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# the Steel Valley Baptist Association COMMUNICATOR

November, 2018

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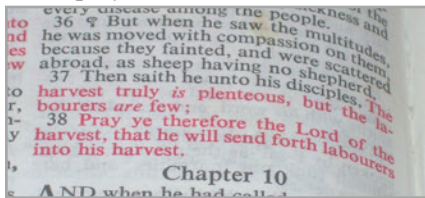
## Vision for SVBA



Associational Missionary  
Gary L. Frost

I am now 7 months into this wonderful opportunity to serve as missionary for the Steel Valley Baptist Association. Having had my pastoral ministry birthed by this fellowship of churches I find it a great honor as well as a sobering responsibility to serve the churches of the northeast Ohio region in this capacity.

I am still in the process of engaging the pastors and congregations of the Steel Valley to assess how I might serve as the primary representative of this association in providing support, encouragement, guidance and resource to assist our churches in penetrating the darkness of Ohio and beyond. Please pray for me in this effort.



There's a passage of scripture that has long served to inspire my passion to advance the Kingdom of Christ in whatever ministerial role I occupy. It is recorded in Matthew 9:35-38 as Jesus surveyed the spiritual landscape of the Palestinian region where He lived and ministered. Matthew records it this way: *Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when He saw the multitudes, HE WAS MOVED WITH COMPASSION FOR THEM, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no*  
**see Vision, page 3**

## Annual Meeting - "Experiencing God ... Again"

What a good spirit at the annual meeting. The hospitality from FBC Newton Falls has always been superior. Thanks to Pastor Steve Spurlock and the entire church family!

During the business portion two new motions were made. One relates to the James Arvel Hendrix Leadership Fund (see details in article below). The other motion empowers the Administrative Team to appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to look at the re-branding of the Association. The Ad Hoc Committee would be open to any of the Steel Valley Baptist Association pastors (limited to such) and report back to the April 2019 Semi-Annual meeting.



We also heard from Steve Hopkins, the Leader of the Bible Teaching and Leadership Resource Group of the state convention.

You can read all the reports from the annual meeting in the annual book of reports. For your copy contact Sandra.

After the business portion, Claude King led the worship. How exciting to hear what God is doing throughout the world. Even more exciting is that the same potential for God's presence is available to us!



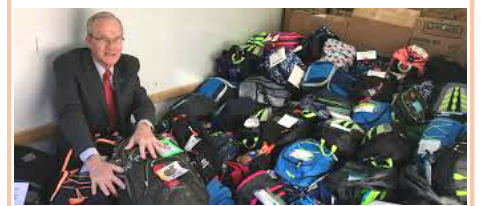
## Scholarships available to SVBA Churches The James Arvel Hendrix Leadership Fund

The purpose of the James Arvel Hendrix Memorial Leadership Fund is to assist local congregations of the Steel Valley Baptist Association in discovering and developing leaders who will advance Christ's kingdom in Northeast Ohio and beyond. Requests for scholarships will be limited to \$1,000 per church congregation and \$500 per individual within the congregation receiving the leadership training. The scholarships will be based on written request from member church leadership stating the purpose and projected expense of the leadership development project. Approved expenses are available to be paid in advance of the expense being incurred or as a reimbursement of expenses incurred by the scholarship recipient. Specific scholarship requests will be evaluated for approval by the Administrative Team of the SVBA. Submission of request must be made before Sept 30, 2019.

The desire is for as many leaders in our association to receive quality training  
**see Scholarship, next page**

## Backpacks to AMM

About 25 packed backpacks were shipped from our association to the state convention on Nov 7. These were forwarded to a trailer which was bound for Appalachian Mountain Ministry. Bill Barker and all others in the ministry (including the children) greatly appreciated the shipment of over 600 backpacks. Their AMM goal is 80,000 for this Christmas. Thanks to Steel Valley!



## Scholarship cont'd from page 1

for the benefit of God's kingdom and of course for Steel Valley as well.

Additional guidelines have been provided for events requiring travel and registrations fees:

- Reimbursement for mileage would be based upon \$.30 per mile
- Lodging reimbursement not to exceed \$120.00 per night
- Registration fees: not to exceed \$250.00

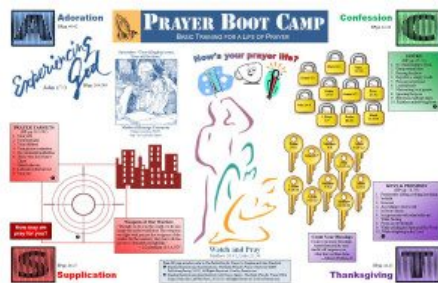
Contact Sandra for a Church Scholarship Application form.

The opportunities to apply this fund at your church are numerous. In fact multiple churches could pool together each of their \$1000 and put together an ultra top quality seminar with the best of the best speakers and training helps. Below you can consider a few of the many options. Thousands of other leadership training opportunities exist.

**URGENT:** Pastors please check ahead of time to see what other churches are doing to avoid unnecessary duplication.

## Prayer Boot Camp

Friday evening before the annual meeting Claude King led a prayer boot camp - a simple approach that enriches the prayer time when Christians gather to encounter God. Out of the kindness of his heart he has made available many resources for free by downloading from <http://blog.lifeway.com/growingdisciples> his blog site. For personal help you can reach him at [claudio.king@lifeway.com](mailto:claudio.king@lifeway.com) or at 615-275-7081. Never once in the



two hours did anyone request taking a five minute break. The time flew by fast and the spirit of all participating was focused and God-centered. What a great night.

## New Minister

We welcome Cody Prochaska and his wife, Brenda, into our Steel Valley association. He currently serves as the new Youth Pastor at Living Water Baptist Church, Ashtabula

## 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.



## Missions & Ministry

Struthers Bible Baptist Church had an outreach event in October. I was able to participate in this and I was blessed to see what an impact they had on their neighborhood as they invested in a Halloween alternative event.

Please pray for NOW Youngstown's last two outreach events on November 17th and December 15th for Thanksgiving and Christmas respectively. We will be handing out free turkeys to needy families for Thanksgiving and shoe box gifts and coats for Christmas. The gospel will be preached at these events.

Don't forget to set a date for an outreach event at your church for 2019, as well as make plans to participate in the On Mission event when churches get to host missionaries for four days. Let our team know as soon as you decide on these ministry opportunities.

God bless you,  
Rafael Cruz Jr.

## Leadership Training Opportunities

### Events

- Hosting a conference
- Host a statewide event
- Joining another church
- Traveling to a conference
- Taking Online Courses

### Possible Areas for Training

- Children's Ministry
- Deacon Ministry
- Evangelism
- Finances
- Finding God's Vision for Your Church
- Men's Ministry
- Praying Powerfully
- Relationship Building
- Spiritual Leadership
- Starting a Church
- Starting Ministries
- Sunday School Teachers
- Women's Ministry
- Worship Leader
- Youth Ministry

### Pastoral Training

- One-on-one training
- Online Courses
- Pastor's Conferences

### Locations to Find Training

**Colleges and Seminaries** - The list of places are too numerous to list here. Cedarville is not far away. Southern Baptist Theological Seminary is not far away.  
**LifeWay** - Go to [www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com) and hover the mouse pointer over "Ministry Resources" and choose from almost a dozen topics.

**Ministry Grid** - LifeWay has over 3,000 training courses available on video through a site called [Ministry Grid](http://Ministry Grid). All church members can have access to all training videos at a cost of \$97 per month or \$597 per year.

**North American Mission Board** - The need at your church might lead you to [www.namb.net](http://www.namb.net).

**State Convention of Baptists in Ohio**  
A variety of quality opportunities can be obtained by calling the state office. Steve Hopkins, the Leader of the Bible Teaching and Leadership Resource Group, is a valuable resource.

**Steel Valley Baptist Association** - Don't overlook the wealth of information available in our own backyard.

## Pastor Prayer B'fast

The next pastor prayer breakfast will be January 12, 8:30 am at the new location for Mercy Community Church in East Youngstown.

## Vision continued from page 1

shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."



Most often when this passage is referenced, the primary take away is that there is a labor shortage in the mission field that must be remedied by having more hands in the work. But as I have come to understand the context of this passage, Jesus was not so much concerned with "hands" in the work; He was focused upon "hearts" in the work. We notice that His challenge to "pray the Lord of the harvest" was in the context of His own compassion for the weary and scattered multitudes. The issue was not a "labor deficit" the issue was "A LOVE DEFICIT". Christ challenged His disciples to pray that the Father would send (compel, force) laborers who shared His compassion for lost and hurting people. I have found that when people are moved by compassion you don't have to motivate them, you simply must direct their motion.

### Steel Valley Membership

We currently have 35 churches on the roll as member churches of the Steel Valley Baptist Association, however, only about one half of these churches participate at the level of giving and supporting meetings/events. My assignment is to

service all the churches currently on our roll and it is my commitment to do so, regardless of their level of involvement as long as they are on the roll. However, my pastoral, denominational and para-church experience informs that the wisest use of time and resource is to give priority attention to those who are "on mission" with us. One of my early mentors instructed me this way, he said, "In order to avoid ulcers in the ministry focus on those who will, rather than on those who won't"!!!!

### Strategy

Since church planting is without a doubt the most effective means of fulfilling the Great Commission in evangelism and discipleship, we will challenge churches in this association to plant new congregations. We recognize, however, that a church must be healthy to plant efficiently, effectively and "impactfully". Unfortunately, few of our churches are healthy enough to incubate healthy new congregations. It is therefore my intention to develop a KINGDOM COHORT of churches in this association to commit to a 3-year church health process that will result in healthy church planting.

### Kingdom Cohort

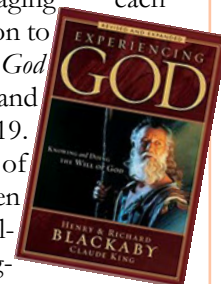
We want to take the next 3 years to work directly with Kingdom Cohort Congregations during which time the pastor and at least 2 church leaders will commit to:

- Conduct a thorough (and perhaps painful) church health assessment of their congregation
- Fully commit to take part in quarterly church health training sessions
- Implement a church healthiness process for 3 years

- Prepare during this process to plant at least 1 new congregation either locally or nationally after 3 years.

I am not in pursuit of an immediate response to this church planting challenge. We will ask congregations convinced to join this process to make this commitment at the Spring Quarterly Business Meeting on April 8, 2019. In preparation for this possible commitment we are encouraging each church in the association to begin the *Experiencing God* Course (Blackaby and King) in January of 2019.

Though many of our churches have taken this impactful course already, we are challenging you to the journey of *Experiencing God... Again*.



### On Mission

Brothers and Sisters ... we must move from a "club mentality" in our congregations to a mission mentality. Remember that when Jesus launched His 3-and-a-half-year ministry in the synagogue of his hometown Nazareth, He didn't try to come up with a new contemporary theme for a mission statement. He read from Isaiah 61 which says:

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,  
Because He has anointed Me  
To preach the gospel to the poor;  
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,  
To proclaim liberty to the captives  
And recovery of sight to the blind,  
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;  
To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.*

As Bob Pierce, founder of World Vision, put it, "Let [our] hearts be broken by the things that break the heart of God."

## 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