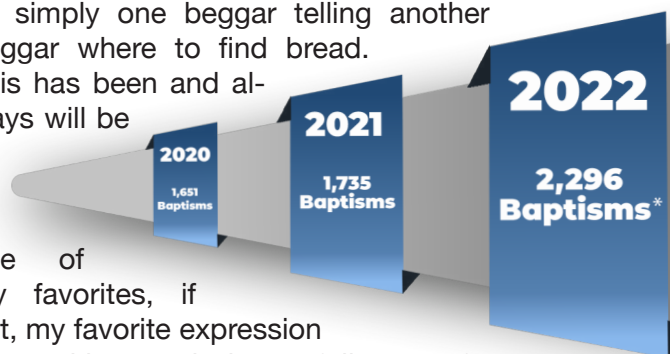


Baptisms on the Rise

Throughout the decades evangelism has been defined as simply one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread. This has been and always will be



one of my favorites, if not, my favorite expression of our ultimate mission as followers of Christ. Have you ever thought about why the Lord leaves us here on Earth after we are saved? The Scriptures teach us in 2 Corinthians 5 that it is to represent Him as an ambassador and bring as many people with us to Heaven as possible!

I am so thankful for my Ohio Baptist family and how you are fulfilling the Great Commission across the street and around the world. I just received our Annual Church Profile statistics for the 2022 reporting year. I

39%
increase over
past two
years

am beyond thrilled to share with you that our SCBO family has been busy telling others where to find the Bread of Life, resulting in 2,296 baptisms last year.

Not only is this an incredible number, but it also represents a thirty-two percent increase over the 2021 reporting year, with a recorded 1,735 baptisms. It also indicates a thirty-nine percent increase over the past two years, going back to the 2020 reporting year, which saw 1,651 baptisms.

Although we are not quite back to pre-Covid numbers, we are moving forward and experiencing an amazing movement of the Lord among our churches across the state. I want to encourage all our churches to continue to engage your community with the gospel and to stay focused on the mission, not the mess. The Southern Baptist Convention needs healthy state conventions, which in turn need healthy churches. Ultimately, we are a convention of churches. Therefore, my prayer is for our SCBO churches to be healthy, through obeying the Great Commandment and fulfilling the Great Commission.

Please remember that if you are a cooperating SCBO church and contributing to the Cooperative Program, there are evangelism grants that your local church can apply for to help those around you find the Bread of Life. Please reach out to me at jwestbrook@scbo.org for more information on these grants. Remember, we are all just beggars telling other beggars where to find bread.

Dr. Jeremy Westbrook
Executive Director-Treasurer, SCBO



Baptism at H2O Athens Church Plant. Church Planter Joe Kaloger serves as pastor.

* Source: Annual Church Profile, May 4, 2023

RECLAIM

CONNECTING AND ENCOURAGING PASTORS IN YOUR AREA

JUNE 16, 2023 / 10:00AM - 1:30PM

THE STATE CONVENTION OF BAPTISTS IN OHIO OFFICE
9000 ANTARES AVE., COLUMBUS, OH 43240

- LUNCH PROVIDED BY THE 6:4 FELLOWSHIP -

TO REGISTER FOR FREE, GO TO OUR WEBSITE:
64fellowship.com/reclaim

THE **6:4** FELLOWSHIP
Trusting God's Word and His Promises

Regional 6:4 Fellowship Gathering Set for June 16

Is it time to refuel? Do you need to refresh or recharge your passion for ministry and fellowship with like-minded pastors in your area? Remember, the enemy doesn't have to destroy you, he only needs to distract you.

RECLAIM gatherings are designed to reconnect, or connect for the first time, pastors for a time of equipping, edifying, and praying as a strategic cadre united in purpose. This is a great opportunity to refuel and invigorate your passion for your ministry. A RECLAIM gathering is set for Friday, June 16, in the SCBO training room, 9000 Antares Avenue, Columbus, beginning at 10 am and concluding at 2 pm. Registration is FREE; The 6:4 Fellowship is providing lunch.

Join with other pastors to discover clearer focus, experience deeper fulfillment, enjoy authentic fellowship, and pursue lasting fruitfulness. The RECLAIM gathering will be led by Jeff Sivyler, regional director, along with the National Director of The 6:4 Fellowship, Dennis Henderson. It will include invigorating training, mutual ministry, and lunch, as well as Scripture-fed, Spirit-led, Worship-based prayer.

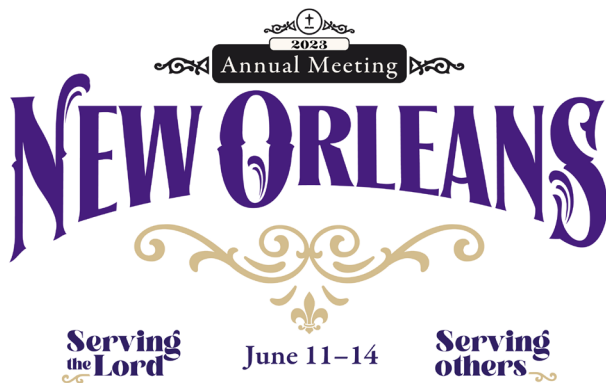
Please visit:
64fellowship.com/events/regional-reclaim-gatherings to register.

Live stream SBC 2023 New Orleans

By Stephanie Heading

When the Southern Baptist Convention convenes in New Orleans, those unable to attend in person can live-stream the Pastor's Conference and SBC Annual Meeting on smart TVs and mobile devices thanks to a partnership with Acts 2 TV network.

This is the second year that the SBC Executive Committee has partnered with Acts 2 TV Network to bring live coverage of events. The Southern Baptist Convention Pastor's Conference begins Sunday, June 11, at 6 pm and continues Monday, June 12, from 8:30 am through 9 pm. The Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting convenes on Tuesday, June 13, at 8 am, and adjourns on Wednesday, June 14, at 5 pm.



To watch the SBC 2023 events live online, go to <https://www.acts2tv.com/>.

From the Acts 2 TV website, you can also download the app to watch on a mobile device.

The link to download for Android from the Google Play store is - <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.acts2&pli=1>

The link for Apple mobile devices is - <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/id1585142977>

Featured This Month

- 04 - *Lending Library Features New Studies*
- 05 - *New Southeast Regional Catalyst*
- 06 - *Regional Updates*
- 08 - *Regional VBS Training*
- 09 - *VBS Summer Outreach*
- 10 - *Ohio Baptist Foundation*
- 11 - *President's Pen*
- 12 - *Partnering With OSBDR*
- 13 - *Church Revitalization*
- 14 - *Interest Meeting for Southeastern Seminary*
- 15 - *SCBO Partners with Center for Christian Virtue*

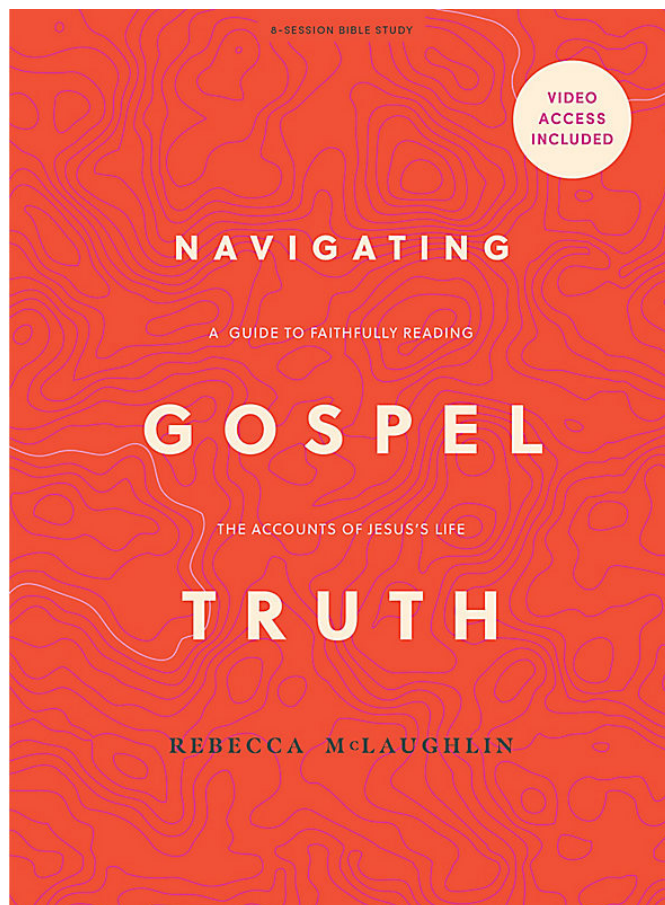
Lending Library Features New Studies

By Stephanie Heading

The SCBO Lending Library is now home to two new LifeWay Bible studies. The first, *Navigating Gospel Truth, A Guide to Faithfully Reading the Accounts of Jesus' Life* by Rebecca McLaughlin, is an eight-session study focusing on the gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. In this study McLaughlin teaches how the four gospels complement each other, as well as how to identify and understand the kinds of writing found in these texts.

The second new study is *When You Pray*, a seven-week study of six specific prayers in the Bible. Six Bible study authors, including Jennifer Rothschild, Jen Wilkins, Kelly Minter, and others, each share a week-long study on a specific prayer, including The Lord's Prayer, Prayers of Adoration, Prayers of Lament, as well of other types of prayer. The study of these prayers can help lead to stronger prayer lives.

Both new Bible studies are available now. Contact Cathy Pound at cpound@SCBO.org to borrow these or other available studies.



Lending Library Give-Away

Due to limited space and SCBO's desire to have the most recent LifeWay Bible studies ready to lend, all studies published before 2020 are now being given away, first come, first served. Please contact Cathy Pound, cpound@scbo.org to request any studies or a list of the give-away studies. Pound will ship the items at no charge. May God use these studies to bless your ministry.

New Southeast Regional Catalyst: Josh Remy

By Stephanie Heading

The Southeast Region has a new catalyst.

“I am thankful to announce that the Mission Council unanimously approved the hiring of Josh Remy as our new SCBO Regional Catalyst for the Southeast Region,” said Dr. Jeremy Westbrook, executive-director, State Convention of Baptists in Ohio.

“This position was previously held by Art Fulks, who moved to Georgia to become an Associational Mission Strategist outside of Atlanta. Josh will remain as the full-time Lead Pastor of First Baptist Church, Waverly. We are grateful that our regional catalyst team is now back to full capacity. I am thrilled that Josh will be available to help network and serve our pastors in the southeastern part of the state convention.”

Remy, who has served in Waverly for the past eight years, understands the issues facing pastors in the region. “It’s a tough area,” said Remy. “There are a lot of challenges in these poverty-stricken areas.”

One of the biggest challenges he sees is the isolation that Southeast Region pastors can experience. “The biggest need for pastors in the Southeast Region is connection--to know that they are not alone doing ministry on an island,” Remy noted. “It can be easy in smaller cities and rural areas to start to feel a little isolated. I want pastors to know that meaningful gospel partnerships exist. These could simply be fellowship and encouragement from other brothers or help finding the right resources.”



SCBO developed a regional approach to ministry two years ago, and the regional catalysts have a mandate to minister directly to pastors in their areas.

“The purpose of our regional catalysts is to champion pastors through peer-to-peer encouragement and to assist, where and when possible, in providing leadership training, ministry resources, and strategy planning,” said Jack Helton, SCBO Convention Relations - Regional.

“They are important because they give the convention a broader and more specific means of connecting with pastors, hearing their hearts, and helping them to be energized in striving towards fulfilling God’s call upon their lives in their ministry context. Catalysts are servant leaders with a passion for serving fellow pastors and leaders!”

UPDATES REGIONAL SCBO REGIONAL REGIONAL UPDATES



Matt Pardi - Northwest

Hello From Northwest Ohio!

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:11. As Paul tells the church to keep on encouraging one another, we are blessed to see the work happening around our region. This work brings encouragement and motivates us to continue.

I am encouraged by Life Station in Toledo. They are feeding and sharing the gospel with hundreds every week! I was blessed to visit Mosaic this month and see their love for the poor. Their reading classes for Baby U, trying to increase literacy among the poor, as well as many other endeavors, are so encouraging. We were also encouraged to have members of the SCBO VBS Training Team come to overwhelm us, in a good way, with their excellent VBS training in Northwest Ohio. The number of decorations and the energy they brought was greatly appreciated.

I am blessed to meet with pastors of smaller churches. They are asking how they can grow their churches and start new meaningful ministries. We were encouraged by the semi-annual meetings that were filled with hope, prayerfulness, and warm fellowship. I am blessed to fellowship with Jeff Woolum and Yuepeng Deng, who are godly, selfless leaders. Jeff leads a large church in Northwest Ohio that is helping Yuepeng with a Chinese church plant. Pastor Deng is already seeing a vision for another church plant and helping a young church planter. This community of believers is encouraging one another to make Jesus known and build God's Kingdom. As they do their work so faithfully, they encourage me to keep going in our mission.

Please reach out to me with your encouraging good news or if you need to hear more stories to bless you. Matt Pardi mpardi@scbo.org



Chad Keck - West

The Southwest Region is hopping. There are so many great things happening across our area. I have loved seeing all the Mother's Day and Graduation Sunday posts online. This is certainly one of the best times of year in the life of a church. As we approach summer, let us commit to pray for each other. So many of us will be leading VBS and doing kids/student camp. Others will be heading to New Orleans for the SBC Annual Meeting. With all the activity, remember to lift each other up in prayer. If you are going to New Orleans, I would love to connect with you for coffee or to hang out. Lastly, please hold September 7, 2023, for the Southwest Ohio Leaders

Conference. Dean Fulks, Thomas White, and Trevin Wax will be our keynote preachers. We will also have multiple breakout conferences. Plan to bring your staff and key volunteers.



Reagan Wagoner - Southwest

Great news from around Cincy this past month! Bridgeway Baptist led by Pastor Brent Cunningham celebrated ten years. Power Mission Baptist Church announced its new pastor, Pastor Ray Park, and Send Cincinnati church planters got to enjoy a Reds game and fireworks since we are finally getting warmer weather! As we gear up for the summer, I want to remind all Cincy SBC churches who filled out an ACP and give to CP that evangelism funding is

available if you need help with VBS or another outreach. Let me know if you are doing outreach and let us share Jesus this summer!

Also, it is not too early to start thinking about this fall! We are already preparing for the second Southwest Ohio Leaders Conference on September 7, at First Baptist Church, Kettering. We are excited about this year's theme, Leaders Raise up Leaders. Joining us will be Dean Fulks, lead pastor, LifePoint, Columbus; Dr. Thomas White, president, Cedarville University; and Trevin Wax, vice president, Resources/Research, NAMB. We will also have fifteen plus breakout speakers. Registration will be available soon at www.swohioleaders.com. The cost is just \$20 for the day, and we are offering "buy one get one free" if you bring somebody with you. I am looking forward to connecting with leaders from all over Southwest Ohio!



Cincinnati area church planters and their families enjoyed an evening at Great American Ball Park watching the Reds and fellowship together.

MINISTRIES HUB

UPDATES

REGIONAL U

REGIONAL UPDATES



Rick Williams - Central

I am so grateful to serve as a regional catalyst in Central Ohio!

It is both a joy and a privilege to see God's people at work throughout Central Ohio churches. The SCBO VBS Training Team did an outstanding job leading VBS training at FBC Westerville in April. It was encouraging to see the team's passion for VBS as they trained those who attended. I'm thankful for Pastor Bryan Grove and the church at FBC Westerville for their hospitality in hosting this event.

Recently, I had the pleasure of speaking with Chad Berry, pastor of New Liberty Baptist Church in Lexington. Pastor Chad has written a book entitled *Communing with God: A Basic Guide to the Discipline of Prayer*. It is a great resource for prayer. I highly recommend this book as a practical tool for pastors and churches. If you would like to get a copy of this book, please reach out to Chad at chadberry522@gmail.com.

Save the date for the Central Ohio Church Revitalization Conference, Loving and Leading the Local Church, on Thursday, August 24, 2023, at First Baptist Church, Lancaster. Don't miss this great opportunity to hear from Brian Croft of Practical Shepherding and Nick Sandefur, senior pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, KY. Registration will be open soon!



Stephen Owens - Northeast

The month of May has been busy and fruitful in the Northeast. I had the privilege of spending time with multiple groups of pastors throughout my region. First, thank you to all the pastors and leaders who attended the Lead Well Conference. Your presence and fellowship were a blessing. We want to continue to bring quality conferences to our region, so your participation and suggestions would be appreciated.

I also spent an evening with church planters at a Send Cleveland outing at The Ax House Cleveland. It was encouraging to laugh and talk with those planters who are starting new churches to reach people in Cleveland. I gave each of them a copy of Bill Elliff's recent book, *Reflections on Spiritual Awakening*. Please continue to pray for the church planters and church plants throughout Ohio.

At the Summit Baptist Association quarterly L.I.F.T. meeting, I spoke on Discipleship to Leadership. There are two areas that pastors and leaders must not neglect -- discipling the saints and developing current and future leaders. Let us be intentional about discipleship and leadership within our churches.



Josh Remy - Southeast

I am just getting started in this role as catalyst, but I can attest to the fact that ministry in the Southeast Region of Ohio can be challenging. We currently have several churches who are without a pastor, but that does not mean God is not working in the region. Real Joy in Chillicothe began gathering for worship in its new facility. Steve Hopkins led a pastors' L.I.F.T. for Muskingum Valley. We also have two mergers - Missional Community is merging with Berean, and Good News is merging with Pathways. While that technically means our overall number of churches decreases, in both situations, it also means that churches are looking for

ways to revitalize and become more effective, so the church grows.

Small towns and rural churches must be very intentional getting to know families in their communities. Many times, the church can help provide options for the social agenda in the area. Two great summer ways to do that are VBS and block parties. If you are in the Southeast Region, we have financial resources and block party trailers to assist you with VBS and community outreach activities. Contact me at jremy@scbo.org or your associational missionary for more information about these opportunities to reach out.

Regional VBS Training Readies Churches for Summer Outreach

By Stephanie Heading

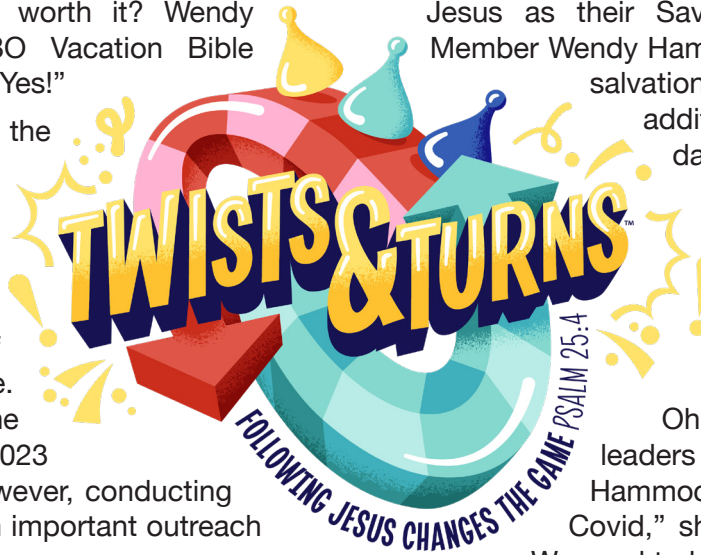
Is Vacation Bible School worth it? Wendy Hammock and the SCBO Vacation Bible School Training Team say “Yes!”

For the past few months, the VBS Training Team has been busy traveling to the six regions of Ohio, training VBS directors and leaders how to navigate the *Twists and Turns* of this summer’s VBS theme. *Twists and Turns* is the game-based theme of the 2023 LifeWay VBS material. However, conducting VBS is not a game--it is an important outreach to communities around Ohio.

“Studies have shown that for every person who attends a VBS Training Clinic, 1.1 people accept

Jesus as their Savior,” said VBS Training Team Member Wendy Hammock. “We could have 350-400 salvations as a result of our efforts.” In addition, a one week three-hour per day VBS provides the equivalent of seven months of Bible study for kids who attend church twice a month. “VBS really gets kids grounded in the Word,” Hammock noted.

The VBS Training Clinics across Ohio saw 288 VBS directors and leaders in attendance, according to Hammock. “We are coming back from Covid,” she said. “We had 250 last year. We used to have 400 attend, but it will take a little while to ramp back up.”



Prayer for VBS Fuels Summer Outreach

As the school year ends, VBS season begins in Ohio. Prayer is an important part of preparation for VBS and SCBO has set aside June 4 as a day to pray for Vacation Bible School. It is a time for churches to pray not only for their own VBS but also for the ones taking place down the street and across the globe.

VBS remains one of the top evangelistic outreaches of the church, resulting in more than 75,000 professions of faith annually in the Southern Baptist Convention. Additionally, each year during VBS, thousands of kids, teens, and adults respond to the calling of God on their lives and make public a decision to pursue a career in ministry or missions. Many of today's church leaders, pastors, missionaries, and teachers share similar testimony. VBS is important work! And it is one that must be undergirded with prayer.

Here are six specific things you and your church can pray for as we observe together the SCBO Day of Prayer for VBS. Ask for God's blessing over your church's VBS and all who will be involved. Pray for the teachers, volunteers, and workers who will serve during

VBS. Ask God to receive their hours of preparation as a pleasing offering and for the Holy Spirit to be at work in and through them. Pray for the children who will attend VBS and the families they represent. Ask God to prepare their hearts to respond to the Good News they will hear at VBS. Pray for their physical safety and emotional well-being during the week.

Pray for those unchurched in your community who will join your church for VBS. Ask God to soften your heart and the hearts of your congregation to welcome, serve, and build relationships with everyone who enters your doors. Pray for those who share the gospel during VBS and follow up with children, students, adults, and families. Ask the Holy Spirit to give them clarity, guidance, and discernment. Pray for churches worldwide who will conduct a VBS, Backyard Kids Club, or other evangelistic outreach this summer. Pray for God's Kingdom to be expanded. Thank God in advance for the blessings and opportunities He will provide through VBS.

In addition to six clinics in Ohio, the team was invited to hold a training in Michigan. "The host church in Michigan had not done VBS in fifty years," said Hammock. "They are excited to start VBS again. They were super appreciative of us coming."

Hammock was happy to see Ohio directors excited to prepare for VBS in their churches. "We want people to get excited," said Hammock. She was also encouraged by the number of churches who were having VBS again after years of not having it or preparing to have it for the first time. "Of the four churches that attended the VBS Clinic at Bowling Green University in May, three of them had never done VBS before," said Hammock. "They came with the intent to get a feel for it, but they were so enthused that they told us they were going to try to pull it off this year."



Summer 2023 Ohio Baptist Foundation Legacy Content: Funding the Future

Right now, numerous ministries around our state are laboring to spread the gospel and provide for those in need. Some are ministering to mothers facing an unplanned pregnancy or providing support and resources to foster families. Others are ministering to international workers and students or meeting the physical needs of those within their community. And countless others are striving to make Christ known through various other ministries spread across our state.

To continue their work and expand their reach into the future, these ministries need the financial support of believers just like you. One way you can help fund the future of these ministries is by establishing a Donor Advised Fund with the Ohio Baptist Foundation.

A Donor Advised Fund is a convenient means of supporting multiple ministries throughout your lifetime and creating a legacy of giving after death without the complexity involved with a private foundation. With a Donor Advised Fund, you get the simplicity of making tax-deductible gifts to a single charitable organization



now, such as the Ohio Baptist Foundation, while also having the flexibility of recommending gifts from the fund to various other charitable organizations in the future, such as your church and other ministries.

What happens in the interim? The gifted funds continue to grow, furthering the impact of your original gift. Because of this, a Donor Advised Fund is a great way to give cash or appreciated assets, e.g., stocks, mutual funds, etc., to support the work being done by your local church and other ministries around our great state as we advance God's Kingdom.

For more information on establishing a Donor Advised Fund, please contact the Ohio Baptist Foundation at 614-309-9738 or email jackhelton@scbo.org.



OHIO BAPTIST FOUNDATION INVITATIONAL Foursome Scramble Golf Tournament

\$500 PER
FOURSOME
DOOR PRIZES
FOR EVERYONE!!

TO REGISTER, VISIT:
[SCBO.ORG/GOLF](https://scbo.org/golf)

MONDAY, JULY 17
CUMBERLAND TRAIL GOLF CLUB - PATASKALA, OHIO

President's Pen

by Dr. Ray Umphrey

It did not take long for the early church to encounter controversy. In fact, we owe much of our New Testament to the apostles' need to address theological and practical errors. Were it not for Jesus' promise to build his church, these attacks by the enemy might have destroyed it. Jesus' promise is certainly a comforting one as we navigate cultural and theological issues today.

Perhaps the church's most significant controversy was over Gentiles' salvation and the practical questions that followed. Conflict arose immediately following the conversion of Cornelius under the preaching of Peter. Later, Judaizers would seek to place the Gentile believers under the yoke of circumcision. The Jerusalem Council recorded in Acts 15 shows how the church navigated this controversy.

First, they did not ignore it. They faced the issue straightway, and the apostles gathered to address it. Second, they did not allow the enemy to disrupt the church. The error of the Judaizers had to be confronted for the good of the community. Third, the church appealed to Scripture as its authority. While they acknowledged Peter's discernible experience concerning the conversion of Cornelius' house, James cites the Old Testament (Amos 9:11-12; Jeremiah 12:15) to demonstrate that God is fulfilling his promises in saving Gentiles.

We will never lack controversies either outside or within the church. Even now, there are many factors the enemy can use to divide us. As Ohio Baptists, may we be people with the courage to speak, the compassion to shepherd, and the concern for the authority of Scripture. Additionally, may we have the wisdom which God alone gives and the humility of Christ in our relationships with one another.

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

OSBDR looking For A Few Good Partners

By John Heading, OSBDR director

Over the next sixteen months, Ohio Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (OSBDR) will be working to expand the number of units that can be deployed to the field. Current units for deployment include a chainsaw unit, a Quick Response Feeding Unit, a 12-passenger van, and three pickup trucks.

Other deployable units are the Cincinnati Area Baptist Association's flood recovery unit, Urbancrest Baptist Church's chainsaw unit, and Ebenezer Baptist Church's recovery unit. Two other churches are working to assemble recovery units, but they are not yet ready to deploy.

To maximize the outreach of OSBDR, we need to add three specialized units, including a shower/laundry unit, a heavy equipment unit with a skid steer, and a man-lift unit. OSBDR is looking for churches or asso-

ciations that would be willing to work in cooperation with OSBDR to purchase, maintain, and deploy these units. The church or association would have use of the equipment for its local ministries, but OSBDR would then deploy the equipment on official disaster relief call outs.

Recently OSBDR deployed to Zanesville, Ohio to remove a massive tree from a home. The job required two pieces of heavy equipment, but the only option was to rent them at a cost of \$2,000. These dollars could have been saved if the equipment was already in the fleet.

If your church or association would like to know more about this ministry partnership, please contact John Heading, OSBDR state director at 614-309-9751 or jheading@scbo.org.

How to Support SBDR Without Writing a Check

By John Heading, OSBDR director

Customers of Home Depot can now support Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBDR) while they shop.

SBDR nationwide has an agreement with Home Depot in which SBDR receives a 5% rebate for everything purchased with a debit or credit card that is registered with Home Depot. The 5% is credited to SBDR and is NOT a rebate on your order.

To be included in the program you must call the Home Depot SBDR National Representative, Justin Harris, and he will register your credit or debit cards for this program. After that, everything you buy with those cards will earn 5% for SBDR.



In 2022, SBDR received \$270,000 from the Home Depot Rebate Program. These funds are used to defray deployment costs and to help states like Ohio develop Disaster Relief ministry. The SBDR ministries that benefitted from the 2022 Home Depot rebate were Ohio, Alaska, Arizona, The Dakotas, Hawaii-Pacific, Illinois, Kansas-Nebraska, Michigan, Montana, New England, and West Virginia.

For full details, visit www.scbo.org/dr and scroll down to the Forms/Manuals Tab. Under RESOURCES download the "Home Depot Rebate Program Flyer 02.2023" to see all the benefits. Justin Harris's contact information is there as well. Give him a call to register your payment cards.

Next month we will cover the SBDR rebate program with Lowes.





Church Revitalization: Something Must Be Done

By Mark Jones, SCBO Church Revitalization consultant

Approximately twenty protestant churches will close today. In 2014, according to Lifeway Research, ten protestant churches closed their doors each day. In 2019, twelve churches closed each day. In 2020, Barna Group estimated that one in five churches could close their doors because of the pandemic. That is a whopping 7,300 protestant churches.

Why am I sharing this? Because we need to understand that many of our churches are unhealthy and if we don't do something, they too will die. So, what should we do? Here are some steps to APPLY.

- Assess yourself and your congregation to see where repentance and refocus is necessary.
- Pray for wisdom and direction with a willing heart to act on the wisdom and direction given.

- Practice sharing the gospel during worship service, Sunday School, Bible Study, etc.
- Love Jesus and people again. Live for the Kingdom. Lead yourself and your congregation back to health.
- Yearn for the Holy Spirit to move among you and your congregation like never before.

Let me assist you on this journey. I can provide free assessments, downloadable prayer guides and coaching, all made available because of your faithful Cooperative Program giving. Contact me via email at mjones@scbo.org for an initial conversation.

Exciting events to equip and encourage are coming in August and October. Stay tuned for more information.

Actions for Revitalization

- Assess yourself and your congregation to see where repentance and refocus is necessary.
- Pray for wisdom and direction with a willing heart to act on the wisdom and direction given.
- Practice sharing the gospel during worship service, Sunday School, Bible Study, etc.
- Love Jesus and people again. Live for the Kingdom. Lead yourself and your congregation back to health.
- Yearn for the Holy Spirit to move among you and your congregation like never before.

Interest Meeting Set for DMin Cohort Partnership with Southeastern Seminary

Are you interested in pursuing a Doctor of Ministry degree through Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary without ever leaving Ohio?

SCBO is excited to announce an exciting opportunity for Ohio pastors and leaders to earn a Doctor of Ministry through a partnership between Ohio and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

“Dr. Jeremy Westbrook, Dr. Troy Palermo, and I will serve as the Doctor of Ministry Cohort Facilitators for a new Ohio-based DMin cohort that we hope will launch this fall. The goal of the cohort is to allow you to pursue an advanced degree without ever leaving the state,” said Dr. Kyle Connell, Doctor of Ministry cohort facilitator, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

On Thursday, June 8, SCBO will host an Interest Meeting at the SCBO office from 10 am to 3 pm. “At this meeting we will share more details and answer any questions you may have,” said Connell. “This is an Interest Meeting only. If you attend this meeting, you are not committing to the Dmin process but only getting information.”

Lunch will be provided and Dr. Tate Cockrell, director of DMin and EdD Studies at SEBTS, will answer any questions and give an in-depth overview of the program, structure, and timing.

Sign up now to be a part of the Interest Meeting. Please follow this link to register: <https://lifepointohio.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/1986/responses/new>

PURSUE AN ADVANCED DEGREE WITHOUT EVER LEAVING OHIO



Doctor of Ministry Studies

INTEREST MEETING ON THURSDAY, JUNE 8

Registration Opens for 21 Days of Prayer 2024 event

By Stephanie Heading

When the world rings in 2024, churches around the globe will begin 21 Days of Prayer, a twenty-one-day event to strengthen individual prayer lives and build prayer culture in churches.

Dave Earley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Grove City, is spearheading 21 Days of Prayer, based on his book *The 21 Most Effective Prayers of the Bible*. “I believe God has some great things He longs to do in you, for you, and through you and your ministry, but He is waiting for you to ask Him,” said Earley. “Let me encourage you to begin intentionally setting aside more time every day or more bits of time throughout the day to talk to God. You will not regret it.”

For individuals, 21 Days of Prayer features daily devotional readings, video challenges, email encouragement and prayer meetings. Participants in the campaign will receive a copy of Earley’s book to use for 21 days of devotional readings.

In addition, everyone who registers will receive an invitation to participate in Facebook Live-streamed videos of prayer meetings happening around the world.

For churches, 21 Days of Prayer includes four weeks of extra prayer during worship services, as well as a four-week sermon series and special prayer meetings.

Registration for 21 Days of Prayer is now open at www.21daysprayer.org. After registration, participants will receive weekly emails in preparation for the event. 21 Days of Prayer will provide a booklet, *How to Lead a 21 Days of Prayer Event*, to all pastors and church prayer leaders. Following the event additional resources will be available to help continue growth in understanding and practicing prayer.

Earley notes, “God can do more than we can, do it faster than we can, and do it better than we can. . . if we pray.”

SCBO Partners with Center for Christian Virtue

By Mark Snowden, AMS, Cincinnati Area Baptist Association

The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio (SCBO) is partnering with the Center for Christian Virtue to defeat two Ohio legislative initiatives. The first is an initiative that would allow abortion rights to be reinstated in Ohio, superseding the United States Supreme Court's overturning of Roe v. Wade. The second initiative is to legalize recreational marijuana. Both ballot initiatives are slated to be on statewide ballot in this year's November election.

Dr. Jeremy Westbrook, executive director-treasurer, State Convention of Baptists in Ohio (SCBO), said "Ohio Baptists must be working hard with the local

churches in our communities to derail these initiatives that seek to destroy our children and youth."

SCBO sponsored a table at the Center for Christian Virtue 40th Anniversary and Fundraiser Gala where former Vice President Mike Pence was the featured speaker. Pence addressed Ohio's record of leading the nation with the most-elected U.S. presidents, as well as having taken stands on legislation such as the Heartbeat Bill. Pence said that life transcends legislation.

For more information contact Reginald Hayes at rhayes@sbco.org, Steve Hopkins at sdhopkins@sbco.org or CCV.org.



SCBO sponsored a table at the Center for Christian Virtue 40th Anniversary and Fundraiser Gala, held in the Cincinnati area. Several Cincinnati Baptist leaders attended: Mark Snowden, AMS, Cincinnati Area Baptist Association (CABA); Mary Leigh Snowden, SCBO Recording Secretary and SCBO Executive Committee; Allen and Jean Suit, Chairman of CABA Association- al Leadership Team; Jerome Byrd, pastor, Good News Baptist and SCBO Missions Council member, and his guest Warren Brookins; and Phil and Brandy Hopper, pastor, Hill Station Baptist, and member of SCBO Executive Committee and Missions Council.

Job Postings

Pastor, Good Shepherd Baptist Church, Amherst

General Description of Responsibilities: Good Shepherd Baptist Church, Amherst, is prayerfully seeking a pastor who will play a key and instrumental role in teaching and expository preaching the whole counsel of God's Word and shepherding the church family at GSBC. He will lead the development and implementation of a strategic vision, along with the congregation, for the future of the church. The pastor is the spiritual leader of the church. He is responsible to the Lord and the church to primarily proclaim the gospel and teach the Bible. He is to be engaged in pastoral care, providing supervisory and administrative leadership in all areas of congregational care including paid and volunteer staff.

For a full job description or to apply, please contact Chris Jordan at cmjordanranch@frontier.com

YOUTH Minister, Faith Baptist Church, Belle Valley

Faith Baptist Church, Belle Valley is searching for a full-time Youth Minister. This is a forty-hour-per-week position with compensation of \$40,000, subject to experience and education. The youth minister will report to the Pastor and the Personnel Committee. The youth minister is responsible for the development, oversight, and direction of the Youth Ministry, 7-12 grade, at Faith Baptist Church. As well as aiding in the development, oversight, and direction of all Children's Ministries, birth-sixth grade. This ministry will promote evangelism, discipleship, and fellowship by planning, promoting, coordinating, conducting, and evaluating the youth and children's activities of the church.

For a complete job description and application, email faithbaptistbv@gmail.com.

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.

Contract writers needed for The Ohio Baptist Messenger

The Ohio Baptist Messenger is hiring contract writers for its monthly publication. Writers must have a journalism background and experience is preferred. Writers will be paid using a per article rate. To apply, please submit a resume and writing sample to messenger@scbo.org.

Block Party Trailer Lost!

West Central Baptist Association cannot locate its Block Party Trailer. Anyone knowing the possible whereabouts of the trailer, please contact Bud Wells at 419-203-4039.

*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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The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio

9000 Antares Ave
Columbus, Ohio 43240