

# BUILDING &

# Battling

A quarterly publication of the



Summer 2019 - Vol. 31, Issue 4

**AACS Youth Legislative  
Training Conference**  
July 8-12  
Washington, D.C.

**BCSO Board of Directors' Mtg**  
August 1  
Temple Christian School  
Mansfield, OH

**AACS National  
Legislative Conference**  
September 9-11  
Washington, D.C.

**GLCEC Educators' Convention**  
October 3-4  
Kalamazoo, MI

A **NEW**, full, downloadable 2-year calendar of events is available on our website.

**CONNECT WITH US!**



[www.bcsoschools.org](http://www.bcsoschools.org)

## BCSO Classes of 2019 recognized around Ohio

*Written from various submissions*

**G**raduates from BCSO member schools were recently recognized and honored at various commencement ceremonies around Ohio.

**Ottawa County Christian Academy (Oak Harbor)** honored *Ian McVicker* on May 26 as its first graduate to have completed all thirteen grades at the academy. He was dubbed as "Sir Ian McVicker, Crusader Exemplar of the First Order" and was charged to "Continue in the things which thou hast learned" in a special knighting ceremony, which coincided with the graduation service. The academy also presented him with an engraved sword and plaque to commemorate this first-time achievement at OCCA. Pastor Richard Bickelhaupt gave the commencement address entitled, "Continue Thou," taken from II Timothy 3:14, which was also the class verse.

**Lima Christian Academy** conducted a commencement program on May 24 that included music and speeches performed by the LCA student body. *Elisabeth Fickel* walked as LCA's lone graduate. She plans to attend Bob Jones University this fall. The class verse was Isaiah 55:8.

Pastor Jay Lucas of Grace Community Church (Washington Court House) addressed **Fayette Christian School's** graduates during a commencement service on May 24. He spoke on "Pursuing Christ" taken from Philippians 3:4-14. Those graduating from FCS include: *Taylor Brown* (co-valedictorian), *Macie Riley* (co-valedictorian), *Jenna Sams* (salutatorian), *Grace Ernst, Spencer Hanusik, Michael Miller, and Sam Sheeter*. Proverbs 2:5-9 were the class verses.

Continued... pg 2

**"If we work upon marble, it will perish; if we work upon brass, time will efface it; if we rear temples, they will crumble into dust; but if we work upon immortal minds and instill into them just principles, we are then engraving that upon tablets which no time will efface, but will brighten and brighten to all eternity."**

*~ Daniel Webster*

**Cozaddale Baptist Academy** honored six graduates at a graduation ceremony on May 24. *Alayna Carpio* (valedictorian), *Joseph Wegener* (salutatorian), *Clara Armacost*, *Hannah Stone*, *Anna Harris*, and *Coye Webster* all walked. Pastor Lee Carr and Missionary Steven Harris both challenged the graduating class from Psalm 11, “if the foundations be destroyed.” Carpio and Harris plan to attend Master’s Baptist College; Wegener will continue his studies at God’s Bible School & College; Armacost will attend Hyles-Anderson College; Webster will attend Fairhaven Baptist College; Stone will work and serve the Lord in her home church. II Timothy 3:14 was the class verse.

*Ida Howell* was **Zanesville Christian School’s** lone graduate of 2019. The school honored her during a special service on May 25. Dave Stratton gave the commencement address with a message entitled, “Lessons from the Airport” and referenced I John 2:1. Howell will begin studies this fall at Pensacola Christian College, where she plans to major in Elementary Education. The class verse was Psalm 138:8.

*Tristen Barajaz*, *Marcus Larsen* (valedictorian), and *Andrew Ridenour* graduated from **Heritage Christian**

**School (Findlay)** on May 12 during a commencement ceremony where Dr. Bruce Meyer, a Bible faculty member at Maranatha Baptist University, addressed the class with a message entitled “Washing the Disciples’ Feet” taken from John 13. All three graduates left the following day for a mission trip to England where they sang in church services, distributed 4,500 pieces of gospel literature, evangelized in the town square, and embarked on a sight-seeing excursion. Larsen plans to study business at Cedarville University; Ridenour will pursue a vocation in criminal justice; Barajaz remains undecided about his future plans.

Principal Frank Davis gave the commencement address at **Mentor Christian School’s** May 24th ceremony. He expounded on Psalm 86:11, the school’s theme verse for 2018-2019. Those graduates of the MCS Class of 2019 include: *Michael Bradford*, *Emma Hixson* (valedictorian), *Ian Marotta* (salutatorian), *Mikayla Hoynes*, *Brycen Hurst*, and *Jennifer Sole*. Both Hixson and Marotta were members of the American Christian Honor Society. Bradford enlisted in the Army with hopes of making it into the Special Forces unit. Hoynes will pursue vocational schooling this fall. Hixson will study humanities and piano pedagogy at Bob Jones University.

Hurst plans to pursue a job in welding/pipelines. Marotta will attend the University of Akron where he will major in Biochemistry, and Sole will attend Cleveland State University to study developmental psychology. The class verses were I John 4:7, 10-11.

**Wayside Christian School** conducted its graduation service on May 25 with Pastor Kevin Rothhaar addressing the graduates. He spoke on “The New Life.” Those who walked include: *Derek Schoch*, *Natalie Wert* (valedictorian), *Madison Greene*, *Zyan Hickman* (salutatorian), and *Nicholas Fishpaw*. Romans 8:28 served as the class verse.

**Heritage Christian School (Brooklyn)** had fifteen graduates walk during a May 24th ceremony. Former pastor of Cleveland Baptist Church, Kevin Folger, addressed the class with a message entitled, “You can trust God,” from Deuteronomy 31:7-8. The HCS Class of 2019 include: *Samuel Aponte*, *Omar Dalbah*, *Kyle Grimm*, *Jason Huff*, *Sara Ketter*, *Niwe Mugeni*, *Anna Gnguyen*, *Sameuel Paredes*, *Vanessa Petrovets*, *Makenzie Plum* (salutatorian), *Maria Jose Rojas Ayala*, *Ryan Schweitzer*

Continued pg 4

## BCSO Board Meeting summary

### BCSO board elects new Secretary, Treasurer

The BCSO board of directors elected Mark Falls as its new treasurer and Jeremy Bickelhaupt as secretary at the annual board meeting held at Mansfield Baptist Temple on May 9, 2019.

Tim England, who held both positions for many years, retired from his role at Heritage Christian School (Findlay) at the end of the 2018-2019 calendar year. During the

meeting, he was honored with a plaque for his service.

Falls is the pastor of Newark Baptist Temple and oversees the work at Licking County Christian Academy.

Bickelhaupt serves as the administrator and principal of Ottawa County Christian Academy (Oak Harbor), a ministry of Grace Baptist Church.

The board also decided to cancel the BCSO Music Festival for the 2019-2020 calendar year. A state youth legislative day was discussed as a possibility to replace the music festival. All BCSO schools are asked to contact Executive Director, Keith Hamblen, if there is interest in participation.

After having met with two more legislators, BCSO Legislative Director, Izaak VanderSchel, updated the board regarding the progress of the organization’s pursuit of tuition tax credits.

The *Building & Battling* newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Buckeye Christian School Organization. Its purpose is to disseminate information pertinent to our member schools in efforts to “build” a good work, as well as to serve as a tool for “battling” the secular worldview that our culture impresses upon our students. Articles may be submitted for publication, but they will be subject to editing and approval. All submissions can be sent in MS Word (.doc) or PDF format to: [keithhamblen@gmail.com](mailto:keithhamblen@gmail.com).

# Lighthouse Legal Seminar summary

## The local church warned of emerging threats

DAYTON (OH) – Attorneys Terry Hamilton and Jim Robideau of Lighthouse Legal Ministries (Ashtabula) conducted a seminar on May 16 to discuss issues relating to the local church and their umbrella ministries.

Hamilton discussed the emerging threats to ministries, including the push to pass transgender rights. He encouraged churches and ministries to speak up and seek exemptions when local communities push for laws advocating for transgender rights. He recommended basing these exemptions on religious rights, which must be granted. Hamilton stressed the importance of staying informed and aware of the happenings in local communities.

Hamilton also touched on “conversion therapy,” reinforcing the idea that churches are protected when the method is administered to “congregants.”

Robideau lectured on how ministries can increase revenue and decrease expenses. To increase revenue, he gave the following suggestions: 1) Avoid granting receipts for clothing and household items; 2) Furniture, business machines, and automobiles must have documentation. Take photographs of these items. Anything valued over \$250 must be described and a letter/receipt of acknowledgement should be given; 3) Keep online giving simple and convenient. Just be aware of fees associated with the services utilized; 4) Crowdfunding (i.e. GoFundMe,

Fundrazr, etc.) is not tax-deductible; 5) Consider leasing portions of your property for cell tower usage. Always have a lawyer examine contracts before committing; but this can be a monetary blessing.

To decrease expenses, Robideau encouraged ministries to: 1) defer maintenance on properties; 2) switch service providers; 3) renegotiate debt terms; 4) reduce staff costs; 5) stay abreast of energy costs and looking for ways to reduce them; 6) Outsource (printing, websites, accounting, designing, etc); 7) Work with other ministries to combine similar services.

Robideau continued the seminar by discussing how churches and their ministries can avoid administrative headaches. The first step is to avoid “trust fund” issues whenever there is involvement of withholding or submitting funds to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)/government. Whoever is doing this for your ministry is 100-percent held responsible. Robideau encouraged implementing “payroll processors” such as: MinistryWorks, Church Shield, AccuPay, etc. He also warned of drawing IRS attention. Avoid this by using accountable plans for business expense reimbursements that meet IRS requirements.

The Lighthouse legal team also addressed how churches can avoid donation and benevolence problems. There are many legitimate needs, but there are also many

scammers. Robideau suggested having a written benevolence policy in place. He recommended the following: 1) Have an approved list of circumstances for benevolent giving. 2) Require a written request. 3) Have documentation of the need. 4) Always have an unrelated person verify the need. 5) Have the need approved by a church official. 6) Limit the dollar amount. 7) Limit the number of times benevolence can be received. Ministries should also be aware that any benevolence given to staff members is considered taxable income.

Hamilton closed out the seminar with a session entitled, “Are we witnessing the resurrection of religious liberty?” He spoke of the Founding Fathers’ establishing of religious liberty, the threat of losing it, and the current trend of resurrecting it. He encouraged prayer for our country and the continuation of the religious freedoms we enjoy today.

The BCSO thanks Travis Burke for attending the seminar and providing this summary. Please be sure to contact Lighthouse Legal Ministries with any ministry-related legal questions or concerns. You can find them online at [lighthousebaptistministries.org](http://lighthousebaptistministries.org).

# What's my role in the BCSO?

By Jeremy Bickelhaupt, B&B Editor

The purpose of the Buckeye Christian School Organization is to strengthen the local church by *building* (academically and spiritually) our students up and *battling* (legislatively) the secular culture that impresses upon them. This newsletter's aim is to keep its readers informed about the building and battling efforts of the organization.

You may not work in a BCSO school. You may not have children attending one either.

Perhaps you feel like you have no ties to the BCSO at all. But, if you are reading this newsletter, and you have a burden for Christian education, then you have an important role to play— a role that increases in importance with each passing day... the role of prayer warrior.

Building and battling in our own power is vain and fruitless, but believing God can build and fight for us through prayer (Matthew 21:22) is paramount in our effort to build momentum for the

Christian education movement here in Ohio. It is the hope and goal of BCSO leadership to see more and more individuals obtain and read through each *Building & Battling* newsletter— gaining awareness of the issues facing Christian education and using it as a prayer list! When Christians unify in the common bond of prayer, seeking out God's guidance and blessings, then great and exceeding things will come to our organization and its member schools.

## BCSO schools looking to fill open positions

**Heritage Christian School in Findlay, Victory Christian School in Urbana, and Licking County Christian School in Newark** are all seeking to fill open principal positions.

**Ottawa County Christian Academy (Oak Harbor)** seeks a third- and fourth-grade combination teacher.

To inquire about these staffing needs, please visit [bcsoschools.org/member-schools](http://bcsoschools.org/member-schools) and follow the links to each school's website.

### "Graduates" from pg 2

(valedictorian), **Daniel Szerszen, Hanna Varwig,** and **Elizabeth Workman.** The class verse was Deuteronomy 31:8.

**Andrew Huff** and **Ivan Inayat** graduated from **High Street Christian Academy** on June 2. Chad Mainous gave the commencement address. Huff plans to attend Columbus State this fall, while Inayat will attend Pensacola Christian College.

Pastor Gary Click had the privilege of giving the commencement address at **Temple Christian Academy (Fremont)** on June 2. Click's son, **Garrison Click**, was the lone graduate of TCA. The address was titled, "I give it all," based on I Chronicles 21:23.

**Kyleigh Wilson** was **Marietta Christian School's** graduating senior. The school conducted the commencement service on May 10 at the school, where Mr. Bruce Fourman, MCS's former volleyball coach, gave the address. Superintendent, Dr. Myron Guiler, also spoke and ended the service with a dedication prayer for the senior. Wilson plans to train to assist a special needs individual and would like to eventually attend a Christian college. Romans 8:37 served as the class verse.

