

Super Summer Breaks Records

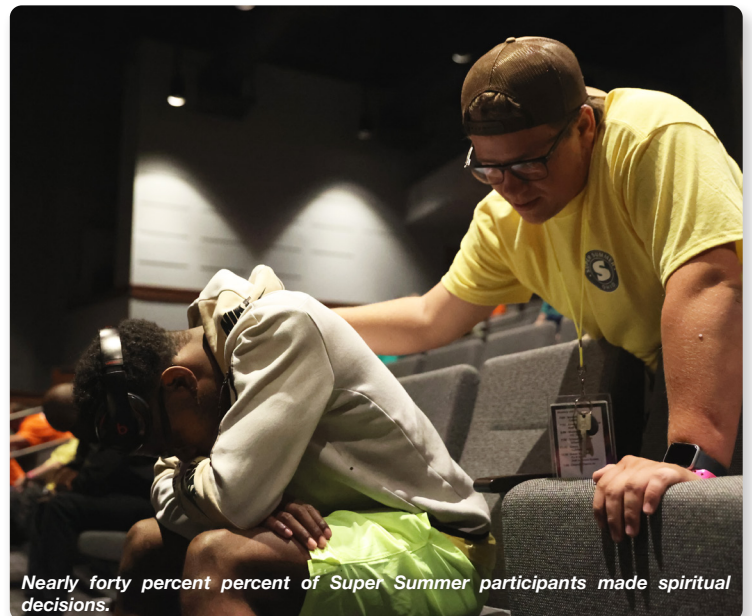
By Stephanie Heading, managing editor and Keith Hurt, SCBO next generation director

Super Summer Ohio, a student leadership program, had another record week in June, crushing attendance records and seeing almost forty percent of the attendees make decisions for Christ.

“God is truly moving in and through the students and leaders of Super Summer,” said Keith Hurt, Super Summer Ohio director and SCBO next generation director.

“I have never been more excited about the things that God is doing in and through this program,” said Hurt. “In 2022 we had our highest attendance year with 345 students and adults participating. This year we had 450 participants with 27 salvation decisions, 30 commitments to baptism, 37 called into full-time ministry, and 76 called into missions.”

During the last week of June, Super Summer convenes at Cedarville University for a week of intensive student leadership training, worship, and Bible teaching. “I have been involved with Super Summer for the past 17 years now, and I have still not experienced another student-leadership program that comes close to the quality of Super Summer,” said Hurt.



Nearly forty percent percent of Super Summer participants made spiritual decisions.

Students at each grade level focused on a different aspect of student leadership. The upcoming eighth graders (Red School) focused on “Basics of the Christian Faith.” Those going into ninth grade (Blue School) looked at “Identity in Christ.” Upcoming Sophomores (Orange School) focused on “Making Your Faith Your Own.”

The students who are entering their Junior year (Yellow School) looked at “Servant Leadership.” Upcoming Seniors (Green School) studied “Biblical Worldview.” Recent high school graduates (Silver School) focused on “Discovering God’s Will.” Students who are called to ministry (Purple School) focused on “Exploring Your Calling.”

The Noah Ayers Band led students and leaders together in worship each evening. The band members are currently enrolled Cedarville students or recent graduates who are now leading worship in local churches in and around Cedarville.



Four hundred fifty participants attended SCBO Super Summer at Cedarville University.

Super Summer Continued...

The Super Summer students came hungry to worship. At several points during the week the worship leaders just stopped singing and listened as the youth poured out their hearts to God. At one point one of the photographers put his camera down and lifted his hands in worship. One recent high school graduate described the worship as “the closest thing to Heaven that I have ever experienced.”

The speaker for the week was Kirk Kirkland, church planting catalyst for SEND Network Ohio and pastor of Revive Church, Cincinnati. “Kirk brought incredible passion and energy as he implored the students to be part of the ‘Jesus Revolution’ that our world desperately needs,” said Hurt. “The students were actively taking notes and soaking in the messages from the gospels as Kirk spoke. The presence of God was tangible in the worship and the messages at Super Summer.”

Featured This Month

- 01 - Super Summer
- 03 - Multi-State Prayer Gathering
- 04 - IMB’s ‘Great Pursuit’
- 05 - Supporting IMB
- 06 - Regional Updates
- 08 - Jackson Celebrates 30 Years
- 09 - President’s Pen
- 10 - Special Election in August
- 11 - Geno Bible Institute Launch
- 12 - OSBDR Reaching the Lost
- 13 - Revitalize Ohio
- 14 - Ohio March for Life
- 15 - Grady Evans’ Legacy

**SUPER SUMMER
OHIO 2023**

 27 Salvations	 30 Commitments to baptism	 450 In attendance	 76 Called into vocational missions
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37 Called to vocational ministry

Hurt was deeply moved by what he saw happening during the week. “As I observed our students passionately worshipping and diligently taking notes during sessions, I was filled with hope regarding the future of the Church and our SCBO churches. God is calling and raising up students to lead His Church to face the challenges presented by our current cultural complexities,” he noted.

“I was also burdened by the fact that there are hundreds of SCBO churches who are not yet sending student leaders to this next-level program. Pastors, would you consider visiting Super Summer during the last week of June in 2024 to see what God is doing to raise up our student leaders?”

Hurt encourages pastors and youth leaders to reach out to him with any questions about Super Summer. “Also please pray for the resources and logistics necessary to continue to expand this incredibly effective student-leadership program. May God continue to call students to Himself and to lead others.”

For more information about Super Summer Ohio, please contact Keith Hurt at khurt@scbo.org.

MULTI-STATE PASTORS' PRAYER GATHERING



An Urgent Cry to God for Spiritual Awakening

An Urgent Cry for Authentic Awakening: Multi-State Prayer Gathering, September 27-28

God is moving around our state and nation. How can we join Him? We invite pastors and prayer leaders to a Multi-state Prayer Gathering, September 27-28, as we cry out for God's manifest presence across the Midwest and Midsouth states.

Nationally recognized prayer leaders will lead pastors and other prayer leaders in a guided prayer experience on Wednesday evening. Thursday morning will include training for prayer leaders to leverage congregational prayer toward a movement of God in their communities. SBC PrayerLink, Thompson Station Church, and the Tennessee Baptist Mission Board is hosting the event. Thompson Station Church is near the I-65/I-840 intersection in Middle Tennessee, just south of Nashville.

Bill Elliff, founding and national engage pastor of The Summit Church in Little Rock, Arkansas, will lead the Prayer Gathering. Elliff serves as the pastor/church director for OneCry! "A Nationwide Call for Spiritual Awakening." He is also a national leader for the 6:4 Fellowship.

Drawing from more than 50 years of pastoral and revival ministry, Elliff's passion is to see genuine revival and methodological renewal in the church, which he refers to as "both new wine and new wineskins." He is the author of sixteen books, a frequent conference speaker, writer, prayer and revival leader, and church consultant. His most recent book is "Reflections on Spiritual Awakening: Insights from the Asbury Awakening and Beyond."

The Summit Church Worship Team will lead worship for the Pastors' Prayer Gathering. Check-in time for the event begins at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 27, with programming beginning at 6:00 p.m. The program will conclude at noon on Thursday, September 28.

To register for this event, visit tn.sbcworkspace.com/pub/event/register/55235641 or sbcprayerlink.org/

"Our nation desperately needs a movement of God and the acceleration of believing prayer. Join us as we unite in a prayer experience that could lead to united prayer across the state." —Bill Elliff

IMB Urges Southern Baptists to Renewed Commitment to ‘Great Pursuit’ to Reach the Lost

By IMB Staff

NEW ORLEANS (BP) – At the 2023 Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in New Orleans, International Mission Board leadership and staff used every opportunity to draw attention to the reality that lostness is growing every day. The solution to the problem of lostness is the gospel.

IMB’s vision statement is Revelation 7:9, where a great multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language worship around the throne of Jesus. “From the Great Commission until the Great Multitude, we must unite in this Great Pursuit: To reach every nation — no matter the cost.”

Project 3000

Bringing the Gospel to the world’s lost through missionary presence has always been a part of the IMB’s 178-year history. A call for renewed commitment, however, includes an urgency to find people groups with no missionary presence and no known gospel access.

“With the support of Southern Baptists, IMB is launching a pioneering initiative called Project 3000, through which we will send out 300 missionary explorers over five years to scout out 10 unengaged, unreached people groups each,” explained John Brady, IMB vice president of global engagement.

Each missionary explorer will find their assigned unengaged, unreached people groups and get to know them. They will find out where they live, learn about their culture, discern their literacy, share the gospel, develop ministry strategies, become prayer warriors for these groups and find national partners. In doing so, missionary explorers will be vital to initiating relationships with a people group, the step of “entry” in IMB’s missionary task.

Once a people group has been found and initial research completed, IMB teams, along with their national partners on the ground, will continue in the missionary task to move these people groups from unengaged to engaged and, prayerfully, from unreached to reached. The goal is to see new believers, mature disciples, and healthy church plants among them.

The IMB recognizes that other missional Christians and organizations are also making efforts to reach the lost. IMB researchers are including reports of evangelical efforts among people groups when considering them unengaged and unreached.

The IMB hopes to send 100 missionary explorers this year. Four have already completed training and arrived on the field. Two others will go this summer. Those interested in the [missionary explorer](#) opportunity can find out more through the IMB.

Virtual explorers

The call to action at this year’s IMB booth in the annual meeting exhibit hall was to register as a virtual explorer, an opportunity that is also available to those not attending the convention. Virtual explorers will have access to reports from missionary explorers, urgent prayer requests, opportunities to support the work and news about gospel impact among the least reached.

Those who registered on-site in New Orleans received a Bluetooth tracker, helpful for finding items like keys, purses, or frequently misplaced items. The emphasis in the gift is finding the lost and remaining aware of the urgency in bringing the gospel to those who have never heard. [A Great Pursuit webpage](#) with steps to becoming a virtual explorer is live on IMB’s website.

All efforts to reach the nations are possible through the unity of Southern Baptists giving faithfully to the Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

At the pastors’ conference preceding the annual meeting, IMB President Paul Chitwood thanked church leaders for their support and encouraged more to consider how they can lead their congregation to reach the lost.

Chitwood said that to see the Revelation 7:9 vision fulfilled, “there must be a great pursuit, a great pursuit of the lost in every nation, all tribes, peoples, and languages. It is to this great work that God has called us. So let us recommit ourselves to one another, to the work He has set before us.”



INTERNATIONAL
MISSION BOARD

Working Together to Reach the Lost

Theologian and Scholar Carl F. H. Henry once said, “The Gospel is only good news if it gets there in time.” That quote is a sobering reminder that there are still those across the street and around the world who have never heard the good news that Jesus loves them and that He paid the penalty for their sins.

I, like many of you, look forward to the International Mission Board (IMB) Sending Celebration of our newly commissioned and appointed missionaries. It is a reminder that someone must go and share. Romans 10:14 reminds us of this truth, “But how can they call on Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them?”

The IMB unveiled a new strategic initiative at the SBC in New Orleans titled, “Project 3000.” Why? Because as of this writing, there are still over 3,000 people groups all around the world that have no missionary presence and no gospel access. According to the latest research and the IMB website, there are now over 8 billion people in the world, living in 195 countries, and speaking over 7,000 languages. And as of this writing and these statistics, over half of them have never heard the good news of Jesus Christ.

This new pioneer initiative will help send over 300 missionary explorers over the next five years to explore

these 3,072 unengaged people groups. This vision is a massive undertaking and will require the necessary funds to fuel it. I want to say thank you for your faithful giving to the Cooperative Program and encourage you and your church family to remain faithful in it. Dr. Paul Chitwood, president of the IMB, recently said, “The Cooperative Program has become essential for the work of the IMB. Virtually every penny of the support for our IMB stateside team members is provided by the CP. But we don’t even use half of the IMB’s CP dollars in the U.S., as 60 percent of those dollars go to support your overseas missionaries and their work.”

If you would like to learn more about this new initiative, please visit <https://www.imb.org/great-pursuit/>.

We’re better together. We’re stronger together. We must cooperate together. We must stick together. Why? Because we have Good News to share that must get there in time.



Dr. Jeremy Westbrook
Executive Director-Treasurer, SCBO



Loving & Leading the Local Church

A one-day conference to equip leaders of established churches

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Brian Croft
Executive Director
Practical Shepherding, Inc.



Nick Sandefur
Senior Pastor
Porter Memorial BC

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August 24, 2023

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

The Northwest Region is ripe for harvest. The seeds are planted, and the fields are full. It's beautiful to see the farmers' work in beautiful northwest Ohio. Jesus used this kind of picture when He said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into the fields" Matthew 9:37.

Evangelism efforts are taking place throughout our area. Pastor Lance Wyse and his team at Haven Heights BC, Wauseon, are leading a VBS, loving their community and sharing Jesus with kids and parents. Churches are also gearing up for a season of invitation. Invitation Sundays are crucial this time of year. In August and September, many families are making spiritual decisions and deciding

to come back to church or come to church for the first time. It is important for us to use this season for invitation, and our churches are doing that.

Fourteen youth from Northwest Ohio attended Super Summer Ohio at Cedarville University and came back changed and ready to share the gospel with their friends. We have heard from parents and students that gospel conversations are happening. At Super Summer, I had the joy of spending time with 48 high school graduates teaching them how to share their stories using "Three Circles" and the "Bridge Diagram" to explain the good news. They did great, and it was an exciting time.

**Chad Keck - West**

I love summer. Summer seems to be the season in which the church thrives. I just returned from a few days at student camp followed by time at kids' camp. If you are a pastor, I highly recommend you go to camp with your kids/students. They will love having you there and you will be a better preacher and pastor for going.

As we look to the fall, I want to encourage you to get yourself and your church leaders signed up for the Southwest Ohio Leadership Conference on September 7. Great leaders do not lead alone and are passionate about raising and equipping new leaders. This conference will both encourage you and equip you and your team to lead well in your church. For more info and to register check out: <https://swohioleaders.com/>

**Reagan Wagoner - Southwest**

All Southwest Ohio churches need to be aware of important events in August. On August 8, please inform your churches about the importance of our statewide vote on Issue One as we stand up for life. Please visit <https://pledge.ccv.org/resources> for information and resources from the Center for Christian Virtue about Issue One.

I am excited about Reds Faith Day on August 5, at the Great American Ballpark! I still have a few tickets left if you would like your church to join us! I'm excited to have dozens of Southwest Ohio churches there!

Our second annual Southwest Ohio Leadership Conference is set for September 7, and we have quite the keynote and breakout lineup! 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, NAMB vice president of resources/research, as well as breakout speakers at FBC Kettering.

Registration is now live at www.swohioleaders.com, and cost is just \$20 for the day, and is buy one get one free if you bring somebody with you. Looking forward to connecting with leaders from all over Southwest Ohio as we get together, but don't come by yourself! Bring your staff! There will be breakouts for children's ministry, student ministry, tech/worship, women's leadership and more! We will have a track for business leaders to maximize their work life for the kingdom!

MINISTRIES HUB

UPDATES

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REGIONAL UPDATES



Stephen Owens - Northeast

Hello Northeast Region family. This month I visited with the pastors of two of our Northeast Region churches that have a heart for their local community but also for refugees. During July, I sat down with Pastor Brian Picard of Liberty Baptist in the Steel Valley Baptist Association and Pastor Ivan Skachko of Cornerstone Church of Parma in the Cleveland Hope Baptist Association.

Pastor Picard told me about their ministry, Shoulders of Christ, where they go to the Middle East to share the gospel and serve those in need. This year they ministered to Iraqi Christian refugees in Jordan, where they conducted women's seminars, health lectures to students, in addition to preaching in local churches.

They also traveled to Egypt, where they served Sudan refugees, gave meals to homeless people, orphanages, and children who attended Sunday school. Their ministry to those abroad is encouraging.

Pastor Skachko and the Cornerstone Church are passionate about helping Ukrainian refugees. Not only are they sending financial and medical aid to them, but they are also sending food and clothes. Their church members have opened their homes to the refugees who have come to Cleveland. They are also helping the refugees with practical issues such as finding employment, teaching ESL classes, and enrolling their children in school. They are doing these acts of kindness as they are sharing the gospel and disciplining the refugees among them.

It is amazing to see how God is using local churches in northeast Ohio to help and reach people in other parts of the world. If I can be of assistance, feel free to reach out. (sowens@scbo.org) I would appreciate the opportunity to sit down and fellowship with you. God bless.



Rick Williams - Central

Greetings! It is wonderful to witness the life-changing ministry taking place in Central Ohio churches this summer!

Pastor Jeff Deel and his wife, Connie, planted Word Baptist Church in Sparta, Ohio in January 2022. Recently, the North American Mission Board PrayerConnect featured them and their prayer request for Vacation Bible School, which took place at Highland High School, where the church meets. Last year, they had approximately 40 kids in attendance, and this year, they prayed for that number to grow and for students and families to be impacted by the gospel. They had an average of 55 children each night!! Furthermore, seeds were planted with gospel conversations

taking place. Let us continue to fervently pray for Jeff and Connie as they faithfully serve the Lord!

I invite you to join us at First Baptist Church in Lancaster for the "Loving and Leading the Local Church" conference on Thursday, August 24, from 9 am to 3 pm. This will be an amazing opportunity for encouraging and equipping with Brian Croft, executive director of Practical Shepherding, and Nick Sandefur, senior pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, KY, as the main speakers. We will also have breakout sessions and helpful resources regarding church revitalization. We look forward to seeing you there!

You can register at: <https://scbo.org/event/loving-and-leading-local-church>.



Josh Remy - Southeast

Journey Fellowship Baptist Church in Bremen, Georgia, made an incredible donation to families headed back to school in Ohio. Ten Southeast Region churches were blessed with 30 backpacks each to distribute to children in need in their communities and/or churches. Journey Fellowship filled the backpacks with school supplies, personal items, fun toys, and a Bible. We are so thankful to Journey Fellowship for the resources spent assembling and delivering these gifts, and we pray God will use them to help develop meaningful relationships with families.

All Southeast Region pastors should plan to attend "Loving and Leading the Local Church," a one-day conference at FBC Lancaster on Thursday, August 24, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. It's only \$20 if you register ahead of time, but if you need help with those funds or gas money, let me know. Please make this conference a priority! More information and registration are available on the events page at <https://www.scbo.org/event/loving-and-leading-local-church>.



Pastor Greg Jackson and his wife, Renee, celebrated their 30th anniversary at FSBC, Camden, with 350 church members, former church members, friends, and relatives.

Jackson Celebrates Thirty Years as Pastor of First Southern, Camden

By Stephanie Heading, managing editor

The congregation of First Southern Baptist Church (FSBC), Camden, recently celebrated a ministry milestone few churches ever reach – the thirtieth anniversary of senior pastor, Greg Jackson.

Jackson became pastor of FSBC on July 11, 1993, and has served the church, his first and only pastorate, ever since. “FSBC, Camden is the only place I’ve ever been,” said Jackson. “I didn’t know I was supposed to think about other churches.”

A native of Dayton, Jackson attended North Dayton Baptist Church where he accepted Christ during a revival in 1976. He married his high school sweetheart, Renee, in 1983. He and his family were attending First Baptist Church, Vandalia, now First Light Church, when he surrendered to God’s call to the ministry at age thirty.

Fred Jackson, Greg’s father, knew God was calling his son to ministry. He recalls the day Greg called him from his job at the Post Office and asked if he could come by to talk with him. “I knew what he was going to say,” said the elder Jackson. “I wish everybody throughout the land could have a son like him. He lets God take control of his life.”

During its search for a new pastor, Jackson came to the church’s attention as pulpit supply. He preached his first sermon at FSBC while the Pastor Search Committee was in Kentucky listening to a candidate for the pastor position. When the committee returned, church

members were excited about the guy who preached while the committee was gone.

The rest of the story is history as Jackson was the man selected as pastor. “God put me here,” he said. “If God can do it in Camden with me as pastor, He can do it with anybody.”

It has been a busy thirty years since Jackson began his ministry at FSBC. Among the memorable moments for him has been the privilege of baptizing his family and seeing people accept Christ. Rebuilding the sanctuary in 2004 was also noteworthy. Rebuilding it in downtown Camden instead of moving to a new location outside town was part of the church’s commitment to its community. “We are connected to Camden. They can count on us.”

People from FSBC’s past and present were among the 350 in attendance on Sunday, July 9, as the church honored Jackson and his wife. “They rolled out the red carpet,” he noted. “FSBC, Camden is one of the most giving churches ever.”

The celebration included tributes from staff members, Jackson’s father, and brother-in-law, as well as gifts, including a crystal plaque, a book of memories, a bouquet of flowers, and a love offering from the church. In addition, Preble County Commissioners presented Proclamation 344 to Jackson, thanking him for his impact on the church, the city of Camden, and the county.

The day of celebration and tributes was impactful for Jackson. “It was humbling,” he said. “There are faithful guys in other places who are never recognized.”

The highlight of the day for him was baptizing twelve new believers, mostly youth and children. “It made the day so much sweeter,” he said. “This baptism is the fruit of the youth group, the fruit of Vacation Bible School, the fruit of faithful Sunday school teachers and folks in the church.”

On a day planned to honor his ministry, Jackson gave credit to the Lord and his congregation while setting a vision for the future. “Here’s what I love about our church – you let me be me. When I was young, you didn’t force me into a box and you didn’t let failure

define me,” he said. “I can assure you, when we look back thirty years, the thirty good years I have been able to be your pastor, it’s not because Brother Greg has been something, it’s because we have been working together. We’ve been a team. To God be the glory.

“As we continue to think about the next chapter, the next season, I’m looking forward to it. The back nine, the fourth quarter, whatever you want to call it. God is up to something big! God is calling me to lead us to become a house of prayer,” he said. “He wants us to be on mission – a gospel-sharing, gospel-sending mission.

“The question is ok, are we finished? Absolutely not! We will be finished when the Lord says we’re done.”

President's Pen



by Dr. Ray Umphrey

We’re just a few weeks away from the Central Ohio conference, “Loving and Leading the Local Church.” I’m excited to see you there. Our speakers, Brian Croft and Nick Sandefur, will bring encouragement and practical guidance for leading in the established church. We also have breakout sessions planned, which will span a range of topics, such as tools for revitalization, replanting pathways, and barriers to church growth.

I firmly believe it is God’s will for established churches to experience health, vitality, and growth. I believe Jesus is committed to the church and will build his church when we pursue faithfulness to him. However, there are common barriers to church health and growth, and we have a personal enemy in Satan who actively opposes the church. I pray that this conference will equip pastors and leaders to address these barriers so churches can experience the health and vitality that God intends.

So, mark your calendars for Thursday, August 24, 2023, and join us at First Baptist Church, Lancaster. Registration includes lunch as well as book giveaways. You can register at <https://www.scbo.org/event/loving-and-leading-local-church>.

I’d love to know how our state convention can serve you and your church. You can reach me at president@scbo.org.



Your partner in the gospel,

Dr. Ray A. Umphrey
SCBO President
president@scbo.org

What is at Stake in the August Special Election on Issue One?

By Center for Christian Virtue

On Tuesday, August 8, Ohioans have a chance to safeguard the state Constitution and ensure only the most widespread, popular ideas make it into our state's most important document.

Unlike the U.S. Constitution, the Ohio Constitution can be easily changed. Currently, only a simple majority vote of the electorate—50 percent plus one vote—is required to amend Ohio's governing document, making it one of the easiest in the country to manipulate.

Because of the low threshold to amend the Ohio Constitution, Planned Parenthood and the abortion industry are attempting to pass an amendment this year to legalize abortion up to birth in our state. This proposal is so radical it would even allow a minor to get an abortion without her parents' knowledge or consent.



A YES vote on Issue 1 would:

- Elevate the threshold to amend the state Constitution to 60 percent of the vote in an election.
- Require that signatures be collected from all of Ohio's 88 counties—instead of just 44—for a proposed Constitutional amendment initiative to make the ballot.
- Ensure that all valid signatures for a proposed Constitutional amendment be submitted on the specified due date, and that additional signatures cannot be submitted after the deadline.

Important Election Dates

Sunday, August 6: Last day for early in-person voting

Monday, August 7: Mailed absentee ballots must be postmarked by this date and received by your county Board of Elections by August 12.

Tuesday, August 8: Special Election Day: Polls are open from 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. for in-person voting, and absentee ballots may be personally delivered to your county Board of Elections by 7:30 p.m.

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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.

9.7.23

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SCBO
The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio

OSBDR Works to Impact the Unreached People of Greece

by Dr. John Heading, OSBDR director

How do you reach a country that is 99.5% lost and at the same time is 90% Greek Orthodox? Ohio Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (OSBDR) recently found out.

In Greece, you reach them one conversation at a time. Gospel conversations are taking place in the market and on the metro, but they could be more effective if a Send Relief Greek community center existed in Athens.

In early June, OSBDR received a request from IMB missionaries Jimmy and Davii Parris, who serve on the field in Athens, Greece. They asked for a Disaster Relief team to assist them in remodeling a new location for a community center.

On July 5, an OSBDR team of four boarded a plane to meet that need. The team included team leader John Heading, OSBDR director; David Bonnell, and Matthew Crum, University Baptist Church, Beavercreek, and Ervin Andy from Jersey Baptist Church, New Albany.

The missionaries rented a location for the community center in early 2023, but the work was moving slower than planned. The missionaries tasked the OSBDR team to move the project forward by installing and wiring new lights in the space, installing plumbing for a kitchenette, building a deck, and installing internet cable.

“No other non-profit is doing anything like this community center,” said Parris. “Any group offering services to the community expects something in return.” The purpose of the community center is to impact the local community, refugees, and those affected by human trafficking.



OSBDR Team members who traveled to Greece included, Ervin Andy, Jersey Church, New Albany; John Heading, director, OSBDR; Matt Crum and David Bonnell, University BC, Beavercreek.



David Bonnell, University BC, Beavercreek; and Ervin Andy, Jersey Church, New Albany, work on electrical, plumbing, and welding for a new community center in Athens, Greece.

During their ten days on the ground in Athens, the team members were able to complete more work than expected. However, one need was still unmet. The issue was how to provide heating and air conditioning so the community center could operate year-round.



Members of OSBDR worked in Greece, helping to build a community center.

Heading sent a message to all OSBDR members, asking them to contact their own churches to see if DR could raise \$3000 to provide heating and cooling for the community center. Within three days the full amount had been raised with donations from Urbancrest BC, Lebanon; First Baptist, Waverly; Violet BC, Pickerington; and a private donor.

The OSBDR team is back home, but the work in Greece continues. OSBDR is responsible for covering disaster responses and requests from IMB personnel in Western Europe. If you would like to serve internationally through OSBDR, contact Dr. John Heading at jheading@scbo.org for more information.



Revitalize Ohio: E.A.R.F.A.R.M.R. By Mark Jones, SCBO revitalization consultant

Last month, I discussed the approach that I take in church health/revitalization using the acronym **E.A.R.F.A.R.M.R.**

E.A.R. stands for Encouragement, Assessing and Revitalization options. I mentioned that many churches could simply refocus on Jesus, prayer, and the gospel to get back on the right track. However, others need a much more strategic approach. I highly recommend every congregation take their “church pulse” to see where they are to help determine their best steps forward.

In addition to **E.A.R.**, churches need to consider the **F** and **A** of the church health/revitalization approach.

F- Fostering. One of the greatest things to happen to a declining congregation is a healthier congregation fostering them back to health. This fostering process may assist the declining congregation to make the best decisions moving forward. The two congregations establish a foster covenant for a minimum of twelve months so that with assessment and encouragement the declining church can begin to form healthier habits. The Associational Mission Strategist and Regional Catalyst will participate in

this process to encourage you along the way.

A- Adoption. A declining church may decide to become a campus of the fostering/healthier congregation. At this point, a SEND Network Ohio Catalyst will assist in the process of restarting the declining congregation alongside the healthier congregation. While it is a replant of the declining congregation, it is through the process of adoption and not simply sponsorship.

Next month, we will cover the **R.M.R.** options. My hope is that you have a greater understanding of the church revitalization possibilities.

I hope you can join me on Thursday, August 24, at First Baptist Church, Lancaster, for the “Loving and Leading the Local Church.” Register at <https://scbo.org/event/loving-and-leading-local-church>.

On September 8-9, Freedom Hill Community Church in Stow, is hosting a Friday to Saturday “Healthy Church Form and Function Seminar” with Dr. Ken Lowe. The cost is \$10 per person or \$25 for a church team of three to five. Email me at mjones@scbo.org for more information.

The background of the top section is a faded image of the Ohio Statehouse. A red banner at the top contains the date 'OCTOBER 6, 2023'. Below it, a red-bordered box contains the text 'OHIO MARCH FOR LIFE' in large, bold, red letters with a white outline.

OCTOBER 6, 2023

OHIO
MARCH FOR LIFE

You are invited! Ohio March for Life, Friday, October 6

Join us for the 2023 Ohio March for Life at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus on Friday, October 6, from 10 am to 1 pm. The pre-rally worship concert begins at 10:00 a.m., the rally starts at 11:00 a.m., and the official march begins at noon. Center for Christian Virtue (CCV) is partnering with the March for Life Education and Defense Fund to host the Ohio March for Life.

This is an excellent opportunity for anyone to learn about the principles of effective lobbying, the specific and current issues Ohio is facing, and what you can do right now to champion pro-life policies to your Ohio elected representatives. This rally and march are suited for all levels of experience and comfort with advocacy. Rally with your family, friends, church, school—whatever communities you belong to—and unite the voices of Ohioans to celebrate and support the unborn.

It is not too early to start planning! Let your church know that in October, pro-life Ohioans from across the state will gather at the Statehouse to worship together, hear from inspirational speakers, receive resources on how best to assist women, children, and families, and march through the streets of downtown Columbus to let the abortion industry know that we will not be silent. Together, we can make abortion unthinkable in Ohio!

Registration is not necessary to attend, but it is strongly recommended—especially if you want to receive updates on the event.

To register, click here [REGISTER NOW!](#) or for more information, contact CCV at [513-733-5775](tel:513-733-5775) or contact@ccv.org.

OBF Scramble Golf Tournament

Sixty golfers from across Ohio teed up at the Ohio Baptist Foundation (OBF) Golf Invitational on Monday, July 23, at Cumberland Trail Golf Club in Pataskala. They competed in a foursome scramble. At the end of 18 holes, two teams, one from Cedarville University and the other from Maranatha Community Church, Pickerington, were tied at -14. Following the tiebreaker, the team from Maranatha won. Jeff Beisel is pastor of Maranatha. Money raised from the Invitational will support Lifewise Academy, as well as provide Next Gen Scholarships. Following the tournament, participants enjoyed a meal as well as a presentation from Derek Stemen of Lifewise Academy.



Grady Evans' Legacy Includes Future Gospel Advancement

Earlier this year, a long-time Ohio Baptist leader went home to meet the Lord, leaving a legacy of service as well as an investment to promote gospel advance well into the future.

Former SCBO Collegiate Ministries Director Grady Evans passed away in April at 88 years old. Grady worked with local churches across Ohio and the United States. In 1967, he began his work on college campuses in southwest Ohio before moving to the SCBO in Columbus to lead the effort to reach students with the gospel. From 1969 to 1999, Grady led the SCBO Baptist Student Union, which later became SCBO Collegiate Ministries. Grady assisted local leaders in providing a Biblical witness and presence among college students and faculty.

Grady's passion was to share Jesus with others and lead them to a personal relationship with him. Grady received joy in helping others to uncover and reach their full potential. He was instrumental in starting churches. At age 76, Grady started Fresh State church to help give people a fresh start in Jesus.

Upon Grady's retirement from SCBO in 1999, messengers to the Annual Meeting passed a resolution of appreciation and gratitude for the efforts of Grady and his first wife of 51 years, Bernice, for their investment in "continuing strategies of starting and strengthening churches in Ohio, as well as "their over thirty years of service in Ohio and their leadership of Baptist Student Union and now Collegiate Ministries."



In addition to his ministry and service during his life, Grady is also making a difference in the future of ministry in Ohio. "Legacy. It's extremely hard to put into words the eternal impact from the life and ministry of Grady Evans," said Dr. Jeremy Westbrook, SCBO executive director-treasurer. "Not only did Grady invest in the Kingdom of God while on earth, but he is also now multiplying that investment from heaven.

"How? Grady left an extremely generous financial gift to the Ohio Baptist Foundation for gospel advancement. Why? Our legacy is connected to what we invest in and for whom we live. Let's follow the example of Grady. May we live for Jesus and invest our time, treasures, and talents in the Kingdom of God, even after our lives on earth are over. That's a legacy."

Job Postings

PASTOR, Good Shepherd Baptist Church, Amherst

Good Shepherd Baptist Church, Amherst, is prayerfully seeking a pastor who will be in the instrumental role of 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. 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>.

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

*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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