

**Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware  
2009 Annual  
Strategy Teams Report**

**CHURCH MULTIPLICATION**

**Team Leader** – David Jackson, 410-977-9867, [djackson@bcmd.org](mailto:djackson@bcmd.org)

In a nutshell, our year in church multiplication is going very well. In fact, we are on track to have our best year since 2006 and possibly since 2004. At the end of the second quarter (July), we saw 21 new works begun within our convention (nineteen church plants and two multisite satellite locations). These include African, Anglo-American, Asian Indian, Burmese, Filipino, Haitian, Hispanic, Korean and Vietnamese plants. They are located in seven of our associations to date.

In addition, we have already approved and are prepared to see at least 10 other new works take place this year: eight more church plants, one more multisite and one restart. These are just the ones we are currently aware of (as of mid-August)! For the record, only three of these so far this year are the result of the EMBRACE Baltimore effort. This should be encouraging to all of us; God continues to enable us to plant churches effectively across our convention, even during this time of focused activity in Baltimore.

We recently added more online training videos in church planting and new church development (three more in English and three more in Spanish). The videos from our church multiplication staff have been viewed over 1,000 times to date. More video and webinar trainings are planned as we engage the future of church planting.

In July the North American Mission Board recognized the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware with an award as the state convention that is “First in Enlistment.” Some of the reasons for this recognition include our efforts in assessment, indigenous recruitment, online training and a language training center, the book *PlantLIFE*, social media and the responsiveness of so many planters to the opportunities for service here at this time. We want to acknowledge *BaptistLIFE*, Dr. Lee and our General Mission Board and the churches these people represent for creating a climate that facilitates effective church planting here in the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware.

**CHURCH SERVICES**

**Team Leader** – Bob Simpson, 443-829-7176, [bsimpson@bcmd.org](mailto:bsimpson@bcmd.org)

The past year has been as challenging a year for our Strategy Team as it has been for all of us. Church Services Strategy Team (CSST) has studied, researched, and worked hard at enhancing the partnership between Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware (BCM/D) churches and the CSST. Our team members include church staff, lay people, DOMs, and state staff. In the

months ahead we aim to increase our availability to churches for assistance and encouragement in Kingdom Ministry efforts.

In July 2009 we offered our annual Horizons Conference: a two-day gathering at Skycroft Conference Center with training and help for all BCM/D church ministries and their leaders. Horizons is a collaborative effort between our team and various ministry leaders from around the country. This year there were 122 in attendance; over 30 churches represented coming from 10 of our associations. The theme for 2009 was “Navigating the Future.” We feel this accurately represents our desire to work with you as we all sail into the future.

## **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT TEAM**

**Team Leader** – Randy Millwood, 443-878-4587, [rmillwood@bcmcmd.org](mailto:rmillwood@bcmcmd.org)

During the last meeting of the General Mission Board (GMB), the Leadership Development and Support Team (LDSTeam) shared our desire to focus our reports by sharing with you how the events, strategies, and initiatives of the team are touching lives in the churches that *are* the BCM/D. Last quarter we surveyed a number of those initiatives. We want to invite you to join us in praising God as we focus on just two of those initiatives in our report this quarter!

### **Evaluation**

While we always seek to listen to God during planning and funding stages, it has long been our goal to provide a means of *listening* to our constituents in regards to the degree to which such efforts accomplish mission. Toward that end, we have diligently worked with a research partner (Dr. Robert Mathis, statistics professor of SWBTS) in developing a system of evaluation that protects anonymity; honors the *Charter Statement\** of the team; and is reliable, valid, and valuable.

Many of you have received the first round of the finished survey by this time (initial emails are going out *this week*). As a team, we want to ask you to invest the **152 seconds or less** that it takes to complete the evaluation, and click send! This first round is providing a baseline for future measurement. After the data is collected, collated and reported, the team will send random surveys out to our constituents 2 times a year. Each survey will not only show us *where we are*, it will show us *how we are tracking* along the journey toward turning mission into reality.

### **Ministry Teams**

Many of our churches have moved or are moving toward a *ministry team* model (either blended with committees or in lieu of committees). As the change has taken place, first in language then in structure, churches are finding that *ministry teams* are not, in and of themselves, magical answers to reoccurring questions.

The LDSTeam has partnered with The Next Level Leadership Network (a sub-group of the North American Mission Board) to certify local, indigenous facilitators in a comprehensive *ministry teams* strengthening model called *Building Powerful Ministry Teams*. Sometimes the

material is used in coaching conversations, other times an element of the module is used in mini-training events. However, it is best used in a more holistic experience (1, 1.5, 2 day workshop).

A great example of that use comes from the Riva Trace Baptist Church, which recently hosted an equipping experience, involving all of their pastoral team, their ministry and support staff, and the key ministry champions of ministry teams in their Church. Almost 40 people participated, *very many of them taking an entire day out of work* to be equipped to strengthen their team. Here are some of the ways that event was evaluated by those participants:

- *“Wish it was longer; one of the best if not the best seminar I’ve ever been to”*
- *“Excellent! I gained a great deal of insight into team building and involvement”*
- *“What a great compliment to our ministry year kick-off, so empowering”*
- *“I just wish we had more time for teams to discuss these issues further” [they did the 1-day]*
- *“Lots of ‘take ways’”*

Thank you (GMB) for allowing us (LDSTeam) to serve our churches in this way.

## **ACTS 1:8 MISSIONS INVOLVEMENT**

**Team Leader** – Ellen Udovich, 443-250-2555, [eudovich@bcmd.org](mailto:eudovich@bcmd.org)

Every day there are more and more challenges to face as we seek to reach a world for Christ and engage as many churches as possible in the Great Commission. The current economy has forced us to look at new ways to do missions and new ways to educate others about missions. Nevertheless, this summer has been a time of seeing God work in and through the lives of children and adults all across our region.

Here are a few highlights from the summer:

- In June, our BCM/D Baptist Campus Ministries sent out **13 college students** who served as **summer missionaries** in Brazil, Malawi, Tennessee, Ocean City, Israel, New York and Indonesia.
- Local churches and associations served as hosts and supervisors to **35 summer missionaries** who were sent by Baptist Campus Ministries across the country to serve with us in Maryland/Delaware. These high school and college students served throughout our region for ten weeks, assisting churches with their local evangelism strategies.
- In July girls from 28 churches attended **Girls’ Camp** at Camp Wo-Me-To. The girls heard from missionaries from Africa, Thailand and Maryland. Each night they attended worship services and learned skills in sharing Christ with their friends. **Thirteen girls made a profession of faith and four were called to missions.**

- During the **Skycroft Horizons** conference, our team equipped lay leaders for ministry by facilitating learning tracks for men's ministry, servant evangelism, partnership missions, and ministry skills for women.
- In August we had **Boys' Camp**, with 14 BCM/D churches sending 42 boys and 27 counselors for a total of 69 campers.
- Seven churches sent volunteers to be equipped in **English as a Second Language** ministry through our semi-annual teacher training workshop held at FBC Laurel.
- Henry Blackaby, Greg Frizzell and several other prayer leaders were used by God to bless our churches during the **Broken Before the Throne Prayer Conference** held at Virginia Avenue Baptist Church in Hagerstown in August. Once again, the primary focus of the conference was actual prayer, not just talking about prayer.
- Freddy and Gayla Parker travelled to the **Philippines** with others from Maryland/Delaware for the purpose of **exploring a potential missions partnership** to support the ministry work taking place there. Joining the MD/DE group was Wanda Lee, the Executive Director of the national WMU, who is particularly interested in finding ways that Southern Baptist women in America can address the issues of human trafficking, a very serious and growing issue in Asia.
- At the end of August, George Blevins, BCM/D Disaster Relief coordinator, delivered 71 in-home care kits made by our churches to the International Mission Board in Richmond, Virginia. These kits, packed into five-gallon buckets, will be shipped to Sub-Saharan Africa where they will be distributed by Baptist Global Response to meet the needs of AIDS patients being cared for in their homes.

#### **Coming soon:**

- After much prayer, the first **Christian Women's Job Corp training** to be held in Maryland will take place in Baltimore later this month. This training will equip local leaders to establish a CWJC ministry site in a low-income neighborhood near the Inner Harbor. CWJC is a national ministry initiative that gives women a hand-up instead of a handout by providing job skills training, budgeting, literacy programs, one-on-one mentoring, Bible study and more.
- Thanks to your State Mission Offering gifts, the new **Disaster Relief Crisis Care trailer** is almost ready to roll. This mobile counseling center will be used by trained Disaster Relief chaplains responding to disasters, but will also be available for community ministry throughout the year.

#### **Upcoming events:**

September 19 Pinewood Derby and Field Day for boys (Bethel Baptist Church)  
 September 25-26 Breathless, a ministry equipping event for women (Faith Baptist Church)  
 November 6-7 Disaster Relief multi-unit training (FBC Upper Marlboro)



Three generations deliver the in-home care kit made by First Baptist Church of Mt. Rainier.



The new Disaster Relief Crisis Care trailer



Mr. Frank Mack of the IMB shows off his Colts and Orioles gear.



Boys' Camp at Camp Wo-Me-To

## RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

**Team Leader** – Tom Stolle, 443-250-2554, [tstolle@bcmd.org](mailto:tstolle@bcmd.org)

The Resource Development Team continues to focus on a strategy of Cooperative Program and Planned Giving promotion.

1. **Cooperative Program (CP) Promotion**—The Cooperative Program is still our major source of funding Baptist work. For the eight months ended August 31, 2009, total Cooperative Program receipts of \$2,966,737 trailed total giving for the eight months ended August 31, 2008 by \$104,064 or 3.4%. The approved 2009 budget includes expected Cooperative Program receipts of \$4,600,000.

It is imperative that we continue to educate our churches about the value and purpose of the Cooperative Program. A promotional mailing was done in March with more than 10,000 pieces of promotional literature sent out to requesting churches. Another promotional mailing will be sent in September.

2. **Planned Giving**—Alternative methods for planned giving are being presented, with the goal being expansion of the program resulting in more committed dollars to Baptist

causes. In partnership with the Baptist Foundation of Maryland/Delaware, multiple seminar offerings were advertised in *BaptistLIFE* in a continuing effort to reach out to our churches, emphasizing the need to increase future committed dollars to Baptist causes.

Our current planned giving consultant, Conrad Burch, has expressed that he is interested in moving away from a planned giving emphasis in his ministry to focus more on serving local churches in an interim pastor capacity. A search is underway for Conrad's eventual replacement.

### **The Current Year and Beyond**

Education continues to be a focal point with a variety of seminars offered. Financial stewardship seminars continue to be made available to our churches, presenting biblical principles for giving and money management. Multiple churches have participated in minister's tax training seminars. Seminars providing helpful information to church treasurers concerning establishing and maintaining a system of internal controls to better safeguard church assets are available. A seminar centering on how to prepare a church budget was presented at the Horizons Conference in July.

Our team is:

1. Exploring and implementing methods of promoting Cooperative Program to include not only printed material but also electronic media to include video. Both photos and video are being gathered to help "tell the story" on our website.
2. Continue to provide high quality education to our churches to include minister's tax training, stewardship seminars, budget preparation, and other targeted training to benefit our churches.