



Campus Pastor Shifts Focus to Local Church Ministry

By Stephanie Heading

For the past thirty-one years, Ken Dillard has served the University of Cincinnati (UC) as campus pastor. At the end of May, he will be retiring from this role to focus on the pastorate at First Baptist Church Mt. Healthy—a role he has held part-time for the past two years.

Throughout his years of ministry, Dillard has believed in being available for whatever the Lord has for him. In fact, the Lord challenged his availability when He called Dillard into ministry in 1977.

“After serving as a college student summer missionary for ten weeks, my call to minister came as a question,” Dillard said. “You made yourself available for ten weeks, would you make yourself available? No vocation. No location. Just availability.”

Five years later in 1982, Dillard says his calling got a little more interesting. He heard the Lord say, “Everything the world has to offer is available on the college campus, would you make Me available there?”

In 1987, after what he calls “a long season of wrestling with seminary preparation,” Dillard answered that question in his first role as campus minister at Grand Canyon University, then a Baptist college, in Phoenix, Arizona.

In January 1992, Dillard found his ministry home. “I moved my wife Mary Kay and our kids to an unknown land called ‘Ohio,’ and God asked me to make Him available to students at the University of Cincinnati. I have been here ever since, just being available and making Christ available to the college community.”

Over the years, Dillard has ministered to college students in multiple ways, but sharing the scripture with them has been a highlight. “I enjoy teaching, especially the scriptures,” said Dillard. “I especially value the times sitting one-on-one with students. Here we talk about life, faith, and apply truth.”

International mission trips have also been important to Dillard. “I value all international trips—Russia, Israel, China, Turkey, Japan, India and Uruguay—where students learned to make God available in new and different cultures, but all with the same need of the gospel.”

Any ministry experiences challenges as well as highlights and Dillard has seen his share working with students. “‘How do you know . . .’ is a common beginning to a conversation with a student wrestling with the challenges of life. The campus has changed over the years, but the students still bring a lot of the same questions.”

“These students are the reason I came. This is such a critical time of life for a young adult.”

- Ken Dillard

Time for a Family Reunion By Dr. Jeremy Westbrook

Family Reunion. I am confident those words suggest both good memories and some bad ones for all of us with a family. There are also times of laughter and moments of tears. In essence, that is exactly how we should view the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention and why we should strive to attend if possible. If you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, then you have family not only in Ohio, but literally all around the world.

In less than two months, thousands of our brothers and sisters in Christ, from different backgrounds and ethnicities, rural and urban, will gather together in New Orleans, LA and convene for the 2023 SBC Pastors Conference and Annual Meeting, June 11-14, 2023. You may be asking the question, why should I come? I would like to ask you the question,

why would you not come? Your voice and your vote matter.

There are so many good memories that are made as we network, fellowship, and yes, take those nice new highlighters from the Guidestone exhibit booth! Many of us make new friends and catch up with old friends in the hall to the point that we sometimes forget to come back into the main room...that is what a family reunion is supposed to be. Yes, I know there are tough business sessions and issues that we must tackle, but don't all families have tough times and issues to tackle?

The SEND Luncheon and the IMB Commissioning Service are always a highlight, as we remember why we cooperate and stay together as a family. We love to see new churches

planted and missionaries commissioned and sent. We are enjoying record enrollment on several of our SBC seminary campuses. Therefore, we truly are better together. We are stronger together. We must cooperate together because that is what families are to do.

I look forward to seeing you in New Orleans at our next *Family Reunion*.

To learn more about the SBC Annual Meeting, please visit www.sbcannualmeeting.net.

Dr. Jeremy Westbrook
Executive Director-Treasurer



Lamar O'Bryant: A Legacy Worth Leaving

By Jack Helton, SCBO community relations - regional

The State Convention of Baptists recently lost one of its most influential and God-glorifying servants. Rev. Lamar O'Bryant, age 86, went home to be with the Lord on March 29. He spent fifty years of his life serving churches in the Scioto Valley Baptist Association.

After hearing the Lord's call to leave his job as a carpenter, Lamar and his wife Joyce came to Ohio in 1969 from Georgia and were instrumental in starting Sharon Baptist Church in Ironton. He served there for more than sixteen years and then became the pastor at the First Southern Baptist Church of Pomeroy (FSBC). He pastored there for twenty-two years and eventually retired in 2007.

In his later years he served as the interim pastor at the Plains Baptist Church near Athens and then became the mission pastor at Lakeview Baptist Church in Hamden. At the age of eighty-three he and Joyce led VBS at Lakeview with grit, strength, and enthusiasm.

His legacy goes beyond his personal service to the Lord. His three sons are all following in their father's footsteps by serving the Lord. Mike is the pastor at Bloom Baptist Church, Lithopolis. Marty serves as a deacon and worship leader at FSBC Pomeroy, and Matt serves as pastor at Calvary Baptist Church, Ironton.

Lamar's life triumphantly expresses the words of our Lord in Matthew 25:23; "His master said unto him, well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into your master's joy." Thank you, Lamar, for your service to the Lord Jesus and for your life investment in serving Ohio Southern Baptists!

Campus Pastor Shifts Focus to Local Church Ministry *Continued...*

Dillard believes that God is working in students at UC, around them, and through them all the time. He feels God is preparing them through experience, education, adversity, health, finances, and especially through His Word for their next steps.

Dillard has one piece of life advice for students who are wrestling with their futures—“Everything that I have ever done has prepared me for what I am doing now. Why shouldn’t I think that this is just preparation for what I am doing next?”

Looking back across thirty-one years at UC, Dillard returns to the calling he received long ago. “These students are the reason I came. This is such a critical time of life for a young adult. They are making all the big decisions that will guide their steps and their faith for decades to follow. Our campuses are populated by men and women, not kids, who are seeking life answers. This place of ministry is strategic in reaching the world for Jesus and is usually done best reaching them one at a time and teaching other students to reach their campus one life at a time.”

As he steps away from collegiate ministry, Dillard is looking forward to serving a church he loves and with whom he has a long history. “Our family joined FBC Mt. Healthy in 1992. We have been there ever since. I have served churches as a guest, an interim pastor, a confidant

for young pastors, and even had the joy to pastor for six years at the Bridge Church at Miami University.”

While there are obvious differences between campus ministry and local church ministry, Dillard believes the needs are the same. “The need for an available Savior, an available grace, and an available guidance is still present. I am excited for the new challenge and the new chance to see God work in lives engaged in the next phases of life. I am excited to make Jesus available to them.”

“For me, it has always been about the students and now my focus shifts to the local church. The future of college ministry and the local church is good. God is not done on the campus or in the local congregation. Both are filled with rising cultural challenges and changes. But the Word of God is sufficient and available to all. It is my joy and yours to make it available today and tomorrow wherever we find ourselves.”

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Featured This Month:

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Three years ago, Harrison Avenue Baptist Church, near Cincinnati, had a decision to make. The tenants who were renting the church's former parsonage had moved out and the house was empty. Not wanting to continue renting the property, the pastor had an idea.

Marilyn McQueen remembers Pastor Chris Workman saying, "This would be a great little house for missionaries." McQueen, a member of Harrison Avenue, thought that was a promising idea, as did the rest of the church, and they began preparing the property for its new purpose.

"We had a Mission House Shower," said McQueen. "People donated really well." She said the shower brought in linens, small appliances, and other household goods needed to equip the house. The congregation also provided gently used furniture. "One lady bought a sectional sofa. It looks nice in the living room, McQueen noted.



Harrison Avenue Baptist Church Mission House

Harrison Avenue Mission House Ready and Waiting for Missionaries to Move in

By Stephanie Heading

The three-bedroom house now sits fully furnished and includes everything missionaries could need, including towels, sheets, and kitchen equipment. It can accommodate up to seven people. One bedroom is set up as an office but can also accommodate three children using a bunk bed.

The Harrison Avenue Mission House is in southwest Ohio with access to Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky. Indianapolis is ninety miles away; Columbus is one hundred and twenty miles away; and Lexington is one hundred and two miles from the Mission House.

The Mission House has already served as a short-term home for a church planter and as a year-long residence for a transitional pastor. However, it has yet to house any missionaries, and the people of Harrison Avenue are anxious to welcome a missionary family to their Mission Home as soon as possible.

Dr. Mark Wash is the senior pastor at Harrison Avenue Baptist Church. For more information about the Harrison Avenue Mission Home, please contact Marilyn McQueen at msmcasey70@gmail.com or Cathy Pound at cpound@scbo.org.





The Installation Service for Ray Park as pastor of Power Mission Baptist Church, Cincinnati, took place on Sunday, April 16. The church pulled out all the stops with great speakers and video congratulations from Korea. The two-hour service was followed by Korean Barbecue. Mark Snowden, AMS, Cincinnati Area Baptist Association, gave the charge to the congregation. Ray Park is pictured center with his wife Hana.

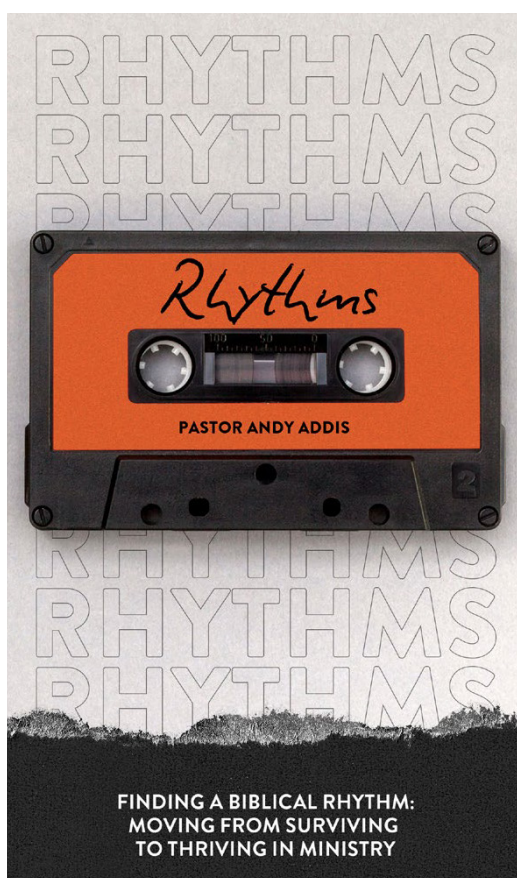
Pastoral Health in Church Revitalization

By Mark Jones, Church Revitalization consultant

The health of the pastor is a vital part of church revitalization. A church is rarely healthier than its pastor, and pastors are rarely aware of their own health decline until they are about to crash. According to a 2022 Lifeway research article, almost sixty-three percent of pastors say they are facing stress in ministry, and forty-eight percent also point to discouragement and distraction as ministry mental challenges.

One of the reasons for the stress, discouragement, and distractions is overload and lack of what Pastor Andy Addis calls “rhythms” in a leader’s life. Rhythms involve a pastor developing intentional times of refreshing in his life, such as weekly days off and vacations.

Examples of “Rhythms” suggestions include take your allotted day off from all ministry responsibilities one day each week. Choose two days, take one. Turn off your phone and computer. Do something you enjoy or develop a new hobby. Take allotted vacations because you earned it,



and your family needs it. Start vacation on a Monday instead of Saturday so that you have a week off sermon preparation. Find a retreat location for pastors and families within a short drive. Most associations have pulpit supply lists to help fill the pulpit for a week or two.

When we are intentional with times of refreshing and disciplined to say “no” to the good so that we can say “yes” to the best, we can avoid the stresses in ministry. To receive a free copy of Andy Addis’s book entitled, “Rhythms,” please contact mjones@scbo.org.

It is such a privilege to serve alongside Ohio Baptists in church health and revitalization. Since January, more than twenty pastors have begun a conversation leading back to health. The first step is to assess the health issues facing you and your church. Are you or your congregation willing to take the first steps back to health?

If you would like to know how we can help, contact me at mjones@scbo.org.

The Midwest Send Network Gathering was an impactful three days with 458 planters and their wives from across the Midwest meeting in Columbus! Join us in praying for the hundreds of churches represented in the Send Network as they continue to engage cities, deepen devotion, and multiply disciples. Thank you, Ohio Baptists, for your generous support of the Cooperative Program and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering to help make this happen! #SNGathering #ReachOhio



UPDATES REGIONAL SCBO REGIONAL REGIONAL UPDATES



Matt Pardi - Northwest

I have heard pastors preach, “God speaks to us through repetition.”

This has become a reality to me over the years. God is gracious to share in repetition through His Word and through others because we are slow of heart and slow to believe.

I have heard prayer talked about in so many arenas in our state and in Northwest Ohio. One of our semi-annual meetings will be focused on this. Prayers are being answered all over our region.

One of these answered prayers is at H2O Toledo. This church has participated in the Multiplication Pipeline over the last year. This great tool has led to great conversations about ministry, life, evangelism, and prayer. H2O Toledo recently had the joy of leading two Iranians to Christ and baptizing them in late April. God has seen the church’s faith in Him and has answered their prayers for influence. We praise God with them, and the other churches in our region that have been faithful to pray and have seen baptisms in this season. Let us keep praying even more.

I loved hearing Daniel Henderson at the Midwest Send Network Gathering in Columbus in April. He and others said, “The prayers aren’t for the work; the prayers are the work.” This is why I look forward so much to the annual Men’s Prayer and Fasting Retreat in May. We hope that men from our region will join us May 18-19 for this free opportunity to go to a camp near Findlay and spend an extra long peaceful time of intimacy with our loving Savior. Please join us and please email me that you are coming. mpardi@scbo.org



Chad Keck - West

One of my favorite things to do is to meet with pastors for lunch. I love hearing how God is working in their churches. This is especially true around Easter. Last month was amazing, and God has been working in the churches in the West Region. Two of the highlights in our region were the VBS Clinic on April 22 and the Pastor’s Lunch and Learn with the IMB on April 27. I hope every church is thinking strategically about how they can use VBS, or another outreach, to share the gospel with kids this summer. I also hope your church actively seeks ways to take the gospel from the neighborhood to the nations. If we can come alongside you in either of these, please do not hesitate to let me know. I would love to grab lunch or coffee and help you think through these. You can reach me at ckeck@scbo.org.



Reagan Wagoner - Southwest

April has been a month of getting to spend good time with our Cincy pastors! Over fifty-plus Cincy pastors attended a Reds game with us as we prepare for Faith Night in August, and I am looking forward to seeing how this could be utilized as a citywide outreach as we invite people not yet in a church to come. There is no easier invite for followers of Jesus than to be able to say, “My family/ church family is going to a Reds game. Want to come?” I am praying for many gospel conversations to take place as we invite our neighbors to be a part of what God is doing!

My wife and I also joined 450+ church planting couples at the Midwest Send Network Gathering in Columbus. Many of our Cincy church planters were there and shared strong reports of what God did on Easter! It got me fired up all over again about what God is doing in our city! We also heard a challenge from Vance Pitman, new president of the Send Network, to pray more for a movement of God in North America. His goal, and the prayer we prayed together, was for 2.75 million people to come to know Christ in the next ten years through planting 11,000 new churches in the next ten years. I am praying we will do our part by being faithful to multiply in Cincy!

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Rick Williams - Central

One of the highlights in March was the SCBO Prayer Summit in Central Ohio! On March 23-24, approximately one hundred pastors and leaders gathered at Violet Baptist Church with Daniel Henderson of The 6:4 Fellowship to experience scripture-fed, Spirit-led, and worship-based prayer. It was an incredible day of worship and prayer! In addition to the all-day Prayer Summit on Thursday, pastors and leaders learned how to lead their churches to cultivate a culture of prayer during a workshop on Friday. Henderson shared during the workshop that “A prayer culture is vital to supernatural mission accomplishment.”

As a pastor and a regional catalyst, I am increasingly convinced that healthy pastors lead healthy churches. Recently, I had the opportunity to attend a Pastor Renewal Retreat at the Billy Graham Training Center at the Cove in Asheville, NC. It was great to see another Central Ohio pastor and his wife at this event. I highly recommend this event for pastors and wives. I encourage pastors to consider attending one of these seminars this year. Lodging and food are free with a minimal charge for materials. Those pastors interested can find more information at: <https://thecove.org/events> or contact me at rwilliams@scbo.org.



Stephen Owens - Northeast

April was encouraging in the Northeast as I have talked with pastors about doing summer outreach events. The summer months are prime times to do outreach events in the community. Praise the Lord, pastors are mobilizing their churches to get out in the community to do prayer walks, sports camps, and Vacation Bible Schools. I am excited to see how God is going to work through our local churches in the Northeast.

SCBO is committed to coming alongside churches to assist them in reaching their communities for the Lord Jesus. Recently, SCBO conducted a VBS Clinic at Cornerstone Church in Aurora. Thank you, Pastor Drew Carroll, and the staff at Cornerstone for hosting this great event. The clinic served fifty-seven Northeast church leaders and equipped them with tools to host VBS at their churches. Following the clinic, the participants filled out a survey commenting on their experience. Madora Jones from First Baptist Church of South Euclid said what was most helpful for her was “learning how to relate to kids and how to teach them on their level, and the materials, ideas, and testimonies that were shared by other attendees”.

SCBO is also focused on helping pastors equip their church leaders so more people can be reached with the gospel. One way we are doing that in May is through the Lead Well Conference on May 19-20 at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Bedford. We have a great lineup of speakers coming to train and encourage us, and we will have a great time worshipping the Lord together. I am personally inviting you and the leaders at your church to attend the Lead Well Conference. Register yourself and your team today. Space is limited. <https://www.scbo.org/event/lead-well-leadership-conference>

If I can be of assistance, feel free to reach out to me at sowens@scbo.org.



Jack Helton, SCBO Senior Staff - Southeast

Spring is in the air and students will soon be out of school for the summer. This means churches in the Southeast Region are gearing up for VBS across the Scioto Valley and Muskingum Valley Associations. Over fifty people attended our regional VBS clinic at Trinity Baptist Church in Cambridge on April 15. The SCBO VBS team trained, encouraged, and equipped participants to be effective for Jesus in the lives of students this summer. Pray for the twenty-plus churches that will soon be conducting VBS!

Dr. Jeremy Westbrook preached the annual sermon at the Scioto Valley annual meeting at Chillicothe Baptist Church on Saturday, April 22. Based on Isaiah 43:19, Westbrook’s message encouraged the more than sixty attendees to join God as He continues doing a new thing across Ohio and the world!

I hope to introduce you to the new Southeast Region Catalyst soon.

SCBO Welcomes Four New Staff Members

By Stephanie Heading

The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio recently welcomed four staff members—two Ministry Assistants and two Assistants in the Information Technology Department.

Chloe Garcia and Patrice Baker are Ministry Assistants who support SCBO efforts with various office and administrative tasks. Garcia is a member of Briggs Road Baptist Church in Columbus, and she is excited to serve SCBO with her skills. “I wanted to expand my administrative capabilities, as I am also assisting my church and my mom’s non-profit organization in the same capacity, and working for SCBO would allow me to learn and grow, yet still engage in a ministry-minded environment.”

Baker will be managing incoming calls to the SCBO offices, and she is a member of Destiny Ministries in Pickerington. She is enjoying her new role at SCBO. “My new role as a Ministry Assistant is a delight. I can utilize my talents and can connect with like-minded believers.”

Katrina Umphrey, SCBO director of operations, is impressed with what Garcia and Baker bring to SCBO. “Amidst the ever-changing landscape of administrative roles, we are proud to have welcomed our new Ministry Assistants, Chloe Garcia, and Patrice Baker.

“Chloe’s youth and intelligence, complemented by her fresh perspectives and versatile range of skills will undoubtedly advance how we provide administrative assistance, and we look forward to seeing her contributions shine.

“Patrice is a warm addition to our staff, bringing her years of experience to enhance various aspects of our mission. She serves here at the SCBO building Monday-Thursday each week and soon she will be the lovely voice greeting our incoming callers.”

The Information Technology Department has also welcomed two new assistants—Seth Wicker and A.J. Frasure. “Both Seth and AJ are exciting additions to the SCBO,” said Dan Stupakewicz, SCBO director of information technology. “Their contributions are helping the SCBO embrace and refine communication for the digital era. Going forward, we are poised to provide an unprecedented

level of support to Ohio churches and pastors.” Seth Wicker is a member of Oasis City Church in Westerville, and he is responsible for the design and layout of *The Ohio Baptist Messenger*, the SCBO monthly newspaper. He is also assisting in the redesign and rebuild of the SCBO website, as well as working to help find, implement, and teach new technologies to help grow and improve the current tech stack for SCBO.

Wicker is enjoying his new position. “Both SCBO and my current position align with my values and passions. Growing up in church, I personally gave my life to Christ as a teenager and have pursued him every day since. Joining SCBO has given me the opportunity to work in a field I am passionate about while also sharing my faith and working with others who share the same beliefs.”

“Seth is bringing a fresh perspective to communications for the SCBO,” said Stupakewicz. “He not only has a great eye for imagery and design, but he has also studied the way that people relate and interact with technology. This powerful combination is already helping SCBO staff create more effective and impactful digital communications.”

Frasure is a member of Covenant Church in Grove City, and is creating graphics for *The Messenger*, and social media, as well as other pieces of content for SCBO. He also records and edits short-form video content.

He enjoys using his gifts and skills in his work with SCBO. “I am excited to work with the SCBO because I love being able to equip churches to share the gospel more effectively! Getting to use the gifts that God has given me to further His Kingdom is always a joy!”

“Multiple generations of the Frasure family have served Ohio Baptists, and now AJ is carrying that legacy into the future,” Stupakewicz noted. “AJ has been a fixture at Super Summer Ohio for years - taking photos, producing videos, and capturing the experience for students. Now the whole state will be blessed by his visual communication skills.”

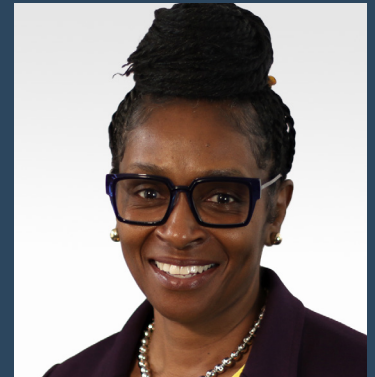


Chloe Garcia

“I wanted to expand my administrative capabilities, as I am also assisting my church and my mom’s non-profit organization in the same capacity, and working for SCBO would allow me to learn and grow, yet still engage in a ministry-minded environment.”

Patrice Baker

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Seth Wicker

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A.J. Frasure

“I am excited to work with the SCBO because I love being able to equip churches to share the gospel more effectively! Getting to use the gifts that God has given me to further His Kingdom is always a joy!”





SCBO Prayer Summit Empowers Churches to Develop Prayer Culture

By Stephanie Heading

Nearly one hundred pastors and leaders from across Ohio spent six hours recently praying and seeking the Lord and His agenda for their lives, families, churches, and communities. They left the time of prayer, scripture reading, and worship ready to move their churches from prayer activity to a prayer culture.

The SCBO Prayer Summit, a two-day event at Violet Baptist Church, featured Daniel Henderson, global leader of The 6:4 Fellowship, leading participants in a unique prayer format, guiding them to draw near to God together in three focus areas – To seek His face more so than His hands; To talk to Him, not just about Him; and To passionately seek to know and intimately relate to Him.

“There is a difference between prayer activity and prayer culture,” said Henderson of the critical role of leadership. “The more vibrant the prayer life of the pastor, the more vibrant the prayer life of the congregations.”

According to Steve Hopkins, SCBO senior staff, pastors and leaders came to the Summit with no personal agendas. “We came just to know His heart though an extended time of worship and devotion, responding to the leadership of the Holy Spirit.”

Before the six-hour Prayer Summit, participants had concerns, according to Hopkins. “The question asked most before the event was, ‘Are we really going to do nothing but pray for six hours?’ However, the most frequent

evaluation comment after the day was, ‘The only thing I would change – make it longer.’”

Austin Mathis, Grace Church, Harrison, was one of those concerned about six hours of prayer. “Not going to lie,” said Mathis. “Walking into a Prayer Summit with no agenda was intimidating and uncomfortable – just spontaneous prayer, scripture reading, and worship all day.”

However, Mathis discovered his fears were unfounded. “The time just disappeared. It was powerful, refreshing, and life-giving to spend the day seeking God’s face through Scripture-fed, Scripture-led, Worship-based prayer. I am excited to lead Grace Church not just to be a church that prays, but to be a praying church.”

Mathis implemented what he learned during the Summit the very next Sunday at Grace Church. “We introduced a new element to our Sunday morning worship—a powerful time of Scripture-fed, Spirit-led, Worship-based prayer.” Mathis noted that the church experienced a dynamic time of praying in community that completely changed its Sunday morning worship. “I was so encouraged by the response, and I am truly looking forward to this dedicated time of prayer each Sunday.



The SCBO Prayer Summit brought together nearly one hundred Ohio pastors and leaders to pray and learn to develop a culture of prayer in their churches.

Story Continues on next Page...

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In addition to scripture-fed, Spirit-led, and worship-based prayer, pastors and leaders also learned how to create a culture of prayer in the church, moving from sporadic, small prayer gatherings to seeing prayer become a core reality of the congregation.

“Prayer grows by experience more than explanation,” said Henderson. “We need to provide life-giving prayer experiences for the church. The shared experience of corporate prayer leads to unity. A prayer culture is vital to

supernatural mission accomplishment. We must learn to do ministry by inspiration, not imitation.”

Dr. Jeremy Westbrook, SCBO executive director, could not agree more. “Pastors are always ‘one thing away’ from a breakthrough, looking for the next staff member, tool, or building,” Westbrook noted. “We have tried everything but the most important thing. We must prioritize praying and fasting if we are going to see the multiplication we need to reach Ohio.”

Ohio Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Gives New Life to Used Equipment through Donations

By John Heading, Ohio Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Director

Ohio Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (OSBDR) uses an array of vehicles and equipment in its ministry to bring help, hope, and healing to those impacted by disasters. However, over time, the vehicles and equipment deteriorate from the rigorous work of disaster relief.

Even though equipment is no longer useful to OSBDR, it can be useful to other ministries. During the past year, OSBDR has donated four items to SCBO churches, extending the life of the equipment and supporting ministries around the state.

Recently, OSBDR donated a 2004 twelve-passenger van to Living Faith Church in Morning Sun, Ohio. The church had been praying for the past year for the Lord to give them a church van so they could bring kids to church. “In 2019 we started a mission to replant a dying church,” said Pastor Allen Stinson.

“When we surveyed the area, parents said they would be interested in sending the kids to church if we had a church van,” said Stinson. “We told Reginald Hayes, SCBO convention relations – community, that we were praying and looking for a van and asked him to keep his ear to the ground for one.”

In March, Hayes called Stinson and told him that he had a van for Living Faith. “We can’t even begin to explain the blessing this was for us!” said Stinson. “On Easter we ran the van and brought in three new kids and one adult for the first Sunday running the van. We cannot thank you enough for donating this van to Living Faith. This van will help us keep spreading the love of Jesus to four forgotten communities here in Ohio and Indiana.”



Dr. John Heading, OSBDR director, presented a decommissioned trailer to Pastor Reginald Hayes of United Faith International.

In addition to donating a van, OSBDR also donated a small utility trailer to United Faith International where Reginald Hayes pastors the church. “The trailer will be used for assisting low-income families who move and cannot afford movers, as well as transporting clothes, food products, cleaning, and hygiene supplies within urban needy communities,” said Hayes.



Reginald Hayes and Dr. Jeremy Westbrook presented a decommissioned OSBDR van to Pastor Allen Stinson, Jade Stinson, and Donald Allstatters, Living Faith Baptist Church, Morning Sun.

In 2022, First Baptist Church Waverly and First Baptist Lancaster expressed interest in trailers OSBDR no longer needed. FBC Waverly received the decommissioned Child Care Unit trailer. “Our church voted to equip a DR trailer so that we could be ready to serve our community or our country in the name of Christ at a moment’s notice,” said Pastor Josh Ramey. “We can also use the trailer to schedule rebuilding assistance. We are ready to serve wherever God directs and are willing to let other churches in our area utilize the trailer for their own DR mission trips as well. We see it as a tool in the hands of Christ.”

First Baptist Lancaster received a trailer and is in the process of getting it ready for community deployment. OSBDR has two 5 x 8 trailers to donate to an SCBO ministry that will utilize them for a ministry purpose. If interested, please contact John Heading at jheading@scbo.org.

President's Pen

by Dr. Ray Umphrey

The biblical principle of leadership multiplication is essential to Christian ministry. Jethro instructed Moses to multiply his leadership to better serve the people of Israel and to preserve his own well-being. Jesus poured into his disciples so that they might continue his work after his ascension. Paul gave Timothy a multigenerational model for raising teachers of the Word (2 Tim. 2:2).

One of the most critical ways to expand the ministry footprint of the church is to seek out and train new leaders. We see this happen in Acts 6:1-7 when the church outgrew its ministry model. As a result of setting aside seven men to manage the ministry to widows, “the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem.”

As a pastor, I make identifying and training new leaders one of my top priorities. As I spend time among the congregation, I bear some key questions in my mind.

- Who is serving when no one is looking?
- Who is faithful in the small things?
- Who is a unifier among the congregation?
- Who is showing signs of growth?
- Who has gifting that needs development?

Skills can be taught, and knowledge can be increased, but Christian integrity is essential. The resources available to Ohio Baptists through Multiplication Pipeline provide leadership development training for anyone interested in growing as a Christian leader. If your church is interested in developing leaders, I encourage you to consider implementing Multiplication Pipeline in your church.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the Central Ohio church revitalization conference, “Loving and Leading the Local Church,” on Thursday, August 24, 2023, at First Baptist Church, Lancaster, OH. The plenary speakers are Brian Croft from Practical Shepherding and Nick Sandefur, Senior Pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, KY. Stay tuned for more information!

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.



Your partner in the gospel,
Dr. Ray A. Umphrey
SCBO President
president@scbo.org

One More Child Expands Children and Family Services to Ohio

COLUMBUS, Ohio, April 13, 2023 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- One More Child today announced a new partnership with the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio (SCBO) and the Florida Baptist Convention to expand foster care, family support and anti-trafficking services throughout the state.

With more than 25,700 children in Ohio's foster care system, there is a critical need to recruit more foster families who can provide a loving home for vulnerable children. As a leading foster care licensing organization, One More Child is working alongside the SCBO, the Christ Foundation, and other partners to provide foster family licensing and support services in Ohio.

"There's an urgent need for more licensed foster families in Ohio and throughout the country," said Dr. Jerry Haag, president, and CEO of One More Child. "Through this partnership with the SCBO, we have an incredible opportunity to bring light to children who are alone and hurting."

One More Child, a global ministry that began in 1904 in Florida, goes beyond serving children within the child welfare system. Its programs are also designed to prevent kids from entering foster care by helping struggling families, especially single moms.

With seventeen percent of Ohio's population being single parent households, One More Child is launching a Single Moms Community Program based on the successful outcomes of its Single Moms Program in other parts of the country. Single mothers willing to participate receive access to tangible resources and assigned mentors to help improve their parenting and life skills with the understanding that God loves them deeply and has a special plan for

their lives. They will also receive lessons on budgeting, resume building and other skills to lead them towards social mobility.

Another focus of this partnership is to help and serve survivors of child sex-trafficking. One More Child is launching an Anti-Trafficking Mobile Team in Ohio, which will offer resources, clinical services and provide a mentor to those who have experienced the horrors of human trafficking. One More Child's mobile team model has been effective in Florida and has expanded to other states, including North Carolina and Tennessee. Team members walk alongside children, teens, and young adults, helping them navigate the journey to emotional, physical, and mental recovery.

"I am thrilled about our new partnership and expanding the influence of One More Child across the Buckeye State," said Dr. Jeremy Westbrook, executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio. "This partnership will serve as a platform to help equip our local churches and families to care for and reach one more child in their communities."

About One More Child: One More Child has provided Christ-centered services to vulnerable children and struggling families for almost one hundred and twenty years. Beginning in 1904 as the Florida Baptist Orphanage, One More Child today operates in more than fifty locations in fifteen countries around the world to meet the needs of foster children, single moms, hungry children, struggling families and sex trafficked children and teens. In 2022, One More Child directly served 236,492 children and families, equipped 237,501 individuals through advocacy, training, awareness, and volunteering and provided 14,129,605 meals. For more information, visit www.onemorechild.org.



**ONE
MORE
CHILD** 

Providing Christ-centered services to

FOSTER CHILDREN

HUNGRY CHILDREN

TRAFFICKED CHILDREN

SINGLE MOMS

STRUGGLING FAMILIES

locally and globally.

onemorechild.org



Six Ohio Baptists attended the first NAMB Replant Rural Summit in Salina, Kansas, in late March.

Pastor Allen Stinson, Living Faith Baptist Church, Morning Sun; Donald Allstatters, member, Living Faith Baptist Church, Morning Sun; Buzz Kocher, SEND Church Planting Catalyst Eastern Ohio Region; Reginald Hayes, SCBO convention relations-community; Pastor Adam Hunt, Living Waters Baptist Church, N. Kingsville; Mark Jones, SCBO revitalization consultant.

Governor Signs Executive Order to Launch Adoption Grant Program

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Governor Mike DeWine today signed Executive Order 2023-09D to launch the Ohio Adoption Grant Program, which provides up to \$20,000 to parents adopting a child. Parents who have finalized an adoption since Jan. 1, 2023, can begin applying for the grant now at AdoptionGrant.Ohio.gov.

“Every child deserves a safe, permanent, loving home,” said Governor DeWine. “Whether you’re adopting from the foster care system, or through private adoption, the Ohio Adoption Grant will help offset the cost of growing your family.”

The Ohio Adoption Grant Program was signed into law by Governor DeWine in January. It provides a grant to parents who adopt children under the age of eighteen.

The grant program replaces the existing state adoption tax credit and offers three levels of one-time payments: \$10,000 to anyone, except a stepparent, adopting a youth; \$15,000 if the parent was a foster caregiver (including kinship caregivers) who cared for the child prior to adoption. A \$20,000 grant to families that adopt a child with special needs, as determined by a qualified professional.

The grant application can be completed online by going to AdoptionGrant.Ohio.gov. Applicants should be prepared to provide two forms of identification and documentation related to the finalization of the adoption, as well as proof of foster and special needs, if applicable.

“Every child deserves a safe, permanent, loving home...”

- Governor DeWine

It includes privately arranged adoptions, as well as adoptions made through a public children services agency, including by foster- and kinship-caregivers. It does not include adoptions made by a stepparent.

“While the \$10,000 grant is available for most adoptions, additional dollars are available for foster caregivers who adopt a child they are caring for, as well as for instances where the child has a special need,” said Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Director Matt Damschroder. “More than 3,000 youth in foster care are awaiting adoption, and this grant will support those welcoming a new member of their family.”

Shortly after taking office, Governor DeWine created the Children’s Services Transformation Advisory Council as part of the Governor’s Children’s Initiative to improve Ohio’s children’s services system. The council made thirty-seven recommendations that recognize the need to remove barriers to permanency by increasing the pool of prospective adoptive families. All 37 of those recommendations are either fully implemented or in the process of being implemented.

“This grant will provide needed resources for families looking to grow their family through adoption. Our goal is to make Ohio the best state to start and raise a family,” added Governor DeWine.

Job Postings

SENIOR Pastor, Monterey Baptist Church

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.

YOUNG Adults Director, Cuyahoga Valley Church

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, Sidney Baptist Church

Sidney Baptist Church, a rural congregation situated thirty miles north of Dayton, Ohio, is seeking full-time applicants for Senior Pastor. The church is self-governed and shares affiliation with the Southern Baptist Convention and works in cooperation with the SCBO.

The pastor is responsible to the church for proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ, using his skills in administrative leadership, engaging in pastoral care ministries to meet the needs of persons in the church and in the community, and acting as the chief administrator of the ministerial and vocational staff.

Please submit resumes to Sidney.baptist@yahoo.com.

SUMMER Internship, Crestview Baptist Church

The ideal candidate for CVC 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.

Qualifications: A born-again, baptized believer, affirming of the Baptist Faith & Message 2000, and be at least 30 years old. Ideally 5+ years of church leadership experience and a Bible college or seminary degree.

Interested candidates should email a current resume to CVC Equip Pastor Joe Valenti at Jvalenti@cvconline.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

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.

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