



THE ANTIOCHAN

Church Extension Ministries of the Bible Fellowship Church

May 10, 2019



Isaiah 43:2 -“When thou pass through the waters I will be with you...”

Do you ever experience loneliness? Do you look around and no one is there, no one to talk to or no one listening? Listen to these statistics from Psychology Today, “*John Cacioppo, a researcher in the field of loneliness, points out, loneliness is on the rise – from 11% to 20% in the 1970's and 1980's to 40% to 45% in 2010.*”

Loneliness can lead to depression, substance abuse, and even suicide. There are therapeutic things that you can do to fight off loneliness such as seeking out people who you can connect with, identifying why you may be feeling lonely and seeking out some Christian counseling. However, the best therapy is to realize that you are never lonely because your Father is always with you. No matter how lonely, depressed or isolated you may feel, in reality none of God’s children are alone. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are always with you and they want you to have good fellowship and not be alone. Living a fulfilled Christian life is not rocket science. Three basics make up our walk with the Lord in this world of times of loneliness. First, the word of God, (the Bible), is there for you to listen to God speak to you and give you His

promises like; "I will be with you...I will never leave you or forsake you." Second, when you do not have someone to talk to you always have God to hold a conversation with in prayer. Thirdly, you have brothers and sisters in the Lord all around you. You will find it amazing how many Christians are available to be your friend and your walk-mate. Fellowship is not only reserved for Sunday mornings but also even more available throughout the week in a variety of ways.

Remember this new day that God is always with you!

"Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; Your walls are continually before Me. Isaiah 49:16

Church Planting Training Day

This past Tuesday, May 7th, your church planters gathered at Grace Bible Fellowship Church in Quakertown for Training Day. The current church planters along with some Transitional Leadership Team members and board members as well as prospective church planters gathered to encourage, support, and pray for one another.

Here are some picture highlights from the day:



In the morning, Aaron Smith from Northern Lehigh BFC, Mark Barninger from Freedom BFC, Ron Smith from the Mission BFC, and Carlos Rodriguez from La Roca de Reading formed the experienced church planting panel. They shared wisdom about the transition from church plant to graduation. They also shared openly about their strengths and weaknesses as church planters and what they wished they would have known when they were starting out.

Next, the planters ate lunch together.



Mark Morrison, Marcos Ramirez, Ryan Park (from Bethany BFC Hatfield), DaQuan Gibson (from Delaware), Jim Arcieri, David Gundrum, (from front left moving clockwise)



James Reff, Don Skekel, Freddy Chi, Carlos Rodriguez, Elliot Ramos, Ray Bertolet, Tim Zuck (from front left moving clockwise)



Richard Taylor, Ron Smith, Phil Ruiz, and Ken Klein (from Newark DE BFC, Transitional Leadership Team member for Chestertown) (from front left moving clockwise)

After lunch, each panel member gathered a small group for further question and answer time along with time for sustained prayer for one another.



We were so grateful that our BFC planters from Mexico were able to join us for Training Day. They attended BFC conference last week and were able to stay for Training Day as well.

This group is listening intently to John Hanner from Living BFC in Adams County.

Please pray for your church planters as they continue to learn and grow while ministering to their communities. Church planting is not easy. There are a lot of pressures and a lot of time spent in prayer figuring out the best way to reach their community. Training Days like this one can be a huge help to the church planter's personal, family, and church life.

Please Praise and Pray for the Following...

1. **Praise the Lord** for an effective Training Day!
2. **Pray for the Lord to provide a church planter** for Woolwich Township, NJ!
3. **Pray for Mark Morrison** restarting the Living Rock Church in Elverson! **He needs people to commit to visiting and helping him!**
4. **Pray for the Lord** to bless our efforts to plant in Topton, PA! Pray for the Lord to guide us!
5. **Pray for** Plants looking for better meeting places: Naples, Lower Providence, Forks, Milford, Upper Macungie and South Allentown
6. **Pray for your planters in need of financial support:** Elliot Ramos, Juan Carlos Morales, Phil Ruiz, Joshua Dupiche, Jason Filbert, Brad Boyer, John Hanner, Mark Morrison, Mentor-Dick Taylor and Diego Rodriguez!
7. **Pray for the health needs of the Church Extension team.**
 - Pray for Barry Parsons's wife, Sharon, with knee problems.
 - Pray for Carlos Rodriguez's sister, Lulu recuperating from cancer surgery.
 - Pray for CE Board member Al Roberts going through cancer treatments.
 - Pray for Jason Filbert's parents both having physical needs.
 - Pray for healing in Scott Wright's foot.
 - Pray for Laurie Kuhns our Administrative Assistant having surgery on May 15.

Upcoming Speaking Opportunities

PRAY FOR DIRECTOR GUNDRUM'S UPCOMING SPEAKING ASSIGNMENTS

- May 12 – Townsend, DE – AM Service
- May 19 – Chestertown, MD – AM Service
- June 2 – Chestertown, MD – Ref Ordination
- June 9 – Harleysville, PA BFC – Missions Day

- June 23 – Kutztown, PA BFC – AM Service

Spring and Summer 2019 dates are available for Director Gundrum and Staff to share at your church

If you would like to have Director David Gundrum or Assistants Ray Bertolet and Elliot Ramos come and share the vision and mission of Church Extension Ministries, please call 610-769-4337 or email office@churchplanting.org.

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