

2012 Ohio Men's Retreat Report

On January 26-28, 2012 a crowd of five hundred and sixty men met at the Heartland Retreat Center to see what God had in store for them at the annual three day session. He did not disappoint! His presence was strongly felt throughout the entire meeting.

Thursday January 26th

The first service was held in the afternoon with Ohio Promotional Secretary **Edwin Hayes** giving a welcome to the men. Bro. **Greg Harrell**, music minister of Heritage FWB in Columbus led the music with Bro. **David Crank** from the Cornerstone FWB Church in Mansfield playing the keyboard and Bro. **Travis McKenzie** and Bro. **Bryon Justice** from the Canaan FWB Church accompanying him. Rev. **Chris Oiler**, pastor of the Union FWB Church provided the special music. Rev. **Rob Morgan**, pastor of the Donleson FWB Church in Nashville, TN brought the message, "The Importance of Doctrine" from Galatians 6:1-10. In this sermon, Rev. Morgan encouraged the men to make sure that they had the right doctrine and a warning to reject false doctrine in their belief system. It was truly a thought provoking message.



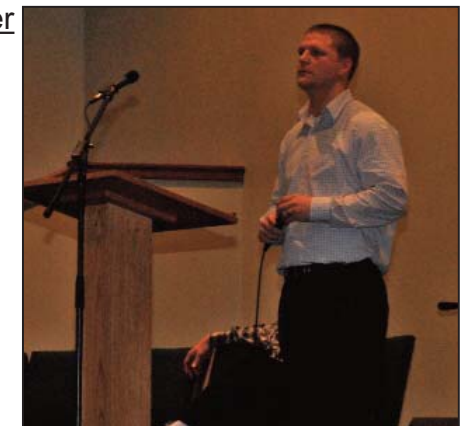
Rev. Robert Morgan



Rev. Mike McCoy

After dinner, the men assembled for the second service. First Chillicothe FWB Pastor **Mitch Salyers** led the music. The special singing was provided by **James Swank** from Canaan FWB. Crossville FWB Pastor Rev. **Mike McCoy** then preached a message, "Grasshopper Mentality" from Numbers 13:26-33. This message recounted Israel's reluctance to believe God's promises and how that we should show great faith in following the Lord.

After the service, Ohio Home Missionaries **Tim Byers** and **Don Hix** and National Home Missionaries, **Tom Jones**, **Daryl Grimes**, **Tim York**, **Darin Alvis** and **Brian Williams** gave updates on their works. Later that evening the Ohio Men's Choir formed and practiced. Throughout the grounds that evening you could witness, fellowship, recreation and music being enjoyed by the men.



James Swank



The men enjoyed recreation after the services!



International Mission Director
Clint Morgan

Friday, January 27th

During breakfast that morning, one of our long-time attendees became very ill and the Emergency Squad was called. Brother **Fred Workman** from the Cleveland Church was taken to the Morrow County Hospital and once there they were trying to decide to keep him or transport him back to Cleveland. The men of the retreat had prayer for him.

The first service on Friday morning, new selected International Mission Director **Clint Morgan** was introduced to the men. **The Sword Family** from the Unity FWB sang and Rev. **Mike McCoy** preached the message, "Least in the Kingdom" which gave insight into our relationship as sons of God taken from Matthew 11:2-11. The second service that morning began and Bro. **Eric Pushman** from Randall



**Tom Dooley, Mike MOUNTS and Bill Pitts
Singing**

Attendance Awards

The attendance awards were handed out later on Friday afternoon. The first category, “Most First Time Attendees” was won by the Canaan Church in Creston pastored by **Jim McComas**. They brought 10 first time attendees! There was a tie for second place in this category with McArthur FWB pastored by **Jim Henderson** and Northridge FWB pastored by **Tim Hamilton** who reported 7 first time attendees each.

In the next category, “Highest Percentage of Church Membership Attending the Retreat”, was won by the Freedom FWB Church pastored by **Mike Sammons** with over 57% of the Freedom FWB Church in attendance. The Woodstock FWB Church pastored by **Russell Street** came second place with 28% and Fellowship Tabernacle pastored by **Jim Stepp** coming in third place with 27%.

House Publications was introduced to the men. A trio made up of Ohio pastors, **Mike MOUNTS, Tom Dooley** and **Bill Pitts** provided the special music. Rev. **Rob Morgan** preached on the subject, “Good News” from Galatians 1:11-24. This message emphasized the power of the gospel to change our lives and the impotence of rule keeping. The men then broke for lunch and free time throughout the early afternoon. Rev. Morgan had a book signing that afternoon.



**Pastor Mike Sammons and the Freedom FWB
Church win the trophy for “Highest Percentage of
Church Membership Attending the Retreat**



Rev. Jim McComas and the Canaan FWB Church won the trophy for the Most Men Present and for the Most First Time Attendees



Notice All Those Opened Bibles!

The final category was “Most Men in Attendance,” was won once again by the Canaan FWB Church pastored by **Jim McComas** with 50 men in attendance! Second place was given to the Northridge FWB Church pastored by **Tim Hamilton** with 36 men in attendance. Third place was a tie between Heritage FWB pastored by **Tim Stout** and Southwest FWB pastored by **John Meade**. They both brought 25 men to the retreat. Congratulations to all the churches who worked hard to bring their men and to make the retreat a great success!

In the afternoon service the **Ohio Men’s Choir** under the direction of Heritage Music Director **Greg Harrell** provided the special music. Rev. **Mike McCoy** preached the message entitled, “Ravens Still Fly” from I Kings 17:1-6. In the message Bro. Mike encouraged the men to trust in God’s ability to provide for us, even in unusual circumstances. There was a good altar service after this message. The



Individual Services in the Rooms



men then enjoyed dinner.

The Representatives from Canaan FWB in Creston provided a concert and then the special music for the service. The Spirit of the Lord was evident right from the beginning of the Friday evening service with the men on their feet praising the Lord! It was announced that Bro. **Fred Workman** who had gone to the hospital earlier in the day came back and was in the congregation that evening!

Several came to the altar to pray even before the preaching. Rev. **Rob Morgan** then preached the message, "God is Working Mightily in Us" from Galatians 2:1-21. He told the men that the power for the successful Christian life is to surrender their lives on the cross. Bro. Rob invited the men to find someone in the congregation to pray with. Several came to the altar at the end of that message. At the end of the service it was announced that a new retreat attendance record was set! There were 560 men who attended this meeting. To God be the glory!

Ohio Assistant Moderator **Tom Dooley** dismissed the men to their individual meetings in the dorm rooms. Brother **Edwin Hayes** and Evangelist **Freddy Dutton** visited the dorm rooms during these services. In some of these meetings the men were sharing together, and some were praying. In some of the meetings they had a preaching service. One man was saved and two young men announced their call to preach the Gospel that evening. This is a very special time of sharing and bonding the men enjoy yearly at the retreat. It was a sweet time indeed.

Saturday, January 28th

Saturday morning, National Master's Men Director **Ken**

Akers gave a report and the service opportunities Master's Men offer to FWB men.

In the first morning service, well-known Southern Gospel Singer **J.B. Spencer** sang and Rev. **Mike McCoy** preached message, "God's Menu" taken from Acts 20:25-28. This message showed us the similarities of how we handle our relation with the Lord and the way we handle a menu in a restaurant.

In the last service, **The Baldwin Family** from Rosedale FWB Church provided the special music Rev. **Rob Morgan** came to preach the last message of the retreat. His thought was taken from Galatians 3:1-14, was "Justification by Grace Through Faith." In this message, he made the point that the gospel is not negotiable, not new and not legalistic.



The men preparing to eat!

I just stand amazed at what the Lord is doing in the Ohio Men's retreat. He met with the men of Ohio again and provided a genuine time of blessing, instruction and fellowship. His favor was truly appreciated.. The retreat continues to grow in so many ways that is helping the men in their walk with Christ.

The
dates for the 2013 retreat are,
January 24-26th.

Mark those dates down and
plan to attend!