



**BALTIMORE ANTIOCH LEADERSHIP MOVEMENT**

*Multiplying Christ-centered, cross-cultural leaders  
for disciple-making movements  
for Baltimore and beyond*

**ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

The church in America faces serious challenges: How do we minister in our changing culture? How do we reach our culturally and ethnically diverse neighbors? How do we raise up new leaders?

- Even before the pandemic, significantly more churches [closed their doors than opened](#).
- About three in ten American adults are [religiously unaffiliated](#). The number of “Nones and Dones” are [growing dramatically](#).
- By 2045, the U.S. will have no majority culture; Whites will be one minority among other minorities. [Yet most churches aren’t prepared to become more diverse](#). “Most all-white churches will become significantly older... All-white churches will become less attractive to the youngest generation...”
- [A recent study indicated](#) that a majority of those who regularly attend Black congregations say that historically Black congregations should try to diversify rather than preserve their traditional racial character.
- Because people are more disillusioned with organized religion and see churches as irrelevant, [new models for church are needed](#), including micro-churches and bi-vocational ministry. Church leaders must focus more on community engagement and having a missionary presence in their neighborhoods.

God has raised up BALM “for such a time as this” to help address these challenges. BALM serves the Body of Christ in Baltimore and beyond with theological training, leadership for church renewal, coaching, micro-church training, and opportunities for mercy/justice ministry through Baltimore Sports Academy. We marvel at what God has done in just three short years, and trust that He will continue to guide our mission to build cross-cultural, disciple-making leaders for His glory.

Grace,

Rev. Dr. Craig Garriott, Executive Director

Rev. Stan Long, Associate Executive Director

*For the BALM team*

*“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations...” Matthew 28:19*

*“All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.” Gal. 2:10*

# OUR MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES

We love the church. With over 100 *years* collectively of multiethnic ministry experience, BALM comes alongside churches and leaders to strengthen the church and start new churches.

BALM was founded in 2019 to multiply cross-cultural, disciple-making leaders for community-transforming churches. We want to see gospel saturation in Baltimore and beyond through Christ-centered, reproducing leaders who build communities that display the hope and healing of Jesus.

In less than three years, BALM has expanded from one staff member to four. In addition to Rev. Dr. Craig Garriott, Rev. Stan Long officially serves as Associate Executive Director, and Maria Garriott serves in communications, coaching, and intercultural development. Kevin Good joined our team in 2019 to partner with churches to reach and disciple youths through Baltimore Sports Academy.

BALM integrates values of saturated prayer, biblical theology, gospel-unity, mercy-justice, wholistic development (head, heart, hands), cross-cultural contextualization, community transformation.

## What does BALM do?



BALM develops *leaders*. This year, BALM has helped develop disciple-making leaders for new and renewed churches through four platforms: Metro Baltimore Seminary; the BALM Underground (a network of micro-church leaders); church renewal; and Baltimore Sports Academy.

We served **200 leaders**, reaching people from age 7 to 70, from diverse ethnic backgrounds and varying socio-economic situations.

- **At Metro Baltimore Seminary (MBS)** we helped 100 students access an affordable, accessible, accredited bachelor's or master's degree by serving as deans, teaching, and mentoring. Pastors Craig and Stan receive no salary for this work.
- **BALM Underground** trained 15 disciple-making micro-church planters to reach diverse neighbors in our changing culture with the gospel of Jesus.
- **Church Renewal and Coaching-** BALM assisted 3 churches with renewal, and coached 24 leaders to help them thrive in urban or multiethnic ministry.
- **BALM's youth ministry (YUMI/BSA)** invested in 60 youth to reach, develop and disciple them in partnership with the local church.

## HEAD: METRO BALTIMORE SEMINARY



MBS' first Urban Ministry cohort, 2018



BALM not only helped start Metro Baltimore Seminary, but helps sustain it by sponsoring two ministry tracks, two deans, and the MBS second site at Freedom Church.

Three years ago, Metro Baltimore Seminary didn't exist. Today, nearly 60 students are receiving an accessible, accredited and affordable bachelor's and master's degrees in theology at MBS, and our first class graduates in January 2022.

MBS equips and deploys emerging Christ-centered leaders through classroom instruction, mentoring and practical ministry experience to advance the Gospel for our increasingly diverse contexts. These students are already having an impact, serving in churches and non-profit ministries in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and El Salvador.

BALM sponsors the Church Planting and Renewal track and the Urban Ministry track, as well as MBS's site at Freedom Church in Baltimore. Pastors Craig and Stan receive no salary from their work as deans Church Planting & Renewal and Urban Ministry, and 50% of their time is devoted to MBS.

By helping to create and staff an affordable local seminary, BALM brings theological education into reach for many adults. Several of our students have been serving as bi-vocational pastors for decades yet never received formal theological education.

Pastor Stan Long is Dean of Urban Ministry at Metro Baltimore Seminary, and Dr. Craig Garriott is Dean of Church Planting and Renewal. Twice a month, they lead an online gathering of their cohorts. The diversity in age, denominations, gender, occupations, and ethnicity makes for a rich experience: urbanites and rural residents, clergy and lay people, a hip-hop podcaster, a Muslim-background man who wants to start a church in his native Liberia, an American couple who started a recovery ministry in El Salvador, a resident of the Helping Up Mission, and others.

Danielle and Jon Snyder are MBS's first "remote" international students. They co-founded Mission to El Salvador, which works with vulnerable populations, including victims of sex trafficking. They have started a youth residential treatment center, a resource center for adults, and other faith-based ministries.

## HEART: CHURCH RENEWAL, COACHING AND MICRO-CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

BALM serves pastors and leaders across multiple denominations in revitalizing existing churches and starting new micro-churches.

- It is estimated that 80% of the churches in the Baltimore metro region have plateaued or are declining.
- At present 22% of the area churches in one denomination (PCA) are seeking a pastor. BALM is assisting three of those churches with renewal and providing leadership.
- BALM Board Chair Bill Sciannella leads our work at City of Hope (Columbia, MD), where he preaches and is training new elders and deacons.
- BALM reached approximately 50 pastors, 150 college students (Loyola, Univ. of Del; UMBC), and five Sunday School classes of adults with presentations on biblical unity.



- New life is emerging at Abbott Memorial Presbyterian, a 140-year-old church downtown, where BALM has been assisting since June. BALM helped Abbott heal from a painful pastoral departure, analyze its strengths, weaknesses, and mission, and start new initiatives.

Julius Fischer, Abbott's music director, says BALM has been "a huge aid in moving us forward. It feels like we have the wind in our sails... Each member of the BALM team brings a certain strength to the ministry at Abbott. We have really benefited from that."

- BALM's work with Grace Presbyterian Church in Relay, Maryland, is ending soon. Ruling Elder Warren Drell says, "For the past two years, BALM has served Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church, with Stan Long serving as our Interim Pastor. He has been a faithful minister of the gospel, led congregational meetings, and counseled the session and church. We appreciate what BALM has done for our church!"



Grace Presbyterian Church leaders: Elder Mark Woodland, Rev. Stan Long, Associate Pastor Eric Tracy, Elder Warren Drell, Elder John Daniello, Elder Steve Bradbury.

## DEVELOPING MICRO-CHURCH LEADERS

*"They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts...and the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." Acts 2:46-47*

The micro-church harkens back to the early church and church planting movements through the centuries. Today, this movement is growing explosively in the Two-Thirds world, and is uniquely suited to reach the "Nones and Dones" in the US who will not attend a traditional church. Micro-churches are also an important tool for church renewal. BALM is training 10 leaders/couples to launch new, disciple-making micro-churches.



In 2022, BALM plans to launch several micro-churches across the region. BALM will function as a church planting incubation and support hub, providing training and infrastructure for bi-vocational or co-vocational MBS students to serve as leaders of these small house churches.



MBS student Azure Kline (left) is being trained in the Micro-church Pathway. She hopes to bring the gospel to Muslim women.

Pastor Derek Pulliam (below, right) hopes to use his training to relaunch his church, Christ Our Hope



## HANDS: MAKING DISCIPLES THROUGH YOUTH MINISTRY

Baltimore Sports Academy (BSA) seeks to reach youth with the gospel through the platform of sports. BSA provides high-level sports training, holistic player development, and transformational coaching to improve the upward trajectories for youth with multiple risk factors that can hinder their success on and off the court. In January, 2022, BSA director Kevin Good is partnering with local pastors Mark Tippin and Antione Payne to reach young people in their communities.



BSA Director Kevin Good says, "Sports ministry is one of the best ways to reach youth for Christ. BSA partners with churches to reach youth in lower-income, high-stress urban communities. Youths receive training and mentoring that builds complete athletes for success on and off the field--physically, spiritually, and academically."



This past summer, our first BALM Youth Urban intern, Julian Hague, led four weeks of summer camp with 75 kids at The Garden Church in West Baltimore. Julian is now the Youth Director at Faith Christian Fellowship.

He says, "My time at BALM equipped me for full time ministry by allowing me the to lead a ministry for the first time... through BALM's training and partnership, I was equipped to lead in a way that I had not experienced up until that point." His wife Elena is part of a small group of ministry wives that Maria Garriott coaches.

Kate McGrath (pictured with family) is an experienced teacher, home educator, and tutor center director. She is developing assessments and tailored lessons for players in Baltimore Sports Academy.



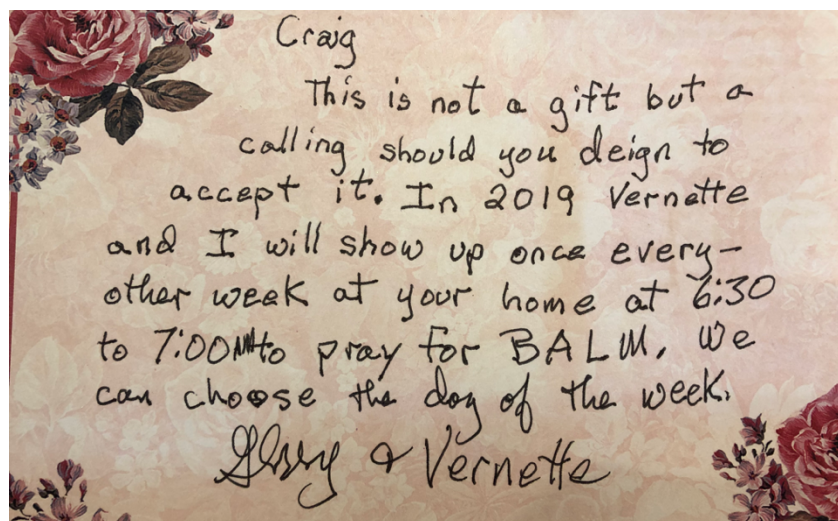
## FINANCES

*Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. Jn. 16:24*

*<sup>3</sup> And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, <sup>4</sup> and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel. Rev 8:3,4*

BALM has flourished because of the faithful prayers of God's people.

Three years ago, when BALM was only a vision, Gerry Sutter and Vernetta Abrahams gave Pastor Craig a card:



Gerry and Vernetta, joined by Krishna Kandel, still pray with us twice a month on Saturday morning. They have watered, fertilized, and carefully tended the seed of faith that is BALM. Over 60 Prayer Warriorr receive weekly emails to pray for specific requests.

We have seen the disciple-making dream come true. A seminary has emerged with some 60 students, 16 of whom will graduate in 2022—including Gerry Sutter. Churches are experiencing renewal, and leaders are being equipped and coached. Youth are being reached with the gospel.

Our Board Chair Bill Sciannella says, “God has done a tremendous amount through BALM. We have a great mission, and are doing a great deal on a very tight budget. This work builds broader and deeper disciples.”



God has met our needs for the last three years. Most of our support comes from individuals, but we have also received some donations from local churches and foundations. As we end 2021, we still face a deficit. We have cut costs in expenses, salaries and benefits. We are also seeking to expand our donor base, we have begun planning a major 2022 fundraising event.

We invite you to join BALM's mission to help renewal existing churches and multiply disciple-making micro-churches. Join our prayer team, and give however and the Lord leads you. Help BALM spread the healing and hope of Jesus.



Rev. Dr. Craig Garriott, Executive Director

[Craig.garriott@baltimoremovement.org](mailto:Craig.garriott@baltimoremovement.org)

Rev. Stan Long, Associate Executive Director

[Stan.long@baltimoremovement.org](mailto:Stan.long@baltimoremovement.org)

Kevin Good, Director of Youth Leadership Development

[Kevin.good@baltimoremovement.org](mailto:Kevin.good@baltimoremovement.org)

Maria Garriott, Special Projects & Intercultural Development

[Maria.garriott@baltimoremovement.org](mailto:Maria.garriott@baltimoremovement.org)

## BALM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bill Sciannella, Board Chair

Steve Sharkey, esq.

Bruce Currie, esq.

Stacey Allen, Treasurer

Baltimore Antioch Leadership Movement  
535 E. 41<sup>st</sup> Street  
P. O. Box 39477 • Baltimore, MD 21212  
[www.baltimoremovement.org](http://www.baltimoremovement.org)

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