

## Tips to Build a Healthy Marriage

By Jennifer Westbrook and Jeremy Westbrook

Have you ever heard someone say, "Marriage is hard work"? They should say "A healthy, lasting, and thriving marriage requires intentional hard work." A marriage does not have to involve work, but it probably will not last very long without it. If your marriage is going to be good, you must be intentional in working on it.

For example, you must be intentional to eat the right foods, to exercise regularly and to get plenty of rest to be physically fit. It doesn't happen



overnight; it takes hard work. However, physical fitness is worth it in the end. Marriage is like that too. If you want a healthy, thriving, and lasting marriage, "roll

your sleeves up" and get busy, because it will take intentional work.

Be intentional in praying daily for your spouse. Life is not easy, which is especially true in ministry! Pray for each other, holding each other's arms up in the battle! Be intentional to listen as you share about the day and work, then pray and encourage each other.

Be intentional about your thoughts, which can be toxic or insightful,

*CONTINUED ON PAGE 4...*

## It's a Great Time To Be an Ohio Baptist

**Reach Ohio.** These words are more than a slogan; they reflect the heart and vision of The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio.

Did you know that Ohio has the seventh largest population in the United States? We have a mission field right here in our own backyard. The heart and desire of our leadership at the SCBO are to encourage and equip our nearly seven hundred churches to make disciples across the street and around the world.

One of the overall shifts that we have made to help accomplish this vision is the implementation of a new regional strategy. We now divide the state of Ohio into six separate regions. Each region is served by a catalyst who is strategically meeting with pastors to better serve and resource those local churches. Each of the part-time SCBO regional catalysts is also a full-time pastor who continues to lead his church daily to fulfill the Great Commission. They understand the unique opportunities and obstacles that every local church leader faces.

In addition, most of our events are shifting toward a regional approach. For example, instead of having only one VBS training clinic, most regions are hosting a VBS clinic this year. In 2022, we saw greater attendance and reduced expenses upon evaluation of our regional gatherings.

I am thrilled to announce that we have added Keith Hurt to

our team as the Director of Next Generational Ministries. He will serve in a part-time capacity working directly with our regional catalysts to encourage and equip student pastors around the SCBO to reach and mobilize the next generation. In addition, he will oversee Super Summer and help take it to the next level.

These are truly exciting days, and it is a great time to be an Ohio Baptist. Please visit our website at [www.scbo.org](http://www.scbo.org) where you can view our online calendar, gather resources, and better know your staff team.

Dr. Jeremy Westbrook  
*Executive Director-Treasurer*



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## Matt Pardi - Northwest

Happy New Year from Northwest Ohio. As we embark on 2023, it is a wonderful time to come before the Lord and ask Him to give us a continued vision and a strategic move for reaching people in our towns, cities, and state in the coming year.

It is amazing to hear from you that God's mission continued to go forward last year, testifying to God's provision and goodness as people and churches grew closer to Christ. Jesus said, "I will build My church, and the gates of Hell will not overcome it," Matthew 16:18. As we pray about "building the church" let us be mindful of God's power and plan, so that everything is by Him and for Him.

One of the strategic events that God has put on our hearts in our region is the H2O Network Conference, February 10-11. Hundreds of young people will come to sing, hear the gospel, and be challenged to leverage their lives for Christ. They will hear about the hopeful vision God gave Ezekiel in Ezekiel 37. Please pray for our next generation. Please pray that we would pass the baton to the next generation to love Jesus and proclaim the good news. Please pray for all our teachers and workshop leaders, including Paul Worcester. Visit [h2ochurchnetwork.com/conference-2023](https://h2ochurchnetwork.com/conference-2023) for more information.



## Chad Keck - West

A new year means new opportunities and January provided us with many. So far this month I have had the privilege of participating in the transfer of two old church buildings to new church plants. One Family Church was gifted the old Meadowdale Baptist Church building and United Awakenings Baptist was gifted the Alpha Baptist Church building. Both GDAB church plants have been growing and reaching people and will now have facilities that they can use for ministry impact.

Another great thing happening in the West Region is the recent gathering of Student Ministry leaders. It was an honor to host a group of student pastors for a lunch and learn fellowship. Next Gen ministry is vital to the health of our local churches and investing in those leaders is so important.

If you are a pastor in the West Region and I can be of assistance to you, please let me know. I would love to take you to lunch, pray for you, or walk with you through a challenge ([ckeck@scbo.org](mailto:ckeck@scbo.org)). We are better together.



## Reagan Wagoner - Southwest

In the Cincinnati area, there has been no bigger news story than the recent Damar Hamlin moment where teams, fans, sportscasters, and the entire nation, it seemed, began to take a knee and pray out loud for his healing. Seeing this, I could not help but think two thoughts. First, this is happening right here in Cincinnati.

WE are ground zero for this prayer movement. Second, if the Bills and Bengals can lead the way in prayer, surely our churches in Cincinnati can do the same! Let us not be too into all the other things we are doing to get on our knees and pray!

I want to continue to invite you to join me in prayer for our city, and in reading *The Potential and Power of Prayer* by Chuck Lawless. If you have not yet listened to the free podcast by Trevin Wax, *Reconstructing Faith* which addresses the church's current credibility crisis and what every church can do to change that, I encourage you to take time to listen to that as well.

Also, REGISTER NOW for our Next Gen Training on Thursday, Feb 23! Lunch will be provided, and cost is just \$20 (bring one, get one free!) Go to [www.swohioleaders.com/next-gen-training](https://www.swohioleaders.com/next-gen-training) to register today for this awesome opportunity to help our kids and students know Jesus now!



Players and coaches from both The Buffalo Bills and Cincinnati Bengals join together in prayer after the cardiac arrest of Bills player Damar Hamlin.

# UPDATES

REGIONAL UPDATES

REGIONAL UPDATES

REGIONAL UPDATES



## **Rick Williams - Central**

Oswald Chambers said, “Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; Prayer is the greater work.” I have had the privilege and opportunity to visit with pastors in the central Ohio area as a Regional Catalyst. It is amazing to see how God is at work. Recently I met with Gerald Saffo, pastor of the United Faith Community Church in Reynoldsburg. It was so encouraging to hear him talk about making 2023 a year of prayer for his church. This is a theme that I continue to hear as I meet with pastors -- the need for prayer to be at the forefront of our lives and ministries. I am grateful to be a

part of the SCBO where prayer is a priority.

I am looking forward to hosting the SCBO Prayer Summit and Prayer Workshop on March 23-24, at Violet Baptist Church in Pickerington. We are delighted to have Daniel Henderson come and lead these events. Henderson’s prayer ministry and resources have equipped and encouraged many pastors and leaders around the world. This will be an incredible two days you will not want to miss. Let me urge you to come and be encouraged and equipped. You can find more information and register for this event at: <https://www.scbo.org/event/prayer-summit-workshop>.



## **Stephen Owens - Northeast**

I have been encouraged by spending time with pastors in the Northeast Region. I met with Karlie Hale of One Love Community Church, a church plant on Cleveland’s westside. Hearing his heart for reaching people within his community for Jesus truly blessed me. This summer his church is having once-a-month worship services on their lawn to introduce the community to their ministry.

I also spent time with Cory Wilson at City Church in Cleveland Heights. The church is in a renovation project which has had some delays, but they are celebrating that they are on schedule to complete it by this summer. Their perseverance and trust in God during this time was exciting.

Two events are coming to our region soon. The Confronting Abuse Conference is March 4, 2023, in Windham, Ohio. This event will help your church discover best practices and provide practical tools to care for those who attend your church. The facilitators are Greg Wilson, Soul Care Associates, and Tommie Jo Borde, Venice Solutions Group. To register, visit <https://www.scbo.org/event/confronting-abuse-making-church-safe>

Mark your calendar now for the Lead Well Conference on May 19-20, at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Bedford, Ohio. ([www.MtCalvaryofBedford.org](http://www.MtCalvaryofBedford.org)). More details and registration will be coming soon. God Bless.



## **Art Fulks - Southeast**

The month of January saw two of our Southeast Region churches investing significantly in the men of our region. On January 13-14, Ebenezer Baptist Church hosted its tenth annual Man-Up Conference with hundreds of men inspired and challenged to share their gospel story. As a result, God changed the story of several men who trusted Christ personally.

First Baptist Church Waverly hosted its forty-second Men’s Wild Game Dinner with guest speaker Bob Kinker. A significant number of men brought friends and family to hear the gospel faithfully proclaimed. The gospel is powerful and is still changing lives. But, as one pastor recently stated,

“There’s just something that happens when the dudes step up.”

Finally, on a personal note, it has been one of the greatest honors of my life to serve as a Regional Catalyst in southeast Ohio. As I shared with my congregation, I believe placing your ‘YES’ on the altar (or giving God a ‘blank check’) cannot come with conditions of time, place, or preference. For us, the Lord has filled in the blanks of our next ministry assignment by sending us to serve as Association Mission Strategist for the Southside Baptist Network in metro-Atlanta beginning April 1. Ohio is our home, and we continue to pray with you for God to send a movement of the gospel that touches the world.

## TIPS TO BUILD A HEALTHY MARRIAGE ...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

life-giving or life-draining. What thoughts pass through your mind during the day, especially regarding your spouse? Philippians 4:8 gives guidance in this. “Finally, brothers and sisters whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable -- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy -- think about such things.”

Be intentional not to speculate or assume when it comes to other people, especially your spouse. Instead, think about what you know to be true. If there is something off in your relationship, then talk it out, in love. Make sure that your speech is free from accusation and assumptions. Think about what is true, right, pure, lovely, and admirable.

Be intentional with your words. The joke at our house is that our favorite place to go when we having a rough day is Chik-fil-a, because the first question they ask is “How may I help you?” and they finish by saying “It’s my pleasure.” Beautiful words make you feel you matter, and someone is there to help, even if it is a stranger at a fast-food restaurant! What if we treated our spouse the way Chik-fil-a employees treat its customers?

What if we started treating everyone that way?

Just like our thoughts, our words are impactful. James 3:5 says the tongue “is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.” Do you set things on fire with your words, or are your words like honey, sweet and soothing? Be intentional in encouraging your spouse, saying “Thank you,” and looking for ways to speak life into each day. It is amazing the effect our

words can have on other people, so choose them wisely!

As we approach Valentine’s Day, consider giving your spouse something you cannot find in a store. It might take self-denial and will require being intentional to put these tips into practice in your marriage. It will take some work, sometimes the “roll your sleeves up” kind of hard work, but it will be worth it in the end. And then make sure to finish with a gift or a card that tells your spouse you appreciate them!



Jeremy and Jennifer Westbrook

### Free Bible Study Resources for Churches

By Cathy Pound

The SCBO Lending Library has been a blessing to Angie Gilley, pastor’s wife at Trinity Baptist Church in Ashland. She has utilized this resource multiple times, borrowing Bible studies to lead the church’s women’s ministry.



“The Lending Library has allowed us to have many options to choose from,” said Gilley. “We are a small church and could not afford to hold as many of these as we have with the SCBO resources. The free resources mean that more people in our community can hear the gospel and grow in their relationships with God.”

For more information about the SCBO Lending Library and its Bible study resources, visit [www.scbo.org/content/resource-lending-library](http://www.scbo.org/content/resource-lending-library)

## Prayer Summit and Workshop coming to Ohio March 23-24

By Steve Hopkins

A powerful prayer experience is coming to Ohio with the SCBO Prayer Summit and Prayer Workshop at Violet Baptist Church, Pickerington, led by Daniel Henderson, global director of The 6:4 Fellowship. The 6:4 Fellowship exists to catalyze pastors around the world to Prayer-and-Word-Powered Ministry through an urgent call to the hope of spiritual awakening.

The two-day event, March 23-24, provides a framework to engage the prayer life and help develop a culture of prayer in the local church. On Thursday, March 23, the Prayer Summit, 10am to 4pm, is designed to seek the Lord and His agenda for our lives, families, churches, and communities. Discover the transformative power of this unique prayer format as Daniel Henderson guides pastors and leaders to draw near to God together.

The Prayer Summit focus includes seeking His face more than His hands; talking to Him, not just about Him; and passionately seeking to understand, know, and intimately relate to Him.

As we come to know His heart through an extended time of worship and devotion, we can respond to His will as His Spirit directs. We come with no personal agendas and leave with only one — HIS!

The Prayer Summit is an excellent opportunity for pastors to bring leaders and prayer teams. Prayer teams, bring your pastor! It will be a time of refreshment, encouragement, edification, and purification -- perfect for every heart longing to know God more intimately.

Under Daniel Henderson's guidance, we will seek Jesus to establish the agenda as we worship, glorify, and enjoy Him through singing, Scripture reading, and prayer.

Friday's half-day Prayer Workshop from 9 am to noon will equip pastors and leaders to develop a culture of prayer in the local church. There is a difference between a church that prays and a "praying church." Many churches have sporadic and small prayer gatherings but long to see prayer become the core reality of their congregation.

This workshop will guide you to rebuild a foundation of prayer that will ignite renewal and change lives through the power of the Holy Spirit. You will learn the difference between prayer activity and a prayer culture; The vital role of church leadership in igniting lasting renewal; How to "build sidewalks where the footpaths already exist;" How to establish and sustain a life-long passion to seek the Lord.

For more information and registration, please visit [sco.org/event/prayer-summit-workshop](https://sco.org/event/prayer-summit-workshop).



Daniel Henderson

# PRAYER SUMMIT

## & Prayer Workshop

With Daniel Henderson (6:4 Fellowship)

**SCBO** >>  
The State Convention Of Baptists In Ohio

Thurs-Friday  
March 23-24, 2023  
Pickerington, OH



DETAILS & REGISTRATION



**Travis Smalley**  
Send City Missionary  
tsmalley@namb.net



**Oliver Hawkins**  
Church Planting Catalyst  
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**Kirk Kirkland**  
Church Planting Catalyst  
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Cincinnati



**Rick Duncan**  
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**Dan Ghramm**  
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### WHAT IS SEND OHIO?

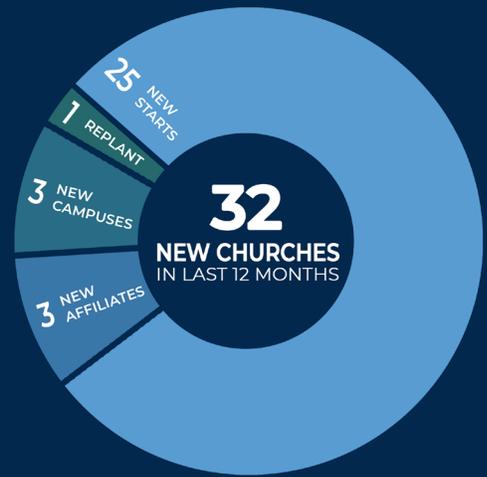
*Send Ohio* is the joint collaboration between the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio and the North American Mission Board.

Together we communicate, collaborate, and celebrate the advancement of God's activity here in the Buckeye State. This means you can pursue God's call to plant or replant a church anywhere in Ohio. With this new vision and agreement, the stage is set to reach everyone in Ohio!



### IS SEND OHIO EFFECTIVE?

Absolutely. In just its first year, *Send Ohio* added 32 new churches to the SCBO family. That's the largest increase since 2015!



### WHAT ABOUT THE MULTIPLICATION PIPELINE?

Multiplication Pipeline provides a framework for you to discover, develop, and deploy missional leaders from your local church. We are thrilled to share that over 10% of SCBO churches have already signed up to take the next steps in implementing a multiplication pipeline! Join an introductory event coming soon to your area, or contact the SCBO for details.



### WHAT CAN I DO?

You are a vital part of *Send Ohio*! Stay connected and involved: Find guided prayer resources at [prayforplanters.com](http://prayforplanters.com), establish a Multiplication Pipeline in your local church, actively engage with the leadership and ministry of a new church in your area, and continue to support *Send Ohio* by giving through the Cooperative Program.



# SEND Network OHIO

# President's Pen

by Dr. Ray Umphrey

Healthy things grow. I heard this statement as a young pastor, and it changed the way I thought about the local church. As a young pastor, I felt pressure to “grow the church,” and even received this pressure from some members of the church. They seemed to have the idea that a young pastor should immediately create an influx of new young members. However, when I realized that my task was to lead the church to health, this gave me focus and purpose in the place of generalized anxiety over something I could not create.

We should be concerned with church growth; however, we must realize that growth comes from God. He is the one who adds to the church, and He is the one who gives spiritual growth to believers. Those who shepherd and serve the local church must possess a biblical vision of health for the local church which shapes our leadership and teaching. We must also pray for God, the Lord of the harvest, to do what only He can do.

My desire is to see Ohio Baptist churches healthy and thriving. The local church is ground zero for God’s work in Ohio and our enemy is crafty. He creates barriers, conflict, and spiritual deception to hinder or stop the work of the church. I’m thrilled with the recent addition of Mark Jones to our SCBO team. He will be serving alongside our regional catalysts for the purpose of church revitalization. I have been engaged in revitalization for fifteen years. It is rewarding, God-glorifying work, but it is difficult work. I look forward to seeing how the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio can come alongside you and your church this year to help our churches thrive.

I’d love to hear how our state convention can better reach and equip our state in 2023. Let me know how we can serve at [president@scbo.org](mailto:president@scbo.org).

Your partner in the gospel,

Ray Umphrey  
SCBO President

## ESL Classes Share Gospel With Nations in Our Own Backyard

By Cathy Pound

“The nations have come to Ohio!” said Ray Taw, former IMB missionary and current International Partner Consultant with Cincinnati Area Baptist Association (CABA). “We have an opportunity to impact the world right in our backyard!”

In 2022, Lakota Hills Baptist Church in CABA had over three hundred people representing more than thirty countries register for ESL classes. Taw wants to encourage Ohio churches to consider forming their own ESL programs no matter the size of the church.

“I would also encourage the formation of small Bible discussion groups as an extension of the ESL classes,” said Taw. In addition to ESL classes, Lakota Hills offers small Bible discussion groups known as “Talking Around the Table” groups.



ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

For more information about Lakota Hills ESL and “Talking Around the Tables” Bible discussion groups, please contact Ray Taw via email [cabapartnerships@gmail.com](mailto:cabapartnerships@gmail.com) or call his cell number 336-999-4506.

## Dr. Gerald Saffo Delivers Reynoldsburg, Ohio's Inaugural MLK Day Address

By Reginald Hayes

The City of Reynoldsburg, Ohio, chose Dr. Gerald Saffo of United Faith Community Church to deliver its inaugural Martin Luther King (MLK) Day address. The theme for the first MLK Day was "Together We Can Be the Dream." Reynoldsburg is a suburban city of 42,000 residents nestled near the east side of Columbus, Ohio.

Dr. Saffo shared a compelling message of hope and encouragement. Many attendees were surprised and blessed to learn the historical context of MLK's civil rights movement, which has not been shared in textbooks or films. Here are highlights of his inspiring message:

"Sixty years ago, on August 28, 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stood at the Lincoln Memorial and addressed a crowd of several hundred thousand who had come to the nation's capital

for the 'March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.' As bright as that historical moment had been, its promise has not yet been fully realized.



Dr. Gerald Saffo, United Faith Community Church

Perhaps the saddest aspect of Dr. King's legacy is that so many of 'Us' have managed to lock him and what I have entitled 'The I Have a Dream Speech' syndrome by confining discussions about race to once or twice a year. Believe it or not, the 'I have a dream' speech is entitled 'Normalcy, Never Again.'

A section of the discourse Dr. King shared on that hot August day in 1963 says:

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

King's essential message never changed -- lessons from the past must be framed in facts and truth to liberate and empower all people.

## Jersey Church Announces Upcoming Retirement of Senior Pastor

On Sunday morning, January 8, 2023, Pastor John Hays shared with his congregation his plan to retire from Jersey Church in New Albany, OH.

After more than four decades of faithful service to Jersey Church, Pastor John has decided to retire from his role as Senior Pastor. "This has been forty-two years of the most joy-filled pastoring anyone could ever dream of," Hays shared.

Hays will continue to lead the church until a new Senior Pastor is in place. The announcement of his retirement means that Jersey Church will immediately begin the search process for its next Senior Pastor. Marc Richcreek, chairman of the Church Council at Jersey said, "Pastor John has the full support of Church

Council in his decision. We trust in his wisdom to make this difficult choice because we know he sought the Lord's guidance. We both celebrate what God has done through John and look forward with excitement to what He has planned for Jersey."

While working through that process, Jersey Church will remain focused on its mission of caring for people and connecting them to Christ. Church leadership is calling the church to continue praying in the weeks and months ahead. Richcreek said, "Praying will be the most significant part of the search process."

The church has created a webpage to answer frequently asked questions and share regular updates with the congregation regarding the search process.



Pastor John Hays and his wife, Jan.

Prospective candidates should also visit this webpage to apply.

[jerseychurch.org/pastorsearch](http://jerseychurch.org/pastorsearch)

# Upcoming VBS Leader Training Events “Twist and Turn” Through Ohio

By Anthony Smith



VBS Leadership Training Team. Bottom row left to right: Jen Bigerton, Melita Thomas, Jackie Frasure Top row: Stephanie Noel, Wendy Hammock, Anthony Smith, Charlotte Barbo and Margie Thomas

It's GAME ON in Ohio for Vacation Bible School Leadership Training and the Ohio VBS Leadership Training Team is prepared and ready to play.

This year's VBS theme is Twists and Turns: Following Jesus Changes the Game and is a celebration of games of

Jesus as Savior and following him changes the game entirely! It's going to be more fun than a Barrel of Monkeys.

VBS training is coming to a church near you! The cost to attend VBS Leadership Training is just \$10 per person with online registration and \$15 at the door and includes a VBS themed gift for everyone! Online registration will be available soon. Come out and bring your entire team.

According to a twenty-year study by Lifeway, for every person who attends VBS Leadership Training, 1.1 people accept Jesus as Savior during VBS!

We look forward to seeing you at VBS Leadership Training! Game on!

*Anthony Smith is the Education Director for Fellowship Baptist Church, Maineville*



all kinds – from classic tabletop games to video games. Kids will play their way through VBS in fun locations such as The Bible Study Game Room, Wild Card Crafts, Multi-player Missions and Skip Ahead Snacks.

But more importantly, children will see Jesus through the eyes of one of his closest friends and discover that trusting

## Regional VBS Training 2023

<b>Southwest</b> Grace Point Fellowship FRANKLIN <b>23 Feb.</b>	<b>Northeast</b> Cornerstone Church AURORA <b>1 April</b>	<b>Southeast</b> Trinity Baptist Church CAMBRIDGE <b>15 April</b>
<b>West</b> First Baptist Kettering BEAVERCREEK <b>22 April</b>	<b>Central</b> First Baptist Church WESTERVILLE <b>25 April</b>	<b>Northwest</b> H2O Church BOWLING GREEN <b>9 May</b>

**SCBO**  
The State Convention Of Baptists In Ohio

# Disaster Relief/Poland Partnerships Provide Aid to War-torn Ukraine

By Stephanie Heading



Fellowship at Ukrainian church following the delivery of new generators.

A year ago, Russia ferociously invaded Ukraine and millions of Ukrainians fled to Poland and other neighboring countries to escape the onslaught.

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBDR), partnering with Send Relief, the compassion ministry arm of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), quickly sprang into action. The organizations worked together sending teams into Poland to assess the needs of Polish churches that were inundated with Ukrainian refugees, mostly women and children in need of humanitarian aid.

Ohio Disaster Relief (DR) partnered with Louisiana DR to help meet the immediate needs in Poland. "The need was too great for us to handle alone, so Mississippi DR and Kentucky DR joined the partnership," said Dr. John Heading, Ohio Disaster Relief director. DR teams from the four partner

states traveled to Gdansk, Poland to help First Baptist Church (FBCG) renovate apartments for refugees, assist with needs of refugees living in the church facility, and foster evangelism opportunities.



Generators ready for transport into Ukraine.



While at FBCG, DR leaders learned of another issue. “The church needed a van to transport refugees and to deliver humanitarian aid into Ukraine,” said Heading. The cost of a van was \$28,000, so each member of the partnership committed to raise \$7000 toward the needed funds.

Heading posted the request on

.....  
**“We could not do this without them”**  
 .....

the Ohio DR Facebook page and directed churches and individuals to give toward the project through the SCBO website. “The response was immediate,” said Heading. “SCBO churches and individuals donated the needed money within a week. It is always a blessing when SCBO churches and



Generators going to war-torn Ukraine.

individuals step up and give to meet a specific need. We could not do this without them.”

FBC Gdansk purchased the van in June 2022 and since then Artur Graybek, an elder at FBCG, has

organized twenty-two trips into Ukraine to deliver supplies. “Artur knows the value of partnership,” Heading said.

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**“Artur knows the value of partnership”**  
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During a recent trip into Ukraine, Graybek saw an unlikely partnership in action. “Our goal this time was an aid center run by Catholics in Fastow near Kiev,” said Graybek. “It was an extremely interesting project in which the forces of business contacts, Catholics, and Baptists joined together in one action for children --victims of



Polish believers work together to take aid into Ukraine.

war-- and at the same time a perfect testimony of God’s love indeed and in truth beyond divisions.”

The church also collaborated with local partners to deliver Christmas gifts to children in hard-hit Kharkiv. “Many of the families in Kharkiv were

**H2O Bowling Green. April 29**

**Cleveland/March 25**

**Cedarville Univ. April 22**

**andalia/April 22**

**Columbus/March 18**

**New Concord, Oct. 28**

**Lebanon, Sept 8-9 Chaplain Trng Only**

**Lancaster, Nov 4**

**UPCOMING DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

those who sheltered at FBC Gdansk, but have since returned home,” said Heading. “The van we helped buy and two other vans delivered 1250 Christmas packages for children, as well as food, warm clothes, sleeping bags and more.”



First Baptist Church, Gdansk helped deliver over 1,250 Christmas gifts to Ukrainian children.

In addition to Christmas packages, FBCG recently delivered twelve generators and ten pallets of food that Ukrainian believers distributed on the front lines. The generators are used to provide light during church services,

**“...the perfect opportunity to share the gospel”**

as well as recharge phones, power banks, and other electrical devices. “When people come to recharge, it is the perfect opportunity to share the gospel,” Heading noted.



Part of 3000 blankets going by van to Ukraine.

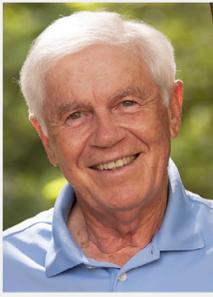


**Ohio Disaster Relief 2023 Training Schedule**

- March 18**      **Briggs Road Baptist Church, Columbus**  
*(Chainsaw, Mud Out, Food Service, Communications, Blue Hat Training)*
- March 25**      **Cuyahoga Valley Church, Cleveland**  
*(Chainsaw, Mud Out, Food Service, Assessment)*
- April 22 First**      **Light, Vandalia**  
*(Chainsaw, Mud Out, Food Service, Communications, Blue Hat Training)*
- April 22 Cedarville University, Cedarville**  
*(Mud Out, Food Service)*
- April 29 H2O Church, Bowling Green**  
*(Chainsaw, Mud Out, Food Service)*
- Sept. 8-9**      **Urbancrest Baptist Church, Lebanon**  
*(Chaplain Training ONLY)*
- October 28**      **Friendship Baptist Church, New Concord**  
*(Chainsaw, Mud Out, Food Service)*
- November 4**      **First Baptist Lancaster**  
*(Chainsaw, Mud Out, Food Service)*

“The Ohio DR/Poland partnership has been a successful ministry opportunity, and it started with the people and the churches of the SCBO,” said Heading. “DR members volunteered and paid much of their own way to Poland to serve those in need. Churches

and individuals gave directly to Ohio DR to provide the funds necessary to purchase supplies in Poland that were shuttled into Ukraine. It has been awesome to see how the Lord uses partnerships to spread the gospel even in the darkest places.”

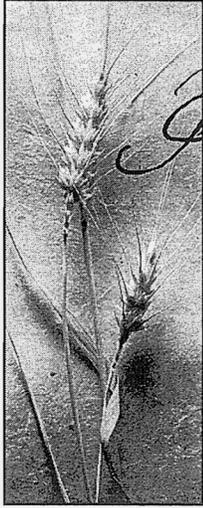


# Dr. Jim Henry

## Friday, March 3 and Saturday, March 4

DR. JIM HENRY is a Christian leader, author and speaker. As a former pastor and one of the most respected Christian leaders of our day, he continues to speak for conferences and conventions throughout the world. He completed two terms as the president of the Southern Baptist Convention and has written numerous books. He offers practical advice mixed with spiritual wisdom and counsel gained from a lifetime of experience, including the loss of his wife, Jeannette, to Alzheimer's disease.

DEACONS ARE INVITED TO JOIN US  
AT DUBLIN BAPTIST CHURCH FOR



# Deacons

PARTNERS  
in  
MINISTRY  
and  
GROWTH

FRIDAY, MARCH 3  
DINNER AT 6:15  
TEACHING TIME 7-9PM



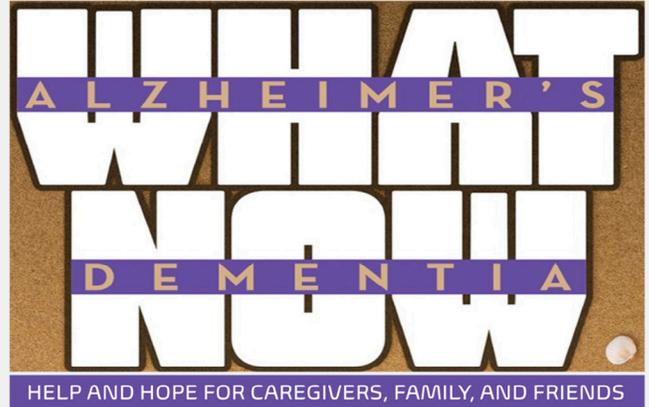
COST FOR THIS EVENT IS \$10.  
PLEASE REGISTER BY SCANNING THIS CODE  
OR GO TO DUBLINBAPTIST.COM/EVENTS



THIS EVENT WILL BE HELD AT THE "ARC"  
7200 COFFMAN RD., DUBLIN OH 43017  
(614)889-2307

If you are caring for or supporting a loved one with Alzheimer's or Dementia you know that it's not an easy journey.

## Please join us at Dublin Baptist Church for "When the One You Love has Alzheimer's or Dementia"



HELP AND HOPE FOR CAREGIVERS, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS



7195 COFFMAN RD., DUBLIN OH 43017  
DUBLINBAPTIST.COM  
(614)889-2307

Saturday March 4  
9:30-11:30am

*Making Disciples of Jesus who live on mission.*



**Ohio WMU**  
www.scbo.org/womens



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**WMU Emphasis 2022-2024**

*Hope In Christ*  
Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction,  
faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12

# Confronting Abuse

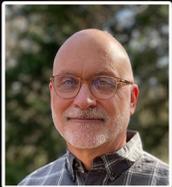
Making Church Safe

March 4, 9am-3pm  
Windham, Ohio

**SCBO** >>

The State Convention Of Baptists In Ohio

## SPECIAL GUESTS:



### Greg Wilson:

Greg is a licensed professional counselor and leads Soul Care Associates, a counseling and consulting practice, which consults with leaders of churches on adopting best practices for congregational counseling and care.



### Tommie Jo Brode:

Tommie Jo Brode is the founder of Venice Solutions Group and an attorney by trade with more than 24 years of experience in employment matters.

## LOCATION:

Renaissance Family Center  
9005 Wil Verne Dr.  
Windham, OH 44288

## DETAILS:

This is a FREE event  
Online registration is required  
visit [scbo.org/SATF](http://scbo.org/SATF)

## Next Generational Director Keith Hurt Brings Passion, Experience to SCBO Role

By Stephanie Heading

"I am both delighted and excited to announce that Keith Hurt is joining our SCBO family as the Director of Next Generational Ministry," said Dr. Jeremy Westbrook, SCBO executive director. "He will serve Ohio Baptists in a part-time capacity, while remaining the full-time student pastor at Violet Baptist, Pickerington. He will work directly with our regional catalysts to help encourage and equip our student pastors from around the state to help reach the next generation. He will also oversee Super Summer and take it to the next level."

Hurt brings twenty-seven years of ministry experience to his new role, working with collegiate and youth ministries. He has a passion for how Next Generational ministries can impact students, because he has seen firsthand the impact in his own life.

Raised in a dysfunctional family filled with chaos and abuse, Hurt describes his family as "very lost."

As an avid high school basketball player, he transferred from public school to Christian school for his senior year with no interest in Christianity, just a desire to play basketball.

"The Lord used godly peers and three godly men who came alongside me," said Hurt. "They had a relationship with Christ, and I took a second look at Jesus Christ." He accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior and began his life anew.

Following high school, Hurt enrolled at Cedarville University and found more godly peers and mentors who helped him grow in his faith and shaped his philosophy of ministry. He believes in four supports for students: a relationship with God, a relationship with godly peers, a relationship with godly mentors, and a relationship with a local church.

Throughout his ministry he has also developed mentoring groups for student pastors, connecting seasoned pastors with newer student pastors.

He has been involved with Super Summer for the past seventeen years, serving in multiple areas for the



Keith Hurt, SCBO Director of NextGen Ministries

student leadership event held at Cedarville University during the last week of June. "Super Summer is not a summer camp," said Hurt. "It is a leadership training program. Kids must qualify to attend." As director, he is excited to work with the Super Summer team building on the momentum and excitement from last year's record attendance.

One of Hurt's goals for Super Summer is to see more SCBO churches involve students in leadership training. He says that only thirty-four churches out of over 700 SCBO churches throughout the state are currently bringing students to Super Summer, so he sees room for growth in the program.

Super Summer 2023 is June 26-30 and will feature speaker Kirk Kirkland of Revive City

Church in Cincinnati as part of the powerful, week-long experience for students. Registration begins in February.

In addition to Super Summer, Hurt will be a featured speaker at the upcoming "Next Gen Leadership Conference: Helping the Next Generation Know Jesus Now" on Thursday, February 23 in Franklin, Ohio.

"I believe in the power of events to bring life-changing moments. The Next Gen Conference is going to be a good first step," said Hurt. "It is a strategic connection to the Cincinnati area." The one-day intensive designed to equip leaders who have a passion for reaching the next generation will also feature speakers Reagan Wagoner, pastor, Grace Point, and Stephanie Noel, kids' director, First Baptist Kettering.

For more information about the conference and to register for the event, visit <https://swohioleaders.com/next-gen-training>.

For more information about Super Summer, contact Keith Hurt at [khurt@scbo.org](mailto:khurt@scbo.org).

# Job Postings

## MINISTRY Assistant

The State Convention of Baptist in Ohio is seeking a part-time Ministry Assistant to work twenty hours per week. Applicants should have abilities in communication, interpersonal communication, organizational and time management skills, as well as a proficient level of knowledge of Microsoft Office and/or relevant position software programs, including Adobe Acrobat and Google Suite. Applicants must be able to competently work with images and graphics.

Applicants must also be persons of Christian character who are able to demonstrate integrity, professionalism, civility, and a high degree of ethics in job-related actions. They must also be a professing Christian in agreement with the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 and an active member of an SBC church.

A high school diploma or equivalent with two years of related work experience or a combination of completed education and/or related work experience equal to two years is required.

[Click here or more information or to apply for this position.](#)

## 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 required, and pastoral experience and education preferred. Please submit a resume by email at [fbccwoodsfield@gmail.com](mailto:fbccwoodsfield@gmail.com).

*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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:kheaton@scbo.org).

[www.scbo.org/give](http://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](mailto:messenger@scbo.org).*

*For more information, please contact Stephanie Heading at [messenger@scbo.org](mailto:messenger@scbo.org).*

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**SCBO**  
The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio

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Jeremy Westbrook | Executive Director-Treasurer | [www.scbo.org](http://www.scbo.org)

*Ohio Baptist*  
**MESSENGER**