



Fresh Wind

*... I will put My Spirit
within you and you will come
to life ... Ezekiel 37:14*



A church planting movement for the Bible Fellowship Church 2013 -2020

**This Forward Plan is designed to stimulate a church planting movement
in the Bible Fellowship Church —
a movement of the Spirit to bring life and growth.**

Church Extension Ministries
David E. Gundrum, Director

Revised December 2013

Fresh Wind

A Forward Plan

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Fresh Wind . . . The Blowing of the Spirit *making ready a movement*

All movements of the Spirit begin and end with God. No human massaging or manipulation can force God's hand to send forth His Spirit to produce what people might desire. This truth is vividly stated in the Lord's prophetic vision to Ezekiel, "... *and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I, the LORD, have spoken and done it, declares the LORD.*" (Ezekiel 37:14 NASB)

God proclaims His sovereignty and delights when man recognizes that He alone will fulfill His will and purpose. However, God's revealed will can and must be discovered. Human plans are brought into line with God's will through His established means:

Scripture, **United in the Word**—investigating God's truth

Communion, **United in Prayer**—communing with God

Meditation, **United in Reflection**—thinking on the providential movement of the Spirit

... I seek the will of the Spirit of God through, or in connection with, the Word of God. Next I take into account providential circumstances... I ask God in prayer to reveal His will to me aright... Thus, through prayer to God, the study of the Word, and reflection, I come to a deliberate judgment... I proceed accordingly. In trivial matters, and in transactions involving most important issues, I have found this method always effective.

George Mueller, All About Following Jesus website www.allaboutfollowingjesus.org

Therefore, as we move into the future, we want to recognize that this *Fresh Wind* Forward Plan begins with God. As His agent, the BFC must unite in the word, in prayer and in reflection. Together we will watch God work in America and the world through church planting movements.

UNITED IN THE WORD!

What does it mean to have a denomination united in the word and what the word says about evangelistic church planting? It means that the denomination must understand clearly and corporately what the scriptures say about missions, evangelism and church planting. If a church planting movement is to develop in the BFC, and this becomes the means for the BFC to succeed at being an *expanding fellowship of churches...*, then every church must follow the biblical mandate. Each one must acknowledge what the scriptures teach about missions and missionaries; primarily missions being the sending out of church-planting missionaries to evangelize for conversion and plant churches for disciple-making. Missions and missionaries should be viewed through the crucial lens of evangelistic church planting.

UNITED IN PRAYER!

There needs to be a concentrated focus on evangelistic church planting in our prayers. Church Extension has encouraged corporate prayer via annual themes, publications and especially the

focus on church-planting prayer—Pentecost Prayer—during the weeks leading up to and including Pentecost Sunday. Think of what the Spirit would accomplish in the BFC if all the churches would spend more time praying for Church Extension and their BFC church-planting missionaries. Some churches fail to inform their flocks about the BFC church-planting missionaries and the wonderful blessings occurring in the BFC through the work of Church Extension. God has blessed Church Extension with a large number of prayer warriors, and as a result Church Extension has been able to carry out the biblical mandate to evangelize and plant churches.

...Church Extension Ministries exists to plant churches in order to build the Body of Christ through extending the Bible Fellowship Church... It does this by evangelizing in areas, communities, and neighborhoods as well as among people where Bible Fellowship Churches do not exist and by forming, fostering and nurturing to maturity new congregations.
Faith and Order BFC

If a church planting movement is to surface in the BFC, the entire BFC must pray consistently and earnestly for Church Extension! Every church attendee must be aware of Church Extension, their BFC church-planting missionaries, and new opportunities God is bringing to our church.

UNITED IN REFLECTION!

Look around—really look around—at America and the world to see what God is doing! God has been working for years raising up church-planting movements around the world. In Asia, Southeast Asia, Africa, Latin and South America, and Eastern Europe, evangelistic church-planting efforts are resulting in the establishing of new churches. Indigenous couples and individuals are being trained and sent out to plant churches. One of our BFC connections is with Ondrej Franka, President of the Serbia Baptist Union, who has a vision to plant fifty churches throughout the former Yugoslavia, a former communist country.

Franka envisions a school that will produce pastors and church planters who will be spiritually mature servants of Christ. He currently is working two strategies through the UBC: 'Berea' to help existing churches and 'Antioch' to stimulate new church planting...

Interview, 10/19/2010, townhall.com.

Just as Jesus observed what the Father was doing and did in like manner, so the Church must observe what the Father is doing and do likewise. At this time the Father is most definitely moving His Spirit to raise up church-planting movements in all parts of the world. Even though America is lagging behind, the BFC cannot ignore what God's Spirit is doing throughout the world. We must reflect on this church-planting movement and unite in action!

...Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner...'
John 5:19

Reproducing Missional Churches and Regions *New churches with new DNA*

There is a fresh new wind of the Spirit blowing. We started to introduce this new wind with the prologue section, United in Reflection. As noted, there has been little evidence of a church-planting movement in America until recently. Ten years ago no Bible colleges and only one seminary offered any courses in church planting. Yet it can be argued biblically, theologically and missiologically that evangelistic church planting and the calling of church planters is God's primary means for extending His Kingdom.

Ten years ago, the mega-church movement was prospering, but few mega-churches planted daughter churches. However, things have changed, and today Bible colleges and seminaries are offering church-planting courses and training, and a host of smaller churches have caught God's vision for multiplication.

And now we come to the Bible Fellowship Church. I am blessed to report that we are seeing some signs of a church-planting movement in the BFC.

... For more than ten years, Church Extension has been beating the churches-planting-churches drum and the percussion is starting to strike some in the BFC...

David Gundrum, The Antiochan

Note: The usage of the term missional may be uncomfortable for some. What we mean by reproducing missional churches and regions is threefold:

integrity in Kingdom service (Mk. 10:45)

intentional in Gospel integration (Jn. 4:4)

networking with the Gospel in reproducing churches and regions (Acts 11:19ff)

Priority elements of church (worship, preaching, teaching, discipleship, community, baptizing, and more) are not minimized or compromised with such a missional focus, but are the essentials to edifying the Church for its missional mission. New BFC churches will need to have this missional/reproducing DNA ingrained in their vision and mission.

In the past three years, one church successfully planted a daughter church (Harrisburg, PA BFC planted the East/West Hanover Township Mission Church) and now two other churches have daughter churches (Newark, DE BFC and Harleysville, PA BFC). Regions are showing interest and a willingness to investigate regional daughter church planting (Capital Region [an Hispanic plant] and the Lehigh Valley are discussing daughter church planting). Also, three of the four youngest churches in the BFC are seeking to plant daughter churches: Woodbury Heights, NJ BFC is planting in Woolwich Township, NJ; Merida, Mexico BFC is planting in Villa Magna, Mexico; and Hellertown, PA BFC, along with other churches in the Lehigh Valley, is planning a daughter church in Forks Township, PA. It is encouraging that the pastors of these churches were former BFC church-planting missionaries and are now involved in planting these three new daughter churches.

Note: The Regional or Particular Daughter Church Planting Guidebook is available on the Church Extension website, <churchplantingbfc.org> along with many other planting helps. This manual also gives the biblical, theological and missiological rationales for daughter church planting along with answers to the most common fears about daughter church planting.

A church-planting movement is on the BFC doorstep. Consider the number of men seeking church-planting opportunities and the increased interest and involvement from both inside and outside the BFC. This is demonstrated by resources, questions being asked, and people looking for church-planting experiences.

What are the results from churches planting churches and reproduction becoming the vision for missional ministry in America and the BFC?

1. The church of Jesus Christ will be seen as a sacrificial extension of the Lord's life of sacrifice (Philippians 2:3-7). There has always been one great characteristic of the church that has baffled and attracted the world to Christianity, and that quality has been the church's willingness to give itself up for the sake of the Kingdom of God. Rather than holding on to things that in the end will be given up, the church is called to be unattached to accumulation (Matthew 6:19, 20). When churches sacrificially release their people and resources to extend the Kingdom, it sends a message of the gospel to a baffled world and results in the building up of the body of Christ.

...Prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up...
Ephesians 4:12

2. The church will demonstrate that God's power rests in "foolishness" — the foolishness of a lonely cross with only a small group of adherents by its side. These then go on to turn the world upside down through evangelistic church planting which impacts the world. The world will see God's churches reproducing. This will demonstrate the power of God and not the power of man.

Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.
I Corinthians 1:25

3. The church and the world will learn the lesson of satisfaction. The sending out of the church and the planting of churches is grounded in sacrifice, in giving ourselves up for a greater purpose, and in taking the gospel to unchurched communities of unbelief. Such missional church-planting efforts convey the testimony that the church is satisfied with giving itself up for a greater purpose - that purpose being the Kingdom of God. Our satisfaction with God's redemptive plan of extending His Kingdom and calling His church to a greater purpose, beyond itself, will be revealed through the church's satisfaction in sacrifice (Matthew 6:33).

*The desire for transcendence—a craving to be part of something bigger than ourselves — is in all of us because God placed it there. He constructed us to live for more than ourselves, **or our particular churches** (emphasis DEG)... God purposed that the borders of our vision would be much, much larger than the boundaries of our lives...*

A Quest for More by Paul Tripp

The borders of our vision are as expansive as the Kingdom of God is limitless. Mission trips and short-term involvements are credible ways to create a limited Kingdom vision for what God is

doing in His creation. However, sacrificing and giving up ourselves for the Kingdom, as our churches releasing its people to live as the sent ones, is a more intense dimension of Kingdom-mindedness that gives much greater and lasting satisfaction than a brief exposure to God's world.

If we are going to reach a changing North America, we have to contend for the unchanging faith (Jude 3), but to do so using forms that are relevant to all kinds of people (1 Cor. 9:22-23). That's a missional church — a church acting like a missionary to the community around it while partnering with others to be missionary around the world.

- Ed Stetzer

May the BFC have a determined commitment to expand its borders by means of every church and region being sacrificially involved in a united church-planting movement.

GOALS and OBJECTIVES

- To continue bringing church-planting awareness to the BFC so as to clarify and educate the BFC churches regarding reproduction and missional outreach.
- To encourage every BFC church and/or region to be actively involved with a BFC church-planting missionary and his church-planting ministry.
- To provide assistance to particular churches and regions wanting to plant.
- To graduate the current BFC mission churches.
- To plant nine reproducing/missional churches including three daughter church plants.

ACTION PLAN

Church Planting Awareness

1. Continue sending church-planting information to BFC churches: *The Antiochan, It Happened Like This . . .*, *The Extension Call* and Pentecost Prayer Bulletin Inserts.
2. Foster good church relations by:
 - a. preaching/teaching in churches
 - b. conducting regional church-planting seminars (new)
 - c. participating in local missions conferences
 - d. sending out notices about new church-planting publications, church-planting conferences, and meeting with pastors, regions, and elders to discuss views of church planting and to answer questions.
3. Develop a seminar that will define reproducing/missional churches.

Church and Regional Active Involvement

1. Annually attend all regional meetings; present the *Regional or Particular Daughter Church Planting Guidebook* to all regions.
2. Encourage and facilitate the Capital Region and Lehigh Valley Region with their current interest and investigation into church planting.
3. Encourage and assist new BFC churches that are planning to reproduce, i.e. Woodbury Heights, NJ and Hellertown, PA.
4. Recruit and train four new Aquila & Priscilla Teams (A&P) to go from four churches who have heretofore not sent out an A&P Team.
5. Begin daughter church plants through three regions and three churches.

Graduate Current Mission Churches

1. Dauphin, PA, 2014
2. Allentown Hispanic, PA, 2017
3. Steelton, PA, 2013
4. Adams County, PA, 2014
5. Cape May Court House, NJ, 2015
6. Reading (Hispanic), PA, 2015
7. Lower Providence Township, PA, 2016
8. Greater Townsend, DE, 2017
9. Woolwich Township, NJ, 2019

Plant nine new reproducing/missional churches

1. Three regional daughter church plants - current and future possibilities: Capital PA Region, 2014; Metro Region - Philadelphia, PA, 2014; Lehigh Valley Region, 2014; BucksMont PA Region, 2013.
2. Three daughter church plants: Newark, DE, 2013; Woodbury Heights, NJ, 2013; Hellertown, PA (& Lehigh Valley Churches), 2014.
3. Three pioneer church plants in new cities and regions.

Expansion of Hispanic Ministries “the times they are a-changing”

There are large concentrations of Hispanic people groups living in areas close to many of our established churches - New York, NY; Mid and South Jersey; Delaware cities and towns: Dover, Newark, Millsboro, Long Neck; Pennsylvania areas: Philadelphia, Reading, Allentown, Lancaster Area, York, Harrisburg, Lebanon, Hatfield; and Las Cruces, NM. All have existing BFC churches along with growing Hispanic populations.

Over the past eleven years, the BFC has followed God’s lead in reaching Hispanics with the gospel and planting Hispanic churches. We have experienced God’s blessing and confirmation regarding His will for our church to focus its ethnic church-planting efforts on the expanding Hispanic U.S. population.

The growth of the Hispanic population in the U.S., and particularly in and near many of our churches and regions, is a sufficient enough reason to focus on Hispanic church planting. God has blessed us with local churches strategically and geographically located near this exploding Hispanic population. For example, it is projected that in the Lehigh Valley, PA, where a number of our churches exist, the Hispanic population will soon make up 36% of the population. In recent years, the percentage of Hispanics in Lancaster, PA has doubled.

Our churches can reach Cubans, Puerto Ricans, Costa Ricans, Dominicans, Latin Americans and South Americans without having to spend large amounts of money to send Americans to these countries. A better missiological approach to reaching Spanish-speaking countries may be to reach and disciple the Hispanic people God has placed on our doorstep, and then support some of them to return to their homelands to evangelize their people.

The testimony and impact of our Hispanic church plants have been a blessing to the BFC. God led us to plant Hispanic churches and as a result we are growing in our cross-cultural awareness! Our Hispanic brothers and sisters at *El Faro* BFC, Allentown, *La Roca* BFC, Reading, and *La Roca* BFC, Merida, Mexico have blessed the BFC with their excitement for the Gospel and for expanding God’s Kingdom by church planting. Their interaction and cultural diversity—foods, music and celebrations—have enriched the BFC. Our Hispanic churches challenge, encourage and teach us. They remind us that the Kingdom of God is great and diverse.

Our Hispanic churches have exposed us to numerous opportunities for growth in cross-cultural ministry and thinking. Local churches have organized many teams over these past eleven years to go alongside our Hispanic brethren and join hands in ministry. All have benefited by these cooperative ministries. God has given us abounding blessings from our partnership with our Hispanic brothers and sisters. Hispanic pastors, elders and leaders God has sent to the BFC have been a joy and stimulus to pastors and elders. Pastors Elliot Ramos, Carlos Rodriguez, Marcos Ramirez, Miguel Gonzalez, Stephen Diaz and Freddy Chi have blessed us. Without them the BFC would have experienced genuine difficulty evangelizing this people group. God is blessing

the BFC with very gifted and dynamic Hispanic men to expand the Kingdom of God and the BFC.

God has been blessing the BFC as we have been following His desire to reach the *alien* among us. When God's people obey Him, He brings His approval in the form of observable blessings. God gave His people commands to love those He sends into the midst of His people. In the Old Testament, Israel was to be a redemptive force for the one true God.

Israel was to be a showcase people. They were to love and welcome the nations into their company to attract aliens to God's grace and love. God often reminded Israel that they were once aliens in Egypt, and that it was He who delivered them and treated them with mercy, so they were to treat the alien with mercy. *So show your love for the alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt* (Deut. 10:19). *The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God* (Lev. 19:34).

In the New Testament, the Gentiles are reminded that they were spiritual aliens and that it was God who brought them near and made them fellow saints. *So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household* (Eph. 2:19).

Note: Church Extension will continue to be open to reaching ethnic groups other than Hispanics and planting churches among any ethnic group with which the Lord would lead us to partner. Together with the Board of Missions and the Committee on the Multi-Cultural Church, we will seek to plant churches outside of the USA, and to plant in communities where a BFC church would be appropriate outside of the USA.

The BFC must continue to actively plant
Hispanic churches. Hispanic pastors and congregations
have brought great blessing to the BFC.

GOALS and OBJECTIVES

- To continue bringing awareness of the Hispanic culture to the BFC; to clarify and educate the BFC regarding Hispanic church planting.
- To recruit, assess and train Hispanic men for ministry in the BFC.
- To develop a BFC Hispanic Ministries division within Church Extension Ministries, led by Hispanic men.
- To plant three new Hispanic BFC Churches.

ACTION PLAN

1. Continue having our Hispanic pastors visit BFC churches and organize ministries that will integrate their churches with the other churches.
2. Work with our Hispanic pastors and their contacts, along with CAM and other mission boards that have men seeking U.S. ministry among Hispanics to recruit Hispanic men compatible with the BFC.
3. Form an *Hispanic Ministries Steering Committee* to develop the *BFC Hispanic Ministries Division* within Church Extension Ministries.
4. Plant three new BFC Hispanic churches by 2019 - regional daughter plants, particular daughter plants, and pioneer plants.

Frontier Expansion *clustering in the BFC frontier regions*

God has opened opportunities for the BFC to expand into various geographical regions of America. Church Extension formed a partnership with Integrity Mission and Pastor Jack Becker, regarding the church he planted in Las Cruces, NM. This developed into Church Extension assuming oversight of Grace Church in Las Cruces, calling a church planter, and eventually graduating Grace Church as a particular church.

The next expansion of the BFC took place in Cape May Court House, NJ. For some time the BFC had been establishing churches in Central Jersey. In 2004, the BFC was approached by a remnant group from a closed church on Route 9 in Middle Township of Cape May County. Church Extension did the investigation into the viability of taking control of the property and starting a new church. With the approval of the Board of Church Extension and the BFC Board of Directors, the Cape May Court House mission church was opened.

Then Church Extension pursued church planting in the DELMARVA Peninsula area. (The name DELMARVA is a combination of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia and represents each state's territory on what is known as the Eastern Shore.) During the nineties, the BFC had stretched itself to the tidewater area of Virginia and attempted to plant a church in Chesapeake, VA. This church plant closed in 2008. As the transitional leadership team traveled through DELMARVA for meetings with the Chesapeake Mission Church, it became apparent to the team that the DELMARVA Peninsula was experiencing significant population growth. Because of this, along with the area's apparent need for churches like the BFC with its doctrinal distinctives, and since there were already two established churches in Delaware (Newark and Camden), the Board of Church Extension decided to approve DELMARVA as a regional church-planting target site.

The first church plant of this targeted effort was in Sussex County, Long Neck, DE. After Long Neck was received into Annual Conference (BFC Conference), several other areas were investigated for church planting; Millsboro, Milford, Selbyville, and Middletown. In 2012, the Newark, DE BFC approved a daughter church-planting outreach to the Greater Townsend, DE area. DELMARVA remains a very viable target area for planting new churches and will provide a spring board for the BFC to move south along the eastern seaboard with church-planting efforts.

The New Mexico, South Jersey and DELMARVA territories have existing BFC churches. The question we face is whether to take steps to expand the BFC in these frontier regions. It seems expedient to expand in both the South Jersey and DELMARVA regions because we presently have established BFC churches in these regions to assist with expansion. Also, these areas have local BFC congregations relatively nearby. However, the advisability of expanding in the New Mexico region is a question that has not yet been answered. God has given the BFC churches, like Las Cruces, that are outside of its central base. We must seriously consider how to assist this church and whether or not to expand in this region.

Note: Merida, Mexico BFC is another frontier BFC church. However, *Merida* has, as part of its vision plan, a focus on reproducing and planting daughter BFC churches in and around Merida. The church opened its first daughter BFC Mission Church in Villa Magna, Mexico in partnership with Church Extension and the Committee on the Multi-Cultural Church We will continue to assist and encourage the Merida BFC with its church-planting efforts.

The BFC presently has churches in six states and Mexico. We need to continue to expand into South Jersey and the DELMARVA area. Shall we consider also expanding into frontier regions?

GOALS and OBJECTIVES

- To form a South Jersey region of the BFC by planting two new churches in South Jersey in Swedesboro, NJ and in an area near or southeast of Mullica Hill, NJ, connecting with the Woodbury Heights, NJ BFC and the Cape May Court House, NJ mission church.
- To open dialogues with the leadership of the Las Cruces, NM church to investigate the viability of expanding the BFC in this region.
- To continue targeting church-planting sites in DELMARVA; open three new mission churches in DELMARVA by 2019.
- To recruit a church-planting team to work in DELMARVA.

ACTION PLAN

1. Begin church investigations into Swedesboro and the Mullica Hill, NJ areas.
2. Begin dialogues with the Woodbury Heights, NJ BFC and the Wallingford, PA BFC about daughter church planting in South Jersey.
3. Open dialogues and visit with the Las Cruces, NM leadership.
4. Continue investigations into new areas of DELMARVA – 2013-2015.
5. Recruit three new men for planting in DELMARVA by 2014.

Church Planting Training Center *recruiting, assessing, training, assigning*

A major ingredient in the fresh church-planting wind that is blowing in American Christendom is the increase in the number of men seeking to follow God's lead into church planting. In years past, men who went to Bible colleges and seminaries customarily would take courses in set tracks: pastoral, missions, music, or education. Now, more and more Bible colleges and seminaries are offering courses and degrees in church planting.

Praise to God for His Spirit's moving in the hearts of men to step into the shoes of church planters like the Apostle Paul, Barnabas, Silas, Timothy, Aquila and Priscilla; the Reformers, William Carey, Jonathan Edwards; and the Puritans, George Whitfield, the Wesleys and millions of others throughout the ages. The Bible Fellowship Church has been experiencing this movement of God's Spirit in the lives of men who want to be church planters. For the past several years Church Extension has been receiving one inquiry after another from men interested in becoming church planters.

We have good assessment tools to determine what men fit the role of a church planter, but we struggle with providing comprehensive church-planting training. Training has come through sending men to the Church Multiplication Training Center's Boot Camp, through the church planting manuals we use from Dynamic Church Planting Institute and through the ongoing monthly coaching sessions with the Director and Assistant Director. We also provide two training days per year and three roundtable discussion sessions. While this training, along with ongoing materials, may be adequate, it is not comprehensive.

A Church Planting Training Center would be very beneficial for the BFC. At the center we could conduct assessments, provide training and evaluate the suitability of a man for a particular church-planting area and assignment. At this time, the center would need only to be semiannual. It could be a week in length, and conducted at a church or at Pinebrook. If the BFC were to revisit having its own Bible school, the center could be located more permanently, or we may be able to connect with a college or seminary so that the training could count toward credits. The curriculum, tools for assessment, places for meeting, and a pool of teachers are already in place through Church Extension. What is needed is a steering committee to begin investigating this prospect.

Note: Since currently 40% of our churches have senior pastors who are within a decade of retirement age, Church Extension Ministries will assist the denomination and the Ministerial Candidate Committee in identifying and encouraging younger men to join the BFC in planting BFC churches and/or being available to serve in existing churches. Assisting in recruiting candidates for BFC pastorates can be done when Church Extension visits campuses and during the course of its recruitment and assessment. When men are discovered who do not fit the church-planting role in the BFC, Church Extension will encourage them to pursue candidating with the BFC for the pastorate.

The BFC must provide what is needed to prepare an increasing number of men for the work of church planting.

GOALS and OBJECTIVES

- To establish a Church Planting Training Center (The Center) for men interested in planting churches in the BFC.
- To form a steering committee who will investigate and form a plan for establishing The Center.
- To launch and hold The Center two times a year.

ACTION PLAN

1. Form a steering committee.
2. Have a plan finalized by November 1, 2014, that will include at the minimum: the creation of a curriculum listing, recruiting teachers, advertising scheme, securing of a site and recruiting church-planter candidates.
3. Begin The Center by January 1, 2015.

Financial Support for a Plan *where and how*

As we plan for all this Kingdom expansion, we must realize an adequate financial foundation is essential. Presently, we accomplish our church-planting charge with limited financial resources, and we are solely responsible for raising funds needed to carry out our denominational charge. Thus, we must not only pay attention to planting new churches, we must also raise the necessary funds. Supporting our church-planting missionaries and their church-planting visions is a great part of our responsibility. The task of gathering funds to carry out the expansion of the BFC through evangelistic church planting needs to be shared by all who are the BFC.

The BFC churches must be commended for the financial growth that took place over the last ten years in support of our church-planting vision. For BFC church planting to be more effective, churches will need to prioritize for BFC church planting.

In 2010, BFC churches gave \$407,939 to support Church Extension—a 92% increase since 2000. Praise God! While greatly appreciated, this increase falls far short of what is needed if we are to be *an expanding fellowship of churches*...

Each year millions of dollars are sent out of the BFC for Kingdom expansion throughout the U.S. and the world. No one would want to challenge the BFC's commitment to global Kingdom ministry. Yet, perhaps we must challenge our commitment to expanding the BFC! Many believe that a characteristic of an expanding denomination is how well it supports the planting of new churches and can be seen in the support of our BFC church-planting missionaries.

In order for the BFC is to be *an expanding fellowship of churches*, it must focus more of its resources on expansion through the planting of new churches. It must aggressively support the church planting that Church Extension is pioneering. Our focus must be characterized by a “glocal” missions focus.

If the BFC is not growing and expanding with new church plants, its global mission to the *uttermost parts of the world* will experience an eroding support base. When new churches are planted, these new churches will add to the support for glocal missions.

The BFC must see an increase in its church-planting efforts if we are to reach the goal of becoming an *expanding fellowship of churches*. Future global missionary activity will suffer if this is not accomplished.

GOALS and OBJECTIVES

- To support churches planting churches – “...*In reality...denominations are pretty ineffective in starting churches. It really is much more effective, in general, when either individuals or local churches decide to start new churches...*”
21st Century Strategies - Bill Tenny-Brittian
- To support Church Extension’s calling and sending out men to plant churches.
- To have every church increase its support and have the Executive Board seek ways to provide support for church planting to expand the BFC.

ACTION PLAN

1. Support and encourage daughter-church-planting churches by assisting each with a gift of \$20,000 toward its planting vision.
2. Increase our donor base by 30% over the next seven years.
3. Encourage churches to increase their support for Church Extension by 20% over the next seven years.
4. Develop a “Legacy Society” in conjunction with the BFC Executive Board.

Addendum Considerations

church revitalization / urban planting / connectional merging

Church Revitalization

For years, Church Extension assisted with the restart and revival of BFC churches that closed or were weak and declining. We attempted to restart the Walnutport, Scranton and Staten Island churches and currently we have been asked to assist the Long Neck, DE church and bring it back to viability. Church Extension was able to assist the Walnutport church and see it become self-governing and self-supporting, and after some recent struggles, the church closed and merged with the Whitehall, PA BFC to plant a new church in its community. The Staten Island and Scranton churches did not revive and they were closed.

Restarting a church is a very challenging and costly enterprise. In 2005, the Board of Church Extension decided to no longer engage in restarting churches and to disengage from the particular churches that had been in Church Extension for an average of eighteen years. The decision was made primarily because Church Extension is charged with the task of planting new churches and not using its resources to restart churches or maintain established churches.

During the course of 2006 to 2007, Church Extension disengaged from the Toms River, NJ; Thompson, CT; Newark, NJ; and Bayshore, NJ churches and gave each church \$5,000 as a grant to assist them as they made adjustments. In 2008, Church Extension disengaged from the Brooklyn, NY church, leaving only the Long Neck, DE church in Church Extension as a particular church. It was the plan to disengage from Long Neck in 2008. We had no oversight of the Long Neck church until September 2011 when we were asked to oversee the church. We had been providing financially for the church because of its need and strategic location to our efforts to plant new churches in DELMARVA.

When the Board of Church Extension decided to no longer restart churches or take in weak and declining churches, it petitioned the 121st Annual Conference (2004) to establish a committee *...to study and propose mechanisms to provide support for weak and declining churches* (2004 BFC Yearbook, pg. 87). The Conference approved Church Extension's resolution and appointed a committee, *The Committee on Weak and Declining Churches*. The committee later was renamed the Board of Church Health. This Board still functions but has limited personnel and no financial resources to step in and assist a church to restart or accomplish what it would take to bring a dying church back to life.

The question then remains: who will assist weak and declining churches? Even though Church Extension may be best suited because of its expertise in starting churches, can and should Church Extension be called upon to enter into such a costly, yet needed, ministry? Here are several reasons why Church Extension cannot be called upon to restart weak and declining churches:

1. Church Extension is charged by the BFC Conference to focus on planting new churches and the resources of Church Extension must be dedicated to this charge.

...Church Extension Ministries exists to plant churches in order to build the Body of Christ through extending the Bible Fellowship Church... It does this by evangelizing in areas, communities, and neighborhoods as well as among people where Bible Fellowship Churches do not exist and by forming, fostering and nurturing to maturity new congregations. (Faith & Order 512-4.1)

2. Church Extension's personnel and staff are focused on planting new BFC churches. Church Extension recruits, assesses, and calls church planters. The staff focuses on assisting the church planter. We do not recruit and assess men to do restarts because, just as it takes a specially gifted and talented man to plant a church, so it also takes a particularly called and gifted man to help restart a weak church.

3. Church Extension's financial resources are dedicated to planting new churches. Most of the giving that Church Extension receives is designated giving for church planters. Whatever is undesignated is dedicated to paying the staff, administrative costs and supplying the church planter with various resources and support. So there are no finances available to restart churches. In the past when we did assist weak and declining churches, our finances were very stretched and it caused a slowdown in the planting of new churches. It must also be mentioned that when the denomination asked Church Extension to work with weak and declining churches, Church Extension was not given the necessary funding to carry out the assignments. If the denomination wants to assist weak and declining churches, it must provide the financial resources to do so.

4. In order to restart weak and declining churches, a dedicated ministry must be established. A board, like the Board of Church Health, may be able to assist with evaluating churches and counseling the pastor and/or elders, but that board is not organized and equipped to spend the time and resources needed to restart a weak and declining church.

Summary

Church Extension may, in strategic places that line up with its vision for planting churches, be willing to assist with restarting or revitalizing a closed or weak and declining church under the following circumstances:

1. The restart is located in a strategic region where the Bible Fellowship Church is planting churches, i.e. the Long Neck restart.
2. Church Extension determines that the necessary components are in place for a restart:
 - a. sufficient financial and material resources from the denomination,
 - b. a positive demographic and ministry evaluation of the church and the ministry target site,
 - c. the willingness of the remnant leadership of the church to step aside and,
 - d. availability of a qualified church planter and a new and energized core group.

Summary points for restarting a weak/declining church from *Joyful Heart Renewal Ministries*:

1. Make Sure There Is Growth Potential in the Facility's Location.
Not every church is a good candidate for a restart. The area around a restart church needs to have a definable target group of sufficient size.
2. Celebrate the Old Church's Past.
Before the old church passes away, gather to celebrate its victories and glorious past.
3. Close the Doors of the Church for a Time.
4. Transfer Control from Local Power Brokers to a Steering Committee of Mostly Outsiders.
One of the most common blocks to growth in a dying congregation is leadership that is closed to faith and a vision of the future. Often these entrenched old timers have run off the very people who could have provided vital ministry.
5. Change the Church's Name.
6. Develop a Fresh Vision for the Community.
Without a mission beyond its own survival, a restart church is neither new nor viable. "The word restart is not fully appropriate," says Mark Emerson of Littleton, Colorado. "We're not going to restart the old ministry. We're here to make a new beginning. We have a new name, a new purpose."
7. Call a New Church Planter with Energy and Faith.
Restarting a church takes mountains of energy and faith in God's power to ward off discouragement. One of the common ailments in a restart situation is the people's tiredness.

Urban Planting

For many years Church Extension and its predecessor, *The Home Mission Board*, planted churches in the cities and metro areas of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York. In the past fifteen years, Church Extension has planted, restarted, or assisted urban churches in large metro areas like Staten Island, Brooklyn, Newark, NJ, and among the Haitians and Chinese in Philadelphia, PA. More recently Church Extension has focused its urban church planting among Hispanic people in medium size cities like Allentown, Reading, and Lancaster, PA.

Urban and ethnic church planting requires unique men to lead the ministry, adequate resources, and patient support from the denomination. Church Extension normally has a five-year plan for establishing Anglo churches, but for urban or ethnic church plants, we extend that plan to ten years. We know it takes extra time to establish an ethnic or urban church, applying BFC criteria for graduation.

Church Extension will always be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit in the establishment of churches in urban areas and among ethnic groups. We presently work alongside the Committee on the Multi-Cultural Church. It is also our desire to dialogue with City Concerns and to work with the group to establish churches in larger metro areas.

Connectional Merging

Church Extension will continue to be the channel for merging existing churches into the Bible Fellowship Church. Should existing churches want to become a part of the Bible Fellowship Church, Church Extension will meet with the churches, measure their compatibility with the BFC and assist them through the process of being received into the BFC Conference.

GOALS and OBJECTIVES

- To dialogue with the Board of Church Health and the Ministerial Relations Committee regarding a plan for revitalizing and restarting weak and declining BFC churches.
- To begin dialogues with the BFC City Concerns regarding urban church planting and raise awareness regarding urban church plants among existing BFC churches, along with brainstorming a strategy and plan to reinvigorate the BFC back into urban areas.
- Church Extension will be available to assist churches seeking to connect with the BFC and will develop a plan to seek out independent like-minded churches that may be open to pursuing connection with the BFC.

ACTION PLAN

1. The Director of Church Extension will be open to attend meetings of the Board of Church Health to discuss church revitalization and restarts.
2. The Director of Church Extension will seek permission to sit in on a meeting of City Concerns to discuss urban church planting.
3. The Director of Church Extension will be open to meet with the chairman of the MRC and the Executive Director to discuss revitalization and restarts and support for such efforts.
4. The Director of Church Extension will follow up on churches that seek connection with the BFC.

Summary

Goals and Objectives & Action Plans

REPRODUCING MISSIONAL CHURCHES AND REGIONS

GOALS and OBJECTIVES

- To continue bringing church-planting awareness to the BFC so as to clarify and educate the BFC churches regarding reproduction and missional outreach.
- To encourage every BFC church and/or region to be actively involved with a BFC church-planting missionary and his church-planting ministry.
- To provide assistance to particular churches and regions wanting to plant.
- To graduate the current BFC mission churches.
- To plant nine reproducing/missional churches including three daughter church plants.

ACTION PLAN

Church Planting Awareness

1. Continue sending church-planting information to BFC churches: *The Antiochan, It Happened Like This . . .*, *The Extension Call* and Pentecost Prayer Bulletin Inserts.
2. Foster good church relations by:
 - a. preaching/teaching in churches
 - b. conducting regional church-planting seminars (new)
 - c. participating in local mission conferences
 - d. sending out notices about new church-planting publications, church-planting conferences, and meeting with pastors, regions, and elders to discuss views of church planting and to answer questions.
3. Develop a seminar that will define reproducing/missional churches.

Church and Regional Active Involvement

1. Annually attend all regional meetings; present the *Regional or Particular Daughter Church Planting Guidebook* to all regions.
2. Encourage and facilitate the Capital Region and Lehigh Valley Region with their current interest and investigation into church planting.
3. Encourage and assist new BFC churches that are planning to reproduce, i.e. Woodbury Heights, NJ and Hellertown, PA.
4. Recruit and train four new Aquila & Priscilla Teams (A&P) to go from four churches who have heretofore not sent out an A&P Team.
5. Begin daughter church plants through three regions and three churches.

Graduate Current Mission Churches

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. Dauphin, PA, 2014 | 5. Cape May Court House, NJ, 2015 |
| 2. Allentown Hispanic, PA, 2017 | 6. Reading (Hispanic), PA, 2015 |
| 3. Steelton, PA, 2013 | 7. Lower Providence Township, PA, 2016 |
| 4. Adams County, PA, 2014 | 8. Greater Townsend, DE, 2017 |
| | 9. Woolwich Township, NJ, 2019 |

Plant nine new reproducing/missional churches

1. Three regional daughter church plants - current and future possibilities: Capital PA Region, 2014; Metro Region - Philadelphia, PA, 2014; Lehigh Valley Region, 2014; BucksMont PA Region, 2013.
2. Three daughter church plants: Newark, DE, 2013; Woodbury Heights, NJ, 2013; Hellertown, PA (& Lehigh Valley Churches), 2014.
3. Three pioneer church plants in new cities and regions.

EXPANSION of HISPANIC MINISTRIES

GOALS and OBJECTIVES

- To continue bringing awareness of the Hispanic culture to the BFC; to clarify and educate the BFC regarding Hispanic church planting.
- To recruit, assess and train Hispanic men for ministry in the BFC.
- To develop a BFC Hispanic Ministries division within Church Extension Ministries, led by Hispanic men.
- To plant three new Hispanic BFC Churches.

ACTION PLAN

1. Continue having our Hispanic pastors visit BFC churches and organize ministries that will integrate their churches with the other churches.
2. Work with our Hispanic pastors and their contacts, along with CAM and other mission boards that have men seeking U.S. ministry among Hispanics to recruit Hispanic men compatible with the BFC.
3. Form an *Hispanic Ministries Steering Committee* to develop the *BFC Hispanic Ministries Division* within Church Extension Ministries.
4. Plant three new BFC Hispanic churches by 2019 - regional daughter plants, particular daughter plants, and pioneer plants.

FRONTIER EXPANSION

GOALS and OBJECTIVES

- To form a South Jersey region of the BFC by planting two new churches in South Jersey in Swedesboro, NJ and in an area near or southeast of Mullica Hill, NJ, connecting with Woodbury Heights, NJ, BFC and the Cape May Court House, NJ mission church.
- To open dialogues with the leadership of the Las Cruces, NM church to investigate the viability of expanding the BFC in this region.
- To continue targeting church-planting sites in DELMARVA; open three new mission churches in DELMARVA by 2019.
- To recruit a church-planting team to work in DELMARVA.

ACTION PLAN

1. Begin church investigations into Swedesboro and the Mullica Hill, NJ areas.
2. Begin dialogues with the Woodbury Heights, NJ BFC and the Wallingford, PA BFC about daughter church planting in South Jersey.
3. Open dialogues and visit with the Las Cruces, NM leadership.
4. Continue investigations into new areas of DELMARVA – 2013-2015.
5. Recruit three new men for planting in DELMARVA by 2014.

CHURCH PLANTING TRAINING CENTER

GOALS and OBJECTIVES

- To establish a Church Planting Training Center (The Center) for men interested in planting churches in the BFC.
- To form a steering committee who will investigate and form a plan for establishing The Center.
- To launch and hold The Center two times a year.

ACTION PLAN

1. Form a steering committee.
2. Have a plan finalized by November 1, 2014, that will include at the minimum: the creation of a curriculum listing, recruiting teachers, advertising scheme, securing of a site and recruiting church-planter candidates.
3. Begin The Center by January 1, 2015.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT for a PLAN

GOALS and OBJECTIVES

- To support churches planting churches – “...*In reality...denominations are pretty ineffective in starting churches. It really is much more effective, in general, when either individuals or local churches decide to start new churches...*” [21st Century Strategies](#) - Bill Tenny-Brittian
- To support Church Extension’s calling and sending out men to plant churches.
- To have every church increase its support and have the Executive Board seek ways to provide support for church planting to expand the BFC.

ACTION PLAN

1. Support and encourage daughter-church-planting churches by assisting each with a gift of \$20,000 toward its planting vision.
2. Increase our donor base by 30% over the next seven years.
3. Encourage churches to increase their support for Church Extension by 20% over the next seven years.
4. Develop a “Legacy Society” in conjunction with the BFC Executive Board.

ADDENDUM CONSIDERATIONS

GOALS and OBJECTIVES

- To dialogue with the Board of Church Health and the Ministerial Relations Committee regarding a plan for revitalizing and restarting weak and declining BFC churches.
- To begin dialogues with the BFC City Concerns regarding urban church planting and raise awareness regarding urban church plants among existing BFC churches, along with brainstorming a strategy and plan to reinvigorate the BFC back into urban areas.
- Church Extension will be available to assist churches seeking to connect with the BFC and will

develop a plan to seek out independent like-minded churches that may be open to pursuing connection with the BFC.

ACTION PLAN

1. The Director of Church Extension will be open to attend meetings of the Board of Church Health to discuss church revitalization and restarts.
2. The Director of Church Extension will seek permission to sit in on a meeting of City Concerns to discuss urban church planting.
3. The Director of Church Extension will be open to meet with the chairman of the MRC and the Executive Director to discuss revitalization and restarts and support for such efforts.
4. The Director of Church Extension will follow up on churches that seek connection with the BFC.

Fresh Wind Checklist (1)

GOALS	DATE START	ESTIMATED COMPLETION	COMMENTS
PLANT 9 NEW CHURCHES			
Plant 3 Missional/Pioneer Churches			Includes Urban
#1 - Germantown/Mt. Airy, PA - projected	2014 ?	2024	10 yr urban plan
#2 -			
#3 -			
Plant 6 Daughter Churches			Includes Regional/ Particular/Urban
#1 - Greater Townsend, DE	2013	2017	
#2 - Lower Providence Twp, PA	2013	2016	
#3 - Woolwich Township, NJ	2013	2019	
#4 - Forks Township, PA - projected	2014 ?	2019	
#5 -			
#6 -			
PLANT 3 HISPANIC /ETHNIC CHURCHES			
			In cooperation with HTF, Ethnic Com. and BOM
#1 - Lancaster Hispanic – projected	2015 ?	2025 ?	
#2 -			
#3 -			

Fresh Wind Checklist (2)

GOALS	DATE START	ESTIMATED COMPLETION	COMMENTS
PLANT CHURCHES OUTSIDE USA			Sensitive to opportunities
#1 -			
#2 -			
CONNECT WITH 3 CHURCHES			
#1 -			
#2 -			
#3 -			
TRAINING CENTER	2013	2015	
CHURCH PLANTER/PASTORAL RECRUITMENT – NAMES			
#1 - Dan Wagner	2013		Pastoral Candidate
#2 - Joshua Dupiche	2013		CP candidate
#3 - Adam Behnke	2013		CP Candidate
#4 - George Wicks	2013		CP/Pastoral Candidate
#5 -			
#6 -			
#7 -			
#8 -			