

# connect

Meeting America's  
Greatest Need

BCP  
A PUBLICATION OF  
BAPTIST CHURCH PLANTERS

Spring 2019



## Generous Gifts and Grace *Stephen P. Little, President*

God has blessed Baptist Church Planters financially over the past few years, and we praise the Lord for it. This past fall we sent out a campaign letter to all of our partners so that we could finish the year in the black. Praise the Lord we ended the year with about \$25,000 over expenses for 2018. On top of that, our administration and staff came under budget on expenditures! **Would you praise God with us?** Let's put the \$25,000 into perspective. That is only 0.66 % of BCP's operating budget. It means God provided for all that we wanted to do! That is a big deal! This means we are able to start the new year with a balance in the checkbook for operating expenses for 2019. That does not seem like much, but when you add it to the good year of 2017 which gave us the ability to start 2018 with approximately \$50,000 in the checkbook, it shows a trajectory that God is blessing the ministry of BCP.

This wonderful conclusion to the fiscal year means we are not prohibited financially from doing all that God puts in our path. It means we are making investments to help missionaries, sending churches, church revitalization ministries and local churches to succeed in Great Commission work. If we see God opening a door of opportunity to help a missionary or church, our administration knows we should move in that direction to help in any way we can. We many times pray that God would astound us with His power to move His people to meet America's greatest need. I have a saying, "God does not do fund raising – He does people raising!" He continues to astound us over and over as He moves in the lives of His people to pursue what He is doing. We love showing up where God is working! Everything we wanted to do in

2018 we did because God provided through your partnership.

Our goal at BCP has never been to have enough reserve so we can feel secure. We are driven by the needs and desires of sending churches, their missionaries, churches in need of revitalization and churches desiring to make disciples, train leaders and prepare another generation to impact the world with the gospel. I believe wise investments for the development of missionaries and churches to impact our world with the gospel will be rewarded by our Lord. Don't get me wrong. We have reserve, but it is a purposeful reserve set aside by our Council, such as three months of emergency reserve in case of a national catastrophe, reserves for projects in church plants, building projects and investments with residual returns for operational budgets.

I am reminded of 2 Corinthians 8:20-21, "We take this course so that no one should blame us about this generous gift that is being administered by us, for we aim at what is honorable not only in the Lord's sight but also in the sight of man." We, like Paul, praise God for your generosity! We seek to be wise stewards of what God has provided, seeking always to do what is honorable in God's sight and yours in how we minister. I encourage you to continue to partner with BCP or join us for the first time in 2019. Many years ago Dr. Floyd Barackman said to me, "Jesus is only doing one major project on planet Earth during this dispensation. He is building His Church quantitatively and qualitatively." We have vision, accountability and a strong desire to see where the Lord Jesus is working and head in that direction! Will you join the team?

# Calling All Mentors!

Chip Wood, Director of BCP Youth Ministry



God has made children curious learners who take in an extraordinary amount of information from every direction. What they discover, right or wrong, forms the pattern by which they see the world and pursue and live out their personal faith. Home, church and school are contexts in which adults should be guiding that discovery by drawing each child close and leading him or her to see God in every aspect of life. This is how children find their God-ordained place and purpose for living their lives for Him. This is discipleship.

Discipling anyone, especially a young person, demands a one-on-one intentional mentor relationship which God designed the parent-child relationship to fulfill. From Deuteronomy 6:7 we realize that God has told parents to diligently teach the Word to their children while they sit in their houses, when they walk by the way, when they relax, and when they get up. That covers every aspect of life. Similarly, Matthew 28:19- 20

gives the Church the directive to make disciples who observe all that is written in the Word.

Those school and church teachers to whom parents delegate some authority for training their children must strive to continue that individualized discipleship when possible.

Discipleship today, though, has shifted from an individual to a group setting. Teaching the group has a place. Jesus taught large crowds

of people, but He also walked side by side with the twelve Apostles every day, enabling private conversations along the way, leading by example and giving them opportunities to serve. Group conversations are good to scatter information, but truth application to the heart comes when a young person has personal guidance. This takes intentionality on the part of the adults around them. Parents and teachers must teach more than the “stories” of the Bible to train how to live truth in everyday life. Parents and teachers must engage young people in service opportunities in order for them to explore their own individual strengths and interests and put to use the teaching they have received.

Children who are discovering truth primarily with the group may suffer the “collective consequence”: they may be unable to “connect the dots” and may actually create their own truth about God and serving Him. We may be teaching the group information, but are we training the individual the way God intended and are we engaging in service side by side? When each child has a mentor, discipleship happens at the pace of the learner with the appropriate encouragement to keep moving forward. When we teach only to the group, interest in spiritual things may wane for lack of understanding, or worse, youth may abandon truth for the world who is all too willing to teach them. We are called to make disciples. Parents and teachers must be intentional and individualized in their approach to discipling children so that this next generation of believers will be able to stand, rooted and growing in the Word, strong in their faith and convictions, and prepared to serve Him with their whole hearts!



## Meet Dale and Marie Moore



Many things could be said of this couple, but these four come to mind immediately. First, they

love the Lord Jesus. Second, they love each other. Third, they love people. Last, they love to serve the Lord and minister to people. They exemplify the BCP S.A.L.T. which stands for “Senior Adults Living Triumphantly.”

Dale and Marie were only fifteen and seventeen when they met. Two years later on May 11, 1958, they were married. On the night before their wedding, someone cruelly told them, “It won’t last.” Was that person ever wrong, as their sixty years of marriage proves!

A few years after they were married an invitation came to them from one of Dale’s co-workers. He wanted them to come to his church. On July 15, 1962, after attending only two Sundays previous to this, Dale sobbed out loud and went forward to trust Christ. An elderly lady who was seated behind them leaned forward and said to Marie, “If you want to go, too, I’ll watch your children.” So Marie was saved that morning as well.

Immediately the Lord placed within their hearts the desire to serve the Lord well ahead of completing their Bible college training. Even as Dale studied and Marie took classes as well, they had a heart for hospitality and entertained and encouraged many married students. Following graduation, the Moores served for

over seven years in Elimsport, PA. The next place of ministry took them to the First Baptist Church of Randolph, NY, where they would minister for over thirteen years. In 2003 they joined Baptist Church Planters where they willingly went literally from Florida to Maine and several places in between. Today Dale still speaks in morning chapels and Marie takes care of the Maranatha Village in-house TV channel and prayer alerts. When anyone thinks of the Moores, Psalm 100:2 comes to mind. “Serve the Lord with gladness” is being lived out even in retirement years for them.



# FROM THE FIELD



A key word for Jim and Janice Mitchell in 2018 was **'transition.'** In March, they moved from California to Fort Collins, CO, to a young church plant (Gospel Life Church) going through their own **transition** as the founding pastor had left. Although close to thirty people decided to move on as a result of the change, a solid core of people have committed to the work, and there is a good sense of ownership and anticipation now with an average attendance in the high 30's. **Transition** also included



the Mitchell's moving into a rental and having church in a school. Relationship-building has also been a **transition** for the Mitchells since the California church was primarily older folks, and this church is mostly families in their 20's and 30's. God has directed new people their way, and the church has made efforts to reach out to the community through direct mailings, door hangers, online advertising and evangelistic activities. Jim writes, "We are grateful for God's grace through all this **transition** and are looking forward to a new year of serving the Lord and moving forward. We live in an area where housing developments are going up all over. There is certainly an increasing need for this church, and we believe God is going to use our efforts in ways we aren't even aware of yet. We need you to pray specifically for our church to live by faith, trusting God for everything. Also, please pray that we will learn what Paul means when he says, 'I have made myself a slave to everyone in order to win more people.' Pray that our ministry would be more than words, exhibiting the power of God. We certainly want to see people coming to Christ."

*Read more at [bcpusa.org](http://bcpusa.org).*



**Jim and Sharon Solomon** arrived in Fairmont, WV, to serve Galilean Baptist Church in August of 2014. It was like coming home for them as Jim has family roots there. Jim and Sharon "like a good challenge," and they certainly have had many as they work to rebuild the church as well as rebuild a house! Through it all they have seen God's mighty hand at work. With the addition of faithful deacons, the start of children's, ladies' and men's ministries, Galilean has seen good growth numerically and spiritually. Through community outreaches and opportunities to minister such as outdoor movie nights, luncheons, sending kids to camp, speaking in funerals and even being involved in collecting signatures to defeat a Human Rights ordinance, the Lord has brought many visitors, especially young people, to Galilean. The Solomons continue to pray for church growth through salvations, more children, physical health and spiritual growth for everyone. A new prayer request is for the timing and success of needed surgery for two hernias for Jim. *Read more at [bcpusa.org](http://bcpusa.org).*



**Ken and Joyce Miller** have retired after 43 years of active church planting ministry. Ken and Joyce joined BCP in 2011, after serving as pastor or associate pastor in Mt. Pleasant, PA; Washington, PA; Shamokin, PA; Warsaw, NY; and Caledonia, NY. At the time of joining BCP, Ken was interim pastor at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Hamlin, NY. During their eight years serving this congregation, the Lord used the Millers to restore the unity and spirit of the church.



# Teacher Journey Training

Facilitating the  
Church to carry  
out 2 Timothy 2:2  
- training teachers  
to disciple

BCP can provide training and support for your teachers in their discipleship efforts with young people. Their training begins with an intense weekend retreat right at your church. Then we meet online for over a year to continue the training. Teachers will be challenged to do more than simply impart information in lessons. They will develop skills to intentionally lead their students toward Christlikeness. These trained teachers then can replicate this process with others in the church. Contact BCP to help you equip your teachers to be intentional disciplers!

ChurchCare missionary builders, Brent and Michele Howard and Ron and Sandy Cornell, and short-term missionary, Jimmy Stevenson, completed approximately 6000 square feet of new building and renovations at Dryden Baptist Church in Dryden, NY. The new fellowship hall, kitchen, restrooms and classrooms were completed in December.

Pray for the ChurchCare team as they move to Millbury, MA, to work with a BCP church planter, Roy Kinney, to remodel their building.



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Patrick Odle, Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church of Elyria, OH

# Priorities of a Servant-Sending Church **PART III**

God wants local churches to train and equip servants of the Lord. It is the local church's responsibility to send those who have been called by God to serve in vocational ministry. Agencies don't disciple and send missionaries; they assist local churches who ultimately are responsible to

do so. Spiritually vibrant and Biblically purposeful churches will disciple, recognize and send out called servants of the Lord.

Unfortunately, the trend in our circles is that fewer people are following God's call to the ministry. This trend is alarming! The tendency might be to assume that the problem lies with Bible colleges, seminaries and mission agencies. Biblically speaking, the responsibility lies with churches that have failed to fulfill their responsibility to recognize, train and send servants to different ministries.

If your church wants to be used by God to send people out to fulfill the Great Commission, what must be of utmost importance? What are the priorities of healthy servant-sending churches that lead them to embrace and fulfill their responsibilities?

In prior Connects, the first four priorities were laid out. To read them in their entirety, please visit [bcpusa.org/priorities](http://bcpusa.org/priorities). Following is a summary of those first four priorities and the next priority.

*A servant-sending church is committed to . . .*

## Priority #1 **Balancing Biblical Evangelism**

A church that doesn't take the Gospel across the street won't produce people who will take the Gospel around the world (Acts 1:8).

## Priority #2 **Training Rather than Entertaining**

A servant-sending church is all about equipping the saints to do the work of the ministry (Ephesians 4).

## Priority #3 **Praying for Harvest Laborers**

They are consistently, passionately, and intentionally praying for more harvest laborers (Matthew 9:36-38).

## Priority #4 **Surrendering to the Will of God**

Biblical surrender is preached from the pulpit, emphasized as a priority and practiced by those in the pew (Romans 12:1, 2).

## Priority #5 **Raising Children for God's Purposes**

Psalms 127:3 says, "Behold children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward." What is a heritage? A heritage is something you receive from someone else. Woodrow Kroll writes, "A heritage is this - they are on loan to us from the bank of heaven." Our children are on loan to us. They are ultimately God's children not ours. They may have Daddy's eyes, and they may have Mommy's personality, but they belong to Him. One of the challenges we face as parents in materialistic, affluent America is rearing our children with God's purpose in mind instead of with our purpose in mind. **Sadly, for many parents the American dream can supplant the will of God.** For many parents, the American dream translates into wanting your children to have it better than you had it. Consequently, parents want their kids to get a better education, make a better living and live a more comfortable life. The problem with this way of thinking is that the will of God in their children's lives is given little consideration. Pursuing God's will ought to be the primary focus of Christian parenting.

A camp leader was in the habit of interviewing teenagers who attended his camp. All summer long he interviewed hundreds of teenagers, asking, "If you could be anything you want to be, what would it be?" One said that he would like to be a youth pastor, three said that they would like to be a missionary, and none said that they would like to be a pastor. When asked, it was discovered that 81% of the campers came from homes where both mom and dad were born again believers! The camp leader concluded, "This tells me that Christian parents, in their quest to have financial security in life, have held up all of those secular options. Very few are holding up service to the Lord as an option. In my opinion, kids are not being urged to serve the Lord in full-time ministry." I think he is spot on. **One of the biggest obstacles to our young people pursuing ministry is their own Christian parents!** Rather than their primary aspiration for their children being to serve God and find God's will, teens are pushed toward material success. God does not call everyone to be a missionary or a pastor, but you would hope that Christian parents would desire and pray that He would call one or more of their children! This issue should cause Christian parents to ponder some vital and personal questions. What are your aspirations for your kids? To get the best job possible or to serve the Lord wherever possible? Are you praying that God would call them into ministry? Are you encouraging them to consider it? Remember, they are simply on loan from God. Servant-sending churches are full of Godly families and individuals who purposefully strive together to rear children for God's purposes and not their own.



**Tom Loper** – church planter and councilman, field director, representative and assistant to president – September 27, 2018

**Gale Smith** – Hispanic church planter in CA – February 8, 2019

**Dorothy Ritchie** – church planter with husband, Wayne – February 14, 2019



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# Everyone has a *hand* in church revitalization!

No matter where your church is in its life cycle, there is a role to be played in church revitalization. Join us in the discussion of the work to which we all must be committed. It takes all of us banding together, serving our Lord as He builds His Church one life at a time.



*Join us at one of these upcoming state conferences to discuss your part in church revitalization.*

Photo by Randy Fath on Unsplash

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

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

**Thomas Loper • Paul Whipple  
 Dale Morrow • Carol Greskowiak**

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

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