

SCBO Annual Celebration Sees Hundreds Unite for the Gospel

“What an incredible two days.” These are the words that ran through my heart and mind as the 69th Annual Celebration came to a close. As I stood in the lobby watching the messengers exit the building and enter their cars, I asked the Lord to help us take back to our local churches and communities what we had just experienced together...the joy of the Lord.

As we celebrated the past and cast vision for the future centered on our new vision and values, there was genuine excitement and joy in the air. I want to personally invite you and your church to join us on this new journey of rediscovering gospel multiplication as our new values drive us towards that new vision.

Prioritize the Pastor...*because the church is God's plan.*

Every single day that I serve as the Executive Director of the SCBO, I think of our pastors. As a former church planter and senior pastor, here in Ohio, I understand the weight, responsibilities, and needs of being a pastor here in the Buckeye State. To that end, I want to make sure that we prioritize the pastor and his staff as we pray and plan. Our new regional model and regional catalysts are helping us come right beside and help resource every church in every corner of Ohio.

Lead with Conviction...*because with God what can't be done.*

When it comes to both our faith and our finances, we must lead with conviction and trust the Lord with the results. I am happy to share that even in an ever-challenging year, we have seen an increase in the number of churches who have given to the SCBO and Cooperative Program this year over last year. We are in a healthy position financially and are poised to step out in faith and attempt great things for the Lord and His Kingdom. Let's not just preach about faith, but let's believe it with conviction.

Embrace Kingdom Diversity...*because Heaven already has.*

It is my prayer and vision that our state convention on earth will look like it already does in Heaven. The 2022-2023 budget reflects this as for the first time, or the first

time in a long time, our ethnic churches are represented. We desire to help convene, resource, and multiply our African American, Hispanic, Asian, Deaf, and Nepali brothers and sisters in Christ. This year, we celebrated a record attendance at our Ohio African American Fellowship retreat and believe it is a sign of better things to come.



Jeremy Westbrook addresses those gathered for the 2022 SCBO Annual Celebration in Cleveland, OH.

Collaborate with Unity...*because a movement needs a network.*

To help reach everyone in Ohio, we have new partnership with NAMB that helps us accomplish this by planting new churches everywhere in Ohio. Send Ohio has been a game changer and I am happy to share that 32 new churches were added to our state this year, which is a 40 percent increase over last year and our highest year since 2015. We also have a new partnership with the Florida Baptist Convention that will better equip our churches. We need one another. We are better together. We are stronger together. We must cooperate together.

So yes...it was an incredible two days. May the Lord multiply them in the days ahead.

Dr. Jeremy Westbrook
Executive Director-Treasurer

ALSO IN THIS EDITION:

Regional Catalyst Updates - Page 2

President's Pen
by Ray Umphrey - Page 5

SCBO Annual Celebration - Page 6

2022 Pastor's Conference - Page 8

Disaster Relief Banner Year,
Planning Future Trainings - Page 10

Historic Event for
Hispanic Ministry in Ohio - Page 12



Matt Pardi - Northwest

This fall, as I attended associational meetings in the Northwest Region, I had personal conversations with pastors and leaders in our churches. These conversations led me to an important takeaway—our brothers and sisters in the region are facing significant trials and financial needs.

Consistent conversations highlighted the challenges in the Northwest Region, especially for bi-vocational pastors. There are real financial needs within families and churches. When churches struggle to meet their necessary funding goals they are unable to pay full salaries to their leaders.

These leaders work other full-time jobs and wear many hats. They lead families, juggle jobs, and carry multiple roles in smaller churches. They need prayer and encouragement. Ephesians 3 tells us, “Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

Please pray for our gracious Father to do abundantly more than all we ask to fund smaller churches and provide for bi-vocational pastors. To all our pastors, workers, and leaders, we pray for you and appreciate your demanding work during these challenging times. Your multi-tasking is excellent, and you are making a difference for Christ.



Chad Keck - West

God is using the churches of the West Region in a powerful way. I continue to be amazed at the gospel conversations taking place at baptisms, Fall Festivals, and Trunk or Treats in our region as I see pictures of these events on social media. Reaching into the community and building relationships in our neighborhoods is crucial for growing our churches and expanding the Kingdom.

In addition to connecting locally, it is also important for our churches to have a heart for the nations. One of the best ways I have led my church to become more outwardly focused is through world missions. When we began to take short-term trips out of our own neighborhoods, we saw an immediate impact in people connecting with our church. This may sound counterintuitive, but people who see the work of God among the nations often return better equipped to reach their own neighborhoods.

If you are interested in leading your church to reach the nations for Christ but are not sure how, please reach out. One of the ways you can learn is to join me on a discovery trip to Southeast Asia this coming spring. I would love to have you join us to see how your church can partner in taking the gospel to one of the more difficult places on earth. If you are interested, please let me know at ckeck@scbo.org.



Reagan Wagoner - Southwest

This month, I was able to visit City Hope Church, led by Pastor Stephen Schick, and tour a building that is over one hundred years old. The Baptist church that met there began in 1797. One hundred years later, the building is being refurbished and over one hundred people are now meeting there. Families with kids are using it and bringing life to their community again.

In the heart of Cincinnati, in Delhi, the same story is playing out as Pastor Kirk Kirkland and Revive City Church have been refurbishing a church building. They recently held the first official service in their own building after nine years of moving around. Other SBC churches both locally and from out of state have come to help!

Another one of our Cincinnati churches that planted two years ago is already planning to plant again in the Trenton area. And last month, five new churches joined one of our three Cincinnati associations at their annual meetings. I am thankful for all the ways that our churches continue to partner together for gospel multiplication!

Mark your calendars for the next Southwest Ohio Leaders event, which will focus on Next Gen Training for all student and children’s volunteers from 10 am to 2 pm at Grace Point Fellowship on Thursday, Feb 23! We will have multiple tracks to choose from, including a student leader’s track, general VBS and children’s track, and Lifeway VBS track. Lunch will be included. More details are coming soon, and registration will begin next month! Let me know if you would like to get together or have a question by sending me an email at rwagoner@scbo.org.

UPDATES

REGIONAL UPDATES

REGIONAL U

REGIONAL UPDATES



Rick Williams - Central

We have much to celebrate this holiday season in Central Ohio! The Metro Columbus Baptist Association (MCBA) held its 36th Annual Meeting on October 24 at the Ministry Hub. Executive Director Dr. Rich Halcombe shared highlights including eighteen new churches in 2022 and the relocation of offices to the Ministry Hub located at 5959 Sharon Woods Blvd. in Columbus. We celebrate all that God is doing in and through Dr. Halcombe and MCBA.

One of the opportunities this Christmas season for pastors, staff, and spouses in MCBA is the Annual MCBA Christmas Dinner. The dinner is scheduled for Tuesday, December 6, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Der Dutchman Restaurant, 445 S. Jefferson Ave. Plain City, OH. You can register at <https://strategicchurchnetwork.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1497770>. This will be a fun time to fellowship together!

I am also looking forward to fellowshiping with you in the Buckeye Central-Erie Baptist Association this holiday season. We have scheduled a Christmas lunch for BCEBA pastors/wives at Der Dutchman in Bellville on December 9, from 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. You can register by contacting Cliff Hartley at cwhartley43@gmail.com.

May you experience the joy of Jesus this Christmas!!



Stephen Owens - Northeast

Thanksgiving is a time to remember the importance of being intentional in our gratitude and thankfulness to the Lord. I am thankful for the pastors in the Northeast who faithfully lead their congregations, diligently study and teach the Bible, and lovingly reach their communities with the gospel of Jesus.

A pastor that encouraged my heart this month is Kevin Philips of First Baptist Church, Jefferson. His heart for reaching children in his rural community is infectious. He is leading his church to be a fun place where children can be encouraged in the Word. His church hosts a weekly program

for kids in the community which provides Bible study, fun activities, and a meal. Hearing his passion for reaching unsaved children with the gospel made my heart leap.

Pastor, what are you passionate about? Has God placed a group of people to reach on your heart? I would love to talk with you about it and see how the SCBO can assist while you are reaching people for the Lord Jesus. Reach out to me so we can set up a time to meet. sowens@scbo.org. God Bless.



Art Fulks - Southeast

This season was enriched by joining together with the Muskingum Valley Baptist Association annual meeting at New Lexington where Associational Mission Strategist Bob Beike encouraged the churches to take their next steps and Pastor John Emory of New Lexington brought a challenging message.

It was personally encouraging to meet with pastors and a North American Mission Board (NAMB) representative about a potential partnership to plant a new church in the Scioto Valley Baptist Association, while also working with three churches partnering in a replant endeavor. Participating in the two-day NAMB – “Am I A Re-Planter” training in Louisville, KY was especially inspiring as seminary students and re-planters from as far away as Georgia and Wyoming converged to consider this challenging call.

November also included Disaster Relief Training at First Baptist Church Waverly and DR volunteers serving on mission in Florida. We are looking forward to the new year and how the Lord develops us personally, as churches, and as a state toward gospel multiplication. I encourage you to find one pastor in our region to pray for during the holidays and take the time to send a note or card of encouragement.

Violet Baptist Church Impacted by Transforming Prayer

By Steve Hopkins

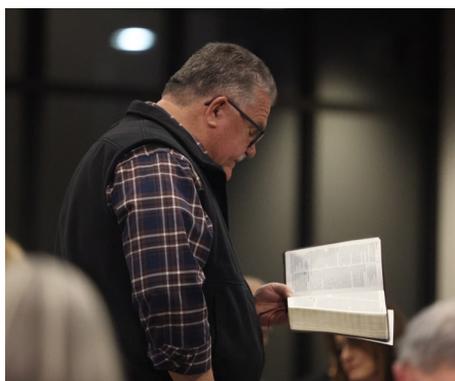


Pastor Rick Williams leads prayer at the Night of Worship and Prayer at Violet Baptist Church.

At Violet Baptist Church (VBC), Pickerington, Pastor Rick Williams has always sought to lead his church in a posture of prayer. In October, the church experienced *21 Days of Transforming Prayer* with a prayer guide by Daniel Henderson.

They launched the campaign with a Night of Worship and Prayer. “The Night of Worship and Prayer was one of the most powerful times of prayer I have experienced. It was so encouraging to weave songs, scriptures, and prayer together. I would highly recommend this worship-based, scripture-fed, Spirit-led format of prayer we experienced,” shared Williams.

Brian Naess, Small Groups and Missions pastor at VBC, agrees, “It was very powerful. It was amazing to see small groups join and pray as we sought Christ and focused fully on Him. I would encourage you to have such a night at your church.”



Steve Hopkins shares scripture during the Night of Worship and Prayer at Violet Baptist Church.

After the launch, the following three Sundays focused on the pattern of prayer found in the model prayer, Matthew 6:9-13, as taught in *21 Days of Transforming Prayer*. The program features a simple design: Reverence, Response, Request, Readiness, and Return to Reverence, giving the church a trellis for scripture-fed, Spirit-led, worship-based prayer.

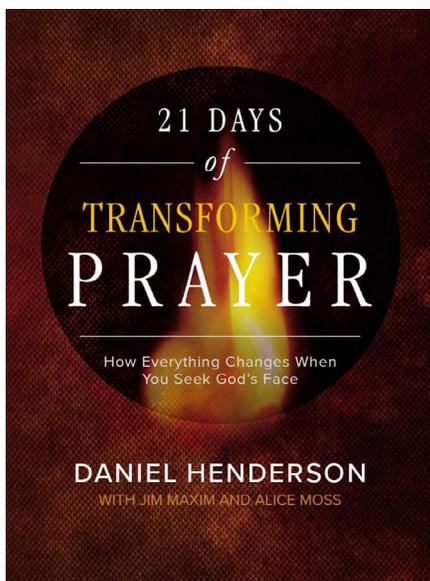
The SCBO will host a two-day prayer event with Daniel Henderson on March 23-24, 2023 at Violet Baptist Church in Pickerington. Thursday, March 23, will be a day of prayer with Henderson and on Friday, March 24,

he will lead a half-day workshop on creating a culture of prayer in the church. All are invited to attend, so mark your calendar now; you will not want to miss this opportunity!

For more information about leading your church in prayer, contact Steve Hopkins at stevehopkins@scbo.org or 614.601.6280 or visit 64fellowship.com.

Quilts available for outreach ministries

The Women’s Missionary Union group at Central Baptist Church in Akron has a bountiful quilting ministry. Currently they have twenty-five quilts ready to give to any outreach ministry that blesses people in need. For more information, contact Mary Puperi at 330-209-5185 or eripup@aol.com.



Daniel Henderson's book offered guidance for the church.

President's Pen

by Dr. Ray Umphrey



I'm still riding the wave of excitement (and exhaustion!) from our 69th Annual Celebration at Cuyahoga Valley Church. What a time of worship, encouragement from the Word, and unity around the mission of Ohio Baptists! I'm thankful for the Jason Lovins Band who led us in worship both days and for Brian Croft and Alistair Begg who encouraged and challenged us from the Word. Most of all, I'm thankful for you, my Ohio Baptist "friends" who came with hearts of unity and passion for the gospel. It was evident from the beginning of our meeting that this was a family gathering focused on Christ and His gospel.

Thank you, Ohio Baptists, for the opportunity to serve as your President for a second year. I look forward to what lies in store in 2023. This year has been one of creating pathways for mission and ministry through forging new partnerships, creating and updating organization structure and policy, and strategic decision-making. In 2023, I hope to see our church planting accelerate, our established churches healthy and thriving, and unengaged churches reengaged for gospel cooperation.

Go ahead and mark your calendars for next year's annual celebration, November 6-7, 2023, at Genoa Baptist Church in Westerville, OH. After hearing from several attendees, it is obvious that the Pastor's Conference is a much-needed part of our gathering. I look forward to planning this exciting event for next year!

I would love to hear from you about how the 2022 Annual Celebration impacted you and your church. These gatherings often result in new partnerships being formed, new ministries launched, and clarified vision. I'd also love to hear how our state convention can better reach and equip our state as we keep moving forward in 2023. Please reach out to me at president@scbo.org.

Your partner in the gospel,

Ray Umphrey
SCBO President

Seventeen Complete English as a Second Language Training

By Cathy Pound



Evelyn Perry leads a training session for new teachers.

Seventeen people recently completed certification to teach English as a Second Language (ESL) during a two-day training event at Central Baptist Church in Akron.

Evelyn Perry, Send Relief trainer, North American Mission Board (NAMB) led the two-day course which required

twelve hours of coursework, and Summit Association in the Northeast Region sponsored the training.

"NAMB statistics report that SBC has fifteen to twenty new mission congregations begin per year as a

result of ESL," said Perry.

If you are interested in hosting an ESL training for churches in your area, association, or region contact Cathy Pound, cpound@scbo.org.



ESL classes provide many opportunities in communities throughout Ohio.

Ohio Baptists ‘Keep Moving Forward’ during Annual Celebration

By Stephanie Heading



Alistair Begg speaking during the SCBO Pastor’s Conference November 14, 2022 - photo by Josh Lykins

Ohio Southern Baptists from across the state gathered November 14-15 for the 69th State Convention of Baptists in Ohio (SCBO) Annual Celebration where they conducted SCBO business in addition to fellowshiping, worshipping, and celebrating the past while casting vision for the future.

Cuyahoga Valley Church in Broadview Heights, Ohio, hosted the two-day Annual Celebration. The event featured the Pastor’s Conference on Monday, November 14 and the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, November 15.

Dr. Ray Umphrey, SCBO President and Pastor of Briggs Road Baptist Church in Columbus, presided over the Annual Meeting. The day was filled with reports of God’s activity in Ohio, business decisions, and time to worship the Lord. Messengers approved an annual Cooperative Program budget of \$4,800,000 for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

Messengers tackled the challenging issue of sexual abuse in the church as they approved a resolution supporting

the work of the SCBO Sexual Abuse Task Force (SATF). The SATF presented the Sexual Abuse Policy Guide which is a resource for SCBO churches and ministries. The Policy Guide is the result of a year’s work for the SATF. “This is just the first step in the journey,” said Greg Jackson, chair of the SATF.

Jackson told Messengers, “I’m glad to be part of a state convention that is ready to confront it. We have a clear message – SCBO and Ohio churches will not be a place to hide for sexual abusers. We are making SCBO and our churches safe places to be.”



At the packed Send Ohio Luncheon, attendees pray over Ohio church planters. photo by Dahlia Orth

Dr. Jeremy Westbrook, SCBO executive director-treasurer, said, “Ohio Baptists are deeply grieved along with our SBC family regarding the sexual abuse report released by Guidepost in May. After a year of prayer, research, and hard work, I am thrilled to share this resource that will assist our churches in the training, awareness, reporting, and prevention of sexual abuse. I am deeply grateful for our Sexual Abuse Task Force and their sacrificial labor this past year that I believe will have eternal dividends.”

The Sexual Abuse Policy Guide is now available for download at www.scbo.org/satf.

In his Annual Address to messengers, Dr. Westbrook shared four new SCBO values and shared highlights of his first full year as Executive Director-Treasurer. Please see Dr. Westbrook’s column on page 1 for more information about these new SCBO values.

SCBO highlights in 2021-2022 included the success of the Regional Catalyst initiative, the record-setting Super

Summer, the redesign of *The Ohio Baptist Messenger* and its higher click and read rate, as well as the \$1 million gift to the Cooperative Program from the proceeds of the Seneca Lake sale.

“I’m grateful and thankful for this new day”

Another highlight is the increase in partnerships with ethnic groups, such as Ohio African American Fellowship and Send Network Espanol. For the first-time ethnic fellowships are included in the SCBO Cooperative Program budget which includes Hispanic, African American, Deaf, Nepali, and Asian fellowships. “I’m grateful and thankful for this new day,” said Westbrook.

As SCBO focuses on Send Ohio church planting, re-planting, and revitalization, Westbrook announced that 32 new churches have been added in 2022, a 40 percent increase since last year and the highest since 2015. The Send Ohio Luncheon was packed and ended with prayer over Ohio church planters. Visit www.scbo.org/our-team to learn more about the Send Ohio team.

Messengers also elected officers. New officers include Dr. Ray Umphrey, elected to a second term as president; Tony Harris, first vice president; Adam Purcell, second vice president; Mary Leigh Snowden, recording secretary; and Charity Betts, assistant recording secretary. Faye Rogers, who served as recording secretary for 25 years, has decided to retire this year.

“The 69th Annual Celebration of The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio set the stage for a movement of multiplication in 2023 and beyond. What a joy it was to be with our faith family to celebrate the past and cast vision for the future.” - Dr. Jeremy Westbrook



Newly Elected SCBO Officers for 2023 photo by Dahlia Orth

Genoa Baptist Church in Westerville will host the 2023 Annual Celebration, November 6-7.



TIME

November 6-7

2023



PLACE

Genoa Baptist Church

Westerville, OH



PREACHER

Annual Sermon:
Greg Cooper

Alternate:
James Risner



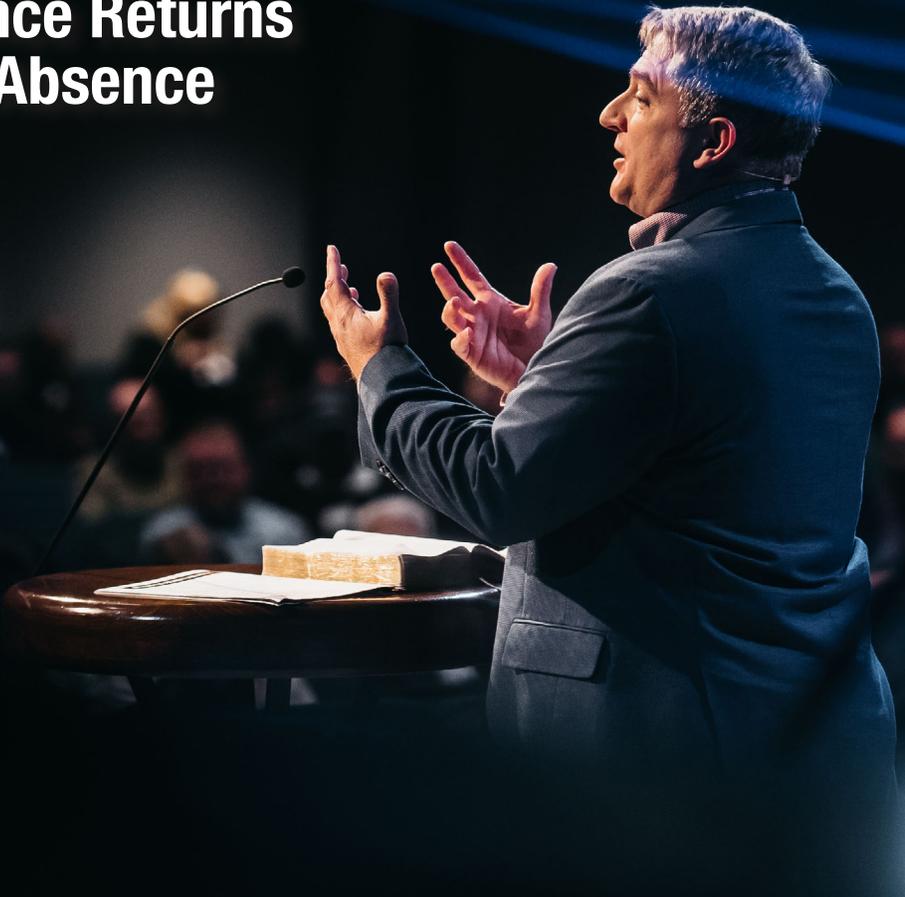
Dozens of blankets were given away to encourage pastors' wives and women serving in vocational ministries. A new initiative of the SCBO seeks to build an active community of women providing mutual support and connection. Jennifer Westbrook (pictured left) is a key driver of the effort. Reach out to Jennifer via jennifer@scbo.org to connect and learn more.



Following the Send Ohio Luncheon at the SCBO Annual Celebration, over fifty (50) box lunches were left untouched. Pastor Darryl Hammock of City of Refuge Baptist Church in Whitehall took these leftover lunches back to an open gym night in his home town. In all, fifty-seven (57) children at the Whitehall Community Center received a free meal.

Pastor's Conference Returns After Three-Year Absence

By Stephanie Heading



Brian Croft encourages Ohio leaders at the SCBO Pastor's Conference November 14, 2022 - photo by Josh Lykins

The SCBO Pastor's Conference has returned - for the first time since 2019. SCBO President Ray Umphrey spearheaded the effort and hosted the event.

"My goal was to provide an event which was an investment in our state pastors and leaders, Umphrey said. "The conference was designed to be removed from SBC controversies and even our

Cuyahoga Valley Church in Broadview Heights hosted the Pastor's Conference, as well as the Annual Meeting - both part of SCBO's two-day Annual Celebration.

Those attending the event were excited to have the Pastor's Conference back at the Annual Celebration. "The atmosphere in the building was electric. I can't remember any other time when leaders were so clearly excited and joyful to be gathering at an SCBO event," said Dan Stupakewicz, SCBO director of IT.

Attendees heard messages from Brian Croft of Practical Shepherding, Inc. and Alistair Begg, senior pastor of Parkside Church in Cleveland and host of Truth for Life. The Jason Lovins Band from Ashland, Kentucky led worship throughout the conference.

Croft shared his own story of struggle in a church during his message, "Tell me why I shouldn't resign," based in I Corinthians 16:5-9. He presented a new paradigm for pastoral ministry based on Paul's actions in I Corinthians 16: 7-8. "Most pastors think the adversaries are

a sign to leave," said Croft. "It is not. What if the adversaries are a sign you are right where God wants you to be?"

According to Croft, pastors often misunderstand why adversaries are coming after them. "Sometimes when

.....
"What if the adversaries are a sign you are right where God wants you to be?"
.....

the adversaries come after you, it is not about you. It is about wounds from another pastor." Croft also admonished pastors not to go to a church if they do not intend to stay there at least five years. "God works in time."

Croft also participated in a panel discussion with Dr. Jeremy Westbrook, SCBO executive director-treasurer, and Dr. Ray Umphrey, SCBO president, about church planting and revitalization.

Following the panel discussion, Begg preached a message entitled, "Edified,



The Jason Lovins Band led congregational worship throughout the two-day Annual Celebration. (Jason Lovins pictured)

own SCBO business and simply be a time of worship and hearing from well-known respected speakers. My goal was that the entire event would be no-strings attached "gift" to pastors before the Annual Meeting."

Multiplied,” based on Acts 9. “There is a direct correlation between edification and multiplication,” said Begg. He noted that the early church had a building program. They built up the church into a spiritual house through prayer and ministry of the word.

“How easy it is to verbalize it, but not live it.” Begg challenged pastors to get serious about feeding their flock. “A pastor’s first and foremost duty is to feed the flock. Did they meet God? Did they hear God? Did God present himself? Preaching is a challenge and a privilege.”



Ray Umphrey (right) organized the event which included a panel discussion with Brian Croft and Jeremy Westbrook.

Begg also challenged pastors to set the correct tone for people who enter the church. “You can come here because we are the fellowship of the forgiven.”

He also admonished all to remember who is most important in their spiritual relationship. “What God says to us is more important than anything we say to Him.”



Alistair Begg shares a message with attendees.

The Pastor’s Conference will again be part of the SCBO Annual Celebration in 2023. Genoa Baptist Church in Westerville, Ohio will be the site of that event on November 6-7, 2023.

Steve Stiglich Receives Darty and Dot Stowe Award

Steve Stiglich is the 2022 recipient of the Darty and Dot Stowe Award, which was presented to him on November 13 at First Baptist Church of Fairborn (FBC).

Each year, the award is given to a pastor or minister who has served faithfully, never recognized like those in the larger, more visible churches but leaving a legacy and serving in the spirit of 1 Thessalonians 2:3-12. Annual gifts to Georgetown College from the Stowe family provide the Darty and Dot Stowe Award.



2022 Darty and Dot Stowe Award recipient Steve Stiglich and his wife Claudia.

Steve Stiglich retired to begin vocational ministry after a distinguished twenty-three-year career in the Air Force, reaching the rank of Captain. He has a B.S. in Aeronautical Engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology.

He served for twenty years at FBC Fairborn as Minister of Administration, Office Manager, as well as Youth and Singles. He still serves there as a deacon. Steve organized and established the Reality House, sharing the gospel with thousands of students every year, resulting in many coming to follow Jesus.

Steve was Associational Missionary in the Greater Dayton Association of Baptists from 2012-2019. He served SCBO as Super Summer Dean, Youth Camp Director, and Youth Evangelism Celebration Encourager Coordinator. Most recently, he served as Missions Mobilizer for the Send Network Serve Tour Dayton and is on the SCBO Mission Council.

“The irony of an award like this is that Steve would not consider himself worthy. This is exactly why I cannot think of a more deserving person for the Darty and Dot Stowe award. Steve has diligently served me, his home church, First Baptist Church Fairborn, and his family, in many roles for many decades. He is my friend, counselor, and Deacon of Deacons in our church. When I think of Steve, the word “humble” comes to mind. Well done, brother! And well deserved!” — Pastor Matt Williams, FBC Fairborn

Candidates for the Stowe Award must be currently serving in Ohio and have at least five years of service. Nominations are submitted to the state convention staff by October 1 each year. The award is announced during the annual meeting of the SCBO with a recognition plaque and a financial award intended for purchasing books and/or continuing education presented to the recipient.

Ohio Disaster Relief Finishes Banner Year, Prepares for 2023

By John Heading



Ohio DR purchased a new Food Unit in 2022 with Ray Roberts Offering funds and a partial grant from NAMB.

2022 was a banner year for Ohio Disaster Relief (DR). Ninety volunteers completed training to bring help, hope and healing to disaster victims. Drawing from a force of 280 trained volunteers, teams served in Colorado forest fire recovery, Kentucky tornadoes and flood recovery, Florida hurricane recovery, as well as five weeks of tornado relief work in Ohio.

For the first-time, teams traveled internationally. They served one week each month in March, April, and May 2022, assisting churches in Poland with refugee ministries due to the war in Ukraine. Ohio DR also has a partnership with Western Europe and is preparing to send teams into Ukraine when it is safe.

This year DR purchased a mobile kitchen. In the first two months, teams served fifteen hundred meals at Serve Tour Dayton, provided meals for Ohio chaplain training, and cooked and served food for a full-scale emergency drill in Mt. Orab. The feeding unit is a great tool for providing for those in need and sharing the gospel in the process. Dr. Kevin Ezell, North American Mission Board president, was instrumental in

securing a grant to cover most of the cost for this unit and Ray Roberts Offering funds supplied the rest.

Since January 2022, Ohio DR teams have led forty-two people to faith in Christ including homeowners, servers, hotel clerks, and truck drivers. Disaster Relief chaplains help connect new believers to local SBC churches for follow-up and discipleship.



Training new volunteers is the goal for DR in 2022. Volunteers are needed in all areas, including chainsaw, mud-out, food service, chaplains, and assessors.

Despite nineteen deployments this year, DR lacks sufficient staffing to manage larger disaster situations in Ohio and has had to turn down deployments. Meeting needs at home, across the country, and around the world requires more volunteers now.

As a result, 2023 will be a year focused on recruiting and training volunteers. The goal is to train two hundred new volunteers. Since only twenty percent of trained volunteers deploy and the average volunteer can only deploy one or two weeks a year, it takes hundreds of volunteers to meet all the needs.

One of the biggest needs is heavy equipment. Since 1986, teams have worked by hand. Volunteers have cut and moved trees by hand, gutted homes using sleds, and moved large objects with wheelbarrows and two-wheeled dollies. A new truck, trailer, and skid steer could cost as much as \$100,000, but would make the work much safer and more productive.

If you would like to be part of Ohio Southern Baptist Disaster Relief, please visit the webpage at www.scbo.org/DR or contact John Heading at jheading@scbo.org.

Lifeway Women Academy Equips Women to Study Scripture

By Marissa Postell, Lifeway Christian Resources

The recent Lifeway Women Symposium marked the opening of registration for the first Lifeway Women Academy course. “How to Study the Bible: Hermeneutics 101” is a 10-session video course taught by Jen Wilkin, writer and speaker, Julia B. Higgins, assistant professor of ministry to women and associate dean of graduate program administration at SEBTS and Elizabeth Woodson, Institute Classes and Curriculum director at The Village Church in Flower Mound, Texas.

“We want to give you permission. We want to give you tools. We want to give you confidence. We want to give you companionship,” Wilkin said. “My prayer for you is that you would be driven to be equipped for the work God has called you to.”

Lifeway Women Academy is an avenue of equipping women and building their confidence in studying and teaching the Bible.

“We know God has given you a desire to study His Word on your own,” said Elizabeth Hyndman, editorial project leader for Lifeway Women Academy. “We pray Lifeway Women Academy is a help to you, equipping you and building confidence in you to study and teach the Bible.”

Lifeway Women Academy is designed to equip women in any setting—at home or work, in one-on-



one discipleship relationships or church ministry—to faithfully fulfill their call to teach others the character and glory of God, according to Hyndman.

“I hope Lifeway Women Academy courses will help women further understand how to study the Bible and theology for themselves,” said Becky Loyd, director of Lifeway Women at Lifeway Christian Resources. “Our goal is to help women become both confident and competent in their Bible knowledge and give them tools to be able to teach and equip others.”

For more information and to register for Lifeway Women Academy visit: Lifeway.com/academy.

Marissa Postell is a writer for Lifeway Christian Resources.

**HARD TO
BE-LEAVE
OUR HIGH
RATES**

Highest rate in the state for churches
and other ministries on cash savings**

SHORT TERM
FUND RATE
1.90%
CURRENT YIELD*

► Increase your ministry influence with a better rate of return on your church savings
Learn more: 614.601.6881 • jackhelton@scbo.org

*Rates subject to change. **Based upon internal data. Please let us know if you hear of a higher rate.



NOTICE: This is not an offer to sell our securities and we are not soliciting you to buy our securities.

Historic Event for Ohio Hispanic Leaders

By Jorge Altieri, Send Network Español and Stephanie Heading



For the first time in State Convention of Baptists in Ohio (SCBO) history, Hispanic pastors and leaders from across the state gathered to fellowship with one another and learn what Send Relief Español and SCBO can offer their ministries.

“The harvest is ready, but the challenges for Hispanic communities in Ohio are many,” said Jorge Altieri, Ohio Valley regional champion for Send Network Español.

According to the 2020 Census, over 500,000 Hispanics live in Ohio. People of over ten different nationalities from Central America,

includes churches that are over forty years old, as well as churches for less than ten years. During the meeting, participants learned about Send Network Español, the Cooperative Program, a Hispanic church planting residency, SCBO affiliation, as well as other topics.

between them,” said Altieri. “We are extremely grateful for the support of Jeremy Westbrook and Reginald Hayes during the preparation for this meeting and for addressing our Hispanic pastors and encouraging them with their support.”



Jorge Altieri speaks to hispanic pastors and leaders.

“It was a wonderful time of encouragement for all the pastors and leaders that attended the meeting. It served as an opportunity for all of them to get to know each other better and establish relationships of communication

For more information about Send Network Español, contact Reginald Hayes at rhayes@scbo.org or Jorge Altieri at jaltieri@namb.net.

.....
“... we seek to reach our Hispanic communities with the Gospel”
.....

South American, and the Caribbean live in Ohio, and the opportunities for gospel work are many, according to Altieri. “The need for new Hispanic church plants is a top priority for SEND Network Español, as we seek to reach our Hispanic communities with the gospel.”

Currently SCBO has twelve Hispanic churches in the state. This

Churches Multiplying Churches in Cincinnati Area Baptist Association

By Mark Snowden, CABA Associational Mission Strategist



Urbancrest Baptist was able to continue supporting a missionary in South Asia despite COVID-19 travel restrictions.

The Cincinnati Area Baptist Association (CABA) recently launched a yearlong effort to support church plants throughout the Cincinnati area and beyond. Churches Multiplying Churches includes a myriad of ways to support and encourage church plants throughout the year.

Good News Baptist Church and Pastor Jerome Byrd support church plant Guiding Light

Church and Pastor Gene Moore. “We support him with prayer and recently took an offering to help with the work,” said Byrd. “He has access to our baptistry, and we also assist him in various outreach projects.” In addition, two families from Good News are with him each Sunday at Guiding Light.

Urbancrest Baptist Church supports its church plants using their Missions model – *Pray, Give, Go, Send*. “We surround our church planters with intercessors who *Pray* consistently for their needs,” said Pastor Tom Pendergrass. When Urbancrest commits to *Give*, the partnership is for a minimum of five years which gives a plant time to become self-supporting. In

the *Go* phase, Urbancrest sends teams to help the church plant with various projects, and the *Send* aspect includes the planter and sending families becoming a part of the core team of the new church.

Overseas church planters need support too. The International Mission Board discouraged travel to South Asia during Covid, but a group of people found a way to continue supporting a bi-vocational church planter who lives there in a bustling city. The

CHURCHES MULTIPLYING CHURCHES

1
2

1

0

ADOPT A PLANTER
START A NEW CHURCH



CINCINNATI AREA
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

“So the church...increased in numbers” (Acts 9:31).

missionary and his group of encouragers met regularly over the past eighteen months via Zoom. The Zoom calls have been a time for prayer, encouragement, problem-solving, and equipping.



Mark Snowden serves as Associational Mission Strategist for the [Cincinnati Area Baptist Association \(CABA\)](#)



Job Postings

LEAD Pastor

Beacon of Christ Church (BCC), Cincinnati, is searching for a full-time Lead Pastor. BCC has recently finished an intentional and successful revitalization. Our ideal candidate is a man with effective communication skills, at least five years experience as a Lead/Senior Pastor, able to work with teams, and possesses proven leadership skills. Please send resumes to: Beacon of Christ Church Lead Pastor Search Team, 6384 Harrison Avenue Cincinnati, Ohio, 4524, or email to: jerryhowardseq@gmail.com.

SENIOR Pastor

First Baptist Church, Woodsfield is a conservative Southern Baptist Church with a blended style of worship, located in the small southeastern Ohio community of Woodsfield. Our church has a desire to grow, and we seek a pastor who has the same desire, as well as the ability to work compassionately with all types of people. Agreement with the Baptist Faith and Message is required, and pastoral experience and education are preferred. Please submit resume through email to: fbccwoodsfield@gmail.com.

SENIOR Pastor

First Baptist Church Auburn is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. In existence since 1959, FBC Auburn is a small Southern Baptist church that meets on Sunday morning and Wednesday evening. The church is looking for the following in a pastor: strong communication skills, leadership experience, and a servant's heart. Please send a resume, including three personal references, to Timothy P. Wisecup at 513-633-0644. Please text if possible or email to: tmwisecup@gmail.com.

WORSHIP Pastor

Chroma Church in Dublin is looking for a part-time Worship Pastor. The position is 20 hours per week part-time with a salary of \$1500 per month.

The Worship Pastor leads the worship team and the congregational worship during services and other gatherings, assisting with preaching and teaching duties, administration, training, planning, and outreach as needed.

Applicants must be in full agreement with [Chroma Church's statement of faith](#), possess a minimum of three years of church leadership experience (paid or unpaid), and have completed a minimum of one year of formal biblical/theological training.

For more information, please contact Chroma Church at: Jihye.barrowman@chromacolumbus.org.

Let the Ohio Baptist Messenger help your church find a new pastor or staff member!

The Messenger is offering classified ads free of charge for Ohio churches searching for new pastors and staff members. The Messenger is read by churches and individuals in Ohio and across the country.

To submit a classified ad, please send brief information about the position along with a return phone number or email:

classifieds@scbo.org

Online Giving Now Available for SCBO Contributions

We are thrilled to share with you that the SCBO now has online giving for you or your church to make contributions to the Cooperative Program, Disaster Relief, and the Ray Roberts State Mission Offering!

Simply visit www.scbo.org/give and select the option that best fits your preferred method of giving. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our Chief Financial Administrator, Kevin Heaton, at kheaton@scbo.org.

www.scbo.org/give

What is the Lord doing in your church or ministry?

-- Tell us your story --

The Ohio Baptist Messenger is a monthly publication highlighting what the Lord is doing in SCBO churches or ministries, and we need your help! Tell us your story and we could feature it in an upcoming issue of *The Messenger*. Please submit your stories to messenger@scbo.org.

For more information, please contact Stephanie Heading at messenger@scbo.org.

Published monthly by *The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio* for members of Southern Baptist churches in Ohio.

SCBO
The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio

9000 Antares Ave
Columbus, Ohio 43240

Member of *Baptist Press*, news service of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Jeremy Westbrook | Executive Director-Treasurer | www.scbo.org

Ohio Baptist
MESSENGER