

Moving Forward Together After SBC New Orleans

Encouraged. That is the word that I am using to describe how I am leaving New Orleans after spending several days with my Southern Baptist family at the 2023 Southern Baptist Convention. Why?

- Because we commissioned and sent seventy-nine new missionaries to the nations.
- Because over 178,000 individuals heard the gospel and believed in 2022 through our missionaries.
- Because 10,000 new churches have been started since 2010 and our four-year survival rate is now over 86%.
- Because there was an overwhelming amount of affirmation and support for the office of pastor limited to men as qualified by Scripture
- Because of an incredible partnership meeting with leaders from the Florida Baptist Convention
- Because of the re-election of Bart Barber as our SBC President for another year
- Because of the continued support for the Sexual Abuse Task Force

That is why I am encouraged. I fully believe that we are headed in the right direction. It is indeed a good day to be a Southern Baptist, but an even better day to be an Ohio Baptist. Currently, through the first six months of our fiscal year, our Cooperative Program



giving is ahead of last year. I want to say thank you to all our churches that give faithfully and sacrificially through the Cooperative Program, which helps fuel the mission across the street to our neighborhoods here in Ohio and around the world to the nations. Did you know that we have over 3,500 missionaries and 2,700 children on the mission field that are dependent on your generosity. They say “thank you” as well.

Another reason I am encouraged is that baptisms are up as well. Our churches in Ohio continue to remain focused on the mission, which is to proclaim the gospel of Jesus and make disciples. Our SCBO team stands ready to assist our local churches in any way that we can. Part of being in a family means loving one another through tough times. Even as I write these words on my flight home back to Ohio, it has been bumpy. However, toward the end, the rough air departed, and smooth air arrived. It is funny how I never seem to appreciate a smooth flight until I have experienced a little turbulence.

Let us be encouraged together. Let us cooperate together. Let us stick together.


Dr. Jeremy Westbrook
executive director-treasurer, SCBO





The English Family, Tyler, Rachel, and daughters, Asher (5), Graycen (3), and Wrenley (1).

Missions Legacy Highlighted During IMB Sending Celebration

By Myriah Snyder, International Mission Board writer and editor

Rachel grew up with a deep understanding of what the missionary life looked like. Her church had a strong missions program. In addition to her training at church, she developed a love for missions through her family. She learned about the missionary life as she played with her cousins, sat around a family holiday table, and heard her aunts and uncles share their adventures of watching God work across the globe.

Her grandparents, though not missionaries themselves, had instilled in her parents, aunts, and uncles a love for the nations. Of their four children, two became International Mission Board missionaries.

In high school, Rachel met Tyler English. He grew up on the mission field. While the IMB missionary kid life held many adventures and ways for him to plug into his parents' ministry, he always loved seeing how his parents approached ministry as a team.

"For years, I was able to witness the gospel being shared firsthand, all while playing a supportive role in my parents' work," he shared. "Through this experience, I became confident in my calling to serve Jesus on the mission field."

Now, Tyler and Rachel are headed to Guatemala, using their experience as parents and passion for orphan care to serve in the Americas and "empower the lo-

cal church to raise up the next generation for Christ." They are excited to raise their three daughters, Asher (5), Graycen (3), and Wrenley (1), on the mission field, continuing the tradition and instilling a love for the nations in their children.

Tyler and Rachel are two of the seventy-nine missionaries recognized at the IMB's Sending Celebration in conjunction with the 2023 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. The Sending Celebration took place June 13 directly following the IMB report to the SBC.

D. Ray Davis, IMB's church mobilization manager, former missionary and Rachel English's uncle, knows the value of a missions legacy.

"We are part of a big Southern Baptist family, and we have a responsibility to live out the vision and mission of our bigger family," Davis said. "By sharing my love for the nations with Rachel, I was just playing my part in my family for the kingdom."

Both he and Rachel agree that having a family connection personalized the call to missions. Her Uncle D. Ray and Aunt Kim, who served in Sub-Saharan Africa, and her Uncle Daren and Aunt Shawna who currently serve in Sub-Saharan Africa, were just normal people who followed the call of God on their lives. She could do that too.

The Englishes were not the only new missionaries with a legacy of reaching the nations through the IMB. Of the seventy-nine newly appointed missionaries present for the Sending Celebration, seven have parents who have served with the IMB on the mission field and forty-two have served in some capacity with the IMB. One of the new missionaries is a fifth-generation missionary, continuing her family's long legacy of getting the gospel to the nations through the IMB.

Southern Baptists Continuing the Legacy

As the Sending Celebration began, transitioning from the report portion of the morning, SBC President Bart Barber noted, "What we're about to do is the business of the convention."

This was affirmed in applause and cheers from messengers. After the missionaries gave their short testimonies, the crowd stood to their feet, applauding those willing to take the gospel to the nations.

The IMB celebrates a rich history of reaching the nations. Over their 178-year history, the IMB has sent more than 25,000 missionaries to the nations. Currently, more than 3,500 are on the field, taking the gospel to the least reached.

IMB President Paul Chitwood celebrated the forty-four churches in nineteen different states that the new missionaries represent. The missionaries are a result of the long history of Southern Baptists to reach the nations. They will soon move to thirty-three countries, "taking the good news with them, willing to leave behind comforts, friends and family, to answer God's call upon their lives," Chitwood said.

"Day in and day out, they'll trust that God is good and will do good as they labor in the harvest fields where God has called them," he continued. "They will also trust that you and me, Southern Baptists, will hold the ropes for them as we pray and as you give and send more reinforcements to walk alongside them. They will work in cities, deserts, and mountains. They go to the hard-to-reach places to work among the displaced and dispersed, the forgotten and forsaken by the world, but not by their Creator."

"The stark reality today is that lostness is growing. It is increasing rapidly – here in our own country and especially in our cities, where we face division and hopelessness but also among the 8 billion people living on Earth today," Chitwood reminded messengers and guests at the annual meeting, as he urged them to consider the work that has yet to be finished.

Chitwood added, "Together, we will reach every nation, no matter the cost."

Featured This Month

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Genoa Bible Institute for Adults Launching this Fall

Genoa Baptist Church, in Westerville, Ohio, is excited to announce the launch of the Genoa Bible Institute for the Fall of 2023.

Having developed a successful PK- High School program, educating hundreds of students, Genoa has been one of the pacesetters in Christian Education for Southern Baptist churches in the central Ohio area for over twenty years.

“We are so excited about what God has done over the past three and a half decades,” said Pastor Frank Carl. “If possible, we are even more excited about what He is going to do in the days ahead.”

With construction of a new 70,000 square Upper Academy Building nearing completion, Genoa now opens a new chapter for biblical Adult Education.

“Beginning in September of this year, we will have an inaugural semester of Genoa Bible Institute, designed for adults,” said Carl.

The adult education program will offer diplomas in Biblical Studies and Theological Studies, which can be completed in two and three years, respectively.



“The Genoa Bible Institute exists to make an impact in this world for the Kingdom of God,” said Chancellor Scott Lewald. “We do that through training Christians to have a deeper, solid biblical understanding of Scripture along with training individuals who want to serve within the local church. We know life is busy, so we offer classes on weekday nights or Saturday mornings to fit your schedule.”

For more information or to register, please visit genoachurch.org/bibleinstitute.

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President's Pen

by Dr. Ray Umphrey

At the end of most of Paul's letters, we find oft-neglected portions of Scripture in which Paul signs off with final greetings, instructions, and travel plans. Like the genealogies of the Old Testament, some may struggle to find relevance in these passages. However, these seemingly mundane paragraphs reveal something important in Paul's missionary strategy: partnership and cooperation.

Paul was not an army of one. His missionary work was made possible by partnership. Paul depended on his gospel networks, beginning with the church at Antioch in Syria, which sent him to his traveling companions and his financial partners in the local churches.

Leaving the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans, I was encouraged and reminded of why we cooperate. It is not merely a pragmatic decision but a partnership that conforms to the biblical model of missionary cooperation. As always, the International Mission Board Sending Celebration was the highlight of our time, with seventy-nine missionaries sent to the nations because of our cooperation.

I am thankful that God has given us such a stewardship with our convention. I am encouraged because of the missionary zeal present in our convention and the desire for theological faithfulness. We saw both expressed this year at our annual meeting. I am hopeful for the future of our convention as we champion the mission while holding fast to our common faith.

Do not 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. 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 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,
Dr. Ray A. Umphrey
SCBO President
president@scbo.org

UPDATES REGIONAL SCBO REGIONAL
REGIONAL UPDATES**Matt Pardi - Northwest**

Greetings from the Northwest Region. We enjoyed a time of prayer and fasting recently. Eight men from our area spent twenty hours alone with the Lord, enjoying His presence and His creation. Testimonies of recentering with the Lord and hearing God bring specific direction were encouraging. The time was amazing, and it blessed me immensely. It was great to do something like this in community with brothers. This type of 'soul keeping' is so crucial.

I have been thankful for Pastor Tommy Briggs at Gateway Baptist Church in Toledo, and his leadership with "Soul Keeping" from John Ortberg. Pastor Tommy brings pastors from our area together to walk them through this book and discuss the important topics of soul keeping-- spending time with the Lord and giving attention to our hearts.

John Ortberg states, "Hurry is the great enemy of spiritual life in our day. You must ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life." We are all working together to eliminate hurry from our lives. The conversations and openness are helpful, and it is a blessing to have his leadership. Thank you, Pastor Tommy, and co-pastor, Don Reynolds, for their decades of service in Toledo. We would love to have you join us. Please reach out if interested at mpardi@scbo.org

**Chad Keck - West**

What an amazing time we had together in New Orleans for the SBC Annual Meeting. Every time I am with our denominational family, I am reminded that we are better together than we are apart, and we can accomplish far more together than we can alone. Thank you, SCBO churches in the West Region, for your support of the Cooperative Program.

The Southwest Ohio Leadership Conference is Thursday, September 7, 9 am-4 pm. "Raise Up Leaders" will be our focus. The conference will have breakouts on a variety of leadership topics including missions, NextGen, church planting, and pastoral shepherding. This is an excellent opportunity to bring your entire staff/key volunteers. Our keynote speakers will be Trevin Wax

from NAMB, Thomas White from Cedarville, and Dean Faulks from Lifepoint Church. For more information or to get registered, visit: <https://swohioleaders.com/>

**Reagan Wagoner - Southwest**

It was so good to see many of you down in New Orleans at the SBC! I personally enjoyed jambalaya, and coffee, and beignets from Café Du Monde while there, as well as seeing friends from Cincy and around the globe! This past month I got to have lunch with Fran Transcitti who is the new pastor at Beacon of Christ Church here in Cincinnati! I am encouraged any time I see Fran or his son, Jamie, who also serves as one of our pastors over in Newtown. I am thankful for this father/son duo and their partnership as we reach Cincinnati!

It is time to register for the second annual Southwest Ohio Leaders Conference on September 7 at First Baptist Church Kettering! I am 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 of Resources/Research, NAMB, as well as fifteen plus breakout speakers. The cost is just \$20 for the day and is buy one get one free if you bring somebody with you. I am looking forward to connecting with leaders from all over Southwest Ohio, but do not come by yourself! Bring your staff with you as there will be breakouts for children's ministry, student ministry, tech/worship ministry, women's leadership, and more! We will even have a track for business leaders who desire to maximize their work life for the Kingdom! Registration is now live at www.swohioleaders.com

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Stephen Owens - Northeast

Hello, Northeast Region. I pray your summer has started well. Summertime in the Northeast is primetime for outreach events, community engagement, and outside church fellowships. During June, I spent time talking with pastors about reaching their neighborhoods with the love of God and the gospel of Jesus. It is encouraging to hear the passion and strategies pastors have for reaching the lost.

This month I attended an evangelism and discipleship workshop sponsored by Cleveland Hope, Send Cleveland, and FBC Concord. This two-day event taught pastors and church members a simple process for sharing their faith. It was encouraging to see believers excited

about sharing the gospel and loving their communities. Scripture tells us evangelism and discipleship must be forefront in our minds and ministry efforts. The Lord Jesus gave us our marching order at the end of the Matthew. He said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen." (28:19-20) Let us continue to rally around reaching people for Jesus and helping believers become more like Him.

If you need assistance helping your church reach your community or developing a discipleship culture in your church, please feel free to reach out at sowens@scbo.org. I would love to sit and talk with you over a meal (my treat) and hear how God has burdened your heart for your community and the plans he is stirring within you. God Bless.



Rick Williams - Central

I am excited for what is happening this summer in Central Ohio churches! It is encouraging to hear reports of what God is doing all around us.

Recently, Brian Naess, small groups and missions pastor at Violet Baptist Church, led a group of seventeen members on a mission trip to the Send Relief Center in South Dakota's Pine Ridge Reservation at the Čanjkú Wašté Ranch. To read more about this partnership, click [here](#).

Mark your calendars! Join us on Thursday, August 24, 2023, at First Baptist Church, Lancaster for the Central Ohio Church Revitalization Conference, "Loving and Leading the

Local Church." You will not want to miss this amazing opportunity to hear from Brian Croft, founder of Practical Shepherding, and Nick Sandefur, senior pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington, KY. Registration details will be available soon, so stay tuned!



Josh Remy - Southeast

I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know a few of my Muskingum Valley brothers over the last month. We have some great churches in the Southeast Region. The preschool ministry at Friendship is incredible. The technology and music ministry at New Lexington is top notch. The ministry to their poor neighbors at The Refuge blew me away. Trinity's new facility and VBS were so fun to see. Dover has an incredible history and ministry to their community. It has been nice to see so many ways to communicate the gospel using specific gifts within specific contexts. It is wild to think that God is moving in parts of Ohio we have never even thought about!

This is only a small sampling of the great things God is doing. I am excited to hear about more of them. If you are a pastor or church leader in the Southeast Region, feel free to contact me any time at jremy@scbo.org. I would love to come see your ministry and community and talk about how we can continue to partner with each other to further the Kingdom in Southeast Ohio.

Ohio Church Planter Travels to Germany in New IMB-Send Network Partnership

By Stephanie Heading, managing editor



Church planters from across the United States are participating in Send Network Global Vision Trips. This group spent a week in Frankfurt, Germany, visiting with missionaries and church planters there.

Send Network Ohio Church Planter Nick Abraham recently traveled to Germany as part of a new Send Network partnership with the International Mission Board (IMB) -- Church Planter Global Vision Trips.

Abraham pastors Reformation Bible Church, a one-year-old church plant in Navarre, near Canton, and when he heard about this initiative for church planters, it piqued his interest.

"I had never been on any kind of cross-cultural mission trip," said Abraham. "I never wanted to go somewhere on a 'Christian vacation.' I wanted it to be purposeful and meaningful."

Send Network is partnering with the International Mission Board to mobilize church planters to experience the nations. The 2023 trips are scheduled for five international locations: Lahore, Pakistan; Frankfurt, Germany; Delhi, India; Sofia, Bulgaria; and Mumbai, India.

Abraham found Frankfurt, Germany intriguing because of the secularization of its society. "I wanted to go see and learn how church planters there are reaching people in a secular society."

Abraham applied for the Germany trip and was excited when he was selected as one of six church planters from the United States traveling to Frankfurt, Germany, spending a week meeting with IMB pastors and church planters.

"At Send Network, one of our values is Seek First the Kingdom, and that means taking the gospel beyond North America," said Mike Laughrun, Send Network director of global engagement.

"We had a very full week," said Abraham. The group met with pastors and church planters in Frankfurt, as well as working with the substantial number of refugees in Germany. They also walked around Frankfurt, conducting a survey to meet people. While he enjoyed meeting the locals, Abraham did admit that sometimes he experienced a language barrier.

"In Germany, only forty-five percent of the German population are German," Abraham noted. "The rest of the country are from the nations. It shocked me. It was fascinating that the nations are all in Germany."

In addition to the nations living in Germany, Abraham also learned that church culture in Germany is quite different from the United States. "The typical church there has thirty to forty people, and a mega-church has about two hundred people," he said. "Only one or two people a year come to church and get saved, but that is joyfully celebrated."

The work is slow in Frankfurt because less than one percent of the population are evangelical. "The majority in Frankfurt don't know Jesus and don't know anyone who knows Jesus."

However, despite the dire statistics, church planters in Frankfurt have developed a strategy to reach the lost. “They do not have events, like block parties, because if they did, no one would come. They are doing the slow work of cultivating relationships with those around them,” said Abraham.

Seeing the gospel shared in the secularized German culture helped Abraham coalesce his thoughts about reaching his community in Navarre. “Our culture is not there yet, but we can see it heading there. We are rapidly secularizing here. The gospel is the need people have, so we need to be creative in connecting the dots for them.”

Abraham believes his week in Frankfurt is affecting his work at Reformation Bible Church, Navarre, even as he is “still mentally unpacking” the experience. “We have planted, but we need to be engaging our community with the gospel. We need to think about things in a different way. ‘Let’s have an event’ does not get what we want,” he said. “It is not so much about us having an event. We need to live our message and engage with people God has put in front of us. It is longer and slower but seeing it in Frankfurt was helpful.”

While Abraham hopes to be busy sharing the gospel in Navarre, he and his church are also planning to lend a hand in Frankfurt. “Our desire is to partner with them —



Church planters took surveys on the streets of Frankfurt, Germany, while participating in a Send Network Global Vision Tour, a partnership between IMB and Send Network.

not just send them money. We want real partnerships that go both ways. We want to have a heart for the nations, and we want to start thinking about missions now.”

OCTOBER 6, 2023

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Unlikely Partnership Blesses Ohio Church and South Dakota Ministry

By Stephanie Heading, managing editor

Violet Baptist Church in Pickerington is a world away from the Pine Ridge Reservation and Chanku Waste (pronounced “wash-tay”) Ranch in Porcupine, South Dakota. The ranch, located in one of the most impoverished areas of the United States, ministers to the Native American Oglala Lakota people.

For the past twelve years, despite their differences and challenges, Violet BC and Chanku Waste Ranch have been mission partners, working together to share the gospel and help interrupt the cycle of poverty.

“Ministry there is not for the faint of heart,” said Brian Naess, small groups and missions pastor at Violet.

According to Naess, the partnership began in 2012 when a team from Violet traveled to South Dakota to conduct a summer camp at Chanku Waste Ranch and do additional ministry in Rapid City. For ten of the last twelve years, Violet teams have conducted summer camp at the ranch in June.

“Our desire was to connect with a mission and not just swoop in and swoop out,” said Naess. More than twenty teams from Violet have ministered in South Dakota.

“Chanku Waste Ranch would not be anywhere close to where it is today without Violet Baptist Church,” said Matt Hadden, North American Mission Board (NAMB) missionary at Chanku Waste Ranch. “In the early years of our partnership Violet would send a team out three times a year -- a construction team in the spring; a summer camp team in June; and a firewood ministry team in the fall.”



Debbie Griffith, member of Violet Baptist Church, is a dental hygienist working in the medical clinic on the Chanku Waste Ranch in June.

In addition to mission trips, Violet also commissioned a couple from their church to minister permanently at Chanku Waste Ranch. Six years ago, Sarah Deible, a member of Violet, felt called to serve the Lord in a third-world country. Her husband Chad did not feel the same call, according to Naess. “Chad didn’t want to leave North America,” he recalled. However, after serving on a mission team to Chanku Waste Ranch, Chad returned home, believing the Lord was calling them to South Dakota.

The Deibles moved to Chanku Waste Ranch to serve with Hadden and his wife, Amanda. At the time, Hadden was serving as director of the ranch, as well as Pastor of Creator’s Fellowship, a church plant on the ranch. Chad took over the role of pastor, giving Matt more time to direct ministries at the ranch which has become a Send Relief Ministry Center. “To God be the glory that Chanku Waste Ranch is a Send Relief Center because of the cooperation of thousands of churches coming together to minister there,” said Naess.

Hadden is thankful for the impact Violet Baptist Church has had in the ministry of the ranch. “Our relationship is so intertwined. I cannot imagine Chanku Waste Ranch without Violet Baptist,” said Hadden. “They faithfully serve us, putting on some of the best weeks of summer camp at the ranch. There is not a building or structure on our property that has not been touched by the Violet



In June, members of Violet BC worked with churches from Kentucky and West Virginia conducting summer camp at Chanku Waste Ranch.

men's group in a huge way. Recently, they were here, helping us with summer camp and providing a dental professional for our clinic, serving the people in our community."

Hadden says that Chanku Waste Ranch is always looking for healthy partnerships. "We could not do what we do without the support of churches that are willing to send people to work alongside us."

Violet has also seen growth because of its ministry in South Dakota, according to Naess. "Our trips to Chanku Waste Ranch have enabled us to show people what missions are all about," he noted. "It is so exciting to see men step up on mission and see them grow. You leave your heart out there when you leave."

Naess also encourages other churches to step out and get involved in short-term mission projects. "I went on a short-term mission trip when I was younger, and now I am in the ministry. I would love to talk to anyone who is looking at a short-term mission trip."

For more information about how to sign up for a mission trip to Chanku Waste Ranch, go to www.sendrelief.org and follow the South Dakota prompts. For information about how to financially support this ministry, visit the Chanku Waste Ranch website at www.chankuwaste.com.



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Maize Road Celebrates Sixty Years of Ministry in a Diverse Community

By Stephanie Heading, managing editor

Maize Road Baptist Church celebrated its sixtieth anniversary in early June. This northeast Columbus church is thankful for its past but sees its future developing through reaching the nations in its own backyard.

Over the past sixty years, the church has seen its demographic change. “We are an urban church at this point. We are multicultural,” said Pastor Shawn Hensley. “Today we have four churches with three languages representing fifteen nations that meet in our building each Sunday.”

The four church congregations worshipping at Maize Road include the current Maize Road congregation, an El Salvadorian congregation, a Congolese gathering, as well as a multicultural church. “We are certainly now a community-focused church,” Hensley remarked.

The hardships of the Covid pandemic hit Maize Road hard. “We had 150 to 160 people before Covid,” said Hensley. “Post Covid, only 35 came back.” Hensley and the church had a decision to make—move away, change the outreach strategy, or let the church close.

Hensley grew up at Maize Road and served as youth pastor from 2004 until October 2019 when he was called as pastor. “I have a heart for reaching the urban areas of Ohio,” he said. “I thrive in the urban community.”



Maize Road BC celebrated its sixtieth anniversary recently. Four congregations representing three languages and fifteen nations meet in their building each week.

Maize Road is reshaping itself as it reaches out to its changing community. “We are a completely different church. Our outward approach has changed everything.”

The outward approach includes a Food Bank that distributed 25,000 pounds of food to eight different nationalities in 2022, and a Free Store that gives away clothes and household items. The church also has a Community Ambassador who studies the cultures of new people groups coming to the church so culturally appropriate food items are available in the Food Bank.

The church recently completed a \$325,000 renovation on the facility. “For us, every single day we find a way to maximize our space,” Hensley said. In addition to the four congregations meeting in the building, Maize Road also sponsors a Nepali after-school program and a summer program in the building.

Acquiring an additional building as well as paying off the debt for the renovation is the goal for the next three years. They are also hoping to start satellite language churches to benefit non-English speakers who currently attend Maize Road. “They record the service on a phone and then go home and use Google Translate to understand the message.” In celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of Maize Road, four-hundred people from all four churches worshiped together in one service with translation into two different languages. Dr. Jeremy Westbrook, executive director-treasurer of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, preached the celebration message which was also translated into two languages.



The four congregations who meet at Maize Road BC gathered to celebrate the church's sixtieth anniversary.

“I’ve never done anything like that,” said Hensley. “Translating in multiple languages at the same time looked good on paper, but I wasn’t sure how it would turn out.” The translation worked well, and the Spirit moved during the service and the international meal served on the grounds. “Everyone commented on how they felt the Spirit moving. Outside everyone was of one Spirit. It was energizing.”

As Maize Road moves forward to reach its community, Hensley sees the church as vibrant and active at sixty years old. His church also looks different than it did in 1962. “That is why we changed the way we do things. You start to look like the community you are serving. Look around. We are all getting a glimpse of heaven.”

Free Life Devotional Available from Center for Christian Virtues

By Center for Christian Virtues

It is no coincidence that Planned Parenthood is targeting Ohio—and only Ohio—in 2023.

To equip the church to pray boldly in this season, Center for Christian Virtues (CCV) is producing a FREE life devotional, “More Than Conquerors: Six Weeks of Prayer for Ohio, the Unborn, and Women,” that features a weekly devotional, followed by Scripture readings, prayer prompts, and space to record personal reflections each day of the week. The devotional covers six weeks in honor of the time from conception to the development of an unborn child’s heartbeat.

By bringing the saints to their knees through the series of prayers in this devotional, we hope to inspire the body of Christ in Ohio to personal repentance and holiness, petition the Lord for His mercy, and compel the church to defend the unborn and their mothers.

Order for yourself, your group, or your church now at <https://www.ccv.org/lifedevotional>



Beginning the Revitalization Journey in Your Church

By Mark Jones, SCBO revitalization catalyst

The process of revitalization can seem daunting, so for this month and next month, I want to share the approach that I take in church health and revitalization, using the acronym E.A.R.F.A.R.M.R to describe the process and partnerships along the way.

I start by lending an E.A.R. to the pastor or leader wishing to have a conversation about church health. It usually takes an hour to hear the story, and then I offer Encouragement. This encouragement includes sharing opportunities to thoroughly Assess the issues and hurdles within the church. Pastoral and congregational assessments can help discover what is hindering overall church health. Once the assessments are complete, I meet with the pastor or leadership to discuss Revitalization options. Often, revitalization begins by simply refocusing on Jesus, prayer, and the gospel. However, sometimes it takes a greater Biblical strategic process. To date, I have spoken with over thirty-five pastors throughout Ohio. I have also assessed churches and they have started moving toward revitalization.

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

If you are a re-planter or revitalization pastor, I want to encourage you to be refreshed and renewed at the NAMB Replant Summit 2023 in Alpharetta, GA, August 28-29. For \$35, you and your spouse can be encouraged with phenomenal preaching, bountiful meals, and two nights lodging at a premiere hotel (space is limited) - <https://www.namb.net/church-replanting/events/replant-summit-2023/>.

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Disaster Ready Churches Needed Across Ohio

By John Heading, OSBDR state director



Hill Station BC in Goshen is a Disaster Ready Church.

When disaster strikes, finding a place to set up a command center and housing for Disaster Relief teams is one of the first priorities for Ohio Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (OSBDR).

In 2022, three tornadoes hit the Goshen, Ohio area, doing extensive damage. It was necessary to deploy teams to assist residents, but without a location for a command center and housing, help could not be rendered.

In Goshen, Pastor Phil Hopper of Hill Station Baptist Church opened the church to OSBDR. The church housed teams from Ohio, Michigan, and Tennessee for two weeks. Units working from Hill Station BC included recovery teams, incident command, chaplains, assessors, shower unit, and food unit.

Without Pastor Hopper welcoming OSBDR into the church, the community might not have received help, and more importantly, the people of Goshen might not have heard the gospel.

Disaster response begins and ends with the local church. It begins with the local church volunteers who train to serve and ends with the names of families helped given to the local church for follow-up. OSBDR never starts a new ministry, but as team members work, they promote the local church.

OSBDR is looking for local churches to become Disaster Ready Churches. These churches are intentional and prepared when a disaster strikes. OSBDR

can quickly deploy to these churches, providing aid to the community and serving the local church families. Our goal is to have churches all over Ohio that are Disaster Ready Churches. OSBDR will come to the church and provide training, so the church is prepared when a disaster occurs.

If your church would like to know more about becoming a Disaster Ready Church, please contact Dr. John Heading, OSBDR State Director at jheading@scbo.org or 614-309-9751.



Volunteer Teams Needed

Ohio Disaster Relief is involved in meeting needs to better serve our churches, communities, and missionaries.

If your church is interested in joining OSBDR in meeting one of the specialty needs listed below, please contact John Heading, director OSBDR at jheading@scbo.org or 614-309-9751.

Project 001 Euclid, OH

Painting the outside of small church building.
Materials provided

Project 002 Memphis, TN

Construction/ remodel work in Send Relief Center. Materials provided.

Project 003 Athens, Greece

Construction/remodel. TBD

MULTI-STATE PASTORS' PRAYER GATHERING



Seeking the Face of God for Spiritual Awakening



SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday Evening, **SEPTEMBER 27** and
Thursday Morning, **SEPTEMBER 28**, 2023

More Information Coming in the Near Future

@ Thompson Station Church

2604 Thompson Station Rd E
Thompson's Station, TN

(Two miles Southwest of the Intersection of I-65 and I-840 in the Heart of Tennessee)

SCAN ME



or visit
<https://qrcodes.pro/4Vr6Rq>

A prayer gathering which includes training for PASTORS, CHURCH STAFF, and CHURCH MINISTRY LEADERS from across Tennessee and surrounding states. We will model a corporate prayer experience which can be replicated at your church and in your community.

Training materials will be made available for pastors to equip lay leaders in their church prior to the event to lead Wednesday night prayer services on September 27, freeing their pastors to attend

Sponsored by Tennessee Baptist Mission Board and SBC PrayerLink.

Tennessee Baptist churches giving through the Cooperative Program and the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions make TBMB ministries possible.

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

LEAD Pastor, Crosspoint Baptist Church, Richmond, Indiana

Crosspoint Baptist Church, Richmond, Indiana is prayerfully seeking our next Lead Pastor. Crosspoint is a Christ-centered, Bible-believing, Southern Baptist church. We were planted seven years ago as a church replant. Our vision is to touch every corner of the world with the gospel. To learn more about Crosspoint, go to www.crosspointrichmond.com. For the job description go to [job description copy pdf](#). If you are interested in this position, please send a cover letter with testimony, resume with references, and a link to sermons you have preached to pastorsearch@crosspointrichmond.com

DIRECTOR/PASTOR of Leadership and Education, University Baptist Church, Beavercreek, Ohio

The Director/Pastor of Leadership and Education will be responsible for supporting and extending the ministry of the Lead Pastor by doing three main things: supervising the church staff; building effective processes for leadership development within the church; and overseeing the adult classes ministry and curriculum used in our church to help make disciples who know Christ biblically. For more information or to apply for this position, please visit <https://www.ubcbeavercreek.com/employment>.

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.

Bi-vocational Pastor, Medway Baptist Church, Medway, Ohio

Medway Baptist Church is seeking a bi-vocational pastor to collaborate with an existing fellow lay pastor to lead the congregation. The opportunity for the spiritual and numerical growth of our church is significant. Our church has an active and faithful Hispanic ministry/outreach to the community. Responsibilities include overseeing the spiritual growth of our congregation, leading Sunday morning worship services, and coordinating evangelism opportunities. Medway is situated between Dayton and Springfield. In addition to a pay package, the church offers a 3-bedroom parsonage for housing.

For a full job description or to apply, please contact: medwaybcpastorsearch@gmail.com

Block Party Trailer Lost!

West Central Baptist Association cannot find 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.

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



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