

# BUILDING & Battling

A quarterly publication of the



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## A Day at the Statehouse

BCSO planning a potential student gathering in capital

Keith Hamblen, *BCSO Executive Director*

A BCSO program we have kept "backburned" is assembling our high schoolers in Columbus for a day to see the General Assembly and committee meetings in action, to give opportunity for the students (and teachers) to meet their representatives and senators in their Columbus offices, and to talk to their representatives about a specific issue or two (for example, the Backpack Bill and the SAFE Act).

Rep Gary Click (State Representative and continuing pastor of Fremont Baptist Temple) has agreed to help us with this (at least to some degree). Furthermore, right now we have both the Senate President and the Speaker of the House as friends, and my guess is that they will be happy to meet with

us at least for a few minutes. We also have two State Supreme Court Justices (Sharon Kennedy, Pat DeWine) who attended the recent David Barton event in the atrium of the Capital, led by Pastor Click, which indicates some sympathy on their part to the biblical nature of our civil government structures, and I am hoping that they will be reelected this fall and be willing to address our group!

This would be a great opportunity for our students (and all of us). We are looking at December 6-7 (Tuesday-Wednesday) as best dates, but these have not yet been finalized. Please be in prayer as we prepare to make this event happen!

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**"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

**BCSO Board of Directors' Meeting**  
August 4  
Columbus  
10 a.m.

**AACS National Legislative Conference**  
Sept 12-14  
Washington, D.C.

**Great Lakes Christian Educators' Convention**  
Sept. 29-30  
Kalamazoo, MI

**NCNT Application Deadline**  
Sept. 30

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

### CONNECT WITH US!



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



# EVENT REPORT:

## 2022 Creative Writing Contest results

Each year, BCSO students in grades 4-8 are encouraged to participate in this national contest. Students may submit either an original poem or short story. Here are the 2022 BCSO winners as selected by the American Association of Christian Schools:

### ELEMENTARY:

Short Story: Julia Chait (5), Heritage Christian School (Brooklyn, OH).

Poetry: Gabriella Ewing (5), Heritage Christian School (Brooklyn, OH)

### JUNIOR HIGH:

Short Story: Brianna Seaman (8), High Street Christian Academy (Columbus, OH).

Poetry: Adam Kozak (7), Ottawa County Christian Academy (Oak Harbor, OH) .

# Faith Becomes Sight...

## BCSGO disburses first awards of inaugural year; Looking ahead to greater blessings

by Jeremy Bickelhaupt, *Building & Battling* editor

For many years, the leadership of the BCSO and its member schools have been praying for “significant financial relief” for our school families. In 2021, God answered that prayer and allowed the creation of the the Buckeye Christian Scholarship Granting Organization (BCSGO).

Josh Lynn, BCSGO director, has reported that the organization received \$56,986.91 in donations and awarded \$52,144.68 in scholarships for the Fall 2022 disbursement period! All funds were designated to either a specific school or a specific family.

Lynn reminds applicants and donors that the BCSGO is currently accepting donations for the Spring 2023 disbursement. The donation and scholarship application deadline is December 31, 2022. Spring scholarship awards will be disbursed in early February. Families must apply separately for each award.

Those wishing to stay up-to-date on all news relating to the BCSGO as well as approaching deadlines should like and follow the newly-created Facebook page [@ohiosgo](#). Individual schools should also be proactive in spreading the word about the opportunity to donate by sharing these online posts to their own Facebook and other social media platforms.

In Ephesians 3:20-21, the Apostle Paul says, “*Now unto him that is able to do **exceeding abundantly** above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church*

*by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”* Certainly, God can do mighty things for our schools if we but ask. He is able! Please continue to pray for the Lord’s blessing on our efforts to help our school families and to significantly increase our reach into our communities.



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)

# “Teamwork makes the dream work...”

Keith Hamblen, BCSO Executive Director

BCSO is a tool in the hands of our local churches useful in maintaining and expanding civil protections for our churches (and schools) and for God-fearing Ohioans in general. Most recently the Lord has blessed through BCSO in seeing maintained the proper relationship between church and state (in the "08" regulation) and in the passing into law the tuition tax credits and SGO programs, financially helping families wanting to enroll their children in our kind of church-operated schools.

It is hard to be a leader when your team isn't listening, and I have been blessed in my role as BCSO Director to work with pastors and principals who stay somewhat knowledgeable on these issues and who show up for

Board meetings! Also, many of our people serve as directors of our "building and battling" initiatives, representing the body-of-Christ structure that is "the greatest of them all"— administrative structures! Nine of our nineteen schools supplied leadership for at least one of our twelve major initiatives this year (high school fine arts and Nationals, elementary fine arts, SGO launching, high school soccer and volleyball tournaments, junior and senior high basketball tournaments, Board of Education participation, General Assembly and Governor's office contact, Educators' Conference development and coordination, website and newsletter development).

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## BCSO schools preparing to attend Great Lakes Christian Educators' Convention this fall

All BCSO member schools are encouraged to attend the Great Lakes Christian Educators' Convention on Sept. 29-30.

Every three years, Christian educators from all over the Great Lakes region will assemble in Kalamazoo for a two-day convention that is geared to challenge and edify those who have surrendered to Christian education. This convention is a valuable resource to our school staffs and should be a high scheduling priority for all BCSO schools.

We are currently looking for workshop presenters and exhibitors. If you are willing or interested in conducting a workshop or exhibiting, or if you know someone who would like this opportunity, please contact Mr. Rick Ash at [rick.ash@tcafreemont.org](mailto:rick.ash@tcafreemont.org) or visit [www.glcec.net](http://www.glcec.net).

Registration is now open. Discounts are available to early registrants.

Save the date! Let's make Ohio well-represented this fall at the 2022 GLCEC.



# How to Experience Growth in Uncertain Times

Learning to trust God completely to supply the need when times are tough

Jeremy Bickelhaupt, Editor, *Building & Battling*



*“And they that know thy name **will put their trust in thee**: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.” ~ Psalms 9:10*

Times are tough. Inflation is at record highs and, with the exception of a very few, our legislative leadership is at record lows. Families are struggling to stretch their dollar to provide basic essentials like groceries, utilities, and gasoline. To say that we are living in ‘uncertain’ times has never been more accurate.

No doubt, the current social, political and economic turmoil is affecting everyone, including our Christian schools—especially the latter. Many schools are having to increase their tuition and fees in order to stay afloat. That, of course, is passed directly to the families of our schools. Many families have expressed either the difficulty or impossibility of having to pay for a private education.

I serve as administrator and principal of Ottawa County Christian Academy, and these are the struggles I hear

everyday. In fact, OCCA had to increase its tuition and fees this past spring to offset many of the increasing operational costs. When it came time to send out the annual Letter of Intent, I attached an additional letter that explained the need to increase our tuition and fees. I prayed that God would allow our families to receive the news with understanding, which they all did. Though they all understood the ‘why,’ they expressed concern for the ‘how’—as in “How am I going to afford this!?” Every time, I replied with, “Trust God.”

Many years ago, OCCA struggled as a very small school. We were barely at twenty total K-12 students for nearly ten years. We were desperate for students, and in our own wisdom, we just prayed that God would send us more students. He did; however, we accepted just about everyone who applied, whether or not they were supportive of our Christian educational endeavor. This led to many conflicts of interest and discord within our academy. As quickly as families came, they left. Long story short, I was on the verge of quitting as I seemingly had to put out fires nearly everyday. I was frustrated with the lack of growth, both numerically and spiritually.

Ultimately, I believe there was a constant dichotomy between the school administration and several families because we had been asking amiss. We were asking God to provide our school with *more* students and families... *any* students and families. The problem was that we were asking God to supply the quantity without trusting him to provide the quality. Our line of thought was that if God supplied the number, it would be our job to improve the quality of those He sent. We were

**There is such a great need to approach God with the right heart attitude—one of complete trust and confidence, not one of skepticism and fear.**

still partly relying on what *we* could do. That is not how trust works. How silly to think that our individual endeavors make or break God’s plan. If God wanted a Christian school to operate in Oak Harbor, Ohio, *He* would make it happen. With this new-found conviction, my prayer changed! In 2014, I began asking, “Lord, send us the *right* people. Send us good, supportive families... ones *You* would want us to have... ones to whom we can minister.” I believe that prayer initiated *complete* trust. We began to trust *completely* not only for His provision, but also for His wisdom. If that meant His removing problematic personalities, we would trust Him to replace those with supportive ones. Eight years later, we are in a much better spot.

Yes, the times are uncertain, but our God is Constant! This spring I had to have some serious conversations with some of our families about trusting God to supply. I reassured them that God would supply if they but trusted Him. The

usual reply was, “but I am trusting Him.” Yet, there was doubt in their voice and a troubled attitude due to the uncertainty surrounding them. That is not trust. I encouraged them to give their need *completely* over to God and let Him supply it. There is

such a great need to approach God with the right heart attitude—one of *complete* trust and confidence, not one of skepticism and fear. Remember Peter. He was a successful water walker when his trust was *completely* on the Master; He sank when fear overtook him and he took his eyes off of his Sustainer.

God has blessed our academy to abundance. Last year, we completed construction on a new educational wing for our growing elementary department. I’m also glad to report that, to date, we haven’t lost a single family from last year, despite the cost increases for them. I believe they are learning to have *complete* trust in God. In fact, our enrollment is up 19% from last year, and those new classrooms are already at capacity! For the fifth-straight year, we will see a record number of students enrolled... the student’s we *trusted* God would send us.



A look at OCCA's newly-completed elementary building and recess area.