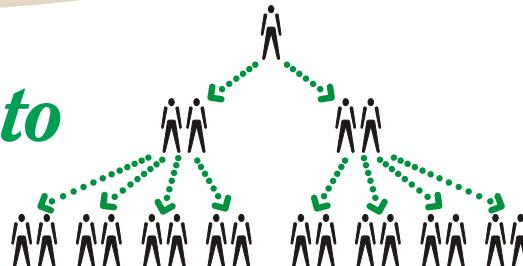


From Addition to Multiplication



Patterns grab our attention in Scripture, in history, and in life unfolding around us. It's typical that a child is born, matures, reaches productive adulthood, ages, and dies. We can see our own pattern of behavior in the Apostle Paul's story of rebellion, intervention by God, fruits of repentance, and multiplication. As we have witnessed recently on the world scene, warfare often follows this pattern: A nation is **invaded, stands firm, builds strength, and then goes on the offensive**. This last pattern reminds me of the past 10 years of BCP's efforts in the Church's spiritual warfare.

You too have witnessed the severe decline in the number of American churches during the past few decades, and you may have felt this effect very personally. While many good fruits have taken place during this decline, they do not outweigh the loss of the Church's effectiveness with so many churches closing. Too many churches in this environment of decline have been **invaded** by the status quo, doing the same activities as always but with dramatically declining fruit. They have fewer baptisms and fewer missionaries being supported and even fewer being sent. Less fellowship with less personal outreach and discipleship almost seems to be a strategy.

Executing a Vision

BCP has not just stood by and watched this take place. With great vision, five years ago, the administration began to add personnel to strengthen churches who might contend for the faith in a post-Christian culture. This began in earnest with five churches who were

seeking to mobilize their core people to reach and then disciple the lost. These five have been joined by 40 other churches who will be multiplying their efforts into 12 new churches over the next 12 months. As this network of partnering churches grows, they are strengthened in spirit and in number. God has launched several new pastors and missionaries from these churches' initial obedience of discipleship. These churches are not in retreat mode—they are **standing firm**.

The gates of hell shall not prevail against us! This truth reminds us that the Church must not just stand firm but must **go on the offensive**. To go on the offensive with success an army must **build strength** through strategic production, training, leadership development, and coordinated planning for attack and support. BCP and our partnering churches must build strength through ongoing multiplication of leadership and through teacher and outreach discipleship processes. The strongest of these churches have already begun to send missionaries as well as planting and revitalizing other churches. Two new church plants and two revitalizations are being guided by these churches as well. But we believe that God desires for this to be at a multiplication level (not just addition) so that for every four churches we are helping, a new church is being planted or revitalized every five years. To build the kind of strength necessary to break out into such a cultural **counteroffensive**, BCP must multiply the personnel and resources that will help these churches.

We are dedicating the next several

Jon Jenks
President



years to this multiplication, and we have already begun in faith. We are beginning to document many of the biblical processes we are already using so that the training and building of teams can multiply through many coaches, pastors, and churches. We are beginning to engage potential coaches who are dedicated to helping churches. We will be expanding our communication efforts to foster more partnerships that pray, advocate, and give so that every part of this **strength-building** effort has what it needs. With this focus in place, our Council began immediately by faith to invest \$40,000 more dollars than we budgeted for in 2022. We thank God for His provision all year and trust Him to faithfully provide through His people.

Relying on God's Strength

However, the most strategic participation that BCP (and you) can take is God-initiated worship. In his book, Jude combats the ungodliness of sensuality and the ignoring of our Father in heaven. He directs us to see the ONLY God. He alone is greatness, the essence of kingly stature and authority. He is manifested power! He has already won the war, so we do not build strength; rather, we acknowledge that our King has this strength and has given it to us. Hallelujah!

Will you acknowledge this with us and help us charge ahead into 2023? Your part can make a significant impact. Most important, though, may you be overwhelmed by God such that your pattern of worshipful living produces abundant prayer, participation, and sacrificial giving.

From the Field

The word "commission" regularly comes to mind when I think of my new service with ChurchCare. I have received numerous commissions in my life. My first was by Christ Jesus prior to 1966 when He handed me His Great Commission. Years later in 1978, the US Army commissioned me as an engineering officer to "well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am (was) about to enter;" a lasting obligation to cherish and protect my country and its Constitution. Other commissions came along, including my marriage vows, the dedication of children, and various congregational commissions as elder and deacon. Then three years ago, my beloved wife, Ann, commissioned me a couple of weeks before she faithfully finished her course on this earth. She commissioned me, entrusted me, to continue pursuing our joint "roles and goals" for Christ's kingdom, and for me to persevere in my walk with Him. My latest commission comes from ChurchCare and BCP , which is an extension of my first commission from Christ Jesus and later from Ann, to come alongside His Church, "ministering to churches in need." Commissions have always motivated me because their source is a higher authority that sets a higher mission with expectations. When I think of my commissions, I think of Jesus' parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14ff. May I be one of the Master's faithful slaves! May true teaching, true living, and true loving motivate us all to be His faithful slaves. Besides the Great Commission, what other commissions do you hold, and how do they affect your life?

Mark Henthorn
ChurchCare Executive Director



As a BCPmissionary, God has given us some vibrant and intentional churches who partner with us. These partner churches have caught a vision for how God is using us to encourage health in church bodies across the US. Many of our partnering churches have availed themselves of our ministries as well. A while back, one such church asked us to aid the pastor with an internship for a young man who had been brought up in the church. We were glad to walk with him in the practical side of ministry over the summer while he was home from Bible college. Later in this same church, we were asked to do teacher training over the course of a few months, and that went equally well, with God-given growth. Now that same intern has been voted by the congregation to transition into being the next lead pastor as the current one steps back. What a great picture of discipleship. This young man has experienced the benefits of intentionality and has expressed the desire to continue to cultivate a church culture engaged in discipleship going forward. God has and continues to richly bless their efforts to fulfill the Great Commission. How is your church fulfilling the Great Commission?

Chip Wood
Director of Church Facilitation

This September, God allowed me to facilitate a Leadership Journey retreat with the host church Faith Baptist of Mason City, Iowa. Leadership Journey retreats are special for me (I will have been at seven this year). My first exposure to such retreats was in the fall of 2014 in Wisconsin, and it was at a 2017 retreat that God started guiding my wife and me into missions with BCP. But this retreat was even more special because it was hosted at the camp where I trusted Christ as a teen.



Much of my spiritual growth was through this camp and collaborating churches driven to minister to teens. Their earlier networking drives me today to pursue church collaboration to enhance disciple-making for the whole church. For this particular retreat, the host church pastoral staff modeled this by reaching out to area churches. As a result, two young pastors brought men to the retreat and are now in weekly Leadership Journey meetings.

What a joy this retreat was to all of us! Five churches met to worship, study God's plan for disciple-making, and experience ministry-focused fellowship. That weekend event represents the connecting of churches determined to be obedient together for the Great Commission. The ultimate vision is for these connections to help ailing churches and plant new ones. What type of networking have you done lately?

Scott Owen
Director of Church Facilitation



Jesus commanded His disciples before He left this earth to "make disciples." Obeying that command takes all kinds of shapes when applied to everyday life. Bob is a missionary serving in the western US. He was out in the horse pen working with one of the horses he boards when J, a guy he has been trying to disciple the last few months, suddenly asked him, "So what have you been studying in God's Word recently?" Bob responded by quoting a passage from Proverbs. They went on to have a good conversation about that passage, and J's response to Bob's explanation was, "I really need to get back into God's Word and study it more consistently." Bob offered to meet with him regularly to do just that and J said yes! What is exciting about this encounter is that Bob had been trying to get J into the Word regularly for months; this is evidence of the Spirit's work in a man's heart. Bob is now texting J daily to direct him in his Bible study and is also challenging him in his walk with Christ in other ways! Consider this: A casual conversation led to an opportunity to fulfill the Great Commission—make disciples. Pray for Bob as he continues to sow the seed in some difficult soil. What conversations have you been engaging in lately?

Tim Weeks
Director of Church Facilitation

God's Timing Is Perfect—Again!

Our goal as a Mission is to strengthen churches across America and see them take responsibility for and leadership in their own efforts in accomplishing the Great Commission. This strengthening takes place through relationships—directors with pastors, pastors with pastors, whole churches with other churches. We also strive to strengthen our missionaries for their good work in their God-given fields, and again this strengthening takes place through relationships. Relationships with and amongst our missionaries helps them in their efforts to strengthen God's Church through encouragement, prayer, idea-sharing, and collaboration. We pray together and expectantly each morning for these servants that "according to that power at work within us," God will do what only He can do in His children in His Church.



FAMILY CAMP

Our Family Camp is an event planned specifically to provide those opportunities for encouragement, ministry connection, and the strengthening of personal relationships amongst our family of missionaries. In August, the BCP Mission family traveled to Black Rock Retreat Center near Lancaster, PA. It was wonderful to have all the administration and staff, all but one of our active missionaries, 10 of 22 of our councilmen and spouses, and our guest speaker and family worshiping, playing, living together, and ministering to each other. It was a joy to see God bring two years of planning to pass in His perfect time, and it was a time that bore delicious, abundant, and eternal fruit! His timing was perfect, and it was worth the wait!

President Jon's heart was to have a casual setting with opportunities for fellowship and worship with focused prayer. Each missionary shared an update from the field, there was planned intentional investment in our teenagers, and a little fun was thrown in there, too. We honored two retiring missionary couples with much laughter.

We all went to Sight and Sound in Lancaster for their latest production of David and then enjoyed a buffet meal at Hershey Farm. Black Rock Retreat Center also provided day camp for our missionary kids, a campfire with s'mores, late-night laser tag, trails for hiking, a pool, the Giant Swing, and multiple areas where missionaries often gathered for prayer and fellowship. Having two babies in the mix (Stevenson and Wilmeth infants) just added to the joy!

WE ARE GRATEFUL

Thank you for praying for the spiritual and physical refreshment that happened at our Family Camp! And thank God with us for His provision for it all through an anonymous donor.



Retiring, well, sort of.



The number of lives God has touched through Peter and Mary Lou Jenks' ministry cannot be counted. Now the Lord has moved the Jenks into a new phase of ministry life. The BCP Council in their September meetings voted to approve the Jenks' status change to Retired missionary. This status title may conjure all sorts of things in your mind, but what it should not cause you to think is that the Jenks' are done with ministry. Nothing is farther from the truth as God has already caused Kingdom impact through them in their new location here in Ohio! As they plug into church, Camden Baptist in Wellington (they have both already been approached to mentor individuals in the church), their local community (taking neighbor kids they just met to church kids' program), and as they speak in churches here in Ohio as well as fill the pulpit for other BCP missionaries, it is clear their worship and service for the Lord does not waiver regardless of the status placed on them by some policy of the Mission. One ongoing ministry for both will be their leading of the Leadership Journey and Grove discipleship studies for BCP. One other area of ministry service they are stepping into is care for the

retired missionaries connected to BCP. This is a part-time role that they are taking on to care for other lifelong servants for our Lord. Pray for Peter and Mary Lou as they transition.



Send off with many expressions of appreciation from Victory Baptist and Grace Baptist in Nebraska.



Peter and Mary Lou were honored for forty years of faithful church planting ministry during Family Camp in July.

The End is Coming! (of the year anyway)

It is often amazing when one year ends as it seems that it had just begun. Sometimes ending one thing results in the start of something new, but this year we feel the end is more of a continuation of the amazing things God is actively doing, and we are eager to see Him continue His work into the new year!

Our end of year campaign letter will be showing up in mailboxes soon. President Jon begins the letter with this statement, "As 2022 draws to a close, I give thanks for the faithfulness of our Lord Who has blessed this ministry 'far beyond all that we could ask or imagine' (Ephesians 3:20)." His letter goes on to rehearse how the Lord has enabled BCP to help some 66 churches in 16 states. We invite you to share in this joy, thank God for His grace in blessing this ministry, and consider partnering with us as we anticipate even more fruit in 2023!

We encourage you to watch for the campaign letter in the mail. If you can't wait till then, please visit our website at <https://give.bcpusa.org/project/campaign> for more information on the campaign and how you can partner to meet specific needs.

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Need a Partner? You've Come to the Right Place!

Baptist Church Planters assists churches and their missionaries in planting and revitalizing Baptist churches across America. We love to partner with healthy churches, resourcing them in their own multiplication process. We are working now to develop and provide the most effective tools that will help pastors and churches forge a partnership with us and find resources.

New Website

One recently launched tool is our new website! Please visit bcpusa.org and look around. On the homepage are these three invitations to partner:



Start Small

Get counsel and guidance to help you identify where to start and discover your church's next best step.



Partner with Others

You're not alone. Other churches and leaders are ready to walk with you through the discipleship and revitalization process.



Revitalize Your Church

Get discipleship resources and coaching to equip you and your church to get healthy and impact your community for the Kingdom of God.

Cause for Rejoicing

One of the highlights during our September BCP Council meetings was the sharing of the growth that God has granted during this past year. While we never want numbers to be our focus, they give evidence of people growing in their personal walks with the Lord and in their intentional discipleship efforts. That is our focus, and we rejoice to count the fruit that the Lord of the Harvest is producing!

Count with us in our levels of partnership with churches:

Coaching

Informal contacts from churches without a pastor, those considering closure or leadership training, those seeking conciliation help, and our missionaries' sending churches

20 new contacts this fall
17 sending churches

Training

Churches with whom we have an agreement for revitalization, transition, conciliation, or closure help, as well as churches with whom we have an agreement for men's or women's discipleship training or teacher training

38 in 2021
48 in 2022 (plus 7 new this fall)
66 projected in 2024
100 projected for 2028

Multiplying

Thriving churches we are resourcing as they make disciples, send people, or plant or revitalize another church

9 in 2021
11 in 2022
15 projected in 2024
27 projected in 2028

Next Steps

Rejoice with us! Then consider the fruit that the Lord is producing in your own life and in your church. Do you need personal encouragement or does your church need to partner with BCP to receive resources for growth?

"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." **Ephesians 3:20-21**



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"Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!" Revelation 14:13



Roger (February 17, 2022) and Frances (November 3, 2021) Wells – After serving with FBHM (15 years) and then EBM, Roger

and "Franke" joined BCP in 2012 for inner-city church planting. Their passion was reaching the lost in low-income communities through men's discipleship classes (Disciple Indeed Ministry), co-ed Bible studies, and a community outreach called 100 Men for Change. They served until retirement in 2018 (ages 84 and 78) in central Florida, reaching out into Bradenton and Palmetto while serving faithfully at their home church of Bible Baptist Church.



Celia Heydens – (February 24, 2022) – Bill (called "Hubby"

by Celia) and Celia joined Galilean Baptist Mission in 1959 and served for six decades, winning people to Christ and establishing at least two churches in Michigan and Wisconsin. In 1991 they came from BMNA to BCP and retired in 2012, continuing to serve faithfully in their local church until 2017 in their 90's!



Jim Spellman – (September 6, 2022) – "Yours for the deaf" was the closing that Jim and Sandy used for all their 41 years of

ministry both full-time and as semi-retired. Their prayer letters over the decades record their faithful ministry to the deaf community through Bible studies, JOY Club, Family Camp, making video tapes on Bible doctrine, and more. Even in early 2022 they were requesting prayer for deaf individuals they had met and with whom they had shared the gospel. Theirs has been a great harvest of souls from the deaf community. We can rejoice that in Heaven now Jim is conversing freely with these individuals!



Walter McDonald – (October 14, 2022) – Walter served the inner city of Tallahassee, FL,

as pastor of Providence Baptist Church for all his ministry years (1988-2022). He was passionate about ministering to both the spiritual and physical needs of the community. The church's Bread Ministry resulted in many souls receiving The Bread of Life and being added to the church. The church is known as "the church that shares and cares." Walter has heard, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

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

MEMORIAL GIFTS

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

Doris Ayen

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

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