



WORSHIP 4:24 photos are courtesy of Cedarville University

## 10 Reasons Why Your Church Should Be Sending People to Worship 4:24

By Zac James, SCBO worship consultant

This month, SCBO is partnering with Cedarville University to host Worship 4:24. I'm bringing my worship team, and you should too. Here are 10 reasons why your church should be sending people to Worship 4:24:

### 1. Sing with Shane & Shane!

You'll see them multiple times over two days! Even better, you can sing in the choir with them for the Friday Night of Worship.

### 2. Your team will see excellent worship modeled.

Sometimes, half the battle is that the team has no idea what excellence looks like. Your team will experience what worship can be when it's done with musical excellence, technical proficiency, spiritual maturity, and passion in the Holy Spirit.

### 3. Your team will be rejuvenated.

Honestly, it's hard leading worship in churches where worship is dry, and it contributes to burnout. Your

team needs an oasis so they can bring passion every Sunday in your church.

### 4. Pick from nearly 100 breakout sessions from world-class trainers.

Think of it as a customized training schedule where you choose four breakouts to fit your unique needs as a leader and as a church. You can see the list of breakout sessions at [worship424.com](http://worship424.com).

### 5. The training will be relevant to your church's style of worship and team composition.

Does your church have a contemporary worship team with drums, bass, electric guitars, keys, acoustic guitars, vocals? There's training for each one of those roles. Does your church have a traditional service with piano & hymns? There's a breakout for that!

### 6. It will expose you to new ideas and best practices.

I'm confident you'll get 1-2 ideas you can use to move ministry forward in your local context.

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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](mailto:messenger@scbo.org).

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

# What You Should Know About Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

By ERLC Staff, adapted from Baptist Press

Sunday, January 21 will mark the 40th observance of Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. On that Sunday, churches across the country lament what former Southern Baptist Convention President J.D. Greear called the “greatest moral tragedy of our day”—the evil of abortion.

While Christians use the day to pray and mourn for the preborn who have been lost, many are not aware the annual church event originated in the White House.

On the 10th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision, President Ronald Reagan wrote an essay about abortion that was published in *The Human Life Review* and later issued as a book titled *Abortion and the Conscience of the Nation*, the only book ever published by a sitting U.S. president. The essay is one of the most forceful defenses of life and the strongest denunciations of abortion ever issued by an American president.

“The real question today is not when human life begins, but what is the value of human life?” wrote Reagan. “The abortionist who reassembles the arms and legs of a tiny baby to make sure all its parts have been torn from its mother’s body can hardly doubt whether it is a human being. The real question for him and for all of us is whether that tiny human life has a God-given right to be protected by the law—the same right we have.

“I have often said we need to join in prayer to bring protection to the unborn,” added Reagan. “Prayer and action are needed to uphold the sanctity of human life. I believe it will not be possible to accomplish our

work, the work of saving lives, ‘without being a soul of prayer.’”

A year later, Reagan issued Proclamation 5147 — National Sanctity of Human Life Day, 1984, which notes, “Since 1973, however, more than 15 million unborn children have died in legalized abortions — a tragedy of stunning dimensions that stands in sad contrast to our belief that each life is sacred.” The proclamation designated Sunday, Jan. 22, 1984, as National Sanctity of Human Life Day: “I call upon the citizens of this blessed land to gather on that day in homes and places of worship to give thanks for the gift of life, and to reaffirm our commitment to the dignity of every human being and the sanctity of each human life.”

Reagan would go on to issue the proclamation annually until he left office in 1988. His successor, George H.W. Bush continued the tradition, as did George W. Bush. The practice was discontinued during the presidencies of Bill Clinton and Barack Obama but resumed under Donald Trump. In one of its final acts before the swearing in of a new president, the Trump White House issued a proclamation in 2020. President Joe Biden has not issued a pro-life proclamation.

Today, tens of thousands of churches across America observe the Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. Despite the recent passage of Issue One, an amendment which enshrined abortion into the Ohio Constitution, Ohio Baptists continue to pray for and promote the sanctity of human life in our state.



## Sanctity of Human Life

January 21, 2024

“For it was you who created my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I will praise you because I have been remarkably and wondrously made.”

PSALM 139:13-14, CSB

## President's Pen - Adam Pursel

# Meet SCBO President, Pastor Adam Pursel, Life Point Mount Vernon

**Tell us a little bit about your family and where you're from.**

I was born and raised in Mount Vernon. Molly and I were married in July of 2007. We have been blessed with 4 kids – 2 sons and 2 daughters. We currently have two teenagers and two in elementary school... we're busy!

**When did you meet Jesus?**

I met Jesus when I was in graduate school pursuing a Ph.D. in mathematics. I'd love to tell you the story sometime. The short version is that I was raised in a Christian home, I was an atheist in college, and I met Jesus in the Fall/Winter of 2001.

I was doing a self-chosen research project so that I could tell my parents that I was never going to go to church with them again. The project was to read their stupid book from cover to cover (which is what I thought about the Bible at the time.)

But I had no idea what I was getting into. As I read the Word, I came to realize that what I was reading was true. For the first time in my life, I experienced something that all my rationality couldn't deny...when I would read that book, something was happening. I know now that the "something" was really a "Someone." I was experiencing God's presence. Eventually, I knew two things to be true: Jesus is God, and I have to give myself to Him.

If you're reading this, I really hope you've met Jesus too. If you're not sure, I'd love to help.

**What is one of your favorite Bible verses?**

Galatians 2:20 – "I have been crucified with Christ and no longer live. The life I live in the body I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

**What is your current role with Lifepoint Church? How long have you been on staff there?**

I am currently the Lead Pastor of Lifepoint Church, Mt. Vernon. My wife and I moved to Mount Vernon to plant this church in 2012. We launched on February 17, 2013, in the local movie theater.

**How do you hope your ministry will impact people?**

I want to help people meet Jesus and love Him. I hope God uses me to help people increasingly worship Christ, trust Him, obey Him, and experience His joy and peace.



**What experience/education/training has helped prepare you for your current role?**

I think my academic background in math and physics gave me a great foundation for work in the church. I also think that spending five years as a high school math teacher (also coaching football, basketball, and track) really helped me prepare for ministry.

In terms of education and training, I have an MA in Theological Studies from Liberty University. I am a licensed marriage counselor through Prepare/Enrich. I am a professionally trained executive coach, and I lead coaching for SEND Columbus church planting.

**What are some of your favorite shows, books, movies, music, etc?**

So many!

We like Seinfeld and The Office.

I love reading, it's hard to pick just a few books...I enjoy spy novels. I love almost everything C.S. Lewis has written, especially Mere Christianity and The Screwtape Letters. I'm a big Tim Keller fan as well.

For movies, I like action. Things like the Jason Bourne series or war movies.

For music, I'm eclectic. I love 90's alt-rock, but I'd be lying if I told you I didn't love 80's pop or Led Zeppelin or Switchfoot or Luke Combs.

**What do you do for fun?**

I love to spend time with family and friends. I'm competitive, so all the better if there's a game with winners and losers. I like sports, especially football and basketball. I'm trying to learn to like golf. I like to be outside, especially in the woods. I love to learn, so I read a lot.

## Finally, how do you hope the SCBO is impacted by your presidency?

It's incredibly humbling to get to serve as the SCBO president. Some of our churches are thriving, but many are struggling with challenges that seem insurmountable. If my presidency goes like I hope, then we will see two things across our state among our churches:

1. An increased confidence that God intends to use my church to impact my community. God's not done in Ohio, and He's not done with your church!
2. An increased commitment to evangelism. God has commanded His people to share His gospel with a lost world. Our non-Christian friends, neighbors, and co-workers desperately need to know Jesus Christ. Are we willing to do what it takes to reach them?

## Embracing 2024 with Faithful Focus, Flexibility, and Fearless Leadership

As we thank the Lord for 2023, we must trust the Lord for 2024. A new year brings new year's resolutions. As we enter 2024 as followers of Christ and a convention of churches, I would like to share suggestions, not resolutions, from Joshua chapter three. Just as the nation of Israel had to face its future opportunities, I hope and pray these reminders will help us honor the Lord and remain faithful stewards in the face of every situation He gives us.

First, we need to be focused. Just as Joshua led the Israelites to focus on the mission of entering the Promise Land, we must remember that our mission is the Great Commission. With nearly twelve million people living in Ohio and over three-hundred thousand anticipated to move here in 2024, reaching people with the gospel is our priority.

Second, we must embrace flexibility. The Lord took his people down a path they had never taken before. The Lord may want to take you, your ministry, or your church down a new path this year. Let us commit ourselves to embrace flexibility this year as we seek to hear from Heaven.

Third, we must remain faithful. Joshua told the people to purify themselves and remain faithful. Let us remain faithful in our praying and giving as we willingly go across the street and around the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ. I am

thrilled to share with you that in 2023 Cooperative Program giving here in the Buckeye State is up although national CP giving is down. Thank you for remaining faithful. Let us not grow weary in doing good.

Fourth, we must have a futuristic perspective. Just as the best was ahead for the children of God, I believe the best is ahead for Ohio Baptists. We have seventy missionaries, who call SCBO churches home, now serving on the mission field with the International Mission Board (IMB.) Evangelistic efforts are on the rise along with our baptism numbers. Let us believe that God is on the move in the Buckeye State and prepare for His activity among us!

Finally, we must live and lead fearlessly. Joshua led the people to not focus on the problems around them, but on the presence of God in front of them leading them across the Jordan. We must not be timid and afraid, but fearless. The Lord Jesus is all-knowing, all-powerful, and all-present. Let us trust the Lord and lead fearlessly in 2024.

Embracing the Future,

Dr. Jeremy Westbrook  
*Executive Director-Treasurer, SCBO*



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

Looking to a new year, let's remember our need to trust and obey God with all humility. We read in the scripture that when Mary heard the news of the birth of Jesus, she had this humble response: "I am your servant. Be it done according to your word." Luke 1:38 What a great example for us to follow! We sing a song these days by Elevation Worship titled "Same God." The lyrics say, "I'm calling on the God of Mary. Whose favor rests upon the lowly. I know with You all things are possible." Let's live in the favor of God this year as we walk humbly with our Lord, as Mary did.

Speaking of humility, I want to celebrate Janet Bartus in the Northwest Region. Janet has served Northwest Ohio Baptist Association for over 20 years as the clerk, secretary, financial record keeper and backbone of our association. She wanted to hand the baton off in 2023. As we move into a new year, we want to thank Janet and bless her for her incredible work. Her humble, loving service has been vital in helping us build the kingdom in our region.

**Chad Keck - West**

I hope each of you had a wonderful Christmas and could take a moment to celebrate the birth of the Messiah. I also hope you had time away from work to spend with family and friends. With the beginning of a new year comes fresh opportunities to engage in the Great Commission.

One of the opportunities I am most excited about in 2024 is our partnership with the west region of Florida. As this partnership begins, this is a great time to engage. One of the primary ways we are launching this is through prayer. Please let me know ([ckeck@scbo.org](mailto:ckeck@scbo.org)) if you or your church would like to connect to a fellow pastor/church in Florida. This connection is the most basic. You are simply committed to pray for them as they pray for you. As we pray I believe God will open other opportunities to connect and serve one another. We are also working on connection trips. The Florida team is finalizing a trip to Dayton in March, and we are looking to take pastors there in the fall. If you would like to be a part of that let me know. Great things are on the horizon, and I can't wait to see what God does in 2024.

**Reagan Wagoner - Southwest**

As we enter 2024, I want to invite you and your next gen volunteers to join us at Grace Point for our 2nd Annual Next Gen Training on February 22 from 10 am-2 pm. Last year student pastors, children's ministers, volunteers, and senior pastors met to discuss how to reach families and how to help students come to know and serve Jesus in a world that is constantly trying to grab their attention and divert it elsewhere. I hope you will plan to attend with your next gen volunteers! The cost is just \$10 if you register beforehand, and registration is at [www.swohioleaders.com](http://www.swohioleaders.com).

Save the date for lunch on April 23! Dr. Jeremy Westbrook will be coming to our region to meet with pastors at Lakota Hills BC. Please make plans to join us as we will have an opportunity to consider why we cooperate together for the kingdom.

Lastly, I am excited to announce that in 2024 we will be organizing two vision trips for pastors from our partner region in central Florida to come to the Cincinnati area to see what partnerships opportunities may be available. Our Florida Baptist partner region, the Central Region, is home to 700 churches in the Orlando/Tampa Bay area. Almost 10 years ago I came to Ohio on a partnership trip like this and saw the need for more healthy churches to be planted and revitalized in Cincinnati. I can't wait to see what God does in 2024 with these two trips! More information will be coming. For now, please be praying as God continues to join our hearts with Florida churches. God is moving!

# MINISTRIES HUB

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REGIONAL UPDATES



## Stephen Owens - Northeast

Hey, Northeast Ohio family, I pray you are having a great beginning to the new year. I believe God has great things in store for you, your family, and churches in 2024. In anticipation of what God is about to do, we have been working hard to bring you events this year that will bless you and your church. On May 17-18, our Lead Well Conference at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Bedford will feature Richard Blackaby, president of Blackaby Ministries International. On October 25, Dr. Tony Evans will be encouraging us at our fall leadership conference at Cuyahoga Valley Church in Broadview Heights. God is up to something in the northeast, and I am glad to be laboring with you in His vineyard.

I look forward to connecting with you this year. I'll be making my rounds sitting down and fellowshiping with the pastors within my region. If I can be of assistance, please feel free to reach out at [sowens@scbo.org](mailto:sowens@scbo.org). I'm more than happy to help in any way I can. God bless.



## Rick Williams - Central

As we embark on a new year, my heart is overflowing with gratitude for the opportunities I have had to serve the Lord in Central Ohio in 2023. Just last month, I had the privilege of joining the Buckeye Central-Erie Baptist Association (BCEBA) in a wonderful celebration. We hosted a Christmas dinner at Der Dutchman in Bellville, where I had the pleasure of fellowshiping with pastors, wives, and leaders. It was truly a blessing to be in the company of forty dedicated servants. We were honored to have Pastor Richard Grilley, Trinity Baptist Church, Ashland, share a powerful message about the true meaning of Christmas, and Pastor Gary Carr, Shining Light Baptist Church, Marion, share about an upcoming outreach

program in Marion called Fan the Flame. I am grateful for the exceptional leaders in the Buckeye Central-Erie Baptist Association.

I am pleased to announce an amazing opportunity for pastors and leaders who are interested in reaching the next generation. On Thursday, February 29, we will be hosting a Next Gen Roundtable event with special guest Keith Hurt, SCBO director of Next Gen. This highly practical event will take place at Pizza Cottage in Pickerington from 11am-1 pm. A panel of experienced leaders will be sharing strategies and best practices for starting and strengthening your youth ministry. Make sure to mark your calendars and join us for this event.

In 2024 I am looking forward to connecting with even more pastors and leaders in Central Ohio! To schedule a breakfast or lunch, please contact me at [rwilliams@scbo.org](mailto:rwilliams@scbo.org).



## Josh Remy - Southeast

Happy New Year! How are you doing on your New Year's resolutions so far? It's not a terrible practice to set goals for yourself in a new year. But what about your church? Obviously it isn't really up to us. God brings the growth, and we discern His will in leading our churches. So, what does He want to do within your congregation this year? What needs to change? What needs to improve? Maybe New Year's resolutions are in line for your church too. If you pray about it with your leadership and discern that God wants to make some massive changes this year, we'd love to discuss a revitalization process. Big changes mean hard work and we're here to help!

One of my resolutions for the year is to find better time and energy balance in my life and learn to really rest the way God intended. Pretty much every pastor I have met is in the same boat. Our work is never finished so how do you take time off? I'd invite you to join this discussion as we get away on a pastor's retreat February 18-19 to rest and discuss rest with each other. Let me know if you're interested in more information at [jremy@scbo.org](mailto:jremy@scbo.org).

# After the Disaster: One Week in Maui

By John Heading, OSBDR state director

Within hours of the first fire alert, the town of Lahaina, Hawaii was engulfed in flames. Eighty mile per hour wind gusts fanned the flames that destroyed roughly 2600 buildings and took the lives of over 100 people. The physical recovery of Lahaina is underway and will take months, but the emotional recovery will take years.

Ohio Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (OSBDR) spent the week prior to Thanksgiving escorting fire victims back to their homes for the first time since the August 8 fires. Due to security concerns, residents were locked-out of their homes and neighborhoods until their zone was reopened by authorities.

Ninety-nine days after the Lahaina fire took the life of Cherie’s father she was allowed access to his home. On November 17 she was able to go to the house for the first time to see where he died and to assess what was left of the home where she grew up. Our OSBDR team met Cherie as she stepped into the ashes of the home and broke down in tears.

As team leader and chaplain, I ministered to Cherie as she saw the ashes of her childhood home. It took Cherie half an hour to regain her composure and begin sharing stories about her father. By then the rest of the OSBDR team joined us, and she was ready to see if anything could be salvaged from the ashes. After hours of sifting, little had been recovered. All Cherie really wanted to know was where her dad had died. Later in the day as the sidewalk to the front door was shoveled clear of debris, the coroner tags were uncovered, and Cherie knew for sure where her father passed. In the



An OSBDR team spent a week helping Lahaina residents sift through the ashes of their homes looking for treasured mementos of their lives

following days Cherie returned to that spot and spent time talking to her dad.

Her initial response was indicative of people who saw the ashes of their burned-out homes for the first time. For most people, the initial shock subsided quickly and then they asked, “is there anything that can be saved?” Most people were only interested in finding specific things. Salvaged items included a set of wedding rings, an urn with a mother’s ashes, a Vietnam veterans NCO sword, a set of burned Hot Wheels cars and a clay bowl made by a child in school.

The work in Lahaina was some of the hardest work OSBDR has ever done. The depth of the trauma care needed and the hot work of sifting through ashes while

## OSBDR TRAINING

**JAN. 13**  
University Baptist Church, Beavercreek  
QRU, FR, CSR 🚒🚒🚒  
2223 Hanes Rd., Beavercreek, Ohio 45432

**JAN. 27**  
Violet Baptist Church, Pickerington  
QRU, FR, CSR 🚒🚒🚒  
8345 Blacklick Eastern Rd., Pickerington, Ohio 43147

**MARCH. 9**  
Northview Baptist Church, Hillsboro  
QRU, FR, CSR 🚒🚒🚒  
1139 Northview Dr., Hillsboro, Ohio 45133

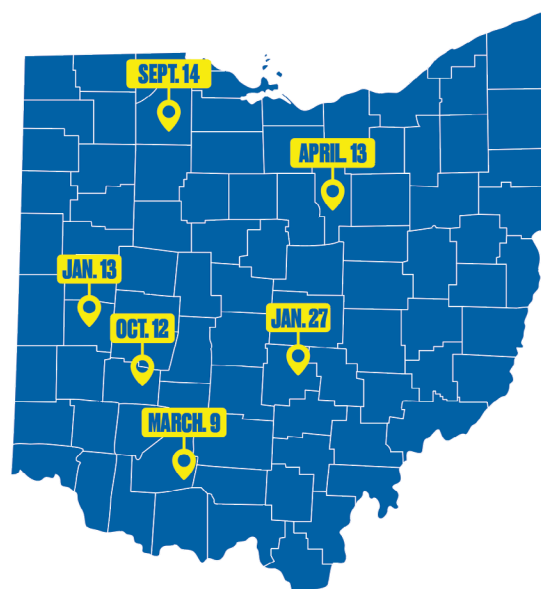
**APRIL. 13**  
Trinity Baptist Church, Ashland  
QRU, FR, CSR 🚒🚒🚒  
891 State Route 511, Ashland, Ohio 44805

**SEPT. 14**  
H2O Church, Bowling Green  
QRU, FR, CSR 🚒🚒🚒  
252 S Main St., Bowling Green, Ohio 43402

**OCT. 12**  
First Baptist Kettering, Kettering  
QRU, FR, CSR 🚒🚒🚒  
3939 Swigart Rd., Beavercreek, Ohio 45440

**Types of trainings:**

🚒 QRU - Quick Response Feeding Unit 🚒 FR - Flood Recovery 🚒 CSR - Chainsaw Recovery





fully decked-out in Tyvek suits, masks and gloves was challenging, but extremely rewarding. We had opportunities to encourage residents and to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. This was a challenge because we weren't allowed to initiate a gospel conversation, but we were able to share if the residents opened the door first.

Our OSBDR team members represented Ohio Baptists well. The team consisted of Charity Scaggs, Cornerstone BC, Batavia; Isaac Hopper, Hill Station BC, Goshen; Chris Crothers, Lifepoint BC, Delaware; Jim Carpenter, Genoa Church, Westerville; and Ervin Andy, Jersey Church, New Albany.



In Hawaii, you are never homeless, only houseless. Residents love their town and most believe there is a bright future. The work of the local church in Lahaina is in full motion. Church members and local pastors are connecting with those who are now houseless. NAMB has also placed a church planter on the ground to bring residents together to form a new church. Through the ashes of loss there is hope and a secure future in Jesus Christ.

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## Worship 4:24 *Continued...*



### 7. Lead pastors: This will help you speak the worship leader language.

This is the best resource SCBO provides for you to learn how to speak the language of worship ministry. It will help you lead your staff and coach your worship leader better. Plus, there are breakouts that are not technical and apply to lead pastors too.

### 8. You'll meet vendors who can enhance the ministry of your church.

You'll meet a ton of vendors with the expertise to guide you through the process of what to purchase, how to integrate it into your existing setup, and best practices for using it.

### 9. It is very affordable compared to most national conferences.

Most conferences cost a lot more, and it's only possible because of your Cooperative Program giving. So, take advantage! Use the code "SCBO424" to get 10% off your tickets this year!

### 10. It's worth it even if you can only come on Saturday.

Come both days if you can...but you will still get a ton of value because all the breakout sessions are available on Saturday! It's worth the \$70 + gas to come for one day.

What are you waiting for? Register your team at [worship424.com](http://worship424.com) today. Use the code SCBO424 for a 10% discount on registration. I'll see you there!



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**CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY AND THE STATE  
CONVENTION OF BAPTISTS IN OHIO PRESENT**

**WORSHIP 4:24  
CONFERENCE**

**FEATURING  
SHANE & SHANE AND  
THE WORSHIP INITIATIVE**

## New statistic added to 2024 Annual Church Profile

By Stephanie Heading, managing editor

When SCBO churches compile data for the 2024 Annual Church Profile (ACP), a new statistic will be requested—Missional Engagement.

During the SCBO Annual Celebration, Dr. Ray Umphrey, former SCBO president, explained the metric of Missional Engagement. “One of the greatest things we do as Ohio Baptists is tell the stories of what God is doing in our churches,” said Umphrey. “Missional Engagement is another metric of the engagement of our churches.

Umphrey described a missional engagement as any evangelistic or outreach activity conducted by a church. Missional engagements can take place outside the United States, outside of Ohio but in the United States, inside Ohio but not local, and inside the church’s local community.

“Missional engagements are what we are doing and where we are doing it,” he said.

Throughout 2023, a pilot group of twelve SCBO churches across six associations tracked and reported their

mission engagements. The churches ranged in size from 35-1500.

During the pilot program the churches had 36 international engagements in places such as England, Chile, and South Asia. United States engagements included opportunities in New York City and Pennsylvania as well as 36 Ohio engagements, and 532 local community engagements which included sports camps, counseling ministries, care packages for local schools, and after school programs. In total, the churches participated in 630 missional engagements with an average of 53 engagements per church.

“Missional Engagement is a wonderful way to collaborate and tell our stories,” Umphrey noted. “Through Missional Engagements we can better tell the stories, track the effectiveness, identify barriers to the mission, and support Ohio Baptists who are engaging their mission field.”

### Testimony

## With God, All Things are Possible! By Pastor Jerome Byrd, Good News Baptist Church

**Editor’s Note:** Good News Baptist Church, Cincinnati, will be holding its first worship service in its new facility on Sunday, January 7. Pastor Jerome Byrd and the congregation will be celebrating their new location, but even more importantly, they will be celebrating how the Lord brought it about in a way that only He could.

“In May 2023, I looked at a vacant church building for relocating Good News Baptist Church in Cincinnati, and discovered the building was available, but it was not on the market. The asking price was \$650,000.00. We were hoping to get a lower price, but there didn’t seem to be a possibility of that happening. So, I decided to back away. I informed my Good News Baptist Church family that if God wanted us to get that building, that somehow, He would make a way--and make a way He did!

A few weeks later, I received an unexpected phone call from a Christian businessman. Over several meetings, conversations, and much prayer, we both discussed the possibility of obtaining the vacant building. This gentleman decided to make an offer for the building. To our surprise, his offer was accepted, and he is now working with us so that we may acquire the building, with our financial obligation being only ONE DOLLAR!!

We are truly excited about what the Lord has done and is continuing to do! Our hope is to be in our new location by Christmas or shortly thereafter. God is so good! He provides and makes a way when there seems to be no way! I want to encourage anyone reading this to know it is certainly true that WITH GOD, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE! “



*The new home of Good News Baptist Church.*

## Adopt a Missionary - How to Identify and Engage with Those on the Field

By Donna Fort, Pages 5-7 December 2023 Issue of Missions Mosaic, [wmustore.com](http://wmustore.com), used with permission

**Editor's Note:** Southern Baptist missionaries leave behind family, friends, and home as they follow God's call to take the gospel to the nations. Women's Missionary Union is encouraging mission groups and individuals to adopt a missionary to provide encouragement and prayer support for those who are giving their all to serve. If you are interested in adopting a missionary, follow the steps below.

### Where to Start

Finding a North American Mission Board (NAMB) missionary to adopt is easy.

1. Visit [missionaries.namb.net](http://missionaries.namb.net)
2. Here you can search within the extensive list of missionaries and chaplains. You can filter your search by name, job title, birth date, state or province, or other variables. I selected my birth date and home state and received four choices.
3. Click on a profile and learn more. This page will display an overview of the missionary and his or her work. The contact information is hidden. You will want to look for a small circle PDF icon below the "Participate" box on the right. Click the circle for more information. If contact information is available, you will find it in the bottom left-hand corner.

Because of security, contacting an International Mission Board (IMB) missionary to adopt is a little more

challenging but not impossible. Choose a country or the name of a missionary you know, then write an email to [info@imb.org](mailto:info@imb.org) and share the following:

1. your interest in praying for and learning more about a missionary
2. the missionary or country you have chosen
3. any other details about the type of missionary you are looking to connect with (single or married, job description, etc.).

IMB will then pass the information on to a missionary or missionary family, and, if they agree, they will contact you.

Another option is to ask your church leadership whether IMB has assigned your church to a missionary through the IMB Church Connections initiative. If so, the leadership should have contact details for the missionary.

## Barbara DeLorme, Backpack Ministry Coordinator, Passes Away

On December 5, SCBO, Ohio WMU, and the Christmas Backpack Ministry for Appalachia lost a leader and friend when Barbara DeLorme went home to be with her Lord and Savior. DeLorme served as the SCBO WMU Coordinator for Christmas Backpacks for Appalachia.

For several years she and her husband Phil worked to reach children through the backpack ministry, which shares the gospel while providing backpacks filled with school supplies, toys, clothing, and food to children throughout the Appalachian region. She worked tirelessly with other Christmas Backpack Ministry for Appalachia leaders from several states to organize backpack collections for thousands of children.

To honor Barbara DeLorme, please send backpacks or a donation to Pastor Ryan Martin, who currently heads up the national Christmas Backpack Ministry for Appalachia. Make checks payable to: Alan-

thus Hill Baptist Church, 14129 Alantus Hill Road, Tazewell, TN 37879. On the memo line please note Christmas Backpack Ministry for Appalachia.



A central graphic featuring a yellow circle with several white sticky notes pinned to it, each with a red pencil. This circle is surrounded by two speech bubbles: a light blue one on the left and a white one on the right. The text "STUDENT MINISTRY ROUNDTABLE" is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, curving around the top and sides of the central graphic. Below the graphic, the date "MARCH 14, 2024" is written in the same font, curving along the bottom.

**STUDENT MINISTRY ROUNDTABLE**  
**MARCH 14, 2024**

**CEDARVILLE, OHIO | 8 A.M.—2 P.M.**

**Join us and be encouraged, equipped, and exhorted as a student ministry leader.**

**LEARN MORE AND REGISTER:  
[CEDARVILLE.EDU/ROUNDTABLE](https://cedarville.edu/roundtable)**

# SCBO Revitalization Resources Aid Pastors, Churches, and Associations

By Mark Jones, revitalization consultant

In 2023 I had the opportunity to discuss church and pastoral health with more than 50 leaders. I also had the opportunity to begin building coaching teams and fostering leaders to assist plateaued and struggling churches. Two congregations that chose to replant and their leaders who desire to see a greater Kingdom impact in this area are pastors Dan Ghramm and Mark Glenn.

Pastor Ghramm, Gateway Community Church, North Ridgeville, is leading his congregation to foster other congregations in a replanting process. Pastor Glenn, Summit Baptist Church, Pataskala, has a passion to come alongside a struggling congregation in Johnstown.

During a recent conversation with Pastor Dean Fulks of LifePoint Church I learned about a valuable resource for pastor-less congregations. Fulks has offered Lifepoint messages as a resource for pastor-less congregations and those seeking Bibliocentric messages to help during the interim. You can find those messages at <https://www.lifepointohio.com/resources/messages>.

Greater Dayton Association of Baptist (GDAB) AMS Dr. James Risner is entering into a revitalization coaching relationship with a congregation within GDAB. Steel Valley Baptist Association under the leadership of AMS Gary Frost has begun a revitalization process back to

health. There are more who will undergo training this next quarter to prepare them for the need ahead.

There are a variety of ways that we can assist you and your congregation in taking the next steps to get back to health with a greater Kingdom focus. If your congregation is without a pastor, we may be able to provide a transitional pastor to help your church develop direction and prepare for your next pastor. If your congregation is plateaued and you are struggling with how to move forward, we can assess and offer next steps to help you back to health. If you are a pastor on the verge of burnout, we can offer coaching and next steps to health. Are you a congregation or pastor with a desire to assist others? Please contact me at [mjones@scbo.org](mailto:mjones@scbo.org). Check out the revitalization page – <https://www.SCBO.org/revitalize>.

Mark your calendar . . . On March 22-23, Dr. Richard Blackaby will be coming to the Renaissance Family Center in Windham for “Hearing God’s Voice.” The Friday evening session will be for pastors and senior leadership. The Saturday session will be open to everyone. The event is free, but RSVP is requested. Text Pastor David Gray at 330-606-3997 for more information. On-line registration will be available soon. 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.



## Good news for the whole world

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# Job Postings

## DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

### Jersey Church, New Albany

Jersey Church is seeking a full-time Communications Director. The Communications Director is responsible for and focused on leadership and team development, oversight, and execution of all aspects of Communications and Marketing. Additional responsibilities include promotion, digital communications and social media, design and brand management, and team development. A degree in communications, media, or related field, or at least 2-4 years' experience in communications is required. For the full job description and application contact, please visit <https://jerseychurch.org/resources/employment/>.

## FULL-TIME CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH PASTOR

### Chroma Church, Dublin

Chroma Church, Dublin, is seeking a full-time Children's and Youth Pastor. The church is a new multiethnic, multigenerational church plant in Dublin, affiliated with SEND Network, NAMB, and the SBC with a passion for diversity, justice, and the gospel.

The Children's and Youth Pastor oversees Sunday school classes and teachers, provides training, selects, or builds curriculum, and disciples the next generation. The Children's & Youth Pastor may also assist with preaching and teaching duties, administration, training, planning, and outreach as needed. Applicants must be in full agreement with Chroma Church's Statement of Faith, which can be found at <https://bfm.sbc.net/bfm2000/>.

Salary for the position is \$42,000/year with a one-time sign-on bonus after one year of service of \$10,000

For job responsibilities and/or to apply email [Jihye.barrowman@chromacolumbus.org](mailto:Jihye.barrowman@chromacolumbus.org) with the cover letter and resume noting work authorization status in the US.

## 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](mailto:jsneeds77@gmail.com) or 740-416-1582.

## SENIOR PASTOR

### Grace Baptist Church, Tiffin

Grace Baptist Church is seeking a full-time senior pastor to lead the church in outreach and authentic Christian discipleship and worship. The church is in a growing community of approximately 18,000 with two universities. Candidates should have a seminary degree and experience in preaching and teaching the Bible. Candidates should also meet the biblical qualifications for an elder/overseer in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:7-9.

For the full job description and application requirements, please contact Dianna Distel, [grace@gracetiffin.org](mailto:grace@gracetiffin.org), or Grace Baptist Church, 161 North State Route 101, Tiffin, Ohio 44883.

## 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/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](mailto:jobs@urbancrest.org).

## YOUTH MINISTER

### Lakeview Baptist Church, Vermillion

Lakeview Baptist Church, Vermillion, is seeking a youth minister. Responsibilities involve oversight of youth programs and events including worship, spiritual development, education, fellowship, discipleship, evangelism, and leadership training. Qualifications include personal relationship with Jesus Christ and baptism; consistent Bible study and prayer time; sound base of biblical knowledge according to the Southern Baptist beliefs; strong ability to relate to youth; Christian role model for the youth; able to train, encourage, and support adult volunteers; have good communication skills; experience or education in youth ministry preferred. Salary/benefits package: \$35-\$55,000 based on experience. For a complete job description or to apply send resume and cover letter to: [Lakeviewbaptistchurch591@gmail.com](mailto:Lakeviewbaptistchurch591@gmail.com) or Lakeview Baptist Church Search committee, 591 Ferndale Avenue, Vermillion, Ohio 44089

*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)