

PUBLICATION OF THE STATE CONVENTION OF BAPTISTS IN OHIO

OHIO BAPTIST MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 2020 | VOLUME 68 NO. 1

#PrayOhio

Second Printing of Praying with Jesus: 40-Day Prayer Guide is available now!

We ordered 5,000 copies of Praying with Jesus: 40-Day Prayer Guide, thinking that would be a year's supply. We picked up the first print September 12; by November 12 they were all gone! Our second print run of 5,000 copies arrived just in time for churches that requested the guide for a January 1 start date. If you have not requested your books, we have about 3,500 in stock ready for shipment.

Praying with Jesus: 40-Day Prayer Guide is to help the church pray together, in concert, for the church. The guide is designed with daily scriptures and prayer prompts to guide each member 7 days a week for 40 days. Then the body gathers weekly to pray together, spending time together seeking His face and His grace for His church.

The Guide is available in print and pdf formats. You can order print copies, (your Cooperative Program giving covers the cost.) You can also download the pdf at scbo.org/pray.

Pastors, there is a **companion sermon series guide** to go along with the 40-Day Prayer Guide! Seven sermon outlines by Jamie Work, the author of the prayer guide, available in pdf. You can provide a church-wide prayer emphasis.

Go to www.scbo.org/content/40-day-prayer-guide for

more information and to order your supply.

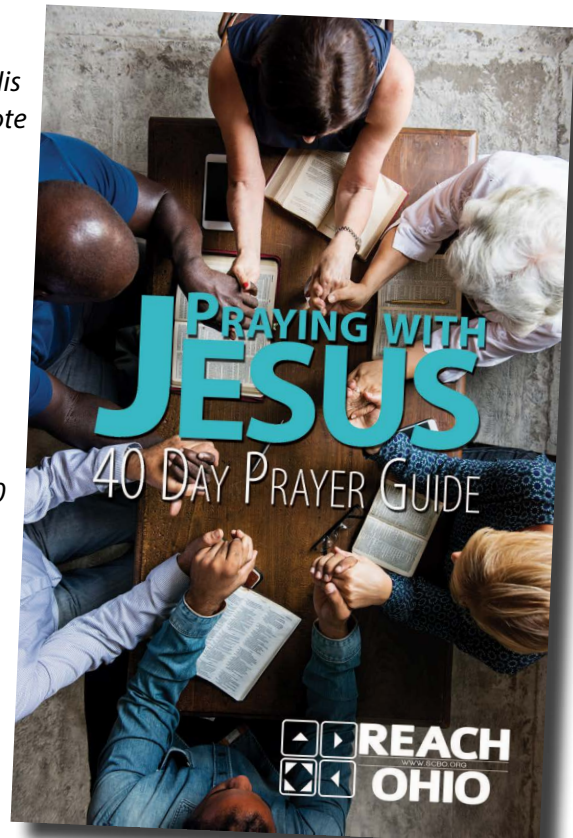
Quotes from members at East River Road, David Haarmeyer, pastor:

"How amazing to see God grow the ability to pray in His will when we devote ourselves to Him"

"Wow... to visibly see God changes lives right before our eyes"

"God has grown my prayer life more in the last 40 days than the last 40 years..."

"Pastor... we need to continue what we have started here..."



Pray Ohio

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

February 21-22	Engage Now
March 10	New Pastor Staff Orientation
March 14	VBS Institute
May 30	March for Jesus

FEATURED ARTICLES

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Reflections

Ohio Baptists observed the first of our First Friday Fast 2020 January 3. We had a five-point prayer focus for the fast:

Prayer Points:

- **Denominee Process and Future Team** — *Seeking His future for Ohio Baptists*
- **Church Revitalization** — *Seeking His plan for the church*
- **Church Planting** — *Seeking His places for church plants*
- **Pastors and Leaders** — *Seeking His favor for pastors, leaders and their families*
- **Awakening** — *Seeking supernatural gospel impact in Ohio and beyond*

What was your experience? Malachi writes, *"At that time, those who feared the Lord spoke to one another. The Lord took notice and listened..."* (3:16) As we stand in united prayer and share about our experiences, we encourage one another and come to more clarity about how He is specifically speaking to His Bride.

Reflections:

Denominee Process and Future Team — *Seeking His future for Ohio Baptists*

A call to **listen** to Him — **Psalm 85**

"Following the Psalmist great cry for revival: 'Will You not revive us again so that Your people may rejoice in you?' He proclaims, 'I will listen to what God will say...' (Psalm 85:8-9)"
The greatest need in the Denominee Process is to hear from Him about His future for Ohio Baptists.

Church Revitalization — *Seeking His plan for the church*
A call to **rebuild, restore and repair** — **Isaiah 58:12**

*"Isn't this the **fast** I choose..."* (Isaiah 58:6) Right in the midst of a powerful chapter on fasting, revitalization is seen as a result: *"Some of you will **rebuild** the ancient ruins; you will **restore** the foundations laid long ago; you will be called the **repairer** of broken walls, the restorer of streets where people live."* (Isaiah 58:12)



Awakening — *Seeking supernatural gospel impact in Ohio and beyond*

A call to **return** to Him — **Malachi 3:7**

*"The **result** of returning to Him: 'So that you will again see the difference between the righteous and the wicked, between the one who serves God and one who does not serve Him.' (Malachi 3:18) In 2020, our nation desperately needs to know the difference between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not."*

"Revival is ultimately Christ Himself, seen, felt, heard, living, active moving in and through His body on earth." — Stephen Olford (Quoted by Daniel Henderson, Old Paths, New Power, p. 221-222)

Please share insights from your *First Friday Fast 2020* by sending to SteveHopkins@scbo.org Indicate whether or not you want your name shared with the insights.

For more information and resources for *First Friday Fast 2020* go to scbo.org/fast



Praise God! Wednesday, we had four unchurched and unsaved people in Galilee's very first offsite small group discipleship/Bible study in Napoleon. Expecting at least three more. The Lord is blessing us as we pray and fast for unsaved and unchurched during the month of January 2020!

— Ray Gaffney, pastor Galilee Missionary Baptist Church, Defiance

We are encouraging our churches to be part of the First Friday Fast 2020. I believe if we are to see a mighty movement of God, His people must seek His face in prayer and fasting.

— Cliff Hartley, associational leader in Buckeye Central/Erie





2020 Training Sessions

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

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

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

Dates

May 15-16, 2020

The Church at Eastmont
1380 Spaulding Road, Riverside, Ohio 445432

November 6-7, 2020

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

Schedule

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

Missions
Support + Mobilization

REACH OHIO
OUR ENGAGE ENCOURAGE ENHANCE



January 14-16, 2020

Cleveland, Ohio

Project: Drywall and Suspended Ceiling

February 28 - March 8, 2020

Camp Grace Fort Roberts, Georgia

Project: 5 New Build Cottages

May 2-8, 2020

Seneca Lake Baptist Assembly

Questions or if you would like to help contact:

Patterson 614.882.1375 or 614.352.0884

Buckeye Baptist Builders 2020 Schedule





20

JUNE 22-26, 2020
CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY

More Details at SCBO.ORG

PrayerSummit

FOR PASTORS AND MINISTRY LEADERS

FEATURING: Daniel Henderson

Cuyahoga Valley Church
Friday, March 6 • 9:00am-3:00pm



Make your ministry funds work harder.

The Ohio Baptist Foundation partners with WatersEdge Ministry Services to provide deposit options that help churches build strong financial futures and maximize Kingdom impact.

2.85%

Annual Percentage Yield

1.85%	Enhanced Cash Fund
2.25%	One-Year Term Deposit
2.55%	Two-Year Term Deposit
2.85%	Five-Year Term Deposit

*Rates updated monthly.

GET STARTED AT:

614.601.6881 | scbo.org/foundation



OHIO BAPTIST
FOUNDATION



NOTICE: This is not an offer to sell our securities and we are not soliciting you to buy our securities. We offer and sell our securities only in states where authorized. The offering is made solely by our Offering Circular.

Partnerships That Prosper

As the Ohio Baptist Foundation (OBF) celebrates its 50th year in ministry, I am grateful for the ministry partnerships, both past and present, that have been established since our early beginnings. In our recent past, one such partnership that has benefited both the OBF and our Ohio Southern Baptist churches is with WatersEdge Ministry Services (WEMS). In our ever changing world economic environment, I am grateful that WEMS provides

opportunities for SCBO churches to invest in competitive financial products that enhance the principles of good biblical stewardship. If your church is in need of a loan to build, renovate, or refinance, the OBF and WEMS can help! And we can assist you with your church savings through financial certificates of deposits! Why not contact us today and start increasing the value of the assets God has given you to steward as you try to impact the world for Christ?

CHURCH LOANS THAT CHANGE LIVES

The Ohio Baptist Foundation partners with WatersEdge Ministry Services to provide loans to Ohio Baptist churches.

We offer competitive rates, and unlike traditional lenders, interest from your loan is given back to Southern Baptist ministries that touch lives with the Gospel.

YOUR LOAN SUPPORTS:



Evangelism
& church
planting



National &
international
missions



Baptist
universities
& seminaries



Disaster relief
& human needs
ministries

GET STARTED AT:

614.601.6881 | jhelton@scbo.org
scbo.org/foundation



OHIO BAPTIST
FOUNDATION





CENTER OF HOPE for Women

December 16, 2019 the former Metro Columbus Christian Job Corps, met at the Southside Baptist Church to celebrate two graduates. Preceding this ceremony, the Board of Directors voted in the name change and adopted a sunflower symbol because the sunflower represents hope. The new name is Center of Hope for Women. The twenty year history of CWJC in Metro Columbus was initiated by the first Site Coordinator and Director, VJ Sanchez. Sanchez continues to serve as Ohio CWJC State Director, while Marcella Moton currently serves as Metro Columbus Site Coordinator.



Shameka Jones, Guest Speaker, Instructor & Mentor

Shameka Jones, Guest Speaker, Instructor & Mentor

story was unique. She discovered this amazing training program known as "a hand up, not a hand out", after she was directed there for community service in order to receive food stamps. Arriving with her countenance downcast, a cynical attitude, and her character devalued, Tori listened to an explanation of the program purpose and plan. She said, "I want that." Marable received the training, then said, "I was in a dark place before I came, now I am in a safe haven." From darkness to Light, from despair to Hope, from uncherished to Love.



Katoria "Tori" Marable and VJ Sanchez

The Winter 2019 graduates, Beverly Escobedo and Katoria Marable, "Tori", were presented graduation certificates from V.J. Sanchez. Guest speaker and instructor at the Center, Shameka Jones, also serves as a mentor and writer for the Get Faith and Finance Class. Jones excitedly shared how the curriculum impacted the participants lives. All present were challenged to reflect on Luke 8:1, 4-15 and consider their own soil, the condition of their heart.

Beverly shared her testimony through a song of redemption. Tori's story was unique. She discovered this amazing training program known as "a hand up, not a hand out", after she was directed there for community service in order to receive food stamps. Arriving with her countenance downcast, a cynical attitude, and her character devalued, Tori listened to an explanation of the program purpose and plan. She said, "I want that." Marable received the training, then said, "I was in a dark place before I came, now I am in a safe haven." From darkness to Light, from despair to Hope, from uncherished to Love.

The theme verse for the Center of Hope is Jeremiah 29:11. "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord, "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." To find out about Spring Classes beginning in April contact JV Sanchez, vjmccjc@gmail.com.



Marcella Moton, Site Coordinator



Beverly Escobedo, Winter 2019 Graduate and VJ Sanchez

ENGAGE NOW

2020 – A Clear Vision for a New Day

But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him" 1 Corinthians 2:9

February 21 - 22, 2020  Jersey Church



Ohio Governor
Mike DeWine



Kay Bennett
Baptist Friendship House



Lawrence Funderburke
Author/Former Basketball Player



Michele Reynolds
Governor's Office Faith Based
and Community Initiatives



Pastor Stephen Owens
Mt Calvary Baptist



Steve Hopkins, SCBO
Bible Teaching Leadership



Tim Throckmorton
Family Research Council



Kirk Kirkland, SCBO
Church Planting Catalyst



Johnny Fain
Retired FBC Dothan, AL



Tom Melzoni
Horizons Stewardship



Terry Dorsett, Ex Dr Baptist
Convention of New England



Robert Caldwell
Answer Poverty



Sr Pastor John Hays,
Jersey Church



Missionaries from
around the world



Marietta Bible
College Choir

Questions: Vernita Lambert
614-601-6814 or vlambert@scbo.org

More information and registration at
SCBO.ORG/ENGAGE

WELCOME TO Ohio

NEW PASTOR & STAFF ORIENTATION

March 10, 2020

Whether you are new to the state or a life-long Ohioan, the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio wants to welcome you to your new role at your church. During our time together we will share how we can walk alongside you and your ministry. We want you to walk away with many resources, planning to attend some of our events, encouraged and excited about your ministry here in Ohio!



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 through SCBO. There is no registration fee; however, advance registration is necessary through. Spouses are invited and encouraged to attend. Orientation begins at 9:30 a.m. and concludes by 3:00 p.m. lunch provided.

Contact Katrina Umphrey, kumphrey@scbo.org or 614-601-6876, for more information.

The North American Mission Board has released a new awesome product

THE BEST NEWS KIT!

This is an evangelism resource developed by James Merritt, that has taken two years to produce, and it is fantastic!

The Kit Includes:

- A multi-week small group curriculum with videos from James Merritt
- Sermon suggestions and videos
- A new witnessing tool and tract
- Leader's guide
- Participant guide
- Thumb drive with all the digital assets a church needs to carry out the campaign

To request a free copy of the kit, email Jack Helton at jackhelton@scbo.org. Supplies are limited.

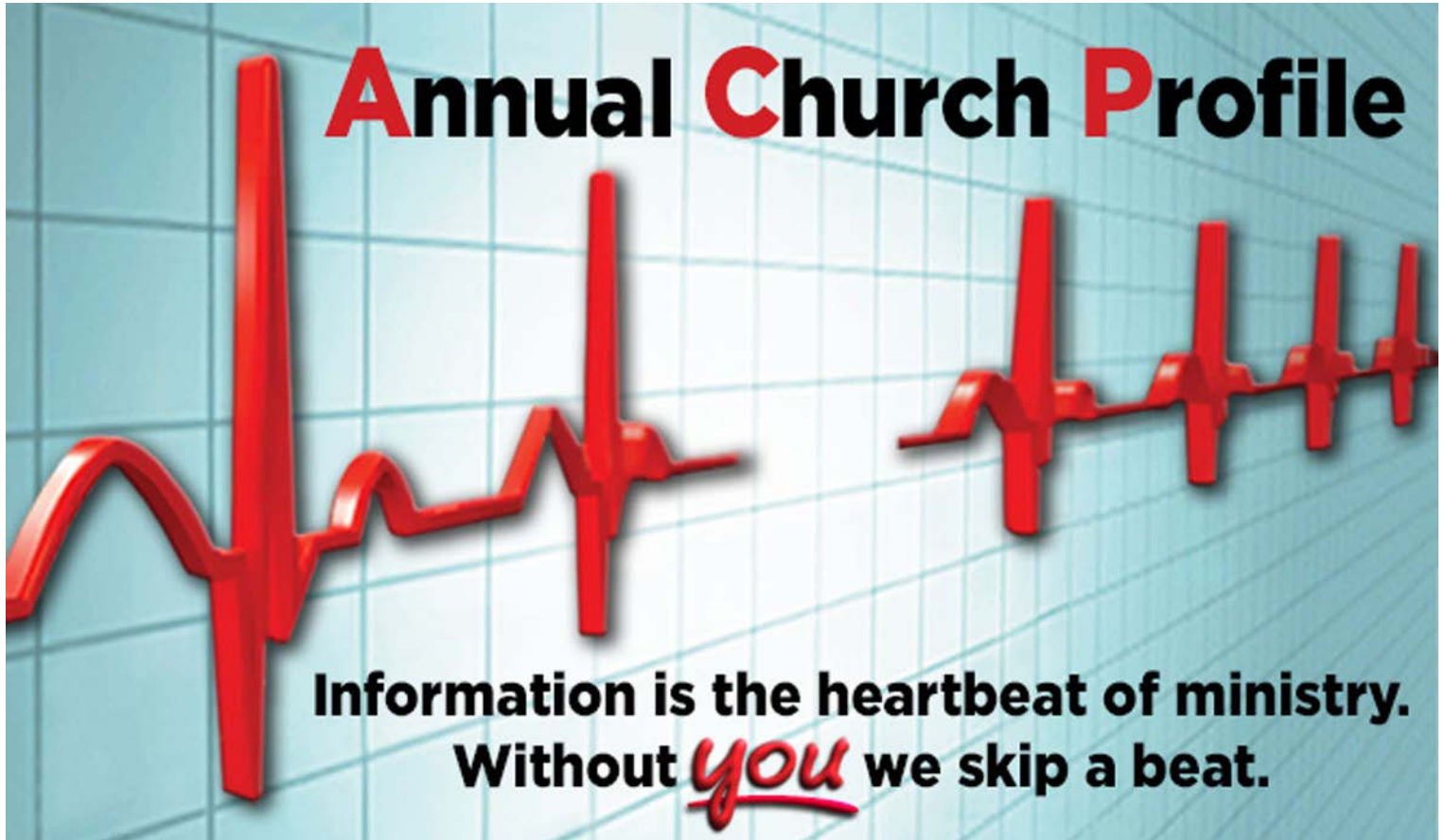
In addition, don't forget about familiarizing yourself with two valuable evangelism websites that offer great resources, insights, and strategies:
www.whosyourone.com www.namb.net/evangelism



THE | BEST | NEWS

Evangelism Training
by James Merritt

who's your **1**NE?



Annual Church Profile Reporting

The Annual Church Profile is a quick and much needed system used throughout the Southern Baptist Convention to collect vital statistical and leadership information. Churches and associations are asked to compile data each year on membership numbers, baptisms, worship, Sunday school attendance, and other key areas of ministry. Information is power! The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio encourage you to consider completing your church's Annual Church Profile as an act of "informational stewardship," similar to the stewardship you demonstrate through tithes, missions offerings, and support through the Cooperative Program.

WHY REPORT?

- Information gathered can be used to help churches measure their ministry directions and effectiveness.
- Information collected can be archived and not lost as the result of a church fire, flood, or property damage.
- Assists our national SBC agencies in reporting accurate, important, and relevant information concerning church life.

- Determines the number of church messengers that can be duly and properly elected to participate and vote in state convention and national convention meetings.

If you've not done so already, open this link and answer the 4 simple questions: <https://www.scbo.org/webformannual-church-profile-simple-form>.

I'll take it from there and see to it that your church information is recorded quickly and accurately.

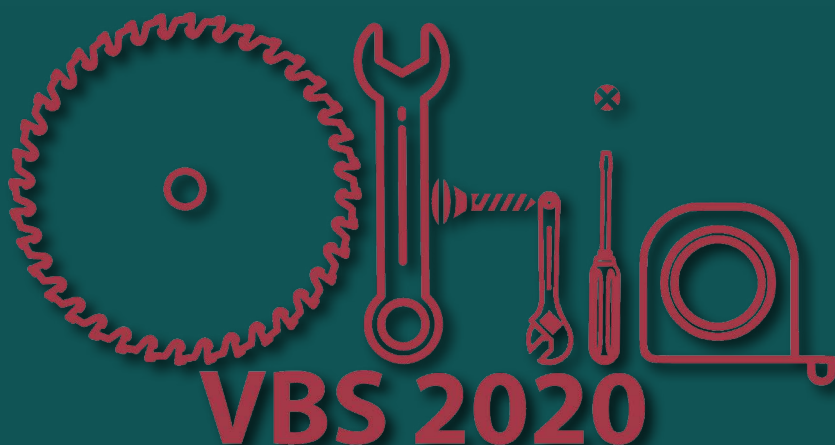


In the early part of January we took a team from Ohio down to Ridgecrest, North Carolina for training and planning of the 2020 VBS year. We are super excited about the Bible stories and how they give an opportunity to present Jesus every day...we don't have to wait 'til "ABC" day this year. The theme is really fun and I think boys and girls, men and women are going to have fun with Concrete and Cranes. We have some new members on the team that have fresh ideas and ways to promote and draw folks in as well as our veteran team members that have years of training under their belts and are stoked about pouring out their experience and wisdom to you at VBSI Ohio. It is always exciting to be able to get away and plan and bring the excitement to you at VBSI Ohio. The Vacation

CONCRETE & CRANES

Philippians 1:6

Bible School Institute of Ohio is the best way to build excitement for VBS, train your key leadership team, and get all of the inside tips and tricks from the VBS pros. There's still time to register! Head over to the VBS page on our website.



#2020VBSpreview

It doesn't matter how
LARGE or how **SMALL**
your church is, whether
you have 5 or 500 kids.
You can do VBS and it's
ALWAYS worth it!

LifeWay
VBS

"Cannot imagine a church Not having VBS. The single most important and greatest outreach you can have to introduce children to Christ." -Sarah Dowdy

"We have 0 kids on our church roll. 38 showed up for VBS last summer. Got to love small towns." -Marilyn Baker

"We only have 4 teenagers at our church (We are really small) but when we have VBS we have had up to 80 kids we offer a meal because you can tell some of the kids don't always get a good healthy meal. That is my favorite time of the year." -Ronda Huff

"I was saved during VBS!" -Linda Pratt



VBSI

CLINIC

CLINIC

First Baptist Church, Grove City, Ohio

March 14, 2020 9am-4pm

First Baptist Church, South Lebanon, Ohio

March 24, 2020 7pm-9pm

First Light Church, Vandalia, Ohio

March 28, 2020 9am-12pm

VBS
TRAINING 2020

More information at

scbo.org

Adopt a Zip Code for Church Planting

We praise God that the number of churches in Ohio is increasing. But we know that the number of people in Ohio who are not in any church remains significant. I once had someone comment to me, "Why do we need demographics? Throw a dart at the map (of Ohio) and you will have a place for a church." While that may be true, a church in a strategic location is more likely to reach more people.

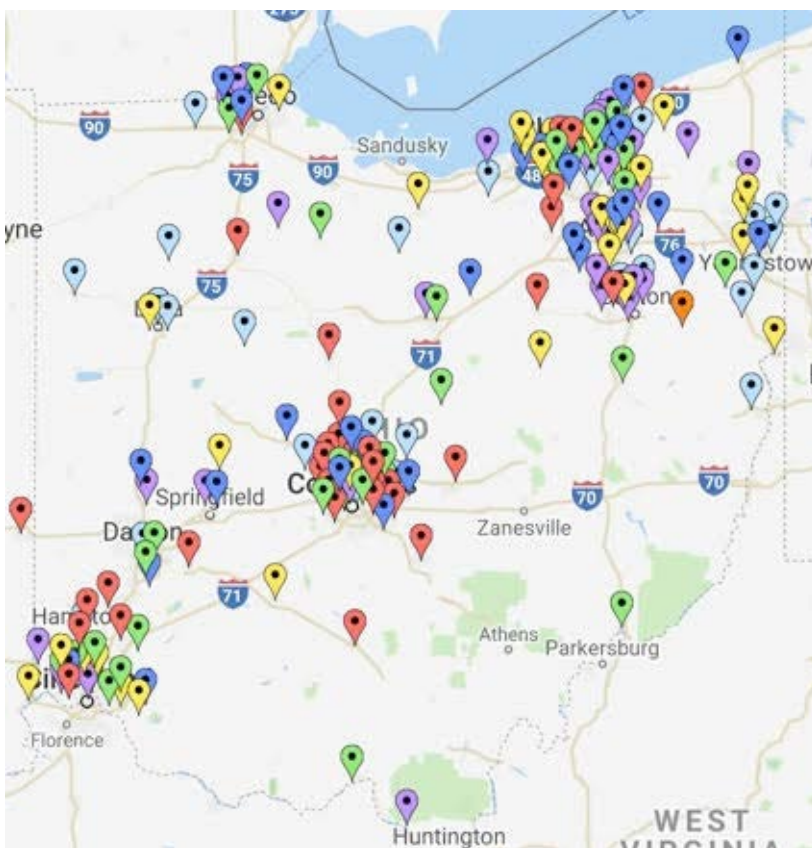
To help identify some strategic locations within the state, an Opportunity Scan from MissionInsite brings to the forefront multiple zip codes with substantial populations where a church could be planted. A list of zip codes in Ohio with no Southern Baptist church can be found at <https://www.scbo.org/article/adopt-zip-church-planting>. Those locations in red on the map have a population of over 20,000 in the zip code area. Those in blue have a population between 15,000 and 20,000. Those in green have a population of 10,000 to 15,000 and no SBC church. The yellow markers indicate under-churched areas with a population between 7,000 and 10,000. To begin to impact those areas with the gospel of Jesus Christ, we must begin with prayer. Select a zip code, possibly near your church, for which you will pray.

Pray. Pray for the those in the adopted area who do not know Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior. Pray for leaders to be raised up to take the gospel into that area.

Develop Leaders. Pray for churches in

Ohio to develop leaders to go to neighboring communities (Matthew 9:36-38). Develop leaders in your church (Use NAMB Pipeline or other tools.) who go as missionaries into your adopted zip code area.

Engage the Community. Send teams to engage the area with the gospel of Christ. Send leaders who will connect with community networks.



Plant a Church. Different areas and different people groups need churches that look different as they carry the great news of Jesus to people who need to know Him. Church is not a one-size-fits-all, but we do have one Savior who gave His life for all.

Pray as to what area God would have you and your church adopt. Then email your name, the name and city of your church, and the zip code you adopt to

Charlotte Barbo.

Perhaps God wants you to adopt one of the areas that has a church but the population per SBC church is more than 20,000. Ohio has more than 70 of those zip code areas.

Perhaps God wants your church to adopt a zip code that is not on the list. Do it! As I attend various events and locations within the state, I am reminded that the world has come to Ohio. I

frequently hear people speaking in languages that don't sound like mine. Jesus loves those who speak different languages and come from different cultures just as much as He love me. They need to know that love of Christ, who gave His life for them also. Perhaps your church is situated in an area that another church within your facilities could reach a different section of people. Pray about what God would have your church do. Develop leaders from your church to engage the community. Open your doors for another church to begin.

Pray.

Develop leaders.

Engage.

Plant a church.

You can learn more about the specific locations without Southern Baptist witness by researching on MissionInsite any of the zip codes listed. Information on how to register to use the demographic tool can be found at <https://www.scbo.org/content/missioninsite-demographics>.



MARCH^{FOR} JESUS

MAY 30, 2020

The LUKE 10:2 PRAYER CHALLENGE

The **Luke 10:2 Prayer Challenge** is a call for intercessors to pray daily that the Spirit of God will "compel" men and women in cities across America to **Plan, Organize and Mobilize a March For Jesus** in their cities, towns and villages in May of 2020.

As He prepared the 72 disciples to go into the cities of Judea and proclaim the kingdom of God, Jesus challenged them in **LUKE 10:2** saying *"The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few, pray therefore the Lord of the harvest that he send forth laborers into his harvest"*

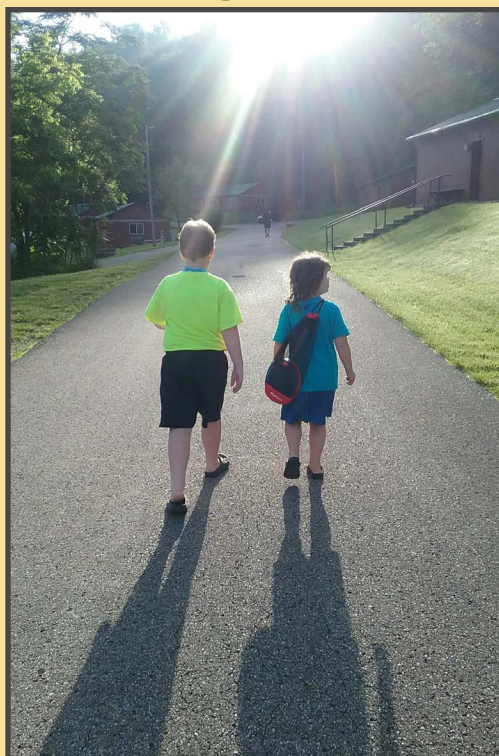
When Jesus challenged His disciples to pray that God would raise up workers for city harvest He used the word "Send". This is a rich word in the original language and it means more than simply "request or invite them to go". This word means "to compel, to thrust forth or even to cast out". In essence Jesus was saying to His disciples *"Pray that the Spirit of God will create a compassion for others in the hearts of people that will force them to leave their complacency and get busy in the work of advancing the kingdom of God in the city harvest field"* (see Matthew 9:35-37)

Do you accept the Challenge? Here are 5 things you need to Do:

- Ask God to burden your heart with great compassion for your own city or for some specific city that it may experience a move of God in awakening and revival.
- **Set the alarm on your cell phone, watch or clock to 10:02 am or 10:02 pm daily.**
- When the alarm sounds, or shortly thereafter, take a moment to pray three particular things for the city of your choice:
 1. That **Laborers** would be Multiplied there.
 2. That **Churches** would be Unified there.
 3. That **Jesus Christ** would be Glorified there.
- Commit to *March For Jesus* in your city and encourage others in your sphere of influence to publicly celebrate Jesus Christ with you.
- After one week, one month, or any time period you deem appropriate, ask God for another city and continue the Prayer Challenge.

Of course, even if you do not feel led to pray in the context of *March For Jesus*, please use this prayer strategy to pray for the cities, towns and villages of our nation, that workers will be "thrust" into these ripe harvest fields and lives will be transformed to the glory of Christ.

Family Camp



Christmas or Family Camp?

By: Maude von Ehrenkrook

Christmas or camp? If I'd been asked that question when I was a kid, I would have vacillated for weeks. The truth is as soon as Family Camp was over, I was counting down to Christmas and as soon as Christmas was over, I was counting down to camp. Even as an adult, now that Christmas is over, my mind is turning toward Family Camp with anticipation.

The first week in June at Seneca Lake Baptist Assembly is Family Week -- the most wonderful time of the year! My family started attending Family Camp at Seneca Lake when I was little, maybe seven or eight, and I went every year of my life growing up. When I got married, my husband and I went and I was excited to share Family Camp with my son when he was born.

Then they stopped doing Family Camp at Seneca Lake and I was devastated. As a mother of young children, I couldn't think of a better vacation to

take with my family. It was more than sharing something from my past -- I wanted our vacations to mean more than just "vacation." An annual family camp allows kids to establish traditions and memories that shape them into who they are going to become -- and that so much more through a Christian camp. During those years without Family Camp we didn't find another vacation that meant so much to us.

But in the summer of 2017, Family Camp was once again offered at Seneca Lake Baptist Assembly. During these last two summers, my four children have already fallen in love with Family Camp. They eagerly count down, start packing their bags in March, and hash out the best way to spend their time.

When I was a teenager, I still loved Family Camp. In our house, there were no groans about going on the family vacation, we were still just as excited

as when we were kids. In fact, if I had had to choose between Youth Camp or Family Camp, I wouldn't have given it a second thought -- Family Camp, hands down. My oldest son is now twelve and can't wait for Family Camp too. It feels more like a vacation when everyone wants to go!

In our society today, the family is falling apart. Families aren't spending time together or connecting with each other. We need to make sure our vacations are spent wisely, not rushing from tourist trap to tourist trap, but spending quality time with each other in a Christian atmosphere without all the distractions of life. It is there that lasting memories and connections are made.

We would love to see you at Family Camp at Seneca Lake Baptist Assembly this year!

For more information about Family Camp visit scbo.org/event/family-camp-seneca-lake.

Ohio Changers

July 25-31, 2020
MIAMISBURG, OHIO

Changing lives one home at a time...



WHAT IS OHIO CHANGERS? LIFE CHANGING.

Ohio Changers is a week long missions camp where students come together with adult crew leaders and work on construction projects throughout the day. At night the students and adults gather for a worship service followed by church group devotional time.

Students are challenged, encouraged, and equipped to come home closer to Christ and ready to live for Him.





Heart for Appalachia

I made a statement in the December 2019 Ohio Baptist Messenger that “the Road to Appalachia was paved with Love and Prayers”. When six workers from Ohio left for the Mountains of Appalachia the week before Christmas to help distribute the Christmas Backpacks to impoverished children and teens, they found out something that would change their lives.

Last year was an exciting time and at times stressful. We were needing 3,100 filled backpacks for our areas in Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia. We were short around 1,200 backpacks a few weeks before we were to travel to Kentucky. We began praying and letting the Lord know we weren’t going to have enough to cover all the children in need. The Lord remained quiet and we prayed and fretted about what we were going to do. We prayed, shared with others and collected more backpacks. We still didn’t have what we needed.

Duane Floro got in touch with me and said to call Scott Goldman in Alabama. They were Blessed with more backpacks than they needed this year. Alabama trucked over 3,100 backpacks up to Ohio for the needs we had; not only in The Mountains of Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia, but also Ohio. Children would have Christmas this year in Ohio because of Alabama’s

generosity. North Carolina also provided backpacks for another area in Ohio. God saw the “BIG PICTURE” and we didn’t. God already knew our needs and He knew who would provide the need.

“Thank you” to Scott Goldman, Alabama & North Carolina for Blessing us with the Christmas Backpacks.

“Thank You” to Mark Snowden, CABA Director in Cincinnati, for providing the pickup area for the trucks coming in from Alabama and the organization it took to contact churches to pick up their backpacks at such a short notice. “Thank You” to all the churches and people who showed up not only to unload the Alabama trucks, but to help load our truck that came in from Appalachia.

Ohio’s Goal this year was 1,400 backpacks. We collected 1,059 filled backpacks. We did 700 in 2017, 841 in 2018 and 1,059 in 2019. We did well this year and “Thank You” to all churches and individuals who helped fill all these backpacks. The children were so blessed and so thankful. This year we are going to need all the associations and churches in Ohio to take part in this wonderful ministry. There are some changes that have taken place and we are going to need everyone to step up to the plate. I will explain in more detail in my April article for the Messenger.

I will also, at that time, tell you about a very small Ohio congregation that had an enormous collection of filled backpacks. As some people say, “It will knock your socks off” when you find out the amount!

Ohio distributed 3,420 Christmas Backpacks in our partnership in the mountains of Appalachia. Nationally we collected 81,343 backpacks from 10 States and one other source.

There were 2,462 professions of faith in the entire Appalachian areas due to the spreading of the Gospel through the 81,343 Christmas Backpacks.

What happened to change the lives of the 6 Ohio workers who helped distribute Christmas Backpacks in December 2019? **“We left our Hearts in the Appalachian Mountains.”**

We will be returning to the Appalachian Mountains in December 2020.

Do you want to have a Life Changing Experience? Plan on joining us in the Appalachian Mountains in December 2020.

Barbara DeLorme
SCBO WMU Coordinator for the
Appalachian Christmas Backpacks

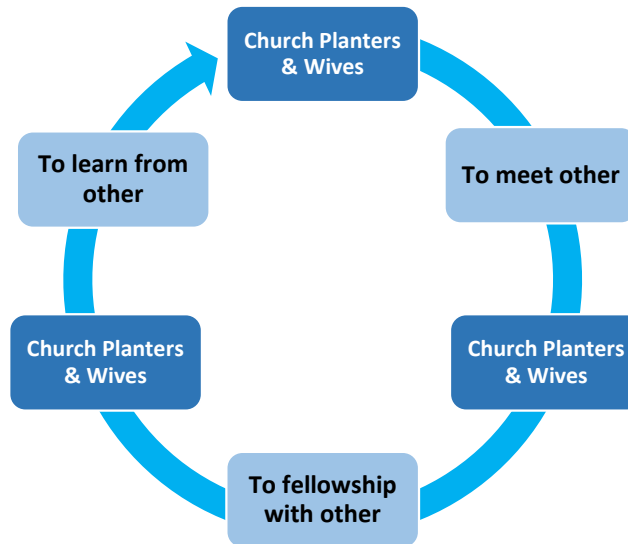
Phone (937) 609-0231
E-mail: 11kidsnanny@gmail.com

Attention Church Planters!

Church Planters and Wives who are within the first four years of their plant are invited to the

CHURCH PLANTERS FORUM **May 7 & 8, 2020 - Columbus, Ohio**

A great opportunity for:



This is the 10th year for this event. Every year planters and their wives leave feeling renewed and reenergized. They go back home with some great new ideas, too! We will begin at 10:00AM on Thursday, the 7th, and conclude in the early afternoon on Friday. We also offer an extra night's lodging on Friday to planters and wives who wish to extend their little getaway. We will have more details soon.

There is no charge for this event; food and lodging will be paid for with Cooperative Program funds.

For more information or to register, contact Charlotte Barbo at cbarbo@scbo.org by April 17th.

Associational Missionaries/Church Planter Catalysts/Send City Missionaries are also invited.

PRESS TOWARD THE MARK

"Be My Valentine" messages abound in print publications and digital recordings all across the United States and beyond this time of year. This expression and related ones appear on balloons, candy, cakes, banners, greeting cards, social media, and similar message venues.

Exchanging valentines remains a vivid memory from my grade school years. During the primary grades, we labored industriously to produce creative valentines to share with all our classmates. Our teachers stressed that valentines should be given to every member of the class. As we advanced into upper grades, we replaced "homemade" valentines with "store-bought" valentines. Still, the intent and extent continued: a valentine for every classmate.

Valentine Season highlights the human need for "love" and its inestimable value to people of all ages and backgrounds. Jackie DeShannon communicates this in her hit song:

What the world needs now is love, sweet love
It's the only thing that there's just too little of
What the world needs now is love, sweet love,
No not just for some but for everyone.

Admittedly, Valentine Season is fun and enjoyable. I still cherish precious memories of valentines I received from my sisters.

The "definition" or "type" of "love" occupying the focus of Valentine's Day varies considerably. In contrast, the highest value of the "Love of Valentine" pales in comparison to

the "Love of God." Frederick M. Lehman's song "The Love of God" expresses this quite well. His song includes a verse he borrowed from a poem some attribute to a prisoner who scratched the text on a wall in his cell which was found upon his death:

Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill,
And every man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
Though stretched from sky to sky.

This verse describes the height, breadth, and depth of God's love for people.

Referencing John 3:16, Billy Graham consistently proclaimed, "God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life. He explained clearly that to experience "the wonderful plan for your life," everyone must confess and repent of sin, and by faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus ask Him to save you and give you eternal life; and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior."

This is an eternal Valentine to offer to the residents of Ohio. Let's press toward that mark.



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

How to Become a Christian

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

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

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

THIRD, you must believe that Jesus came to this earth, was actually God in the flesh, lived a perfect life, and yet went to a cruel cross, dying for your sins, paying once and for all the penalty of sin (1 Peter 2:24). However, it's not enough

just to know these three things. Many of us knew them for years before we ever gave Jesus our lives.

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

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

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

How to submit Church News

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

Jack Kwok, State Convention Executive Director-Treasurer, Editor;
Amanda Mishne, Publication Layout.
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