

PUBLICATION OF THE STATE CONVENTION OF BAPTISTS IN OHIO

OHIO BAPTIST MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 2017 | VOLUME 65 NO. 1



Giving a Good Night's Sleep on Martin Luther King Jr. Day



Pastor Daniel Stevenson

The Life Station NWOBA held a Martin Luther King Jr. Day Mattress give away. Ninety-seven brand new in the box high quality gel memory foam mattresses were given away one per household. Families with members formerly sleeping on the floor, on air mattresses, or on mattresses decades old were blessed to receive the mattresses. This event was the second of its kind after a similar delivery

was made back in November.

Clients rallied together to find a way to transport the mattresses home strapping them to the tops of cars, cramming them into cars and mini-vans, and in many cases carrying them by hand. Sixty-nine families were also helped with emergency food and toiletries on Monday, January 16th. God also provided the fruit with sixteen first time decisions for Christ. Sixteen brand new Christians!

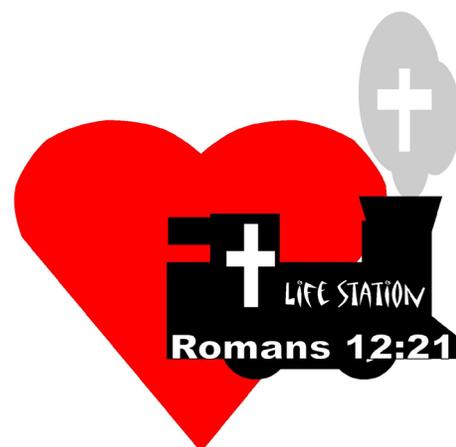
The mattresses were donated by a community partner in Mississippi and transported to Toledo by Dwayne and Sam, two faithful members of Belden Baptist church in

Mississippi. The other supplies were donated by individuals, churches, businesses, and the Toledo Seagate food bank. The Life Station is a 501-C3 non-profit dedicated to overcoming evil with good in Toledo. Director Pastor Daniel Stevenson was quoted as saying, "If it were not for the generosity of all involved the event would not have been possible. It is proof positive that when people set aside their differences they can make a meaningful difference in the lives of their neighbors."

The Life Station is on Facebook at facebook.

com/lifestationtoledo.

Further questions may be directed to Director Pastor Daniel Stevenson at 419-469-0270 or via email at afamilyofgod@bex.net



#PrayOhio! 2017 Prayer Initiative – It’s not too late to pray!

Encouraged by Steve Gaines, SBC President and pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, churches all across the convention participated in a call to prayer during January. If your church didn’t get to participate in January, it’s not too late to pray!

Gaines is quoted by SBC Today: “I am convinced that prayer should be the number one priority for every Christian. Talking with and listening to God as we read His Word are the most important things we do. Without these disciplines, we cut off the flow

of the Holy Spirit’s power. We cut Him off from speaking to our hearts and giving us direction. The Southern Baptist Convention needs to be a people of prayer. Only then will God send the power we need to fulfill the Great Commission.”

Several resources are available at InAllThingsPray.net, a web page created by members of PrayerLink, a network of state convention and SBC entity prayer leaders partnering together to call and equip Southern Baptists to a renewed life of prayer to impact a lost world. A Great Commission Prayer Experience, utilizing a 10-20-30 model, follows the missions and ministry structure of Acts 1:8. (Available on the website or by contacting SteveHopkins@scbo.org)

Many have been praying and longing for another Great Awakening to sweep our land. The Father started every great harvest time in history with the concerted

A Great Commission Prayer Experience



10 MINUTES
Scripture reading, public leadership, and worship

20 MINUTES
Sharing prayer concerns related to the session focus

30 MINUTES
Guided and conversational seasons of individual, group, and corporate prayer

prayer of His people. Jeremiah Lamphier, started a noonday prayer meeting 160 years ago in New York City. Six people came to the first prayer meeting, but within six months, ten thousand businessmen gathered daily for prayer.

Revival swept the city, and the whole nation paid attention. By 1958 people were gathered every night in cities and small towns all over America for prayer. In two years one million new believers were added to churches in America, out of a population of thirty million. (J. Edwin Orr, *The Light of the Nations*, 103-105) Revival of the same proportion today could

mean ten million new believers added to His church, in America alone! Imagine what that could mean if it also fueled our passion to take the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Join other Southern Baptists seeking a movement of God as we prayer together for the lost, for our nation, and for the world. (For resources on prayer visit InAllThingsPray.net and scbo.org/pray or contact SteveHopkins@scbo.org)



IN ALL THINGS PRAY

MY FAMILY • MY COMMUNITY • MY CHURCH • MY COUNTRY • MY WORLD



BOYS AND GIRLS GRADES 1-12



SENECA LAKE BAPTIST ASSEMBLY

JUNE 12-16
2017 MISSION CAMP

DIVE IN TO:
SEEING GOD AT WORK
KNOWING JESUS
SALVATION
GOD’S LOVE

Visit SCBO.ORG
for more information.

From the Desk of the President

All in! This is a phrase that many times is connected to some athletic team that communicates a high level of commitment as well as a willingness to put everything on the line for that particular cause. I love the picture that this paints for us and I believe that this is a phrase that needs to accompany those who have connected themselves to the Bride of Christ, the church.

In John 15:1—5, Jesus tells us, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and

I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.” This is truly a picture of being “All in.” And a major key to this is found in the last part of verse 5, where Jesus says, “Apart from Me, you can do nothing.” So to be “All in”, we must abide in Christ.

The question now becomes, what does this look like for us as we seek to become more like Christ and to abide with Him? I think putting basic disciplines in practice will not only keep us connected to Christ, but will be the miracle grow formula to great growth in Christ personally and in the churches we serve.

- We must constantly be developing our relationship with Christ. This is not just for the congregation, but for the pastors of our churches.
- We must constantly create time for God in the course of each day. We know that life gets busy and things come

up, but creatively carving out the best of our day to connect with Christ is key.

- We must be consistent and committed to the process. Don’t give up. Keep doing what God has called you to do. Stay consistent and committed, believe in the process.
- We must choose to be a regular giver. This giving is of our time, energy, resources, everything. I think this applies personally as well as corporately, through our CP gifts. We know that our people can accomplish great things when we come together and that is magnified exponentially when our churches come together.
- We must fully utilize our talents and gifts. When we use what God has gifted us with for the purposes of kingdom advancement and life change, we see miraculous acts of God.
- We must place everything in the hands of God. Not just the things we can’t handle, but every single thing, the



David Starry

good, the bad and the ugly. When we abide in Christ, He fuels our hunger for change and our thirst for righteousness and we see a tree that bears much fruit for the kingdom of God.

Thank you for your faithfulness to the preaching of God’s Word, the care for His church, your ministry to your communities, the work of Mission Ohio and the cooperative work of seeing the Gospel move through all parts of our world.

Live Life With Your Head Up,
David Starry
SCBO President

Jack Kwok, State Convention Executive Director-Treasurer, Editor; Linnett Snodgrass, Administrative Assistant; Amanda Mishne, Publication Layout.
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How to submit Church News

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

2017 Winter Retreat



By: *Tim Binns*

This year's winter retreat like many in the past felt almost like a fall retreat. The weather was so mild. The 354 in attendance were able to focus

on One during the weekend – One God, One Mission, One Step. Our youth strategist, Tim Binns, served as the preacher, and Cedarville University's Heartsong led in

worship. For the second year, Logan Murphy of Elevate24.org led the recreation. The youth were able to play organized games, tournament games as well as crazy games

like crab soccer with giant beach balls. Registration for all 3 weeks of kids camps as well as all 3 weeks of youth camps will be online soon. Do not miss out this summer!

Women's Spring Retreats

Save the Date!
Southwest Regional Women's Spring Retreat
March 25, 2017
FBC Waynesville
 1009 Lytle Ave. - Waynesville, OH 45068

\$20 if pre registered \$25 at the door
 Contact the Greater Dayton Association Office for more information, (937) 233-3999

"My Place in God's Puzzle"

This is what the Lord says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the Lord, "and will bring you back from captivity."
Jeremiah 29:10-14

North Women's Retreat
Flipping for Jesus
April 7-8, 2017
Sawmill Creek Resort
 (Hotel style rooms with conference center areas and pool)
\$80 per person

RSVP to: North Eaton Baptist Church at 440-506-3837 or email Rachel Carter at northcoastba@windstream.net You can also request a packet to be mailed to you. **REGISTRATION DEADLINE MARCH 6th**

Join us at the
Metro Columbus Spring Retreat

April 29 from 9-3
Guide Church in Hilliard
Focusing on Faith, Freedom, Forgiveness & Inspiration.

Cost is \$25
Register at www.scbo.org

James 1:4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Cedarville University and the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio present

Worship 4:24 Conference

January 27-28, 2017 | worship424.com



WORSHIP 4:24
SPIRIT + TRUTH

Worship 4:24 is a wrap for 2017 but not without a lot of great memories and lifelong lessons. Gateway Worship led our sessions with power and the presence of God. Mike Harland spoke with conviction and purpose. Our conference facilitators were some of the best ever assembled. They brought to the table ideas and practical steps to help all of us who lead worship every Sunday.

Although we had a little snow and a lot of wind for the weekend our hearts were warmed by the Spirit of God as we

worshipped in song and engaged in the Word. We were reminded that having a spirit of discontentment is an extremely dangerous place to be. Hold to fact that God has you exactly where He wants you at this season of life. Be content to fulfill the role you play in worship and allow God to use you to your fullest extent!

Bottom line, it was a great weekend of worship, teaching, networking, and fellowship. We have already started the process of working on the conference

for next year. Remember these dates, January 26-27, 2018 and mark it on your calendar. As we receive more information we will forward it on to you by using the app or the website.

Do not forget "Worship Him in spirit and in truth!"

Blessings,

Dwayne Lee

The Bible Teaching/Leadership Resource Group



Galactic Starveyors: God is Over the Moon

By: Rachel Carter,
North Eaton Baptist

In January, the state VBS team traveled to Ridgecrest North Carolina to attend training provided by LifeWay Specialists. During these three days, we were able to see first hand how this summer's VBS curriculum is geared to teach students about the God of the Galaxy. This summer during Bible study, we will see that God rules through His creation, but unfortunately we sinned and ruined our relationship; however, our amazing God provided a plan and Jesus fulfilled that plan through his death. On the last day, the children will come to understand that everyone

must choose to follow Christ; just as Jesus said: "Peter, do you love Me?" The great part about VBS is that the Galactic Starveyors theme will be carried into all areas, such as: crafts, missions, recreation, and music. During craft time, the kids will create mementos that will remind them of the various aspects of creation and the Bible stories. During music time, the songs will encourage the kids to praise, sing, and dance all while singing about God being over the moon, His creation of the stars, and the effects of sin. Kids will enjoy the challenging games at recreation, as well as, learning about our two missionaries featured in Missions this year.

The state VBS team has come back excited about what God has done and is going to do in your church this summer through VBS. We are looking forward to sharing all that we have learned at our state Vacation Bible School Institute on Saturday, March 4th at Violet Baptist Church. This one day event will prepare your teachers, directors, and pastors with the knowledge and resources available from LifeWay regarding Galactic Starveyors. We encourage you to bring your whole team and attend core classes for each aspect of VBS such as Bible Study, Crafts, Missions, Music, Decorations, and Recreation. During this training, you and your

team will also be given the opportunity to attend two supplemental breakouts of your choice that will be beneficial to all areas of children's ministry. To end our day together, you and your team won't want to miss our Family Fun Night Rally. We will be giving away prizes, playing games and sharing what is possible with a Galactic Starveyors Event. A LifeWay bookstore will be available. Don't delay: Register Today! www.scbo.org/VBSI

God is Over the Moon and We are Over the Moon about Galactic Starveyors.

Visit www.scbo.org for more information.



The celestial team that traveled to the Ridgecrest meeting by the clubhouse.



Some of our Ohio Team hanging out with "Comet" Skywalker.



VBSI 2017

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL INSTITUTE

MARCH 4, 2017

VIOLET BAPTIST CHURCH, PICKERINGTON, OHIO

REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW THROUGH FEBRUARY 17, 2017
COST \$10/PERSON (INCLUDES LUNCH)

LIFEWAY VBS BOOKSTORE ON SITE! PLACE YOUR PREORDERS BY
FEBRUARY 26, 2017.

BRING NEW LIFE TO YOUR
SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY AT



MARCH 17-18, 2017

ON TRACK

Sunday School Conference

WITH ALLAN TAYLOR AND ERIC GEIGER

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HENDERSONVILLE

GREATER NASHVILLE AREA

Nashville
MUSIC CITY

Schedule

Friday, March 17, 2017

- 5:30pm Registration
- 6:30pm General Session, Eric Geiger
- 7:30pm Break
- 7:45pm Age Division Breakout Sessions
- 8:45pm Dismiss

Saturday, March 18, 2017

- 8:00 am Age Division Breakout Sessions
- 9:00 am Break
- 9:15 am General Session, Allan Taylor
- 10:15 am Break
- 10:30 am Topical Breakout Sessions
- 11:15 am Break
- 11:30 am Topical Breakout Sessions
(Repeat of previous Topical Session)

LIFEWAY.COM/ONTRACK

LifeWay



OBCD

OHIO BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF

June 23 to 25, 2017

Liberty Heights Church
7904 Princeton Road
Liberty Township, OH 45044

For more Information and
Registration contact
Beth Tanner at OBCDinfo@gmail.com

If you have a Deaf Church, Bible Study Class, or Interpreted Ministry to the Deaf, we would like to add your Church's ministry to our database.

Please send information & contact person to Sam Kelley,
Missions Support & Mobilization Team
9000 Antares Avenue
Columbus, OH 43240
(614)601-6852 or skelley@scbo.org



OBCD is looking for qualified Sign Language Interpreters to facilitate communication at state wide SCBO events.

If you are an ASL Interpreter (certification is not needed) please send a short video or a video link of you interpreting a short program with your contact information to:

Beth Tanner
215 West Kemper Road
Cincinnati OH 45246
or ehtanner@fuse.net (subject: OBCD)



Mark Your Calendars!

Church Planters

Forum

May 4 & 5, 2017



The Forum is a time for Ohio church planters and wives who are within the first four years of their plant to fellowship with and learn from each other. There is no charge to planters for this event; food and lodging will be paid for with Cooperative Program funds. Associational Missionaries and Church Planter Catalysts are also invited.

We will begin at 10:00 AM on Thursday, May 4th at Dublin Baptist Church, 7195 Coffman Road, Dublin and conclude early afternoon Friday, the 5th. Lodging will be provided at an area hotel.

We are happy to offer an extra night's lodging (Friday, the 5th) to planters and wives who want to extend this little getaway.

**For more information or to register,
contact Charlotte Barbo at cbarbo@scbo.org by April 15, 2017.**

State Bible Drill Competition

STATE BIBLE DRILL COMPETITION

Location:
Reynoldsburg Baptist Church
887 Rosehill Rd
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

Date & Time:
May 6th, 2017
9:30am-12:30pm
Please arrive at 9am
for registration.

State Student Speakers Competition

The 2017 Bible Drill is in full swing at churches across the state of Ohio. Children and youth in grades 3-12 are busy learning verses, key passages, and their locations in the Bible in preparation for the state drill May 6, 2017 at Reynoldsburg Baptist Church.

Bible Drill competitions are held using King James, Holman or English Standard versions. Special Bible Drill Bibles are used in the competition.

It's not too late to start Bible Drill at your church! Verses, rules and guidelines are available at www.scbo.org. For more information or to obtain the required Bibles for competition, please contact Kimberly Jackson Kubik.

The Speakers' Competition will also be held May 6, 2017 at Reynoldsburg Baptist Church. Any student in grades 10-12 interested in competing must contact coordinator Kimberly Jackson Kubik at kjax@voyager.net by March 1. Topics must be approved prior to March 1 in order for a student to compete.

**\$10 per
Person**

A One Day Mission Conference *Engage*

*Engaging society with Christ's compassion
for the purpose of making disciples*

February 4, 2017

Formerly Ohio Missions Resource Round Table

Save the Date!

Dublin Baptist Church

7195 Coffman Rd - Dublin, Ohio

Updates at SCBO.ORG

Contact: Sheri Bogardus
sbogardus@scbo.org 614.601.6814

Save the Date! February 4, 2017 – “Engage- Engaging society with Christ's compassion for the purpose of making disciples.” (formerly The Mission Resource Round Table Gathering.)

The “Engage” Gathering provides a unique opportunity to personally be on mission as a Christian both locally & globally. Have you noticed the community around you changing? Do you see many without direction to their lives? Have you sensed the hopelessness in the faces of many you see everyday? Are you concerned about the challenges so many around the globe are facing? Do you personally see the needs of neighbors and friends facing hunger, fear, rage, crime, despair, and so many other issues before us everyday? You may ask yourself, “So what can I do?”

That's what we will address at “Engage.” Think of it as providing some practical, personal, and prayerful time with others who gather to make a difference. Christ called for His people to be engaged. The good news is, He did not ask us to do this alone. We, along with other followers of Christ, empowered by Christ, can reach new heights as we take the gospel to this generation. Let's link together and reach new heights for the glory of the Lord!

For more information and to register go to www.scbo.org. You can call us and speak to Sheri Bogardus 614.601.6814 or Duane Floro 614.361.6965 for further details.

SAVE THE DATE:

Make your reservations today for Pastor Date Night!

LifeWay Pastors want to bless Ohio pastors and spouses with a fun; free date night for ministry couples on Friday, March 10. The evening will encourage ministry couples to lead healthy lives and ministries. Each couple will get a great meal, \$275 worth of LifeWay gifts, and lots of encouragement! Childcare is available on site, upon request.

A panel of ministry couples will answer your tough questions about the challenges of life and ministry. Panel will include Greg & Renee Jackson (First Southern Baptist Church, Camden), Tom & Donna Pendergrass (Urbancrest Baptist Church) and Mark & Janet Dance (LifeWay Pastors).



PASTOR DATE NIGHT

Friday, March 10, 2017
6:30 - 8:30pm
Urbancrest Baptist Church
2634 Drake Road
Lebanon, OH



Greg and Renee Jackson
First Southern Baptist Church
Camden, Ohio



Tom and Donna Pendergrass
Urbancrest Baptist Church
Lebanon Ohio



Mark & Janet Dance
LifeWay Christian Resources
Nashville, TN

Urbancrest Baptist Church, 2634 Drake Road, Lebanon, OH
March 10, 2017 6:30 – 8:30 pm

The event is “FREE”- but you must register. Same with childcare.
Almost half the reservation spots are already filled so don't delay!

Registration link: [Http://Lfwy.Co/2g1ttsz](http://Lfwy.Co/2g1ttsz)

Help Needed

Lifeguard needed for the upcoming camping season. The dates of employment would be June 5th- July 28. Anyone interested can contact me for an application here, sseder@scbo.org or 740-260-0534.

Wapakoneta Baptist Church of Wapakoneta, OH is accepting resumes for a Bi-Vocational Pastor. Interested applicants need to submit the following: Resume with a Personal statement of faith.

Contact: Clifford Butler, Pastor Search Chairman 20785 Middle Pike, Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Harrison Avenue Baptist church is searching for a new pastor. We are a traditional Southern Baptist church that is a mission oriented congregation. We are searching for a Man of God that models the teachings of Christ, has college and seminary education, strong communication skills, a visionary, practices shared leadership and decision making.

Send Resumes to:

Pastor Church Committee, Attention: John Lucus, 204 Suncrest Ct, Harrison, OH 45030

Applications will be accepted through March 31, 2017.



2017 Ohio Disaster Relief Training Sessions

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



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

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

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

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

May 19—20

**Trinity Baptist Church
891 State Route 511
Ashland, Ohio 44805**

November 17—18

**First Baptist Church
525 South 30th Street
Heath, Ohio 43056**

Friday

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

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

Saturday

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

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

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

You are welcome to bring your bed roll and sleep in the church at any training session. Meals are provided. The cost is \$35 per person or \$50 per couple (sharing a training manual).

Buckeye Baptist Builders 2017 Schedule

May 1-5, 2017

Senecea Lake Baptist Assembly

Senecaville, Ohio

Project: Prepare camp for Summer

Contact: Ray Morris 513-593-5130



May 11-13, 2017

Crossway Church

Eaton, Ohio

Project: Pitched roof over flat roof and building a connector section

Contact: Dale Patterson 614-882-1375 or 614-352-0884



June 9-16, 2017

Indian Lake Baptist Church

Lakeview, Ohio

Project: New Build

Contact: Dale Patterson 614-882-1375 or 614-352-0884



New Pastor & Staff Orientation



March 14, 2017

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

State Convention of Baptists

SCBO Resource Center

9000 Antares Avenue

Columbus, OH

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

Contact Linnett Snodgrass (lsnodgrass@scbo.org) or Bruce Smith (brucesmith@scbo.org) for more information.

Sandy Wisdom-Marton's WMU Installation Service

My first National WMU meeting was truly eye opening. I toured the WMU Building and heard from several who have such a passion for missions and drawing women to find their place of service through WMU. I would encourage each church to take a fresh look at WMU. The possibilities are endless.

While there, I was privileged to attend the installation service for our new National



Jack Kwok sharing at Sandy Wisdom Martin's installation Service.

Executive Director, Sandy Wisdom-Martin. I was excited to have several opportunities to hear from and speak with Sandy. She brings experience to the table with freshness, energy and a humble spirit. Her approachability was very apparent. I look forward to serving with her as I serve in my role here in Ohio. I would ask you to pray for her and her husband Larry as they serve.

This time also allowed me to see the many excellent resources available through WMU. WMU provides many resources to teach the "how" and "why" of missions. I was excited to hear about the online trainings offered

to better equip women regardless of where they live across the country. We were able to hear from those whose tasks are to make the message of missions clear through WMU. I learned so much from the national leadership team, the breakout sessions, the missionaries, and time with fellow executive directors.

Some might be puzzled at my position with WMU? I have already heard from some—"Isn't that a women's group?" "Why have a man to serve as the Executive Director of our WMU?" That's easy for me, because we all are to be about missions. Also, I have discovered a new meaning for WMU—"Wise Men Understand- we are all on Mission!

May the Lord continue to increase our hearts to reach the nations with the gospel. I hope you and your church will allow us to share how WMU can enrich missions throughout your congregation. We are blessed in Ohio with an outstanding WMU leadership team headed by our president, Sue Stickel. Contact Sue and let's talk!

Finally, I would ask you to attend the next WMU national meeting prior to the start of the Southern Baptist Convention in Phoenix, Arizona. Make your plans now. June 10 is our Evangelistic outreach through Crossover Phoenix; June 11-12 is our National WMU Gathering; & June 13-14 plan to attend the SBC Convention.

God bless you as we are on Mission together!

Yours to serve,
Duane Floro
Executive Director for WMU in Ohio



New WMU Executive Director Sandy Wisdom Martin



Bill Barker (ARM) and Duane Floro



Duane and Deana Floro, WMU National Office Lobby



PRESS TOWARD THE MARK

Our Heavenly Father blessed Mission Ohio tremendously during 2016. Listed below are some of the highlights.

Messengers and guests convened for the November 2, 2016 annual meeting of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio. They did so with celebration for the blessings of the Father on Mission Ohio and commitment to the remaining task of evangelism and discipleship from Ohio to the ends of the earth. President Jeremy Westbrook, pastor of Living Hope Church in Marysville, OH, gaveled the 63rd Annual Meeting of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio to order November 2, 2016. Vandalia First Baptist Church hosted the 320 registered messengers and 23 registered guests.

The 2016 Annual Meeting Messengers elected David Starry, pastor of Vandalia First Baptist Church, as president; Tom Pendergrass, pastor of Urbancrest Baptist Church, as first vice president, and Ryan Strother, pastor of Marion Central Baptist Church, as second vice president. They

reelected Faye Rodgers as Recording Secretary and Annette Dessecker as assistant recording secretary.

Mission Ohio celebrated 25 new church starts and 5 affiliations since the last annual meeting. Not all SCBO churches have submitted their Annual Church Profile. Thus, baptism numbers for 2016 aren't available. Those who did submit their Annual Church Profile for 2015 reported 4,082 baptisms.

Messengers adopted the 2016-17 mission budget which employs a 50/50 ratio in the distribution of Cooperative Mission Program receipts from the churches. Of the undesignated receipts from SCBO churches, 50% will support worldwide Southern Baptist missions and 50% will support Mission Ohio.

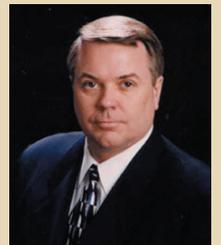
The Mission Council of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio meeting July 28, 2016 adopted without opposition the recommendation of the 50/50 Committee to move to a 50/50 distribution of Cooperative Mission Program receipts from affiliated churches beginning with the

December 2016-November 2017 budget. Members of the Mission Council subsequently approved a budget including the 50/50 distribution to be presented to the messengers of November 2, 2016 annual meeting of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio. This move to the 50/50 ratio distribution in one year represents a decrease of \$78,059 in personnel costs and an increase of 16.65% (an additional \$630,447) in contributions from the SCBO churches. This additional decrease in SCBO staffing, will bring the total to a 52% reduction in positions implemented over the years in order to continue supporting missions from Ohio to the ends of the earth.

Mission receipts for the 2015-2016 fiscal year exceeded the budget requirements. All receipts in excess of the budget requirements were divided 50-50 between SBC worldwide missions and Mission Ohio. The fiscal year for Mission Ohio is December 1 through November 30. Receipts for December, the first month of the new fiscal year were 76.7% of the budget to date.

This equates to starting the year \$206,742.23 behind budget. The need of the day is to promote and support the Cooperative Mission Program. Thank you for stepping up to the challenge of engaging SCBO churches to support Southern Baptist missions worldwide through the Cooperative Mission Program.

Mission Ohio is the cooperative effort of Southern Baptists to reach 1,000,000 believers in 2,020 congregations by the end of 2020. Supporting missions from Ohio to the ends of the earth is the heartbeat of Ohio Southern Baptists. The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio exists to assist Southern Baptist churches and associations in Ohio in obeying the Great Commission. 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 (I 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.