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the Steel Valley Baptist Association COMMUNICATOR

January, 2019

Experiencing God ... Again 2019

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Thank God for Tommy Jones



Associational Missionary
Gary L. Frost

Thank God for Tommy Jones. Of course when he challenged the 8 students in his 7th grade Sunday School class at Jerusalem Baptist Church to memorize scripture verses he had no idea that one of them would become a preacher. That particular student happens to be the writer of this article. Though "Mr. Jones" was only 19 years old at the time, he was on fire for Jesus and was wonderfully used of God to provoke within me a love for scripture memorization.

One particular passage that he challenged us to put to memory was Proverbs 4:23, "*Keep thy heart with all diligence for out of it are the issues of life.*" I used to enjoy walking around our house methodically enunciating each word (using my "preacher voice") as practice made perfect and Proverbs 4:23 was etched into my brain. But it would take several years for this precious passage to be engrafted into my heart. I wish I could say that I've perfectly obeyed Solomon's instruction ever since; the sad reality is that I have not. I will say, however, that this verse launched me on a journey to pursue a heart of purity and holiness.

One translation renders Proverbs 4:23 this way, "*Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life*" (NASB). Still another says "*Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the well-spring of life*" (NIV). A popular para-

see Tommy, next page

Executive Board Meeting

The next executive Board Meeting will be Monday, January 14, 2019 at Shenango Valley Baptist Church, 40 S. Neshannock Road, Hermitage, PA 16148. Fellowship dinner at 6 pm. Meeting at 7 pm.

One of the *Experiencing God* videos will be presented. It contains a short story of how God changed a community in the mountains of Kentucky. One of the leaders who led the awakening was Lonnie Riley, a former pastor here in Ohio.

Prayer Breakfast

The next pastor prayer breakfast has a **new location** for Jan 12, at 8:30 am. The new location is Cornersburg Baptist at 3898 Tippecanoe Road in Youngstown. Sorry the meal will not be like the picture.



ACPs

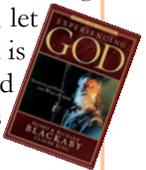
If your church has yet to complete the Annual Church Profile please do so by January 31, 2019. The simplified form has only 22 blanks to complete. At the very least please give the number of current members, the number of baptisms in the last year, and the average attendance for morning worship. For assistance please contact Sandra Parks.

Experiencing God

The focus for Steel Valley in 2019 is "Experiencing God ... Again." God's agenda consists of working through His people to reach the entire world and see everyone grow to maturity. We then can accomplish our greatest fulfillment when we get on God's agenda and see His will come to pass.

The health of our association shows we are not on God's agenda. But that can change! We all can and should become healthy so God can do His greatest works through all of us in Steel Valley.

If your church is participating in the 13-session course, Experiencing God, then as the weeks go by, let the association know how God is at work in your church. We need to hear from God, and this material can help.



If you do not have access to the free DVDs on the web site, then contact Sandra Parks for your personal copy of a DVD designed to coincide with the course. A few promotional videos are also included.

2019 Annual Mtg

Our guest speaker for the 2019 annual meeting at Steel Valley October 19 will be Dr. Richard Blackaby, one of the sons of Henry Blackaby. Richard Blackaby received his MDiv and PhD from Southwestern Seminary and has served as a pastor in Winnipeg, Manitoba and as the president of the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary. He now serves as the president of Blackaby Ministries.



Tommy
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phrase puts it this way, "Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life" (NLT). The point is clear; God commands us to protect our hearts at all costs from anything and everything that would distract us, detour us, detain us, defeat us, delude us, deter us, disengage us, disqualify us, discourage us, defile us, deceive us, disrupt us, delay us and thus deprive us of a path of life that brings glory and honor to our Savior. It is the "pure in heart" who will see God (Matthew 5:8).

It is my prayer that each of us, individually, and all of us collectively will pursue a heart through which Christ can touch the world with His love and forgiveness in the New Year.

New Pastor / Staff Orientation



The State Convention provides an orientation to all new pastors and staff to get to know how the state convention can serve you. The next orientation is March 12 at the SCBO Resource Center in Columbus. For more information call Linnett at 877.SCBO.ORG or you can email her at lsnodgrass@scbo.org.



If you seek Him, He will let you find Him (1 Chronicles 28:9)

New Covenant on Mission with Backpacks

On Dec. 9th, 2018 a team of 6 members from New Covenant left for Kentucky to take part in the Appalachian Christmas Backpack Mission. We visited five schools in the Cumberland Gap area (Pineville, KY, TN & VA).



What an experience to watch these children sing Christmas songs, listen to the Christmas story from Luke and hear the gospel. Their response to the gospel was as joyful as when they received their



backpacks full of gifts, school supplies and food items. At last count, there were 286 kids that made decisions to follow Christ. Praise God!

There were churches from Georgia, South Carolina and Ohio who took part in this mission. It was also a good time to fellowship and share stories and blessings with our Christian friends.



Anyone interested in hearing more about this mission, contact New Covenant Baptist Church.

In Christ's love,
Hazel Mullen

New Covenant Baptist Church
1606 Salt Springs Rd,
Lordstown, OH 44481
Pastor John Krause 336-479-8031
email: newcovenantbaptist@twc.com

Administrative Team

The Administrative Team of Steel Valley is leading to make the greatest impact on our community. Many of those decisions require the assistance and cooperation of the association. Your input at the upcoming Executive Board Meeting will be valuable.

Starting a church?

Is the Lord leading your church to start a new work? That's a good sign! Please contact Bro. Gary as to how we can pray for you or how we can assist.

Annual Picnic

Mark your calendars for the Park. - July 14 in the afternoon.

Harvesting Sites in Northeast Ohio

- Austintown Baptist Church
- Beacon of Hope Baptist Church
- Carnation City Baptist Church
- Central Baptist Church
- Christian Community Baptist Church
- Community Baptist Church
- Cornersburg Baptist Church
- East Conneaut Baptist Church
- Faith Baptist Church
- *First BC, Andover
- First BC, Garrettsville
- First BC, Newton Falls



- First Spanish Baptist Church
- Grace Baptist Church
- Grace Korean Baptist Church
- Grace Place Ministries
- Hope Baptist Church
- Howland Glen Baptist Church
- Living Testimony Ministries
- *Living Water Baptist Church
- Memorial Baptist Church
- Mercy Community Church
- New Birth-Kimmelbrook Baptist Church
- New Covenant Baptist Church



- New Hope Baptist Church, Windham
- New Hope Baptist Church, Youngstown
- Northside Baptist Church
- Rising Star Baptist Church
- Shenango Valley Baptist Church
- Solid Rock Community Church
- Southington Baptist Church
- Struthers Bible Baptist Church
- Unity Baptist Church
- Upper Room Ministries
- Youngstown Metro Church
- * seeking a pastor