

## Now is the Time to be Vocal: Vote No on Issue 1



SCBO Executive Director-Treasurer Dr. Jeremy Westbrook recently met with Ohio Governor Mike Dewine and other Ohio faith leaders to discuss Issue 1, the ballot initiative that would permanently legalize abortion from conception through birth.

It's not political. It's biblical. On Tuesday, November 7, Ohioans will have the opportunity to vote NO on a constitutional amendment that would permanently legalize abortion up to birth. It would also legalize and include partial-birth abortion, removal of parental awareness consent for minors to receive abortions, and outlaw standards for hospital health and safety.

This issue is not about political party or economic status, it is simply about the right to life.

Scripture teaches us in Psalm 139:13-18 about the beauty of life in the womb:

*13 You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb.*

*14 Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.*

*15 You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion,*

*as I was woven together in the dark of the womb.*

*16 You saw me before I was born.*

*Every day of my life was recorded in your book.*

*Every moment was laid out*

*before a single day had passed.*

*17 How precious are your thoughts about me, O God.*

*They cannot be numbered!*

*18 I can't even count them;*

*they outnumber the grains of sand!*

*And when I wake up,*

*you are still with me!*

This is not the time to be silent and absent from the ballot box, but rather the time to be vocal and present on election day. The right to life is foundational in our constitution and biblical in our theology. The deadline to register to vote NO on Issue 1 is October 10 and early voting begins on October 11.

Since our annual celebration is November 6 -7, I want to encourage you to vote early and lead your church with conviction to be a voice for the voiceless. After all, it's not political. It's biblical.

Moving Forward,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dr. Jeremy Westbrook".

Dr. Jeremy Westbrook  
Executive Director-Treasurer, SCBO



For more information  
about Ohio Issue 1,  
please visit:

<https://seethelanguage.com/>

<https://www.ccv.org/pray>



# Featured This Month

<b>Now is the Time to be Vocal: Vote No on Issue 1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Ohio African American Fellowship Celebrates 15th Annual Gathering</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Swahili Church Plant Purchases Van Using Funds From Ray Roberts Offering</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Because of Your Support, Millie Knows Jesus!</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>SCBO Regional Ministries Hub</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>SCBO Hires Buzz Kocher as Director of Strategic Initiatives</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Ohio Deaf Missions 2023 Conference</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>President's Pen</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Cleveland Church Plant Seeks to Shine a Light From Former Strip Club Property</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Pastors Need Revitalization and Encouragement Too</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Seeking His Face: Regional Prayer Gatherings with Bill Elliff</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>SCBO Women's Conference set for October 21 at Lifepoint Church in Delaware</b>	<b>14</b>

## *The Ohio Baptist Messenger Staff*

Dr. Jeremy Westbrook, editor-in-chief

Stephanie Heading, managing editor

Seth Wicker, digital communication assistant

AJ Frasure, digital communication assistant

Dan Stupakewicz, director of information technology

### *-- 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](mailto:messenger@scbo.org).

*For more information, please contact Stephanie Heading at [messenger@scbo.org](mailto:messenger@scbo.org).*



## Ohio African American Fellowship Celebrates 15th Annual Gathering

By Pastor Bobbie Garrett, Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church, Sandusky

In mid-September, the Ohio African American Fellowship (OAAF) of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio (SCBO) celebrated its 15th annual gathering in Cleveland with three spirit-filled days of enlightenment. Seventy-five pastors and wives registered for this year's event at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Cleveland.

Guests included Florida Baptist Convention Catalysts, Dr. Jeffery Singletary, Erik Cummings, and Patrick Coats; and Zelvis Applin, pastor/planter, South Hills Church, Wimauma, Florida; Charles Grant, vice president for African American relations from the SBC Executive Committee; and David Mahan, policy director, Center for Christian Virtue.

Attendees from across Ohio worshiped, heard inspiring and challenging messages, and conducted OAAF business. In addition, Dr. Jeremy Westbook, SCBO executive director-treasurer, presented SCBO Pastor's Scholarships to four African American pastors: Pastor Karlie Hale, One Love

Community Church, Cleveland; Bruce McLaurin, First Baptist Church, South Euclid; Michael Carter, The Well Church of Toledo; and Bobbie Garrett, Jr., Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church, Sandusky.

The OAAF elected Rodney Jackson, The Movement Church, Toledo, as the seventh president of the Fellowship. The OAAF pastor's wives assembled and encouraged each other. They discussed how to create healthy environments, protect their pastor/husbands, and strengthen women to stand against cultural pressures.

"God is at work in Ohio! It was a great honor to participate in this year's Ohio African American Fellowship of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio (OAAF) gathering," said Patrick Coats, Florida Baptist Convention black multicultural catalyst. "There was a sweet fellowship and unity among pastors and wives. In settings like this I am always excited to hear the amazing Kingdom stories. I'm truly grateful for the opportunity to serve and be among these faithful brethren."

# RAY ROBERTS State Missions Offering

## Swahili Church Plant Purchases Van Using Funds From Ray Roberts Offering

By Stephanie Heading, managing editor

For 40 years, Pastor Kaleba Faliala has served the Lord as a pastor. He first served in his native Congo. When he became a refugee from his homeland, Faliala's location changed, but his mission and calling remained the same.

After spending time living in a refugee camp, the door opened for him and his family to immigrate to the United States in 2020. "The government of the United States selected me to come to America," said Faliala. In 2021, they settled in Akron, Ohio, where he began serving the Lord as a church planter.

Faliala planted Swahili Community Church Akron for Swahili speaking immigrants. The 18-month-old church plant currently ministers to approximately 130 immigrants who came to America from Congo where Swahili is the native language.

This year Swahili Community Church Akron was a recipient of funds from the 2022 Ray Roberts State Missions Offering. SCBO churches collect this offering each September and it benefits Ohio church planters and Ohio Southern Baptist Disaster Relief.

The Ray Roberts funds helped meet a significant need for the Swahili Community Church Akron – transportation. With Ray Roberts funds, the church was able to purchase a 12-passenger van. "One of the greatest problems is that very few of the people have driver's licenses," said Ohio Send Network Church Planter Buzz Kocher. "Those who do have licenses don't have a car. I am grateful to see the church get a van."

Kocher has collaborated with Pastor Faliala for the past year, visiting in the homes of church members.

"It's wild," said Kocher. "It feels like you are in Africa. It's a cross cultural experience only two hours from Columbus."

"Many of the people are refugees who spent many years in refugee camps. There are stories of the hardships they endured, but they have come here to start a new life and worship God in their own language."

As the young church plant continues to move forward, Faliala is pleased with the church's growth. "The church is going well and is healthy," he said through his interpreter Mokwa. "God is providing, and we are grateful and thankful for the blessing of a van."



Send Network Ohio Church Planter Catalyst, Buzz Kocher with Pastor Kaleba Faliala and other leaders of the Swahili Community Church Akron.

One significant challenge facing Swahili Community Church is securing its own place to worship. Currently the church is meeting at Citizens Church near Akron University but is praying for a building of its own.

"We would like to find a location where we can worship freely," said Faliala. He noted that Swahili traditions of worship are different from American worship, and the church would also like to have a building of its own for events like prayer services and choir practice.

Faliala also sees the Lord moving in the church. He feels blessed by the assistance the church has received from Kocher and Dr. Rich Halcombe of Metro Columbus Association. "We receive money from Metro Columbus each month which helps the income of the church," he said. "Newborn Christians are coming to join the church, and we got a van. We thank you!"

Pastor Faliala and the Swahili Community Church ask Ohio Baptists to remember them in prayer. Please pray for the church to get its own building; to send out people with mission vision; to multiply in Ohio and beyond; to bring more teachers and students into the church; and to develop a micro business in sewing for the women of the church. They currently need sewing machines for this business.

"We are celebrating what the Lord is doing in Akron," said Kocher. "And telling people about it."

# RAY ROBERTS State Missions Offering

## Because of Your Support, Millie Knows Jesus!

By Dr. John Heading, OSBDR state director



Ohio Dr Chaplain Sarah Jo Wright led Millie to the Lord during a deployment to Guam.

When you land at Guam's airport the locals greet you with "Hafa Adai!," pronounced "half a day" and means. "Hi" or "Hello." The island's Chamorro people are the friendliest people you will ever meet, and they were excited to see that help had finally arrived.

In August and September, Ohio Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (OSBDR) served on three teams with volunteers from four other states rotating through Guam at the invitation of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The mission was for SBDR volunteers to repair houses damaged by Typhoon Mawar, a devastating storm with hurricane force winds that struck the island in May 2023.

During their time in Guam, the Ohio DR volunteers were able to help people, including the pastor of Guam Christian Life Fellowship, a Southern Baptist church. However, one person left an impression on the workers. Her name is Millie.

The SBDR assessment team had an appointment with Millie at 8:30 am one morning, but when they arrived, they learned that Millie had been in the emergency room all night with her daughter.

However, Millie got up and the team was able to assess the damage to her home. While the assessors did their work, Wanda Temple, North Carolina DR, spent time with Millie, gave her a Bible, and prayed with her.

After the initial contact with Millie, another team from Ohio DR rotated into Guam, and one of their first jobs was her home. The project was to build a bedroom outside under a metal roof. The team went to work and completed the room in days with the help of Missouri DR volunteers

Sarah Jo Wright, an Ohio DR chaplain, was able to share the gospel with Millie, and she trusted Jesus as her Savior. That was the day Millie was set free, but it was also the day she had to go pick up her husband's death certificate. He passed away three weeks earlier.

Millie suffered great pain after a typhoon, her daughter's ER visit, and her husband's passing. Today she has hope and strength in Christ. The mission FEMA planned was for emergency home repair; The mission God intended was for a soul to find life in Him.

Thank you for your support of Ohio Disaster Relief through the Ray Roberts State Missions Offering. Because of your support, Millie knows Jesus!!



Disaster Relief volunteers from five states work to help the residents of Guam recover from a typhoon.

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

“I pray because I can’t help myself. I pray because I’m helpless. I pray because the need flows out of me all the time, waking and sleeping. It doesn’t change God. It changes me.” – C.S. Lewis

We need prayer to change us! Conversations with God bring us to think rightly, to develop a heart of thankfulness, and to come to a place of worship. We also enjoy the hope of a sovereign God. He is sovereignly drawing people to Himself.

In Northwest Ohio we trust that we are coming alongside the Holy Spirit as He is summoning people to the cross. Our outreach and gospel presentations do not rely on our persuasiveness or eloquence, but on the truth that the Holy Spirit is “convicting the world of sin and righteousness.”

As we promote a time to pray together, we look forward to Bill Elliff coming to Northwest Ohio. This catalytic time will encourage us to gather in prayer. We can be in the same physical place accomplishing great spiritual things.

I hope you will join us on Tuesday, October 24 at First Baptist Church, in Clyde, Ohio at 10 am. Let’s pray together and find change!

I love praying for you. I don’t take it lightly when you send me prayer requests. Please call or text me with your prayer needs. Matt Pardi 419-494-9640.

**Chad Keck - West**

We had an incredible day at the Southwest Ohio Leaders Conference on September 7. There were 225 pastors and leaders who gathered at FBC Kettering to learn about leadership and the Kingdom. Thank you to all who came out and participated.

As we look ahead, I am fired up about our “Seek His Face Regional Prayer Gatherings” with Bill Elliff. There are few things that can change a church like a movement of prayer. Our region has two opportunities to engage with Bill Elliff on prayer and revival. The first is on October 25 from 6:30 to 8 pm at FBC Kettering. This gathering is open to anyone who desires to grow in their prayer life. Then on October 26 from noon to 3 pm, Elliff will be at the GDAB HUB to meet with pastors and church leaders. This meeting will include lunch. You can register for these at [www.scbo.org/regional-prayer](http://www.scbo.org/regional-prayer). Please know that I pray daily for the churches and the pastors of the West Region. If there is anything you ever need or any way that I can pray specifically for you please reach out to me at [ckeck@scbo.org](mailto:ckeck@scbo.org).

**Reagan Wagoner - Southwest**

We had a great day at our Southwest Ohio Leaders Conference! Over 225 leaders joined us at FBC Kettering, and it was great to see many of you there with your leaders. I am continuing to pray God gives us more opportunities like this to collaborate. I was also grateful to join the Cincinnati Area Baptist Association at its Annual Meeting at North Fairfield Baptist Church, and I am excited about all that God is doing through each of our associations in Cincinnati.

On October 12, we’ll be hosting a “Seek His Face Regional Prayer Gatherings” with Bill Elliff at East River Road Baptist from 9 am-2 pm. You can register for this now on the SCBO website at [www.scbo.org/regional-prayer](http://www.scbo.org/regional-prayer).

You don’t want to miss our “Financial Q & A with a CPA Lunch” at Grace Point Fellowship from 11:30 am-1 pm on October 16 and our “Missional Engagement Lunch” at Lakota Hills Church from 11:30 am -1 pm on November 13. To register, email me at [rwagoner@scbo.org](mailto:rwagoner@scbo.org), so I know you are coming to join us. Each event will be free, provided by SCBO and Send Network Ohio, and church planters and established church pastors are welcome to attend! Feel free to bring any financial leaders or volunteers with you on Oct. 16, and any staff with you on November 13! These smaller gatherings will be quick, collaborative, and helpful.

# MINISTRIES HUB

UPDATES

REGIONAL U

REGIONAL UPDATES



## Stephen Owens - Northeast

I hope everyone in the Northeast Region is enjoying the cooler fall weather. During these fall months, I pray our passion for evangelism continues to grow. In our region, millions of people don't know Jesus and will spend eternity in hell.

I had the privilege of connecting with Pastor Kenneth Donaldson of the Rising Star Baptist Church in Youngstown. Pastor Donaldson told me that over the past few months, they have baptized 14 people and 20 individuals have joined the church. That is truly something for which to praise the Lord. Let's pray the Lord continues to use Rising Star in its community as a beacon of light for the gospel of Christ. Also, may we continue to be about the Great Commission, sharing the gospel, making disciples, and baptizing new believers as a public declaration of their faith in Jesus. God bless you. If I can be of assistance, please reach out. My email is [sowens@scbo.org](mailto:sowens@scbo.org).



## Rick Williams - Central

It is exciting to be a part of what is happening in the churches and leaders of Central Ohio!

I want to celebrate the "Loving and Leading the Local Church" conference held at First Baptist Church Lancaster at the end of August! It was a great experience with over 100 pastors and leaders gathered for a great day of equipping and encouragement! I'm especially grateful for Ray Umphrey's vision for this conference. I'm also grateful for Brian Croft and Nick Sandefur for their encouraging and practical messages regarding revitalization. FBC Lancaster did an outstanding job providing hospitality.

On October 21, the "SCBO Pastors' Wives and Women in Ministry Conference" will convene at Lifepoint Church – Delaware. The inspiring three-hour women's conference is specifically for pastors' wives and women in ministry. Participants will hear from Lynley Mandrell, wife of Ben Mandrell, president of Lifeway, and enjoy uplifting praise and worship, giveaways, and lunch. Don't miss this incredible opportunity to foster personal and professional growth in your ministry journey!

Register at [www.scbo.org/womens-celebration](http://www.scbo.org/womens-celebration).



## Josh Remy - Southeast

"Enough talk, let's do something." Appalachians are doers. While that can sometimes get them into trouble, it is exactly what we need in Disaster Relief efforts. We need people who are willing to demonstrate their faith and love and then talk about it. SCBO's DR teams are a great way to get the hands-on people in your church involved in life-changing ministry. I've seen it in my own church! Two training events close to the Southeast Region are happening soon: October 28 in New Concord and November 4 in Lancaster. Contact me or go to [www.scbo.org/DR](http://www.scbo.org/DR) for more information.

Fall brings opportunities for outreach. Fall festivals, football Fridays and Saturdays, Trunk or Treat, Thanksgiving meals -- they can all be effective in letting your community know about God's love. If you have a great idea, don't let money be an obstacle. If you are planning an event to present the gospel, SCBO has evangelism grants to help. That's what CP giving is for! If you're interested in more information, email me at [jremy@scbo.org](mailto:jremy@scbo.org) and we'll get the process started.

## SCBO Hires Buzz Kocher as Director of Strategic Initiatives

By Stephanie Heading, managing editor



On October 1, a new full-time staff member is joining the SCBO team.

Buzz Kocher, who currently serves with the North American Mission Board (NAMB) as a Send Network Ohio Church Planter Catalyst, will leave that role to become the SCBO Director of Strategic Initiatives.

"I am thrilled to announce the addition of Buzz to our team," said Dr. Jeremy Westbrook, SCBO executive-director treasurer. "His love for the local church, associations, and our state convention is contagious. His impact will be immediate as he helps to oversee the Cooperative Program, convention partnerships, and catalysts for the SCBO."

Kocher has been part of Southern Baptist work in Ohio, having served at Lifepoint Church, Delaware, as the College and Young Adult Pastor for five and a half years before joining NAMB.

"After joining NAMB in December 2020, I started learning about our convention and all it has to offer," he said. "It got me excited about our state. Ohio has a lot of potential. God is moving."

During his time with NAMB Kocher served eastern Ohio, working with, and encouraging church planters across that area of the state. "I have relationships across eastern Ohio and now I will be able to build relationships with pastors around the state." As he develops these relationship, Kocher hopes to find ways to serve churches and pastors.

"This is why we do this," he noted. "We go on mission together." He said that sometimes we say we are "in this together" to other Christian organizations, but in the SBC, it takes on greater meaning.

"The SBC takes this to a whole new level," said Kocher. "Based on the Baptist Faith and Message, we lock arms with 47,000 churches. We see unity conventionally and unity in working together. There's nothing like it in the whole world."

Kocher believes that Southern Baptists working together will reach the lost and raise the next generation of pastors from within our churches.

"Evangelism is important, but we must disciple our people. We have plenty of places to plant and replant churches, but we don't have the people to pastor the churches," he said. "We need to lead our people to find pastors from within our churches."

## Ohio Deaf Missions 2023 Conference



Thirty-five people recently attended the Ohio Deaf Missions (ODM) Conference at Heartland Retreat and Conference Center. Attendees enjoyed Bible teaching and entertainment during the two-day event, and the group recognized Connie Massie for her past leadership with ODM. The next ODM conference will convene in March 2024. To learn more about ODM and stay up to date with the organization, please join the ODM private Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ohiobcdeaf/>



# President's Pen

by Dr. Ray Umphrey

One of the things I treasure most about our cooperation as Ohio Baptists is hearing stories from others in our state about how God is working in the ministry of their churches. Churches large and small and in-between have unique ministry opportunities and methods of reaching their mission fields.

I think it's important that we encourage the sharing of these stories. This is why I am leading our state to provide a new way of reporting these stories. At our Annual Celebration in November, we will unveil a new metric for Ohio Baptists called Missional Engagements. Missional Engagements are any evangelistic or missionary endeavor initiated by a local church. A pilot group of churches is currently providing this data to demonstrate this new metric. We plan to make this available for Ohio Baptist churches to report on next year's ACP. I look forward to seeing how God is leading your church to be on mission!

We're just six weeks away from our Pastor's Conference and Annual Celebration at Genoa Baptist Church! Mark your calendar for November 6-7 and join us for two great days of encouragement and celebration of what God is doing in Ohio. Our Pastor's Conference speakers, Hershael York and Mark Dever, will encourage us Monday evening. We will be blessed both days with worship led by Chosen Road. Don't miss this opportunity to gather with our SCBO family!

I'd love to know how our state convention can serve you and your church. You can reach me at [president@scbo.org](mailto:president@scbo.org).



Your partner in the gospel,

Dr. Ray A. Umphrey

SCBO President

[president@scbo.org](mailto:president@scbo.org)

# Cleveland Church Plant Seeks to Shine a Light From Former Strip Club Property

By Timothy Cockes, Baptist Press

Cleveland, Ohio (BP) – It may seem strange for a church plant to purchase a property which was formerly a strip club, but pastor Josh Miller said Cove City Church's new renovation project fits right along with their mission of bringing light to a dark place.

Earlier this year, Cove City purchased a foreclosed building right next door to its current meeting space. The newly purchased property formerly operated as a strip club.



Josh Miller, lead pastor, Cove City Church, Cleveland

The neighborhood is Midtown just outside downtown Cleveland. Miller said there are several strip clubs on the street the church occupies, and violence is common in the area.

Miller, lead pastor and church planter of Cove City, said the church had been praying about buying this exact property, and jumped at the opportunity when it came.

"It was so fast paced with lots of details in a short period of time in the way God provided for us," Miller said.

"We're in this season of just watching what the Lord does and watching Him provide, and He continues to do it. We know what we have planned for this space is going to take a lot of resources. It's going to take a lot of time, energy, and money to actually get it to the point of what we actually want it to be utilized for.

"But we know that God didn't bring us this far to leave us hanging, so we're just waiting on Him and watching Him provide."

Miller said buying a property in this location was not an act of desperation or a last resort.

The congregation has already been meeting in Midtown for some time, on a street which has garnered nicknames such as "forgotten alley" and "strip club alley."

Yet, he said the congregation has its eyes on the future, not the present.

"What I told our congregation was, 'Don't see what it is now, see it for what it could be if we as a church step into what God has for us,'" Miller said.

"It's not about seeing what it is now and going, 'We can't be here because there's too much violence, there's too much darkness around it.' Why would we look at it that way?"

"For us we looked at it differently. We said, 'We see the darkness, but we also see that the darkness holds no candle to the power that the church has because of Jesus.' We just saw it for what it can be and what it will be if we continue to serve down there.

"We wanted to be what we're called: a cove. A place where people come and find that peace that's only found in Jesus. A place where people can feel safe to come to because they know that there's a church there who loves Jesus and loves them."

Miller and his family planted Cove City in 2019 as a part of Send Network.

The church outgrew Miller's home and began gathering on the campus of a local college, because most of the members were students.

The congregation grew to around 120 members, before the COVID-19 pandemic ended meeting on the college campus. Most of the students moved back home, began taking online classes, and never moved back.

The church would eventually relaunch with about 20 people, meeting in a local wedding venue closer to downtown.

Later it moved into the current location, a building which used to be a candy store.

The church, now running about 70 people, always dreamed and prayed of purchasing the building next door, which was formerly a strip club called "The Velvet Rope."

One day, Miller ran into a man in the neighborhood who told him the building was soon going to hit the market.

The church was ready and waiting to bid on the property just days later in an online foreclosure auction.

When offers officially opened, Miller immediately placed a bid slightly above another pre-placed bid.

He had prayed that no one who was interested in the property or had placed a pre-bid would even show up when the auction happened.

This is exactly what happened, and Miller's first offer won the bids. The church then had to raise more than \$125,000 in cash to officially finalize the purchase of the building.

Miraculously, through church members, various ministry partners and random circumstances, Cove City secured the money in two weeks.

The building was purchased in late March, and the church moved into the property on Good Friday.

Future plans for the building look like a complete renovation, which will include knocking down walls to create one shared space between the two buildings.

In the meantime, the church will continue to minister to its community in a variety of ways.

Cove City's outreach includes giving away toys at Christmastime, hosting community worship nights and partnering with an organization that both fights human trafficking and ministers to the women who work at the nearby strip clubs.



Josh Miller, lead pastor at Cove City Church in Cleveland, Ohio, baptizes a new believer during a Sunday service.

Miller said just like the purchase of the new property, these ministries serve the ultimate vision of the church.

"We feel very strongly that we're supposed to be there," Miller said.

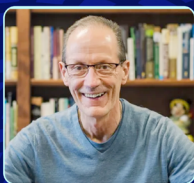
"... If we want to see change in the city of Cleveland, like real transformative Gospel change, we as Cove City have to step up. We have to do our part in serving and working alongside what God is already doing in the heart of the city ... we're going to come along and be a part of being vessels that God wants to use for Gospel change."

*This article was adapted from an article in Baptist Press. <https://www.baptistpress.com/>*

# AMPLIFY

## PREACHING CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 5  
PICKERINGTON, OH



CHUCK LAWLESS

SCBO

SCBO.ORG/AMPLIFY



JOHN HAYS

# SAVE THE DATE!

# *SCBO ANNUAL CELEBRATION*

NOV 6<sup>TH</sup>-7<sup>TH</sup> 2023 | COLUMBUS, OHIO



**SCBO** 

The State Convention Of Baptists In Ohio

[www.scbo.org/celebration](http://www.scbo.org/celebration)

# REVITALIZE

*assisting declining churches back to health*

## Pastors Need Revitalization and Encouragement Too

By Mark Jones, church revitalization catalyst

Since I began my role as the SCBO Church Revitalization Catalyst, I've had over 40 conversations with pastors and churches about the next steps to greater health.

I've also shared the process of revitalization in Ohio and written about the need for pastors and leaders to instill "rhythms" into their lives. I am thankful that at least six pastors have shared with me that they have taken time away with their wives to refresh and renew over the past few months.

I encourage all pastors and leaders to assess how healthy they are in leading. The North American

Mission Board (NAMB) has a simple assessment that is helpful. So, the question I want to ask today is "How healthy is your soul?"

This assessment is a tool designed to help you gauge the health of your soul. It is not exhaustive or meant to be a scientific assessment; rather it is a way for you to reflect on the condition and balance of your life and work. As you read through the following statements, evaluate how you see your present reality in each area. Remember, this is not an evaluation of how you want these areas to be in your life; it is an evaluation of how they are presently.

**Honestly rate each statement below from 0-10 by writing the number next to the statement— 10 meaning you "strongly agree" and 0 meaning you "strongly disagree." Add up your score to see the results of your self-assessment.**

1. I feel mentally sharp and focused most days.
2. I am energized by my call to ministry and rarely struggle with my purpose in life.
3. I am constantly encouraged by the companionship of the Holy Spirit, and I am ever aware of His presence in my life.
4. I am sustained and strengthened by my daily time in prayer and Bible study with the Lord.
5. Mentally, emotionally, and spiritually, I feel strong and equipped for daily tasks and challenges.
6. I rarely become critical and weighed down by the cares of this life.
7. I don't feel overwhelmed by worry, anxiety, or fear.
8. I have a couple of close friends with whom I regularly meet with, and I can be transparent with, accountable to and encouraged by them.
9. While I recognize the presence of temptations, I do not give in to them hoping to find relief from the stresses of life.
10. I generally have a settled soul without the presence of restlessness.


Total Score:

How healthy is your soul? If you gave yourself mostly 10s, then you are right where most people are not. Review the assessment questions again, highlighting those you scored lower on. Don't be discouraged! The first step in becoming healthier in the assessment areas is awareness of the needs you have and tools available to help you become better. Also, if you find yourself overwhelmed in these areas and cannot seem to get your balance, please reach out to SCBO to locate a counselor in your area. Never hesitate to ask for help.

To see the full assessment, please visit <https://www.namb.net/resource/personal-assessment/>

# Seek His Face

## Regional Prayer Gatherings



### Seeking His Face: Regional Prayer Gatherings with Bill Elliff

Pastors, church leaders, prayer leaders, and anyone with a heart longing to know God more intimately and see Him at work more powerfully — you are invited join SCBO and Bill Elliff for a time of encouragement and prayer at the “Seek His Face Regional Prayer Gatherings” across Ohio in October. Elliff will facilitate from his years of experience with brief times of teaching and extended times of prayer.

When Dr. Jeremy Westbrook, SCBO executive director-treasurer, outlined SCBO’s plan for 2023, prayer

and fasting topped the list. “Pastors are always ‘one thing away’ from a breakthrough, looking for the next staff member, tool, or building,” he stated. “We have tried everything but the most important thing. We must prioritize prayer and fasting if we are going to see the multiplication we need to reach Ohio.”

Register today to be part of the “Seek His Face Regional Prayer Gatherings” at [www.scbo.org/regional-prayer](http://www.scbo.org/regional-prayer).

## SCBO Women’s Conference set for October 21 at Lifepoint Church in Delaware

By Jennifer Westbrook

Calling all pastor’s wives, staff wives, and women in ministry.

Mark your calendar now for the SCBO Women’s Conference on Saturday, October 21, at Lifepoint Church, Delaware Campus, from 11 am - 2 pm. If you are a pastor’s wife, staff wife, or a woman in ministry, then this event is for you—you do not want to miss it!

The featured guest for this event is Lynley Mandrell, wife of Ben Mandrell, the CEO of Lifeway. Lynley has served as a pastor’s wife and church staff member, as well as church planter with her husband. She also co-hosts the podcast, “The Glass House,” with her husband. This podcast reaches pastors and pastor’s wives across the country offering encouragement and support for ministry couples.

This event is planned with you in mind and will feature time to build community with other women in ministry, encouragement for you in your ministry, and, of course, free gifts. Lunch is also provided.

Make plans now to attend this event. Please come dressed comfortably and casually for this fun and re-



A One-Day Celebration Event

Pastors' Wives & Women in Ministry

[scbo.org/womens-celebration](http://scbo.org/womens-celebration)

October 21, 2023  
Delaware, Ohio



laxing time! For more information and registration, please visit [www.scbo.org/womens-celebration](http://www.scbo.org/womens-celebration).



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**OCTOBER 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2023 | COLUMBUS, OHIO**

**RALLY: 11<sup>AM</sup>**  
**MARCH: 12<sup>PM</sup>**

**[oh.marchforlife.org](http://oh.marchforlife.org)**

# Job Postings

## **ASSOCIATE PASTOR, Reynoldsburg Baptist Church, Reynoldsburg**

Reynoldsburg Baptist Church is accepting resumes and recommendations for an Associate Pastor to provide primary pastoral leadership to music ministries along with other ministry areas to be determined that will serve the church well and align with the Associate Pastor's gifts, skills, and experience. Additional details and application instructions are available at <https://rbctoday.com/staffopenings/>.

For questions, contact [staffopenings@rbctoday.com](mailto:staffopenings@rbctoday.com).

## **FAMILY MINISTER, New Bethel Baptist Church, Norwood**

New Bethel Baptist Church in Norwood (Greater Cincinnati) is seeking a family minister who will lead our church in reaching the families in our community with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Focused on the mission "to know Christ and make Him known," we are committed to making disciples of all ages.

We're looking for a committed Christian leader with a passion for connecting students and children to Christ and His church. The ideal candidate for this role is a gifted, spiritually mature Christian who has experience in discipling young people with the gospel and a desire to equip others for ministry. This position starts as part-time but can easily expand as the ministry expands.

To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to Pastor Ben Wilson at [ben@newbethelbaptist.com](mailto:ben@newbethelbaptist.com).

## **SENIOR PASTOR, Lighthouse Baptist Church, Vincent**

Lighthouse Baptist Church (LBC), a Southern Baptist church located in rural southeastern Ohio, is seeking a man to serve as full-time senior pastor. The ideal candidate will lead and equip through worship, fellowship, discipleship, evangelism, and mission-minded efforts. Both supporting and participating in missions ranging from local to international, LBC seeks to reach, disciple, and minister to its community.

In preparation for the search for a Senior Pastor, LBC nominated and formed a Transitional Focus Team who identified both the strengths of LBC and the challenges to overcome. The church body is invested in and fervently praying for the man and his family whom God is calling to become LBC's next under-shepherd.

To learn more about LBC, visit [www.lbchurch.com](http://www.lbchurch.com). To apply, please email your documents to [search@lbchurch.com](mailto:search@lbchurch.com).

## **SENIOR PASTOR, Tiffin Baptist Church, Tiffin**

Tiffin Baptist Church is looking for a full-time senior pastor. Please send all resumes to Dianna Distel, [grace@gracetiffin.org](mailto:grace@gracetiffin.org), or Grace Baptist Church, 161 North State Route 101, Tiffin, Ohio 44883.

## **PASTOR, Woodsfield Baptist Church, Woodsfield**

We are a conservative Southern Baptist church with a blended style of worship, located in the small southeastern Ohio community of Woodsfield. Our church has the desire to grow, and we seek a pastor who has the same desire, as well as the ability to work with compassion and love with all types of people.

We are looking for a man called to be a Southern Baptist pastor who agrees with the Baptist Faith and Message. He should also meet the biblical requirements listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and 1 Peter 5:1-4. Pastoral experience and pastoral education preferred.

Send resume to: Pastor Church Committee Chairperson, First Baptist Church Woodsfield, P.O. Box 604,

Woodsfield, OH 43793; or Email to: [fbctwoodsfield@gmail.com](mailto:fbctwoodsfield@gmail.com).

## **WORSHIP AND CHILDREN'S PASTOR, Chroma Church, Dublin**

Chroma Church, a multiethnic, multigenerational church plant in Dublin, is searching for a Worship and Children's Pastor to join its team. The position is full-time with a salary of \$4000 per month. The Worship and Children's Pastor assists the Lead Pastor in the weekly Sunday service as well as leading the children's and youth ministries of the church. Requirements and expectations include serving as a faithful elder of Chroma Church; attending all Chroma Church services, staff meetings, planning meetings, training meetings, events, and office hours; leading the worship team and congregational worship during church services and gatherings; overseeing and developing the children's and youth ministries; and assisting the Lead Pastor with preaching, teaching, planning, shepherding, administration, and outreach. For a full job description and/or to apply, contact [Jihye.barrowman@chromacolumbus.org](mailto:Jihye.barrowman@chromacolumbus.org)

## **WORSHIP PASTOR/DIRECTOR, Dayton Avenue Baptist Church, Xenia, Ohio**

The Worship Director/Pastor will oversee the corporate worship of Dayton Avenue Baptist Church by selecting music, Scripture, and creative visual elements to help facilitate spiritually engaging and God-exalting worship experiences. The Worship Pastor/Director will shoulder the responsibility of communicating with and coordinating volunteers (praise team and chorus members, instrumental musicians, A/V teams) as well as any other elements necessary to produce corporate worship events. See full job description here. Interested applicants should contact [info@daytonave.org](mailto:info@daytonave.org).

*Let the Ohio Baptist Messenger help your church find a new pastor or staff member!*

*The Messenger is offering classified ads free of charge for Ohio churches searching for new pastors and staff members. The Messenger is read by churches and individuals in Ohio and across the country.*

To submit a classified ad, please send brief information about the position along with a return phone number or email:

[classifieds@scbo.org](mailto:classifieds@scbo.org)