

PUBLICATION OF THE STATE CONVENTION OF BAPTISTS IN OHIO

OHIO BAPTIST MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 2018 | VOLUME 66 NO. 1

The Cooperative Program

HOW DOES THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM WORK?



What is the Cooperative Program?

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

How Does The Cooperative Program Work?

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

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

Messengers at the State Convention Annual Meetings... from your church and other churches across the state decide what percentage of Cooperative Program gifts contributed by local congregations stay in your state to support local missions and ministries. The percentage to be forwarded to the SBC for North American and international missions and ministries is also determined at this time.

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

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

Why Southern Baptists Embrace The Cooperative Program

- It presents a unified and comprehensive budget, throwing a funding blanket over statewide, national and international missions and ministries.
- It provides a long-term sustainability for our entities. When a church makes their missions giving as a percentage of their church budgets, it provide consistency and stability.
- It adheres to our long term Baptist principle that "we can do more together than alone."

"I see a mounting urgency and a growing consensus among our pastors to advance the gospel through SBC mission and ministries, fueled through the Cooperative Program, in our own backyard and beyond!"

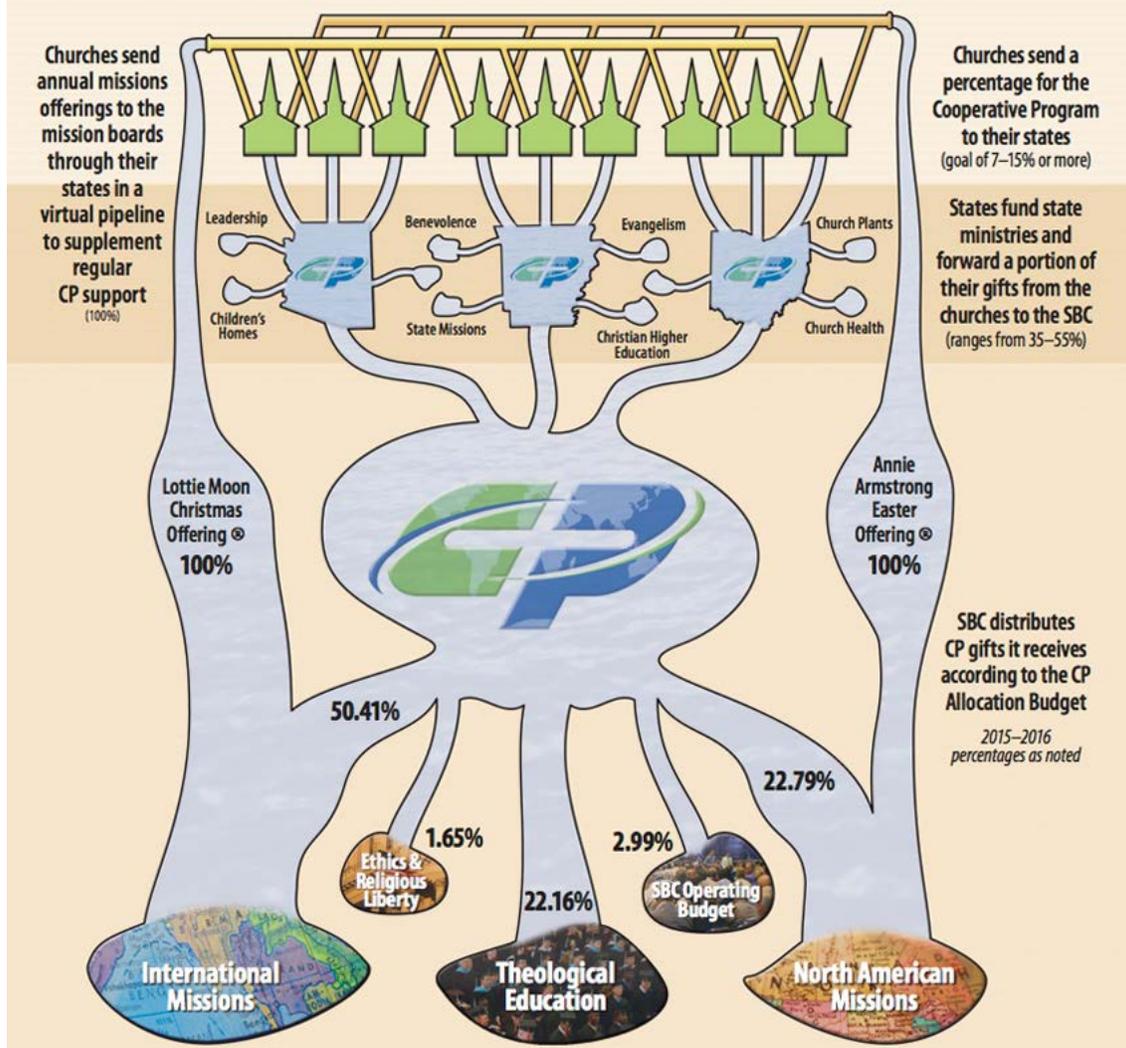
"I do not know of a better plan for any church — small, large, new, growing, graying, or ethnic — to accomplish an Acts 1:8 strategy than through the Cooperative Program!"

Through the Cooperative Program, a church can reach their community, their state, North America, and the Nations, with the gospel... **CONSISTENTLY, CONCURRENTLY, AND COMPLETELY!**

-- Dr. Frank Page on the remarkability of The Cooperative Program



The Cooperative Program: Like a Mighty River



- The Cooperative Program mitigates competition between entities thereby allowing a balanced Acts 1:8 Strategy.
- It levels the playing field, and makes a place at the table for small and ethnic churches. Every church can stand hand in hand, shoulder to shoulder, on level ground, as partners in the gospel (large churches, small churches, new churches, growing churches, graying churches, and ethnic churches).

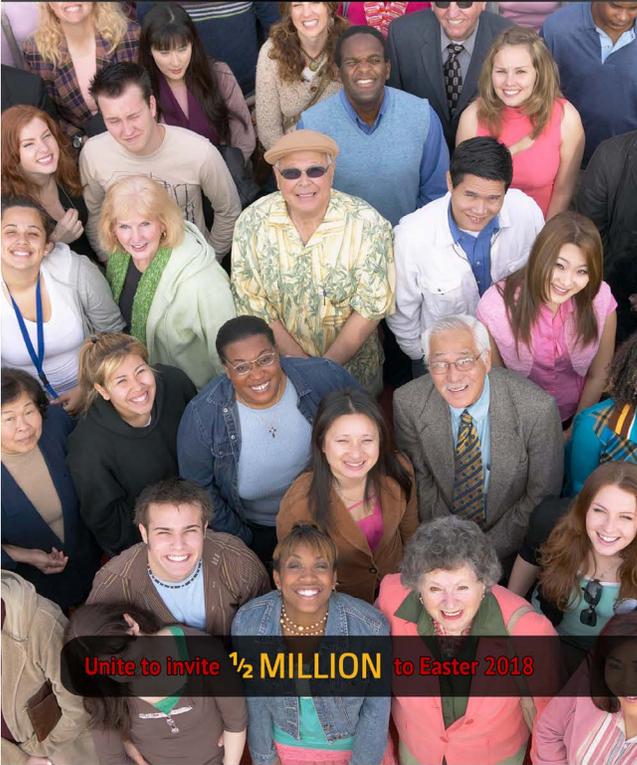
The History of the Cooperative Program

Since its inception in 1845, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) has always had one mission —the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20). To fulfill its assigned part of this divine mandate, each SBC entity made special offering appeals to the churches. This method was referred to as the "societal" approach to missions and resulted in severe financial deficits, competition among entities, overlapping pledge campaigns, and frequent emergency appeals which greatly hampered the expanding ministry opportunities God was giving Southern Baptist. Some entities took out loans to cover operating costs until pledges or special offerings were received.

In 1919, the leaders of the SBC proposed the 75 Million Campaign, a five-year pledge campaign that, for the first time, included everything - the missions and ministries of all the state conventions as well as that of the Southern Baptist Convention. Though falling short of its goals, a God-given partnership of missions support was conceived - The Cooperative Program. Since its launch in 1925, the effectiveness of the Cooperative Program has been dependent upon individuals, churches, state conventions, and SBC entities cooperating, working toward a common goal of sharing the gospel with every person on the planet.

The Big Invite

More Guests Than Ever For Easter



Unite to invite **1/2 MILLION** to Easter 2018

Unite to Invite **1/2 MILLION** to Church for Easter 2018

The Big Invite is a blueprint for your church to have more guests than ever for Easter 2018!

There are over **7.6 million lost** and un-churched in Ohio. **83% percent** of un-churched people say they are at least somewhat likely to **attend church if invited**.

The goal of the **Big Invite** is to unite Ohio Baptists in one effort to **invite 500,000 people** to our Ohio Baptist churches for Easter 2018. If the regular attenders of our Ohio Southern Baptist Churches would each invite just one family we could easily exceed that goal.

Imagine more moms, dads, kids, & singles all ready to hear the Gospel on Resurrection Sunday.

What a Kingdom opportunity!

Let's unite our efforts as Ohio Baptists and **make Easter 2018 the biggest attendance** day we've ever had.

We have the plan.
We have the purpose.
We have the message that matters most.

The Big Invite
 More Guests Than Ever For Easter

The Big Invite

More Guests Than Ever For Easter

Dear Pastor,

I'm excited to see what God is going to do in our midst in Ohio in 2018. Part of that excitement is an opportunity to see SCBO churches get involved and committed to participating in The Big Invite this coming Easter.

Would you prayerfully consider joining other Ohio SBC churches on Easter to see **more guests than ever** walking through the doors of God's churches and hearing the glorious message of Christ? And even more personally - to see those guests walking through the doors of your church?

If that possibility excites you, go to www.biginviteohio.org and sign up. The resources there are absolutely free, and you'll find expert advice and practical tips to assist your church in filling God's house to overflowing on Easter Sunday morning, April 1st.

I pray God's abundant blessings will be yours in 2018 and that this year will be the best year you've known during your time of serving our Lord in His ministry! Please **join me in praying** that He will pour out His Spirit upon us all so that the lost will be saved and that the saints will be encouraged and equipped to become mature Christ followers.

It is my joy to serve with you and alongside you!

There Is Victory In Jesus,
 Jack Helton
 Evangelism Resource Group Leader

Sign up now at BigInviteOhio.org.



The generous gifts of Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program make ministries and resources like this one available throughout Ohio. Thank you!

The Big Invite

More Guests Than Ever For Easter

The Big Invite includes:

- A **point-by-point checklist** for making sure your church is ready for guests
- **Case studies** of churches that have had big results using elements of The Big Invite
- Strategies to **mobilize** as many as 90% of your people in the effort to invite their neighbors
- Access to **Resources** to make promotion simple, cost-effective, and convenient

The theme for Easter is **Start Your New Beginning**. With Easter being a time to celebrate Jesus' resurrection, it also is a great time to encourage your members and guests to consider starting a new beginning.

Videos about new beginnings will be available for your church to download and show during your service. The printed resources available for purchase include **postcards, bulletin covers, indoor and outdoor banners, door hangers and invite cards**.

You can register at BigInviteOhio.org now!

The Big Invite Campaign will become available in January 2018.



More Guests Than Ever For Easter

Registration is now open for Mission Ohio Revitalization Tour with Mark Clifton

• We plant over 1200 Southern Baptist churches each year.

• We lose 900 Southern Baptist churches each year.

• What about a dying church brings glory to God?

• What about a dying church says, "Our God is great and His gospel is powerful?"

• Revitalization and/or Replanting for God's glory is an act of worship.

• Worship requires we lay down our idols and run only to Jesus and the cross.

March 1-3 Mission Ohio will welcome Mark Clifton to continue to the dialogue about church revitalization and replanting. Clifton serves as the senior director of church replanting for the North American Mission Board.



Three locations will give many an opportunity to attend:

Thursday, March 1
First Baptist Church
Westerville (Columbus)

Friday, March 2
Impact Church, Lebanon
(Dayton/Cincinnati)

Saturday, March 3
First Baptist Church,
Perrysburg (Toledo)

Each location will begin at 9:30 AM and conclude at 3:00 PM, lunch provided.

• Registration Cost \$10.00, which includes lunch and book. Go to www.scbo.org/event/mission-ohio-church-revitalization-tour-mark-clifton for registration.

• Registration deadline: Monday, February 26 – Registration is required to have lunch and books for all participants!

Open to pastors, church planters, and church leaders interested in learning more about revitalization and replanting.

Learn the six revitalization/replant imperatives:

1. Pray without ceasing
2. Love and shepherd the church's remaining members
3. Exegete and serve the community
4. Simplify your strategies
5. Focus on young men
6. Make disciples who make disciples

Explore the five revitalization/replant pathways:

1. Give the building to a new church plant
2. Give the building to a partner
3. Share the building with a new plant
4. Merge with a new plant
5. Replant from within

Understand the four revitalization/replant requirements:

1. Passion for the Bible and Biblical preaching
2. Been a disciple and disciple-maker
3. Passion for the Gospel
4. Passion for prayer



Mark Clifton is the senior director of replanting at the North American Mission Board. Mark has served as a pastor, church planter, church revitalizer, mission strategist, coach and mentor to young leaders. He has planted and replanted numerous churches and has also served as a national and regional leader for church planting and missions. For more information go to www.namb.net/church-replanting

REPLANT

CHURCH REVITALIZATION



A C A L L T O P R A Y E R
T H E D R U G

EPIDEMIC

Monday, **JANUARY 29th**, We are asking all churches through out Ohio to set aside time to pray for God's mercy, in light of the opioid and heroin crisis

Deceptive Marijuana Entrepreneurs are looking to exploit Ohio citizens by promoting Legalization of Recreational Marijuana

Hurting people are being drawn into the drug culture in unprecedented numbers. 4,050 people died of drug over doses in Ohio in 2016.

Families are being ravaged by death & addiction 15,000 children in Foster Care up 10% from last year

O H I O P R A Y E R . C O M

January 29th United Day of Prayer for Ohio

Gary Frost, National Facilitator of Prayer and Compassion Initiatives, Mission America Coalition, invited Mission Ohio churches to join in united prayer January 29th, seeking "God's mercy in light of the opioid and heroin crisis in Ohio."

Why?

- Hurting people are being drawn into the drug culture in unprecedented numbers.
- 4,050 people died of drug overdoses in Ohio in 2016.
- Families are being ravaged by death and addiction.
- 15,000 children are now in Foster Care, up 10% from last year.

In addition to the current

crisis, deceptive marijuana entrepreneurs are looking to exploit Ohio citizens by promoting the legalization of recreational marijuana. Gary Frost writes: "OHIO LEADERS UNITED is an 'informal collaborative' comprised of concerned Christian leaders committed to defending Ohio families and communities from the social degradation and economic exploitation of legalized marijuana. Though we as a coalition of citizens hail from a variety of Christian traditions, we are unified in our conviction that Jesus Christ is LORD and in our opinion marijuana should not be legalized for recreational consumption in the state of Ohio." Frost

continues: "Any economic gain that recreational legalization might provide is far outweighed by the cost that would be incurred in the health of families, communities, and **very specifically children and youth.**"

The theme verse for the day was **Nehemiah 4:14** *"Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes."*

Ohio Prays Together is a united prayer initiative born from the hearts of Christ followers desperate to see a divine intervention in the current drug epidemic ravaging lives, families, and

communities in this great state. We are citizens who believe the words of Jesus Christ recorded in Matthew 19:26 (our Ohio State motto) which says "With God all things are possible," and thereby seek God's face in expectation of a miraculous demonstration of His grace and mercy on our behalf. Go to ohiopraystogether.com for more information.



Gary Frost

Southwest Regional Women's Spring Retreat

April 14, 2018, 8am-4pm
FBC Waynesville
1009 Lytle Road, Waynesville



Speaker:
Sherry Tarlton

Worship Leaders:
Rekindle

Cost: \$20/\$25 (after April 2nd)
Register directly on-line at www.GDAB.org/rsvp.php
or by calling (937) 233-3999

Breakout Sessions

- ♦ Joy in Submission
- ♦ Joy in Winter Times
- ♦ Joy in Being a Woman of Peace
- ♦ Joy Not Dependent on Circumstances
- ♦ How to Maintain Your Joy
- ♦ Joy by Living in Hope

Get more details on Breakout Sessions at www.GDAB.org under Women's Ministry

"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe in Him so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13 (HCSB)

SUPER HOLIDAYS



By the time you read this article we will have had more snowfall this winter than in recent past. Yet remember there is just a little more than 50 days until Spring and then Summer. As we like to say Super Summer!

Actually Super Summer is a student leader conference that the State Convention of Baptists in

Ohio provides every year for students who show potential in leadership skills and discipleship. That is why we say, "Super Summer is Advancing Student Leaders".

Therefore, we would like to give you an advance notice that registration is open! We are asking you to send your students to a weeklong conference

that will change their lives forever.

If you would like to visit <http://www.scbo.org/super-summer> and you will find details regarding the Super Summer experience. Maybe you would like a personal visit or phone conversation with one of our Super Summer leaders. If so, please contact our office at 614-601-6826

to speak with Wendy Hammock who would be glad to set up a meeting for you with one of our leaders.

Thank you for helping us in Mission Ohio as we advanced student leaders for the kingdom!

Super Summer Team

SUPER SUMMER IS TAKING A HOLIDAY!

Join an intense week of Bible learning and leadership development. Super Summer is for potential leaders within your church that have completed grades 7-12th. This event is designed for any sized church whether you have 1-100 students.

REGISTER BEFORE APRIL 24 FOR \$230

Registrations April 25 through May 25, 2018 - \$275
 No Registrations accepted after May 25, 2018
\$100 deposit due at registration.
 Visit www.scbo.org to register.

SPEAKER

Doug Franklin is the president of LeaderTreks, an innovative leadership development organization focusing on students and youth workers. Doug and his wife, Angie, live in West Chicago, Illinois.



WORSHIP TEAM

HeartSong Ministries from Cedarville University exists to communicate the livable reality of the gospel as seen through genuine worship.



GAME ON!

2 PETER 1:3

VBSI

Ohio's Vacation Bible School Institute

MARCH 10, 2018 9AM - 4PM

DUBLIN BAPTIST CHURCH

7195 Coffman Road - Dublin, Ohio



REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW THROUGH
FEBRUARY 26, 2018
COST \$15/PERSON (INCLUDES LUNCH)
\$20/PERSON AT THE DOOR

FREE JUMP START KIT TO THE FIRST
10 CHURCHES WHO REGISTER 8 OR MORE!

LIFEWAY VBS BOOKSTORE ON SITE!

**NEW! - DIRECTORS, PLACE YOUR
ELECTRONIC PREORDERS
OF \$100 OR MORE BY FEBRUARY 10
AND RECIEVE A SPECIAL GIFT!**

www.scbo.org

For more information contact
Wendy Hammock: wendy@scbo.org



**Cant make it March 10th?
CHECK OUT OUR VBS CLINICS:**
Saturday, April 21, 2018
9:00am to 12:00pm
FBC Vandalia
Tuesday, April 24, 2018
7:00pm to 9:00pm
Fellowship Baptist
Maineville



In January, the SCBO sent a team of nine leaders to the Vacation Bible School Institute in Ridgecrest, North Carolina. While there, the team was able to receive training and gain insights into LifeWay's 2018 Vacation Bible School, which is titled "Game On!" Each member from the Ohio team spent time in various core and breakout sessions that were taught by LifeWay's VBS experts. After gleaning as much classroom information as possible, our team reconvened with teams from other states to experience an entertaining and high-energy Game On! Pep Rally.

As one might suspect based on the name, this year's VBS theme places an

emphasis on sports. Game On! is going to present fantastic opportunities for churches to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with their neighbors. We live in a culture where family schedules are inundated with children's athletic events. Simultaneously, we find ourselves immersed in cheering on our favorite college and pro teams. As such, Game On! should prove to be a very attractive VBS theme to our sports-crazed communities. LifeWay was very intentional in creating a VBS curriculum that encompasses every aspect of a game-day atmosphere. This is apparent through their emphasis on the band, cheerleaders, and fans as well

as the athletes. There is truly something for everyone at the Game On! VBS.

This year's VBS scripture is 2 Peter 1:3 (CSB): "His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness." The VBS motto of "Gear Up! Get Ready! Game On!" will serve as a daily call to prepare the participants for action. The themes for the five daily lessons will be: Jesus Cares About Me, Jesus Gives Me Hope, Jesus Helps Me Believe, Jesus Loves Me, and Jesus Gives Me Joy.

Make certain your church is adequately prepared for VBS this summer. There is no better way to do so

than signing up to attend Ohio's Vacation Bible School Institute (VBSI). This year VBSI will be at Dublin Baptist Church in Dublin, Ohio, on Saturday, March 10th. Your attendance will give you the opportunity to be trained on the best ways to integrate the crafts, Bible lessons, recreation, and snacks for an enjoyable, memorable, and successful VBS. So come geared up and be ready to get your Game On! <http://www.scbo.org/event/vbsi-ohio-vacation-bible-school-institute> Further information please call Wendy Hammock at 614-601-6826.



DR Update



Ohio Southern Baptist Churches Donate Items for Hurricane Victims

When Hurricane Harvey hit the Texas and Louisiana coasts bringing devastation to hundreds of thousands of people, Ohio Southern Baptist Churches immediately began seeking ways to assist those affected. Then, Hurricane Irma began her trek up through Florida and Georgia, again bringing devastation to many thousands of people. The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio Disaster Relief (SCBODR) Coordinator, Sam Kelley, created an "In-Kind" donation list and posted it on the SCBO web page. Several churches have responded by collecting items on the list and by making monetary donations to the SCBODR team.

The FBC of West Jefferson donated fifteen (15) \$50.00, Home Depot prepaid cards. The cards were immediately sent to the Director of the Southern Baptist Texas Convention in Grapevine, Texas. The cards will be used to minister to victims and allow them to purchase items they need most in their recovery.

Several other churches around the state collected many "In-Kind" items, monetary donations were made, and additional gift cards were donated. An Ohio Voluntary Organization

Active in Disaster (VOAD) member took these items to the disaster site and some were put on a cargo bin and sent to Puerto Rico by the VOAD partner.

Pastor Gregory Royce, Life Brand Cowboy Church, Painesville, "ram-rodged" collection of items from churches in his area of the Cleveland Hope Association. He arranged for delivery of the items by Kreigh Spahr, Action in Motion – Workforce Training Academy, to an Amerisource Bergen warehouse in Lockbourne, Ohio. Mr. Spahr was accompanied by Jason Kamp, who assists in the work of the workforce-training academy – tractor

trailer driving training.

Pastor Royce assisted in gathering approximately nine hundred (900) cases of water, forty (40) clean-up buckets, baby diapers, and comfort health kits. He also provided \$ 598.00 in monetary donations to assist in delivery of the items to disaster victims. The items were initially headed to Texas, then were targeted for Florida, then Texas, and then again to Florida. As only Our God can do, He rerouted the items to Puerto Rico! The AmerisourceBergen, a drug wholesale company, offered to transport them, at their expense, to the Puerto Rico location! What an awesome

God we serve. He used Candice Young, Operations Director and member of Violet Baptist Church to make this happen. A third load of donations was delivered to our VOAD partner to begin another cargo bin of items to be sent to Puerto Rico.

Ohio Southern Baptist Churches have made an impact in meeting the needs of recent disaster survivors. Thank you for your support and for showing God's Love to those in need.

We are no longer collecting "In-Kind" donations for these hurricane disasters.



2018 Training Sessions

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

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

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



Dates

May 18-19, 2018

Bluffton Baptist Church
 345 Country Line Road
 Bluffton, Ohio 45817

November 16-17, 2018

Hillcrest Baptist Church
 820 Central Avenue
 Carlisle, Ohio 45005

Schedule

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

Registration
 "Involving Southern Baptists in Disaster Relief"

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

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

Shower Trailer

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



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

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

Mud Out



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

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

Child Care



Core Values

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

Our Mission

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

Vision

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

Chain Saw

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

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



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

Food Service

Missions
 Support + Mobilization



**MT. CALVARY
BAPTIST CHURCH**

REGISTER TODAY!

April 13-14, 2018

271 Center Rd. Bedford, OH 44146

www.mtcalvaryofbedford.org

FOURTH ANNUAL **LEAD WELL** LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

“Dream Big”

Conference Speakers



Stephen Owens

Mt. Calvary
Baptist Church



Chad Allen

Cuyahoga Valley
Church



Tom Pendergrass

Urbancrest
Baptist Church



Duane Floro

Mission Support &
Mobilization SCBO



David Gray

First Baptist Church
of Garrettsville

“FOLLOW ME AS I FOLLOW CHRIST” ~ 1 CORINTHIANS 11:1



**MT. CALVARY
BAPTIST CHURCH**
271 Center Rd.
Bedford, OH 44146

Who should attend?

Church Planters, Pastors, Leaders, Managers, Entrepreneurs

“FOLLOW ME AS I FOLLOW CHRIST” ~ 1 CORINTHIANS 11:1

- **SESSION 1: Dreaming in HD**
Stephen Owens
- **SESSION 2: The #1 Dream Killer**
Chad Allen
- **SESSION 3: Putting Steps to the Dream**
Tom Pendergrass
- **SESSION 4: Living Out the Dream**
Duane Floro
- **SESSION 5: Dreaming of the Power of the Gospel**
David Gray

Space is limited!

REGISTER

\$10 before Jan. 31st

\$15 after Feb. 1st

Registration includes lunch on Sat.

www.mtcalvaryofbedford.org

PH. 440-232-6702

TIME

Friday: 6pm-7pm Registration

7pm-9pm Conference Session

Saturday: 8:30am-9am Registration

9:30am-3:30pm Conference Sessions

★ PRAY FOR AMERICA ★

UNITY

EPHESIANS 4:3
MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO KEEP THE UNITY
OF THE SPIRIT THROUGH THE BOND OF PEACE.

MAY 3, 2018

#PRAY4UNITY
NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG



New Pastor & Staff Orientation



March 13, 2018

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

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

The New Pastor and Staff Orientation provides opportunity to meet the State Resource Team Leaders and learn what resources are available. There is no registration fee; however, advance registration is necessary through Linnett Snodgrass. Spouses are invited and encouraged to attend. Orientation begins at 9:30 a.m. and concludes by 3:00 p.m. Contact Linnett Snodgrass (lsnodgrass@scbo.org or 614-601-6876) for more information.

HAVE YOU PACKED YOUR BAGS?

You are probably thinking, "Where would I be going in this January sub-zero weather? It is freezing in all of the southern states!"

You are right however in December, 2017, 643 packed bags better known as "Christmas Back Packs" for Appalachian Mountain Ministries left Ohio to be distributed in the cold mountains of Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia. They warmed the hearts of 643

children, who found out that Southern Baptists in Ohio loved them and cared about their needs and the poverty that exists in their daily lives. Greater than that, they found out that there is a God who has a love for them and wants to give them the greater gift of salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ.

We are praising the Lord that the final total from Southern Baptist churches in 15 states, and other sources,

came to a GRAND TOTAL of 74,376 backpacks that were distributed to children in the Appalachian Mountains and in our own state of Ohio.

In the area where the Christmas Backpacks from Ohio Baptists were delivered, 280 boys and girls prayed to receive Christ. HALLELUJAH!" To God be the glory, great things He hath done!"

If you didn't have a chance to get your bags packed to be sent to Appalachia

in 2017, you will get that chance in 2018. The children will be waiting for your backpacks.

For more information on how to sign up to go with us or on how to pack a back pack please contact me at: 11kidsnanny@gmail.com, (937) 609-0231.

Barbara De Lorme, Ohio WMU Appalachian Mountain Ministry Coordinator



Jack Kwok, State Convention Executive Director-Treasurer, Editor; Linnett Snodgrass, Administrative Assistant; Amanda Mishne, Publication Layout.
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PRESS TOWARD THE MARK

According to 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, we the children of God are His ambassadors of reconciliation. Reconciliation to God through Jesus Christ is fundamental to all genuine reconciliation. It is provided exclusively through the redemptive atonement from the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is the glorious Gospel which effects reconciliation between God and the individual who believes the Gospel, repents of sin, and receives Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Once an individual is reconciled to God, it is axiomatic that the vertically

reconciled believer will desire horizontal reconciliation among other peoples. The ministry of reconciliation in horizontal relationships extends to any barrier erected due to the sinful fall of humanity: race, gender, age, social, geographic, etc.

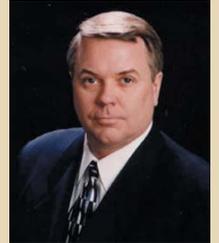
To be sure, effective horizontal reconciliation derives from a genuine vertical reconciliation with God through Jesus Christ. However, genuine vertical reconciliation produces a desire to effect horizontal reconciliation. This is the ministry of reconciliation.

Southern Baptists celebrate the ministry of reconciliation during

the month of February. February 11 is Race Relations Sunday, and February 12-18 is Focus on WMU. Woman's Missionary Union has rallied Southern Baptists to support Biblical reconciliation through worldwide missions since 1888.

Ohio Southern Baptists are making significant contributions in both vertical and horizontal reconciliation. As a result of the experience of personal reconciliation with God through Jesus Christ, reconciled believers form communities of reconciliation to transform the larger communities in which they live.

Mission Ohio is the attempt of Southern Baptists to lead one million individuals to experience personal reconciliation by the end of 2020. These one-million believers can have a dramatic, positive influence upon Ohio as ambassadors and ministers of reconciliation. Let us press toward this mark.



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

How to Become a Christian

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

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

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

THIRD, you must believe that Jesus came to this earth, was actually God in the flesh, lived a perfect life, and yet went to a cruel cross, dying for your sins, paying once and for all the penalty of sin (1 Peter 2:24).

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

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

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

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

How to submit Church News

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