

Recovery Ministry Ignites Community Outreach

When Bible Baptist Fellowship, Brookville, began their recovery ministry two years ago, some church members had their doubts. “I really didn’t know what we were into,” one member confided to Pastor Laird Baldwin. “I thought the church had made a mistake.”

As Fellowship Recovery heads into its third year, Pastor Baldwin believes the ministry has proven its worth. “The timing was right. We had the opportunity not only to help our son, but also to meet a vital need in our community. Our church has benefited with growth and renewed vision to reach the lost.”

Bible Baptist Fellowship began Fellowship Recovery as a means to help Andrew Baldwin respond to his own struggle with addiction. Andrew has overcome both alcohol and drug addiction successfully and now serves as ministry leader. At first, he used “Biblical Substance Abuse Counseling,” the study guide authored by Regular Baptist Chaplain Pam Russell, and published by Almond Tree Ministry. Pastor and son have gradually moved to author their own study. According to Andrew, Fellowship Recovery is “Bible-based recovery open to everyone seeking help from addiction of any kind, not just drugs and alcohol.”

“I really didn’t know what we were into. I thought the church had made a mistake.”

The Fellowship boasts a stable attendance of a half dozen or so who meet each Friday at 7:00 pm, as Andrew notes, “about the time most people hit the bars.”

As the Recovery has grown, so too has church attendance and membership. One major reason is because Fellowship Recovery relies on the church membership



From left: Five Fellowship Recovery members
Andrew Baldwin (Ministry Leader) and Pastor Laird Baldwin

as the “support staff and accountability partner” to recovery. Everyone who attends the Friday night meeting is urged to come on Sunday, and most do. “Visitors find love and a sincere welcome instead of rejection,” says Pastor Baldwin. “People who were previously afraid to walk into church are now excited to come, and of course we are equally happy to see them.”

Pastor Baldwin notes this ministry might not fit every church, but it has worked in Brookville. “The Lord simply provided an opportunity, and we took it,” he says. “God continues to bless and we are grateful.”

Council of 12

2016-2019

Tom Alexander, First, Wellington
Dave Denny, Whipple Ave, Canton
Matt Nihiser, Calvary, Lancaster
Jeff Willetts, Calvary, Bellefontaine

2017-2020

David Conrad, Calvary, Xenia
David Culver, Chairman, Shawnee Hills, Jamestown
Ken Lowe, Hope, Akron
Larry Nocella, Camden, Wellington

2018-2021

Mark Ashley, Northfield, Northfield
Noel Hack, First, Lagrange
Dave Kisner, Wash. Heights, Dayton
Brad Rickard, Immanuel, Columbus

In This Issue

- Word from the Rep 2
- Abbe Road, Elyria 3
- Ohio Women for Missions 4
- Missionary Updates 5
- OWM Area Meetings 5
- Camp News 6
- Talents for Christ, Seniors 7
- Cedarville News 8
- “Hear” and There 8



Publication of the OARBC
Editor: Chuck Pausley
Ass’t Editor: Linda Pausley

Please send news to:
The Link/OARBC
17 W Maple Drive
Seville, OH 44273
863.368.1780 / 1617
lindapausley@gmail.com

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April 15, 2019

A Word from the Rep

The first month of the New Year 2019 will be a memorable one. I know most of our churches missed Sunday services at least once or even twice in January due to the **snow and ice storms**. Personally, I have my snowblower in the shop in case another storm comes through. I don't want to be without it again.

Besides the weather issues, January 2019 boasts the **longest government shutdown** in history which has been accompanied by numerous discussions concerning "the wall" proposed by President Trump. There are a plethora of opinions out there, and hopefully our elected officials come to some agreement soon.

Speaking of walls—one of my challenges to churches continually is that we need to get outside of our walls and into our communities. The "walls" could mean the literal church structure walls...or even that figurative "wall" where we sometimes enclose ourselves and our churches to stay in our own comfort zones or to protect ourselves from worldly influence. I am pleased with the way many of our OARBC churches are intentionally getting outside those walls and into the community. In particular, we have asked two of our churches to share what God is doing in their community ministries in this issue. I hope you find these articles from Bible Baptist (Brookville) and Abbe Road (Elyria) encouraging and challenging.

Please note the update on our **Ohio missionary appointees**. Praise God some of our appointees are on the field or in language study. We have others still raising support. Consider having them in your churches, even if you don't think you can take them on. Open doors often open other opportunities. I know there are many good people seeking support for missionary work. I just feel in Ohio we should make our Ohio people a priority. Also, if your church is the sending church of a new appointee in this past year, please email us their information and help us get them known here in the state.

Another note of update for you concerns our own **OARBC finances**. I was thrilled when I heard of a new church committing to monthly support of the OARBC. Sadly, I also hear of churches having to cut back on their support because of their own shortage of finances. We know this is God's ministry and He will provide. Thank you for your continued regular monthly support and if you are able to increase your amount or give a special gift, may God so lead.

I am presently working with other state reps to finalize details for our fall meeting. It is going to be great to meet with our sister churches of Michigan and Indiana at **Emmanuel Baptist in Toledo, October 21-23, 2019**. Plan to attend!

Stay warm, friends,
Chuck

Two Great Men's Conferences...Same Day...Different Areas of the State

Men of God 2019

Masterfully Motivated Men
Calvary Baptist, Bellefontaine
Saturday, March 2

9:00—4:00

\$25

Ken Floyd, Executive Director
Michigan Association of Regular Baptist Churches
calvarybellefontaine.org

ManUp

Fighting for Biblical Manhood
First Baptist, Brunswick
Saturday, March 2

8:00—3:00

\$25

Dr. James Lytle, President
Clarks Summit University
manuplife.com

Missions in Our Own Backyard—Abbe Road, Elyria

Pastor Cal and Deb Searles

“Come and listen, all you who fear God, and I will tell you what He has done for me.” Psalm 66:16



Windsor Elementary School Bible Club

“God is on the move,” in Elyria, Ohio. We are thrilled to be a part of it! The mission field is right here. We are learning that most of our community is an unreached people group who rarely go to church and some who have never gone...EVER. They truly have not heard about Jesus or any of the Bible stories. Many are totally unaware of God’s love for them. Some are believers who stopped going to church a long time ago. We often say, “We are reaching those who are lost and those who have lost their way.”

When God brought us to Abbe Road Baptist Church almost five years ago, little did we realize that Deb’s job as a substitute teacher in the public schools would open many unexpected doors of ministry.

Building the Bridge

God prompted Deb to shine His light to principals, students, families and staff through intentional acts of kindness, such as bringing them cookies or flowers, or writing notes of appreciation, encouragement, support or sympathy in times of need and trouble. She enjoyed taking time to interact in the teacher’s lounge, just building relationships and taking an interest in the school activities.

Walking through the Open Door

Without knowing it, these relationships were paving the way and creating a bridge of trust that opened the door to start a Bible club at Franklin Elementary School, a school in the roughest and most needy area of town. God raised up loving leaders from our church and sister churches in a remarkable way. We soon had 60 students registered and discovered many of the children had never heard the Christmas story or the gospel. Many children prayed to receive the Lord!

The opportunity arose to join with two other Bible Clubs in our neighborhoods that were already active. We found the same needs and openness there. The staff, parents and students were very welcoming and grateful we came. As a result of these ministries, over 35 adults and children call Abbe Road their home church and are growing with us! Our church van is full every week and sometimes we need to run it twice.

Continuing Outreach to our New Friends and Families

There are now over 360 names of children in our database with whom we stay in regular touch through email, texting, mailings, phone calls and special outreach. Each of them has extended family and friends. We are committed to continue building relationships, sharing Christ, and helping new believers grow. In addition to Sunday School, AWANA and Vacation Bible School, we offer discipleship groups, basketball camps, a special Princess Night, and a Mother-Daughter Pajama Party.

HomeTown Mission Week

Two years ago, we began a HomeTown Mission week where anyone can be involved, from teens to retired friends. We eat, pray, study, fellowship and serve together with our house being home base. During this mission week we do intentional acts of kindness throughout the city, have multiple five-day clubs in schoolyards, visit and sing to shut-ins, canvass, and share the gospel through street evangelism. It has been wonderful! It is a mission trip right here and...we get to follow up all year round.

We know we have only just begun and are praying for a youth pastor who shares this passion and vision. We also pray for God to bring more godly, mature believers to help us counsel and disciple the new believers. God is impressing on our hearts we are not just “running a program,” but we need to take time for individuals. This is our mission field, right here, right now...and we have a feeling every town in America is much like ours. May we all be found faithful as His followers to seek and to share the good news of salvation to those who are lost...right in our own backyards.



YEARS OF

Faithful Service

to: God, Missions & Each Other

Come Celebrate OWM's 90 Years of God's Faithfulness

Saturday, April 27, 2019

Bible Baptist Church

50 Price Road, Newark, Ohio 43055

10:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m.

Guest Speaker

Sue Miller, former OWM President

Please RSVP your reservations for lunch to
Deb Reimer - 740-366-0961 by April 20, 2019

2018-19 State Project

Goal: \$10,000

Office/Ministry equipment, Bibles and literature
Columbus Ministry

President

Donna Victor
2100 Springfield Center Road
Akron, OH 44312
(330) 203-3415
cmvictorde@sbcglobal.net

Vice-President

Renny Snare
1120 Tinker Lane
Proctorville, OH 45669
(419) 979-2778
rennyssnare@gmail.com

Secretary

Kim Kozy
112 Maca Drive
Tallmadge, OH 44278
(330) 807-0910
jkloveskk@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Karen Blasdel
1166 Woods Drive
Tallmadge, OH 44278
(330) 328-1143
muggys14@yahoo.com

Ohio Missionary Appointee Updates

Ohio-based missionary appointees were featured in the February 2018 edition of the **LINK**, encouraging our churches to get behind them. **PRAISE GOD** some are now on the field! Continue to pray for others who are working hard to raise support and are looking for meetings. Note their contact information.

Josh and Beth Paulick (*Washington Heights, Dayton*) have finished raising support to go to TOGO (ABWE) and are now in France in language study.

Please pray: schooling, exams, children's adjustment

Nate and Lauren Bell (*Memorial Baptist, Columbus*) headed to SOUTH AFRICA (ABWE) on January 24, 2019. Please pray: \$250 monthly support still needed, and adjustments to the field with a family of five.

Carrie Cuddington (*Fellowship Baptist, Dublin*), due to visa issues, changed her field to TANZANIA where her first assignment with Wycliffe Bible Translation will be after her marriage in June. 100% supported.

Please pray: for wedding planning, and adjustment to marriage and ministry overseas.

Matt and Sarah Brown (*Cornerstone Baptist, Springfield*) Continuing to raise support with ABWE to manage ministry building projects around the world. They are currently in Florida on a roofing project for a church. Their support level is 34%.

Please pray: for support to be at 50% by 7/1 so they can qualify to attend the required ABWE training seminar.

Contact: brown@abwe.cc

Odir and Cynthia Brandao (*Dayspring, Galloway*) are at 75% and hope to reach BRAZIL (ABWE) by January, 2020. They are presently serving at Immanuel in Columbus. Please pray: for meetings and support to come in to meet the January departure goal.

Contact: ocbrandao@abwe.cc

Ben and Abby Howder (*Emmanuel Baptist, Bellbrook*) are at 30% support to go to a hospital in South Asia (ABWE) to manage the hospital technology.

Please pray: for support to be at 50% by 7/1 so they can qualify to attend the required ABWE training seminar.

Contact: bhowder@cedarville.edu

Jonathan and Clarinda Halk (*attend Pleasant Hill, Smithville*) are headed to Zambia (ABWE) as church planters. They are at 56% support.

Please pray: For meetings and required support to attend the Launch Seminar in September and get to Zambia.

Contact: halk5inzambia@gmail.com

Ethan (*Southgate, Springfield*) undisclosed location (ABWE) His support level is 85%.

Please pray: he can be back on the field by the end of May and the school will be able to realize its needed addition.

Contact: ethan@globalneighbors.org

Derek and Emmie Wilcox (*First Baptist, Elyria*) USA Baptist Youth Ministries (BMM) are at 14% support.

Please pray: for healthy mom and baby #2, ministry support

Contact: derek@wilcoxfamily.us

Thad and Monique Bergmeier (*Leroy Community Chapel, Painesville*) USA Regional Midwest Director, ABWE Their support level is at 51% and they continue to work with North American churches toward strengthening and growth.

Please pray: Thad is participating in several conferences and leadership retreats in the next two months.

Contact: thad.bergmeier@abwe.org

PASTORS AND CHURCHES—HELP!

Has your church commissioned a new missionary this past year who is now raising support? Send us a picture and their information to share in the next LINK.

We realize there are many great missionary appointees worthy of support, but we are highlighting those with Ohio

Area Ladies' Spring Meetings

Hebron Fellowship

Saturday, March 16

10:00—11:30 (*lunch follows*)

Calvary Baptist Church, Sandusky
Jan Rosenau, Guest Speaker

Akron/Canton Fellowship

Saturday, March 30, 9:00-Noon

Hope Baptist Church, Akron

"Community Mission Walk"

A progressive brunch will be served.

Maranatha Fellowship

Saturday, April 13

Coffee at 9:30, Meeting at 10:00
Temple Baptist Church, Portsmouth
Cynthia Taylor Brandao, Speaker

Bethany Fellowship

Tuesday, April 23

10:00—1:00 (*lunch follows*)

Boardman Baptist, Youngstown

West Moriah Fellowship

See you the 27th at Bible Baptist, Newark!

CAMP NEWS

CAMP PATMOS

It may be *cold* on Kelleys Island right now, but that doesn't mean we are frozen, too! Camp Patmos is shut down for the winter but we are *hot* on starting our recruiting and promoting for next summer. It will be here before we know it!

Ladies' Crafters' Retreat, May 3-5, Cost \$125

Marriage Retreat, May 31 – June 2, Cost \$269

Run for the Light (Scholarship Fundraiser), June 9, Call (419) 746-2214 or www.CampPatmos.com/support-the-camp/run-for-the-light-5k

Men's Retreat, Sept. 5-7, Cost \$125

Banished #1, Sept. 13–15, Cost \$125 for Students, \$105 for Leaders

Banished #2, Sept. 20-22, Cost \$125 for Students, \$105 for Leaders

Real Men Don't Retreat, Oct 25-27

If you would like to have us present Camp Patmos in your ministry contact the camp office at (419)746-2214 or Dave@CampPatmos.com. Our schedule is filling up quickly. We would love to come to your church.

Dave Sellers, Camp Director

SKYVIEW RANCH

Coming up May 25, 2019, Skyview Ranch is celebrating our 50th anniversary of ministry in Millersburg, Ohio. We are inviting all former and current staff, campers, volunteers, board members and churches to celebrate what God has done the past 50 years at this **free event**. The 50th celebration event includes guest speakers, zipline, swimming, the giant swing, a tour of the camp and more. We are so excited to hear countless stories about how God worked in people's lives because of Skyview Ranch.

Along with celebrating our 50th anniversary, Skyview Ranch has the honor of hosting the 2019 National Association of Regular Baptist Camps (NARBC) conference November 4 through 7. The NARBC conference is hosted at a different member camp each year and has around 250 members in attendance. The conference consists of seminars, activities specific to that camp, worship, and fellowship with fellow camp staff. Everyone at Skyview Ranch is looking forward to welcoming NARBC members in November.

December brought to Skyview Ranch some true blessings. We hosted our first ever "**Holiday Dinner & Classical Concert**" fundraiser. Those who attended enjoyed prime rib and ham, delicious desserts prepared by our chef, and wonderful classical music, ballet and good fellowship. The Lord blessed us with a good start to this annual event.

Skyview also hosted its first ever **Young Adult Retreat**. We had more than expected for this event over New Year's Eve and into New Year's Day. Praise God for a great 2018! I am looking forward to 2019 and what the Lord has instore for this amazing ministry and beautiful place called Skyview Ranch!

Gary Adams, Executive Director/Courtney Baker, Office Director

SCIOTO HILLS

At the risk of taking Christ's words out of context in John 10, all I can say is, "Christ came to give us life to the fullest and, by His amazing grace, the ministry team at Scioto Hills is living life to the fullest!" That is SO true!

We are praying, planning, and preparing for 2019 to be our best year ever, and it's our 55th! We are excited about our retreat schedule, guest group ministry, and growing summer camp program. We strategically plan at least one event for every person in your church. Our 2019 Theme "By Faith Alone" comes from the Book of Galatians. We are anticipating learning so much about living out the True Gospel and helping our campers and guests understand that salvation is "By Faith alone, by Grace alone, through Christ alone."

Please consider promoting our winter and spring events, as well as our summer camp ministry in your church. (www.sciotohills.com). No doubt, those who experience camp experience life change. It's been proven for decades now! Thanks for what you do for the Kingdom of God and the Glorious Good News of the Gospel! I am so privileged to serve the Lord and would love to present SHC to your church family.

Scott Bruns, SHC Director



2019 Ohio Talents for Christ

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church

Saturday, April 6, 2019

Registration Deadline— March 18 Register at tfcoho.com

NEW THIS YEAR

Ohio Bible Quizzing covers Acts 1-7. Groups of three participate together to increase their knowledge and memorization of the Bible. Churches can have more than one team participate. This quizzing format will include rounds where they work as a team as well as individual rounds. The first and second place winning teams will be awarded a trophy as well as individual awards. There are practice dates at Pleasant Hill Baptist prior to the April 6 competition. Everybody wins when studying God's Word!

Scholarship Competitions

Brass, Female Public Speaking, Female Voice,
Male Preaching, Male Voice, Strings, Woodwinds

1st Place: \$1,000

2nd place: \$ 500

Summer Camp scholarships are also available.

For a list of participating colleges and more information, go to tfcoho.com

Many non-scholarship competitions for individuals and groups give opportunity to develop talents and leadership for service in the church and for Christ. Encourage your students to participate!

OARBC Seniors Luncheon

Seniors from all over the state of Ohio

Come gather at Skyview Ranch in Millersburg

Thursday, May 9, 2019, 11:00-2:00

\$12.00 per person

Enjoy being at the camp and seeing how God has blessed

Plus enjoy a delicious lunch and fellowship

See old friends and make new ones

Register for this event at oarbc.org after 2/15

(Call or email the OARBC office with questions)



Washington D.C. Senior Adult Bus Trip with "Golden Tours"

September 17-20, 2019 \$650 per person (double occupancy)

Price includes:

Barons Motor Coach, three nights at the 4-star Hilton
7 meals (3 lunches on your own), professional guide,
all admission fees, tram ride, tips and taxes

For a detailed itinerary, go to OARBC.org



NEWS FROM CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY

Children's Book Receives Two National Awards

It's been a banner year for Dr. Dan DeWitt, director for the Center for Biblical Apologetics and Public Christianity and associate professor of applied theology and apologetics at Cedarville University. Not only has DeWitt written a new children's book, but the book, "The Friend Who Forgives," has been named the "book of the year" by two national organizations. Christianity Today named DeWitt's first children's book as its 2019 top book, while The Gospel Coalition added to DeWitt's accomplishment by naming it the best children's book this year.

"The Friend Who Forgives," published in September 2018, retells the story of Peter and his friendship with Jesus. Even though Peter makes mistakes time and time again, Jesus continues to forgive him. The book teaches both children and adults alike about the unfailing grace of God, the Friend who forgives.

"In the broader market of Christian children's books, I think this one tries to really stick to the biblical narrative without adding too much," said DeWitt. "I thank God for the opportunity to have been a part of this and am thrilled to see how well it has been received."

Andrew Peterson Concert

Musical artist Andrew Peterson will be in concert on Tuesday, February 12, 2019, at 7 p.m. in the Dixon Ministry Center Jeremiah Chapel. The concert is free of charge and open to everyone. Tickets are not required.

For more than 20 years now, Andrew Peterson has been about the business of quietly changing lives in four-minute increments. In the city of Nashville where music is an industry in the same way fast food, generic greeting cards, and bumper stickers are industries, Peterson has forged his own path, refusing the artistic compromises that so often come with chasing album sales and radio singles and creating instead a long line of songs that ache with sorrow, joy, and integrity and that are, at the end of the day, part of a real, ongoing, human conversation.



ACROSS THE STATE, "Hear" and There...

Grace Baptist, Westlake, is partnering with Westside Christian Academy to present a **Parenting Seminar**, Saturday, February 9, 8am—Noon. Dr. Dan DeWitt of Cedarville University is the speaker. Go to Grace Baptist, Westlake's facebook page to register. Online registrations only.

Grace Baptist, Troy, is hosting a **Friends of Israel "Prophecy in Focus" conference**, Saturday, February 23, all are welcome. For information, go to www.findinggrace.net.

Shawnee Hills Baptist in Jamestown held a **Sportsman's Classic night** for men and boys who enjoy hunting and fishing. The night included dinner and workshops. Dr. Dave Little was the guest speaker. Eighty were in attendance, and half of that number were guests.

Immanuel Baptist, Arcanum and Faith Baptist, Greenville enjoyed a joint **skate night** recently with the rink rented out just for them. It went so well that another night is already on the calendar.

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Smithville had their annual **Ladies' Morning Out** the last Saturday of January. The ladies enjoyed three opportunities to attend selected workshops, and came together for a devotional by Penny Jackson followed by a soup and sandwich luncheon.

First Baptist, Elyria held their annual **Wild Game Dinner**, open to men and women. Mark Davis was the speaker and a clear gospel presentation was given to 400+ attenders.

Pastor Cal and Deb Searles, **Abbe Road, Elyria**, have authored a **beautiful children's book**, "Jesus Saves—Are you Saved?" It has been used to lead children to Christ in their outreach ministries. Contact them for a copy at 440.724.8436.