

THE *Contact*

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Blessings Abound! —REFLECTIONS FROM A CBM BUILDER FAMILY

"We had a wonderful experience on our very first building project as full-time CBM missionaries," share **Brian & Brenda Krueger**, who with their children, Amanda, Luke, Nathanael, and Rebekah, were part of the CBM build team serving at Bethel Baptist Church in Camp Douglas, Wisconsin.

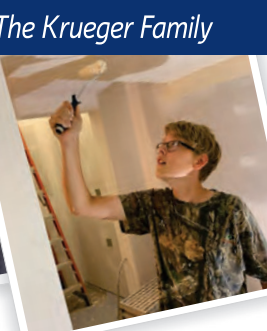
"There were many blessings along the way. We have always envisioned this ministry as a family ministry. It was fun watching our kids help and serve as they could. We were blessed to have Brian's dad help on the project when his parents visited. Many of our friends and extended family were a blessing to us as we were able to visit them or they visited us to see our ministry first-hand."

"The church was also a blessing. Pastor Ron Davidson fed us with the Word and he and his family helped us throughout the project. The church members blessed us in unique ways. Brian was able to hunt for turkeys on a member's property. They invested in our lives, fellowshiped with us, and invited us into their homes. They spent time laboring with us on the build site and shared testimonies of how God had provided for the project."

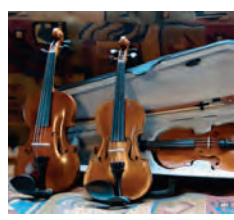
"We are humbled and blessed. What a privilege it is to serve God full-time in the CBM building ministry! We look forward to the future projects God has in store for us."



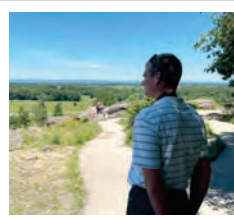
The Krueger Family



*What's
Inside:*



HEARTS IN TUNE



REWIND: CBM SAMPLER



CITY OF LIGHT!

Rewind: CBM

◀ VISITING SIX CBM CHURCH

Six church plants and 1,788 miles in six days—that was the agenda for 2021 CBM Sampler. Three men with an interest in church planting joined CBM Field Director **Brad Hoff** on a journey from Michigan to Maryland and back again.

◀ **DAY 1** of the Sampler began with an early morning trip from the CBM office across the state of Michigan to worship with the people of Common Grounds Baptist Church in Detroit. Led by CBM missionaries **Bill & Tamra Branks**, Common Grounds meets in a rented space that also serves as a coffee shop run by the church plant as a means of outreach to their community. This visit gave the Sampler participants the opportunity to see a church plant in action on a Sunday morning.

◀ On the morning of **DAY 2**, the Sampler group met up with CBM church planters **Bill Taylor** and **Ken Dockery**, and Caleb Kudlow, another member of the pastoral staff at CityView Baptist Church, in downtown Cleveland, Ohio. The group was able to see the facility CityView had recently begun using as a meeting place for the church plant. A tour of the central part of Cleveland gave the group the opportunity to see several of the places where CityView has significant ongoing ministries, such as Cleveland State University, a high-rise apartment building, and a local park.

◀ **DAY 3** provided a unique opportunity—the chance to meet a church planter and tour the community he has targeted before a church planting effort has officially begun. **Nathan & Christie Robbins** are CBM church planting-appointees headed to Buffalo, New York. Nathan arranged his deputation schedule to meet the Sampler group in Buffalo and lead a walking tour of the neighborhood the Lord has laid on their hearts. Participants learned to view a community through “church planting eyes”. The visit to that neighborhood concluded with a time of prayer for the people of the community and for the future church plant. (Incidentally, Nathan Robbins was a participant on the 2019 CBM Sampler!)



Day ONE: Detroit, MI

Head over to **CBM Destination Missions** on YouTube to see more from the 2021 CBM Sampler!



Sampler

PLANTS IN SIX DAYS!

◀ After three consecutive days of surveying urban church plants, **DAY 4** provided a change of pace. Grace Baptist Church of Juniata County, Pennsylvania, is a rural church plant led by CBM church planters **Dennis & Tamra Seiler**. After a church planting conversation over supper, the Sampler group had the privilege of joining the Grace Baptist family for their mid-week Bible study and prayer time.

◀ On the morning of **DAY 5**, the group met up with CBM missionary **Kurt Schroder** at the Gettysburg National Military Park for a battlefield tour led by Kurt. (As a bi-vocational church planter, Kurt works in the bookstore at the visitors' center.) That afternoon and evening the Sampler participants visited with Kurt and his wife, **Lori** regarding their small-town church plant (Good News Baptist Church) in Cascade, Maryland.

◀ The **FINAL** church planting visit took place in Bowie, Maryland, where CBM missionaries **Jeff & Deb Minniear** are planting Shiloh Baptist Church. In addition to having lunch together in a local park where Shiloh has had significant outreach activities, the group also visited the Minniears' home where weekly ministry takes place in the form of small group worship times, spiritual discussion groups, and children's Bible clubs. A special point of interest was seeing Jeff's workshop where he crafts violins and violas (See 'Hearts In Tune' in this issue!)

The effectiveness of the trip can be summarized in the words of one of this year's participants: "The CBM Sampler is a unique opportunity to expose oneself to what church planting looks like on the ground. It is easy to discuss opinions from a theory but seeing it firsthand in multiple venues was a true eye-opener."

For information about the next CBM Sampler—set for June 11-18, 2022—visit www.GoCBM.org/Sampler. Expenses for the Sampler are offset in part by a fee charged to participants. You can help keep costs down by designating a gift to "The CBM Sampler"—give online at www.GoCBM.org/Give, mail a check to the CBM office (11650 Northland Dr NE, Rockford MI 49341-8706), or call (616) 863-2226 and ask to speak with Michelle DeJong in the business office.



Day THREE: Buffalo, NY



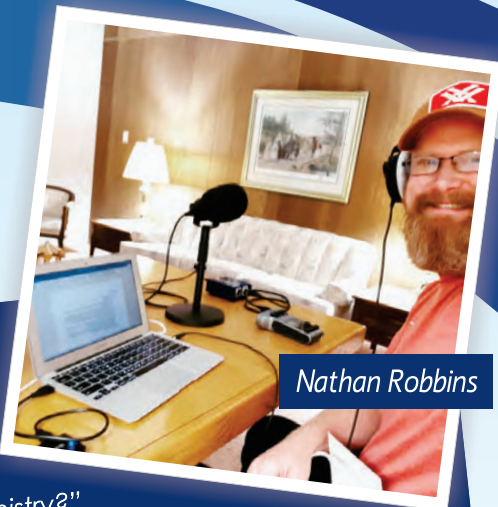
Day FIVE: Cascade, MD

City Of Light

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Nathan Robbins

"How do I build relationships and stay in contact with hundreds of supporters while at the same time grow personally and engage in ministry?"

This was the question **Nathan Robbins**, Appointee CBM Church Planter, found himself asking as he and his wife, **Christie**, and their three children travel across the country in preparation for their church planting ministry in Buffalo, NY.

Nathan shares, "We have done the majority of our deputation in the throes of Covid-19 and this has presented many challenges in building genuine relationships. During this time, I observed that most of the close relationships and committed ministry partners came as a result of conversations surrounding the topics of discipleship, cultural engagement, and church planting. Following a CBM Zoom meeting discussing YouTube and digital ministry, Christie and I determined to start a podcast that would engage the audience on those three topics."

It has been quite the journey and at times difficult for the Robbinses to find the time to record and publish episodes, but the benefit to their ministry has been substantial. "I have regular listeners from almost all of our supporting churches," Nathan says, "and it has resulted in many close relationships and opportunities for growth."

Nathan is excited to see how God will use this ministry once he and his family arrive in Buffalo: "I envision having many discussions regarding cultural engagement with local businesses and individuals, and using those discussions as opportunities to build evangelistic relationships. If you are a regular podcast listener or if you have never tuned in, I invite you to join me as we explore discipleship, culture, and church planting on the **City of Light** podcast."

contacts

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Hearts In Tune

SOWING GOSPEL SEEDS ONE VIOLIN AT A TIME!

Someone wisely said, "When you want to reach the lost, find out what you like to do and figure out how to do it with unsaved people." Blend that with the biblical command to "do good" to all, and the wheels started turning for CBM missionaries, **Jeff & Deb Minniear** who are planting Shiloh Baptist Church in Bowie, Maryland. Both Jeff and Deb love music and playing stringed instruments. As they sifted through ideas for how to build redemptive relationships by investing in their community, the couple landed on helping the strings program in their local public schools.

An initial contact at a nearby elementary school revealed a need for five beginner violins. Rather than buying cheap violins, Jeff decided to make them. When they were ready, the Minniears invited the strings teacher over to play the instruments. She loved them! In the course of conversation, Jeff and Deb learned this teacher also taught strings at a second school, so Jeff made another set of violins. The Minniears had just started pursuing this ministry idea when the Covid-19 pandemic hit and local schools shifted to a virtual format. With kids back in the classroom this fall, ten new violins will be delivered in the next few weeks.

Jeff is also building violas for two middle schools, one in Bowie and the other closer to Washington DC. While building them, he realized if these schools had trouble getting

violins for needy students, they must need cellos even more. The Minniears approached their chiropractor with a unique idea: Would he buy a used cello if Jeff could make it playable for the school? He agreed! When the strings teacher picked up the instruments Jeff had made, he showed her the (not yet repaired) cello intended for her school and she cried. (Apparently there are several broken cellos in school storage just begging for someone to rebuild them.) The teacher is a cellist and offered to play at Shiloh Baptist anytime music is needed.

Through this ministry the Minniears are prayerfully seeking to build relationships with teachers and schools, as well as with students and their parents, as many of the children will need larger instruments as they grow. To this end, business cards introducing Jeff as the instrument builder and the Minniears as church planters, as well as a card explaining how gifts from various Christians and churches paid to make the instrument possible, are included in each case. Jeff and Deb believe this is a long-term investment that will not only help the schools and the children, but by God's grace, open doors for the gospel—the greatest hope!



A Living Legacy

The following represent gifts given to CBM in remembrance of those now with the Lord—

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We are so thankful and truly blessed to have faithful supporters who give regularly and specifically to help meet the needs of the CBM home office. Our small staff is dedicated to providing a variety of support services to CBM missionaries on the front lines—and regular giving by our Planting Partners makes this possible! **As we look to the end of the year, may I challenge you to prayerfully consider becoming a CBM Planting Partner?** Special gifts are always welcomed and truly appreciated, yet you can have an even greater impact on the day-to-day ministry of CBM as a committed, monthly supporter. If you would like to become a Planting Partner or learn more about this much-needed area of giving, please email me at mdejong@GoCBM.org or call (616) 863-2226. Our year-end appeal goes out in December—if you want to be kept in the loop on ways you can support the ministry of CBM, I would be happy to add you to our mailing list. I look forward to hearing from you!

—Michelle

In The Works...

BUILDING MINISTRIES PROJECT UPDATES

Five missionary builder families are currently assisting **Chardon Baptist Church in Chardon, Ohio** with an addition that extends the auditorium and includes a new platform, warming pantry, serving area, classroom space, a family restroom, utility and storage closets, a mechanical deck for the HVAC system, and a new entry and sidewalk. Extensive remodeling will provide the church with a new auditorium ceiling, foam insulation, new lighting, central heat and AC in the auditorium, and updates to the existing entry and restrooms. Due to project zoning, arrangements were made for the builders to park their RV homes in a nearby mobile home community. Though not as convenient, this location has opened up additional ministry opportunities! The missionaries are endeavoring to build relationships with their neighbors in the park and connect them with the church family. A one-on-one Bible study has already started up. The builders are also serving in the church through special music and children's ministries.



Heron, NY



A second project is underway at **First Baptist Church of Hermon, New York** with CBM builders and volunteers assisting with repairs to the church's clock bell tower. Initial work included building a beam to hold up the floor and the tower. A large concrete cap over a stone wall was poured in the crawl space to shore up the foundation. Two of the main tower support beams were rotted at the base and required repair before work overhead could commence. Due to significant rot damage, the building team tore the clock tower down to the bell tower. In its place, an 8-foot tower and a 6-foot-6-inch spire were constructed, with steel roofing sheets bent on site for the spire. This is a unique project that has involved a lot of angles!