

# FOCUS

CABA



CINCINNATI AREA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

September/October 2023

## Hope for Everyday Issues



Fran Trascritti,  
Beacon Church

Earlier this year, God called me back to pastor after a period of denomination ministry. It's been wonderful, and we are seeing progress already as we see God do His work to revitalize Beacon Church toward gospel-centeredness. I also know however, the difficult task ahead. After all, our world is dying and our culture is burning. But how can we even begin to respond?

I began by asking questions: what are the community's greatest needs? What does the church have that no one else can offer? What if we offered hope for the deep-seated issues around us? We knew that we didn't want to just give band-aid solutions like what the world had offered. We knew we needed to provide permanent solutions. Bible solutions. Solutions that affect the soul and spirit, solutions that can help a person be healthy and love the Lord God with all of their heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Take one example: the topic of anxiety has gained great attention, and of adults aged 18-29 nearly 42% report suffering from anxiety.

-See HOPE, page 4



Clough Pike shifted to elders and ordained five new elders. James Kerr is the pastor.

## The Death of Evangelism: Five Issues We Must Address



Thom Rainer,  
Church Answers

The issue may be the biggest surprise of my ministry. Jesus' ministry on earth began with evangelism and concluded with evangelism.

Why, then, is evangelism dying or dead in most churches? Why do denominations seem to be talking about everything but evangelism? Here are five issues that we must address to answer these questions:

1. Denial is not a good evangelistic strategy. Many church leaders and church members, as well as

denominational leaders, do not talk about the anemic evangelism in their churches.

-See EVANGELISM, page 5

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... *And much more!*

The last few months have been exciting. I missed the bottom step at my home and fell forward in a way that shattered my leg while on my way to meet with Mark Wilson and Brent Wilson, our consultants. They are doing a great job connecting churches that have a need or two with churches that can step in and help. I hated missing that meeting (and that step!), but they sure don't depend on me to help our churches.

Missing an overseas mission trip due to surgery was rough on me. I was hyper-vigilant in those first few days because the team went ahead and I stayed alert in case the team needed anything. I was delighted to help on two early-morning requests made via Whatsapp. It made me lean



## Falling Forward

**Mark Snowden**

Director of Missional Leadership



even more into prayer. God works across vast distances!

And, by staying home, I was able to better plan a meeting for 20 pastors and their leaders. I was blessed to introduce People Teams to them in mid-August. People Teams Training is seven videos and a leader guide that I developed and recorded during my sabbatical in June this year. It trains church members how to cross cultures and engage one of Cincinnati's 47 immigrant groups, 30 of which are unengaged.

During the recovery, I have heard from many who suffered something similar to my experience, even showing me their x-rays of their plates and screws that make mine look small in comparison. However, as I've seen how they didn't allow it to discourage them, I have been reminded of the Bible wisdom: "Though a righteous person falls seven times, he will get up, but the wicked will stumble into ruin" (Proverbs 24:15-16 CSB). May CABA churches and our terrific pastors and leaders continue to advance forward, even if taking a fall or two in stride.

Southwest Ohio Leaders Conference on September 7th!

Last year, 300+ leaders gathered to talk about leadership, connect, and bring a future leader with them.

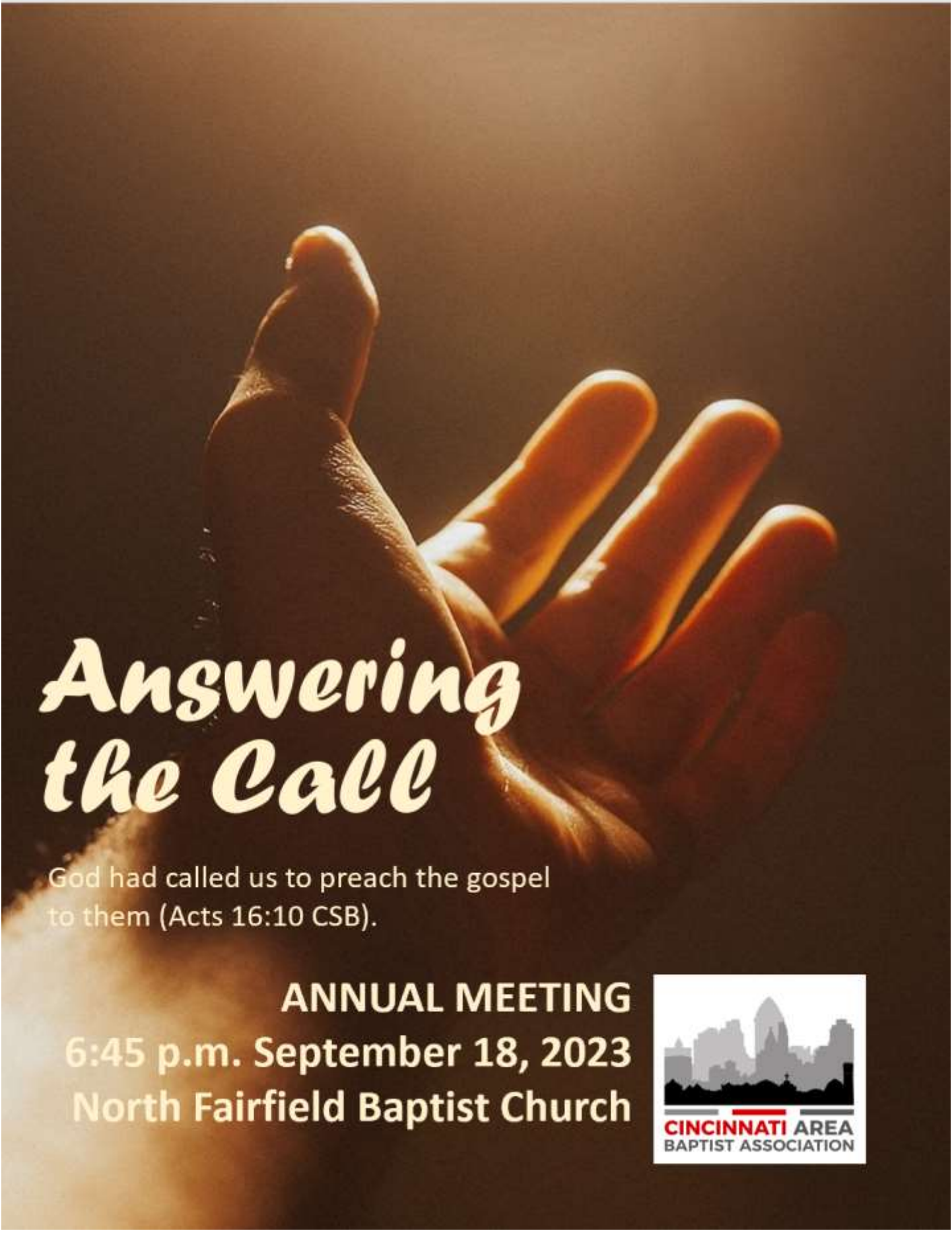
This year, we once again have a great keynote and breakout lineup, and the Grace Point Worship Team will be leading us in worship! We are excited about this year's theme, "Leaders raise up leaders." Joining us will be Dean Fulks (Lead Pastor, LifePoint, Columbus), Dr. Thomas White (President- Cedarville University), and Trevin Wax (VP of Resources/Research, NAMB) as well as 18+ breakout speakers at FBC Kettering. Registration is now live at [www.swohioleaders.com](http://www.swohioleaders.com), and cost is just \$20 for the day (buy one get one free if you bring somebody with you!).

Bring other leaders from your church and area with you as there will be breakouts for children's ministry, student ministry, tech/worship, women's leadership, and more! We will even have a track for business leaders who desire to maximize their work life for the kingdom!

Register TODAY at [www.swohioleaders.com](http://www.swohioleaders.com)







# *Answering the Call*

God had called us to preach the gospel  
to them (Acts 16:10 CSB).

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**6:45 p.m. September 18, 2023**  
**North Fairfield Baptist Church**



Hello, my name is Jeremiah Camarata, I'm originally from North Pole, Alaska. I married my high school sweetheart in 2001, graduated from college, and moved to Hawaii for my first ministry position.

My beautiful wife Crystal and I have three amazing children, 13 year old twins named Carsten and Claire, and a 9 year old named Caiden. Along our journey we have served in churches in Hawaii, Nevada, Kansas, Ohio, and Virginia. I began serving at First Baptist Church South Lebanon in October of last year.



## HOPE... continued from page 1

Responding to this need in our church and community, I planned out a short series on everyday concerns such as anxiety, depression, anger, and fear, focusing on the solutions that God has provided in His Word. I also offered follow up opportunities, giving next steps for people who needed to get help for healing.

The response at Beacon has been nothing short of amazing. We've seen growth in our worship attendance and more opportunities for counseling behind the scenes. We gave away resources to those responding to help them take their next step to health. And there's a sense of anticipation in the members and attendees to see what God has to say about each issue we examined.

As I finish this series, it's encouraging to see the way that God has His church the tools to tackle the issues head on. I have seen firsthand how God can minister to those who suffer through His gospel. And by using the power of the Word that changes lives, the Spirit that helps us to build up others, and the resources of the church, our world can have hope. A permanent hope. A true, permanent hope in Jesus.

“Evangelism is not an optional accessory to our life. It is the heartbeat of all that we are called to be and do.”

—Robert Coleman, *The Master Plan of Evangelism*

## PASTOR SPOTLIGHT

**Jeremiah Camarata**

First Baptist Church S. Lebanon



We are excited for the future and direction of the church. We have a goal to pray for every home in a 5 mile radius of our building. As we strive to spread the Gospel to our community and have an impact on our area we have also started many local outreach efforts to show our community the love of God. We are hosting a farmers market in our parking lot, block parties for children and families in our community, and will launch an AWANA program next month for children. God is doing some great things at First Baptist and we are thrilled to be a part of it.

Please pray for continued successes in our outreach efforts and for receptive hearts to the Gospel. Pray for strength and direction in leadership and for unity in the body of Christ.

## Around the Association

Pictures from People Teams intro. John Barnett attended. He is leading a national effort to engage people groups through a department backed by NANB and IMB under the joint Send Relief banner. Mark rolled out People Teams Training and Ray Taw talked about working not only in Cincinnati, but overseas as well.



L to R:  
Mark Snowden,  
Ray Taw,  
John Barnett





## EVANGELISM... continued from page 1

2. Evangelism is spiritual warfare. Jesus was physically present with his first disciples when they traveled and shared the gospel. Jesus promised us the power and the presence of the Holy Spirit when He ascended to heaven. Simply stated, evangelism is at the forefront of spiritual warfare. We can't go it alone. We must have the Holy Spirit leading us and empowering us. Satan will do anything in his limited power to stop the spread of the gospel.

3. Prayer must accompany evangelism. Since evangelism is spiritual warfare, we cannot and must not attempt to share the gospel in our own power. The most effective evangelistic churches strategically wed prayer and evangelism.

4. Churches must learn to celebrate evangelism. Celebrate conversions, baptisms, and professions of faith. Celebrate faithfulness of church members who are sharing the gospel. Celebrate the changed lives of new believers.

5. If your church does not have enough time to prioritize evangelism, you have ceased to be obedient to the call of Christ. Evangelism, preaching, prayer, and small group leadership are critical. If you are too busy to lead in evangelism, you are too busy.

The most common trait of churches who address these five issues is that they have a pastor who personally prioritizes evangelism. While we would never suggest that churches look at a pastor as a hired hand for evangelism and growth, we can say unequivocally that an evangelistic church must have an evangelistic pastor.

Evangelism is dead or dying in most American churches. Perhaps God is awakening you and your church to reverse this reality in His power.

ACCORDING TO A RECENT  
POLL 82% OF UNCHURCHED  
PEOPLE WOULD COME TO  
CHURCH IF THEY WERE  
INVITED.  
BARNA GROUP



## Getting Laced Up for that Football Testimony

In high school I played center on the varsity football team. When you hike the ball, you touch the ball on every play. Footballs typically have three sections with laces in the middle.

Think of one end as the first section of the football. Think about your own conversion story. What was your life like before conversion? Where did your journey of faith begin?

Move to the big section between the two stripes. The laces are like steps to faith in Jesus. People begin recognizing that God exists and others might count the cost for following Jesus. They may even say that the Holy Spirit convicted them of their sin. Some refer to Bible knowledge through stories and verses that were important to their salvation experience to move them as a lost person through the spiritual laces. Each lace helps you tell your story down to the realization that you need to pray and ask Jesus to forgive you of your sins and make Him king of your life. Southern Baptists believe that repentance and belief are inseparable experiences of grace.

The last section happens after conversion. It describes how you obeyed Jesus by following His example in baptism by immersion. Then you can describe other things you did because of being spiritually transformed, including sharing your faith with others.



By the time you give your football testimony, you should be able to look a person in the eye and ask in love, "You've heard my story, would you like to do the same?" Pray with them a prayer of repentance because of what Jesus did for each of us. Then follow-up.

Now, get in the game! God doesn't want any of us riding the bench.

**21 YEARS:** It is predicted that the year 2044 will be when minorities make up the majority. In 2060, minorities will be 56 percent of the U.S. population.

-- U.S. Census Bureau

We are looking forward to our Annual meeting on Sept. 18 at 6:45 PM at North Fairfield Baptist. The ALT will be presenting several items for your consideration:

- The vote on the constitutional amendment on Trustees that was shared with you at last year's Annual Meeting.
- Proposed budget for 2023-24.
- Nominations for various leadership roles for the coming year.
- Recommendations from our sub-team on credentialing and membership in our Association.
- Report from the collegiate ministry sub-team.

## Admin News

**Allen Suit**  
Administrative Leadership Team



From October thru July, our churches have contributed \$191,066.33, which represents a 1.36% increase from a year ago.

## ***F.I.T. in 2023***

***Finishing Strong:*** Acts 20:24 “But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.”

It has been a great year for the Block Party Trailer Ministry. As I write, there have already been 147 total reservations made in 2023 and churches are still making reservations. 43 Evangelism Reports have been turned in and according to those reports seeds have been planted in the lives of 17,167 people. There have been 2,346 Evangelistic Encounters with 35 professions of faith. Praise the Lord!

***Improvements:*** This year we have added some helpful tools to our Block Party Trailers. Each trailer now has clear pictures and labels to direct the churches when returning the amenities after their event. This will aid the church that uses the trailer next because everything will be returned to its rightly place. We have also added a third generator to each trailer in case one of the generators does not work. Our goal is to also have an extra blower in each trailer for back-up support as well.

## Block Party Trailer Update

**Diane Sibcy**  
Block Party Trailer Coordinator



***Thanks:*** I would like to thank all the churches that have used the Block Party Trailer Ministry this year. I praise the Lord for stirring His church to reach their communities for Christ. May He be gloried as we lift Him up and make His gracious gospel known.

If you have any questions, feel free to call or e-mail me at:

Diane Sibcy  
Block Party Trailer Coordinator-CABA  
513-687-4104  
[cabatrailer@gmail.com](mailto:cabatrailer@gmail.com)

“You are the popcorn on the table of this world--be salty!  
You are a flashlight in the cellar of this world-shine!  
You have a natural way of doing evangelism, so take time to discover your style  
and let Jesus' presence enter into each of your relationships.”

—Kevin G. Harney, *Organic Outreach*

We were excited and eager to deplane our long and sleepless flight. We had finally arrived at our destination in South Asia! In the coming days we were able to walk around the neighborhoods outside of our hotel. It was impressive to see the diversity of people and cultures represented. Adjacent to the Marriott Courtyard hotel were luxurious looking high-rise apartments. As we walked around to the other side, there were rows of dilapidated homes. Then we maneuvered through the heavy traffic to cross the street.

The traffic flowed like a river. Open spaces were quickly filled in. The nimbler motorcycles darted in between the cars.

We visited a famous Arab restaurant that was quite busy and filled with Muslim clientele. The locals often did not use eating utensils, but used their right hand to place the food into their mouths. Finger bowls were brought in at the end of the meal to clean our hands.

We had the privilege to train 23 national pastors and leaders at a local church. The pastor that was hosting us began our sessions by singing his prayers to the Lord. We had to make special arrangements to have a whiteboard and markers available to do the training. We did not realize it at the time, but the pastor had rented some 30 chairs for all of us to sit in. The church does not use chairs and the attendees sit

## The South Asian Connection

Ray Taw

International Partnerships Consultant



on the floor during service and for lunch afterwards. After the training we had lunch together and they shared about their ministries and the persecution they faced as Christians.

I had the privilege of preaching in a house church. I was interrupted in the middle by the prayers emanating from a nearby mosque. We spent many hours with our new friends. They poured out their hearts and connected with us. This made me think about the 60,000 plus South Asians in Cincinnati. Before this trip, it had been so strange for me to visit a temple in West Chester. Now, I have a better understanding of the people of South Asia.

The Lord has connected my ministry to people groups in Cincinnati with that of the people groups of South Asia!

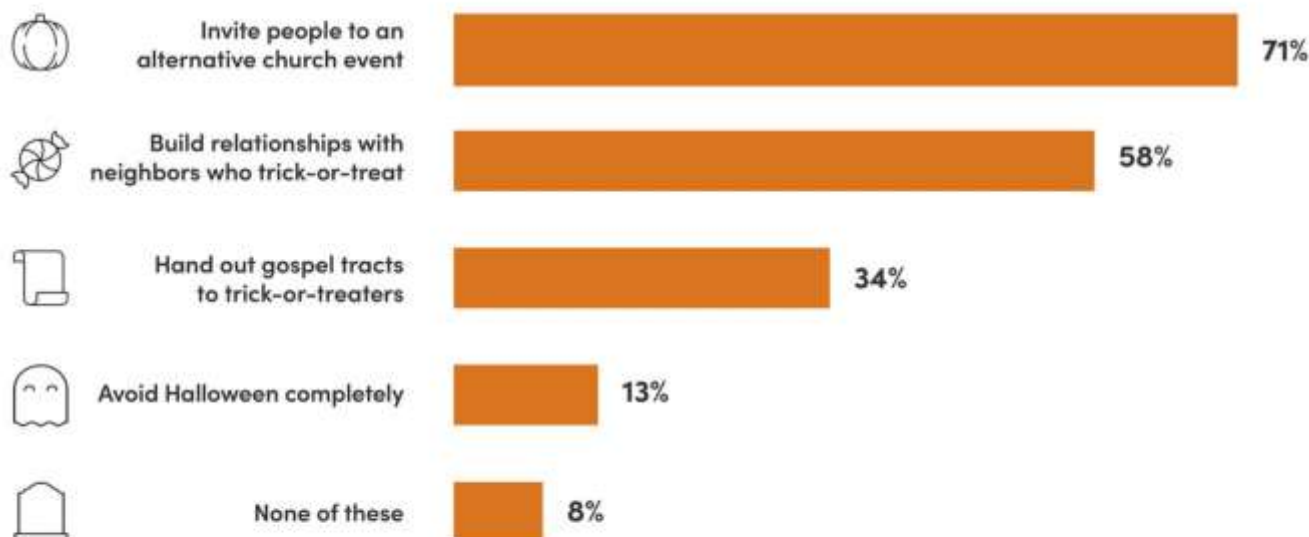
ACTS 1:8  
Ray

“People won’t come to faith in Christ if they don’t break bread first with a believer.”

-- Nip Ripken, *The Insanity of God*

## What do pastors encourage their church members to do at Halloween?

Among U.S. Protestant pastors





One of the most enjoyable parts of my job is the opportunity to visit church planters, take them out for lunch and learn more about what they are doing. I met recently with Aarron Ellerman the Pastor at Goshen Community Church. Aarron and Amy are doing a fantastic job at reaching the community and the surrounding area. They meet at the Goshen high school and are very active in the schools. They also have recently started a ministry to help families in need with a resource center that supplies needed cleaning items as well as items needed for children including diapers. The response has been overwhelming as hundreds of families come to the center for help. Aarron is partnering with Matthew 25 Ministries and other churches to meet the needs. He stressed the importance of making the families feel welcomed and loved without a high pressure invite to church that might turn some off. He does hope all the families will attend a church somewhere but does not make that a requirement for receiving help and love. Below are some photos of the resource center.



## SEND Network News



**Oliver Hawkins**  
Church Planting Catalyst, NAMB

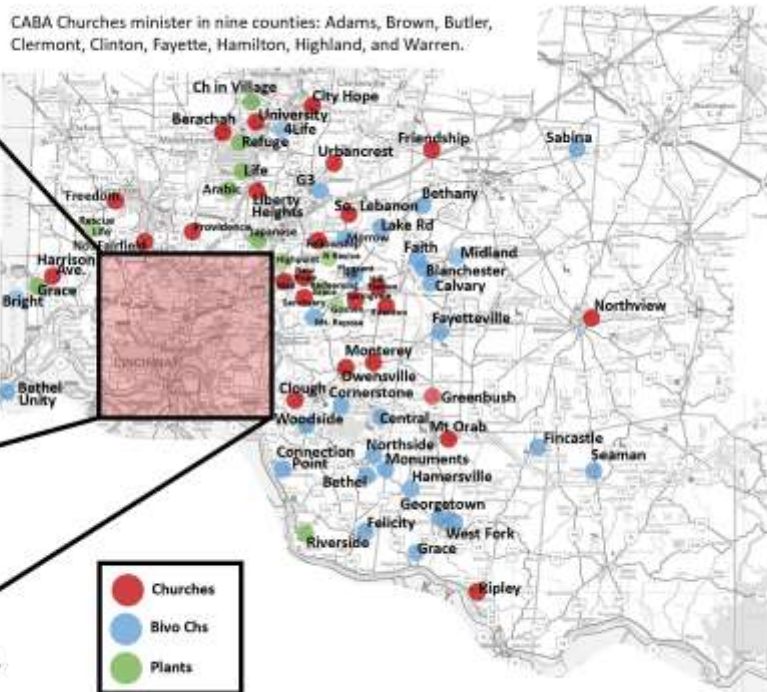
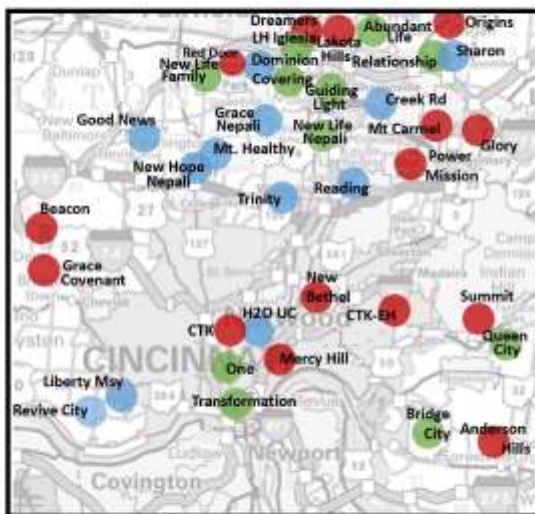
GenSend celebrated its tenth year as a ministry of the North American Mission board. GenSend is advertised as an immersive training experience to help middle school age to post grad's live on mission. Seven college age students came to Cincinnati from Texas, Alabama, and Kentucky. They were immersed in a six-week experience helping Bridge City and Mercy Hill churches as part of their experience. Kirk Kirkland trained and sent out the team to exegete two neighborhoods in Cincinnati. Their reports will be helpful as we pray for church planters to plant churches in those neighborhoods. The young people involved were blessed by taking part and became a blessing to many. If you have students that might want to take part in GenSend, go to [GenSend.org](http://GenSend.org) for more information.

Thank you for your support of the church planting and replanting efforts in the Cincinnati area. Your gifts to the Cooperative Program and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering support over forty church plants in the Cincinnati area under five years old.



## CINCINNATI AREA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

CABA Churches minister in nine counties: Adams, Brown, Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Fayette, Hamilton, Highland, and Warren.



Churches with satellite campuses:  
Liberty Heights: Liberty Twp, Hispanic, Lebanon, Middletown, Mason  
Berachah: Middletown and West Campus



## CABA CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS OCT 2022-July 2023

<u>Church Contributions July 2023</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>		
4LIFEWorship	300.00	Japanese Fellowship, Bible Study	0.00
Abundant Life Church	100.00	Lake Road Baptist Church	150.00
Anderson Hills, First Baptist Church	1,516.00	Lakota Hills Baptist Church	7,543.32
<b>Arabic Church</b>	<b>0.00</b>	Liberty Heights Church	10,750.00
Beacon of Christ Church	2,150.00	Liberty Missionary Baptist Church	250.00
Berachah Church	1,500.00	<b>Life Church in Monroe</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Bethany Baptist Church	0.00	<b>Mercy Hill</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Bethel Baptist Church	1,842.67	Midland Baptist Church	1,037.37
Bethel Unity Baptist Church	0.00	Monterey Baptist Church	3,294.17
Blanchester Community Ministries	0.00	Monuments Baptist Church	1,525.42
<b>Bridge City Church</b>	<b>0.00</b>	Morrow Baptist Church	4,000.00
<b>Bridgeway Church, Moscow</b>	<b>0.00</b>	Mt. Carmel Baptist Church	5,549.90
Bright, First Baptist Church	1,052.01	Mt. Healthy, First Baptist Church	2,833.43
Calvary Baptist, Blanchester	0.00	Mt. Orab, First Baptist Church	2,675.76
Central Baptist, Williamsburg	1,459.14	Mt. Repose Church	1,611.63
Christ The King Church, Cincinnati	1,208.30	New Bethel Baptist Church	1,698.57
Christ The King Church/Eastern Hills	800.00	New Hope Baptist Church	1,000.00
<b>Church in the Village, The</b>	<b>1,905.00</b>	New Hope (Nepali) Church	200.00
<b>Cincinnati Tamil Church</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>New Life Family Church (Nepali)</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>City Hope</b>	<b>550.00</b>	North Fairfield Baptist Church	1,650.00
Clough Pike Baptist Church	13,408.01	Northside Bethel Baptist Church	300.00
Connection Point Church	2,000.00	Northview Baptist Church	3,594.03
<b>Covering Church, The</b>	<b>0.00</b>	Oaks Community Church, The	0.00
Cornerstone Baptist Church	3,684.84	Origins Church, Cincinnati	0.00
Creek Road Baptist Church	3,825.29	Owensville, First Baptist Church	0.00
Dominion Firehouse Chapel	100.00	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church	1,436.49
Dreamers Church	440.00	Power Mission Baptist Church	1,200.00
Edenton, First Baptist Church	1,798.80	Providence Bible Fellowship	2,083.30
Faith Baptist Church	1,547.55	<b>Queen City Church</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Fayetteville, First Baptist Church	390.05	Reading, First Southern Baptist Church	214.10
Felicity, First Baptist Church	4,718.28	Red Door Church	0.00
Fellowship Baptist Church	2,000.00	<b>Redeeming Grace Church</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Fincastle Baptist Church	75.00	<b>Relationships Indian Community Church</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Freedom Baptist Church	2,000.00	<b>Rescue Life Church</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Friendship Baptist Church	1,392.22	Revive City Church	1,800.00
G3 Community Church	298.25	Ripley 1st Southern Baptist Church	1,000.00
Georgetown Baptist Church	2,400.00	Sabina Baptist Church	888.04
Glory Baptist Church of Cincinnati	500.00	Sanctuary Church	2,100.00
Good News Baptist Church	900.00	Seaman FBC	5,349.00
Gospel Baptist Church (West Union)	491.00	Sharon Baptist Church	2,984.55
<b>Goshen Community Church</b>	<b>467.21</b>	South Lebanon, First Baptist Church	6,264.17
Grace Baptist, Higginsport	242.00	Springvale Baptist Church	1,222.76
<b>Grace Covenant Church</b>	<b>0.00</b>	Summit Church	550.50
Grace Nepali Baptist Church	150.00	<b>Transformative Life Church</b>	<b>250.00</b>
Greenbush Baptist Church	590.80	Trinity Baptist Church	1,152.15
<b>Guiding Light Church</b>	<b>0.00</b>	University Baptist Church	4,348.29
Hamersville Baptist Church	2,772.97	Urbancrest Baptist Church	29,525.00
Harrison Avenue Baptist Church	2,305.56	Well Church, The	1,077.00
<b>Highpoint Church</b>	<b>0.00</b>	West Fork Baptist Church	224.44
Hill Station Baptist Church	1,635.09	Woodside Church	0.00
<b>Holy Immanuel</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>TOTAL - Plants in bold</b>	<b>191,066.33</b>
H2O Church UC	900.00		
<b>Iglesia Bautista, Lakota Hills</b>	<b>217.40</b>		

## AFTERTHOUGHT

“I think we’re kind of naive to think that our Gospel message will not be rejected. Yet, some people are offended, and that’s okay.”

-- Mark Snowden, People Teams Training

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### September

- 5 Trustees, 10 a.m., CABA office
- 7 Southwest OH Leaders Conf., 9 am-4 p.m., FBC Kettering
- 12 Staff, 2 p.m., CABA office
- 13 Fall Work Day, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., CABA
- 18 CABA Annual Meeting, 6:45 p.m., North Fairfield BC

### October

- 9 Consultants, 11:30 a.m., TBD
- 22-29 Dunn/Hopkins Associational Week of Prayer and Offering



## Free Services provided by CABA

### Biblical Counseling:

Contact Mark Snowden to start—

[CABAdirector@gmail.com](mailto:CABAdirector@gmail.com)

### Church Consultants:

Brent Wilson, [brent@fellowshipbaptistonline.com](mailto:brent@fellowshipbaptistonline.com)

Mark Wilson, [mark.wilson@northfairfield.com](mailto:mark.wilson@northfairfield.com)

### Church Logos:

Ryan Land, [ryan.land10@gmail.com](mailto:ryan.land10@gmail.com)

### Church Finance:

Jerry Birdwell, [jbirdwell11@gmail.com](mailto:jbirdwell11@gmail.com)

### Pulpit Supply:

Contact Charity Scaggs for an updated list

[CABAoffice@gmail.com](mailto:CABAoffice@gmail.com)

### Training Videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUrbmapdmcpQ5i26PgU3Y8Q>

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