

connect

Fall 2021

A PUBLICATION OF BAPTIST CHURCH PLANTERS

BCP 

Going, Going, Going

Over the last four years our family has gone through what others call *transitions*. We adopted this term for a variety of the changes that have taken place in our lives: sending the last child off to college; a child getting married; home care for parents; leaving the pastorate; serving as a Mission vice president; the addition of grandchildren; a 600-mile move from friends, church, and family; hospice care for a parent; becoming a Mission president; and sorrowing over the Homegoing of a parent as well as a coworker.

As I sat pondering this and the welcome change of summer into fall, I began to rehearse the multitude of blessings that have resulted from each of these events. The people impacted

BCP seeks to help churches and the missionaries they send in their pursuit of the Great Commission.

Our ministry fosters discipleship that enables local churches to send. Out of this sending of disciples, churches can be revitalized and planted.

by these events have enjoyed these blessings with us and are connected by them. God sent us to them and them to us all for His glory. God never plans an unfruitful event and never leaves us powerless in trials. This connectedness and the hand of God upon all of us is causing me to replace *transitions* in my mind with *goings*. This word reminds me of the Lord's call to Isaiah, "Who will go for us?" and Jesus' commission, "As you go, make disciples." These were *transition* times for Isaiah, the people of God, and the disciples, but they were really *goings*. **Transitions are times of going as a sent one of Christ; God then connects our goings to others and multiplies the impact.**

We cannot begin to fathom the full picture of God's connecting, multiplying grace in our lives. These are

President Jon Jenks



the ponderings of eternity. But allow me to rehearse one of the many multiplying connections with which God has graced the BCP family. Calvary Baptist in Wisconsin Rapids, from 2014-2017, helped four churches begin to intentionally train disciples. BCP then began to nurture these relationships, and from the work of these four churches have come three new missionaries and two directors with BCP as well as one new pastor. Over 25 additional churches are being helped in their intentional discipling by the work of these four in other churches, and eight other churches are being revitalized.

Pray that this working together enables a couple of new churches to be planted in the coming year. This is only one way to see the blessing of fruit from the churches connected through BCP. We could speak of Five Mile Baptist of Allegany, NY, who has a long-standing relationship with BCP, sending two of their pastors as missionaries to plant churches. These men and their families serve faithfully with church plants who could potentially plant churches in the next few years. The current pastor of that sending church has carefully encouraged their work. Look for other connections of churches impacting each other in the pursuit of the Great Commission in the rest of this Connect.

Maybe your life feels like it is at an "as you are going" moment, or maybe you just recognize with Jeniffer and me that God is always about our *goings* as His sent ones. It may be to a next assignment like hospice care, deaconing, or grandparenting, but it is always about discipling, about connecting, about praying, and about giving. Consider how He is connecting you to others in your *goings*.



David Whipple – *a Legacy of Stewardship (1950-2021)*

BCP

Baptist Church Planters has a wonderful heritage of godly men and women who have served and given sacrificially for the mission of this agency – assisting churches and their missionaries to do their Great Commission work. The legacy left by these men and women is revered by those of us serving now, and we are striving to honor their individual legacies. Our tremendous heritage increased with the Homegoing of BCP's Executive Vice President, David Whipple, whose legacy is one of faithful stewardship and service to the Lord. One of our missionaries that David served said it best: "David was a real inspiration with a big heart for service. He understood the heartbeat of the Mission and will be greatly missed."



As the chief financial officer for BCP, David often wrote about the importance of intentionally considering the legacy that one is leaving behind at death. In a recent Connect publication he wrote, "My legacy, that which I will hand down to my children and grandchildren, will become

their heritage. Often a legacy is passed down to the next generation in the form of habits, convictions, preferences, biases, attitudes, appetites, hobbies, values, and the list could go on. The message that I send after I die is extremely important. I want to teach my children and grandchildren what is important. Will my legacy remind those who remain that the Lord and His work is primary? Will the principles and priorities that I have lived all of my life be carried" on in their lives?

David was the first layman to serve on the Council of Baptist Church Planters. Elected in 2002, he served as chairman on both the finance and the building committees. In 2004 ChurchCare was started, and David began serving as the Executive Director. David managed the construction of the new addition to the Mission. In November of 2007, David and Diana were honored with the Aquila and Priscilla Award, the highest honor presented by Baptist Church Planters to men and women committed to church planting efforts in the US. Also in 2007, David closed his construction business in New York and accepted the position of Business Manager and Treasurer of Baptist Church Planters. In 2009, President Dave Little appointed him Administrative Vice President and Treasurer. David served joyfully in these BCP and ChurchCare roles right up to his Homegoing in early September. The Lord decided that David's service for Him on earth was done. We now have our memories of serving with David and our appreciation of the legacy he left for us.

David's article continues, "Solomon's conclusion in Ecclesiastes 12 was, 'Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth.' The next several verses describe the effects of growing old. Age has an impact on our physical and mental abilities. Solomon said to take action now when we can think clearly to secure a godly legacy. Solomon reminds us that 'God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.'" May God help each of us who know David's Savior to live as David did, following his godly legacy of faithful stewardship and service, so that as David did, we will hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant" when we finish our

work for the Lord.

David's memorial service is available by QR code or following this link: bcpusa.org/david-whipple-memorial-service/.

If you would like to give to Baptist Church Planters in memory of David, feel free to follow this link: give.bcpusa.org/projects.



David loved talking with the ChurchCare builders.



Welcoming new missionary builder, Jimmy Stevenson, to the ChurchCare Construction family.



That's what David did - sit (far right), listen, absorb, ponder, then speak and ask questions ...and tease in his dry manner.



David's comfort and biblical counsel was a help to churches preparing for closure.



We loved the banter between David and the love of his life, Diana. Did you ever hear the "2 karat" necklace story?



Community Impact in Tracy, CA



We are Tim and Susan Heinrich, and we serve as Lead Church Planter/Pastor of Crossroads Baptist Church of Tracy, CA.

With the blessing and encouragement of our church, God has given me the opportunity to volunteer as a Police Chaplain with the Tracy Police Department. In addition to being on scene for crisis situations in the community, I also have the opportunity to have a ministry of presence with the officers. The relationships built during this time allow me to build into their lives and be there for them in times of crisis. I have had the opportunity to volunteer at community events such as National Night Out, officer promotion and swearing in ceremonies, and even prayer at a protest rally. I take snacks to the PD the weeks that I am on call and have been able to build a rapport with the office staff and dispatchers. I am often called on scene when there is a death and have had the opportunity to minister to complete strangers but also to



Community Impact in Preston, ID



We are Jim and Janice Mitchell, and we serve as Lead Church Planter / Pastor of Grace Fellowship Church in Preston, Idaho. Preston is just over the border from Utah and two hours from Salt Lake City. In Preston almost 90% of the population would claim to be Mormon (Latter Day Saints) and only 0.01% claim to be evangelical in a broad sense. A big problem with reaching the LDS culture is that most of them think that they are Christians because their beliefs on the surface sound very similar.

A couple weeks before September 11, 2021, and the 20-year remembrance, I was asked by the President of the Chamber of Commerce, a non-Mormon, to speak at a 9/11 memorial event. The reason given for asking me was that they needed a "spiritual message." I was able to give the Gospel and emphasize that there is a bigger problem than physical death and that is the matter of where we will spend eternity. Since Mormons limit the atonement to conquering physical death and allowing resurrection, I pointed out that Jesus suffered and died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. He offers a free gift of salvation to those that trust Him since they believe Jesus paid our debt and now we have to pay Him back. 2 Nephi 25:23 in the book of Mormons says, "We know that it is by grace that we are saved after all we can do."

Afterwards, I was thanked by several for "the talk," and the newspaper editor wanted to put the transcript of my message online. Only God can take the Gospel message and use it to convict hearts. We pray that as we plant seeds that we will eventually see a harvest in this barren land.



minister to people from our community that I have known for years but are not connected to our church. This volunteer

ministry has expanded the borders of our church as we offer hope during people's darkest hours.



BCP

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Welcome to our new missionary appointees!

Steve and Kristen Wynn

Sending church:
Faith Baptist Tabernacle
Sherburne, NY

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Steve cell: 315.256.5726



While being together for the first time since 2019 was a great blessing, the Council was even more blessed through meeting and hearing the passion of our newest missionary appointees. Their sending church pastor, J Fischer,

shared that the work of the church is to "be as diligent as possible to prepare servants." The process toward the Wynn's church approval for missionary service included a thorough doctrinal examination. Pastor J stated that the church is bringing their best to BCP, not their seconds. The Council unanimously approved Steve and Kristen Wynn as associate church revitalizers.

Steve grew up in a multi-generational family of faith in Central New York. He recognized the depths of his sinful state before an

almighty and holy God and believed that Jesus died for him, and at age 12 repented and asked Christ to save him. Kristen grew up in a pastor's home, and the faith of her parents had a profound influence on her life and faith. She recognized her need to be saved by Christ's grace and atoning work on the cross around age 9. Both dedicated their lives to serve the Lord and went to Cedarville University where they met. In their statement of intent they shared, "Our hearts are heavy for the state of the local church in New York. An area that once overflowed with love for

our Savior is now merely trickling in many congregations. We desire for the name of Christ to be praised in all corners of the earth and can think of no greater calling than to serve Him in helping His bride, the Church, be more radiant and beautiful in preparation for His return. Our faith being founded solely in the redemptive and gracious works of Christ, we believe the best way to accomplish this work of reconciliation and revitalization is through our church's support and calling and partnering with Baptist Church Planters."



ChurchCare CONSTRUCTION



"The ChurchCare Board is grieving the absence of our leader, David Whipple," Roy Kinney, chairman of the Board stated, "and yet rejoicing that he is present with the Lord. While he was with us, he worked well in advance with the churches that have been approved by the Board for future projects. Our builders are busy with these projects, not only constructing buildings but also serving God in local churches. Please pray for our Board as we look for the man that God has already chosen to lead us forward in this good work." The Lord has enabled the construction team (Brent and Michele Howard and Jimmy and Abby Stevenson) to move forward with projects in September and October. The team completed the third storage

unit at the Mission, and they finalized one small project remaining at First Baptist in Elyria. They started some repair work on the foundation and parking lot at the Mission office and will complete the work this fall. In early October they headed to Constantia Center, NY, to replace a roof on that church. Another project was to help Scott and Marti Owen (BCP Director of Intentional Transitional Ministries) with work at their house in Iowa. The goal moving forward is to arrive November 1 in Norton, OH, to complete a basement remodel for Norton Baptist Church. Please continue to pray for the safety of these two families during all their travels and as they work on projects.

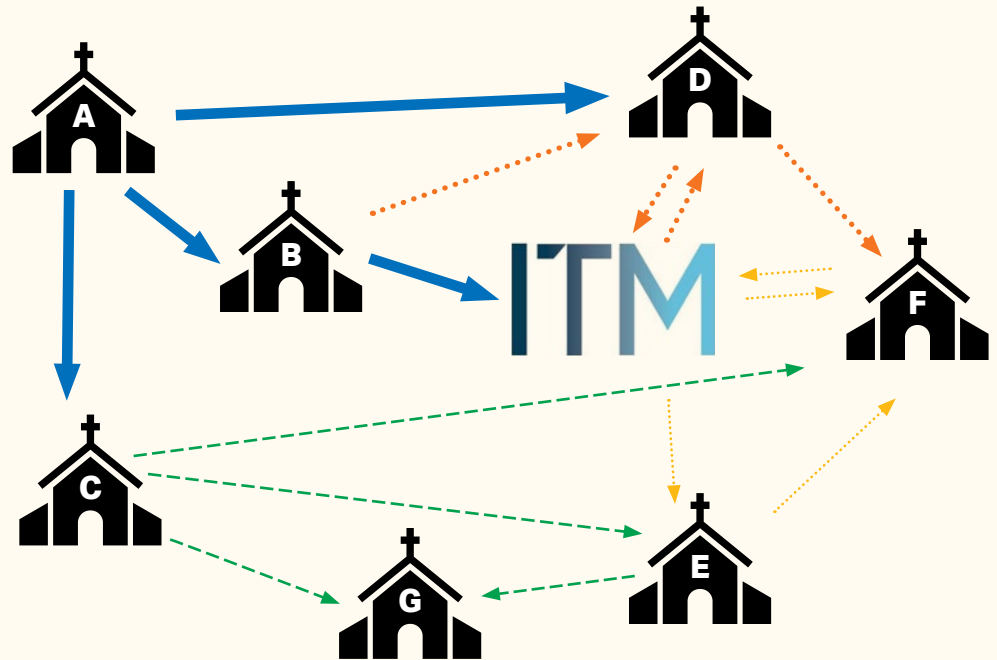
Unplanned Organized Connections

*Scott Owen, Director
of Church Facilitation
with a Conciliation
and ITM emphasis*



As the Director of ITM and in my role as a church facilitator I meet with churches from various parts of our country. Invariably, I find myself talking with someone with ties to others I know. In the most unexplainable of connections, my mind will call up the phrase “six degrees of separation” I had heard back in the 90’s. The concept originated with Hungarian author, Karinthy, in his 1929 short story titled “Chains” in which he suggested that any two strangers in the world could find a common connection within six relational steps. I have no idea how such a postulation could be tested among the two billion people in Karinthy’s day, let alone now that the population has quadrupled.

Regardless, I am less interested in the random connects that might be there and prefer to focus on the intentional ones that churches are making for the sake of the Great Commission. Seven years ago, a group of men from my church in central Iowa traveled over 300 miles to a remote place in Wisconsin for a retreat. We joined men from other churches with the shared desire to improve leadership in our churches. Without it being verbalized as a goal, we were also catching the host church’s (Calvary Baptist of Wisconsin Rapids, WI) example of connecting and impacting other churches. The ITM (Intentional Transitional Ministry) ultimately became fruit from the continued influence of the Leadership Journey as our church, CrossRoad Baptist of Ames, IA, sent us as missionaries to work with BCP to be part of facilitating the connecting and impacting of churches. Today, dozens of churches are experiencing the Leadership Journey, with many hosting leadership retreats, connecting and influencing other churches, just like Calvary Baptist did for our church seven years ago.



This connecting of churches has influenced even our ministry to churches in transition. It has been encouraging to witness how God is using other churches to help with the process. Recently, I shared the provided graphic to explain how God has used BCP to facilitate churches impacting other churches who are seeking a lead pastor. It is sort of a “six degrees of separation” concept, but please consider it more like degrees of connection. The arrows represent the reaching toward another church. Church A represents Calvary in Wisconsin Rapids who has reached toward churches B, C and D. Church B launched us into the ITM ministry. Church C trained several individuals (one moved to Church E and another moved to Church F) and also had influence in Church G. Church B suggested that Church D connect with ITM when their pastor was retiring to assist with the transition. Because Church D already had the Leadership Journey training, they appreciated the

ministry of BCP, so they contacted ITM, and we helped them in their transition. Meanwhile, Church E connected with Church G who attended the Leadership Journey they hosted. I became the Journey Trainer for Church E who happened to have close connections to Church F. God moved the pastor of Church F, and Church E encouraged them to contact ITM to help with the transition. Church F has a member that was trained by Church C and is a strong proponent of the Leadership Journey. These connects led Church F to contact Church D for references and ultimately use ITM to assist them with their transition.

These examples illustrate how God allows our BCP team to facilitate connections between churches toward fulfilling the Great Commission.

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publication, gifts
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David Whipple

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"Well done, faithful servants"

Warren Harris – Galilean missionaries since 1981, Warren and Evelyn served in churches and saw several to independent status in NY, ME, MO, KS, MI, WV and PA. They came with the Mission in 1993 while ministering to the Kirkman Independent Baptist Church. They were there until 2002 (24 years) when they retired from active missionary service with BCP. Warren's favorite hobby was ventriloquism, and in his later years, Warren took up singing with a barbershop chorus! Warren had a twin brother.



Corabelle Baker – When Carlton and Corabelle joined the Mission in 1990, they had already been in the pastorate at Smyrna Baptist and had also served at four other churches in NY. They continued on there until Carlton's Homegoing in 2002, at which time Corabelle continued serving in her encouragement ministry as well as teaching to children and ladies. Corabelle changed churches in 2013 and said, "I am not ready for the rocking chair yet." She served faithfully right to the day of her Homegoing.



Claggett Ward – Claggett and Sheila became BMNA missionaries in 1986 and came to BCP in 1992, serving in Grand Rapids and Lansing, MI. They retired from full-time service in 2008 and remained on as pastor at Grace Bible Baptist Fellowship in Lansing after the church graduated from mission status.

