



545 Commerce Ave NW
Warren, OH 44485
330-775-3401
www.ohiosvba.org

the Steel Valley Baptist Association COMMUNICATOR

June, 2020

Sandra Parks
Secretary, Treasurer
sandra@ohiosvba.org

Gary Frost, 917-817-6287
Associational Missionary
gary@ohiosvba.org

Semiannual Meeting

**June 8, 2020
at 7 PM
on Zoom
and telephone**

zoom



This will be a first. We will hold our semiannual meeting over the Internet this coming Monday night at 7 PM using Zoom. We are going high tech!

Pastor Joe Sheely will preach the message. Remember, we will also vote on the officers to serve for the year following the October annual meeting. The administrative team is not planning to make any motion regarding the land.

Here are some additional matters regarding the Zoom meeting.

- You may log in many minutes before the meeting to talk to other people.
- If you have never downloaded Zoom onto your computer, please start the process at least 5 minutes before the meeting.
- You need to log into the system with the following codes. The meeting ID for this meeting only is 896 3266 5365. The password is 9999.
- If you are reading this Communicator as a PDF you can click the button below to log in.

Click here to log in

- If you have no Internet access you may join the meeting using any phone including a landline and call 301-715-8592. When prompted you will enter the codes listed above.
- We need to register all messengers. Therefore we will take the first few minutes of the meeting (if necessary) to recognize those of you who call in and we do not recognize your phone

see Zoom, page 3

Who will Fight the Giant?

The enemy sent a giant, named Goliath, to Israel and asked, "Who will fight the giant?"



Photo: KOMO News

A multi-headed giant is taunting God in America. One head is called COVID-19. Another is called racism. Another is deception from the press. Another is riots. Yet another is anger towards political parties. Still another is the collapsed economy.

God is asking His church, "Who will fight the Giant?"

The world is suffering terribly. They do not have the answers, and they have no way to slay the giant. They are crying out (sometimes silently) to the churches for answers, "Who will fight the Giant?"

This multi-headed giant is walking around the Steel Valley area seeking whom he may devour. "Who in Steel Valley will fight the Giant?"

Is there a shepherd boy in Steel Valley willing to fight? Is there a senior adult willing to fight? Is there a young adult willing to fight? This battle will require God's church at large, but any one can sling the first stone. Again God asks, "Who will fight the giant?"

How did the little shepherd boy fight? Did you know he wore no defensive protection. He went into battle with only offensive weapons. When

see Giant, page 3

Local Missions Events

During the Summer Steel Valley plans to hold three missions events in three different areas of our association. We will have one per month.

The first will be in a few weeks in the city of Windham June 18, Thursday, starting at 5 pm. We will meet at the Renaissance Center, 9005 Wil Verne Dr, Windham, OH 44288.

We need volunteers to serve. We need enough supplies for three events in order to distribute to the community. We will hand out bags containing New Testaments and possibly face masks, hand sanitizers, school supplies, New Testaments, etc. Do you have extra Bibles at your church available for distribution? Contact Cindy Burdick, the coordinator, at 330-482-9991 or at cindyburdick5@gmail.com.

Joint Statement on the Death of George Floyd

NASHVILLE (BP) -- Southern Baptist leaders have published a statement grieving the recent death of George Floyd and calling for the end of "racial inequity in the distribution of justice in our country." The statement, co-authored by SBC president J.D. Greear and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary president Jamie Dew was unanimously signed by all SBC officers, entity heads and state convention executive directors.



Jamie Dew

Statement

As a convention of churches committed to the equality and dignity of all
see Statement, next page

Statement, from previous page

people, Southern Baptists grieve the death of George Floyd, who was killed May 25, 2020, in Minneapolis, Minn.

While all must grieve, we understand that in the hearts of our fellow citizens of color, incidents like these connect to a long history of unequal justice in our country, going back to the grievous Jim Crow and slavery eras. The images and information we have available to us in this case are horrific and remind us that there is much more work to be done to ensure that there is not even a hint of racial inequity in the distribution of justice in our country. We grieve to see examples of the misuse of force, and call for these issues to be addressed with speed and justice.



J.D. Greear

While we thank God for our law enforcement officers that bravely risk their lives for the sake of others and uphold justice with dignity and integrity, we also lament when some law enforcement officers misuse their authority and bring unnecessary harm on the people they are called to protect. We further grieve with our minority brothers and sisters in the wake of George Floyd's death, pray for his family and friends and greatly desire to see the misuse of force and any inequitable distributions of justice come to an end.

Throughout the Old and New Tes-

taments, the Bible speaks to matters of justice and human dignity. We are taught by Scripture that human beings are distinct among the rest of creation as those beings which bear the divine image. From the beginning of life to the end, all human beings, both male and female--of all ethnicities, colors and ages--are sacred beings that God values and loves.

Throughout the law, the prophets, the gospels and the entire canon of Scripture, murder is condemned and God's people are called to protect the vulnerable. The Bible further condemns injustice and the misuse of authority and force. And in the example of Jesus Christ, God's people are called to love others, care for their needs, grieve with them in brokenness and labor for the well-being of our neighbor. To follow Christ is to follow in these examples He puts before us.

Therefore, as a matter of Christian obedience and devotion, followers of Jesus Christ cannot remain silent when our brothers and sisters, friends and/or people we seek to win for Christ are mistreated, abused or killed unnecessarily.

Therefore, we pray for our local, state, and national leaders as they seek justice, and call on them to act quickly and diligently to ensure that these situations are brought to an end. As a people, Southern Baptists stand ready to help towards that end. May God give us His favor, help and strength in this effort.

Church Strengthening

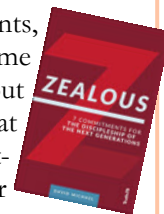


Bill Mazey

This is the start of a monthly book review column for pastors and church leaders. As the Church Strengthening Team leader I would like to pass on some short reviews of books that I think would benefit ministry leaders. The first review will start with a book I received for free from www.truth78.org.

Zealous: 7 Commitments for the Discipleship of the Next Generations, by David Michael, (Minneapolis, MN: Truth 78, 2020), 134 pp., paperback.

This book is divided into three parts: acknowledgements, four appendices, and some general information about Truth 78. Part I asks what is zeal and why does it matter? Eleven pages cover the answer to these questions. This section also works in evidence for the downward trend in church attendance and particularly the decline of church attendance among young people. While building on Romans 12:11, "Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord," the author states zeal in Scripture is not simply enthusiasm. It is fervor and diligence born out of a passion for God and His glory. It is the result of a heart on fire for the glory of God that is uncontainable and spills out in zealous evangelism, discipleship, service, and good works.



Part II is the largest section of the book and contains the 7 commitments for the discipleship of the next generations. They are 1) Embrace a Biblical Vision for the Faith of the Next Generation; 2) Foster a Robust Partnership Between Church and Home; 3) Teach the Breadth and Depth of the Whole Counsel of God; 4) Proclaim the Glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ; 5) Disciple the Mind, Heart, and Will; 6) Pray with Dependence on God's Sovereign Grace; 7) Inspire Worship of God, for the Glory of God.

see Book Review, next page

O.N.E. School

The Fall semester begins the week of August 24. That is not far away.

The Ohio NorthEast School of Theology serves as a Local Center for Gateway Seminary, one of our six SBC seminaries. They continue to expand ministry training opportunities which will be explained later. Through God's providence at O.N.E. School one of the classes we plan to present this Fall is "How to Interpret the Bible" (Biblical Hermeneutics). The course teaches the ways to understand passages accurately. This class is a must for teachers. Gateway will present a class on Saturday, Aug 22, to explain the class for any potential students. Ask for a brochure for more details.

All SVBA Pastors invited to Zoom Mtg

All pastors are encouraged to participate in a Zoom Meeting for fellowship and prayer, Thursday, June 25 at 7 PM. May God use this gathering to help transform our area of northeast Ohio.

God is at Work

One church out west has seen over 6200 people become Christians in the last 11 weeks. Of this total, over 2,000 people responded to the gospel presentation given to them while they were being served in the church food pantry. People are crying out for help. May we respond to their cries!

SBC

While the 2020 SBC Annual Meeting has been canceled for the first time since 1945, you will still be provided with an opportunity to hear from the entities of the Southern Baptist Convention through an online event tomorrow hosted by the SBC Executive Committee.

SBC Advance, a two-hour online event, is not designed to be a substitute for the annual meeting, but will provide ministry updates from and interviews with all SBC entity and auxiliary heads, as well as SBC President J.D. Greear. The event were livestreamed at SBCadvance.com starting at 3 p.m., Tuesday, June 2, 2020.

Video updates from the entities, annual reports, audited financial statements, and other updated reporting data were provided as part of the event.

Go to the web site to see a video of the recordings.

Book Review, from previous page

Each of these chapters is both encouraging and inspiring while being very practical. This teaching is born out of a lifetime of ministry. There are many Scripture references and definitions provided if the reader wants to do more studying.

Part III is titled "Do Not Lose Heart." The author knows how difficult discipling the next generations can be and he encourages the reader to press on. Even though the ministry of discipleship may be difficult, press on. Don't lose heart.

The four appendices are a resource of extra help and information. This book is well worth the time for ministry lead-

Zoom, from page 1

number. Entering your name when signing on to Zoom will serve as your signature. PLEASE NOTE: According to our bylaws if your name has yet to appear on the official listing of messengers you have until Wednesday, June 3 to add your name to the list. This has been announced for several months. As of this writing there are only 39 messengers from 35 churches and missions.

Sympathy & Prayer

When one part of the body suffers the other parts feel it as well. Such is the case to hear of more tragedies in the household of Terry Snyder, the former pastor of the Log Cabin Ministry in Austintown. He also served as a Chaplain at the Petro Truck Stop in Girard.

His wife, Nancy, passed away this past May 15 at her home. She was 77. The funeral was arranged through Lane.

Now another tragedy. Terry Snyder was driving his motorcycle in East Tennessee and was in a severe accident. He is currently in ICU in a Chattanooga hospital. Pray for Terry and his family.

SVBA's New Address

Please mail all correspondence and checks to 545 Commerce Ave. NW, Warren, OH 44485. The Tod Avenue address is no longer the mailing address for Steel Valley. Thanks very much!

ers to invest in it. At our church we have ordered copies for key ministry leaders and the entire leadership team to read, study, discuss and find truth to apply in our lives and ministries. I think it will help us be intentional about reaching the next generations in spite of the current crisis we are living through.

Thinking beyond the next generation to generations may be a key change in our praying, thinking, and discipling that will make a major impact for us as we go into the future. I believe the key to strengthening churches is to strengthen pastors and ministry leaders. Let me know what you think. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this book. I would be glad to talk with you about it.

- Zoom etiquette. Be aware that the rest of us can hear all your background noises and see everything that you do including eating food. If it is not your turn to talk you can click the microphone icon to mute or unmute. If necessary you can click the adjacent icon to turn on or turn off the camera attached to your computer. If you call in with a phone you will not have a display.

Executive Board Mtg

The Executive Board Meeting which usually meets in July has been postponed until September. The date has not been set yet. Hopefully enough of the virus problems will have passed by then so we can meet in person.

Giant, from page 1

confronted by the giant David said, "You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have taunted. This day the Lord will deliver you up into my hands, and I will strike you down and remove your head from you. And I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the Lord does not deliver by sword or by spear; for the battle is the Lord's and He will give you into our hands" (1 Sam 17:45-47, NASB).

God says elsewhere, *Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit.* When we fight the enemy the wrong way we take matters into our own hands. God says, in essence, "he who lives by the sword dies by the sword."

So how do we fight? God replies, *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land* (2 Chron 7:14, KJV).

Churches in Steel Valley, "Who will fight the Giant?"

Sanitizer Error

Correction: My apologies for the misunderstanding. The announcement for sanitizer last month was incorrectly represented. The containers available for free for churches are designed for general cleaning by way of spraying or wiping. You can still receive yours by calling Sandra.