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the Steel Valley Baptist Association COMMUNICATOR

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“A Message from the Maasai”



Associational Missionary
Gary L. Frost

I just returned from Kenya where three members of our church along with several other Southern Baptist “missionaries” convened to conduct leadership training for pastors and their wives in the city of Kiserian, very near Nairobi. These leaders were predominantly from the Maasai tribe, well known and respected as the warriors of Africa. Something that stood out so clearly for all of us was the fervor and passion with which these dear brothers and sisters in Christ served and celebrated our Lord. Their worship wasn’t westernized; it was African culture empowered by Heaven’s Holy Ghost.

One of the prominent traditions among the Maasai is for a team of young men to kill a lion together as a rite of passage from boyhood to manhood. The elders shared with us that the cohort of 10 teenagers train together for months in preparation for their lion hunt expedition and

become a band of brothers that will never be dismantled. Their mission is dangerous and daunting and success requires Courage, Trust and Coordination.

We don’t have to work very hard to grasp the application of this tradition as it relates to our mission to fulfill the great commission in Northeast Ohio. We are engaged in spiritual warfare as the “enemy of souls” seeks to steal, kill and destroy. It is only as we labor together (as believers and as churches) in Courage, Trust and Coordination that we win the battle against “*our adversary, the devil, who prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour*” (1 Peter 5:8). We need the tenacity of David as he submitted to King Saul his qualifications to fight Goliath; that he *rescued the sheep from the mouth of the lion*. (1 Samuel 17:35)

Let’s pray for the Holy Spirit to give the pastors and the people of our association the Courage, the Trust and the Coordination to work and pray together to win the battle in Jesus’ name. Together we can get it done.

New Telephone

The new telephone number for SVBA is 330-775-3401.

Block Party Trailer

Many dates during the Summer and Fall are still available to reserve the Block Party Trailer. Contact Sandra Parks to check for dates and to reserve.

Annual Meeting

This year’s annual meeting will be Saturday, Oct 13 at the First Baptist Church of Newton Falls, beginning at 9:00 AM. The business will take place the first half and worship will follow. Our guest speaker will be Claude King, the co-author of the best selling book, *Experiencing God*. He will arrive the day before to lead a prayer Boot Camp.

Russell Moore

On Monday, October 1, we will be honored to have Russell Moore, the president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the SBC for a lunch, afternoon, and evening series entitled “Kingdoms in Conflict.”

Missions & Ministry

Picnic

We had a beautiful day for our associational picnic and outreach event. There was a good attendance from our association and I thank God for those who pitched in and helped set up, serve, clean up and put everything back in the trailer. I would also like to thank Gary Frost for all his hard work in putting this event together. And I definitely have to express my gratitude to those from the Jericho Project and NOW Youngstown street ministries who came out to minister to the public who were frequenting the park. We had the opportunity to pray with a couple of people who happened to come and check us out. Many people were blessed by the ministry that was shared.

NOW Youngstown

Our NOW Youngstown weekly outreaches are experiencing the hand of God in a powerful way. There have been many professions of faith and many more who have reached out for prayer. Please continue to pray for our outreach events, that we may continue to experience the mighty hand of God at work. Also, we would greatly appreciate prayers for our big event at the Covelli Center on August 18. God bless you all.

Rafael Cruz, Jr. mm@ohiosvba.org

What's Going on in Steel Valley ?

New Hope BC, Windham Youth Camp and VBS

We took 9 youth this year and 4 counselors to youth camp. We saw one from our group get saved, and another one came forward for baptism. It was a great week, and we are already making plans to attend wintercamp in January!

Also, we started VBS Monday evening from 6-9 PM for age 4 through 6 grade, with our Big Event family day Saturday the 14th. We have a mission group from Old Fields West Virginia putting on a back yard Bible Club July 16-20 in Windham, (FBC Newton Falls is hosting them), then July 30 through August 3rd will be our youth only VBS for 6th grade through 12th.

Cornersburg BC The Victorious Life

"More Than Conquerors" is a 12-week course that provides God's ways to gain victory over any addiction and any mental or emotional (lie-based) pain that keeps you from peace of mind. Testimonies from past participants range from "freedom from anger" to "freedom from bi-polar" and "freedom from debilitating thoughts." These and more information are available at www.cornersburg.org.

The five major ways listed in Php 4 are 1) making a commitment, 2) prayer, replacing lies with God's truths, 4) replacing bad habits with the best habits, and 5) being held accountable.

The course will be offered Thursday evenings, 7-9 pm, starting Aug 2 at Cornersburg Baptist.

We dare anyone to bring a problem that is too difficult for God.

Austintown BC Grand Re-Opening

The Grand Re-Opening will be July 28th 1-4 pm. Come out for some free food, fun, and games. Meet the new Pastor and his family and tour the church.

Grace Place Ministries Ministry to Community

Grace Place Ministries have started their first summer camp ages 5-15 yrs old. This is a six-week program to help impact our surrounding community and connect with potential church members. Times are 8:30 am - 2:30 pm. Breakfast and lunch is served. We are off to a wonderful start with over 24 children registered and attending. Please keep our camp in prayer during this time. VBS will start on the 16th - 20th, 10 am-12:30 pm

Rising Star BC Marriage Workshop

The Rising Star Baptist Church Marriage Ministry presents "Marriage Works," 2018 Marriage Ministry Workshops. Oct. 26-28. Fri 6-9 pm, Sat, 9 am to 3 pm, Sun: Service and vow renewal \$50 per couple covers registration, pizza and chips on Friday, and a boxed lunch on Saturday. Open to public, but only for married couples. Registration deadline is Oct 14th. Seating is limited.

Facilitators Dexter and Kim Hardy, pastor and first lady of Lifepoint Church, in Marietta, Georgia.



Grace Baptist Church 50th anniversary

Grace Baptist Church is celebrating its 50th Anniversary with two special weekend services on July 14 and 15. We have special guests from the past joining us on both days to speak, sing and share memories from the original start up through the present.

The founding pastor Rev. Stephens Baumgardner went home to be with Lord in 2002, but his wife Frances who recently turned 90 years old, and his three adult children will be here to celebrate with us. They have a fascinating story of how God led Rev. Baumgardner and his family to move from Atlanta, Georgia to Bristolville, Ohio on January 1, 1968. The first worship service of Grace Baptist was on February 4, 1968 in Danceland. You'll need to attend Saturday's service if you would like to hear the rest of the story. Other guests include Rev. Bill Sprague who was the fourth pastor and served for 31 years. Singers and musicians who served in the church at one time have also been invited back to serve. Most of the guest's speaking and singing will take place on Saturday July 14 from 3pm - 5pm. We will be having a power point display of pictures, a reading of the history, speakers sharing their memories and singing.

Then on Sunday July 15 at 9:30am we will have a combined Sunday School to discuss the original church plant and other interesting points from our history. In our worship at 10:45 am we are planning on special music from Stella (Baumgardner) Stout, Stephens, Jr. and Josh Baumgardner. Then Steve will be bringing our morning message. After the morning worship service we are having baptisms and then a covered dish picnic in our pavilion. This is a tentative schedule for the weekend and could be changed. Please pray for us and we hope you can come and celebrate with us.

GBC is located at 5418 Mahoning Ave. NW, Champion. You can contact the church at 330-847-7577 or gracebaptistchampion@gmail.com.

"For we walk by faith and not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7)

What's Going on in the State of Ohio?

* Saturday, Aug 18, "Praying the Bible" Conference at Central BC in Marietta, OH. This will be led by Dr. Don Whitney, Prof at Southern Seminary.

* Family Conference, Nov 6, the day before the state annual meeting at the

Kalahari resort. Rooms \$109 and includes 4 passes to the waterpark.

* Sunday School Conference, Sept 7 in Columbus. "Understanding Your Sunday School Scorecard: Measuring the success of your Sunday School Ministry."