate a part of the process, our eyes see more than the people in front of us. We see the generous little children who have mailed us gifts, the ladies' missions circles who pray, the widow who gives \$10 a month, the church who gives every month, and the partners who sacrifice financially and in prayer for the actual people in front of us.

The Apostle Paul thanked God for the Colossian church because of their faith and love that was producing good fruit. This church had shared in his suffering and sent Epaphras, their faithful servant in Christ, to serve Paul and his mission to many churches. The fruit from these collaborative efforts was monumental, and God's plan for building His Church today still involves, even demands, team building and collaboration for these kinds of fruit to be produced. BCP seeks to follow this model, and we invite you to come join the **fruit-making**! There are many ways that you can be a part of a team somewhere across this nation and experience the impact of and benefit of fruit in your own life.

Administrative Directory

Stephen Little – President
slittle@bcpusa.org

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

Jon Jenks –
Vice President of Training;
Director of Intentional
Discipleship Ministries
jjenks@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 Ministry
cwood@bcpusa.org

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

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

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

"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.

ROI

Return on investment is a phrase we think about when it comes to retirement plans. It is the concern of businessmen. “Shark Tank” has become a popular program on TV, and often the “sharks” ask an entrepreneur seeking an investment, “How will I get my money back?”

Return on investment (ROI) is a biblical principle. Matthew 25:14-30 records that Jesus taught valuable financial principles. You know the parable. A man left on a journey and entrusted money to three of his servants, expecting each of them to steward it well according to their abilities – that is, to generate for him ROI according to their experience, knowledge and capacity. Two of the servants wisely invested the master’s money, and they doubled what had been entrusted them. The third servant buried the money, fearing that he would lose the master’s money and suffer the master’s rebuke. Verses 27-28 record the master’s rebuke of the third servant and give us three principles we need to follow:

- The master expected the servant to leverage, not bury, the money.
- The master expected the servant to steward the asset in such a way that it would generate ROI.
- The master took away from the servant what he had previously entrusted to him and gave the asset to a “good and faithful” servant who had proven himself more effective, wise and responsible.

One writer paraphrased and added his clarifications to Jesus’ words in verse 29 as follows: “For to everyone who has (acted wisely by leveraging the assets entrusted to them), more shall be given (to them), and (they) will have (favor and blessing in) abundance, but from (those) who do not have (the wisdom to steward what I have already entrusted to them), even what (they have been given to steward) shall be taken away.”

I am familiar with dozens of ministries that need support. The question from Christ to me is, “Who then is that faithful and wise steward?” (Luke 12:42). My faithful and wise stewardship requires me to consider ROI. Is the ministry

that wants my support producing ROI? I can’t support a ministry or even a missionary and simply trust that they are good stewards.

I need to be informed and familiar with the leadership, the Mission Statement, Doctrinal Statement, and the policies and processes of the organization or their missionary.

Rejoice with us as we share the blessings of God as 2019 was another encouraging year financially for Baptist Church Planters and our missionaries. After the 2019 budget was approved in September 2018, several opportunities and needs became evident. The BCP Council approved revised budgets twice in 2019. The Council determined that they simply need to do the right thing and trust God as faithful and wise stewards. The general fund income versus expenses finished the year within a few thousand dollars of each other. The general fund will begin 2020 with an acceptable balance because God provided more than we needed in 2018.

Something we say often is “God is way out in front of us.” There is no way for us to take credit for what only God can do. Often we discover that God has orchestrated the lives and movements of people decades in the past, and we only find out about His plans as He reveals them at His designated time. God is always right on time!

Thank you for being informed stewards. Your gifts to the campaign as well as your regular support for Baptist Church Planters helped us finish the year well. I trust that your confidence in our stewardship will be justified through this update and that you will be encouraged in your own stewardship responsibilities as well. May we each seek to glorify God and be a “good and faithful servant.”



David Whipple
BCP Executive
Vice President

We expect teachers to encourage and guide students toward godliness,

BUT WHO HELPS THE TEACHERS?

EVERY TEACHER NEEDS:

- **Encouragement** with the importance and impact of their personal walk.
- **Support** in their intentionality and imagination in their classroom.
- **Vision** for the application opportunities outside their classroom.

*Let's not teach for knowledge alone
but train for the equipping of
"every good work" (2 Timothy 3:17)*



Chip Wood
Director of BCP
Youth Ministry
cwood@bcpusa.org
607-275-6170



Intentional Transitional Ministries is just one tool God uses through Baptist Church Planters to facilitate churches helping churches. We were just starting our part-time partner-raising in January of 2019 when a pastor contacted me about a church in transition. I had just received a contact from another mission agency about a couple that wanted to serve churches in transition. I had no idea what God had intended for those two connections, but by May, Marty and Susan Basinger were serving the Gilcrest Baptist Church of Gilcrest, Colorado, as ITM pastor and wife. I am humbled by the amount of trust that the church and the Basingers had in the newly developing ITM Ministry. The deacon chairman, Jonathan Wakefield, was able to grasp and convey a vision to the church for the value of having the Basingers join them through their difficult time. His words below accurately depict the value of an ITM pastor to a church in transition:

Gilcrest Baptist Church was forced into a transition period, resulting from the sudden death of our pastor. Transitioning to a new pastor is never easy, especially when it results from difficult circumstances, but it is a joy to see God work through such times. God has worked through Baptist Church Planters and their newly created Intentional Transitional Ministry. From the beginning, they were eager to come to our aide and to be flexible on their end in order to make it easy for us to partner with them. Pastor Marty Basinger thoughtfully constructed a plan for preaching that encouraged the church to continue moving forward for the sake of the Gospel. Pastor Basinger has a passion for good expository teaching of the Word of God and that did not just come out in his preaching, but also in the counsel that he gave to our church leadership. He was intentional and effective in helping the church leadership to identify our strengths and vision for ministry, while not influencing us to change the way that we do ministry. This helped us to identify candidates for the pastorate that would fit into the church's existing ministry. He was also a great help in vetting the doctrinal positions of candidates for the pastorate.

It was an honor to watch the impact that Marty and Susan had on the church. It is also great to learn more about the needs of churches by listening to their testimony:

An ITM missionary is one who comes alongside a church that is without a pastor and who, through intentional messages and lessons and consultation with leadership, fulfills the regular pastoral duties until a permanent pastor is in place.

On May 1, 2019, my wife and I started serving a local church in Colorado that had suffered the sudden and tragic death of their longtime pastor of twenty-six years. We walked with the congregation through the grieving process, ministering to them with messages of encouragement, revival and perseverance. My consistent presence projected an image of stability to both the congregation and the community. As an ITM missionary I was thrilled and honored to be their consistent voice in the pulpit each week. The desire of an intentional interim is to see attendance and giving stay strong, to help the church be attractive to visitors, and for the church to continue their gospel outreach to the community. God answered these prayers!

We are thrilled that Gilcrest Baptist Church was able to install their new pastor, John Mathew, just before the end of 2019. It was exciting that Pastor John was familiar with BCP, and even the ITM, prior to connecting with his new church. This is reflected in his perspective of the process:

I appreciate BCP greatly, and when I heard that there was a new Intentional Transitional Ministry being developed and implemented, I was excited. I never thought that when God transitioned me to His next ministry that He would use the ITM to help. In my discerning whether the Lord was leading me to this next ministry, ITM was one of the helpful factors in accepting the call. I thank God for the ITM Director's (Scott) and Pastor Marty's heart of concern and care for being tools in God's hands to help churches in a delicate place without a pastor.

We realize that the work at Gilcrest Baptist Church is not done just because they called their pastor and the ITM pastor has moved on. We continue to uphold the church in prayer and seek to help the pastor get connected with others in the area. We also want the church to take advantage of other services available through Baptist Church Planters so that they can have an impact on other churches.

Our ITM ministry is dependent upon God's timing. The Basingers are waiting on the Lord for their next assignment, and we are reaching out to potential ITM missionaries to prepare them for the churches that God will bring our way. We are in regular communication with churches in transition, offering consultation that may lead to another ITM opportunity. Please visit our website at www.bcpusa.org/ITM for more information. You can reach Scott Owen at 515-203-9580 or sowen@bcpusa.org.



Outer couple: Marty and Susan Basinger
Inner couple: Pastor John and Anna Mathew
with their youngest of three daughters

Update from Pinecrest Baptist Church



The Kinneys have entitled their report "Our Journey to Permanency." Roy and Karen are not implying that Millbury, MA, will take the place of the eternal home

that God is preparing for all of us who have trusted Him! The purchase of the property, the building upgrades and His blessing on the ministry indicate that this is where God wants Pinecrest Baptist Church to be right now. There are so many details and specific answers to prayer that have come to pass over the last several years that could only have happened through God's orchestration of the events. God has a way of accomplishing His will, often despite our best efforts. I trust that this report will encourage you. It is a story of God's sovereignty and His providence. Here is a snippet of the Kinney's report:

Our journey of faith has been a long circuitous one, taking us one step at a time

without seeing the end result. Looking back, we can see the hand of our Sovereign God in all of it, directing our paths, growing our faith, establishing His Church, and securing our permanent home. The easy plan would have been to stay in our original home that was also the church's meeting place, yet this did not accomplish a long-term need for a meeting place with space for future growth. We moved to a rental space just around the corner from our newly purchased land in Millbury. Our beautiful new land lay silent as we worked with engineers and the town preparing the land for building, but each door was closed as we pushed to get going. We were growing weary and losing hope of any possible permanent solution when our meeting place was offered to us for purchase. Were we really home and not even knowing it? We trusted, and God provided. We are in the BEST possible location for a local church with the most convenient parking, accessibility, functionality, and hospitality. We were BLESSED this year by Baptist



David Whipple
Executive Director of
ChurchCare



Church Planters/ ChurchCare with \$50,000 and the work of ChurchCare builders to raise our sanctuary roof and renovate. We were gifted some monies from a church closing through ChurchCare to carry on God's work of establishing a vibrant, growing Independent Baptist church in the second largest area in all of New England. We are seeing new families come and join us, and personally we have grown in ways that we wouldn't have without this journey. We also have a contract for purchase on our land! God is so good to each of us! Rejoice and give thanks with us as we look back and move forward on this journey to permanency and now on to graduation. We continue to trust in His plan and provision.

Please visit Missionary Updates at www.bcpusa.org for the whole article and pinecrestbaptistmillbury.org for a video on their building project.

Tribute to Larry French

David Whipple

When I first met Larry and Lillian, they impressed me with their commitment to serve the local church. They played an important part in the ministries of Baptist Church Planters and ChurchCare. The Frenches began their ministry as missionaries with Baptist Missionary Builders. In September 2010 the BMB builders were merged into Baptist Church Planters/ ChurchCare and Larry and Lillian were approved as BCP missionaries assigned to ChurchCare for the building ministry. Words that come to mind for this couple

are humility, generosity, graciousness and kindness.

Larry left a great legacy. Two of ChurchCare's missionary builders trace their roots back to meeting and working with him. Brent and Michele Howard met Larry when he was working on the Baptist Church Planters' office building. Larry's testimony and encouragement to consider using their skills for full-time ministry made a difference. In 2007 Brent and Michele moved out of their new home and moved their family into a fifth-wheel camper and have been building churches and building lives ever since. In 2017 Jimmy Stevenson was part of a team from Ankeny Baptist Church, Ankeny, IA, which went to Houston, TX, to help with church repairs. Jimmy met Larry there, and today Jimmy is an approved missionary builder raising support to begin full-time service.

Larry's ministry, combining the BMB years and the ChurchCare years, included the following projects: Harvest Baptist Church, Bath, NY;

Camp Tishomingo, Show Low, AZ; Victory Baptist Church, Reading, PA; Community Regular Baptist Church, Bussey, IA; Boardman Baptist Church, Youngstown, OH; Community Baptist Church, Springhill, TN; Desert Hills Baptist Church, Buckeye, AZ; and two mission works in Houston, TX, following Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

I don't know how many times Larry said, "This is my last project. I am retired." He answered my calls every time I asked for help. Larry was a very humble man. He never wanted any recognition for any of his work; he would not even show up at building dedications. I am sure there are many stories about the impact that he and Lillian had on lives and ministries. Larry has left a legacy, with the Howards, with Jimmy Stevenson, with me and with ChurchCare. He raised the bar for all of us. His legacy becomes part of our heritage. What will we do with it? We don't follow Larry's legacy of humble service to promote him but to honor his Lord and Savior. To God be the Glory!

Visit www.churchcare.org to read the whole tribute to Larry French.



Larry with Adam and Elizabeth during the building of Desert Hills Baptist Church



Larry with Jerry Dale working on the BCP office addition



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.com
michaelpeck.org
reachinghispanics.org

Follow us on
[Facebook.com/BCPUSA](https://www.facebook.com/BCPUSA)



Tribute to Rev. William F. Heydens (1926–2020)

Many of our BCP missionaries have served in two armies. Bill Heydens served in the United States Army Air Corp during WWII and later in the Lord's Army as a pastor and missionary. The training and dedication needed for each army lend well to both.



William F. Heydens was raised in the Upper Peninsula, and in the Fall of 1933, at the age of 7 he came to Christ. The ministry of his local church and Bible camp were instrumental in maturing this young man for service, and it was at camp he was introduced to his future wife, Celia. Bill and Celia were married for 72 years, raised five children, and have been blessed with 12 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

While serving as a deacon at Bethel Baptist Church in Marquette, MI, God began to deal with them regarding full-time service. After the war, he graduated from the Grand Rapids Baptist Bible Institute. In 1959 they joined Galilean Baptist Missions to begin their six decades of serving the Lord, winning people to Christ and establishing churches in Michigan and Wisconsin. In September of 1991,

they came to serve with Baptist Church Planters. They served beyond their official retirement until the age of 91.

"Hubby," as Mrs. Heydens liked to call him, found unique ways to minister to others. On one occasion, he used a fender bender with a shiny Corvette (other driver was 'at fault') to create a witnessing opportunity with 15-20 of his coffee-drinking buddies at McDonald's (one of which was the Corvette owner!) At least five years later, he was still meeting with them and sharing the Gospel. Another time while preaching he used the ruckus created by a raccoon family in the church balcony as an illustration of biblical truth to conclude the message. Bill and Celia Heydens have been faithful servants of God "Meeting America's Greatest Need." On January 7, 2020, Bill was promoted to Glory, where he heard, "Well done, faithful servant."



Dr. Paul Reimer
Retiree Coordinator

BCP is glad to announce

the publication of Dr. Paul Reimer's doctoral thesis. It is entitled *Death and Hope in the Body of Christ: Walking With the Sheep Through the Shadows*. This excellently-written book gives practical guidance for both novice and experienced pastors for assisting families who lose a loved one. The book is available for purchase on the BCP store at www.bcpusa.org/product/reimer-death-and-hope

