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# the Steel Valley Baptist Association COMMUNICATOR

June, 2022

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## Theme for 2022: Advancing The Kingdom ... One Soul at a Time

### Rightness or Righteousness



Gary Frost

Jesus Christ was surely no comedian, however, there's no question that He had a healthy and powerful sense of humor. At times He used satire to bring home His point.

Matthew chapter 23 records the most extensive statements Jesus made regarding the hypocrisy of the Pharisees. They were quick to judge the tiniest offenses of others while unashamedly excusing their own inconsistencies. In Matthew 23:23, 24 He said, *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. BLIND GUIDES, WHO STRAIN OUT A GNAT AND SWALLOW A CAMEL!"*

*see Rightness, next page*

### Pastors' Zoom Mtg

The next pastor Zoom Meeting for fellowship and prayer is June 16 at 7 PM. The Zoom meeting can be accessed by clicking here:

[Zoom Mtg](#)

### Mission Trip

Our 2022 Lynch Mission Trip was a blessing to us all! We want to thank everyone for their prayers and financial support, we are grateful.

We had eight people from five different churches in our Association to join us this year. We stayed at Solomon's Porch on the second floor which is their hotel floor with bedroom en suites. We were assigned three rooms at Solomon's Porch to clean and paint. The walls and ceilings were in poor shape and needed to be repaired before painting. Some repaired the walls and ceilings and removed wallpaper while others primed and painted.

Some worked with the children's camp ministry while oth-

*see Trip, page 3*

### Franklin Graham

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, September 27 at 7 pm to join thousands to hear Franklin Graham at the Youngstown Amphitheatre.

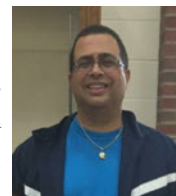


FRANKLIN GRAHAM  
**GOD LOVES  
YOU22** TOUR

How will your church cooperate in this outreach? Will you serve on a prayer team? Will you serve as a counselor? Will you serve as a financial supporter?

### Missions & Ministry

Genesis 6:11 *Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence.*



Rafael Cruz Jr

Every time you turn on the news someone's life has been violently taken. It's happening all across our nation. We're even seeing more mass shootings occurring in schools, businesses, stores, parties, etc. Too many people today don't understand the value of a life.

There was a 16-year-old young man, who was excelling in school and was kind to everyone, who was murdered less than two weeks ago while playing basketball at a Youngstown park. There are local residents of that park who say they won't go to that park, nor will they permit their children to play in that park, due to the constant fighting and occasional shootings.

This shouldn't surprise us because Jesus told us things would be as the days of Noah in the last days (Matthew 24:37). When God had no

*see M&M, page 3*

### Exec Board Meeting

The next quarterly meeting for Steel Valley will be the Executive Board Meeting, July 18, 7 PM at Memorial Baptist in Poland.

### ***Rightness, from previous page***

One theologian made this comment regarding the gnat and camel illustration, “The Jews had a law that forbade eating any flying insects that did not have jointed legs for hopping (Leviticus 11:20–23), and in this they were strictly observant. Because water could have insects and insect larvae in it, pious Jews were careful to strain the water through a cloth before drinking it. They did not want to accidentally ingest an unclean insect and thus violate the law. Jesus mentions this practice in His proverb and then contrasts it with a hyperbolic picture of gulping down a camel. In this way, Jesus accused them of taking great pains (straining out gnats) to avoid offence in minor things of little importance, while tolerating or committing great sins (swallowing camels) such as deceit, oppression, and lust.”

In essence Jesus was accusing these “theologians” of pursuing Rightness rather than seeking Righteousness. Let’s be clear, there are not big sins and little sins, but we must be careful that in biblically criticizing sinners we judge ourselves by the same measure by which we judge them (Matthew 7:1-5).

In our current American culture Christians are being bombarded with social and moral issues that challenge us to take a firm and inflexible position and fight at all costs to assure that our side prevails. Now, without a doubt, we must be people of conviction and tenacity who will not

compromise the truths of God’s word. There is surely a time to fight. But we must not forget that scripture tells us that *“the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.”* (2 Corinthians 10:4)

Jesus seldom rebuked the Pharisees for their knowledge of and reference to the law. Jesus Himself came to fulfill the law through His life of total surrender to the will of the Father. The primary problem of these religious leaders was their selective application of the law.

They proudly used the law as a pedestal from which they could judge and condemn others. Instead of using God’s truth to heal and guide the hearer, they used the law to promote their own selfish agendas. In many cases they were “right” but it is obvious that their rightness was not seated in righteousness.

The Pharisees were right in their application of the Levitical law in dealing with the woman caught in the act of adultery (John 8:3-11). But while not questioning the accuracy of their interpretation of the law, Jesus went beyond the letter of the law to express the spirit of the law in granting grace and forgiveness to the convicted sinner.

The sinister spirit of Pharisaism has now raised its ugly head in the midst of evangelicalism in America as it seems that many believers have edited Christ words in Matthew 6:33 where He says, *“... But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness*

*and all these things will be added unto you.”* The latest version would have that read, “Seek first the kingdom of God and His [rightness] ...”

In describing the kingdom of God, Paul wrote in Romans 14:17 *“For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”*

In our passionate zeal for God’s glory to fill the earth let’s make sure that our eye is on the right prize. The goal is Righteousness and not Rightness. Our calling is not to win the tough arguments ... our assignment is to win lost souls.

Righteousness enlightens while rightness can blind. Righteousness informs while rightness blames. Righteousness forgives while rightness condemns. Righteousness unites while rightness divides. The height of righteousness was Mount Calvary while the height of rightness was Mount Sinai. Finally, it’s possible to be right and go to hell but if you have the righteousness of Christ, heaven is your destination.

Build your life and your ministry on righteousness and not rightness. Paul wrote in Romans 1:16-17, *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it [the gospel] the RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith.’”*

## **Men’s Rally**

The next Men’s Rally in the Valley will be June 18 at the Covelli Centre. Doors open at 7 AM. For more information click on the button below.

**Mens Rally Website**

## **Association Music**

Austintown Baptist Church will host the next 5th Sunday Music Fest, July 31 at 6 pm. Afterwards we will have fellowship and refreshments.

## **Finances**

As of May 31, Steel Valley has the following correct financial totals regarding the calendar year 2022:

Year-to-date Budget: \$66,935.00  
Year-to-date Spent: \$26,695.64  
Year-to-date Income: \$19,016.85

### ***M&M, from page 1***

mercy or patience left for mankind, other than Noah, the earth was full of violence. There was no peace.

There was no peace because the people had rejected God's love and authority in their lives. In the same way, many in this generation have rejected Christ, the Prince of Peace, and His authority in their lives. If you don't know the Prince of Peace, you don't know peace. Peace is a natural result of knowing Jesus and being filled with His Holy Spirit. Peace is even the third fruit of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22.

What this world needs is Jesus. We need the Prince of Peace in our homes, in our communities and in our nation. We, as God's soldiers, are to have our feet shod with the gospel of peace (Ephesians 6:15). That means we are to go out and share the gospel of the Prince of Peace with a world in desperate need of His peace. If we faithfully do our part, the Spirit will certainly do His part. Take advantage of the time we have left in this world. Let's get busy about the Lord's business.

To assist your congregation in reaching out to your community, we have the block party trailer available. The cost is only \$100 for its use, which is a real bargain. Start praying about doing outreach this year. If you need help, just ask. I'm still waiting

on calls reserving the block party trailer for your outreach events for this summer. Let's point our neighbors to Jesus. Only Jesus can transform minds, hearts and souls. Let's take Jesus to our communities.

We had one pastor show up to the evangelism training day at the association office on May 28th. We had a blessed outreach event afterwards with the Jericho Project Street Ministry. From this point on I will only do evangelism training at churches that ask for it.

The Jericho Project Street Ministry has already done four outreach events this summer. The Lord is still moving powerfully. Please lift us up in your prayers.

Franklin Graham will be bringing a free evangelistic event to the Youngstown Foundation Amphitheatre on Tuesday, September 27th at 7:00 PM. The BGEA team is hoping that churches and believers in our area will invite not yet Christian friends, family, neighbors, etc. Please keep this event in your prayer and start talking to others about it.

Our God is an awesome God! The best is yet to come! Pray for opportunities to be God's mouthpiece during 2022.

God bless you,

Rafael Cruz Jr.  
Missions and Ministry Team Leader  
(330) 507-0117

### ***Trip, from page 1***

ers filled gift bags with food and ministry brochures serving and praying in door to door ministry. There was more this year than serving - we were ministered to also.

There's a new ministry happening at the C3 Church, the local church in Lynch. At 4 o'clock every day they spend an hour being in the presence of the Lord - not asking for anything - not thanking Him for anything - only worshiping and praising Him.

We went to Lynch, Kentucky to serve others and be a blessing but I truly feel we received more blessings than we gave.

Cindy Burdick  
and the Mission trip Team

**Watch Video of Trip**

## **Church Strengthening**

### **O.N.E. School - Fall Semester**

When people become Christians they need to be discipled. For this reason O.N.E. School will provide a course in the Fall entitled "Making Disciples." This class has already been offered and has been the most appreciated and transforming among all classes, because it produces a passion and a general structure for all churches to adapt for application.



Make plans now to enroll and to be a major influence in the spiritual growth in your church. The Fall Semester will probably begin the last week of August.



## **Free Dental?**

Wouldn't it be great if a mobile dental unit could come to our area and provide free dental work for people in need? Hmm. Let's pray.



# Great Family and Outreach Event!

Everyone has a unique father story. Whether positive or painful, it's always personal and can deeply affect the core of our identity and direction of our lives. Kendrick Brothers' **SHOW ME THE FATHER** is the first documentary film from the creators of **WAR ROOM**, **OVERCOMER**, **FIRE-PROOF**, and **COURAGEOUS Legacy**.

Featuring a variety of amazing true stories, this captivating movie takes audiences of all ages on an inspiring and emotional cinematic journey. Providing a fresh perspective on the roles of fathers in today's society, **SHOW ME THE FATHER** invites you to think differently about how you view your earthly father, and how you personally relate to God.



If your church is not participating in hosting this video considering joining one of our other churches and add to the crowd enthusiasm. Whether you host or join, you can always go to your own church in the weeks afterwards and offer follow-up classes to address the four main topics being discussed.

For more information about the video or about hosting you can go to [www.showmethethefathermovie.com/](http://www.showmethethefathermovie.com/)

## Participating Churches (so far)

**Central BC, Niles**

Sunday, June 26 at 7 PM

**Cornersburg BC**

Father's Day, June 19 at 6 PM  
and Monday, June 20 at 7 PM

**Cortland Trinity BC, Cortland**

Friday, June 17 at 6:30 PM

**First BC, Newton Falls**

Saturday, June 18 at 5:00 PM

**New Hope BC, Youngstown**

*(date to be determined)*

**Renaissance Center, Windham**

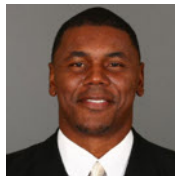
*(date to be determined)*

**Pilgrim Missionary BC, Struthers**

Saturday, June 18, Breakfast at 9 AM,  
Video follows

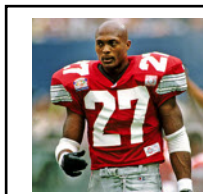


**Featuring  
two men  
who are native  
to Youngstown**



**Deland McCullough**  
NFL Running Back for  
the Cincinnati Bengals  
*(went to Campbell  
Memorial High School)*

**Sherman Smith**  
NFL Running Back  
for Seattle Seahawks  
& San Diego Chargers  
*(went to North High School)*



**Eddie George**  
Heisman Trophy winner at  
the Ohio State University  
and NFL Running Back for  
the Tennessee Titans



**Dr. Tony Evans**  
Pastor, Author,  
Father, Grandfather,  
Great-grandfather



**Jim Daly**  
President  
Focus on  
the Family



**Stephen Kendrick**  
Film-maker  
Kendrick Brothers  
Films

## Endorsements

"Just Fantastic"

*Tony Dungy, Author, Former NFL Coach*

"Powerful! Poignant! Every father I know will leave the theater re-energized and more fully aware of the significance of his assignment as a father."

*Bob Lepine, Longtime Co-host Family Life Today*

"If you are a great Dad, this is an encouraging and affirming film. If not, these fathers will inspire you to repair anything that's broken and build a legacy of love and respect with your children."

*Steve Arterburn, Founder and CEO, New Life Ministries*

"Show Me The Father is full of punch and passion. Each fathering situation portrayed provides insights into the world of fathering which were spot on and inspirational. As a natural father of five, a father-figure to many, and now a grandfather of fourteen, I was moved by each profile. If you're a dad, a friend of a dad, or even a child, tell everyone to see this movie. It's riveting and will propel all men to excellence in their fathering."

*Ken R. Canfield, PhD, Founder, National Center for Fathering*