

OHIO BAPTIST MESSENGER

JUNE 2021 | VOLUME 69 NO. 3

Ohio Church Planters Gather at Deer Creek State Park

Church planters and their wives from across Ohio gathered for a Church Planter Forum at Deer Creek State Park on April 29 and 30. The annual event (except for 2020) was moved for the first time to the state park conference center setting to provide more of a retreat setting and to allow all activities in one location.

Guest speaker John Ames was interviewed by Bruce Smith in the first general session and later spoke about thinking as a missionary and working with a diversity of people. Ames himself is a church planter serving at Faith Community Church in Providence, RI. He served as church planter for an inner city church a few years ago that was reaching young, second generation Puerto Ricans and internationals. While the church was still young, it merged with another church a few blocks away that was reaching mostly senior citizens. The ten people that left the two churches as they merged came back to be an active part of the congregation within just a few months. Today they are actively ministering in the inner city and making plans to start another congregation.

In keeping with the name of the event, a bulk of the time was spent in a setting where peer learning could take place among the planters. Time for planters to individually network with one another was also built into the schedule. Ladies were in sessions led by Charlotte Barbo, a pastor's wife and THE administrative assistant for church planting with the state convention. Planters and church planting catalysts participated in four sessions led by Steve Long, Steve Hopkins, Jack Helton, and Bruce Smith. Topics of discussion included Developing Leaders, Mobilizing Prayer Warriors for the Battle, Evangelism that Reaches the Community, and things that planters would or would not repeat in ministry. Meals together and an evening bonfire further enabled fellowship and networking of planters and wives.

A majority of the couples were able to take advantage of the offer for a second night, either the night before or the night after the forum, for a personal retreat. The Ray Roberts State Mission Offering, Cooperative Program gifts, and church planter development funds from the North American Mission Board provided the resources to make the event possible.



IT'S TIME FOR A NEW JOURNEY!

CHANGE IS A GOD THING!

By: Ginny Howell, Ohio GA Consultant

How long has it been since you have been excited about a mission program? Since your children have been influenced from a new class at church? Are you ready for a new journey? Are you prepared for your children to be transformed by a discipleship class that will direct their path directly to Jesus? That will help them learn about people who are currently on a journey with Jesus? The WMU team has been hard at work preparing a new curriculum called "Missions Journey: Kids" that will provide the children at your church an opportunity to be obedient to the Great Commission! Matthew 28:19 commands us to "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations" and this instruction is even for our children! We can train the children of today to reach others in their sport programs, school and even on the playground.

WMU has been working to change their literature to reach ALL children in grades 1st through 6th with this ob-

jective in mind. This 'New Journey' makes it easier to subscribe to one package that involves both girls and boys. It is not replacing RA's, GA's, or CA's but it is including these all together in one easy format! Change is a God thing especially when it makes our job more inclusive. The monthly format will include culture, recipes, crafts, and missionaries reaching a specific people group. This change will give the kids a more detailed lesson through hands on

experience. There are also extra digital resources that were not available for the previous programs. If you would like to get a free starter kit for your group, please go to wmu.com and request one under the children's tab. And, if you aren't already in the group for GA leaders, please feel free to join it as well: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/146485672598839> If you would like to learn more about the MJK program, you can contact Ginny Howell, GA Consultant for SCBO at gin_howell@yahoo.com or directly at 937.231.6836.



WMU® God's mission.
Our passion.

SOMETHING YOU DON'T WANT TO OMIT

Punctuation [puhngk-choo-ey-shuhn], noun (from dictionary.com)

1. the practice or system of using certain conventional marks or characters in writing or printing in order to separate elements and make the meaning clear, as in ending a sentence or separating clauses.
2. the act of punctuating.

When we send texts, especially if done from voice commands, we often omit punctuation, and that can lead to misinterpretation and misunderstanding. It's a little thing, but punctuation carries a lot of weight. It can change the meaning of the words. The connotation changes with . ? or ! Read this. Read this? Read this!

Sometimes I miss use the act of punctuating. I give someone a statement about the church or about Christ and end with a period when I need to have a comma and not end. Or maybe I should have used an exclamation point to emphasize the greatness of my Savior! At other times I end with a period when I need to ask about their relationship to Christ and end with a

question mark.

Punctuation marks are just little indicators in writing. And in speaking, they are not seen; however, they are heard. Even in sign language, there is punctuation. And that is often seen as much in the posture and facial expression of the interpreter as much as in the position of the hands.

Let's let the work of Christ in us be punctuated in our words and deeds so that those around us who need to know our Savior will look to Him and find eternal life. And let's let our words and deeds be punctuating gratitude for what is being done in Ohio churches. Matthew 5:16 tells us, "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

To those in our churches who love their communities and are reaching out to share the love of Christ and letting Christ reflect in their lives: Thanks! (with a big exclamation point) Ohio had seventeen new churches planted

in 2020 (Nov. 2019-Oct. 2020), and Ohio Baptists can celebrate another twelve new churches in the last six months.

To those diligently praying and working to lead a plateaued or declining church through revitalization: Thanks! Renewal in the church will move into renewal in the community. To those answering God's call to volunteer to serve in the church and community: Thank you! You are the heart of the ministry of the church.

To our Lord and Savior who created us, established His church, sustains us, directs us, and allows us to be part of His work: Thanks! even though our thanks is insufficient and no amount of exclamation points is enough to declare the extent of His glory.



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

HIGHEST RATE IN THE STATE

for churches and other ministries on cash savings

SHORT TERM FUND RATE
1.35%
CURRENT YIELD*

▶ Increase your ministry influence with a better rate of return on your church savings
Learn more: 877-523-4636 • contact@LBFinfo.org
*Rates subject to change. **Based upon internal data. Please let us know if you hear of a higher rate.

OHIO BAPTIST FOUNDATION + LOUISIANA BAPTIST FOUNDATION

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 1.35% (as of 4/30/2021). 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

#PrayOhio! SBC Day of Prayer for Those in Persecution June 6th

Material for this taken from an article written by Myriah Snyder and first published at [imb.org](https://www.imb.org/2021/05/03/day-prayer-persecuted-church-observed-june-6/). The full article can be accessed <https://www.imb.org/2021/05/03/day-prayer-persecuted-church-observed-june-6/>

The International Mission Board is collaborating with Nik Ripken Ministries to raise awareness about current religious persecution through the Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. This Southern Baptist Convention-wide initiative will be observed on June 6, 2021. It is a call for Southern Baptists to increase their awareness of and pray fervently for the global persecuted church.

In 2020, more than 340 million Christians experienced high levels of persecution and discrimination. Also last year, 4,761 Christians were killed for faith-related reasons, and 4,277 Christians were detained without trial, arrested, sentenced, or imprisoned. In addition, 4,488 churches and Christian buildings were attacked, according to data from the World Watch List.

“While our hearts break for our brothers and sisters in Christ who endure persecution and even martyrdom, we often feel powerless to help them. But we aren’t! We serve the One who, as Job declared, ‘makes nations great, and he destroys them; he enlarges nations, and leads them away,’” said Paul Chitwood, president of IMB.

“When we pray for those who are suffering, we have access to the One who can sustain them, comfort them and bring them justice.”

Eleanor Witcher, director of the IMB’s Prayer Office, believes that one of the primary prayer needs for the persecuted church is discipleship. “Pray that the roots of new believers (and believers who are weak in their knowledge of the Word) will quickly grow deep in Scripture as they learn to abide in Christ so that these new believers will stand firm under any persecution they may face,” Witcher said.

Southern Baptists are invited to join in prayer in the weeks leading up to the Day of Prayer. Specifically, believers can pray for:

- the church to pray faithfully and fervently in accordance with God’s Word and will.
- followers of Christ to consistently study and obey Scripture so they are spiritually prepared when persecution comes.
- church leaders to boldly proclaim the gospel in the face of opposition.
- the persecuted, that they have the strength to live in the power, love and sound mind that God alone can provide.
- those who are brutalized to sense the Lord’s love surrounding them and respond to those who have injured them with grace and dignity.
- the global church to commit their hearts and time in prayer and fasting for the persecuted church.
- each church to keep their focus on the glory of God and the growth of His church.

Join other believers across the Southern Baptist Convention by committing to pray for the persecuted church. Visit [imb.org/persecuted](https://www.imb.org/persecuted) and sign up to receive a free prayer guide.



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more than **340** million Christians experienced high levels of persecution and discrimination

4,761 Christians were killed for faith-related reasons

4,277 Christians were detained without trial, arrested, sentenced or imprisoned

In addition, **4,488** churches and Christian buildings were attacked, according to data from the World Watch List.

“Don’t pray for our persecution to end, pray that we will be obedient through our suffering.”



November 16, 2021
Violet Baptist Church, Pickerington

ANNUAL CELEBRATION STATE CONVENTION OF BAPTISTS IN OHIO 2021



Prayer Support Needed!

By: Jean DiFilippo, President

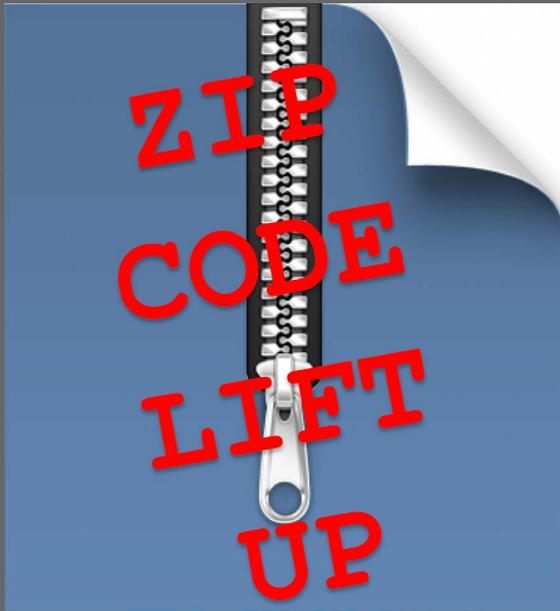
Ohio WMU/Women's Missions & Ministry

I am so excited about an opportunity the Lord is providing for Ohio women this year! Fourteen women from throughout the state and I will travel to New Orleans June 26-July 1 to study under and work with Dr. Kay Bennett at Baptist Friendship House as she helps women dealing with issues regarding poverty, homelessness, domestic violence, substance abuse, and human trafficking.

Human trafficking is a serious problem in Ohio. We hope and pray to begin a "2 by 2" ministry when we return -- sharing with churches, associations, and organizations in Ohio

about this issue and how we can all be a part of helping people trapped in this situation. Our plan is to go out in groups of two just as Jesus sent out the disciples in Mark 6:7. If you would like to have a team come to your church or association, please contact me at jeandifilippo@yahoo.com.

Please pray for our team as we travel to and from New Orleans, for our time there, and that God will use us to help educate people throughout Ohio about human trafficking. Team members include Vernita Lambert and Monica Kyles of Canal Winchester, Donna Carlisle-Byrd, Tabra Goodrum, Regina Daniels, and Tracey Fairbanks of Cincinnati, Ginny Howell and Anna Andes of Fairborn, Tabitha McKeeth of Union City, Beth Mackens of Stow, VJ Sanchez, Marisol Fernandez and Haydee Astacio of Columbus, Teresa Bailey of Pemberville, and Jean DiFilippo of Athens. Thank you for your prayers.



CHOOSE ONE OR MORE TO PRAY FOR:

- **ZIP CODE 44004 – ASHTABULA**

Ashtabula is located in Ashtabula County. The nearest city of 50,000+ is Mentor. Ashtabula has a population of over 18,000 while the Zip Code 44004 has a population of over 30,000 with 22% claiming to be Protestant, 14% Catholic, 64% claim no church affiliation. The most common industries in Ashtabula are Healthcare followed by Plastics & Rubber Products. FUN FACT: The most common last name in Ashtabula is *Johnson*.

- **ZIP CODE 45840 – FINDLAY**

Findlay is in Hancock County. It has a population of over 40,000 while the Zip Code 45840 has over 50,000 with 32% of the population claiming to be Protestant, 13% Catholic, and 55% claim no church affiliation. The most common industries in Findlay are in Educational Services followed by Accommodations & Food Service. FUN FACT: The most common last name in Findlay is *Smith*.

- **ZIP CODE 44663 – NEW PHILADELPHIA**

New Philadelphia is located in Tuscarawas County. The nearest city of 50,000+ is Canton. New Philadelphia has a population of over 17,000 while the Zip Code 44663 has over 25,000 with 39% claiming to be Protestant, 10% Catholic, and 51% claiming no church affiliation. The most common industries in New Philadelphia are Healthcare, Education Services and Accommodations & Food Service. FUN FACT: The most common last name in New Philadelphia is *Miller*.

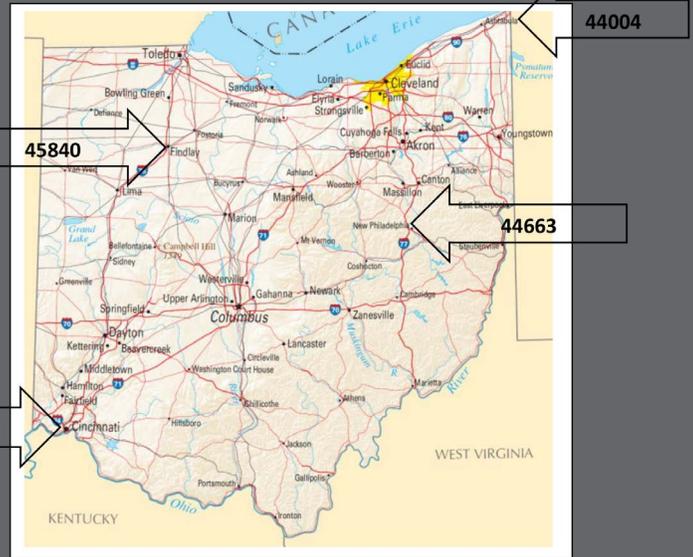
- **ZIP CODE 45211 – CINCINNATI**

Cincinnati is in Hamilton County, and has more than 300,000 in population. There are over 37,000 of that 300,000 in the 45211 Zip Code with 25% claiming to be Protestant, 26% Catholic, and 48% claiming no church affiliation. The most common industry in this Zip Code is Healthcare, Accommodations & Food Service followed by Educational Services. FUN FACT: The most common last name in this zip code is *Miller*.

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!



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



Celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the National Day of Prayer

May 6th, followers of Jesus gathered all across our nation for the 70th National Day of Prayer. Although a national day for prayer tradition predates the founding of the United States, February 3rd, 1952, Billy Graham stood on the steps of America's capital and challenged our nation to pray. In 1952, Congress established an annual day of prayer and, in 1988, Ronald Reagan signed a law designating the first Thursday in May as National Day of Prayer. Go to vimeo.com/542390553 for a short video on the 70th anniversary.

In addition to prayer gatherings in many cities across Ohio, a group gathered at the Seal of Ohio at our Statehouse to pray. The seal has below it our state motto, "With God, all things are possible." Quoted from Matthew 19:26, it is the only state motto taken directly from the Bible. Carla Varga, Ohio State Coordinator for NDP, facilitated the noon prayer gathering with several people leading prayer for the seven

centers of influence in America: government, military, media arts, business, education, church, and the family.

Prayer leaders in golf carts in Florida met people in neighborhoods and on the streets to pray while boats prayed up the coastlines and met in docks and on lakes to lift prayers. Cities reported pastors getting together to pray for their city and one another and then went out together to participate together in united prayer with their city. Planes flew over our nation with praying pilots and passengers to cover us from the air, while below, people mobilized on bicycles, cars, and on foot to pray all around their communities.

Please share your National Day of Prayer story! Please share your experience with us at SteveHopkins@sco.org and nationally at glory.story@nationaldayofprayer.org. You can watch the entire NDP broadcast, vimeo.com/546870717





Growing in Love

Amish Country Women's Retreat

Community Baptist Church in Dover, Ohio hosted this regional spring retreat with Keynote Speaker, Allison Kinion, Director of Women's Missions & Ministry in Indiana. Among the seventy participants, seven were from Ohio Hispanic congregations. Marisol Fernandez interpreted for our Latino sisters.

Comments from participants include:

"Keynote speaker was AMAZING!"

"I've been sleeping in on Saturdays for over a year due to this pandemic but it was totally worth waking up early to attend this event!"

"Our group loved every minute of it!"

"Praise God to whom all blessings flow! A wonderful time as sisters in Christ."

"I felt like God was really moving and touching hearts and lives during the last song."

"Had so much fun! Thanks to everyone who made this great!"



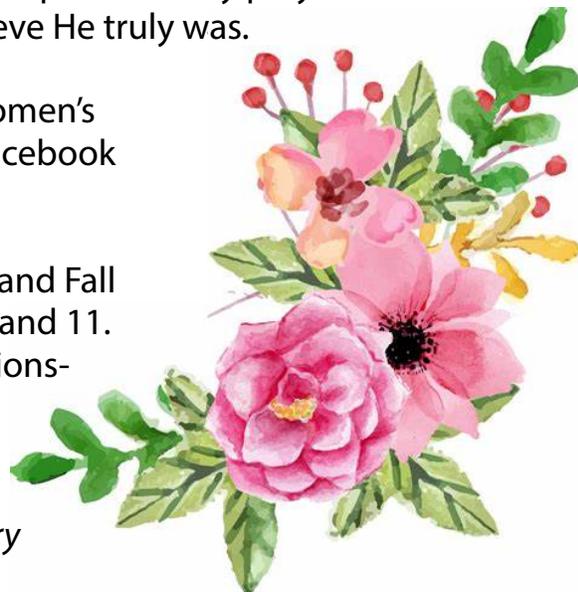
Ohio Women's Leadership Team appreciates and is very grateful to Community Baptist Church and everyone who worked together to make this retreat possible. My prayer was that God would be glorified throughout the retreat, and I believe He truly was.

To see more great pictures and to stay informed of WMU/Women's Ministry events occurring throughout the state, "Like" us on Facebook at Ohio WMU/Women's Missions & Ministry.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the Missions Celebration and Fall Retreat at Seneca Lake on Friday and Saturday, September 10 and 11. Registration is now open at <https://www.scbo.org/event/missions-celebration-fall-retreat>

See you in September!

Jean DiFilippo, President, Ohio WMU/Women's Missions & Ministry



CHALLENGE

2021



Challenge '21: Continues with a Call to Prayer for Summer Camps

Pastor Reginald Hayes, 2021 SCBO President, 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."* In June, we launch praying for camps at Seneca Lake Baptist Assembly and Super Summer at Cedarville University. We asked leaders to share with us specific prayer requests for each week of camp and Super Summer. If you signed up in January for the Challenge '21 "Count me in!" emails, you will receive an email each week with requests for the week. If you have not signed up, please go <https://www.scbo.org/pray> to make sure you're on the list! PrayOhio!

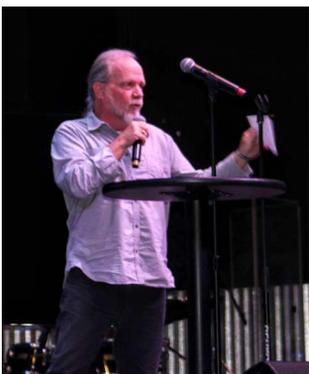
SCBO.ORG/challenge21



Churches Gather to Prepare for Revival at Pray Cincinnati May 13

Churches from across Cincinnati gathered May 13 to pray for revival. Evangelist Jeremy Fryer (Pathfinders Evangelism) coordinated the evening as several Cincy pastors participated in Scripture reading and prayer. SCBO President Pastor Reginald Hayes brought the challenge to pray from Daniel 11:32 *"the people who know their God shall be strong and carry out great exploits."* Host Pastor Matt Holman (Landmark Church), Pastor Casey Regan, Youth Pastor Darryll Rice, Pastor Jamie Trascritti (FBC Newtown), and Pastor Tony Harris (Highland Avenue) took us to the throne of grace. Eric Paul led worship times throughout the service. Pastor Harris prayed, *"Lord, let me pray like it's my last opportunity to pray."* Pastor Reginald Hayes closed the service, praying for pastors as they gathered at the altar.

Mark your calendar for future prayer gatherings June 17 and August 19. June 26 Landmark Church will host Johnny Hunt for the John 3:16 Shine the Light Revival Kickoff. Revival services are scheduled for August 29-31. Join Cincinnati area churches as we *"pray like it's our last opportunity to pray"* for a supernatural gospel impact in Cincinnati and beyond.





OHIO BAPTIST FOUNDATION INVITATIONAL

5th Annual Foursome Scramble Golf Tournament



\$500 PER
FOURSOME

DOOR PRIZES
FOR EVERYONE!!

MONDAY, JULY 12
CUMBERLAND TRAIL GOLF CLUB - PATASKALA, OHIO

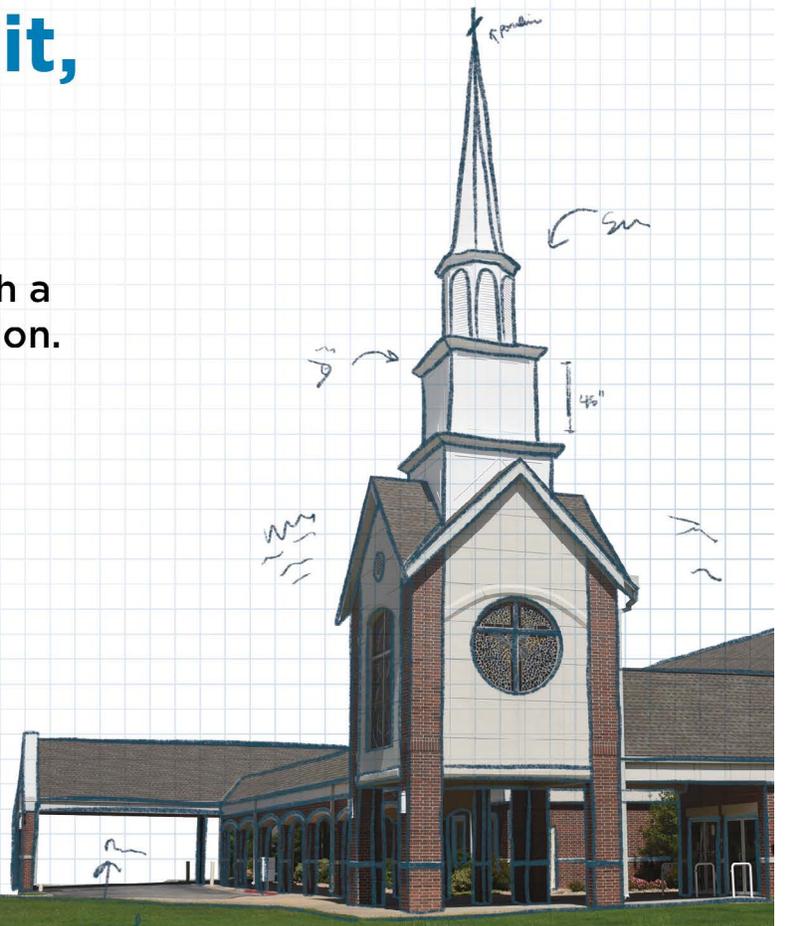
Is your church still growing despite the pandemic and all its limitations? Do you have some construction needs? Expansion needs? Renovation needs? Refinancing needs? If so, the Ohio Baptist Foundation can help! Why not give us a call today to see what benefits are available for churches needing assistance in navigating the choppy waters of church finance.

If you can dream it, we can finance it

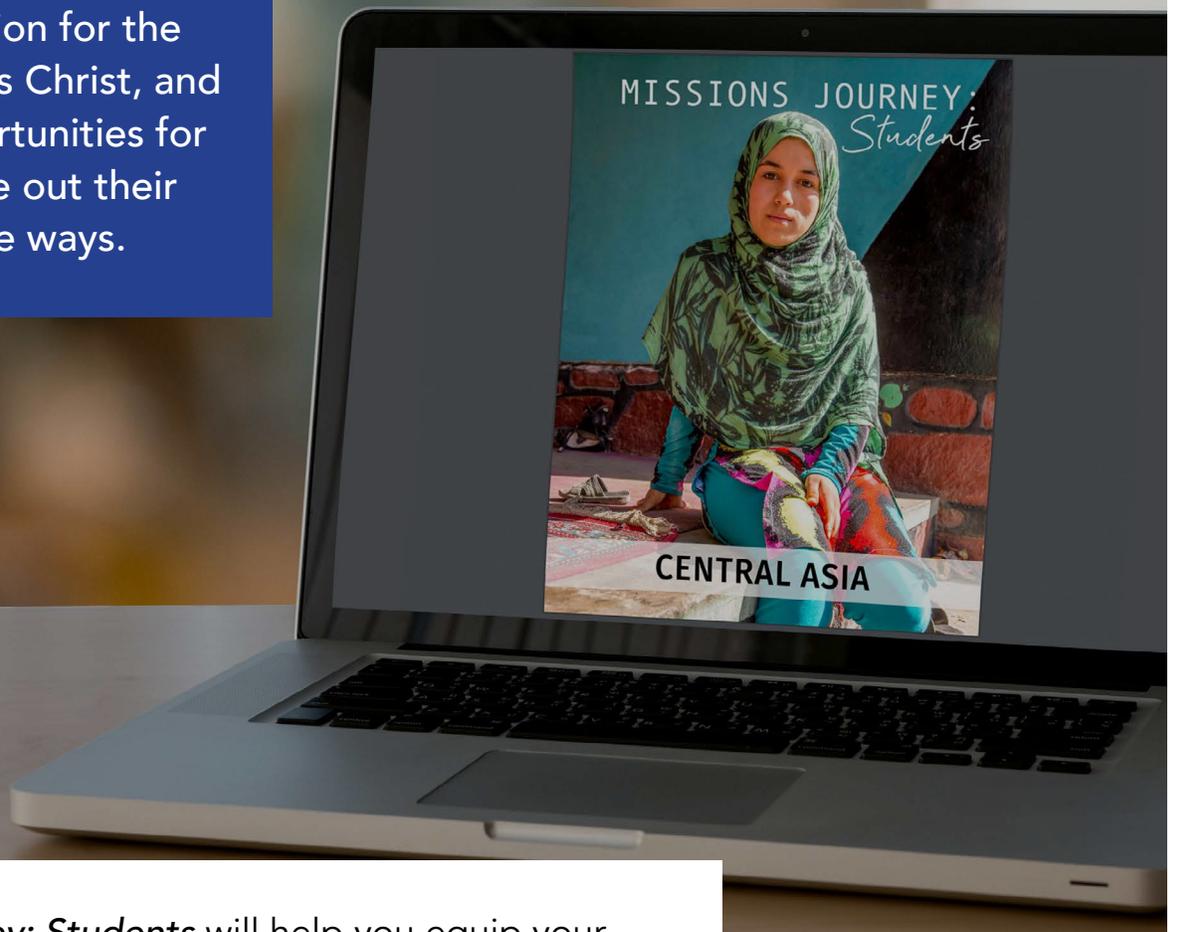
Bring your ministry vision to life with a loan from the Ohio Baptist Foundation.

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



Missions discipleship for teens instills a strong biblical framework, awakens in them a passion for the gospel of Jesus Christ, and provides opportunities for students to live out their faith in tangible ways.



Missions Journey: Students will help you equip your students to discover their roles as disciples of Jesus who live on mission.

With this innovative digital curriculum, your students will

- hear from missionaries on the field,
- discover how Scripture shapes each missionary's ministry,
- explore the needs in your community, and
- develop plans to meet those needs.

Missions Journey: Students is available as a full-year package or monthly units.

Visit wmu.com/getstarted to order a free starter pack, or visit wmustore.com/students to purchase.



Orrville Baptist Church Deacon

Sunday evening, March 28th, 2021 the Orrville Baptist Church, in the Buckeye Central—Erie Baptist Association, held a Deacon Ordination Service. As an added highlight to the service, Brother Harry Moore was recognized by the church and the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio as an Honorary Life Deacon. Brother Harry has served as a deacon of nearly 60 years. He was saved during a Fall revival held at the Orrville Baptist Church in 1960. On February 11, 1962 the church ordained brother Harry, along with other men into the Deacon Ministry. Brother Harry has had an impact on the lives of many, all while serving quietly, without fanfare, yet with distinction for six decades, a milestone that few achieve. The church also ordained four new men into the Deacon Ministry. Brothers Ron Bowman, Dean French, Femi Olugbemi and Dave Santmyer. The full service can be viewed at orrvillebaptist.org or on the Orrville Baptist Facebook page.

*Top L-R: Brothers Femi Olugbemi, Dean French, Pastor Brad Dews, Dave Santmyer and Ron Bowman
Bottom L-R: Pastor Brad Dews, Bro. Harry Moore, Assoc. Pastor Mike May*

PRAY CINCINNATI

June 17, 2021 @ 7:00pm

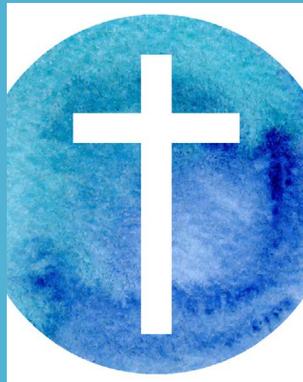
City-Wide Revival Prayer Meeting and Worship

Landmark Church
1600 Glendale-Milford Road, Cincinnati, OH 45215
landmarkcincinnati.com
513-771-0960

Jeremy Fryer
Evangelist



James Jaworek
Deacon



Tony Harris
Pastor



Rob White
Pastor



Matt Holman
Pastor



Mark Stephens
Pastor



Michael Pearl
Pastor



SHINE THE LIGHT REVIVAL
PRESENTS

JOHNNY HUNT

Jake Holman
Worship Leader
Woodstock, GA



JUNE 24 | 7:00PM

NEW BETHEL BAPTIST
2400 NORWOOD AVENUE
NORWOOD, OH. 45212



Good News

& Church Happenings

Friends, following our just a few glimpses of the good things our great God is doing through Mission Ohio.

Edgewood Baptist Church Trenton, Ohio
 Thank you SCBO for partnering with us on a tent we used for our coming together Easter 2021 service. We saw one salvation from our morning service where approximately 150 people joined either under the tent or from within their vehicles around the tent. May 5th we had a baptismal service for a young girl who came forward during the invitation time.



Just wanted to brag on God for a moment!

Since April the 11th we have baptized every week. We have baptized 23 people! We have 3 more waiting to be baptized which will take place on the 23rd. Salvation after salvation after salvation! 26 total since January!

We have been doing 2 services every week except the last Sunday of each month which we call family fun Sunday. We only have 1 service then. We had 2 services on Easter and had 325 there which was a record. Since then we have had 183, 219, 223, and 245. Like I said God has blessed us tremendously!

Financially we could not praise God enough. During the pandemic our giving actually went up! Plus spending went down. So we have been blessed with a general fund that is allowing us to start a relocation project way before we ever thought would happen! We are blessed.

We really cannot tell that the pandemic has done anything but bring more people to church. We have moved our Sunday School to Wednesday nights. A few years ago we felt God wanted us to take out 3 walls and spend \$10,000 for our children's department. Some people said we only have 3 children why are we doing it.... Where there is no vision the people shall perish. We had 37 children Sunday! 11 in the nursery, God is good.

Tony Lambert, Pastor, Real Joy Community Fellowship



Chillicothe Baptist Church recently saw 2 teenagers receive Christ and follow Him in believers baptism. In addition, they gave beautiful testimonies of how God was graciously at work in their lives. Also, the youth group saturated their community with the distribution of Jesus films. Finally, the ladies group at Chillicothe Baptist Church held a Mother's Day Tea and had more than 120 in attendance!





Ohio Disaster Relief On the Ground

In May 2019, an EF3 tornado tore through Beaver Creek, OH, leaving a debris field 14 square miles wide. It disrupted the power grid, toppled centuries old oak trees and left 594 homes and buildings damaged or destroyed.

Within days, Ohio Southern Baptist Disaster Relief established a command center at Beaver Creek Baptist Church and brought help and hope to the town. Men and women from Ohio and Kentucky began the arduous work of clearing trees from homes and yards at no cost to the homeowners, bringing much needed help and encouragement. Most importantly, DR Chaplains shared the gospel with eleven individuals and four made professions of faith.

Ohio Disaster Relief is part of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief, the third largest disaster relief organization in the nation. Volunteers appear immediately after a disaster, set up a command post and assess damage. They are a living example of Christ's love by preparing hot meals, removing trees, tarping



roofs, shoveling mud and offering hope to the lost.

In March, the Red River flooded its banks to a historic high of 24', leaving many in the small town of Stanton, KY homeless. Again, Ohio, North Carolina, and Kentucky disaster relief deployed, offering free mud-out services and eternal hope. Mud-out is the arduous work of removing mud, damaged household goods and sheetrock from flooded homes. It allows families a head start in recovery all free of cost. It was a three-week long flood response, with over a thousand volunteer days registered, 25,000 meals served, 175 mud-out jobs completed, 200 Bibles distributed and 11 professions of faith made.

Again, in March, a winter storm with fierce winds and ice downed trees and power lines, blocking roads and stranding residents in rural areas of Ironton, Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia leaving them without power for days on end. Once more Ohio Disaster Relief arrived bearing chain saws. In a matter

of days, they completed 43 chain saw jobs, many involving multiple trees. DR volunteers prepared 369 meals, made 69 contacts, shared the Gospel 25 times and presented 35 Bibles.

So, does everyone in Disaster Relief wield a chain saw or handle a shovel? No, people are needed to pick up branches, minister to individuals, prepare meals, run laundry and more. Almost anyone can be a part of Disaster Relief and make a difference in someone's life. Disaster Relief goes in to offer help to families in crisis. More important than downed trees, and homes damaged are people looking for hope and answers and Disaster Relief offers that.

Recently, John Heading has taken over as the State Coordinator of Ohio Disaster Relief. John has been the Pastor of Beavercreek Baptist Church since 2004, and has served on pastoral staff in Indiana, Ohio and Tennessee since 1984. He is enthusiastic about ODR and has plans to move training online to make it more accessible and easier to onboard new volunteers. He is currently looking at ways to get more people involved in this mission that brings Christ to people in crisis. Being a part of disaster relief takes just a few days out of the year, depending on disaster needs, and is easy to join.

You can find more information by going to <https://www.scbo.org/dr> or by calling or emailing John Heading at 614-309-9751 or jheading@scbo.org.



John Heading

2021 Training Sessions

There are new things happening with Ohio Disaster Relief Training. Below is the updated training schedule. Registration begins July 1 for the September and November 2021 training events.

Training Process:

- Step 1:** Register for training and pay fee.
- Step 2:** Complete the online course "DR101: Involving Southern Baptists In Disaster Relief"
- Step 3:** Go to training

Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age (21 years of age for Child Care unit). Serving in Southern Baptist Disaster Relief requires membership or active participation in an Ohio Southern Baptist Church.

Online course DR101: ISBIDR will be available online starting July 1, 2021.



Unit training available for:

- CHILDCARE (Both dates)
- CHAIN SAW (Both dates)
- FOOD SERVICE (Both dates)
- MUD OUT (Both dates)
- SHOWER UNIT (Sept 11 date only)

Dates

Saturday, September 11
Beavercreek Baptist Church
3511 Dayton Xenia Road,
Beavercreek, Ohio 45432

Saturday, November 6
Jersey Baptist Church
13260 Morse Road
New Albany, Ohio 43054

Schedule

8:00 AM Continental Breakfast
8:30 AM Welcome/Orientation
9:00 AM Unit Training
1:00 PM Lunch
(Provided by DR Food Service Trainees)
2:00 PM Evangelism Training 101
3:30 PM Closing. Present badges & hats
4:00 PM Dismiss

Training Fees

\$40/person for new trainees
\$20/person for cross-training
For questions, please contact:
John Heading
DR Coordinator
(614) 309 - 9751 or
(937) 974 - 9265
jheading@scbo.org

Has Your Church Started using Groups again?

After spending a couple of weeks with State Sunday school leaders from across the nation, it is evident that churches are still hesitant in utilizing their groups as a means of connecting with their congregation. During this meeting several comments were made that it was not necessarily the class members themselves that were reluctant to meeting, but rather it was the teacher or facilitator who wasn't sure what to do. Even with Covid-19 restrictions lifting, there are many who are still in limbo on whether to meet or not meet as small groups or Sunday schools. We certainly want to abide by the guidelines of the church, but there are certainly ways to gather your group members together and provide a safe space for them.

If your church has not started groups again then it would be good to question why you haven't started back. Make sure that the response is a clear and accurate reason and not an excuse for your group not to meet. Yes, even with a vaccine everybody's comfort level is all over the map, but if you wait much longer you will be starting over with nothing. We have already discovered that somewhere between 25-40% of attending members pre-Covid will probably never come back to the church post Covid. Therefore, what does that mean for your group? It means that you will probably lose the same amount of people unless you have made an intentional effort to keep them engaged.

The small group that meets in my home has told me over and over that if it were not for their small group they may not have made it through 2020. Yes, we did have some meetings that were by zoom, but for the most part we continued to meet on a semi-regular basis with proper protocols in place. All of that to say, as the leader of your group you need to make the effort to keep your group members connected.

Do whatever it takes to be the best leader for your group possible. As always, your state convention is here to help you in any way we can. Be sure to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. You can reach us at dlee@scbo.org 614-601-6824 or wehammock@scbo.org – 614-601-6826

In His Service,
Dwayne Lee

GROUPS MATTER.

The 4 essentials of a group

I was recently in a meeting with Ken Braddy who is the Director for the Sunday school department of Lifeway Christian resources. In this meeting he stated things about groups that I wanted to share with you.

We understand from Matthew 28 that we are to be about making disciples. So the question is, how do we make disciples? Great question! Here are three things that are needed:

1. Making Disciples requires a Shepherd-Teacher

Amos 3:12, "The Lord says: As the shepherd snatches two legs or a piece of an ear from the lion's mouth, so the Israelites who live in Samaria will be rescued with only the corner of a bed or the cushion of a couch."

All of that to say, that each group needs to have a leader who cannot only teach them the truths of Scripture but also demonstrate the love of scripture as well.

2. Making Disciples requires Relationships

It has been said, "You don't make disciples from a distance... proximity is paramount"

From the book by Jim Putman entitled "DiscipleShift", he stated, "Most Christians have divorced the teachings of Jesus from the methods of Jesus, and yet they expect the results of Jesus... Discipleship is the emphasis. Relationships are the method..."

3. Making Disciples requires creating a new scorecard

Here are 4 essential tasks of Groups:

- LEARN AND LIVE GOD'S WORD
- INVITE PEOPLE TO BECOME DISCIPLES
- FORM DEEPER RELATIONSHIPS
- ENGAGE IN SERVING OTHERS

By now you have realized that these four essentials make up the acrostic for the word LIFE. Over the last several years you have heard the phrase, "doing life together." Basically that is what Ken is saying, doing life together with other people, saved and lost alike. Asking people to go on this journey with you and teaching them along the way.

If you would like a full length presentation of this article please call our office at 614-601-6824 and we would be glad to set up a time to share this with you and your teaching staff. You can also reach me at dlee@scbo.org

Blessings,
Dwayne Lee



A PICTURE OF PARTNERSHIP

On April 22-25 the Ohio Baptist Foundation and the Kentucky Baptist Foundation co-hosted the annual *National Baptist President's Fellowship Meeting*. The event was held at the Lytle Park Hotel in Cincinnati. Even with the restraints and limitations of the Covid-19 pandemic, twelve Baptist Foundation presidents and wives gathered together for a time of fellowship, fun, faith, and financial education!

This year's highlights included a dinner cruise down the Ohio River via BB Riverboats, a trip to the "Ark Experience," a greeting and ministry overview from IMB President Dr. Paul Chitwood (at the wonderful Montgomery Inn), worship at Florence Baptist Church followed by lunch at the Great American Ballpark (which included a rousing devotional from our own Kirk Kirkland, pastor at Revive City Church and newly appointed chaplain to the Cincinnati Reds). We also enjoyed a devotional message from Clear Creek Baptist Bible College President Dr. Donnie Fox, financial stewardship presentations from several of the world's leading asset managers, and a strong message from Dean Fulks (pastor at Lifepoint Church) at our closing banquet!

Our annual meetings are a great illustration and picture of how ministry peers and brothers and sisters in Christ model how to serve one another (Galatians 5:13), how to look to the interests of others (Philippians 2:4), how to exhort one another (Hebrews 3:13), and how to employ the gifts that God has given us to be used for the benefit of others (1 Peter 4:10). These are just a few of the reasons why Ginny and I enjoy these gatherings so!

I need to give a special "thanks" to Kentucky Baptist Foundation president Dr. French Harmon and his administrative assistant Barbara Spencer, Watersedge Financial Services, our attendees, FBC Mason, Cardinal Transportation, the Lytle Park Hotel staff, and finally a very appreciative "thank you" to my administrative assistant Toni Windham and her husband Joe, and to my lovely wife Ginny!



Also a grateful thanks for the honor and privilege of serving you, Ohio Southern Baptists, as the Ohio Baptist Foundation president. And for seeing and experiencing these "pictures of partnership" as we advance the Good News of Jesus Christ here on earth!

In closing, let me remind you that the Ohio Baptist Foundation exists to assist you in your management of the resources God has laid at your disposal, whether through a personal estate plan, church or association investing, or securing a church refinance, renovation, or church loan. For more information contact me at jackhelton@scbo.org or 614-309-9738 or go to www.scbo.org/foundation.

There Is Victory In Jesus,
Jack Helton, President, The Ohio Baptist Foundation

Captions: Top Left: Jack Helton, Dean Fulks, and French Harmon Top Middle: Cincinnati Top Right: Great American Ball Park Bottom: Foundation Presidents and IMB President Paul Chitwood



Landmark Church
 1600 Glendale-Milford Road
 Cincinnati, OH 45215

July 10, 2021
7:00p.m.

K-Drama
 Christian Rap Artist



Scott Simms
 Worship Pastor



Jamey Ragle
 Evangelist & Comedian



In Search of

The Search committee of Memorial Baptist Church located at 56 Water St, Poland, OH is accepting resumes for a pastor for the church. A job description can be found at: <https://jobs.sbc.net/job/margaret-wynn-memorial-baptist-church-56-water-street-poland-oh-44514-71-pastor/>

First Baptist Church Lancaster has an opportunity for a Children's Ministry Director (part-time) to join in our mission to impact our community and the world for Christ through making, maturing and equipping disciples of Jesus Christ. This position serves by leading volunteers and leaders who invest in the Children and Preschool ministries. Proven experience/ability in leading Children/Preschool ministries is required and a college degree preferred. Interested applicants may send a detailed resume to artf@fbclancaster.com.

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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