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# the Steel Valley Baptist Association COMMUNICATOR

December, 2018

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## A Rainbow Without Colors



Associational Missionary  
Gary L. Frost

A couple of years ago my son, Daniel, listened to me share a homily on Christmas during a holiday service. As might be predicted, I emphasized the importance of "keeping Christ in Christmas". If no one else was listening, Daniel surely was. As we were driving home from the meeting he said to me "Dad, you know what? Christmas without Christ is like a rainbow without colors." For obvious reasons, that statement was stunning to me. In pondering the depth of that thought I let my son know that his comment was one of the most profound statements on the holiday celebration that I had ever heard. As a matter of fact, I wished that he had shared it with me before I preached that sermon because I could have used it. (I may have even given him the credit.)

A rainbow is, in its very essence, colors and therefore a rainbow with no colors is essentially NOTHING. Unfortunately for so many people, Christmas is not a time of worship and thanksgiving for the gift of a Savior but rather, a time of personal enjoyment and nostalgic reflection. From a divine perspective, it's NOTHING.

I am reminded of the account in John 12 as certain Greeks came to celebrate Passover in Jerusalem. The purpose of this wonderful "holy day" was to celebrate the divine deliverance of the children of Israel from Egyptian bondage. The central focus of Passover was the "slain lamb" whose flesh

*see Rainbow, next page*

## New Ministers

We welcome James Lackey, the new pastor of Memorial Baptist Church in Poland. He comes to us from Kentucky.

We also extend a welcome to the new lead pastor of Youngstown Metro Church, Brent Beck, a native of the Youngstown area.



Beck

Both of these men bring increased potential for the advancement of God's kingdom in the northeast area of Ohio!

## Pastor Prayer Breakfast

The next pastor prayer breakfast will be January 12, 8:30 am at the new location for Mercy Community Church 1321 Lansdowne Ave., Youngstown OH 44505.



## ACPs

If your church has yet to complete the Annual Church Profile please do so by January 31, 2019. The simplified form has only 22 blanks to complete. At the very least please give the number of current members, the number of baptisms in the last year, and the average attendance for morning worship. For assistance please contact Sandra Parks or Randy Langham.

## Tax Webinar

On January 28th at 7 pm we will hold a live online tax webinar. The webinar will provide an update regarding federal tax changes that may affect churches and pastors filing requirements. It's the perfect venue to get your tax questions answered. This will be a live online webinar with a CPA from BHM CPA Group, Eric Beining.

To register for the webinar please access the following link ...

[www.scbo.org/tax](http://www.scbo.org/tax)

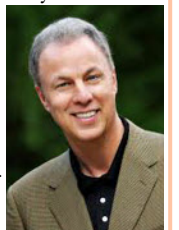
When registering for the event you'll be able to submit questions that will be answered during the webinar. If you are unable to attend the webinar and would like to submit a question, you can contact [Kevin Heaton](mailto:kheaton@scbo.org) at the State Convention office at 614-601-6850 or email, [kheaton@scbo.org](mailto:kheaton@scbo.org) and we will follow up to provide the information needed.

A flyer with the webinar info is being provided to the churches with their Nov. contribution statements. We will also record and post the webinar online so it can be watched anytime.

If you have any questions, let me know.  
Kevin Heaton

## 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.



## Rainbow continued from page 1

was eaten and whose blood was placed upon the doorways of the Israelite's homes providing "cover" from the death angel who would pass over the homes having the blood. The firstborn child would be spared from death. Passover was the most significant holiday on the Jewish calendar.

As these Greeks made their way through the hubbub in the streets of Jerusalem they were searching for something beyond the traditions. They were obviously looking for more than fun and festivities, they wanted substance, meaning and purpose. We suspect that they had heard reports about a peculiar Prophet who had worked miracles and made amazing claims. They must have

heard the rumor that this extraordinary Person would be in attendance at Passover this year. Apparently their research had discovered that Philip was known as one of His significant followers and when they encountered him they said, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus" (John 12:21). Ironically they were seeking the One who was the Fulfillment of the Passover, the Lamb who would be slain to take away the sin of the world.

As you celebrate Jesus this holiday season I hope you will give your gifts, enjoy your family, eat your feasts and sing your carols, but don't stop there. Let these activities be platforms for celebrating Christ who is the Catalyst for all of it. Pray with your family in Jesus' name, not just before the meal but have a set aside time of family devotion reflecting on the

uniqueness of the GodMan. Invite an old friend to go to lunch or breakfast and tell your salvation story, how Jesus transformed your life. Seek out a person with whom you've had conflict and reconcile with them based upon Christ's forgiveness in your life.

Don't let this Christmas be empty of its true and proper Substance. Ask God to open doors of opportunity for those around you to "See Jesus" this year in the midst of the merriment. Christ is the Rainbow of God, making visible the invisible light of the Father's glory in splendid array. John 1:14 says,

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."*

## 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

## Engage Now - Sponsored by State Convention



The "Engage Now" gathering provides a unique opportunity to personally be on mission as a Christian both locally & globally. Have you noticed the community around you changing? Do you see many without direction to their lives? Have you sensed the hopelessness in the faces of many you see everyday? Are you

concerned about the challenges so many around the globe are facing? Do you personally see the needs of neighbors and friends facing hunger, fear, rage, crime, despair and so many other issues before us everyday? You may ask yourself, "So what can I do?"

That's what we will address at "Engage Now." Think of it as providing some practical, personal and prayerful time with others who gather to make a difference. Christ called for His people to be engaged. The good news is, He did not ask us to do this alone. We, along with other followers of Christ, empowered by Christ, can reach new heights as we take the gospel to this generation. Let's link together and reach new heights for the glory of the Lord!

**A 2-Day Mission Gathering!**  
**March 1 - 2, 2019**

CrossRoads Baptist Church  
5075 Cleveland Ave  
Columbus, OH 43231

**Guest Speakers will be Nik Ripken, the author of *Insanity of God*, and John Perkins, the author of *One Blood: Parting words to the Church on Race and Love*.**

Early Registration until Jan 24 - \$10  
Registration Jan. 25 - Feb. 15 - \$20

Contact Vernita Lambert at 614-601-6814 or vlambert@scbo.org