

PUBLICATION OF THE STATE CONVENTION OF BAPTISTS IN OHIO

# OHIO BAPTIST MESSENGER

AUGUST 2017 | VOLUME 65 NO. 4

OHIO PASTOR'S CONFERENCE  
**NOVEMBER 7, 2017**  
CHILlicothe BAPTIST CHURCH



## 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

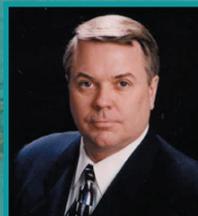
State Convention of Baptists in Ohio

**November 8, 2017**

Chillicothe Baptist Church



David Starry  
Pastor FBC Vandalia



Jack Kwok Ph.D.  
SCBO Executive Director-Treasurer



Cornelius Hancock  
Pastor Springboro BC

## 3151 Challenge

By: Dwayne Lee

*"Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Matthew 4:19 kjv*

Imagine a simple plan to equip and engage every church member to be a fisher of men's souls. A basic plan or strategy that any follower of Christ can follow, that is implemented through your church's Sunday school or small groups, that will teach members to be exactly what Jesus called his small group of disciples to be; soul winners!

### Engage

Church members are challenged to share the Gospel. For six weeks prior to your starting date, and as part of your Soul Winning Commitment Day, church members are encouraged to take the 3151 Challenge. The 3151 Challenge is a simple personal

evangelism plan that includes the following:

- 3** Pray for three lost friends daily
- 1** Learn a Gospel presentation or model
- 5** Invite five friends to your Sunday school or small group
- 1** Share the Gospel with at least one person

# The CONNECT

## EVANGELISM CAMPAIGN

is an emphasis to **EQUIP & ENGAGE**  
every church member **EVANGELISM**  
in personal **SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
through the church's **SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
small groups or

It's that easy! If you are interested in launching this in the fall of this year at your church, please contact Dwayne Lee by emailing him at [dlee@scbo.org](mailto:dlee@scbo.org) or calling him at 614-601-6824.

We welcome the opportunity to speak with you about the 3151 Challenge.

# Children's Ministry Conference

*An age graded conference designed for all children's workers!*

**September 9, 2017**

**9am-4pm (includes lunch)**

### Core Sessions

**Maria Brannen, Older Children**  
**Scott Patrick, Younger Children**  
**Jenni Carter, Older Preschool**  
**Susan Allen, Younger Preschool**

*Various Electives will be available.*

**FBC South Lebanon**  
**505 Mason Rd.**  
**South Lebanon, OH 45065**



**Steve Parr, Guest Speaker**  
**along with the Georgia Baptist Mission Board Sunday School Team**

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

# WMU Training Event

A WMU training event called "EMERGE" was held Saturday, July 8th at First Baptist Church West Jefferson. Here are some of the comments following the training:

*"I really do think the day was a success."*

*"I had a great time, and always enjoy being around the team!"*

*"I had a wonderful day too!! The fellowship was sweet, the worship was just great Jody, thank you and I thought the breakouts I was part of went nicely. Also, I was thankful that Tim was there with LifeWay."*

*"Thank you for all the hard work of putting this together. I love hanging and ministering with all of you."*

*"I am praising God for His Presence, mercy, grace and strength and I felt His mighty power from the time I stepped into the church! Yes, God's presence was at the EMERGE Conference. Everyone I spoke with was encouraged spiritually and wanted us to*

*have more meetings like this. I thank God again for what is about to happen in OHIO and for the direction of missions' involvement."*

*"Lots of great ideas to take back!"*

*"Very gifted ladies with very different ideas for women's groups, home Bible studies & ideas on how to grow groups."*

*"A great beginning -- Love to hear others' stories!"*

*"Would love to see more involvement from other churches."*

*"I received ideas and encouragement."*

*"Did not know about Mission Friends (preschool curriculum)."*

If you missed this conference stayed tuned to our website and look for future EMERGE Conferences that you can be a part of for training and encouragement.

Kudos to the team that worked so hard putting this event together!! Well done!



Worship



Ohio Leadership Team



Lunch



## WORSHIP 4:24 SPIRIT + TRUTH

By: Dwayne Lee

Worship 4:24 has become one of the most respected worship conferences across the Midwest. Every

January worship leaders, musicians, vocalist, sound and multi-media teams come from all over to receive two days of instruction and encouragement in their particular area of ministry.

I am excited to tell you that this year we will be celebrating the 9th anniversary of Worship 4:24, January 26-27, 2018 at Cedarville University. Mark your calendars now, you don't want to miss this. We will strive to provide the very best in training and instruction. Skilled facilitators will occupy the rooms and share their gifting and expertise along with their experiences with things that worked or didn't work for them. Our guest

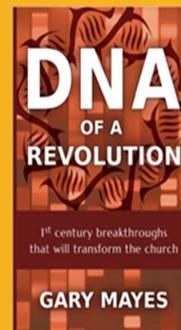
artist will help create a worshipful atmosphere and our vendors will provide you with practical tools that will assist you in your day-to-day ministry.

So remember, Worship 4:24 will take place on January 26-27, 2018. We want to see you there! Early bird registration begins September 1, 2017 for only \$40 per person. Stay tuned to our website in the near future when we will reveal the name of our guest artist for this year. Until then, encourage your worship team to make plans to attend this great experience!

# A Simple Process for Making Disciples



## Contagious Discipleship



### Two Locations!

**Wednesday, September 27**

Violet Baptist Church, Pickerington

**Thursday, September 28**

First Baptist Church, Perrysburg

**9:30 AM - 3:00 PM**

Lunch Provided

**COST: \$10, includes lunch and book: DNA of a Revolution**

**Gary Mayes**

Executive Director ChurchNEXT

Church Resource Ministries

Disciple-making is not a program, not a simplistic formula, it is more than curriculum. *"It is more like an art that is learned in minutes and refined for a lifetime,"* says Gary Mayes.

### What if?

- You could disciple more people with less effort?
- Your approach could work any time, any place, with anyone?
- You could unleash a disciple-making flood in the church you serve?

Gary Mayes, developer of **Contagious Discipleship**, will be in Ohio September 27 & 28 to share a process for disciple-making.

### What to expect:

- Hands-on experience with every aspect of the process
- Confidence anchored in the example of Jesus
- Proficiency in the Courageous Discipleship process
- Powerful questions that frame the reflection process
- Pathway to bridge the gap between generations
- Reproducibility with leaders in any ministry or life context
- Capacity to create a disciple-making culture in the church
- Ability to apply this process to other settings: classroom environments, groups, mentoring relationships, parenting, developing leaders, even managing volunteers.

Go to [scbo.org/register](http://scbo.org/register) for more information. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Steve Hopkins  
Bible Teaching and Leadership  
Resource Team Leader

# Church Planters and Wives Gather for Forum

More than 20 church planters and most of their wives gathered at Dublin Baptist Church on May 5 and 6 for a Church Planter Forum. Planters and their wives found time to encourage one another and to learn from each other at the forum. Issues such as creating margin in life spoke into the lives of planters regardless of their ministry setting. Participants engaged in worship and fellowship in the larger setting and in peer dialogue in small groups. Bruce Smith and Charlotte Barbo of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio organized the event.



**BY ALL MEANS,**  
*Be Strong & Courageous*  
Joshua 1:9

**WOMEN'S FALL RETREAT  
& MISSION CELEBRATION**  
*Sawaco Lake Baptist Assembly*  
September 8-9, 2017

For more information visit [scbo.org](http://scbo.org)



# Super Summer 2017

*By: Josh Chasteen  
Director, Super Summer Ohio*

Over the years, Super Summer has had a tremendous impact on my life not only as a student, but even now as an adult. I first attended Super Summer in 2004 following my freshman year of high school. When I returned home everyone asked how it was and the only way I could describe it was "the best week of my life." I often hear it described that way still by other teenagers who have also experienced this conference

over the years. In just about everyone's case, it's not because of the fun games or activities, but it's because of the people. **There is something about being in an environment where everyone is focused on growing in their walk with the Lord that is encouraging but also challenging.** Students interact with pastors and other students from all over the state who are like-minded in their desire to put God first and better live their lives for Him.

As far as developing

student leaders within the church, there is nothing else like it out there. Now as the director, I am continually trying to convince pastors and youth pastors to come check it out. Whenever a church sends students for the first time, even if it is just one, they are sold because students come back changed with a passion to serve God in a way they didn't have before. One of my favorite things to do is give pastors a call about 4-6 months after Super Summer and hear how their experience dur-

ing that week at Cedarville University has inspired teenagers to serve in their local church.

Super Summer is a great week for equipping church members to serve God in their schools, jobs, teams, families, and future careers. This conference has had such a great impact on my life and on the lives of so many other young people, it is why I choose to volunteer my time every summer to continually be a part of it.

*By: Ben Schwieterman*

When I first heard about Super Summer, I was a bit of a sceptic to say the least. We have all been part of or heard about summer camps that involve a week of recreation with a component of

spirituality that scratches the surface at best. After serving as a family leader at Super Summer, I was introduced a different kind of week long summer activity. Never had I been part of an event where the teaching, worship,

prayer, and discipleship were so focused. **The intentionality behind Super Summer sets the bar in such a way that a powerful move of God in the lives of students and leadership becomes the chief goal.** To be part of

Super Summer as a family leader was a blessing, as I was able to witness firsthand how God was working on behalf of the students who were pressing in to learn more of God's word, and to see His will at work in their

lives. I was equally blessed by the opportunity to be an assistant dean of the Red School for Super Summer 2017.

As an assistant dean, I was primarily responsible for teaching a portion of the Red School sessions, and aiding the head dean and family leader coordinator in whatever ways needed. It was a privilege to work alongside the staff and family leaders of Red School. Although I missed having the family time interaction with the students as I previously did as a family leader, it was a great opportunity to teach Biblical doctrine to the Red School. What I learned as a dean at Super Summer, was that even young students will strive to reach for wherever the bar is set. I watched students who would soon be in the 8th grade praying, taking notes during sessions, passionately worshiping, and ultimately coming to a place of growth and devotion unto

the Lord that few experience in the Christian life.

The students who I had brought from the church I pastor had similar reports



from the different Super Summer schools they were part of. A greater knowledge

of the Gospel was displayed in such a way that brought about a greater devotion and passion to serve the Lord with their lives. The

week of Super Summer truly equips students and leaders to be the next generation of

servant leaders in their home churches. Rather than being a camp where students are simply encouraged to lead and to live as the light of Christ, instead **Super Summer is a week where students are shown how to seek the Lord's face until He gives them the inspiration, boldness, and devotion to carry out His perfect will.**

My students and I certainly look forward to next year, and continue to pray that the purposeful seeking of the Lord that we did at Super Summer, both as a dean and as students, would serve as a model for us to follow throughout the year. Being able to be part of Super Summer in the capacity of a dean was an amazing opportunity. It has been a great blessing for me and my students to have Super Summer as one of our best weeks of the year for the central reason that God moves on our behalf when we seek Him faithfully.

## *New Pastor & Staff Orientation*



# September 12, 2017

**9:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.**

**State Convention of Baptists  
SCBO Resource Center  
9000 Antares Avenue  
Columbus, OH**

The New Pastor and Staff Orientation provides opportunity to meet the State Resource Team Leaders and learn what resources are available. There is no registration fee; however, advance registration is necessary through Linnett Snodgrass. Spouses are invited and encouraged to attend. Orientation begins at 9:30 a.m. and concludes by 3:00 p.m.

Contact Linnett Snodgrass (lsnodgrass@scbo.org or 614-601-6876) for more information.

# I was Sent Out at SBC 2017: Here's What I Learned

By: Kevin Singerman | Reprinted from imb.org July 3 2017

My heart was racing a thousand beats per minute as my wife and I stood by and waited. Memories from the past several years shot through my mind as if each one was a speeding train. Time after time I had heard the cry, "They are perishing without the gospel! Who will go?" And time after time I

the long, hard journey to this moment, the feelings of complete unworthiness, and the joy of being able to take the love of Christ to unreached peoples cascaded over me. Then, as the Sending Celebration came to a close, each missionary was surrounded by a sea of people crying out for God's blessing on

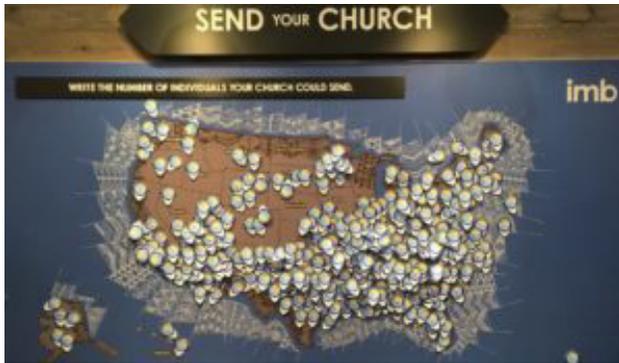
for me in regard to Southern Baptists and sending that I'd like to share.

## The Southern Baptist Convention needs to continue cooperating to send more missionaries.

It is abundantly clear that Southern Baptists love their missionaries. During the Sending Celebration, my wife and I had to pause in order to allow the thunderous applause to abate before beginning our short testimony. Each missionary stood and shared before thousands of people who each represented one of our nearly forty-seven thousand Southern Baptist churches. All of those congregations have united in order to cooperate together in the sending of missionaries, and I experienced it firsthand. It's why the SBC exists, and we must maintain our focus and continue to send increasing numbers of

## Southern Baptist churches need to continue to send missionaries.

There is a common misconception that it is the IMB that sends missionaries to the unreached peoples of the world. The truth is that it's our local churches that send us in partnership with the IMB, and that's an important distinction. Each missionary is prayed for and commissioned by his or her local church because those churches are made up of the people who know and love them best. They have watched them mature spiritually and put their gifts into action. They have encouraged them, cried with them, disciplined them, and given financially to help them get to the field. Though I will be working with the IMB, it is Firth Baptist Church Fairborn that is sending my family out. And our hearts surge with thankfulness for the



SBC: The World's Largest Family Reunion

had responded, but God's quiet reply to my soul was simply, "Wait on the Lord. . . ." Now, in this moment, David Platt was urging his hearers to consider how God could use them and my response could finally be, "I am going!"

During the Sending Celebration at this year's SBC Annual Meeting, the air was thick with anticipation and a passion for the glory of God. Then the president of the IMB introduced the SBC's newest missionaries, and my name was one of thirty-one called. The lights came to life on stage, illuminating our faces, but it was our hearts that nearly burst within us as we stepped forward. We were being sent out.

All at once the emotion of

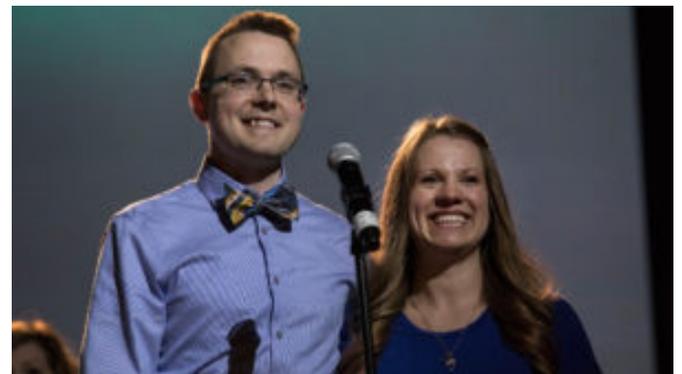
their future ministries. It was an incredible and tangible picture of God supporting us through his people. Not one of the faces around us was free of tears.

## I was struck by the fact that they may never know the impact they had on our hearts in those few moments.

Person after person hugged us tightly and promised to pray for us and our children. As they wandered back to their seats and we worked our way out of the auditorium, I was struck by the fact that they may never know the impact they had on our hearts in those few moments. The experience that night affirmed three truths

missionaries to unreached peoples and places around the world.

incredible church family they continue to be for us! Southern Baptists need to



Sent by FBC Fairborn, Ohio, the Singermans will take the gospel to Sub-Saharan Africa.

pray continually for the missionaries they send.

Having grown up on the mission field, I have unique insight into ministry overseas. Granted, I was young when we lived internationally, so I was not involved in every detail of the ministry. But we encountered trials and difficulties together as a family. Thankfully, my parents worked incredibly hard to forge relationships with believers in the States who would hold us up in prayer. No matter the opposition or frustration, we knew that we had people who not only

cared for us but were actively before the throne of God on our behalf.

*Being a part of the Sending Celebration at SBC in Phoenix will be a memory cemented into the story of my life.*

Now, as I am preparing to start my own missionary journey alongside my wife and three children, securing prayer partners is of utmost importance. Without the support of praying people and churches here in the United States, our ministry in Sub-Saharan Africa will fall short.

Our task is an impossible one unless God goes before us and sustains us.

Being a part of the Sending Celebration at SBC in Phoenix will be a memory cemented into the story of my life. When ministry becomes difficult, when sickness attacks, when we are tempted to shrink back instead of standing boldly as representatives of the gospel sent by our Southern Baptist brethren, we will remember the faces of those who are praying. Their words will echo in our minds, and God will give us the strength to

carry on in our work.

*Kevin, his wife Victoria, and their three children are serving with the International Mission Board in Sub-Saharan Africa. They spent 7 years in youth ministry at FBC Fairborn before following God's call to church planting. Kevin was also active with the Greater Dayton Association of Baptists and helped to organize outreach events to help grow teenagers and adults in evangelism. If you would like to follow their story check out their blog here or their YouTube channel here.*

## SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA HAS A GROWING CHRISTIAN POPULATION, BUT IT'S STILL HOME TO NEARLY 1,600 UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS IN SPRAWLING CITIES, BARREN DESERTS, RAIN FORESTS, AND TROPICAL ISLANDS. WILL YOU HELP US REACH THEM?



## Sixteen new volunteers attend Disaster Relief Training

By: Sam Kelley

Senior Pastor Richard Grilley, Trinity Baptist Church, Ashland, Ohio requested the opportunity to host a disaster relief ministry training event back in 2016. The session was scheduled and held on May 19-20, 2017.

Sixteen new volunteers were trained in Food Service, Mud-Out, Chain Saw, and Shower Unit areas of service, of the Disaster Relief Ministry. These volunteers represent Five (5) associations and six (6) different churches from around the state.

Volunteers serve for up to 11 days when they are called to travel out of state (in state responses range from 1-7 days), in support of a disaster response. Most of the time

they sleep in a Southern Baptist church and their ministry, while focusing on Christ and His redemption, highlights the expression of love for community by the local church. Many times volunteers have opportunity to share their testimony with disaster victims and see the fruit of their labor in salvations.

Last year Ohio volunteers recorded the following activity for 2016:

- 35 Professions of faith**
- 35 Houses Mud out**
- 38 Children cared for**
- 10,000 Meals prepared**
- 130 Assessments**
- 43 Showers**
- 10 Laundry loads**
- 1 Repair jobs**
- 1200 volunteer days**

**15 Other decisions for Christ**  
**85 Bibles distributed**  
**325 Chaplain Contacts**  
 First Baptist Church of

Heath will host our next training event on November 17-18, 2017. Pre-register at [scbo.org](http://scbo.org).



# 2017 Ohio Disaster Relief Training Sessions

State Convention of Baptist in Ohio—9000 Antares Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43240  
Jack Kwok, Ph. D. Executive Director—Treasurer—A COOPERATIVE PROGRAM MINISTRY



***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.***

**We will collect required information, during the training session, to perform a background check.**

**Pre-Register  
at:  
SCBO.ORG**

**Questions?  
Call: (614)  
309 - 9751**

**November 17—18**

**First Baptist Church  
525 South 30<sup>th</sup> Street  
Heath, Ohio 43056**

**Friday  
6:00 PM  
6:30 - 9:30 PM**

**Registration  
“Involving Southern Baptists in Disaster Relief”**

**Saturday  
7:15 AM  
8:00 AM  
12:00 PM  
12:30 PM  
3:00 PM**

**Continental Breakfast Served  
Unit Training  
Lunch Provided by DR Food Service  
Evangelism Training  
Dismissed**

**PRE-  
REGISTRATION IS  
REQUIRED FOR  
ALL TRAINING.**

**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).**

# Engage24

## workshops



**Jimmy Scroggins**



**John Meador**



**Ken Whitten**



**James Merritt**

## Heavy Hitters Coming to the Queen City

By: Jack Helton

I am excited to be partnering with the North American Mission Board (NAMB) in hosting ENGAGE 24. This is a two day evangelism equipping workshop designed to give you an opportunity to glean practical insights and resources from four of North America's most successful evangelistic pastors!

Joining us in Cincinnati is Jimmy Scroggins, pastor of Family Church in West Palm Beach, FL. Jimmy has just led Family Church through a time of forging a new identity in its commu-

nity. He is the author of the Life Conversation Guide/3 Circles Conversation Guide which has become a leading evangelism resource in the Southern Baptist Convention. For more information about Jimmy go to [www.jimmyscroggins.com](http://www.jimmyscroggins.com).

John Meador will also be with us. John is the pastor of the First Baptist Church in Eulis, TX. His personal story of following Christ is depicted at [www.iamsecond.com](http://www.iamsecond.com), and he is the author of "Can We Talk," a personal evangelism conversation starter. For more info about John and his

ministry visit [www.oneconversation.org](http://www.oneconversation.org).

In addition, Ken Whitten, pastor at Idlewild BC in Lutz, FL will also be attending. An accomplished speaker and evangelism leader Ken has led Idlewild for more than 25 years in seeing people come to Christ. To find out more about Ken visit [www.idlewild.org](http://www.idlewild.org).

Finally, James Merritt, pastor at Cross Pointe Church (near Atlanta, GA) will be joining us. James is the founder of the "Touching Lives" TV ministry ([www.touchinglives.org](http://www.touchinglives.org)),

and the "Pastor's Edge," a go to resource for sermon preparation ([www.pastorsedge.com](http://www.pastorsedge.com)).

ENGAGE 24 will be held Thursday October 12th and Friday October 13th at Liberty Heights Church, 7904 Princeton Road, Liberty Township, OH.

Go to [www.namb.net/engage24](http://www.namb.net/engage24) for complete workshop details including registration. Feel free to contact me with questions ([jackhelton@scbo.org](mailto:jackhelton@scbo.org)) or 614-309-9738.



North American  
Mission Board

[namb.net/Engage24](http://namb.net/Engage24)

# Steel Valley Honors Bannisters for 12 Years of Ministry

By: Bruce Smith

Members of Steel Valley Baptist Association churches gathered on July 10 at Grace Place Ministries in Warren to honor George and Lisa Bannister. During a barbecue dinner, associational moderator Randy Langham, pastor of Cornersburg Baptist Church, led a time of appreciation for the Bannisters' twelve years of ministry with the association. Since 2005 George Bannister has led the work of Steel Valley Baptist Association. His wife Lisa has been active in women's ministries in the state and the local area as well as children's ministries in their local church. At some point all three of their sons ministered in various ways in the association. Lisa's father, Morris Thibodeaux, has also been active in the association and local church ministries. The Bannisters and Mr. Thibodeaux will be moving to Woodville, Mississippi where Dr. George Bannister will serve as senior pastor of Woodville Baptist Church.



**AUGUST 24,  
2017**

**JERSEY BAPTIST  
CHURCH  
NEW ALBANY, OH**

**REGISTER  
TODAY**  
SCBO.ORG/MOVINGBEYOND



**North American  
Mission Board**

## Moving Beyond....Why Attend?

By: Jack Helton  
*Evangelism Resource Group  
Leader*

I first met Johnny Hunt in the summer of 1996. I had brought our church youth group to Myrtle Beach, SC to do some "beach reach" evangelism and take part in a regional youth conference. Johnny was the keynote speaker that week. During that conference a serious issue occurred that required

a leadership discussion and decision. Johnny not only led the way in this matter but also was instrumental in bringing it to a biblical and amicable conclusion.

Since then I have had the privilege of seeing Johnny become a leader in our convention and a master encourager of the leaders in God's church! His passion through the years (as evidenced by his leader-

ship in his own church) has been to see people come to Christ, grow in discipleship, and become involved in a vibrant church that impacts its community and culture for God's Glory.

We are privileged to have him back in Ohio. Won't you join me at the "MOVING BEYOND" Conference, Thursday, August 24th at Jersey Church in hearing from Johnny the proven meth-

ods and strategies assisting churches today in finding, building, and multiplying leaders?

I pray you'll make the time to attend this valuable one-day conference. I promise you won't be disappointed.

To register visit: <http://www.scbo.org/event/moving-beyond-leadership-conference> or contact me at [jackhelton@scbo.org](mailto:jackhelton@scbo.org) or 614.309.9738.



# OHIO BAPTIST FOUNDATION

Investing in God's Kingdom Since 1969

## Ohio Baptist Golf Invitational #2 Recap



Winners! FBC Waverly



*I can make it!*



*Ooh, that looks good!*

It has been said, "it never rains on the golf course." Obviously, that is not 100% accurate. In fact, the only tournament I've ever won as an individual occurred in the midst of a dreary rainy Saturday morning. The rain that day didn't stop me from participating, or winning!

On Monday, July 10th, the

rain didn't stop 80 golfers and a dozen or so volunteers from participating in the 2nd annual Ohio Baptist Foundation Golf Invitational at Wedgewood Country Club in Powell, OH. Despite a one hour rain delay and a round ending downpour (more like a 15 minute hurricane), everyone endured and

survived to make the day fun and enjoyable.

The team from FBC Waverly, (Josh Remy, Val Francis, Lane Patrick, and Scott Crace), took home the winning prize, finishing an astonishing 15 under par, which was an outstanding round of golf on a very difficult course. Jacob Hurley, Mark Daubenmire, Doug Wiese, Casey Kersey, Dan Hartenstein, and Steve Lamp won proximity prizes for longest drives, closest to the pin, and longest putts. Scott Waller won the grand prize, a cruise for two to a destination in the Caribbean. All in all, it was a great time for golf, fun, food, and fellowship!

Most importantly the par-

ticipants in the Invitational helped raise more than \$3500 for student scholarships! Thanks to everyone at Wedgewood, our volunteers, and our participants for making this year's event a memorable one!

In closing, let me say the bible reminds us that every day is a day the Lord has made, therefore, we need to rejoice and be glad in it! Especially if it's on a great golf course, raising funds for a great cause, having fellowship with great friends, and enduring a few rain storms!

*Fore,*  
 Jack Helton  
 President  
 The Ohio Baptist Foundation

# Walter Strickland, SBC 1st Vice President Speaks at First Baptist, Heath

By: *T. Chad Winder* (Pastor of  
Worship First Baptist Church Heath, OH)

I met Walter Robert Strickland II as a freshman in college. We immediately hit it off after discovering our mutual love for all things percussion. We came from two very different places. He was a cool, sporty, fit guy from southern California and I was a skinny, band nerd from central Pennsylvania, but I'm not sure that mattered to either of us because we both loved Jesus and we both loved drums.

Because of our classes and circles we weren't inseparable, often going two different directions much of the time but we enjoyed a brotherhood because of our interests. And I always knew that if I was really in a bind, I could find Walter and he would at least hear me out if not help me out right. One of my fondest memories with Walter was working out a drum battle for a symphonic band concert where pretty much all we did was beat on trash cans. Yeah you read that right, trash cans.

After our days at Cedarville University we again went two very different ways, he continued on with school at Southeastern Theological Seminary and my wife of exactly one year and I went on tour with World Help's Children of the World choir. I thought of Walter often and was happy to have a connection through social media just to keep up on how he was doing.

I remember rejoicing with Walter from a distance when he got married to Stephanie and mourning with him from a distance when he and his wife lost their first daughter Hope in June of 2012. In fact, our own daughter was battling dehydration and a severe case of gastroenteritis on June 21 of this year when I got a personal message from Walter saying that he was praying for our sweet Marlee. I realized later that week that June 21 was the anniversary of Hope's passing. It brought me to tears to know that he had spent part of his day that he remembers the loss of his first child praying for my daughter to be well. But, I can also say I'm not at all surprised by this, because that is at exactly who Walter is; a man who cares deeply for his family, his friends, and loves his Savior with all of his being. God has blessed he and Stephanie with two more little girls since Hope's passing: Kendra and Kaiya.

I couldn't have been more excited for my brother when I heard the news of his nomination to this position in the SBC and was even more elated when I heard the news from the convention that he had officially been elected to serve as 1st VP. I'm sure it is humbling to be one of the youngest leaders ever elected to this leadership board. But I know he will manage this with grace and poise, because again, that's who he is.

Walter came to be with us Sunday July 9 to fill in for our interim pastor Steve Hopkins and I couldn't have been more excited. My excitement was two-fold: I got to see a dear friend who I have not seen for nearly 11 years and First Baptist Church got to have a first time ex-

perience; having a sitting 1st VP of the SBC come to speak to us. Walter delivered the word exquisitely and without apology.

It was great to catch up with Walter Saturday night and Sunday morning and I'm excited to report to you all that he has a great vision for how he would like to make his mark on the SBC as a whole. I believe Walter will be one of the greatest champions of unity in this current generation of Southern Baptists. He has a heart for the people of God to focus on what brings us together and keep priorities straight as the body of Christ when it comes to our disagreements. He seemed very grateful to the current leadership for embracing him so quickly and mentioned how supportive all the leadership of the SBC has been even in these few short weeks. He

was especially grateful for Dr. James Merritt and his desire to see and support Walter serving as VP.

There probably isn't enough space on these pages (or website respectively) to describe all that Walter has accomplished in these 11 years since our undergraduate studies in the fields of rural Ohio. But, he does have a website ([walterstrickland.com](http://walterstrickland.com)) where you can find out more about the books he has authored/co-authored or edited and find out about the church and university consulting he does along with his full time gig as a professor at SEBTS. Walter will also be speaking in chapel at Cedarville University during alumni week on October 2. That might be a good opportunity for some of you to get to know the man that I do. He may be the 1st VP but he's a man just like you and me.



# Help Needed

Southside Baptist Church is seeking a Bi-vocational Pastor.  
Resumes can be sent to [kaybible@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kaybible@sbcglobal.net)



## Buckeye Baptist Builders Service Opportunities

August 7-18, 2017  
Seneca Lake Baptist Assembly  
Senecaville, Ohio  
Project: Chapel Wall Rebuild

September 11-15, 2017  
New Haven Baptist Church  
1373 N. Ottokee  
Wauseon, Ohio  
Project: New Garage

Contact: Dale Patterson 614-882-1375 or  
614-352-0884 for either project.



## Ohio Represented at the National Invitational Bible Drill Tournament

By: Kimberly Jackson Kubik

Samuel and Joseph Mosher of First Baptist Kettering represented Ohio at the National Invitational Bible Drill Tournament June 16, 2017 at First Baptist Church in Brunswick, GA.

In the Youth Drill, Samuel competed against 11 others, while Joseph competed in the High School Drill against nine others. While neither was declared the winner of their respective drill, the Moshers honored God with their best efforts and repre-

sented us well.

The Southern Baptist of Texas Convention hosted a get acquainted party Thursday night on the Jekyll Island beach. Make-your-own taco and sundae bars were huge hits. Following dinner, beach balls were inflated, written upon, and tossed amongst the participants. An awards dinner followed the Friday competition. Each participant received a trophy, with additional trophies awarded for first and second places in

each category.

In 2018, the NIT will move to metro Atlanta. The competition will be the third Friday in June.

Look for the next cycle of verses to be posted soon at [scbo.org](http://scbo.org). In the meantime, if you have any questions about Bible Drill, Speakers' Competition, or Speakers' Competition topics, please contact Kimberly Jackson Kubik at [kjax@voyager.net](mailto:kjax@voyager.net) or 937-602-6108.



Samuel Mosher (left) and Joseph Mosher (right) representing First Baptist Church Kettering.



# Fruitful Follow-Up

**SOUTH LEBANON, Ohio (BP)**  
 -- It is an old saying but nevertheless true: You never get a second chance to make a first impression.

It is especially true in the work of the church. How Sunday School classes and small groups receive their guests is critical to their success in reaching new people.

Another critical factor in keeping the guests coming back is follow-up. It is exciting to have a big week like Vacation Bible School and see the potential of a church full of children, but how we follow up with these kids and their families often determines if we will ever see them again. Here are five facts to consider:

## 1. Follow-up demonstrates biblical hospitality.

The Bible says, "Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another ... given to hospitality" (Romans 12:10-13). Good follow-up is simply a good, hospitable way of treating your guests.

## 2. Follow-up with guests is a good ministry strategy.

There is no better prospect than the one who visited last week. She has already demonstrated a level of interest by attending. If she can get connected and build friendships with others, there is a good chance she'll be back. If she gets a call or visit from the teacher or group leader, it is even more impressive.

## 3. The most successful follow-up happens outside the church.

We can invite our guests to fellowships and ministry projects. We can visit in their home to see if they have questions about the church. We can send a thank you card for their visit. We can call and find out if there are any special prayer needs and pray over the phone with the prospect. We can invite them over for pizza and a movie. All these things are living demonstrations to your guests that you care about them.

## 4. The more people involved in follow-up, the better.

People are living and working with others every day but often without

making a single friend. People in our culture long for the happy friendships they see on the sitcoms, yet find themselves lonely and isolated. They want meaningful relationships with others outside their own homes. The Sunday School class or small group offers the perfect opportunity for such relationships. The potential for these relationships grows as more of your members are involved in the follow-up process.

## 5. Sooner or later it boils down to someone doing the work.

No teacher or group leader can do all the follow-up that is needed, so have an assistant or enlist an evangelism leader to help you with follow-up. Each class should keep a record of the guests who attend. The evangelism leader keeps that information and assigns or makes contacts on a regular basis.

One teacher I heard of made a list of prospects who had visited over time and asked for four volunteers willing to make phone calls and write letters. The

teacher divided the list by four and assigned the names to the four volunteers. Each volunteer contacted the people on his or her list that week. Then the teacher switched the lists for the second week and so on. Every prospect was contacted four weeks in a row by four different people. It wasn't long before the people on the prospect list became enrollees and regular attendees. The follow-up project took very little time, but it produced amazing results.

The Nike shoe company uses the slogan, "Just Do It." It is simple and to the point. When it comes to contacting absentees and prospects, we, also, need to prioritize and just do it -- to bring lost and empty souls into fellowship with Jesus and His people.



*By: David Frasure  
 Reprinted from Baptist Press  
 (www.baptistpress.com), news  
 service of the Southern Baptist  
 Convention. July 10, 2017*

Jack Kwok, State Convention Executive Director-Treasurer, Editor; Linnett Snodgrass, Administrative Assistant; Amanda Mishne, Publication Layout.  
 Published every other month for members of Southern Baptist churches in Ohio. Subscriptions provided out of each church's Cooperative Program gifts. Member of Baptist Press, news service of the Southern Baptist Convention.



The Ohio Baptist Messenger (ISSN 0472-7096) is published every other month by the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio; 9000 Antares Avenue; Columbus, Ohio 43240-2011. Periodicals Postage Paid at Columbus, Ohio. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Ohio Baptist Messenger; 9000 Antares Avenue; Columbus, Ohio 43240-2011.

# Fun at Family Camp

By: Bill Perry Ubancrest Baptist Church

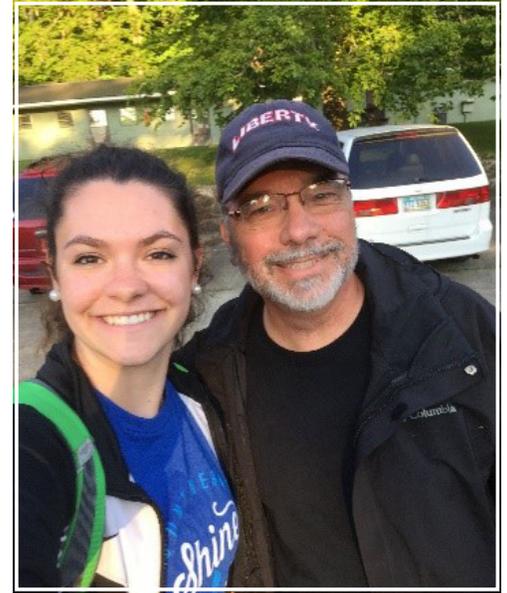
We did it! Family Camp 2017 is in the record books. It was so good being back at Seneca Lake visiting with old friends. We set up the camp like it was many years ago. There was time for the family to be with family! All three meals were provided and between meals the pool was open, time for fishing, paddle boating, canoeing, putt-putt golf, and my favorite nap time. Each night we gathered on Vesper Hill for daily reflections and testimonies and then down to the Chapel for Family devotions. So many times, we get so busy at work or even at church that we don't spend the time we should with our family. At Family Camp, that is not the case. This week is all about your family!

my heart good to see my oldest son showing his youngest son how to pitch a horseshoe. This may seem so simple to some but to me this is what Family Camp is about...family.

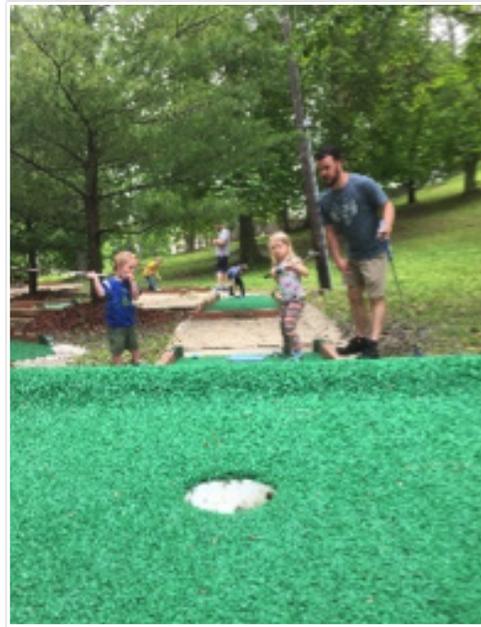


One of our favorite family times is snack time after Chapel. You go to Chapel to get fed the Word of God and then to the deck behind the cafeteria for snack time with all the families.

Almost every night you will find moms and dads out with their little ones playing on the putt-putt golf course. It isn't the greatest course but that doesn't matter. It is the time you get to spend with your kids that matters the most!



Almost twenty years ago, my oldest son played horseshoes with me. It did



Well, I could go on and on about Family Camp. For me it was such a blessing to spend time with my kids with no cell phones and no internet! Just some good old fashioned talking and walking the camp with my kids. This last picture is with my youngest daughter, Rachel. I have a similar picture with one of my older daughters when we walked the trails at Seneca Lake many years ago. This year, I once again got to walk with my daughter...just the two of us!!

Join us next year!

 FAMILY CAMP 

June 4-8, 2018

# PRESS TOWARD THE MARK

Mission Ohio is the cooperative effort of Southern Baptists to reach 1,000,000 believers in 2,020 congregations by the end of 2020. Like people everywhere, Ohioans without Christ are lost and destined to spend eternity suffering in hell. Salvation which includes heaven for believers is available because of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Sharing this Gospel and calling

people to repent of sin, believe the Gospel, and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior is the call of the Great Commission from Ohio to the ends of the earth.

To that end Ohio Southern Baptists in the 2016 Annual Meeting approved a budget that designates 50% of Cooperative Mission Program receipts to fund Mission Ohio and 50% to support worldwide missions through Southern Baptist mis-

sions. Halfway through the 2016-17 fiscal year, receipts are less than the previous year. At the present rate of giving, 2016-17 Cooperative Mission Program receipts will finish the fiscal year about 94-95% of the budget.

We are deeply grateful for the SCBO churches that have increased their Cooperative Mission Program giving. However, many SCBO churches continue to give no funds to

support Southern Baptist Missions around the world. To take the Gospel to the ends of the earth requires the support of all Southern Baptists. 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 (1 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](mailto:lsnodgrass@scbo.org)