



The Summit Church, North Canton, baptized 35 people this fall after taking a long view of discipleship.

Northeast Ohio Church Sees 35 Baptisms

By Stephanie Heading, managing editor

Taking the “long view” of disciple-making has resulted in 35 baptisms this fall in one northeast Ohio church.

The Summit Church, North Canton, is a fifteen-year-old church plant that launched in 2008 with the goal of reaching those who didn’t attend church or hadn’t been in church for a long time, according to Lead Pastor Tom Hogsed. “The heart of our team was to see lives changed through Jesus Christ.”

To reach that goal, Hogsed and his staff decided to change the way they taught their congregation and how they interacted with the people as well.

“We are taking a long view of making disciples,” said Hogsed. “The short-term view is to get people to say a prayer and baptize them. We want to see people walking in The Way—speaking and living out the ways of Christ.”

To implement a long-view approach to disciple making, Hogsed and his team chose “Firm Foundations,” a curriculum designed for unreached people groups, published by ethnos360. They adapted it for all age groups.

“The whole church, everybody, was on the same page. When a parent sits down at lunch after church, they know what their children have learned. It enables them to disciple their children.”

From September 2022 to August 2023, Hogsed led the church through “The Journey,” a one-year teaching of the gospel throughout the Bible. “It was life changing for our church and our staff,” he said. “The gospel is not only found in the Gospels. It’s throughout the scriptures.”

In September 2023, The Summit began the second phase of the five-year plan, “The Way.”

“Now that we have received the gospel, what is our response to that?” said Hogsed. “The church is ready for discipleship.” The first subject they studied was baptism.

“We didn’t offer baptism during ‘The Journey’ or even talk about it,” said Hogsed. “After a commitment to teach through the gospel in a year, we hoped and prayed that baptisms would be the result, but we were surprised by the response,” Hogsed said.

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-- 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.

SCBO» ANNUAL CELEBRATION

Online Registration Now Available for the SCBO Annual Celebration

This year's SCBO Annual Celebration is going high tech! For the first time, 'Messenger Cards' for voting representatives can be completed online, saving time for everyone at the Annual Celebration. In addition, non-voting guests can also register on the same website.

Messengers to the SCBO Annual Celebration must meet the requirements in the SCBO Constitution, Article III:

"The State Convention of Baptists shall consist of Messengers elected by the Southern Baptist Churches cooperating by working in harmony with and making financial contributions to the work of the Convention during the current year.

Section 1 Each Cooperating Church shall be entitled to three (3) Messengers for the first 50 members or fractional part thereof and one (1) additional Messenger for each 50 members there above or major part thereof, provided no church shall have more than ten (10) Messengers.

Section 2 The churches represented by Messengers shall be friendly to the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio and in agreement with its purpose, work, and with the Statement of Faith in Article II.

Section 3 The Messengers shall be elected and certified by the cooperating churches to the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio."

After a church elects its Messengers, the pastor or clerk can register them online. Online registration for the SCBO Annual Celebration is available at <https://www.scbo.org/celebration>



2023 SCBO» The State Convention Of Baptists In Ohio ANNUAL CELEBRATION

PASTOR'S CONFERENCE
Monday, Nov 6
4pm-7pm

ANNUAL MEETING
Tuesday, Nov 7
9am-4pm

www.scbo.org/celebration

SCBO ANNUAL CELEBRATION

Pastor's Conference Kicks Off SCBO Annual Celebration

By Stephanie Heading, managing editor

The Pastor's Conference kicks off the SCBO Annual Celebration--two days of challenge, encouragement, and worship--at Genoa Church, 7562 Lewis Center Rd, Westerville, on Monday, November 6 from 4-7 pm. The Annual Meeting will follow on Tuesday, November 7, from 9 am to 4 pm.

"My desire for the SCBO Pastor's Conference is to provide a time before our annual meeting to be encouraged and challenged through Word and worship," said Ray Umphrey, SCBO president. Mark Dever and Hershael York are the featured speakers for the event.

Dever serves as the senior pastor of Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, DC. A Duke graduate, Dr. Dever holds a M.Div. from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, a Th.M. from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and a Ph.D. in Ecclesiastical History from Cambridge University. He is the president of 9Marks Ministries and has taught at multiple seminaries. Dr. Dever has authored books and articles, most recently, *Discipling, The Compelling Community and The Church: The Gospel Made Visible*.

Hershael York has served as the 11th dean of Southern Seminary's School of Theology since 2018, and

as the Victor and Louise Lester Professor of Christian Preaching since 1999. His preaching has been featured in *Preaching Today* as among the best in North America, and he has twice preached at the International Congress on preaching in Cambridge, England.

York currently serves as the senior pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort, Kentucky, where he has led the 200-year-old church in growth that necessitated relocation to a 100-acre campus and new facilities. York frequently ministers internationally, especially in Brazil, where his father was a missionary.

Chosen Road will lead the Annual Celebration in worship with their world-class Appalachian instrumentation combined with a passion for sharing and living the gospel.

Umphrey encourages all pastors to attend the Pastor's Conference. "Pastors need a time for fellowship and edification and the SCBO Pastor's Conference provides this for Ohio pastors."

For more information about the Pastor's Conference and Annual Meeting, please visit <https://www.scbo.org/celebration>

2023 Christmas Backpack Drop Off November 6 and 7

SCBO in cooperation with WMU sponsors Christmas Backpacks for children and teens in the Appalachia region where the need is great. Churches who have collected and filled backpacks this year can drop off their backpacks at the SCBO Annual Celebration.

Drop Off Location

Genoa BC parking lot
7562 Lewis Center Road
Westerville, OH 43082

SCBO» ANNUAL CELEBRATION

Celebrate with Us at the SCBO Annual Celebration!

Greetings SCBO family!

Where else but at the SCBO Annual Celebration can you spend two days with fellow Ohio Southern Baptists and hear outstanding speakers including Mark Dever, Hershael York, Greg Cooper, and Ray Umphrey? Join us November 6-7, at Genoa Church in Westerville as we celebrate the exciting things God is doing through Ohio churches and look forward to phenomenal things happening in 2024!

Not only will this be a fantastic time of celebration, but a time for collaboration and participation! As a cooperating church in the SCBO, you are entitled to designate and send Messengers to the Annual Celebration. Ready to join in the excitement? All are welcome to attend both days! Register now at www.scbo.org/celebration to secure an admission ticket for the Pastor's Conference on Monday and an admission ticket plus lunch on Tuesday.

Our on-site regional lunches are back by popular demand. You will be able to enjoy connecting with your SCBO regional catalyst and gathering with other leaders from your area. This will be an opportunity to develop new relationships and deepen existing ones!

It is going to be a memorable, momentous occasion and I can't wait to see you there! I would be glad to address any questions you might have via email at jwestbrook@scbo.org.

Keep Moving Forward,



Dr. Jeremy Westbrook
Executive Director-Treasurer, SCBO



President's Pen

by Dr. Ray Umphrey

With one last crack of the gavel, our 2023 Annual Celebration will conclude, and my second term as President of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio will come to an end. Thank you, Ohio Baptists, for trusting me to serve as your President these past two years.

Serving alongside Dr. Jeremy Westbrook during his first two years as Executive Director has been my privilege. To be a part of the new vision and many changes for the good of the kingdom has been immensely rewarding. I've been blessed to get to know many pastors, leaders, and faithful servants from among our 700 churches in Ohio that I otherwise would not have met.

We still have much work before us, and I believe God has positioned us to make a kingdom impact in Ohio and beyond. Please pray for our incoming SCBO President and our Vice Presidents as they step into these vital positions to lead our state convention this next year.



In Christ,

Dr. Ray A. Umphrey

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

I love the SCBO mission to “Invite churches to rediscover Gospel multiplication.” The word, “multiplication,” is exciting and insightful. I also love the SCBO measurement of “Growing Leaders Vigorously.” We could focus on other numbers in the church, but the multiplication of leaders is something emphasized in scripture. Jesus said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,” Matthew 28:19. Paul said, “The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also,” 2 Timothy 2:2.

In the Northwest Region we are seeing the multiplication of leaders. I’m encouraged by the job that new associate pastor, Landon Schaffner, is doing at Haven Heights, Wauseon, where Pastor Lance Wyse brought him on and is mentoring him. I’m encouraged that Jeff Woolum is mentoring and helping Yuepeng Deng plant All Nations Baptist Church. Furthermore, Pastor Deng is mentoring and supporting Hunter Turner in planting a church for internationals in Toledo. I’m also encouraged that Pastor Ben Baum at Indian Lake Baptist Church recognized Deacon Cliff Butler for his work in evangelism in Lakeview, Ohio.

As we continue to pray for laborers and pass the baton for the kingdom work of spreading the gospel, may the Lord be glorified as we multiply leaders and build His team.

**Chad Keck - West**

I love fall, college football, and fall festivals. I also love being a part of my association and state annual meetings. Gathering reminds me of why I am a part of the GDAB, SCBO, and SBC. We need each other and are better when we come together to support the ministry of the kingdom. Thank you, West Region, for the blessing you are in my life.

For those of you who were a part of “Seek His Face” regional prayer gatherings with Bill Elliff, all I can say is what a needed event that was. As Oswald Chambers once said, “Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work.” Let’s keep praying for revival across the Miami Valley.

As we look ahead there are two things I want you to be looking for. First, watch for additional information about our partnership in Florida. There are going to be opportunities for your church to send teams to Florida and for your church to have teams sent to you from Florida. Second, mark your calendar now for a NextGen Conference, March 15-16, 2024. This is going to be an incredible event for pastors, NextGen ministry staff, and all your key teachers/lay leaders who serve in this vital ministry.

**Reagan Wagoner - Southwest**

It’s been a busy month in the Southwest Region. In partnership with our region and SCBO, East River Road Baptist hosted the “Seek His Face” regional prayer gathering with Bill Elliff. Pastor Greg Jackson, First Southern Baptist Camden, brought multiple leaders with him to pray with others across our region. At Grace Point, Franklin, we hosted leaders from ten churches for lunch and a discussion of how we can steward our finances well for the kingdom. I also had the privilege to be part of the ordination service of one of our newest re-planters, Bill Sargent, at Life Church, Monroe, where over 100 people joined us to affirm and pray over Pastor Bill.

Along with Bill Sargent, three additional new church planters are part of Send Network Training in our region this fall. Terry Lee Kirkland from the Oaks is partnering with us to train the planters including Justin Lee, The Covering Church, Cincinnati; Will Massaro, Forest Ridge BC, Dayton; and Andy Lowe, Highpoint, Cincinnati. Be praying for these men as they train and get ready to start new churches! I hope to see you at our upcoming Annual Celebration in Columbus for our lunch on Tuesday. Please email me at rwagoner@scbo.org if you’d also like to have dinner together with others from our region on Monday evening! Also, don’t miss our Missional Engagement Lunch at Lakota Hills Church from 11:30am-1pm on November 13!

MINISTRIES HUB

UPDATES

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REGIONAL UPDATES



Stephen Owens - Northeast

Greetings, Northeast Region family. I pray, your families, and your churches are enjoying the fall season. During October, I had the privilege of spending time with groups of pastors in the Northeast Region. It was good to spend time learning, praying, and fellowshiping with the pastors of Cleveland Hope at the “Seek His Face” regional prayer event with Bill Elliff. I was, also, able to attend the Summit Baptist Association Annual Meeting. While taking care of association activities, they also celebrated Dr. Bob Beike for his retirement as the AMS of the association. Finally, I connected with the pastors at the Steel Valley Baptist Association Annual Meeting where I was honored to give the sermon. I always enjoy

encouraging, connecting, and fellowshiping with the pastors and church leaders throughout the northeast. If I can be of assistance, please reach out. My email is sowens@scbo.org. I am praying for you, your family, and your church. God Bless.



Rick Williams - Central

Greetings to all Central Ohio leaders and churches!

October was full of exciting events, and we are so thankful for the wonderful turnout at the Amplify Preaching Conference at Violet Baptist Church on October 5. It was an incredible blessing to have three gifted preachers—John Hays, Dave Earley, and Steve Hopkins—provide their wise and seasoned words of encouragement to nearly 70 leaders who attended. Pastors shared with me that it was just what they needed.

On October 7, Lincoln Heights Baptist Church in Mansfield graciously opened its doors for the 23rd Annual Meeting of the Buckeye Central-Erie Baptist Association. The highlight of the day was honoring Cliff Hartley as he retired after ten years of service as the Director of Missions.

We invite you to join us for the SCBO Annual Celebration November 6-7 at Genoa Church in Westerville! This will be a time to celebrate all the amazing work God is doing through Ohio churches and to look forward to the incredible things that will happen in 2024. To register, please visit <https://scbo.org/celebration>.



Josh Remy - Southeast

Years ago, our church, FBC Waverly, started praying for a church plant at Ohio University (OU). Plenty of students in our community left for OU and frequently came back with vastly different ideas about the world and their faith. There was almost no Christian influence in Athens for these students. Our prayers were answered when the H2O Athens team decided to plant at OU. Now beginning their second full school year, things are looking great and there is a strong Christian influence in Athens! In addition to their on-campus Sunday gathering, they have now started an off-campus location in the former FBC Athens building to reach the city as well. Please continue your prayers for these teams working in Athens!

As we enter a season of thanksgiving, it is so important to see the gifts God has given us. Often, those gifts are the people he has put into our lives. One of the people that I have met this year that I am thankful for is Bob Beike. Bob has faithfully served the Muskingum Valley for 20 years and is retiring at the end of the year. I wish I had the pleasure of working with him longer. Thank you, Bob, for your service and thank you, God, for using Bob to further your kingdom!

African American Pastors Impact Rural Ohio Communities

By Reginald Hayes, SCBO convention relations

Byron McGee and William Randolph, Jr. are African American pastors who serve in Wilmington and Yellow Springs – small towns nestled in the countryside of southwestern Ohio.

Both McGee and Randolph say they have always been comfortable in their calling. With a focused mission of sharing the gospel of Jesus with their neighbors, neither of their ministries are hindered by the small population of their hometowns.

Wilmington, Ohio – population 12,502

Rev. Byron McGee pastors Cornerstone Baptist Church in Wilmington, where he's lived since he was a young boy. His father, a career soldier, moved his family to multiple bases throughout his career. In 1964, they made their final move to the Nike Base in Wilmington.

He honed his ministry skills at Bible Missionary Baptist Church in Wilmington under long-time pastor and mentor the late Pastor Larry Harris. McGee never imagined being a pastor, but the Lord knew differently.

McGee and his wife, Sheila, founded Cornerstone in 2004 with nine people, including their two sons and a daughter. Serving in a small town brought challenges.

Baptism Story Continued...

In September, the church witnessed 29 baptisms on one day, and six more in early October for a total of 35 in the first six weeks of the discipleship teaching.

The broadness of the people responding to following Christ and baptism is exciting to Hogsed. "We are seeing parents, kids, husbands, and wives being baptized."

He has also had the privilege of baptizing children who grew up in The Summit. "We also got to baptize the first babies we ever dedicated at the church. They are high schoolers now."

Over the past 15 years, The Summit Church has become a congregation of 400-500 people and has baptized more people in the last six weeks than it had in attendance when it started. Hogsed has a simple explanation for their growth.

"It's nothing spectacular," he said. "It's a recommitment to teaching the gospel as God laid it out. In the end, this wasn't anything we did. We relied on the Holy Spirit to do the work as we faithfully taught the Word."

However, McGee says the challenges helped him learn from his mistakes, and watch God remove his enemy. He's also learned that no matter how bad or mean people are he's their pastor, and their well-being and growth are in his hands as their shepherd.

God has continued to grow Cornerstone in a city with 658 African American residents. The church moved three times into storefronts before purchasing its current 10,000 square foot building on almost 4 acres.

"Ultimately, everything good that has happened at Cornerstone Baptist is only because of God, because any other way our blessings and opportunities would not have happened," said McGee.

Yellow Springs, Ohio - population 3,702

Rev. William Randolph Jr. currently pastors First Baptist Church, Yellow Springs. He is married to Florence, and they have five children and fifteen grandchildren.

In 1984, a career opportunity led Randolph to move his family to Yellow Springs, from Vallejo, California, population of 80,000, near San Francisco.

When the business closed several years later, Randolph was faced with a decision to stay in the small town or return to California, Randolph stayed. He and his family had fallen in love with Yellow Springs.

Later, God called him to preach the gospel. As a young pastor, he led First Baptist Church in Jeffersonville, Ohio, a city of 1,200 people.

"Whenever there was an emergency, I was always called as one of the first responders," said Randolph. "Churches in small towns are very important to the wellbeing of the community." He pastored there for 21 years.

In 2012 Randolph was called to pastor First Baptist Church in Yellow Springs, a town where only 434 African Americans live. Randolph says small communities face the same issues as large cities – drugs, alcoholism, family issues, and economic woes. "In order to impact, influence and transform society, you must know that your only source is God, then the resources and the people will come."

Both McGee and Randolph have a word of encouragement for young African American pastors who serve in rural communities. "You can serve effectively in a rural ministry. You must know it's where God called you. You cannot think little because you are in a small community. God will bless your faithfulness, even when it hurts. You must trust God and know that He will provide."

Southern Baptists Encouraged to Pray for Global Persecuted Church

By IMB Staff

In a world where someone is killed for their faith every two minutes, Southern Baptists are uniting in prayer on Sunday, November 5, for the Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church.

Resources are available now from the International Mission Board to raise awareness of global persecution and the church's role in praying for those suffering for their faith in Christ. The IMB is providing a range of downloadable resources to guide churches and individuals in focused prayer. These resources include a comprehensive prayer guide, bulletin inserts, social media graphics and promotional videos.

Startling statistics from Open Doors' World Watch List reveal that last year alone, 5,621 Christians lost their lives due to faith-related reasons, 2,110 churches faced brutal attacks, and 4,542 Christians were unjustly detained. Shockingly, one in seven Christians worldwide currently faces persecution in various forms.

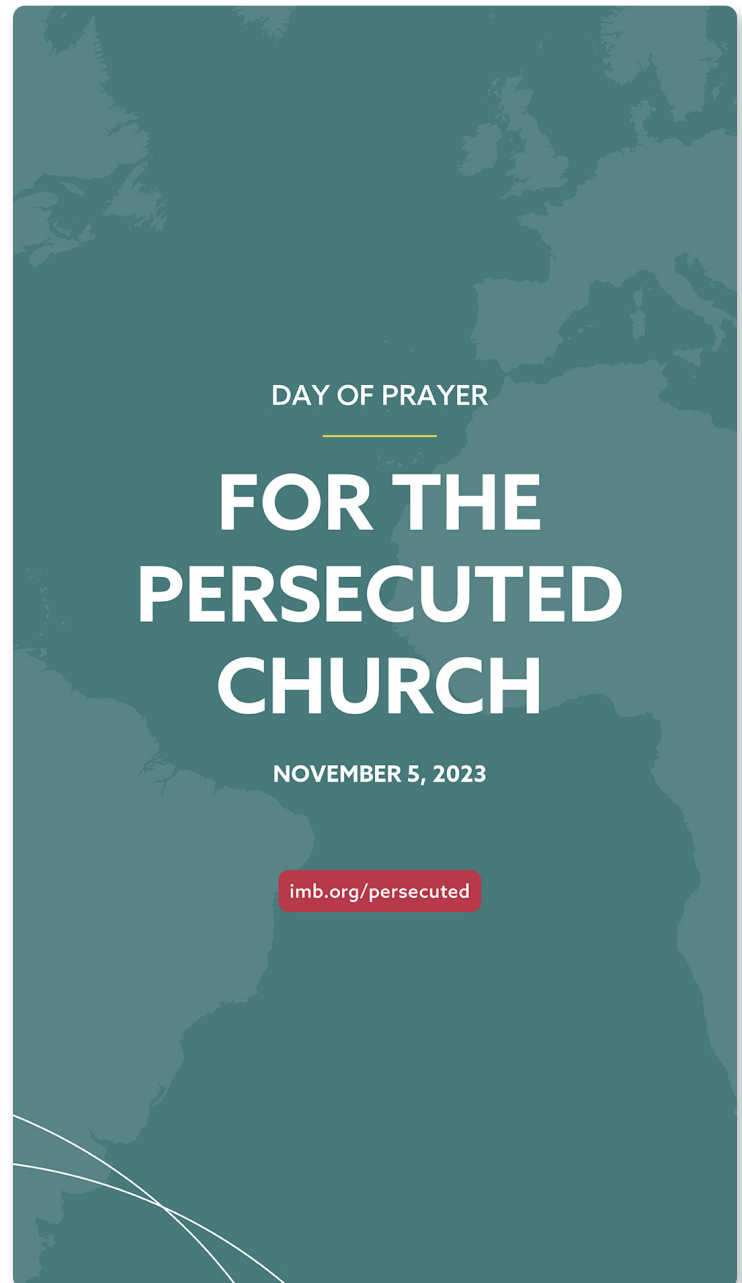
Each day, dedicated IMB missionaries stand alongside courageous national believers who endure unimaginable persecution for simply living out their faith. Recent events in Guerrero, Mexico, serve as a stark example of this ongoing struggle. Eduardo, a local believer, was arrested by authorities for renouncing his role as a lay priest/cantor, a position that the Catholic Church had compensated him for. His unjust detainment resulted in an exorbitant fine and imprisonment until the sum could be paid.

Eduardo's church family rallied to his support, approaching local authorities to secure his release from what they knew was an unjust incarceration. An IMB missionary in the area recounted, "They assumed that they would be arrested, as well, for their actions so went prepared with blankets and their guitars. Today, one brother remains in jail, but the others were able to visit him, pray with him and encourage him."

The IMB team in Guerrero earnestly requests prayers for Eduardo and for other believers to remain strong in their faith, despite fear of persecution.

As the Day of Prayer approaches, Southern Baptists are encouraged to join in weeks of fervent prayer. Pray not only for the persecuted, but also for Christian workers worldwide who support their national partners amidst persecution.

Key areas of prayer include praying for the persecuted, that they may find the strength to live in the power, love and sound mind that only God can provide. Praying for



those who have suffered brutalization, that they may sense the Lord's love surrounding them and respond to those who have injured them with grace and dignity.

Praying for followers of Christ to consistently study and obey Scripture, so they are spiritually prepared when persecution inevitably comes. Praying for each church to maintain its focus on the glory of God and the growth of His church, even in the face of adversity.

Join other believers across the Southern Baptist Convention by committing to pray for the persecuted church. Visit [imb.org/persecuted](https://www.imb.org/persecuted) to learn more.

Ways to Partner with Ohio Southern Baptist Disaster Relief

By Dr. John Heading, OSBDR director

Ohio Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (OSBDR) is looking for churches to partner with us to bring help, hope, and healing to people affected by disaster. These partnerships are an intentional effort to help the local church reach its community for Christ.

One way to partner with OSBDR is to become a Ready Church. A Ready Church has trained its people to be prepared when a disaster occurs in its community. OSBDR will come to your church and train your volunteers. The church will choose the areas in which it trains, focusing on an area that will best serve its community such as flood recovery, chainsaw recovery, and community feeding.

Churches can even build their own recovery trailers which they use in their communities or can be deployed to other cities through OSBDR. Thus far, Urbancrest Baptist Church, Lebanon; FBC, Waverly; and Ebenezer Baptist Church, Logan, have their own response units. Two more churches are planning units for 2024.

Another way to partner with Ohio DR is to become a Guardian Church. A Guardian Church agrees to be the guardian of a Disaster Relief unit. The church stores the



unit, covers the cost of insurance and license plates, and makes sure the unit is ready to deploy at any moment. This partnership works best when members of the Guardian Church train to use the unit.

What makes the Guardian Church partnership so appealing is that the church has the freedom to use the unit in its own community for non-OSBDR purposes.

OSBDR is planning to bring new units online in late 2023 or early 2024. If your church would like to know more about becoming a Guardian Church or a Ready Church, please contact Dr. John Heading, OSBDR state director at jheading@scbo.org for more information.

Support Southern Baptist Disaster Relief at The Home Depot

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBDR) has a partnership with The Home Depot that provides a 5%-7% rebate to SBDR for every purchase made through registered payment cards. The process is simple. Call the SBDR Home Depot representative Justin Harris at 945-213-0723 and register the debit or credit cards you use at The Home Depot. When you shop there, the rebate is automatic if you use the registered card.

The rebate goes to SBDR national and helps teams, including Ohio, deploy to the field for disaster response. This rebate has been a huge help to OSBDR in our 38 deployments over the last two years.



FIVE WAYS

To Pray for the Middle East Conflict

1 Pray for the hearts of all Israelis and Palestinians to be drawn to Jesus Christ.

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

2 Pray for government authorities to act in honorable ways.

Let everyone submit to the governing authorities, since there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are instituted by God. So then, the one who resists the authority is opposing God's command, and those who oppose it will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you want to be unafraid of the one in authority? Do what is good, and you will have its approval. (Romans 13:1-3)

3 Pray for mercy and compassion for those who are suffering.

For he tells Moses, I will show mercy to whom I will show mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. So then, it does not depend on human will or effort but on God who shows mercy. (Romans 9:15-16)

4 Pray for all mankind to act as God desires.

Mankind, he has told each of you what is good and what it is the Lord requires of you: to act justly, to love faithfulness, and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)

5 Pray for peace in the Middle East.

Turn away from evil and do what is good; seek peace and pursue it. (Psalm 34:14)



This resource was created by the SBC Executive Committee as part of its ongoing ministry assignment of assisting churches through elevating the ministry of prayer.



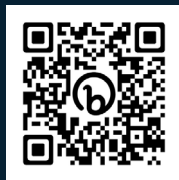
2024 2-DAY ANNUAL MEN'S CONFERENCE

Men's Summit is a 2-day annual conference designed to challenge us in the area of biblical manhood. Spend time in fellowship, worship with men from all walks of life and learn from dynamic keynote speakers.

JANUARY 26 & 27, 2023

URBANCREST AT LEBANON

2634 DRAKE RD.
LEBANON, OH 45036



menssummit.urbancrest.org



JOSHUA LENON

Author, Artist, & Pastor of Red Door Church in Cincinnati, Ohio



STEPHEN OWENS

Author, Pastor of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Bedford, Ohio



AARON TAYLOR

Church Planter and Teaching Pastor of Living Hope Columbus in Powell, Ohio



JOE VEAL

CEO You Turn Ministries, Evangelist



WORSHIP 4:24 SPIRIT + TRUTH

With special guests Shane and Shane
and The Worship Initiative

JANUARY 25-27, 2024

Forever He is risen
He is alive He is alive

Youth Worship Teams Invited to Weekend of Worship

By Dr. Roger O'Neel, Cedarville University, professor of worship

For the first time, youth ages 14-18 can participate in their own worship training at Weekend of Worship (WOW). SCBO and the Cedarville University Department of Music and Worship are sponsoring WOW in conjunction with Worship 4:24.

WOW begins at 5 pm on Thursday, January 25, and is a worship training event for students involved in worship ministry, from leaders to vocalists to the tech team. In addition, churches can bring their entire student worship team to lead worship for faculty/staff instruction and critique on a space available basis.

As part of the weekend, the first 70 students who register will get to stay on campus at Cedarville. Students will have a meet and greet with our guest artists, Shane and Shane and The Worship Initiative.

On Friday, the students will attend the Worship 4:24 conference. This conference aims to help all worship team members and will feature close to 100 breakout sessions. Students will receive guidance in seminars that they might find most helpful but are welcome to attend any that interest them. For more information about the Worship 4:24 conference, visit www.worship424.com.

Registration for WOW is \$70 which includes conference admission, a Saturday night concert with Shane and Shane, food for Thursday dinner though Saturday lunch, and housing for the first 70 students who request it. For more information or to register, visit www.cedarville.edu/wow.

Testimony

Prayer Weekend Opens Eyes to Closer Relationship with God

By Kathy Bay, participant in Transforming Prayer Weekend at The Bridge



Transforming Prayer. Hmm. Sounds interesting, but I've been praying all my life! Prayer is just talking to God, right?

Turns out I was wrong. I'd never heard the term "worship-based prayer." I learned about "scripture-fed, Spirit-led, worship-based prayer." And to "Seek God's face" before I seek "His Hand." Yes, I had always said "Thanks" and "I know You are able, Lord," but to bow my head and heart in worship before presenting my laundry list of "Please God heal..." or "Please God help..." was a new concept.

Transforming Prayer Weekend at The Bridge, Lancaster, changed my whole thought process about prayer! Start with a good foundation - His Word. Everything we need to worship Him He has already provided for us! And it's not just words. I had never considered singing hymns or praise music as part of my prayers, but since many psalms were written as songs, they are full of worship!

Then, there were other tools given to us to strengthen our prayer life -- setting aside three 10-minute segments a day for prayer or saying 10-15 second prayers before starting a task. Put God in charge of whatever you are doing!

The Transforming Prayer Weekend has opened my eyes to the possibility of an even closer, more intimate relationship with Christ. At my age, I thought I had arrived - not that I know it all, but I figured I had a good line of communication with God. This weekend proved to me there is so much more!

The Bridge is already a church that "bears one another's burdens," but after this study, we feel more equipped to go deeper into prayer. To not only pray for those in our families, our church family, and those around us, but to use the principles we learned to reach beyond our little circle and spread life-giving prayer to everyone we meet!

I am so grateful that God led me to attend the Transforming Prayer Weekend!! It has changed my focus, and my prayers now include the hope that this change will move across our church, community, state, country, and world so that when the Lord returns, He will find us faithfully on our knees in worship-based prayer!

To schedule a Transforming Prayer Weekend, contact Steve Hopkins, SCBO senior staff at SteveHopkins@scbo.org.

Pastors Called to be Effective Overseers of the Church

By Mark Jones, SCBO revitalization consultant

REVITALIZE

assisting declining churches back to health

Last month, we asked the question “How Healthy is Your Soul?” This month, I want to ask the question “How are you doing as the overseer of the congregation entrusted to you?”

As pastors, we tend to teach decently and care appropriately. However, many pastors struggle to oversee appropriately. This could be why fifty percent of pastors consider leaving ministry, ninety-one percent experience ministry burnout, and ninety percent state that they have not received adequate training when it comes to casting vision, conflict management, and developing leaders.

The Bible gives us at least six Old Testament examples of overseers, Eleazar, Joash, Joseph, Hezekiah, Josiah, and Nehemiah, and two New Testament overseers Peter and Paul. Jesus is the Overseer of our souls in 1 Peter 2:25.

This past month, it was a privilege to partner with the Greater Dayton Association of Baptists (GDAB) to bring in Dr. Rob Peters of Corpus Vitae to discuss the biblical role of the Overseer. Eighteen pastors listened as Rob shared about the absence of oversight in congregations and the biblical examples of oversight. I watched as the lightbulb came on for pastors of congregations from fifty to over three hundred. We hope to have Dr. Rob Peters back in Ohio in March. More information is coming soon.



Eighteen pastors and leaders from the Greater Dayton Association of Baptists met to hear Dr. Rob Peters of Corpus Vitae discuss the biblical role of overseer.

Every church eventually needs revitalization. Every healthy church revitalization needs a strong overseer. A tool to help you start the journey of becoming a stronger overseer is to take your congregation’s “pulse.” This assessment is free, and it allows you to find the weaknesses in the function of your congregation. Once you find the weaknesses, free coaching is available through SCBO.

When you attend the SCBO Pastor’s Conference and Annual Celebration, look for the SCBO Revitalization table and I will also have a limited number of Dr. Rob Peters’ book, “The Overseer: The Missing Jewel in the Crown of Glory” to give away.

Check out the revitalization page - www.SCBO.org/revitalize. Also, save May 21-22 on your calendar for NAMB’s Revive Tour with Mark Clifton and the Revitalization Team at Violet Baptist Church in Pickerington.

Opinion

Vote “NO” on Ohio ISSUE 1

OP-ED CONTRIBUTION

By Rev. Reginald Hayes, pastor, United Faith International, Columbus

On November 7, 2023, Christian voters in Ohio must VOTE NO on Issue 1, the EXTREME Abortion Bill.

ISSUE 1 IS EVIL! If passed, it will protect abortion rights and lock them into Ohio’s Constitution, overriding all existing laws regulating abortion. It will also allow abortion to be legal throughout all nine months of pregnancy. This amendment will be impossible to remove from Ohio’s Constitution.

Over 100 Black pastors and community leaders have spoken against Issue 1: “This is not a party line vote, nor is Issue 1 a Republican or Democrat issue. This is a moral issue and for the Black community, it is a life-or-death matter. Only 13 percent of Ohio’s population is Black, yet 48 percent of abortions in our state are performed on Black women – a tragic and difficult reality that our community cannot ignore.” – Protect Women Ohio

DON’T BE FOOLED! The media, Planned Parenthood, and the proponents of this barbaric issue have placed deceptively vague language in the amendment to hide its true intent. This issue will make abortions legal to women of all ages - even minors. Issue 1 will allow pregnant underaged children to get an abortion without their parent’s permission and prohibits ensuring women can see an ultrasound before an abortion.

Christians, now, must work together, stand up to Planned Parenthood’s bullying and vote “NO” on Issue 1. Daniel 11:32 says: “But the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action.” God has placed before us this huge responsibility of voting NO on Issue 1. Help defeat Issue 1. Vote absentee today or go to the polls on November 7 and Vote NO.

Job Postings

SENIOR/LEAD PASTOR

Urbancrest Baptist Church, Lebanon

Urbancrest Baptist Church in Lebanon, OH is searching for a Senior/Lead Pastor. The church family at Urbancrest is excited about this next chapter in its history. Urbancrest is a highly missional church with a biblical worldview in sharing the gospel. The church has a solid staff team that includes over 15 full and part-time employees. Urbancrest has 70 acres of beautiful property that includes a 900-seat worship center and classrooms, full high school sized gym, separate student worship area, outdoor pavilion, fishing pond, and two missionary homes. Urbancrest also has an on-site ministry that provides food and furniture to the community. The church is debt free.

Urbancrest is praying for a pastor that will lead them in continuing to impact its community and the world for the Lord Jesus. To apply or to request more information, candidates may contact the church at jobs@urbancrest.org.

PART-TIME BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR

First Southern Baptist Church, Meigs County

First Southern Baptist Church in Meigs County is in rural southeastern Ohio near the small village of Pomeroy. The church is seeking candidates for a part-time bi-vocational pastor position. Qualified candidates should exemplify the principles set forth in 1 Timothy 3: 1-7 and Titus 1: 5-9 as a leader, pastor, and teacher. He must also have a walk with God that follows the teaching of the New Testament. Prospective candidates should send a resume/CV and references to Mr. Jeff Needs, chairman of the Pastoral Search Committee: jsneeds77@gmail.com or 740-416-1582.

WORSHIP PASTOR/DIRECTOR

Dayton Avenue Baptist Church, Xenia

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.

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.

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

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.

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: fbccwoodsfield@gmail.com.

FULL-TIME DIRECTOR/PASTOR OF LEADERSHIP AND EDUCATION

University Baptist Church, Beaver Creek

University Baptist Church, Beaver Creek, is seeking a full-time Director/Pastor of Leadership and Education. 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>.

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