

Ohio DR Team Deploys to Poland

by Stephanie Heading

In response to the humanitarian crisis spawned by the war in Ukraine, SCBO Disaster Relief recently deployed its first team to Gdansk, Poland to work with First Baptist Church Gdansk feeding, clothing, and sheltering mostly Ukrainian mothers and children.



The team of six men included Team Leader Chris Crothers, Lifepoint Church; Johnathan Taylor, Lifepoint Church; Pastor John Hays, Jersey Church; Ervin Andy, Jersey Church; Derek Mills, Ebenezer BC, and Terry Taylor, Chillicothe BC. In Gdansk, the team's assignment was to help in any way needed...

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Cooperation. The basic definition of the word means an act or instance of working or acting together for a common purpose or benefit; joint action. In essence, this is who we are as Southern Baptists and at the core of the Cooperative Program. Over the past eight months, I have traveled across the state and shared many meals with SCBO pastors and leaders and to my amazement, several are not aware of the history, function, and overall purpose of the Cooperative Program. After further explanation, the consensus is primarily amazement and a deeper appreciation for the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and the opportunity to partner together with the State Convention of



JEREMY WESTBROOK
SCBO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Baptists in Ohio (SCBO) to reach the world for Christ through giving to the Cooperative Program.

For example, we are a 50-50 CP distribution state convention. This ratio means that when our SCBO churches give a dollar, fifty cents leaves Ohio and goes to our mission boards to plant new churches and send missionaries overseas. It also funds our six seminaries and helps to underwrite theological education for students, defraying the cost substantially. The fifty cents that stays within the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio assists us in helping resource our churches to carry out the Great Commission in their own communities...

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Sitting at a table with like-minded, faithful brothers, we all exchanged sideways looks and knowing glances. A fellowship of pastors and preachers, we had all been invited to a one-night spring conference in our region. A New Testament professor from a local institution had been invited to speak about Passion Week as Easter was approaching. "The resurrection shows us that we can have second chances." "We need our people to experience the cross and resurrection to make sense of seasons of mourning and rejoicing." We all knew what we were hearing, and more importantly, what we were not hearing. These were the old talking points of theological liberalism which treated the crucifixion and resurrection not as historical events which secured our salvation, but as stories from which to draw moralizing advice and platitudes.

The resurrection is the linchpin of the gospel message, for "if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain." I am thankful for the foundational commitments...

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REGIONAL UPDATES



Matt Pardi

I am grateful to say that I am experiencing a perspective of new life in a new season!

First, thank you for your prayers and support during a difficult time for my family. I was in the hospital for 3 months with a terrible encounter with COVID. The prognosis did not look good, and some of the doctors thought the worst. God has given me a new perspective on life as He rescued me, healed me, and restored my life. I am so blessed to be back at home with my family, gaining strength. Thanks again for fighting with me.

Second, I am grateful for this new role as Northwest Regional Catalyst for SCBO. My wife MaryLynn and I love the church and we love the pastors and wives that sacrifice for the flock. We have a passion to care for leaders and churches. We have been in ministry for 22 years in Columbus, Toledo, and Bowling Green. We really love the Northwest and look forward to getting to know more of you and serving you in any way we can.

We would love to see the leading men of our region at our May Prayer and Fasting Retreat, May 12th and 13th. We will be meeting at a camp near Findlay, Ohio. This time will include hours of alone time, rest, and time for you to enjoy the Lord. Please see my contact information below if you are interested. Also, reach out to me if you have time for coffee and a visit. I am looking forward to meeting each of you and helping your important ministries.

Matt Pardi | mpardi@scbo.org | 419-494-9640



Art Fulks

This month I had the opportunity to connect with pastors and church leaders from every corner of the Southeast Region...hearing how God is at work and praying with them to discover next steps. Although 20% of region churches are without pastors and several are experiencing difficulty, others are growing, expanding ministry, and seeing lives transformed by the power of the Gospel. It is a joy to encourage and resource.

April 30 - IMPACT Mission Golf Outing (Lancaster) (timr@fbclancaster.com)

May 1 - IMPACT Missions Day (Lancaster)

10:30 a.m. - Celebration w/ Dr. Kevin Ezell

6:00 p.m. - [Banquet w/ Dr. Bryan Wright](#)

2:00 p.m. - [Disaster Relief Training](#)

[Missions / Pastor Training](#)



Reagan Wagoner

It has been such a joy to meet so many of you and to see God doing new things among us in 2022! I enjoyed seeing what God has done through the hard work and leadership of Pastor James Kerr and the people of Clough Pike Baptist Church as we met for CABA's associational meeting in their beautifully renovated facility. I am excited in the coming days to see how God uses that place! In Hamilton, Inspiring Hope Church led by Pastor Ben Mangrum celebrated their 1 Year Anniversary!

In Loveland, Redeeming Grace Church led by Send Cincinnati church planter Pastor Jon Ware, celebrated the opening of their new facility with an incredible launch day on April 10!

I enjoyed spending time with around 40 pastors and leaders at our Residency Builder Training put together by Kirk Kirkland in partnership with Send Ohio. I heard so many great ideas of how we can continue to raise up leaders from within our churches, and I am excited about so many churches from across our city and state caring about raising up the next leader.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the May 19 Multiplication Pipeline Training event with Jeremy Westbrook. If you haven't signed up yet, you can register on the SCBO or NAMB website. Also keep Thursday, September 8 and our SW Ohio Leadership Conference at Springboro Baptist Church featuring Vance Pitman, Shane Pruitt, and Hershael York reserved on the calendar, and plan to bring your developing leaders with you! I would love to catch up with you for breakfast or lunch to hear about what God is doing in your church, talk about how to start a multiplication pipeline, residency, or a new church, and let me know how I can be praying for you in 2022. Email me at rwagoner@scbo.org to get together!



Rick Williams

As the Central Ohio Regional Catalyst, I had the privilege of experiencing three great events during the last few weeks. LifePoint Church hosted Momentum, the State Evangelism Conference on March 21st. One of the highlights was Dr. Willy Rice sharing his inspiring vision for multiplication regarding church planting.

Sycamore Creek Church in Pickerington, Ohio hosted the Refuel Conference on March 29th. Jack Helton shared a breakout session on sharing the gospel. He shared some great insights and steps regarding sharing the gospel and provided resources for the well-attended session.

Violet Baptist Church hosted a Lunch & Learn event on April 7th. Dr. Jeremy Westbrook presented practical information regarding Multiplication Pipeline. Forty leaders gathered to hear how to take the next step for implementing a multiplication pipeline in their local churches. I cannot wait to see how God is going to use this effective tool in these central Ohio churches!



Chad Keck

Great things are happening in the west region of the state. One thing I have really enjoyed is listening to pastors share about the work God is doing in their churches. One of the churches that I was praying for was Edgewood Baptist in Trenton. Keith Risner is the pastor there. In March they hosted a revival service. Praying for our pastors and churches is just one way we can support the work of our local churches and associations. Another thing I am excited about is a leadership conference that we are putting together for Sept. 8, 2022. It will be held at Springboro Baptist and our keynote speakers will be Vance Pitman, Hershel York, and Shane Pruitt. There will be many breakout sessions for leaders of all types.



Stephen Owens

It has been a pleasure to travel around N.E. Ohio, connecting with pastors for fellowship over a meal. It has been refreshing to pray with them and to have conversations about what God is doing in their churches and communities. I'm asking you to pray with and for the N.E. Ohio region (Cleveland Hope, Steel Valley, and Summit). Pray that God will continue to show forth his glory through the preaching of the gospel of Jesus by the faithful churches in this region.

Also, I would like to invite you and your leaders to the Lead Well Conference on May 20 & 21 at Mt Calvary (271 Center Rd. Bedford, OH 44146). We have a great lineup of conference leaders to encourage you and your leaders. On Friday night we have a great concert in-store by Amante Lacey.

Registration: <https://www.scbo.org/event/lead-well-leadership-conference>

Video trainer: <https://youtu.be/OHOBNJSEYRQ>

I hope to see you and fellowship with you and your leaders at the conference. Please reach out if you have any questions. (sowens@scbo.org)





Members of Ohio's first DR team to Poland celebrated birthdays with child refugees from Ukraine.

Ohio DR ...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“A lot of women and children have come from Ukraine into Poland as refugees. The churches and families there have been housing and feeding them and you could tell it’s taken a toll,” said Crothers. “They’re tired. That’s where we came in. Our job was to basically plug in and help in any way we could to give the people who are there a little relief.”

The team began remodeling an apartment building near the church that will house 12 refugees. “There are tenants living on the first floor, so we worked on floors two and three. The previous tenants left when COVID started so all the furniture and things were still there,” Crothers said. The team removed items, stripped wallpaper, patched walls and painted the apartments.

As the team worked, they were impressed by the Polish people. “One amazing thing about Poland is how much they are helping Ukrainians. There are close to three million refugees

and no refugee camps. Refugees are all being housed by churches or Polish families. That is an amazing fact and really shows the generosity of everyone here.”

In addition to working with the Poles, the team also ministered to the Ukrainian children. “One of the highlights was the opportunity for the team to spend time sharing Christ with the refugee kids and celebrating two of their birthdays,” said Johnathan Taylor. “Many of their fathers are still in Ukraine. They have very little worldly possessions with them and they are far from home not knowing when they’ll return to home or what they’ll return to. But yet all of us can have everything in Christ.”

Ohio DR will be deploying teams to Poland monthly from now through August. If you are interested in being part of this ministry, please visit www.scbo.org/DR or contact SCBO DR Director John Heading at jheading@scbo.org for more information.



Poles and Ukrainian refugees worship the Lord together during Sunday Worship Services at First Baptist Church Gdansk, Poland.



Cooperation

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Did you know that we have the only mission agency that trains, sends, and sustains missionaries overseas and they do not have to raise a single penny of financial support? The International Mission Board (IMB) is our mission-sending arm that we partner with, and we have over 3,500 missionaries around the world taking the Gospel of Christ to unreached peoples and that is only made possible because of the Cooperative Program. You see, every church, no matter the size can be part of a world-wide mission strategy. It is not about the size of your church, rather it is about the scope of your mission.

We are better together. We are stronger together. We must stay together. We must cooperate.

To learn more about the Cooperative Program, please visit <http://sbcec.org> and search Cooperative Program

Jeremy Westbrook





What comes to mind when you think about church revitalization? For me there are several things that come to mind: words such as difficult, change, uncomfortable, grief, and messy. I also think of words such as hopeful, fulfillment, obedient, pleasing, and the list could go on... But for any of us who are in some type of church revitalization process we have worked through many of those already.

More than any state convention, association, national entity, or other organization it is the Lord Jesus Christ who wants to see the church healthy, strong, vibrant, and effective. It is the Lord who loves the church and gave himself for her. Because of that reality, we should be willing to do anything and everything we can to assist in helping an unhealthy situation become a healthy example.

In all my many years of ministry, I do not believe I have seen the church in such a dire situation:

Pastors looking for ways to leave the ministry; congregations not seeing the need to be loyal to their local church; churches not seeking to fulfill the great commission. Yet there are glimmers of hope all across our state. Pastors are taking on the challenge, believing that the Lord is not finished with them yet. Churches are saying they will do whatever it takes to finish well and be counted faithful. It can work and will work, if you plan the work and work the plan. Pastor, this starts with you.

As I meet with pastors across this state, I often begin by asking a handful of questions before even discussing the church or the Revitalization process that it may go through. These questions are not original to me, but I believe this is a great place to start. I am asking you to walk through each of these questions and write down an answer that is honest and spirit led. If you need to speak to someone after this exercise, I am available to sit down with you for a one-on-one conversation. Contact me, Dwayne Lee, any time at dlee@scbo.org.

5 Questions every Pastor needs to answer:

1. *Am I still committed to my call?*
2. *Am I experiencing ministry fatigue?*
3. *Am I confused about my vision?*
4. *Am I isolated from other pastors?*
5. *Am I optimistic about the future?*

IMPACT 2022



First Baptist Lancaster
Gospel • Community • Missions

April 30-May 1 Schedule

30 SAT	Pancake Breakfast	9:00 AM
	LIFE Group Community Projects	10:00 AM
	Golf Tournament for Student Missions	1:00 PM
01 SUN	Mission Fair (Doughnuts & Coffee)	8:30 AM
	LIFE Groups w/ Mission Partners	9:15 AM
	Celebration & Commitment Service	10:30 AM
	Regional Impact Training	2:00 PM
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disaster Relief Training • Mission Team Leader Preparation • Pastor Equipping • Gospel / Evangelism Training 	
	Impact Banquet	6:00 PM

Sharing Gospel Hope Guest Speakers



Dr. Kevin Ezell
President

NAMB North American
Mission Board



Dr. Bryant Wright
President

SEND Relief



MULTIPLICATION PIPELINE LUNCH & LEARN LAUNCHES IN CENTRAL OHIO

Finding people to serve and lead is difficult.

April 7, opening day for major league baseball, was ‘opening day’ for our Multiplication Pipeline Lunch and Learn events. Thirty-eight leaders gathered at Violet Baptist Church to hear Jeremy Westbrook (Executive Director, SCBO) and Jim Scott (Regional Equipper, SEND Network Ohio) share how the Multiplication Pipeline helps you train leaders and send your congregation on mission.

“The levels are like A, AA, and AAA baseball; an intentional ‘farm system’ for your church to discover, develop, and deploy leaders,” said Westbrook. “We long to see a multiplying church everywhere in Ohio for everyone in Ohio,” he continued. “Churches who invite and invest in sending the saved.”

“Multiplication pipeline is an online learning tool to guide people from consumers to missional leaders with up to three years of material covering more than 20 areas of missional leadership.”



“Our future planters, missionaries, and leaders are right under our noses, and many are waiting to be given an opportunity. It’s not the seminaries who discover pastors, it’s not NAMB’s job to discover church planters, and it’s not IMB’s job to discover missionaries— it’s the local church’s job.”

Jim Scott shared from 1 Thessalonians 5:14,

“encourage the fainthearted....” The largest barrier is the heart. “Systems and structures are important, but not as important as the heart. If you feel fainthearted, discouraged, and inadequate to develop leaders, we’re here to encourage you,” Scott shared with pastors and leaders. “We’ve got so much undiscovered potential; our best days are ahead of us!” No one needs to do this alone.

Daniel Henderson calls it “supernatural math:” 6:3 + 6:4 = 6:7 Empowered leaders Acts 6:3 (Multiplication Pipeline) plus pastors with the priority of prayer and preaching the word Acts 6:4 equals gospel multiplication Acts 6:7, “and the number of disciples multiplied greatly.”

Westbrook shared, “We need to change the scorecard. We have been content with addition for too long, and that’s not



Jim Scott shares at the first Lunch & Learn event at Violet Baptist Church.

getting the job done. With nearly 11 million people in Ohio, 76% of which do not know Jesus, we need to raise up, replicate and release, creating a culture of multiplication. Kingdom math is multiplication, not addition.”

The training is provided by your Cooperative Program giving at no additional cost to the local church — 100% covered by CP!

Our next Multiplication Pipeline Lunch and Learn will be Thursday, May 19, 11 am - 1 pm, at Lakota Hills Baptist Church 6300 Tylersville Rd, West Chester, OH 45069. To register, click [HERE \(https://www.scbo.org/event/multiplication-pipeline-lunch-learn\)](https://www.scbo.org/event/multiplication-pipeline-lunch-learn). For more information, go to namb.net/pipeline.

The Multiplication Pipeline uses simple, proven survey tools and an online training system to identify and train missional leaders within your congregation to multiply the ministry of your church in your community and beyond.

Multiplication Pipeline



Countryside Baptist Church Meeting Spiritual and Physical Needs

Located on Harrisburg Road five miles from the Ohio River in Bidwell, Ohio in Gallia County is Countryside Baptist Church pastored by Randy Phillips. Countryside Baptist had its beginning through Bible studies held in members' homes. In 2008 the church's growth led the congregation to move into a newly constructed facility. The members of Countryside Baptist believe God built their church to not only feed people spiritually, but also provide for anyone that has physical needs.



Today Countryside Baptist, under the leadership of Pastor Randy Phillips, is actively helping about 125 families monthly through their Partners in Christ Outreach Program by providing food, fresh produce, clothes, diapers, and hygiene products. Starting right after the pandemic began, Countryside now plows and plants fresh produce on a one-acre tract of land owned by the church. Families are welcomed to pick their own vegetables. In addition, produce is delivered by church members to senior citizens and shut-ins throughout Gallia, Lawrence, Jackson, and Meigs Counties. Countryside church provides all the funding for the Partners in Christ Outreach Program.

Another important component of Countryside's Partners in Christ Outreach Program is the clothing giveaway every first Saturday of the month. People and families, whether homeless or suffering

from the economic crisis that has hit hard in these economically distressed counties, are allowed to browse through the clothing store and choose what they need free of charge. Government agencies like Community Action's Help Me Grow Program refer the homeless, families displaced by fire or flooding, and other clients to Countryside Baptist Church for their nutritional, clothing, and hygiene needs.

Through the Partners in Christ Outreach Program every recipient is presented the gospel and an invitation to receive Jesus Christ by a church mission team member. Recipients also receive Christian literature, devotional guides, and an invitation to attend a church worship service. In March 2022 alone, four recipients of the outreach program received Jesus Christ and became members of Countryside Baptist Church.

Every church member at Countryside is involved in the outreach program. Pastor Phillips says, "God built our church with love and grace. In times like these where there is so much uncertainty on every hand in so many people's lives we at Countryside believe no one should



ever be hungry or without clothes. It's a pleasure to help people who have a need. That's what God commands the church to do. Countryside is more blessed every time we are able to be a blessing to others."

PRESIDENT'S PEN CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

...of Southern Baptists to the Baptist Faith and Message 2000, to the hard work of those who have fought for biblical fidelity in our convention, and for the renewed commitment to theological faithfulness in recent years. This past Sunday, our 720 Southern Baptist churches across Ohio gathered for weekly worship on Easter Sunday to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Because of our common theological commitments within our convention of churches I have great confidence that the truth of Christ's resurrection was preached across our state and around the world.

Thank you for being faithful to the gospel message of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. Thank you for your fidelity to the inspiration and truthfulness of Scripture. Thank you for your commitment to making the good news of the resurrection known among the nations by partnering with other faithful churches in our convention and giving to the Cooperative Program. I pray God grants gospel fruit in your churches as a result of your faithfulness to His Word and His mission.

I am here to serve you, Ohio Baptists. Please reach out to me anytime at president@scbo.org. I would love to hear from you and learn how we can work together.

Your partner in the gospel,
Ray Umphrey, SCBO President





Beauty for Ashes Women's Spring Retreat

Saturday, May 14, 2022 9am-4pm

Isaiah 61:1-3

First Baptist Church, Lancaster

For more information visit
www.scbo.org

Retro Soul

JUNE 27-JULY 1, 2022
CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY

WHO and WHAT? Students who have completed grades 7-12 with leadership potential
WHERE? Cedarville University
WHEN? June 27 - July 1, 2022
REGISTER - online at scbo.org/supersummer before May 19
\$275 per person (\$145 deposit)



Equipping students
to lead with influence.

Tales of Transformation

OHIO WMU®

Women's Missions & Ministry

Exceeding Expectations at H2O Athens

by Jason Sands | NAMB Church Planter

Honestly, God has been doing more things here at Ohio University than I have ever seen on any church plant. I really feel like we have all been hanging on for dear life to this plan that God had already started. I joined this church plant as the worship leader, and to be honest I really only had worship leading on my mind. I was enrolled in seminary classes so I was busy with that as well. I felt like getting out there and meeting new students would take a back seat - but how wrong I was. God completely changed my heart for the students when I got here. I've been able to personally disciple a few amazing men who are doing their best to follow Christ. This is something I didn't think I was capable of doing well, but God was able to use me. Meeting students and seeing the impact made in their lives by allowing God to work through us is something I could do forever. A great thing about my job is that I have the opportunity to record the students' stories on video. I get to listen to tons of students talk about how they came to know Christ and how the church has affected them. It is one of the most encouraging things to hear.

I want to share with you one of the testimonies that was shared at a recent baptism:

"Growing up I went off and on to church. I would call myself a Christian, but that is as far as it went. There was nothing to back up my claim. When I was in second grade, my parents got a divorce, and it was then and for a while leading up that I decided I did not want to add on to the problems that my parents were going through. I devoted myself to my grades and internalizing my own problems, so they did not have to worry about me. This led to my own struggles with perfectionism in everything I did, but also led to anxiety. I never really enjoyed going to church until junior year of high school. I would go to church and feel really good after, but by the time the afternoon came that feeling would dissipate. Fast forward to the beginning of last semester, having completed my

first year of college online, I was excited to finally get to campus. I was living with a friend from high school, and she was not the greatest roommate to say the least. Because of that I was in search of an outlet and community. That is when I remembered how good it felt to go to church...Therefore I was now in search of a church that would help me feel good on Sundays which also meant I had a reason to be out of my dorm room. One day, I was walking around campus and saw the H2O tent where I got to meet



one of the staff members and later went to church that Sunday. Church was as it always was for me but later that week that staff member that got to know me texted me because I filled out a connect card and she invited me to a bible study that Wednesday. I agreed mostly because at that point I just wanted to be away from my roommate. At that group, we were talking about the Gospel, Jesus' role, and how it affects us. I had heard this all a million times, but in that moment it finally spoke to me and God met me in my sin. I am broken. I am in need of a Savior. I need hope. That night I accepted Jesus into my heart.

Since then, I have found my worth outside of schoolwork and have found peace and hope for my anxiety. I am not going to say coming to know Jesus has solved all my problems, because all of you guys still know I struggle - especially with my anxiety, BUT finding a community and having a relationship with God has shown me true kindness and love."





Momentum 2022 RECAP

On Monday March 21st two hundred nineteen leaders from around the great state of Ohio attended the 2022 State Evangelism Celebration at the Lewis Center campus of Lifepoint Church, Columbus.

Martin Vargas, lead pastor at Iglesia Real Church in Hollywood, FL brought an inspirational message about planting churches together rather than alone. Willy Rice, senior pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Clearwater, FL encouraged and reminded us from the book of Revelation that these trying times we live in are not new, and

that no matter what transpires in life, God is in control and has a purpose and plan for all things under the sun! Dhati Lewis, lead pastor at Blueprint Church in Atlanta, GA confronted us with the reality and necessity of why God's church has to address cultural, ethnic, and religious conflict with love and compassion. Finally, Jarrett Stephens, senior pastor at Champion Forest BC in Houston, TX reminded us that the heart of a church's ministry has to have evangelism as its core foundation!

Chick-Fil-A™ graciously provided lunch for free, the weather was outstanding for travel, and the fellowship, networking, and teaching opportunities abounded throughout the celebration. In addition, the Lifepoint Collective team provided

more than ample opportunity to worship the Lord with gladness. Coupled with all this was the hospitality of the host church, its staff, and volunteers. All-in-all Momentum 2022 was a joyful experience!

I hope to see you next year at Momentum, as it goes regional in 2023! -Jack Helton



Attendees worship during the main session of Momentum.

How to Become a Christian

If you are not a Christian, meaning you have never surrendered your will to the Lord Jesus, let me share briefly how you can make this life changing decision. GOD WANTS TO SAVE YOU.

FIRST, you must believe that God loves you and wants you to have peace in your heart and an everlasting life (John 3:16).

SECOND, you must recognize that you are a sinner, that you have done things which have displeased God and that you have separated yourself from Him (Romans 3:23; 6:23).

THIRD, you must believe that Jesus came to this earth, was actually God in the flesh, lived a perfect life, and yet went to a cruel cross, dying for your sins, paying once and for all the penalty of sin (1 Peter 2:24). However, it's not enough just to

know these three things. Many of us knew them for years before we ever gave Jesus our lives.

FOURTH, you must personally ask Jesus to come into your life and forgive you of your sins (Revelation 3:20).

You can pray this prayer now and if you mean it with all of your heart, Jesus will come in just like He said. He cannot lie.

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner. I'm really sorry for my sins, Lord. I ask you now, Lord Jesus, to come into my heart, forgive me of my sins, take control of my life, and make me the kind of person You want me to be. I now receive You into my heart. Thank You for coming in. I will follow You all the days of my life. In Your name I pray, Amen.

We want to hear your story!

Submit your church news and stories to messenger@scbo.org

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Jeremy Westbrook | Executive Director-Treasurer, Editor

Ohio Baptist
MESSENGER