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the Steel Valley Baptist Association COMMUNICATOR

August, 2021

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Theme for 2021: Advancing Through Adversity

Advancing the Vision

Our unified Great Commission vision for the Future



Ronnie Floyd

by Ronnie Floyd, the President and CEO of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention

Southern Baptists, we have a unified Great Commission vision to carry us through 2025. With confidence, pastors and church leaders can stand before our churches and say, *"These are the things we will focus on and resolve to do together as Southern Baptists from now through 2025."*

As you share it with your church, ask them to join our **PRAYER TEAM** by texting **VISION** to **90885**. Immediately, they will join thousands of others who are participating in this major prayer initiative across the globe.

see Vision, next page

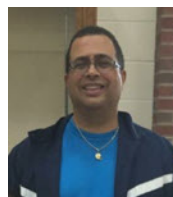
Pastors' Zoom Mtg

The next pastor Zoom Meeting for fellowship and prayer is the third Thursday in August 19 at 7 PM. The Zoom meeting ID is 84056187069 and can be accessed by clicking on the following button if this document is a PDF:

Zoom Mtg

Missions & Ministry

Acts 1:8 *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*



Rafael Cruz Jr

This summer has been a busy time for ministry. We had the blessing of having a missions group travel to Kentucky for five days of ministry work. We had an evangelism training day and outreach event on July 17th where New Hope Baptist Church of Windham came out and learned and served. I hope we have more churches involved the next time. There also have been a few Vacation Bible Schools this year, which is good since most cancelled last year due to covid.

The city of Youngstown has two ministries doing outreach events now every Tuesday – NOW Youngstown and our own Jericho Project Street Ministry. The Jericho Project Street Ministry has had six outreach events in four weeks, and we have four more between now and Sunday. We will also be assisting with a welcome back to school program on Monday, August 16th at the Youngstown Rayen Early College. We have focused on ministering in the currently most violent

see M&M, next page

Mission Trip

Our first mission trip to Lynch, Kentucky was eye opening - to hear where they started and to see the results of God's miracles and to know He's not finished yet! We had 10 people, most for the week,



others joined for a day or two. We all came back changed, not because of passing out over 100 food bags and not because we prayed with the residents receiving the food. We came back changed because we saw firsthand the glory of God dis-

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Annual Meeting

Our next scheduled business meeting will be the Annual Meeting at the Associational Office (aka Grace Place and Austin Village BC), the morning of Saturday, October 16. The Administrative Team in co-operation with the state convention will provide additional workshops to benefit our churches.

The annual message will be presented by Dan Barker, the pastor of Cortland Trinity Baptist Church.

Vision, from previous page

Together, we will pray about our unified Great Commission vision for the future.

Our 2021 Convention adopted six strategic actions to see this unified Great Commission vision accomplished. They are easy to communicate to your church and others, as follows:

Six strategic actions of our unified Great Commission Vision

1. Send 500 more missionaries overseas.
2. Add 5,000 more congregations across North America.
3. Call out the called.
4. Reverse the decline in baptisms of children and teenagers under the age of 18.
5. Increase giving through the Co-operative Program.

6. Prayerfully endeavor to eliminate all incidents of sexual abuse and racial discrimination in our churches.

We believe prayer precedes all gospel advancement. Therefore, we need thousands of people and churches praying for the fulfillment of this unified Great Commission vision before the end of 2025. Join this prayer team today and lead the members of your church to join as well.

This unified Great Commission vision of our churches is important to accomplish together before the end of the year 2025. Therefore, we deeply believe:

Whatever the cost, whatever the risk, this worldwide mission thrust must be our priority. Now is the time to lead.

M&M, from previous page

neighborhoods. We have seen God at work as those from a prostitute to church people are being ministered to and seeking Jesus. Yes, even church people need help letting go of their own pain, anger and even sinful behaviors.

The transformational power of God is real! God shows up when His church is faithful. There is a group of pastors from around the inner city of Youngstown who are now prayer walking every Sunday afternoon at 2 pm. Please pray that the Lord will lead them to begin knocking on doors in their own church's neighborhood and sharing the love of Jesus and the truth of His gospel to those who most desperately need it. Please pray for me as I am working to propose a plan to them for doing so, that they may receive it motivated to do the Lord's work around Youngstown. The violence has increased, but if our faithfulness increases, the Lord will bring transformation to our city.

Pray about opportunities to share the gospel in your communities all year long. The devil doesn't stop fighting and neither should we. Let's believe in the victory that is ours as we faithfully serve in Jesus' name.

God bless you all,

Rafael Cruz Jr.
(330) 507-0117

Association Music

August 29

Cornersburg Baptist Church invites you to a Steel Valley Baptist Association Fifth Sunday Music Fest at 3898 Tippecanoe Road in Youngstown at 6 PM on August 29. If you are willing to play an instrument, sing, read scripture, pray, or in any other way take part, please call Jennifer Mosher at 330-398-6882, or email at jdjmosher@gmail.com. Light refreshments afterward.

All are welcome.



October 31

The next association-wide evening of music will be the next fifth Sunday, October 31 at New Covenant Baptist Church in Lordstown.

Church Highlight

Struthers Bible Baptist Church with Pastor Ron and Glenda Shipley

The Struthers Bible Baptist Church had a difficult year due to the virus. In over a year we have financially paid our bills but not been able to advertise. Glenda and I have given so much of our time and money but the results have been little since so many have of our group have not been able to come. We are averaging less than a dozen people. One bright light is we had one come for baptism. On Halloween we gave away candy to close to 300 neighborhood people. Just pray for us as we pray for five tithing families to help with the work. We are seeking one family that could be able to step up and fill our place as we continue with the work.



New State Leader

Let us welcome our new Executive Director Secretary of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, Dr. Jeremy Westbrook.



Summer Festival

Grace Place Ministries presents "Summer Festival" with fun and celebration for the whole family, August 13-15.

Friday, Aug 13, 4-7 PM.

Pass out flyers in community.

Saturday, Aug 14, 12-6 PM and

Sunday, Aug 15, 2-6 PM

Music, food, activities, Bounce houses, gifts, prizes, and more

To be held at Grace Place Ministries, 545 Commerce Ave NW, Warren Ohio 44485. For more information contact 678-332-6045.

O.N.E. School

The Fall Semester begins in a few weeks. It is possible we will have students from Georgia, California, and Kentucky as well as from Ohio.

Already the subject matter has stirred quite a bit of interest. The course title will be "The Basics of Counseling." This will not be the typical perception of counseling. The principles in the course will emphasize leading people to the truth. The content will include a strong academic portion, but the other focus will be to apply the principles so people can be set free from addictions and all other emotional hurts with the shortest of time.

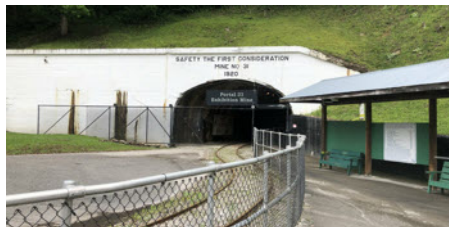
Classes start Aug 31 and continue every Tuesday 2-5 PM, for 15 weeks.. So register now! For more information call Randy Langham at 330-398-2455.



Trip, from page 1

played in the mountains of eastern Kentucky in response to devoted prayers and stepping out in faith. God has brought and continues to bring missionaries into this area who are committed to serving the Lord in deed and prayer. Through faith, these missionaries are committed to the people of Lynch and to serving God.

A little history – In 1917 US Steel built Lynch as a coal camp for the mining of Black Mountain. The



mine was very successful, and the town grew to 10,000 residents, mostly men living in community homes. With the end of WWII and the world's growing aversion to coal developing, US Steel shut down the mine in 1963. As coal went, so did

the prosperity of the town. The town was left in despair. They had depended on US Steel for everything! Now the town has less than 700 people and has 35% unemployment.

In 1998, Lonnie Riley heard a calling from God to return to Lynch. In July 1999, there was a prayer meeting in the nearby Rotary Park that ignited the community and changed everything. They began to see God's hand at work. By 2002, groups from all over the country were coming to Lynch to help with projects and re-



build the town. You can hear more about Lonnie, the faith of the community and God's hand at work at our Annual Meeting, Oct 16.

The Steel Valley Churches and Missions

Austintown Baptist Church
Beacon of Hope BC
Carnation City BC
Central BC*
Christian Community BC
Cornersburg BC
Cortland Trinity BC
East Conneaut BC
Faith BC
First BC, Andover
First BC, Garrettsville
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
Rising Star BC
Shenango Valley BC
Solid Rock Community Church
Southington BC
Struthers Bible Baptist Church
Unity BC
Upper Room Ministries
Youngstown Metro Church

* seeking a pastor