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the Steel Valley Baptist Association COMMUNICATOR

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Experiencing God ... Again 2019

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AM Report



Associational Missionary
Gary L. Frost

Paul's letters to his young apprentice, Timothy, have long served as essential guidance for me not only as a pastor and denominational leader but also in my personal journey with Christ. From these epistles I have been blessed and refreshed as well as admonished and rebuked. One particular passage that was embedded in my soul in my earliest days of service was 1 Timothy 4:16 as Paul told this young protegee, *Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.*

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Semiannual Meeting

If you were not there you should have been there. Most of all God was there. The spirit was great. The fellowship was great. The hospitality and food were great. Almost 60 people were in attendance. Bruce Smith drove up here from Columbus. At least 17 of our pastors were present; at least two others had plans to be there. Wendy Robinson from Warriors, Inc was there. God is at work in northeast Ohio! (Sorry no pictures were taken.)

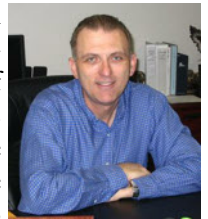
Different reports appear throughout this newsletter. For now let's list the four motions that were approved.

1. We voted to receive Cortland Trinity Baptist Church into our association (more in the right column).

see Meeting next page

New SVBA church!

We welcome the Cortland Trinity Baptist Church into our Steel Valley Association. Pastor Dan Barker and his wife, Sue, attended the semiannual meeting and shared one of the ways God has moved through the church family. The church meets at 2576 McCleary Jacoby Road, Cortland OH 44410. www.cortlandtrinity.org



Missions & Ministry

2 Timothy 3:1-5 says, *But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unboly, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.*

Can we all agree that this passage accurately describes where we are today? Just watch the news and you will see that sin and evil have been victorious in our generation. From the abortion issues, where they want to kill a

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Sunday School Leadership Training

Exhorting and Motivating People to action

On Saturday June 1 Cornersburg will host an association-wide training for Sunday School leaders and members.



Carlton Berry, the Minister of Discipleship at Dauphin Way Baptist Church in Mobile, Alabama and his wife Shay, will lead breakout sessions.

Also leading in the breakout sessions will be Mark Jones. He serves as the Pastor of First Baptist of Vermilion, Ohio and as the Director of Missions for North Coast Baptist Association.



Topics for breakout sessions include: How to engage your culture, Teaching Each Other How to Live like Jesus, Teaching Children that becomes Learning, Crafts and visual aids that help Children Learn, Outreach VBS and Backyard Bible Clubs, and much more.

9:00 AM to 2 PM
includes lunch

continental breakfast at 8:30 AM.

Cost is Free, but please register by calling Randy Langham at 330-398-2455. The first 5 churches to have a member register will receive a free copy of *Sunday School That Really Works*, an \$18 value.



Annual Picnic

Mark your calendars for the Park - July 14. Call Mark Parks for more information about this event at Perkins Park in Warren.



Provide a Safe Place

Providing a “Safe Place” for All Participants in Church Ministries
by: Jack Kwok, Ph.D



The Bible condemns sex outside of marriage (marriage as defined by the Bible) in the strongest terms. Through His Word (Ephesians 5:1-3), God calls Christians to sexual purity within the confines of Biblical marriage. Consequently, He wants His local churches to be “safe places” for all ages and genders (1 Thessalonians 4:1-7). Jesus pronounces severe judgment on anyone who abuses a child (Matthew 18:6). Not only does the abuse of a child elicit the judgment of God, it is a crime in the state of Ohio particularly with regard to sexual abuse. As Executive Director of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, I encourage affiliated churches and associations to strive to provide a “safe place” for all participants in ministry activities. The Mission Council of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio has assigned the Resource Team which I lead with this purpose: assist and encourage churches and associations affiliated with the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio to obey the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ. This encouragement includes the provision of a “safe place” for all participants in the various ministries. Southern Baptist Churches are autonomous, more accurately Christonomous. I have no authority to tell or make a church to do anything. Yet, I have the assignment to assist and encourage churches. I strongly encourage affiliated churches to continue providing “safe places” and to respond to violations of “safe places” appropriately. Moreover, I encourage affiliated churches to continue to improve protections and responses as additional and more effective ways are discovered to do so.

Resources

Several resources are available to assist churches implement policies and procedures to protect participants from violations of “safe place” in the area of

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In essence Paul was letting Pastor Timothy know that the health of his congregation in Ephesus was fully dependent upon the quality of his own spiritual diligence. In other words, the Disciple will seldom be more mature than the Discipler.

We have recognized the urgent need for healthy congregations in northeast Ohio that will serve as “the pillar and ground of truth” (1 Timothy 3:15) in our many challenged communities. Therefore, we have concluded that the primary concern that we must address is LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT. “Followership never exceeds the level of leadership” and therefore our focus is not only upon pastoral leadership but we will endeavor to directly or indirectly effect the levels of leadership in as many aspects of church life as the Lord allows. We want to encourage and assist pastors in developing their leaders.

As of this date, however, only a few congregations have taken advantage of the Arvel Hendrix Leadership Grant that has been made available to all the SVBA churches. This grant provides \$1000 to any church in our association that will conduct or pursue leadership development training for their pastors and/or lay leaders. (Applications can be obtained by contacting Sandra Parks at sgparks219@gmail.com.)

We are looking forward to conducting a Spiritual Leadership Conference prior to our annual meeting. The Conference will be conducted by Dr. Richard Blackaby who co-authored the book *Spiritual Leadership* with his dad, Dr. Henry Blackaby. This will be a one day event held at the Rising Star Baptist Church in Youngstown on Friday, October 18, 2019 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and then an evening gathering at 7:00 pm

at the church. Dr. Blackaby will speak again at our annual meeting on Saturday, October 19th at Rising Star.

We are also looking forward to partnering with the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio as we engage participating congregations in our Kingdom Cohort Leadership Initiative. Each congregation engaging the Kingdom Cohort process will commit to:

- Three years of engagement
- Assign two leaders along with the pastor as primary trainees in the process
- Assigned leaders attending quarterly training events
- Full church attendance at an annual Leadership Development Conference
- Assign one member to serve as an “Intercessor” who will become part of a monthly prayer call team focused on praying for the churches of the SVBA
- After or during the three year process sponsor a church plant (or other missional unit) in the region, the nation or internationally.

To launch this initiative the pastors and church leaders of the association will gather with ministry leaders from the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio for a two-day prayer retreat, August 16-17 of 2019. Together we will prayerfully chart out a 3 year curriculum for leadership training for our SVBA church leaders. More information will be provided very soon.

Finally, we are looking forward to our Association Picnic on July 14, 2019 at Perkins Park, located in downtown Warren, Ohio. We will gather for our quarterly meeting at 3 pm under the tent before engaging the Warren community in an evangelistic outreach. We hope that all our churches will make a special (even sacrificial) effort to join us this year. We will have fellowship, recreation, worship and proclamation of God's saving word. Blessings.

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2. We voted to move the office of SVBA from the Tod Avenue building to the 545 Commerce Avenue building (formerly Austin Village BC)

3. We voted on the following people to serve on the Administrative Team taking effect the day after our October annual meeting: Randy Langham as

Moderator, Steve Tharp as Vice-moderator, Sandra Parks as Treasurer, Steve Spurlock as Clerk, Mark Parks as Church Strengthening Team leader, Rafael Cruz as Missions and Ministry Team leader, Cindy Burdick as Member-at-large (2-year term), and Brent Beck as Member-at-large (1-year term).

4. Randy Langham resigned as moderator for the remaining 6 months.

National Prayer Day

The first Thursday in May contains the National Day of Prayer. God is on the move in America. Where you see God at work join Him. He is at work across our land so join the momentum and pray for God's children to humble ourselves, to pray, to seek God's face, and to turn from our wicked ways. Eyes have not seen nor ears heard what God has in store for our land!

MS Revival Linkage

For over 30 years our association has had a linkage with the Clarke County Baptist Association in Mississippi. This is the year they send pastors up here to lead revivals. Be in prayer for the following churches who will be hosting simultaneous revivals May 26-29: Community BC, Solid Rock Community Church, Shenango Valley BC, and Struthers Bible BC.

October Workshops

If you could get quality advice about any area of church life what would you choose? Of 16 surveys submitted so far, here are the top topics: how to revitalize an existing church (12), how to have a dynamic prayer gathering (8), continuing education for pastors (8), resolving conflict (8), and having an effective deacon ministry. Also high in percentage was fellowship for pastors' wives.

You are welcome to continue to submit your requests which will be addressed in the breakout sessions, Friday, Oct. 18.

Missions Celebration

How would you like to have SBC appointed missionaries come to your church? Contact Rafael or the Missions and Ministry Team immediately. The Fall dates for the OnMission Celebration will be Sept 15-18.



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baby up to an hour after its birth, to the power of the LGBTQ lobby who have been given an open door to many of our public schools, without any parental consent, to the fact that some states are considering legislation where it will be illegal to call homosexuality and transgenderism sinful behaviors - even in church!

The persecution of Christians is very near here in the good ole USA. We are labeled as being catalysts of hate crimes because of our Biblical stance on moral issues. In this time of spiritual desperation, the Church is losing the battle because we aren't even in the fight. Where is the voice of love and truth in the midst of all the lies that the media, our colleges, and Hollywood, are filling the minds of this generation with?

The Church has been silent for so long we have lost our voice in America. It's time for us to wake up and come alive once again. We must get into the battle and fight for the lost souls who are being deceived due to the lack of truth. People are dying without Jesus in their hearts and going to hell every day because we are too comfortable, or afraid,

2019 Annual Mtg

Our guest speaker for the 2019 annual meeting at Steel Valley October 19 will be Dr. Richard Blackaby, the oldest son 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.



Extra Bulletins

One of our churches has 15 extra bulletins accumulating every week. If your church can use these free blank bulletins please contact Randy Langham at 330-398-2455.

to share the gospel with them. The end is surely near, and we must fight to the end for the lost souls of this generation.

We have three opportunities to offer you today to get into the fight. They are:

1. Using the block party trailer for an outreach event. A day of training on how to use the equipment will be at 10 am June 8 at the Renaissance Center in Windham, Ohio. Call me if you need help with this.

2. "Saturate" - The Jesus Film Project reintroduced with multi-language DVDs, door hangers, gospel tracts and maps for the adopted area. Just adopt a zip code and they will provide all you need for free! Go to saturateusa.org.

3. "Who's Your One?" - Resources found on whosyourone.com. Many free resources to download. One kit is free for each church. A sermon series, 30-day prayer guide, and more are available to lead your church in this ministry work.

We have four churches participating in the On Mission Celebration Week - September 15-18, 2019

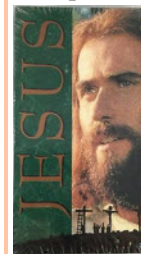
The next M&M meeting will be June 3, 11 am at SVBA office.

Pray for the Lord's direction and let's get into the battle.

Rafael Cruz, Jr.

Saturate USA

Do you remember years ago when Campus Crusade for Christ made a *Jesus*



video on VHS and we passed them out to all houses in our neighborhoods? That same video has been duplicated onto DVDs and can be played in one of many languages. A similar video for children

comes with multiple languages. A philanthropist has paid for all the expenses of manufacturing & shipping the packages to every house in the US. The only thing left is for Christians to hand deliver them. Will you pray to see if God is leading you (and others) to reach all the houses in your zip code?

For more info contact Rafael Cruz and go to www.saturateusa.org.

Upcoming Calendar

Apr 8, 7:00 PM, Semiannual meeting at First Baptist, Garrettsville
 Apr 15, 3:00 PM, Pastor Prayer time at Covelli Centre to pray for upcoming Men's Rally in the Valley
 Apr 19, Good Friday
 Apr 21, Easter
 Apr 27, Men's Rally at Covelli Centre
 May 2 - National Day of Prayer
 May 6, 6:00 PM - Admin Team Meeting
 May 11, 10:00 am - 2:00 PM - Open House for Eagle's Nest
 Jun 1, 9 AM - 2 PM - Sunday School Leadership Training
 June 3, 11 AM - M&M Team Meeting
 June 8, Block Party Training, Windham
 July 8, 7 PM - Executive Board Meeting
 July 14 - Picnic at Perkins Park
 Aug 16-17, 3 PM to 3 PM - Kingdom Cohort Prayer Retreat at Seneca Lake
 Sept 15-18 - OnMission Celebration
 Oct 19, 9 AM - Annual Meeting at the Rising Star Baptist Church

Kingdom Cohort Prayer

Jesus said we are to pray to our Father, "Your kingdom come. Your will be done." This means we need to know His kingdom work and His plans.

For this reason the pastors and leaders of the churches in our association are invited to a two-day prayer retreat at Seneca Lake, from 3 PM Friday to 3 PM Saturday, Aug 16-17. It will be led by the state convention. All participating SVBA churches can utilize the Arvel Hendrix scholarship to pay for the trip.

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sexual interactions. **Church Mutual Insurance** www.churchmutual.com/safety, **Brotherhood Mutual Insurance** www.brotherhoodmutual.com/risk/safety/riskmanagement/abuseprevention, and **Ministry Safe** www.ministrysafe.com have excellent resources to help churches and associations in this area.

Steps of Action

I encourage accusations and/or observations of sexual encounters with a minor be reported to law enforcement authorities straightway. Furthermore, I encourage churches and associations to

afford due process to accused perpetrators while they isolate the perpetrators from all minors in ministries during the judicial process. Should the accused be found guilty of the accusations by confession or judicial process, I encourage churches and associations to consider the suggestions stated above to prevent exposure of the abuser to minors in ministries. This includes intentional ministry to the victim or victims. Moreover, I commend churches affiliated with the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio who have adopted strong policies and procedures to provide "safe places" for all participants in their various ministries, especially for minors. Thank you.

Eagle's Nest

The ministry to help pregnant girls with housing and equipping for life skills will open soon. The Open House Celebration is Saturday, May 11, 2019, 10 AM to 2 PM at 115 Illinois Ave, Youngstown, 44505.



Mercy's Open House

Mercy Community Church will host an open house June 9 at 4 PM. Light refreshments will be served. The address of their new location east of YSU is 1321 Lansdowne Blvd, Youngstown, Ohio 44505.



Warriors, Inc.

June 1, 10 AM

Unity in the Community Parade

June 1, 11 AM

Celebration

June 1, 9:30 PM

Fireworks display on Market Street Bridge.

June 15, 4:30 PM

Daddy Daughter Dance

Connecting with the Community

A seminar will be presented in July by pastor Bill Mazey on connecting with the community in order to reach people. Details are not yet finalized.

Churches and Missions 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
 Cortland Trinity 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