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the Steel Valley Baptist Association COMMUNICATOR

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Vision 2025



President & CEO
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of the SBC

Dr. Ronnie Floyd

NASHVILLE (BP) — Vision 2025 is not simply a slogan or rallying cry. It's a path forward to help us re-imagine a new future together of reaching the world for Jesus Christ - every person, every town, every city, every state, and every nation.

We are in one of the most defining moments in our history. For the future of America, the future around the world, and for the sake of our own future as the Southern Baptist Convention, change is imperative.

We find ourselves chasing after the winds of our preferences, our own opinions, our own issues, and our own streams of social media. These are the side streets that keep us off of Main Street, that always leads us to the final words of our Lord Jesus Christ before His grand ascension: *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth."* Acts 1:8

I am speaking about a unified Great Commission vision that

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Pastors' Zoom Mtg

The next pastor Zoom Meeting for fellowship and prayer is the third Thursday, March 18 at 7 PM.

Imprisoned for Christ

The New Covenant Baptist Church will be hosting the Voice of the Martyrs' Virtual Event on Friday, March 5th starting at 7:30 p.m., that will feature three inspiring speakers: Petr Jasek, Andrew Brunson and Dan Baumann.



While sharing God's love in three different nations (Sudan, Turkey, Iran) dominated by Islam, each was arrested, interrogated and imprisoned. While all three struggled to find God's purpose in their suffering, they ultimately recognized His faithfulness and love amid desperate circumstances.

In addition to their firsthand testimonies, you will enjoy an engaging panel discussion moderated by VOM Radio host Todd Nettleton as well as inspiring worship music from Dove Award-winning artist Natalie Grant.

The church is located at 1606 Salt Springs Rd, Lordstown. (Across from Fire Dept.)

The public is cordially invited to this FREE event.

Missions & Ministry

Romans 10:14-15
"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"



Rafael Cruz Jr

We are living in the craziest of times when there's a lot of confusion in our society, and even in our homes. This is a time when the Truth of God is direly needed for those who are wandering around as lost as they've ever been. This is an opportunity for the Church to rise up and be the Lord's mouthpieces to them all. Every congregation ought to have an evangelism team, or at least someone leading in evangelism, to direct the Church in fulfilling the Great Commission.

I am asking for your congregation to assign someone to attend our next Missions and Ministry Team meeting on Monday, March 29th at 6 pm at the association office in *see M&M, next page*

A Letter to Produce Joy

Paul, a prisoner in Rome, wrote a letter to free Christians in Philippi. The purpose of the letter was to give reasons for rejoicing. Is that ironic? *Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel, so that my imprison-*

ment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else, and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear. (Php 1:12-14)

Vision, from previous page

unites us. Yes, a vision that calls us to reach every person for Jesus Christ in every town, every city, every state, and every nation. This vision, Vision 2025, is composed of five strategic actions that are clear, concise and compelling; but this vision is also specific, measurable, realistic, attainable and timely.

Strategic Action 1: Increase our total number of full-time, fully-funded missionaries by a net gain of 500, giving us 4,200 full-time, fully-funded missionaries through the International Mission Board.

Strategic Action 2: Add 6,000 new churches to our Southern Baptist family, giving us more than 50,000 churches.

Strategic Action 3: Increase our total number of workers in the field through a new emphasis on “calling out the called,” and then preparing those who are called out by the Lord.

Strategic Action 4: Turn around our ongoing decline in reaching, baptizing, and discipling 12- to 17-year-olds in the prime of their teenage years.

Strategic Action 5: Increase our annual giving in successive years to reach and surpass \$500 million given through the Cooperative Program to achieve these Great Commission goals.

If we are going to send more missionaries, plant more churches, revitalize more churches, replant more churches, equip more pastors, equip more evangelists, equip more scholars and equip more missionaries, then we must prioritize our giving through the Cooperative Program, elevate our giving through the Cooperative Program and accelerate our giving through the Cooperative Program. When we do this, we will experience the greatest years in the history of our 175 years as a convention.

In the year of 2025, we will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention. It is our dream that in the Year 2025, we will see our churches give at least \$500 million through the Cooperative Program.

As a pastor, I saw this time and time again: Dollars follow vision! People give to vision. If the vision is clear, concise and compelling, they will support it financially. While I know this is true as a pastor, I am also believing now that is true denominationally as we collectively call upon our churches to support Vision 2025. Vision 2025 is a call to return to the heart of who we are and why we exist: missions and evangelism.

Now is the time to pray for and to lead towards this vision of reaching every person for Jesus Christ in every town, every city, every state and every nation.

“Equality Act”

The United States Senate will be voting on the “Equality Act” some time in the future. If you need contact information for your two senators, please see below. More than anything else, pray for God’s will to be done.

Ohio

Sherrod Brown 1-888-896-6446
www.brown.senate.gov/contact/email

email Brown

Rob Portman 202-224-3353
www.portman.senate.gov/meet/contact

email Portman

Pennsylvania

Bob Casey 1-202-224-6324
www.casey.senate.gov/contact/

email Casey

Pat Toomey 1-814-453-3010 (Erie)
1-202-224-4254 (DC)
www.toomey.senate.gov/contact/email-senator-toomey

email Toomey

Semiannual Meeting

This year our semiannual meeting will be at the FBC, Newton Falls, Apr 12, at 7 PM.

We elect officers for the following year during this meeting. Is God calling you to serve as one of the association’s leaders? If so, let the Administrative Team know of your availability.

The North American Mission Board restructured the geographical areas of our nation and we are now in the Ohio Valley area containing Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana. Buzz Kocher, the Church Planting Catalyst for our area, might be at our meeting to join us in our efforts to reach people for Jesus and to start new churches.

Our message at this meeting will be given by Joe Sheeley, the pastor of Solid Rock in Salem.

We will also be voting on First Baptist Church of Jefferson, Ohio as they request membership in the Steel Valley association.

M&M, from previous page

Warren. As the COVID-19 virus is waning, we are expecting the Lord’s faithful to make plans for your congregation’s outreach ministry this summer. The block party trailer is available for almost any date at this time.

If you would like evangelism training, I will work out a time with you to train your congregation and answer any questions. I am still hoping for a team that would be committed to go with the block party trailer and assist churches in doing their outreach events. We will be discussing having an associational day of training as well.

Please keep the Missions and Ministry work in your prayers and pray for the Lord’s work in our association this year. God bless you all.

Rafael Cruz Jr.
(330) 507-0117

NAMB Missionaries Joining Us

Every year during the first week of March we highlight missionaries whom we support at the North American Mission Board. It is also a week of prayer as we focus on seven or so individuals or couples who serve to reach people and start churches in our land.

This year Cornersburg Baptist is hosting two couples to join us in Sunday evening Zoom meetings. The first couple will join us Sunday, March 7, at 6 PM. The guests will be



Jacob and Francine Zailian who serve in Sanger, California.

The second missionary couple will join us Sunday, March 14, at 6 PM. This couple serving in Slidell, LA



are Bobby and LaKeisha Williams.

Invite your friends to join us. You can connect by phone (cell or landline, but not rotary) by calling 301-715-8592. When you are asked for the meeting number enter 848 1104 6162. When it asks for the pass-code enter 1234.

To go directly to the Zoom meeting using this electronic document, click on the button below:

[Go to Missionary Zoom Mtg](#)

Question and Answer Time

The last portion of the meetings will contain a question and answer time. To expedite the meetings we ask that you submit your questions to Randy Langham (330-398-2455 or pastor@cornersburg.org) at least two hours prior to the meetings.

Week of Prayer Emphasis

For more information about these couples or about the week of prayer emphasis or about any of the other highlighted missionaries whom you support, you can go to the site <https://www.anniearmstrong.com/> or you can click on the following button:

[Go to Annie Armstrong website](#)

Week of Prayer Packet

It appears the Week of Prayer packet of prayer guides, posters, etc. have not arrived at the churches at the time of this publication.

Dunbar

Barbara Dunbar is another IMB missionary whom we support. Her home is Akron, Ohio.

She needed to return to Japan a few weeks ago. Difficulties arose. She had to acquire many forms including a passport in Chicago and have it completed within one day. On the trip, multiple miracles took place. God provided!

Singermans

[The following is an abbreviated letter from the Singermans who serve in the IMB and call Dayton, Ohio their home.]

After an unplanned trip back to the States Jan 2 to be with Jeff's mom, Marilyn Singerman, while she was in hospice and who consequently died Jan 15, we returned to Togo Feb 5.

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Singermans

Upon return, in the Togo airport I, surprisingly, tested positive for Covid-19 and subsequently became sick. Jeff fell ill Feb 9 with an unshakeable fever. The night of Feb 15 we realized his oxygen levels were fluctuating. The 17th his oxygen levels were dipping into the 70s. A close African friend, Sabine, procured an ambulance for Jeff. I was too weak to follow and was under quarantine.

I will eventually tell you the story of Sabine risking her health for Jeff and the heroic efforts she and my friend Alima made to get Jeff, extremely weak, feverish and on oxygen, somewhere to lie down while he waited hours in a hot, crowded, national hospital room of very ill people, and to be tested for Covid. After a day of Sabine's countless tears and prayers and conditions you would find unbelievable, Jeff's test returned positive. He was transferred to the national Covid hospital.

The Togo Covid hospital is impressive and the doctors very capable. But they have limited resources. IMB medical personnel started working on a possible evacuation for Jeff from Togo to Nairobi, Kenya, from the moment they discovered Jeff wasn't quickly recovering from Covid—even before he was hospitalized.

Jeff was admitted immediately into Covid intensive care where he has been for just over a week. He is suffering from Covid pneumonia. His lungs were 80% compromised.

At first he was having some issues with his liver, but that has resolved. When he arrived in Kenya he was experiencing a cytokine storm. Once his liver enzymes readjusted he was administered medications to control this.

Jeff is extremely weak. Any movement can cause shortness of breath. He has to have two negative Covid tests before leaving the Covid hospital to be transferred to the main hospital.

We have been appointed to times of suffering. We do not know God's plan, but we know everything we go through has a divine purpose.

"If our suffering speaks louder to our African partners about their engagement in the Great Commission than our words, then so be it."