

OHIO BAPTIST MESSENGER

JUNE 2020 | VOLUME 68 NO. 3

FRIDAY'S AT 11:00AM

COVID-19

Information Exchange for Mission Ohio
(Online Webinar)

The State Convention of Baptists is hosting weekly webinars of Ohio pastors and leaders to address the changing social dynamics, ongoing ministries, and other preparations taking place during the ongoing pandemic of COVID-19. Each webinar will feature SCBO staff as well as other Ohio pastors and ministry leaders throughout Ohio as contributors.

We hope you will be encouraged while also gaining insight into practical resources, online tools, and faith-based approaches to reach out to your community. Register today and join us each Friday morning at 11:00AM.

NAVIGATING YOUR CHURCH REBOOT



FULKS



CUNNINGHAM



ALLEN



SMALLEY



MATTHEWS



TAYLOR

leader panel

2 SESSIONS AVAILABLE HERE!

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

For the latest details on SCBO Events please visit scbo.org/calendar

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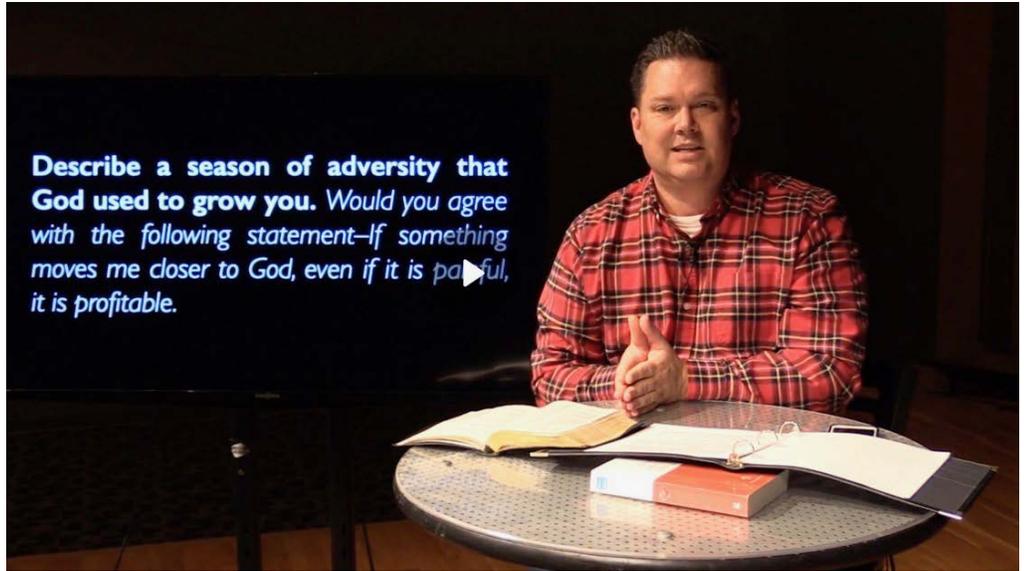
A Case for Re-engaging Corporate Worship, When the Time is Right

By: Brad Cunningham, Liberty Heights Church

I had a leader tell me on a zoom call, "I can get used to going to church in my pajamas from the convenience of my own bed." Also, around that same time, Tim Challies put out an article titled "Will they ever come back?" That comment, said in jest, along with the article, jogged my memory as to how David Mathis (*Habits of Grace: Enjoying Jesus through the Spiritual Disciplines*) built the case Biblically for corporate worship as a means of grace. For that very reason – we do not stream our services; we think it makes it too easy to devalue and neglect this as a means of grace. (We do have all the sermon videos up by Monday so people can keep current if they have to miss or are unable to come).

In our opinion, and that's all it is – people are willing to skip church at the drop of a hat and justify it with "I'll just watch it from home." Without a theology connecting corporate worship as a means of grace, it's hard to argue with their line of reasoning. If church is simply about getting "content" and building relationships, we can accomplish that via video teaching and home-based small groups with no need for a corporate gathering. We could funnel millions of dollars into missions by not building and staffing for corporate worship gatherings. If we argue that corporate worship is more than accessing content, we need to build our case Biblically, and we found Mathis' explanation and argument convincing.

We live in a cultural climate where "it's just what we are supposed to do" is on flimsy footing. And, I am not convinced that the simplistic, often repeated appeal to Hebrews 10:25 is adequate once it is further explored. The Christians in Hebrews were experiencing affliction to the degree that they were considering going back to Judaism. The writer in chapter 10 is encouraging them to continue to lean on interdependent relationships as one of the God-ordained



vehicles for preserving in faith. Lean into each other when battling unbelief so that they continue persevering in the midst of affliction when they "see the day approaching." Nor am I convinced that "do not forsake the assembling yourselves together" is referring to attending a corporate service, but rather a command to lean into the body of Christ given the statement in verse 24 to "spur one another on to love and good works."

One-anothering happens in relationship environments, not corporate worship, lecture content environments. So, I would argue that Hebrews 10:25 is not less than attending church; it is much,

much more than attending church. So – I don't think it is the best defense for justifying the importance of corporate worship. Then what are we left with? The argument Mathis makes. Corporate worship is the highest means of grace, and the means of grace are the God-ordained channels through which God unleashes his sanctifying, empowering grace into the lives of believers. If we want to grow, there is no hope apart from grace, and corporate worship is the primary vehicle through which God unleashes it.

The Most Important Means of Grace

Corporate worship is the single most important means of grace and our greatest weapon in the fight for joy, because like no other means, corporate worship combines all three principles of God's ongoing grace: his word, prayer, and fellowship. It is corporate worship, with its preaching and sacraments and collective praises, confessions, petitions, and thanksgivings, which most acutely brings together the gifts of God's voice, his ear, and his body.

And so, according to Donald S. Whitney, "There's an element of worship and Christianity that cannot be experienced in private worship or by watching worship. There are some graces and blessings that God gives only in 'meeting together' with other believers."

Perhaps your own experience of corporate worship as a means of grace has, at times, echoed that of Martin Luther: "At home, in my own house, there is no warmth or vigor in me, but in the church when the multitude is gathered together, a fire is kindled in my heart and it breaks its way through."

— *Habits of Grace: Enjoying Jesus through the Spiritual Disciplines* by David Mathis p. 156-157

2020 Training Session

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

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

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

Training Date

November 6-7, 2020

Dover Baptist Temple
2896 S.R. 800 N.E., Dover, Ohio 44622

Missions
Support + Mobilization

REACH OHIO
2019-2021 Strategic Plan

Schedule

Friday	
6:00 PM	Registration
6:30 - 9:30 PM	"Involving Southern Baptists in Disaster Relief"
Saturday	
7:15 AM	Continental Breakfast Served
8:00 AM	Unit Training
12:00 PM	Lunch Provided by DR Food Service
12:30 PM	Evangelism Training
3:00 PM	Dismissed

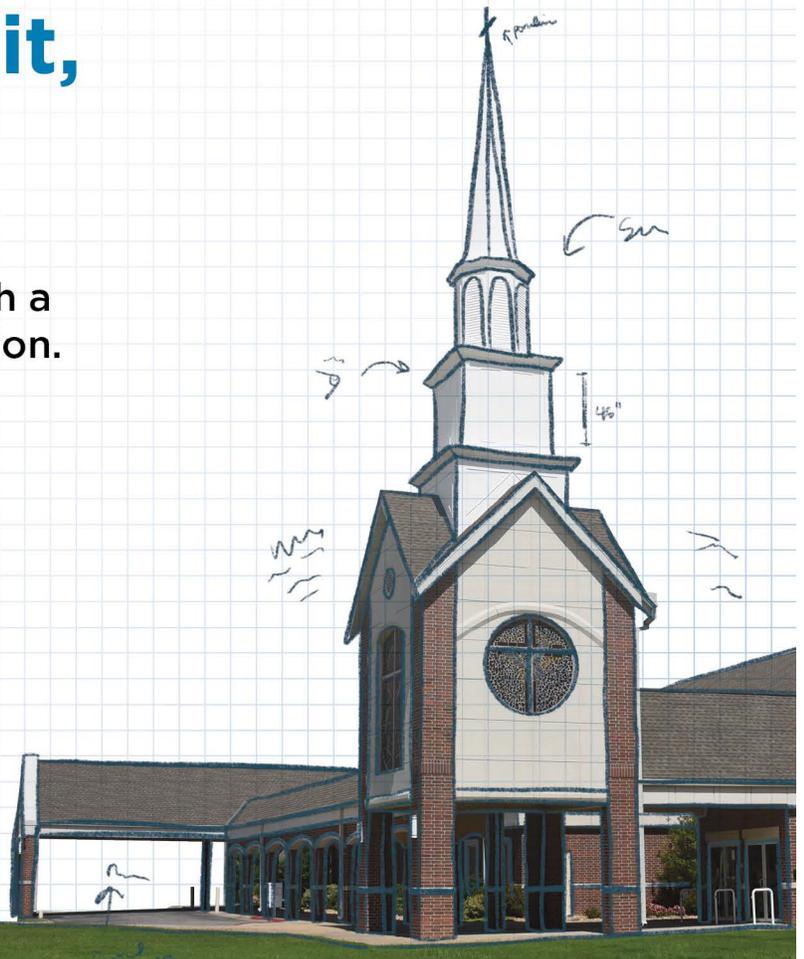


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OHIO GIRLS IN ACTION CONSULTANT PRACTICES FLEXIBILITY AMID CRISIS

By Trennis Henderson, WMU National Correspondent originally published at wmu.com NATIONAL WMU ON APRIL 29, 2020

FAIRBORN, OHIO—What does a missions leader do when her Girls in Action group can't meet together? For Ginny Howell, the answer is simple: Form a one-woman neighborhood parade and go to them – from a safe social distance, of course.

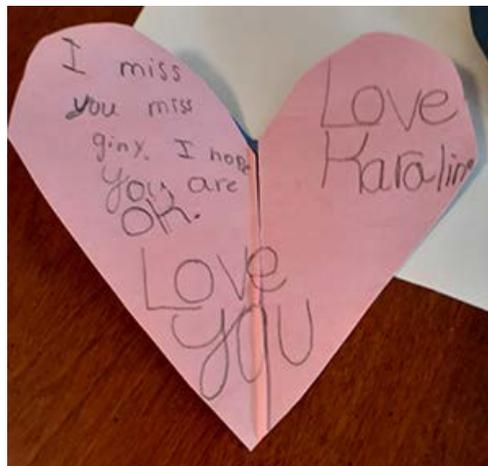
Howell, statewide GA consultant for the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, is in her fifth year as the GA director at First Baptist Church of Fairborn, Ohio. But she and her grade school GA girls have never experienced a year of Girls in Action quite like this one.

After getting off to a great start last fall and looking forward to more missions discipleship and service projects this spring, all their plans came to a screeching halt amid the coronavirus pandemic.

"You've got to be fluid" to navigate the unprecedented challenges caused by the COVID-19 outbreak, Howell reflected. "It's kind of like a missionary. You have to just see what works and you try things and that's what I'm doing.

"I do have a lot of concern for the kids that come in on our vans" from low-income neighborhoods, she added. Citing

the realities of the socioeconomic-driven digital divide, she noted that "those kids don't have technology" in their homes which hampers them being able to stay up on school work or connect with friends.



A homemade heart-shaped card that Girls in Action leader Ginny Howell received from one of her grade school GAs includes the note, "I hope you are OK." (Photo courtesy of Ginny Howell)

GETTING THROUGH THIS TOGETHER

Several weeks into social distancing and sheltering in place, "it's getting kind of depressing for some of my girls and I was starting to see that," Howell explained.

"That really concerned me so I talked with moms. I said, 'Hey, do you mind if I come by, do a church check?' They're

like, 'What's a church check?' and I said, 'I don't know. ... I just want to come by and see their faces.'"

The GA parents were receptive to her idea so she made a poster board sign with a simple but heartfelt message: "I Miss You! Love, Miss Ginny." She said her primary goal was to "tell them that I love them and I miss them and it's going to be over soon, that we're going to get through this together."

"My heart's aching for them," Howell acknowledged. "I've been praying, 'How can I do this, God?' I just haven't had a good answer except I've been driving the neighborhood and that's on a daily basis. I pray through the neighborhood.

"It's really strange, you don't see the girls out. Usually, they're out running around the neighborhood," she said. "I just asked God, 'What can I do?' That's how the sign and the visits came up is just seeking the Lord's guidance because I have no clue. He knows the big picture. I don't."

LIFE COMES FULL CIRCLE

Howell's love for her GA girls is deeply rooted in her own life journey. Growing up in a home setting she described as dysfunctional and abusive, she began attending GAs at First Baptist Church of

Fairborn at age 11 while staying with an aunt. A family in the church befriended her and took her in, eventually becoming her adoptive family.

"I started in GAs by coming on the bus ministry," Howell recalled. "What I saw was people that were living out a life that was so much different than mine. I had a yearning for the peace and the happiness I saw in people at that church.

"To see how people would go out and they would share Jesus with others, I was like, that would be awesome," she said. "I went more and more on Wednesday nights and I went through GAs and Acteens.

"Acteens was the major focus in my life that really turned my life around and gave me a personal relationship with Christ," she affirmed. "I accepted Jesus as my Savior in 1985 and have been with Him ever since. I've come full circle from being a student in GAs, loving missions and going into leading missions. It's a big desire of my heart."

SHINING LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Fast forward to 2020 and Howell is seeking to provide those same life-impacting opportunities for her GA girls even during these unusual days. Drawing on her professional background as a counselor, she voiced concerns about



Ginny Howell, statewide Girls in Action consultant for the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, is in her fifth year as the GA director at First Baptist Church of Fairborn, Ohio. As a former GA through the church's bus ministry, Howell said her life has come full circle as a GA leader and consultant. (WMU photo by Pam Henderson)

the long-term effects of post-traumatic stress disorder on children and youth coping with the pandemic.

"I think we're going to deal with that for many years down the road," she cautioned. "They're going to need somebody to talk to. I want to be available to help get them through this.

"The fear of the unknown can stop you where you're at or it can be a pathway to something new and amazing," she added. "We're currently working on how to be 'on mission' in their neighborhoods. This has included them writing

notes to friends to let them know they are missed and to see if they have any prayer requests.

"The biggest thing that we teach in missions education is to tell others about Jesus," she emphasized. "Right now, most of that is just in their home. I pray daily that my girls will see an opportunity every day to do something positive for others in their family."

During her recent one-woman parade, her GAs "were genuinely excited and you could just tell that they were happy to see somebody else besides Mom and their sisters and brothers," Howell said with a laugh. "They all had made notes for me. It was a blessing to me as much as I know it was to them because I saw it in their faces."

Noting that "it was really hard not going up and grabbing them and giving them a hug," she said she felt prompted "just to let them know that we can get outside of our comfort zones and still be the light that this world needs" – even if it's from a safe social distance for now.



FIRST FRIDAY FAST

#PrayOhio! June 5 Emphasis: Prayer for the Persecuted Church

For more information about the First Friday Fast prayer prompts, go to scbo.org/fast

In addition to our call to prayer prompts for the First Friday Fast 2020, Ohio Baptists are being encouraged to join with Southern Baptist churches everywhere in praying for the persecuted church. In recognition of the persecution faced by Christians around the world, the Southern Baptist Convention last year designated the first Sunday in June as a **Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church**. In 2020, the day of prayer is Sunday, June 7.

Open Doors reports 260 million Christians experience high levels of persecution in the top 50 countries on their World Watch List 2019. On average, eight Christians died every day for their faith in 2019. In addition, 9,488 churches or Christian buildings were attacked,

and 3,711 Christians were detained without trial, arrested, sentenced, and imprisoned.

Nik Ripken writes 70% of the world's Christians who are practicing their faith live in persecution. "Perhaps the question should not be, 'Why are others persecuted?' Perhaps the better question is, 'Why are we not?'"

2 Timothy 3:12 "Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution."

"Much to our surprise, believers in persecution, did not ask us to pray that

their persecution would cease. Instead, they begged us to pray that they would be obedient through their suffering. And that is a very different prayer." (Insanity of Obedience, p. 34)

An article by one of our international workers in Central Asia sees an opportunity in our current COVID-19 crisis: "The current circumstances, though alarming, could present opportunities for churches to deepen their understanding of what the persecuted church faces daily." Benjamin writes.

"This coronavirus will be contained, its stresses will be relieved, and life will get back to normal – though a new normal. For the persecuted church, however, the pressures will remain. Christians in restricted access countries will still be threatened. They will continue to suffer and die for their faith. Each time they gather, they will be at risk.

You can use this time to focus your kindness and



your prayers toward those who face hardship and persecution constantly. Your temporarily restricted freedoms can serve as a reminder to deepen your commitment to reaching the world with the gospel." (For the full article go to imb.org/2020/04/14/current-situation-consider-persecuted-church/)

IMB President Paul Chitwood affirmed the necessity of intercessory prayer on behalf of Christians suffering for their faith.

"Prayer is our greatest resource in the Great Commission, and it is also the greatest act of compassion we could perform for our brothers and sisters around the globe who are enduring persecution," Chitwood said. "Just as the souls of those slain for their faith cry out in heaven, 'O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood ...' (Revelation 6:10), we should cry out on behalf of those on earth who continue to suffer."

"We ask God to give them courage and hope," Chitwood said. "We know that their temporary suffering will be rewarded in eternity and pray that it will result in many being saved from among the nations." (For an article on IMB mission-

aries who have suffered persecution, go to imb.org/2020/04/20/june-7-day-prayer-persecuted/)

Ed Stetzer writes: "I worry that there's a growing trend amongst Christians living in the West—a problem of ignorance. Is the church here in the U.S. truly aware of what's happening to their brothers and sisters overseas? I think, and I fear, that many pastors, churches, and church attendees simply are not.

To clarify, persecution in these individual's terms doesn't look like side-glances from a coworker or rude comments from a neighbor about a front yard nativity scene. Cultural opposition towards faith is real here in the United States and especially in Europe—but it's not persecution...

Persecution for many followers of Jesus looks like abduction, rape, detainment in prison, or loss of life and limb. It looks like gathering to worship on a Sunday morning all to find that your church's cross has been burned, gathering spaces decorated with Communist propaganda, and sacred images stolen.

It looks like living in fear of ethnic cleansing, terrorism, and organized crime all as penalty for living as a follower of Jesus in

the presence of an antagonistic government and culture.

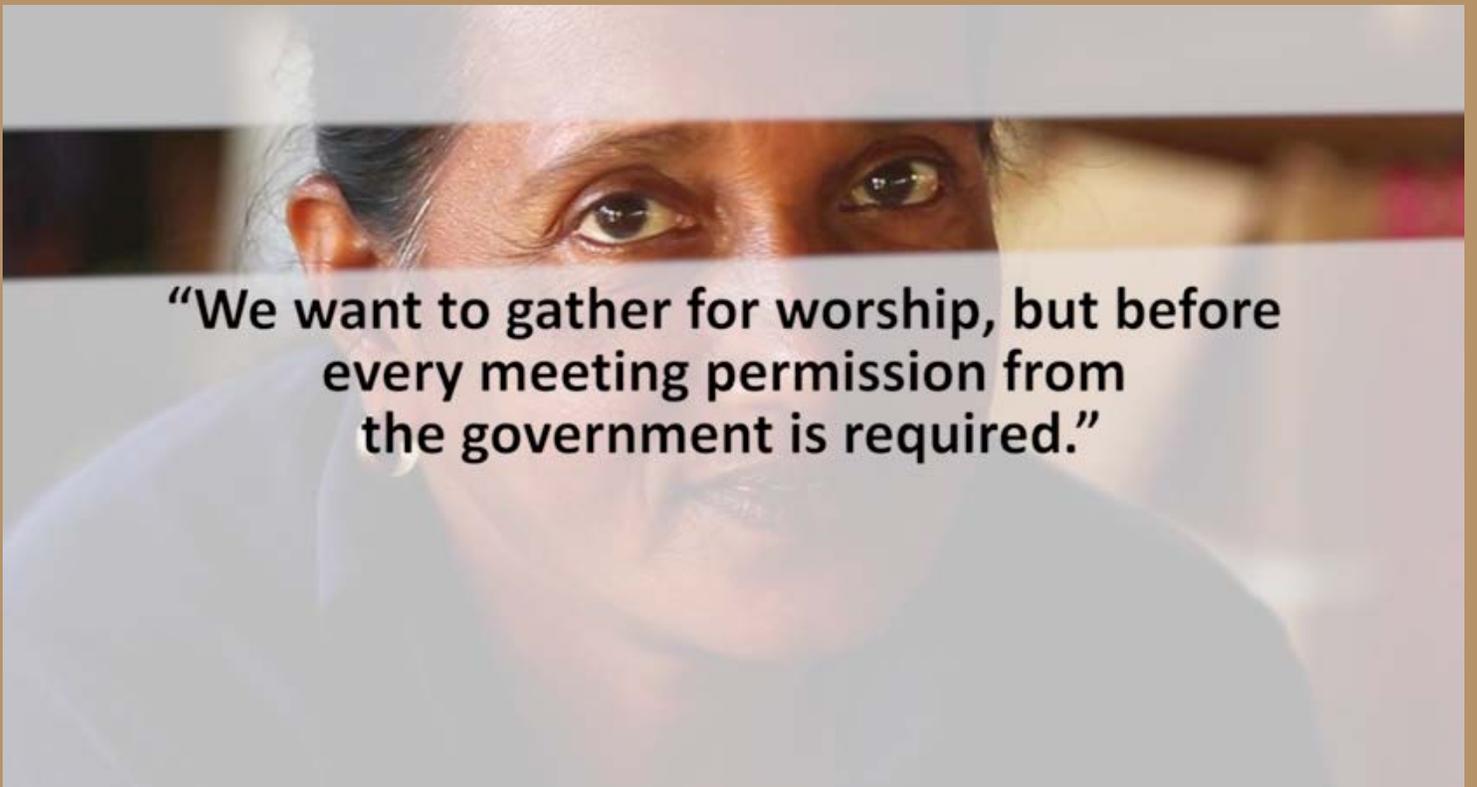
It's not just discomfort, it's not just harassment, it's not just mistreatment, it's the kind of 'fiery trial' that Peter spoke of in 1 Peter 4:12—one that endangers believer's economic stability, safety, and sometimes even their very lives.

Their suffering does not go unnoticed by God, and so it should never go unnoticed by us. Ignorance is not an excuse; we've been compelled to act."

(For complete article go to christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2018/september/china-on-my-mind-why-we-all-must-care.html)

Hebrews 13:3 "Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily."

Websites for information on praying for the persecuted church:
erlc.com/resource-library/articles/by-topic/persecution
imb.org/pray
nikriipken.com
opendoorsusa.org
persecution.com



"We want to gather for worship, but before every meeting permission from the government is required."

5 Reasons Why I'm Southern Baptist

By: Kirk Kirkland Article taken from Spring 2020 On Mission Magazine

A planter's journey from isolation in nondenominational ministry to supported and encouraged SBC pastor.

1 A Friends Advice

Three years into our church plant in Cincinnati, I felt rejected, isolated and afraid. I needed to change direction, but I didn't have a clue where to begin. A friend recommended I meet with his pastor who had been on a similar journey. After listening compassionately for nearly two hours, that pastor encouraged me to consider joining the Southern Baptist Convention and partnering with the North American Mission Board's church planting arm, Send Network. He helped empower me to think for myself and take the next step.

2 NAMB Field Staff

I sat at a restaurant with crossed arms and a skeptical mind, intently listening to the local Send City Missionary and Church Planting Catalyst talk through the process of becoming an endorsed planter with Send Network. I asked every tough question I had. Without becoming defensive, they answered my questions with patience and authenticity. With an informed

understanding of what cooperation looked like and with a new pair of mentors, I had the tools to inform my decision.

3 Strong Theology

I met Jesus and was discipled in churches that began in response to theological liberalism. Those pastors exercised their autonomy and decided to bail out of the denomination. I learned that some within the SBC decided to bail water and save the sinking ship. I learned about the Conservative Resurgence, and my ecclesiological isolation and fears were put to death the first time I read the Baptist Faith and Message. Finally, I could hang my hat on a statement of faith that I wholeheartedly agreed with and find unity among other churches of like faith without the demand for uniformity.

4 Racism Repented

As part of this process, I needed to lead our young, urban, multi-ethnic church plant to an official congregational vote to join the SBC. This was a difficult conversation, and I didn't want to lose three years of credibility, but I also didn't want to look for a

shortcut by downplaying a past on the wrong side of slavery and racism. It wasn't comfortable, but I watched God change the hearts of the people in the room when I read the resolution made in 1995 about the public acknowledgment and repentance of those sins. Once it came time to vote 100% of the members decided to join the SBC.

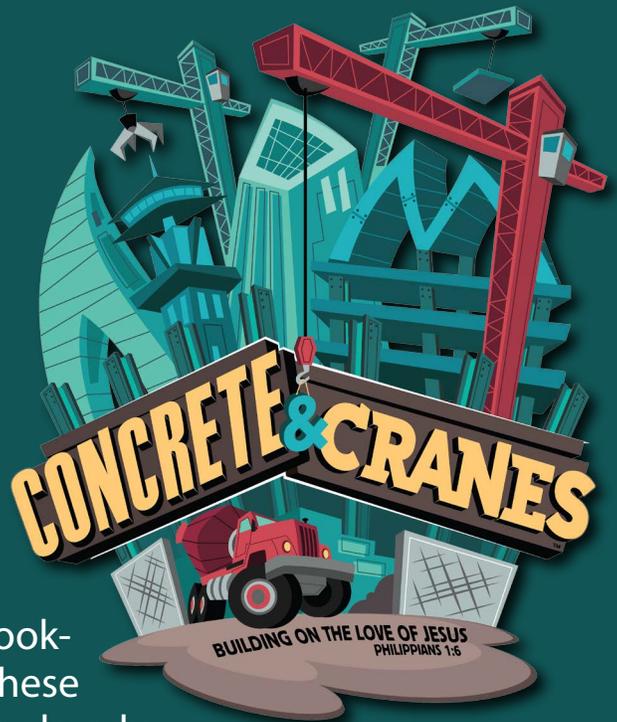
5 Mission Emphasis

Three years later, our church is more engaged on mission than ever. Last year was the largest year for our plant in giving to the Cooperative Program (CP), Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. We are so grateful to have a part in what God is doing around the world. Before we joined the SBC, I was skeptical about CP giving. Now it is our favorite check to issue! But it's more than writing a check. It's our desire for a sending culture, and we are excited to someday see some of our own join the ranks of NAMB and the IMB missionaries. It was God's mission that led me to the SBC, and it's the advancement of that mission around the world that will keep me!



VBS

TRAINING 2020



Churches are in the middle of VBS discussions and trying to figure out what VBS is going to look like this summer. SCBO has produced training videos to help church that are looking at doing Lifeway's "Concrete and Cranes." These videos are in connection with what Lifeway has already produced. Steve Hopkins, leader of the Bible Teaching/Leadership Resource Group has also put together a Bible overview of each day's lesson. Please share these with your VBS team and use them however you see fit. For more information please Wendy Hammock or Dwayne Lee.



Steve Hopkins's Biblical Overview



Putting Our Imagination to Work

By: Amanda Mishne

One of my boys, Nehemiah, loves to “get outside and use his imagination.” I love how pastors and churches in Ohio and far beyond have gotten outside and asked God to inspire them to get the Gospel into more hands today than ever before!

You may recall first hearing of “drive-in church” on the local news. Genoa Baptist Church, Westerville was one of the first churches in our state to try this new way to do church (featured locally and on some national news stations). Soon demands for FM transmitters were as hot as toilet paper. Churches across the country were excited to meet in this socially distant way.

I wanted to follow up and see how things were going since the start of such a revolutionary idea. I had an opportunity to chat with Genoa Baptist’s Associate Pastor, Scott Lewald, and the momentum is still going!

Now they are up to three outside “drive-in” church services a week and beginning to move back indoors. Genoa is planning on staying in the parking lot all summer. Pastor Lewald said he enjoys watching families bringing breakfast (first service) or lunch (second service) to eat as one of the pastors share. As the cars leave, the pastors line the drive waving to all those in attendance.

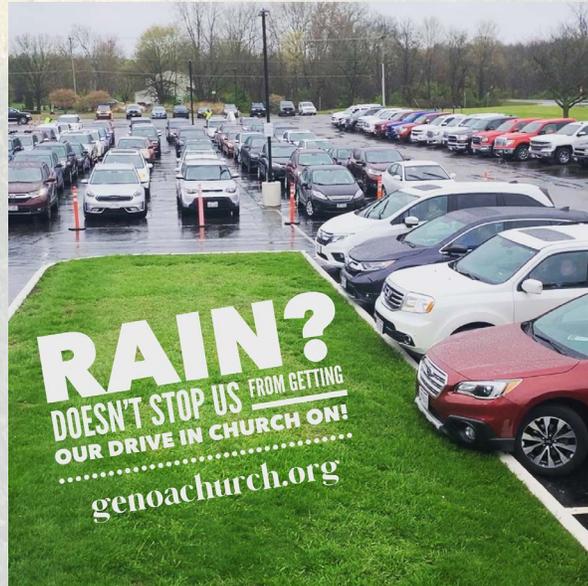
Staff decided to not announce the reopening of the sanctuary (with the new social distancing guidelines) but instead to do a soft launch two weeks ago. Word got out and over 100 people showed up! This past week they asked everyone to register online before attending inside to make sure they had enough space (maximum 300 in their 1000 seat sanctuary). Pastors and staff are serving as ushers helping families find the correct number of seats. At the conclusion of service everyone is dismissed by row.

In addition to Sunday services, the church is reaching over 1000 people through online Wednesday Bible Study utilizing live video and RightNow Media (rightnowmedia.org). Members watch the

RightNow video, and join in on the discussion with pastors each week.

The kids haven’t been forgotten either, this month they will be holding a virtual VBS! Genoa is striving to make Virtual VBS as fun and easy as possible with easy to follow crafts, songs and extra materials, prizes and gift cards and a daily video broadcast.

Church does not look like it did this time last year, but maybe that’s ok. While I was walking in the woods with Nehemiah at my parents house I thought about the hours I had spent playing in the same spot he was playing in when I was little. Does it look the same? No. My favorite stump, “the kitchen table”, is just a memory, decomposed. But other trees have fallen, and there are new trees to climb and adventures to be had. Just like the church, our community is still here; it may look a little different, but there are still people to serve and lost to be saved.





National Day of Prayer — Fun Family Prayer Activity!

By: Pastor Ken Slaughter, Mt. Repose Baptist, Milford

The National Day of Prayer (NDOP) is the first Thursday of May each year. I knew it was coming, but it snuck up on me anyway. As a leader, I had a mental block. Sure, as a pastor I was busy adapting to the Covid-19 reality. But honestly, it was so hard to think how anything beyond individual observance would be possible for the NDOP this year.

As the Prayer Encourager for the Cincinnati Area Baptist Association (CABA), I needed someone to encourage me to pray. That someone was Mark Snowden, CABA's DOML. He asked me what I had planned. I had nothing to report. And the Holy Spirit convicted me: That's not good enough! As never before, our nation needed prayer! I had given up too easily. Worst of all, I had neglected my best resource... prayer! So I asked God:

- How can we coordinate prayer together during this time of social distancing?
- How can we engage our communities effectively?
- How can we let our communities know we are praying for them and for America?
- With the travel restrictions in place, how can people get any materials or resources?
- How can I engage families in prayer and fasting?

God answered my prayer almost immediately! And when I shared the idea, people got onboard! Here's what we did:

We invited households in our churches to make "Praying for America" yard signs. We used whatever materials we already had on hand. And we put our homemade signs in our yards and on our doors on May 7th. Inside our houses, we prayed and fasted. At noon, we knelt down in our yards, praying for our nation. We used a prayer guide from the SBC. And we posted pictures on Facebook and other social media, with "#National Day of Prayer."

What will your church do for NDOP 2021? Get creative! Pastor Tom Pendegrass led Urbancrest at Lebanon to purchase professionally designed yard signs for their members. That way, every member has one. And they all have the

same sign. That's a great approach! You could also have children write prayers in chalk on sidewalks and driveways. Or pray in hospital parking lots with signs saying, "Praying for Workers and Patients."

The NDOP was different this year and I'm glad we took the opportunity to try something new. It was exciting to see families on Facebook sharing ideas for signs. Most of all, our people were led to fast and pray! And our neighbors noticed! One couple thanked me for praying as they walked past with their dog.

So, let's not get stuck in the past, but forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, let us press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus! (Philippians 3:13) God answers prayer!



Summer Student Ministry is Open

By Keith Hurt

As a Youth Pastor in Ohio I am very grateful for the summer programs that the S.C.B.O. provides for the students in our state. These programs provide opportunities for our students to get away from their routines and to hear from God in a new and deeper way. I have had many students (both current and former) tell me that God used these summer programs as significant spiritual markers in their lives. Super Summer is the best program I have ever seen for the discipleship and growth of student leaders. Seneca Lake Youth Camps provide opportunities for students to come and bring their friends to hear clear and compelling presentations of the Gospel while also having a blast!

Although it is not possible to have Super Summer or Seneca Lake Youth Camp this summer we do have some exciting news! We have partnered with Digitalyouthcamp.com to offer SCBO churches an incredible summer youth camp program at an amazing price!

Digital Youth Camp is a downloadable youth camp composed of 8 general sessions featuring several talented worship leaders and nationally known speakers Ryan Fontenot, Clayton King, Wade Morris, Shane Pruitt, and others. In addition, there will be

10 breakout sessions on a wide variety of topics that are relevant to student faith development. Through an agreement between the SCBO and Digital Youth Camp we are able to offer pastors a discount code that reduces the price of the program from \$499 to \$299!

Pastors can obtain this code by emailing Tim Binns tbinn@scbo.org Pastors could use this program as content for a retreat, a D-Now weekend, a summer camp, or a Wednesday night Bible Study. We are excited to hear stories of how God uses this program to reach and grow the students in our state.



With our lives, families, churches, communities, and world turned upside down, no wonder people are looking for things to do this Summer. Yes, Camps and Super Summer have been cancelled for any "onsite" participation but we have discovered a GREAT Summer alternative. It's called DYC, Digital Youth Camp! This is a wonderful alternative for churches as they seek to find ways to invest in their students.

We are also making this offer to all of the churches that are involved in Super Summer as well. There is just no way we can pull off a Super Summer experience in a virtual setting, but our team believes DYC is a tremendous alternative. Don't forget if you are interested in purchasing DYC make sure to contact Tim Binns tbinn@scbo.org to receive a promotional discount code.

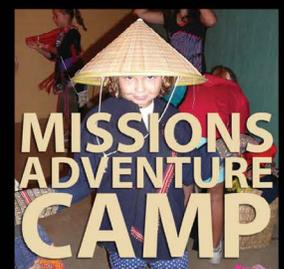


CAMP HAS GONE VIRTUAL THIS YEAR

The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio is committed to making this summer great.

Please visit scbo.org for camp options available to use in place of summer camp this year.

For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there among them. Matthew 18:20



A Team Approach to Christmas Backpack

Since being quarantined for 60 plus days, we have been “homeschooled” on the definition of new words and phrases. These consisted of social distancing, essential workers, shelter in place, self-isolation, self-monitoring, a team approach. Each one of these is essential as a team approach to help curb the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

We, the Ohio WMU, are in need of “a team approach” of “essential workers” to come along side of us, as we prepare for a monumental amount of Christmas Back Packs we are going to need this year.

We will not only be serving the needs for our Appalachian Ministry in Bell County, Kentucky, Hancock County, Tennessee and Lee County, Virginia, but also the Appalachian area of Ohio. We will not be receiving backpacks for Ohio this year from other states. This is the reason why it is so important that we all work together and see that no impoverished child goes without a Christmas Backpack. One that is filled not only with physical needs, but also a Bible and a copy of the Christmas Story, to fill their Spiritual need.

I have applications from churches in the Ohio Appalachian area plus the need for our partnering ministry, with Ryan Martin, that amounts to a need

of 6,500 filled backpacks. The total may be going up within the next few weeks. These churches have been involved with events for the past few years to spread the gospel to impoverished children that are outside of the church in the Ohio Appalachian area. We cannot afford to miss this golden opportunity that God has placed in our lives.

Who are the “essential workers”? Pastors to encourage church members, directors of missions to encourage pastors, women on mission, WMU, youth leaders, children’s ministry leaders, deacons, men’s ministry leaders, families filling backpacks together to help children experience missions.

This is what we have need of in Ohio: churches filling backpacks, drop off areas in different sections of Ohio for filled Backpacks, a place to store filled backpacks in each association.

I can already sense some reaction of those who may say “we are not able to come up with this “GYNORMOUS NUMBER of BACKPACKS!!!!”

My reply to whomever may be feeling this way, please read the following: Pastor Charlie Wagoner is the pastor of Elk Creek Baptist Church in Middletown, Ohio. I met with Pastor Charlie in May 2019, one week before the tornadoes came through Ohio. He said he thought

the church might only be able to do 10 backpacks, but he took a case of 24. He became so excited about the backpack ministry that his congregation of “25 members” reached outside the four walls of the church. People they knew, family members, friends and co-workers became excited when they told them about the Christmas Backpack Ministry for Appalachia. Last October, Duane Floro and I witnessed the blessing and dedication of 300 FILLED BACKPACKS that this congregation of 25 members collected.

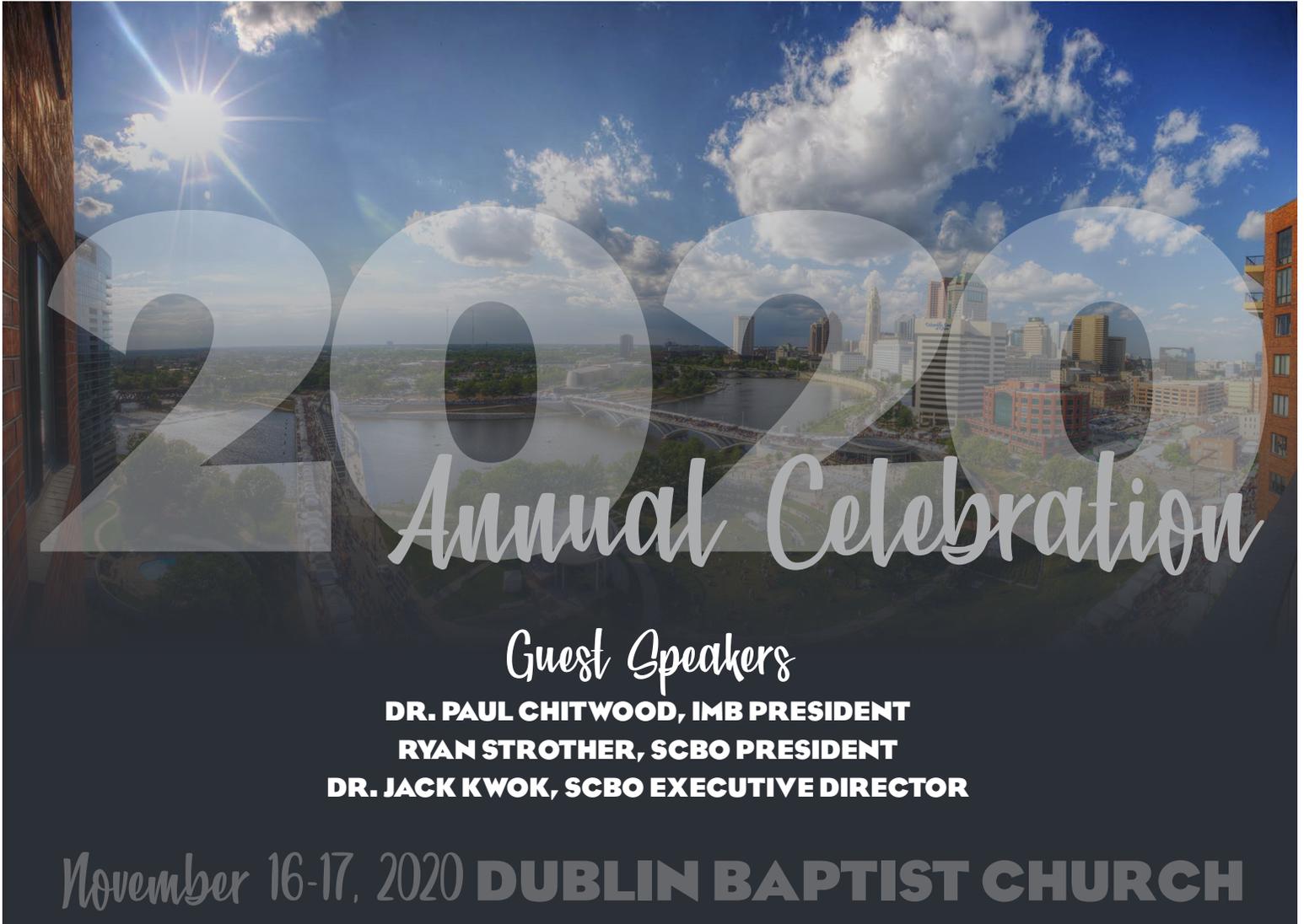
When we arrived at the church we found pews lined with the 300 backpacks. Pastor Charlie said they were not looking at backpacks. They only saw the children that would be receiving the backpacks.

After reading this, can you “self-monitor” yourself and still say, “I don’t think we can do it”?

We need to be saying: “we can do this together.” *I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength. Philippians 4:13*

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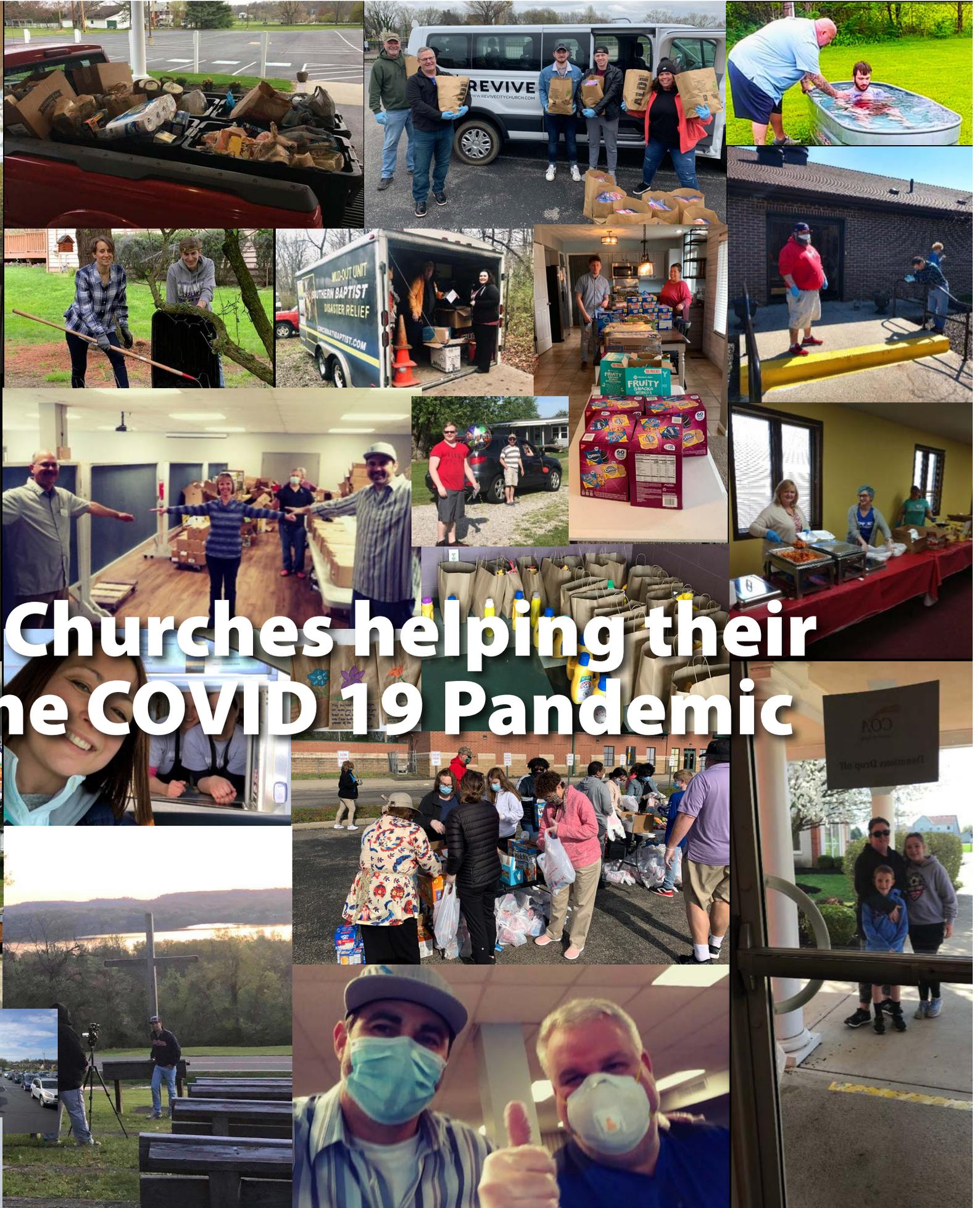
SCBGO

Motivating you to be active in Mission Ohio



Ohio Southern Baptist communities during th





Churches helping their ne COVID 19 Pandemic



ZYRADA FOX CELEBRATES 100 YEARS!

Celebrations are still in order, especially for years of faithfully living for Christ! Zyrada Fox celebrated her 100th birthday with family on May 9. As a young adult Zyrada Meads married W. A. Fox. Together they served 30.5 years at New Zion Baptist Church, now known as Hamilton West Baptist Church located in Hamilton, Ohio.

Mrs. Fox remains rather active and in good health today. She resides with her daughter and son-in-law, Karen and John Cochran of West Chester. She attends church, enjoys occasional family gatherings, and loves time spent with grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

With 100 years behind her, some celebrations remain as memories. Her son Ralph, a West Point Academy graduate, died in 1989 in London, England. Her husband, Pastor W. A. Fox, passed away in 1994.

PRESS FORWARD THE MARK

This June is a very different June to say the least. The Coronavirus and now widespread turmoil are affecting our country including Ohio. Churches are pivoting to various strategies to conduct Vacation Bible School. The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio website <https://www.scbo.org/content/vbs-online-training> has many options. Dwayne Lee and Wendy Hammock in the Bible Teaching/Leadership Resource Group are available to assist your church.

Due to the uncertainty of the Coronavirus, Super Summer and all the camps at Seneca Lake are turning to online alternatives. Super Summer and Youth Camps are employing Digital Youth Camp. Information is available through this link <https://www.scbo.org/event/youth-camp> on the SCBO website. Be sure to email Tim Smith for the discount.

“The Great Adventure” is the theme for the Virtual Missions Camp. Register through this SCBO website link <https://scbo.org/event/missions-adventure-camp> to experience “The Great Adventure” of 2020 Virtual Missions Camp.

Kids Kamp is going Virtual too. Please register through the SCBO link <https://scbo.org/event/kids-kamp-virtual> to join the fantastic fun.

Camp-U-Can is planning back-to-school events in various locations. Pastor Reginald Hayes and his team will share the dates and locations.

All of the in-person onsite camps at Seneca Lake and Super Summer at Cedarville are postponed to 2021. Next year, we shall return for a

joyous reunion and mountain-top experiences. The widespread turmoil is far from a mountain-top experience. Yet, mountain-top encounters with God through repentance and renewal would help.

All Christians should recoil in horror from the video of the death of George Floyd. This is unquestionably wrong. His family and friends are experiencing overwhelming grief. I invite you to pray that they will receive all of God’s comforting grace and that justice will prevail for them. Terrence Floyd, brother of George Floyd, pleaded for an end to violence and destruction of property. He declared that these actions aren’t productive and overshadow the injustice done to his brother George.

Across the country, many just and good law enforcement officials joined peaceful protestors in kneeling or marching for justice. Just and good law enforcement officials need encouragement and support.

Justice for George Floyd will be justice for the United States. Likewise, injustice for George Floyd will be injustice for all.

Seemingly, a consensus of Americans support the call for justice for George Floyd. Many of these citizens are exercising their constitutional right to assemble and speak their opinions and call for justice.

Yet, those who apparently have little or no regard for justice are dishonoring the memory of George Floyd. Their violent actions are destroy-

PRESS TOWARD THE MARK

cont. from page 18

ing neighborhoods and businesses that provide food and necessities for people who are very dependent upon their services. Citizens and law enforcement officers have died. This is unjust. George Floyd is dead. One's race or address isn't probable cause for arrest. Death is a disproportionate penalty for a man who apparently didn't resist arrest. This is unjust.

Amos 5:24, "But let justice roll on like a river; righteousness like a never failing stream."

Micah 6:8, "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

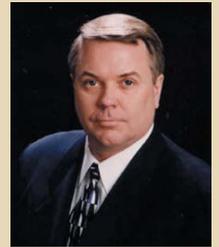
Proverbs 29:7, "The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern."

Leviticus 19:15, "Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the

great, but judge your neighbor fairly."

Matthew 5: 13-16, "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

What can we do to promote justice? Jesus commanded his disciples to be salt and light. Scripture declares that we act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God. 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 Amanda Mishne at amishne@sco.org

Jack Kwok, State Convention Executive Director-Treasurer, Editor; 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.



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