

Testimonials | The Baton Exchange

Note: Top two testimonials are exclusively The Baton Exchange. The rest are testimonials from The Baton Exchange Leader Incubator, the optional track with a spiritual emphasis, formerly known as The WAM House and the last couple pages are from the Online beta test.



"There are tons of young entrepreneurs who need what you have put together." Tom Werner, CEO, Kassel Equity Group



"I've had an awesome experience with my mentor! He's challenged me and provided insights into new ways of thinking." Brad Fisher, President, Fisher Wealth Management



Connecting with WAM House [The Baton Exchange, Catalyst Track] mentors has been a blessed experience and a tremendous source of encouragement. The best part is that my mentors have excelled in the very same professional areas as I intend to, by integrating it with their Christian calling. I am very thankful for John and his ministry and look forward to seeing other professionals be blessed by it. Benny, Abbott Nutrition



John, Thank you for the opportunity to speak at your seminar this morning. I couldn't help but think several of your students could have stayed longer and had continuing discussions on leadership. If I read that correctly and they would want to talk in more detail, I would love to spend more time with them. I left their totally energized and want to further help if I can. I spoke with Shuhan Luo afterward and offered to help her as she continues to pursue her Masters in HR... Regards, Fred (Retired UPS Executive, WAM House [The Baton Exchange, Catalyst Track] Volunteer)



Hi John, Just wanted to say Thank you for matching me with my mentor, Dondra. She is an incredible lady and I really enjoy spending one hour a month with her. I'm learning a lot from Dondra. She asks great questions, she is a great listener, and gives very helpful advice. Also, I like the new curriculum a lot. It's true that I get out of it as much as I put in it. So, if I don't do much, I don't get much out of it. It's rewarding to see that some of the goals I wrote on PIP I am achieving, or at least making important steps toward achieving them. Thank you! :) Estera Piroasca, Director of Internships, IFI. Author of *Portraits of Integration*

(An earlier quote from her first time in the program): There's so many things that I learned in WAM House [The Baton Exchange, Catalyst Track] since the past year. I learned so much about what work means from God, and how God refers to work. The fact that he considers work to be holy, to be important, as we spend most of our lives in the work place. We know that we're supposed be a Christian redemptive agent in the work place. So I think that's one amazing thing that I know that I will carry on through my studies and work when I get a job. I'll be able to apply all these wonderful things that I learned in this place.



"I have traveled across the U.S. and internationally, and I have to say that the mentoring program of the WAM House [The Baton Exchange, Catalyst Track] is one of the premier programs in the

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country!" Kent Humphreys, World Ambassador, Fellowship of Companies for Christ International. Successful business leader. Author of numerous books, including Christ@Work In Your Transition: From the Campus to the Marketplace.



"This is the most complete training model I have ever seen! Impressive job. Your model has what ours was missing." Retired award-winning Fortune 500 corporate trainer (Abbott Nutrition), Joanie Taddeo



"John is an amazing person who has done an excellent job at helping the interns from IFI who are a part of the WAM ministry [The Baton Exchange, Catalyst Track] to grow in vision, develop convictions, and serve others. He has imparted life to these interns and has been creative, dynamic, and cheerful in the way he has designed and implemented the internship. John is easy to work with, responsible in what he does, and godly in the way he lives. John is a great person to work with."

Rich Mendola, Executive Director, International Friendships, Inc.



...Well, whatever you give of yourself somebody asks you to involve something I think that person whose been asked to give up their time that they are giving more than they are going receive. I have received more by being a part of this with and it is never been every time we have been together, I have learned from him and deepened relationship deepened my perspective and I work more I enjoy it now he's going to move I am going to miss that time. Monty Lobb, former Assistant Secretary of State Ohio, program mentor



"...the WAM House [The Baton Exchange, Catalyst Track] has helped me to see that I can use my interests and how God has made me to minister without being in the ministry." Heena



Jakarta, Indonesia – "Just yesterday I met a church friend who had started a garment factory last year. It was good in the beginning of the business, but currently it's in a dire situation, so bad that she's considering closing it down. (She even has some debt.) I strongly feel that God wants her to reconstruct how she manages people and also the value of company. She asked me whether I want to help ... I do really feel this is the ideal place to help if I were to apply what I've learned through WAM House [The Baton Exchange, Catalyst Track] so far. It's a place where I can even contribute to the company's values and structure." Henny



Beijing, China- "I went to Ohio State for my in Master's in Accounting. I accepted Christ while I was studying in OSU. After I got my masters, I did a one-year internship with International Friendships Inc. and at the same time went through the WAM House program. [The Baton Exchange, Catalyst Track] During the time of WAM House training, we visited several Kingdom businesses in Ohio (including the headquarters of Beckett Corp.), and I was very impressed by the work in those places. To me Kingdom business was a fresh and very attractive concept, and it changed my view of job and career." Xing



Before I came to WAM House [The Baton Exchange, Catalyst Track], I was really struggling with what I should be doing as far as vocational work or career kind of work. I was struggling if I want to be a

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minister of the gospel, and you know how I can go to that area. It was a kind of prayer that God would give me a kind of foundation for my life, that He would be able to use me in greater and greater ways. I found out about WAM House and it really stirred my spirit that I should go through the program. Through WAM House I really learned that work place and ministry are not two separate things. David, B.S. Electrical Engineering



I have truly been blessed from you and WAM House [The Baton Exchange, Catalyst Track]. First, the friends I have made have been incredible. It is very inspiring to meet people who are convicted and truly believe in the Great Commission. It has been great getting to know both of you and observe the energy and risk you take to invest in young people's lives. It also has been very rewarding the facilitating you and Angie do in connecting me with other people. Meeting people from other cultures is an interesting and rewarding experience. I strongly appreciate the sacrifice both of you have put into WAM House. I have enjoyed the teaching, and they have challenged me. I could list countless speakers (testimonies) or teaching, that caused me to leave on Wednesday night very inspired and challenged. I am interested in sharing these teachings at my home church. I am impressed with the TIME and passion you put into the lessons. They are of high quality, APPLICABLE, and most importantly, biblically based. The application parts usually leaves me inspired to someday own/manage a Kingdom business. I thank you for facilitating this vision. It has truly changed my beliefs on how God can use us by what we discussed in class and the people you introduced us to. Meeting and interacting with successful Kingdom business people was perhaps my favorite part of WAM House. It has changed me and introduced me to a whole network of people. May God bless your family, lives, and WAM House. Thank you. Peter, grad student, OSU



The WAM House [The Baton Exchange, Catalyst Track], and living with John and Angie, has been the highlight of my year in 2011. Ksenaf, Intern, IFI



Going through the WAM House [The Baton Exchange, Catalyst Track] so far has taught me many things. It has also confirmed many things that I have heard as a child but forgotten as I grew older. In Sunday school, I had several teachers talk about work. We are to do our work as with joy and as worship to God. Whether we are cleaning toilets, or doing the dishes, we are to do it joyfully and as though as we are worshipping God. I forgot those lessons as I grew older. I held a few after school jobs while in high school, and also summer jobs. However I forgot that the lessons from my teachers that this is to be like worship to God. I never viewed work as a missions field either. Even though I heard a story about a church that has a sign above their doors that read, "Welcome to the Mission Field," for their members to see as they leave, and remind them that the mission field is right outside. Knowing that story, I still didn't view work as a mission field. My Pastor has said several times that we have the head knowledge, but we don't allow that knowledge to travel 18 inches down to our hearts. The difference between knowing it and believing it is only 18 inches he says. Though I knew the workplace is my mission field in my mind, I didn't believe it 18 inches away in my heart. Ever since I was 16 I have felt a calling in missions. Ever since then I have had a desire to go to another country and work. However I never knew what or how I was going to do it. When I was 18 I had the opportunity right out of high school to go to Bangladesh for 6 months. So I took that opportunity in hopes that it would either confirm or deny the feeling that I was called into missions. Well, after I came back I knew that my heart was in the missions field, especially in SE Asia. However that time in my life hadn't arrived yet. So I

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went to work. I knew that I was working alongside people every day that needed Christ. I even had some conversations about God with some of my co-workers. Especially the “English” co-workers. But I was hardened towards the Amish co-workers in the area of trying to minister to them. Trying to show them the love of Jesus. I didn’t feel I was called to minister to them. They weren’t my target. I didn’t realize that I am called to work with those around me, whether it’s Amish co-workers, “Ghetto” co-workers, international students, or those I meet while living in another country. Going through the WAM House and the book, “You Work Matters To God,” has confirmed the knowledge I learned years ago that the work place is a mission field. However the YWGMG has opened up a new aspect of Workplace as Missions. It’s not necessarily a place to be alongside non-Christians, and tell them about Jesus at every opportunity, but a place to show them Jesus in how we conduct ourselves, how we work, through honor and integrity, ethical dealings, and so much more. One other lesson I was taught was that you may be the only bible many people will ever read. And that fits in so well with the lesson that YWGMG trying to tell people. Most of your time is spent at work or work related activities. Why would we not take that time to live a life unto Christ and show the love of Christ through our work? Dallas



Hi John and Angie, I’m thankful that God put you in my life. I have been learning a lot of things at the WAM House [The Baton Exchange, Catalyst Track]. Seeing your love for Anaya has brought me back a lot to my childhood memories, which helped to deepen my relationship with my parents. Thank you!! Merry Christmas Yu Jia, Intern, IFI



“Hi Again Everyone – I just wanted to say again what a blessing it was to join WAM House [The Baton Exchange, Catalyst Track], for The Baton Exchange this morning! I appreciate your thoughtful questions and the dialogue we shared, but you made the biggest impact of all in praying for me. I’ll be experiencing the impact of those prayers for some time—promise! If I can be of service in any way, don’t hesitate to stop in at Hale Hall. Best” – Victoria Dunn, Director Leadership Initiatives for Women of Color, The Ohio State University (guest leader, September 2013)



“I never thought about how to lead my friends, who want to be a part of helping me start a business. What I learned in the [Fall] Leadership Retreat about leading across made me realize that I can influence and lead them.” Mingming, current WAMer

Dondra Maney

“I am drawing to a close with Estera. The mentoring has been in two directions, for I am a stronger Christian for having had contact with this amazing woman over the past 12 months. God bless you, John.”

Estera Piroasca 3/18/2014

Q. What would you want young adults inquiring about The Baton Exchange to know about the program?

- Leadership training
- Integrate faith and work
- Mentoring
- Exposure to Christian leaders, both local and international

Ching-Ke Kao

I am preparing NY Bar Exam which will be held on July 26 and 27. My two mentors are excellent! They not only gave me advice on my bar preparation but also my spiritual life...Please find the attached payment record for mentoring program in June for your reference.

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“Sharing Christ in the workplace setting is much more difficult than in a college environment...Campus ministries just don’t prepare [Christian] students for entering the workplace. The Baton Exchange provided me a good foundation for being a Christian at work. You have an important ministry.” **Xing Tian**, an alumna from our first class in 2009-10, shared this with John on 1/13/2014

Student Video Testimonials from beta

“You should try to get them in connection with college courses like the Spiritual formation that we have here at CU. They seem very practical.” Samantha, Sophomore

“Loved the video and the content-very helpful to me as a junior in college thinking about senior year and moving out on my own.” Abbie, Junior

“VERY good information, and I am glad that I got to watch the video. I'm looking forward to gleaning more wisdom from these videos.... I really like this curriculum. Will my login stay valid so I can view the other videos? Thank you for your ministry. Esther, Junior

“When I finished watching the Kingdom Perspectives video, I journaled. And I thought, ‘all the students at Miami [CRU] should see this content!’” Nicole, Senior

“I appreciated a lot of aspects of this video. I enjoyed hearing from people actually in the work place, and I felt that the video and it's message was not restricted to a certain vocational setting.” Molly, Senior

“I really liked this material. I found this very applicable to my life, and if this was to be put into a classroom, I would want it to require that I write a mission statement for my life as the video suggested.” Daniel, Freshman

“This video talked about really applicable things that made me think and reflect while watching.” Rachel, Junior

“Nice resource, great duration of time.” Evan, Grad student

“I found the point by point method of delivering the information very easy to follow.” Andrew, Sophomore

“It is a great resource for understanding how God and work come together!” Lauryn, Junior

“I really enjoyed this video and thought the information was very beneficial in the basic idea of character. I especially respected the use of scripture to supplement the teachings, if anything, wish there was more scripture to help further the point.” Miranda, Freshman

“The video was well put together with different speakers and aspects of the ethics situation. I particularly thought that the real life stories were important because they lead to application. The video was very clear on applicable analysis.” Jocelyn, Freshman

“I thought this video was very good. The best part was the portion where the gentleman gave very specific advice as far as having that emergency money and the 6 months income available and then going on to invest. I think having even more very specific parts would be great, but even the more general discussion parts of this video were encouraging and informative.” Kevin, Senior

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"I'm in a job right now that I didn't expect / hope to have... extension office, and I'm teaching kids...programs. The programs are very carefully non-religious. I like to talk about God and tell kids about God. I haven't been able to do that here. Even the camp songs are all carefully chosen to avoid religion. I've lost sight of the work that God is doing in this workplace and was discouraged in my work. Since watching the videos, I started a prayer list for people in the office, and am being intentional about making my relationship with the summer intern one focused on God! She is a believer too. I believe God can do great things this summer in our workplace. Thanks for the encouragement." Sarah, recent graduate

"I stopped by to introduce myself and say thanks for the videos you've made. My accounting professor introduced them to me. I've shared them back home. They are inspiring!" David, Senior

Staff Video Testimonials from beta

"John, thanks again for creating some really great videos with relevant content. Many of the students that watched the videos on their own stopped by to tell me that they liked the videos they watched, the information was helpful, the content was relevant to them, etc. Keep up the great work!" Joy Doyle, Director Career Development, Geneva College

"...this is EXACTLY where we're going with our career advising model!" Laurie Judge, former Director of Development Center, Anderson University

Many more similar remarks as above not transcribed above.

	Refer? 10 = Very Likely	Use on own 10=Very Likely	Use through college? 10=Very Likely	Degree new? 10=Very new	Navigate? 10=Very easy	Comprehend content 10=Very difficult
Bridges	6.3	6.1	6.3	5.4	8.3	2.8
Calling	7.0	6.1	7.0	5.6	8.5	3.4
Character	6.6	6.4	6.7	5.3	8.8	2.4
Cultural Influence	6.5	6.3	6.2	3.8	9.1	2.0
Ethics	6.1	5.7	5.9	4.4	8.4	2.8
Finances	6.6	6.2	6.7	4.2	8.0	2.0
Community	5.9	5.6	5.7	5.1	8.0	2.2
Justice	6.0	6.3	6.3	4.6	8.0	2.8
Kingdom	6.5	6.1	6.7	4.5	8.0	2.7
Sharing-Prayer	5.9	5.2	6.1	5.0	7.4	2.1
Reflect-Man	6.3	5.8	6.7	4.2	8.7	2.2
Reflect-Why	6.2	4.8	5.5	4.5	7.2	2.8
Sharing-Word	6.4	6.3	6.1	5.2	7.8	2.4
Worldview	6.6	6.9	6.8	5.3	8.9	2.9
Worship	7.1	6.2	6.4	4.9	8.9	2.4
	6.4	6.0	6.3	4.8	8.3	2.5