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# the Steel Valley Baptist Association COMMUNICATOR

February, 2023

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## Theme for 2023: Equipping Leaders for the Next Generation

### Let's Charge Ahead



Todd Kaunitz

As a former athlete and coach, I have competed in games that demanded a strategic plan to win. At times, this required multiple options – a Plan A and a Plan B – while at other times we needed to be committed to a singular strategy to bring us victory.

When it comes to fulfilling Jesus' mission of redemption, we have been given one clear game plan: become disciples who make disciples. This is his Plan A. There is no Plan B! Jesus has commissioned us to go and proclaim the Gospel, inviting people into relationship with him. We see this in the Great Commission in Matthew 28.

Jesus' final words to his disciples before ascending was a call to go and tell the world His story. Jesus is the hope of the world and has sent his followers to be His Plan A to take Him to the world! In this announcement, there is one clear and emphatic imperative: "make disciples." Our primary calling is connecting people to Jesus and His ever-restoring life, teaching them to obey, and sending them out! So, all our going, baptizing, and teaching is about making disciples who make disciples. This is overwhelming when you recognize the responsibility with which the church has been entrusted. However, there are two truths that give us confidence to *see Charge, next page*

### Jan Exec Board Mtg

Our last Executive Board Meeting was held this past January 9. The following motions and results of voting appear below:

**Motion 1** The Administrative Team recommends that the Tod Avenue property be sold for \$100,000.00 to the River Church. The motion was approved.

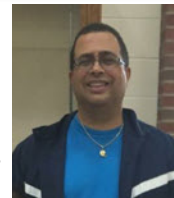
**Motion 2** The Administrative Team moved that upon the sale of the Tod Avenue property for \$100,000.00 to the River Church there be set aside the amount of \$10,000.00 to assist the Christian Community Church in acquiring and maintaining a new place of worship *see Board Meeting, next page*

### Association Music



The quarterly MusicFest this past January 29 went very well. About 50 people were in attendance, and very few if anybody realized the event ended after two hours. Afterwards, the majority stayed and fellowship. The next one will be April 30 at Shenango Valley.

### Missions & Ministry



Rafael Cruz Jr

*Acts 4:13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.*

Who knows without a doubt that you've been with Jesus? Does Satan constantly attack you because you are a threat to him? Peter and John were being threatened over their faith walk with Jesus. They hadn't being subtle, and they certainly weren't "keeping their religion to themselves." The Lord used them so mightily that the highly educated religious leaders were left dumbfounded in their attempt to silence the Lord's servants. Then they remembered the apostles had been with Jesus.

When you've been with Jesus, the presence and power of God is in you. He equips you to do all that He's called you to do – yes, even sharing Jesus with others. Let's show the world the result of being with Jesus.

There are a few things your church can do to prepare to reach out to your community:

1. Make plans to do outreach. If you don't commit to doing it and

*see M&M, see page 3*

### **Charge, from previous page**

pursue His mission.

First, we have been sent by His power. In verse 18, He says, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." Jesus declares that ALL authority has been given to Him. Jesus is Lord of the universe! In His earthly ministry, Jesus shows power over disease and sickness, wind and waves, and demonic powers. But most importantly, through His death and resurrection, Jesus has power over sin, death and hell! There is nothing in all the universe He doesn't have authority and power over, and this includes every nation. And with His power and authority, we are sent. This is our confidence as we engage the world. We do not have to be afraid, worried, or intimidated. Our confidence does not rest in our abilities, accomplishments, or aptitudes but in His authority! We have been sent by the one who is in complete control of the universe!

Second, we are sent with His presence. In v. 20, He says "... And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." How is Jesus with us? Through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, God's presence is with us. He is Immanuel, God with us! This is where our confidence is found. Just as the Lord comforted Moses and Joshua with His presence when He sent them to conquer the land, Jesus is sending us to conquer the land and usher people out of bondage. All authority has been given to Him and He is with us!

This is why prayer is so essential to the Great Commission. It is vital for us both individually and corporately. We are called to a task beyond our capability; therefore, we need the power of God that is only found in the presence of God. We must be a people who seek His presence through prayer and ask His Spirit to fill us. We don't have to be afraid; He is with us!

## **Jeremy Westbrook and State Leaders**

Jeremy Westbrook, the Executive Director/Treasurer of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, will be here in our association March 11 to have lunch with the pastors and wives. The details are still in the making. Very likely the location of the dinner will be in the Warren - Cortland area. The meal will start at 6 PM on that Saturday.



**Jeremy Westbrook**



**Jack Helton**



**Steve Hopkins**

As you can see above, we may likely have two additional leaders to join in the discussions. Jack Helton serves in convention relations relative to regions and Steve Hopkins serves in convention relations relative to associations. All these men have a heart for the Lord and for your church, and they have served the Lord for decades.

Keep your ears and eyes open for upcoming details regarding the dinner.



## **Pastors' Zoom Mtg**

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

**Zoom Mtg**

### **Board Meeting, from previous page**

ship. This amount will be made available to the church upon their completion of the process of constituting as a church. These monies will be available for two (2) years and in the event that constituting is not accomplished in that time frame the monies will be available for use by the Steel Valley Baptist Association at its discretion. The motion was approved.

**Motion 3** A motion was made that the Property and Grounds committee look into the sale of Grace Place, and finding a suite of two offices to lease for Steel Valley paid employees and report back at the next Executive Board meeting. The motion was approved.

**Motion 4.** At the end of the meeting a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved.

## **The Steel Valley Churches and Missions**

- Austintown Baptist Church
- Beacon of Hope BC
- Central BC
- Christian Community BC
- Cornersburg BC
- Cortland Trinity BC
- East Conneaut BC
- Faith BC
- First BC, Andover
- First BC, Garretttsville
- First BC, Jefferson
- First BC, Newton Falls
- First Spanish BC
- Grace BC
- Grace Korean BC
- Grace Place Ministries
- Hope BC
- Howland Glen BC



- Living Testimony Ministries
- Living Water BC
- Margaret Wynn Memorial BC
- Mercy Community Church
- New Birth-Kimmelbrook BC
- New Covenant BC
- New Hope BC, Windham
- New Hope BC, Youngstown
- Northside BC
- Pilgrim Missionary BC
- Rising Star BC
- Shenango Valley BC
- Solid Rock Community Church
- Southington BC
- Steel Valley Church
- Unity BC
- Upper Room Ministries

### M&M, from page 1

- make the plans to do it, you won't do it.
2. Start praying for the lost on a regular basis and challenge your congregation to passionately do so in their daily prayers.
  3. Set dates to go prayer walking – praying as you walk the streets and then knocking on doors and offering prayers to the local residents.
  4. Set a date to have an outreach event. Ask for help if you need it.
  5. Get commitments from members who will volunteer to serve in doing outreach. Pray over every volunteer as they make their commitment to serve.
  6. Bathe the work of outreach in prayer. Every person, even those who hand out hotdogs, need to be spiritually prepared.
  7. Follow up with those who come to Christ or ask for prayer at the event. Get their contact information if they are willing to give it.

Don't be pushy if they do not. If you would like help in planning and training your church for the event, please call me. I would love to help you out.

We would love to establish a team that will be willing to help churches in doing their outreach ministry. Please present the need to your church. I will set up a date and time to meet with all volunteers and train them to be outreach specialists.

Let me know what dates you need the association block party trailer so I can add them to my calendar. 2023 is completely open at this time. It's \$75 to use the trailer plus a \$25 deposit. This helps to replenish supplies.

Let's make 2023 a year of faithfulness to the gospel and victory in sharing Jesus with those who desperately need Him!

God bless you,  
Rafael Cruz Jr., (330) 507-0117  
Missions and Ministry Team Leader

## O.N.E. School Spring Semester

The Advisory Board for the ONE School is currently meeting to make the classes even more accessible and affordable. The final details might not be available for another week. When they do we will forward the information immediately.

For now, there is a very good likelihood the next class will be "How to Interpret the Bible Accurately" and will likely start around April 11. Sorry, we will have to wait until the final details are in.



Be in prayer about participating in this class. It will skyrocket your spiritual growth greatly.

## Finances

As of January 31, Steel Valley Baptist Association has the following financial totals regarding the calendar year 2023:

Year-to-date Budget: \$ 5,577.92  
Year-to-date Spent: \$ 5,114.90  
Year-to-date Income: \$ 3,898.62

## Interested in Learning Desktop Publishing?

A great opportunity to learn or improve your skills in making newsletters, posters, presentations, and more is coming soon to Steel Valley. A very inexpensive yet powerful program is affordable and convenient for churches of all sizes.

If your church does not have anyone skilled at this work, then now is a great time for someone to learn. If you or someone you know is interested please contact Randy Langham at 330-398-2455. The training will be brief, yet sufficient.

## Confronting Abuse, Making Church Safe

The SCBO, First Baptist Church of Garrettsville, and the Renaissance Family Center, 9005 Wilverne Drive, Windham, Ohio are teaming up to present Confronting Abuse, Making Church Safe, March 4th, 9 AM to 3 PM.

An exciting conference will be held at the Renaissance Family Center in Windham, Ohio. Participants will learn ways to protect their members, the general public, and their organizations from the scourge of abuse. The State Convention has produced several suggestions and recommendations to help

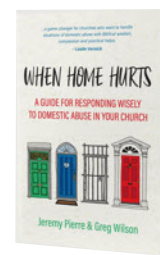
churches and organizations create policies related to abuse.

Greg Wilson, co-author of the book *When Home Hurts: A Guide For Responding Wisely To Domestic Abuse In Your Church*, will lead us in identifying and understanding abuse in its many forms.



He along with Attorney Tommie Jo Brode will help attenders create sound policy to help keep individuals and churches safe.

We never know when the problem of abuse will rear its ugly head and we



must be prepared or suffer the consequences which can include harm to those we are to love and protect and damage to the reputation of our churches in the community.

The conference is free but registration is required. To register go to <https://scbo.org/satf> or call 330-326-3003. Lunch will be provided and an offering will be received but not required for Renaissance Family Center.