



the Steel Valley Baptist Association COMMUNICATOR

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Semiannual Meeting

**June 8, 2020 at 7 PM
at Cornersburg Baptist Church,**



As of now the semiannual meeting is guaranteed to be on June 8. If the current social distancing continues into next month then we will hold the meeting over Zoom. If Ohio laws opens up the businesses then we will meet at Cornersburg Baptist. On June 1 the Administrative Team (A Team) will decide on the best location. If we meet in the church building, the A Team will present a motion to sell the land. If we meet over Zoom, then the A Team will present the motion at a later date.

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.

Missions & Ministry

I hope you are all keeping safe during this difficult time. So much of what was once normal to us is now forbidden. We've had to adjust our daily routines to protect ourselves and our loved ones from COVID-19. Even the way we minister on Sundays has completely changed. We've had to go online for the protection of our congregants. Sharing the gospel through outreach events may not be possible this year because of social distancing – I'm still hoping that won't be the case. All this has

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Got Sanitizer?

Churches, do you have sanitizer on hand when your church buildings open again? That is the correct location for this liquid. If not, then contact Sandra or Gary to give you a hand in getting this rare item. Gallons of this concentrated solution have been donated for all hands on deck at your church.

Humor aside, this is yet another way God is showing to us that He is big and able to meet all our needs. Who has a problem too big for God?

O.N.E. School

What additional skills would help you or anyone else in your church to minister more effectively? What about one of the items in this list:

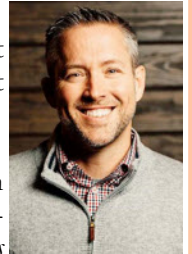
- Learn Zoom
- Learn Microsoft Word or Excel
- Learn desktop publishing
- Learn PowerPoint or other program for worship presentations.
- Learn how to livestream
- Learn how to improve recordings
- Learn how to edit/make videos
- Making Disciples while in Quarantine
- How to Sanitize the church building
- Other _____

SVBA already has people qualified to teach these classes, provide these services, or explain the process. Be aggressive in fulfilling the calling God has given to you, and do it with great excellence. If a topic of interest does not appear above let us know.

The O.N.E. School of Theology is making plans for the Fall Semester. Of the many options for classes is "How to Interpret the Bible" (Biblical Hermeneutics). The course teaches the ways to understand passages accurately. This class is a must for teachers.

Wake up, Christian. This is God's Alarm Clock

J.D. Greear, President of the Southern Baptist Convention



When I was in high school, a book was released called *88 Reasons Why Jesus Is Coming Back in 1988*, and it took the Christian world by storm. The author, a NASA scientist who was also a Christian, identified a three-day span when he said Jesus would return.

This book was a big deal at my Christian school. On the afternoon of the third day, September 13, my soccer coach ended practice 30 minutes early and said we were going to sit on the bleachers and wait it out. Then he looked at me and said, "If Jesus does indeed come, J.D., make sure all the equipment gets back in the bin." Unkind.

Of course that day came and went, and Jesus didn't come back. But the next year, the author released a follow-up book called—you guessed it—*89 Reasons Why Jesus Is Coming Back in 1989*. He explained that he had miscalculated the dates the year before because he used the Gregorian calendar and not the Hebrew one.

Happens to the best of us.

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All SVBA Pastors invited to Zoom Mtg

All pastors are encouraged to participate in a Zoom Meeting for fellowship and prayer, Thursday, May 21 at 7 PM. Contact Sandra for details. These will be held on the third Thursdays.

Wake up, from previous page

Christian history is littered with false predictions about the end of the world. Though Christians have often botched this up, and we can't know the day or the hour (or even the three-day span) of Jesus' return, it is true that Jesus is coming back, and Scripture says it could be at any moment. Jesus will come like a thief in the night—that is, unexpectedly, when we're not looking for it.

It's also true, Jesus said, that there will be pointers as it gets closer, such as wars and rumors of wars, famines, earthquakes, and plagues. In Matthew 24 he compares these things to labor pangs the world will show before it gives birth to the new world that Jesus will bring at his coming. Like a woman who, in the hours leading up to childbirth, has moments of intense anguish, so the world will experience painful moments—like the coronavirus—showing that the coming of Jesus is near.

In his new book, *Coronavirus and*

Christ, John Piper says that through this virus, Jesus is saying to us, "This world you are living in will not last forever. You need to think about the world that is coming and prepare for it. Wake up!"

We don't know when he's coming, but signs like this show us it is likely not far away. The last words of the New Testament are Jesus saying, "Surely I come quickly." He's coming back!

When was the last time you went to bed with Jesus' second coming on your mind, thinking, "It could be tonight" or got up in the morning with the thought, "Today might be the day"? We are so frantically busy taking care of our daily needs that we never even think about it, much less make sure we are telling others about it.

I don't think the coronavirus marks the end of the world. But this world does have an end, and if we ignore that reality, we are asleep at the wheel. The coronavirus, as disastrous as it is, represents God's merciful wake-up call for us to get ready.

For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this? (Esther 4:14)

M&M, from previous page

given birth to a new term - social distancing.

So how do we share Jesus in the midst of social distancing? By a combination of the old and new ways. You can still talk to your neighbors from one yard to another. Ask how they're doing and offer to pray with them. Share how your faith in Jesus is getting you through this and why. If your pastor is sharing sermons on Facebook Live, or in any other way online, let them know and ask them to watch and be encouraged by God's Word. Call those your friends and relatives who don't have a personal relationship with Jesus and see how they're doing. If they're filled with fear and anxiety you have an opportunity to share how the Lord has been good and faithful to you and how He

wants to do the same for them. At the very least offer to pray with them and let them know if your pastor is sharing the Word online. If your pastor is not sharing the Word online and you know of a pastor you trust who is, then share his information with them.

Use social media, such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to share passages of hope and encouragement. Offer to pray for, or even with, anyone who needs prayer during this time of uncertainty. Let them know that Jesus is still Lord and He's still in charge and He will see us through this. The internet can be a useful tool for ministry if you really desire to reach others in Jesus's name.

If you have any questions about any of these things you may call me at (330) 507-0117.

God bless you and keep safe,
Rafael Cruz Jr.

March for Jesus

Plans for March for Jesus have been revised.

A Praise Walk Guide

The March for Jesus is traditionally a public procession of praise glorifying Jesus Christ, gathering many from different streams of Christ's body. Because of the Covid-19 crisis those plans have been shifted to May 22, 2021. Our praise and prayers today will be done by small groups in appropriate places. Go to www.themarchforjesus.org for more info. On the morning of May 30, 2020, we will unite our praise with seven expressions of praise and prayer that spring from Paul's letter to the Philippians. First, we will praise our Lord Jesus with truths in Philippians 2:5-15. Then, from Philippians 4:4-20, we will pray for the people of our communities, and other cities and countries, culminating at 12 noon with a gesture and confession that Jesus Christ is Lord.

PRAISEWALK

A Confession and Gesture of Faith

As a tangible way of expressing love and faith in Jesus in accord with Philippians 2:10, "every knee will bow," you are invited to find a safe and appropriate place, public if possible, where you can kneel at exactly 12 noon on Saturday, May 30. Some may need to kneel in their homes, or just outside their front doors. For many, this will be a wonderful way to openly express devotion to Jesus. While kneeling at noon, we will lift our hands before the Lord and declare "Jesus Christ is Lord!" Then, for at least one minute, we will remain in that posture, giving praise together to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Mission Trip

The mission trip planned for the Dayton area has been postponed until next year due to COVID-19 and other factors. But that does not mean there are no other mission opportunities in our area. May the Lord show to us the exact ministries He wants us to do.