

# connect

Meeting America's  
Greatest Need

BCP  
A PUBLICATION OF  
BAPTIST CHURCH PLANTERS

Fall-Winter 2012

## America- Still a Mission Field

*Dr. David C. Little, President*

Periodically the church planters and representatives of Baptist Church Planters meet people, usually educators, who espouse the position that planting churches in America is not missions. It rather hurts and annoys those who hear this view. **Missionary work is going to anyone who has not accepted the gospel.** Recently Tom Phillips, a BCP missionary in Camden, NY, sent this note:

*"In the last letter I mentioned the funeral service that was held at the church here in Camden. I had over five hours to talk with the funeral director, and he related to me the following. Several weeks before, a family had come in to make arrangements for the funeral. He was surprised when seventeen people showed up. This, he said, was the most he had ever had at one time. As they worked through the arrangements, he asked who they would like to have as a pastor to officiate. They responded that they did not attend church. He then asked about the pastor that had married them, and the response was that they were not married in a church. He then asked concerning their children or other family members, and the response was the same. The number was now fifty-four. Is it hard to grasp that here were fifty-four people that had never been to church and could not even name a pastor they knew or knew about? I believe that when Jesus asked the disciples to "lift up their eyes and look unto the fields that were white to harvest" that it was fields they could see and not some far off place. It begins with Jerusalem and Judea and then to Samaria and to the uttermost parts of the world. We need to send missionaries to the United States. The United States is a mission field."*

Then while visiting with Adam Zamora, a BCP missionary planting a church in Buckeye, AZ, he related this story of a couple that had no church affiliation:

*"My visitation partner, Matt, and I went out in 117 degree heat the other day and started knocking on doors, inviting people to come to church. A man came to the door and said, 'My wife and I just mentioned how we should go to church.' Adam gave him*

*an invitation and left. A few hours later, the man called and said that he had called his wife, and she confessed that she had been praying that the Lord would send a preacher to their door and invite them to church."*

### Facts to consider:

- The United States is the third largest country in the world.
- Millions come from every nation to experience the "American Dream," but their greatest need is to know Christ. This country has the greatest diversity of all nations in ethnicity and culturally, and churches need to be started among all peoples of the United States. To miss reaching a generation for Christ will be disastrous.
- Consider this:
  - ♦ The world's largest Buddhist temple is located in Boulder, CO, USA!
  - ♦ The world's largest Muslim training center is in New York City, USA!
  - ♦ The world's largest training center for Transcendental Meditation is in Fairfield, Iowa, USA! (statistics from World Christian Encyclopedia, Second Edition p.27)
  - ♦ The US is the second largest Spanish-speaking country in the world. There are more Spanish speakers in the US than in all of Central America.
- According to George Barna: "With its 195 million unchurched people, America has become the new mission field. America has more unchurched people than the entire populations of all but eleven of the world's 194 nations."
- Finally, just because people in this country are exposed to the gospel through radio, TV and the internet does not release us from the responsibility of going to them with the message of hope. People come to Christ, not in masses, but one by one as Christ works in their hearts.

**James and Sharon Solomon**

(626) 602-6035 | pamandfritz@aol.com

**Home Church:** Calvary Baptist Tabernacle, Gardena, CA

Jim and Sharon have been in ministry for many years, recently serving in Southern California. Throughout Jim's life, he has been burdened for West Virginia and has visited with BCP's Dr. Little about this burden. This year Jim and Sharon were approved

as church planters with BCP and will be moving from Southern California to West Virginia. They are in consultation with the Regular Baptist Fellowship of West Virginia regarding areas in need of a church plant. Jim and Sharon have two grown children.

**Tim and Susan Weaver**

(704) 450-3336 | timweaver7979@gmail.com

**Home Church:** Eastside Baptist Church, Statesville, NC

Tim and Susan both grew up in Western New York. Susan came to Christ through the work of the Spirit of God, growing up in a God-fearing family. Tim was invited by a friend to Five Mile Baptist Church of Allegany, NY, where Susan attended, and after hearing the

gospel, he came to Christ. They married and started their family of four. Because of Tim's interest in racing, they moved to Statesville, NC, where Tim presently builds NASCAR race bodies. Over their years of serving in the local church, they have become increasingly more interested in using their abilities for the Lord's work. Tim and Susan have been approved as missionary builders with ChurchCare Construction, a subsidiary of BCP, and will join the building team as soon as possible.

**Tim and Nancy Gonzales**

(304) 228-0441 | tim.gonzales@abc.edu

**Home Church:** Beckley Regular Baptist Church, Beckley, WV

Tim and Nancy were both saved from Catholic backgrounds. Tim was saved first, then he encouraged Nancy to come to Christ by faith alone. While Tim served in the Marines for eight years as a drill sergeant, the family attended church and grew in their walk

with the Lord. God directed them to attend Appalachian Bible College to prepare for ministry. Tim and Nancy have five children, three living at home. Presently, Tim is a missionary/pastor of a rescue work in Beckley, WV.

**Family  
Camp  
2012**

Since 2000, the Lord has given the BCP family

the opportunity to meet every three years at Faith Baptist Bible College in Ankeny, IA, for what we call "Family Camp." During this time, BCP missionaries from across the country come together to meet new missionaries, renew friendships, and be fed from God's Word. Dr. Kevin Bauder was our main speaker with groups from area churches and our own Chris and Amy Brown leading the children's programs. A great time of fellowship was enjoyed by all.



Service Pins were given to several missionaries at Family Camp. John and Willie Mae Williams received their 45 year pins. They have served nearly all of their ministry life in church planting. Dr. Williams' passion for church planting came

from one of his mentors, Merwin Burman, better known as MO Burman. We commend the Williams for their faithfulness.

**A Joyful Sense of Mission***Ginny Stratford*

I do love good food! It is a source of "nourishment" for the soul. There is much satisfaction over a perfectly grilled steak or a piece of the bitterest dark chocolate! Perhaps this is why Jesus used food to describe the work that He was called to do. Jesus said, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." The ultimate source of joy and fulfillment is in following God's will. "Get your life's nourishment in your Lord's will," Pastor Patrick Odle said in our study of John 4:34. As we accomplish the intent of our Savior, it brings a sense of satisfaction greater even than sitting down to the most sumptuous meal. Doing His will should give us great joy! It does thrill my soul as I contemplate how the Lord has led in my life! His calling has led me to such wonderful opportunities for ministry! I have invested my life in young people as I taught in the elementary classroom for ten years in the US and in Brazil. Then the Lord led me to Faith Baptist Bible College, where I enjoyed serving on the faculty for eighteen years in the Christian School Department. Now the Lord has directed me to the ministry of Baptist Church Planters. Although the skills necessary are very different than those in teaching, I know that the Lord "equips the called," so I am learning to trust Him for each task, and I can say that I find this work very soul-satisfying! The rest of John 4:34 is, "and to finish His work." At the end of my life I want to be able to say the same, that I have finished the Father's work for me. I trust you, too, are finding joy and satisfaction in finding and doing God's will for your life."

## Training to Use Facebook Effectively



Chris Brown, Director of techPartner, met with administrators and Regional Field Directors during the September BCP administrative meetings to help them understand how to creatively and effectively use the most

popular social media website to promote the need for and growth of church planting. With more people on Facebook than were alive 200 years ago (901 million!), Facebook can be leveraged to help get the word out about the many exciting things that BCP is doing. Chris demonstrated how to do a video blog, link articles, share content and point more people to BCP. You can 'friend' our administration and Regional Field Directors on Facebook and follow them as they faithfully serve BCP.

## Hispanic Believers Gather for Retreat

Hispanic believers attended a unique retreat on August 17-18 at the Iowa Regular Baptist Camp in Clear Lake, Iowa. As the retreat's planners and with expectations of less than 50 attendees, Herb Taylor, the Coordinator of Hispanic Ministries with BCP, and his wife, Wanda, were "thrilled with the response" from the Hispanic churches. "By the time the registration was finished that Friday evening," says Herb, "we had 109 total!" from five different churches in Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, and Texas!



The attendees were encouraged by a video greeting from David and Melissa Witcher (the former Coordinator of Hispanic Ministries with BCP) and by spiritually challenging messages from Mr. Chuck De Cleene of Faith Baptist Bible College. "If you do not read the Word, you won't grow in your spiritual life." (*Si usted no lee la Biblia usted no crecerá en su vida espiritual.*) There were great helpers who led in the children and teen sessions and provided special music. Everyone especially enjoyed the blessing of being able to fellowship with one another, even for a brief time, at the weekend retreat. Plans are being made for another Hispanic Retreat for August 16-17, 2013.

## JOY Club Revisions Nearing Completion

Karen Peck

It is with great excitement that we share with you that we are well on the way in the revision of our student handbooks. Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 are complete, and we are hoping to have grades 1 and 2 ready for the beginning of the fall 2013 club year. They are biblically-based with Scripture memorization, application, and Godly character-building for daily living. Each handbook clearly teaches God's wonderful plan of salvation and encourages boys and girls to make that decision. The books are colorful, grade level appropriate, filled with great graphics and affordable. If you don't have a children's ministry program or are not pleased with what you are using, I would be glad to send you an information packet or talk with you about the possibility of becoming a part of JOY Club.

You will find that it has a flexible format that will fit with specific needs, such as time frame, facility limitations, workers, and budget (there is no charter fee). We are thrilled with this Bible curriculum that we use from Bible Centered Ministries. They offer recently revised teachers' texts, as well as Resource CDs to those who want to use them. You can get in touch with me at [kpeck@bcpusa.org](mailto:kpeck@bcpusa.org) or call me at 440-748-1677. I am eager to hear from you.



## ChurchCare Construction Aids Church in Disaster Relief

Prayer meeting was underway inside the First Baptist Church of Memphis, NY. Snow had been falling for several days. As Pastor George preached that night, the ominous sound of creaking and groaning began high in the rafters of the church. There was a quick scramble to locate and evacuate all of the children and their teachers. No sooner had the entire congregation evacuated to the parking lot than the roof came crashing down under the weight of three feet of heavy, wet snow. Praise God, though a frightening experience, all were saved!



Today a thankful congregation watches as a new building takes shape just a few miles down the road. ChurchCare Construction has partnered with First Baptist to build a brand new 24,000 sq. foot worship center, educational wing and gymnasium.



Four of our builders, led by Brent Howard, are on site working to get the structure enclosed before winter. Windows are going in and exterior sheets of insulation are being installed. ChurchCare projects completion in the fall of 2013. This coming spring, a few builders will break off to begin our next project in Youngstown, Ohio.

We have been asking God for another builder to join the team. Praise God for the Weavers (see page 2)! Please pray that God will use them to bless many during the deputation process.

## James and Sharon Solomon

(626) 602-6035 | pamandfritz@aol.com

**Home Church:** Calvary Baptist Tabernacle, Gardena, CA



Jim and Sharon have been in ministry for many years, recently serving in Southern California. Throughout Jim's life, he has been burdened for West Virginia and has visited with BCP's Dr. Little about this burden. This year Jim and Sharon were approved

as church planters with BCP and will be moving from Southern California to West Virginia. They are in consultation with the Regular Baptist Fellowship of West Virginia regarding areas in need of a church plant. Jim and Sharon have two grown children.

## Tim and Susan Weaver

(704) 450-3336 | timweaver7979@gmail.com

**Home Church:** Eastside Baptist Church, Statesville, NC



Tim and Susan both grew up in Western New York. Susan came to Christ through the work of the Spirit of God, growing up in a God-fearing family. Tim was invited by a friend to Five Mile Baptist Church of Allegany, NY, where Susan attended, and after hearing the

gospel, he came to Christ. They married and started their family of four. Because of Tim's interest in racing, they moved to Statesville, NC, where Tim presently builds NASCAR race bodies. Over their years of serving in the local church, they have become increasingly more interested in using their abilities for the Lord's work. Tim and Susan have been approved as missionary builders with ChurchCare Construction, a subsidiary of BCP, and will join the building team as soon as possible.

## Tim and Nancy Gonzales

(304) 228-0441 | tim.gonzales@abc.edu

**Home Church:** Beckley Regular Baptist Church, Beckley, WV



Tim and Nancy were both saved from Catholic backgrounds. Tim was saved first, then he encouraged Nancy to come to Christ by faith alone. While Tim served in the Marines for eight years as a drill sergeant, the family attended church and grew in their walk

with the Lord. God directed them to attend Appalachian Bible College to prepare for ministry. Tim and Nancy have five children, three living at home. Presently, Tim is a missionary/pastor of a rescue work in Beckley, WV.

## Family Camp 2012



Since 2000, the Lord has given the BCP family

the opportunity to meet every three years at Faith Baptist Bible College in Ankeny, IA, for what we call "Family Camp." During this time, BCP missionaries from across the country come together to meet new missionaries, renew friendships, and be fed from God's Word. Dr. Kevin Bauder was our main speaker with groups from area churches and our own Chris and Amy Brown leading the children's programs. A great time of fellowship was enjoyed by all.



Service Pins were given to several missionaries at Family Camp. John and Willie Mae Williams received their 45 year pins. They have served nearly all of their ministry life in church planting. Dr. Williams' passion for church planting came

from one of his mentors, Merwin Burman, better known as MO Burman. We commend the Williams for their faithfulness.

## A Joyful Sense of Mission

Ginny Stratford



I do love good food! It is a source of "nourishment" for the soul. There is much satisfaction over a perfectly grilled steak or a piece of the bitterest dark chocolate! Perhaps this is why Jesus used food to describe the work that He was called to do. Jesus said, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." The ultimate source of joy and fulfillment is in following God's will. "Get your life's nourishment in your Lord's will," Pastor Patrick Odle said in our study of John 4:34. As we accomplish the intent of our Savior, it brings a sense of satisfaction greater even than sitting down to the most sumptuous meal. Doing His will should give us great joy! It does thrill my soul as I contemplate how the Lord has led in my life! His calling has led me to such wonderful opportunities for ministry! I have invested my life in young people as I taught in the elementary classroom for ten years in the US and in Brazil. Then the Lord led me to Faith Baptist Bible College, where I enjoyed serving on the faculty for eighteen years in the Christian School Department. Now the Lord has directed me to the ministry of Baptist Church Planters. Although the skills necessary are very different than those in teaching, I know that the Lord "equips the called," so I am learning to trust Him for each task, and I can say that I find this work very soul-satisfying! The rest of John 4:34 is, "and to finish His work." At the end of my life I want to be able to say the same, that I have finished the Father's work for me. I trust you, too, are finding joy and satisfaction in finding and doing God's will for your life."



36830 Royalton Road  
 Grafton, OH 44044  
 PH: 440.748.1677  
 FAX: 440.748-1837  
 Email: [bcp@bcpusa.org](mailto:bcp@bcpusa.org)  
 Web site: [www.bcpusa.org](http://www.bcpusa.org)

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 RANDOLPH, NY  
 PERMIT NO. 31

CHECK OUT  
 OUR WEBSITE!  
[www.bcpusa.org](http://www.bcpusa.org)  
 Follow us on  
[Facebook.com/BCPUSA](https://www.facebook.com/BCPUSA)

## BCP Missionary Intern: Zach Nunnally

Five Benefits of Interning in Camden, NJ, with BCP:

1. You get to minister under a godly church planter.
2. You get experience working in the inner-city with people who feel as if hope no longer exists.
3. You get to see children introduced to the Gospel and love them whether they receive Christ or not.
4. You get to see God transform your spirit of fear to a spirit of love for lost and broken people
5. You change your entire perspective on what being "missional" is really about.



Interning in Camden, NJ, was an experience I will never forget! The hurt and the pain seen in the people broke my heart but encouraged me to love them and be more compassionate. I no longer fear anything, but I do my best to focus on preaching the Gospel boldly and consistently so that all of the world may know who Christ really is.



**Thanks to all who gave to our spring campaign. The total amount of \$12,620 helped us meet special projects.**

**MEMORIAL GIFTS**   
*Since our last publication, gifts were given in memory of:*  
 Amy Phillips  
 Ken Pletcher  
 Ted Glann 