Reseeding America

Vol. 16

A Ministry Review of 2024 & Early 2025

The USA Ministry of Baptist International Missions, Inc.

Church Planting & Church Restoration

Let us not do one without the other.

By Bob Larson

Church planting is vital for the expansion of the Gospel both here in the United States and around the world. When one studies early American church history, the major reason Christianity spread so rapidly across our young nation was due to the fervent efforts of missionary church planters. They brought a message of hope and salvation to many remote communities and cities across our nation.

United States church planting is just as necessary today if not more so in our ever-expanding nation. Equally important as the planting of new churches is the restoration of churches that have fallen into decline. To keep up with the growth of our country, we must continue to plant new churches. At the same time, many existing churches that once thrived but now face a decrease in attendance and funds need to be restarted and reopened.

The church restart ministry involves several key components. For example, we must evaluate the spiritual need in the community as well as that of the few remaining members of the church. It is necessary to meet with existing leadership and determine not only the needs and concerns they have but also how a

Reseeding America is a ministry of Baptist International Missions, Inc., assisting local churches and their missionary church planters in the starting of new churches and the restarting of churches in decline across the United States.

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vision for future ministry can be rejuvenated. Many times, funds must be raised to renovate buildings and property and to update and create inviting spaces for worship, classes, and fellowship. I am not suggesting that breathing new life into a church in decline is an easy task, but by New Testament churches and ministries working together much can be done to salvage and restart these churches.

A great example of church restoration recently took place at Central Baptist Church in Hamden, Connecticut. This church had fallen into decline and the pastor had died leaving only three members to continue the church's ministry. The property included a debt free building, three acres of land, and a parsonage.

The struggling church members were praying for help from above. They reached out to Dr. Jim Townsley who pastors Central Baptist Church in Southington, Connecticut. A decision was made to donate the property and buildings at Hamden to Central Baptist Church in Southington and a plan to restart the Hamden church began to take shape. Over the years the church in Southington had planted multiple churches but this was the most ideal situation they had ever experienced. Dan Wright, a graduate of New England Baptist College (a ministry of the church in Southington), and a staff member at the church felt called to pastor this church restart.

Dr. Townsley contacted me at BIMI Reseeding America and asked if I could assist. I sent out a social media appeal for funds to remodel the church and house, and churches started to respond. Our ministry also supplied 25,000 copies of the Romans Road and the book of Romans with a custom printed cover with information concerning the Grand Opening of the church. I flew to Connecticut the week before Easter to help distribute the Grand Opening material as well as work on the church building.

As Dr. Townsley shared the need to remodel the house and church building, other churches across the country got involved in donating funds. God's people from Central Baptist Church in Southington and other sister churches in the Northeast showed up with various skills to help in remodeling, plumbing, landscaping, painting, and decorating. Still others came to distribute Grand Opening material. To God be the glory, on Easter Sunday (opening day) there were over 90 who came to church from the community and three trusted Christ as Savior!

I believe in the days ahead there will be more and more churches across America that will need to be rescued and restarted. Let us continue to plant new churches! At the same time, stable, healthy churches can adopt a church in decline and conduct a ministry of church restoration. The alternative is to simply let struggling churches die a slow death and be gone forever.

Central Baptist Church
Hamden, Connecticut

Why Deaf Churches in America

By Reggie Rempel

Picture this. Your family is on vacation and having a wonderful time. Tomorrow is Sunday. In preparation you google a listing of Baptist/Independent Baptist churches within a 30-mile radius of your vacation spot. There are quite a few so you google a question or search their websites asking, "Is there a Deaf Ministry in this congregation?" When the answers come back, there are very few if any. You choose a church and attend only to find that although they advertise a Deaf Ministry, the interpreter has not interpreted in months or years because deaf persons have not attended. However, he/she would be glad to interpret. Not to be rude, you (the deaf person) accept, only to find that the interpreter is "rusty" or not really skilled in signs and you miss one half to three fourths of the message. It is not the interpreter's fault. They must have people to sign for in order to interpret. This is so prevalent that the deaf person leaves saying, "Well, at least I went to church." This has happened often in my life. Can you imagine trying to find a Deaf Church to attend? That is even harder as there may only be one to three Deaf churches in a whole state and many states have none.

My name is Reggie Rempel. My wife, Kim, and I have served with BIMI for 44 years. We count it an honor and privilege to serve with these precious people. I was born to a Mennonite family who were strong believers in church attendance and in faithfulness to the Lord. I attended church every week but had no interpreter. Mom would at times write the sermon notes for me and my deaf sister, Millie, to read. She was better about paying attention than I was because I felt there were more interesting things in life than warming a church pew and watching people move their mouths but not understanding anything said. Why would I want a God who would require this? I became very rebellious. I praise Him that He is "a God who sees" and He saw me in that tiny Mennonite village and sent someone who shared with my mom and dad about the Bill Rice Ranch. The next

thing I knew, I was on a bus to Tennessee. My parents drove me to a church with a Deaf Ministry in Minneapolis and from there I rode for 13 hours to camp. We stopped in Chicago, where another group joined us, and I was told I needed to get a haircut to continue. I was rebellious and fought them on this but in the end they won and I praise the Lord they did. I arrived at the Ranch and walked in shock for the next 24 hours. It was a total Deaf Community with services in my language and with a speaker using sign language. All that my parents had tried to convey to me became clear, and I was saved on Wednesday night. I did not walk the aisle, I ran. I was so excited to know Him as Savior and have heaven for my home. I do not want to prolong my testimony except to say that God became real to me and my life was changed.

A church planter from America came to plant a church in Winnipeg, the largest city close to my village. Millie and I spent months and then years teaching sign language to the church secretary who was willing to interpret every service for us. I praise the Lord for churches who are willing to have a ministry for the Deaf. Without those beginning years of receiving the Word of God through a sign interpreter, I do not know where I would be today.

When Kim and I were married, we traveled for 12 years planting Deaf Ministries in churches by teaching sign language and finding the Deaf in the community. We found that these ministries were producing young people who felt led to serve Him full-time. This led us to seek the Lord and begin Harvest Deaf Bible College in the fall of 1994. It has been 31 years and we have graduates in countries around the world as well as Deaf church plants across America.

In the beginning days of our college, we were approached by the pastor of Stanley Heights Baptist Church in East Ridge, Tennessee. They were kind and loving enough to allow us to begin our college in their facilities until the property we purchased was developed. One can imagine the sacrifice made by this church as we used everything from classrooms to the kitchen. The pastor even gave me an office. He was willing to do whatever was needed to help the Deaf coming to college develop and grow in Him. I shared with him that allowing our Deaf to have one service on their own on Sunday mornings would develop them faster as this service would be "theirs." They would teach Sunday school, prepare the service with music and ushers, and they would "see" the Word being preached in their own language rather than through

interpretation. He agreed and named me "Deaf Pastor." I was able to shepherd these people and as a result, the ministry boomed to almost 100 Deaf attending from all over the area. We did mainstream with the hearing on Sunday evenings and Wednesdays. I shared with the pastor from our first service there that I felt led to begin a Deaf Church one day so our young men could see what planting a church both in the United State and the foreign field would require.

As the years passed and our property began to develop, I began to notice that while the ministry was growing, the young people we were training were being "spoiled." We had a beautiful church in which to worship and grow, but they were not learning to keep up the building as janitors did this. They were learning to give but did not do so enough to pay for electricity, water, and facility needs. They did not understand about creating a church constitution or the facets of building the church. They gave to missions but would look at the hearing part of the congregation and say, "They can do more in supporting hearing missionaries than we Deaf can." I knew that it was time to branch out and begin a local church for the Deaf. We did and I thank God for the graciousness of the folks at Stanley Heights as this was a huge change for them in the loss of so many people.

Harvest Baptist Church for the Deaf began in 2000 in the renovated barn loft on our property. We now have the church in an auditorium that was four modular buildings donated to us by Clark University in Atlanta. We average between 70 and 80 each Sunday and have ministries vital to the growth and education of our people such as Sunday school for all ages, deacons, ushers, youth ministry, large choir, discipleship program, Deaf Camp, retreats, livestreaming of each service, large Christmas Drama each December, and support of over 40 missionaries. We have created and then recreated our church constitution and we have financial and missions committees in which deaf people serve. The deaf people thrive by being involved with the facets of the ministry as they build the church.

Please know that I love Deaf Ministries. Where would I be without them? I praise God for the people who surrender their lives to learn sign language so that the

Deaf can "see" God's Word. However, just as times have changed in this world with people who can hear, it has changed for the Deaf. Deaf people have better ways to communicate as they have Video Relay phones with interpreters that allow them to communicate freely with anyone. They have interpreters for everything from job interviews to giving birth to a baby. They can attend schools of their choice and interpreters are provided. More people than ever know sign language as it is considered a second language taught in schools across America. There are devices on the phone that change voice to text and even glasses that allow conversations to be captioned while wearing them. I praise the Lord as a deaf man for all these developments that have made life easier. This has also caused many of the Deaf to desire a church setting in their own culture and language rather than struggling to get the message through an interpreter. We livestream our services each Sunday and Wednesday and people who live in areas with no Deaf Church or Deaf Ministry view our services. They communicate with us through email and text and thank us for providing a service. They ask questions and some even move to our area to become a part of our church.

There is a tremendous need for more Deaf churches in the United States. Through Deaf churches, young people are developed and we are able to bring them to our college for training in missions, church planting, and various other ministries. As a result, the Word of God reaches more who have never heard across the world. If one takes all the Deaf from around the world and place them on an island together, it would be the third largest country in the world![1] Imagine with me all the Deaf who still have not "seen" about Jesus and how He can change their lives.

I believe Deaf Ministries are a tremendous help but the Deaf learn much more in their own culture and language. Hearing churches have folks go on missions trips but rarely do the Deaf have the opportunity to go as there are not interpreters to help. This fall I will take a team from our church to India to visit a Deaf work and then to Nepal to visit missionaries (our graduates). Through this, folks will "catch a burden" for Deaf around the world and many will surrender to missions work in the future.

In May we graduated five students from the Bible college. One will return to his home in Thailand to begin a Deaf Church. One will be an evangelist here in the United States. Two young ladies will work with deaf children and one is going to begin a ministry for deaf widows in the United States. We are thrilled with five but how we wish it were 25 or 50! We want to reach as many Deaf as we can before the Lord returns.

I pray that through this article God will speak to the hearts of young people who are learning sign language and they will surrender to be involved with a church plant for the Deaf. The Harvest is ripe! The field is great! Workers are few! We are praying that the Lord of the Harvest will send forth laborers to work in the field of Deaf Ministry, especially church planting for the Deaf in America. The Deaf Community in America is an unreached people group and as we reach them, lead them to Him, and disciple them through local Deaf Churches, they will in turn surrender to reach deaf people around the world.

Will you surrender to begin a Deaf Church in America? If God leads you to do so, we would love to help you—"That the Deaf may one day hear."

Dr. Reggie Rempel
BIMI Missionary
Harvest Deaf Ministries
Ringgold, GA

[1]www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/deafness-and-hearing-loss

Miracle AT 509 DEFENSE HIGHWAY

By Ed Beard former BIMI Reseeding America Missionary

A note from Bob Larson, USA Director of BIMI: *Several years ago, God placed the vision of a new church in Annapolis, Maryland, on the hearts of BIMI Reseeding America missionaries Ed and Mary Beard. Their sending church is Patuxent Baptist Church in Great Mills, Maryland, where Rick Conner is the pastor. Freestate Baptist Church has been in rented facilities for years. However, this past year God opened a door and blessed their ministry by giving them a debt-free church building, house, and land in Annapolis. This church plant is now self-supporting and Ed and Mary have come off all missionary support. To God be the glory!*

"How do you know Annapolis is the place?" This question was often asked while my family and I were preparing to start Freestate Baptist Church. I simply replied, "God somehow gives you the calm assurance in your heart and mind for what and where He wants you." Of course, much prayer and counsel took place, but when God's will is clear, it will not go away. So, in November 2014 after nearly three years of deputation, we started Freestate Baptist Church in Annapolis, Maryland.

Very little Gospel witness was in Annapolis. The few churches that someone would think were carrying out the Great Commission were a disappointment. I had someone tell me, "Annapolis is a graveyard for Baptist preachers." Not very encouraging but again when one knows what task God has given, one must pursue it no matter what. Therefore, we did and we still are!

There is a lot of preparation to start a church. Apart from the financial and legal aspects, there are the practical things that need to be addressed and the social part that really is the main reason we do this—to reach people! God had us cross paths with a lot of people at the onset of Freestate. They were not just salvation and member prospects from the area but also others whom God would use to help us even ten years later. Regarding the practical things in starting a church, some are more easily accomplished than others. Having tracts and literature printed is an easy thing. Finding a place to meet, however, is not always easy.

Many months before we started the church, we began the process of securing a meeting place. This was very trying to say the least. There were plenty of places but they were out of our price range, or it was not conducive for church use, or much work needed to be done to satisfy the county for use and

occupancy. What were we to do? We were getting close to Opening Day. I started to pray from a specific list. "Lord, will you give us a church building, a storefront, a warehouse space, or an empty house? Lord, even a conference room, an outside pavilion, or a tent? Anything! Now we were at the point of, Lord, *help thou mine unbelief*. We had been working with a real estate agent to find a place, when one day she informed us of 3300 square feet of commercial space in a small office building. We drove past this place a dozen times but never noticed it. Obviously, God kept it from us until now. Just another way to build our faith. It is as the song says, "When He's four days late, He's right on time!" With some renovation and tender loving care, God allowed us to fix it up quite nicely. Although it did not look "churchy" from the outside, the inside was as "churchy" as a place could be.

God is so good! He came through by providing this place for us, but the really huge blessing was the rent. The first year was $2,800 a month. For the next nine years, it was $2,880 a month. The significance of this is that you do not get 3300 square feet of commercial space in Annapolis for that low of a price unless God says you do!

Now, this article is supposed to be about the miracle at 509 Defense Highway. With all that has been reported so far, I believe it was necessary to tell of the first miracle at 1623 Forest Drive and how it led to our obtaining the property across town ten years later. As we were working to see God build our church, there was one factor looming over us regarding our building. The property we were renting was only available for five to seven years. Eventually it was to be taken down for a construction project. I did not dwell on that too much at first, but after seven years, I thought it was best to get our church praying for another place to meet.

As mentioned earlier, God had us cross paths with people along the way. Not long after we started the church, I learned of a small Baptist church across

town. After contacting the pastor, my wife and I met with him and his wife and established a friendship with them. For whatever reason, this church was in decline. This pastor was getting up in years and evidently, he had not prepared for the future of his church.

But God was preparing something big for Freestate. On one occasion, I met with my friend and reminded him of our building situation. I asked him to keep us in mind when the time came for him to retire. His reply was encouraging. He told me, "I have already been thinking about you and your church. I know you need a building and what members are left here need a church. It almost seems as if God is bringing these two together." God was already at work in this.

However, most things do not come without an effort on our part. I quickly found out things were not quite in order at this church. When the time came to move toward coming together, it was met with opposition. Not long after this, I received a call from someone whom my pastor friend had appointed to handle the business of this church. Somehow, it was assumed I wanted to candidate to pastor this church. That was not the case at all. My proposal was to merge this church into Freestate. After meeting with the few members who were left to discuss it and to submit my proposal, they met and decided to reject it. So, feeling God had shut the door on this, we as a church just kept praying.

A few months later, I learned this church had called a new pastor. Now the man handling the business for this church, for some reason, would not give me the new pastor's contact information. I wanted to meet him and welcome him to the area. I decided to make a cold call

and visit him at the parsonage on their property. This new pastor and I hit it off right away. I asked him how the church was doing? The news was not good.

Outside leadership is not the way a church is to be managed. Women are not to usurp authority over men. The pastor is the one to lead the church. These were just a few things out of order. This new pastor was trying to do things right, but it seemed like he was met with adversity on every side. He inherited a mess. Then things took a turn.

My new friend had to return to Florida to undergo serious back surgery. He did not know what to do about leaving the church. He talked about a merger with us or closing it altogether. He had mentioned this a few times before. I then told him my desire was to take the remaining members into Freestate so they could have a church, and the church could have a building all under the umbrella of Freestate Baptist Church. Through prayer, and counsel from others, it was recommended he take a medical sabbatical and appoint me as the moderator. With the uncertainty of the outcome of his surgery, we soon realized this was God's way of bringing this all together.

With the now four remaining members, we began meeting in their building to move this process along. I instructed our church not to focus on the building aspect as much as people having church the way they should. During this process though, we began to learn of other motives and interests these folks had for "their" property. After obtaining legal counsel, and of course much prayer for God to do what was right for "His" property, these last few members finally realized the best and only option was to gift the property and all assets to Freestate Baptist Church. In April of 2024, 509 Defense Highway in Annapolis, Maryland, became the property of Freestate Baptist Church. God is AWESOME!

As mentioned previously, there were the doubts, uncertainty, and discouraging comments such as "You will never afford a church building in Annapolis." Let us stop right there. We did not have to afford anything. When God says He will meet the needs of His people and His work, He means it. In closing, I would like to say to those of you reading this article, keep pressing onward and looking upward! We do not start something just to end up quitting. We do not go to a place just to turn around and leave. God has us in the place where He wants to do a work through us . . . for Him. Every ministry will not receive a debt-free, 3.6 acre property with a church building and parsonage the way we did, but every ministry has the same great God Who is still in the business of performing miracles! May God bless you greatly as you stay faithful to Him!

Active BIMI USA Missionaries in 2024

Arizona
Ron & Shelby Manuel
Kent & Lindsey McBay
Manny & Kate Jimenez – Deputation

Connecticut
David & Annette Townsley
Linda McKeever

California
Ken & Nancy Lalman — Chinese

Georgia
Reginald & Kim Rempel — Deaf
Bruce & Vicki Kelly — Deaf

Illinois
Taylor & Linsey Cranfill — Deputation

Kansas
Andrew & Carrie Kennard

Maryland
Edwin & Mary Beard

Montana
Wayne & Barb Voss — ARM Ministry
David & Dee Dee Sterling

Nevada
Maceo Woolard — Senior Citizen Outreach
Jorge & Anna Noriega — Hispanics

New Jersey
Darla Griffin

New Mexico
John & April McDaniel — Native Americans

New York
Alan & Sabrina Davis
Dana & Julie Dice
Alan & Jamie Bradley — Deputation

North Carolina
Ed & Barbara O'Brien — Hispanics
David & Teresa Azzarello

Ohio
Scott & Tricia Crabtree — Deaf
Tom & Renee Border — Japanese

Oregon
Nathan & Jewell Leierer

Pennsylvania
Tony & Dawn Hess

Tennessee
Richard & Leah Jacob
Mike & Megan Barber – Deputation

Texas
James & Andrea Mansfield

Washington
Perry & Barbara Gibson — Japanese

USA Director
Bob & Jennifer Larson

3 Reasons Why We Need to **Reseed America** with **New Churches**

1. The United States population is exploding.

In the past decade this country's population has grown by over 20 million people. To keep up with our present population we need to plant 500 new churches per year. Meanwhile, our movement plants between 120 to 130 per year. Most of our major cities have few New Testament churches, yet the U.S. Census Bureau reports 80% of our population live in these metropolitan areas. A recent survey indicates that there are 1,200 cities in the USA with populations of 5,000 or more with no New Testament church within a 30-mile radius.

2. We are losing churches.

Congregations over the years tend to age and pastors retire, or they can no longer pastor due to health concerns. If a church is struggling and cannot find a new pastor, the church can decline and eventually close. To replace the churches we have lost, new ones must be planted. In addition to planting new churches, an all-out effort to restart our declining churches should be a priority. We need to plant hundreds of new churches, but we need to keep the doors of our existing churches open and functioning so they can carry out the Great Commission.

3. If we do not reach our nation now, then how can we continue to carry out the Great Commission in the future?

America has historically been the financial and personnel base for sending missionaries abroad. As the number of churches shrink, the labor force is drying up. If we fail to reseed our land with new churches, financial support for missionaries disappears. We must increase our missionary force by increasing our missionary force. Please pray that God will raise up many men in America to reach our nation with the Gospel by planting and reestablishing churches in our homeland.

Reseeding America Families on Deputation in 2024

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Manny & Kate Jimenez

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Reseeding America Sundays & USA Missions Conferences

The BIMI Reseeding America Ministry is all about bringing the Gospel light to needy cities and towns across America through church planting and a church restoration ministry. Presently, we have 57 United States missionaries who are either planting or restarting churches here in the homeland. Our missionaries are preaching the Gospel to the Deaf, to the inner cities of America, and to different ethnic groups as well as mainstream America. I am thankful for their faithfulness and desire to reach their communities.

Again, this year in addition to holding **Reseeding America Sundays**, we were able to speak and help plan and conduct several **USA Missions Conferences**. The entire focus in this type of meeting is on church planting and the restarting of churches in our homeland. At Reseeding America Ministries, we are committed to standing by the Scriptures in these very challenging times. Instead of seeing America ruined, we are working towards revival in our homeland. To save America we must get America saved. The 2024 USA conferences gave us an opportunity to challenge churches for USA missions and reaching their own communities for the Lord.

The format for a Reseeding America Sunday includes a Sunday School PowerPoint presentation on the Reseeding America ministry and the need for church planting in America. Morning and evening services include challenging messages on how to reach our neighbors and this nation. A showing of our Reseeding America videos can easily be used in a morning or evening service.

For more information on Reseeding America Sundays & USA Mission Conferences contact Bob Larson—BIMI USA Director.

BIMI Reseeding America 2024 New Church Plants

West Valley Baptist Church Opens Near Kalispell, Montana

David Sterling and his wife, Dee Dee, launched a new church on Sunday, February 9, 2024, in the Flathead Valley west of Kalispell, Montana. West Valley Baptist Church opened its doors at The Landings located at 417 Two Mile Drive in Kalispell. The Sterlings are sent out of Victory Baptist Church in Evergreen, Montana.

The Flathead Valley is growing with people who are purchasing small acreage and building homes. The challenge they are facing is to find a suitable meeting place that they can rent for their church. Pray that God will give them a better place to meet in the future.

Arise Baptist Church Opens in Portland, Oregon

In early May it was time to fly to Portland, Oregon, to help with the Grand Opening of Arise Baptist Church. Reseeding America church planter Nathan Leierer and his family are sent out of Salem Baptist Church in Salem, Oregon. Nathan and his family launched a new church on the southwest side of Portland on a rainy Sunday in early May, but that did not stop people from attending the first service.

There were 20 people from the community plus a wonderful group of workers who came from their sending church. After the service, the Leierers' sending church provided a wonderful variety of refreshments. The refreshment time gave Nathan and his wife, Jewell, an opportunity to visit with the people.

BIMI Reseeding America 2024 Church Restarts

The Restarting of Fellowship Baptist Church Wattsburg, Pennsylvania

BIMI Reseeding America Missionaries Tony and Dawn Hess were busy in 2024 as they determined that God wanted them to restart Fellowship Bible Baptist Church in Wattsburg, Pennsylvania. This church was down to a handful of people. The faithful pastor who, because of his age, could no longer continue to pastor his church. The church contacted BIMI to see if we would help find them a new pastor. The church called Brother Tony as their new pastor and he and Dawn are doing a good job of restarting the church. We printed, sorted, and mailed 7,500 invitations at five U.S. Post Office locations in Northwest Pennsylvania during April. According to the last report, visitors were attending this restarted church because of the mail out. We wish to thank all our Reseeding America Seed Bank contributors who helped financially with this project.

Church Restart in Conway, Arkansas, Abounding Grace Baptist Church

Conway, Arkansas, is a large growing town of 70,000 people west of Little Rock. Reseeding America was asked in September to organize and conduct a Gospel literature distribution to help restart a church in Conway. Abounding Grace Baptist Church is now pastored by a new pastor, Brother Jon Lauritzson. We appreciate two of our supporting churches that came to assist us in ninety-degree temperatures as we passed out hundreds of door hanger packets. It was encouraging to see visitors attending the Sunday morning services immediately after the distribution. Please pray for this church, which is one of many independent Baptist churches that need to be restarted.

Reseeding America Teaching at PCC Church Planting Seminar

In early April, Pensacola Christian College invited us to their campus to participate and teach in their Church Planting Seminar. This was the fourth time we have been able to participate in this event. Along with teaching in the seminar came the opportunity to preach in the seminary chapel. In the future we would like to be able to not only conduct another seminar on church planting but also devote several sessions to church restarts.

The sessions for church planting are held in the evening. There was an opportunity to not only teach church planting but also introduce the SMART INTERN PROGRAM with BIMI. We encouraged the students to seriously consider an internship after their seminary training. The practical side of ministry and especially church planting can be obtained during such an internship.

At Reseeding America, we are excited about a new generation of church planters that God is raising up to reach America. Please pray for more men to answer the call of God to plant churches or restart churches here in the United States. It was a joy to be at Pensacola for this event and we enjoyed the time with the students.

BIMI Reseeding America Disaster Relief

In the fall of 2024, flooding, tornados and mud slides due to Hurricane Milton and Helene resulted in millions of dollars of damage in many regions of the Southeast United States. Many churches and individuals sent funds to BIMI to help flood victims, pastors, and local church congregations. As we received contributions, we networked with independent Baptist churches in the storm hit areas that were providing needed items to storm victims. We were also able to assist pastors and first responders who were forced out of their homes due to storm damage. As the cleanup and rebuilding process takes place, donated contributions are being used to repair and rebuild independent Baptist church buildings and ministry facilities. Thank you for your generous contributions.

At this writing the need for help is ongoing in Eastern Tennessee and in Western North Carolina. Volunteer groups to assist churches and individuals are still needed. BIMI has partnered with Operation Renewed Hope. This is an independent Baptist ministry based out of Fayetteville, North Carolina. This ministry works to connect volunteer groups with restoration and construction projects in storm hit areas. Jan Milton is the contact person and his number is 910-987-5072. For more information on Operation Renewed Hope Ministry go to

www.operationrenewedhope.org

Reseeding America
2024 Field Conference

We try to make "encouragement" our number one priority at every Reseeding America Field Conference. Some of our missionary church planters labor in very remote areas of our country and all of them need the fellowship of other families who are in ministry. Our conference this year was held April 7–10 and was hosted by Talking Rock Road Baptist Church in Branson West, Missouri. Pastor Delbert Davis and his staff did a wonderful job of preparing meals, planning family events, and coordinating hotel arrangements. They also provided shuttles to and from the airport and motel and let us use their church facilities for all our sessions. Additionally, the church put together a great children's program each morning for our missionary kids. We would like to thank all the churches that contributed to the expenses of housing our missionaries at a nearby motel and providing funds for the meals and family events.

Dr. J.B. Godfrey was our main speaker for our USA Field Conference and God used him in a great way to help and encourage our people. Retired Air Force Colonel Chris Dooley spoke on Christian leadership and did a wonderful job! We also want to thank Stanley Heights Baptist Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee, for taking care of the expense of flying out Assistant Pastor Ed Alexander and Intern Jordan McDowell to conduct sessions for our teens. Our missionary teens loved each of the sessions and bonded with each other and the speakers. We also had an opportunity to hear Dr. John Bailes preach a challenging message. Please pray for our Reseeding America families.

- When your church supports Reseeding America on a regular monthly basis, you are providing "start-up" funds for new churches to be planted and churches to be restarted.
- Every dollar that is sent will be used to assist new "church-starts" here in America and churches that need to be reopened or restarted.
- A supporting church will be able to see how this special fund is being used when they visit our website at **reseedingamerica.com**.
- Please direct all funds to Reseeding America Fund #553, Baptist International Missions, Inc., P.O. Box 9, Harrison, TN 37341.