

What's in a Name

If I asked you what IBM stands for, you might say, "old computer company," not "International Business Machines Corporation." Similarly, when you see BCP, such as in the context of this newsletter, you probably think, "Baptist Church Planters," but if I asked you what BCP stands for, you might say, "BCP plants churches" or "BCP is a mission agency who sends missionaries to plant churches." You might even add how BCP has impacted you or your church or what BCP values as a mission agency. Because we realize that an organization's brand represents so much more than just its name, we are making a subtle but intentional change to our brand to explain a subtle but intentional change in what it now stands for.

We have been careful as a mission over the last two years to focus our missional efforts and values so that we keep our heritage, build on the missiological sharpening that Steve Little brought, and spur on the missional pursuits that we believe will enable a new era of local church-driven sending, planting, and revitalizing. To our team, this is what **BCP** stands for. We are fundamental Baptists. We believe in the fundamentals of the faith, including the virgin birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, God come to earth Who lived sinlessly on our behalf and then died, was buried, and rose again as prophesied so that all who by grace through faith believe in this Savior and His gospel will live eternally

with Him. We believe this from the inerrant testimony of the Word of God which is revealed truth that ratifies all truth. There are more than these introductory truths to being a Baptist, so I welcome you to read our doctrinal statement in full at www.bcpusa.org/our-doctrine.

We are Baptist CHURCH planters. Controlled by the doctrinal foundation just expressed, we believe God's local church is at the heart of missions. That is why it is the largest letter in the new logo. The local church is the steering force behind all that we do as a mission agency. It is constantly noted by the churches we serve that the way we practically live this out makes us distinct as a mission. We believe the church disciples or trains, and we just help them with coaching, materials, and encouragement. Some churches may be in a harder season of their history, so they ask us to help them with conciliation, transition, revitalization, and sometimes closure. Healthy churches are able to send out missionaries or send a core of trained people to train, plant, or help revitalize another church. When a church sends missionaries, we assist those missionaries with finance processes, training, coaching, and conciliation. When they plant or revitalize a church, we encourage and bring expertise to the process. The church is at the center, directing our steps.

What then does **BCP** stand for? We start with our foundation of Baptist from which we assist the Church so

that the churches then are ultimately the church Planters. Always think of the "Planters" part of our name as coming from the local church, not from the mission. Our highest goal is to help churches fulfill their biblical mandate to make disciples, ultimately fulfilled when believers multiply and go into all the world forming into churches. We want to help churches and the people they send to be church planters. In a way, you could say our vision is to assist Baptist churches so they become Baptist church planters. Church is at the center of what we do!

Please enjoy the rest of the Connect which contains the stories of **BCP** in motion. Test our work. Is the local church following Christ as head and directing us as an agency to be an effective assist in their Great Commission efforts? If so, then say our name like the logo notes it: Baptist CHURCH-planters. We are excited about the multiplication of opportunities that continue to come our way as churches take the lead. We are fascinated by the shared vision that independent Baptist churches can have for discipleship and planting which enables them to partner together. We have the joy of being the encouraging, the coaching, the training, and the stirring up of their beautiful works (Titus 2:14), powered by the gospel of Christ. If BCP can assist your church in similar pursuits, please reach out to us, for this brings meaning to our name.



Jon Jenks
President

ChurchCare CONSTRUCTION



Mark Henthorn
ChurchCare
Construction
Interim Director



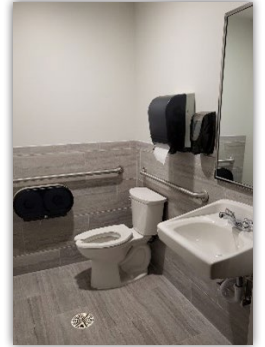
First of Norton's basement gathering place

Since our last Connect, our Lord Jesus has continued working through ChurchCare. Our missionary builders have successfully completed a 5-month basement renovation project for **First Baptist Church of Norton, Ohio**.

In April the team mobilized to **Grace Baptist Church of Canton, Ohio**, for a large complex construction of a new 385-seat auditorium and adjacent third space plus offices. At the time of this writing, our builders have all the required footings installed and are placing the concrete basement walls. There are many members of the congregation who are eager to volunteer their labor. Meanwhile, in the mission office, we are creating a database of construction volunteers from our BCP agreement churches and past ChurchCare Construction churches. We will be inviting you to use this soon.



First of Norton's new nursery



First of Norton's new restroom



Grace Baptist's new foundation



Grace of Canton and the site of new auditorium



Union Mills, IN

My pastor has been teaching through Galatians for the past months. This has drawn me to Paul's imperative to "Bear one another's **burdens**, and thus fulfill the law of Christ," and later, "For each one shall bear his own **load**." These passages caused me to dig deeper into the Word to understand the difference between *burdens* and *load*. I discovered that a *burden* is a heavy, oppressive weight that could be a temptation or spiritual failure. In the Roman days, the word *load* was used for the pack carried by a marching soldier. Every believer has a daily responsibility to carry the load assigned by our King. May God help us to be faithful to do so without losing a step. As I meditate on "Bear one another's burdens..." I think of the work of ChurchCare and our coming alongside local churches such as **Union Mills, IN**, struggling under the pressures of a church headed for closure. In my short months with ChurchCare, I've witnessed firsthand our team's bearing the burdens of churches in need. This bearing one another's burdens is done through careful listening and loving counsel followed by intricate work processes, all bathed in prayer, with the goal of redeeming the trial for His church and for the glory of our Lord Jesus. We covet your continued prayers as ChurchCare carries out Galatians 6:2.

Training The Church To Pray

Nineteenth-century pastor Charles Spurgeon said, "Prayer is the breath of faith. Prayer meetings are the lungs of the church." While every redeemed pastor and congregation could give a read-along, "Amen!" to such a clarion statement, many would confess in a hushed tone, "We fall far short."

Indeed, it was this honest appraisal of his own prayer life that prompted a disciple to say to Jesus after He had finished praying, "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1). Howard Hendricks astutely points out, "If we were to open our Bible and read starting with Matthew and were to read through John, we would never find an instance where the disciples asked, 'Lord teach us how to witness,' or 'teach us how to perform miracles,' or 'teach us how to teach.' But in this passage, we do find one of the disciples asking, 'Lord, teach us to pray...' Wow! How significant!" For men who were sometimes slow to grasp spiritual values, this is significant! Jesus' response (v.2), "When you pray, say...", began a training session on prayer by the soon-to-be Chief cornerstone of the Church to the men who would play a pivotal role in the foundation of the church (Eph. 2:20; Matt. 16:18; Rev. 21:14; I Cor. 3:10-11).

The Lord's Prayer gives us the pattern that guides our own praying. John MacArthur clarifies for us, "It is not so much a prayer in itself as it is a skeleton which believers are to flesh out with their own words of praise, adoration, petitions, and so on." The disciples took Jesus' training on prayer to heart by making prayer one of the core values of the church (Acts 2:42), by making prayer a priority in their own pastoral ministry (Acts 6:4), and by training the church to pray. The book of Acts records that when the early church faced a time of transition, a major decision, or a crisis, they prayed (1:14; 6:6; 4:23-31; 12:5; 13:3; 14:23). The church prospered because of these seasons of prayer. J.B. Johnston rightly observes, "The church is never more like the New Testament church than when it is praying."

Over a period of years, I came to see the truth of Johnson's statement, but it was in my role as an ITM missionary pastor that I came to see the dire need and urgency of training churches in transition to pray. While they look to me, I must teach them to look to the Head

of the Church, Jesus Christ, in prayer, if the church is to prosper through the transition period and beyond.

At the beginning of an eight-week comprehensive ITM assignment, I introduce a strategic ministry plan with intentional messages to the congregation and workshops with the leadership. At the same time, I introduce a strategic prayer plan that supports and makes the preaching effective in the lives of the people. There is a direct connection between the Word and answered prayer (John 15:7). This connection is vital in addressing the corporate pain of a church, which is the focus of this eight-week period.

The prayer plan includes initiating a Season of Prayer on Saturdays that begins at 5:30 am and ends at 11:30 pm. Each hour is separated into 30-minute time slots in which the people are encouraged to sign up. The 30 minutes is divided into 10-minute time slots, enabling the participants to transition through adoration, confession, and supplication. Prayer guides are handed out with specific "helps" to aid them through the transitions. In the most recent church, the congregation began praying on Friday evenings at 6 pm, ending at midnight, and picking back up on Saturday morning at 5:30 am and ending at 11:30 pm.

By the beginning of week three in this same church, the leaders had come to me saying they could sense a marked change in the church services: joy was displacing pain, and the chatter was no longer about the problems but the praying. For many, it marked the first time they had prayed for 30 minutes consecutively! Each Sunday they saw people returning to the church who had left. We ended the Season of Prayer with a day of prayer and fasting. Again, a guide was handed out with specific "helps."

The leaders and the congregation determined that God's will for the next step was to ask us back for another eight-week comprehensive. The focus of this period became the decline of this church, and the eight-week strategic ministry plan involved helping the church identify Christ's mission for His Church. The strategic prayer plan supported and empowered the ministry plan.



Marty Basinger
ITM Pastor

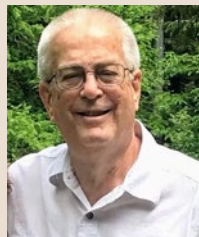
The strategic prayer plan also includes honing the prayer meeting so that equal focus is given to inward and outward requests. This training in prayer involves gently requesting that for every inward request, an outward request is shared as well. This exercise is made easier because it is connected to the Season of Prayer introduced for this period. For this same particular church, I called it 3-to-meet 4 prayer, with an inward, outward, and forward (future pastor) focus. Each group of three men or three women was asked to meet at least four times for 45 minutes. The prayer guide enabled the facilitator to lead his or her group through the inward, outward, and forward focus, while compiling their own outward-focused master prayer list. The 3-to-meet group was to hold one another accountable for not only praying for these people but for seeking ways to provide a witness in word and deed. If they chose, they could share these names during the church prayer meeting so that prayer could be maximized for the unsaved or wayward person.

The result was more than anyone could have expected. The 3-to-meet prayer times went beyond an hour, even to two hours in some cases. A good number of people that began visiting the church were on the group's prayer lists. They recognized that God had prospered their prayer and outreach. One believer related how he had reluctantly added a man's name to their group list because he felt it was a waste of time, yet as their group persisted in prayer and outreach, the man began attending!

Even though our eight-week comprehensive at this church is complete, many of the 3-to-meet groups continue to meet as the church now prepares to transition to a permanent pastor. One elderly man, in tears, said to me, "Being a part of this prayer group has changed my life. I don't want it to end!" And it shouldn't end! The prayer training begun by Jesus addresses the hearts' yearning of believers in every generation of the church, "Lord, teach us to pray."

Coaching & Stirring

It started a few months ago when Jim Solomon began to experience non-stop pain which prevented him from preaching and teaching. Jim and Sharon serve as the missionary revitalization pastor at Galilean Baptist Church in Fairmont, WV. Because of the pain, exhaustion, ongoing medical tests, and doctor visits, at times Jim needed someone he could count on to preach for him.



Kyle Mann,
deacon

About 45 minutes away in Parkersburg, WV, is Bible Baptist Church, Jim and Sharon's sending/accountability church. As Jim's director, I called Pastor Dan Stevens, the need was explained, and his advice was invited. Without hesitation Dan offered the name of one of his deacons, Kyle Mann, to preach or teach when needed. Kyle has been serving as a deacon, had just retired, and was asking his pastor if he knew of any churches that might be able to use him to preach! Since that conversation, Kyle has been able to preach a few times when Jim was incapacitated.

This is a perfect illustration of how a BCP Church Facilitator works to help our missionaries connect with their sending/accountability church for help. This is one way in which BCP helps to fulfill one of our shared objectives of connecting, developing, and maintaining vibrant relationships with our missionaries and the churches that send them to fulfill the Great Commission!



Tim Weeks
Church Facilitation Director
with a Missionary
Care emphasis

Once a church has begun a relationship with BCP, they often see the need for BCP-provided training that enables the church to train and guide their people in an ongoing way. Each church appropriates this multiplication-minded training in one of five ways, depending on their church's need or development. A BCP director or trainer assists each church with personal coaching when they choose one of the following categories of training: conciliation, transition, revitalization, intentional discipleship, or church planting. This ongoing relationship continues with BCP even though the training category may change based on the church's ongoing steps. BCP loves to assist churches in their pursuit of the Great Commission. We celebrate when spiritual fruit comes from this stirring up of individuals and their church. Here is evidence of that fruit:

From a pastor regarding the Leadership Journey Training: *After years of struggling and seemingly trying to pull my men along, Leadership Journey has begun to foster an environment of accountability, camaraderie, and spiritual growth that I have never witnessed before. I believe that I am seeing, for the first time, guys caring for other guys, and each of them trying to spur on one another to good works. It's been a very beneficial process and one that I'm still very eager to see how the Holy Spirit continues to move.*

From a deacon and part-time teacher regarding Teacher Journey Training: *TJT has opened my eyes to see God within every passage of the Scriptures: Who He is in His character and His works. Now I see the Word as more than "stories," and I teach with a renewed passion. I have gone from teaching information to discipling my students to know God and to put their confidence in Him. I still talk about David and Daniel, etc.... but now they take their rightful place in the narrative of God.*

From members of a church assisted by an ITM missionary pastor: *Thank you for the thoughtful gift of your time, of your effort, or your teaching, of your care, of your knowledge, of your resources, of your gifts. You have encouraged me in a great many ways, and I appreciate the time that you have given to me personally to help me grow in the Lord. Your love for the Lord and other people is contagious. Thank you for encouraging us to walk with God in all circumstances. Thank you for bringing us to the next level of our journey.*

From a deacon regarding the revitalization assistance provided through BCP: *We would like to give thanks to God for the many ways BCP has been a help and a rescue to our church family. We have been without a pastor since 2017, and then the pandemic added another challenge, but God has been faithful to those who have proved themselves faithful. God's plan included BCP. We are reaping the benefits of organizational oversight that fills the gaps in our ministry goals. BCP's construction ministry also came to our aid by providing roofing experts for a large roof job.*

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Partnering for Multiplying

In our history as independent Baptists, many times we have missed out on the need for interdependence amongst our churches without forfeiting church autonomy. In our small community of Constantia Center, NY, our church, **Constantia Center Baptist** (CCBC), has been without a pastor for four years and is in need of revitalization. Over the past year and a half, we have been in a revitalization process with **BCP** and have been experiencing the reality of interdependence with a sister church within New York State. Through this revitalization process, **Faith Baptist Tabernacle** (FBT) of Sherburne, NY, under the leadership of Pastor J. Fisher, has become our accountability church and has ministered to our small congregation through work projects, Pastor Fisher speaking at our church, and much more. FBT has also sent us their missionaries, Steve and Kristen Wynn, to help in the revitalization process.



The Wynns have been sent out as revitalization missionaries by FBT through Baptist Church Planters. Once a month the Wynns come to our church, preach for the service, and bring musicians, song leaders, teen leaders, the youth group, and others to help in the ministry at Constantia Center Baptist. Besides preaching once a month, (pictured left) Steve Wynn is working with a core group of members at CCBC to elevate our need as a church to reach our community for Jesus Christ and hold us accountable to this

responsibility. The core group is reading the book *Sent*, and Steve leads us through a discussion (pictured right) of being "sent" by God to live our lives for Christ within the context of our community. BCP, FBT, and our church are considering an even greater involvement of the Wynns over the next year to accelerate the revitalization process.



God has used this process to change our focus as a church family, not just so we can call a pastor but to be effective "sent ones." Over the last year (despite Covid) we have seen spiritual growth, numerical growth, and financial growth in our church. Recently a first-time visitor to our service said, "Wow, this place is alive." God has used the whole revitalization process to help us be ready to call a full-time pastor.



Steve Little

Member of Constantia Center Baptist Church

Easter Sunday of 2021, Marty and Susan Basinger began their ITM interim at **Northridge Baptist Church** in Des Moines, Iowa. They were serving an eight-week comprehensive that is typically designed to prepare the church for their next pastor or for a longer-term interim. In this case, they were preparing the church for a collaborative agreement with a sister church, **Ankeny Baptist Church** of Ankeny, Iowa (less than 20 minutes away).



Marty and Susan Basinger, ITM Pastor

Ankeny Baptist has been working with **BCP** to enhance their church multiplication for several years, often encouraging other churches to join them in their Leadership Journey retreats.



Dean and Faith Taylor, short-term ITM intern

This past year they expanded their multiplication efforts by entering into that agreement with Northridge Baptist and BCP. This agreement grew this past March to include another sister church, **Maranatha Baptist Church** of Grimes, Iowa, which sent their church member, Dean Taylor, to be a part-time short-term missionary under BCP to serve as the ITM interim at Northridge.

There are several moving parts when considering the autonomy of three local churches, but it is a joy to witness the churches collaborating in order to increase their multiplication impact.



Scott Owen

Church Facilitation Director with a Conciliation and ITM emphasis

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

MEMORIAL GIFTS

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

Celia Heydens

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

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