



Prayer Requests

- Repairs and renovations to the Parker house.
- Wisdom for when to list our house for sale in Dallastown.
- For God to bless us with good community in Parker.
- Partnership Development: We need to raise monthly financial support from churches and individuals who want to invest in this ministry.

To join our support team

Head to:

www.bcmintl.org/give/

Type in: **Garrett** when asked to "choose your designation*"

Fun Facts

Heather and I both served as full-time missionaries before we met each other.

Cherith has told us she wants to be a missionary when she grows up!



The Short Version

Wow! God has definitely had our family on a pretty wild journey over the last several weeks.

Here's the short version of what's been going on...

Over 25 years ago, my dad and uncle inherited my great grandfather's dairy farm in Parker, PA. Five years ago they inherited my grandfather's house half a mile down the road from the farm. Our family has often talked about a Christian retreat center being built on the property. However, both properties have been sitting vacant all this time.

One afternoon I was walking and praying about life and ministry and God put the idea of the retreat center in my mind. Instead of dismissing it (as usual) I decided to talk with my dad about it. He and my uncle loved the idea, want to see it happen, and offered my family the house! That doesn't happen every day.

Heather and I decided to pray about it, but it just seemed like a dream. Also, I love my job as the NextGen Pastor at Living Word and I don't know how to build things. So there wasn't a huge desire to move.

But...

Two weeks after the conversation with my dad, a missionary named Carlos randomly (or sovereignly) showed up at our church. Heather and I met him in 2009 while leading a mission trip to Peru. Carlos walked up to me, I realized it was him and said, "*Carlos, what are you doing here?*" And he said, "*I came to see you!*" Later that week we got coffee.

During our conversation it became clear God was nudging Heather and I toward full-time missions with **BCM (Bible Centered Ministries) International**. Their mission is to *Reach Children and Strengthen the Church*. Two things I'm very passionate about, and of course, those are two things God is very passionate about. Over the next few weeks I had several conversations with the leadership at BCM.

As I met with BCM and heard their vision for someone to take ownership of their leadership development curriculum and training for their missionaries around the world, I felt they were describing my dream job. And...

BCM has camps and **retreat centers** all over the world!

While our family wouldn't be focused on building the retreat center in the very near future, this step would allow our family to be in ministry together, and gives us the opportunity to move to Parker, PA. I'll be able to work remotely and will only be an hour and a half from the Pittsburg airport for when I need to travel internationally. There have been so many more God-moments that have affirmed this transition, but this is the short version ☺



Prayer Requests

Downsizing our current home.

Renovations to the house in western PA.

To reach full support by June 1st.

To join our Support Team

Head to this website
www.bcmintl.org/give/

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What Am I Actually Doing!?

I'm so excited to get started with BCM International! I wanted to share the two main focuses of my role.

#1. Develop a Ministry Leadership Curriculum

I'll be working with the president along with translators to create a robust ministry leadership curriculum to resource and train missionaries, pastors, teachers, camp directors, and youth leaders around the world.

BCM currently has ministries in 50+ countries with over 850 missionaries, and **our mission is to Reach Children and Strengthen the Church around the world.**

#2. Leadership Development Coaching

I will be creating online video courses on various leadership topics and will be doing online (video chat) coaching calls with BCM's missionaries and directors around the world.

I will also be traveling to various countries several times a year to teach classes and host training workshops in order to equip and resource local leaders to help them better carry out the mission of BCM. Many of these leaders have one or two-year degrees in Bible but have little experience or knowledge in basic leadership skills.

Why do we need to raise support?

BCM is a *faith-funded* ministry and operates much like a church and other non-profits. All of our funding comes from committed donors who believe in the work we are doing in the world. Everyone in the organization, even the president, raises their own support from individuals, churches, and businesses. Our current goal is to raise \$6,000 in monthly support.

We would love to have you join our support team to launch us into ministry with BCM International!





Commissioning Service

Prayer Requests

-We are not able to move as soon as we thought due to complications with the house (mold and asbestos).

-There is also some complications with the lease on the farm where we'd like to build the retreat center. Pray for my meeting next week!

-We are at the half-way mark with our monthly support!!!

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This Sunday will be my last official Sunday preaching at Living Word Community Church as one of its pastors. At the end of the service, my family and I will be commissioned as missionaries sent out by LWCC.

You can watch the service from the church website:

<https://lwccyork.com/>

I will spend the rest of May working on partnership development to raise monthly support so I can start with BCM International full-time on June first.

I praise God that I already have a little over half of my support raised as I write this update! God is so faithful!

Please consider partnering with us if you haven't already.

As I have jumped into God's "Lazy River" (see below), I have felt His presence guiding my family and I through His will and way. For the most part it has been an enjoyable ride.

However, we are now encountering some turbulence in the form of many unknowns regarding our move. There is the temptation to try and do things out of our own strength and will, but I am reminded from Scripture that I need to rely on and trust in God, who is ultimately in control.

Please pray for God to give my family wisdom with some very important decisions we need to make in the next few weeks.



The Lazy River

During my [message a few weeks ago](#), I described what it felt like going through this process of transitioning into full-time missions by illustrating the Lazy River. There have been times where this process feels effortless and exciting, other times it feels like my inner-tube is heading toward sharp rocks, rapids, and waterfalls! Instead of splashing and fighting against God's current and plan, I need to learn more what it means to live by faith and to embrace trust in God and His plan.

Take time to **read 2 Corinthians 1:8-11** and you'll see that God's River is anything but lazy! *"But this happened that we would not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead."*



Prayer Requests:

- To reach full support by the end of June
- Safety in travel as we head to Colorado for a friend's wedding
- For Cherith's health insurance paperwork to be processed quickly

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"Every New Beginning...

Comes from some other beginning's end."

-Lucius Annaeus Seneca (and also, Semisonic)

On May 10th, my friends and co-workers at Living Word Community Church threw a farewell luncheon that started with everyone **getting funky to the Cha-Cha-slide!** What a joyful way to end such a fun season of ministry. May 14th was my last official day with my pastoral duties at LWCC, and May 16th was my new beginning with BCM International!

The month of May has been filled with **lots of prayer**, many surprises, lots of opportunities to trust God, His provision and care for our family, and...ice cream! This month's family photo is brought to you by Bill Mack's Ice Cream in Dover, PA. Some of the best Ice Cream in York!

As I've started with BCM, one thing that is very evident is this organizations **commitment to PRAYER!** I have been (pleasantly) surprised at how much praying happens during the regular work week in the office. I am reminded of this powerful tool that God has given us; to communicate with Him, to lay our requests before Him, to worship Him, and to ask for His will to be done and for His kingdom to come on earth as it is in Heaven. **Read through Luke 11:1-13** for a reminder of how Jesus taught His disciples how to pray.

I want to pray for you!

My family is blessed by having so many people praying for us, but this relationship is a two-way street! I want to pray for you too! Please send me an email with how I can be praying for you, and I will add you to my prayer journal.

Email: Garrett@cornerstoneleadership.org

"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people..."
-I Timothy 2:1





Prayer Updates

- Cherith will be at Camp Hebron for a week of Summer Camp
- I'll be leading a week-long family retreat at the end of July
- Working with BCM's Latin American Director for his leadership event
- For continued support so I can go full-time with BCM

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You Cannot Live by Bread Alone

As I've been reflecting on the month of June and all that God has been doing in my life and in the lives of those around me, I am struck by just how important His Word is for living what Jesus calls, "an abundant life".

In Matthew 4:4, Jesus said, *"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."*

I love a fresh piece of homemade sourdough as much as the next guy, but Jesus makes it clear that in order to live an abundant life, we need to be feasting on, and living according to, His Holy Word. I love that God has led me and my family to a ministry where God's Word takes prominence.

BCM stand for ***Bible Centered Ministries***.

Mission work is both global AND local.

Global: I've begun working with the Latin American Director of BCM on putting together content for his leadership event coming up in the next few months to equip and empower new missionaries in Latin America.

Local: Over the last several months, Heather and I have had the joy of seeing our next-door neighbors commit their lives to Jesus!

As we've simply engaged in conversations about the state of the world, questions they have about the Bible and Jesus, and sharing meals together, they have shared that they are "All in for Jesus!" Amen!!

We have started a Bible study in their garage, and we are currently going through the book of Galatians!

Road trip to Colorado

It's always a blessing when you can combine ministry with a little bit of family fun and quality time. One of my good childhood friends asked me to officiate his wedding in the middle of June. He lives in Colorado, so our family decided to make a road trip out of it!

We got to see some of Middle-America while we toured some capital cities as well as state and national parks. We also got to take our daughter to the Focus on the Family Headquarters where she got to experience Whit's End and Adventure's in Odyssey! The wedding celebration was amazing and were happy to be able to serve him and his family while in Colorado.



Prayer Requests

- Pray for energy as I am currently at Camp Hebron where I will serve as their speaker for family camp.
- Pray for our missionaries in Asia who are facing persecution for hosting Bible Camps for kids.
- Please keep praying for our full support to come in within the next two months.
- Pray for all my speaking opportunities in August.

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*Carlos and Marion
BCM Latin America*

Leadership Development in Latin America

Earlier this month I had the wonderful privilege to meet up with Carlos and Marion from Peru!
(see picture below)

Carlos is the Director for BCM Latin America and very soon he will be leading a Candidate Orientation for new missionaries along with a leadership event (LEADS) in Bolivia to empower and equip Latin American leaders to *Reach Children and Strengthen the Church*.

During our meeting we addressed organizational leadership issues and discussed various leadership content for prepping his sessions.

Power in Alignment

There is so much power when people and vision are in alignment. When leaders can share a unified vision of the future and everyone has clarity around their role and how they, both individually and collectively, fulfill the mission, you start to see momentum and progress in the direction of your vision.

Alignment was a key word that emerged during my conversation with Carlos and Marion and I think they are in the process of putting together a powerful and effective training for BCM's Latin American leaders!
I'm humbled to be a part of the process.

BCM Day of Prayer

Also this month, our family joined the BCM headquarters' staff for a Day of Prayer event in OCNJ. The previous president of BCM, Bob Evans and his wife, Corrie, invited us to their home and hosted a wonderful day full of food, laughter, conversation, and of course... PRAYER.

One of BCM's missionaries to Portugal guided us through a devotional based on the Lord's prayer, and we spent time praying for all that's going on in the world and the various ministries that BCM is engaged in. We also celebrated many answers to prayer! God is so good! Excited for what He has in store for the future!





"To equip His people for works of service"

Prayer Updates

- Pray for healing of a family member who is in the hospital.
- Cherith starts home-school (8/29) pray for wisdom, patience, and fun!
- BCM Latin America's Candidate Orientation and Leadership Event.
- Pray for full financial support. We're at about 65% right now, praise God!

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I had the great joy and opportunity to teach God's Word in various locations this past month that included church services, Sunday schools, and a conference geared toward investing in youth leaders.

I especially loved The Revive Conference, because it provided the opportunity to invest in the leadership of over 100 youth pastors and leaders from the Southern PA region. I thought I would share one of my main session teaching points with you in this letter (see below...or click the link in the email to watch the full message).

I love the book of Ephesians! Some of my favorite, life-shaping passages of Scripture are found in this letter the Apostle Paul wrote to the believers in Ephesus. Ephesians 4:11-16 has shaped my approach for ministry and leadership development in that it focuses on equipping God's people for ministry.

A natural tendency for leaders in full-time ministry is to *professionalize* the "works of service" that need done in the body of Christ or community. Instead of equipping and sending people to do kingdom work, the leaders end up doing everything.

One of my main roles with BCM International is to equip and empower missional leaders around the world to carry out the good works that God has prepared in advance for them to do (Ephesians 2:10). **My focus will be on helping leaders equip and empower other leaders (2 Timothy 2:2)!** This will be the focus of the leadership curriculum that I will be putting together with the help of BCM's president and various directors.

I AM SO EXCITED TO SEE WHAT GOD DOES WITH THIS WORK!

Sharks and the Kingdom of God

Most species of sharks must constantly move in order to stay alive. They will suffocate if they aren't in constant motion (even when they sleep). **Our hearts are like sharks in that they are constantly moving toward the things that we believe will bring us life or make us feel alive.**

Part of our job as Christian leaders is to help stir desires and direct hearts toward the Kingdom of God in the people we shepherd. Discipleship is more than transferring good Bible teaching from head-to-head. It also involves directing and propelling the heart to love the King and His kingdom.





Some September PRAISES

-Cherith is off to a great start with homeschool! She prayed all summer to get into a co-op where her good friends go, and we got a call the week before it started telling us she got accepted!

-Our support is up to 70% which is great! God continues to provide every month!

-The BCM Latin America Candidate Orientation and Leadership event was a big success!

-I attended a leadership conference in Ohio that was so inspiring and has renewed my energy and motivation for God's mission!

-I was able to help with training future BCM leaders from Europe to prepare them for their upcoming

God's Presence and Provision

Wow, the months seem to be flying by so fast! I am so thankful for all that God is doing and the ways that I see Him moving in our family, community, and around the world.

I decided to fill up that left column with praises instead of requests this month because **I'm just feeling overwhelmed with God's blessings and provision.** Making the transition into full-time mission work was probably the hardest decision I made up to this point in my life. It was both scary and exciting. But since that decision, I have felt God's presence and seen His movement so consistently and powerfully.

I was honored to speak at BCM's Day of Prayer event earlier this month. And I know I said this in an earlier update, but BCM's commitment and practice of prayer is very inspiring (and challenging) for me! It's not like I didn't pray in my other ministries, but **BCM prays A LOT!** And I find myself praying more throughout the day.

In other news, **Cherith is turning 10** on October 7th! God brought a young couple into our lives that Heather and I have been able to mentor. I'm teaching a workshop on discovering God's calling to a group of business leaders tomorrow (Sept. 27).
...and FALL IS MY FAVORITE SEASON 😊



Love Hill

Earlier this month I was officiating a wedding and I got to meet the owner of this beautiful barn (which is not a wedding venue). Their ministry is focused on running retreats mainly for recovery ministries. The owner gave me a lot of good wisdom and insight for running a retreat center, which is still part of our family's vision for ministry on the property out in western PA.

Join our Support Team

<https://www.cornerstoneleadership.org/donate>



Prayer Updates

Broken house items:

- Dishwasher
- Dryer
- Bathtub is leaking
- Kitchen faucet is leaking
- Toilet
- Gutters
- Chimney
- Power Washer
- Speakers for events

We are doing lot of traveling, pray for safety.

Heather and Cherith are going on a mother and daughter retreat this weekend.

Continue to pray for us to raise our full support.

Pray for our health as we're moving into cold/flu season.

For the work to get done on the Parker, PA house quickly.

When it Rains it Pours...

October started off with 5 days of straight rain. It just poured and I thought to myself, "I hope this means the majority of October is going to be sunny and beautiful!"

Well, last month my update included a ton of blessings, and now this month, unfortunately, I have a lot of prayer requests, because it seems that "when it rains, it pours." But God is so faithful! And good to us!

For the Lowe family, we are experiencing a lot of things breaking or falling apart in our house. There are a lot of things that need repaired or replaced and it is really taking a toll on the ole check book (although I don't really use checks very often). I'll share specifics in the left-hand column under Prayer Requests.

As far as ministry is going, LOTS of great stuff!! I'm continuing to praise God for the significant work being done in Latin America! Carlos and his wife Marion have been such an encouragement to work with and are making an incredible impact!

I also had the privilege to work with Solid Rock Youth Ministries in Quarryville with some leadership and strategy sessions last week. They are making a huge impact in lives of many young people and families. You can find more information about them at: <https://www.solidrockquarryville.com/>

This weekend (Oct 28-31) I'll be headed out to western PA to do some work on the house with a friend. We are still planning on eventually building a Christian Retreat Center out there. One step at a time (or, one piece of drywall at a time).

November Ministry Opportunity

I am so excited for the opportunity to teach a course for [One Life, a gap year program](#), located in WV. I will be teaching their Life and Calling course and will be using a curriculum I wrote entitled, **TOP Calling**. The curriculum focuses on how your **Talents, Opportunities, and Passion** all work together to partner with God to meet needs in the world.

If you're not familiar with gap-year programs, head over to the One Life website - <https://onelifepath.org/> - for more information. It's a great organization and maybe you know someone who might benefit from their program.





Prayer Requests:

- Healing for Heather's back. She's been in pain for quite a long time.
- Safety in travel for upcoming events.
- BCM is getting a new president! Pray for a smooth transition.
- Continued financial support.
- December speaking engagements and events.

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Discerning God's Unique Calling

I am very **THANKFUL for all of YOU** who support my new ministry with BCM International! I feel incredibly blessed to be able to equip and empower so many leaders for life and leadership!

One Life Gap Year:

My highlight for November was the opportunity to teach 22 young adults on top of a mountain in West Virginia on the topic of discerning God's calling. AND...this happened to fall on my birthday! I received this as a gift from God ☺

The Church has often talked about God's calling with a lot of mystery and not a lot of practicality. I am so passionate about leading others through God's Word while helping them pay attention to the significant areas of life that make up God's calling/purpose.

Here are some things the students said about the course:

"Thank you for providing us with practical things we can do to clarify our calling – that's something I've never gotten before."

-Andrew

"I have so many new perspectives on God's calling now! I really appreciate how you took everything back to Scripture." -Paige

"Thank you for hearing my story and speaking wisdom and truth into my calling. You gave me excitement about my future and eyes to see my past in a healthier light." -Ella

None of this would be possible without your partnership!

Thank You!

This course on God's calling is just one of the topics I'm excited to teach to leaders internationally next year when I'm fully supported!

A New President for BCM International!

When I first came on staff with BCM in May of this year, the president (Marty Windle) told me that he was hoping to retire sometime in the next year. To be honest, to hear that news when you're just starting out somewhere can feel a little concerning ...maybe a little anxious about the future.

However, I am excited to share with you that the next president is someone I used to work with during my time at Lancaster Bible College. He is a great leader and has such a passion for helping others know and grow in Jesus Christ and His Word. He will be starting on December 5th and I'll be sharing more in the next Lowe Down!





Prayer Updates

- The new BCM president started on Dec 7th!
- Many of the items that broke around our house are now fixed!
- Wisdom for planning trips this upcoming year.
- BCM candidate orientation in January

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God With Us

The presence of God is one of His greatest expressions of His love for you. He chose to dwell among us. He chose to be an up-close and personal Savior who became well acquainted with suffering.

As you sit around the fireplace or the dinner table with your family or friends during this season, I pray you are reminded of God's presence WITH YOU every moment as well.

He is present to hear your prayers, your cries, and longings.

He is present to offer you His peace that passes understanding.

He is present to comfort and to guide you forward through the uncertainty you face ahead.

He is with you.

December was a large fundraising month for our ministry with BCM International. We have been so thankful for God's continuous provision over these last several months.

December was also a full month of planning and writing for projects and events that will be happening in January.

Of course, there was also a few Christmas parties to attend!

Family Christmas Eve Service

I was blessed and honored to preach at the Family Christmas Eve Service at LWCC on Christmas Eve.

We had a fun time, and the gospel was preached!

It was such a blessing to see so many families and children attend. We had an indoor snowball fight which is always a fun time for the kids (and me haha).

I'm praying for the next generation to know, love, and serve Jesus, and I'm thankful I get to pursue this mission full-time with BCM International.

