



# the Steel Valley Baptist Association COMMUNICATOR

November, 2017

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## Annual Meeting

What a great day we had at Central Baptist, Oct. 21. The spirit was super, the challenge from Steve Hopkins was encouraging, the annual message by Jimmy Meadows was motivational, the expectations for the association were exciting, and the food was fantastic. Wow, what more could we have asked for. God is good - all the time.

The new administrative team:

Randy Langham, moderator  
David Gray, vice-moderator  
Sandra Parks, Treasurer  
Steve Spurlock, Clerk  
Rafael Cruz, Missions & Ministry  
Mark Parks, Church Strengthening  
Ron Thompson, at-large member  
Lawrence Poling, at-large member

Be in prayer as the Team leads. One of the additional responsibilities will be to serve as the A.M. Search Team.

## Mississippi Revival

The biannual revivals in MS are coming up Apr 15-18. Be in prayer to see if God wants you to join this ministry.

## Fall Leaves

One of the many blessings about living in northeast Ohio is the Fall leaves. Nowhere else do entire trees burst with color like they do here.

Do you know why leaves turn red, yellow, or orange? When the leaves die the chlorophyll (green pigment) leaves. The other colored pigments remain longer. All along they existed while the leaf was alive but the green overshadowed those colors.

Kinda like the Christian life. All along the glory of Christ exists within us. But it does not burst into full color until we die to ourselves.

## Administrative Team

In the November 6 meeting we continued our process to add exterior lighting to the office building.

We also received a request from a church to join our association, and we have followed the guidelines in the by-laws. Very likely we will have another sister church in our fellowship by the semiannual meeting in April.

The process to look for the next associational missionary began. We have begun the process to put together a personal profile, a listing of attributes and skills that we desire in the next AM. Anyone can submit a resume now, but the emphasis for receiving them will probably start in another month or two.

## State Missions Off.

The title above refers to the State Missions Offering. It appears the Steel Valley churches gave over \$7,000 this past Sept. Praise the Lord for your giving. It is a reflection of giving hearts.

## ACPs

For those of you who have already completed your ACPs, thank you, thank you, thank you. As of midnight Oct 30 only 20 of the 34 churches and missions have completed the work and entered or had entered the information into the SBC database. If you have not yet completed your ACP, please try to do so soon. If you are completing the printed forms and not entering into the web site, then if at all possible please try to mail the completed printed forms back to Randy Langham or give him the statistical numbers over the phone. If at all possible, please forward at least the church membership and the number of baptisms. Thanks.

## Book of Reports and Church Directory

If you did not receive a copy of the Book of Reports presented at the annual meeting please contact Bro. Randy. PDF copies of each are the easiest to send, but if you need a printed copy then put in a request. His e-mail address appears at the top-right of this sheet. His cell number is 330-398-2455.

## New mailout dates for Communicator

To improve the quality of this monthly newsletter the mailout dates will be immediately after the meeting of the Administrative Team. The team usually meets the first or second week of the month. This new date for the publications will allow information to be distributed faster and people can have time to respond.

## Add to mailing list?

Do you know of anyone who would like to be added onto the mailing list for the SVBA Communicator? If so, contact Randy at 330-398-2455 or [rlangham@ohiosvba.org](mailto:rlangham@ohiosvba.org).

## Sympathy

Our prayers go to Bro. Brian Picard in the passing of his dad who lived in the Cincinnati area.

## Lottie Moon Offering

The week of prayer for missionaries in the International Mission Board is during the days of Dec 3-10. Pray, give, and go as the Lord leads.

## The World is Crying Out for Help

Thursday, Oct. 26, President Trump declared opioid abuse “a national public health emergency” and “the worst drug crisis in U.S. history.”

The state of Ohio has about 4,000 deaths per year from overdoses.

The community has formed community meetings, a public think-tank, web sites to accumulate public information, etc. to try to find answers.

despair  
crime  
incarceration  
poverty  
overdoses  
depression  
inability to get a job  
hopelessness  
suicide

State of Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine has presented his twelve recommendations to help the state in this crisis.

This subject matter has made the front page of six consecutive Sunday Youngstown papers (and still counting) and has had numerous articles within the papers. The drug problem coincides with numerous other problems in the state like suicide, gambling addictions, alcoholism, violent crimes, etc.

**The world is literally begging for help.**

## Worldly Solutions

Public Opinions. Ask the people who are addicted how to stop addictions.

Money. Just pour more money into unproven solutions. Most addicts are sent to rehabs, but the people refuse to

reveal the actual success rate of helping their customers kick the habit for good.

Depend on gov't. Same as above

Depend on businesses to improve economy. If only those companies in other states would move to Northeast Ohio people here would stop using.

Sue pharmaceutical manufacturers.

Provide clean needles for free.

Legalize drugs and immorality. If you legalize them then using them would no longer be morally wrong - so they say.

As bad as these suggestions are, the people should be commended for trying

## The Only Solution

Jesus is the only lasting solution. *and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.* (2 Chron 7:14)

*"The things that are impossible with people are possible with God."* (Luke 18:27)

*"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."* (Matt 11:28-30)

*Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,* (Eph 3:20)

Churches have the responsibility to present this solution to end the problems of the world. Government is not the solution. Public opinion think tanks are not the solution. Trial and error are not the solution. Neither is science, reasoning, medicine, or any other topic.

Therefore, the only way the world will find relief is for the church to be the church and proclaim the truth.

## What God has done

**In history past** God revitalized our nation with the first and second great awakenings as well as the national revival around 1858. In all of these crime and serious problems prevailed, yet God intervened as the church humbled herself.

Other pockets of land have also seen a prevalence of crime diminish, because of God's power: Asbury College (1970), Wales (1905), and many more, including southeast Kentucky (1998-2005).

**Recently** God has already been at work, stirring the hearts of many people. IHOP (the International House of

Prayer) has gained intensity in their prayer efforts. The Presidential Prayer Team (formed soon after 9-11) has also had a recent surge of God's presence in their prayer efforts. The National Day of Prayer, led by Dr. Ronnie Floyd (former SBC president) and has sensed a surge of passion in the hearts of people to pray.

## What SVBA Can Do

**1. Cry out to God** asking Him to show us how serious the community problems are and how serious the problems are inside our churches. Christians will not respond to the need until they see how serious the problem is. Many (if not all) our churches are currently impacted by drugs, gambling, crumbling families, etc. As this is being written a church near San Antonio has been brutally attacked during a Sunday morning service. Might this be one of many wake up calls for the

sleeping giant to awaken. May God have us see life around us as God's sees it.

**2. Humility.** In the famous 2 Chron 7:14 the first thing God mentions is “humbling ourselves.” The needs are serious, and we are incapable of solving them. If we will be honest, we need to admit the areas where we use medications too - only different kinds like TV, overeating, being too busy, over indulging in hobbies, etc.

**3. Pray** After we humble ourselves our prayers do not go out initially for God to change others, but ourselves. We confess

our indifference, apathy, lack of love for God and others, etc. Pray individually. Pray as a church. Pray in clusters of churches. We must pray believing that God is big enough to change society. He is.

**4. Prepare for the harvest.** When people seek help be ready to “counsel,” to help them recover, to grow spiritually, etc. Help them transition to a life which is unfamiliar to them. This might include helping them find jobs and housing.

**5. Rejoice in the victories** that God provides!