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Official Paper of the Pennsylvania Association of Regular Baptist Churches

# Keystone BAPTIST

## The Clarion River

by

Pastor David Maitland, First Baptist Church, Butler, PA

Some years ago, I was heading to the PARBC spring meeting. When I left Butler, I needed to stop and see someone in the Sugar Creek Rest Home first. The Sugar Creek Rest Home is out in the middle of nowhere. I made my visit and was trying to figure out the fastest way up to Interstate 80. When I asked someone how to get up to the interstate, they told me the only way was to go back out to the main road, down to Kit-tanning and up Route 66. I felt that was a terrible long way to get where I wanted to go.

When I left and sat Creek, I had a decision the long way or turn through the rolling Pennsylvania and get onto I-80 a lot came to mind. I have B guy in my ministry when I'm off the clock, when we are intentionally



at directions and very seldom get lost. The sun was out that day and I know the sun comes up in the east and sets in the west. So I always know where north is, which is the way I needed to go. Go north as much as possible. Finally, I am a born and bred western Pennsylvanian boy and I've learned to feel my way around those winding roads and rolling hills. The one thing I forgot though is that "pride goeth before a fall." Not counting on that point, I turned right and carved my way through the hills with great confidence. It is on that journey that I learned a great lesson for my life. I often remind myself of it today. Oh yes, as well as the pride goeth before a fall lesson.

at the entrance of Sugar to make, a left and go right and find a way hills of western find a shortcut to quicker. Three things always been an A to and my driving, except putzying with my wife

meandering. I'm pretty good

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LAYOUT & DESIGN

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## New Today and Junk Tomorrow

I have always been fascinated by new inventions and gadgets. I marvel that it was some individual who had the brain power to think and create something so interesting. And the very

function of these gadgets makes life so much easier or at least that is what they claim.

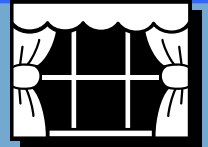
Take the phone for instance. When I was a young boy, our family had a phone. To make a call you picked up the phone and talked to an operator. If there was a call coming to our house you had to listen for the right ring. You see, one ring was for our neighbor to pick up and answer. Two rings would be for our house and three rings would be our other neighbor's number. It was called a party line, but it wasn't any party at all if mom caught you listening in on a neighbor's call.

Then things progressed to putting a wheel on the phone. To dial a number, you stuck your finger in a hole on the wheel that had a number under the hole and moved it around until you came to a stop. Thus, man was able to dial his own phone numbers.

Now days almost everyone has their own "cell phone". These little flat computers/phones do almost everything, but scramble eggs. Recently I was notified that my cell phone was no longer going to be serviced. I was given a new one – ***new today and junk tomorrow.***

Isn't there something similar going on in Christian churches these days? What used to be **Good and Accepted in the Past is Not so Good and Rejected in the Present.** It was accepted that a congregation would wear their best of clothing to come together to worship the King of kings and Lord of lords. Not so

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## THE RECIPE



by Anita L. Fordyce, Hanover, PA

If you didn't know how to make a cake, where would you start? A recipe or a mix where you just follow the directions. But, would the directions make sense? How much is a cup of water—what size cup? What kind of oil? Eggs—would you know what to do with eggs if you had never seen an egg? Throw in the whole egg? Worse yet, what if the recipe calls for egg whites? How do you do that? What does it mean to sift, cream and mix? How do you grease and flour a pan? Do the instructions mean really 30-35 minutes at 350 degrees? How do you know when the cake is done?

Almost every woman has a disaster story regarding baking? Ever make a chocolate cream pie from scratch (with a recipe) and leave out the sugar? I did! Ever set the oven timer to bake the Sunday dinner while you're at church and when you come home the timer didn't work? I did. The dinner was not ready, and our guests were two pastors.

On the other hand, would any of this matter if you had nothing to feed your family? It could be a matter of life and death—perhaps your last meal. It is then that a recipe wouldn't matter. As if there seems to be no hope, what if a starving beggar appears at your door asking for food?

The Widow of Zarepath, one of my favorite unnamed women in the Old Testament, was such a woman. (I Kings ?) After a 3.5 year drought, which was a judgment from God, all she had was enough grain and oil to bake one little cake for her and one for her son. Then like hundreds of her townspeople, they would die of starvation. But she couldn't turn this beggar away when he asked for a drink of water and a little cake. "*Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink,*" and, "*Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand*" (verses 11-12). Some of us wouldn't blame her if she turned him away. Not meaning to

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As I started out, I was doing great. I made a left turn, right turn, left turn, always keeping the sun on my left side because it was early afternoon. As long as I did that, I knew I was heading north and would eventually reach I-80 way ahead of schedule and be on my way to the conference.

I was kind of brimming with confidence heading up the road in my old red pickup truck feeling a little bit like a red neck. You know how it is when you try to do something that people say you can't and you are doing it. Like when you are playing basketball and you feel you can't miss, or when you step up to bat and you know you're going to get a hit, or when you go to preach and you feel a good sermon coming on. Whether it ends that way or not is another story. I'm sure we have all felt that confidence sometime in our experiences.

So I was motoring along making a left turn, following a road then a right turn following the next road getting closer and closer to I-80. Then it happened! I was on this road, when I happened to be talking to my daughter expressing how well I was doing. I went from a country road to a gravel road to a logging road. I knew it definitely was not the on ramp to I-80. I finally came to a dead end. You know there ought to be a law on roads that are dead ends. They should be made to put a sign that says "dead end" or "no outlet." But that's not the half of it. It was what I was looking at that frustrated me more. I had dead ended at the Clarion River.

I sat there in my red pickup truck and stared for a minute or so and said to myself, *"David, you should know better. You're a western Pennsylvania boy, and you knew that the Clarion River would be between Sugar Creek Rest Home and I-80."* I made the mistake of forgetting that I would have to navigate my way past the Clarion River. I had only two choices to make at that time. One, I couldn't do and the other, I didn't want to do being an A to B guy. I could back up and take a run for it and jump the Clarion River in my red truck. The problem is I would have to jump 50 yards at least. That was not an option. So I started my way back the logging road muttering to myself that there should have been a dead end sign at the main road, blaming others like we all do at times. Funny thing when I worked my way back to the main road, I went a little farther and caught the bridge over the Clarion River and soon after hit the on ramp to I-80 where I wanted to go. I was so close yet so far away.

Then it hit me. This experience was much like my journey in life and in the ministry. We start out young with great confidence in life and the ministry. We have different goals and different ways to get there. We work and we toil then one day we grow old, and we find ourselves facing the Clarion River, the end of our life and ministry. Eventually we have to cross the Clarion River one way or another. We haven't become the well-known preacher that people said we would be. We have smaller congregations than we thought we would. Some people actually fall asleep when we preach. (Just to let you know, they do that with preachers of large churches too.) You have never written that book and if you have you have sold three copies. Aren't you glad for family? As if you're just living life and when you get to the Clarion River you feel unfulfilled and frustrated.

In real life you can't back up and retrace your steps and back up the years. Life is a one-way street. So what's my point? If you're reading this, you haven't come to the Clarion River yet. I'm not sure if I had Google on my phone for directions, it would have been a big help. Spiritually in my journey, I don't think I can handle my journey without a heavenly navigator. You'll find it at *"theword.com."* *"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths"* (Proverbs 3:5,6). We all know it, but it's hard to not lean unto our own

understanding when we come to those difficult crossroads or our flesh gets in the way and our human confidence gets out of hand. It is very important that we take some time and recalculate our direction and motives on this journey before it is too late.

To those of you that are young in life and the ministry, it's hard to think about the Clarion River. It seems so far away. But it's the best time to evaluate how you want to get where you want to go or where God wants you to go. Bigger is not always better. Being famous may even be a dangerous thing for you, even locally famous.

I was sitting on a platform with a young preacher, and he leaned over to me and said, "Let's make God famous." That's a statement that will lock you into a heavenly due north and keep you on the right road. I've never forgotten that statement and it has helped me at many crossroads where self gets in the way.

Those of us that are older, there is always time to examine our journey and check our motives before we reach the Clarion River. I believe in the "greatness of an ordinary life" as one preacher put it "grace for the grind", just like I was trying to take the back roads to get where I was going. It was a simple thing but important thing to me. It's not important to God how important we are. It's more important to Him that we take our life's journey by the direction He gives us, humbly do the tasks that He wants us to do even if it is tasks that others don't want to do. We know we have taken some wrong roads when we become bitter or burnt out and feeling our labor has been in vain and our words have fallen on deaf ears.

Korah in Numbers 16 somehow got on the wrong road. As a Levite he didn't get a wagon of goods after the battle because they were busy with the tabernacle. Korah's job was to move the furniture wherever Israel was to move in the wilderness. Pack and unpack. I'm sure it was a tedious job, but God cared for their every need.

He was angry and got some of the princes of Israel to side with him against Moses. It was what Moses said to Korah that showed he may have been doing the right thing (moving furniture) but for the wrong motive. Moses put it into perspective when he said, "Seemeth it but a small thing unto you, that the God of Israel hath separated you from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to himself to do the service of the tabernacle of the Lord, and to stand before the congregation to minister unto them" (Numbers 16:9)?

I meet many people in life and ministry who feel like I did, frustrated when I dead ended at the Clarion River. Pastor Colas taught me that a lot of preachers know how to get on the train when they preach, but the secret is to know when to get off. So I will make this simple. God has a different journey for each one of us, some the high roads, some the low roads, some the back roads. First, we can't make this journey without heavenly navigation. I recommend highly [www.proverbs3:5,6.word.com](http://www.proverbs3:5,6.word.com). Second, why are we so worried about everyone else's journey or why our journey is so ordinary and our task so tedious? Seemeth it a small thing to you and me that God has given us our task, our journey for the sole purpose to bring us close to Him. It's not where we are going, but who we are with and He shall direct our paths. So when we come to the Clarion River, it's not the bitter end but the sweet beginning. I suggest you take the bridge Jesus over the river. "Enjoy the journey." 🙏

# Churches Searching for Pastor

As of June 2022



First Baptist Church – Corry  
 Grace Baptist Church – Hazleton  
 East Lawrence Baptist Church, Lawrenceville  
 First Baptist Church – Limestone  
 Mountain Top Baptist Church – Mountain Top  
 Grace Baptist Church – Norristown  
 Middletown Road Baptist Church – Pittsburgh  
 Chestnut Street Baptist Church – Port Allegany  
 First Baptist Church – Roulette  
 Carmel Baptist Church – Saegertown  
 Tidioute Baptist Church – Tidioute  
 Faith Baptist Church - Waynesburg  
 Calvary Baptist Church – Union City

## 2022-2023 Fellowship Activities

### Spring Conference – April 17-18, 2023

First Baptist Church, Butler  
 Hosts: Pastor Dave Maitland and Congregation

### Youth Retreat and Talents for Christ

Calvary Baptist Church, Bloomsburg  
 Special speaker: Pastor Nathan Bramlet  
 (Grace Baptist Church, Kittanning)

**Date: April 28-29 2023**

*Bible Quizzing: I Corinthians 9-16*

*Bible Knowledge: NT I Cor. 9-16 / OT I Samuel 15-31*

**[See www.parbc.org](http://www.parbc.org) (Teen Activities)**

### Fall Conference – September 11-13, 2023

Independent Baptist Church, Towanda  
 Hosts: Pastor Donn Hauser and Congregation

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# “The Morning Meet” (Psalm 5:3) Part 1

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by Pastor Jeff Kistler (Retired)

Psalm 5, is considered to be “The Morning Psalm.” I believe that the third verse gives direction to the whole of this Psalm: **“My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up” (5:3).** So, the Psalmist is saying that in the morning, we can start each day: seeking God’s face (vss. 1-3); seeing God’s righteousness (vss. 4-6); standing in God’s strength (vss. 7-10); and, sharing God’s joy (vss. 11, 12).

As verse three indicates, King David, the writer, intended to begin his day with God. Thus, daily, in the morning, David desired to be heard (vss. 1-3); in the morning, David longed to be holy (vss. 4-7); in the morning, David prayed to be helped (vss. 8-10); and, in the morning, David asked to be happy (vss. 11-12).

I believe the point of this Psalm, supported by other passages of scriptures, is that while we should be in contact with the Lord moment by moment throughout the course of the day, it is vitally important that we get a good start with our Lord in the morning. So, how is your “morning meet” with the Lord? My burden is that many are defeated as Christians because we do not have, like David, that solid resolve to come daily before the Lord and meet with our God. The old hymn probes with this question:

“Did You Think to Pray?”

- 1) Ere you left your room this morning,  
Did you think to pray?  
In the name of Christ our Savior,  
Did you sue for loving favor,  
As a shield today?

**Refrain:** Oh, how praying rests the weary!  
Prayer will change the night to day;  
So when life seems dark and dreary,  
*Don't forget to pray.*

- 2) When you met with great temptation,  
*Did you think to pray?*  
By His dying love and merit,  
Did you claim the Holy Spirit  
As your guide and stay?

- 3) When your heart was filled with anger,  
*Did you think to pray?*  
Did you plead for grace, my brother,  
That you might forgive another  
Who had crossed your way?

- 4) When sore trials came upon you,  
*Did you think to pray?*

When your soul was bowed in sorrow,  
Balm of Gilead did you borrow

At the gates of day? (Author, Mary A. Kidder)

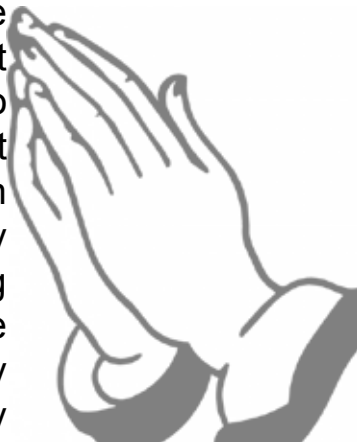
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Historically this time alone with God was known as the ‘The Morning Watch’. It was understood that a daily time with the Lord was needed if we were to know power, vitality, and success in our Christian life. If we have a desire to live a life of obedience to the Lord, and want to greatly please Him, then we would greatly profit from a daily habit of meeting with the Lord in the early morning hours. Someone has said ‘that the secret of a strong winsome Christian life is in **spending time daily alone with God over His word.**

Here is a consideration for you: Do you meet with the Lord on a daily basis? Early each day, are you reading the Word of God, or better, what are you reading? And, what about your prayer life? Are you praying to the Lord and taking everything to Him in prayer?

We would all agree that this should be foundational to the Christian life - but the question remains: are you practicing meeting with the Lord as your daily habit? For a Christian to not meet with God, to limit his reading of the Bible, to stop praying, to lack in that daily morning time with their Lord is delusional! The fact of the matter is that many of us are defeated as Christians because we do not come daily before the Lord and regularly meet with our God.



Word of God, or better, what are your prayer life? Are you praying to Him in prayer?

this should be foundational to the remains: are you practicing meeting with the Lord as your daily habit? For a Christian to not meet with God, to limit his reading of the Bible, to stop praying, to lack in that daily morning time with their Lord is delusional! The fact of the matter is that many of us are defeated as Christians because we do not come daily before the Lord and regularly meet with our God.

We might think we have good reasons not to do so. One is that we are too busy. Think of that, too busy to daily fellowship with the Lord through prayer! There are examples of great saints of God that we read about in the Scriptures and we read of in Church history. They were not too busy to pray! In fact, they were too busy not to pray! This ‘morning meet’ was of paramount importance to them. One said, for example, said ‘No Bible, no breakfast’. He continued, ‘If I get up this morning and I don’t have time to read my Bible, well then I don’t have any breakfast until I get to that place where I’m pouring over my Bible before God and bringing my prayers to the throne of grace’.

Reformer Martin Luther, history tells us, was a very busy man. Among his many world-changing reformation activities he wrote: ‘If I fail to spend two hours in prayer each morning, the devil gets the victory through the day. I’ve so much business I cannot get on without three hours, at times, daily in prayer’. He continued: ‘If I should neglect prayer but a single day, I should lose a great deal of the fire of faith’. Luther, an hero of the faith, a man who turned Europe upside down for Christ, deemed as important a daily time of meeting with the Lord. So, in the light of his testimony, and the testimony of Scripture: have any of us lost the fire of faith, the vitality of our Christian lives, the power, the victory? Could it be that we are neglecting our personal, private time with the Lord?

In citing Luther above, a specific time allotment is **not** being suggested. And please note, I’m not talking specifically about Bible reading plans or schedules. I’m not talking about praying. We have heard plenty of discourses about praying and Bible reading in the past. I’m not even talking about what has been commonly called today ‘the quiet

much today. That has been rejected and replaced with jeans, T-shirts, shorts and sandals. The well accepted translations were accepted, but now rejected for paraphrases and short sermonettes. And along with that it was accepted that church music would be of a higher quality and standard of worship and in preparation to the preaching of the Word of God. Not so much today. More and more churches are installing a full set of drums and several electric guitars playing worldly rock music. There are some that are darkening their auditoriums with special lighting and having fog machines to create a certain atmosphere. There is more of an emphasis on entertainment and not so much on biblical worship. We are seeing the Laodicean church in action. 8

I have said this before: some change is good, but when change draws us away from Christ and closer to the world and its looks, sounds and actions, that is not good, not good at all. Our Lord desires each of us to pursue holiness (I Pet. 1:16), seeking those things that are above and setting our affections on things above (Col. 3:1,2), making an effort to think on GOOD things (Phil. 4:8).

I am so glad that our God does not change – Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb.13:8). You know, it might be good for those who are so enamored with the new to reconsider the old. I found an old phone of our and plugged it in to a phonenumber and it still worked! Maybe the old still has function and value, so not everything is junk tomorrow.

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**Recipe--Continued**

be rude, she explained that she hardly had enough to make two cakes.

He was persistent and insisted that she bake him a cake first and then make two more with whatever was left over. *“For thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain upon the earth’” (1 Kings 17:14).* The beggar was Elisha the prophet. Did she? There might have been something about him that urged her to do what he said, or perhaps she simply believed what he had told her.

I wondered how she made them. If flour and oil were all she had, what did they taste like? They were the best food she had prepared in her lifetime. Nonetheless, as a result of her obedience, *“She and her household ate for many days. The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah” (verses 15–16).* The widow’s food supply was supernaturally extended with enough for her household. I think that included many, many of her neighbors.

Recently, I read the following and thought what a wonderful recipe for all of us to follow—one she may have followed. No culinary skills needed. *“And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou LORD has not forsaken those that trust thee” (Psalm 9:10).*

I believe she became a believer that day. How many others did also? Just like we would share a special recipe, let us share God’s recipe: *“... for whoever comes to him, will never be hungry or thirsty again.”*

### **THE RECIPE**

**GRACE:** *Psalm 34:8 “Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!”*

**OBEDIENCE:** *1 Corinthians 10:31 “So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”*

**FAITH:** *Psalm 37:25 “I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread.”*

**ACCEPTANCE/TRUST:** *Matthew 4:4 “But he answered, ‘It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”*

**BELIEF.** *John 6:35 “Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.’”*

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time', or 'having devotions. All of these things have led people to think that to just read a portion of Scripture then pray through a list and bring your needs to God - while good, it can lead through going through the motions, just to get things done. Understand, I am suggesting meeting with God in the morning and through that, developing a life of **communion and fellowship** with our Lord Jesus Christ. ***"That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full"*** (I John 1:3, 4).

Saints of God in bygone eras have called this 'Morning Meet' 'the trysting time'. This is an archaic name, an old word for a time and a place where lovers used to meet. You would arrange to meet at a special specific place with the one that you were courting. There ought to be a time, when we just meet alone with Jesus, the Lover of our souls, and to His bosom fly! Likewise, 'Morning Meet' has been otherwise known as 'the still hour' or 'the quiet hour'. A more Biblical title, 'the morning watch', comes from the Psalmist David in Psalm 5:3: ***'O Lord, in the morning shalt thou hear my voice; in the morning will I order my prayer unto thee'***. Whatever it might be called, it was practiced by godly individuals of all the ages. The thought was that the early morning was God's appointed time to meet Him. Robert Murray M'Cheyne put it like this: 'I ought to pray before seeing anyone. I feel it is far better to begin with God, to see His face first, to get my soul near Him before it is near another'.

Is this the current practice of the church of Jesus Christ, and of individual believers? Who or what do you meet with the first thing every day? Like M'Cheyne, do you cherish, 'To see the face of Jesus before we see any other face?' We appreciate biblical men of faith like David who said, ***'Evening, and morning, and afternoon will I pray and cry aloud and seek Your face'***. As well, we uphold the apostles who went up to the synagogue early in the morning to pray. Also, we see the example of our Lord Jesus who was found early in the morning in the place of prayer. We value men like M'Cheyne and Martin Luther - but as someone said concerning this, 'We build these men's tombs and write their epitaphs, but we are careful **not** to follow their examples!'. Do we follow their faithful examples of an early morning meeting with God?

I am **not** saying that the morning is the only time to meet with God. Individual schedules, practices, and situations may not allow for that. However, what I am proposing is, **we ought to somehow have quality time alone with God**. Allow time alone with the Lord, before the daytime distractions crowd Him completely out.

**AGAIN**, I'm not talking about legalism - that you must spend a certain amount of time in personal devotions. Don't put yourself into bondage, and set yourself up for failure. Rather, I'm saying, we need this unique time alone with the Lord. Once you make this a daily practice, where you really desire to meet with the Lord - it will not be a bondage, but it will be blessing. You'll see that it won't be penance, it will be a privilege to get up and every day to lift your voice to God in the morning.

## A Resolution on Transparency and the Education of Our Children

**Whereas Children** are a gift of God to *parents and are answerable directly to those parents or guardians* (Psalm 127:3; Ephesians 6:1); and

**Whereas parents or guardians** are directly responsible for the influence and education of the children under their care (Deuteronomy 6:4-7; Proverbs 22:6); and

**Whereas this responsibility to educate and nurture** their children may require the assistance or delegation of certain aspects to others, this does not negate or diminish in any way a parents or guardians primary authority under God to their children (Galatians 4:1-2; 1 Kings 1:6); and

**Whereas the relationship** between those who educate children and those who are responsible for those children is vitally important; and

**Whereas informed** parents and guardians drastically improve educational outcomes; and

**Whereas transparency** in education assures those positive outcomes; and

**Whereas transparency** deters or exposes those who wish to use their delegated positions to coerce and indoctrinate students with political, social, and sexual ideologies that are contrary to a parent or guardians better judgment; and

**Whereas Pennsylvania and Federal law** requires schools to give parents the opportunity to review all instructional materials and have access to information about the curriculum, including academic standards to be achieved, teacher manuals, films, tapes, supplemental instructional materials, evaluations and assessment techniques (20 U.S. Code 1232h and 22 Pa Code 4.4); and

**Whereas the Pennsylvania Legislature passed the Educational Transparency Act in 2021**, which would have required that a portion of the materials that parents are entitled to review would be assessable on the districts website. Parents who don't have time to go to the school to sit and read would have been able to review the material from their homes; and

**Whereas Governor Wolf vetoed this important legislation;**

**Be it, therefore, resolved** that we the messengers of the PARBC, meeting on April 25-26, 2022 at Grace Baptist Church, Kittanning, Pennsylvania, do hereby emphasize the need for accountability and transparency in the delegated authority of our educational institutions;

**Be it further resolved** that we are grateful for our legislature passing the Educational Transparency Act;

**We further encourage School Boards** across the Commonwealth to update their parental review policies to provide digital access to instructional materials, and to require that any additional supplemental material a teacher gives to children which was not part of approved curriculum is immediately placed in a digital folder accessible to parents and administrators for review;

**We finally resolve to pray** for those given the awesome responsibility of training children; knowing that someday all will stand before the God who sees everything, and answer to Him regarding this important stewardship (Matthew 6:4-18; 1 Corinthians 4:5; Heb 4:13).

## A Resolution on Gambling

**Whereas Gambling** has been a sinful scourge upon humanity all throughout history and is indicative of a society that is not trusting Almighty God; and

**Whereas gambling** has always encouraged idleness and gain without hard work and preys upon those of weak character and a poor work ethic encouraging reward with no effort; and

**Whereas the Bible** clearly states that good, honest work is the Lord's blessing upon man and leads to true satisfaction (Proverbs 12:14, 13:11), that the Lord desires us to work heartily unto him (Colossians 3:23) requiring us to put an honest effort forward (2 Thessalonians 3:10) and that money can never satisfy the true needs of mankind (Ecclesiastes 5:10) having no lasting value (Proverbs 23:5); and

**Whereas the Bible** clearly states that the love of money is the root of all evil (1 Timothy 6:10) and those who would greatly desire it welcome "...many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition" (1 Timothy 6:9); and

**Whereas the Bible** clearly condemns the sin of covetousness (Exodus 20:17), instructs the child of God to live a life devoid of such a selfish lifestyle (Hebrews 13:5) and warns the believer to beware of that prideful sin assuring us that our lives do not consist of that which we possess (Luke 12:15); and

**Whereas the Bible** instructs the believer clearly that all we have is provided by the Lord (James 1:17), that He gives us the strength to work and have what we need (Deuteronomy 8:18), that He has promised to provide all our needs (Philippians 4:19) so that we may be able to be used of the Lord to "...give to him that needeth" (Ephesians 4:28); and

**Whereas the Lord** desires us to live a godly life of contentment (1 Timothy 6:6) warning us that the believer cannot serve God and money (Luke 16:13) but must live a life that is completely dependent upon the Lord's provision, not focusing on the riches of this world but on spiritual riches (Matthew 6:19-24) which God alone provides;

**Be it, therefore,** resolved that the messengers of the Pennsylvania Association of Regular Baptist Churches meeting April 25-26, 2022, at Grace Baptist Church in Kittanning, Pennsylvania, do hereby reject and condemn gambling in all of its forms including but not limited to casinos, games of chance, sports betting, lotteries and other similar vices.

**Be it also resolved** that we will teach in our churches the principle of financial dependence on the Lord as well as good stewardship with what the Lord provides.

## 2022 Talents for Christ Awards

### **Bible Quizzing**

- Senior High*
  - Hope Baptist, Hanover- Superior
  - Bible Baptist, Quakertown- Superior
  - Faith Baptist, State College- Excellent
- Junior High*
  - Bible Baptist, Quakertown- Superior
  - Faith Baptist, State College- Excellent

### **Voice**

- Senior High Male Voice*
  - Isaac Gerken, Vernon Baptist, Dallas- Excellent
- Senior High Female Voice*
  - Gwen Greene, Calvary Baptist, Bloomsburg- Superior
  - Emma Kohler, Bible Baptist, Quakertown- Excellent
- Junior High Male Voice*
  - Charlie Steele, Calvary Baptist, Bloomsburg- Excellent
- Senior High Large Group Voice*
  - Faith Baptist, State College- Superior
- Senior High Small Group Voice*
  - Greene/Campbell, Calvary Baptist Church- Superior
  - Lopez/Stouffer/Steele, Calvary Baptist Church- Excellent

### **Instrumental**

- Senior High Piano*
  - Gwen Greene, Calvary Baptist, Bloomsburg- Excellent
  - Eddie McCarty, Hope Baptist, Hanover- Excellent
- Junior High Piano*
  - Althea Prater, First Baptist, Ogden- Superior
  - Wilson Martinez, Bible Baptist, Quakertown- Excellent
  - Olivia Greene, Calvary Baptist, Bloomsburg- Excellent
- Senior High Woodwind*
  - Brielle Franklin, Open Door, Greensburg- Excellent
- Senior High String*
  - Bethany Gerken, Vernon Baptist, Dallas- Meritorious
- Senior High Small Group Instrumental*
  - Peev/Peev, Violin, Bible Baptist, Quakertown- Excellent

### **Speech**

- Senior High Visualized Bible Teaching*
  - Rollin Harris, Bible Baptist, Quakertown- Excellent
  - Isaac Gerken, Vernon Baptist, Dallas- Meritorious
- Junior High Visualized Bible Teaching*
  - Joshua Harris, Bible Baptist, Quakertown- Excellent
  - Ruth Duckworth, Bible Baptist, Quakertown- Excellent
  - Esabella Polo, Faith Baptist, State College- Excellent
- Senior High Male Public Speaking*
  - Noah Polo, Faith Baptist, State College- Excellent
- Junior High Male Public Speaking*
  - Wilson Martinez, Bible Baptist, Quakertown- Superior
- Senior High Oral Interpretation*
  - Emma Kohler, Bible Baptist, Quakertown- Superior

- *Senior High Puppetry*
  - Calvary Kids, Calvary Baptist, Bloomsburg- Superior
  - Vernon Baptist, Vernon Baptist, Dallas- Excellent

### **Bible Knowledge**

- *Senior High Bible Knowledge*
  - Mariah Abrams, Faith Baptist, State College- Excellent
  - Bethany Gerken, Vernon Baptist, Dallas- Excellent
  - Carlos Lopez, Calvary Baptist, Bloomsburg- Excellent
  - Susannah Hoskins, Faith Baptist, State College- Excellent
  - Isaac Gerken, Faith Baptist, State College- Meritorious
  - Abby Guenat, Faith Baptist, State College- Meritorious
- *Junior High Bible Knowledge*
  - Joshua Harris, Bible Baptist, Quakertown- Superior
  - Ellie Hoskins, Faith Baptist, State College- Superior
  - Paul David Duckworth, Bible Baptist, Quakertown- Excellent
  - Ellie Borne, Faith Baptist, State College- Excellent
  - Rachel Rhodes, Faith Baptist, State College- Excellent
  - Stephen Rhodes, Faith Baptist, State College- Excellent
  - David McCarty, Hope Baptist, Hanover- Excellent
  - Gabriella Polo, Faith Baptist, State College- Excellent

### **Extemporaneous Writing**

- *Senior High Extemporaneous Writing*
  - Benjamin Yard, Vernon Baptist, Dallas- Excellent
  - Micah Campbell, Calvary Baptist, Bloomsburg- Excellent
- *Junior High Extemporaneous Writing*
  - Gabe Beacham, Hope Baptist, Hanover- Excellent
  - Gabriella Polo, Faith Baptist, State College- Meritorious
  - Esabella Polo, Faith Baptist, State College- Meritorious

### **Art and Photography**

- *Senior High Art- 2D*
  - Gwen Greene, Calvary Baptist, Bloomsburg- Excellent
  - Eddie McCarty, Hope Baptist, Hanover- Excellent
- *Junior High Art- 2D*
  - Isabella Campbell, Calvary Baptist, Bloomsburg- Excellent
  - Eva Huot, Bible Baptist, Quakertown- Meritorious
  - Daniel Herrera, Calvary Baptist, Bloomsburg- Meritorious
  - Jezreel Favorito, Open Door, Greensburg- Meritorious
- *Senior High Art 3D*
  - Rollin Harris, Bible Baptist, Quakertown- Excellent
  - Carlos Lopez, Calvary Baptist, Bloomsburg- Excellent
- *Junior High Art 3D*
  - Ethan Ebersole, Bible Baptist, Quakertown- Meritorious
- *Senior High Photography*
  - Micah Campbell, Calvary Baptist, Bloomsburg- Superior
  - Rollin Harris, Bible Baptist, Quakertown- Excellent
  - Noah Polo, Faith Baptist, State College- Excellent
  - Isaac Gerken, Vernon Baptist, Dallas- Excellent
  - Brooke Rhoads, Calvary Baptist, Bloomsburg- Excellent
  - Carlos Lopez, Calvary Baptist, Bloomsburg- Excellent

- *Junior High Photography*
  - Eli Hess, Calvary Baptist, Bloomsburg- Excellent
  - Olivia Greene, Calvary Baptist, Bloomsburg- Excellent
  - Andre Lopez, Calvary Baptist, Bloomsburg- Excellent
  - Gabriella Polo, Faith Baptist, State College- Meritorious
  - Esebella Polo, Faith Baptist, State College- Meritorious
  - Isabella Campbell, Calvary Baptist, Bloomsburg- Meritorious
- *Senior High Photography- Graphic Design*
  - Noah Polo, Faith Baptist, State College- Excellent

### **Home Economics**

- *Senior High Home Economics- Baking*
  - Bethany Gerken, Vernon Baptist, Dallas- Superior
  - Micah Campbell, Calvary Baptist, Bloomsburg- Superior
  - Brooke Rhoads, Calvary Baptist, Bloomsburg- Superior
  - Brielle Franklin, Open Door, Greensburg- Superior
  - Jaclyn Smith, First Baptist, Ogden- Superior
  - Isaac Gerken, Vernon Baptist, Dallas- Excellent
- *Junior High Economics- Baking*
  - Eva Huot, Bible Baptist, Quakertown- Superior
  - Ethan Ebersole, Bible Baptist, Quakertown- Superior
  - Ellie Borne, Faith Baptist, State College- Superior
  - Gabrielle Polo, Faith Baptist, State College- Superior
  - Althea Prater, First Baptist, Ogden- Superior
  - Ariane Pichardo, Calvary Baptist, Bloomsburg- Excellent
  - Isabella Campbell, Calvary Baptist, Bloomsburg- Meritorious
- *Senior High Home Economics- Sewing*
  - Bethany Gerken, Vernon Baptist, Dallas- Superior
- *Junior High Home Economics- Sewing*
  - Ellie Borne, Faith Baptist, State College- Superior



# *YourEternityChoice.com*

submitted by Evangelist Ken Lynch

Ken Lynch forwarded the following information which you may find interesting as you are "...keeping the gospel of Christ before your community."

Ken suggests "Your EternityChoice.com, a website set up as a resource that was established and written for the diligent seeker of the Truth of God...as found in the Bible.... It is a great resource to reach unbelievers and to guide following the believer's salvation.

How did it come to be? A church in Kansas desired to increase their community and area outreach. They began putting up billboards that would lead people to the gospel of Jesus Christ. They established a website to compliment their outreach. Following that, using online and practical means, they began to assist others with ministry tools such as billboards, yard signs, witnessing cards, vehicle decals, door hangers and more.

To quote their website, "Our express purpose is Bible Ministry and Evangelism, without any thought or intent of profit from the cause of Christ and the Good News of the Gospel of Christ. Our continual prayer is..."



## *YourEternityChoice.com*

A unique way of "Keeping Christ Before Your Community" through the use of:

- \*Witnessing Cards (Business card size)
- \*Door Hangers
- \*Attractive weather-proof yard signs
- \*Sponsoring large highway billboard signs

***For more information and to order contact:***

***Pastor Steve Gee (785)231-8397***

***Evangelist Ken Lynch (864) 752-8261***

## Special Thanks to Our Contributors



**Pastor David Maitland,  
First Baptist Church,  
Butler, PA**



**Pastor Jeff Kistler (Retired)  
Connoquersing, PA**