

Partnership: It's in our Spiritual DNA

Just as God designed every cell in the body to connect, it is His design for the people of His local churches to connect to one another. When a person fails to be linked into their local body, they become at risk and the body weakens. Even a struggling person connected to the body helps the body, for when the body shows care and provides help to this weaker one, it produces fruit. When pastors and local churches in an area assist each other, this also strengthens the body and causes more fruit. This fruit puts the joy of God in His people and glorifies the Father (John 15:8,11).

It is our redemption which sparks this DNA of partnership in us as new creatures. The Father planned for this partnership when He chose us for Himself (Ephesians 1:4). Jesus Christ paid the cost in our redemption for us to partner with the Godhead. After drawing us, convicting us, and washing us, the Holy Spirit then indwells us when we believe. This intimately partners us with Him Who is our Helper and Comforter. The impact of the Spirit indwelling each believer positionally unites us and provides for us the power to actually be likeminded as a local body and as the whole Body of Christ. Scripture vividly illustrates this by picturing the unity of Christ and the Church with the marriage of a man and a woman. We the Church are to be intimately serving each other in Christ as we dwell closely together.

In light of this, Baptist Church Planters has as one of its core values *'partnerships enabled through visionary leadership.'* This vision depends upon the Spirit. We believe both the individual and the Church produce more through partnerships. To illustrate our belief, allow me to reveal a "week in the life" of a BCP president. This is a bullet point list of some of my partnership connects for the week of January 18-24 and some of the benefits of these partnerships.

- 4 staff prayer meetings and a directors' prayer time before our weekend ministry: These times remind us of our dependence upon Christ and each other as a team as we bear burdens and celebrate together. We also serve in unity as we pray for our partnering churches, donors, Council members, missionaries, and sister agencies.
- Leadership Journey retreat training with three Ohio churches (Grace in Lima, Camden in Wellington, and Mogador), two BCP directors, and a pastor from Arizona: This facilitated three churches to encourage one another and for me to get to know better some of the men from my home church, my directors, and a former BCP church planter. He in turn helped one of the churches in a new ministry pursuit.
- BCP Executive team and ChurchCare team meetings: These regular meetings help our ministries plan and concentrate on partner building with local churches and our teams.
- Clear Lake Baptist Church's weekly Leadership Journey training time: This helps prepare four men to serve their church body and to work with other likeminded discipling churches so that they might revitalize or plant a church together.
- Outreach prayer time with my wife unites us in our personal outreach in a God-dependent way.
- Leadership Journey trainer meeting: These connects enable 8 to 12 churches to encourage each other in their discipling and personal leadership efforts.
- Leadership Journey Trainers of Trainers planning meeting: 11 churches connected to plan their hosting and recruiting of other churches who they might help with their intentional discipleship. These trainers represent future micro-network leaders who can help unite regional churches in revitalization and church planting efforts.
- GARBC Council of 18 prayer time and national representative search committee meeting: This connect provides a time to encourage other leaders and for me to be challenged and helped by the vision of a couple of these men.



Jon Jenks, President

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...continued from page 1

- Annual BCP home office party at our home: This was a fun connect for Jen and I for friendship with the staff and some spiritual encouraging of each other.

- Camden Baptist Church care group: Jen and I hosted this time of spiritual reflection with brothers and sisters who we are growing closer to. They help ground us in the travel and busyness of ministry and care for Jen's dad.

- Attendance at our home church for Sunday AM service (with Jen as accompanist): Camden Baptist Church's leadership works to hold us accountable and serves us so we can serve others.

- Weekly accountability connect with a crew of men from Calvary Baptist, our sending church: These men know me well and spiritually encourage, question, and pray for me and I them. This helps keep me from sin and provides wisdom.

- Numerous video connects with our children in Wisconsin, Kenya (Africa), and Ohio: We love listening to and influencing our children and grandchild in their pursuit of Christ, learning, life, and witness.

- A daily quiet time connect with Christ in His Word through prayer and meditation: This is the engine that powers me to connect with others with joy. Christ is my Courage and Corrector.

These connects are the source of the blessings and impact of leading a connected life. It motivates me, and hopefully you, to think about spiritual partnerships and to build them up intentionally in the day-to-day flow of life. As you read on, note the Spirit-empowered partnerships amongst God's people, and consider your own efforts at partnering with others in the Church.

ChurchCare CONSTRUCTION



Meet Mark Henthorn

Our new **interim Director of Construction** comes to us from Walnut Park Baptist Church, Muscatine, Iowa. There he serves as deacon, Sunday school superintendent, CE Committee Chair, AWANA worker, and small group leader. Mark also assists his pastors in intentional discipleship within the church body, in large part partnering with BCP.

Roy Kinney, acting director for ChurchCare Construction shared, "We are richly blessed to have Mark Henthorn join the ChurchCare team. He is not only a man of God, he has years of experience and a unique skill set that is greatly beneficial for ChurchCare Construction."

Mark accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior as a child. In 1966, he was baptized in his childhood church, Oak Street Baptist of Burlington, Iowa. He has been an active member of Baptist churches in Iowa, Kansas, Tennessee, Virginia, and California. He retired from his full-time professional career in 2018 and comes to ChurchCare with the desire to use all of the spiritual and professional experiences and

blessings that the Lord Jesus has bestowed upon his life. A quote of his, "If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. My remaining goal is to live the rest of my days for Christ because here He promises He has something meaningful/fruitleful for me to do, if I am faithful and obedient to do so. Philippians 1:21-24."

Henthorn is a professional engineer in the state of Iowa and brings over 40 years of experience as an international consulting engineer, primarily in design and construction oversight. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Iowa State University. He is a lifetime member of the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers. Henthorn worked for Black & Veatch of Kansas City, Missouri, and Stanley Consultants of Muscatine, Iowa. His past titles include Vice President, Federal Business Leader, Director of Professional Relations, Industrial Group Operations Manager, Regional Office Manager, Department Manager, Senior Project Manager, Principal Mechanical Engineer, and Resident Engineer. He also served over 20 years as an engineering officer in the U.S. Army Reserve, leaving with the rank of Major. Henthorn has taken an active role in planning, design and construction of four church expansion projects for churches in which he was a member. Welcome to the family, Mark!

The start of November found missionary builders **Brent and Michele Howard** and **Jimmy and Abby Stevenson** beginning a complete basement remodel for Norton Baptist Church in Norton, OH. They are enjoying their connections with the people at Norton. Abby Stevenson shared that 8-month-old Paul is the only little one there, so he "has his own ministry" of encouraging folks with a smile. There have been tons of old block walls removed and wheel-barrowed outside to be hauled away with many hands involved from the church! This remodel included reframing 3 nursery rooms with 2 added emergency exits and a restroom. They also opened up accessibility through the lower level with an 8' wide hallway and will add led lights throughout. To finish the lower level remodel, they have upgraded both restrooms and added a family restroom upstairs accessed from the sanctuary. Currently they are putting finishing touches in the restrooms with ceramic tile on the walls and vinyl floors. Please continue to pray for the safety of these two families during all their travels and as they work on projects. The goal moving forward is to arrive at Grace Baptist Church in Canton, OH, on April 1 for a 20,000 square foot sanctuary addition as well as offices, bathrooms, and basement gathering area.



Joy in Worship



One of the joys of a life of worship is the blessings it brings. A quick think on the fruits of the Spirit draws to mind that the times in my life when the fruits proved to be most evident were during times of truly living a life of worship. When I am living the greatest commandment, Love God and Love Others, worship of the Lord flows freely in my thoughts, attitudes, actions, words, and occasionally song. When I am worshipping God my eyes are fixed on Him, and I see everything around me in light of Him, and He aligns my heart with His. That provides freedom in life and what greater blessing is there than the freedom that can only be gained through knowing Jesus?!

Another joy of worshipping God is that He is patient, kind, and full of grace. I could write a long list of the spoil that occurs when I allow my worship to focus on other things besides my Lord. I turn worship away from Him as my sin nature wages war. But our loving Savior is consistently drawing me to Himself, and because of who He is (patient, kind, gracious), I can always reengage with Him. No matter what we have chosen to worship before, He is willing to receive us and our worship. He desires to build in us those things that truly matter and that will outlast our time here on this earth.

These blessings gained through worship do not impact only me, however. The joy of blessings in my life is multiplied when I allow them, or better yet direct them, to impact others around me. I have joy when I worship God as I notice the beauty of His creation and that joy is multiplied when I share that observation with another child of the King. That joy becomes overwhelming when I share those same observations with a lost one and their eyes open to see God Almighty. Joy comes from hearing how our retired missionaries continue to worship and serve the God they love, and by this I am blessed. We occasionally receive estate gifts from those who have ended their life's walk; dispersing

what they had for the furtherance of the gospel is a continuation of their life of worship. These gifts multiply to the many servants seeking to train disciples, strengthen churches, and plant new churches, all in worship to God. Example after example could be written here to detail the fruits produced in us by the Spirit's might as we live a life purposing to worship.

I am humbled when God works through His children, worshipping Him, to bless others. Let us ask God what He values that we do not and what we are valuing that He does not. Let us pray for God to write His values on our hearts, namely, to love Him wholly and to love others fully so that our hearts will be brought into alignment with His. This is the only way to enable a life of God-honoring worship that brings joy to Him, as well as ourselves and countless others beyond. Together, we can thank the Lord for being a God worthy of worship. Let us strive collectively to worship Him with family, neighbors, friends, co-workers, and even church family. God can provide for changed lives, families, communities which is His plan to build His bride, the Church.

Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV)

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.



*Eric Wilmeth
Vice President*



Please pray for the Mission Family Camp to be held July 18-22, 2022, at Black Rock Retreat Center in PA. This will be a wonderful time of relaxation and making connections amongst our missionaries for the sake of the Gospel.

FROM THE FIELD



Wayne and Shanna Dale

are missionary church planters serving at Grace Baptist Church in Scottsdale, AZ. Their lives are full of ministry and family events.

On the ministry side the Dales rejoiced to receive funds from church, ChurchCare, and individuals to repair their house roof. God brought a Christian contractor to help with the process, and plans are underway to begin the roofing project at the end of February. In November 2021 the Dales hosted fellow BCP missionaries Miguel and Ana Quintana who are serving in Florida. They spoke in church, at the Christian School and at a Spanish service at Tri-City with Pastor Randy Hernandez. The people at Grace Baptist were able to view firsthand the challenges of bilingual ministry.

The Dales have been encouraged by visits from pastors of supporting churches and also by the state fellowship meetings at Calvary Baptist in Mesa in which Tim Capon from Iowa shared about practical ways to be evangelistic. The church had a Christmas dinner and white elephant gift exchange, and it was a blessing to see new people participating. They also held a caroling event the next week, important because of the number of senior members with severe illnesses and isolation.

Wayne is striving to balance focus on growth for new members and encouraging the faith of the older members as they finish their race. Please pray as their theme for 2022 is "One life submitted to God will change one life!" They are praying for salvations and baptisms, for ministry team members, for contacts in the community and more evangelistic opportunities.



Visit by Miguel and Ana Quintana



The Dales: Wayne, Shanna, Rylee, Gloria, Claire and Simon



Christmas fun with Rylee home from Bible college



Marty and Susan Basinger

are serving in a transitional ministry at Brown Street Baptist Church in Alton, IL. Marty writes, "I have come to appreciate more and more the words of Acts 6:4 as Susan and I have served churches in transition: 'But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.' These words were spoken during an unsettling time in the life of the church. While they establish the priority for the minister at



all times, I have discovered that they are particularly significant when a church experiences a season of transition. The consistent ministry of the Word to the congregation, coupled with a season of prayer, in which the majority of the people are praying, has a transformational effect upon the church. Joy and hope spring up in the corporate heart of the congregation, displacing unsettling feelings.

This has been the case with the church we are currently serving in SW Illinois. Susan and I have been blessed to be a part of this flock of God for almost four months now, to have loved and been loved by the people. A most touching scene occurred after a Sunday morning service recently. An elderly gentleman, saved after losing his wife 2.5 years ago, whose heart had been moved by the message on doubt, took Susan's hand and put it to his face, and then my hand as well, and said, 'I am so glad that you are here.'

The church is entering a critical period as the pulpit committee turns its attention to the next permanent pastor. While there is a sense of preparedness because of the training they have received, there is also the awareness that they must proceed with patience and prayer." Join us in prayer for continued direction through this church's transition.



Times of fellowship encourage the core group as they "one another"

Teacher Journey Training



“TEACHING FAITHFUL MEN WHO WILL TEACH FAITHFUL MEN” 2 TIMOTHY 2:2



Chip Wood, Director of Church Facilitation with an Educational Emphasis

“Teachers have three loves: love of learning, love of learners, and the love of bringing the first two loves together” (Scott Hayden). For teachers who are Christ-followers, those loves are grounded in the content of their instruction – the Word of God. These teachers strive to grow in their teaching ability and in their spiritual walk in order to inspire the same in their students.

Teacher Journey Training (TJT) is an exceptional course every dedicated Bible teacher would enjoy and benefit from taking. This Journey leads teachers up a path that will guide him or her closer to God, advance essential skills, and lead to real lasting fruit in their students. TJT will impact your Bible instruction in any circumstance: camp, church, and life. In any forum, from a large group setting to a one-on-one conversation, these truths, tools and skills will guide teachers to present the Bible in a way designed to lead others to act upon, not just listen to, the truths of His Word.

Teachers at all levels of experience are able to implement these life-changing skills into their own lives. Wendy writes, “Going through TJT has had a huge impact on my life and spiritual walk. The Bible study methods I learned and the accountability that was built into our weekly meetings encouraged my vertical growth while focusing my horizontal discipleship impact. I have continued to utilize the strategies we learned to create meaningful lessons for my Sunday school class. As a result of taking TJT I have grown as a discipler in and out of the classroom. With great excitement I now lead a Bible study group as well.”

Students are responding to God’s Word, and in turn, teachers are remembering why they became a teacher in the first place. The methods and philosophies of TJT are taken right from Scripture and draw from the example left for us by Christ as He walked on this earth and demonstrated His love and how to disciple others. Beka states, “TJT has made me more intentional in challenging my students to transfer what they are learning in the Bible into their daily lives, not just learning for learning sake.”

Those who have taken TJT discover that they enjoy meeting with the other teachers weekly. In fact, most continue to meet and encourage one another long after the course is over. They gain a support group who share similar passions, philosophies, stresses and obstacles. Teaching the Bible using the methods of Jesus becomes so empowering that churches are reaching out to other churches to help them grow stronger in their efforts to disciple their youth with lasting fruit.

If you have interest in learning more, please contact Chip Wood by email or cell (607.275.6170). He will be delighted to discuss how this 24-week online study will be a valuable journey for you and other teachers to explore.



BIBLE

DEVELOPING SKILLS THAT EQUIP STUDENTS TO LOVE GOD & LIVE GODLY

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Lillian French (October 17, 2021) – After high school, Lillian moved to Cleveland where she met and married Larry French and together they had two sons. Lillian retired at age 55 from Liberty Mutual as a customer service representative. Lillian and Larry spent their retirement years as missionary church builders traveling around the US building Baptist churches. They were truly servants of the Lord and celebrated almost 60 years of marriage before Larry passed away in 2019. Lillian loved her church family and was an active member of Southwest Baptist in Tulsa, Oklahoma.



Debra Morgan (November 16, 2021) – Dave and Debbie Morgan joined the Mission in 2003 (they had been with Helping Hands Ministry International). They became BCP Apollos missionaries, serving at Calvary Baptist in Chatsworth until July 30, 2006. Their status was moved to Retired in 2009.



Jack Farley (December 2, 2021) – Jack and Dorothy felt led into missions work during seminary, and they joined FBHM in 1969 and started Grace Baptist Church in the desert community of Hesperia, CA and then served at Calvary Baptist Church in Oceanside, CA, until 1997. Jack always looked for an area that was near a military facility, so they were able to work with military personnel which the Lord had laid on his heart.



Dale Moore (January 18, 2022) – with Marie, served in pastorates in Elimsport, PA, and Randolph, NY. They were commissioned for ministry in 2003 with Baptist Church Planters for mission work in Florida, New Hampshire and Maine.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

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

David Whipple
Corabelle Baker
Kathalyn Peck

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

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