

# THE WEST VIRGINIA SOUTHERN BAPTIST

January, 2010 VOL. 40, NO. 1

A Cooperative Program ministry gladly telling the stories of God's work in and through WV Southern Baptists



## Youth Evangelism Conference

an official event of the WVCSB & the Cooperative Program

## YEC:10 BRING IT!

When you're in the game--where the competition is ready to take you down, with fans screaming for and against you, and a coach who put you in the game for this moment--you better BRING IT! This is what you were created for; it's your time; it's your place.

What are you gonna do?

Register TODAY! Registration forms and other info are available at [www.YECBringIt.com](http://www.YECBringIt.com).

**\$10** Until 12.16.09  
Guaranteed a T-Shirt

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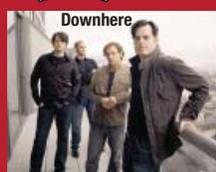
Early Bird Rate  
EXTENDED!!!



Rick Coram



Jason Lovins



Downhere

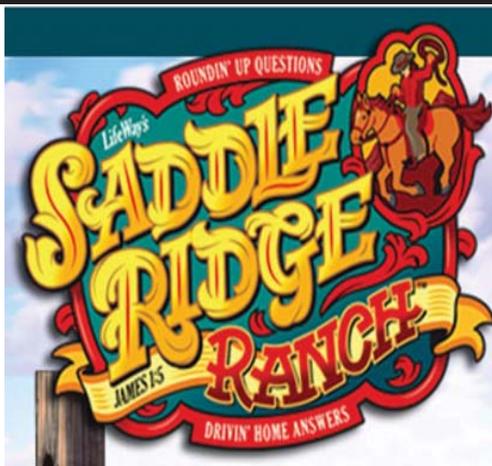
*Bring It!* to Charleston, WV. *Bring It!* is the theme for the Youth Evangelism Conference January 22-23, 2010. YEC is going to be another exciting event as we are challenged to "Bring It" as serious followers of Jesus Christ. What exactly is "it" that we are to bring? As the writer of Psalm 96:8 declares, we are to bring glory to God among all the peoples of the earth: "Give to the Lord the glory He deserves." We bring glory to the Father when we worship Him, passionately pursue our delight in Him, and tell the nations of His glorious character and deeds. Thus, as Christ's ambassadors to the world, we have been entrusted to bring the gospel to everyone we meet that all people might know God and glorify Him.

In 2010, we will be moving to a new venue—the **Charleston Civic Center** and the **Municipal Auditorium**. We are grateful to our partners at Cross Lanes Baptist Church for generously providing space, personnel, and resources the past couple of years. God has blessed our efforts and YEC has grown tremendously requiring us to move to a larger place. God opened the opportunity in Charleston and we're excited to see what He's going to do! **Rick Coram** will be speaking and encouraging us all to engage in evangelism. **Jason Lovins** will lead us to the throne of God and help us respond to Him in corporate worship. Our friends from North Greenville University, **Act II**, will help with drama. Breakout sessions will be lead by our campus ministers. And **downhere** will bring an exciting concert on Friday night as well as share with our students in a special breakout session on Saturday.

Don't miss this exciting opportunity for you and your students to...

**BRING IT!**

For more information go to: [www.YECBringIt.com](http://www.YECBringIt.com) or [www.wvevangelism.com](http://www.wvevangelism.com)



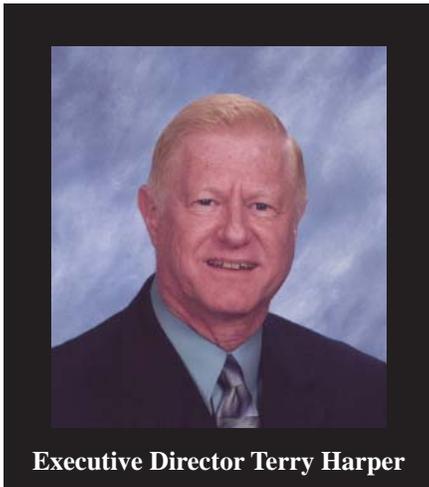
## BE PREPARED FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School 2010 is already off to an exciting start! Twelve people from West Virginia are serving on the state VBS Training Team this year. They are going to the Ridgecrest Conference Center, January 7-9, 2010, to get information about the 2010 VBS materials.

This group will lead the VBS training for all the association training team members on Saturday, February 27, 2010, at Freedom Baptist Church, Nutter Fort. Please note that the areas available for training are being expanded this year. Plan to expand your association team, too. Here are your team members. Those with an (\*) are new areas of training this year.

Jennie Hughes---General Officers  
Lynn Sommerville---Youth  
Bill French---Preteen\*  
Ken Owens---Missions\*  
Marie Davidson---Special Needs\*

Jim Scott---Adults  
Misti French---Children  
Nancy Pickens---Preschool  
Terrie Hannah, Randy Spurgeon---Music



## From the Executive Director:

Rev. Jay Stewart, took the time to sit with me and explain that there are many boys and girls who have never heard the story of Jesus, and God was calling them to go and tell them. That so impressed me as a young lad, still forming my thoughts about God and how He works in our world. Later, as I grew up and went off to college and then started to serve as a Pastor while in seminary, Jay and Laura Lee Stewart came home on furlough and spoke in the church where I was serving, and they shared that they were able to do what they were doing because Southern Baptists gave to the Cooperative Program. He stated that he had other missionary friends who had to spend huge amounts of time writing back to their supporters to keep the funds coming in order just to stay on the field. He was so appreciative that because of Southern Baptists and their support of the Cooperative Program, he could give all of his time to the work God had called him there to do.

I am so thankful for someone who had the faith to start that little Southern Baptist Church, and those who gave the funds to do so. There I was saved and baptized and began my walk with the Lord Jesus. I am also grateful for the seminary where I was trained. Most of my education was paid for by gifts to the Cooperative Program. Gifts that were dropped into an offering plate somewhere across America, that eventually were sent to a seminary in which I could enroll with tuition paid. That was important to a boy who grew up in a family as one of ten children. I am grateful for the education that the young man received at that same seminary, who would eventually become my Pastor. I am so thankful for funds that have supported the International Mission Board, where I would eventually serve on the Board of Trustees for eight years and

see first hand the mighty hand of God bringing the lost of the world to faith in Christ.

Little did I know that one day I would end up in West Virginia working with a state convention which is considered an "emerging region" by the North American Mission Board. This Board provides large sums of support for the work in this relatively new convention. How is NAMB able to do this and where does this support come from? Well, from Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program. I have been so blessed to see first hand the great work done each day by the Cooperative Program. It is the great genius of the Southern Baptist Convention. It is each of us putting our small part with the greater group that puts in its part, because we know that we can do more together than we can do separately! The Cooperative Program supports the work of the International Mission Board, the North American Mission Board, our six seminaries scattered across the country, and it supports the work by our Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission. All of this work is able to go forward and ultimately bring many to Christ, because of the faithfulness of Southern Baptists giving regularly through their local Southern Baptist church to the Cooperative Program.

My own life could have been so different without the Cooperative Program. There are also countless thousands of others who may not even know it, but their lives would be very different had there not been a Cooperative Program. I hope you will encourage your church to increase their gifts to the Cooperative Program. If you or your Pastor needs material to promote CP giving in your church, please call our State Convention office and ask  
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Dear Friends;

During this season of the year, I have thought much about my own Christian heritage. I was so blessed to grow up in a Christian home and be taught about Jesus at an early age. I was blessed that my Mom and Dad took me to a small Southern Baptist Church and there I heard the Gospel preached and was taught the stories of Jesus. I was so impressed as a child by the fact that our Pastor would leave our church to go to the "foreign mission field", as it was called then. His wife was my piano teacher and he had baptized me and was such a compassionate, loving person. I felt we needed them, why would they leave us to go off to another country. My Pastor,

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**The WVCSB is Building Strong  
Foundations for a Strong Future  
We are focused on ministries that  
Build the Kingdom:  
Missions and Evangelism  
Prayer and Spiritual Renewal  
Communication and Public Relations  
Strengthening Churches  
Fellowship  
...Fulfilling the Great Commission**

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for Susan Carpenter or me and we will be happy to send them to you free of charge. Take it from someone who has been a great benefactor, the Cooperative Program works! It is a great way to do Acts 1:8 and take the Gospel to our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth!

Sincerely,

Terry L. Harper

### ASSOCIATIONS TO HOST DEACON TRAINING

Three associations are planning to conduct training for deacons in February.

Monday evening, February 22nd, is deacon training in the Potomac Highlands Association. Tuesday evening, February 23rd, is deacon training in the Monongahela Association, at Evangel, Bridgeport. The Upper Ohio Valley Association will have the training on Wednesday evening February 24th.

The training will be for both deacons and their wives. Check with your Association Missionary for details. A representative from LifeWay Christian Resources will lead the training.

### 2010 PowerPlant Edition to Minister in 19 Cities

By Jonathan Wilson

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) – The North American Mission Board’s PowerPlant initiative – designed to expose students to church planting and evangelism -- has announced it will conduct projects next summer in 19 cities nationwide, including Los Angeles, Atlanta, Denver and Cincinnati.

During the summer of 2009, PowerPlant connected 109 Southern Baptist churches with more than 100 church planters in one-week mission project settings involving more than 1,900 student participants.

Church youth groups – from two people to 200, from those who have finished sixth grade to college students – are eligible to participate in PowerPlant. PowerPlant is a pre-packaged program designed to let students learn “hands-on” about church planting principles and evangelism skills.

“We are excited to partner with great church plants in these cities,” said *John W. Bailey*, team leader for PowerPlant at NAMB. “I think we have a lot of options for youth ministers to choose from. “We have some neat first-time cities like Los Angeles and Madison, Wis., in addition to cities we’ve been in for years, such as Nashville and Chicago.”

Other cities on the 2010 PowerPlant schedule are Port Arthur, Texas; Memphis, Tenn.; Savannah, Ga.; Indianapolis, Ind.; St. Louis, Mo.; Phoenix, Ariz.; Greenville/Spartanburg, S.C.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Seattle, Wash.; Ottawa, Ontario (Canada); San Francisco Bay Area, Calif.; and Charleston, W.Va.

Next summer, PowerPlant projects will start on Monday and end on Saturday. Church youth groups will be teamed up with a church planter, and participants will minister to the community through a variety of assignments that could include sports camps, vacation Bible schools and servant evangelism projects.

In addition to hands-on missions involvement, participants will learn key principles of church planting in morning sessions, and will work with their church plants each afternoon. At the end of the day, youth groups will come together for worship. PowerPlant’s 2010 theme will be “Unhindered,” based on 2 Corinthians 5:14-15.

“We are ready and willing to partner with church youth leaders in mobilizing their students,” Bailey adds. “I think our team can add value to their mission experiences through our relationships with church planters and strategists throughout North America.”

For more information or to register for 2010 PowerPlant, go to [www.power-plant.net](http://www.power-plant.net). or call 1-800-462-8657, option 2. For a free PowerPlant DVD, e-mail [powerplant@namb.net](mailto:powerplant@namb.net). *Jonathan Wilson is strategy development coordinator on NAMB’s student volunteer mobilization team in Alpharetta, Ga.*

*Plymouth Haven Baptist Church worked with Andy DeHart (L) and First Baptist Osprey, FL, worked with Norm Cannada in 2009.*



## WVCSB Calendar

### January

- 3-6 - January Bible Study
- 16 - WVCSB Executive Bd Mtg
- 17 - Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
- 17-19 - Staff/Missionary Update
- 22-23 - Youth Evangelism Conference

### February

- 6 - Tri-County Assoc. Disaster Relief Training
- 11-13 - Facilitator Training
- 11-13 - Basic Training I
- 12-13 - Basic Training II
- 14 - Racial Reconciliation Sunday
- 15-21 - Focus on WMU
- 20 - Men’s Ministry Plan. Mtg
- 21 - PHASE ONE: *Praying... Across West Virginia* Launch
- 22-24 - Deacon Training
- 26-27 - WMU Officers’ Council
- 26-27 - State VBS Clinic
- 28 - Volunteer Recognition Sunday

### March

- 5-6 - Bi-Vocational Pastors Retreat
- 7-13 - Youth Week
- 7-14 - Week of Prayer for North American Missions & Annie Armstrong Offering
- 10-13 - Disaster Relief Trng
- 12-13 - Marriage Enrichment Retreat
- 14 - Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 14 - PHASE TWO: *The Main Event...Across West Virginia*
- 14 - PHASE THREE: *Find It Here...Across West Virginia* Launch
- 18 - WVCSB Order of Business Committee Mtg
- 19-20 - WMU Missions Celebration
- 20 - Mountain State Assoc. Disaster Relief Training
- 21 - Substance Abuse Prevention Sunday
- 26-27 - Ministers’ Wives Retreat
- 28 - On Mission: Planting New Congregations Sunday

## CANAAN VALLEY HOSTS ARCHERY TOURNAMENT

Pastor Mark Joseph worked with the Canaan Valley Resort to host a 3-D Archery Tournament on September 26. In spite of the rain and blustery wind, 20 people participated in the tournament. It was the first archery tournament held in the area for several years. All the participants were enthusiastic about being in another shoot next year.

Brother Mark is pastor of *Canaan Valley Baptist Church*. He is also a NAMB appointed missionary for the resort community.

Joseph utilized the 3-D Archery targets housed at the state convention office.

[below] taking aim at one of the targets on the range at Canaan Valley Resort]



## YSC PLANNING UNDERWAY

Randy Spurgeon met with youth and music leaders from across the state in order to continue making plans for the **2010 YSC** event. [below]

YSC is scheduled for April 24, 2010. Practice will again be held at Good Shepherd Baptist Church in Teays Valley. The Concert will be at the Charleston Mall.



## WVCSB PASTORS' CONFERENCE INSPIRATIONAL

Those attending the 2009 Pastors' Conference were treated to an afternoon and evening of great music, outstanding preaching, and motivational stories.

The conference reelected *Jimmy Morton* as President, *Greg Vardell* as Vice-President, and *Marty Turner* as Treasurer.

*Dr. Shannon Scott* [right] began the afternoon with a strong message from Revelation 2-3 on the needs of the churches to follow Jesus. Scott was born in Wheeling, WV. He was raised in North Carolina. He has pastored for many years in North Carolina.



A regional consultant with LifeWay Christian Resources, *Ken Marler* [left] presented an outstanding message about the importance of using the Sunday School in outreach and discipleship.

*Brian Harmon*, [right] pastor of Nehemiah Baptist Church, presented a powerful message on the need for planting new churches and the impact new churches can have on a community and in God's Kingdom. Harmon has

seen the impact of a new work first hand since he was the church planting pastor for Nehemiah.

Marler spoke again in the evening session concerning the importance of utilizing the Sunday School or small groups to reach lost people for Christ.

Dr. Scott concluded the evening with a message for pastors to preach the word of God.



The congregation had the opportunity to be the first to hear the *Baptist Bluegrass Boys*. Randy Spurgeon helped organize the group in order to provide some mountaineer gospel music.

The attendees were privileged to hear *Frances Skeens* [right] again this year. She provided special music



in the evening sessions.

Pastor Morton and the other officers again did a marvelous job planning for the conference. [above] Greg Vardell (L) and Jimmy Morton. [right] *The Baptist Bluegrass Boys*: (L to R) Randy Spurgeon, Terry Vaughan, Rick Canfield, Dennis Cherry.



## IMMANUEL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION ELECTS OFFICERS

Messengers to the 2009 Immanuel Baptist Annual Meeting elected three new officers to lead them. Association Missionary *Dick Howie* [right] stands next to *Trista Nott*, Association Secretary. To her right is *Eric Benson*, Clerk, then *Fred Basnett*, Moderator, and on the left is *Jim Massey*, Vice-Moderator. Not pictured is *Conn Johnson*, treasurer.

# LifeWay Research Reveals Top Church Evangelism Activities

By Mark Kelly

NASHVILLE, Tenn., 10/7/09 – When it comes to evangelistic outreach, the most common methods Southern Baptist churches use these days are Vacation Bible School, feeding ministries, visitor follow-up and prayer for people who have not made a decision to receive Christ.

Most pastors, however, struggle to lead by example in personal evangelism, and churches don't make the most effective use of available media to communicate with people who are unchurched, meaning those not associated with any church.

These were the key insights drawn from an online study, conducted by LifeWay Research, that asked Southern Baptist pastors more than 30 questions about their personal evangelism efforts, evangelism in their preaching, their church's evangelism methods and advertising outreach methods used to reach their communities.

## Events and ongoing activities

By far the most common outreach event conducted by Southern Baptist congregations is Vacation Bible School. Eighty-five percent of pastors say their churches held VBS in the past 12 months. The next most common event, registered by 58 percent of pastors, is a prayer emphasis focused specifically on outreach or unbelievers.

The next most-often mentioned events are servant evangelism projects (46 percent), revival services (45 percent) and door-to-door canvassing (44 percent).

Pastors also were asked about ongoing evangelistic activities. The most common ongoing evangelistic activity, as cited by 86 percent of pastors, is conducting weekly follow-up with people who visited a church service.

Concerning their personal beliefs about evangelism, 43 percent of pastors strongly agree that evangelism is often overshadowed by other priorities. Only about one-third of pastors cite evangelism training as an ongoing activity, though 96 percent strongly agree that every Christian has a responsibility to share the Gospel with non-Christians.

The second most-often mentioned ongoing activity, at 77 percent, is offering food to people who are in need in the community. According to Scott McConnell of LifeWay Research, "Three out of four Southern Baptist churches were prepared to give food to those in

their community who had needs as the economic difficulties escalated across the country. Churches have the responsibility to help believers be prepared to share the reason for the hope they have in Jesus Christ, and this is a tangible way of being prepared, as Scripture calls us to be."

## Pastoral leadership

Other questions about dimensions of pastoral evangelism revealed that pastors set good examples even though many feel evangelism is difficult.

The survey found the traditional "invitation" is still alive and well in Southern Baptist churches, with 82 percent of pastors strongly agreeing that they invite people to come forward to make spiritual decisions. Another 8 percent somewhat agree.

Additionally, 81 percent of pastors strongly agree, and 18 percent somewhat agree, that they feel responsible to lead their churches by example in the area of evangelism. A total of 86 percent agree, either strongly or somewhat, that they pray daily for people they know who are not professing Christians. But 39 percent say personal evangelism does not come easily for them; only 25 percent strongly agree they find it easy to share the Gospel one-on-one.

In spite of the challenge, however, the vast majority of pastors – 96 percent – say they have shared the Gospel with at least one person outside of church in the past six months. Sixty-six percent say their frequency of witnessing falls between one and 15 times. Nineteen percent report that they shared the Gospel 16-40 times, and 10 percent claim more than 40 times; 4 percent acknowledge they have not witnessed to anyone in the past six months.

Ninety-nine percent of pastors also say they have invited at least one unchurched person to attend a church service or some other church program in the past six months. Twenty-nine percent estimate they have invited more than 40 people, and 1 percent say they haven't invited anyone.

"Many pastors are setting good evangelistic examples," said McConnell, "but their congregations may benefit just as much from hearing a pastor honestly share that it isn't always easy for him. The typical believer can relate to that. Even the apostle Paul asked the Ephesians to pray that he would have boldness to share the Gospel."

## Using media

The research also determined that Southern Baptist churches don't make frequent use of available media to communicate with Americans. An early 2009

study conducted by LifeWay Research, in support of the North American Mission Board's "GPS" national evangelism initiative, revealed resistance to advertising media among Americans. Still, the percentage of churches using advertising media is much smaller than the percentage of Americans who are willing to receive information through communications media.

Building upon that early 2009 study, this new research found the most common medium used by Southern Baptist churches to communicate with their communities is newspaper advertising. Two-thirds of pastors say their churches advertised in a newspaper in the last 12 months. The previous study showed that 48 percent of Americans are very or somewhat willing to receive information about a church through an informative ad in the newspaper.

The older study also showed that 46 percent of Americans are very or somewhat willing to receive information about a local church through billboard advertising. In contrast to Southern Baptist churches' strong use of newspaper advertising, only 11 percent of Southern Baptist churches advertised on a billboard in the last 12 months, the new study revealed.

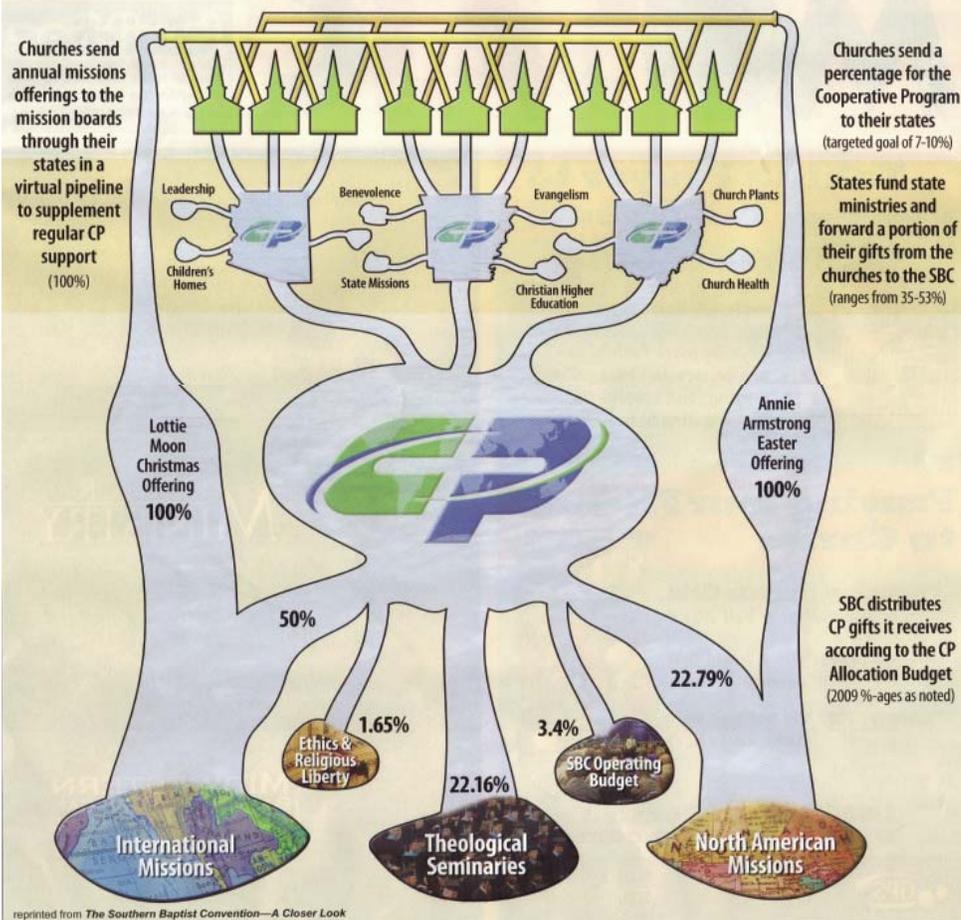
The second most common communications medium used by Southern Baptist churches is invitation cards distributed by church members. Sixty percent of pastors say they have distributed such cards in the previous 12 months, and 44 percent report they noticed some response from the effort.

"Understanding your community's openness to various kinds of communication is one way to understand your church's context," McConnell said. "Research indicates that efforts like the invite cards that encourage personal conversations with a congregation's friends and family are most effective. However, the right advertising has the potential to touch people that a local church may not be able to reach otherwise."

The entire report, "Southern Baptist Evangelism Today," including details on the methods that churches and pastors use for evangelism and which advertising media generate responses, is available at [www.lifewayresearch.com](http://www.lifewayresearch.com).

*Methodology: Research for the "Southern Baptist Evangelism Today" study is based on an online survey LifeWay Research conducted among 801 Southern Baptist pastors. The sample size provides 95 percent confidence that the sampling error does not exceed ±3.4 percent for the total sample. Responses were weighted based on church size to minimize response bias.*

# The Cooperative Program: Like a Mighty River



## HENRY AND TASHA CLARY SEND PRAYER NEEDS FROM URUGUAY

(The Clary's serve with the IMB as church planting missionaries in Uruguay. Tasha is from Liberty, WV)

1. Pray for Adriana and Juan Pablo, two folks who are taking a course called the Alpha Course, which is an introduction to Christianity. There are six meetings, with each more evangelistic in its presentation. Pray that they will respond to the Holy Spirit's leading. [Juan is second from left]



2. Pray for the Uruguay Urban Team (our IMB team), which is made up of four families (Johnsons, Pessosas, Chapas, and Clarys) as we seek the Lord's guidance for reaching the coastal region of Uruguay from Montevideo to Maldonado. Pray for us to have wisdom as we plan for 2010. Pray that we can use and guide in God's plan the mission teams that will come this summer.

3. Pray for Tasha that she will continue to reach the youth and children of our neighborhood and that the Lord will raise up Uruguayan leaders to help her out and to eventually take over the ministry to youth and children.

4. Pray for Henry as he undertakes a worldview study of the people of Carrasco. This is a pretty big research project that involves interviewing residents and compiling the responses into a report that describes their view of reality and will help us in the future in reaching them for Christ.

5. Pray for Jorge, who is an active member of the Oasis ministry, the ministry we work with. Jorge has bone cancer and is right now undergoing the third round of chemotherapy. [Jorge is second from left]



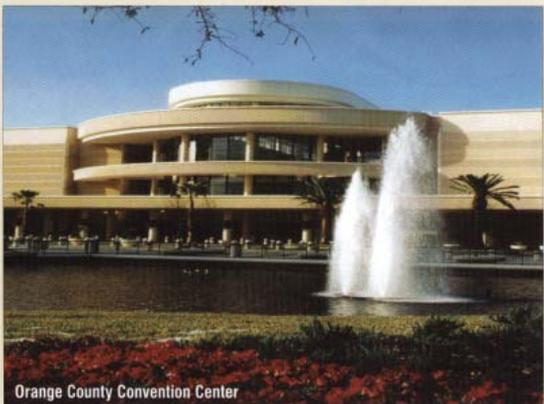
Henry stands with a poster teaching children after school; on the right another Bible study time



## Southern Baptist Convention

# Orlando

June 15-16, 2010



October 1, 2009 was the opening date for hotel reservations. All reservations must be received by the SBC Housing Bureau no later than May 21, 2010 to guarantee a room and the convention rate.

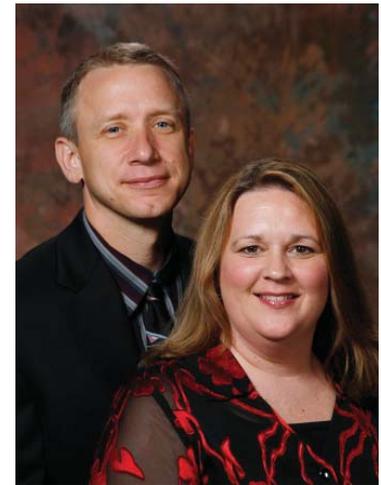
Reservations can be made online at [www.sbc.net](http://www.sbc.net)

# Stories for Life

Make your plans to have January Bible Study in your church. Study guides are available from LifeWay for all age groups.

## Parables of the Kingdom in Matthew

Need some ideas? Need some help? Need a study leader? Contact your Association Missionary, or your state Sunday School Director, Greg Wrigley, at 800-411-5758, extension 118, or [gregwrigley@wvcsb.org](mailto:gregwrigley@wvcsb.org)



**CHARLES MINNEY NEW**  
**COALFIELDS ASSOCIATION**  
**MISSIONARY**

**Charles Minney** began his ministry as the Association Missionary for the Coalfields Baptist Association in October, 2009. Charlie and his wife, **Cindy**, and daughter, **Nichole**, moved to West Virginia from Woodstock, Georgia.

He served as *Strategic Missions Champion* at First Baptist Church, Woodstock, for the state of West Virginia. He also was the Facilities Director for the church. He was responsible for maintaining the buildings and grounds of the 86 acre church campus.

Minney organized twelve mission trips into McDowell County over a three year period.

Minney has also worked as a meat cutter for Sam's Club, a truck driver, and was in the Marine Corps for four years.

He is a 1987 Gilmer County High School graduate.

---a word from the Editor

### **SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY NEEDS TO BE OBSERVED**

January 17, 2010, is the day set aside by Southern Baptists to emphasize the importance of human life and the value of the human life because that life was given to us by Creator God. This value has been under attack since the Garden of Eden. The first murder was by a brother killing his own brother.

I am not sure one can say it is worse now than one hundred years ago, or even two thousand years ago. We know peoples across the world have used child sacrifice as a way of worship, that the Romans put unwanted children on the hillsides to be eaten by animals or rescued for the prostitution houses, and that slavery has been practiced by many people groups.

America knows better. But our people and our government are degrading human life more and more each day. It began by denying that God is Creator. It continues through a government sanctioned and paid for abortion philosophy, and our President is on record supporting the killing of babies even up to the moment of birth. One of the debates concerning the so called health care bill is the provision of care for people, especially older people, with certain kinds of illnesses.

The picture to the right is of a plastic human fetus showing what a baby looks like at age 12 weeks after conception. Consider what we know of a twelve week old human fetus: a) weighs about 1 ounce; b) is about 2 1/2 inches long;

- c) he sucks his thumb; d) the heart started beating at about 20 days old; e) can squint, swallow, and can make a fist;
- f) is sensitive to heat, touch, light, and noise; g) can kick; h) has fingerprints; i) brain waves started being recorded at age 40 days; j) all body systems are working. Abortion kills a human life. There is no debate to it.

You can contact *Heritage House* at [www.hh76.com](http://www.hh76.com) or call 1-800-858-3040 to get more information. You can get these models, too. Give these to your children and teenagers. Take them to school or to work. Maybe we should send one to our elected officials.





IMAGINE...

Every Believer Sharing.

Every West Virginian Hearing.

**PHASE ONE: *Praying...Across West Virginia.*** A coordinated prayer effort will be launched on February 21. *Praying...Across West Virginia* will be for the twofold purpose of (1) getting “out of the pews and into the streets” and (2) “praying onsite with insight.” We want our people praying targeted prayers for God to penetrate the barriers of lostness in the lives of specific individuals, neighborhoods, and communities through individual/group prayer and prayer walking. Church members and/or groups of church members (i.e., Sunday School classes or small groups) will be exhorted to pray for three specific lost individuals by name for six weeks leading up to Easter. In addition, participating churches will be given guidelines for conducting prayer walks in targeted neighborhoods/communities for three weeks from February 21 – March 13, in preparation for the next phase.

**PHASE TWO: *The Main Event...Across West Virginia.*** Traditionally, the evangelism department of our state convention sponsors a State Evangelism Celebration each April. Even in recent years when this event has been held in two regional sites, attendance has been mediocre to say the least. In an attempt to move away from another conference that doesn't translate into increased evangelism, we would like to invest in an event that will have a greater impact on evangelism. In the place of a broad state evangelism conference, we are asking each association to hold an Acts 1:8 conference on (or around) Sunday, March 14, 2010. This conference will serve as rallying event to communicate the cooperative effort of Southern Baptists across the state and to encourage everyone to move on to the third phase--*Find It Here...Across West Virginia*. The goal is to have *at least* 100 participants from each region (association), meaning 1,000 West Virginia Southern Baptists rallying for the cause of Christ! We are asking pastors and churches to suspend all normal activities for one Sunday evening (March 14th) in order to come together as the broader Body of Christ at the Acts 1:8 conference in their association. At that conference a speaker will bring an evangelistic charge to the participants and believers will be given an opportunity to share testimonies about Phase One: *Praying...Across West Virginia* as well as testimonies about the plans for and a call to move forward with the next phase.

**PHASE THREE: *Find It Here...Across West Virginia.*** This phase is the crucial part of ***Across West Virginia***. From March 14-April 3, churches and individual believers will saturate their neighborhoods and communities with “Find It Here” materials (gospel presentation, invitation to Easter service, church info, etc.). During this time, “Find It Here” TV commercials will air in every market across West Virginia during the two weeks leading up to Easter. These high-quality commercials are provided by our partnership with NAMB and have already been secured. The question is: will our churches take advantage of this great opportunity? WVCSB will provide all the materials needed to distribute to every household in every neighborhood. Churches will also be provided a 3 ft x 5 ft banner to be displayed at the church gathering place. The materials for door hangers and the banners will coordinate with the “Find It Here” commercials in order to assist seeking individuals where to find “it” (faith, hope, love...Jesus!). Again, WVCSB is going to provide all of the resources for the churches. We're just asking churches to use them by going out and saturating their neighborhoods and communities leading up to Easter.

**PHASE FOUR: *Celebrate...Across West Virginia.*** Follow-up is crucial to any evangelism strategy. Unfortunately, it is often the missing ingredient to the most well-intentioned approach. Assistance and training will be provided on how to implement an easy follow-up strategy for ***Across West Virginia*** that will help them to reap the harvest of what God has done through their efforts, using small groups (Sunday School, community groups, etc.) as the natural avenues for assimilating new persons into the church. We will also assist in gathering new believers into new churches. All churches will be encouraged to conduct their own celebration services sometime after Easter to celebrate the results of ***Across West Virginia***. Hopefully, there will be baptisms and other “harvest” testimonies. In the least, churches will be able to celebrate their faithfulness to participate in this task and to testify to personal growth, lessons, etc. Ultimately, God will be given the glory for the great things He has done!

## West Virginia Prayer Focus

Your state convention staff meets each working day for a brief time of prayer. We pray for missionaries, campuses, associations, churches, and chapels by name each day. We invite our readers to pray as well.

**New Work:** Crossroads, Burnsville, pastor Rodney Jamison, Allegheny Association. Offer Praise for those who are participating with Pastor Jamison. Pray the following scripture for Crossroads: *“But you,” He asked them, “who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God!” And Jesus responded, “Simon son of Jonah, you are blessed because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the forces of Hades will not overpower it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth is already bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth is already loosed in heaven.”* (Matthew 16:15-19, HCSB)

**Church Planting:** *But how can they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe without hearing about Him? And how can they hear without a preacher? And how can they preach unless they are sent?* (Romans 10:14-15a HCSB) Pray that: (1) God will remove every obstacle to Your Word; (2) God will prepare the hearts of the people to hear and receive Your Word; (3) God would create faith in the people as they hear the Word of God; (4) the people of this area will love Your Word; and the people will truly understand Your Word\*.

**Scripture Promise:** *I will sing about the LORD’s faithful love forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Your faithfulness to all generations.* (Psalm 89:1 HCSB) Read, study, and pray all of Psalm 89 several times during the month.

**Ministry Focus:** Students -- **Pray** that the young people will be open to God’s Word. **Ask** God to give them a hunger for the Word of God. **Pray** that the lost youth will accept the gospel of Jesus Christ. **Plead** that the believing youth will build their lives on the Word of God\* (based on 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

**Weekend Focus:** Each weekend prepare a thank you note for a different store or service agency you frequent. Example: The grocery store, pharmacy, gas station, fast food restaurant.

**Resource:** *The Life-Changing Power of Prayer* – Member Book, \$5.95, from Lifeway Christian Resources

(\*Prayer Closet ministries)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Association</u>	<u>Campus</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Chapel</u>
Jan. 4	Upper Ohio Valley	Mt. State Univ.	Fairlawn, Parkersburg	Grace Ch. of Pleasant Valley
Jan. 5	Allegheny	WVU Morgantown	Faith, Dailey	HarborLight
Jan. 6	Coalfields	Bluefield State	Faith, Mason	Harvest Time
Jan. 7	Greater Huntington	Charleston Area	Faith, Rupert	Highland Faith Fellowship
Jan. 8	Immanuel	Concord Univ.	Faith, West Union	Hope, Richwood
Jan. 11	Monongahela	Marshall Univ.	Faith, Weston	Lifesong
Jan. 12	Mountain State	Mt. State Univ.	Fellowship, Princeton	Lighthouse, Ivydale
Jan. 13	Pioneer	WVU Morgantown	First, Bluewell	Living Hope, Petersburg
Jan. 14	Potomac Highland	Bluefield State	First, Brandywine	Living River
Jan. 15	Tri-County	Charleston Area	First, Burlington	Marland Heights
Jan. 18	Upper Ohio Valley	Concord Univ.	First, Ceredo	Ministry of Salvation
Jan. 19	Allegheny	Marshall Univ.	First, Chelyan	New Life, Arnoldsburg
Jan. 20	Coalfields	Mt. State Univ.	First, Chester	New Vision
Jan. 21	Greater Huntington	WVU Morgantown	First, Craigsville	Solid Rock
Jan. 22	Immanuel	Bluefield State	First, Fairlea	South Wheeling
Jan. 25	Monongahela	Charleston Area	First, Fort Ashby	Wheeling Community
Jan. 26	Mountain State	Concord Univ.	First, Hinton	Abundant Hope
Jan. 27	Pioneer	Marshall Univ.	First, Huntersville	The Bridge
Jan. 28	Potomac Highland	Mt. State Univ.	First, Kenova	Carpendale
Jan. 29	Tri-County	WVU Morgantown	First, Princeton	Centerpointe, Hurricane
Feb. 1	Upper Ohio Valley	Bluefield State	First So., Fairmont	Chinese Mission
Feb. 2	Allegheny	Charleston Area	First So., Grandview	The Church at Martinsburg
Feb. 3	Coalfields	Concord Univ.	First So., Nemours	Crossroads, Burnsville
Feb. 4	Greater Huntington	Marshall Univ.	First So., Sutton	Faith Fellowship, Athens
Feb. 5	Immanuel	Mt. State Univ.	Foxes Hollow	Faith, Winfield

## News from West Virginia Churches

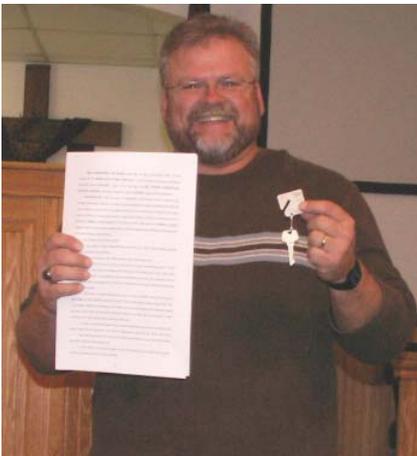
### ALLEGHENY ASSOCIATION

A special Deacon Ordination Service was held for **Jerry Litton** at **Southern Baptist Fellowship Church** in Summersville, West Virginia, October 25, 2009. Rev. **Mark R. McClung** preached the Ordination Message and Pastor **Mike Saunders** gave The Commitment Charge. The service was followed by a time of fellowship to show appreciation for the Pastor and Deacons. [pictured below-Rev. Mark R. McClung, Jerry Litton, and Pastor Mike Saunders]



### COALFIELDS ASSOCIATION

The Adult Choir from **East Williamson Baptist Church** sang a selection of Gospel Music at the Smithsonian New Harmonies Music Exhibit at the Brass Tree Restaurant. The Kidz Choir also visited the exhibit, where they sang and made church fans like the ones that were displayed in the Gospel Section of the museum. **Randy Rhodes** leads the music ministries, and **Bob Norman** is the pastor.



Pastor John Cain reports: "**Big Spring Church** has the lease and keys to the Grade School Building next door to the church. We are going to be getting the calendar ready to start the remodeling stage to open 'AREA 19, THE IMPACT ZONE'! Anyone who would like a mission project involving construction and remodeling is encouraged to contact

Pastor John [pictured below, left] at Big Spring Baptist Church, PO Box 271, Mallory, WV 25364"



Pastor **John Thompson**, Gilbert Creek, stands with **Cameron and Brandi Harrison**. [above and below] Both children attend **Gilbert Creek Baptist Church**. The children were presented the quilt by the church. The quilt was made during church camp last summer. The Harrison's home was badly damaged by the May flood in the Gilbert area.



### GREATER HUNTINGTON ASSOC.

**Abundant Hope Baptist Church** in Barboursville, where **Paul Harris** is pastor, held a motorcycle run to Babcock State Park this fall. The leaves were beautiful and the weather was a little overcast and cool, but the gospel was presented and they had opportunity to speak and fellowship with people who do not attend church. They recently baptized six during a combined service with Altizer Baptist Church.

**Calvary Baptist**, Chapmanville, celebrated their 40th Anniversary in October. The festivities included a chili supper on Saturday, and on Sunday special music by Higher Ground and preaching by **Delton Beall**, WVCBSB Director of Missions. **John Freeman** is

the pastor.

The youth and adult choirs from **First Baptist, Kenova**, attended a concert by the African Children's Choir. The church hosted two African missionaries and the principal of the Zambia Church School where **Pastor Steve Willis** taught this past summer. The seniors of the church, accompanied by the missionaries, were treated to a Fall Foliage trip to Camp Cowen. The African missionaries were impressed with the beauty of our state.

**Lincoln Baptist Church** hosted a special memorial service held by the Hospice Organization from the area. The event served to remember those who have passed away in Lincoln County this past year. The ladies of the church provided refreshments after the assembly. **Milton Clem** is pastor.

**Locust Grove Baptist** was invited to an Ice Cream Social in honor of Mrs. **Marjorie Perdue's** 101st birthday. She is one of the founding members of the church, and is a true inspiration to all. Happy Birthday! Teen L.I.F.E. held a "Pajama Party" for the young residents at the City Mission, giving them pajamas and socks as an early Christmas celebration. **Randall Robertson** is the pastor.

Congratulations to **Jim and Rachel Lackey** from **Westmoreland Baptist** who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in December. **C. J. Adkins** is Westmoreland's pastor.

### PIONEER ASSOCIATION

**First Baptist Church of Chelyan** participated in the BGM in-home care kit mission project. What was originally the women's project turned out to involve the entire church fellowship. The goal was to put together 2-3 buckets, but by the deadline in August the congregation was blessed enough to contribute a total of eight buckets. The church is looking forward to doing this again in 2010. **Tom Holstein** is the pastor at Chelyan.

**Trinity Baptist Church** in St. Albans, a mission-spirited congregation, has again reached out to the foreign mission field. Pastor **James Caldwell** traveled to Scotland with a ten-member team which originated with the Northwest Baptist Church of the Baltimore Metro Area. They ministered to the Bellshill Baptist Church in Bellshill, Scotland, a suburb

## News from West Virginia Churches

of Glasgow.

[pictured below are Pastor James Caldwell (l) and his son Rev. Jamie Caldwell (r), along with Rev. and Mrs. Bill Murdock]



The purpose of the trip was to encourage the Scottish congregation through ministry and evangelism outreach. The responsibilities of the team, which consisted of three ministers and seven lay people, included street evangelism, canvassing, conducting nightly services, prison ministry, and children's ministry. According to Pastor Bill Murdock of Bellshill, the congregation was thrilled and are eager for the team to return at their earliest convenience.

**Berkeley Baptist Church**, in Berkeley Springs, held a yard sale in their gym in November, and the room was filled with great buys. A total of \$715 was raised and was used for a mission trip to Ivydale in December to take shoe box gifts and other donated gifts and to serve dinner to the children. **James Casey** serves as Transitional Pastor.

HELPS IN BEING A  
STRATEGIC SUNDAY  
SCHOOL

May 21 and 22, 2010  
at

Cross Lanes Baptist  
Church

ALLAN TAYLOR, leader  
Minister of Education

FBC Woodstock, GA

Friday--7 PM to 9 PM

Saturday--8 AM-12:30 PM

COST: \$10 before May 1

\$15 after May 1

for more information visit

[www.impactyourculture.com](http://www.impactyourculture.com)

### UPPER OHIO VALLEY ASSOC.

**Abundant Life Church**, Wheeling/Triadelphia held a Deacon ordination service on Nov. 1, 2009. Six men were duly ordained to serve as Deacons in accordance with Acts 6:1-7 and 1 Timothy 3 by Pastor Dr. **Thomas Rentfrow** and Pastor **Virgil "Shorty" Carroll**. Pictured (left to right) are: Michael Simpson (Chairman), Wayne Smith, Chuck Pilkinton, Pastor Rentfrow, Todd Abercrombie, D. David Stiles, Kenny Bernier, and Pastor Carroll.



"Exciting things are happening at **Ryerson Baptist Church**. Our congregation has grown considerably over the last year and we have expanded our sanctuary and are currently looking to build a new fellowship hall. God is awesome!! We recently ordained 4 new deacons, Roger Creech, Tim Courtwright, Bryan Yukon, and Keith Hooker, and we ordained Lanny Hewitt as our associate/youth pastor. We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year."----Renee

[picture below]

Back: Mike Watson; Pastor Jim Higginson; Pastor Larry Garrison; **Pastor Phil Campbell**; Roger Creech

Front: Pastor Lanny Hewitt; Tim Courtwright; Bryan Yukon; Keith Hooker



### SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHAPLAIN MINISTERS IN WEST VIRGINIA

"I am an active duty Navy chaplain, currently stationed at the Navy Information Operations Command in Sugar Grove, West Virginia. I minister to the Sailors and Airmen stationed here, along with their families who live here. Chaplains serve as the moral and ethical advisors to the commanding officer as well as counsel service members and dependents. I also serve as the pastor for the base chapel and plan/organize/oversee the chapel programs as well as the volunteer activities for the base."



Chaplain Trent A. Jessup, LT, CHC, USN  
Command Chaplain, NIOC Sugar Grove, West Virginia



This retreat is supplemented by WVCSB Cooperative Program Funds.

# Marriage Enrichment Retreat

Worship, fun and fellowship for couples of all ages. March 12-13, 2010



**Guest Leaders:**  
Phil & Cindy Waugh  
Covenant Marriage  
Movement in Forest, VA  
[covenantmarriage.com](http://covenantmarriage.com)  
Special Music by Randy Spurgeon



**Location:** Canaan Valley Resort

**Cost** \$35.00 per person  
Includes lodging, refreshment breaks, breakfast and lunch buffets on Saturday (Friday - dinner on your own).  
Check in time begins Friday, March 12 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.  
Conference ends Saturday, March 13 at 3:30 p.m.

**Registration**  
Deadline: Feb. 15, 2010  
Checks payable to WVCSB must accompany registration form.



# MARK EIGHT 36

Buckhannon, WV July 12-16, 2010

Reaching out to a searching generation.  
Calling our youth to a new destiny:

Experience God's love. Understand God's passion. Confront your culture. Be a warrior.

Discover your passion. Change your world.

The time is now.



**Special Guests**

WVCSB scholarships are available. For more information contact Jimmy Bledsoe ([jimmybledsoe@wvcsb.org](mailto:jimmybledsoe@wvcsb.org) or 304-757-0944, ext. 103) or Michelle Harris ([michelleharris@wvcsb.org](mailto:michelleharris@wvcsb.org) or 304-757-0944, ext. 100).

For CAMP INFO & REGISTRATION visit [www.gotellcamps.com](http://www.gotellcamps.com) or [www.gotellministries.com](http://www.gotellministries.com)

## CHOICES TO MAKE

Have you ever felt overwhelmed by the choices to make? Just choosing a font for this short article was almost maddening. Just about every time I go into McDonalds I know exactly what I want, until I see the menu. Then I decide I want something else.

When it comes to eternity, the choices are much simpler. I can choose to admit to God that I am sinful, rebellious, evil, and without merit or strength before Him. Then, by trusting that Jesus died on the cross for me, ask Him to forgive me of my sin. I confess that Jesus is Lord and Boss of the universe, that all will answer to Him, and that I am willing now to submit to Him as my Boss.

Or, I can ignore and reject God and spend eternity apart from God and heaven in a place called Hell.

Simple enough.