



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

the Steel Valley Baptist Association COMMUNICATOR

November, 2019

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

Sandra Parks
Secretary, Treasurer
sandra@ohiosvba.org

Thanksgiving

In the rotunda of the U.S. Capitol building are eight large paintings, each 18' by 12'. One of those portrays the pilgrims on board the ship preparing to



go to the new land - America. This painting shows the importance of the Bible for the people who began a new government which greatly influenced our nation. (The painting is so large you can see the Geneva Bible is open to the first page of the New Testament.)

God is not through with America. Let's be thankful for our heritage, for our salvation, for our calling, and for all the ways He plans to use us to reach the Ohio NorthEast and all the world.

Missions & Ministry

The Children of Light

Ephesians 5:8, *For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.*

The Church is the light of the world. You are the light of the world. The light is the presence of God in us revealing Himself to the world through us, as we faithfully represent Him to a world lost in darkness.

Light must be introduced to the darkness for it to be effective. You are the light of the world (Matthew 5:14).

see Missions, page 3

2019 Annual Mtg

The spirit of our annual meeting was great. The encouragement from Dr. Richard Blackaby was also great. We met at Rising Star, and Bro. Gary



Frost challenged us to "Get Goin'" in fulfilling God's call for us. The Administrative Team has three new faces: Cindy Burdick (member-at-large), Brent Beck (member-at-large), and Randy Langham (moderator). At the Executive Board Mtg in January we will elect the new Church Strengthening Team leader. The budget took on a significant leap now that we have the care for the Commerce Ave building.

State Convention

The annual meeting of the state convention was Nov. 4-5 at Rolling Hills Baptist Church in Fairfield, Ohio. (Yes, before the publication of this newsletter.) God is at work in many areas of Ohio, and He *jealously desires the Spirit, which He has made to dwell in us* in northeast Ohio.

The newly elected president is challenging all in the state to fast on the first Fridays of each month in 2020 and pray for God's will to be done.

DENOMINEE PROCESS AND FUTURE TEAM

Seeking His future for Ohio Baptists

CHURCH REVITALIZATION

Seeking His plan for the church

CHURCH PLANTING

Seeking His places for church plants

PASTORS AND LEADERS

Seeking His favor for pastors, leaders & their families

AWAKENING

Seeking supernatural gospel impact for Ohio & beyond

Spiritual Balm

Associational Missionary
Gary L. Frost



(Here is a great article, entitled "An Unexpected Spiritual Balm," by Yaditza Irizarry.)

An unexpected spiritual balm. That is what God's Word is for me nowadays.

I was meditating and journaling about Psalm 11 and, upon finishing, I felt as if the most soothing spiritual ointment had reached down to my itchy, achy soul to bring comfort and relief.

Interestingly, I didn't even know I needed to be comforted in such a way, as everything in my life and family had been going great -- meaning, dealing with the daily mundane.

However, I also had become burdened and discouraged by the ramping wickedness in this world, especially recent deconversion stories of "former Christians" and the folly of quarrels in social media among "Christians." In fact, I had recently taken a break from social media because I just couldn't bear one more deconstruction story or another epic clash amongst "Christians."

So there I was the other day, sitting on my couch, doing my quiet time couch and meditating on Psalm 11, especially verses 3-11:

"When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do? The LORD is in his holy temple; the LORD is on his heavenly throne. He observes the sons of men; his eyes examine them. The LORD examines the righteous, but the wicked and those who love violence his soul hates. On the wicked he will rain fiery coals and burning

see Balm, next page

Balm, from page 1

sulfur; a scorching wind will be their lot. For the LORD is righteous, he loves justice; upright men will see his face."

This part stood out from the psalm so I proceeded to inquire about the context and how it applied to me on that day.

The first part of the psalm (v. 1-2) convey that when David encountered significant danger, at one point, he was advised to escape from his enemies. Instead, he chose to trust the Lord and take refuge in Him, for he was certain that even when the foundations of life are torn down, those who have a relationship with the Lord will find shelter in Him. Since David knew God's unchanging character and His righteousness, he was assured he need not to worry, for God takes care of those who practice righteousness -- those who decide to make the right choices and portray godly attitudes in life. David was also convinced that God will do justice to those who do the opposite in His predetermined time.

This passage reminds us that even when it seems that the unrighteous are getting away with their wicked ways, we can rest knowing that God is in control, for He will bring order and justice when He best seems fitting.

We are also reminded that God is already working "examining the righteous and the wicked" and that it is really not our role to worry and get caught up in the negativity and unrighteousness.

Moreover, just because we think something is out control, in God's realm and time, it may not be. The devil is defeated, God is actively working, and His plans will be fulfilled.

So what should we do when we are tempted to become overwhelmed upon hearing conflicting news? We could ponder in His Word and meditate in His goodness, righteousness and in His perfect will? We must choose to be overwhelmed by His love, mercy and grace, so much so that we can be a blessing to others. As a result, we will show others God's peace and hope that we are able to experience in Him.

As unexpected spiritual balm, I hope and pray it can be that for you as well.

Mission Trip

Keep your eyes and ears open for a mission trip that is in the making for possibly July, 2020. It would be great for us to take many people from our association on this trip.

IMB Offering

Every Christmas, churches make a special offering for missionaries around the world through our International Mission Board. Last year a record \$162,000,000 was donated through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. There is so much more to be done to reach people.



LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING[®]
— for international missions —

March for Jesus

Christians across America have the opportunity in a few months to make a public declaration for Jesus. In the Steel Valley area at least three marches are in the making for May 30, 2020: Greater Youngstown, Greater Warren, and Geauga County. Make your plans to join us as we declare Jesus Christ is Lord!



For more information see Bro. Gary.

Pastor Search

New Hope Baptist Church in Windham, Ohio is accepting resumes for a bi-vocational pastor. We are seeking an energetic and passionate pastor with strong leadership skills and a desire to work with our membership. We are a small congregation but we love the Lord and are eager to learn and grow. Resumes may be sent to Kathleen Kunze c/o New Hope Baptist Church, PO Box 397, Windham, OH 44288 or emailed to newhope138@gmail.com.

Ohio NorthEast School of Theology

The O.N.E. School of Theology begins classes in February, just three months away.



Three classes will be offered in our first semester: Basic Evangelism, led by Kevin Crum; Introduction to Christian Theology, led by Bill Mazey; and Making Disciples, led by Randy Langham.

All classes will be held on Tuesdays, beginning Feb. 4. The classes will go from 6-9 PM for fifteen weeks. Therefore all students will receive a quality education with very practical applications at a very reduced cost. These classes are actually a dream come true for many people living in our area.

Now for the latest. We have been in contact with Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, the largest seminary in America, and they are able to make arrangements for the credits for some of the classes to transfer to Southern in the Master's level. This is truly amazing.

This is an unbelievable opportunity for many people to receive quality education and practical applications at a very reduced cost. Make plans now to register and improve your leadership potential.

ACPs

As of Nov 10, only 17 of our churches and missions have completed the ACPs. For those who have completed it, thanks for your participation. Let's set a goal of having 100% of our churches filling out these forms.

Starting this year you are also being encouraged to add the names of the elected representatives and messengers for the Steel Valley meetings. Thanks for your help. We need to live by the guidelines of our bylaws, and they say only the people whose names are submitted in the ACPs are eligible to vote. Again, thanks.

Pastors and Wives Christmas Dinner

Thursday, Dec 12 6:00 pm (doors open at 5:30 pm) at Leo's Ristorante 7042 E Market St, Warren, OH 44484

Prayer Resource

The State has provide an excellent resource for churches or individuals. This 40-day prayer guide gives guidance in reviewing basic aspects of our prayer time. You can download your copy or order your free copies at <https://www.scbo.org/content/40-day-prayer-guide>



Upcoming Calendar

Nov 4-5 - SCBO Annual Meeting
Nov 11, 4:45 PM - Missions & Ministry
Nov 11, 6 PM - Admin Team Meeting
Nov 28 - Thanksgiving Day
Dec 2, 6 PM - Admin Team Meeting
Dec 12 - Pastors/Wives Dinner
Dec 25 - Christmas Day
Jan 13, 7 PM - Executive Board Mtg

Missions, from page 1

You are the only "Jesus" most people will ever see. Their hope lies in your faithfulness in sharing Jesus, even your personal testimony of His work of transformation in your life, with those around you.

When you have the Spirit of God in you, you have the power of God within you - 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." You are no longer powerless, but you are a spiritual warrior! You have the presence and the power of God within you so that He may impact the world through you. Jesus's work and presence in your life ought to be so obvious that people will know He's your Lord before you even say a word - "Live as children of light". Let the world see Jesus through you.

I would like to begin posting your stories of your experiences in having outreach events with your church. I believe there are those who will be inspired and motivated by seeing the impact evangelistic events have on your church and your community. You may either email them at: likejesus@sbcglobal.net or mail them to: Rafael Cruz Jr. 3536 Sheridan Rd. Youngstown, OH 44502.

Don't forget to lead your congregation in the "Who's Your One?" ministry program. Everything you need is found online at whosyourone.com.

Our next Missions and Ministry Team meeting will be Monday, January 6th, at 4:30 p.m. at the associational office. PLEASE NOTE THE NEW TIME. We encourage you to join us.

Pray for the Lord's direction in reaching the lost for Jesus, and let's get into the battle.

Rafael Cruz Jr.

Offering for Missions

Last Feb, 2019 I was given the opportunity to go with a church in PA on a mission trip. We went to Dominican Republic where we ministered to four Haitian villages. We did VBS, medical clinic, and passed out food baskets. The group was able to tear down a shack that an elderly Haitian lady lived in and built her a new home. All building supplies, medical and food was paid for by church in PA. I am asking my association-churches in SVBA to help financially. Anything that will be given will be passed along to Rev. Micah McMillen, 5225 Mahoning Rd, Home PA. He is the pastor of Old Mahoning Baptist Church. Please mail any donations to

Edith Hall

Christian Community Baptist Church
4225 Tod Ave, NW
Warren OH 44485

Thanks,
Edith Hall

Churches and Missions in Northeast Ohio

Austintown Baptist Church
Beacon of Hope Baptist Church
Carnation City Baptist Church
Central Baptist Church*
Christian Community Baptist Church
Community Baptist Church
Cornersburg Baptist Church
Cortland Trinity Baptist Church
East Conneaut Baptist Church
Faith Baptist Church
First Baptist Church, Andover*
First Baptist Church, Garrettsville



First Baptist Church, Newton Falls
First Spanish Baptist Church
Grace Baptist Church
Grace Korean Baptist Church
Grace Place Ministries
Hope Baptist Church
Howland Glen Baptist Church
Living Testimony Ministries
Living Water Baptist Church*
Memorial Baptist Church
Mercy Community Church
New Birth-Kimmelbrook Baptist Church



New Covenant Baptist Church
New Hope Baptist Church*, Windham
New Hope Baptist Church, Youngstown
Northside Baptist Church
Rising Star Baptist Church
Shenango Valley Baptist Church
Solid Rock Community Church
Southington Baptist Church
Struthers Bible Baptist Church
Unity Baptist Church
Upper Room Ministries
Youngstown Metro Church

* seeking a pastor