

Ohio Baptist MESSENGER

22
March

THE STATE CONVENTION OF BAPTISTS IN OHIO

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On Thursday, January 27th, the Mission Council of The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio gathered at Genoa Baptist Church in Westerville to kick off a new year of vision and implementation. Newly elected SCBO President, Ray Umphrey, Pastor of Briggs Road Baptist Church in Columbus, led the meeting as moderator. SCBO 2nd VP, Tony Harris, Pastor of Highland Avenue Baptist Church in Cincinnati brought recommendations from the Executive Committee.

Also, there were several new members elected to the Mission Council from all regions of the great state of Ohio. Please pray for the following new members: Eric Flynn (Violet Baptist), Scott Lewald (Genoa Baptist), Bruce Holt (LifePoint Church), Rick Eimers (Cuyahoga Valley Church), Ben Parks (Valley Church), Penny Zuber (Jersey Church), Jerome Byrd (Good News Baptist Church), Andrew Trezona (Urbancrest Baptist Church), and Tom Spaulding (FBC Clyde).

Collectively, there are now forty (40) members of the SCBO Mission Council, and those individuals

will serve on one of the following committees: Finance, Executive, Advancement or Convention. Each committee will have ten (10) members serving and will assist to carry out the mission of Ohio Baptists and to help advance the Great Commission across the street, around the great state of Ohio and ultimately around the world. Please pray for them as they provide much needed wisdom and council throughout the year to our SCBO staff and leaders.

Finally, please make sure you are saving the dates and signing up for the following opportunities coming up soon: The Disciple-Making Summit will be from March 13th-15th ; Momentum 2022 will be on March 21st and the Timothy + Barnabas Retreat will be April 20th-22nd. Please visit www.scbo.org to view all upcoming events. It's an honor and a joy to serve you. Please contact me at jwestbrook@scbo.org if I can help serve you or your church in any way!

Moving Forward,



*President's
Pen*



Greetings Ohio Baptists,

At our Annual Celebration this past November, Ohio Baptists voted to entrust me with the presidency of our state convention. My wife Katrina and I are both blessed to serve the Lord in the great state of Ohio. We came to Columbus, Ohio in 2017 when Briggs Road Baptist Church called me to serve as pastor. Katrina currently serves our state convention as Executive Administrative Assistant to Dr. Jeremy Westbrook.

Brothers and sisters, we are not merely disconnected members of a denomination, but we are partners in the gospel. Like the church at Philippi, who were partners with Paul "from the first day" (Phil. 1:5), Ohio Baptists have a longstanding legacy of gospel cooperation. I still believe we can do more together. Only eternity will reveal the full impact of cooperative missions in our state and beyond.

I pray that this will be a season of increased engagement and cooperation across our state. I'm excited about the possibilities as we work together to advance the Great Commission not only in Ohio, but among the nations. Will you join me in praying for the future of Ohio Baptists and for the future of gospel work in Ohio?

I am here to serve you, Ohio Baptists. Please reach out to me anytime at president@scbo.org. I would love to hear from you and learn how we can work together.

Your partner in the gospel,
Ray Umphrey, SCBO President



Stephen Long

REGIONAL UPDATES

As many of you know Matt Pardi has been battling Covid since November 15, 2021. The good news is that, praise the Lord, Matt is home! Matt will still need some time to recover but I believe with him going home he will recover quickly being around his family. Until Matt can be back on his feet and serving in the role of the Northwest Catalyst for the State Convention of Baptist in Ohio, I will be stepping in as the interim. I will be scheduling time to meet with pastors in the three associations of Northwest Ohio. We are also making plans to have Dr. Jeremy Westbrook to visit with pastors in May. There will be other events coming up that I will keep you posted about and in the know. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns you may have at stephenlongnwo@gmail.com or 419-345-9144. I look forward to serving you during this time of Matt's recovery.



Art Fulk

Upcoming networking and development opportunities:

- Saturday, February 12th @ 10:00 a.m. – **Scioto Valley Baptist Association Meeting** at Lakeview Baptist Church (Hamden).
- Tuesday, March 8th @ 10:00 a.m. – Muskingum Valley Baptist Association **L.I.F.T. Gathering** at Trinity Baptist Church (Cambridge)

• Sunday, March 13th – Tuesday, March 15th **Disciple-making Summit** @ Ebenezer Baptist (Logan). More info at: <https://www.scbo.org/event/disciple-making-summit>

• Sunday, May 1 @ 2:00 p.m. - **Impact Missions Day** equipping opportunity for pastors, mission team leaders, basic evangelism, multiplication pipeline, and Ohio Disaster Relief Training. Dr. Kevin Ezell (President – NAMB) will be speaking at the 10:30 a.m. service, with training sessions beginning at 2:00 p.m. The evening will end with a banquet with Dr. Bryant Wright (President - SEND Relief). Register for DR training at: <https://scbo.org/event/disaster-relief-training>



Reagan Wagoner

In Southwest Ohio, we are excited about what God is doing as we begin to train 3 new church planters this month, and have recently seen churches like Life Church Monroe launch well. Also, we have an upcoming Residency Builder event at Lakota Hills BC with special guest, Ryan Johnston, for Pastors on March 22, 10am-2pm. Email me if you'd like to join us! We also have the **Timothy/Barnabas Retreat** coming up April 21-22 in Cincinnati for pastors and pastor's wives. I hope you and your spouse will join Heather and I for we are excited to host this event for the first time in Cincinnati! In addition to these events, I'd love to catch you for breakfast or lunch to hear about what God is doing in your church, talk about how to start a multiplication pipeline or residency, or to know how I can be praying for you in 2022. Email me at rwagoner@scbo.org to get together! Let's go, Bengals!



Rick Williams

It's been said, "*God develops a leader over a lifetime.*" God shapes us and sharpens us through people, circumstances, and events. As an SCBO catalyst for the Central Ohio region, I'd like to invite you to two upcoming events that will shape you and sharpen you. The first event is Momentum 2022. **Momentum 2022, the State Evangelism Celebration**, will occur on Monday, March 21st at the Lewis Center Campus of Lifepoint Church. It will be an incredible day of celebration, encouragement, equipping, and resourcing! Lunch will be provided and there will be door prizes and gift drawings. You can register for this event at www.scbo.org/momentum.

Refuel Columbus is another powerful event happening in central Ohio. Refuel Columbus is a FREE one-day conference for pastors, leaders, and anyone in the church who is interested in a day of spiritual growth and worship! Sycamore Creek Church in Pickerington is hosting this conference on Tuesday, March 29th from 9am-3pm. There will be great speakers, practical breakout sessions, awesome worship, and a free lunch! Please register at www.refuel.org. I look forward to seeing you at these events and connecting with pastors this month and throughout the year. Please contact me at rwilliams@scbo.org if I can assist you in any way.

**Chad Keck**

God is at work in the western region of our state. It has been a joy to be able to take several pastors to lunch and to hear about what God is doing in their churches. One highlight is what is happening at One Family Church in the Meadowdale neighborhood of Dayton. Fred Clement (church planting pastor) recently shared with my church about how God is at work and how they

have seen 5 baptisms in their first year. Another highlight was spending time with the pastors who attended the Midwest Leadership Summit in Springfield, IL.

**Stephen Owens**

Hello SCBO family! I am excited about my new position as the NE Regional Catalyst and the amazing opportunities for Gospel impact before us. I would like to highlight an event that I was a part of to encourage the pastors and their wives in the NE Region. My wife (Lisa) and I were able to join the Summit Baptist Association for their Winter Party Icebreaker on January 28th at Freedom Hill Community Church (Pastor Mark Jones). It was a great time of fellowship, encouragement, and laughter. I had the great privilege of blessing the pastors and their wives with a

gift card and resources on behalf of the SCBO family. Thank you SCBO for your faithfulness in giving to the Cooperative Program. Because of your generosity, we can be a blessing to pastors and wives.

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The Ohio Baptist Foundation and the Louisiana Baptist Foundation offer a Short Term Fund to help churches and other ministries maximize their income on cash reserves and designated funds. The annualized payout rate is 1.35% as of 1/31/2022. Based upon our information, this is one of the highest cash-type rates offered in Ohio to churches and other ministries at this time.

If this would be helpful for your ministry, I would be honored to partner with your church or ministry to advance God's Kingdom here on earth. I can be reached by replying to jackhelton@scbo.org or 614-309-9738.

Jack Helton, Executive Director, The Ohio Baptist Foundation



Residents of Roselawn Gardens have been encouraged by the ministry of resident Gary Summerland and the outreach of Cornersburg Baptist Church during the isolation of Covid.

Retired pastor partners with local church to encourage nursing home residents

By Stephanie Heading

For the past two years, Gary Summerland has been living in Roselawn Gardens, a nursing home in Alliance, Ohio. With the 2020 arrival of Covid, visitors, including pastors, have been banned from Roselawn Gardens, as well as many other care facilities.

However, despite a ban on visitors, it's impossible to ban the work of the Lord through a willing servant.

Summerland, an 82-year-old retired pastor, saw needs around him and decided to minister where he was, fielding spiritual questions from other residents and encouraging them. However, a lack of supplies was a hurdle that Summerland needed help to overcome. "Being a retired pastor in a wheelchair, I can't get around to a lot of people," said Summerland. "They asked me questions and there are no Bibles they can read."

Summerland called Cornersburg Baptist Church in Youngstown, and asked the church to pray for the 48 residents. Cornersburg Baptist Church did more than pray. They met the needs at Roselawn Gardens. "Pastor Randy Langham sent me fifteen extra-large print Bibles with concordances," said Summerland.

Through the gift of Bibles, Summerland sees God working in the nursing home. "I had a man come to me in the dining room and he started to cry." The man shared that he had been reading the Bible daily, but being quarantined in his room because of Covid caused him to get angry with his roommate and use the Lord's name in vain. "Can God forgive me?" he said. "Yes, He can," said Summerland, sharing Romans 8:38.

The long years of Covid isolation have left many residents struggling, according to Summerland. "I've heard them say that no one cares about them and they have no one to pray for them when they are sick." A ministry from Cornersburg is sending birthday cards to the residents and recently sponsored a party with cookies and coffee when the residents were allowed to gather outside their rooms.

As a nursing home resident, Summerland thinks about those in other Ohio nursing facilities who need encouragement and support during this time of isolation. He hopes other churches will adopt a local nursing home and become the hands and feet of Jesus, so those who are isolated can feel the love of Jesus right where they are.

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Tale of Transformation *Ohio WMU Shoutout*

God continues to transform many of Ohio's college students to be His disciples living on mission to make disciples who live on mission. FBC Circleville's Kendall Jones's calling was on hold for several months due to Covid. Read Kendall's story, celebrate with her as she begins a new chapter of her journey this month, and commit to pray for our Buckeye.

My name is Kendall Jones and I am a missionary with the IMB (International Missions Board) serving as a journeyman for 2 years in Quebec, Canada. I grew up in Circleville, Ohio in a Christian household and accepted Christ as my personal Lord and savior at a young age. As I got older, I realized how important it is to make my faith my own and really live it out. I attended Cedarville

University where I gained a lot of biblical knowledge and was able to grow in my faith through the Bible classes and mission trips. These trips were to London, England with Cru (Campus Crusade for Christ) and after I graduated from college in May 2020, I interned with Cru in my area and got involved in college ministry, leading Bible studies, discipling a few ladies, and organizing events. I felt God call me to minister to the peoples of Europe, so I applied with the IMB and found the position for this short term university mission work in Quebec. I would not be where I am without my incredible Southern Baptist church family and their giving to offerings like the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering that fully financially supports me.

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DR brings help, hope and healing with support from State Missions Offering and CP

By Stephanie Heading

It's a new day for SCBO Disaster Relief with a change in leadership, a launch into online training, and an expansion of DR to include college students. However, without support from the Ray Roberts State Missions Offering and the Cooperative Program, SCBO DR would be unable to bring help, hope and healing to those ravaged by natural disasters.

"Without the State Missions Offering and the Cooperative Program, Disaster Relief doesn't exist," said John Heading, SCBO Disaster Relief Director. "DR needs funding for deployments, equipment, training and supplies. The State Missions Offering and the Cooperative Program provide for those needs. We couldn't do what we do without it"

In 2021, SCBO DR deployed 17 teams to seven states and held two general trainings, plus Blue Hat Training, Assessor Training, and Chaplain Training. In addition,



DR needed extensive repairs on three vandalized vehicles, causing \$7000 in damage.

The Ray Roberts offering also funded the purchase of a new pick-up truck, the first new vehicle in the DR fleet in many years. "We are thankful for the State Missions Offering and the Cooperative Program," said Heading. "It allows us to deploy more often, helping people when they need it and accomplishing our primary focus, sharing the Gospel while meeting physical needs."

The next DR general training event is March 26. For more information, please visit the DR page at www.scbo.org/DR.

The Ray Roberts State Missions Offering funded the purchase of a new pick-up truck to add to the DR fleet. This truck is the first new vehicle for DR in many years.



Persevering Against the Devil to Share Jesus Using Backpacks

Barbara DeLorme Coordinator

Ohio WMU, Appalachian Backpack Ministry

We were able to distribute over 2,000 Christmas backpacks in the mountains of Appalachia in December, 2021. Thank you Ohio for participating and providing Christmas backpacks. Children and teens all over Appalachia heard the Gospel, many for the first time, and 389 accepted Jesus as the Lord of their lives.

Appalachia missionaries understand the importance of perseverance. The following details are from an Appalachia missionary.

"Two weeks prior to distributing the backpacks we were told we couldn't go into one location due to religious material in the backpacks. We knew the Lord wanted us there. We prayed, we persevered, we did get in, and 30 children were saved.

I was getting ready for work when a big gust of wind came over my house. Four trees were blown down, one of them was on top of my car. That day I heard a strong voice say, "You need to give up!" I

persevered working hard to get the truck ready for that distribution day, but there were many setbacks. At last, it was ready to go. Then, a trailer borrowed to assist with the backpack delivery had a blowout. Finally, on our way to distribute backpacks, the alternator went out one block from the delivery location.

We persevered and distributed the backpacks. But, the battle continued, a few days later one of our volunteers had to go to the ER, she had Bronchitis. Thursday night our speaker was headed for supper when he slid down the road, into a guardrail. The accident tempted him to discouragement and to not finish the last 3 places on Friday. But he persevered. Also that night the heat went out at my house, in December.

The battle for these precious 389 souls is a great victory for God and perseverance in Him."



DISCIPLE-MAKING SUMMIT

March 13-15, 2022

Ebenezer Baptist Church



Dr. Chris Shirley

Matt Queen



Dave Gibson

Kevin Marsico



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BUCKETS OF BLESSINGS

Pastor JD Davis and the members of Dublin Baptist Church continue to look for innovative ways to connect to their community while showing and sharing the love of Jesus. The Ohio Baptist Foundation was recently privileged to partner financially with DBC in their continuing evangelistic efforts.

During the holidays the church distributed approximately 200 "buckets of blessings" to new Dublin residents and their neighborhood move-ins, sharing some goodies and inviting people to attend one of their several church holiday services. Pictured are the buckets and their contents and a return note of thanksgiving and appreciation from a "bucket" recipient.

Remember that the OBF and SCBO are ready to assist you with your church outreach strategies. Feel free to contact us so we can partner with you to reach your community for Christ!

Jack Helton, Senior Staff





When Gary and Lynette Frost (pictured above on the right) joined in marriage over 45 years ago they had faith-filled expectation that God would grant them the privilege of bearing 10 children. As an anchor passage the LORD gave them Psalm 127:3 which reads, "Children are a gift from the Lord and the fruit of the womb is his reward."

We know that God is quite unpredictable as to how He answers our prayers but very predictable that He will answer in His own way and in His own time. For the Frosts, the answer came as God gave them 4 biological children, 2 adopted sons and 48 foster children. They are now the proud grandparents of 6 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Bettering the lives of children and youth has directly and/or indirectly been the driving passion of Gary and Lynette since October 9, 1976 when they married. They pastored Rising Star Baptist Church in Youngstown for 18 years and were instrumental in developing programs that focused on childrens' academic, attitudinal, athletic and artistic proficiency.

Approximately 4 years ago the Frosts became aware that the Mahoning Valley (Youngstown, Ohio) had one of the highest infant mortality rates in the state and in the nation. This rate is determined by the number of children that die before their first birthday.

Many factors play into these untimely deaths, such as poor prenatal care, post-traumatic stress during pregnancy, nutrition issues, poor pediatric care, substance abuse, accidents, domestic violence and the many dynamics that grow out of poverty. As the Frost's prayerfully sought ways to intervene in this tragic reality the Lord birthed in their hearts a ministry that has come to be known as Eagle's Nest Life Equipping Center.

Eagle's Nest is a "dream come true" that was Lynette's vision as she sacrificially worked with women who were members of Rising Star as well as others outside the

church community who were desperate for parenting skills. Eagle's Nest has now streamed Lynette's compassion by providing residential care and round the clock support for young mothers and their infant children.

The Eagle's Nest facility is located on the north side of Youngstown near Wick Park and Youngstown State University. This spacious building, in an historic community, once served as a lodge for a local synagogue before being re-purposed to house the Park Vista Nursing Home. When that seniors' facility relocated the building was secured and renovation began thus allowing Eagle's Nest to be housed there.

The property is comprised of two buildings joined together and there are 36 rooms that can be utilized for occupation. Current renovation of the property has brought two fifths of the building up to code for use. Over 20 women and their children have thus far benefited from this ministry.

The Frost's fully identify with the principles of "Sanctity of Life", however, they believe that protecting and assisting vulnerable women and their children doesn't start at conception and end on the birth date. The Frost's are not just Pro-Life Proponents and Abortion Opponents They are Whole Life Advocates whose vision statement goes like this: We exist that the unborn may survive, the newborn may thrive, and parents be equipped to teach their children how to fly . At Eagle's Nest young mothers are disciplined to not trust in the broken support systems of romance and government. These Eagle Mothers are trained to depend on the stable wings of Jesus and the uplifting wind of the Holy Spirit. The Frost's know that without Jesus this generation is doomed to helplessness, hopelessness and hell. They are obsessed with seeing these young families press forward to enjoy Help, Hope and Heaven.

Click here to learn more about this ministry and see how you can support Eagle's Nest Life Equipping Center.

Around Ohio

The ministry on the campus of Wright State University continues to multiply. Pastor Joshua Ortega mentions that things are going so well that even the Wright State Mascot, Rowdy Raider got involved in a recent campus outreach event. The H2O Fall Getaway event saw tears shed, encouragement given, relationships being built, and kingdom identity being established into young believers! Please continue to pray for WSU, Josh, his wife Kari, his team, and the rest of the H2O campus church family as they continue reaching students for Christ!



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.

We want to hear your story!

Send church news and stories to Amanda Mishne at amishne@scbo.org

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