

connect

A PUBLICATION OF
BAPTIST CHURCH PLANTERS

Fall 2015

BCP
25 years of
Meeting
America's
Greatest Need

Standing Strong!

Helping Churches Fulfill the Commission

Stephen P. Little, president

In 1990 Baptist Church Planters was born, making this year BCP's 25th Anniversary!

A lot of change has taken place in the past twenty-five years. Several educational and missionary institutions have closed. In just the past few years Northland, Tennessee Temple, Clearwater and Evangelical Baptist Missions have all closed. In addition, it is estimated that 5000-6000 evangelical churches close each year in America. On top of all of that, only 15% of churches in the United States are growing, and just 2.2% of those are growing by conversion growth.

In the midst of a climate and culture of closure and ineffectiveness, I want you to know that BCP is standing strong and increasing in our effectiveness to facilitate the process of church planting. We assist churches and missionaries sent from churches to plant and revitalize failing churches. **The real need is to "go forth" proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ!**



We have seen an increase of 8% in 2014 and project an increase of 7% in BCP missionary support in 2015. That means that churches and individuals are increasing their support to frontline missionaries to plant or revitalize churches in the USA through BCP. This increase is not something we orchestrated or for which we take credit! I believe God is simply blessing our effort and our historical commitment to start new churches or revitalize failing ones.

Even though we cannot take credit for the increased support to our missionaries, I can give credit to our staff for their commitment to handle the extra work load and responsibility associated with such an increase.

Over the past two years we have held steady and even decreased our operational expenses at the Service Center. I commend

David Whipple, our Executive Vice President and the Council Finance Committee Chairman, Dan Adams, for their hard work.

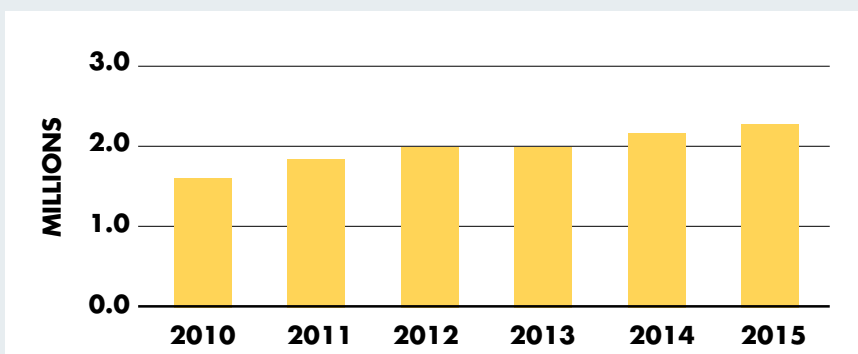


We want to finish 2015 in the black financially. The work is hard, but the rewards are eternal. **Will you continue to partner with us to Meet America's Greatest Need – "The Gospel Proclaimed"?** You can give at www.bcpusa.org or Baptist Church Planters at 36830 Royalton Rd., Grafton, Ohio 44044.

Will you pray for the Lord of the Harvest to send forth laborers into the harvest field of the United States of America? We stand ready to facilitate the process of church planting by helping Baptist churches plant Baptist churches. On the next page you will see the steps for becoming a BCP missionary. We can facilitate the process for your church to send forth missionaries to plant churches in the USA!

Thanks for your partnership!

MISSIONARY SUPPORT



What Does It Take to Become a BCP Missionary?

1 An online “**Preliminary Application**” begins the process. The Executive Administration review the application and set up a phone/video conference call with the applicant and his or her pastor.

2 If favorable, the Administration invites the potential missionary and their pastor for a **two-day visit to the Service Center** to meet Administration and staff. The purpose for the visit is to explain the various ways that BCP can help each missionary and their sending church to fulfill the Great Commission.

3 If the visit is favorable, the candidate is invited to fill out a full “**Candidate Application.**”

4 The completed application with references go to the Candidate

Coordinator and the **Applications Committee** for review. The focus of the review is on the candidate’s testimony, call to ministry and doctrinal position. The Applications Committee encourages the missionary’s pastor to participate in this interview.

5 The Applications Committee submits, in writing, a recommendation to the Administration. If favorable, the Administration invites the candidate to appear before the full Council to be **interviewed**. The Council will hear recommendations from the sending church pastor (if available), Administration and Applications Committee. After the Council interviews the candidate, the Council votes to approve or disapprove the candidate.



6 If the Council’s decision is favorable, the Council deems the candidate a **Missionary Appointee** with BCP. The Administration provides **Candidate School** training for the new appointee. The Director of Missionary Enrichment, Candidate Coordinator and Administration determine the scope of Candidate School.

7 The Administration and staff assist the appointee in building an adequate **deputation presentation**. This is a requirement for appointees on deputation.

8 **Final approval** for field service is granted upon completion of all Constitutional requirements: Candidate School, adequate level of support, and commissioning by sending church.

Revitalization *Tim Weeks*

“**Revitalization**” is the act of making something active, healthy, or energetic again; to give new life or vigor. “Revitalization” is a commonly used term in many circles to describe the process of jumpstarting church growth or reversing trends in church decline. Baptist Church Planters seeks to *revitalize* churches by being an advocate for positive change, providing practical Biblical solutions, as well as useful resources. Our goal is to bring each church back to its original condition of health and vigorous growth.

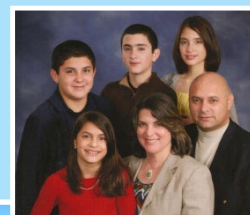
Now the question arises, “How do we propose to accomplish this difficult task?” The process of church revitalization is complex because each church is distinct. A church’s history and demographics are unique and different from every other church; therefore, each situation has to be handled with a comprehensive and multifaceted approach. There is no ‘one-size-fits-all’ approach for church revitalization.

BCP has developed a biblical model to help us work through this complex process. We begin with a **Review** of a difficult church situation using assessment tools and onsite evaluations. The process of review involves a detailed evaluation of the quality or condition of the ministry by looking carefully at the context of the ministry site in consultation with pastors in the area. Information is gathered and analyzed about the ministry’s positive aspects and assets as well as its needs, problems and challenges.

A thorough review is followed by an attempt to **Restore** the church that is in decline by providing advice / counsel to the pastor or church leadership. The process of revitalization involves teaching, training, coaching and transitioning. Our methods reflect the biblical mandate to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19). Our conviction is that the natural outcome of faithful and consistent *teaching* will be churches that are growing disciples

and reproducing disciples in consultation with fellowshipping pastors and churches in the cultural context. *Training* involves demonstrating how to live the Christian life. *Coaching* new disciples is essential as leaders are trained to clearly present the Gospel and make disciples who will train others, and in the process train them to reproduce themselves according to 2 Timothy 2:2. *Transitioning* new leaders into local churches where they can teach and train others is the most delicate step of all (Titus 1:5).

Fellowship Baptist Church in Lorain, Ohio, is in the exciting process of revitalization. After a thorough review by BCP administration, Orlando Collazo became missionary pastor in 2013. The decline the church had been experiencing has reversed as disciples are being made and trained to do the work of the ministry. Outreach into the community is yielding fruit as families are reached and changed through the power of the Gospel. The church leadership is being strengthened and energized by what the Lord is doing under Pastor Orlando’s solid biblical training and coaching. Little by little this body of believers is being restored to a healthy state where it will be able to function effectively to fulfill its purpose. Keeping the ultimate objective in sight at all times aids in staying focused on the process and the end product desired – a healthy body of believers, growing those believers and then scattering them in order to begin that process all over again!



ChurchCare CONSTRUCTION

God's Timing Always Brings Him the Glory *David Whipple*

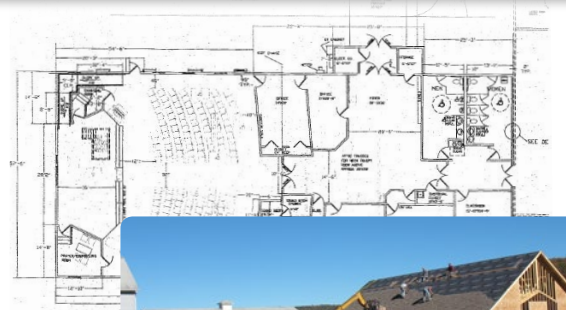
Two years ago, ChurchCare, the church construction ministry of Baptist Church Planters, made our mission family aware of the need for a travel trailer. The trailer would be used by mission administrators, missionaries, and volunteers working on our church building projects. The mission published this need in our publications and website. The need was met with a mild response. A couple of calls wanting to sell us a trailer and only \$100 came in designated for the trailer. The administration



put the need on the back burner and moved on. God would provide in other ways.

Fast forward to August 2015. A friend of BCP called and said they had a fifth wheel trailer they wanted to give the mission and asked if we could use it. I explained that we had been praying and waiting on God to provide a trailer to use on building sites. The donor was excited to be an answer to prayer. The trailer is on the job site and will be a great blessing for the ChurchCare Construction team. By the way, the trailer is a 2015 model and looks better than new!

If you are interested in learning more about non-cash gifts and how they can benefit BCP and provide a tax-deductible donation to you, please contact the finance office.



Twelve years ago **Stanfordville Baptist Church in Hallstead, PA**, recognized the need to replace their nineteenth-century building. Limited space, handicap accessibility, structural soundness and parking were major issues, but God has answered so many prayers that only He could receive the glory. Pastor Phil Hunt said, "We have seen God literally move a mountain" to provide parking space. God's people have responded financially, and He has moved in people's hearts to donate acreage, equipment and time. God continues to supply in the form of proficient missionary builders from ChurchCare. Pastor Hunt shared that the church has grown to love the missionaries and appreciate their spiritual input in the lives of the church family. "The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad" Psalm 126:3.

Stepping in Faith, Walking in JOY *Chip Wood*

Chip and Karen Wood are the directors of BCP Youth Ministry. They have taken a big step of faith by deciding to quit their outside jobs and trust God for the money lacking in their missionary support. For the past year, Chip has been driving school bus, and Karen has been working as a secretary. Because of the recent influx of new interest in the JOY Club materials, now is the crucial time for Chip and Karen to be fully devoted to this ministry. Much of their time is invested in writing new material and traveling to churches, providing teacher training for the churches to reach this generation. Please pray for the Wood's support; they are currently at 49%. Also pray for them as they seek to develop quality and affordable tools and training for churches.



Baptist Church Planters is excited about the growing interest in JOY Clubs! In the last twelve months there have been dozens of phone calls, resulting in six new churches beginning to use the JOY Club program. They are Faith Baptist Church in Glendale, AZ, Grace Baptist Church in Genoa, NE, Victory Bible Church in Central Square, NY, First Baptist Church in Pavilion, NY, First Baptist Church in Findlay, OH, and First Baptist Church in Webster City, IA. We always love hearing exciting stories about how God is using JOY Clubs to spread the gospel. This was received recently from one of our church plant JOY Clubs:



"Tricia, a second grader, has been coming to JOY Club since kindergarten. I was sharing my favorite object lesson that involves two balloons. Using a candle to represent sin and a balloon to represent our relationship with God, the balloon popped when the two were brought together. When I asked the children to repair the balloon, they admitted that they could not. In the same way, we can do nothing to fix our sin problem, but Jesus can. Then I introduced a balloon filled with water, representing living water or Jesus. Now when the candle and the balloon met, the balloon did not pop, illustrating that when we are filled with Jesus, we have victory over sin. So after this demonstration and explanation, I told the kids that if anyone wanted to talk more about accepting Jesus, they could talk with us any time this week. Tricia spoke out loud and said, "No, I want to do it now!" She didn't care that there were twenty other children there. She just listened to the Holy Spirit and believed."

If you would like information about JOY Clubs or to have us come to your church and conduct teachers' training, please feel free to contact us at bcpyouthministry.com.



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