

PUBLICATION OF THE STATE CONVENTION OF BAPTISTS IN OHIO

OHIO BAPTIST MESSENGER

APRIL 2019 | VOLUME 67 NO. 2

EQUIP. ENGAGE. ENCOURAGE. ENHANCE.

NOVEMBER
4-5, 2019

ANNUAL MEETING



Dr. Adam Greenway
President, Southwestern Seminary

Jack Kwok, Ph. D.
Executive Director-Treasurer, SCBO

Ryan Strother
President, SCBO

Stephen Owens
President, Ohio African American Fellowship



EVENTS AT A GLANCE

April 5-6	LEAD WELL
April 6	Southwest Ladies Spring Retreat
April 7	Cooperative Program Day
April 22-26	Buckeye Baptist Builders Project
April 23	Listening to Leaders Encouragement Tour
April 27	Bible Drills/State Speaker Competition
April 30	VBS Clinic Cincinnati, Ohio
May 2	National Day of Prayer
May 6-10	Buckeye Baptist Builders Project
May 9-10	Church Planters Forum
May 17-18	Disaster Relief Training
May 18	Amish Country Women's Retreat
May 20-15	Buckeye Baptist Builders Project

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM DAY
APRIL 7, 2019

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President's Pen...



Ryan Strother, SCBO President

I have implored our executive committee to a two-fold focus this year: 1) Create a process to help revitalize churches, and 2) develop more church planters so we can see more vibrant gospel ministry throughout our state.

Whether you are involved in revitalization, planting, or somewhere in between, here's what I know: it is hard work. I was convicted and challenged by something I heard yesterday in our training that I want to pass on to you. Genesis 26:18 says, "And Isaac dug again the wells of water that had been dug in the days of Abraham his father, which the Philistines had stopped after the death of Abraham. And he gave them the names that his father had given them."

"Philistines" can creep up in our

ministries at any point. They can stop up effective gospel work and even run some ministries dry. Do you have any Philistines lingering around your ministry? Sometimes they come from unexpected places, sometimes even from ourselves as leaders if we rely on self more than God.

But here's the hope amid the Philistines: the well can fill back up, and the water can flow again. It takes strong leaders, though, to dig up and press through the muck of opposition and staleness. We are stewards of the most significant message—we get to tell people about Jesus, who will offer living water!

Persevere! Do all it takes to open the well and offer living water throughout Ohio.

I am typing this while sitting in the North American Mission Board building along with ten other leaders from Ohio who are learning about church revitalization through the Replant Lab. I am grateful for these men and other leaders who are investing in the hard work of revitalization in our state.

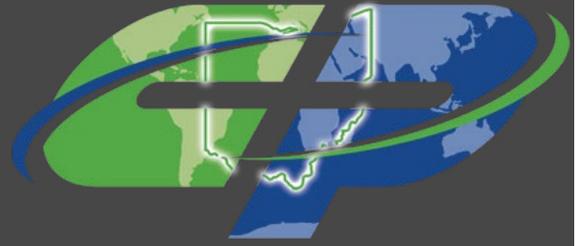
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North American
Mission Board

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM DAY APRIL 7, 2019



How the Cooperative Program Works

Simply put, it begins with you. You give yourself first to God (2 Cor. 8:5). Next, out of gratitude and obedience to God for what He has done for you, you commit to give back to Him, through your church, a portion of what He provides. This is commonly called a tithe and represents ten percent of your income (Lev. 27:30, Mal. 3:10).

Your church decides the next step. Every year your church prayerfully decides how much of its undesignated gifts will be committed to reaching people in your state and around the world through Cooperative Program. This amount is then forwarded to your state Baptist convention.

During the annual meeting of your state convention, messengers from your church and other churches across the state decide what percentage of Cooperative Program gifts contributed by local congregations stays in your state

to support local missions and ministries. The percentage to be forwarded to the Southern Baptist Convention for North American and international missions and ministries is also determined at this time.

At the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, messengers from across the country decide how the gifts received from the states will be distributed among SBC entities. These gifts are used by Southern Baptist entities to send and support missionaries, train pastors, and other ministry leaders; provide relief for retired ministers and widows; and address social, moral, and ethical concerns relating to our faith and families.

The bottom line – people around the world hear the gospel and receive Christ.

Love One Another:

Jesus followers gather to pray for the nation Thursday, May 2

The 2019 National Day of Prayer theme comes from the words of Jesus in John 13:34, "Love one another. Just as I have loved you." #love1another The National Day of Prayer was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of Congress and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed the amended law designating the first Thursday of May as a day of national prayer. Every year, millions of Americans, in tens of thousands of meetings across all 50 states, come together for unified public prayer for America.

Nancy Garver, National Day of Prayer Ohio State Coordinator shares the plans for the gathering at the Statehouse Atrium May 2. Preparation will begin at 11:30 am with worship and prayer. The blowing of the shofar will signal the opening of the observance at noon. The Genoa Church Choir will prepare us to pray. Prayers will be offered for seven centers of influence: government, church, military, education, family, media, and business.

It's not too late to get resources to promote and host an NDP gathering. Here are some things to get you started:

<https://nationaldayofprayer.org/next-steps>

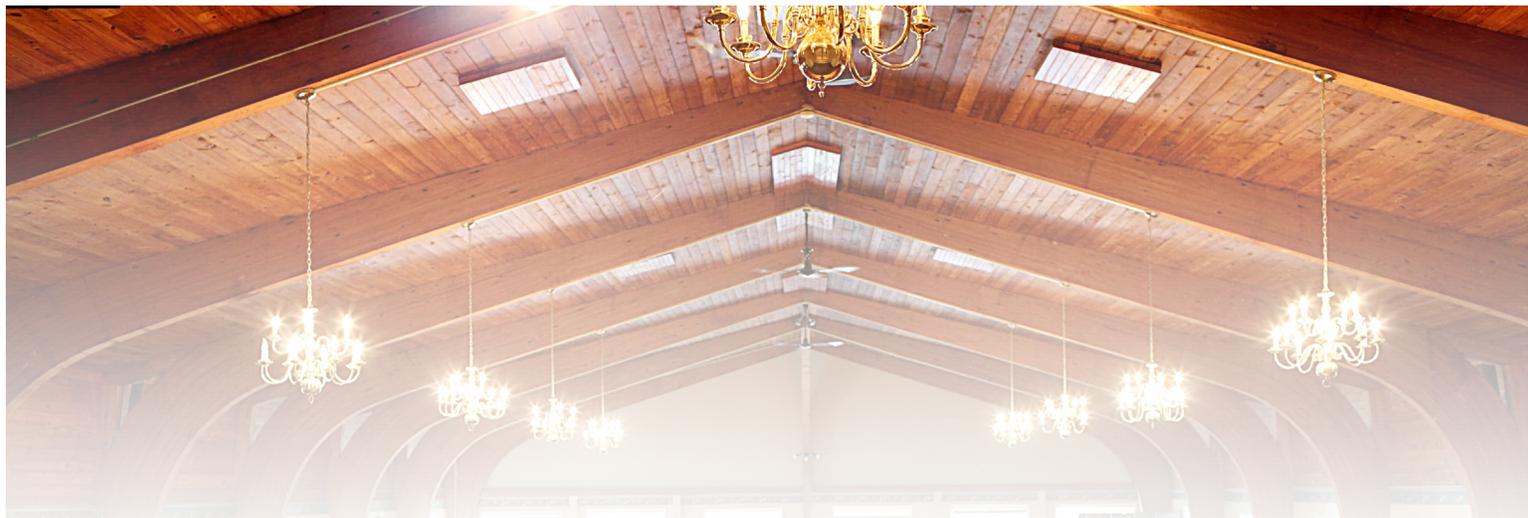
<https://nationaldayofprayer.org/prayer-guide>

There are several excellent articles, videos, etc. available at <https://nationaldayofprayer.org/>

There are several items for purchase at <https://www.nationaldayofprayer.net/>

Dr. Ronnie Floyd is the senior pastor of Cross Church and president of the National Day of Prayer Task Force, which each year mobilizes millions of Americans to unified public prayer for the United States of America.





Providing a “Safe Place” for All Participants in Church Ministries

By: Jack Kwok, Ph.D

The Bible condemns sex outside of marriage (marriage as defined by the Bible) in the strongest terms. Through His Word (Ephesians 5:1-3), God calls Christians to sexual purity within the confines of Biblical marriage. Consequently, He wants His local churches to be “safe places” for all ages and genders (1 Thessalonians 4:1-7).

Jesus pronounces severe judgment on anyone who abuses a child (Matthew 18: 6). Not only does the abuse of a child elicit the judgment of God, it is a crime in the state of Ohio particularly with regard to sexual abuse.

As Executive Director of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, I encourage affiliated churches and associations to strive to provide a “safe place” for all participants in ministry activities. The Mission Council of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio has assigned the Resource Team which I lead with this purpose: assist and encourage churches and associations affiliated with the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio to obey the

Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This encouragement includes the provision of a “safe place” for all participants in the various ministries. Southern Baptist Churches are autonomous, more accurately Christonomous. I have no authority to tell or make a church to do anything. Yet, I have the assignment to assist and encourage churches. I strongly encourage affiliated churches to continue providing “safe places” and to respond to violations of “safe places” appropriately. Moreover, I encourage affiliated churches to continue to improve protections and responses as additional and more effective ways are discovered to do so.

Several resources are available to assist churches implement policies and procedures to protect participants from violations of “safe place” in the area of sexual interactions. Church Mutual Insurance www.churchmutual.com/safety, Brotherhood Mutual www.brotherhoodmutual.com/risk/safety/riskmanagement/abuseprevention, Ministry Safe [\[trysafe.com\]\(http://trysafe.com\) have excellent resources to help churches and associations in this area.](http://www.minis-</p>
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I encourage accusations and/or observations of sexual encounters with a minor be reported to law enforcement authorities straightway. Furthermore, I encourage churches and associations to afford due process to accused perpetrators while they isolate the perpetrators from all minors in ministries during the judicial process.

Should the accused be found guilty of the accusations by confession or judicial process, I encourage churches and associations to consider the suggestions stated above to prevent exposure of the abuser to minors in ministries. This includes intentional ministry to the victim or victims.

Moreover, I commend churches affiliated with the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio who have adopted strong policies and procedures to provide “safe places” for all participants in their various ministries, especially for minors. Thank you.

Jack Kwok, State Convention Executive Director-Treasurer, Editor; Linnett Snodgrass, Administrative Assistant; Amanda Mishne, Publication Layout.
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Put Me in Coach

By: Dwayne Lee

They say a picture is worth a thousand words, and this one is no exception. Leaders from across Ohio spent two days at the North American Mission Board (NAMB) receiving RePlant training led by Mark Clifton and his team.

Many of you have heard about revitalization and replanting for the past year or so. Please know that it is the desire of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio (SCBO) to see each church have a vibrant and healthy connection to their community and church family. Understand that church size is not the issue, church health is the issue.

What is meant by being vibrant and healthy? Maybe it is better answered by asking these questions;

- Are we recognized in the community?
- Are we seeing people come to faith in Christ on a regular basis?
- Are we using the baptism at least once a month?

- Do we have a constant flow of guests every month?
- Do we have anything that connects us to the community?
- Do we know our neighbors around the church?

These are just a few of the things we discussed during our training at NAMB.

If you are wondering if your church is a candidate for revitalization or replanting, review the definitions below while considering the current state of your church.

Revitalization: existing church + existing leaders + existing structure + history + renewed/ new effort.

The supernatural work of God that

restores health and vitality in a plateaued or declining church, evidenced by submission to God's Word, right relationships among

members and a renewed commitment to the Great Commission ministry.

RePlanting: new leader + new people + new structures/approaches + history

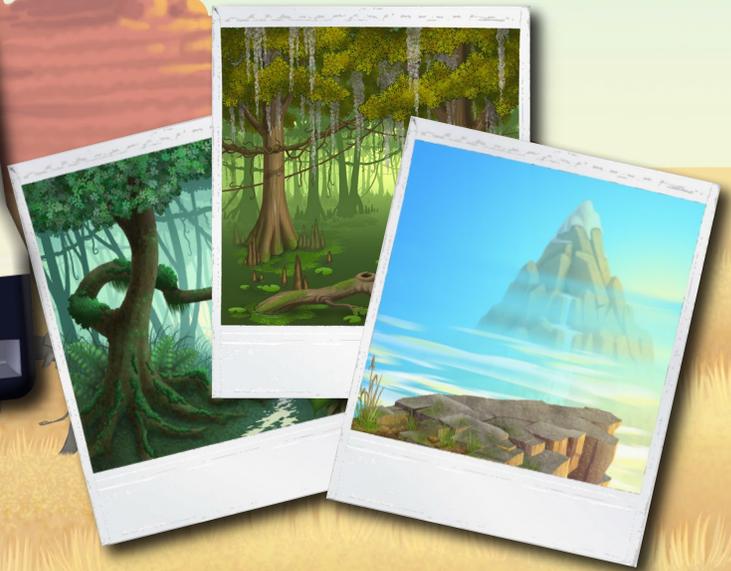
The process in which members of a church facing imminent closure discern God's leadership to dissolve their current ministry and work with other churches or denominational bodies to begin a new church for a new season of ministry in their community.

If you are interested in pursuing the conversation further, contact Steve Hopkins (614-601-6820) or Dwayne Lee (614) 601-6824.



Wild Times at VBSI

By: Damika Withers



The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio offered Vacation Bible School Institute (VBSI) to teach churches how to lead vacation bible school (VBS) in their community. VBS is a program that many churches offer to provide themed activities that entertain children and adults as they learn about God and biblical principles. VBS is an easy way to get children and families involved in church by offering a fun-filled, unforgettable program.

Vacation Bible School 2019 is on its way and with the theme this year of In The Wild. We have jumped right in on the exotic adventure ready to explore! VBSI Ohio is a training experience

for VBS teams to successfully serve their community. The VBSI Ohio event served 326 participants representing 57 churches with a day filled of learning, lunch, and fun.

At VBSI Ohio, teams learned all about the In the Wild VBS 2019 curriculum through interactive core classes that include lessons for all ages from preschool to adults. VBSI Ohio core classes also consist of a focus on pastors, directors, and missions. This year VBSI Ohio took extra consideration to provide classes that serve our Hispanic community offering classes in Spanish. From core classes to sessions about decorations,

snacks, and how to enlist volunteers. VBSI delivers on providing the tools you need for your VBS to be an outstanding experience.

VBSI Ohio is an opportunity for VBS teams to become equipped in connecting the church with children and families for a lifelong relationship. If you or someone you know is interested in attending a local VBS program this summer or need help doing so contact The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio at 614-601-6789 or visit www.scbo.org



By: Steve Hopkins

Bob Smietana (Facts and Trends) writes: *Back in the 1890s, a pair of Sunday school teachers—D.T. Miles of Hopedale, Illinois, and Virginia Hawes of New York City—both had the same idea. School kids were off for the summer. Why not invite them to church to study the Bible? And maybe sing a few songs and have some fun along the way? The idea was a hit. Today, Vacation Bible School—better known as VBS—remains one of the most popular church programs in America. Six in 10 Americans say they went to VBS growing up. Two-thirds of American parents say they plan to send kids to VBS this summer—even if they skip church themselves. And almost everyone involved had a great time, according to a recent survey from Nashville-based LifeWay Research. “Each week of the summer there are thousands of VBS programs going on around America,” said Scott McConnell, executive director of LifeWay Research. “It’s one of the things that people love about church.”*

Vacation Bible Schools will be packed again this summer, according to new findings released last year as part of a massive study by LifeWay Research. (lifewayresearch.com/2018/05/24/even-if-they-dont-go-to-church-americans-still-love-vbs). Seventy percent of parents say they will encourage their children to attend VBS if a friend invites them. This includes unchurched parents and parents from other faith traditions ... not just Christian parents. Personally invite them, and they will come! Every year boys and girls, students and adults are introduced to Jesus in churches, backyards, and playgrounds all over America.

In family rooms, garages, church basements, and anywhere else we can find room, VBS’ers are building sets and collecting decorations in preparation. Lots of time, energy, and money is dedicated to creating just the right look for auditorium and classrooms, backyards and playgrounds to help communicate the gospel. We’ll participate in community parades, block parties, and festivals to invite everyone to an exciting week. Enlistment strategies are already well underway in those churches that take

VBS seriously, getting everyone involved. Investment in the gospel reaps huge rewards.

How much time and energy will your church spend strategically praying for VBS? Sharing the gospel is a battle. We are reminded, “our struggle is not against flesh and blood” and “the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh.” (Ephesians 6:11; 2 Corinthians 10:4) The enemy is “prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour.” (1 Peter 5:8) **Here’s the challenge: match the efforts spent in preparing and promoting VBS with praying for VBS.** Here are some ideas for your VBS prayer strategy.

- 1. Enlist a prayer team** – You have folks in your church that for a multitude of reasons cannot be directly involved in VBS, but they can pray. Perhaps a Sunday School class or small group would take the challenge to pray. Make sure they have a list of workers and other prayer concerns. And don’t forget to share the results with them!
- 2. Prayer walking** – Prayer walk your community, praying on-site for insight. Prayer walk your auditorium and classrooms before the battle begins. LifeWay has provided an excellent prayer walking guide (Prayerwalk Brochure available on the Administrative Guide CD).
- 3. Around-the-clock praying** – Twenty-four hours before the launch of VBS recruit prayer warriors to lift to the Father every aspect of VBS.
- 4. Prayer chains** – Existing prayer chains need to be alerted to VBS prayer concerns and updated as new concerns surface.
- 5. On-site real-time praying** – Enlist prayer warriors to be in the prayer room of your church during VBS. Give them an outline of the gospel presentation for that night so they can pray specifically. A list of workers, and even students, if available, will allow them to pray by name for each person on campus or in backyards around your community.
- 6. Thirty days of prayer (and fasting)** – Challenge the church to spend time in prayer and fasting during the 30 (or 40... 10... 7... 3 – whatever works) days before VBS. (Prayer Calendar available on the Ad-

ministrative Guide CD)
7. Prayer/Commissioning Service – The Sunday before VBS have all

those who will be working in VBS stand. Ask others to gather around them, lay hands on them, and pray. Have each worker prepared with 3-5 specific prayer requests on 3x5 cards they can share with those who would commit to pray for them.

8. Use social media – Encourage prayer for VBS on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc. Make the request specific so people can pray specifically. Share answered prayer. (Be very cautious on using names, only use with permission, and then sparingly.)

9. Church communications – Bulletins, newsletters, email blasts, telephone trees, every means of communication needs a reminder to pray for VBS. LifeWay has a prayer reminder card you can print and distribute. (Prayer Cards available on the Administrative Guide CD)

10. Lead a study on prayer for VBS – Use a Sunday sermon, Wednesday evening study, Sunday School/small group discussion guide, etc. Wherever you have an opportunity encourage and equip the church to engage in prayer for VBS.

11. Get creative: Balloons! – Place prayer requests in balloons, have the kids and students in Sunday School the week before VBS capture a balloon, pop it and read the request to the class and pray for that request. If you’re bold enough, try it in the worship center with the adults!

12. Decorate and prepare prayer jars – Have children and students decorate a jar, fill the jar with prayer requests and deliver to church shut-ins so they can pray. (Make sure to take the kids with you to make the delivery and brighten the day for that saint!) Also, deliver prayer jars to all the adult Sunday School/small groups, each group member can take out a request and pray. (Pinterest has some great ideas.)

What ideas would you add to the list?



Live Out the Gospel Personally

By: Duane Floro, MSM Group Leader

Engage Now 2019 was truly a worshipful missions gathering! Hearts were challenged to look at the world around us – both locally and globally in fresh new ways when it comes to “living out” the gospel personally.

Many gathered to hear our speakers Dr. John Perkins, Ruth and Nik Ripken and Sandy Wisdom-Martin.

Dr. Perkins challenged us by saying:

“People are put together in pieces. Truth is put together in pieces. We are not complete without one another. That is why we long for community. The problem is we are side by side but not together. To be reconciled, is to heal each others wounds. To truly know one another is to create new life together. I’ve been given this Grace.....am I not going to use it?”

Dr. Nik Ripken shared 4 questions a witness needs address when sharing their faith: 1. What do I say? 2. Who do I say it to? 3. Who will hold me accountable? And 4. What do I do when they say “yes?” Too often we never bring people to the reality of the resurrection.

Ruth Ripken spoke during lunch to a large gathering of women. She stated: “serving God is a not a matter of convenience but obedience.” She went on to say, One’s ultimate goal in serving is serving God” A helpful tool when sharing with women of Muslim faith is tell them the stories of women in the Bible. She spoke of how one overcomes tribulation and suffering as she spoke of the loss of their son while on the mission field.

Sandy Wisdom-Martin spoke of the power of one. How God will use your life no matter how “unusable” you might feel. We must understand our why “Y” in order to live out God’s purposes for each of us.

The worship on Friday was led by Reverend Randy Wagner of The Crossing Community Church of Hilliard and a worship team from various churches across the Columbus area. On Saturday morning Reverend Dwayne Lee, State Convention of Baptists in Ohio staff led the worship.

The Engage Now 2019 Mission Gathering concluded with the worship choir from Marietta Bible College, Marietta, Ohio.

Saturday afternoon 29 breakout sessions were offered on a wide variety of missional topics.

A special thanks to those who made Engage Now 2019 Mission Gathering possible. Mission Support Team – Vernita Lambert, Sam Kelly, Cathy Pound and Charlotte Barbo; Thank you SCBO staff: our Engage Now 2019 Leadership Team – Jean DiFilippo (State WMU President), Gerald Saffo, Andrew Trezona, Penny Zuber, Steve Long, Mark Jones, Willie Peterson, Reggie Hayes and Pastor Paul Gabriel; the entire church family of Crossroads Baptist Church; our deaf signers

– Paige Hobbs, Stephanie McEnheimer and Renea Trabue. To everyone display personality and breakout session leader – THANK YOU!

I hope to see you next year when we gather for Engage Now 2020 that will be held at Jersey Baptist Church, Pataskala, Ohio on February 21st & 22nd. Plan to join us as we continue to reach the nations both locally and globally!



Engage Now Crowd



Dr. John Perkins



Nik and Ruth Ripkin with Duane Floro



100-year-old recalls service on 1963 BF&M committee

By: David Roach March 21, 2019

KETTERING, Ohio (BP) -- At age 100, with some memories fading, Walter Davis still remembers the 1962 phone call he received from then-Southern Baptist Convention President Herschel Hobbs to ask if Davis would serve on a committee to revise the Baptist Faith and Message.

"It was an honor to serve on the committee," Davis told Baptist Press with help from his son Greg.

Walter Davis turned 100 this month and is believed to be the only surviving member of the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message committee.

In 1962, Davis was among 23 Baptist state convention presidents placed on the Committee to Study Baptist Statement of Faith and Message along with Hobbs as chairman, according to the 1962 SBC Annual. The suggestion to assemble a committee of state convention presidents came as a recommendation from the SBC Executive Committee and was affirmed by messengers. Davis was president of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana.

Immediate past SBC president Steve Gaines -- who served on the committee that drafted the BF&M 2000 and wrote his doctoral dissertation on the 1963 BF&M -- said, "I am grateful that Dr. Hobbs and other godly men like Walter Davis were used by the Lord to write the BF&M of 1963."

Like Hobbs, Davis affirmed biblical inerrancy, yet he recalled that the committee "made a concerted effort to write the document in such a way as to avoid controversy between the conservative and moderate wings of the convention," according to an email from Greg Davis.

In 1962-63, avoiding SBC controversy was a tall order.

The committee was assembled amid a tumultuous milieu in the convention, according to a 2004 Southern Baptist Theological Seminary doctoral dissertation on the BF&M by A.J. Smith.

In 1961, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary professor Ralph Elliott published "The Message of Genesis," a book questioning the historical accuracy of some stories in Genesis. Many Southern Baptists objected to Elliott's views. Southern Seminary professor Dale Moody also "rocked the SBC" in the early 1960s by seeming to teach believers could lose their salvation. Both pro-

fessors were viewed as symptomatic of increasing theological progressivism in SBC seminaries, Smith wrote.

"As president of the Convention," Smith wrote, "Hobbs found himself faced with a monumental task. He had to find a way to preserve the organic unity of the Convention" by satisfying "the conservative base that sound doctrine would be taught in the schools and published by the Sunday School Board" while also assuring "members of the academy that they would enjoy intellectual and academic freedom."

The 1963 BF&M represented an effort to accomplish all those tasks, Smith wrote.

When Walter Davis was appointed to the committee, he was 41, a World War II veteran, a Southern Seminary graduate, a father of three and pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Hammond, Ind. Over the course of his ministry, Davis pastored churches in Kentucky, Indiana, Colorado, Ohio and South Carolina. He retired to Ohio in 1988.

Greg Davis, now 64, remembers his entire family attending the 1962 SBC annual meeting in San Francisco, where the BF&M committee was appointed and apparently held a preliminary gathering. The committee convened again in Nashville in July 1962, then continued its work largely through subcommittees before releasing a draft to the SBC through BP in February 1963.

The convention adopted the BF&M at its 1963 annual meeting in Kansas City, Mo.

Among noteworthy phrases employed in the 1963 BF&M, Davis played a role in discussing whether the phrase "truth, without any mixture of error" should be carried over from the 1925 BF&M to describe the Bible, Greg Davis said. The phrase was retained.

Gaines, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, Tenn., commended the 1963 committee by recalling the challenging circumstances they faced. Hobbs was "an avowed inerrantist," yet



Walter Davis, who turned 100 this month, is believed to be the lone surviving member of the committee that drafted the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message.

"he was a strong advocate of 'unity in diversity.' He wanted the 1963 BF&M to be inclusive enough for all Southern Baptists," Gaines said in an email.

"Unfortunately, a fairly large group of moderate/liberal Baptist theologians abused the 1963 committee's efforts to be inclusive. They used language, particularly in the article regarding Scripture, to try to disavow the inerrancy of the Bible," Gaines said. "Thus, 37 years later Dr. Adrian Rogers led a new committee to revise the 1963 BF&M statement. I served with him on that committee. We made sure that Southern Baptists' belief in the inerrancy of Scripture was stated so plainly that no one except inerrantists could affirm it."

More than 50 years after the 1963 BF&M was adopted, Greg Davis is grateful a "prototypical Southern Baptist pastor" like his father had an opportunity to shape a historic Baptist confession of faith.

"May God use; my father's; story to inspire someone, to try to challenge someone and help us all to realize that those who have come before us have paved the way for where we are today," Greg Davis said.

Walter Davis and his wife Bess, 92, live in Kettering, Ohio.

Reprinted from Baptist Press (www.baptistpress.com), news service of the Southern Baptist Convention. The original story can be found at: <http://www.baptistpress.com/52609/100yearold-recalls-service-on-1963-bfm-committee>

FAST FACTS ABOUT THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

Updated 10/25/18

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) is a fellowship of over 47,000 Baptist churches scattered across the United States and its territories. These congregations, comprised of numerous racial, ethnic, language, and socioeconomic people groups, are called "cooperating churches." They have organized themselves to accomplish a specific set of missions and ministry initiatives, all for the purpose of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people everywhere.

Cooperating churches	47,544
Total membership in the SBC network of churches	15,005,638
Weekly worship attendance in the SBC network	5,320,488
Total baptisms (reported by Southern Baptist churches)	254,122
Cooperating state conventions	41
Cooperating local associations	1,131

from 2017 Annual Church Profile report

MISSION BOARD REPORTS

The International Mission Board (IMB) and North American Mission Board (NAMB) assist churches in evangelizing, discipling, and planting reproducing churches in our nation and around the world in fulfillment of the Great Commission.

Overseas missionaries <i>reported by IMB, 10/2018</i>	3,667
Unengaged Unreached People Groups <i>reported by IMB, 6/2018</i>	3,200
Domestic missionaries <i>reported by NAMB in the 2018 Book of Reports</i>	5,262
New churches planted <i>reported by NAMB in the 2018 Book of Reports</i>	691
Existing churches joining with the SBC <i>reported by NAMB in the 2018 Book of Reports</i>	284

SEMINARY STUDENTS TRAINED

The Convention operates six seminaries and a Seminary Extension program to train its ministers and Christian workers.

Gateway Seminary of the Southern Baptist Convention	1,948
Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary	3,079
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary	3,788
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary	3,624
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary	5,513
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary	4,076
TOTAL	22,028
Seminary Extension Division, Nashville	608

from 2016–2017 academic year as reported in 2018 Book of Reports

MISSION:DIGNITY

Mission:Dignity, a ministry of GuideStone Financial Resources, provides financial assistance to retired ministers, denominational workers, their spouses, and widows.

Individuals or couples receiving financial assistance	1,723
Distributed in 2017	\$7,014,765

from GuideStone Financial Resources ministry report in 2018 Book of Reports



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' unified plan of giving through which cooperating Southern Baptist churches give a percentage of their undesignated receipts in support of their respective state convention and the Southern Baptist Convention missions and ministries.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH STATE CONVENTIONS

DISASTER RELIEF

The North American Mission Board and state convention partners organize Southern Baptists' response to disasters. They contribute manpower, ministry, and financial help during floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, fires, earthquakes, and urban disasters.

Volunteer days	65,401
Work hours	673,319
Ministry contacts	26,481
Chaplaincy contacts	22,887
Gospel presentations	3,157
Professions of faith	603
Meals served	2,952,613

from NAMB ministry report in 2018 Book of Reports

CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

The Baptist Coalition for Children and Families represents twenty-one ministries established by state Baptist conventions to serve at-risk children and their families through residential care, counseling, foster care enlistment, and adoption assistance.

Number of children in residential care	7,866
Number of others served	654,964
Spiritual decisions reported	1,174

from Baptist Coalition for Children and Families 2017 data

BAPTIST COLLEGIATE MINISTRIES

LifeWay Christian Resources and state conventions collaborate to make disciples on college campuses across the nation through Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM).

Number of Baptist Collegiate Ministries	794
Total number of students involved	78,367
Total number of reported salvations through BCM	9,766

from National Collegiate Ministries 2016–2017 Annual Statistics

RACIAL/ETHNIC DIVERSITY

Dominant Ethnic Composition	Churches	Congregations*	Dominant Ethnic Composition	Churches	Congregations*
Anglo churches	39,094	40,621	Haitian churches	357	514
African American churches	3,228	3,828	Chinese churches	197	251
Hispanic churches	2,103	3,453	Filipino churches	140	191
Korean churches	734	884	Multi-ethnic churches	169	278
Native American churches	399	440	20+ other ethnic and language groups	829	1,276

*Includes churches and church-type missions provided by NAMB Center for Missional Research from 2016 Annual Church Profile data

REGULAR CHURCH GIVING

Total reported undesignated receipts given in Southern Baptist churches in 2016–2017 <i>as reported by the churches on the 2017 Annual Church Profile, June 2018</i>	\$9,518,257,051.00
Total Cooperative Program dollars given by Southern Baptist churches in fiscal 2016–2017 <i>as reported to the Executive Committee by the cooperating state Baptist conventions, April 2018</i>	\$462,662,332.00
Cooperative Program Allocation Budget gifts received for SBC causes <i>as reported by the Executive Committee, October 2018</i>	\$197,044,828.14
Average percentage of undesignated receipts churches gave through the Cooperative Program in 2017 <i>as reported by the SBC Executive Committee, 2016–2017 fiscal year</i>	4.86 percent

DESIGNATED INDIVIDUAL GIVING

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions—100% goes to support overseas missionaries <i>updated by IMB as of October 2018</i>	\$158,890,638.47
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions—100% goes to support North American missionaries <i>updated by NAMB as of October 2018</i>	\$61,185,207.25
Global Hunger Relief—100% goes to fight hunger in North America and around the world <i>amount received through the SBC Executive Committee, 2016–2017 fiscal year; does not include direct gifts to IMB and NAMB for GHR</i>	\$3,077,696.00

April 22–26, 2019 & May 20–25, 2019
Maranatha Bible College - Cleveland, Ohio
Project: Roof Work
Contact: Randy Sparks 740-975-4116

TBD
First Baptist Church Marysville, Ohio
Project: Build picnic shelter
Contact: Randy Sparks 740-975-4116

May 6–10, 2019
Seneca Lake Baptist Assembly - Senecaville, Ohio
Project: Prepare camp for Summer
Contact: Dale Patterson 614-352-0884

TBD
First Church West Jefferson, Ohio
Project: New metal roof
Contact: Randy Sparks 740-975-4116

July 8–12, 2019
First Baptist Church Brighton, Ohio
Project: Install new metal roof on existing building
Contact: Randy Sparks 740-975-4116

Buckeye Baptist Builders 2019 Schedule



Family Camp



By: James Risner

My kids started chatting last summer and haven't stopped. I don't know if they are the only ones, but our kids are regularly talking about Seneca Lake Family Camp. When it was our family's turn to share something meaningful in our Classical Conversations opening assembly, our decision to share about SLFC was unanimous! We told stories. We shared favorite memories. And of course we invited others to join us June 3-7, 2019! When the topic of SLFC comes up, our kids' chatter warms up the cold winter days like a beehive buzz.

The buzz is growing louder! In the last several weeks I've been hearing more buzz than just around our family dinner table. Some families are buzzing about SLFC relationships. Not only do families spend quality time with each other, but anticipation also grows for new and old connections with others. SLFC reignites relationships that were forged years ago, yet were overshadowed by things like busy-ness or relocation. For many, this reunion affords families the opportunity to travel down memory lane at the mini-golf course or around the dinner table, and dream together about the future. In addition, many new relationships are

formed. I've talked with some families who will be new this year and are looking forward to making new friends. As you might expect, we discourage vows of silence like you might find in a monastery. Whether you are looking to begin new or build on existing relationships, our time together will have you buzzing about community!

The buzz that excites me the most comes from families who are animated about their children's discipleship and flourishing. Did you know that the routines common to kids who flourish as adults (according to this Lifeway study) are central to our SLFC daily rhythms? Most Christians know that spiritual disciplines like reading the Bible and praying together are important. But healthy habits are hard to maintain in the midst of busy schedules, laziness, and deadlines. This is why many of parents are buzzing about SLFC's scheduled spiritual disciplines that help families flourish.

Each and every day we build in healthy habits: following breakfast each family spends time together in the Word and prayer using a simple guide that we provide. After each day of awesome activities we gather at Vespers Hill where our families swap stories and sing songs of God's grace.

Then we walk down the hill to chapel and worship God with singing and preaching. SLFC's focus on helping families thrive has prompted one of my pastor friends and his church to leverage their precious resources to scholarship families in their church to attend.

This is the kind of buzz that warms my heart: relationships between families who love God's Word and prayer, and form healthy habits that lead to flourishing. Could you use some warmth from this kind of a buzz? I hope you will join us.

Learn more about June 3-7, 2019 SLFC here: www.abrook.org/familycamp, and at the Facebook page www.facebook.com/senecalakefamilycamp/. There you will find pictures and videos, along with registration information, pricing, and a complete schedule of activities. A family of four (4) can attend the weeklong event with all meals, lodging and amenities starting at an affordable \$540. Contact Bob and Debbie Williams at familycampabc@gmail.com, or 937-212-3175 for registration details. Register soon to increase your chances of obtaining lodging near your fellow church families.

2019 Women's Spring Retreat in Amish Country

MAY 18, 2019 9AM-3PM
Community Baptist Church
 420 E 3rd St., Dover, OH

Keynote Speaker
Autumn Wall



The cost for the retreat is \$20.00 which will include a light breakfast and lunch.
 Please register at <http://www.scbo.org/event/womens-retreat-amish-country-may-2019>

WANT TO ADD TO YOUR RETREAT EXPERIENCE?

If you would like to enjoy a little more of Amish Country, you can extend your stay by making reservations for Friday night at one of the motels listed on our website at the link listed above.

If you would like to fellowship with other ladies on Friday, May 17, 2019 for dinner and a performance of "Stolen" at Ohio Star Theater, contact Jean DiFilippo at jeandifilippo@yahoo.com for reservations and more information.

Reservations are going quickly, so don't hesitate!



OHIO
ACCELERATE!
 SMALL GROUP WORKSHOP

SEPT 16TH-18TH, 2019

VIOLET BAPTIST CHURCH

8345 Blacklick-Eastern Road NW, Pickerington, Ohio 43147

SMALLGROUPNETWORK.COM/EVENTS

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION (NOW – June 26, 2019)

Individual Registration - \$195.00

Team of 2 (price per person) - \$185.00 Team of 3 or more (price per person) - \$175.00

Registrants cover their personal travel expenses to and from the workshop, as well as food and lodging. The closest airport is John Glenn Columbus International Airport (CMH) — 24 Minutes to Violet Baptist Church. Check-in is from 1:45pm – 2:30pm on Monday, September 16, 2019 at Violet Baptist Church: 8345 Blacklick-Eastern Road NW, Pickerington, Ohio 43147. Sessions will run from 2:30pm – 5:30pm on Monday, 8:30am to 5:30pm on Tuesday, and from 8:30am-12:30pm on Wednesday. Registration includes two essential books on small group ministry. One book will be sent to you a month before September 16, 2019 and should be read prior to attending the workshop. You will receive the second book at the event.

Enjoy the beauty of the Midwest in the fall, grow as a leader, strengthen your team & accelerate the health & growth of your small group ministry by attending our "Accelerate!" Ohio Small Group Workshop! "Accelerate!" is a 3-day strategic workshop designed for small group point people and their leadership teams. You and your ministry team will take a 360-degree view of your small group ministry and then develop a comprehensive action plan for 2019 - 2020. This workshop not only gives you stimulating ideas, but you will leave with a plan that you can begin to implement immediately. Attendance is limited to give you more interaction with other participants.

Southwest Regional **Women's Spring Retreat**

April 6, 2019, 8am-4pm

FBC Waynesville 1009 Lytle Road



Step Up

Cost: \$20/\$25 after March 25th

Register directly online at
www.GDAB.org/rsvp.php
or by calling (937) 233-3999

Please send completed forms and registration fees
(once you register by phone or online) to:
Greater Dayton Association of Baptists
2050 Brandt Pike, Dayton, OH 45404

Make one check payable to:
Greater Dayton Association of Baptists (GDAB)

Deadline: Must be postmarked by March 25, 2019

*Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves.
Do what it says.
James 1:22 NIV*

Cornersburg Baptist & Steel Valley Assoc. present

Sunday School Leadership Training

Exhorting and Motivating People to Action

June 1, 2019 8:30 AM - 2:00 PM

at Cornersburg Baptist Church,
3898 Tippecanoe Road, Youngstown
330-398-2455



Carlton & Shay Berry. He serves as Minister of Discipleship at Dauphin Way Baptist in Mobile AL.



Mark Jones serves as Pastor at First Baptist of Vermilion, Ohio and as the Dir. of Missions at NorthCoast Assoc.

Bring all involved in Sunday School to breakout sessions: How to engage your culture, Teaching Each Other How to Live like Jesus, Teaching Children that becomes Learning, Crafts and visual aids that help Children Learn, Outreach Backyard Bible Clubs, and much more.

MENTAL HEALTH 101: FOR THE FAITH COMMUNITY

WHEN:
May 8th, 2019
8:30 am - 3:30 pm
Registration begins at 7:30 am

WHERE:
United Faith Community Church
10479 Taylor Road, SW, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

PRESENTERS- Evie L. Bradley, MSW, PhD • Dr. Lawrence Freeman • Dr. Rich Halcombe • Georgeann McCrary, MSW, LISW-S • Bernard F. Williams, Jr., MSW, LISW-S

REGISTER AT EVENTBRITE.COM
(EVENT IS FREE BUT MUST REGISTER AS SPACE IS LIMITED)
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT GEORGEANN MCCRARY AT GMACTEN@GMAIL.COM

Make your ministry funds work harder.

The Ohio Baptist Foundation partners with WatersEdge Ministry Services to provide investment options that help churches and ministries build strong financial futures and maximize Kingdom impact.

3.35%

Annual Percentage Yield

- 2.15% | Enhanced Cash Fund
- 2.65% | One-Year Term Deposit
- 3.00% | Two-Year Term Deposit
- 3.35% | Five-Year Term Deposit

*Rates updated monthly.



GET STARTED AT:

614.601.6881 | scbo.org/Foundation



NOTICE: This is not an offer to sell our securities and we are not soliciting you to buy our securities. We offer and sell our securities only in states where authorized. The offering is made solely by our Offering Circular.

2019 Training Sessions

Food Service, Child Care, Chain Saw, Shower Trailer, and Mud-Out Training. You must be 21 to train for Child Care and 18 for all other areas.

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL TRAINING. We will collect required information, during the training session, to perform a background check. You are welcome to bring your bed roll and sleep in the church at any training session. Meals are provided.

The cost is \$35 per person or \$50 per couple (sharing a training manual). Pre-Register at SCBO.ORG
 Questions? Call: (614) 309 - 9751



Dates

May 17-18, 2019
 Dublin Baptist Church
 7195 Coffman Road
 Dublin, Ohio 43017

November 15-16, 2019
 First Baptist Church
 590 W South Boundary St
 Perrysburg, Ohio 43551

Schedule

Friday
 6:00 PM Registration
 6:30 - 9:30 PM "Involving Southern Baptists in Disaster Relief"

Saturday
 7:15 AM Continental Breakfast Served
 8:00 AM Unit Training
 12:00 PM Lunch Provided by DR Food Service
 12:30 PM Evangelism Training
 3:00 PM Dismissed

Shower Trailer

Maintain the shower unit in working condition, clean showers after use, launder towels and washcloths, also launder volunteer clothing as needed.



Removal of flood damaged furniture, carpet, appliances, etc. Basically gutting the house and preparing for rebuild.

Must wear protective gear and often mask to prevent breathing in toxic air.

Mud Out



Care for children ages birth to 2nd grade while parents recover from the disaster. We have the equipment segregated into age groups for ease in use.

Volunteers provide loving care for the children, sympathy for the parents, and prepare meals for children.

Child Care



Core Values

- CHRIST CENTERED
- PARTNERSHIP ORIENTED
- LOCAL CHURCH FOCUSED
- FLUID PRACTICE
- EFFECTIVE ACTION

Our Mission

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief is a Christ-centered partnership of national, state and associational ministries serving through the local church to bring help, healing and hope to individual affected by disasters.

Vision

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief will be a well-defined, unified disaster response organization, demonstrating the love of Christ by providing physical and spiritual help to those affected by disasters.

Chain Saw

Cut down trees and stack in location designated by the property owner. Also, pull brush and stack accordingly.

Safety is of utmost and all volunteers will wear the safety attire provided.



Prepare hot meals using a field kitchen, line feed, prepare containers for use in Red Cross or Salvation Army vehicles for serving. Ohio equipment is capable of producing 10,000 hot meals per day.

Food Service

Missions
 Support + Mobilization

Support Ohio State Bible Drills April 27

Plan now to attend the State of Ohio Bible Drills Saturday morning, April 27, at Reynoldsburg Baptist Church. Students in grades 4-12 will demonstrate their knowledge of and ability to find scriptures within 8-10 seconds. Youth (Grades 7-9) and High School (Grades 10-12) Bible Drillers who finish third will receive \$100. Second place finishers receive \$200, and first place finishers win \$300 and the opportunity to represent Ohio at the National Bible Drill in NC later this summer.

If you'd like to start Bible Drill at your church, please contact Kimberly Jackson at kimberly@kubikbooks.com for more information.

For information about the 2019 Bible Drills, please visit <https://www.scbo.org/event/bible-drillsstate-speaker-competition>

WWW.SHARONWOODSCHURCH.ORG/SHORTTERMISSIONS

SHARONWOODS KIDS SUMMER PROGRAM



**FOR MORE INFORMATION:
VISIT OUR WEBSITE
OR CALL THE
CHURCH OFFICE
(614) 891-0755**

SUMMER 2019/2020 STUDENT MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY



Affordable Group Mission Trip for High-School Students

Step out of the familiar & live out your faith while serving in a multicultural unchurched urban environment.





NAMA

National Association of Ministry Assistants



Educating & Encouraging Ministry Assistants/Secretaries
in Spiritual Growth and Professional Excellence

Coming
April 24-27, 2019

2019 NAMA Conference

Location: The Legacy Hotel & Conference Center

(The historical campus of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky)

Theme: Porch Swing Time

Scripture verse: *Come with Me by yourselves to a quiet place... Mark 6:31*

Keynote Speaker—Jill Baughan

We are delighted to have Jill return as our keynote speaker. Jill is an author and speaker who, through adventure and play, can help you find joy no matter what else is happening in your life. She and her husband, Ben, live near Richmond VA. Find out more about Jill at jillbaughan.com.



All Aboard the Belle of Louisville



We are excited to announce that our Friday night banquet will be a dinner cruise on The Belle of Louisville. Cruise, meal and bus transportation to/from The Legacy is included in the conference fee.

Conference Workshops

- * Addiction
- * Adobe InDesign-Beginner
- * Adobe InDesign-Advanced
- * Balance
- * Creative Bible Journaling
- * Charitable Contributions Issues
- * Church Security & Safety
- * Conflict Resolution
- * Colorful Quiet Time
- * Devotional/Prayer Time
- * Essential Oils
- * Ergonomics
- * Evangelism
- * Ten Critical Personal Financial
- * Issues for Ministry Assistants
- * Unconventional Grief
- * Who Am I?
- * Finding Joy...with Jill
- * Handling Money in the Church
- * Identity Theft
- * IRS Reporting Issues
- * Membership/Financial Forum
- * Office Manual
- * Personal Budgeting
- * Personal Safety
- * Planning for Retirement
- * Saying No
- * Social Media
- * Stress Free Minute Taking
- * The Long Goodbye

For more information about the conference workshops, special activities, conference fees, hotel rates and membership visit our website www.nama-sbc.org or email Karen York at namapublicity@gmail.com Linda Ensor at namamembership@gmail.com

Check out our FaceBook page for resources and fellowship!

New Pastors and Staff Gather at SCBO Office

By: Bruce Smith

Thirteen pastors and staff members and five of their wives joined the state Resource Team in Columbus on March 12 to learn more about how the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio can partner with their ministries. Some of those attending the New Pastor and Staff Orientation had only been in their new ministry roles for a couple of weeks and others have served for a season but wanted to learn more about partnership with SCBO. Some were new to Ohio and others have been life-long residents in their areas. The state leaders take time to introduce various ministry resources and trainings, but more importantly become contact persons for church leaders as they move forward in ministry.

Participants for the spring orientation included Sajjan and Sandhya Betham of Building the Body of Christ, Cincinnati; Aaron Swenson, Son-Rise Church, Cleveland; Mark Shearer, Here's Hope Community Church, Madison; Don and Dawn Sallow, church planter for Refuge Community Church, Cleveland; Phillip Duttry, Elyria Baptist Church; Philip Bassham, Discovery Church, Gahanna; Andrew Beebe, Radnor Baptist Church; Josh Shortridge, Stowe Church, Columbus; Scott Snyder, pastor of the new First Light Butler Campus; Jeffery Bridgeford, planter



for Bridgepoint Community Church, Cincinnati; Derek and Emily Kearney, First Baptist Church, Dent; and two new staff members at First Baptist Church in Lancaster, Chris Mazack and Zac James and his wife Katie.

The New Pastor Staff Orientation is held twice each year. The next NPSO will be Tuesday, September 10, 2019. There is no cost for registration, but pre-registration does need to be made through Linnett Snodgrass.

Spring Ahead for Home Missions

The Appalachian Christmas Backpacks Ministry “sprang ahead” this year at the State Missions conference, “ENGAGE”, as people were getting ready to set their clocks ahead for Daylight Savings Time. Conference attendees from different churches took FREE BACK PACKS to their churches to be filled for distribution to the children in Appalachia. A total of 192 backpacks were given away. We had over 1,000 backpacks donated to be used in Ohio’s mission field of Bell County, KY, Lee County, VA and Hancock County, TN.

Reading some of the Thank You notes from the children in Appalachia, 2018 will touch your heart. One young girl wrote, “Thank you for my backpack. Thank you for telling us what the TRUE MEANING of Christmas is. Thank you for bringing children to Christ one backpack at a time.”

Our “challenge” this year is 1,400 fully loaded backpacks to give out in Appalachia. The backpacks will be filled with love, prayers, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We can do it if we see each backpack as a witness reaching

the lost and hungry child to the saving grace of Jesus Christ. If you are in need of backpacks to fill, please call or E-mail me and I will get them to you.

You will note I said “Challenge” instead of a “Goal”. We are challenged everyday by Jesus Christ when He said, “Go into ALL the world and PREACH the Gospel. Begin in your homeland.” Our homeland is Appalachia. The children in the Appalachia regions are not only starving for food, but most importantly they are starving for the saving Grace of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ for their souls. We have the resources, let’s use them.

The emphasis for beginning to collect items to fill our Backpacks will be Easter Sunday. There will be a special bulletin insert that you can download beginning in April from the State Convention website <https://scbo.org/content/christmas-backpacks>.

Easter is the celebration of Jesus Christ giving His life to save us from our sins. Let this be a time we can begin filling backpacks to give to children at Christmas to let them know how to accept the gift of salvation from Jesus,



“The Gift of Eternal Life” through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God has provided the resources with the free backpacks for your church. Take as many as you can fill completely. Remember: “We can do all things through Christ...” Philippians 4:13

REACHING CHILDREN FOR CHRIST ONE BACKPACK AT A TIME. Have a Blessed Easter.

Barbara De Lorme
SCBO WMU coordinator
for the A.M.M. Appalachian Christmas Backpacks
(937) 609-0231 11kidsnanny@gmail.com

Attention Church Planters!

Church Planters and Wives who are within the first four years of their plant are invited to the Church Planters Forum being held on May 9&10, 2019 at Dublin Baptist Church, 7195 Coffman Road.

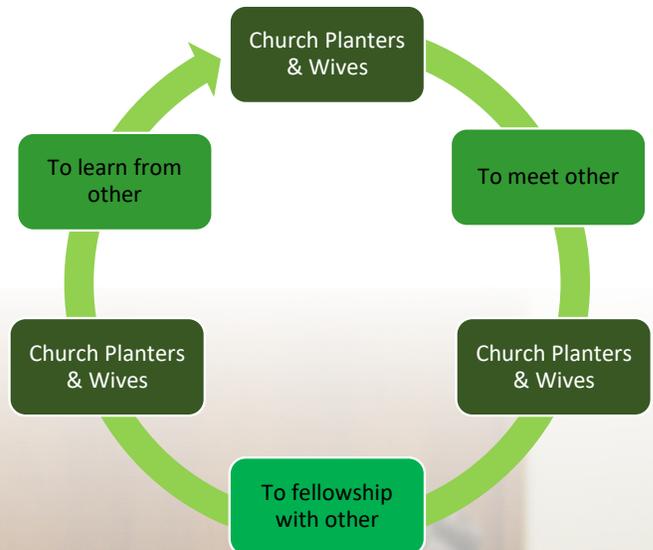
This is the 9th year for this event. Every year planters and their wives leave feeling renewed and re-energized. They go back home with some great new ideas, too! We will begin at 10AM on Thursday, the 9th concluding in the early afternoon on Friday, the 10th. We also offer an extra night's lodging on Friday to planters and wives who wish to extend their little getaway!

There is no charge for this event; food and lodging will be paid for with Cooperative Program funds. For more information or to register, contact Charlotte Barbo at cbarbo@scbo.org by April 9th. Associational Missionaries/Church Planter Catalysts/Send City Missionaries are also invited.

Church Planters Forum May 9&10, 2019 Dublin Baptist Church

FREE EVENT FOR CHURCH PLANTERS!!!

A great opportunity for



LISTENING TO LEADERS
ENCOURAGEMENT TOUR

JOIN US IN 2019!

APRIL 23 TOLEDO - FBC PERRYSBURG
MAY 21 CLEVELAND - MT. CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
JUNE 18 COLUMBUS - UNITED FAITH INTERNATIONAL
JULY 16 CAMBRIDGE - TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH
11:30AM - 2PM
VISIT SCBO.ORG FOR DETAILS



From the Desk of Pastor Ryan Strother
President of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio
(SCBO)

As your newly elected president, I would like to gather with as many of our ministry leaders as possible for you to hear the vision and progress of your Mission Council and to get your input as we cooperate together in our state convention. It will be a time for you to listen, speak, and be encouraged with fellowship and a stack of nice resources as we strengthen our partnership to see Jesus known in Ohio.

So, let's do lunch!

One Day Can Change Everything!

We've got two fantastic resources to help your church this Easter.

The Big Invite

More Guests Than Ever For Easter

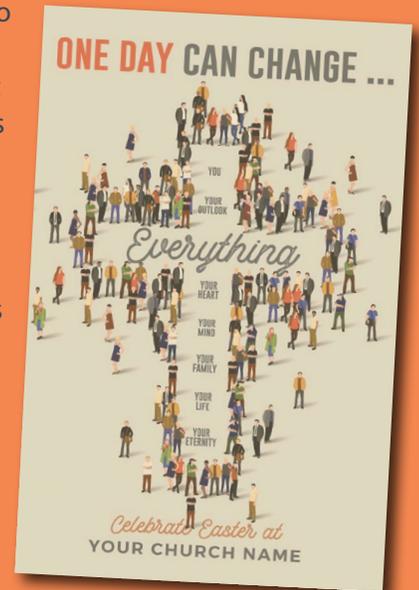
The first is the 2019 Edition of "The Big Invite." We've partnered again with Outreach Christian Resources to provide all of the ready-made designs, promo pieces, banners, social media, etc. that your church would need to saturate your community in preparation for Easter Sunday.



Second, you need to know about the exciting outreach program created by J.D. Greear and the North American Mission Board. "Who's Your One?" provides a powerful opportunity for engaging your whole church to spread the Gospel message. It's a timely and well structured program that your church can start using immediately. Check out all the details at www.scbo.org/easter

Of course, our efforts to spread the Gospel message aren't limited to just the Easter season. "Who's Your One?" will continue to make a difference through the rest of 2019 – and beyond! And there are numerous other ways that we can support the evangelistic efforts of your church. Contact me any time for help or with questions at atjhelton@scbo.org.

There is Victory in Jesus!!
Jack Helton



www.scbo.org/easter

There are so many children in Ohio that need fostering and fostering-to-adopt placements. The need is great and perhaps, just perhaps, the Miller's story would inspire more Southern Baptists in Ohio to get involved.



The Miller family poses for a photo after their adoption hearing in Tuscarawas County Juvenile Court. Pictured from left to right are Uriah, Jaden, Amara, Derek, Sebastian, Magistrate Adam Wilgus, Jasmine (middle), Keva (front), Oliver, Jennifer and Jaelinn. (Photo by Stacey Carmany, Tusco TV)

Canton Family Grows by Five with Recent Adoption

By: STACEY CARMANY, TUSCO TV Feb 21, 2019

New Philadelphia, Ohio – A Canton area couple has doubled the size of their family with the adoption of five foster children.

Derek and Jennifer Miller were cheered on by friends and family as they finalized the adoption Thursday in Tuscarawas County Juvenile Court. Derek says the children are all biological siblings who had been placed in their care by Tuscarawas County Job and Family Services.

"After a certain period of time, they became wards of the state, and they asked us if we wanted to adopt, and we said absolutely. So today, February 21st, 2018, here we are. We're adopting all five of them," he explains.

Joining the family are 2-year-old Amara, 16-month-old Uriah, 8-year-old Sebastian, 9-month-old Oliver, and 3-year-old Keva. Derek Miller says this comes just three months after they

adopted 9-year-old Jaelinn, 10-year-old Jasmine, 14-year-old Jaden, another group of siblings the had been fostering. Derek says they're grateful to God for giving them the opportunity to welcome these children into their home.

"My wife and I had been talking about doing foster care when we were dating 10 years ago. We had the chance to finally do it when we moved up here to the Canton area, and we were fortunate enough to get a couple phone calls, and it's just a blessing. It's a blessing from above. We are grateful for this opportunity, this privilege," he says.

Jennifer Miller says they're overjoyed to have made their second adoption official, although she says the children were family from the moment they arrived.

"They were treated no different and they are absolutely treated like family until whatever needed to happen, if they got to go home," she says. "They didn't, which there's a lot of grieving

and then rejoicing. We just keep them and their family that they've lost in our prayers as well, but we are certainly rejoicing and completely happy because we got a great benefit. We got five beautifully wonderful kids in addition to our three."

Tuscarawas County Juvenile Court Magistrate Adam Wilgus says this was a very special occasion that he was humbled to be a part of.

"They're adopting five children, which is a remarkable task. To raise five children takes a lot of effort and for them to step up for these children and make a difference in their lives is a wonderful thing to see," he says.

The couple is originally from Camden, Ohio. Jennifer says their goal is to move back to that area and into a much larger house.

Reprinted from Tusco TV. The original story can be found at: <https://tusco.tv/news/canton-family-grows-five-recent-adoption>

PRESS TOWARD THE MARK

He Lives

*I serve a risen Savior; He's in the world today.
I know that He is living, whatever men may say.
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer,
And just the time I need Him He's always near.
He lives! He lives! Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me
and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives! He lives! Salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart.*

The singing of "He Lives" always moved me as a young Christian. Even though I seldom hear it sung today, it continues to thrill my soul. When the music director would slow down the chorus and finish it with a thunderous crescendo, it was electrifying. In 1932, Alfred Henry Ackley, the author of "He Lives," encountered two experiences in close succession. He shared the gospel with a Jewish man who resisted his witness by saying, "Why should I worship a dead Jew?"

Soon after this, Ackley heard a liberal radio preacher announce, "You know, folks, it really doesn't make any difference to me if Christ is risen or not." These two successive experiences motivated him to answer with the "He Lives" hymn. Easter season is the season of celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He died to pay the penalty for our sins. He rose from the dead to conquer death and the grave. Every Sunday is a celebration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ: His death, burial, and resurrection. Praise God we can sing "He Lives" every Easter, every Sunday, every day, every hour, as much as we like. Mission Ohio is the cooperative effort of Southern Baptists to proclaim "He Lives" to the 7th most populated state in the union. We are seeking to reach at least 1,000,000 believers in 2,020 congregations by the end of 2020. The Cooperative Mission Program

of Southern Baptists supports Mission Ohio and over 8,000 missionaries around the world. Southern Baptists observe Cooperative Mission Program Day April 7, 2019. Resources are available from the SBC Executive Committee. You may order these by phone 1 866 722 5433 or mail 901 Commerce Street Nashville, TN 37203. Southern Baptists are missionary people because of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. "He Lives" is the reason for everything: who we are and what we do. To hear Him say "Well done" in obedience to His Great Commission is the desire of our hearts. Let's press toward that mark.



Jack Kwok, Ph.D.
Executive Director-Treasurer
State Convention of Baptists in Ohio

How to Become a Christian

If you are not a Christian, have never surrendered your will to the Lord Jesus, let me share briefly how you can make this life changing decision. GOD WANTS YOU SAVED.

FIRST, you must believe that God loves you and wants you to have peace in your heart and an everlasting life (John 3:16).

SECOND, you must recognize that you are a sinner, that you have done things which have displeased God and that you have separated yourself from Him (Romans 3:23; 6:23).

THIRD, you must believe that Jesus came to this earth, was actually God in the flesh, lived a perfect life, and yet went to a cruel cross, dying for your sins, paying once and for all the penalty of sin (I Peter 2:24).

However, it's not enough just to know these three things. Many of us knew them for years before we ever gave Jesus our lives.

FOURTH, you must personally ask Jesus to come into your life and forgive you of your sins (Revelation 3:20).

You can pray this prayer now and if you mean it with all of your heart, Jesus will come in just like He said. He cannot lie.

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner. I'm really sorry for my sins, Lord. I ask you now, Lord Jesus, to come into my heart, forgive me of my sins, take control of my life, and make me the kind of person You want me to be. I now receive You into my heart. Thank You for coming in. I will follow You all the days of my life. In Your name I pray, Amen.

How to submit Church News

Send all church news and information to Linnett Snodgrass at lsnodgrass@scbo.org