



Richard Taylor's Report

Church Extension Ministries of the Bible Fellowship Church

October 2022

When my wife Joyce and I moved to our house a few years ago, I discovered a small oak tree in our backyard which was less than a foot tall. When I saw it, I thought, *I want an oak tree back there.* It was the only one so I don't know how the acorn from which it grew got there though I expect a squirrel was involved. It is now about 8 feet tall. Recently, I had some trees removed and I cautioned the tree cutters to be careful about my oak tree. Someday, even if I don't live to see it, I want a tall and strong oak tree in my back yard.



As I was preparing to write this, I could not help but make comparisons to the work of church planting. "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So, neither he who planted nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth." (1 *Corinthians 3:6-7*) A squirrel put an acorn in the ground and up came an oak tree. New churches begin when a "seed" is put down in a community. As the apostle Paul notes, it isn't the work of one person. God ultimately is doing it but human agents are at work. It began with Jesus. Some people came telling about Jesus and His promise of life to those who believe. And through the Holy Spirit, a few people become a church, people gathered who share in what Jesus has done and praise Him for it. It wasn't the work of one person.

You are part of God's process. You took the time to read this because you are watering what God is doing in building His church. You are probably a supporter in some fashion through praying, giving money, or just being interested. When you hear about a new church, you can assume a bunch of people are involved.



Church Extension Ministries Church Planters including Brad Boyer and John Hanner

That is where I come into the process. I was a pastor for nearly 45 years. When I stepped down, new opportunities opened up, one of which was to support the work and men of Church Extension Ministries. I work most closely with Church Planter Brad Boyer from Cape Community Church in Cape May County, New Jersey, and Church Planter John Hanner from Living Bible Fellowship Church in Adams County, Pennsylvania. I also serve as chairman of the Board of Church Extension and on a couple of subcommittees. I also help wherever my help might actually help.

There you have it. It sounds uncomplicated but in reality the ministry of churches in general and church planting specifically is complex and getting tougher. You hear the news – pandemic, violence, redefinition of the family, divisive opinions, and so on. Assume that the church planter you know is negotiating a spiritual minefield. Understand, your support is crucial. In Paul’s terminology, you are watering.

Joyce and I have enjoyed good health for which we are grateful. We enjoy being involved in our church’s ministries at Grace BFC in Wallingford, PA. We spent a week with a group from our church at Camp Promise held at Big Sky Bible Camp in Montana. Camp Promise is a camp for people with disabilities. We are already thinking about going again. We enjoyed a week at Pinebrook Bible Conference with some of our family. We journeyed to Indiana to enjoy time with our daughter and her family there.

We are looking forward to continuing as God grants opportunity and ability. I have a standard prayer request. Pray that I might be faithful, wise and sensitive. And, thanks again for your interest.

Dick Taylor
Mentoring Assistant for Church Extension Ministries



My wife, Joyce, and I



Our church group in Big Sky Montana for Camp Promise

*Would you please pray for God to provide **four people** to give **\$36 a month** so I can be fully supported?*

If you are interested, please use the enclosed card to give or go to ChurchPlantingBFC.org/Donate to set up a recurring gift. Thank you!