

OHIO BAPTIST MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 2021 | VOLUME 69 NO. 1



Ruth McNeil Edmonds, Church Relations Director and Aaron Baer, President

Citizens for Community Values: Valued Partners

By: Steve Hopkins

The pandemic introduced several unwanted experiences for us in 2020. Racial tensions reminded us of the divide that continues, even among God's people. However, Citizens for Community Values (CCV) stepped up, and Ohio Baptists recognized their valuable partnership. The Friday Faith conference calls with the governor's office helped us negotiate issues like safe distance and wearing a mask. *The Joseph Council* called us to prayer and helped launch the Ohio pastor's prayer movement in 2020. *The Church Ambassador Network* (CAN), a CCV project, provided needed guidance on addressing the cultural and moral issues of our day.

CCV Mission statement: "As Ohio's Family Policy Council, Citizens for Community Values seeks the good of our neighbors throughout Ohio by advocat-

ing for public policy that reflects the truth of the Gospel. We endeavor to create an Ohio where God's blessings of life, family, and religious freedom are treasured, respected, and protected."

2021 will continue to offer challenges. Beginning Friday, February 4 at 10:00 am, the Church Ambassador Network will resume hosting Faith Friday conference calls, now once a month. The call for pastors and ministry leaders will include interviews with state and national guests, government authorities, clergy, and subject-matter experts on challenging cultural issues from a biblical worldview, and a time for Q&A.

Since August, pastors and ministry leaders in Ohio have met monthly to strengthen brotherhood bonds (Psalm 133:1), be unified in the faith (John 17), and make ready the statewide Church of Jesus Christ to respond in the next

crisis. The next prayer time will be Thursday, January 28, 10:00 am, via Zoom. Go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84215774607> join the call.

While the Ohio Statehouse is still open to the public, CCV is hosting five Pastors' Days at the Statehouse for a time of fellowship, worship, and prayer; as well as a brief tour of the statehouse, and, as the opportunity presents, observing a committee hearing and sharing the gospel. Mark your calendars for the inaugural event: Thursday, February 25, from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon in the Statehouse Atrium.

President Aaron Baer and Church Relations Director Ruth Edmonds have become great friends to Ohio Baptists. Go [HERE](#) for the short video from our annual celebration. (<https://vimeo.com/480042780>)



**CITIZENS FOR
COMMUNITY VALUES**

Executive Director Search Team Posts Job Opening, Prepares to Receive Resumes



The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio is seeking qualified candidates for the Executive Director position.

The Executive Director Search Team will receive resumes at the email address ExecSearch@scbo.org through February 28, 2021.

The primary characteristics for the position are as follows:

1. The candidate must be a committed Southern Baptist who understands and embraces Ohio culture
2. The candidate should be gifted relationally to communicate and connect locally to pastors/churches and nationally to denominational leaders
3. The candidate needs to have visible experience of bringing diverse people groups together, especially in areas of ethnic sensitivity
4. The candidate must be an exceptional vision-caster
5. The candidate needs to have proven leadership abilities in his own personal life and in building teams

The job description follows. The candidate must have at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, a graduate degree is preferred; the candidate must have at least ten years ministry experience.

Recruitment: Special Search Committee of the Ohio Mission Council

Reports to: Mission Council

Job Title: Executive Director-Treasurer/Team Leader

Employment: Ohio Mission Council upon recommendation of the Executive Committee

Supervises: Resource Team of SCBO

BASIC FUNCTION

Acts as the chief administrative officer and treasurer of the State Convention and the Ohio Mission Council managing the work of the personnel of the SCBO and providing leadership for all its programs

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Work with the Ohio Mission Council in developing goals and actions related to the programs of the State Convention.
2. Aid in the development of budgets and calendars designed to attain the goals of the State Convention through the Mission Council.
3. Work with the Ohio Mission Council in enlisting and supervising necessary staff members for the programs of the State Convention. Act as the chief executive agent, working with the Executive Committee, in the employment and termination of all personnel and in the hiring of all services.
4. Evaluate and report to the Ohio Mission Council at least quarterly the progress in achieving Ohio Mission Council goals for all ministries and himself taking corrective action based on the direction of the Executive Committee.
5. Encourage all departments of the State Convention to implement cost-saving methods and systems to insure maximum productivity on the part of all personnel.
6. Provide complete staff assistance and record keeping to the Ohio Mission Council and its committees working with each chairman in the formulation of agendas and calling of meetings.
7. Serve as Treasurer of the Convention and its Ohio Mission Council seeing that all funds are credited, disbursed and reported according to the convention approved budget.
8. Assist, encourage and make available to the churches of the State Convention resources from state as well as convention-wide agencies and boards to aid in the fulfilling of their mission.
9. Represent the State Convention to the denomination, public officials, civic leaders and the media.
10. Serve as the statutory agent of the State Convention working with the proper committees in business and property management.
11. Speak in churches and associations when requested and as time allows.



SOMETHING I HOPE YOU ALREADY KNOW

Partnership [pahrt-ner-ship] – *noun*.

The state or condition of being a partner; participation; association; joint interest. (dictionary.com)

When I was Director of Missions in Steel Valley Baptist Association, there were a few times that I was talking with potential partners from Southern states. Some were interested in coming to Ohio, but they wanted to stop around Cincinnati, four and one half hours short of where I lived. They should not be criticized for that because the best partnerships are often built out of relationship and good relationship means repeated times together. It makes it challenging for ministries in Napoleon or Conneaut to find strong partners in the South. But for some churches, the best partnerships are developed within the state. One church helps another church—maybe within the association or maybe across the state.

Our churches and associations in Ohio have had some great partnerships from places like Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee and other locations. And Ohio churches currently have partnerships from Maine to Boston to the Dakotas. Ohio churches also have an ever-growing number of international partnerships. Yet keep in mind that some people in our churches may not be able or prepared to travel abroad or even longer distances within North America. But they might be ready to assist with a local mission endeavor at a sister church in their association. With the hopes of COVID-19 fading away, many of the people in pews (or chairs) or members watching the online service are a little stir crazy. So be praying about where God will mobilize your congregation—internationally, nationally, locally—to strengthen another church or to plant a new church. And prayerfully consider partnerships which will look at one of the hundreds of locations identified as places where churches can be planted in Ohio (<https://www.scbo.org/article/adopt-zip-church-planting>), see page 6.

And while I am on the topic of partnership, let me give a big shout for the partnership that is basic for Southern Baptists: the Cooperative Mission Program. Ohio churches gave their Cooperative Program gifts this past year, and SCBO received 102% of its Cooperative Program budget. Thank you for that partnership. That was significant when sources of revenue did not come from events that normally happen in person.

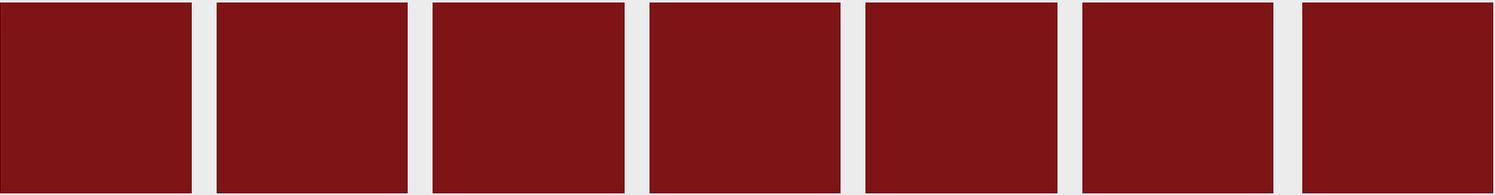
And there is something I hope you already know: as Cooperative Program gifts come to the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, 50% of those gifts are sent beyond Ohio. Cooperative Program gifts support the International Mission Board and the North American Mission Board/Send Network. Six seminaries also are able to offer Southern Baptists training at significantly reduced costs. Also, a small amount of Cooperative Program gifts go to the Ethics and Religious Liberties Commission, which is worth looking into in these challenging days.

I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge, even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you, so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 1:4-8, NASB)

Pray about how God wants to use your church in its next endeavor to impact your community and the world with the Gospel of Christ. Let our state resource team know if we can help get you connected in a partnership that will impact lives with the Gospel of Christ.



*Bruce Smith
Interim Executive Director-Treasurer
State Convention of Baptists in Ohio*



Visit SCBO.ORG for your FREE registration code!

transitions

WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE CHURCH?

A VIRTUAL conference focused on helping church leaders equip the church to make disciples as they move forward following a year of challenges and obstacles.

HIGHEST RATE IN THE STATE

to churches and other ministries on a cash account

SHORT TERM FUND RATE
1.34%
CURRENT YIELD*



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Learn more: 614.601.6881 • jackhelton@scbo.org

*Rates subject to change.

**Based upon internal data. Please let us know if you hear of a higher rate.

A MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP



OHIO BAPTIST FOUNDATION



LOUISIANA BAPTIST FOUNDATION

NOTICE: This is not an offer to sell our securities and we are not soliciting you to buy our securities.

The Ohio Baptist Foundation and the Louisiana Baptist Foundation offer a **Short Term Fund** to help churches and other ministries maximize their income on cash reserves and designated funds. The annualized payout rate is **1.34%** (as of 12/31/2020). Based upon our information, *this is one of the highest cash-type rates offered in Ohio to churches and other ministries at this time.*

If this would be helpful for your ministry, I would be honored to partner with your church or ministry to advance God's Kingdom here on earth. I can be reached by replying to jackhelton@scbo.org or 614-309-9738 .

Jack Helton, Executive Director
The Ohio Baptist Foundation

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Operation Warm Blesses Ohioans

By: *Reginald Hayes*

Operation Warm made a holiday stop at the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio where the non-profit program dropped off 6 dozen warm coats for three SCBO churches in rural and urban Ohio.

First Southern Baptist Church Pomeroy, First Baptist

Church Garrettsville and Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church Cleveland were this year's recipients. Deacon Marty O'Brien, said the free warm coats for the children are a blessing. "It's very relieving for First Baptist to give a brand-new warm coat to twenty five children," O'Brien said. "This holiday has been so stressful for families here in Southern Ohio with everything going on."

SCBO President Reginald Hayes, Interim Executive Director, Bruce Smith, and Mission Support and Mobilization Team Leader, Duane Floro, believes this coat partnership is just one example of how SCBO is linking with the Governor Dewine's Office to bring resources to help better balance family life and, at the same time, presenting the Gospel.

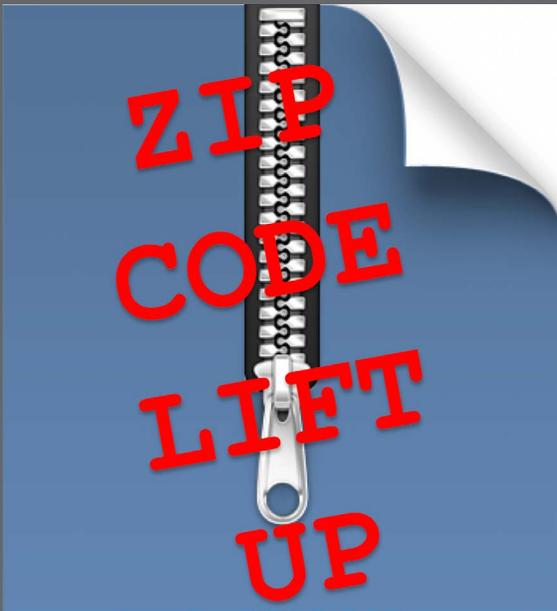
The coats came at a perfect

time when many are struggling to pay their bills during these uncertain times. "A warm winter coat is pretty basic, but not as important as paying your rent," Hayes said. "To be able to get a brand-new coat for their children at no expense is a blessing."

The well-made coats have fleece linings, detachable hoods, water-repellant shells and deep pockets so that little hands can stay warm even without gloves, according to Operation Warm.

Operation Warm is a national non-profit being tapped in a grant program from the Ohio Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives to provide 9,000 winter coats across Ohio to eligible children. The 22-year-old program has distributed more than 3.5 million winter coats to children across the United States.





We praise God that the number of churches in Ohio is increasing. But we know that the number of people in Ohio who are not in any church remains significant. To help identify some strategic locations within the state, an Opportunity Scan from MissionInsite brings to the forefront multiple zip codes with substantial populations where a church could be planted. With each issue of the Ohio Messenger, we plan to highlight four of those zip codes in Ohio with no Southern Baptist church.

Would you join us in prayer to begin to impact those areas with the gospel of Jesus Christ? Ask God to direct you to a specific zip code for which you will pray. Or pray for all four. Perhaps you can involve your whole church in adopting one or more of these zip codes and began to pray specifically for that area.

Watch for more zip codes and information in the next issue of the Messenger!

CHOOSE ONE OR MORE TO PRAY FOR:

- **ZIP CODE 43078 – URBANA**

Urbana is in Champaign County. The nearest city of 50,000+ is Springfield. It has a population of over 10,000 with no SBC CHURCH – 25% Protestant, 4% Catholic, 71% claim no church affiliation. The most common industries in Urbana are Transportation Equipment followed by Healthcare. FUN FACT: The unemployed percentage is below the state average.

- **ZIP CODE 44139 – SOLON**

Solon is in Cuyahoga County. The nearest city of 50,000+ is Cleveland. It has a population of over 20,000 with no SBC CHURCH – 19% Protestant, 29% Catholic, 47% claim no church affiliation. The most common industries in Solon include Educational Services, Healthcare, Professional, Scientific and Technical Services. FUN FACT: The percentage of the population with a bachelor’s degree or higher is significantly above the state average.

- **ZIP CODE 44830 – FOSTORIA**

Fostoria is in Seneca County. The nearest city of 50,000+ is Toledo. It has a population of over 10,000 with no SBC CHURCH – 21% Protestant, 33% Catholic, 45% claim no church affiliation. The most common industries in Fostoria are Transportation Equipment followed by Healthcare. FUN FACT: More than 10% of the population is Hispanic, which is above the state average.

- **ZIP CODE 45764 – NELSONVILLE**

Nelsonville is in Athens County. The nearest city of 50,000+ is Columbus. It has a population of over 5,000 with no SBC CHURCH – 16% Protestant, 3% Catholic, 80% claim no church affiliation. The most common industries in Nelsonville are Accommodation and Food Services followed by Educational Services. FUN FACT: The length of stay since moving in is significantly above the state average.

ADOPT A ZIP CODE:

PRAY

For lost in the area
For planters to be called
For new churches

ENGAGE

In prayer walking/driving
In exploratory events
By meeting area leaders

PLANT

As a supporting church
As a sponsoring church





In Christ

**JUNE 21-25, 2021
CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY**

f SUPER SUMMER OHIO   SUPERSUMMEROHIO



2021 SPEAKER

Jon Wood

VP of Student Life and
Christian Ministries at
Cedarville University

RECREATION PROVIDED BY

THE JOURNEY FROM POTENTIAL TO LEADER

SOJOURN LEADERSHIP

LEADERS - RECREATION - MISSIONS

WORSHIP PROVIDED BY

HEARTSONG

REGISTRATION DEADLINES AND FEES:

Early Bird Registration Deadline -

April 7 \$230 per person (\$100 deposit)

Registration Deadline -

May 20 \$275 per person (\$145 deposit)

Balance \$130 due June 3

No Registrations accepted after May 20, 2021

Please note: For all non-SBC churches there will be an additional \$60.00 fee per student.



In Search of

Calvary Baptist Church, Wilmington, Ohio is receiving resumes for a Director of Praise & Worship. Ministry resumes will be received through February 28, 2021. This ministry position will require approximately twenty hours per week. The main responsibility will be to plan, prepare, and lead the praise team and congregation in dynamic blended worship services. Please include a recent photograph and link to worship services that you have led. Upon receipt of your resume, we will forward a full ministry description, as well as church and music ministry overview. Resumes may be sent to brandon@cbcwilmington.net.



Growing in Love

Amish Country Women's Retreat

Saturday, May 15, 2021, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Community Baptist Church - 420 E 3rd St., Dover Ohio

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 15:5-6

Register at

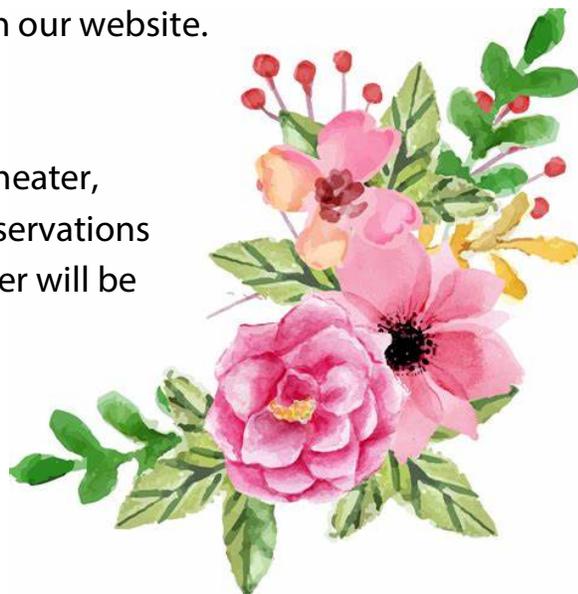
<http://www.scbo.org/event/amish-country-womens-spring-retreat>

Registration Deadline -- Saturday, May 8

We've designed this retreat so the amount of time and money you spend is up to you. The cost of the retreat at Community Baptist Church is \$25.00 which includes a light breakfast and lunch.

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.

If you would like to fellowship with other ladies on Friday, May 14 for dinner and a live concert at Ohio Star theater, contact Jean DiFilippo at jeandifilippo@yahoo.com for reservations no later than March 25. The cost for dinner and the theater will be \$49.00 and must be paid to Jean no later than April 8.



VBS State Team is Trained and Ready for You!

By: Wendy Hammock

VBS state team training has typically taken place at Ridgecrest, North Carolina. And while that was great for people who live within driving distance of those cities, many people have expressed disappointment that it's too far and too expensive for them to ever attend.

So for the first time ever, LifeWay VBSI was virtual! We didn't have to take off work to attend, no travel expenses, and

we brought even more of our team!

Rather than a two-day event and a full day of travel, VBSI was condensed into a single day. We began the morning with an energizing main session that overviews the theme, Bible content, and choreography for Destination Dig as well as a pick from over 20 breakouts to train, equip, and prepare you for VBS 2021.

We were able to interact with everyone attending from around the country

live and in real time. We were able to participate in live discussions with the LifeWay VBS team and with VBS leaders just like you! The Ohio team had a Zoom meeting over lunch to plan and discuss VBS Express 2021. It is our hope and desire to meet with you in person in April and bring this experience to life for you and your whole team. Make plans now to attend. April 17, 2021 9am-12noon.

Core Classes Provided:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Pastors & Directors | Crafts |
| Preschool & Kindergarten | Missions |
| Children's Bible Study | Music |
| Pre-teen/VBX | Recreation & Snack |
| Students 7-12th | Spanish |
| Decorations | |

For more details, please contact:
Wendy Hammock, 614-601-6826 or
wehammock@scbo.org



DESTINATION



UNEARTHING THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS
JEREMIAH 29:13

VBS

EXPRESS

APRIL 17, 2021

Can Groups help Strengthen Your Church in this Covid-19 Crisis?

For the purpose of this article I will be using the term groups as a general term that references Sunday school, small groups or any other type of small gathering of people.

For years you have heard it said that Sunday School or Small Groups are the backbone or the engine that keeps the church running. At least we would like to think so!

Ever since COVID-19, churches have tried to figure out the best way to stay connected to their congregations. Many of them have used social platforms to convey their message and have a constant presence with their church. We are still using these platforms even today, but I wonder if there are other alternatives that could be used to stay connected to our flock?

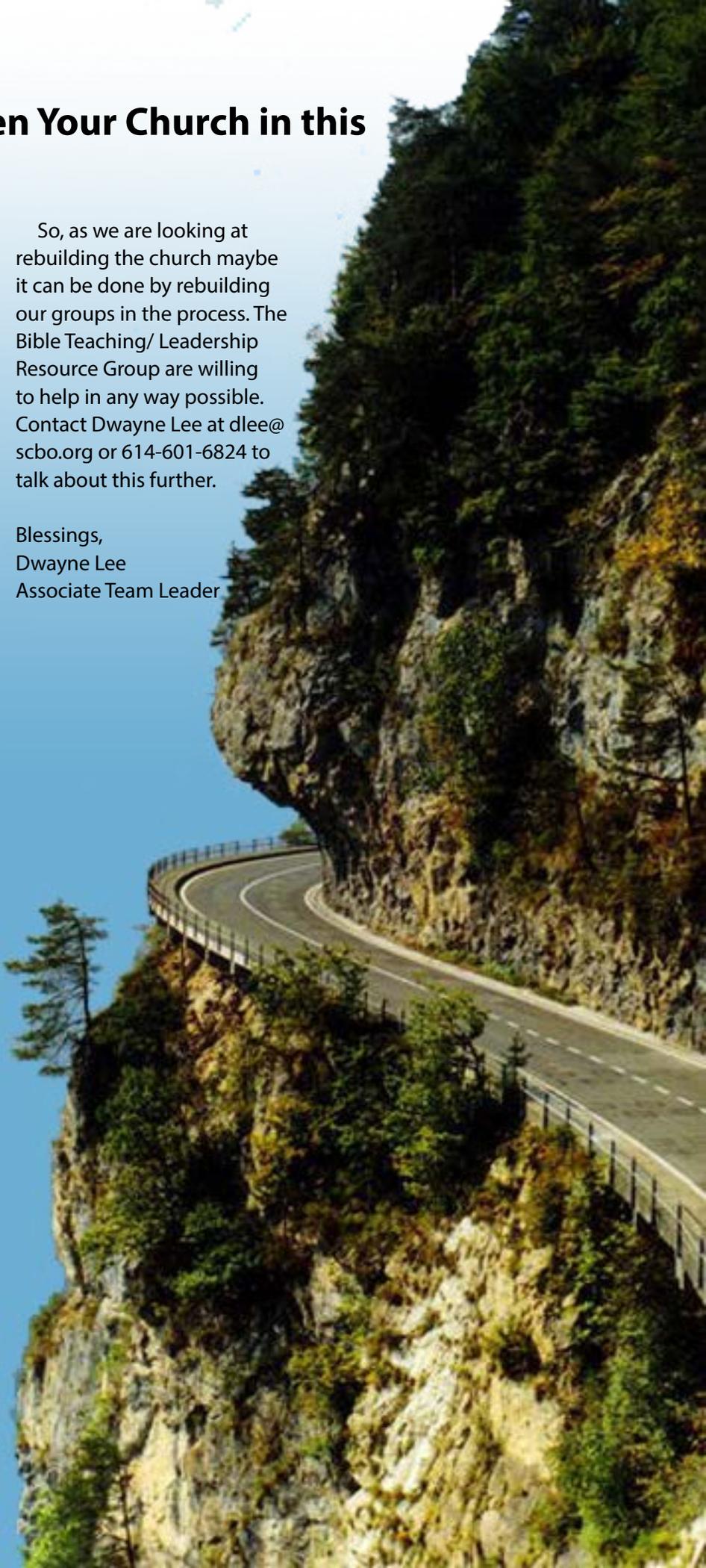
With the pandemic not going away anytime soon and the average church attender still pondering whether it is safe to come back to church or not, we as ministers of the gospel and leaders in our churches need to consider other ways to reach out to our members. I would ask you to consider using GROUPS as one of your approaches to staying connected to your people.

We understand that for a church to get larger, it needs to get smaller. That's where groups come in. By taking your church and placing them into groups you have created a way to stay connected and at the same time using other people within your church to help. Yes, they can use various means of communication but now it is done within a manageable format. We have all had to adapt to this new way of ministry. Yet we cannot lose focus since we are the salt and light of the world.

If you are not using your groups to the fullest extent or at all, I would highly recommend bringing your group leaders together and come up with a plan that would continue to give them strong Bible study along with your preaching. Then, use them to be an extension of your voice. You will be amazed on how that information would be welcomed. I know it sounds like a lot of work but after you put a system in place it will make life much easier for you and the church at large.

So, as we are looking at rebuilding the church maybe it can be done by rebuilding our groups in the process. The Bible Teaching/ Leadership Resource Group are willing to help in any way possible. Contact Dwayne Lee at dlee@scbo.org or 614-601-6824 to talk about this further.

Blessings,
Dwayne Lee
Associate Team Leader



His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord Matthew 25:23

Looking Back at 2020

By: Barbara DeLorme

When I look back, at the year 2020, I can only ascertain that God was in control all the time.

Last January 2020, we began promoting The Appalachian Christmas Backpack Ministry. I knew it was important that our whole state be involved. We would not only be supplying backpacks for our Partnership with three counties in Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia, but we were going to be supplying backpacks for the Appalachian area of Eastern Ohio from Cincinnati up to the Cleveland area.

Then the Coronavirus came into our lives and Christmas Backpacks went by the wayside. Many thought that because of the Virus, they would not be doing the Christmas Backpacks. My first thought was those children in the poverty areas of Appalachia would not be having Christmas this year. I was going to make sure that did not happen!

I had applications from different churches with a total amount of 6,500 filled backpacks that was needed for the children in the Appalachian areas. (We had 780 from Ohio & Virginia gave us 600.) We didn't get the amount of backpacks we wanted, but God gave us what we needed.

I put out the word that we were in need for drop-off areas in each of the 15 associations. The first person to get in touch with me was Jennie Ferrel, my biggest cheerleader for the Christmas Backpack Ministry, who at the age of 82 was like the Energizer Bunny. She told me she had put out the word that Buckeye Central Erie Association should bring their filled backpacks to her church, Lincoln Heights Baptist Church in Mansfield Ohio. For those who aren't familiar with Jennie, here's

her life story:

Jennie Hampton Ferrel, 82, of Mansfield. Farrel was born in Anderson, Missouri, on December 9, 1937. She attended school in Anderson and graduated in 1955. Jennie then graduated from Kansas State Teacher's College in Pittsburg, Kansas in 1958 with a degree in secondary education. She taught two years in Kansas and 27 years in Missouri, all in middle school or high school science except for 1 year teaching first grade. Jennie then went on to earn a master's degree in secondary education from the University of Missouri, Kansas City in 1982. On June 12, 1959, she married Paul Ferrel and they raised three children. Jennie began attending church regularly in the summer before 4th grade and continued throughout her life. She became a Christian at age 11 and had been active in church activities such as teaching Bible study and leading women's activities for many years. Before moving to Ohio in 2007, Jennie faithfully worked in the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) with Missouri Baptists. Not long after arriving in Ohio, she became active in Lincoln Heights Baptist Church WMU and soon began serving as WMU Leader for the Buckeye Central Erie Association. From September 2015 to September 2019, she held the office of Recording Secretary for Ohio WMU. At Lincoln Heights she served in many capacities including Sunday school teacher, WMU Director, Outreach Team Leader, Prayer Coordinator for Buckeye Central Erie Association and the Erie Baptist Association, as well as many other committees and leadership boards. Jennie was also a companionship volunteer for Southern Care Hospice.



I remember she was at a meeting and she said she wanted a case of backpacks. She wanted to know how many were in a case. My husband told her 24. She said that wasn't enough. She took 4 cases. So, he helped her load those 96 backpacks in her car. She passed them out to be filled for the children of Appalachia. She wanted to make sure they would have a backpack for Christmas.

The last time I talked with Jennie, she was filling her own backpacks. She asked me if she could have longer than the last of September to get people to turn in their backpacks. I told her yes. The last of October would be fine. Two weeks later, on October 3, 2020, my Appalachian backpack cheerleader, went home to be with the Lord.

As I write this article, I have memories leaving my eyes and rolling down my cheeks.

She will be remembered as an encourager to Ohio leaders, an example for our next generation, an extraordinary prayer warrior. She will be missed by everyone who knew her, especially our Ohio WMU Leadership Team.

Jennie touched so many lives we find it only fitting and with the permission of her daughter, Janice Ferrel Litz, that the Appalachian Backpack Ministry will be dedicated in her honor this year.



The 2021 Appalachian Christmas Backpack Ministry Dedicated in Honor of Jennie Ferrel



Challenge '21 Prayer Initiative

Pastor Reginald Hayes, 2021 SCBO President, has called Ohio Baptists to “Pray Until God Does Great Exploits Through Us!” in 2021. The challenge comes from **Daniel 11:32** “...the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.”

Challenge '21 encourages Ohio Baptists to pray 21 minutes more daily in 2021. If you are not daily praying, 21 minutes is a great place to start. If you are already praying, consider adding 21 more minutes a day. National and state leaders declare a “state of emergency” when the threat is imminent. Is it time we declare a “state of spiritual emergency?” Some leaders are saying, “we are presiding over the greatest decline of Christianity in history.” Leaders throughout the ages have called followers of Jesus to “extraordinary” prayer. Desperate times call for desperate prayer. Twenty-one more minutes a day may not be extraordinary, but it is a step in the right direction. It is a step toward increasing the time and intensity of our prayer life each year.

“A wonderful goal would be to see our prayer life increase in its time and intensity every year.” —Bill Elliff

The **Denominee Future Team** identified as our first strategic input, “prioritizing prayer,” and our first measure “asking God boldly,” as we “**amplify leaders to accelerate Gospel impact.**” Our value statement includes prayer:

We Value: **Vital relationships** among **Impassioned church leaders** who **prayerfully** implement **Spirit-led strategies** that

impact and involve the **Diversity of people in Ohio** with the **Gospel of Christ.**

Challenge '21 will support our vision, values, and strategy.

“While we all pray for the fruits of revival, our real commitment must be to grow the roots of revival. There are no fruits without roots. The root system of revival: praying people, supporting praying pastors, who lead praying churches, for supernatural Gospel impact.” —Daniel Henderson

In January, we invited Ohio Baptists to sign up and say, “Count me in!” We also updated our prayer resource page to include the **Challenge '21** initiative. If you have not signed up yet, please go to scbo.org/pray and say, “Count me in!” February will feature articles and videos about the value of couples praying together. If you are signed up, you’ll get a weekly email with encouragement to pray.

March will launch with the **AWAKEN: 21-Day Prayer Guide** by Claude King. A pdf download is available with permission to print for use in the church. Those registered will get an email each day with Scriptures and prayer prompts for that day. You are invited to join with Ohio Baptists in a 21-day Daniel fast as we seek His face. We also will be asking for testimonies to share that will encourage others to pray.

“Rather than a religiously tame ritual, prayer is actually the most important and strategic work of kingdom advancement. It might be the least tame thing we ever do!” — Gary Mayes

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Bring your ministry vision to life with a loan from the Ohio Baptist Foundation.

The Foundation provides church loans for new construction, refinancing and renovation loans. Our rates are highly competitive, and the interest from your loan is given back to Southern Baptist ministries that change lives with the Gospel.

GET STARTED AT:
614.601.6881 | jhelton@scbo.org
scbo.org/foundation



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 Amanda Mishne at amishne@scbo.org

Bruce Smith,
 State Convention Interim Executive Director-Treasurer, Editor
 Amanda Mishne, Publication Layout

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