

AUGUST 2024
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Ohio Baptist MESSENGER

THE STATE CONVENTION OF BAPTISTS IN OHIO



**Super Summer
Trains the Next
Generation of Leaders**

Full story on page 8

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-- Tell us your story --

The Ohio Baptist Messenger is a monthly publication highlighting what the Lord is doing in SCBO churches or ministries, and we need your help! Tell us your story and we could feature it in an upcoming issue of *The Messenger*.

Please submit your stories to messenger@scbo.org.

For more information, please contact Stephanie Heading at messenger@scbo.org.

Opportunities to Connect, Grow, and Network in August

August. It is incredibly hard to believe that summer 2024 is moving so rapidly. I can remember as a kid feeling torn between two worlds, as excitement built for my Augustan birthday, but dread came knowing that the beginning of the new school year was just weeks away.

Let me say with enthusiasm that August is going to be awesome in the life of Ohio Baptists! Our team has been preparing to serve you with excellence on many levels and I want to highlight a few opportunities for you to connect, grow and network with other leaders.

First, on August 1, Luke Francis will be leading a one-day workshop designed for those who are leading from the second chair. Luke, executive pastor, First Light Church, Vandalia, is a trained consultant in this area. This event is at the SCBO offices and space is limited to the first 25, so please visit <https://www.scbo.org/event/leading-well-second-chair> to learn more and sign up!

Second, on August 24, Tara Dew, will be speaking at our annual SCBO Women's Retreat. She is an author, speaker, and wife of Dr. Jamie Dew, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. This one-day gathering will be hosted at Genoa Baptist Church in Westerville. All ladies from SCBO churches are invited. Please visit <https://www.scbo.org/event/>

[ohio-womens-retreat](#) to sign up and spread the word!

Lastly, on August 29, our annual preaching conference, Amplify, will be held at Violet Baptist Church. Please join our SCBO President Adam Pursel and Dr. Chuck Lawless for this amazing opportunity to sharpen your preaching skills. Learn more and sign up today at <https://www.scbo.org/event/amplify-preaching-conference>.

I want to personally say thank you to our SCBO family for your faithful and sacrificial giving to the Cooperative Program, which makes these resources available to help our pastors and churches!

P.S. Please save the date of Saturday, September 14 for our IMB Conference, "Together for the Nations" at FBC Kettering. imb.org/together/ohio



Dr. Jeremy Westbrook
Executive Director-Treasurer, SCBO



AMPLIFY

PREACHING CONFERENCE

August 29
@Violet Baptist Church

SCBO 
The State Convention Of Baptists In Ohio



DETAILS & REGISTRATION

Global Hunger Fund Provides Nourishment for Bodies and Souls

By John Heading, SCBO Global Hunger Fund director

Floyd is one of the 828 million people globally who is chronically hungry due to war, famine, poverty, and other serious issues.

He is also one of the 44 million people who are chronically hungry in the United States.

However, Floyd is a regular attendee at the United Faith International Feeding Ministry in Columbus which is a recipient of Global Hunger Funds (GHF) from Send Relief's Global Hunger Relief Ministry through SCBO.

Through responsible partnership, GHF seeks to purchase and distribute nutritious food to people deprived of adequate amounts or kinds of food in the name of Christ. GHF also aids chronically hungry people helping them develop life skills that will increase their ability to feed themselves.

Since the Global Hunger Fund started in 1978 over 130,000 people have come to faith in Christ . . . one meal at a time.

SCBO is one of twenty-six, non-south state conventions that receive a maximum of \$20,000 a year to divide among SCBO approved agencies.

In 2024, SCBO approved agencies who are receiving funds are United Faith International Food Pantry, Columbus; The Refuge Church, Zanesville; New Heights Fellowship; Toledo, Central Baptist Mission, Akron; The Bridge, Lancaster; New Life Mission, Hamilton; Elyria Baptist Church, Elyria; and FBC Lancaster Food Pantry.

While Global Hunger Funds are earmarked for food, this type of compassion ministry involves much more than feeding people.

United Faith International Food Pantry, Columbus - Floyd found more than nutrition Earlier this year Floyd was diagnosed with a lump in his stomach and needed a biopsy. He had no family in the area so Food Pantry volunteers went with him to the procedure and prayed with him. Today they are continuing to walk with him through his journey.

The Refuge Church, Zanesville - Workers noticed that an elderly lady who normally attends food distribution day had not been around for a while. The church reached out to her and discovered she had fallen and was no longer able to get out. To meet her needs the ministry began taking food to her home.

Feeding ministries also address great needs among women and children.

New Heights Fellowship, Toledo - "Client T" was a victim of sex-trafficking. She has requested help sever-



Global Hunger Relief

Ohio January— June 2024

Total Fed
58,735

21 
Baptisms

39 
Professions
of Faith

2517 
Evangelism
Encounters

17,321 
Hot Meals

40,513 
Grocery Ministry

al times and the New Heights pantry has been there to meet her needs.

Central Community Mission, Akron - Seven children come to faith in Christ through their connection to the feeding ministry..

The Bridge Church, Lancaster - On average, The Bridge Church provides food to 161 families every month through an outreach to a local elementary school.

The GHF not only exists to meet feeding needs, but it also has a goal to see people move forward in their lives to feed themselves and to grow in their faith in Christ.

Elyria Baptist Church, Elyria - Sarah Winfree recently shared how the funding from GHF has given the church the opportunity to feed hungry teens, as well as provided an avenue to see them grow in Christ.

“Our Teen Connection was one of the Bible studies started in early in 2024,” Winfree said. “It has been awesome to see this area grow and the connections and relationships that are happening. With the Bible study every Sunday Night, as well as a meal being prepared for them, the teens are seeing the time, effort and stable consistency that is happening.” Through GHF and Teen Connection, Elyria Church has seen one teen saved and baptized.

The Arms of Faith Ministry, FBC Lancaster – This ministry is making a difference in Mandie’s life, according to Mitzi Parsons. She’s found a place that makes her feel welcome.

“Mandie is 47. She lives in a halfway house recovering from methamphetamine addiction,” Parson’s said. After meeting Mandie, we talked to her about coming to church. She has visited several local churches and didn’t feel welcome. One of our former volunteers offered to bring her to church.”

Mandie has been coming to church and is eager to learn about Jesus, and Parsons is very hopeful that she will be saved.

Sometimes it takes years for change to happen.

New Life Mission, Hamilton - Felix Russo shared about a young man that the church had ministered to for years. He was homeless, living out of his car. He finally decided to enter addiction treatment. He completed the program and is now a recovery house supervisor. More importantly, he has rededicated his life to Christ.

Matthew 25 teaches us that when we provide food, water, and shelter to those in need, we are serving Christ. The Global Hunger Fund offering in August provides resources for churches to minister to the needs of many and in turn have the opportunity to share the love of Christ.



Global Hunger Sunday

AUGUST 25, 2024

President's Pen

Fullness of Joy in His Presence

1 *Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.*

2 *I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord;*

I have no good apart from you..."

4 *The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply...*

11 *You make known to me the path of life;*

in your presence there is fullness of joy;

at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Ps 16:1–2, 4, 11). (2016). Crossway Bibles.

Through the finished work of Christ, we enjoy a restored relationship with God. We take refuge in Him. We praise Him in prayer, confessing that He is our Lord and that we are fully aware that we have no good apart from Him.

He has made known to us the path of life! The path - the way - is Jesus! He is the way, the truth, and the life. There is no way to Father except through Him.

In His presence, there is fullness of joy.

Through the indwelling Spirit, we experience a foretaste of this joy. We know that our eternity has been secured by our Lord and Savior! There will come a day when we will experience uninterrupted, full joy and pleasure forever and ever and ever! Praise God!

But we aren't there yet, and there's work to be done. God has chosen for us to live here and now... and we are surrounded by lost people. People who run after other gods. People whose sorrows are multiplying. People who do not yet know the path of life.

Psalm 16 reminds us to rejoice in God's gracious lovingkindness towards His people. It also reminds us to resolve to do the work of evangelism.

So, how's your joy going? Let us rejoice in the Lord! There's fullness of joy in His presence!

And how's your evangelism going? Are you praying for the lost? Are you seeking opportunities to share Christ with them? Let's share Jesus Christ - He saves sinners!

One of the great things about being an Ohio Baptist is the support. Help is just an email or phone call away. There are amazing resources in our state to help church leaders who are struggling. We can help you proclaim the Word of Christ in your community so that lost people can hear and respond to the Gospel! You can always reach me at president@scbo.org.

Grace and Peace,

Adam Pursel
SCBO President



Evangelistic Fervor Necessary in the Local Church

By Stephen Owens, SCBO Northeast Region catalyst

Summer is in full swing, and I pray you are enjoying the warm weather and are taking advantage of it to connect with your local community.

As I have talked with pastors throughout our region, I've learned that many churches are doing VBS and sports camps to bless their communities. It's exciting to hear stories of children being exposed to the word of God and some confessing faith in Christ. These stories are not only encouraging me, but they are also encouraging our churches to stay at work in the vineyard for the Lord.

Keeping an outreach and evangelistic fervor in the local church is a necessity. The final marching order from King Jesus to his disciples is the Great Commission. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

We cannot lose sight of the need to reach our community for Jesus continually. I realize that the current generational landscape we face today is different from what many of us grew up in, but the words of Jesus in John 4:35 are still true, "Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!"

The Barna Group gives us encouraging stats on the fields in America. Barna released an article series entitled, "Spiritually Open." One of the findings was that 72% of people in the U.S. say they were raised Christian.¹ I see this as good news because many of the people we will encounter in our communities will have some knowledge of Jesus, the Bible, and the church.

While some of them may have negative views about what they have experienced, many of them will not. Many will have fond memories about how they were raised. At the same time, others will have questions about what they experienced. This is an opportunity for the church to shine with love, grace, and truth as we have conversations with them about the Lord, life, and spiritual things.

The Barna Group also gave helpful insight into engaging in conversations with the people we meet. They said, the conversations must include "give-and-take"²-- we listen just as much as we talk. This series encourages us to understand that unchurched and de-churched people take their thoughts about spiritual things seriously. Not only do they have questions they also want their thoughts to be heard.

I believe this is an opportunity for us as leaders to equip the saints to not only share the gospel but also how to practically live out Romans 12:14-15. "Bless those who

persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep."

While we will not agree with everything we hear that doesn't mean we can't be gracious with differing thoughts, empathize with the hurting, and celebrate the truth when we hear it.

I'm praying this summer that the Lord will open the floodgates as we are in our communities sharing the love and gospel of Jesus. I pray he will provide opportunities for us to show the world that we are here to serve the Lord and our neighbors. I'm praying for you, your family, your church, and your community. If I can be of assistance, please reach out. God Bless.

Learn more by visiting <https://www.barna.com/research/conversations-non-christians/>

Planning Begins for 21 Days of Prayer 2025

It's time to start planning for the [21 Days of Prayer 2025](#).

In its first year, 675 churches from 38 nations registered! We expect more this year.

This event aims to strengthen people's prayer lives and build the prayer culture of local churches. Picture the profound impact of thousands of believers worldwide raising their voices in a unified cry to God.

Driven by a deep desire for revival and a strong belief in the power of prayer, SCBO is excited to once again partner with Dave Earley, pastor, First Baptist Church, Grove City. His unwavering commitment to this cause is a testament to the importance of prayer. We invite everyone to join us in the 21 Days of Prayer.

Resources for the event include: a new book, [21 Keys to Answered Prayer](#), by Dave Earley; daily emails and videos on Facebook and YouTube; and free downloads of "How to Lead a 21-Day Prayer Event," sermon notes, and other helpful resources.

 **21 Days of Prayer**
Global Event



Super Summer Trains the Next Generation of Leaders

By Keith Hurt, SCBO director of next-gen



The Orange School (pictured) is made up of students entering 10th grade this fall. They are just one of the seven "Color Schools" at Super Summer Ohio.

During the final week of June, Super Summer welcomed 450 students and adult leaders to Cedarville University for a week of leadership training and development.

Super Summer is the SCBO Student Leadership Program for students entering eighth grade through the beginning of the sophomore year of college.

For the past twenty-three years Super Summer has been raising up the next generation of leaders. Students who attend Super Summer have been identified by their church leaders as having a love for Jesus and a passion to impact the world for him.

Tasked with challenging students in their faith was Dan Dewitt, executive director, Center for Worldview and Culture at Southwest Baptist University.

Dewitt's theme for the week was "Flourish," based on Colossians 2:6-7, "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."

Words are not adequate to describe the sight of student leaders from across Ohio coming to each session hungry to grow closer to Jesus.

Students also grew closer to Jesus through worship, which is also a central component of Super Summer. Each of the seven age groups has its own worship leader, and all the groups gathered together every evening for worship.

Our worship team for the week was TakeHeart led by Noah Ayers. Throughout the week there were times when the vocalists would stop singing so they could listen to the students' passionate, unhindered worship.

God is truly at work through Super Summer. There were 10 decisions for salvation, 22 decisions for baptism, 35 commitments to surrender to full time ministry, and 60 decisions to surrender to missions.

Please pray that God would continue to raise up leaders for His church through Super Summer. You can find more info about Super Summer at <https://supersummerohio.com/>. Please take just five minutes to check out a summary video from Super Summer 2024: <https://supersummerohio.com/2024-recap-videos>.

TOGETHER FOR THE NATIONS



SEPTEMBER 14

FIRST BAPTIST KETTERING
DAYTON, OHIO

The International Mission Board (IMB) serves Southern Baptists in carrying out the Great Commission, as together we make disciples of all nations.

Together for the Nations is a unique one-day event to learn more about how you and your church can begin or strengthen your partnership with your International Mission Board (IMB).

Learn more at imb.org/together.

WHY SHOULD YOU COME?

- › Interact with IMB senior leadership and missionaries from each of the global regions we serve
- › Deepen your understanding of missions and your connections with missionaries
- › Network with other pastors and missions leaders from churches in your area
- › Learn more about how the IMB can help you in planning for short-term and long-term mission trips
- › Discover specific ways for your church to partner with the IMB in Great Commission work among the nations

REGISTER AT
IMB.ORG/TOGETHER/
OHIO

If you have questions,
please send an email to
info@imb.org or
call **800-999-3113**.



INTERNATIONAL
MISSION BOARD

FBC Logan Celebrates 60 Years of Partnership in the Gospel

By Steve Hopkins, SCBO senior staff

Paul wrote to the church at Philippi, “I give thanks to my God ... because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.” (Philippians 1:3, 5)

For the past sixty years First Baptist Church, Logan has been a great example of unwavering commitment to the gospel.

The church recently marked its 60th anniversary celebrating its past and looking forward to its future.

FBC Logan started in 1963 when associational missionary Robert Hall started a home Bible study in Logan. A VBS and revival encouraged the young work. Leonard Ferguson, who served with SCBO, became their interim pastor.

In March 1964, the chapel called Ferguson as its pastor, and the church constituted on September 13, 1964. With help from SCBO, the church purchased the first acre of its present property.

A partnership with 85th Street Baptist Church, Birmingham, Alabama, a loan from the Home Mission Board (now NAMB), and much faith led to the first unit being finished and dedicated on January 9, 1966. Throughout the years, FBC Logan was involved a several church plants.

Since 2020 under the leadership of Pastor Lucas Moncada III, FBC Logan has experienced significant growth. Under his guidance, the future is promising and encouraging. New ministries like LifeWise Academy and Embrace Grace, which provides spiritual, emotional, and physical support for those with an unplanned pregnancy, are impacting the community.



First Baptist Church, Logan, celebrated its 60th Anniversary with a special worship service and dinner on the grounds.

The 60th Anniversary celebration was memorable. It began with a heartfelt message from Jim Dreisbach, interim pastor, 2018-2020. He encouraged the church to pray for their leaders and unity in the body. The praise team led worship, and Joel Barkhurst, an FBC stalwart, read scripture.

Kenny Kidd, student pastor and then lead pastor, 1996-2010, shared from 2 Corinthians 3:2-4, emphasizing the impact of ministry on the lives changed by the gospel. Randy Wood, pastor, 1984-1990, challenged the church from Matthew 22:34-40, reminding them, “Love is something we do!”

The service concluded with Steve Hopkins presenting an appreciation plaque from SCBO. Jack Helton, associational missionary for Scioto Valley and FBC interim in 2014, led the closing prayer, and everyone adjourned for dinner on the grounds under the big tent.

A promotional banner for the Ohio Women's Retreat. The background features a cup of coffee on the left, a book on the right, and a field of daisies. The text "Ohio Women's Retreat" is written in a large, white, bubbly font with a blue outline. At the bottom left is the SCBO logo (The State Convention Of Baptists In Ohio) and the website "sco.org/womens-retreat". At the bottom right, the date "August 24, 2024" and location "Genoa Baptist Church Westerville, Ohio" are displayed in white text with a blue outline.

Ohio Women's Retreat

SCBO
The State Convention Of Baptists In Ohio

sco.org/womens-retreat

August 24, 2024
Genoa Baptist Church
Westerville, Ohio

Need Better Health Care Options?

By Kevin Heaton, SCBO financial administrator

Are you looking for a more affordable health care option? Perhaps you want to lower the cost or offer a wider range of benefits?

In partnership with GuideStone, The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio is offering a way for churches who are affiliated with the SCBO to provide an employer sponsored “association” health plan (AHP) for their pastors and/or staff.

AHP’s can be advantageous for churches that may struggle to provide competitive health benefits to their ministers and staff.

Through an AHP, churches can collectively enhance their ability to offer comprehensive health coverage as part of their pastoral and staff compensation.

AHP’s can potentially offer lower premiums and administrative costs compared to individual health insurance plans.

AHP’s can provide access to a wider range of health insurance plans and benefits that may include comprehensive coverage options tailored to the needs of the church’s pastoral and administrative staff.

In summary, AHP’s provide a valuable option for churches and self-employed individuals to access more affordable and comprehensive health insurance coverage by leveraging the collective bargaining power and administrative efficiencies through membership in an association of churches and their staff.

If you are interested in learning more about AHP’s, please follow the link to complete the online survey. GuideStone will provide insurance cost estimates based on the information collected. For those who respond to this initial request, a follow up survey from GuideStone will take place in September to gather more specific data in order to formulate specifics about the type of health plan and to provide a detailed cost. The final step will take place in November which will allow for open enrollment. For those who enroll, the plan start date will be January 1st, 2025.

If you have additional questions, please contact Kevin Heaton at the SCBO office for more information about this process and the plan.

Testimony:

163 Kids Hear the Gospel at Mega Sports Camp

By Eric Flynn, Violet Baptist Church, executive pastor

In early July, Violet Baptist Church, Pickerington, played host to an exciting Mega Sports Camp (VBS).

During the four night event, we were fortunate to have the support of 62 dedicated volunteers and the participation of 163 enthusiastic children ranging in age from Kindergarten through Fifth grade. Seventy-five percent of the 163 children who attended did not have a church home listed on their registration form.

Each night camp kicked off with a lively gathering in our Worship Center, featuring singing, dancing, and an introduction to the evening’s lesson. Following this, the children engaged in various sports activities before coming together for smaller group sessions led by their huddle coach leaders to delve deeper into the teachings of Jesus.

The day’s activities culminated in a meaningful session back in the Worship Center, where a Bible story, gospel

message, and uplifting worship music were shared.

Our theme for the week was John 14:6, “Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’” Each night, the Bible story reinforced our core message of preparing, committing, enduring, and following Jesus.

By the end of the week, 31 children expressed a desire to learn more about Jesus, and four children took the important step of praying and accepting Christ into their lives.

Our follow-up team is reaching out to the parents of the 35 children this to pray with them and continue the conversations. We also have a connect team that focused on interactions with the parents/guardians during drop off and pick up times. Many relationships started and there is follow up happening with the parents/guardians as well. ALL GLORY to GOD!!!

Editor’s Note: Violet Baptist Church was a recipient of an SCBO Evangelism Grant. Churches that are in friendly cooperation and are taking the Gospel to their communities can apply for an evangelism grant to help defray the cost of their training/event.

Building Bridges: Establishing Law Enforcement Ministry in Your Church

By Chaplain Christi Hall, Chaplains & Heroes



SBC Endorsed Chaplain Christi Hall ministers to those in law enforcement.

In today's tumultuous times, the divide between law enforcement and the communities they serve seems wider than ever. The role of the church in bridging this gap cannot be overstated. As ministry leaders, it's essential to recognize that the church holds a unique position to support and uplift those who put their lives on the line for our safety every day.

However, establishing a law enforcement ministry requires a shift in mindset – one that focuses on practical support and genuine relationship-building rather than viewing it solely as an opportunity for evangelism.

God has called us to be a people of justice -- to love our neighbors as ourselves. This includes extending our support and gratitude to those who serve in law enforcement. A Law Enforcement Ministry (LEM) is not merely an outreach event held within the confines of the church; it's a commitment to be the hands and feet of Jesus to those who tirelessly protect and serve our communities.

It's about acknowledging the sacrifices they make and ensuring they have the resources they need – emotionally, physically, and spiritually – to thrive in their demanding roles.

Understanding the culture and needs of law enforcement is paramount. Instead of expecting officers to come to us, we must go to them. This involves learning about their unique challenges, developing a plan tailored to their needs, and ultimately establishing a rapport built on trust and respect.

Just as a missionary lives among the people they serve, a crisis-trained chaplain or ministry team must immerse themselves in the law enforcement community, becoming a conduit between the church and those in uniform.

It's crucial to recognize that law enforcement ministry isn't about immediate evangelism but rather about demonstrating the love of Christ through practical acts

Story continues on the next page...

OHIO BAPTIST FOUNDATION
INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT

Sept 23, 2024

FOURSOME SCRAMBLE
GOLF TOURNAMENT

SCBO.ORG/GOLF

NEW LOCATION

NCR COUNTRY CLUB!

USGA & PGA CHAMPIONSHIP COURSE - KETTERING, OHIO





of service. Building relationships takes time, and trust must be earned through consistent support and genuine care. As the apostle Peter admonishes, we must always be ready to give an answer for the hope that lies within us, but this readiness comes from a foundation of trust and relationship.

The statistics paint a sobering picture of the challenges law enforcement officers face – from cumulative stress to higher rates of PTSD and depression. In addition to providing prayer support, there are countless ways churches can come alongside these brave men and women. Whether it's through practical support

WMU Christmas in August Features Groveport Missionary

An Ohio missionary whose focus is ministry to law enforcement personnel is one of the recipients of this year's WMU Christmas in August.

Chaplain Christi Hall of Groveport is a seasoned SBC Endorsed Law Enforcement Chaplain. She saw a need for a place where law enforcement chaplains and the local church could come together in support and service of law enforcement.

She began "Chaplains and Heroes" to equip individuals, chaplains, and churches to change lives in the law enforcement community through various resources and the hope of Jesus Christ.

Each year Christmas in August provides a simple way you can directly help North American Mission Board missionaries by sending them supplies they need for their ministries. Most often, these are supplies that are needed in bulk.

Christi has requested Visa and MasterCard gift cards for "Chaplains and Heroes." These cards can be used for travel and conference expenses, outreach, and education to churches, as well as ministry to deputies and their families.

Individuals, small groups, missions organizations, and churches are invited to bless Christi and other NAMB missionaries through Christmas in August. For more information visit <https://wmu.com/missions-discipleship/christmas-in-august/>

No matter how a person or group approaches Christmas in August, it's sure to be a blessing to the missionaries as they seek to impact their communities with the gospel.

like providing meals to an officer's family after an illness or death, card-writing programs, or equipping crisis-trained chaplains, the goal remains the same – to offer hope and healing through the power of Jesus Christ.

Crisis-trained chaplains play a pivotal role in providing spiritual and emotional support to law enforcement personnel and their families. However, the demand for chaplains far exceeds the current supply, highlighting an urgent need for more individuals to step into this vital ministry. By equipping chaplains with the necessary training and resources, churches can ensure that officers have access to the support they desperately need.

A law enforcement ministry provides an avenue for members of the law enforcement community to access spiritually-minded resources that can help mitigate stress and provide comfort during difficult times. Pastoral counseling, mentorship programs, and prayer ministry all serve to strengthen the spiritual resilience of officers and their families.

Outreach events and seminars organized by the church create opportunities for relationship-building and community engagement. By showing appreciation for law enforcement personnel and allowing them to connect with members of the church community, we demonstrate God's love in tangible ways.

In times of crisis, such as shootings or natural disasters, the church can provide comfort and support through prayer vigils and pastoral counseling sessions. By offering spiritual guidance during these difficult moments, we reinforce the message that no officer or their family is alone in their struggles.

Ultimately, a law enforcement ministry is an expression of our commitment to love and serve our neighbors. By meeting the practical needs of those in law enforcement, we open doors for deeper relationship-building and, ultimately, for sharing the hope that we have in Jesus Christ.

As ministry leaders, let us heed the words of Matthew 9:37-38, recognizing the plentiful harvest before us and praying earnestly for laborers to be sent into the fields. Let us be the hands and feet of Jesus to those who serve on the front lines, building bridges of trust and understanding that lead to lasting transformation and renewal.

Final 2024 DR Trainings Include Shower Unit Course

By Matt Pardi, Northwest Region catalyst



Ohio Disaster Relief (DR) has trained nearly 70 volunteers this year increasing our deployment force to nearly 380 volunteers.

These individuals deploy into disaster zones to cook and serve food, to cut down trees and pull brush, and to crawl through the mud in the crawlspaces of flooded homes in addition to any other needed assistance.

Church Plant Builds Community Relationships Prior to Launch

By Stephanie Heading, managing editor

Although it isn't officially launching until January 2025, Change City Church is spending the summer getting to know its community.

Church planter, Darryl Baker and his launch team, known as the "Dream Team," are busy sponsoring outreach events. "We recently hosted a Block Party Jamboree whose purpose was community engagement and evangelism," Baker said.

He was thrilled with the success of the event. "We had bounce houses, carnival games, and drawings for prizes that allowed us to receive attendees connection information," Baker said. "Even though the weather called for thunderstorms, we prayed and believed by faith and God held back the rains."

Over 70 people attended the Jamboree. "We've already had one family join our launch team from the outreach," Baker noted. Several other attendees have expressed interest in attending future outreaches, youth sports events, and Dream Team Launch Parties.

"We prayed with several families and provided food for a family who had an immediate need and didn't know how they would feel their children that night," Baker said.

Hillcrest Baptist Church, Carlisle, came to help Change City Church with the event. "Hillcrest Baptist was such a

When volunteers return to the host site after a hard day's work they really need a shower. In April 2024, Ohio Disaster Relief purchased its first shower unit through generous gifts from individuals, churches, and the Cooperative Program. This unit has already been deployed multiple times and is already scheduled to be out again in August.

A new shower unit comes with the need for trained volunteers to operate and maintain it. During the last two DR trainings in 2024, we are adding a shower unit training. In addition to shower training, both events will include training in feeding, chainsaw, communications, and mud out

Mark your calendar now for the final two trainings of 2024: September 21 at H2O Church, Bowling Green and September 28 at First Baptist Church of Kettering, Dayton area. Go to <https://scbo.org/dr> to register for Disaster Relief training.

We're looking for volunteers to train on this unit so we have a hot shower ready for everyone who serves in the field and for people affected by disaster.

blessing," Baker said. "They brought their puppet show and treats such as cotton candy and snow cones. We've already made plans to visit their church and worship with them on a Sunday this fall."

In addition to the Jamboree, Change City participated in the Pickerington Kidsfest in July and is planning three more events from August through October. These local events are part of the church's strategy to engage with its community.

"We seek to build relationships in our community and evangelize in preparation for our launch," Baker said. "Our mission is to change hearts, homes, and our city through the life changing gospel of Jesus Christ."



Hillcrest BC, Carlisle, brought its puppet show to Change City Church's Block Party Jamboree helping the church plant minister to its community.

Check Out These Resources for Worship Leaders

By Zac James, SCBO worship catalyst

One of my great joys in ministry is making new friends. I love taking a worship leader to lunch and hearing the long version of their story, or getting connected with a vendor who is providing a key service to churches. It is amazing how God works through relationships to help us accomplish more than we could ever do alone.

This year, I've gotten plugged into a group of Southern Baptist worship consultants at our sister state conventions. Much to my great delight, there are others across the SBC who are trying to help resource worship leaders at the state convention level. I am constantly learning of new resources and ideas to help serve our churches through cooperation with Southern Baptists across the country.

The leader of this group is Kenny Lamm, Worship Ministries Strategist with Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. He is a leader of leaders in the world of worship ministry.

Here are some of the incredible resources Kenny has created that you should consider checking out.

The Worship Ministry Guidebook: Engaging Your Congregation in Transformational Worship – Kenny has written an incredible primer on best principles and practices for worship ministry. I've read it, and I can say definitively: if you're a pastor who is struggling with worship in your church, and feels under-equipped to solve it, read this book. It's a great book to give to your worship leader, especially if they are new to worship ministry.

We have some copies of Kenny's book to give away. Email zjames@scbo.org and we'll get you a free copy while supplies last.



RenewingWorshipNC.org – Over the years, Kenny has developed a fantastic blog with a ton of useful content. His resources are absolutely applicable to our worship contexts in Ohio.

Here is a sampling what's available (these can all be found at renewingworshipnc.org/top-resources):

- **What do I do if I don't have musicians?** In that scenario, you're probably singing acapella (without instrumentation) or using pre-recorded music. If your church is in that scenario (whether hymns or contemporary), you should check out this article to see if there are better options you could be using. Kenny highlights many sites that offer affordable recorded hymn arrangements, worship lyric videos that are copyright compliant, multitrack options if you want to supplement your live musicians, and much more.
- **Does your congregation struggle to engage in congregational worship?** Check out this highly influential article, 9 Reasons People Aren't Singing in Worship.
- **Do you want to see what other churches in the SBC are singing, and what keys are best for congregational singing?** Check out this list which is updated continually and pulls from the latest CCLI data. It will let you sort to show what SBC churches are singing, as well as show you which songs have difficult melodies, which are best for multi-generational settings, and much more.
- **Searching for a worship leader?** Check out the part-time and full-time worship leader search resources to get best practices and potential partners who can help.
- **Looking for presentation software but can't afford ProPresenter?** Kenny just reviewed a new FREE presentation software option called FreeShow. Check it out here.

I'm so grateful for the cooperation Southern Baptists share around the gospel of Jesus Christ, and how that allows us to partner with other states. I'm convinced Kenny's resources can help your church.

Looking for a different resource? Email me at zjames@scbo.org, and I'll see if there's a way I can help you. On behalf of the SCBO, I want to help you solve your worship ministry problems and direct you to the best long-term solutions.

Job Postings

WORSHIP LEADER

Logan Elm Baptist Church, Circleville

Logan Elm Baptist Church (LEBC), Circleville, is seeking a part-time minister of music/worship leader. LEBC is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention and runs between 120 to 150 on Sunday mornings. We affirm the regulative principle of worship and currently sing both traditional and contemporary hymns (e.g., Getty Music, Sovereign Grace Music) accompanied by piano and percussion instruments.

The position is 8-12 hours per week with compensation of \$16,000 - \$19,000, depending on experience and qualifications. To view the full job description, please visit <https://lebc.org/jobs/>. To apply, submit a cover letter, resume, and an explanation of your philosophy of worship to Bill Gibson, church administrator, at william.gibson@lebc.org.

PASTOR

Woodsfield First Baptist Church, Woodsfield

Woodsfield First Baptist Church is seeking a pastor. We are a conservative Southern Baptist Church with a blended style of worship, located in the small southeastern Ohio community of Woodsfield. Our church has the desire to grow and we seek a pastor who has the same desire, as well as the ability to work with compassion and love with all types of people.

The church is seeking a man called to be a Southern Baptist pastor who agrees with the Baptist Faith and Message. He should also meet the biblical requirements listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and 1 Peter 5:1-4. Pastoral experience and pastoral education are preferred.

Send resume to: Pastor Church Committee Chairperson, Woodsfield First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 604, Woodsfield, OH 43793, or Email to: fbcwoodsfield@gmail.com. The church Facebook page is 1bcwoodsfield.

FULL TIME PASTOR-TEACHER

New Covenant Community Church, Johnstown

New Covenant Community Church is in search of a full time pastor-teacher to lead our congregation in reaching the community with the saving message of Jesus Christ in Johnstown. The Johnstown area is growing, and our desire is for God to send us the man with a loving, caring and warm personality, combined with a deep knowledge of the inerrant Word of God, and a passion to share the message of Jesus Christ to join us in our mission. To learn more about the church please visit www.new-covenant.org.

The Pastor-Teacher shall be responsible for general oversight of the spiritual welfare of the church, arrange for and conduct all public and regular services of the church, provide leadership among church staff, and provide recommendations for eldership. He shall be an ex-officio member of all councils and committees. He shall be responsible to the Council of Elders.

To learn more about the position and to apply, go to www.new-covenant.org/pastor-teacher-application

Let the Ohio Baptist Messenger help your church find a new pastor or staff member!

The Messenger is offering classified ads free of charge for Ohio churches searching for new pastors and staff members. The Messenger is read by churches and individuals in Ohio and across the country.

To submit a classified ad, please send brief information about the position along with a return phone number or email:

classifieds@scbo.org