



Facts About Balm

How did you come to know about the mission of BALM?

What is one thing about the ministry of BALM that has encouraged you?

What is one question you might have for BALM?

Mission: BALM was launched in Jan. 2019 to multiply Christ-centered, cross-cultural disciple-making leaders for community-transforming churches.

Vision: to see gospel saturation in Baltimore and beyond through Christ-centered, reproducing leaders who build communities that display the hope and healing of Jesus.

We develop leaders 4 ways:

1. Metro Baltimore Seminary – serving as deans/instructors at MBS.

Rev. Dr. Craig Garriott (Dean of Church Planting) and Rev. Stan Long (Dean of Urban Ministry) teach, mentor, and oversee students. BALM founded and leads the Church Planting & Renewal and Urban Ministry tracks, and oversees MBS's second site at Freedom Church. MBS offers an affordable, accessible, accredited bachelor's or master's degree part time over 3 years for about \$2,000 per year. Because of MBS's unique model, Craig and Stan receive no salary for this work. MBS's first class graduates next month.

2. BALM Church Renewal –coaching and leadership to strengthen existing churches. BALM has served 3 churches to date: Grace Presbyterian (Relay, MD), Abbott Memorial, (Highlandtown), and City of Hope (Columbia). BALM also has coached 24 leaders to help them thrive in urban or multiethnic ministry.

3. Baltimore Underground Church Network– BALM serves as a mission agency to equip, network, and multiply cross-cultural disciple-making micro-church leaders to reach diverse neighbors with the gospel of Jesus. BALM has trained 15 micro-church leaders.

4. Baltimore Sports Academy (BSA) –Baltimore Sports Academy (BSA) uses sports as a platform to provide contextualized word-and-deed ministry that addresses felt needs, both physically and mentally, to establish relationships, share the gospel, and connect youth to additional discipleship opportunities through the local church.

Why is BALM needed?

- Baltimore has experienced record-breaking homicides over the last seven years.
- The greatest hindrance to the health of existing churches and effective church planting is the scarcity of prepared leaders.
- Nationally, 4,000 churches close each year; 90% are declining or have plateaued.
- 42% of pastors considered quitting ministry altogether in the last year.
- Youth are leaving church in record numbers. Churches, especially in under-resourced areas, lack resources to reach and disciple them.
- New models must address the complexities and stress of ministry within our society's ethnic, racial, political, and class divisions.