



the Steel Valley Baptist Association COMMUNICATOR

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4225 Tod Ave NW,
Warren, OH 44485
www.ohiosvba.org

Randy Langham, 330-398-2455
Interim Administrator
rlangham@ohiosvba.org

AM Search Team Recommendation: Gary Frost

The Associational Missionary Search Team is recommending Gary Frost to be our new leader at Steel Valley Baptist Association. The Team has prayed and believes the Lord is directing this way. His name will be presented in a few weeks at the semiannual meeting, April 9 for a vote. This Communicator is going out late, because the search process reached this point just days ago.

One of the ways the association can meet Bro. Gary before the meeting is to attend the dinner at 6 pm the night of the meeting. There he will be available to answer questions.

Many of us remember him as the former pastor of Rising Star Baptist Church. He was born and raised in the Youngstown area. Over the years he has served in many denominational positions

within the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, the Southern Baptist Convention, and the North American Mission Board, as well as serving as pastor of Evergreen Baptist Church in Brooklyn. He has also served as the executive director of the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association, the same position he would fill here in the Steel Valley Assoc.



He now serves at Mission America and is actively involved in many ministries within our state and in the Youngstown community where he and

his family live. He has organized Pray-For-Ohio and has initiated a rallying point for ministers in Ohio to stand against all legal recreational and medical use of marijuana. He is very active rallying pastors in northeast Ohio to prayer and has co-chaired the citywide Good Friday service held at the Covelli Centre.

A local ministry he and his wife, Lynette, lead is Eagle's Nest, a support group home for young women who decide to keep their babies and need a place to live and learn how to raise their kids in a thriving way. They introduced this ministry at our recent annual meeting.

His passion as our leader is to see God's kingdom grow mightily here.

He and Lynette have 6 children and have fostered more than 40 additional children.

Passion Play



March 29-31, 7 pm at the Rising Star Baptist Church.

Mission Trips

Let the associational office know when you are going on a mission trip. We would like to join in prayer. By the way, would you be interested in going to Chicago for a mission trip?

Semiannual Meeting

Our next quarterly meeting is the semiannual meeting April 9 at Grace Baptist Church in Champion on Rt. 45. The agenda is packed. We will do our best to expedite the evening yet make it both productive and a celebration

At 6 pm we will have dinner and a question-and-answer time with Gary Frost.

At 7 pm the business portion will begin. This will include the voting of a new church to join SVBA, personnel and salary changes, budget changes, many announcements about what God is doing and about to do, many other things, and of course, a message from Bro. Ron Thompson, the pastor of Mercy Community Church.

Reminder: Only messengers elected from their churches can vote.

Welcome New Pastor

Let's welcome the new pastor at Memorial Baptist Church in Poland. Dan Hetzer has recently moved here from Minnesota and has lived in Syracuse, NY and Sarasota, FL. He and his wife Rachel have 3 children: Abigail, Danny, and Abel.

Air Conditioning

You are probably not interested in air conditioning right now. It is March with snow on the ground, and the thought of cool air probably sends more chills up and down your spine.

However, the good news especially for the people of Christian Community Baptist Church is that central air conditioning is right now being installed into the SVBA office building. PTL!

Walk Thru the Bible - New Testament

It is back, May 19 at the Rising Star Baptist Church from 9 am to 4 pm. This seminar is an absolute must. It is fun, hilarious, and most of all the world's easiest way to learn the New Testament. In five hours you will learn all the major events of the NT in chronological order and a key word or phrase for each of those 27 books in the New Testament so that you will be able to remember the big idea in each of those books.

Over 10 million people have done this at seminars endorsed by Chuck Swindoll, John MacArthur, Max Lucado, Charles Stanley, Tony Evans, and most every pastor who's attended.

Our goal this round is 200 people. To prepare for this large number we need your registration forms before May 5. Our leader, Mark Parks, will be picking up the notebooks in Atlanta, and we want to make sure we have enough.

OnMission Celebration

How would you like to have some of our SBC missionaries visit your church? It's easy. Just sign up!

From Sept 16-19 participating churches (hopefully all 34 in our association) will hear five different missionaries whom we support through the Cooperative Program and through our state missions offering. The desire is for each church will hear someone from the International Mission Board, someone from the North American Mission Board, and one from within our own state.

Each participating church is expected to provide lodging for 1 missionary, transportation for that host missionary to other churches, and food for which-

ever missionary you have at your site during meal times..

The association will pay for the transportation for all the missionaries from their field or place of furlough to Steel Valley. We can begin praying that the missionaries from outer Mongolia are home on furlough!

The planning for this major event needs to begin now. We need to contact and reserve dates for the missionaries now. Therefore we need every church in our association to begin praying about participating in this celebration. Options are available for smaller churches. There is a way for every church to participate.

When God speaks to you and says yes, then contact Randy or Rafael ASAP.

Block Party Training

One of the most effective ways to reach out to a community is with a block party. This activity is a fun way to open up the hearts of people who would normally be resistant or hesitant.

The Missions and Ministry Team is offering an excellent training for churches to get maximum benefits out of a block party while utilizing the trailer we own and rent out. In the next month some of the contents will be upgraded and other resources will be added.

Here is the training. On Saturday, April 21, starting at 10 am we will have a 2-hour training followed by a lunch. After the light lunch all participants in the training will lead an actual block party that will have already been advertised to the community in advance.

Another benefit. Participants in the training will (probably) receive a packed

CD (or some other storage device) with over a thousand files compiled by Bobby Gilstrap, the Executive Director of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan. These documents, powerpoint slides, etc. can be adapted for your settings.

Another benefit. This training will take place in the vicinity of New Hope Baptist Church in Windham.

Another benefit. It will be held on the site of the Renaissance Family Center in Windham. This is the site of the new health clinic offering free services.

Another benefit. How many other training sessions will you ever attend that is followed with fun and games?

What you need to do. Contact Rafael Cruz or one of the other Missions and Ministry leaders to reserve your spot in the training. See you there!

Rafael, mm@ohiosvba.org

Prayer Requests

For God's kingdom to come and for God's will to be done.

For the upcoming semiannual meeting. For laborers to be sent to the harvest.

For Central BC and Living Water BC who are without pastors.

For those going to Mississippi to lead in revivals: Phil Cooper, Randy Langham, David Lattau, and Ron Shipley.

Pastor Joe Sheeley's son was in a near fatal auto accident. The recovery so far has been miraculous, but he has a long ways to go.

Faithful Servants Care Center

A new Christian-based health care organization has opened in Windham. They provide free urgent health care for people who meet eligibility requirements. The clinic is in the Renaissance Family Center just a few hundred yards from New Hope Baptist Church. For more information call 330-633-3680 or visit www.faithfulservantscarecenter.org.

The April 21 Block Party Training will take place at the location of the Faithful Servants Care Center. What a way to bless the community!

ACPs

The official last day to submit ACP data was February 28. Of the 34 churches and missions in our association 29 of those submitted the data. Many of the associations in Ohio did not have as high of a percentage of completions as we had. Thanks very much for your assistance.

Meetings / Other

Apr 2, 6 pm Administrative Team Mtg

Apr 9, 6 & 7 pm Semiannual Meeting at Grace Baptist Church, Preacher Ron Thompson.

Apr 13-20 Mississippi Revival linkage in Clarke County Mississippi

Apr 21, 10 am to 2 pm. Block Party Training at the Renaissance Family Center in Windham, Ohio.