

# connect

Meeting America's  
Greatest Need

BCP  
A PUBLICATION OF  
BAPTIST CHURCH PLANTERS

Spring 2018

## God Supplies *Stephen P. Little, president*

The administration, missionaries and Council want to thank all of you, our partners, for your faithful giving during 2017. Recently I called one of our partners to thank him and his wife for their generous gift. His response was, *“There is nothing generous about our gift. We are simply living in obedience to God to support and partner with you on the frontlines of missions in America.”* Wow, this couple’s perspective is humbling and right on the mark.



Baptist Church Planters ended the year with income over expenses; therefore, we started the new year in the black, and we are in awe of God’s provision. 2017 was a banner year not only for the Service Center but also for many of the missionaries we serve. All our missionaries on active deputation saw significant increase to their support levels. So from our team to all of our partners, a hearty “THANK YOU FOR YOUR OBEDIENCE TO GOD and PARTNERSHIP WITH US!”

## Family Camp: Planning, Praying and Praising *Jon Jenks*

One of my favorite parts of a hunting or camping trip is the preparation and planning—the maps, the gear, the menu, and the countdown with its anticipation of what might be. Thinking about the people who will be with me and how to serve them and set them up for a great experience brings even greater anticipation. These times of preparation and planning must be directed by Scripture, focused on relationship-building, and bathed in prayer. Abiding with Christ in the planning makes it a joy and brings wisdom to us.

The BCP Family Camp committee, administration, and office staff have been planning for the BCP Family Camp to be held in Iowa July 17-20, 2018. We can’t wait to see our plans realized!

Join us in praying for spiritual encouragement and new and deeper relationships for our missionaries.



- Pray for the event and for safety in the travel.
- Pray for the BCP staff and Council members who will be serving with many details, worship prompting, and leadership.
- Pray for the Faith Baptist Bible College staff who serve us in many ways.
- Pray for Dave and Carolyn Culver who will be speaking to our hearts in the main sessions.
- Pray for Dan Fields and his ministry team who will be shepherding our teens and young adults, and
- Pray for Altoona Regular Baptist Church as they have committed to caring for our younger children.

Praise God with us for His abundant provision through an estate gift to BCP that has enabled the Council to provide for Family Camp costs, approximately \$25,000.

Missionaries have only to raise their travel expenses. Could you be a part of God’s provision?



# “Reaching our Neighbors Next Door”

*Bridging the Cultural Divide (Part 2)* Wanda Taylor



“What can we do to reach the Hispanics in our neighborhood? No one in our church speaks Spanish.” We often hear those words when pastors and churches seek help in reaching the growing Hispanic population around them. There are numerous ways that local churches can effectively reach Hispanics in their vicinity. Here are a few suggestions to consider:



## 1. Encourage Biblical thinking toward another culture.

It's important to see Hispanics through the eyes of Scripture and not through the effects of politics and the news media today. We would encourage you to listen to “Love the Immigrant” by Pastor Glen O’Keefe on [www.sermonaudio.com](http://www.sermonaudio.com).

## 2. Inform your people about the Hispanic culture and mindset.

It's important to understand their thinking, needs and perspectives. Understanding helps eliminate misunderstanding and prejudicial judgments. You will find more information at [www.reachinghispanics.org](http://www.reachinghispanics.org).



## 3. Remember, just because someone speaks a language you don't speak doesn't mean they are ignorant or less educated.

Often they can be quite educated and may have been prominent leaders in their home country. Treat them with respect and seek to learn from them as best you can.

## 4. Make reaching Hispanics the theme of your next missions conference.

Being challenged with the need (the U.S. is the second largest Spanish-speaking country in the world) can open the hearts of your church family toward the mission field that is right around them.

## 5. Send your pastor or church leaders on a mission trip to a Spanish-speaking country.

There is nothing like “being there” in their culture; it can really change your perspective toward those who speak another language.

## 6. Distribute Spanish tracts, literature and CDs.

Hispanics are usually very receptive to taking any literature or spiritual materials. You can find suggestions and sources on our website.

## 7. Teach an ESL (English as a Second Language) class.

Though mentioned in Part 1 of this article ([www.bcpusa.org](http://www.bcpusa.org)), it's important to mention it again. Every Hispanic that we have met wants to learn English, but it is a real challenge as an adult to learn another language, especially if you are already working a full-time job to provide for your family. We have discovered



that this is one of the best ways to reach Hispanics, and you don't have to speak Spanish to make it happen. See these additional ideas on starting an effective ESL ministry <http://reachinghispanics.org/nine-tips-of-starting-an-esl-ministry>.

## 8. Use technology to connect.

There is nothing like “being there” in their culture; it can really change your perspective toward those who speak another language.

## 9. Purchase translation devices and have a bilingual speaker translate the sermon or lesson for those who are not fluent in English yet.

There is nothing like “being there” in their culture; it can really change your perspective toward those who speak another language.

## 10. Begin a Spanish adult Sunday school class with a bilingual teen or adult translating as needed.

Hispanic children and teens usually know and speak English well, and they can be of great assistance in translating at least until other arrangements can be made.

## 11. Connect with several likeminded churches

and challenge them to invest resources and people to help establish a Hispanic outreach that could eventually lead to a church plant.

## 12. Educate yourself on this topic.

It was featured at our NCHO (National Conference on Hispanic Outreach) meeting – a Hispanic Think Tank – which took place in Hayward/Castro Valley, CA, on March 10. You can visit [www.nchothinktank.com](http://www.nchothinktank.com) to watch the session.

They are your neighbors – just next door, in the pew or on the street. May you see the need, meet the challenge and bridge the cultural divide in Christian love. Remember, they will know if you love them, regardless of what language you speak.

We would be glad to assist you with your need for resources or ideas. We will also come encourage your church family to minister to your Hispanic neighbors. Please contact us through the web: [herbandwanda.com](http://herbandwanda.com) or [reachinghispanics.org](http://reachinghispanics.org).



## Equipping Men to Lead is a Journey Jon Jenks



*"Come to me all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest... Learn from me, for I am gentle... You will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:28-29). I am praying for you right now, men, for the burdens are real, the battle is fierce, and our hearts are easily distracted. I pray because a pastor wrestles internally with himself and outwardly with men who he desires to see equipped. The wrestling often sounds like, "I'm too busy." "My family needs me." "We have to travel all the way to Wisconsin!?" "Can't I just pray here and work a little harder." "No program is going to fix our church!"*

If only these men knew what dozens of men say one year removed from their retreat. They began with the same understandable concerns and hesitations, but now in the quiet, they rest with joy at what God is shaping in them and in the men with whom they now sense a deepening partnership. Their wives and children are sensing the shift in their hearts, too. God is with them, and they with Him; it was true before, but now it is with a deeper personal awe.

The men say things like... *"There is nothing remarkable about the material, the activities, or even the leaders of the retreat. The impact was from this time of being Biblically honest and of meeting with God together concerning our lives and the life of our church. How could we not be changed in this? It is not a big dynamic change but a foundational shift or renewal."*

*"Awake, O sleeper and rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you" (Ephesians 5:14b).*

Change came and comes piece by piece as our hearts absorb truth again, and the soul is questioned directly by the Spirit and the men He places alongside of us. These coals are stoked all year as their team progresses through thirty weeks of worship and thinking together. The men have labeled these weeks they spend together a Leadership Journey. Will your church join this list of churches who have already begun building their leaders through the *Leadership Journey*?

### Communities with Churches in the Leadership Journey by Stage – Spring 2018

**Stage One** – Getting started in training and planning for intentional gospel church ministry:

*Steven's Point and Knapp, WI; New Milford, CT; Lorain and Lima, OH; Omaha, NE; Hoffman Estates, IL; Pueblo West, CO; Norwalk, IA; Camden, NY; Rochester, MN*

**Stage Two** – Training and leading their own men in their churches through the intentional gospel ministry plan:

*Creston, IA; Genoa, NE*

**Stage Three** – On their own and helping another church get started in their training and planning for intentional gospel church ministry:

*Wisconsin Rapids, WI; Fullerton, NE; Ankeny and Ames, IA*

## Does God's blueprint for discipleship of youth include more than just running a program or Sunday School?



Scripture clearly mandates that every age believer invest in young people (Deuteronomy 6:7). Unfortunately many churches do not intentionally disciple their adults to be disciples of today's youth. BCPym offers seminars that will guide your teachers and the whole church family in understanding God's blueprint for effective discipleship of young people.

**BCPYouthMinistry.com**  
**440-748-1677**



**Contact BCPym  
Director Chip Wood  
to schedule your  
church today!**



## From the Field:

# Rehearsing God's Blessings

**Brad and Marie Hansen,  
Community Regular Baptist Church in Bussey, IA**

"God...hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation." By the grace of God, a handful of believers planted a church in Bussey, IA, in 2009. We praise God for all He has done to show the people His glory. He provided partners in prayer, cash to buy property, and Baptist Church Planters to assist. Then ChurchCare Construction built Community Regular Baptist Church with the help of many volunteers. The community watched as God provided, and the church building was finished in about six months. Many accounts could be told of His faithfulness and provision. We have seen several come to a saving knowledge of

Christ. Pastor Brad is leading a discipleship Bible study on Wednesday night, and Marie is doing a Bible study over the phone with her sister in Florida. Though a small group, we have hosted several youth rallies, pastors' fellowship meetings, and Vacation Bible School each July. We also have a special Christmas Eve service for the whole community. Please pray for the salvation of the lost, the growth of believers, and encouragement for us in the ministry. Pastor Brad works full-time at our tire and service station to support us and this ministry. Pray that God will give us the grace to focus on Him and His ministry of reconciliation.



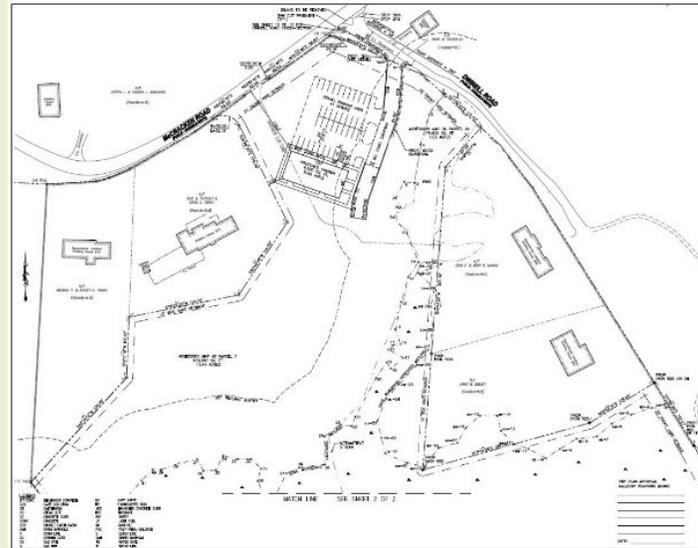
## Looking forward to spring!

**Roy and Karen Kinney, Pinecrest Baptist Church, Millbury, MA**

We have had the building plans redone. Checks have been written and plans are in the hands of the town for approvals. We are told that things shouldn't be as lengthy or difficult this time around. Our goal is to be working on the property by spring. God has provided the expertise and skill that we needed to get to this point in the project! We enjoyed a "Celebration of Love" banquet recently where the



men cooked a delicious meal that we all enjoyed. The ladies did up the desserts. We are celebrating two more anticipated baby arrivals this spring with baby showers. We need a single story church building that will meet our needs better with all these kiddos! We do have over fifty people who are part of the church and that we minister to. Our prayer is for more opportunities to share about our relationship with Christ and for more families to come and join us!



## Administrative Directory

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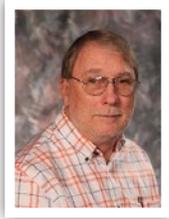
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## When Does Routine Become Remarkable?

David Whipple

When reporting on the routine activities of our projects, what has been accomplished becomes apparent by the sharing of “just the facts.” Many times, though, it’s the behind-the-scenes story which reveals how God used the routine activities to bring glory to Himself, thus making the routine remarkable! This past summer and fall ChurchCare missionary builders slogged through what should have been a relatively routine building project at First Baptist Church in Niles, Ohio. Many times during the project meetings the only thing we could say was, “God is Sovereign” and “He knows what is going on.” ChurchCare was challenged, not by First Baptist, but by the unforeseen issues in the construction process and scheduling problems. The time lost waiting for approvals from authorities was excruciating. Despite these interruptions to the routine, there are facts to share regarding what was accomplished:

- First Baptist Church in Niles has a completely remodeled first and second floor, including new handicap accessible restrooms, a new nursery area, a new foyer and welcome center and remodeled classrooms and offices.
- They also have a repainted activity building with a new handicap accessible entrance and exterior landscape upgrades.
- The builders were available to complete small projects at Baptist Church Planters’ office and several local churches in the area.
- The ChurchCare/Baptist Church Planters team provided leadership and opportunity for two young men to participate in a short-term missionary experience. The time of training and experience was of great value for both the interns and the mission. This experience will make us more effective in the future.



- God reshaped our plans and schedule to provide clear direction for phase two of the project at Niles. I am confident that phase two will move more smoothly.



What then is remarkable about the past several months? In this case, the behind-the-scene story is this: the spiritual impact in the lives of our administration, missionaries, interns and church families was “remarkable.” The constant changes to our schedule, the set and then missed markers, and the time lost just simply waiting were orchestrated by God to bring about inner change in each of us. Personally, God used this time to push me to a new level of trusting Him. I am somewhat of a “just do it” guy. God put me in my place and forced me to let Him receive the glory by working out His own perfect timeline. We usually ask God to help us “run with patience the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1), but Romans 5:3 also reminds us that it’s sometimes tribulation which “worketh patience.” Be careful what you ask for! You may get it!

## Big Thanks from Texas



This past August Hurricane Harvey devastated portions of the Southwest. Several churches and homes were destroyed. Baptist Church Planters/ChurchCare worked with sister agencies and coordinated several work teams to help two local churches and the families that were impacted. The first church assisted was Good News Baptist Church in Katy, Texas, a Baptist Mid-Missions church plant being led by Gerald and Julie Hawke and Dario and Talitha Chiesa. The second

church assisted was Berean Baptist Church in Humble, Texas, pastored by Baptist Church Planters Apollos missionaries, Albert and Patty Armitage.

ChurchCare missionary builder, Larry French, traveled to Texas twice to survey and coordinate the work. Teams from First Baptist in Elyria, Ohio; Ankeny Baptist in Ankeny, Iowa; First Baptist in Bloomfield, Iowa; Faith Baptist in Fowler, Colorado; and Rustic Hills Baptist in Colorado Springs, Colorado, made repairs to church buildings and homes and ministered to the people.

Thank you for the tens of thousands of dollars that were given to the disaster relief funds through Baptist Mid-Missions, Baptist Church Planters and Baptist Builders Club. The missionaries

and the families in Texas acknowledge your sacrifice of time, prayers, and financial support to encourage these believers you have never met.

Thank you for your service of love. The investment will provide eternal rewards.





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## Introducing the New S.A.L.T. Ministry

Michael Peck



One of the great treasures and resources that marks the ministry of Baptist Church Planters is their network of retired missionaries. Some might wonder, "How can these be a treasure and resource? Aren't they idled from service, and don't they spend their time playing shuffleboard these days?"

The answer simply stated is that nothing could be further from the truth.

Our BCP retired missionaries are still serving, praying, giving, and sharing the Gospel in their current surroundings. Far from being idle, these servants are living for Christ each day. That's why we

call our fellowship the "SALT" ministry. The letters S.A.L.T. stand for "Senior Adults Living Triumphantly." While they might not have the physical strength they once did, don't let anyone tell you that our retired folks are no longer serving. They serve in their local churches, teach boys and girls, function as chaplains, and still preach when opportunities come.

Through weekly emails called "Dr. Mike's House Call" and regular communication we share prayer requests with our SALT fellowship. What a blessing these folks are! They have served the Lord for decades and their love for Him continues to grow today.



### MEMORIAL GIFTS

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

**Mr. Laverne Rowling**

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

If the Lord would lead you to give to the ministries of BCP, go to [bcpusa.org/giving](http://bcpusa.org/giving).

### "GO PAPERLESS"!

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**We'd love to hear your feedback and thoughts from our *Connect*. Contact us at [bcp@bcpusa.org](mailto:bcp@bcpusa.org).**