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the Steel Valley Baptist Association COMMUNICATOR

August, 2022

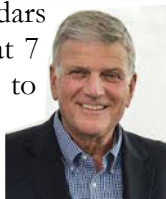
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Associational Missionary
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Theme for 2022: Advancing The Kingdom ... One Soul at a Time

Franklin Graham & the God Loves You Tour

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



Continue to pray. Continue to invite people. Make plans to attend. May all of Mahoning Valley be reached!



Church Ministries

Would you like to know how other churches in SVBA are ministering to the community? Here is an early and abbreviated list.

Cornersburg BC:

Clothes Closet - 2nd Sat 9 AM - 12

First BC, Garretttsville

Renaissance Family Center: Summer lunch programs, Bicycle repairs, Weight and aerobic exercise rooms, Post-secondary education, Community dinners, Fresh fruits and vegetables for community to pick, Al-anon, Christmas boutique, Second Blessings Thrift Store, and more.

Steel Valley Church:

Food Pantry - 3rd Sat, 12-4 PM
YSU Ministry - every Thur at 7 PM
Counseling & Tutoring - will be launching in 2023

Unity BC:

Jericho Project: prayer walking, community block parties, and street witnessing - scheduled events

Is your church not listed? Let us know and we will include it in the next Communicator.

God's Discipline



Chuck Lawless

None of us likes being at the receiving end of God's discipline — especially when we're in the midst of it. Every believer I know, though, has been through it. If you haven't yet been, you will be at some point.

With that in mind, here are several things God's discipline does, drawing primarily from Hebrews 12:5-11:

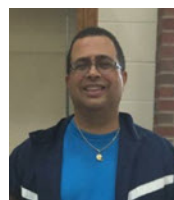
1. It helps us to see the destructive nature of sin. God wouldn't discipline us for our sin unless He wants us to stop it — and He wants us to stop it because it dishonors Him, hurts us and harms our witness.

2. It magnifies God's love for us. In His own words, He "disciplines the one he loves and punishes every son he receives" (Hebrews 12:6). His discipline is a mark of His care for us.

see Discipline, next page

Missions & Ministry

We have been seeing the block party trailer being utilized more lately. That is such a blessing. Let's continue putting it to use for the Lord's glory. The cost is only \$100 for its use, which is a real bargain. \$25 is returned to you if the trailer is returned neat and clean. Start praying about doing outreach next year and set some dates. If you need help, just ask. I'll be waiting on calls to reserve



Rafael Cruz Jr

see M&M, next page

Special-called Mtg

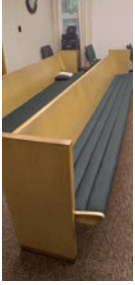
Representatives at the August 22 meeting voted to allow a portion of the SVBA Commerce Avenue Complex to be rented as a daycare and to empower the Administrative Team to secure and finalize the details of all the contractual arrangements.

ACP

It doesn't take long to fill out the ACP form. Try to have yours complete by October 31. If you need help let us know. Thanks

Padded Pews for Free

Southington Baptist Church has seven pews available immediately at no cost to any church that can use them. The pews are 11 feet long and are padded. Interested parties can contact Pastor Larry Dutton at 330-240-0243. [Pastor Larry regrets the pews are empty and do not come pre-packed with people.]



Finances

As of August 31, Steel Valley Baptist Association has the following financial totals regarding the calendar year 2022:

Year-to-date Budget: \$44,623.33
Year-to-date Spent: \$40,972.83
Year-to-date Income: \$34,461.18

Trip to Kenya

Maasai pastors in Kenya are crying out to Steel Valley pastors to come and give them training Oct 28 to Nov 12. Churches can assist financially through "Koins 4 Kenya." Jars are available for churches to collect coins which will be retrieved no later than Oct. 1.

Contact Bro. Gary about your availability to travel or for your church's help with the jars.



Pastors' Zoom Mtg

The next pastor Zoom Meeting for fellowship and prayer is Sep 22 at 7 PM. **NOTE** the day change. The Zoom meeting can be accessed here:

Zoom Mtg

Annual Meeting

Make plans to join us for the annual meeting October 15 at First Baptist Church of Garrettsville. Continental breakfast at 8:30 AM. Annual meeting starts at 9:00 AM.



M&M, from previous page

the block party trailer for your outreach events for this fall or next year. Let's point our neighbors to Jesus. Only Jesus can transform minds, hearts and souls. Let's take Jesus to our communities.

The Jericho Project Street Ministry has already done nine outreach events this summer. And that's with us taking a break to set the box truck up for ministry use. On Saturday, September 17th, we will be going to the Cleveland area to do an outreach event with a local church there. On Saturday, September 10th, as we were setting up to have a street outreach event, a Youngstown Councilwoman stopped by and asked us to do a couple of events in certain neighborhoods. She offered to pay us to do so. What a blessing! 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 pray for this event that the Lord will bring many souls to Christ.

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., (330) 507-0117

Discipline, from previous page

3. It protects us from future consequences of sin. That is the case, of course, only if we respond properly to His discipline by turning from our sin. Continual rebellion in the face of His discipline is dangerous.

4. It provides evidence that we are God's children. Again, here's what His Word concludes: "If you are without discipline — which all receive — then you are illegitimate children and not sons" (Hebrews 12:8).

5. It prepares us for the future. The battles change, but seldom does following God get easier along the way. God's hand of discipline that calls us to repentance today can strengthen us for the temptations of tomorrow.

6. It humbles us. Discipline forces us to admit that we're not in charge. We don't set the rules and we don't determine the repercussions of our wrong actions. Arrogance and disobedience are connected, so discipline and humility are often in order.

7. It makes us holy. Once again, let's turn to Hebrews 12 for the point: "He does it for our benefit, so that we can share His holiness" (Hebrews 12:10). The temporary pain of discipline helps conform us to the image of Christ.

8. It gives us peace. That conclusion may seem strange, but that's exactly what happens. God disciplines us, we turn to Him in repentance, we experience the grace of His forgiveness, and we sleep better at night.

What else has God's discipline taught you?

O.N.E. School

Things keep picking up at ONE School. This semester we have eight people in the class entitled “Making Disciples.” Oh how we need to make disciples in our churches and in the ones who become Christians at the Franklin Graham event.

Association Music



The next 5th Sunday Music Fest will be Oct 30 at Cortland Trinity Baptist Church. Hope to see you!

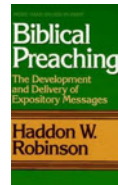
Churches & Missions

Austintown Baptist Church
Beacon of Hope BC
Central BC
Christian Community BC
Cornersburg 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
Unity BC
Upper Room Ministries
Steel Valley Church

Book Review, part 2

by Bill Mazey

Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages



by Haddon W. Robinson.

Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House Company, 1980, 230 pp. hardback

Last month I gave you a brief introduction to this book. I've kept the table of contents for you to look over and I will do a short review of chapter one. If you are a pastor/teacher or are engaged in pulpit supply I hope you will pick up this book and learn from it. We pastor/teachers need to be life-long learners.

Biblical Preaching contains ten chapters. The chapter headings are:

1. The Case for Expository Preaching
2. What's the Big Idea
3. Tools of the Trade
4. The Road from Text to Sermon
5. The Power of Purpose
6. The Shapes Sermons Take
7. Making Dry Bones Live
8. Start with a Bang and Quit All Over
9. The Dress of Thought
10. How to Preach So People Will Listen

Chapter 1, “The Case for Expository Preaching” makes a great start to this book. The chapter starts out with a brief explanation of how preaching has been devalued and is practiced in an over communicated society. Then the author makes a case for preaching and the need for preaching. These sections contain many Scripture references.

Robinson offers a definition of expository preaching: “Expository preaching is the communication of [one] biblical concept, derived from and transmitted through a historical, grammatical, and literary study of a passage in its context, which the Holy Spirit first applies to the personality & experience of the preacher, then through him to his hearers.” (p. 20)

It starts getting really good now. The next section describes how the passage governs the sermon. The Scripture text and what it is saying is very important. The preacher must understand the text and the context. How we study, interpret and apply the text has to impact us. Our feelings and circumstances cannot change the thought of the text.

The remaining sections in chapter one: the expositor communicates a concept, which comes from a text. Then the concept is applied to the expositor and to the hearers. I'll leave you with a quote from the last section. “The expositor must know his people as well as his message, and to acquire that knowledge he exegetes both the Scripture and the congregation. After all, when God speaks He addresses men and women as they are, where they are.....The letters of the New Testament, like the prophecies of the Old, were addressed to specific assemblies struggling with particular problems. Expository sermons today will be ineffective unless the preacher realizes that his listeners too exist at a particular address and have mindsets unique to them.” (p. 27)

Remember this book was originally published in 1980, has three editions and has sold over 300,000 copies. It is still being read, studied, and applied. That should say something to any pastor/teacher to pick up a copy, read it, and apply it in their ministry.

When is the last time you read a good book on preaching? When is the last time you have taken a class on preaching? Think of those things as continuing education. If there are any pastor/teachers interested in taking the Introduction to Preaching class through the ONE School of Theology in the spring of 2023 either for credit or audit, contact Randy Langham. Think of it as continuing pastoral education and something that could be a blessing to you and your congregation.