

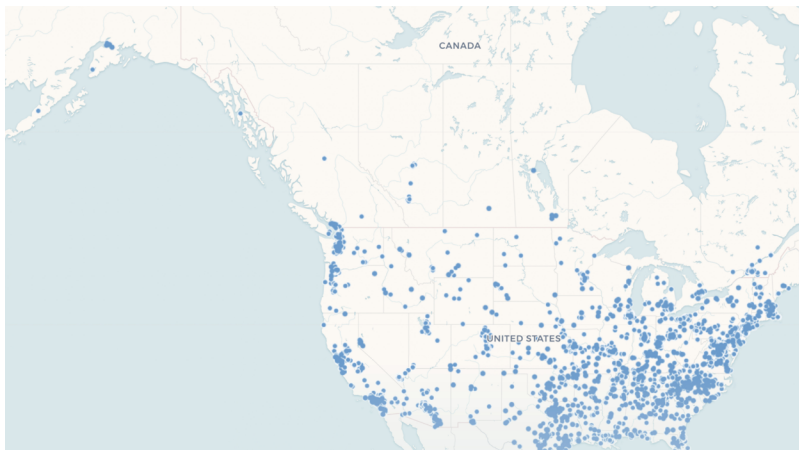
Fueling the Mission of Missionaries

Annie Armstrong... I am not sure what comes to your heart and mind when you hear her name, but I think about moving from Memphis, Tennessee to Marysville, Ohio in 2008 to plant a church called Living Hope. Although Annie Armstrong is now in Heaven, her legacy and ministry impact live on. I was direct recipient and benefited greatly from this financial offering as we planted, grew, and multiplied the new church.

The North American Mission Board (NAMB) has named its annual offering after her and one hundred percent of the offering helps missionaries spread the gospel across North America. To that end, approximately fifty percent of the overall NAMB budget is raised through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

According to NAMB, the offering was started in 1895 by Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) to benefit the work of the Home Mission Board (now North American Mission Board). In 1934, it was named in honor of Annie Armstrong, a bold missions advocate and WMU's first national executive leader. Today, more than \$2 billion has been donated by Southern Baptist churches and individuals to support thousands of missionaries in church planting and compassion ministries.

Because of this sacrificial giving, millions of lives have been and continue to be transformed by the power of the gospel. Currently, we have sixty-eight Send Ohio church planters that are actively planting new churches here in the Buckeye State. They are in big cities, small towns and everywhere in Ohio telling everyone that God loves them and wants a relationship with them. Therefore, we give, and therefore we sacrifice. Your support helps fund over 2,400 missionaries here in North America, where there are nearly 371M people representing 350 languages and nearly 281M are estimated to be lost without Christ.



Since 2010, Southern Baptists have planted more than 9,400 churches

Annie Armstrong
Easter Offering

North American
Mission Board

ALSO IN THIS EDITION:

- PAGE 2 - 5 Reasons Why We Give **Annie Armstrong Easter Offering**
- PAGE 4 - Regional Ministries Hub
- PAGE 6 - Disaster Relief Serves East Palestine
- PAGE 7 - President's Pen
By Dr. Ray Umphrey
- PAGE 8 - Church Planter Profile: Joe Kaloger
- PAGE 10 - Doing More Together
- PAGE 13 - Revitalization Consultant Joins SCBO

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If we are going to reach Ohio and North America with the gospel of Christ, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is an incredible opportunity to fuel the mission of our missionaries.



Dr. Jeremy Westbrook
Executive Director-Treasurer



A Mission Field in Need of Hope

371 million people

350 languages
in North America

281 million
estimated without Christ

Annie Armstrong
Easter Offering

 **North American Mission Board**

5 Reasons why we give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

By Garth Leno (Reprinted from the North American Mission Board - www.namb.net)

Stewardship is not just about money. It involves faithfully managing everything God has placed in your charge for the advancement of His kingdom. Open-handed giving is a powerful principle of God, designed to be a blessing both to the giver and the recipient of the gift. It is the supernatural overflow of a generous heart that desires to express the love and glory of God.

So, why give?

Here are five reasons why we give—and more specifically—five reasons why we've chosen to give to the North American Mission Board's [Annie Armstrong Easter Offering \(AAEO\)](#).

1

We give because we love people. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life,” (John 3:16, NIV). What motivated God to sacrifice His Son was not a sense of indebtedness or obligation. The love He had for us compelled Him to send Jesus to meet our most pressing need. If love for others was what prompted God to give, then should it not be our primary motivation for giving as well? With spiritual maturity we should become less attached to our possessions and more concerned

with meeting the needs of others and planting churches everywhere for everyone.

2

We give so we can be a blessing to others. God made a covenant with Abraham in Genesis 12:2:

“I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.” I will bless you...and you will be a blessing to others. This is our privilege and calling as people of God.

We are blessed by God to be a blessing — to be generous — to others. Our gifts to the AAEO bless church planters and missionaries in compassion ministries, and through them, it blesses Christians and non-Christians across North America through Send Network and Send Relief.

3

We give to preach the gospel. It takes money to reach lost people with the gospel. Evangelism, church planting, developing residencies, strengthening churches, meeting needs— it all takes

“

I had entered a different culture and was in the middle of a different people group right here in my own country. These people had been forgotten, and I knew God was calling me here.

Matt and Amanda Hadden
North American Missionaries, Porcupine, South Dakota



money! If we are committed to spreading the gospel, then we have no choice but to support it with our finances, and that includes the AAEO.

The AAEO helps to train and financially supports church planting missionaries. It helps to resource their plants with funding for ministry equipment, worship space rent, community outreach events and much more.

4 We give because it's a biblical principle. There is a force of financial blessing that is released in our lives by the giving of our money. In 2 Corinthians 9:6 it says, "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously." Our giving is the seed which awaits a harvest at a later date. Our level of harvest through Send Network may be directly related to our level of giving to the AAEO.

5 We give to fill a void. As important as money is, it will never fill the void people

have inside them. Ever since Adam fell, and sin entered the world, man has been seeking fulfillment in external things. He has tried to rebuild the Garden of Eden by his efforts, looking to find satisfaction in pleasures, possessions, and status. The void can only be filled with a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Nothing else will satisfy the inward yearnings of our souls. But once our hearts have been filled with the Spirit of God, and Jesus lives in and through our lives, then giving becomes a joyful ministry of obedience to the Word of God. Giving gives meaning to life!

“
The impulse in our hearts is to be missionaries, and the Midwest is greatly lacking in ministry to Hispanics.

Angel and Vanesa Viveros
North American Missionaries, Lincoln, Nebraska



There are many great organizations to give to that are advancing God's mission. But perhaps what's just as important as where you give is that you give and are generous stewards.

As for us, we have found significant kingdom impact and personal joy by supporting thousands of missionaries in church planting and compassion ministry through the AAEO.

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

BY THE NUMBERS



Adapted from www.anniearmstrong.com 2023

UPDATES REGIONAL SCBO REGIONAL REGIONAL UPDATES



Matt Pardi - Northwest

Hello from northwest Ohio. It has been a time of prayer and faith asking God to do remarkable things. I recently heard Bill Eliff speak about prayer and revival, and it was significant. Churches are entering into deeper levels of seeking God for laborers to go into the harvest. Testimony of prayer meetings growing in our region is exciting!

Recently, college students from Ohio and beyond gathered in Columbus for the H2O Network Conference, coming together to fellowship, worship, and hear great teachings from Ezekiel 37. Paul Worcester did an amazing job inspiring us to pray for the lost and be bold in our gospel conversations.

During a time of confession students were asked to come forward and write down a sin that has been difficult to confess and stick it on a wooden cross. Students also participated in communion and responded to stand for Christ. Most of the 450 young people in attendance came forward for confession, communion, and commitment to serve Jesus.

As Bill Eliff inspired us, Paul Worcester challenged us, and the work of God at Asbury moved us, let us together believe God for big things in the future.



Chad Keck - West

What an incredible month here in the West Region. I love hearing the reports of men being ordained, people being saved, and pastors being equipped and encouraged.

One of the highlights of the month was seeing United Awakenings Baptist Church receive the gift of a new building. Last summer Alpha Baptist Church approached

me about planting a church in their facility. Their congregation had dwindled to a handful of people and was ready to close its doors. When they approached me I immediately knew that the building was not going to work for the FBC Kettering campus/plant strategy.

I contacted Pastor Phabiano Kamas, and after a brief tour of the facility he knew it was exactly what God was providing them. After months of discussions and paperwork, UABC recently met for the first time in its new facility. What a great day of worship. A church building that had housed just a handful of people a few weeks earlier was filled with life. I am so grateful that the leaders of Alpha Baptist were willing to release what belonged to God already and were able to see Him at work. This is another example of why we are “better together.”



The congregation of United Awakenings Baptist Church (UABC) celebrated its first Sunday in its new facility.



Reagan Wagoner - Southwest

Hey Southwest Region! I have three big goals for our region this year: to give established pastors and leaders an opportunity to connect with new pastors who may or may not be in an association; to continue to help pastors raise up leaders. There is a leadership and discipleship deficit, and we need to continue to equip pastors to focus on developing lay leaders and staff in competency, character, and conviction, giving them practical tools to do so; and to come alongside pastors who need help and encouragement.

Below are 2023 calendar dates. I would love for you to join us, and you will not have to leave southwest Ohio! More details coming soon, but mark your calendars now:

- July 15 - **Pastor/Planter FC Cincinnati night** - Get to know our new planters and watch Cincy's soccer team at the same time!
- August 5 - **Reds Faith Day (For King and Country Concert)** - More details to come in April!
- September 7 - **Southwest Ohio Leadership Conference** - at FBC Kettering
- October 16 - **Send Ohio/Send Cincy Pastors Lunch - 11:30-1 pm** – at Lakota Hills. Special Guest: Linda Moore, CPA. Focus: Church Finances
- November 13 - **Send Ohio/Send Cincy Pastors Lunch- 11:30-1 pm** – Location: TBD Focus: Missional Engagement

I am scheduling March/April lunches now, so let me know if you would like to get together. Just send me an email today!

MINISTRIES HUB

UPDATES

REGIONAL U

REGIONAL UPDATES



Rick Williams - Central

Each week I have the privilege to meet with pastors. It is so encouraging to see and hear how God is at work in and through their lives and churches. Recently, I had the opportunity to talk with Pastor Scott Gibson of the Bridge Church in Lancaster. He shared the great things happening. So far this year they have had sixteen new members and seven baptisms! Through a new ministry initiative called BRIDGE 2540, they are feeding 116 families and supporting 56 children in foster care. They are also providing 300 to 400 backpacks filled with hygiene products to the homeless

and those struggling with addiction. Praise the Lord!

Daniel Henderson will be leading the SCBO Prayer Summit and Workshop, March 23-24, at Violet Baptist Church in Pickerington. This will be a wonderful opportunity to experience prayer and be equipped to create a culture of prayer in your church. The Prayer Summit will be Thursday, March 23, from 10 am – 4 pm. The Prayer Workshop will be Friday, March 24, from 9 am – 12 pm. Let me encourage you to register for these events at: <https://scbo.org/prayersummit>.

Another important event in Central Ohio will be VBS Training. The SCBO VBS Training Team will be leading an event at FBC Westerville on Tuesday, April 25, from 7 pm – 9 pm. You can find more information about this event at <https://www.scbo.org/vbs>.



Stephen Owens - Northeast

Pastors and churches in the Northeast Region are looking toward spring and summer. They are planning outreach events and events to encourage their congregations. I want to take a moment to highlight two events coming this spring that will be a blessing to the churches we serve.

Many churches are excited about having VBS to share the gospel and the word of God with their communities. One of the best ways to prepare for VBS is to attend training. This year, one of the VBS training events will be held here in the Northeast. The VBS training is April 1, at Cornerstone

Church of Aurora. Sign up and bring your VBS team to learn best practice ideas for making your VBS a success. Thank you, Pastor Drew Carroll and Cornerstone Church of Aurora for hosting the VBS training and serving the Northeast.

The Lead Well Conference is set for May 19-20, at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Bedford, Ohio. This conference is designed to encourage pastors and church leaders to lead well for the glory of King Jesus. To be easily accessible and a blessing to bi-vocational church leaders, the Lead Well Conference is being held on Friday evening and Saturday morning. We have a great lineup of speakers ready to come and equip you and your leadership team. Register yourself and your team now to attend Lead Well. God Bless. <http://mtcalvaryofbedford.org/events/lead-well-conference>



Jack Helton - Southeast

Thank you to Art Fulks for his servant leadership in the Southeast Region these past fourteen months! As the Lord leads, please pray for him and his wife Lesa as they transition to his new associational role in Georgia.

Exciting things are happening in the region in children's discipleship and evangelism. Ebenezer, FBC Logan, and New Lexington BC have partnered with LifeWise Academy (www.lifewise.org) to capitalize on the opportunity to provide Christian education to public school students

during public school hours. Ebenezer recently held a LifeWise awareness event with more than three hundred people in attendance. In addition, Ohio Lt. Governor Jon Husted and LifeWise Founder Joel Penton met with multiple school superintendents in the region to explore advancing this much needed ministry.

Finally, Southeast Region churches hosted Valentine's Day events. Many couples attended these events which provided our churches an opportunity to bring together Christian couples for a night of faith, fun, fellowship, and food.

Disaster Relief Serves East Palestine Residents Following Train Derailment

By Stephanie Heading



Train tracks in East Palestine run directly behind homes.

The derailment of a Norfolk Southern train in the rural town of East Palestine, Ohio has been in the public eye for weeks. Recently, Dr. John Heading, state director of Ohio Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (OSBDR) traveled to the crash site and met with Norfolk Southern executives to investigate how OSBDR could help residents impacted by the disaster.



Ohio DR teams cleaned and sanitized these homes following the train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio.

According to Heading, one of the biggest concerns right now is the safety of the drinking water. “Norfolk Southern is providing free bottled water, air quality testing, and water well testing in the affected areas,” said Terry Richey, Norfolk Southern, director, legal claims.

Speaking with residents of the area, Heading recognized that East Palestine residents are hoping for more. “I was

.....
“I was floored at how uncertain and anxious the residents were”
.....

floored at how uncertain and anxious the residents were,” said Heading. “They want to believe what they are being told, but they are hearing so many conflicting things that they do not know who to believe.”

Heading discovered that the greatest unmet need is to help residents clean the inside of their houses, enabling them to go home and feel confident that it is as safe as it can be. The first OSBDR team deployed to East Palestine recently, working to bring Help, Hope, and Healing to those impacted. The team included nine members who traveled from Middletown, Fairborn, Pickerington, Heath, Elyria, and Cuyahoga Falls to East Palestine on the Ohio-Pennsylvania border.

“There is still a lot of assigning blame, but in talking with the Norfolk Southern executives, I indicated that we were there to help the residents and that we would leave it to others to resolve those issues,” said Heading. “There were several homes cleaned on the first day. With two of the homes, the railroad tracks went right through their backyards. You could stand on the tracks and look just a short distance to the left and see the crash site,” said Heading.



DR teams deep cleaned homes so residents can return following the train derailment.

President's Pen

by Dr. Ray Umphrey



Speaking of the miracle of regeneration, Jesus told Nicodemus, “The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit” (John 3:8). I’ve heard this verse several times in recent days to describe how God moves and stirs His people. I have found it to be helpful in thinking about ministry in the local church. We cannot always know what God is doing in the church through long, seemingly unremarkable days of ministry. Yet big doors may turn on small hinges.

Last year, I went through some of the most intense, taxing months of my ministry. I was pulled in various directions and felt like my productivity and effectiveness as a pastor was at its lowest point. Yet, in this season, we saw more baptisms at Briggs Road Baptist than we had seen in any single year since I became the pastor. Time would fail me to recount some of the amazing things we saw last year apart from my own effort (I’m going to ask you not to try to connect any dots there!). What I am saying is that there are times that we work and toil and see little fruit, yet there are seasons in which God does great things and we cannot even really find a direct reason other than the supernatural work of the Spirit of God.

The Lord of the harvest rewards consistent, faithful ministry in the context of the local church. Preach the Word, love the church, reach the community, and expect God to work. The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio is here to help you do that.

I would 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.

Your partner in the gospel,

Ray Umphrey
SCBO President



One resident the OSBDR team served was Matthew Day. He and his family live only a few blocks from the derailment site, and he is burdened about his family’s future. “There’s no real answers related to long-term issues with the soil and water,” Day said with tears in his eyes.

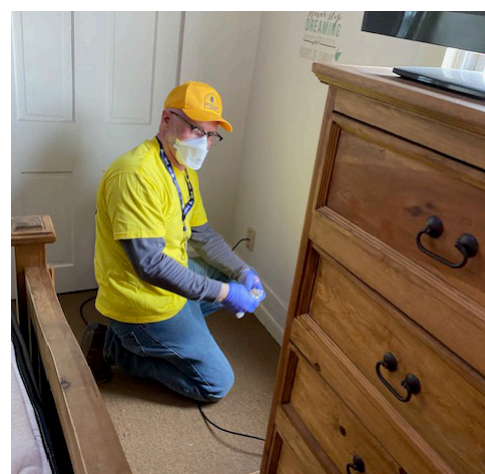
“My family feels so blessed to have OSBDR serving my family. We are so grateful,” said Day. “We want to thank

“My family feels
so blessed”

Southern Baptists for having such a dynamic ministry as Disaster Relief.”

The work OSBDR does for victims of disaster is always free to homeowners. “We never charge a dime, that is why support from churches, individuals and the Cooperative Program is so vital,” said Heading.

OSBDR is planning to deploy additional teams to clean more homes. “Our goal is to bring real help to people in need. In doing so, we have the opportunity to



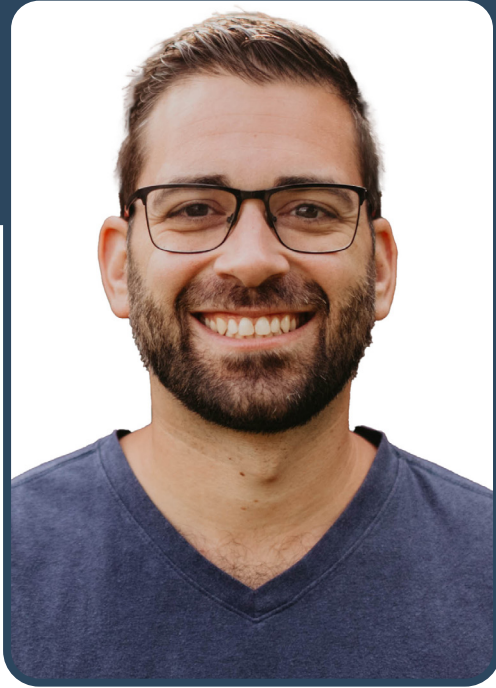
Deep cleaning helps to restore a feeling of safety for residents.

share the gospel of Jesus Christ where lasting hope and peace are found.”

To financially support OSBDR in the work in East Palestine, please visit <https://www.scbo.org/DR>.



Power washing homes in the evacuation zone.



Church Planter Profile: Joe Kaloger, H2O Athens

to go into ministry. Around this time H2O Church started the H2O Network and began helping plant other H2O churches around Ohio. I felt a calling from God to be a part of this mission to reach college students through church planting. I went on staff after graduating college and got involved in our church's Pastors in Training Program.

Ohio, stood above the rest. OU is known as one of the top party schools in the country, and Athens, Ohio is also considered a "post-Christian" city. We knew of many people over the years who spent some time in the area and shared how hard it was to follow God there. Athens is in the

.....
"We could not do this without them"
.....

The Ohio Baptist Messenger reached out to Joe Kaloger to learn more about his life, ministry, and the church he leads in Southeastern Ohio...

Share about your background.

"I grew up attending church and my parents modeled lives devoted to Jesus. Despite this upbringing, near the end of high school I began living a double life where I was one person at church and another person around my non-Christian friends. Going to college at Bowling Green State University (BG) the temptation to live a double life remained. However, I knew I needed to find a church. I heard about this 'Water Church' meeting on campus. Seeing hundreds of college students worshipping God had a profound effect on me. Everyone at this service was there because they wanted to be. I met guys who started to pour into my life; I confessed sin; and I made the decision to stop living a double life and give Jesus my everything."

How did you decide to become a church planter?

"At H2O BG, I began reading my Bible daily and got disciplined. During this season God gave me the desire

This program helped me to grow to understand God's calling on my life to be a pastor and develop skills for church planting."

Why did you choose Ohio University, Athens, as the location for your church plant?

"In 2018, my wife and I felt our time in Bowling Green was coming to an end, and God was calling us to plant an H2O Church. We felt a strong desire to go to a difficult place and after looking at all the options available, Ohio University, in Athens,

Appalachian region of Ohio, and the area is known for its high drug use and poverty rate. Despite all of this, we felt a strong calling from God to go."

What challenges have you faced at H2O Athens, and how have you seen the Lord work through them?

"The first challenge we faced was planting near the end of Covid. Thankfully God led us through this and it seemed like college students coming out of covid were seeking



H2O Athens Church Plant Team. Women left to right: Natalie McPheron, Maddy Bell, Jill Beebe, Stephaine Kolpitcke
Men left to right: Joe Kaloger, Jason Sands, Bryan Kolpitcke, Josh McPheron, Lee Dubois, Caleb Burlile

What victories have you experienced at H2O Athens?

“We have been encouraged by the life change we have seen. We have baptized seven people already. All of them with unique stories. It is funny how before planting a church you have all these plans and dreams, but it is special when you start to see people come to services, grow as leaders, and become your friends. I feel like in these moments we just start to feel worshipful and thankful to God and how he begins to use the people you’re ministering to start ministering back to you. Currently we have seventy people coming to our Sunday gatherings and we offer small groups during the week.”

What are your long-term goals for H2O Athens?

“Long term, we have a dream of seeing H2O Athens grow into a multi-generational church that seeks to reach both the campus and the city with the gospel. Our partnership with the SCBO and our local association has been significant in our desire to meet this goal. That partnership led us to meet our good friends, Pastor Jim Difilippo and his wife Jean, who served at First Baptist Church in Athens for a number of years. After we moved to Athens, the Difilippos along with the members of FBC

Athens shared a desire to partner with us in our mission to reach the campus and the city. In the summer of 2022, the members of FBC Athens



H2O Athens reaches out to students at Ohio University.

community and answers more than ever. Beyond this, planting in a new city has its difficulties. Athens can feel like the middle of nowhere and you can feel that while you here. But as we’ve gotten more acclimated to the area, this place has felt more and



H2O Athens is a church plant in two locations: Ohio University and the former First Baptist Church Athens.

more like home. The people are truly amazing, and we’ve been blessed by the support of other churches and ministries in the area who have not been territorial but truly have welcomed us in.”

voted unanimously to merge with us, which resulted in H2O Athens receiving their building. We’ve been meeting primarily on campus for services but our plan once we’re ready is to have two services, one on campus and the other at the former FBC Athens building. Please continue to pray for us in this process that we would continue to be faithful to the calling God has for us.”

Spring Cleaning and Estate Planning

By Jack Helton

Are you ready for spring cleaning? It is that time of the year again when families set aside time to tackle various projects around the home. For some, it is a deep clean from top to bottom. For others, it may just be tidying up the ever-expanding clutter. Whatever it is, the goal is to get your house in order.

Another aspect of getting your house in order, sometimes overlooked, is to establish or review your estate plan. A recent study found that the majority of Americans have no estate plan in place, much less an updated estate plan. As followers of Christ, we recognize that everything we have in this life has been given to us by God. Our responsibility is to be good stewards of all these gifts, whether it be a few dollars or thousands of dollars.

One simple way to accomplish this is by having an updated and properly established estate plan. A good estate plan should not only provide for your loved ones but should also have an impact on the Kingdom. Consider your church and the various ministries you have supported during your life. By including them in your estate plan, you can continue to advance the kingdom and encourage a legacy of giving for the next generation.

For more information on estate planning, please call 614-309-9738 or email jackhelton@scbo.org



Church in Need Receives Aid From Cooperative Program, Other Churches

By Stephanie Heading



Debris outside New Journey Church following car crash.

On December 30, 2022, the building of New Journey Church in Cleveland sustained significant damage at the hands of a hit and run driver. The still unknown driver sped one thousand feet across the church’s front yard and plowed into the facility, leaving a gaping hole.

Pastor Charles Redmon contacted Reginald Hayes, SCBO convention relations, to see what help SCBO might be able to provide. Hayes contacted John Heading, director of Disaster Relief, to see if DR might be able to lend aid.

\$5,000 and the contractor agreed to fix the building and allow them to pay the other \$10,000 when they were able to raise the money.

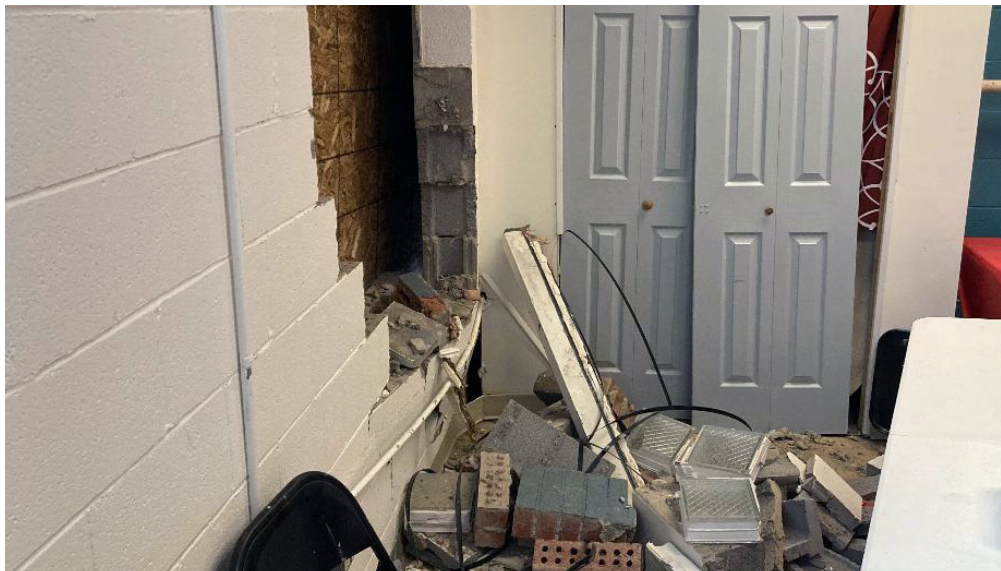
At this point Disaster Relief stepped back into the picture as Heading began reaching out to SCBO churches and North American Mission Board Send Relief to raise the funds to pay off the

\$10,000 debt. “I just felt it was something we should do. We couldn’t repair the damage, but together we could pay the bill,” said Heading. “I sent emails to ten SCBO churches for support. I also sent an email to Coy Webb, Southern Baptist Disaster Relief senior leader, who forwarded the email to Josh Benton, domestic vice president of Send Relief North American Ministry.

“I just felt it was something we should do”

However, “The scope of the work was beyond what we could do right now,” said Heading.

The church found a contractor who was willing to repair the hole in the building for \$15,000, but New Journey didn’t have those funds available. They collected



Damage inside New Journey Church following the car crash into the building.

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PASTOR MATT PARDI
H2O CHURCH & NETWORK



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INTERIM PRESIDENT AND CEO, SBC



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Send Relief donated \$7,500; and Ohio Disaster Relief, First Baptist Church,

“We can do so much more
when we work together.”

Heath, University Baptist Church, Beavercreek, First Baptist Church, Fairborn, and a private donor provided the rest of the money so New Journey

Church could pay the contractor and move forward from this incident.

“The financial gifts toward the needs at New Journey Church came from individuals, churches, Ohio Disaster Relief, and Send Relief Cooperative Program funds,” Heading said. “Once the need was known, organizations across SBC and SCBO worked together to meet it. We can do so much more when we work together.”



New Journey Church after car crashed into facility.

First Baptist Church Mt. Orab Rehabs Old House for New Mission

By Cathy Pound and Stephanie Heading



The new mission house at First Baptist Church Mt. Orab.

The old house has been on the property of First Baptist Church (FBC), Mt. Orab, since the church built a new facility there in 2003. “It came with the property,” said Kim Smith, secretary at FBC. Originally used as a place for the youth to meet, the house has been empty and unused in recent years.

About two years ago, church members began to consider what they should do



Ribbon cutting at the FBC Mt. Orab mission house.

with the deteriorating building, and they hoped to find a worthwhile purpose for the outdated dwelling. They finally decided to turn the house at 706 South

High Street, next door to the church, into a mission home to serve missionary families who need a place to live when they are in Ohio.

For the past six to seven months, twenty-five to thirty church members worked together to restore, decorate, and fully furnish the two-bedroom, one bath home, making it a comfortable place for missionaries and their families. “We put a lot of blood, sweat, and tears into the house,” said Smith, who also served on the Design Team for the project. “It was exciting seeing it come together.”

The Design Team collaborated with missionaries in mind as they remodeled the residence. “We set up the main bedroom as an oasis for the couple, and we were strategic with the second bedroom,” Smith noted. They placed bunk bed in the room with a twin bed on top and a full bed below. “We tried to keep it classy for any aged kids,” she added.

In addition to starting a new ministry, Smith says they also wanted to bring missions closer to home for FBC Mt.

Orab. “We want our people to get enthused with missions.”

The church already has a plan to welcome missionaries to the house and to their church. When a new missionary family comes to stay, the church members plan



FBC Mt. Orab celebrates the opening of its mission house.

to scrub the house clean and fully stock the kitchen for their guests. “We would really like to use it a lot,” said Smith.

Led by Senior Pastor Jonathan Lawler, FBC recently celebrated the completion of the mission house with a ribbon-cutting, dedication, and open house at the new facility.

Jones Joins SCBO Staff as Part-time Revitalization Consultant

By Stephanie Heading

New SCBO Revitalization Consultant Mark Jones has experience in revitalizing declining churches, and he believes this new part-time job fits well with his current ministry focus. He has already revitalized churches in Ohio, and he is currently working to revitalize the church he pastors, Freedom Hill Community Church, Stow.

However, as a church planter, he was not always interested in revitalizing established churches. "I started as a church planter, and I did not care much for the established church," said Jones. He saw churches in declining health. "A lot of established churches had given up – they were going on hospice." Over time he grew to see the need for revitalization in established churches. "I grew to have a heart for the people."

As he begins his new position, Jones is working to determine the number of SCBO churches in decline, so he is looking through Annual Church Profile (ACP) data. So far, he believes that approximately sixty percent of SCBO churches are declining. He also feels this number is probably accurate across the nation.



Mark Jones, SCBO Revitalization Consultant

Despite the data, Jones believes churches can be revitalized, and he can help them begin the process.

An examination of the church is the first step towards revitalization. "Every church should have an annual physical," said Jones, and he has resources to facilitate the process. "I can provide an assessment called 'The Pulse' that can let churches know where they are weak." Jones notes that doing an assessment can be hard work for the pastor and congregation but in the end it is worth it.

Once the assessment is complete, Jones has resources and training to help churches move forward to begin working on their weakest issues. "The hardest thing to admit is that your church needs a transition," said Jones. "I love for the church to discover the needs themselves. If they discover it, they own it."

For more information or to set up a meeting to discuss how to begin revitalization, contact Mark Jones at mjones@scbo.org.

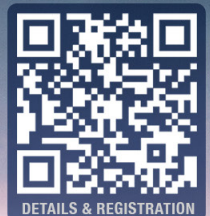
PRAYER SUMMIT

& Prayer Workshop

With Daniel Henderson (6:4 Fellowship)

SCBO 
The State Convention Of Baptists In Ohio

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



The SCBO has partnered with the Florida Baptist Convention to introduce this new ministry to Ohio. Visit onemorechild.org to learn more...



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FRANKLIN

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Feb.

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Cornerstone Church

AURORA

1
April

Southeast

Trinity Baptist Church

CAMBRIDGE

15
April

West

First Baptist Kettering

BEAVERCREEK

22
April

Central

First Baptist Church

WESTERVILLE

25
April

Northwest

H2O Church

BOWLING GREEN

9
May

Disciple Leaders Network Partnership Continues to be a Great Resource

By Steve Hopkins

Jesus' final command was to make disciples; pastors and church leaders are tasked with equipping the church to make disciples. How do we call followers of Jesus to cut through the world's distractions and embrace disciple-making? The Disciples Leaders Network's (DLN) vision is to champion disciple leaders so they can experience success in equipping the church to make disciples. They work to connect disciple-making leaders with biblical and practical disciple-making solutions, resources, ideas, and strategies.

SCBO has partnered with DLN to provide benefits for disciple-makers. All church leaders in our churches receive a free

membership to DLN, a \$69 value. See the QR code below to register. This provides access to all member resources, training, and discounts, including attending the annual conference for the \$39 member cost.

"One Body=One Mission" will be the theme for the 2023 conference, April 20-21, at Forest Hills Baptist Church, Nashville, TN. Keynote speakers include Jeff Iorg, president, Gateway Seminary, and Brian Kennedy, professor, Gateway Seminary. The conference will provide practical steps for helping you improve your disciple-making strategy; practical ways to discover and develop volunteers and staff; and practical steps for leveraging existing and new relationships.

Activate
Your Free
Membership

Provided to you by the
State Convention of
Baptists in Ohio



For more information,
go to discipleleaders.com/conference.



Job Postings

BUSINESS Administrator

FBC Grove City is currently seeking a full-time Business Administrator. The Business Administrator assists the church in conducting its mission by planning and implementing effective organizational and fiscal processes to achieve its goals. This includes, but is not limited to, providing oversight of church facilities, managing custodial personnel, providing administrative support, and supporting the ministries of FBC Grove City as directed by the Lead Pastor.

[Click here for more information](#) or to apply contact us at admin@firstgc.org.

YOUNG Adults Director

The ideal candidate for Cuyahoga Valley Church Young Adults Director is humble, convinced of the power of God's Word, dedicated to prayer, committed to life-on-life discipleship, able to teach, competent to counsel, clear in their communication, and dedicated to a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

Must be a born-again, baptized believer. Must affirm the Baptist Faith & Message 2000. Must be at least 30 years old. Prefer 5+ years of church leadership experience. Prefer Bible college or seminary degree. Interested candidates should email a current resume to CVC Equip Pastor Joe Valenti at Jvalenti@cvconline.org.

SENIOR Pastor

Monterey Baptist Church, a rural congregation situated thirty miles east of Cincinnati, Ohio, is seeking full-time and part-time/bi-vocational applicants for Senior Pastor. The church is self-governed and shares affiliation with the Southern Baptist Convention and works in cooperation with the SCBO and the Cincinnati Area Baptist Association.

The Senior Pastor will implement church policies and practices as outlined in the church constitution and will shepherd with maturity as a model servant of his congregation, his family, and his community.

Please submit resumes to Montereybaptistclermont@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

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.

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