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# the Steel Valley Baptist Association COMMUNICATOR

March, 2022

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

### Russia in the Bible



Jeremiah

According to Pastor David Jeremiah of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, California, Ezekiel “predicted specific events that will occur in Russia’s future.”

“In recent years, Russian President Vladimir Putin has aggressively pursued reunification of the Soviet bloc. He has annexed Crimea, crept into the Republic of Georgia, and invaded Ukraine,” wrote Jeremiah, the author of multiple books and a columnist for the Jerusalem Post Christian World portal. “Not only is he provoking the people of Eurasia, but his strong-armed policies are also causing concern around the world.”

A recently released Gallup poll showed that Russia is one of the countries that American citizens consider to be the United States’ greatest enemy, only second to China in some years.

*see Russia, next page*

### Pastors’ Zoom Mtg

The next pastor Zoom Meeting for fellowship and prayer is March 17 at 7 PM. The Zoom meeting can be accessed by clicking here:

**Zoom Mtg**

### Semiannual Meeting

This meeting will be April 11 at the Cortland Trinity Baptist Church, located at 2576 McCleary Jacoby Rd



in Cortland. The meeting will begin at 7 PM. with desserts provided at 6:30 PM.

We will be electing officers for next year 2022-23. If you have names to recommend, please forward them to the Administrative Team in the next few weeks.

One of the agenda items in the meeting will regard the sell of the McGuffey Road property located across McGuffey from Early Road (Lot 53-213-442). Bids have come in for the purchase of the property and others are welcome.

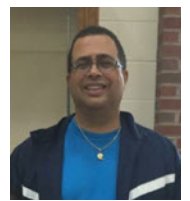


Kevin Phillips, the pastor of First Baptist Church of Jefferson, will bring the message. We will also hear reports from our Associational Missionary, from the Missions and Ministry Team including the mission trips, and from Church Strengthening including the O.N.E. School.

### Missions & Ministry

Matthew 24:32-33

*“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door.”*



Rafael Cruz Jr

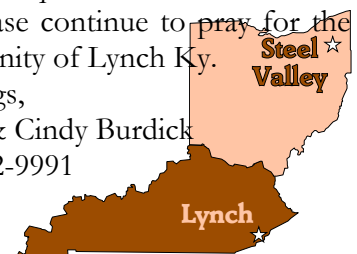
With the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, everyone’s asking if we are in

*see M&M, page 3*

### Mission Trip

We are excited, the Association Lynch Mission Trip is June 5-10 a few short months away. We have two options for accommodations this year: (1) rooms that have their own bathroom/shower for \$25 a night [\$125 for week] and (2) dormitory rooms [with bathroom and showers down the hall] for \$15 a night [\$75 for week]. We hope you will join us Saturday, April 9 at 10:00 am at Greasel Park, Canfield, OH 44406 for more trip details. If you cannot attend then please call us with your questions.

Please continue to pray for the community of Lynch Ky. Blessings,  
Doug & Cindy Burdick  
330-482-9991



## Russia, from previous page

“Newsfeeds swirl with questions about his [Putin's] intentions, but perhaps we should ask ourselves this question: What does the Bible say about modern Russia?” Jeremiah said.

While the word “Russia” does not exist in the Bible, Jeremiah said that the reference to “Rosh” in Ezekiel 38:2 is a shortened version of the word Russia.

“This can be determined linguistically and geographically,” Jeremiah explained. “The Bible describes Rosh as being far to the north of Israel, which was the reference point for Ezekiel’s original audience.”

In both Ezekiel and the Book of Daniel, the end-times aggressor is described as coming from the north: “King of the North” in Daniel and “from the far north” in Ezekiel.

“Russia is the only modern nation to match this description,” Jeremiah said.

Russia is also linked to the final battle of Gog and Magog, which according to the Bible will be a massive military attack against Israel and usher in the messianic era.

“Gog is the prince of Rosh, or we would say the leader of Russia. Some scholars believe Gog is a title rather than a personal name,” Jeremiah wrote.

“Gog is from the land of Magog (verse 2). Magog was also the name of one of Noah’s grandsons (Genesis 10:2; 1 Chronicles 1:5), and many scholars believe his descendants settled around the Black and Caspian Seas on Russia’s southern border,”

writes Jeremiah. “In the Jeremiah Study Bible, I identify this region as the former ‘-stan’ countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and perhaps Afghanistan), all former constituents of the Soviet Union.

“What unites the sixty million residents of this region today is their religion: Islam.”

The Bible also mentions Meshech and Tubal, grandsons of Noah, whose descendants established cities with the same names and that have been identified either as Moscow and Tobolsk or as modern-day Turkey.

Persia (modern day Iran) and ancient Ethiopia (modern day Sudan) are mentioned too.

“Russia and Turkey will lead from the north. Iran will join from the east. Sudan and Libya will press in from the south and possibly Germany from the west,” Jeremiah said. But he said that for the battle to occur, certain criteria must be met: Israel must be present in her land; the country must be prosperous and must be at peace.

Israel returned to its land in 1948 and, today, the country has a thriving economy, ranked among the most innovative in the world.

However, Israel is constantly on alert and under attack by its neighbors. “When Russia attacks Israel, the nation will be disarmed,” said Jeremiah. “That is difficult to imagine.

“The north’s invasion of Israel is not going to happen in the immediate future,” he continued, “but perhaps sooner than we think.”

## A Sacred Assembly

“It is time to seek the Lord.”  
Hosea 10:12

Palm Sunday, April 10th, at 6 p.m.

Cortland Trinity Baptist Church  
2576 McCleary Jacoby Road  
Cortland, OH

What do our churches need to become more effective and fruitful in our ministries for Christ? We tend to think that we need better organization, be more strategic in outreach, improve the quality of our ministries and our music, etc. While all this has its place, many are realizing that our greatest need is to have God’s transforming presence and power operating in our churches. We hear the Holy Spirit calling us to come together in unified, fervent prayer, humble ourselves, seek God’s face and repent of our sin, that He might visit us with His transforming presence and power. This will be the focus of the Sacred Assembly on April 10th. Please pray for and participate in this gathering of the body of Christ. For more information call Pastor Dan Barker at 330-637-1421.

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## Luke 24:5-7



*“Why do you seek the living One among the dead? He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.”*

## Finances

As of February 28, Steel Valley has the following financial totals regarding the calendar year 2022:

Year-to-date Budget: \$12,296.13

Year-to-date Income: \$ 8,625.70

## **M&M, from page 1**

the last days. I believe the answer is a big “YES”! Not only is Russia showing their aggressiveness, but north African nations and some radical Muslim nations are giving them their support – the same nations that will soon attack Israel as prophesied in Ezekiel 38-39. Also, there are three buildings called the Abrahamic Center already constructed in Abu Dhabi, UAE that are to be used for the one world religion. Pope Francis has led the way for this unification of many faiths where they are to believe they all worship the same god. While all this is happening, Christianity is being attacked globally. Isaiah 5:20 is happening as the world wants godly values silenced while legalizing and promoting immorality. Witches and Satanists are becoming more public as more of our younger generation explores the occult. The wrath of God is certainly being built up!

In the midst of all of this, we are still called to be the Church. The gospel of truth is needed more desperately today than ever before since the Church era began. We have friends, neighbors and family members who will remain behind after the rapture to deal with the Antichrist simply because we didn't feel comfortable sharing Jesus with them.

It is time for the Church to rise up and finish strong! It is time for us to take Jesus's commands to go and make disciples (Matt. 28:19) and be His witnesses (Acts 1:8) seriously. There should not be people in your church neighborhood who haven't been reached out to in Jesus's name. There should not be people in your own neighborhood who haven't been reached out to in Jesus's name. We are called to fight for the souls of the

lost. Yes, the world will continue to become more and more evil in these last days, but there are still “not yet Christians” awaiting someone to share Jesus with them. Don't focus on the mess of today's world, and don't focus on those who reject the gospel. Focus on Jesus and your calling to be the light and His mouthpiece to a lost world, holding on to the hope that some will turn to Jesus.

To assist your congregation in reaching out to your community, we have the block party trailer available. The cost is only \$100 for its use, which is a real bargain. Start praying about doing outreach this year. If you need help, just ask. We will even have a training day for outreach using the block party trailer, TBA. When the details materialize, please call the number below and let me know who's attending.

Take advantage of the time we have left in this world. Let's get busy about the Lord's business.

**May 21,** March for Jesus Outreach Event at Glenwood Park from 1 – 3 PM. (approximately 2538 Glenwood Ave) We need many volunteers.

**June 4,** March for Jesus at the Youngstown Amphitheatre at 10 AM

**June 6-10,** Kentucky mission trip

Our God is an awesome God! The best is yet to come! Pray for opportunities to be God's mouthpiece during 2022.

The next Missions and Ministry Team meeting will be Monday, March 21st at 6 PM. at the SVBA Association Office. Everyone is invited. Please let me know if you're attending - (330) 507-0117.

God bless you,

Rafael Cruz Jr.

Missions and Ministry Team Leader

## **Church Strengthening**

### **O.N.E. School**



**Randy Langham**

This year's theme for Steel Valley is “Advancing the Kingdom ... One Soul at a Time.” Concurrently, God has led the leadership at the School to hold a class on “Basic Evangelism.” Amazing how God works!

O.N.E. School will provide this course so that you, the participant, 1) will understand the biblical importance and mandates for evangelism, 2) learn affective ways to share the gospel naturally in a normal lifestyle, and 3) produce a greater involvement in the church where you serve. The 15-week course begins March 22 and will mostly be on Zoom.

This course will also be the **1<sup>st</sup>** for O.N.E. School to have seminary students taking classes for seminary credit. Yes, they can take these classes at only 1/3 the cost and not have to live in another state. They can take these classes right at home.

This class will be unique in that it will be held for seminary credit, Bible college credit, or for the regular certificate credit - your choice.

### **Fall Semester Course**

When people become Christians they need to be discipled. For this reason O.N.E. School will provide a course in the Fall entitled “Making Disciples.” This class has already been offered and has been the most appreciated among all classes, because it produces a passion and a general structure for all churches to adapt for application.