

The Bible Baptist Church meets at 4174 Wheatley Road Suite 200 Richfield, Ohio

Service Schedule:

Sunday

10:00 AM - Bible Study 11:00 AM - Morning Service 6:00 PM - Evening Service

Friday

7:00 PM - Bible Study

Phone: (330) 659-6561

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 452 Richfield, Ohio 44286

E-mail:

RichfieldBBC@gmail.com

Find Us Online at:

- www.BBCRichfield.com
- www.facebook.com/ biblebaptistchurchrichfield/
- https://usa.life/RBBC

Services Broadcast Online at:

- Sunday Services: https://www.youtube.com/ @richfieldbiblebaptistchurc5211
- <u>Friday Bible Study:</u> https://rumble.com/user/ RichfieldBBC/live

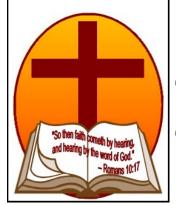
Live with Pastor Al

WHKW 1220 AM & 96.9 FM

- Sundays 10:00pm
- Fridays 1:30pm

Follow Online at:

- www.LiveWithPastorAl.com
- www.facebook.com/ LiveWithPastorAl/
- Telegram: https://t.me/ LiveWithPastorAl
- https://rumble.com/user/ RichfieldBBC/live



~ Published by the Richfield Bible Baptist Church, Richfield, Ohio ~ December 2025 ~

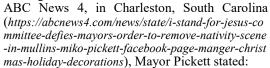
What's Wrong with the Nativity Scene?

By Pastor Alfred B. Davis

It seems every year, with the advent of the Christmas season, comes the annual hue and cry over the constitutionality of displaying a nativity scene on public property. This year, the humbug spirit manifested itself in Mullins, South Carolina, and Pataskala, Ohio.

In Mullins, Mayor Miko Pickett ordered the removal of a nativity scene from city property, arguing the display makes the city appear "not neutral" on religion. The three-by-four-foot nativity scene, erected by the Mullins Beautification Committee, was a part of a larger holiday

display including a snowman, Santa Claus, wreaths, and Committee lights. Chair Kimberly Byrd said she received a text from Mayor Pickett ordering the nativity scene to be removed from public property, noting some citizens have different beliefs. However, in a November 26 Facebook post, according to WCVI



I would like to clarify my reported comment about the nativity scene. I requested that the nativity scene be removed solely from the PUBLIC parking area. The reason for this is the separation of Church and State applies to municipalities as well, regarding religious symbols on public property and parks.

As of December 2, the Mullins nativity scene was still standing.

In Pataskala, Ohio, City Manager Timothy Hickin disallowed a request for a live nativity scene. Susan Conley had asked to have a live nativity scene on the City's Veterans Green as part of a holiday-themed farmers market in December. Mayor Mike Compton, in an October 31 article in the Black Chronicle (https://black chronicle.com/midwest/ohio/exclusive-mayor-says-nativity-al lowable-challenges-ramaswamy/), said that "a city employee automatically rejected the live nativity based on direction from the city's law director from several years in the past".

Conley contacted attorneys at Jones Day and First Liberty Institute, who sent a letter to the city on Oct. 24, demanding Pataskala allow the permit by Oct. 31 or face a lawsuit.

Even Ohio gubernatorial candidate Vivek Ramaswami – a Hindu – weighed in, posting on X

(formerly Twitter) on October 29:

The city of Pataskala, Ohio recently denied a petition from local residents to set up a live nativity scene at a holiday-themed farmers market in December. This is blatantly unconstitutional. Denying permits for religious displays on public property because of their content is a First Amendment violation & has a chilling effect on all religious faiths. In recent years, Christianity has been unfairly targeted by secular political leaders; in the future, it could easily be other faiths too. But it's always wrong, uncon-

(Continued on page 2)

Merry Christmas!

Coming Events at the BBC

DECEMBER 2025

24 - 7pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

25 - Christmas Day

31 - New Year's Eve

JANUARY 2026

1 - New Year's Day

19 - Martin Luther King

Please Note:

Use of sources, quotes, and other references does not constitute an endorsement of any publication, individual, organization, or ministry by the Richfield Bible Baptist Church, the Bible Baptist Beacon, or Pastor Davis.



Spotlights In Baptist History

Is Giving Better Than Receiving? Acts 20:35

By J. O. Rust, Nashville, TN, The Baptist Argus, 1897

The Gospels do not record this familiar saying of Jesus. Paul quoted it and Luke wrote it down, and so it is preserved to us.

"It is more blessed to give than to receive;" that is a fundamental truth; it is axiomatic. Yet it is much disbelieved. The simple-hearted are incredulous; sin and selfishness doubt it and despise it: maturer judgment understands and assents to it; but only piety practices it. Maybe it would be better to say that this is a much believed and unpracticed truth.

WHAT IS IT TO GIVE?

First - It is not a thoughtless, hasty indulgence or soft selfishness. A man sees a beggar; he is touched by a quick, shallow pity, and tosses a penny to be rid of his pity. That is not giving; it is a bribe to conscience; it is a cheap way to buy yourself off from duty. You hush up regret, you purchase job-lots of self-righteousness, and you get the needy off of your hands at five or ten cents a head. It is the mistake of your life to call this charity.

Second - The giving of this text is not that interchange of presents customary at Christmas times and other occasions of joy. These are not Christmas gifts, they are Christmas courtesies. I would not say a word against this beautiful custom; it might be well to offer a caution against sinful extravagance, and the burdens pride imposes on those too poor to enjoy this expensive pleasure, and also against a mercenary feeling of reciprocity that unconsciously arises; the only criticism I offer is, let us not confuse these courtesies with charity, and misname an interchange of presents-giving. In Luke 14:12 - Jesus says that we should not invite choice companions and rich neighbors to dine with us, if we do it in expectation of a return of the courtesy; but, if we would be truly charitable, call in the poor and the suffering who cannot recompense us. It is so much easier to practice courtesy than charity; and men have been prodigal in presents who never did any real giving in all their days.

Third – The bequests of the dead are also falsely called gifts. You can only give what you have; when you are dead you do not have it, hence you cannot give it, hence you can give only while you are alive. One relinquishes all he has at death; he can leave it, but he cannot give it. Our text is to be practiced by living people, not by dead ones; it is not an epitaph for tombstones, but a rule for the field and workshop and counting-room and study. Oftentimes avarice holds on hard to its hoardings till death comes to loosen the grip; then the scheming brain proposes a last shrewd bargain on the brink of the grave and would purchase the fair name and fame of charity by some popular bequest. I say in all fairness that is not giving.

I am not saying anything against bequests. It is better for a man to leave his money in the right place than in the wrong place; if we will not give right while we are alive, let us leave it right after we are dead. Bequests have greatly blessed the earth, and are to be greatly praised; but this post-mortem charity is not nigh so blessed as for a living brain and a loving heart to give and receive, and rejoice in the blessing of the giving.

Fourth - Real giving is to render salutary service. Jesus says, (Matthew 5:42): "Give to every man that asketh of thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away." In plain English that means to render salutary service to every man, in gift or loan. You must always give; but you are under no obligation to give

(Continued on page 5)

What's Wrong with the Nativity Scene?

(Continued from page 1)
stitutional, and un-American...
(https://x.com/VivekGRamaswamy/
status/19836238977 79204390)

According to WBNS, Channel 10, in Columbus, Pataskala did an about-face, now allowing the live nativity:

On Thursday [October 30], Mayor Compton and city leaders re-evaluated policies, coming to the solution that religious expression on public property would be acceptable, so long as it is clear that it is not sponsored by the city. (https://www.10tv.com/article/new s/local/city-of-pataskala-nativity-s cene-threat-legal-action/530-83da 80f0-6995-43f2-b46b-f00f1c6a5cb c)

Thankfully, in both Mullins and Pataskala, organizers of the nativity displays stood their ground and refused to remove the displays. Fortunately, they did not have to go to court to do so. Had they needed to however, it is likely that they would have won because the Supreme Court held 5-to-4 in the 1984 Lynch v. Donnelly case (https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/465/668/) that it is not a violation of the Constitution for a community to display a nativity scene along with other secular elements on public property:

The city of Pawtucket, R.I., annually erects a Christmas display in a park owned by a nonprofit organization located in the heart of the city's shopping district. The display includes, in addition to such objects as a Santa Claus house, a Christmas tree, and a banner that reads "SEASONS GREET-INGS," a creche or Nativity scene, which has been part of this annual display for 40 years or more. Respondents brought an action in Federal District Court, challenging the inclusion of the creche in the display on the ground that it violated the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment, as made applicable to the states by the Fourteenth Amendment. The District Court upheld the challenge and permanently enjoined the city from including the creche in the display. The Court of Appeals affirmed.

Held: Notwithstanding the

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

Roger & Tammy Tooley Church Planting in England (Currently on the Field)

John Yingling General Director Baptist International Outreach Jefferson City, Tenessee Mike & Debby Drust Church Planting in Albania (Currently on the Field)

Mt. Pisgah Bible Printing Ministry Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church Oliver Springs, Tennessee

Jim Robideau Lighthouse Legal Ministries at Lighthouse Baptist Church Ashtabula, Ohio

Jim & Emi Civale Church Planting Assistance in the Samoan Islands (Currently in the USA)

(Continued on page 4)

Words Worth Considering...

"We're saying MERRY CHRISTMAS again!" —President Donald J. Trump

"One of the amazing truths about salvation is the realization that Christ doesn't simply fix what's wrong in our lives, but He genuinely gives us a new life in Him."

—Jerry Fincannon

"Although my memory's fading, I remember two things very clearly: I am a great sinner and Christ is a great Savior."
—John Newton (1725-1807)

"No one in hell can say, I went to Christ and He rejected me."

—Charles H. Spurgeon

"God didn't call a man to fill a pulpit with politics, psychology, or popularity contest. He called him to preach the Book! (THE BIBLE) If a man doesn't believe the Bible is the inerrant, infallible, inspired Word of God, he has no business standing behind a pulpit." —Oliver B. Greene

"The hour of revealing is at hand. Many who have been claiming to build the kingdom of God were just storing up bricks for the Tower of Babel."

—Willie Griffith

"If machines can do all the thinking and decision making for us humans, we are free from all restraints of rationality (and conscience) and can do whatever we want. Humans will have moved beyond accountability to anyone or anything. We will need no teachers or mentors, we will not need one another, we will not need institutions, and we certainly will not need God."

—Fay Voshell

"Of course everyone would like to have the readings taken directly from the original manuscripts, but they are no longer in existence. So far, there have not been found any autographs of the New Testament surviving today. This we deem to be the wisdom of God for surely we would have made them idols as the children of Israel did with the serpent of brass which Moses had made nearly 800 years earlier (II Ki. 18:4). Hezekiah had to destroy the brazen serpent because the people began to worship it instead of the God who had delivered them from the plague. People would do the same today — worship the paper instead of the God about whom it was written. We do not worship the Bible. We worship and serve the living God of whom it speaks." —Dr. Floyd Nolen Jones

"You can't walk with God and run with the Devil at the same time." —Anthony Hipps

"The killing of unborn children will bring the judgement of God on a nation that allows the shedding of innocent blood."

—Senator Richard Cash

"People tend to evaluate churches by their friendliness, activities, events or things like age-specific groups and music. Rarely do you hear a church described by the character, power and content of its preaching."

—Skip Heitzig

MINISTRY FOCUS



Christmas Related Articles Available Online

Over the years Pastor Davis has written a number of articles, and a few parodies relating to Christmas You can find them online at our radio program webpage, LiveWithPastorAl.com. We hope that they will be a blessing and an encouragement to you as you celebrate the Birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Merry Christmas!

Articles

- The Birth of Christ According To the Scriptures https://pq.mapleknoll.us/birthofchrist.pdf
- The Spirit of Herod Is Alive and Well http://pg.mapleknoll.us/TheSpiritofHerod.pdf
- What's Wrong with the Nativity Scene? http://pg.mapleknoll.us/WhatsWrongwiththeNativityScene
- Who were the Shepherds? http://pg.mapleknoll.us/WhoWeretheShepherds.html
- Why was the Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ Necessary? http://pg.mapleknoll.us/WhyVirginBirthNecessary.html
- Why was Jesus made a "little lower than the angels"? http://live.mapleknoll.us/littlelowerthanangels.html

Parodies

- T'was the Night Before Winter Fest http://pg.mapleknoll.us/winterfest.html
- How the ACLU Stole Christmas! (With Apologies to Dr. Suess)
 http://pg.mapleknoll.us/HowtheACLUStoleChristmas.html
- Kitty Claws are Coming Around http://pg.mapleknoll.us/KittyClaws

Another way to find these materials is to go to the index page for all the articles (and a few more) that have appeared over the years in the *Bible Baptist Beacon*.

This webpage provides a subject index to all of Pastor Davis's articles, including a heading for Christmas.



Index of Articles by Alfred B. Davis "Pastor Al"

Pastoral Guidance Suggested

You can find it at: https://pg.mapleknoll.us/PGSArticleIndex.html.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Take a break from the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season and join

us for our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight service at 7:00pm on Christmas Eve at the Richfield Bible Baptist Church.

We will start the evening singing celebrating songs the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Then, with the lights down low and candles burning, will Pastor Davis The Birth of read Christ According To



What's Wrong with the Nativity Scene?

(Continued from page 2)

religious significance of the creche, Pawtucket has not violated the Establishment Clause.

The Court went on to further say:

It would be ironic, however, if the inclusion of a single symbol of a particular historic religious event, as part of a celebration acknowledged in the Western World for 20 centuries, and in this country by the people, by the Executive Branch, by the Congress, and the courts for 2 centuries, would so "taint" the city's exhibit as to render it violative of the Establishment Clause. To forbid the use of this one passive symbol — the creche — at the very time people are taking note of the season with Christmas hymns and carols in public schools and other public places, and while the Congress and legislatures open sessions with prayers by paid chaplains, would be a stilted overreaction contrary to our history and to our holdings. If the presence of the creche in this display violates the Establishment Clause, a host of other forms of taking official note of Christmas, and of our religious heritage, are equally offensive to the Constitution.

The Court has acknowledged that the "fears and political problems" that gave rise to the Religion Clauses in the 18th century are of far less concern today. ...We are unable to perceive the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of Rome, or other powerful religious leaders behind every public acknowledgment of the religious heritage long officially recognized by the three constitutional branches of government. Any notion that these symbols pose a real danger of establishment of a state church is farfetched indeed.

... We hold that, notwithstanding the religious significance of the creche, the city of Pawtucket has not violated the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment.

So why the annual objections to the display of nativity scenes on public property? After all, the United States Supreme Court recognizes it as an appropriate cultural, historical, and Constitutionally permissible part of a community's Christmas celebrations – so long as secular elements

such as a Christmas tree or Santa Claus are present. Speaking of which, have you ever heard of the any atheists or organizations such as the American Civil Liberties Union, Freedom From Religion Foundation, American Humanist Association, or Americans United for Separation of Church and State ever suing to remove Santa or a Christmas tree (excuse me, HOLIDAY tree)?

Well, I think the answer lies in an exchange I once heard on the radio between two men: an Orthodox Jew and an atheist. The Jewish man was the radio host, Michael Medved, and the atheist was a caller who took issue with all publicly displayed nativities, not just those on public property. The caller said that, as an atheist, the very sight of a nativity display offended him. He then wanted to know if Medved, being an Orthodox Jew, was offended as well. Medved responded that he was not at all offended by seeing a nativity display or any other Christmas decorations. In fact, he said that he quite enjoyed the festive displays that appeared around town at Christmas time, including the nativity scenes.

Medved then pressed the atheist caller as to why the nativity, but not the Santas

and Christmas trees, were so offensive to him. At first, the caller parroted the usual canards about diversity, multiculturalism, and separation of church and state. But, upon further questioning, the caller revealed the real reason the nativity offended him. The caller said that he used to be a Christian and was very active in his church. Something happened and he became disillusioned, dropped out of church, rejected God, and became an atheist. Now, he said, every time that he sees the Baby Jesus lying in a manger, which is of course the main focus of the nativity scene, it speaks to him saying that he is going to burn in hell for all eternity.

Did you catch that? The supposedly enlightened atheist was convicted of his lost condition by the mere sight of the Babe lying in a manger. He was not really an atheist. He knew who Jesus was and that he himself was a lost sinner on his way to hell. He was the classic example of the sinner, convicted of his sin and lost condition, who comes to a knowledge of the truth of the Gospel but turns away before actually putting his faith in the Christ who died for him. Far from being an atheist, the caller embodied the sad truth of Hebrews 10:26-27:

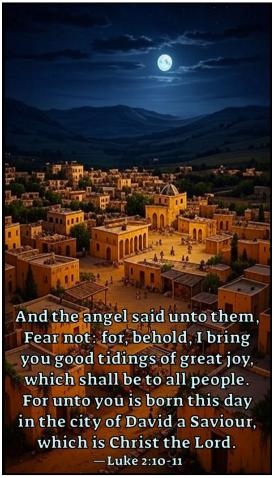
²⁶For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, ²⁷But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

And that, I would say, gets to the heart of why the world objects to nativity displays. It reminds them that they are lost in sin and in need of a Saviour. Rather than deal with the reality of their condition, they attempt to rid themselves of that which reminds them of their lost condition. Santa Claus doesn't remind them of their lost condition. Neither do Christmas trees. But the Babe lying in a manger at the heart of a nativity display, that DOES remind them of their lost condition, and it must be gotten rid of.

But, for those who are willing to acknowledge their lost condition, the Babe lying in the manger is something else entirely different. It is a reminder of Luke 2:11:

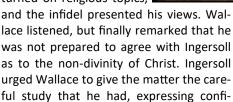
For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

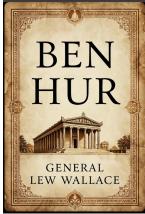
የተተ



How Did General Lew Wallace Come to Write "Ben Hur"?

The origin of the famous book, "Ben Hur," is said to be as follows: "Before and for some time after the American Civil War, General Lew Wallace was inclined to be skeptical, especially as to the divinity of Christ. He happened to meet the notorious [Robert G.] Ingersoll, when the conversation turned on religious topics,





dence that after so doing, he would fully acquiesce in his own view. Wallace determined to give the subject thorough investigation, and for six years he thought, studied, and searched. At the end of that time, this is his own testimony: "I am absolutely convinced that Jesus of Nazareth was not only a Christ and the Christ, but He was my Christ, my Savior, my Redeemer. That fact

settled in my mind, I wrote Ben Hur.''' &

From S. H. Ford, editor, The Christian Repository, 1899, p. 471; via the University of Wisconsin – Madison, digitized documents. Scanned and formatted by Jim Duvall. https://baptisthistoryhomepage.com/ ben.hur.html



Is Giving Better Than Receiving?

(Continued from page 2)

what is asked; your duty is to give only that which is helpful. Your best gift to sloth and lust may be not to give at all and force them to honest toil and clean living. In the verse before us Paul exhorts us to economy and industry that we may have the means to help those who cannot care for themselves; he does not tell us to give undiscriminatingly and unwisely. In this sense alone he quotes Jesus as saying: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

We can give not only what have, but what we are. It is a great thing to give money, but it is a greater thing to give yourself. The secular definition of charity is too narrow; it is restricted to money; it should be broadened to the larger spiritual thought and include men as well. Selfimpartation is the best and worst of all gifts. It is a singular fact that we are stingy with what we have, but we are generous with what we are. Every man is delighted to see himself repeated in his fellows. We give money, but we give heart, soul, character as well. Peter met a cripple at the Beautiful Gate and said: "Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I thee; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth

rise up and walk;" and he handed the omnipotence of God to that dying beggar. Jesus was not a charity agent disbursing funds to the needy. He was strictly a selfgiver. "Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might become rich." No material wealth was his to obscure his purpose and interfere with his plan to give himself to the world. Is it not a law that all great self -givers must be poor? Does not the giving of what we have often prevent the giving of what we are? And sometimes we must lose all we have to learn to give ourselves. And that is the highest giving. What does the world need, money or men? It needs men most; for your wisdom and love to flow its rich, red current into failing brains and fainting hearts, that is the greatest need. This is true giving. Whether "the weak" of our text be those who are frail in body or faith, give them your money, but better give them yourself in helpful, saving service. \$\P\$

From The Baptist Argus, November 11, 1897. p. 3, via Baylor U. digital collection. Scanned and formatted by Jim Duvall. https://www.baptisthistoryhomepage.com/ better.give.than.receive.rust.html



Upon Christ's Nativity, or Christmas

By Rowland Watkyns (fl. 1662)

From three dark places Christ came forth this day; From first His Father's bosom, where He lay, Concealed till now; then from the typic law, Where we His manhood but by figures saw; And lastly from

His mother's womb He came
To us, a perfect God and perfect Man.
Now in a manger lies the eternal Word:
The Word He is, yet can no speech afford;
He is the Bread of Life, yet hungry lies;
The Living Fountain, yet for drink He cries;
He cannot help or clothe Himself at need
Who did the lilies clothe and ravens feed;

He is the Light of Lights,
yet now doth shroud
His glory with our nature as a cloud.
He came to us a Little One, that we
Like little children might in malice be;
Little He is, and wrapped in clouts, lest He
Might strike us dead
if clothed with majesty.

Christ had four beds and those not soft nor brave: The Virgin's womb, the manger, cross, and grave. The angels sing this day, and so will I That have more reason to be glad than they. &

The Offence of the Nativity

Perhaps this is what gives so much offense that even the simplest and least "religious" retelling of the Nativity must be silenced: Christianity is alone among religious faiths in its calm audacity; Jesus alone among religious founders staked his life on the claim that He was the only way to reconcile fallen, broken humans with our Heavenly Father. His life was the gift — to grant us restoration of life beyond death, that we might have life everlasting in the company of God the Father.

-The Federalist Digest, 23 Dec 03

People crave a church with no expectations. That's why the seeker-sensitive churches are large and ours are generally smaller.

-Bob Bixby

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." -Romans 10:17





Sundays at 10:00 PM & Fridays at 1:30 PM on AM 1220 WHKW (Cleveland) LiveWithPastorAl.com

Live with Pastor Al

Listen to...

4174 Wheatley Road, Suite 200, Richfield, Ohio

Meeting at:

Richfield, OH 44286 BBCRichfield.com

P O Box 452

Richfield Bible Baptist Church

A PUBLICATION OF

THE BIBLE BAPTIST BEACON

GOD'S SIMPLE PLAN OF SALVATION

- nighteous, no, not one." (Romans 3:10) WHO IS GOOD? "As it is written, There is none
- short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23) WHO HAS SINNED? "For all have sinned, and come
- Sinned." (Romans 5:12) death passed upon all men, for that all have man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so MHEKE DID SIN COME FROM? "Wherefore, as by one
- Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23) sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through WHAT IS THE PENALTY FOR SIN? "For the wages of
- for us." (Romans 5:8) toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died WHAT IS OUR HOPE? "But God commended His love
- be saved." (Romans 10:9) heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine WHAT SHOULD WE DO? "That if thou shalt confess

be saved." (Romans 10:13) "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall

SERVICES OF THE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH:

•	Friday Bible Study	M9 00:7
•	Wednesday Evening Prayer Service	M9 00:7
•	Sunday Evening Worship Service	MG 00:8
•	Sunday Morning Worship Service	MA 00:11
•	Sunday School	MA 00:01

MINISTRIES OF THE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH:

- Bible Studies & Expository Preaching
- World Missions & Local Evangelism
- LiveWithPastorAl.com Internet Outreach: BBCRichfield.com
- Live With Pastor AI Friday 1:30 PM Late Night Live with Pastor AI — Sunday, 10:00 PM Radio Outreach Ministry on WHKW 1220 AM:

LOCATION OF THE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH:

Richfield, Ohio 44286 4174 Wheatley Rd., Suite 200 Brecksville Roads, in Richfield, Ohio, at: Commons Plaza at the corner of Wheatley and The Bible Baptist Church meets in the Richfield