

ACCELERATE

BAPTIST RESOURCE NETWORK OF PA/SJ

Annual Business Session & Gathering, October 3, 2023

GROW



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Pennsylvania/South Jersey

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ACCELERATE

BAPTIST RESOURCE NETWORK OF PA/SJ

**53rd Annual Meeting of the
Baptist Resource Network of PA/SJ**

SHERATON HARRISBURG HERSHEY HOTEL
4650 Lindle Road, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

“I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another” (John 13:34 CSB).



**Baptist Resource Network
Pennsylvania/South Jersey**



ACCELERATING KINGDOM MOVEMENT

OCTOBER 3, 2023

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ACCELERATE

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BAPTIST RESOURCE NETWORK

4620 Fritchey Street
Harrisburg, PA 17109
(717) 652-5856
helpdesk@brnunited.org
www.brnunited.org

BARRY WHITWORTH.....Executive Director

SHANNON BAKER..... Editor/Director of
Communications

ELIZABETH BENGE.....Executive Assistant to
Dr. Barry Whitworth

MACALA MAYS..... Associate Editor

LAUREL GRIMES..... Communications
Specialist

ANDY WEBER..... Director of Finance and
Operations

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Communicators Association, and the
Evangelical Press Association.

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**Just a reminder about
our new annual meeting format:**

You'll notice we started the day with our business session,
so you can enjoy an uninterrupted conference experience.

WELCOME

Hello, BRN Family! We're so glad that you've come to Harrisburg for our third annual Accelerate Conference.

At the Baptist Resource Network of Pennsylvania/South Jersey, we are aware of the 14 million people in our region who do not yet have a saving faith in Jesus Christ. Moreover, vital statistics indicate that every 4.2 minutes, one person in PA/SJ dies and enters an eternity without Jesus. Scripture tells us to *"love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another"* (John 13:34 CSB).

In our region, we envision all 300+ of our Southern Baptist churches deeply loving their communities. We envision families, neighborhoods, and churches full of vitality and health. We envision more and more people calling upon the name of Jesus. In short, we envision churches accelerating Kingdom movement.

At this year's conference, we are going to unpack "GROW," the third of three phases of the #LovePASJ initiative, whose goal is to accelerate Kingdom movement by equipping churches to focus on intentional discipleship and leadership development. We believe it's more important than ever to #LovePASJ and to follow His command to love our neighbors.

We are excited to welcome Jeff Christopherson, executive director of the Canadian National Baptist Convention and of Church Planting Canada. He also is co-founder and missiologist for the Church Multiplication Institute at Wheaton College's Billy Graham Center. Jeff is the author of "Once You See: Seven Temptations of the Western Church: A Novel," which drives readers to reflect on how God might be calling them to a richer, more fulfilling life, leadership, and ministry. He and our breakout speakers will examine these temptations during the Accelerate Conference. Every conference attendee will receive a copy of this book.

We are also thankful for Christian recording artists, Jermaine Dolly, who also serves as worship leader at Ezekiel Baptist Church in Philadelphia, and NAMB "musicianaries," Eric and Anissa Haney of Haney Love, who will lead us into worship, and for our breakout speakers, who wonderfully represent our BRN family. We will also host a BRN Family Celebration at the close of today's conference. We will celebrate various churches from across the network during this special banquet.

I earnestly pray this conference will encourage our churches (*members and pastors!*) to accelerate Kingdom movement in Pennsylvania/South Jersey and beyond.

Your Missionary to PA/SJ,



DR. BARRY WHITWORTH

*Executive Director,
Baptist Resource Network*

FACILITIES

SHERATON HARRISBURG HERSHEY HOTEL

4650 Lindle Road
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

REGISTRATION

Registration is located in the in the assembly area on the map. You must stop by registration, even if you pre-registered online, so that we can provide you with a meeting information packet and a name badge.

COFFEE

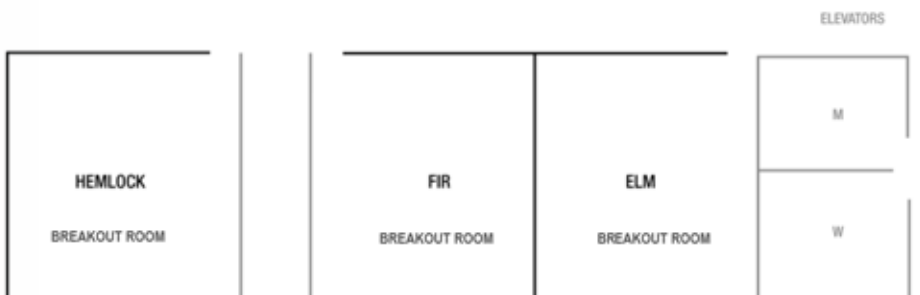
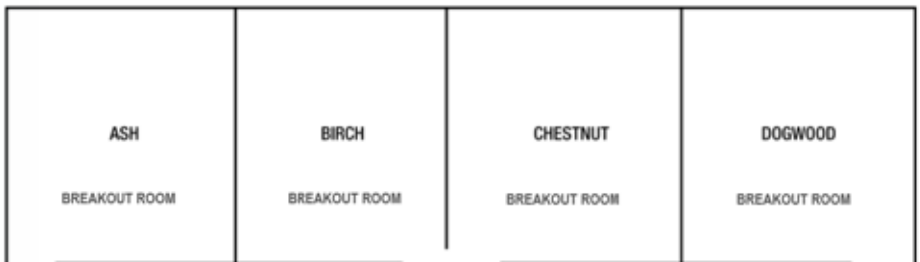
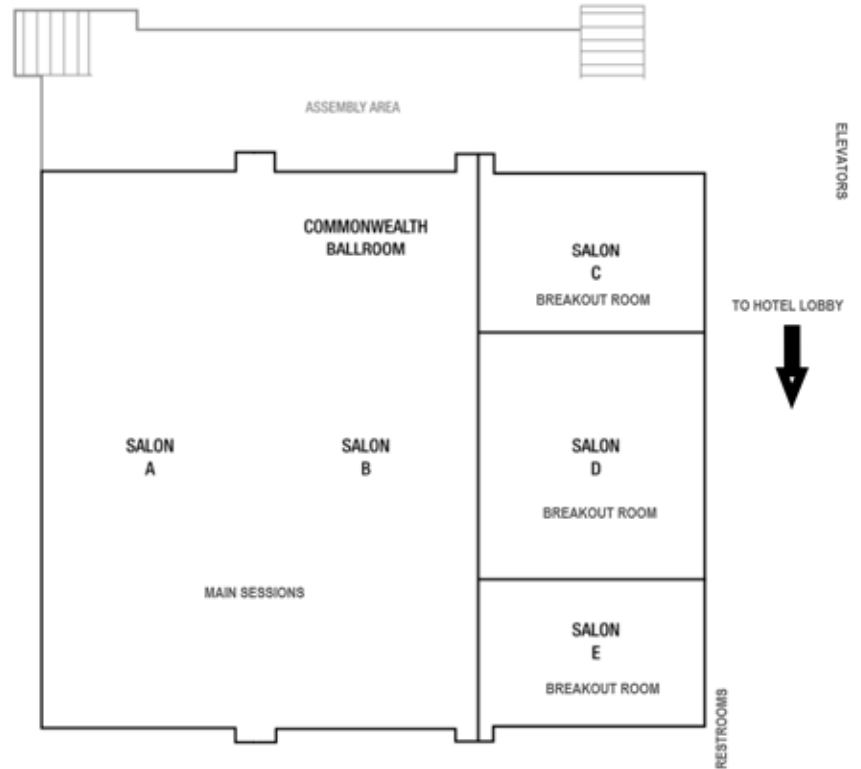
Coffee is located at the back of the Main Session room from 8:30-10:30 a.m. and again in the afternoon from 3-4 p.m.

MEALS

All meals will be in the Pennsylvania Ballroom.

NOTE

Schedule and participants are subject to change.



SCHEDULE

October 2:

6:00–7:00 p.m.: Registration

7:00–8:30 p.m.: Dessert Meet and Greet with Jeff Christopherson

October 3:

7:00–8:00 a.m.: “Dangers Facing the Church”
Breakfast with Pa Family Institute

8:00–10:30 a.m.: Registration

9:00 a.m.: Welcome/Business Session

10:00 a.m.: Prayer Time

10:15 a.m.: Worship Session 1: Jermaine Dolly

10:30 a.m.: Welcome

10:45 a.m.: Main Session 1: Barry Whitworth

11:15 a.m.: Introduction of Networking, Expo Time,
Cooperative Missions

11:25 a.m.: Networking, Expo, Lunch

12:30 p.m.: Worship Session 2: Jermaine Dolly

12:40 p.m.: Main Session 2: Jeff Christopherson

1:10 p.m.: Introduction of Breakouts/Break

1:30 p.m.: Breakout Sessions

3:00 p.m.: Afternoon Break

3:15 p.m.: Giveaways

3:30 p.m.: Main Session 3: Jeff Christopherson

4:00 p.m.: Worship Session 3: Jermaine Dolly

4:05 p.m.: Closing: Barry Whitworth

4:15 p.m.: Closing Worship: Jermaine Dolly

4:20 p.m.: Networking, Expo, Transition to Celebration
Banquet

5:30 p.m.: BRN Family Celebration Banquet with
Haney Love

EXPO

Displays are located in the Convention Center Lobby as well as in the main hallway going towards the hotel entrance.

GIVEAWAYS

You must be present in order to receive a giveaway. No purchase is necessary. Thank you to our sponsors and vendors, who made this possible.

SPONSOR & VENDOR BINGO*

To be entered to win a gift basket, please visit at least ten (10) of our sponsors & vendors and have them mark their logo. Fill out this form and place the whole bingo flyer in the container of the gift you would like to win. All entries must be received by the start of the 3:15 p.m. main session. Drawings will take place in the main session room after 3:15pm. *You must be present to win.



PEOPLE

AT-A-GLANCE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Vijay Allampalli.....Northeast Lead Church Planting Catalyst for Int'l's, North American Mission Board
Larry AndersonBRN Director of Church Health & Evangelism; Pastor, Great Commission Church, Philadelphia
Todd BeelChurch Planting Catalyst, North American Mission Board
Noelson Chery.BRN Church Health Consultant (Ethnic Churches); Mission Pastor, First Haitian Metanoia Church
Jeff ChristophersonExecutive Director, Canadian National Baptist Convention and Church Planting Canada
Josh Coldren..... BRN Church Health Consultant (Northern Central);
Senior Pastor, Cross Creek Community Church, Trucksville, Pa.
John Cope..... Send Network PA/SJ Director; Senior Pastor, Keystone Fellowship, Montgomeryville, Pa.
Brennan Coughlin BRN Board Member and Senior Pastor, Fellowship CrossPoint Church, Chesterfield, N.J.
Josh Crans.....Pastor, Providence Church, Coatesville, Pa.
Tom DawsonSenior Pastor, SOAR Church, Woodbine, N.J.
Ryan Day..... Lead Pastor, Wrightsdale Baptist Church, Peach Bottom, Pa.
Bill Wilks Founder, D-Life; Lead Pastor, NorthPark Church, Trussville, Ala.
Jermaine Dolly Christian Recording Artist; Worship Leader, Ezekiel Baptist Church, Philadelphia
Greg Drayer.....BRN Church Health Consultant (West); Pastor, Rolling Hills Baptist Church, Verona, Pa.
Robert FontellBRN Church Health Consultant (Philadelphia), Pastor, Calvary Christian Church, Philadelphia
Ruth Hueber.....Outreach Director, Fellowship CrossPoint Church, Chesterfield, N.J.
Brian King BRN Board President and Senior Pastor, Ezekiel Baptist Church, Philadelphia
Ron LarsonSenior Pastor, First Baptist Church of Delaware, New Castle, Del.
David LudwigBRN Associate Director, Church Health and Discipleship
Buff McNickle BRN Director, Compassion Ministries/Network Development
Dan Nold..... Lead Pastor, Calvary Church, State College
Tim Parker.....Senior Pastor, Stewartstown (Pa.) Baptist Church
Farshid Rezaee.....PRISM Campus Minister, Apologist, Evangelist and Preacher, Pittsburgh
Steve SheldonBRN Church Health Consultant (Southern Central)
Tim Walker.....Lead Pastor, Restored Church, Wilkes-Barre
Mark White Campus Pastor, Keystone Fellowship, Montgomeryville, Pa.
Barry Whitworth BRN Executive Director/Treasurer
Stan WilliamsBRN Next Gen Director
Attorney R. Davis Younts, Esq..... Baptist Resource Network Legal Counsel, Yount's Law

Accelerate Conference

Keynote Speakers



Jeff Christopherson

Executive Director, the Canadian National Baptist Convention and Church Planting Canada

JEFF CHRISTOPHERSON is about fostering Kingdom movements of reproducing churches that transform neighborhoods and the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Jeff is the Executive Director of two organizations; the Canadian National Baptist Convention, and Church Planting Canada. He also is co-founder and missiologist for the Church Multiplication Institute at Wheaton College's Billy Graham Center. He and his wife, Laura, live in Cambridge, Ontario. They have two children and four grandchildren. Jeff is the author of "Once You See: Seven Temptations of the Western Church: A Novel," which drives readers to reflect on how God might be calling them to a richer, more fulfilling life, leadership, and ministry. He will examine these temptations during the Accelerate Conference. Every conference attendee will receive a copy of this book. @Christopherson3



Dr. Barry Whitworth

Executive Director, Baptist Resource Network of Pennsylvania/South Jersey

Barry has been in ministry for over 30 years, serving as a mission pastor, associate pastor, church planter, pastor, interim pastor, transitional pastor and planter, church planting strategist, lead church planting catalyst, church planting director, and now executive director. Before his calling as Executive Director of the *Baptist Resource Network (BRN)* in February 2017, he was a church planting missionary and served as the Multiplying Churches Team Leader for the BRN. Barry, who has planted churches and served on church staffs in Pennsylvania, New York and Maryland, says his passion is the local church — to assist and encourage the churches in "reaching the lost [and] discipling the saved." He seeks to help Pennsylvania/South Jersey Baptists "decrease lostness," "push back darkness" and "have an impact in our generation for such a time as this." He and his wife Beth have two daughters and six grandchildren.

Accelerate Conference

Musical Guests



Jermaine Dolly

Christian Recording Artist and Worship Leader at Ezekiel Baptist Church

JERMAINE DOLLY, worship leader at Ezekiel Baptist Church, is an emerging Black gospel artist and part-time comedian. He sings tenor and falsetto, and plays piano and drums. After graduating from West Chester University, he began his career as opening act for Tye Tribbett, recorded with him on his "Greater Than" (2013), and was included in Tribbett's anthology "Wow Gospel 2018." His first big hit, which brought him national attention upon its release as a single in 2015, was "You," called "a refreshing anthem to Jesus" by Blessing Harper of Jubileecast.com. It and another single, "Come and Knock on My Door," were featured on Dolly's only album as of 2022, "Dolly Express" (2017), which reached number one on Billboard's list of Top Gospel Albums. As of 2022 Dolly has had three subsequent singles at #1 on Billboard's Gospel Airplay charts: "Pull Us Through" (2020), "It's Gonna Be Alright" (2020), and "I'll Go" (2021, written 2011).



Haney Love

The BRN Family Celebration will feature performances from NAMB "musicianaries," Eric and Anissa Haney, who formerly served as IMB missionaries in Stockholm, Sweden. God brought the Haney's together through music 18 years ago. They have been creating music together ever since, and their most recent band/album is called, HANEY LOVE. They desire to inspire hope, bring healing, and most of all, share the love of Jesus through their music. Anissa was born in the greater Philadelphia region in Pennsylvania. Eric, who is originally from Asheville, North Carolina, worked as a worship and student pastor for many years before moving overseas with his family. www.haneylove.com

Accelerate Conference Emcee



Ryan Day

**Lead Pastor, Wrightsdale Baptist Church,
Peach Bottom, Pa.**

PASTOR RYAN DAY, a native of Westminster, Maryland, came to Wrightsdale Baptist Church as Lead Pastor in 2020. Prior to Wrightsdale, he served at Grace Baptist Church in Hazleton, Pennsylvania for twenty years. Ryan is a 1998 graduate of Baptist Bible College (now Clarks Summit University) and 2005 graduate of Baptist Bible Seminary. He is currently engaged in doctoral studies (D.Min) from Baptist Bible Seminary.

When he's not ministering at the church, enjoying time with his family, or making plans for the next trip to Ocean City, Maryland, Ryan enjoys presidential biographies, the Baltimore Ravens, and playing guitar in praise and worship settings. He loves Lancaster County and is excited about "Accelerating Kingdom Movement" within the BRN. Ryan is married to Heather, and they have five sons and one daughter.

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Accelerate Conference Featured Resource

CHECK IN YOUR REGISTRATION BAG FOR THIS EXCITING RESOURCE:

The Baptist Resource Network is pleased to provide you a free copy of the Accelerate Conference's featured book, "Once You See: Seven Temptations of the Western Church," a novel written by Jeff Christopherson.

ONCE YOU SEE ...

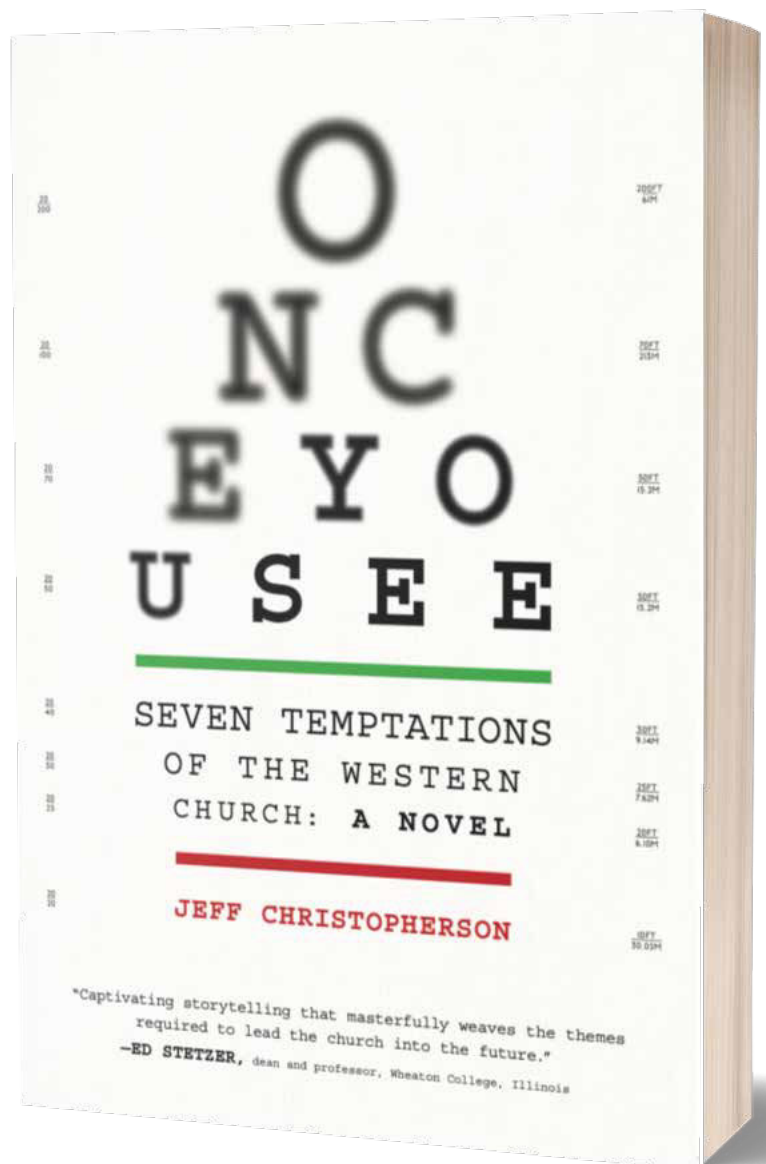
Luca Lewis is done with church. It killed his father, and now he wants nothing to do with the whole thing. Yet he can't seem to shake the unwanted conviction that something else is possible.

Dr. Jimmy Norris is struggling to lead LifePointe, a waning Atlanta megachurch. He sees that the church desperately needs to change, but clambering after new gimmicks doesn't cut it anymore.

Yushua Maalouf, a Yemeni refugee betrayed by his family for his newfound faith, finds himself bewildered by the priorities of the North American church.

When these three lives unexpectedly cross, Luca and Jimmy are given a rare glimpse of what Jesus' church could be. But will they look past the scars and stigma of a refugee to see the divine opportunity that stands squarely in front of them?

... YOU CANNOT UNSEE.



Accelerate Conference Breakout Sessions

*We are so excited about this year's Accelerate Conference!
We sense that God is doing something special in our midst.*

Back in the spring, BRN's team of directors gathered to discuss what breakouts we should offer for this year's Accelerate Conference. We knew our keynote speaker would be Jeff Christopherson, executive director of the Canadian National Baptist Convention and Church Planting Canada.

Jeff, a missiologist, is the author of "Once You See: Seven Temptations of the Western Church," a book which drives readers to reflect on how God might be calling them to a richer, more fulfilling Christian life, leadership, and ministry. At the Accelerate Conference, Jeff will examine the seven temptations during his keynote addresses.

As we sat in our directors' meeting to strategize the breakout content, we weren't feeling very inspired. Then someone asked how many breakout rooms we had available. The answer was "seven." As in ... "Seven Temptations"!

Shannon, our director of communications, pulled out her "Once You See" book and started reading the temptations to the rest of the team. One by one, the directors excitedly shared the helpful, practical content that would match each temptation, which Jeff defines as the "very things that we often celebrate as marks of faithfulness, but might in reality be the very opposite." These temptations are areas where churches can be tempted to be more like western culture than the Bible.

These seven temptations of the western church include:

- Philosophicalism – "We are a Bible-believing people."
- Professionalism – "We have a gifted pastoral team."
- Presentationalism – "Our worship is inspiring, and our preaching is strong."
- Passivism – "Everybody is welcome."
- Pragmatism – "We are one of the fastest growing churches."
- Partisanism – "We love our country."
- Paternalism – "We train pastors around the world."

Our Accelerate Conference breakout sessions seek to offer some of the Kingdom correctives to these seven temptations. Presenters were selected by their demonstrated experience in each of these areas.

Recently, we held a meeting with all the breakout speakers with Jeff Christopherson. Even in that meeting, we felt the profound presence of the Holy Spirit. All were moved. It is hard to explain what we felt, but suffice it to say we have great anticipation that God has good, good plans for us.

Jeff said that, in many ways, his book is a culmination of his lifetime of missiological learning, observation, and practice. His prayer is that it might be used for God's glory as He reveals His Kingdom through churches solely devoted to Jesus' mission. That is our prayer as well. May the Accelerate Conference truly help all of us accelerate Kingdom movement.

Breakout Session Topics

FOR INDIVIDUALS & CHURCH LEADERS

TEMPTATION 1

“WE ARE A BIBLE-BELIEVING PEOPLE.”

RATHER:

“We are a Bible-obeying people.”

Kingdom Corrective to Philosophicalism:

Essential to a sincere belief in the inerrancy and infallibility of God’s Word is an assumption that God calls his disciples to become a Bible-obeying people and not merely intellectual stakeholders of theologically orthodox positions. We understand that true orthodoxy affirms that biblical belief is a verb—doctrines that we humbly live and practice—rather than a noun—theoretical precepts to which we philosophically subscribe. Therefore, we choose to measure spiritual maturity and doctrinal integrity with the benchmarks found in our everyday obedience to God’s Word.

Scriptures: Luke 6:46, Luke 11:28, John 14:21-23, John 15:14, 2 Timothy 3:16, James 1:22-25, James 2:19, 1 John 2:3-6, 1 John 5:3, 2 John 1:6

Breakout Session Presenters



DAVID LUDWIG

*BRN ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
OF CHURCH HEALTH AND
DISCIPLESHIP*

DAVID LUDWIG is the associate director of church health and discipleship. He has served on the staff of small, medium, and large churches in Virginia, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania, and has served as an intentional interim pastor (transitional pastor) and now trains other men to serve in this role. He holds a master of arts degree from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, and a bachelor of science degree in religion from Liberty University, Lynchburg, Virginia. David has been providing training and has been consulting churches for nearly twenty years. He is also a coach and has received coach training from the North American Mission Board, certified as a Leadership Development Coach by Leader Breakthru, and certified as a Spiritual Leadership Coach by Blackaby Ministries International. He is recognized and credentialed as a Certified Professional Christian Life Coach by the International Christian Coaching Institute (ICCI). David is a member of the leadership team for the SBC National Revitalization Network and locally assists pastors and churches in taking their next steps toward revitalization by walking them through the steps of BRN's Transformation Pathway. David is passionate about disciple-making and leadership development and intentionally seeks opportunities to equip pastors and leaders to develop healthy, disciple-making churches.



DR. BILL WILKS

D-LIFE FOUNDER

DR. BILL WILKS is the lead pastor of NorthPark Church in Trussville, Alabama, where he has served since 1999. He has a doctor of ministry degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and has frequently served as an adjunct professor at the New Orleans Baptist Seminary extension center in Birmingham, Alabama.

Bill is also the founder and author of D-Life, which exists to equip common people to be Christlike disciple makers. He is the author of four D-Life Journals, D-Life Online, and his most recent book, "The Greater Work-Disciple-Making. Anytime. Anywhere." Bill and his wife, Rondie, have traveled extensively to train thousands of believers how to make disciples who make disciples.



TIM WALKER

*LEAD PASTOR, RESTORED
CHURCH, WILKES-BARRE*

TIM WALKER is the lead pastor of Restored Church in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, an urban church that he planted with a team of friends in 2012. Tim has led Restored to be actively involved and known as a church "In the City, For the City." Since launching, Restored has never had a Sunday without new people, they have now celebrated 175 baptisms, and they are pursuing a disciple-making movement that saturates their city and region with the gospel.

Tim also serves on the USA National Leadership Team for The Timothy Initiative, a global disciple-making, church-planting movement focused on multiplying disciple makers, leaders, and churches to the 4th generation.

Tim met and married his wife Heather at Restored. They've been married for eight years, have two girls, Lucy and Emily, and they love living on mission together as a family in Wilkes-Barre.

Breakout Session Topics

FOR CHURCH LEADERS

**“WE HAVE A GIFTED
PASTOR/MINISTRY TEAM.”**

RATHER:

**“We have a gifted
church body.”**

***Kingdom Corrective to
Professionalism:***

The gospel is every disciple’s calling—not just a chosen few. Because of this, we seek to multiply Jesus’ disciples by developing and deploying the body of Christ into a diverse and infinitely reproducible co-vocational mission-force. Therefore, our vocational leaders see their primary assignment as equippers and multipliers of Jesus’ disciple-making insurgency.

Luke 19:11-27, Acts 18:1-3, 1 Corinthians 4:12, 1 Corinthians 9:18, Ephesians 4:11-13, Colossians 3:23-24, 1 Thessalonians 4:10-22

TEMPTATION 2

Breakout Session Presenters



STEVE SHELDON

*BRN ASSOCIATE CHURCH
HEALTH CONSULTANT
(SOUTHERN CENTRAL)*

STEVE SHELDON of Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, serves as BRN's church health consultant for the Southern Central region. In addition to other roles, he has served as pastor of churches in San Diego, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania, most recently at Wrightsdale Baptist Church in Peach Bottom, Pennsylvania, from 2011-2019, and Bux-Mont Baptist Church, Hatboro, Pennsylvania, from 1984-2007. He also served as director of missions for the South Central Baptist Association in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, from 2007-2011.

Sheldon, who served in the U.S. Navy from 1972-1976, holds a bachelors of arts in Christian studies (Bible) and history degree from Campbellsville (Ky.) College and a master of divinity degree from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. He and his wife Kathy have one son and one granddaughter.



**DR. BRENNAN
COUGHLIN**

*PASTOR, FELLOWSHIP
CROSSPOINT CHURCH*

BRENNAN COUGHLIN is a church planter and preaching pastor at Fellowship CrossPoint Church in Chesterfield, New Jersey. After eleven years teaching history in New Jersey public schools, Brennan felt called to full-time ministry. He earned a master of divinity degree from Biblical Seminary in 2011, and in 2014, he and his wife, Kathleen, moved with their four children to Trenton to start a church in the capital city. The church began with a team of twenty sent out from Fellowship Community Church in Mount Laurel, New Jersey, and they met weekly in the Coughlins' home for Bible study. In the spring of 2015, worship services began in a living room, and eight months later, the church outgrew the space to worship at the Trenton War Memorial.

Brennan longs to honor the Lord with his life by bringing glory to God through the proclamation of the gospel in his home, in Chesterfield, and in the surrounding communities. He recently received his doctor of ministry degree in expository preaching from The Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Brennan deeply loves his family. Brennan and Kathleen met while supervising seventh period study hall and have been married 11 joyful years. They are blessed with six beautiful children.



RUTH HUEBER

*OUTREACH DIRECTOR,
FELLOWSHIP CROSSPOINT
CHURCH*

RUTH HUEBER serves the Lord in and out of the church, at Fellowship CrossPoint Church in Chesterfield, New Jersey, connecting the community to the love of Jesus. She also oversees KIDS Club and Hunger Stops With Us. Working with the interns, fellow staff members and volunteers to coordinate the growing ministry effort, Hueber said, "I have the privilege of helping kids understand who Jesus is and how they can be connected to Him."

She said she met Jesus when she was young, and it is really important to her that kids have an opportunity to hear about who Jesus is in a language that they can understand.

Breakout Session Topics

FOR INDIVIDUALS & CHURCH LEADERS

“OUR SUNDAY WORSHIP IS INSPIRING, AND OUR PREACHING IS STRONG.””

RATHER:

“It’s not all about Sunday morning!”

Kingdom Corrective to Presentationalism:

We are the functioning body of Christ in community, not a well-tuned Sunday service. Though we value the weekly gathering of believers for corporate worship and biblical instruction, we also understand that Jesus’ purpose for his body cannot be contained in that hour. Therefore, what we most highly prize, publicly celebrate, and consider as our ultimate act of worship is preparing the entire body of Christ as sacrificial servants for Jesus’ 24/7 mission and his imminent return.

John 4:24, Acts 2:46-47, Acts 13:2, Romans 12:1-5, 1 Corinthians 12:12, Ephesians 4:11-16, Hebrews 12:20-21

TEMPTATION 3

Breakout Session Presenters



BUFF MCNICKLE

*BRN NETWORK DEVT &
COMPASSION MINISTRIES
DIRECTOR*

BUFF MCNICKLE, who planted Grace Falls Church in the Atlantic County region of southern New Jersey, is BRN's director of network development and compassion ministries. During the infancy of his new church plant, he and his core team interacted with those who suffer from substance abuse and homelessness, began a ministry of care and compassion to dancers in the local adult entertainment industry, provided afterschool homework help to school children at a local community center for low-income families, built relationships with the workers at a local soup kitchen, and for a small group of believers, encouraged them to break out of their traditions of being mere pew-fillers to be inspired and prepared to carry the gospel into their circle of influence. Pastor Buff was born and raised in Mobile, Alabama. Since 1992, he has served in full-time ministry as a student pastor, family pastor, and minister to singles and young adults. He also served at the University of Mobile as director of student leadership and Involvement where he helped build and develop leadership among the students throughout various organizations on campus. Buff and his wife Cissy are blessed to be the parents of three beautiful adopted children, twin boys, Jedidiah and Judah, and Arabella. They live in Absecon, New Jersey.



DAN NOLD

*LEAD PASTOR, CALVARY
CHURCH, STATE COLLEGE*

PASTOR DAN NOLD has been married to Lynn for over 30 years. As much as he loves the church, his most significant and enjoyable achievement has been partnering with Lynn to love and develop their four kids and now one kid-in-law: Sarah, Katy (and her husband, Josiah), Jake and Josh. Dan and Lynn came to State College, Pennsylvania, and Calvary in 1994.

Dan earned a bachelor of science in speech communication from Bethel University and a master of divinity from Bethel Seminary. Currently, Dan is working on his doctor of ministry in organic leadership development. Dan loves to preach, develop leaders and strategize about the future of the church in the Centre region. Years ago, Dan read a prayer by A.W. Tozer that he still prays consistently, "Lord make me a man to whom you can entrust Your glory." That's Dan's greatest purpose. "I long to become a man to whom God can entrust His glory—a living display of the gospel of grace—to inflame a passion for Christ in others."



DR. THOMAS DAWSON

*SENIOR PASTOR, SOAR
CHURCH, WOODBINE, N.J.*

REVEREND DR. THOMAS DAWSON JR. has served as the senior pastor of the SOAR Church since 1998. For the prior 13 years, Dr. Dawson held a data control analyst title at the Philadelphia Stock Market and various management titles in the Automatic Data Processing Brokerage Division, providing client support to major brokerage firms such as Merrill Lynch, Smith Barney, and Prudential. He successfully managed an entire department with a \$1.5 million budget. Under the leadership of Dr. Dawson, the SOAR Church has become multicultural and has grown from a membership of 50 to over 500 and serves residents in three counties. His vision has enabled the SOAR Church to impact its community, assisting in Autism Awareness, providing coats, school supplies and food, sponsored school trips for local schools and provided financial support to families in need.

Dr. Dawson is a current member of the FBI Citizens Organization, Coalition for a Safe Community, Cape May Regional Health Alliance, Cape May County Mental Health Alcohol & Drug Abuse Board, Cape May County Healthy Community Coalition, and Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage Diversity Inclusion, and Community Engagement Committee. Dr. Dawson has received numerous awards and honors for his industry, leadership, support of philanthropic activities, and community service. His greatest value is spending time strengthening his bond with the Lord, his family, and his community.

Breakout Session Topics

FOR INDIVIDUALS & CHURCH LEADERS

TEMPTATION 4

**“EVERYBODY IS
WELCOME.”**

RATHER:

**“We search for those to
welcome (not 'come to us'
but 'go to them').”**

***Kingdom Corrective to
Passivism:***

We actively search for lost sheep—not hope that lost sheep look for us. Therefore, we happily inconvenience our personal comforts and disrupt our religious preferences for the sake of effectively participating in Jesus’ selfless and courageous search and rescue mission.

Matthew 4:19, Matthew 5:14, Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 8:35, Mark 10:29-30, Luke 15:3-7

Breakout Session Presenters



DR. ROBERT FONTELL

*BRN CHURCH
HEALTH CONSULTANT
(PHILADELPHIA)*

DR. ROBERT FONTELL is the BRN church health consultant for Philadelphia and pastor of Calvary Christian Church (formerly Calvary Baptist Church) in Philadelphia, where he has served since June 2008. He graduated from North Carolina Central University with a bachelor's degree in political science and holds a master of science in Bible degree from Philadelphia Biblical University (now Cairn University). He also earned his doctor of ministry degree from Missio Seminary (formerly Biblical Theological Seminary).

Pastor Fontell serves or has served in numerous community and denominational positions: Baptist Resource Network, church health consultant (current); Greater Philadelphia Baptist Association, moderator; Southern Baptist Convention, Committee on Committees, PA Representative (past); Pennsylvania Eastern Keystone Baptist Association, Finance (past); Catholic Community Services, Executive Board (current). Pastor Fontell is also a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated.



**DR. LARRY
ANDERSON**

*BRN DIRECTOR OF CHURCH
HEALTH AND EVANGELISM*

DR. LARRY ANDERSON, BRN director of church health and evangelism, graduated from Philadelphia Biblical University (Cairn Univ.) with a bachelor of science degree in Bible with an emphasis in Christian leadership. He has received his master of divinity and his doctor in ministry degrees from Biblical Theological Seminary (Missio Seminary). Dr. Anderson became the senior pastor of Great Commission Church in September 2004. In his time as pastor, he has been blessed to see the congregation grow spiritually and numerically. One of his noted achievements, to date, has been his ability to follow the voice of God in 2008 by leading GCC from the suburbs of Montgomery County into the city of Philadelphia to impact their new community with a holistic gospel.

Dr. Anderson joined the staff of the Baptist Resource Network in April 2013. He is director of church health and evangelism, overseeing 350 churches throughout Pennsylvania and South Jersey.

Dr. Anderson is the co-author of the book, "Ask Me Why I'm Not In Church," released in June 2019 on Westbow Press, and the author of "The Pastors' Diaries," released in July 2022. Dr. L.A. is the founder and host of "Athens Avenue the Podcast" birthed in spring 2023.



JOSH CRANS

*PASTOR, PROVIDENCE
CHURCH, COATESVILLE, PA.*

JOSH CRANS, pastor of Providence Church in Coatesville, Pennsylvania, has dedicated much of his life to discipling young men in the urban context. He's a basketball coach and mentor and leads several youth mentoring programs in public schools, including "Ways of Gentlemen" and Pointman Leadership Institute. For the past 18 years, he and his wife, Jordan, have served at The Bridge Academy and Community Center, where they minister to youth and families.

Breakout Session Topics

FOR INDIVIDUALS & CHURCH LEADERS

TEMPTATIONS 5

**“WE ARE ONE OF THE
FASTEST GROWING
CHURCHES.”**

RATHER:

**“It’s not the seating capacity;
it’s the sending capacity.”**

***Kingdom Corrective to
Pragmatism:***

The Kingdom of God is our only goal, and not the advancement of our individual brand. Because of this, we choose to measure growth in terms of city-wide gospel impact rather than excelling in a competition for an evaporating market share of the evangelically predisposed. Therefore, for the Kingdom outcome of gospel proximity, we prefer to selflessly invest in united efforts of gospel collaboration rather than pragmatically contending for our own interests.

Matthew 5:1-12, Matthew 16:24-26, Matthew 23:1-12, Mark 8:35, Luke 15:1-7, John 12:24-26, John 17:1-26, Romans 15:5-7, Ephesians 4:1-6

Breakout Session Presenters



GREG DRAYER

*BRN CHURCH HEALTH
CONSULTANT (WEST)*

GREG DRAYER's passion is taking the Word of God and finding its intersection with meaning, context, and application. Growing up in inner-city Erie, Pennsylvania, he has many experiences that led him into a life of ministry and serving his community. Throughout the years, he has attended churches in multiple denominations through his playing drums in a couple of different Christian bands. After God thankfully redirected him from his pursuit for rock-stardom, he began attending college and developed a hunger and passion for learning, especially learning about the story of God's redemptive work throughout human history. His desire for learning brought him to seminary where he earned a master of divinity degree and in the next few years, he will begin working towards his doctor of ministry degree. Greg has served as a volunteer in para-church youth organizations, as a youth director and pastor, and now pastors at Rolling Hills Church where for the past eight years he has had the pleasure of leading the congregation through multiple changes to its governance, through a capital campaign, and developed many new ministries and opportunities for reaching out to their community. In addition to serving in the local church, Greg has also had a hand in training new church planters in Pennsylvania and New Jersey and also serves with the Baptist Resource Network, where he is a church health consultant.



JOHN COPE

*SEND NETWORK DIRECTOR,
PA/SJ / SENIOR PASTOR,
KEYSTONE FELLOWSHIP*

JOHN COPE is founder and senior pastor of Keystone Fellowship and Send Network Director of Pennsylvania & South Jersey for the North American Mission Board. Having grown up in Arkansas, John served as a student pastor there for 16 years before taking on an executive pastor role in Lakeland, Florida. A few years later God began drawing him toward church planting, then one phone call from a connection in Pennsylvania opened the door for ministry in the Northeast. He and his family moved to Pennsylvania in 2001 and began meeting in a home for Bible study. Since then Keystone Fellowship has continually grown and is currently in the process of planting their eighth church. John has a bachelor of arts degree in education from Ouachita Baptist University and a master in religious education degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. John has written and developed a highly effective church growth, small group development tool titled, "Nothing But Net." Based on Jesus' outreach and ministry examples laid out in the book of Acts, this strategy has been used very successfully in every ministry that John has been involved in. He has taught and trained thousands of ministers and lay people in this biblical approach to ministry through empowerment of lay leadership in fruitful small groups. John is married to his wife, Teresa, and they have three adult sons — two of whom are church planters and a third who serves as an international missionary in the Middle East.



MARK WHITE

*CAMPUS PASTOR AT
KEYSTONE FELLOWSHIP,
MONTGOMERYVILLE*

MARK WHITE is campus pastor at Keystone Fellowship in Montgomeryville, Pennsylvania. He says pastoring is, without question, a passion of his. But, it isn't the only thing that fuels him. He enjoys traveling, cooking, watching movies, and exploring national parks. He has run a couple marathons and is always up for a good adventure if he can get someone to go along.

Mark believes God gave him a relational personality, which has kept him curious about people and their stories. His family is blessed to have similar interests and is often looking for what's next. They live their life on mission and take very seriously the command to love your neighbor. His wife, Jennifer, is a natural disciple-maker who is super smart, kind and has been a secret weapon for this pastor for many, many years. His son, Billy, is a high schooler who, like his mom, has a high level of compassion for serving others and like his dad, enjoys being silly and hanging out with people.

Breakout Session Topics

FOR INDIVIDUALS & CHURCH LEADERS

TEMPTATION 6

**“WE LOVE
OUR COUNTRY.”**

RATHER:
**“We are
Kingdom citizens.”**

***Kingdom Corrective to
Partisanship:***

While national patriotism and political perspectives are normal and necessary for healthy and functioning democracies, our highest and exclusive allegiance is to the eternal kingdom of heaven—not a temporal nation, nationality, ethnicity, or political ideology. Therefore, we voluntarily lower all secondary loyalties so that our earthly perspectives might not become a stumbling block to the life and death mission of Jesus’ church.

Joshua 5:13-15, Matthew 4:8-11, John 12:34-35, John 18:36, 1 Corinthians 1:11-13, 1 Corinthians 3:1-4, Galatians 2:20, Galatians 5:13-15, 1 Timothy 2:1-4, Titus 3:1-2, 1 Peter 2:17

Breakout Session Presenters



JOSH COLDREN

*BRN CHURCH HEALTH
CONSULTANT (NORTHERN
CENTRAL)*

JOSH COLDREN is senior pastor at Cross Creek Community Church in Trucksville, Pennsylvania. Prior to that he was the campus pastor of Crossroads Church in Roanoke, Virginia, a campus of Thomas Road Baptist Church. Josh has 20 years of ministry experience and has served in a variety of roles as student pastor, associate pastor, and senior pastor. He has experience in both urban and rural communities. Josh also is an assistant professor in the School of Divinity at Liberty University.

Josh holds a post-graduate degree in educational leadership, a master of divinity degree in missional studies, a master of religious education degree, and a master of arts in religion degree in evangelism and church planting from Liberty University. He and his wife, Nicole, reside in Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania.



RON LARSON

*SENIOR PASTOR, FIRST
BAPTIST CHURCH OF
DELAWARE*

RON LARSON, who has a career in planting and growing new congregations in the mid-Atlantic, stepped back into a lead pastor role helping First Baptist Church, Delaware, once the largest Baptist church in the state, revitalize, after many years of severe decline. This revitalization started just before Covid struck but the church is experiencing renewed growth and unity post-Covid.

Ron's first plant located in a small-town of 1,200 residents grew to nearly 1,300 attendees while helping to plant seven churches during that season of his ministry. He has served as president of the West Virginia State Convention and served as a member of the SBC Executive Committee as well as many other SBC organizations. Ron has also worked with the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware developing a Parent Church Network across those two states. Ron served as executive director of One Hope Ministries International, a weekend feeding ministry for school-age children. He has written for several publications and is a speaker on Kingdom expansion, church growth, personal renewal, and disciple-making reproduction across the U.S. His morning spiritual devotional called "Daily Jolt" is read by several thousand people daily. Ron also leads "Raw Reality," a leadership development and deployment think tank.



DR. TIM PARKER

*SENIOR PASTOR,
STEWARTSTOWN BAPTIST
CHURCH*

Since 2016, Dr. TIM PARKER has served as senior pastor at Stewartstown Baptist in Stewartstown, Pennsylvania. In 2016, Tim retired from the U.S. Army after 32 years of service and currently volunteers as a firefighter and chaplain of the local fire company. Tim and Vernessa have been married since 1988 and have four children and eight grandchildren.

Breakout Session Topics

FOR INDIVIDUALS & CHURCH LEADERS

**“WE TRAIN PASTORS
AROUND THE WORLD.”**

RATHER:

**“Pastors around the
world train us.”**

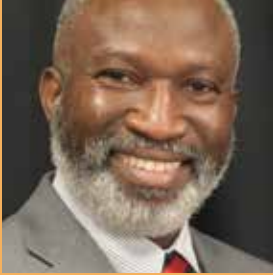
***Kingdom Corrective to
Paternalism:***

We have a leadership that maintains a humble learning posture, holding to a sincere belief that Jesus' church is expressed in a globally diverse mosaic that includes every nation, tribe, people, and language. Therefore, we engage global diversity with a gospel-centered posture that eradicates any hubris of geographical or cultural superiority by seeking to both learn and assist in ways that honor and edify the body of Christ wherever it is found.

Matthew 8:5-13, Luke 4:24-27, Acts 12:1, 2 Corinthians 8:8-9, Philippians 2:1-11, 1 Peter 5:5-6, Revelation 7:9

TEMPTATION 7

Breakout Session Presenters



NOELSON CHERY
BRN CHURCH HEALTH
CONSULTANT (ETHNIC
CHURCHES)

NOELSON CHERY was born and raised in Haiti. He moved to the United States in 1998 at the age of 27. The third of four children, he became a believer in Christ when he was 13 years old and was baptized at the age of 16. He has been married with his lovely and God-fearing wife Edna Chery since 1997. They have been blessed with three amazing biological children (Noelson II, Jeshua Y and Immanuel K) and Jordy their nephew who has been with them since he was 8 years old. These young men have been serving the Lord since their childhood, and are now among youth ministers in their church, First Haitian Metanoia Baptist Church. Academically, Noelson has achieved a bachelor's degree in theology from Philadelphia Biblical University (Cairn University), then a master's degree in languages and cultures from West Chester University of Pennsylvania. He was ordained as a pastor in 2008. In 2019, in the heat of the pandemic, the Lord called Noelson to start a new church. This congregation is now serving many families in the greater Philadelphia area. Now, God has called him into the position of ethnic church consultant with the Baptist Resource Network. He feels honored and grateful to be able to assist fellow pastors, standing alongside them, and doing this great work of ministry for the advancement of the Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



TODD BEEL
CHURCH PLANTING
CATALYST, NORTH
AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

TODD BEEL grew up in Western Pennsylvania and was a part of Monroeville Baptist Church where he came to faith in Christ, was baptized, and began his walk with the Lord. Like many families in the 70's, his parents were "transplanted" there, having moved northward for work. Following college, he was married to his wife, Anne, and they moved to seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas. Then, in 1992, they began to live out their missions calling. Over the past 30 years, they'd call West Chicago; San Jose, Costa Rica; Mexico City; and the Middle East "home" before moving to the Greater Philadelphia area 4 1/2 years ago. For them it has been a joy partnering with brothers and sisters around the world in service for Christ. As a church planting catalyst with the North American Mission Board, Todd loves to serve and encourage church planters. He and Anne actively serve as a part of Providence Church, Coatesville. When they have downtime, you can find Todd and his wife enjoying kids and grandkids or in the woods training their puppy, a Wirehaired Pointing Griffon, named Tula.



VIJAY ALLAMPALLI
NORTHEAST LEAD CHURCH
PLANTING CATALYST FOR
INTERNATIONALS, NAMB

VIJAY ALLAMPALLI currently serves as the Northeast lead church planting catalyst for internationals with the North American Mission Board (NAMB). Before serving in this role, he was the church planting catalyst with Send Network, and former evangelism and church planting missionary with the Baptist Convention of New York. He also planted a church in Charlotte, N.C., and worked on contract with Baptist Convention of North Carolina and NAMB for church planting and evangelism. He also worked as adjunct professor in Queens City Bible College in Charlotte, N.C., for a period of five years.

Vijay preaches in revivals, leadership workshops, seminars, and conferences on church planting, evangelism, strategic planning and leadership development for churches and other organizations. Vijay received education in India, obtaining master of divinity and doctoral degrees. He served for over 20 years in various ministry, church, and denominational capacities.



FARSHID REZAAE
PRISM CAMPUS MINISTER,
APOLOGIST, EVANGELIST,
AND PREACHER

Born in Iran, Farshid came to know about Christ when one popular Iranian newspaper surprisingly published the "Sermon on the Mount." That half a page changed his life and was the only "Bible" he had for years. He did his bachelor of arts and master of arts in English literature. Once he read an article on "Paradise Lost," which argued that for God to be just and merciful at the same time, He had to pay the penalty for humans' sins! Farshid's heart changed but he had to hide his faith for years. Leaving his job as a lecturer, he moved to Malaysia where he lived as a refugee for 12 years and taught apologetics and preached at churches, camps and universities. In August 2022, he was resettled in Pittsburgh where God led him to PRISM, a welcoming community for international students and scholars in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Farshid is passionate about evangelism and apologetics and tries to use the God-given gift of being a super extrovert to talk to international students. He loves coming up with puns!

Breakout Session Topics

FOR INDIVIDUALS & CHURCH LEADERS

WITH ALLIANCE DEFENDING FREEDOM (ADF):

Navigating the Changing Culture and How To Protect Your Ministry

As a Christian ministry, how do you address the changing cultural views on issues such as sexuality, marriage, and gender identity? How can your ministry love and serve everyone while not giving into the shifting morality of the day? This seminar will explore the recent cultural and legal challenges the Church is currently facing so that you can be a good steward of your ministry, understand how to navigate these challenges, and can know how to keep the doors open for the Gospel for future generations.

BONUS BREAKOUT

Breakout Session Presenters



STANLEY WILLIAMS

*BRN NEXT GEN
DIRECTOR*

STANLEY WILLIAMS, BRN's Next Gen director, oversees BRN's ministries to the next generation (youth and young adults) with a principle focus on the collegiate ministry. He has served as a collegiate missionary for the North American Mission Board since 2001. Stanley's background in collegiate ministry dates back to his college years where, as an undergraduate at Howard University (class of 1987), he grew deeper and stronger in Christian faith and spiritual disciplines. "Had it not been for the pivotal role of Rev. Eugene Burrell and the Navigator's Christian Fellowship of Howard University, I do not know where I would be or how I would have avoided a mediocre experience as a Christian and an undergraduate," he said.

Stanley has an abiding visceral sense of calling to engage the next generation. For the course of over 35 years of vocational Christian ministry, he has served campus ministries and congregations in Alaska, Texas, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. Stanley, who holds a master of divinity degree in Great Commission studies from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, says his ministry passions are impacting lostness and multiplying apostolic leaders for the sake of Kingdom advancement. He and his wife Trina have four adult children, and a host of adopted grandchildren from the several years of being integrally involved in the lives of former students in an extended family capacity.



RALPH RODRIGUEZ

*REGIONAL ALLIANCE
DIRECTOR, ALLIANCE
DEFENDING FREEDOM
(ADF)*

RALPH RODRIGUEZ is a regional alliance director for Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) Church and Ministry Alliance. He works with ministry and denominational leaders across the country on religious liberty issues to ensure that the body of Christ understands the current cultural and legal climate and knows how to respond via the resources available to them through ADF's membership programs. His heart is to see the Church boldly proclaim the truth of the gospel in our day!

Before joining the ADF Church and Ministry Alliance team, Ralph served as legal counsel at the United Nations for ADF International. Before that, Ralph worked for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, providing administrative and tactical support for investigators in the counterterrorism division. While with the FBI, he earned his juris doctor degree at New York School. He also received a bachelor of arts degree in international studies from The City College of New York. He is admitted to the bar in New York.

NOTE: The Baptist Resource Network will record all of the Keynote and Breakout Sessions so you won't miss any of this great content! The videos will be made available via our weekly e-newsletter, *BRN United*. Not subscribed? That's easy! Just go to www.brnunited.org/news and click the Subscribe button. Your entire church can sign up today!

Breakout Session Locations

BREAKOUT SESSIONS SPONSORED BY ALLIANCE DEFENDING FREEDOM

MAIN SESSION LEVEL

Salon C: *Seven Temptations of the Western Church—Temptation 1: "We are a Bible-believing people" and Temptation 2: "We have a gifted pastor/ministry team"*

Salon D: *Seven Temptations of the Western Church—Temptation 3: "Our Sunday worship is inspiring, and our preaching is strong"*

Salon E: *Seven Temptations of the Western Church—Temptation 4: "Everybody is welcome"*

LOWER LEVEL

Dogwood: *Seven Temptations of the Western Church—Temptation 5: "We are one of the fastest growing churches"; and Temptation 6: "We love our country"*

Birch: *Seven Temptations of the Western Church—Temptation 7: "We train pastors around the world"*

Elm: *Navigating the Changing Culture and How to Protect Your Ministry*



CHURCHES ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE FACING LEGAL ISSUES. IS YOUR CHURCH LEGALLY PREPARED?

Join Alliance Defending Freedom for a breakout session to discuss current cultural and legal challenges churches are facing and ways you can help prepare your church!

WHAT

Navigating the Changing Culture and How to Protect Your Ministry

WHEN

Tuesday at 1:30

WHERE

Elm Room

ALLIANCE DEFENDING FREEDOM

CHURCH ALLIANCE

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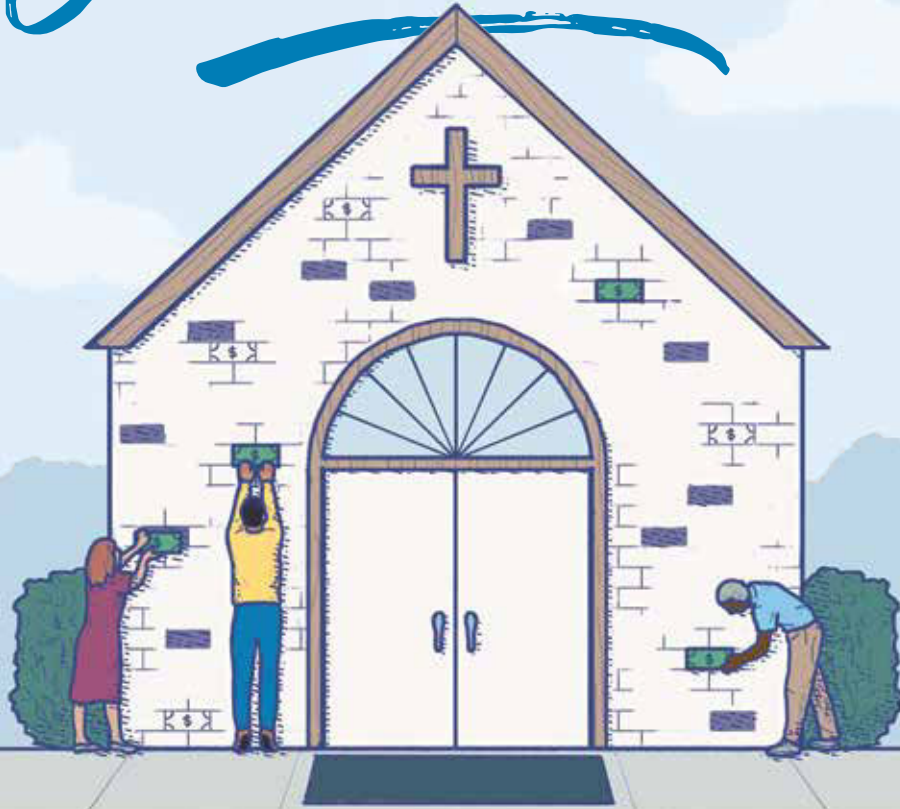


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when we obey*

GROW

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Haven't had a chance to work on Phase 1 or 2 yet? No worries! Contact the BRN's Help Desk (helpdesk@brnunited.org) today to get your kit!

Download free resources at www.lovepasj.com

Phase 3 resources include Discipleship/Leadership Development Guides, a Prayer Guide, a Small Group Bible Study, Spiritual Health Assessments, Scripture Memorization Cards, and so much more!

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BAPTIST RESOURCE NETWORK of PENNSYLVANIA/SOUTH JERSEY

A Growing Love for God
Discipleship in Light of the
Great Commission

BAPTIST RESOURCE NETWORK of PENNSYLVANIA/SOUTH JERSEY

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Generosity

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INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

Considerations for
Discipling those
Struggling with
Church Hurt

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Benchmarks
of Servant
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INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

Considerations
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in Challenging
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INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

Considerations
for Discipling
Women

#LovePASJ GROW Series:
INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

Six Biblical
Ways to Pray
for Other
Believers

CREATING A
DISCIPLESHIP
PATHWAY
by Michael Kelley

BRN Baptist Resource Network
Pennsylvania/South Jersey
ACCELERATING KINGDOM MOVEMENT

SPIRITUAL
HEALTH
ASSESSMENT
TOOL

Matthew 28:19-20 CSB

#LovePASJ
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How can we
pray for you?
We want to be a good neighbor!
Are there some specific ways we can pray
for you? If so, please fill out this card and
mail it to us for leave it on our doorstep!

IS GOD
CALLING ME?

#TRANSFORMPASJ
CHARTING A PATHWAY TO
CHURCH REVITALIZATION



A quick overview
of how the Baptist
Resource Network
seeks to help churches
across Pennsylvania
and South Jersey find
new vitality and vigor.
Cooperative Program
giving makes this
possible. Thank you!

Following Jesus'
Model for
Making Disciples

And Jesus said to them,
Follow Me, and I will
make you fishers of men
(Matt. 4:19)

Jesus wants His followers
to be in a relationship with
Him—to follow Him.

And He wants us to
teach others for Him.

Jesus said, "I will make
you fishers of men."
Jesus will do this so we
can go and make disciples
(Matthew 28:19-20)



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Services Director

MISSION STRATEGY



The BRN exists to resource and service churches all over Pennsylvania and South Jersey. It is our desire to take care of pastors and to come alongside churches and help them take the next step God is calling them to take. We do this through a four-step mission strategy:

ASSESS: *Discover Your Current Reality*

An honest and detailed look at your overall ministry, defining where you've been, determining where you are, and discovering where you can go.

ASSIST: *Determine Your Next Step*

Interpreting what you have discovered, prioritizing a next step, and developing fresh strategies to meet the needs and vision of that next step.

ACTIVATE: *Implement Your Next Step*

Encouraging individuals, ministries, and churches to implement strategies and goals developed by the assistance of the BRN and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

ADVANCE: *Help Others with Their Current Reality*

Enabling churches who exhibit dynamic biblical behavior and movement (moving and leading out) to contribute to the growth and advancement of the Kingdom within the BRN and beyond.

ACCELERATING KINGDOM MOVEMENT



BAPTIST RESOURCE NETWORK

MINISTRY REPORTS

2023

Everything we do at the Baptist Resource Network (BRN) centers on four key parts of our strategy to help churches *accelerate Kingdom movement*.

Our team of missionaries offers customized training and resources because we know churches are in different stages of growth. We believe the gospel of Jesus Christ is the main accelerant of the work that churches do across the BRN, because it is the only way to see a multiplication movement of new disciples, new leaders, new ministries and new churches across our two-state region.

At the BRN, we have a clear vision of wanting to see every church within our Pennsylvania/South Jersey geography become a healthy, multiplying church.



***The BRN helps churches
at every stage of their lifecycle.***

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ..." (Ephesians 4:11-13)

- CHURCH HEALTH
- COMMUNICATIONS
- COMPASSION MINISTRIES
- DISASTER AND CRISIS RELIEF
- FINANCE AND OPERATIONS
- MULTIPLY PASJ
- NEXT GEN MINISTRIES
- WOVEN WOMEN

CHURCH HEALTH

BRN's Church Health leaders share 2023 highlights



The Church Health team consists of Dr. Larry Anderson, BRN's director of church health and evangelism, and David Ludwig, BRN's associate director of church health and discipleship, and six consultants, spread across the BRN to serve the pastors and churches. They are Pastor Noelson Chery (ethnic consultant), Pastor Josh Coldren (Northern Central region), Pastor Greg Drayer (West region), Dr. Robert Fontell (Philadelphia region), Pastor Buff McNickle (South Jersey region), and Steve Sheldon (Southern Central region).

There were some great successes this year. Most notably, the BRN awarded a record number of grants for church evangelism projects. Also, the Advance Conference, featuring Dr. Nathan Lorrick, J.J. Washington, and Dr. Anthony Hurst, was a huge success this year. The BRN hosted several Pastoral Blessing events simply to encourage pastors and their wives. Additionally, David Ludwig has done much work in the area of revitalization (through the Transformation Pathway) and assisting pastors with succession planning.

Each of these church health leaders helped churches with their transitions, affiliating with the BRN, coaching (especially with new pastors and struggling churches), prayer and encouragement, and otherwise assisting churches in taking their next steps. Many focused on the areas of discipleship training, pastoral care, strategy development, welcoming of new pastors, pulpit supply, networking, spiritual health assessments, and so much more.

Josh Coldren, as our newest consultant, currently is introducing himself and building relationships with our churches. He will assist churches in taking their next steps.

In and around the Pittsburgh area, we have seen efforts made to bring our established church pastors and church planters into contact with each other. Many have gathered at hockey games, around the table, and even at Broadway shows and the Pittsburgh Zoo to enjoy fellowship.

In the Greater Philadelphia region, there were numerous churches that experienced increased baptisms, outreach events, and evangelistic block parties. Dr. Anderson and Robert Fontell met with regional pastors every Friday at noon for prayer and fellowship.

Steve Sheldon was available to celebrate the retirement and life events of Central Pennsylvania pastors and has come along several of them to celebrate and encourage God's work among them. Noelson Chery organized a pastors' breakfast for ethnic pastors and their spouses, among other events. As a result, these pastors recommitted to the BRN and are now more engaged than ever in each other's lives.

Buff McNickle also hosted a gathering with several South Jersey churches and their multiple leaders to discuss next generation leadership development. Some of the churches participated in the BRN Accelerated Internship these past two years. Other churches received help with VBS trainings and hunger grants. One newly affiliated church hosted a VBS and held its first ever Missions Week, where they engaged their community in several mission projects.

We thank God for His strengthening of churches throughout our region and look forward to the ways in which He will continue to grow His presence and Kingdom throughout Pennsylvania and South Jersey.



PASTORAL WELLNESS

all because we care!

Because we care about the health of our pastors and their families, we offer these initiatives.

Ministry can be exceptionally lonely, so the Baptist Resource Network offers an extended support network, prayer encouragement, and retreats and other events to help refresh our partnering churches' leaders, pastor's wives, and families.

We come alongside lead pastors in four ways:

RECREATION:

The BRN offers free Pastor Blessing events and gatherings, such as a day at the golf range or other special outings, for pastors, pastor couples and/or pastor families. These events provide pure fun and camaraderie with fellow ministry leaders.

RESPIRE:

Ministry can be quite tiring. The BRN offers pastors and their families free use of its Guest House in Harrisburg, where they can enjoy a quiet time away from the demands of ministry. This well appointed home is situated close to several restaurants and recreation.

RESTRENGTHENING:

Through a vital partnership with Full Strength Network (FSN), the BRN offers free monthly counseling or coaching for the pastor and his wife and family. FSN provides a wellbeing membership for pastors and church staff to live and lead at full strength. BRN ministry leaders have the permission, privacy and provision to access professional experts and confidential resources.

REASSURANCE:

GuideStone Financial Services serves churches and organizations with products and services that promote financial health and spiritual wellness. The BRN partners with GuideStone to provide free protection benefits and retirement contributions for qualified candidates. The BRN also offers Legacy and Estate Planning for churches, individuals and families.



PASTORAL WELLNESS



RECREATION

Free Pastor Blessing events/gatherings

RESPIRE

Free use of BRN's Guest House

RESTRENGTHENING

Free counseling and coaching

REASSURANCE

*Free GuideStone benefits and
Legacy and Estate Planning*



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- **Empower** – D-Life Journals provide four years of weekly study guides to **empower** believers to lead D-Groups.
- **Engage** – D-Life is not a program; it's a lifestyle. It will **engage** people in disciple-making—anytime & anywhere.



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Anytime. Anywhere.

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS OF THREE TO FIVE PEOPLE CAN MEET ANYTIME AND ANYWHERE

UPCOMING 2024 TRAININGS

Six Practices of Disciple-Making

by Bill Wilks

Disciple-making is not a program; it's a lifestyle. This is a big truth. Jesus said, "Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men" (Matt. 4:19). Clearly, this was no call to join a discipleship program but an invitation to a lifestyle of disciple-making. According to Jesus, this lifestyle is the supreme purpose of every believer. You cannot be a true follower of Jesus without becoming a fisher of men.

Common Misconceptions

There are some common misconceptions in today's church about disciple-making. Some think it is evangelism. It means having gospel conversations and seeking to lead others to Christ. Certainly, this is a vital part of disciple-making. But making converts is not the same as making disciples. You can do evangelism without being a disciple maker, but you cannot be a disciple maker without doing evangelism.

Others think disciple-making is Bible study. It involves great studies where people go deep into the Bible. Again, this is a vital part of disciple-making but there is a problem. Many participate in great Bible studies and then want to know when is the next one and the next one and the next one. We are making great Bible learners but not disciple makers.

Christ's Model

With no buildings or budgets, Jesus launched a disciple-making movement that exploded upon the world. In comparison, the church today has discipleship programs, but few disciple-making people. We must exchange our misconceptions about discipleship for Christ's model of disciple-making.

Jesus made disciples who made disciples; He didn't make any other kind. Apart from multiplication, there is no real discipleship. Multiplication is the key to reaching our world for Christ. However, most churches today lack a simple process for equipping believers to make and to multiply disciples. For the most part, we are attempting to reach the world by addition and we simply cannot keep pace.

By reading the Gospels, we learn there are six practices of disciple-making that Jesus modeled for us with His discipleship group. These include: 1) fellowship, 2) teaching, 3) prayer, 4) ministry, 5) multiplication, and 6) accountability.

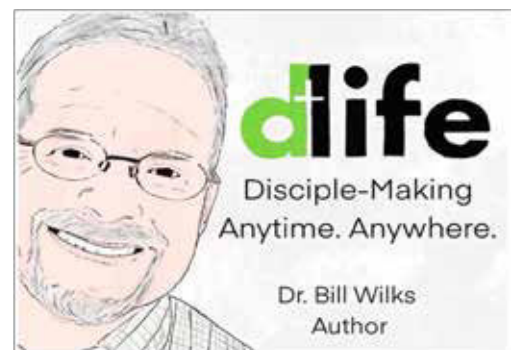
In a D-Life Boot Camp, we will unpack these six practices and train you to use them in living a true lifestyle of disciple-making.

Learn more...

The Return to Christ-Like Disciple-Making; It's not a Program; It's a Lifestyle

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE FIRST TWO TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

- **March 2, West Hills Baptist Church, Moon, PA**
- **March 3, Memorial Baptist Church, Gettysburg, PA**



Dr. Bill Wilks is the Founder of D-Life and Lead Pastor of NorthPark Church in Trussville, AL. He has a Doctor of Ministry degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and often serves as an Adjunct Professor at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary extension in Birmingham, AL. Dr. Wilks is a passionate disciple maker. Through D-Life, he and his wife, Rondie, have traveled the country training thousands of believers for a lifestyle of disciple-making. For more: www.livethedlife.com.

COMMUNICATIONS

By Shannon Baker

The Communications Team, comprised of Shannon Baker, Macala Mays, and Laurel Grimes, along with our wonderful summer intern, Celeste Brewer from Starkville, Mississippi, has had a very busy year.

In addition to producing weekly e-newsletters chock full of the latest news, testimonials, resources and events available to BRN churches, the team has completed several large communications projects.

Namely, we introduced the new "Your BRN Family" guide, which is a one-stop explainer of all the resources and opportunities available by

the BRN. We also produced the new #LovePASJ Grow Kit, which includes discipleship/leadership development guides, a prayer guide, a small group Bible study, spiritual health assessments, Scripture memorization cards, and so much more! In addition, there are video stories from various churches that flesh out this year's emphasis on intentional discipleship and leadership development. Several of these materials also are highlighted in our annual #LovePASJ Week of Prayer and Missions Offering, which churches typically celebrate in the month of September.

We've also produced all the media for our two conferences, the Advance Conference and the Accelerate Conference, as well as the weekly video highlights from Executive Director Barry Whitworth. Our team also does all the promotion and registration design for many of the 2023 events, including our conferences and workshops, Send Relief's Serve Tour Philadelphia, and our new First Steps Gatherings for new pastors and newly affiliated churches to the BRN.

We strive to make it as easy as possible for you to find what you need right away!





Baptist Press photo

To get an idea of the enormity of the task, consider these following statistics: this year, we have already produced over 60 videos; added 18 new resources to our #LovePASJ kit; produced 34 e-newsletters and 10 Woven Women e-newsletters; produced 10 podcasts on "Celebrating Cooperative Missions"; designed a comprehensive guide to the BRN; and developed a whole new campaign to help our churches subscribe to *BRN United*. We are constantly updating our website, which is a busy job! Consider this: just for this Accelerate Conference, we have had 141 revisions (updates) alone!

The Communications Team also has been involved in several activities on a national level. Shannon continues to serve as a reporter for Baptist Press during their annual meetings. This

year, she provided coverage for several of the larger events at the New Orleans gathering.

Also, Shannon served as president of the Association of State Baptist Publications, an executive group of SBC editors. She was in charge of leading a four-day workshop in Hilton Head Island (held concurrently to the SBC Executive Directors' annual workshop). Her program was comprised of many of the SBC entity leaders and Phil Bowdle, author of "Rethink Communications."

At the April 2023 meeting of the Baptist Communicators Association, Shannon and Macala were featured on a panel discussion on mentorship. (See photo above.) Shannon also led an affinity group at the workshop, held this year in Ridgecrest, N.C. More recently, she and Macala served on a panel of judges who reviewed

entries for BCA's student award competition.

Shannon and her husband Larry also served as featured missionaries at the N.C. Baptists on Mission World Missions Conference in Ft. Caswell, N.C.

After serving out a term on a work study group with the SBC Executive Committee at the close of last year, Shannon was invited to serve on an independent group of SBC Cooperative Program advocacy leaders from across various state conventions to prepare prayer resources in commemoration of the Cooperative Program's 100th anniversary in 2025.

Even with all of this, it is true that our most exciting efforts have been capturing the stories of our churches all across our BRN family. We are so pleased to share and celebrate with you about what God is doing in your ministries. Please keep sharing!

COMPASSION MINISTRY

By Buff McNickle

While there are many needs that exist in every community, we have found three strategic PATHWAYS that have the potential for us to do the most good and produce the most fruit in our region. They are in the arenas of Education, Food Insecurity/Poverty, and Triage/Trauma. Each of these PATHWAYS have several ways that you and your church can mobilize to help meet needs in your community.

Education: There is a myriad of opportunities tied to the discipline of education, such as supporting local schools and their students, faculty and staff, teaching English to international residents, or offering computer classes for the disenfranchised.

Food Insecurity/Poverty: There are families around us who lack consistent access to enough food and other basic essentials. Churches can meet these physical needs and their spiritual needs.

Triage/Trauma Ministry: When a crisis comes (whether a natural disaster, a crisis pregnancy, or abuse), churches can be on the front lines to help through disaster relief, counseling, chaplaincy, and more.

Much of our work this year, in relationship with the #LovePASJ SHOW initiative, has been in developing these arenas.

Also, we are excited to announce that the Send Relief SERVE TOUR PHILLY has been an incredible catalyst for us as we seek to see God move throughout Pennsylvania and South Jersey. We don't want it to stop here. Moving forward, the BRN will work with our churches to partner together at different cities in our regions to identify and meet needs so that we can take the gospel there to meet those needs collectively as we work together. Our first city will be ERIE, Pa., on Aug. 2-3, 2024. Stay tuned for all the exciting details through the BRN UNITED.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES:

Host a One-Day Regional Training on Compassion Ministry:

We would love for a church to host a one-day training on how to take next steps with compassion ministry in your church and community. If your church is interested in hosting, please contact Buff McNickle at buff@brnunited.org, 813-388-1259.

Mobile Grill Ministry:

If your church would like to utilize this incredible and innovative way to do evangelism, please contact the BRN Help Desk (helpdesk@brnunited.org, 717-652-5856).

We will assist you in getting the resource, train you on how to use it, and explain its strategy on how to reach your community.

#LovePASJ:

We have a wealth of materials to help your church and leaders take next steps in reaching your community through prayerwalking, exegesis, evangelism, compassion ministries, intentional discipleship, and leadership development. Check out our website, www.lovepasj.com.

Other Great Next Step Resources Available:

Consider the book, "Ask Me Why I'm Not In Church," by Drs. Larry Anderson & Kyle Canty and webinars by Send Relief, www.sendrelief.org/webinars.

For additional resources and information on Compassion Ministry, please reach out to the Baptist Resource Network Help Desk at email: helpdesk@brnunited.org; call or text: (717) 652-5856; or visit online: brnunited.org, lovepasj.com.

#MULTIPLYPASJ

By Joe Velarde

"A Healthy Multiplying Church is a church that reproduces and ultimately Multiplies new disciples, leaders, ministries, and churches that reinvest within the Kingdom of God."

We are so thankful for all that God has done over this last year with Multiply Pennsylvania/ South Jersey. The goal of this strategy is to help churches move to the multiplication of new disciples, leaders, ministries, and churches. We have a goal of establishing 70 Multiplying churches.

Last Fall, we had three regional gatherings to share this vision. During these times, we began to lay the foundation for where we are going together.

In the Spring, all the regions came together to collaborate further and hear from one another. As we met in State College, God met us there, and we heard from incredible leaders like Dan Nold, John Cope, and Dr. Larry Anderson. It was such a sweet time of prayer, worship, fun, and learning.

We continue to build out this strategy by gaining new insights with those who are part of this on how to make it better. We are also inviting like-minded leaders to consider partnering with

us to further advance this vision. We believe when we get multiplication right, it will allow us to change the score card of lostness and to create a disciple-making movement that will change the landscape of Pennsylvania and South Jersey.

We continue to put in front of these what we are after, what reproducers and reinvesters are, and what the pathway is to help them take their next step.

Reproducers are churches that have indicated or shown the capability of reproducing new disciples, leaders, ministries, and new churches. The churches are reflecting and possibly modeling

the biblical behaviors of missional engagement, intentional discipleship, and leadership development. *Reinvesters* are churches that have reached a level of growth to where they are contributing through dynamic biblical behavior the kind of movement (moving and leading out) that contributes to the growth and advancement of the Kingdom within the BRN and beyond.



Dr. Barry Whitworth introduces John Cope, the new Send Network PA/SJ director, as an essential partner in the BRN's MultiplyPASJ strategy.

Track One: REPRODUCER		Track Two: REINVESTER	
INVESTING MECHANISM:	RESOURCE:	INVESTING MECHANISM:	RESOURCE:
Disciple-making	Timothy Initiative	Disciple-making	Timothy Initiative
Vision Frame	BRN	Leadership Pipeline	NAMB/BRN
Next Step OS	BRN	Upper Room Development	BRN
Leadership Development/Pipeline	NAMB/BRN	Becoming a Next Step Leader	Future Church
New Ministry Development	BRN	Starting Churches that Multiply	NAMB/BRN
Church Planting	NAMB/BRN	Curating within the BRN/Kingdom	BRN
Collaborative Workshops	BRN	Collaborative Workshops	BRN

DISASTER & CRISIS RELIEF

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (DR) is one of the top disaster response organizations in the world because we are able to quickly deploy well trained and experienced volunteers to the point of need and provide logistical support for them. Many disaster relief organizations serve only a humanitarian purpose, but that is not us. We are compelled by Christ's love for all mankind AND his desire that no one should perish. We keep our focus by nurturing our individual relationship with Jesus Christ in the context of a local body of believers who recognize and call out our giftedness in service to God and our neighbors.

WHAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN 2023 SO FAR:

We deployed to two disaster responses to date this year, in Barre, Vermont and Reading, Pennsylvania, where there was major flooding. We sent the Rapid Response Kitchen, Command/Communication Unit, NE Recovery Unit, Water Purification Unit, Fuel Trailer, and a generator to Barre. A Shower/Laundry Unit and the DR van went to The Bridge Fellowship in Reading. We had seven volunteers in Vermont. We had 19 volunteers involved in Reading plus 16 more from Ohio (6), Missouri (1), and Louisiana (9). This response included housing out-of-state traveling teams at Dallas Baptist Church, Legacy Church, East Shore Baptist Church, and the Volunteer House. We are holding our breath for the next two months, as it is hurricane season.

FOR EXERCISE/EVENTS: We did the Kitchen Management Training with the Red Cross at West Chester University, the Emergency Preparedness Fair at Allenwood Federal Penitentiary, The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services Expo in Harrisburg, supported the Civil Air Patrol Camp (at PEMA's request) with a Western Shelter. These involved 33 volunteers from our churches.

LOCAL CHURCH SUPPORT: Two Shower/Laundry Trailers at Nebo Baptist Church in support of the Restored construction project, a Shower/Laundry Trailer at Country & Town BC (twice) and Colonial Hills Baptist Church for mission team support, and the Rapid Response Kitchen and a Western Shelter to Plaid Community Church to support their community event. These involved 25 volunteers from our churches.

Each of these involved, in multiple capacities, trained and untrained volunteers from our churches.

Kenton Hunt
Disaster Relief Director
Baptist Resource Network of PA/South Jersey



AREAS OF FOCUS:

- Operational Stress First Aid
- Mass Feeding
- Rapid Response Kitchen
- Flood Recovery
- Chainsaw
- Shower/Laundry
- Chaplaincy
- Ready Church

FINANCE & OPERATIONS

We have been busy over the past year working on several behind-the-scenes activities that are designed to help enhance the BRN's servicing and resourcing of churches in Pennsylvania and South Jersey. Though this is not an exhaustive list, we are happy to share the following.

By Andy Weber

Andy Weber, Director of Finance and Operations

LEGACY

At the end of 2022, the BRN launched the Legacy Initiative. This initiative focuses on how we all can join hands to make an eternal impact through the legacy that we leave on this earth. Everyone wants to have a life with meaning and impact. Part of that meaningful life is to live in the memory of family, friends, and even ministry partners. Generous giving with eternal impact can indeed create a legacy for families and Kingdom ministries that gives added meaning to your life and can continue after your chapter has ended.

In 2023, we brought on Chuck Knox as the BRN's Legacy Coach. He is working to create awareness in churches about the importance of wise stewardship, particularly stewardship related to end of life matters. Chuck has been leading Legacy Workshops across our region helping the people in BRN churches to understand the importance of preparing for the future and unpacking the estate options available. Along with this workshop, the BRN is able to provide each participant with a free simple Will as a way to help the participant to be a prepared steward. To learn more, please visit www.brnunited.org/legacy.

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS PATHWAY

We have also been at work with the BRN's legal counsel to develop a church constitution and bylaws pathway. This pathway is designed to provide a general overview and understanding of what a constitution and bylaws is while instructing the reader to know what items should be included in these documents. As it is a pathway, it is designed to walk the church through a season of assessment, prayer, and intentionality. The document contains the basic legal and structural pathway for churches to walk through for either the creation of a constitution and bylaws for a new church start or an established church revising its documents. Part of the pathway provides a sample structure for the documents, and the church needs to tailor certain sections to their specific situation. As we have rolled this out to churches and church plants, it seems to have proven very helpful to them.

ONLINE GIVING

Also in 2023, the BRN rolled out a new online missions giving platform. Though the BRN has offered online giving options to churches for over 15 years, we felt the need to provide a more robust and user-friendly platform. We hope that this new platform has been a blessing and a help to those churches giving online. We are so grateful for your church's giving to the Cooperative Program, the unified giving plan that allows missions to take place in Pennsylvania, South Jersey, North America, and around the world. Because you give, we can accelerate Kingdom movement together! To learn more, please visit www.brnunited.org/give.

TEXTING PLATFORM

If you attended the 2022 Accelerate Conference, you learned that the BRN has texting capabilities with our Help Desk and for reminders for events for registrants. Please feel free to text or call the BRN during our office hours at 717.652.5856 for general questions and inquiries. We are happy to assist you and your church with whatever questions you may have. You can also email us at helpdesk@brnunited.org, whichever works best for you.

MISSION & GUEST HOUSE PROPERTIES

We have worked diligently with our North Carolina partnership to provide updates and renovations to the BRN's Volunteer Mission House and Guest House. The Volunteer Mission House is made available to mission teams serving churches in the central Pennsylvania region. The Guest House is a haven of rest for BRN pastors and their wives. The Guest House is available for respite, retreat, and refreshment.

Both houses have had some needed updates and renovations to keep them in tip top shape for use by churches, mission teams, and pastors. Updates include a new front porch, exterior painting, and new walkways. We desire to provide these houses as a blessing for those who use them. To inquire about usage, please reach out to the Help Desk.



LET'S JOIN HANDS TO MAKE AN IMPACT THROUGH LEGACY GIVING

Everyone wants to have a life with meaning. Part of that meaningful life is to live on in the memory of family and friends. Generous giving with eternal impact can indeed create a legacy for family and Kingdom ministry that gives added meaning to your life.

We urge you to pray and ask the Lord for guidance about financially giving through your resources and estate to benefit the ministry of the Baptist Resource Network and its churches.

INTERESTED?

***CONTACT CHUCK KNOX, STEWARDSHIP COACH AT (724) 991-5303
OR STOP BY THE LEGACY GIVING EXHIBIT TODAY!***

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NEXT GEN MINISTRY



Photo (left to right): Stanley Williams, Austin Burton, Brady Rennix, Kim Carson, Brian Musser, Eric Reiber, Scott Underhill, Robbie Mays, and Jon Rice.

PENNSYLVANIA/SOUTH JERSEY has approximately 750,000 students on about 225 campuses, one of the largest student populations in the nation. We currently have about 15 vocational campus ministers serving across our region on 13 campuses, accompanied by a number of short-term workers, plus a number of churches that are reaching out to the campuses within their context. We also acknowledge the importance of ministering to middle and high school students who comprise the next generation.

Grace & Peace,

Fellow CoLaborers!

Over the course of the past year, collegiate reaching and engaging the Next Generation across Pennsylvania and New Jersey has continued to expand.

Highlights of this past year of cooperative ministry include the following experiences and outcomes:

- Over* 1,473 collegians were evangelistically engaged through the collective work of the seven missionary families reaching collegians across our region. (**This reported number reflects only annual data submitted by MSC Self-Funded BRN Missionaries. The balance of activity for this metric represented by church-based and collegiate church plants in particular are not reflected in that number.*)

- 26 collegians went on short-term missions opportunities for either their spring break or summer recess to engage in evangelistic and community focused ministry across our state and in foreign countries.

- After a pandemic-induced short hiatus from in-person conferences and retreats, we held our Fall Collegiate Conference at Camp Hebron. 68 Students and their campus ministry directors and missionary leaders shared together this weekend of discipleship, fellowship and recreation.

- The Lord has added two interns [Caroline Cunha and Maria Bartolucci] serving in the Philadelphia region with Brady Rennix (MSC Collegiate Missionary), as well as one full

time (MSC Funded) associate collegiate missionary [Rebekah Gullledge] to serve alongside Brian Musser. This brings the total number of collegiate reaching missionaries and interns in the Philadelphia region to 6—to say nothing of the many other collegiate church planters and church based ministries across Southeast PA near Philadelphia who have also expanded their staffs as well.

serve with the PA/SJ state convention, would be eliminated on July 31, 2023, effectively ending my 22-year career as a funded missionary with NAMB. While many others knew this was coming, I and my family were completely blindsided by the news and its significant implications for how we do basic life stuff while answering the upward call of God to serve the next generation. I am grateful

95% of those who trust Christ do so BEFORE they reach the age of 30.

Looking forward to the coming year, we anticipate God's continued blessing and the outpouring of His Spirit. The most significant undertaking we will continue to establish is the **Next Gen Missional Engagement Quotient** of our network of partnering churches. Shane Pruitt's words from Accelerate 2022 continue to remind us that over 95% of those who trust Christ do so BEFORE they reach the age of 30.

Let's partner together to prioritize our resources of time, talent and treasure to speak the hope of life and light of truth from the gospel into the most significant window of openness and opportune witness while it is our privilege and charge to do so.

On a personal note, almost 90 days ago (July 5, 2023), I was informed that my role as a North American Mission Board (NAMB) missionary through which I have been funded to

for the advocacy of Dr. Barry Whitworth, our state executive director and the generosity of Dr. Kevin Ezell, president of NAMB, who worked together to provide substantial funding with which I can continue to serve as our state convention's team leader on a time specific contract basis pursuant to raising support going forward.

My predecessor Dr. Robert Turner began this work in PA/SJ over three decades ago as a self funded missionary. Hopefully, its future will be as faithfully resourced as its beginnings were. In either case, I hope you will remember me and my family in prayer.

**By His Grace
ALONE, I Remain,**

Stanley Williams,
BRN Collegiate Ministry -
Next Gen Director

WOVEN WOMEN

By Mary Landis

This has been a year of great growth and firsts for Woven Women. It's been just about a year since we launched our monthly newsletter containing a blog, book review, creative pro-tips, information about upcoming events, and a share space. We have learned a new level of discipline in preparing a monthly blog post and reading a book then writing a book review each month. We want to convey our gratitude to those who contributed book reviews and blog posts for us as well! It means more than you know. We hope that both the blog and book review will be instructive to the women we serve, our sisters in Christ, as they grow in their leadership and personal ministries, and helpful as a tool to use in serving women in local churches.

Over the past year we

identified, trained and introduced three regional volunteers: Western Region – Crystal Brandon, Central Region – Cindy Fetty, and in the Greater Philadelphia Region – Kimberly Houston. These women have helped to shoulder the burden of reaching out to and building relationships with women in local churches in these regions. We could not do what we do without their dedication. Behind the scenes, developing a volunteer job description, and training took a good deal of time as well. The volunteer job description is ever changing as well and looks a little different in each region.

We are praying and seeking a volunteer for South Jersey. We had a wonderful volunteer who had to step away, and we truly mourned losing her. We are eagerly awaiting the woman God will choose to fill the role of our

South Jersey volunteer. We can't wait to come to South Jersey and serve our sisters there!

With the help of our volunteers, we have now reached out to every church in the West, Central, and Philadelphia regions. If you have not heard from us, it is probably because we did not have accurate contact information for you or your church. Please stop by our table today. We would love to hear from you. If you miss the opportunity to stop by, feel free to email maryl@brnunited.org.

In January, we offered our first virtual women's ministry study on the book "Ministry to Women" by Kelly King. This group was a very Spirit-led and devoted group of women. It was a blessing learning with and journeying with our sisters in Christ from across the BRN during the eight weeks we met together virtually.



Summer Seminar at Macedonia Baptist Church, Philadelphia

BRN Woven Women
invites you!

LEARN MORE: brnunited.org/women



*Woven
Women*

Woven Women is a Baptist Resource Network community designed to provide intentional discipleship and leadership development for women's ministry leaders as well as women in any leadership role in their local churches.

**Sign up for the
Woven Women
newsletter:**



At the Advance Conference, we offered a Women's Lunch and Learn on "Reaching Neighborhoods and Communities for Christ." This was a blessed time where we all learned from each other. At Advance, Mary also had the privilege of speaking about evangelism on a panel discussion.

Over the summer, we offered regional Summer Seminars on "Boundaries," in each of the three locations that we have volunteers for: West region, Central region, and Philadelphia region. One part of the regional volunteer position is to help coordinate logistics at the church and community level. This saves us an immense amount of work to learn the layout of churches and

communities I do not know. The topic for our Summer Seminars was self-identified by women in each region as a topic that they needed to learn more about. We were incredibly blessed to learn from Debbie Knowles and to get to know all of the women who attended each of our seminars.

We are proud to roll out the BRN Lending Library to you this fall as well! This is one more resource for everyone in the BRN family. That's right, the Lending Library contains Bible studies and ministry resources for everyone, not "just" women. We hope that this library will be a blessing to all of you.

We also met with many women virtually, via phone, and in person, and had many text

chats as well. The best part of this position is meeting all the godly, beautiful women God is using to do His work across the BRN region. I've learned more and been blessed more by these meetings than I think any of the individual women we've met have been.

When I say "we" during this report, I want to convey that I am referring to my right-hand woman, my primary volunteer, Debbie Knowles. She is always Spirit-led and has her finger on the pulse of all things Woven Women. I am grateful for her help, sisterhood, and dedication to what God called us to do before it even had a name or a platform. Woven Women would not be where it is without her!

The North Carolina Partnership with Pennsylvania/South Jersey

BAPTISTS ON MISSION

What's This?:

An avenue through which North Carolina Baptist churches, associations, and individuals have opportunity to partner with Pennsylvania/South Jersey congregations, church plants, and ministries in fulfilling the God-given task of reaching the lost for Christ.

What do Partnership Teams do?:

NC Partnership teams have served all around the world in many different ways:

Bible School

Backyard Bible Clubs

Community Surveys

Revival Teams

Youth and Children's Camps

Music ministry

New Construction

Renovation of existing facilities

Painting

Landscaping and cement work

Sports clinics and camps

Leadership Training

...And More!

What can a Partnership team do for me and my church?

The purpose of a NC Partnership team is to partner with you in reaching your community for Christ. This could include a direct ministry such as a Backyard Bible Club, sports camp, evangelism, and other outreach activities – OR - one that better equips your church *for* ministry – such as leadership training or facility construction or renovation.

How much will having a Partnership team cost?

NC Partnership teams pay their own way to the field. They are also prepared to pay their own housing, transportation, and meals *if necessary*. If it's possible for them to stay in your church facility and/or for your church to provide one meal a day for them – that helps greatly, but is not required. Also, evangelistic outreach teams are willing to bring ministry supplies if needed. Construction and renovation-type teams usually expect materials to be provided by the requesting church or organization – although on occasion, they may be willing to contribute toward materials if needed.

How do I go about requesting a team from North Carolina?

Pray about how you might use a volunteer missionary team to assist you in fulfilling your ministry. Fill out one (or more!) of the enclosed NC Partnership Volunteer Request Forms. Send the form to Mark Abernathy, Baptists on Mission (BOM) or Dewey and Kathie Aiken, NC On-Site Coordinators. We will be glad to receive requests throughout the year, but most of our churches begin their missions planning 8-10 months in advance, and will be eager to see a list of requests beginning in October. So please submit the request as soon as possible.

What happens then?

Baptists on Mission will work to promote your project among our churches here in North Carolina (and beyond via our website!) and help find a team to fill it. While we cannot guarantee a team to fill your request, we will promote it throughout the year in a variety of ways. When a team shows interest, the team leader will be put in direct contact with you. If you both feel it is a good fit, you both will set the dates of service and work out all the necessary details.

If you have any questions about the North Carolina/Pennsylvania-South Jersey Partnership, please feel free to contact:

Mark Abernathy, Baptists on Mission (919-459-5607; mabernathy@ncbaptist.org) or
Dewey and Kathie Aiken, NC/PA-SJ On-Site Coordinators (828-553-7694; dewey_kate@hotmail.com)

Baptists on Mission is an auxiliary of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina



You're Invited!
Hope for Our World.

PA/SJ WMU Annual Meeting
Saturday, November 4th, 2023
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Red Land Baptist Church
661 Big Spring Rd, New Cumberland, PA 17070
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Email pa.sjwmu@gmail.com for
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STAY CONNECTED!

BRN UNITED

Subscribe to the weekly e-newsletter of the Baptist Resource Network of Pennsylvania/ South Jersey, which features news, events and resources of interest to Southern Baptists in our region. brnunited.org/news

#LOVEPASJ DEVOTIONAL

Sign up for this 30-day devotional, delivered five days a week for six weeks, which helps church leaders and members love their neighbors and seek to reach them for Christ. lovepasj.com

BRN HELP DESK

Have questions? Need a resource? Feel free to reach out to the Baptist Resource Network's Help Desk. Email helpdesk@brnunited.org or call or text (717) 652-5856.



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A BAPTIST RESOURCE NETWORK GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ACCELERATE CONFERENCE: The Baptist Resource Network's annual gathering, held each autumn, provides inspiration, training, and encouragement to churches. The conference also hosts a short business meeting to highlight accomplishments and vision.

ADVANCE CONFERENCE: The Baptist Resource Network's annual evangelism conference.

AMPLIFY CONFERENCE: This annual conference focuses on evangelizing, engaging, and equipping the next generation.

ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING (AAEO): An offering held around Easter to support the field work of the North American Mission Board.

ANNUAL CHURCH PROFILE (ACP): Also known as the annual letter, this is the annual report sent from the local churches to the state convention.

BAPTIST FAITH & MESSAGE (BF&M): The list of beliefs held by Southern Baptists.

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM (CP): Southern Baptists' unified plan of giving through which cooperating Southern Baptist churches give a percentage of their undesignated receipts to support cooperative missions and ministries in the BRN and the SBC.

ETHICS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION (ERLC): A national entity who addresses specific moral issues in broader cultural conversations.

GREAT COMMISSION BAPTISTS: Great Commission Baptists, affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, seek to follow God's command to make disciples of all nations.

GUIDESTONE: A SBC entity who provides health insurance, life insurance, retirement accounts, and taxation information as well as wellbeing resources for churches.

INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD (IMB): The missionary sending agency of the SBC that deploys outside of North America.

LEGACYPASJ: A fund began in 2021 with the assistance of Ministry Trust (themistryfund.org) to support the Baptist Resource Network's long-term viability.

LIFEWAY CHRISTIAN RESOURCES: The publishing house of the SBC, Lifeway is one of the world's largest providers of Christian resources.

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING (LMCO): An offering held around Christmas to support the field work of the International Mission Board.

NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD (NAMB): The missionary sending agency of the SBC that deploys in North America.

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION (WMU): A missions education, prayer support, and involvement organization that also promotes the Annie Armstrong and Lottie Moon offerings.



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- AFFORDABLE PARTNERSHIPS** (Dollar sign icon)

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WHERE DO WE GO?

Piercing Word is based in Lancaster, PA, and sends touring teams throughout the United States to perform for churches, conferences, colleges, special events, and more.

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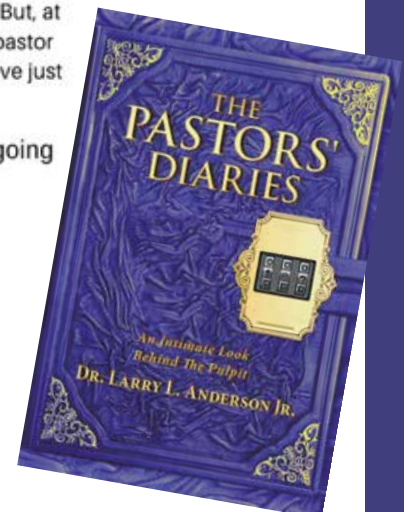
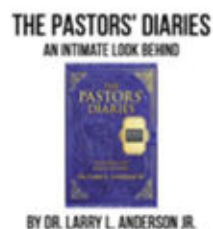


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Dr. Larry L. Anderson Jr. returns to the publishing scene with the release of "The Pastors' Diaries." A book that offers a behind-the-pulpit look at the people who have been called to pastor and the personal challenges they encounter throughout their journey. This book is filled with real life confessions and testimonies from diverse pastors and faith-based leaders, many of which have never been shared with the public. It details their unscripted transparent trials and triumphs of pastoring, including their journeys of pressure, pain, power, pedestal, passion, pride and perseverance while serving in ministry. Some stories are unbelievable and hilarious while others are heartbreaking and bewildering. But, at its core, each story reflects the humanity of the pastor and the love, grace and mercy they need to receive just as much as they give.

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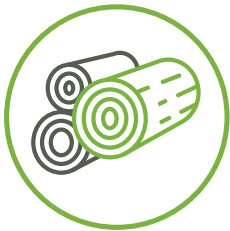
- **ADVANCE CONFERENCE**, March 18, 2024 (Calvary Church, State College)
- **ADVANCED DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING**, November 3-4, 2023 (Cross Creek Community Church)
- **AMPLIFY CONFERENCE**, April 12-14, 2024 (Camp Hebron, Halifax, Pa.)
- **CHURCH SECURITY SEMINAR: CENTRAL**, November 2, 2023 (Cross Creek Community Church)
- **CHURCH SECURITY SEMINAR: SOUTH JERSEY AND PHILADELPHIA**, October 27, 2023 (Fellowship Crosspoint Church)
- **CHURCH SECURITY SEMINAR: WEST**, November 16, 2023 (Rolling Hills Baptist Church)
- **COMPASSION MINISTRY TRAININGS**
- **D-LIFE BOOTCAMPS**, March 2, 2024 (West Hills Baptist Church, Moon); March 3, 2024 (Memorial Baptist Church, Gettysburg)
- **FALL COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE**, November 3-5, 2023 (Camp Hebron, Halifax, Pa.)
- **FIRST STEPS GATHERING**, November 14, 2023 (BRN Hub)
- **IRON SHARPENS IRON: RAISING UP THE NEXT GENERATION**, October 9, 2023 (Zoom)
- **IRON SHARPENS IRON: EMERGING TOPICS**, November 13, 2023 (Zoom)
- **LEGACY WORKSHOP**, November 11, 2023 (Ezekiel Baptist Church)
- **LOGOS SOFTWARE WEBINAR**, January 16, 2024 (Zoom)
- **REFRESH CONFERENCE**, April 22-24, 2024 (Loews Philadelphia Hotel)
- **REVIVE SUMMIT**, February 26-27, 2024 (Cross Creek Community Church)
- **SERVE ERIE**, August 2-3, 2024

STAY TUNED TO [BRUNITED.ORG/EVENTS](https://brnited.org/events) FOR THE EMERGING DETAILS.



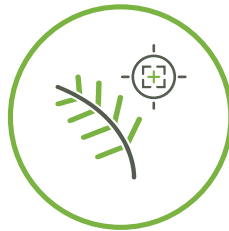
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Pastor Jack Peters has been pastoring Baptist and Bible Churches since December of 1975. Currently he is Pastor of The First Baptist Church of New Holland, PA (SBC). It is his desire to honor his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and to bless His church with this free resource!



BAPTIST RESOURCE NETWORK OF PA/SJ

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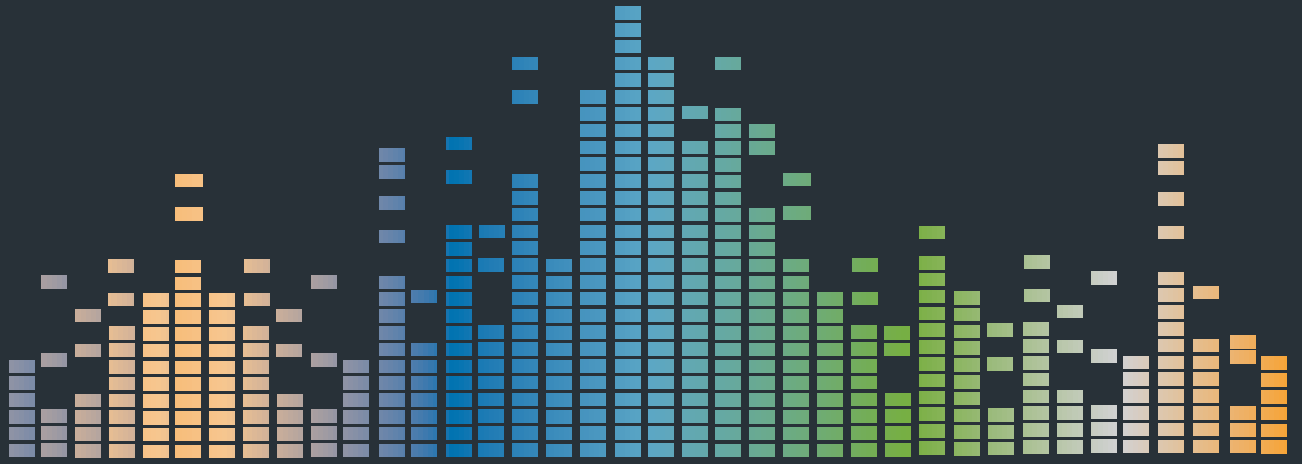
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and finally, our BRN churches and partners!

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