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Meeting America's  
Greatest Need

BCP  
A PUBLICATION OF  
BAPTIST CHURCH PLANTERS

Spring 2014

## From Seed Thought to Graduation

*Dr. Dave Little, President*



It all started in the heart of a pastor in Iowa City, IA. John Sauser, then pastor at Iowa City, saw a need in Williamsburg, IA, and began praying for the area. About thirty people were coming from the Williamsburg

area. Pastor Sauser and the church membership thought they would call a church planter, but God had other plans. God called Pastor and Mrs. Sauser to be the church planters. The mother church, Faith Baptist Church of Iowa City, called Pastor Waldron, and the membership voted to support the baby church with members and funds. Williamsburg Elementary School allowed the new group to meet there, and the church was off and running.

Year by year the baby grew. One by one, disciples were added to the membership. Little by little the funds accumulated to consider building. A member of the Iowa City church who owned land in Williamsburg donated a beautiful piece of property to the church where the present building is located. Continental Baptist builders came in 2005, and with many volunteers from area churches, constructed a beautiful worship edifice. All praise to God from Whom all blessings flow.

On November 13, 2013, the church graduated from mission status. Graduation takes place when a church meets the following requirements: they are legally organized; they have qualified deacons in place; they have a regular meeting place; they can call and support a pastor. Harvest Baptist will be taking the next step of calling a pastor as the Lord leads them in the days ahead.



The next step for the church may be the most perilous. Often churches struggle through the next step because many of the believers are new in the faith. They have only known one pastor and love him dearly. When the new pastor comes, immaturity can show itself. BUT we are confident in the spiritual leaders at Harvest who have been taught well and are stable in the faith. Pastor Sauser's favorite subject is the "glory of God." He has emphasized that the work of God is not for the glory of a man but for the glory of God Himself. He has pointed the people to God. We thank God for the graduation of Harvest Baptist Church and for Pastor and Mrs. Sauser.

The graduation celebration was divided into three parts. Sunday school included testimonies and a video of the church's history. It was "A Look at the Past." The morning service was a time of praise as the church family took "A Look at the Present." Bob Sauser, Regional Field Director for BCP, brought the morning message. A mixed ensemble of young people from the church provided special music, and a brass ensemble accompanied. Pastor Greg Gosnell, youth pastor from Faith Baptist Church of Mason City, Iowa, shared his testimony of salvation that came

about through the church's youth ministry. A fellowship meal was enjoyed by those who attended the day's festivities, and the afternoon service provided the opportunity for "A Look to the Future." Regional Field Director John Little, who was field director at the time the church was established, brought the charge to the church. The church orchestra, composed of 32 members and mainly young people, provided music for the afternoon service.



<sup>1</sup> The Holy Bible: King James Version. (2009). (Electronic Edition of the 1900 Authorized Version., Tt 2:7). Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

# BCP New Missionaries 2013



## Nathan and Stephanie Sharratt

**Sending church:** Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Smithville, OH

**Contact info:** 330.317.8484 • nsharratt1@yahoo.com

The Lord is great and greatly to be praised! At the age of six, the Lord drew Nathan to Himself, and he received Christ as his Savior. Being raised in a Christian home in Akron, OH, the Lord was preparing Nathan to serve Him through the Word and His Spirit, through education and many experiences and trials. Stephanie was born into a Catholic home. God, through the Gospel, opened the eyes of her family, and at the age of fourteen she accepted Christ as Lord and Savior. She attended Northland Baptist Bible College and graduated in 2001. In May, 2002, they were married and began serving the Lord in various church ministries as lay people. In 2013 Pleasant Hill Baptist Church sent the Sharratt's out as church planters with BCP. Their desire is to see the Lord grow His church and to see it maintained through the sufficiency of Scripture. They desire their six children and others to know Him mentally, spiritually, and experientially. They want others to be encouraged others as they visit local churches in preparation for serving where the Lord directs.



The Wood Family

## Chip and Karen Wood

**Sending church:** Harvest Baptist Church, Bath, NY

**Contact info:** 607.275.6170 • cwood@bcpusa.org

Chip and Karen both grew up in Christian homes in NY. Both accepted Christ as Savior at an early age and grew up serving in the local church in the area of music. Chip and Karen met at Baptist Bible College while serving on a music gospel team. They have been serving in full-time ministry together for twenty-four years, the last sixteen of which were at Lamoka Baptist Camp where Chip was the director. God gave them a very clear picture of the desperate need for youth to be discipled and encouraged toward godliness. The Woods cherish family time and have three children, Elizabeth, Johnathon and Katherine, who have actively served in the camp ministry as well as their local church. Chip and Karen have a simple desire to serve the Lord with their talents and abilities. They are currently on deputation with 23% of their support promised. They are looking forward to joining the mission as Director of JOY Clubs. They are passionate about helping the churches of America strengthen the foundation of today's youth.



## Carlos and Issa Vasquez

**Sending church:** Iglesia Biblica la Roca – Bautista Independiente, Hayward, CA

**Contact info:** 510.538.7470 • carlos.issa.vasquez@gmail.com

Born in El Salvador, Carlos believed on Christ as a twelve-year-old boy during a camp retreat. As a teen he fully surrendered to the Lord after a near death experience; he knew God had spared him to serve. Issa was saved when she was nineteen while attending the same Baptist church that Carlos was attending. Eagerly desiring to serve the Lord, they married in 1991. After working in El Salvador for over ten years, they came to the US and began serving in a Hispanic ministry in Burlingame, CA. In December 2009 they began to lead a Hispanic church plant. Until September of 2013, Iglesia Biblica la Roca – Bautista Independiente met in homes and used garages for the main meeting room. They are grateful for the provision of a spacious building with enough rooms and parking for the growing church. According to recent statistics, in March 2014 the Hispanic population will surpass the Anglo population in California. The need is great; the mission field has certainly come to America. Gracias a Dios por esta iglesia.



## Tim and Marsha Weeks

**Sending church:** Faith Baptist Tabernacle, Sherburne, NY

**Contact info:** 570.903.2757 • timandmarshaweeks77@gmail.com

Tim was born in Martinique to missionary parents and saved at age eleven. After baptism, Tim became involved in helping in the church plant. Through those experiences, he developed a love for teaching and preaching. He was challenged with serving as a missionary during his junior year of high school. Marsha was born on Long Island, NY, into a Christian family. She was saved and baptized at age eleven and committed her life to serve as a missionary as a sixteen-year-old. Tim and Marsha met at Baptist Bible College, and they served with ABWE in France for twenty years. Returning to the states, they served in the pastorate, on staff at BBC, and as a hospice chaplain before joining Baptist Church Planters. Tim serves now as lead church planter at Bible Baptist Church in New Milford, CT. The Weeks have six children and seven grandchildren.

Schedule Chris Brown to come do an internet protection workshop at your church and hear more about the ministry of techPartner.



# techPartner

Chris Brown, *director of techPartner*

[www.techpartner.org](http://www.techpartner.org)  
[chris@techpartner.org](mailto:chris@techpartner.org)



Chris Brown, director of techPartner, and daughter, Kara, helped facilitate the 2013 International Partners World Conference outside of Bangkok, Thailand. It was five days of recharge and refocus for many international leaders from around the world. There were believers from Brazil, Africa, India, Philippines, and many others. TechPartner came alongside Chris

equipment that was brought to use for the conference. What a joy to be able to empower different ministries with tools they could not afford but desperately needed and desired! This is such a serious responsibility, and it was very hard because there were MANY legitimate needs. TechPartner gave away three video projectors, two laptops, an iPad and many cables for use in ministries.

Chris targeted a young man who was asking several questions about ministry apps and tools that would help him reach people for Christ. He seemed like a great candidate, so late Thursday night Chris surprised Ebenezer Simon with the iPad. Ebenezer was immediately overwhelmed with gratitude and excitement to be able to have such a tool for ministry. They have connected on Facebook, and Chris continues to invest in and help him in ministry.



Hindal of GARBC International to help run all the technology for this special conference. They recorded each session for later viewing, ran all the projection for PowerPoint, controlled the sound system, as well as enabled the partners to be able to present their ministries using technology. It was many long hours to get there and return, but it was extremely worth the travel time and funds to accomplish this ministry trip. One of the biggest struggles (and joys) was figuring out who would receive the ministry

Pastor Prasad Sakile of the New Life Regular Baptist Society in Andhra Pradesh, India, received a Toshiba projector and laptop. Pastor Sakile will be using the laptop to translate Regular Baptist Press curriculum into the Telugu language and the projector to train Sunday school teachers how to use that material correctly. He has already trained more than 750 teachers with the material he has started to translate.



After meeting the leaders of the Bangladesh Association of Baptist Church, Chris knew this ministry would be the best and most effective fit for the one remaining projector. They had been praying about having a video projector to use to train leaders for strong

churches and preaching the good news of Jesus Christ.

November 2014 is Chris's next ministry trip to Manipur, India, where he will be doing the installation and training for video conferencing for the national Baptist church association in India. This will enable the future training of nationals in a cost-effective way as it can be done from the US.

**Please consider donating toward the \$5,000 (\$3,500 equipment and \$1,500 travel) needed for this trip.**



Another effective tool in our world today is the iPad. Chris had acquired a good working iPad that he set up with apps as well as added some funds to be able to use it for ministry. It has all the cables to be able to teach from as well as show videos and photos. During the conference

We need you to pray with us in regard to expanding our ministry team. We are

help us **EXPAND**

looking for volunteers as well as others to come alongside and JOIN us part-time or full-time and expand the techPartner team. We are looking for a ministry assistant who will be able to help with some administration of projects, promotion and tech support. We would like individuals to come along and raise their support through local churches' donations or individual support. We will be able to help them in this effort by providing accountability in ministry and oversight. If you are interested in serving with us in this area and feel called to serve the Lord in ministry, consider joining techPartner and expanding our team.

## WE HELP MINISTRIES WITH:

- DVD creation - encoding content, authoring DVD menu, label creation and printing
- DVD duplication (up to 500)
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- On-site Seminar recording (Multi Camera Live Switching)
- Promotional / testimonial video recording
- Studio video recording
- Video for web encoding and hosting
- Website creation / personalizing / hosting
- Domain registration tech support - transfers
- Internet filtering Support
- Tech coaching - support on systems, tools, software, network, etc..
- Live streaming
- Projection systems

# A Change in Plans That Brought a Change in Lives

BOB SAUSER – REGIONAL FIELD DIRECTOR

Much of our spare time during the summer of 2013 was filled with preparations for a road trip to the West coast to attend a family wedding. Since the trip was to occur in the fall, conversations with grandchildren and school teachers established a list of places that would coincide with their studies at school. However, two weeks before our departure in October, the government shutdown closed all of the national sites of historical interest on our list.

Obviously, we were very disappointed. But as the trip progressed, we realized the absence of these places of interest turned the spotlight on things of greater value. One of our destinations was a stop in Salem, Oregon, to celebrate Ed and Ruth Dean's seventieth wedding anniversary. The Deans had been mission-

aries with BCP, BMNA, and FBHM since September 1950. Their ministry has reached into nine churches, most of which are located in the northwest. After retirement, Ed and Ruth served in BCP's Apollos program, ministering to churches in need of assistance.

On the morning of our anticipated visit with the Deans, in our family devotions we spent time explaining to our family the ministry that Ed and Ruth had enjoyed for more than sixty years. They were modern day heroes who were faithful to the Lord through periods of great sacrifice as well as blessing. Their commitment to serve Christ was a heritage I wanted to lift up before our family.

Our arrival at the Dean's home was early on a Monday afternoon. Our time was spent reminiscing over their lives: how they met as a couple, Ed's time in the military, their first years with the Mission, the joys of their ministries, God's moments of blessing and their words of praise to Him. It was an opportunity for our family to have rehearsed for "the generation to come, the praises of the Lord, his strength and his wonderful work" (Psa. 78:4). After enjoying a

meal that we "ordered in" from a local restaurant, our two girls presented them with two crayon drawings to show their appreciation for this new relationship they had with this dear couple. These "masterpieces" are clearly displayed on their kitchen refrigerator. The time spent with them has made an indelible impression on our family.

Some four weeks later, I returned to Salem to participate in the memorial services for Ruth, whose service was held the day before their actual anniversary. How thankful I am that our family had the opportunity to "create a memory" by celebrating this special event in their lives! Ed and Ruth have made a lasting impression on the girls – they still send "masterpieces" to stay in contact. Subsequent conversations with Ed have included inquiries about how the girls are doing. A change in our travel plans brought about a change in our lives that will have an impact on our spiritual heritage.



## Outreach And In-Reach For Community Regular Baptist Church In Bussey, Iowa

PASTOR BRAD HANSEN



- The community saw us glorifying God as a dozen friends from First Baptist Church in Creston, IA, came and put a new roof and siding on the old garage behind the church.
- A building committee was formed in November to work on plans for the first addition to the church building.
- The new outdoor sign has been installed.
- Over half the church helped in the Christmas play.
- The members are examining their own relationships with Jesus. Are we walking closely enough to Him that we have the "mind of Christ"?

# Happy Birthday, ChurchCare!

March 2014 marks the tenth anniversary of ChurchCare. Ten years ago Baptist Church Planters voted to establish ChurchCare. David Whipple was appointed as the chairman of a four man board. The board was tasked to establish a new 501c3 non-profit corporation. The initial challenge to the board was to “**Minister to Churches in Need.**” The immediate opportunity presented to ChurchCare was the Closure Ministry. Recent statistics indicate that 4000 churches close each year. The reasons are being debated by leaders across the country. Our own evangelical churches are closing as well. ChurchCare manages closing churches to preserve their assets and redirect the assets back into planting new churches. Over the last ten years ChurchCare has ministered to dozens of churches and formally helped sixteen churches close. The sixteen churches provided over two million dollars which were distributed back to church planting and other missionary projects. **The closing of one church may be the beginning of many churches.** A second primary service provided by ChurchCare is the Revolving Loan Fund. ChurchCare has loaned several hundred thousand dollars to Baptist Church Planters missionaries for new buildings and land. A portion of the assets from church closures are designated for loans to new church plants. New church plants need flexible terms to overcome the hurdles of establishing financial credibility. **ChurchCare can help churches that close continue their legacy by starting new churches.** The third major pillar of ministries provided by ChurchCare services became a reality in September of 2010. The former Baptist Missionary Builders Mission Agency voted to merge with ChurchCare. Five missionary families from BMB and four former board members were approved as missionaries and board members with ChurchCare. Since that time ChurchCare Construction has completed projects previously started by BMB and completed several new projects. Howard Fraser was appointed as Director of Construction. Howard owns his own excavation business and provides valuable leadership experience. God has directed another family to join our ranks as builders. Tim and Susan Weaver have sold their business and home and are scheduling meetings to share their ministry with potential supporters. Come and visit [www.churchcare.org](http://www.churchcare.org) and **see how ChurchCare can help your church.**



## ChurchCare CONSTRUCTION

Today a thankful congregation is enjoying a new building in Memphis, NY. ChurchCare Construction, a subsidiary of Baptist Church Planters, partnered with First Baptist Church to build a brand new 24,000 sq. foot worship center, educational wing and gymnasium.

The church held their open house and dedication services the weekend of November 9th. The Sunday services focused on members dedicating themselves to serving God in their new location and was followed by a dedication of the use of the new building to the Lord. Builders Brent and Michele Howard, Ron and Sandra Cornell, Martin and Lucille Eaton and Dale and Colleen Murphy were on this job for almost a year. The day following the dedication at First Baptist Church the Howards headed to New Milford, CT, with the Cornells to work on a roofing project for that week. They were able to replace three sections of the roof of Bible Baptist Church.



The members of Boardman Baptist Church in Youngstown, OH, are realizing a dream. The expansion of the sanctuary will seat 260. The addition also provides handicap-accessible restrooms, offices, and a choir room. For twelve years the congregation has faithfully contributed a total of \$600,000 to the Joash fund. Martin and Lucille Eaton along with Dale and Colleen Murphy are the missionary builders working on this project. Martin has participated in approximately 60 projects, and at the age of 74 claims that this will be the last project he will lead. Dale will move on to work on a new building for his home church, Calvary Baptist in Preble, NY. None of these projects would be completed without volunteer workers. The home churches, as well as other churches and individuals, come and give their time and talents to see the buildings completed.

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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)

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# Leadership Summit 2014

In March 2014 many of our church planters and builders will be arriving at the service center in Grafton, Ohio, for what we call a **Leadership Summit**. We are asking them to “come apart for a while” and be refreshed and informed. Dr. Kevin Bauder, Professor of Systematic Theology at Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Minneapolis, will be bringing them up to speed on theological trends. Dr. Alan Brown, Pastor of Parsippany Baptist Church in Parsippany, NJ, will be our devotional speaker and will also address the translation issue. Dr. Michael Hajj, Director of Arabic Bible Outreach, will encourage them in how to reach out to Muslims with the Gospel. Regional Field Director Tom Farlow will be teaching on “group decision-making.” Other administrators will be involved also. In addition to teaching, there will be plenty of time for prayer, fellowship and reflection. From our Memorial Fund each missionary attending will receive funds for new books. We are anticipating a great time with the church planters. If you support a church planter, check to see if they have the necessary funds to attend. They may need assistance for travel and lodging. Thank you for your support.

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

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

- Bill Peck**
- Judith Helmick**
- Reva Phillips**
- Ruth Dean**

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

