

PUBLICATION OF THE STATE CONVENTION OF BAPTISTS IN OHIO

OHIO BAPTIST MESSENGER

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SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION, ST. LOUIS

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JUNE 14-15, 2016

Meet Us in St. Louis
Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting
June 14-15, 2016

St. Louis, Missouri

The SBC website, <http://www.sbcannualmeeting.net/sbc16/default.asp> has information to assist your participation.

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scbo.org for
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Please join Mission Ohio in focusing Intensive Mission Projects to Affect Community Transformation on Dayton Association July 16, 2016

July 16, 2016

For project information and volunteer forms go to:
IMPACT DAYTON
www.gdba.org or
www.scbo.org



Greater Dayton Baptist
Associational Missionary
Steve Stiglich

1-937-233-3999

Speakers:



Jeremy Westbrook,
SCBO President
Pastor, Living Hope Baptist
Marysville



Tim Cline
Preaching Annual Sermon
Pastor, Chillicothe Baptist

NOVEMBER 1, 2016
MOVING FORWARD

OHIO PASTOR'S CONFERENCE 2016



Philippians 3:14

SCBO Annual Meeting
NOVEMBER 2, 2016

FBC Vandalia, 140 Elva Ct, Vandalia, OH 45377

From the Desk of the President

When our convention gathered together last November at our annual meeting at Jersey Baptist Church in Columbus, a task force comprised of godly men and women from across Ohio were commissioned to examine our current Cooperative Program (CP) funding ratio. Their task, clear, concise, and difficult, was to bring a recommendation to the July 2016 Mission Council regarding the urgency of changing our CP funding ratio from 59.75/ 40.25 to 50/50. Currently, for every dollar given to the Cooperative Program from Ohio churches, almost 60 cents stays within the state. Moving to a 50/50 ratio would increase our state funding to the Cooperative Program and would increase our funding to the Southern Baptist Conven-

tion and all the ministries it supports.

This increase in our funding ratio would position Ohio Southern Baptists to become a leader in seeing the world come to Christ (IMB and NAMB ministries), Christian leaders trained for ministry (our 6 SBC seminaries), social issues addressed with biblical clarity (ERLC ministry), and the poor helped through food distribution and disaster relief (Hunger Funds and DR ministry).

Our 50/50 task force committee gathered together in April and May to prayerfully consider how to both move forward in faith and fiscal wisdom. This committee was bathed in prayer as hundreds, if not thousands of believers from across our state and the country were praying for us.

I am happy to share with you that on May 5th, 2016, the task force committee voted and will be recommending to the July Mission Council that we move forward in faith and shift to a new CP funding ratio of 50/50 beginning with our 2017 budget!

As your President, I wholeheartedly believe that as we march toward our annual meeting in November at FBC Vandalia, this God impacted moment will stir a movement within Ohio Baptists. I have been encouraged by so many of you these past 6 months as I have met with you personally, and I sense an excitement about this shift in funding and the future of our State Convention, local associations, and individual churches! Great days are ahead for Ohio Southern Baptists!

In closing, I want to personally take this opportunity to invite you to attend our annual state convention. It is being held at FBC Vandalia, Wednesday November 2nd. The day before, Tuesday November 1st will be a new event, the 2016 Pastors Conference. In the coming months, we will be announcing our guest speakers and worship team for both meetings. Please don't miss this historic moment that I pray will ignite a movement of God within Ohio and in the nations around the world.

Moving Forward,
Dr. Jeremy Westbrook
Westbrook SCBO
President



Dr. Jeremy Westbrook

MOVING FORWARD
OHIO PASTOR'S CONFERENCE 2016
Philippians 3:14

Hold the date and make plans to attend the 2016 Ohio Pastor's Conference, Tuesday November 1, 2016 at FBC Vandalia. The Conference will begin at 2pm and will be filled with outstanding worship, excellent preaching, peer to peer encouragement and networking, and plain ole good Baptist fellowship! FREE church resources will also be provided to every pastor/staff that attends and there will be multiple ministry resource giveaways! This conference will precede our Annual State Convention meeting being held the next day, Wednesday, November 2nd at FBC Vandalia! For more information contact Jack Helton at 614.309.9738 or jackhelton@scbo.org.

This conference is underwritten by your faithful support of the Cooperative Program!

This summer at Seneca Lake



Fusion Camp
June 27-July 1
\$185 (\$50 Deposit)
Deadline June 3



Kids Kamp 1 June 20-24
\$160 (\$40 Deposit)
Deadline June 3
Kids Kamp 2 August 1-5
\$150 (\$30 Deposit)
Deadline July 1



Youth Camp 1 - July 11-15
Youth Camp 2 - July 18-22
Youth Camp 3 - July 25-29
\$165 (\$40 Deposit)
Deadline June 24

Registration Deadlines are fast approaching!
Go to sco.org/slba-events for event details and to register!

2016 State Bible Drills

By Kimberly Kubik

Students from across Ohio competed May 7 at the State Bible Drill at Reynoldsburg Baptist Church. The Children's Drill featured 10 state winners. Haley Daulton (Parma), Nolan Hardert (New Carlisle), and Ksena Reed (Reynoldsburg) were all state winner perfect, meaning they made no mistakes during the drill.

Matthew Allen (Reynoldsburg) won the High School Drill, followed closely by Elizabeth Kastelein (Parma) in second, and Joseph Mosher (FBC Kettering) third. Victoria Rickard (Reynoldsburg) and David Imre (Parma) were also declared state winners. Elizabeth Kastelein will be

representing Ohio at the National Invitational Bible Drill in Dallas TX June 17.

The Youth Drill featured four competitors, with Samuel Mosher (Kettering) finishing first, Kasi Reed second and Elizabeth Allen (both Reynoldsburg).

This year marked the first year students were recognized for competing at state for three or six years. In 2016, Scott Fannin, Brianna Rickard, Kasi Reed and Victoria Rickard (all Reynoldsburg) Matthew Bonifield (Kettering), Bradley Burk (Parma) and Nolan Hardert (New Carlisle) competed in their third State Drill. Elizabeth and Matthew Allen (Reynoldsburg) were competing in their sixth State Drill.

Verses for the 2016-2017 drills will be posted on the SCBO website this fall. If you need more information or are interested in starting Bible Drill or the Speakers' Competition, please contact Kimberly Jackson Kubik via email at kjax@voyager.net

Congratulations to all the Bible Drillers throughout the state. Regardless of how a participant places in the drills, the more important thing is the memorization and retention of God's word.

Captions:
Tops: State Drill participants at Reynoldsburg BC
Middle: L-R Elizabeth Allen, Samuel Mosher, Kasi Reed
Bottom: L-R Joseph Mosher, Matthew Allen, Elizabeth Kastelein
Photo credit: Thomas Bonifield



Pray Ohio

2016 Prayer Initiative May: Praying for our Children as Missionaries

Parents often discover the focus of prayers for their children needs adjustment. When you first get the news you're expecting, Christ-followers begin to pray, first for a healthy pregnancy and birth for mother and child. Even before birth we pray Scripture prayers, praying the children will "grow and become strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and Your grace be upon them... May they increase in wisdom and stature, finding favor with God and man." (Luke 2:40, 52); and that they come to "know the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make them wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." (2 Timothy 3:15) Perhaps no prayer is more important than they know the saving grace of the gospel. We pray as parents we "bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4) We began early praying for our girls' future husbands, that they would love Jesus and love them as He loves the church (Ephesians 5:25).

Then came the teenage years. Perhaps your prayers reached an intensity level you never thought possible. We prayed, "the God of peace,

sanctify them completely; and may their whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thessalonians 5:23) As they make important decisions about friends, with whom to accept a ride, where to hang out, church, school, career, and spouse; the list keeps growing, we pray. As our children take those first steps of adulthood, we realized there is no expiration date on children, we still pray for them, as much as, and maybe more, than before. They launch a career, purchase their first home, and find their place of service to our Lord and His church – all matters of prayer. They bless us with grandchildren, and we pray for them as parents.

Recently, while attending the Missionary Parent Fellowship at the International Learning Center in Richmond, we were challenged by Larry and Sharon Pumpelly (missionaries from Ohio) to develop a prayer strategy for our missionary children. Our daughter, son-in-law and three grandchildren serve an unreached people group with the International Mission Board. Our other daughter, son-in-law and two grand-

children serve as missionaries with unreached neighbors, family, and friends, on the job, and with our local church – also on mission. She and her husband are leading a trip to support her sister and family on the field. So our prayer focus adjusts again.

Using the adage, 'prayer must be Scripture-led and Spirit-fed,' again, we look to the Scriptures for guidance. D.A. Carson in his book *Praying with Paul* (Baker, 2014) [p. 186-201], outlines a strategy for praying for missionaries based on Romans 15:30-33. Understanding prayer is not like a good recipe: simply follow a set of mechanical directions and everything turns out right in the end; there are some essential elements of praying for those on mission found in these few verses.

First, note the earnestness, urgency, and persistence that must characterize our praying. Paul passionately asked, 'I beg you... strive together with me in prayers to God for me.' He speaks of praying like the strenuous discipline of an athlete.

"That is why Samuel Zwemer, groundbreaking missionary to Muslim lands, could utter his famous saying, 'Prayer is

the gymnasium of the soul.' ... Paul understands real praying to include an element of struggle, discipline, work, spiritual agonizing against the dark powers of evil." (Carson, p. 188)

Praying this way takes the spiritual battle seriously and puts on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-20). To be on mission is a declaration of war, and we must fight with spiritual weapons, primarily earnest, urgent, persistent prayer. (2 Corinthians 10:4-6) Note, not based on his authority or their strength, but 'through the Lord Jesus Christ and through the love of the Spirit.' (Romans 15:30)

Second, notice Paul's prayer requests. He asked them to pray he would 'be delivered from those in Judea who do not believe.' (v. 31) In many ways, when we are on mission, we are behind enemy lines, taking ground the enemy does not want to give up. Those of us who hold the spiritual rope of prayer need to remember the risk and pray for their safety. Paul also requests 'that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints.' Even among underserved, unreached and unengaged people groups,

there will be believers. Some will be new believers that need to grow; others will be weary from the work or discouraged by persecution. Pray for the hard work of disciple-making, encouraging and equipping the saints for the work of ministry. (Ephesians 4:11-16)

Lastly, pray for the vision to be refreshed and expanded. When Paul asked them to pray 'that I may come to you with joy by the will of God, and may be refreshed together with you,' (v. 32) he was not just asking for a vacation. We learn in the background verses (Romans 15:14-29) he was traveling to Rome, on his way to Spain. His desire was to 'preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, (so that) ...those who have not heard shall understand.' (v. 20-21) In addition to praying for health and safety, the effective sharing of the gospel and disciple-making efforts, pray they keep before them the next step, the big picture. Missionaries often speak of 'working themselves out of a job, 'being able to hand off the ministry when the time is right. They want more than just to get through another day, though it may feel that way at times. There are present challenges, but also new opportunities. They have a passion for the gospel to be shared with those who

have not heard. "One of the constitutional enforcements of the gospel is prayer. Without prayer, the gospel can neither be preached effectively, promulgated faithfully, experienced in the heart, nor be practiced in the life. And for the very simple reason that by leaving prayer out of the catalogue of religious duties, we leave God out, and His work cannot progress without Him." (E.M. Bounds quoted by Carson, p. 198)

We must understand the importance of strategic, intentional, prayer support for the sake of the gospel. Jesus taught us when we see the overwhelming need for the gospel to pray for more laborers. (Matthew 9:36-38) We know the need to pray for church planting here, we must never neglect to pray for the harvest some of us will never see. There are around 11,500 people groups in the world (people groups have a common self-identity, based mostly on language and ethnicity). Over half of these people groups (around 6,800) are less than two percent Christian. Nearly half those, (roughly 3,200) do not have any Christians at all and are not being engaged in with the gospel in any way. "No Bible. No churches. No missionaries.

No spiritual light." (Kendrick, Stephen and Alex The Battle Plan for Prayer [Broadman & Holman, 2015] p. 215) Perspective: The world population is about seven billion, the U.S. is around 320 million, is less than five percent of the global population. God's heart is for the nations. (Isaiah 56:7; 2 Peter 3:9) The fields are white for harvest. (John 4:35) Chuck Lawless challenges us to think and pray Great Commission:

"Many of us have more Bibles in our home than we have human beings. Meanwhile, only about 550 languages of the world's 7000 languages have the whole Bible in that language. About 1800 languages still have none of the Bible translated. A single 30-minute sermon is more time in the Word than 3 billion+ people in the world have had engaging the Word in their entire lifetime. ...All of us are recipients of somebody else's Great Commission obedience. How can we not do the same for others?" (See more at chucklawless.com)

Paul's rock-solid conviction that the Father fulfills His purposes in response to the prayers of His people motivates him to pray often for the saints, and urge them to pray for him. He understands that if his dreams for the gospel

are to be realized, he is utterly dependent on the Father.

Andrew Fuller helped found the Baptist Missionary Society in 1782. The society's first missionary William Carey left everything for India with Dr. John Thomas, totally dependent on the Father and the prayers of others. Before departing he told Fuller and others:

"Our undertaking to India really appeared to me, on its commencement, to be somewhat like a few men, who were deliberating about the importance of penetrating into a deep mine, which had never before been explored, we had no one to guide us; and while we were deliberating, Carey, as it were, said, 'Well, I will go down, if you will hold the rope.'" (John Piper, Andrew Fuller: I Will Go Down If You Will Hold the Rope! Desiring God, p. 4-5)

We must not fail to hold the rope.

Links in the article:
Prayer Initiative March: Week of Prayer for North American Missions
<http://www.scbo.org/news/2016-prayer-initiative-march-6-13-%E2%80%93-week-prayer-north-american-missions>

Chuck Lawless – 10 Great Commission Thoughts to Challenge You Today
<http://chucklawless.com/2016/04/10-great-commission-thoughts-to-challenge-you-today/>

Ohio Baptist Convention of the Deaf (OBCD) is having their 45th conference on June 24 to 26, 2016 at Emmanuel Baptist Church of the Deaf in Columbus.

Website: ohiobcdeaf.weebly.com

Contact: obcdinfo@yahoo.com

Jeremy Westbrook named NAMB ambassador to Ohio

By Tobin Perry

MARYSVILLE, Ohio— State Convention of Baptists in Ohio President Jeremy Westbrook will serve as the North American Mission Board's ambassador to Ohio pastors. He will continue to serve as pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church in Marysville.

Westbrook will be connecting with pastors to express gratitude on behalf of NAMB president Kevin Ezell for their contributions to the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering®. He will also be a resource for pastors who want more information about how their churches can be involved in church planting efforts in North America.

"My role is not to invent anything," Westbrook said. "My role is to reaffirm the values and the family system of NAMB. That is where NAMB comes along side of the churches to help support them on mission. I want to thank the pastors, planters and leaders of our state for their support and to encourage them to continue their Cooperative Program giving. I believe the two most powerful words in the English language are 'thank you.' I'm excited about the opportunity to say that to Ohio Baptists on behalf of NAMB."

Westbrook planted Living Hope seven years ago. Since it launched on Easter of 2009, the church has grown to between 350 and 400 in attendance on a typical Sunday morning. Living Hope has

baptized 200 people in the past seven years. In 2014 the church planted its first daughter church, Lifespring Church in Worthington, Ohio. It is already making plans to start a second church within the next 18 months. Living Hope Baptist has church planting partnerships in five Send North America cities: Columbus, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Los Angeles and Phoenix.

As a church planter, Westbrook says he learned more about the value of cooperative missions through his partnership with NAMB, and he looks forward to passing that along to fellow Ohio Baptists.

"I want to inform churches in our state about a family they may not know about—the NAMB family, who wants to come alongside of you and support you as you lead your church on mission and to multiply," Westbrook said.

Westbrook and his family moved to Marysville from Memphis, Tenn., where he served as the collegiate and evangelism pastor at Kirby Woods Baptist Church. He earned an M.Div from Mid-America

Baptist Theological Seminary and a D.Min. from the Billy Graham School at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Besides being the president of the state convention, Westbrook is currently on the SBC Committee on Committees and the Stowe Mission Center Board. He also previously served as the vice president of the SBC Pastors' Conference. Westbrook and his wife,

Jennifer, have been married since 2002. They have three children: Caden, Abigail and Jackson.

To find out more about how your church can be more involved in North American missions, contact Westbrook at jeremy@livinghopemarysville.com.

Tobin Perry writes for the North American Mission Board.

1st Annual Scramble Golf Tournament

2016 Ohio Baptist Foundation Golf Invitational



MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 2016

WEDGEWOOD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
POWELL, OH

www.wedgewoodgolfcc.com
18 Holes with Cart & Meal
Entry: \$500/Team of 4 (Pastor scholarships available)
Individual & Team Awards

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

10:30-11:50 am	Check-in & Driving Range
11:00-11:45 am	Lunch <i>Hamburgers, Brats and a Drink</i>
12:00 pm	Shotgun Start
5:00pm	Dinner, Proximity Prizes & Awards

REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 1ST, 2016

For more information go to: www.scbo.org/foundation
Tournament Director: Jack Helton, 614-309-9738; jackhelton@scbo.org

HOLE-N-ONE PRIZES

\$10,000 Cash
New set of Irons
\$500 Visa Gift Card
Marriott Weekend Get-Away



OHIO BAPTIST FOUNDATION

Investing in God's Kingdom Since 1969

Proceeds benefit the OBF Scholarship Fund:
Investing in the next generation of Christian Leaders



The Ohio Baptist Foundation provides charitable gift consultation services to individuals, churches, and associations. We are here to serve you. Please feel free to call, write, or visit our Columbus, Ohio office.



Margie Thomas had a blast with the directors and pastors.



We have prizes for those who participate.



VBS training with Rachel Carter and Children's Bible Study.



Kim Smith and the snacks class.



Craft time with Charlotte Barbo.

Diving Deep in 2017

Gather your scuba gear and board your submarine and let's dive deep into God's Word for this year's VBS SUBMERGED!

The VBS teams for Mission Ohio have worked hard for the past 5 months to train churches in this year's VBS theme. We trained 127 churches and nearly 1000 VBS leaders in that time. Our teams traveled all across the state preparing VBS teams from preschool classes to recreation and snacks. The one thing we tell churches all of the time is that you cannot start preparing for VBS too early. SO, as teams left their training sessions, they were ready to go back to their churches and wave the banner and say, "Let's get Ready!"

Boys and girls from your neighborhood will gather in your churches this year and participate in great music, see some awesome decorations, dive into snacks and get wet in recreations. Yet the greatest opportunity we will have is to share God's word with those that we will be in front of. Do not neglect God's word. Make sure as bible study leaders you have prepared the very best you can and then allow the Holy Spirit to use you when you are in the class.

As each of our churches prepare for this year's greatest summer event, please make sure you start with prayer, then continue with preparing and promoting. Start now and have the best VBS ever!



2016 Church Planter Forum

By Quinton Moss

On May 5 and 6, the Church Planting Resource Team invited planters in years 1 through 4 to its Annual Church Planter Forum. The Forum once again was held at the Dublin Baptist Church. We are so grateful to Dublin and its fine staff for opening its facilities to us. They have been so gracious to host all of our Church Planters Forum events.

This year's theme of "Color Your Life" was intended to help planter wives as well as planters identify emotionally where they are in ministry. Church Planting Administrative Assistant, Charlotte Barbo, fostered the theme, Color Your Life, through colorful decorations.

We set aside this time each year with the intent of bringing these planters and their wives together to energize, encourage, enlighten and entertain. There was plenty of energy as thirty-three planters and twenty-five wives, along

with four AM's and CPC's, as well as state staff joined us.

Church Planters, Greg and Heather Hitchcock kept the energy flowing as they used their musical talents to encourage through worship. Presenters Billy Barbo, James Edwards, Mark Jones, Ricky Ray and Bobby Sena enlightened through the sessions they lead.

The 2016 Forum also included a Hispanic track led by Bobby Sena, Director, Hispanic Doctor of Ministry at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Our annual banquet was held at the Holiday Inn. Dave McCreary entertained all.

A very special thanks to the Missions Support and Mobilization Ministry for our deaf interpreters.

Charlotte and I would like to say thanks to all who participated. We, the Church Planting Team, exist to be a resource to Ohio Southern Baptists.



Ladies Breakout Session "Color Your Life"



Large Group Prayer Time



Guys Breakout Session "Best Practices"

The Church Needs A SUNDAY SCHOOL REVIVAL

David Francis, Director of Sunday School for LifeWay Christian Resources will be our featured speaker Monday, September 12 from 10 AM to 3 PM
The event, materials and lunch are free, but registration is required
Register at www.cincinnatiabaptist.com
Event will be held at FBC South Lebanon, OH, 505 W Mason Rd 45065

2016 Ohio Disaster Relief 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.

CPR Training will be available for those already trained in one of the Disaster Relief Ministry Units. This is a two-day session, beginning on Friday evening at 6:30 p.m. and concluding on Saturday around lunchtime. The cost is \$ 25.00 per person. *Due to a limited number of trainees per class, pre-registration is required for CPR.*

You must already be a DR Team member to take advantage of this CPR training opportunity. We will collect required information, during the training session, to perform a background check.

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

November 18-19

Living Hope Church

16701 Square Drive

Marysville, Ohio 43040

*PRE-REGISTRATION
IS REQUIRED FOR
ALL TRAINING.*

**CONTACT SAM KELLEY 614-309-9751 OR
SKELLEY@SCBO.ORG TO REGISTER**

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).

SCBO begins partnership to reach southern Italy with the gospel

By Stephanie Heading

Italy is a land rich in beauty, culture, cuisine and history, drawing visitors from around the globe. However, despite all it has to offer, Italy is also a land in deep need. Of the more than 60 million people who call Italy home, less than one percent of the population are evangelical believers.



Foggia, Italy is part of Puglia Providence where 2 million people live. Only one percent of the population are evangelical Christians.

A new five-year partnership between SCBO and southern Italy is hoping to address this need while giving Ohio churches the opportunity to share the love of Jesus Christ with the Italian people. Recently, a group from SCBO traveled to southern Italy on a vision trip. The group included Duane Floro,



Bari, Italy is one of the five cities recently visited by the Ohio-Italy Partnership Vision Team.

SCBO Mission Mobilization and Support Team Leader, his daughter, Lauren Floro, Stephen Long, Church Planting Catalyst - Northwest Ohio Baptist Association, and his wife, April Long.



To help facilitate the work in Italy, the country has been divided into three ministry areas. Ohio Baptists are partnering in the Puglia Providence in southern Italy with focus on the cities of Bari, Lecce, Brindisi, Taranto, and Foggia. Tennessee Baptists and Missouri Baptists are working in central Italy and northern Italy, respectively.

Steve and April Long are the point people for the Ohio-Italy Partnership. Their involvement grew out of April's previous mission trip to Italy. "She has always had a burden to go back," said Steve Long. "April has never

forgotten the difficulty of the work of the missionaries and the need for the growth of the evangelical church in Italy." The entire Ohio team saw the difficulty of the work and need for growth during their

vision trip, according to Steve Long. "Our recent trip helped bring to life what we were told about the need for the evangelical work in Italy.

This really came home when we met Pastor Tomas in Lecce. Tomas pastors a small congregation of about 30-40 just outside the city of Lecce. Tomas said he knows of other believers in other towns in his region but no other churches. His desire is to gather these believers and to start disciple-



Lecce, Italy is one of five major cities in Puglia Providence, which is in need of a gospel influence.

ship groups that would grow into churches in these towns."

To help reach this area of Italy, Ohio Baptists are looking for five "Champion Churches" to adopt one of the five main towns in the region. "The churches would partner with local evangelical churches to assist them in their missional effort of starting new groups for the purpose of evangelism and discipleship," said Steve



Puglia is in the Southeast corner of Italy, with five major communities. Ohio Baptist will be partnering to start and strengthen churches in this area.

Long. "In some cases it would be to help a church to go into a new area to begin a brand new work. This could be done via prayer walking, evangelistic outreach events, English classes, choir tour, etc." The partnership is also looking for other churches to come along side the "Champion Churches" to provide prayer support and resources, as well as individuals who are willing to go to Italy.

Duane Floro sees great potential for Ohio churches to impact Italy. "As I went from town to town, met with the people, heard the heart of the believers there, I was drawn to see how God might use Ohio Baptists to be on mission throughout this region of Italy," said Floro. "We need



Brindisi, Italy is in Puglia Providence, the target of Ohio-Italy Partnership.

NorthCoast Team encounters lostness, loneliness during trip to Maine

By Stephanie Heading

When a vision team from NorthCoast Baptist Association traveled to Maine recently, they expected to learn about opportunities that are part of the Three Strand Partnership, teaming Ohio churches with ministries in Maine.

However, while seeing op-

eleven potential ministry partners and were challenged and encouraged by the opportunities in Maine -- a state where less than ten percent of the people are considered believers. "It appeared as though each pastor felt a connection with a different ministry," said Jones. "We all learned that ministry

sociation trip to Maine to impact multiple areas. Ministry opportunities include outreach on college campuses, work with addicted and homeless, as well as construction projects.

"There are plenty of opportunities for Ohio's 700 plus Southern Baptist works to impact the 17 planters in Maine," said Jones. "We have the opportunity to impact the greatest unreached people groups in the United States." As Ohio churches look toward partnering with churches in Maine, Deer hopes they see not only the lost population, but also the loneliness of the planters who are trying to reach them. "It would be great if we could make sure that all of these planters and ministries know that they have brothers and sisters walking along beside them," said Deer. "They are not alone."



Pastor Mike O'Hara and Pastor Paul King of Set Free Church (Skowhegan, ME) describe ministry possibilities to Pastor Darrell Deer.

portunities for outreach, the team saw another need -- pastors and church planters doing challenging work and needing believers to come along side them to let them know they are not alone. "The thing that hit me the hardest was the hardness of the soil there," said Darrell Deer, pastor of College Heights Baptist Church in Elyria. "I was impacted by the need I saw for these people to have someone come along side of them. Many of them have to deal with the pressures of ministry alone or with just a few people by their side."

The NorthCoast vision team, composed of Deer, NorthCoast DOM Mark Jones, Pastor Dan Duffy of Providence Baptist Church, Thomas Hicks, pastor of FBC Sheffield Lake, and Pastor Steve Mayes of Good Shepherd Baptist Church met with

in Maine often gets lonely and that spiritual warfare is evident." While many opportunities for ministry exist, Deer was overwhelmed by the loneliness and sacrifice he saw among the pastors in Maine. "It was kind of amazing that the plea for someone to walk along side of them in ministry was far greater than any appeals for money or mission teams," said Deer. "I was also struck by the sacrifice of many of the planters and leaders there"

To come along side the pastors and church planters in Maine, Jones, who is the Three Strand point person, hopes to take an annual as-



Collegiate Missionary, Marilyn McClendon explains outreach opportunities on college campuses to Pastors Daniel Duffy and Thomas Hicks.

For more information about the Three-Strand Partnership and how you can get involved, contact Mark Jones, state coordinator, at onmissiontomaine@gmail.com. You can also learn more and see videos at www.ohioonmission.org.



The beauty of Italy hides the fact that the nation is in dire need of the gospel, which Ohio Baptists hope to help provide in a new five-year partnership with southern Italy.

others to step up to take the good news to the ends of the earth. May Ohio Baptists be on mission."

A call to Ohio churches to take on missions in Italy is seen through the challenging work of Pastor Tomas in Lecce, according to Steve Long. "One small church, one pastor trying to gather believers in a region of two million people into discipleship groups to become churches. That sounds like New Testament work and a worthy mission to be a part of. This picture of Lecce is repeated in Bari and Taranto and Brindisi and Foggia. The harvest is plentiful."

For more information about the Ohio-Italy partnership, please contact Steve Long at stephenlongnwo@gmail.com or Duane Floro at dfloro@scbo.com.



Pastor Brandon Dyer of Windsor Christian Fellowship (Windsor, ME) sharing building progress and further construction needs with Pastors Darrell Deer, Steve Mayes, Daniel Duffy and Thomas Hicks.

Living Proof Live Rally set for June 14 in Youngstown

By Stephanie Heading

This fall, Lifeway Women is bringing Living Proof Live to Youngstown, Ohio, on November 4-5, at the Covelli Centre. Living Proof Live will feature teaching from best-selling author, Beth Moore, as well as worship led by Dove Award winner, Travis Cottrell.

To kick off this exciting event, ladies from across Ohio are invited to participate in a Living Proof Live Kick-off Rally set for Tuesday, June 14, at Victory Christian Center, 3699 McCartney, Low-ellville, Ohio. The doors open for the rally at 6:30 p.m. and the program begins at 7 p.m.

During the rally, which will include a time of prayer, ladies will learn about Living Proof Live

and how they can get involved. In addition, just for attending, each person will be entered to win a VIP Package, which includes event tickets, hotel room, reserved seats, and more. The VIP Package will be awarded at the end of the rally.

To RSVP for the Living Proof Live Kick-Off Rally, please visit <https://goo.gl/UYswRC>

For more information and registration details for Living Proof Live, November 4-5 in Youngstown, visit <http://www.lifeway.com/n/Product-Family/Living-Proof-Live?type=events>, then click on the view details link for the Youngstown event.

Gather your friends and get involved in the fun and excitement that is Living Proof Live.



Metro Columbus Ladies Spring Retreat draws 180 women

By Sheri Bogardus

The Metro Columbus Ladies Spring Retreat was held Saturday, April 30, 2016 at Jersey Baptist Church. With 180 ladies in attendance, the atmosphere was full of praise and beauty.

Carrie Miller and team from Spring Hills Baptist Church led worship, and Heidi Wilson gave testimony in word and song.

Keynote speaker, Janice Brown, did a great job of explaining how to praise the Father without ceasing.

In addition to corporate worship, there were many informative breakout sessions, as well as display tables with information about how to be on mission. A big "thank you" to Jersey Baptist Church and the team who hosted this event, great job!!

Captions:

1. Heather Wilson shared her testimony in word and song during the Metro Columbus Ladies Spring Retreat.
2. One hundred and eighty women enjoyed a time of worship and learning at the Metro Columbus Ladies Spring Retreat at Jersey Baptist Church.
3. Keynote speaker, Janice Brown, challenged women to praise the Lord without ceasing during the Metro Columbus Ladies Spring Retreat.



PRESS TOWARD THE MARK

From the window, the father watched his children struggling to move a boulder at the edge of their lawn. Valiantly, the young brother and sister team labored to move the large rock. Finally exhausted, they slumped beside their challenge in defeat.

When their father's shadow fell over the pair, they looked up into the kind face they loved and admired. "Why didn't you use all of your resources?" asked their father.

"We did," came their reply. "The rock is too big for us,"

they explained. "No, you didn't ask me," answered their father. Then, he knelt beside them. Together, daughter, son, and father moved the boulder.

Few would disagree that families today need godly fathers. Godly fathers help their children face the boulders and rocks in life by modeling dependence upon our Heavenly Father. As we celebrate Father's Day this month, let's praise God for godly fathers and pray for more of them.

Mission Ohio seeks to help men become godly

fathers. To become a godly father, a man must begin with conversion. A man must repent of his sin, believe in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, and ask Jesus to save him. This begins a man's personal pilgrimage toward becoming like Christ. The Holy Spirit performs this work of holiness and righteousness in a converted man's life. As a converted man grows in holiness and righteousness, he becomes a more godly father.

A multitude of godly fathers is one of the desired

results of Mission Ohio. Mission Ohio is the cooperative mission plan of Southern Baptists in Ohio to reach 1,000,000 people for Christ in 2,020 congregations by the end of 2020. Let us press toward that mark.



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

How to submit Church News

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

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.

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