

OHIO STATE ASSOCIATION
OF FREE WILL BAPTIST

THE Ambassador

DECEMBER 2023

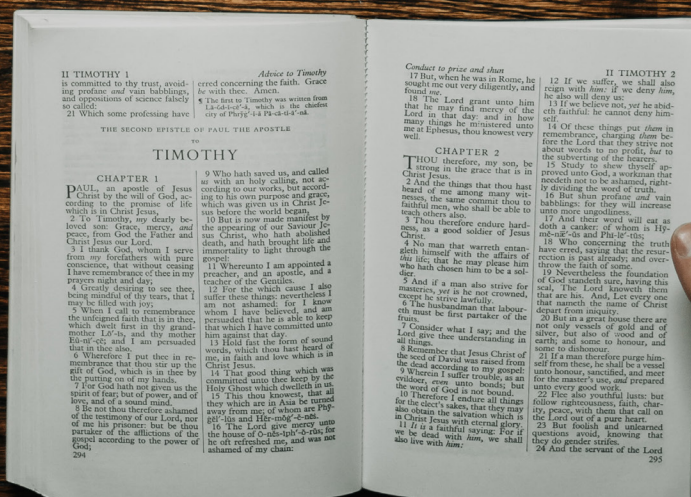


And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name
Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Matthew 1:21



“Studying to show ourselves approved...”





Merry Christmas



The Moody's

DECEMBER 2023

Merry Christmas from the Free Will Baptist National Offices. Lynne and I are so thankful for the Ohio Free Will Baptist Family and their continued support. We truly believe that we are "Better Together" in the Advancement of the Kingdom. Keep up the good work Ohio, we are hearing great things about what God is doing in your state!

Dr. Eddie Moody
Executive Secretary
National Association of Free Will Baptists



OHIO
Free Will Baptists

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The Ambassador Magazine is the official publication of The Ohio State Association of Free Will Baptists. We are committed to promoting the cause of Jesus Christ and the Ohio State Association of Free Will Baptists.

We reserve the right to edit or reject materials submitted for publication in the Ambassador. The views expressed are not necessarily the view of the Ohio State Association of Free Will Baptists.

BLOOM FWB CHURCH

We had one Saved recently in our Sunday Morning Worship Service....God is Blessing our new Ministry "Bloom Strong" with Mark Harner & associate pastor Allen Harner directing this school time release program every Thursday as our volunteers bring a group of 34 fourth graders to have lunch & learn God's Word for one hour. We appreciate the school staff & church supporting this great kids Ministry!!

Praying as the school year continues & more will join us!!

Our annual homecoming had a special time commemorating our Bloom Church Bldg. placed in our location 100 years ago, and the Claxon family celebrated 5 generations of singing at Bloom for 80 years!! The 3rd, 4th, and 5th generations are blessed to keep singing for The Lord at Bloom & many other churches today.

Our sympathy goes out to the family of Aaron Baer who grew up in our church and passed away earlier this year; also Sis. Wyoma Fulk recently passed away; they both loved requesting prayer for their families & will be missed in our church family.

Looking forward to the combined Thanksgiving Eve service 7 pm at Frederick FWB, our community sister church & their pastor Rusty Larter welcomes all area churches to come.

Our Youth Bell Choir & Christmas Play will be given the Sunday before Christmas with many of our Youth & young adults participating. God bless everyone as we continue to Win Souls for The Lord!!

Pastor, Kenny Klaiber
Reporter, Diana Claxon Stonerock

PORTER FWB CHURCH

Autumn has arrived at Porter Free Will Baptist Church! We celebrated our 206th anniversary this fall. We had special messages in the morning services from J.D. Emmett and Gary Heimbach. We had an afternoon of special singing and testimonies led by Neil Gilliland. It was a real blessing to celebrate 206 years of God's faithfulness to the Porter church family.

Porter Women Active for Christ held their annual bean dinner and craft sale. They were able to raise over \$2,300. One of the ways that the money is used is to help fund our Beth King Memorial Scholarship. They were able to award two scholarships this year our college students. We are delighted that these young women continue to honor God in the way that they live their lives!

Volunteers from our church gathered one last time to work on the Seminole Lane project that began in August 2022 after the devastating floods in Southeastern Kentucky. These volunteers with the Ohio Valley Master's Men Disaster Response Team were able to help build a deck and back steps to provide a safe egress for the home owner. The families of Seminole Lane were once strangers, but are now true friends. We are blessed that so many were able to volunteer to serve these families.

Our Pastor of Student Ministries, Derreck Lute, has taken a new position as the pastor for the people of Central Oaks Community Church in Royal Oak, Michigan. Over the last seven and a half years, Derreck, Emily, Victory, and Sophia have become family to all of us at Porter. Although we will miss them immensely, we are excited for what God has in store for them.

Mark Price, Pastor
Tehra Clevenger, Reporter

VICTORY FWB CHURCH

Our church has been blessed. We have had people step up to do different jobs around the church. What a God!

We hosted the Capital City Conference at our church on October 21st. Pastor Mark Tuggle brought a sermon that encouraged the pastors and all that were in attendance that day. This month is pastor appreciation we are blessed to have pastor Mike and his family.

God has blessed us with another year of having once a month joint Sunday night services with two local churches that are in other denominations. The fellowship and encouragement from these meetings has been an uplift to all of us and we are blessed to have like minded brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Please remember to pray for the lost, shut-ins, our nation, revival, and our online ministry.

Pastor Mike Gillen
Reporter James Cantrell

SHELBY FIRST FWB CHURCH

September and October turned out to be busy months for us, and there was something for everyone! We had a chili cook-off in September (and also got to watch the Buckeyes win another game). Many of the women in the church attended a Women's Retreat in Amish Country. The youth spent a cold and rainy (but fun) Saturday at Mt. Jeez and then went to Mohican for hiking. Meanwhile, about ten of our adults attended a Youth and Family conference that was sponsored by the Ohio Student Ministries, then got to spend the day fellowshiping with one another. We ended October by celebrating both our pastors with a Pastor Appreciation dinner. But the best thing that happened over the last two months was that we were able to see four people baptized!

Even though it happened to be a very cold, windy day that day, it was a blessing to witness, and we thank God for each one of them!

Matt Pond, Pastor
Heather Brown, Reporter

COALTON FWB CHURCH

Greetings to our brothers and sisters. We have been blessed at Coalton as we have seen lost souls come to the altar seeking salvation. He has blessed us in our services with his sweet spirit.

Our church hosted the Jackson County Conference revival in August and our most recent quarterly conference meeting. We also held homecoming services in September. We are thankful for Bros. Brandon DePriest, Kelly Stapleton, Allen Simpson, Mike Simpson, Tim Updike, and Dave Shugg for delivering God's Word in these services. We also appreciate the songs by Bro. Jimmy Howson and Sis. Katy Brown. Our hearts were uplifted and encouraged to continue in His work.

We also honored our pastors, Bros. Tim Simpson and Robert Fulton, Jr and their wives for pastor appreciation month. They are faithful shepherd who tend to our flock, and we are blessed that God has placed them in our congregation.

Our hearts were saddened with the passing of Bro. Rich Bishop as God called him home in September, but we rejoice as we know that he has received the prize we all are working for. He began his ministry at age 16 and was a faithful servant. We will miss his uplifting sermons, spirit filled testimonies and singing and his wonderful piano playing. Please pray for his family as they deal with this loss, and for our church that we continue to work for the Lord.

Pastor, Tim Simpson
Reporter, Sandra DeHart

WELLINGTON FWB CHURCH

We are new the fall season and can look around and see God's beautiful handiwork with the colors. The trees are so vibrant in color. There has been a lot happening at church. The Lord has been blessing the church in mighty ways. We are seeing the Lord add to the church with people of all ages giving their hearts to the Lord, being baptized, and taking membership.

The church recently celebrated the Pastor and his wife during the month of October for Pastor Appreciation. It was a time of fellowship that included lunch and dessert.

The ladies of the church attended a women's conference featuring Tammy Jones Robinette during the month of October. Ladies from different churches came together for an evening filled with fellowship, dinner and a lesson from Tammy on "What's In Your Cup?"

As time seems to be moving much quicker than before and as we get ready to close out another year and begin a new one, remember to stop and take the time to cherish the time with our loved ones and never forget the goodness of God.

Pastor, Rev. William Bias
Reporter, Jenny Prechtel

LOCKBOURNE FWB CHURCH

Greetings from Lockbourne. We are happy to report that we had a wonderful revival in October with several guest ministers and singers who brought the word to us, both through preaching and in song. It was a blessed time of refreshing and salvations. We felt God's spirit at every service and we are so grateful to Him for visiting us with His life-changing presence.

We are very happy to report that we recently had two members ordained as ministers, brothers Todd Lambert and Jimmy Dommer. Brothers

Mark Coleman and Rob Underwood have also answered the call to preach and will be ordained in the near future. We are so grateful that these men have answered God's call and are willing to be used by Him to preach His everlasting gospel. Our prayers continue to be with these two newly ordained ministers and also those that are set aside for future ordination that God will use them mightily.

We are looking forward to a busy December with our Ladies' Fellowship Christmas dinner, youth activities and our Christmas play that is currently being planned. Please pray for our church that we will continue to hear and follow God's leading in the things we do in our church as well as what we do in our daily lives. We wish everyone a wonderful New Year 2024 and pray God will use us all to share the gospel with the lost.

Leon Stevens, Pastor
Janelle Sagraves, Reporter

WOODSTOCK FWB CHURCH

Greetings and blessings to you from Woodstock!

It has been a very sweet Summer here. We made some new friends at the Woodstock Community Church down the street. They have been coming to help when the food truck comes to our parking lot once a month – such a blessing! Several people from the Community church also sent their children to our VBS, and a few of them helped us with classes, too! I really loved the Carnival we had on the Saturday before Bible School. It seemed like there was a place for everyone to volunteer, and to share the love of God. So many kind and generous hearts coming together to serve God and make a fun day for so many children, it was really something to see.

(Continued on Page 9)

The Ohio FWB Office

AMBASSADOR UPDATE

Please see below for more information about
potential changes

For more information
visit www.ohiofwb.org

For years the Ambassador Magazine has been a staple of the Ohio Free Will Baptist. It is the primary source of information for the Ohio FWB family. Over the last couple of years, we have seen a continued rise in cost with printing and postage. We had no choice but to make adjustments on how we present and deliver the Ambassador Magazine to our readers, maintain good stewardship, and deliver a product we can all be proud of.

After meeting with state leadership and reviewing a detailed review of the money coming in to support the magazine, it has been decided to make some adjustments moving forward.

1. The Ambassador Magazine will be still be printed and mailed twice a year.
2. Due dates for articles are April 1 and November 1 of each year.
2. We will be making adjustments to each church that receives the magazine. (If your church pays for more copies, we will send them to you.)
3. There will be a digital newsletter available on a regular basis on our OHIOFWB APP and website.
4. The New Ohio Bible Institute will allow us to produce a video announcement product to share with churches as well that will be updated as needed.

We understand the impact that this publication has on information being passed out to our many faithful Free Will Baptists! If you have any questions, please reach out to our Executive Secretary, Ben Crabtree at 614-907-5933 or bcrabtree@ohiofwb.org.

**NEW RELEASE
FROM D6**

Together,
let's sow
the seeds of
unwavering faith
in the hearts
of our children,
ensuring a strong
foundation for
generations
to come.

THE FAITH OF OUR CHILDREN

Eight Timely Research Insights
For Discipling The Next Generation

MATT MARKINS

You can order your copies through the Ohio State Office or directly from the Randall House Website, randallhouse.com

(Woodstock FWB Church Con't) wwPlease spread the word that we have a Blessing Box at our church full of non-perishable food items for anyone who needs them. We also have the Second Harvest Food Truck coming on the last Monday of each month from 4pm to 5pm. Our Food Pantry at the church is open on the second Thursday of each month from 2pm to 4pm. (This information is posted on the Facebook page: Friends Who Like Woodstock Free Will Baptist Church.) We are doing our best to love our neighbors and to help families in need, especially with the holiday season coming up. Most of all, our prayer is that people in our community might come and visit us for a service! We sure would love to have them join us in worship – anytime!

We appreciate everyone who came out to support the Gospel Sing in September to benefit the food pantry. What a blessing it was to see you all. Thank you! We look forward to supporting your gospel sings and revivals too, please keep us informed! The Community Worship services have really been wonderful also. It is so great to gather as many together as possible to praise our God together, what an encouraging time of testimonies and music and preaching. The Lord always knows just what we need. He is so, so good to us.

We stand with you in prayer for our country, and we hope and pray that your coming holiday season will be filled with the love and grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We love you all.

Pastor, Carl Hartman
Reporter, Sarah Graham

GAHANNA FWB CHURCH

We've had some great preaching from our pastor, Edwin Hayes and several others who have filled in for him when he was on vacation. Dillon Alphin, John Meade, and Brother Ben Crabtree did a wonderful job bringing the word of God to us.

We now have a Facebook account which keeps us up to date about special events, visiting pastors/singers and our Franklin Conference meetings/revivals. Our current profile is a cross background with our time of services. I am the administrator so if you have something from your church that you'd like to share with us, let me know. We have so many members with health issues. I'd like to ask you to remember them in your prayers for physical healing .

Our Wednesday evening services is the time I get my Spiritual middle of the week lift. We are now studying "Mercy of God" and learning about the magnificent qualities that are part of Gods character.

The Franklin Conference was held at our church June 10, 2023 with our choir doing special singing. An Italian meal was provided after the service.

The Ohio Women Active for Christ conducted His Girl's Craft Workshop for young ladies. We had some young and not so young ladies attending and everyone really had fun.

A group of our ladies attended the Ohio Women Active for Christ Retreat at the Berlin Grande. I have heard from several saying how much they enjoyed the speakers and being able to pray and fellowship with ladies from other districts.

A young man by the name of Brian attended our church today and gave his life over to the Lord. He was ready for altar call and took the most important walk of his life.

A young boy , I'm guessing 7-8 years old , is being baptized Sunday October 29th. He told his mom he was saved and wanted to be baptized. Please pray for Desmond.

Pastor Appreciation Day is also on October 29th in honor of Pastor Edwin Hayes and his service to the Lord and our church. Have a great and safe winter and may the grace of God be with you all.

Pastor, Edwin Hayes

OHIO FWB STUDENT MINISTRIES

2023 Youth and Family Conference

On October 21, about 30 parents and youth workers gathered at Heritage Free Will Baptist Church for Ohio Student Ministries second annual Youth and Family Conference. Last year's conference focused on equipping youth workers as they "re-engage" with students and families coming out of the pandemic, but this year's focus was equipping parents, while recognizing the partnership with churches and youth workers in raising a godly generation. Thanks to Josh Sorrell, Adam Brown, and Derreck Lute for leading out three keynote sessions, and teaming up for a panel discussion to end the day.



In Josh Sorrell's opening session, "Stay in Your Lane", participants drove home the point that in the freeway of faith, more lanes (ministries) are not always the answer. Discipleship, at its core, needs to happen at home as a part of everyday family life, with the church being there to support families and equipping parents to sure up areas in which they are weak. In session two, "Discipleship at Home", Adam Brown walked the group through what a catechism is and how it can help parents instill Biblical thinking in our children. Adam also discussed the importance of at home family worship as a part of the life of Christian families.

In our final morning session, Derreck Lute gave advice

on discipling children at different stages of life in his presentation "Christ Formed in Youth". Along with the great pointers, Derreck reminded everyone that discipleship, much like molding clay, can get messy. No matter how messy the process, in the end the Lord can bring out beauty. The OSM Board is praying for those who attended this year's conferences, and is excited to start planning next year's Youth and Family Conference. Watch for the details for next year's conference and make plans to attend!

2024 Ohio Student Ministries' CTS Ministry Expo

The 2024 is quickly approaching and we are looking forward to seeing new churches compete at the state level this year. On April 6, 2024, competitors will gather at the Ohio Association of Office/Ohio Bible Institute (2580 Jordan Rd, Columbus, OH 43231). We are excited to take advantage of a new venue and resource for the state of Ohio. Check-in will open at 9 am with the CTS Ministry Expo kicking off at 10 am. For those that are curious or are preparing entries that must align with the theme of the Vertical Three conference, the 2024 Vertical Three theme is "Follow Me" (Matthew 4:18-22). Even if your youth cannot make the trip to Tampa in July, they can still get the experience of competition at the state level. Grab the CTS Guidelines book and study guides and start preparing now.

Competition registration is due to Deanna Price by **March 15, 2024**. Please use the registration for found in the CTS Guideline book. Registration forms can be mailed to:

Deanna Price
2710 Dogwood Ridge Road
Wheelersburg, Ohio 45694
email entries: deanna.price@roadrunner.com



A Ministry Partner

with Ohio Free Will Baptists



JSpencer@AmericanChurchGroup.com

(614) 600-8450 – Direct

(800) 282-9258 – Service



Brotherhood Mutual is a strong partner with Ohio Free Will Baptists. They not only offer great and honest coverage for our churches and different ministries they also offer many other tools to assist in our weekly ministries.

If you were to ask me what I feel is the most important part of this company it would be the fact that they are a Christian Organization and they are not afraid to stand on that fact.

When I meet with our agent, Jimmy Spencer a few times a year, I am always amazed at how the conversation always starts with our spiritual walks

with the Lord. We discuss our prayer and devotional lives. He and I have prayed specifically for each other and there are times that he follows up with a call or random text to check in a certain need.

I truly believe that when this company says they are a ministry partner it is their mission. They want us to be successful in order for us to be faithful workers in the Kingdom of God! If you would like to know more about what they do for our state, give me a call and I would be happy to share.

Bro. Ben.

Welch College and Welch Divinity School are seeking to assist our pastors with quality, affordable programs in ministry, theology, and biblical studies. We currently offer three programs that local pastors may find beneficial.

First, Welch Divinity School is pleased to offer a fully accredited, residential MDiv degree. The Master of Divinity program is designed for students looking to prepare for a lifetime of service in pastoral ministry, chaplaincy, or academia. The MDiv is an 85-hour program designed to be completed residually, with some online components. Qualifying undergraduate students may be admitted to the accelerated BA-to-MDiv program. The accelerated BA-to-MDiv allows students to complete both their undergraduate and graduate studies in a timeline of only 5-6 years. It is our prayer that this MDiv program is used to train serious leaders in theology, biblical languages, and ministry to be used by God to further His kingdom. Please pray with us that God would send students to further build this MDiv program. Those interested in the MDiv program may go to welch.edu/divinity for more information.

Second, the Welch M.A. in Theology and Ministry is becoming a popular program with pastors and ministry leaders who want quality, online education to aid them in their local church ministry or study of Scripture. The Welch MATM degree is an advanced degree that focuses on developing skills and knowledge in the area of Christian ministry. There are two tracks specially designed to meet student needs: the traditional track has a thesis component for those who wish to pursue further studies, and the ministry track includes a course from the Welch MDiv degree

This program is perfect for a full-time pastor who is interested in deepening their knowledge of Scripture and improving their education in ministry and theology. Terms are every eight weeks, and classes are offered in a hybrid format incorporating Zoom class meetings and individual reading and writing assignments. All classes in the MATM program meet virtually once a week. Those interested in the MATM program may go to welch.edu/matm for more information.

Our new Certificate of Biblical and Ministry Studies is geared toward those who might not have a college education or have a degree in a completely secular field. The certificate is a fifteen-hour program designed to give students deeper knowledge in biblical studies and church leadership. Terms are every six weeks. This program is an incredible, extremely affordable opportunity for bi-vocational pastors, Sunday School teachers, or anyone who would benefit from a Bible College study through Scripture and discipleship without the time to physically attend college. Students will take Bible surveys and discipleship courses. Anyone interested may go to welch.edu/certificate to learn more.

We ask that local churches continue to pray for our Welch students. Pray that God would give them clarity and focus as they study; that God would use our graduates to further His kingdom; and that God would send more students to our ministerial and MDiv programs. There is a great need for pastors and church leaders in our day and age, and Welch Divinity School wants to help fill that need. For any questions about the Divinity School or any of these programs, feel free to contact me at your convenience.



Jacob Johnson
Divinity School Recruiter
jacob.johnson@welch.edu

REJOICE MINISTRY TEAM



Rejoice! Ministry Team Announced

GALLATIN, TN—The 2023–2024 Rejoice! Ministry Team has been selected, according to Daniel Webster, music director of the group. “After vocal and instrumental auditions and interviews, we have finalized selections for this year’s team,” Webster said. “We had a great number of quality musicians to choose from, but we finally selected these students to be our representatives for this year.”

Female members of the twelve-member team are Malena Campis, Elly Crabtree, Cheyenne Lewis, Abigail McAfee, Brook Proctor, and Rachel Wilkerson. Male members are Marc Edgmon, Silas Houser, Camden Lewis, Jacob Robertson, and Landon Wolfe. Reilly Holloman will be the sound technician.

Todd Parrish, Vice President for Institutional Advancement said, “We are so excited to introduce the 2023–2024 Rejoice! Ministry Team. Their musical ability, along with their desire to serve Christ and share His gospel, will make them great representatives for the kingdom and Welch College.”

“We also wanted to share that two members of this year’s team are from Ohio Free Will Baptists, Elly Crabtree and Landon Wolfe. Thank you Ohio for your continued support of your college and sending students to be trained for Christ!”

Todd Parrish
Vice President for Institutional Advancement
todd.parrish@welch.edu

OHIO FREE WILL BAPTISTS WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Our 2023 Women's Retreat was a wonderful time of fun, fellowship, and spiritual refreshment. We are praising the Lord for some amazing numbers this year. We also thank Him for our speaker, Tracy, and the blessing she was to us. He is so good, and He deserves all praise!



In attendance this year, we had 103 wonderful ladies and 20 churches were represented. Ohio FWB Women - thank you for being apart of this retreat and for making it such a good time for everyone involved. Bring a friend next year!

We collected a \$650 offering, and we raised \$1,316 for our state project. Thank you, Lord and thank you to each person who prayed or gave!



As always, we awarded 3 trophies this year. Congratulations goes to these ladies and their churches...

Most Attendees: **Sciotoale FWB Church**
Best Present to Members Ratio: **Shelby First FWB Church**
Most First Timers: **Canaan Land FWB Church**



All in all, we are so thankful for this time and for God's provision. We pray that you would join us again next year, and that our time together would continue to glorify our Father in Heaven.

Our 2024 Women's Retreat will be October 11th-12th, at the Berlin Grande Hotel in Berlin, Ohio. Our speaker will be Pam Jones, and her daughters will be providing the music. Please pray for them as they prepare to join us.



Compassion Church



Let us pause for a minute...

Our Ohio State Church planter, Travis McKenzie, has shared with us all that his wife, Missy, has battled cancer this year and we praise the Lord for the multitude of answered prayers! Although this has been a very difficult and trying time on the McKenzie family, they are still working hard to reach the lost and make disciples in Ashland, OH! I challenge each pastor, church leader, and the other members of our Ohio FWB family to take some time pray for them each day. Also, reach out to Pastor Travis and ask him to share with you what God is doing at Compassion Church and how you can be a part!

Making Disciples One At A Time,
Brother Ben

Do you have an event that we could share with everyone?



CALENDAR@OHIOFWB.ORG

Revivals, Services, Conferences, VBS, Church Camps, ETC. Send an email to calendar@ohiofwb.org with all the important information and we will share it with everyone!

ohiofwb.org

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

Hello!

Give from the heart to take the Gospel to the Ends of the Earth! Receive an “I heart IM” mug by giving a special end-of-year individual gift of at least \$200 directly to the World Missions Offering from December 1-12, 2023. Complete the FULL IM mug series set (including mugs featuring seven other countries) by giving a monthly individual donation of at least \$150 to the World Missions Offering. Each month we will mail you a different IM Mug. You can mail a check, give online at iminc.org/give, or set up a recurring payment with an ACH draft form accessed from our website. Scan the QR code to receive more information.



Lauren Biggs
Media and Content Coordinator



629-215-6426
lauren@iminc.org



Receive an IM mug by giving a special end-of-year individual gift of **\$200** directly to the World Missions Offering from **December 1-12**.



Limited Time Offer

GIVE from the **heart**
to take the **Gospel**
to the Ends of the Earth



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Thankful hearts
Taking the **Gospel**
to the Ends of the Earth

“Because of your heart for missions, families are **entering a church building** and **hearing the Gospel for the first time** in their lives!”

Kettemans



Thankful hearts
Taking the **Gospel**
to the Ends of the Earth

“Because of your heart for missions, this year we have helped **train more than 100 new missionaries** headed around the globe.”

Torrison



Thankful hearts
Taking the **Gospel**
to the Ends of the Earth

“Because of your heart for missions, three people have been **baptized**, a new **Discovery Bible study** has launched, four new **disciple-making groups** have been formed, and many French people have **heard the Gospel** for the very first time.”

Reeves



Greetings from the Embark Crew! It has been a busy few months since the last Ambassador came out and we are excited to share this news with you! We had a great time at the National Convention and made a lot of connections with pastors and individuals. August was slow month travelling for us, but it picked up for a moment in September and October. God has been blessing the work so much and we are just amazed at what He is doing.

If you did not see on our Facebook page, we officially reached 50% in monthly support! It has been a grind, but I am so thankful to those who have stepped up to financially partner with us. **We still need to raise around \$2,500 in monthly support to be fully funded** and I have set a goal to see us fully funded by the end of the year. If you have not had us in your church, please get into contact with me.

I heard a recent preacher make the statement, "Wouldn't it be awesome when you get to heaven and someone from the Ivory Coast or Jamestown, North Dakota comes up to you and thanks you for the impact your made on their life, even though you never met them. But because you invested in a missionary, they get to spend eternity with you." The field is truly great in North Dakota. I recently read that over 52% of the people in North Dakota do not read their Bibles, over 60% do not attend church. Because of these stats, I am anxious to get onto the field and to start reaping what God has prepared for our work.

As Christians, we are called to support missions, for they are the hands and feet of God's love reaching the unreached and the marginalized. In doing so, we not only obey the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) but also fulfill our role as stewards of God's blessings.

Supporting missions is an act of faith, an investment in the eternal, and an opportunity to share the life-changing message of Christ. It allows us to partner with missionaries who bring hope to the lost and the hurting. Consider the words of Romans 10:14-15: "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent?"

Supporting missions is sending the messengers of hope and salvation. It is our collective responsibility, and it brings blessings not only to those we support but also to us, as we actively participate in God's redemptive plan. So, let's generously support missions, ensuring that the light of Christ reaches every corner of the world.

Let us be challenged in our hearts to remember the covenant we entered into, "We will not...fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work.....We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society, constantly praying and toiling that the kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven. To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Justin Feight
Your Ohio FWB Missionary
Jamestown, ND



EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

accomplish on her mission. I even have a black notebook that I keep with me. Whenever I have an idea or hear of one, I write it down and begin to outline what that looks like in training. I think, "How can I get this information to our people to better prepare them?"

I said this at a church once while preaching on The Great White Throne Judgment. I asked the questions, "Who did John see there when he was shown this great and terrible day?" He saw real people. You see, I don't look at people in the pew or in the local church. I look at God's people standing before Him and being held accountable to what we have accomplished with what He has given us. Soon, I would love to share with you what the Lord has already done in Ohio FWB this last year and I believe you would see it as well. I believe His hand is on this place.

My prayer is that this ministry, the state office and the Ohio Bible Institute will bring glory to the Lord and many disciples will be made in the local church as well as around the world. It is my prayer that as we end 2023 and go into 2024, that we will all be faithful to the call that is on our lives and that when this earth and time here is done, we will all hear from our Father, "Well done thou good and faithful servant."

I love you and pray for you often. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I look forward to working with you in the next year.

Until His Return,

Ben



MERRY

Christmas

FROM BEN AND KRISTEN

I don't know about you but from time to time, Kristen and I, like to watch Home and Garden TV. We love watching shows that are remodels of homes and see the transitions that take place. Now, we all know that 95% of those shows are scripted and everything you see is not as it seems. However, whether on TV or in real life, we all know that reconstruction is a difficult task but if you maintain your plan and push through the results can be incredible.

This last year, we have dedicated our time into the reconstruction of the Ohio State Office and adding on the relaunch of the Ohio Bible Institute. This is not just to make a building look better. No, I truly believe that the Lord has laid on my heart this institute and what could potentially come out of it.

For years, my mind and thoughts race with the possibilities of what the church can

"BAER" CAMP

OHIO FREE WILL BAPTISTS MEN'S RETREAT

JANUARY 18-20

WINTER 2024

EQUIPPING MEN FOR KINGDOM WORK
EPHESIANS 4:11-13

ohiofwb.org



WHAT IS HAPPENING?

Whenever a person goes camping, a lot of planning, preparing, and packing has to take place. Without it, your "mission" will fail.

Our Christian lives are the same. We are to plan our times together in order to better prepare ourselves and pack our lives full of truth for when we go out on "mission" to the world!

This is the focus of the 2024 Ohio State Men's Retreat.



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"BAER" CAMP

★ SCHEDULE ★

SUBJECT TO BE
ADJUSTED AS NEEDED

January 18

Registration Opens at 1:00 PM
First Session at 3:00 PM
Dinner at 5:00 PM
Friday Night Session at 7:00 PM

January 19

Breakfast at 7:00 AM
Morning Sessions 9:00 AM
Afternoon Sessions 2:00 PM
Evening Events 6:30 PM

January 20

Breakfast at 7:00 AM
Morning Session 8:00 AM
Pack up and head home 11:00 AM

OHIOFWB.ORG

A hand is shown holding a globe, with a compass rose visible on the surface. The globe is tilted, showing the Americas. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and yellow, suggesting an outdoor setting. The text "ONE CHURCH ONE MISSION" is overlaid in large, white, sans-serif capital letters, enclosed in a white rectangular frame.

ONE CHURCH ONE MISSION

OHIO FWB STATE MEETING
June 21-22, 2024

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20