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# the Steel Valley Baptist Association COMMUNICATOR

September, 2019

**Experiencing God ... Again 2019**

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## ACPs

It's hard to wait for Christmas; it comes around only once a year. The same is true for ACPs. But the exciting news is that ACP season is here. Hip hip hooray!



Soon you will be receiving your forms to fill out. There are only about 21 simple questions. Thanks for your participation. Let's set a goal of having 100% of our churches filling out these forms.

## Missions & Ministry

Matthew 9:35-38 says, "Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'"

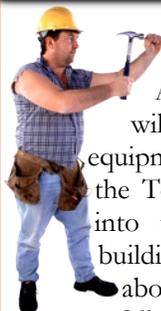
Jesus cared about the lost, the hurting and the sick. Jesus ministered to tens of thousands of people with both spiritual and physical needs over a three-year span. Jesus was often left tired, even completely worn out, so much so that He had to take some time in solitude to refresh Himself. No wonder He was able to sleep in the boat in the midst of a fierce storm! Jesus had a passion for people. He cared about their souls and their lives.

*see Missions, page 3*

## Pastor Prayer B'fast

Calling all pastors to join in the pastor's prayer breakfast, Saturday, Sept 21, 8:30 AM at First Baptist Church of Newton Falls.

## A Call for Men



Men, can you help with a move job? At 11:30 AM, Saturday, Sept 21, we will be moving just office equipment and supplies out of the Tod Avenue building and into the Commerce Avenue building. The distance is only about a two mile drive. The fellowship will be good.

## Seneca Lake Retreat

The prayer and planning retreat at Seneca Lake went very well. Steve Hopkins and Dwayne Lee did an excellent job leading. Almost thirty people from Steel Valley were present, representing about eight churches. To God be the glory!



## Pastor Installation

Pilgrim Baptist Church will host a pastor installation service for Mark Parks on Sunday, October 13, at 4 PM. The church building is located at 67 McClure St. in Struthers. Dr. Robert Wilson, Sr. of Atlanta will bring the message.

## Great Expectations!

Associational Missionary  
Gary L. Frost



"For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries." (1 Corinthians 16:9)

As Paul sat at his table in the city of Ephesus and penned a letter to the saints in the city of Corinth he was surely longing to be with them. He wanted to enjoy their fellowship and share with them the wonderful truths that God had embedded in his heart. In 1 Cor. 16:5-7 he tells them that he hoped to stop in Corinth as he passed through Macedonia and spend the winter there if the Lord would permit.

But God apparently had placed a higher priority on Paul's travel itinerary. In spite of his longing to see the faces of those to whom he wrote, God had further work for Paul there in the city of Ephesus. He writes in 1 Cor. 16:8,9 "But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost. For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries." In essence, the apostle was saying, "As much as I long to be with you there in Corinth, I perceive that God's will is that I stay here in Ephesus for a while longer because He has blessed me with access and opportunity in this city to advance His kingdom in a great and significant way ... even though some opponents are actively working to hinder God's work" Here is how this verse is translated in the Holman Christian Standard Bible, "because a wide door for effective ministry has opened for me—yet many oppose me". The Message Bible

*see Great, next page*

## Great, from page 1

(paraphrase) puts it this way, "A huge door of opportunity for good work has opened up here. (There is also mushrooming opposition.)"

Paul was committed to continuing God's work in a very difficult and even hostile environment, and he would do so with GREAT EXPECTATIONS. The city of Ephesus might be considered the ancient equivalent of San Francisco yet in the midst of the paganism and materialism and immorality openly displayed, Paul was determined to press forward with Great Expectations.

Paul wrote that there was set before him "a great and effective door." The word "great" in this passage is the Greek word "mega." Paul was saying that God was giving him a Mega-Opportunity to reach men and women with the gospel of Jesus Christ even though this was a very challenging place to serve.

But not only was this door "mega," it was also an effective door. The original word for effective (or effectual) in this passage is "energes" from which we get the word "energy". Paul was saying that this was an energized opportunity; that God was providing supernatural empowerment to successfully engage the

door of opportunity that was being opened. It would not be done in Paul's strength, it would be accomplished by the mighty Arm of God.

Paul was also well aware that with this great opportunity there would be great opposition, he said "there are many adversaries." He knew that there would be opponents to the mission who would work against his success. We can draw from this account that with Great Expectations there will always be Great Opposition but we can trust in our Great God Who will provide Great Power to accomplish His Great Purpose, which is, the manifest glory of His Son through the Church.

In Paul's unparalleled prayer captured in Ephesians 3:20, 21 he prays, "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

May our Great Expectations for ministry success in Northeast Ohio be realized in a Great Manifestation of Christ's love in this region. God has given us an open door ... LET'S GET GOIN'

## Ohio NorthEast School of Theology

The O.N.E. School of Theology begins classes in February, just five months away. The details for classes, instructors, etc. will be available in the next Communicator.



Be sure to check out all the information at the annual meeting.

## October Workshops

You have spoken! We have heard! (and if anyone would like to submit additional requests you can)

The day before our annual meeting will contain breakout sessions on a variety of topics requested by you to help our own churches. Bring many people from your church to attend so you can return to your church with a wealth of advice and material to use.

Topics include the following:

- How to Lead a Dynamic Prayer Meeting, led by Gary Frost
- Encouragement and Ministries for Pastors' Wives, led by Lynette Frost
- Principles for Revitalizing the Church, led by Mark Parks
- Financial Planning for Retirement, led by Ron Brown
- How to Utilize Social Media, led by Brent Beck
- Resolving Conflict, led by Rick Blair
- Ministry to the Addicted & Mentally Hurting, led by Randy Langham

Workshops will begin at 9:00 AM on Friday, October 18 and continue until 2:30 PM. Lunch will be provided. All taking place at Rising Star.



## Upcoming Calendar

- Sept 3, 6 PM - Admin Team Meeting
- Sept 15-18 - OnMission Celebration
- Sept 21, 8:30 AM - Pastor Prayer Breakfast at First Baptist, Newton Falls
- Sept 21, 11:30 AM - The moving of office equipment from Tod Ave. to Commerce Ave.
- Sept 26, 7 PM - Advisory Board
- Oct 18, 9 AM to 2:30 PM - A day of workshops at Rising Star Baptist.
- Oct 18, 7 PM - Spiritual Leadership presentation from Richard Blackaby
- Oct 19, 9 AM - Annual Meeting
- Oct 19, about 10:30 AM - Worship led by Richard Blackaby



## 2019 Annual Mtg

Our guest speaker for the October 19, 2019 annual meeting will be Dr. Richard Blackaby, the oldest son of Henry Blackaby. Richard received his MDiv and PhD from Southwestern Seminary.



He will also speak Friday evening on Spiritual Leadership. His book, by the same name, is a very excellent resource. Be sure to invite your friends even those from other denominations to join us around 10:30 AM. The Steel Valley annual business meeting will start around 9:00 AM and will be followed by a break to transition into our time with our guest.

Advertisements, including bulletin inserts, will be available. See Mark Parks.

## Missions, from page 1

In spite of the vast number of people Jesus ministered to, it wasn't enough. He needed help. Jesus couldn't reach everybody alone.

Today, Jesus still cares. Jesus still has compassion for the lost and hurting. Jesus still desires to reach out to them and touch their lives. But today He does it through His Church. We are His feet. We are His hands. We are His heart. We are His voice. It's time for the Church to take its calling to go and make disciples seriously. I believe the evil philosophies of this world are dominating the minds of this generation because the Church is not giving them the truth they need to counter Satan's lies. We are losing the battle because we aren't even in the fight. It's time for the Church to rise up in boldness, love and truth and begin to genuinely fight the good fight. I believe the time left for us in this world is short, so let's go out fighting.

NOW Youngstown wrapped up its summer outreach events in August. We once again experienced the hand of God at work in a powerful way.

The Jericho Project will be wrapping up our summer outreach season on Saturday, September 7th, at Grace Place Community Church in Warren.

The block party trailer has one reservation left, then it will be put away for the Winter.

We have two missionaries coming for OnMissions week. Robert and Rosalie Whitley\* will each minister separately at Cornersburg Baptist Church and Memorial Baptist Church. Robert will be at Cornersburg on Sunday morning while Rosalie will be at Memorial on that morning. Sunday night and Tuesday night they will be at Cornersburg. Monday night and Wednesday night they will be at Memorial.

Grace Baptist Church will be having a Webinar screening with a missionary in their mission field. I believe this will be a first for our association and I'm excited to hear of the blessings of this event. The Whitleys will speak at Grace Wednesday afternoon.

Don't forget to lead your congregation in the "Who's Your One?" ministry program. Everything you need is found online.

Our next Missions and Ministry Team meeting will be Monday, November 4th, at 4:30 p.m. at the associational office. PLEASE NOTE THE NEW TIME. We encourage you to join us. Pray for the Lord's direction and let's get into the battle.

Rafael Cruz Jr.

\* pseudonyms

## Visiting Missionaries

Robert and Rosalie Whitley\* have served on the field in East Asia since 1996. As physicians they have been involved in most every type of health strategy used in East Asia from the beginning. As foreign workers interested in Muslim peoples they have worked among several Muslim people groups during their entire period of service.



Robert was called to overseas service while still in high school. As a result of a short term trip to Central America, Robert felt compelled to consider the health care needs of people in developing countries. Thinking a call to overseas work was a call to full time pastoral work, Robert was initially reticent to pursue such a thing. Over the course of time and with the help of a caring youth pastor Robert realized the Father had made him in a particular way and wanted to use him according to how he had been fashioned. After gaining a master's of public health epidemiology, a doctoral degree in medicine and a 3 year residency training, he was off to the Far East to serve.

Rosalie grew up always fearing the site of blood. Daughter of Home Mission Board workers in the inner city, a life of service, meeting the needs of people, seemed normal to her. In high school, when asked to write about her life 10 years in the future, she realized the Father had plans for her. During a state convention meeting she was able to meet and talk with the (then) president of the Foreign Mission Board (now the IMB) who told her that the biggest need on the field in the area of meeting human needs was physician and nurse positions. In spite of her fear of blood Rosalie placed her trust in the Father that was calling and pursued a career in medicine, eventually becoming a surgeon.

\* pseudonyms

## The Steel Valley Churches and Missions

Austintown Baptist Church  
Beacon of Hope BC  
Carnation City BC  
Central BC\*  
Christian Community BC  
Community BC  
Cornersburg BC  
Cortland Trinity BC  
East Conneaut BC  
Faith BC  
First BC, Andover\*  
First BC, Garrettsville  
First BC, Newton Falls  
First Spanish BC  
Grace BC  
Grace Korean BC  
Grace Place Ministries  
Hope BC  
Howland Glen BC



Living Testimony Ministries  
\*Living Water BC  
Margaret Wynn Memorial BC  
Mercy Community Church  
New Birth-Kimmelbrook BC  
New Covenant BC  
New Hope BC, Windham  
New Hope BC, Youngstown  
Northside BC  
Rising Star BC  
Shenango Valley BC  
Solid Rock Community Church  
Southington BC  
Struthers Bible Baptist Church  
Unity BC  
Upper Room Ministries  
Youngstown Metro Church

\* seeking a pastor