

THE WEST VIRGINIA
SOUTHERN BAPTIST

May 2014 VOL. 44, NO. 4

A Cooperative Program ministry gladly sharing the truth and gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and the stories of our Lord's work in and through the churches of West Virginia Southern Baptists.

May 3, 2014

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." II Timothy 2:15

State Children's Bible Drill



Schedule of Event:

Registration - 10:45—11:00am
Welcome - 11:00am
Children's Drill - 11:05am
Lunch - noon
Awards Ceremony— 12:30pm
Leave for Home - 1:00pm

Each Church is responsible for getting your children's names registered with WVCSB state office no later than April 29th, 2014

**Send names and churches involved to
Terrie Hannah
WVCSB, #1 Mission Way,
Scott Depot, WV 25560
or email:
terriehannah@wvcsb.org**

**Drill will be held at State Convention Office
in Scott Depot, WV**

*Event begins Saturday Morning at 10:45am
Award Ceremony at 12:30pm
Lunch provided!*

*Perfect Score Winners receive a certificate
for scholarship to the State Missions Camp*

**Don't miss this opportunity to
witness Children
compete in Bible Memorization**





Executive Director Terry Harper

From the Executive Director:

Our State Convention President has appointed a new Task Force to look at our strategy going forward as a state convention. The leadership in our state appears to agree that our previous task force did a good job of mapping out the structure for our state convention, but we did not get very far in setting forth the direction for the future. Therefore, John Freeman has said that we need to look at our strategy, and especially our direction for revitalization of the existing churches. This new task force will work on these things.

Those on the Vision Task Force (VTF) include the following:

From the Executive Director:

- Jacob Atchley, The Church at Martinsburg
- Will Basham, New Heights Church
- Kevin Belcher, Burke Memorial
- Raymond Bouchoc, Baker Heights
- Cledith Campbell, Altizer
- Richard Carbaugh, First Southern Grandview
- Ron McCoy, Cameron
- David Melquist, First Southern Fairmont
- Jim Messenger, Faith Union
- Seth Polk, Cross Lanes
- David Sommerville, First Craigsville
- Kenny Stidham, Good Shepherd
- Greg Vardell, Fairlawn Parkersburg
- Greg Wrigley, Staff
- Randy Spurgeon, Staff
- Gerry White, Staff
- Matt Shamblin, Staff
- Jim Drake, Staff
- Terry Harper, Executive Director
- John Freeman, President

The VTF has been divided into two groups, the Committee on State Direction and the Committee on Church Strengthening. The groups will meet independently and jointly during the days ahead. They will use both face to face meetings as well as meeting using the web. They will bring their recommendations to the executive board when they have finished their work. The group had their first organizational meeting in Clarksburg on March 27, and they plan to continue meeting in the immediate future. The group is currently doing research in preparation for their work. Seth Polk heads the Committee on State Direction. The Committee on Church Strengthening is chaired by Cledith Campbell.

Terry Harper, Executive Director for the convention, indicated that he was encouraged by the formation of this group by our President. "This is a great group of men who love the Lord and I know that the staff will happily receive the recommendations brought forward by them", Harper said. We have several former Presidents of the convention on this task force and we have a number of church planters and a good overall across the board mix of men who will do a great job. We need to pray for them and the heavy lifting they will be doing as they work for all of us and as they lead us forward into the future in WV.



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM
Love In Action

**THE WEST VIRGINIA
SOUTHERN BAPTIST**
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*The purpose of the West Virginia Convention of Southern
Baptists is to Empower Kingdom Growth by assisting
and encouraging affiliated churches and associations in
fulfilling the Great Commission as given to us by our Lord
in Matthew 28:19-20.
We seek to be involved in the following:
MATURING our congregations
MOBILIZING our congregations
STARTING new churches*

Line Up Set for 2014 LifeWay Men's Conference

By Staff

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) – Former President George W. Bush will be among the speakers at LifeWay's The Main Event, a two-day conference for men on August 1 and 2 in Nashville.

Bush will take the stage along with the winningest football coach in N C A A history, Bobby Bowden, three-time



NASCAR cup champion Darrell Waltrip, retired U.S. Army Maj. Jeff Struecker, whose battlefield heroics were immortalized in the film *Black Hawk Down*, LifeWay president Thom Rainer and several others.



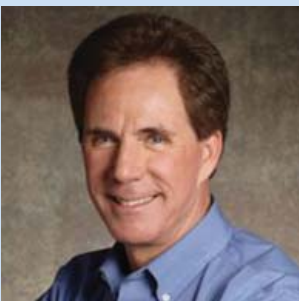
Three-time Grammy Award winner Michael W. Smith

will lead worship.

The theme for the event is from Isaiah 53:5, "by his stripes we are healed," which LifeWay men's ministry leader Jason Ellerbrook says is "wrapped around honoring the wounded warrior."

According to Ellerbrook, the conference will honor those who serve in the United States Armed Forces "who have sacrificed to give us freedom on earth," but will ultimately challenge men to "honor Christ as the one who gave us eternal freedom through His victory over sin and death."

Having a former U.S. president as a speaker



Music: Our Greatest Tool to Reach Kids for Jesus

Children's Music Leaders Training

Saturday, May 17, 2014

at

Old Fields Baptist Church

5406 US Hwy 220 North, Old Fields, WV 26845

Event planned for pastors, music directors and children's workers
Saturday, May 17, 2014 10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Lunch provided

Registration Fee: \$10.00 per person
Deadline for Registration: May 5, 2014
Send Registration to Randy Spurgeon,
WVCSB
28 Mission Way, Scott Depot, WV 25560
Contact Randy at: 800-411-5758 or 304-757-0944, ext. 312
E-mail: randyspurgeon@wvcsb.org



Angie Elkins, Guest Clinician

This event is a ministry of the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists Cooperative Program and the Florida Baptist Convention



is significant for any conference, but it is especially so for The Main Event, only in its second year of existence. Despite the lack of an extended history, Ellerbrook knew the conference would be something special shortly after they began promoting it.

This year's conference will be in the much larger Bridgestone Arena in downtown Nashville and will challenge even more men in their faith and commitments. "Our goal is to see men come to know Christ and more fully experience him," Ellerbrook said.

"Men who attend The Main Event will experience a sense of honor, dignity and respect," he said. "We are all wounded and broken – that we have in common. However, Jesus can be the ultimate common denominator. Through him we can

experience victory and lead a full life."

Ellerbrook said registration will be capped at 10,000 and organizers are expecting the event to sell out well in advance of August. Early registration for the conference, which begins Friday evening (Aug 1) and runs through Noon Saturday, is \$69. A preconference for ministry leaders will be held Friday afternoon (Aug 1) and is \$39.

A full list of the speakers, schedules and other information about The Main Event, is available at LifeWay.com/MainEvent.



Russian Bear Awakening to Morality

By Kelly Boggs

Feb 7, 2014

ALEXANDRIA, La. (BP) -- God once used a donkey to alert a wayward prophet that he was on the wrong track. Could it be the Lord is using a bear, a Russian Bear, to do the same with the nations of the West, in particular the United States?

"Many Euro-Atlantic countries have moved away from their roots, including Christian values," Russian President Vladimir Putin said in his state of the nation address in mid-December, The Washington Times reported.

Putin continued, "Policies are being pursued that place on the same level a multi-child family and a same-sex partnership, a faith in God and a belief in Satan. This is the path to degradation."

Some have dismissed Putin's rhetoric as nothing more than political posturing. However, leaders of the Russian Orthodox Church have echoed their president's assessment.

Patriarch Krill I of Moscow, the leader of the Orthodox Church, "accused Western countries of engaging in the 'spiritual disarmament' of their people," The Times reported.

"The general political direction of the elite bears, without a doubt, an anti-Christian and anti-religious character," Patriarch Krill said. "We have been through an epoch of atheism, and we know what it is to live without God. We want to shout to the whole world, 'Stop!'"

Another leader of the Orthodox Church, Archbishop Vsevolod Chaplin, "suggested that the modern-day West is no better for a Christian believer than the Soviet Union," The Times also reported.

"The separation of the secular and the religious is a fatal mistake by the West," Chaplin said. "It is a monstrous phenomenon that has occurred only in Western civilization and will kill the West, both politically and morally."

One would be hard-pressed to dispute these assessments from the Russian Bear.

In 2005, USA Today reported, "Every major religion except Islam is declining in Western Europe, according to the Center for the Study of Global Christianity at the Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in South Hamilton, Mass. The drop is most

evident in France, Sweden and the Netherlands, where church attendance is less than 10 percent in some areas."

If reports are correct, the Russian government is seeking to recover from its past suppression of Christianity. Among these efforts are the rebuilding of churches, religious instruction in public education and state paid chaplains in the military.

The impact of Christian teaching on the Russian people still has a ways to go. Recent surveys by the Pew Research Center and the Gallup organization reveal that the morality of the Russian people is not too different from Americans.

When it comes to attitudes about the moral acceptability of certain practices such as abortion, unmarried sex and divorce, Americans and Russians seem to agree.

However, what must be considered is that less than 25 years ago (the Iron Curtain came crashing down in November 1989) Russia was a society that had been dominated for nearly 70 years by a communist philosophy that indoctrinated its people in atheism. Russia, it seems, now is trying to move toward the light of Christianity.

Could it be Russia's move to Christianity is why 72 percent of Russians believe that homosexuality is morally wrong, as compared to only 38 percent of Americans? Sixty-eight percent of Russians also believe gambling is wrong, while only 31 percent of Americans feel the same way. Forty-four percent of Russians believe that drinking alcohol is morally unacceptable, while a 2012 Gallup poll found that 66 percent of Americans consume alcohol on a regular basis.

It stands to reason that if the Russian people continue to embrace the tenets of Christianity it will be reflected in their morality. Conversely, as America continues to move away from the teachings of the Bible, morality among the masses will continue to decline.

In July 2012 the following was posted on the website of evangelist Billy Graham:

"Some years ago, my wife, Ruth, was reading the draft of a book I was writing. When she finished a section describing the terrible downward spiral of our nation's moral standards and the idolatry of worshiping false gods such as technology and sex, she startled me by exclaiming, 'If God doesn't punish America, He'll have to apologize to Sodom and Gomor-

rah."

Countless preachers in recent decades have echoed the sentiment of Mrs. Graham. However, America has continued to run headlong toward a godless secularism characterized by an unfettered, unaccountable hedonism. It seems the God of the Bible is irrelevant even for many who profess to follow Him.

America has thus far ignored the warning of the prophets in her midst. Is God now trying to get the attention of America by speaking through the Russian Bear? It wouldn't be the first time the Lord used an unlikely source to communicate truth. Just ask the wayward prophet Balaam.

Kelly Boggs is a weekly columnist for Baptist Press, director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention's office of public affairs, and editor of the Baptist Message (www.baptistmessage.com), newsjournal of the Louisiana Baptist Convention. Copyright (c) 2014 Southern Baptist Convention, Baptist Press email: bpres@sbc.net

The Need Is As Big As the Mountains

Jim Drake, East Region CPC

The State Seal of West Virginia proudly proclaims, *Montani Semper Liberi*, which is Latin for "Mountaineers are Always Free".

While that motto aptly expresses our rugged independence, it certainly does not communicate the spiritual condition of most people in the state. In fact, of our 1.8 million fellow West Virginians, over 1.2 million of them are unchurched. That astounding number does not even include those who are part of non-Christian or non-evangelical religions. The sheer number of West Virginians in spiritual bondage is staggering.

Multiplying existing Southern Baptist churches through church planting is one of the most effective methods the Lord has given us to break that bondage and truly make Mountaineers free. C. Peter Wagner has been widely quoted as saying, "Church planting is the most effective form of evangelism under heaven." It is

also the most effective form of evangelism in Almost Heaven.



Jan. - Mar. 2014 Gifts from WV Churches

Organization	CP	Annie Armstrong	Lottie Moon	Ola Cox	World Hunger	Total
Allegheny						
Ansted	300.00	520.00	530.00	520.00	0.00	1,870.00
Beaver Creek	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Calvary, Bolair	103.90	0.00	15.00	0.00	0.00	118.90
Calvary, Meadow Bridge	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cherry River	362.00	108.00	240.00	0.00	0.00	710.00
Crossroads, Burnsville	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Emmanuel, Lewisburg	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Evangel, Fayetteville	176.23	150.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	326.23
Faith, Rupert	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
First, Craigs ville	3,013.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,013.28
First, Fairlea	9,326.14	3,844.27	6,716.00	0.00	853.88	20,740.29
First, Huntersville	2,160.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,160.48
First So., Sutton	733.40	0.00	795.00	0.00	0.00	1,528.40
Grass Roots-Greenbrier Vly	650.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	650.00
Graydon	403.00	0.00	251.00	0.00	0.00	654.00
Hebron	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hines	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Light House, Ivydale	153.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	153.18
Little Birch	147.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	147.67
Living River	165.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	165.00
Lochgelly	163.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	163.00
Nettie	192.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	192.12
New Life, Cowen	295.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	295.63
New River	544.00	0.00	3,540.00	0.00	0.00	4,084.00
Restoration	1,200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,200.00
So Baptist, Summersville	3,426.69	786.00	177.00	0.00	0.00	4,389.69
Trinity, Buckeye	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Westview	130.90	0.00	0.00	193.90	0.00	324.80
White Sulphur Springs	1,036.55	0.00	690.95	0.00	0.00	1,727.50
Totals	24,683.17	5,408.27	12,954.95	713.90	853.88	44,614.17
Coalfields						
Big Spring	307.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	307.84
Borderland	1,200.00	0.00	1,050.00	0.00	0.00	2,250.00
Bradshaw Mountain	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chattaroy	1,898.46	585.00	1,670.87	0.00	0.00	4,154.33
East Williamson	4,790.00	1,518.00	414.00	383.00	385.51	7,490.51
Ferrellsburg	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gilbert Creek	199.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	199.21
Gordon	30.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30.00
HarborLight	718.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	718.00
Horsepen	983.00	0.00	1,763.00	0.00	0.00	2,746.00
Living Stone	25.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	125.00
Main Street, Madison	148.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	148.08
Neibert	86.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	86.45
New Covenant	335.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	385.00
Peytona	234.20	0.00	233.00	0.00	0.00	467.20
Wharton	277.81	166.00	0.00	0.00	111.12	554.93
Totals	11,233.05	2,269.00	5,180.87	483.00	496.63	19,662.55
Greater Huntington						
Abundant Hope	130.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	130.00
Altizer	1,200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,200.00
Calvary, Chapmanville	1,200.00	0.00	1,525.00	0.00	0.00	2,725.00
Eastwood	75.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	75.00
First, Ceredo	8,901.00	1,187.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,088.00
First, Kenova	11,496.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11,496.44
Freedom Biker Church	190.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	190.63
Grace, Branchland	75.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	75.00
Hamlin	1,650.00	0.00	1,852.72	0.00	0.00	3,502.72
Highlawn	326.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	326.46
Lincoln	300.00	0.00	205.00	0.00	0.00	505.00
Locust Grove	334.20	1,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,834.20
New Heights	769.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	769.98
Spring Valley Freedom	480.00	0.00	1,061.00	0.00	0.00	1,541.00
Twentieth Street	600.00	0.00	2,500.00	0.00	0.00	3,100.00
Westmoreland	2,223.66	0.00	1,280.00	0.00	0.00	3,503.66
WV Chinese	851.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	851.68
Totals	30,804.05	2,687.00	8,423.72	0.00	0.00	41,914.77



The Children's Church had been studying the armor of God at **Abundant Hope Baptist Church** in Barboursville. The group presented their findings to the whole congregation after the morning worship time. **Paul Harris is the Pastor.**

Silver Springs Baptist Church, Mountain State Association, has been receiving many blessings during the past year. Since January, 2013, they have added six members by statement, eight by letter, and baptized seven. Three new deacons were elected at the beginning of the Church year.

The Mission focus during Christmas was to support Teen Challenge through gifts and food. In February, Bud, WV, in Wyoming County, was without water. The Church family donated water which was delivered to Bud Elementary.

Youth growth has created a need for bigger space. The church voted to renovate the upstairs of the church by hollowing out walls and redecorating. The whole upstairs has been designated for Youth education. New carpeting was also installed on the stairway.

Easter celebration will include Holy Week communion and prayer on April 17th, Good Friday Service on April 18th, Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast by our men at 6:00 a.m., along with an Easter Cantata during the morning service.

Gerald McKinney serves as pastor.

MEN'S MISSION TRIP

Five men from **Berkeley Baptist** went to Scranton, PA, on March 22, for a one day mission trip. The men worked with THE GROVE CHURCH. The members of **Berkeley Baptist** worked with some members of the mission church to accomplish several tasks.

The men set up a new laundry room for an unwed mother ministry at the church. They also pulled new wires for the new washer and dryer, did the plumbing hookup, and painted the walls for the room. The team returned about 8 pm that night. It was a long but fulfilling day for the team. The men are already making plans for a return trip.

Everett Powell is Pastor.

MOVIES YOU MIGHT LIKE

HEAVEN IS FOR REAL is based on a true story. A four-year old boy had a near death experience. He saw Jesus and heard the angels sing. The story is well acted and presented. Caution---there are implications given of universalism----that everyone goes to heaven.

INDESCRIBABLE tells the story of the writing of the hymn "The Love of God." There are a few conflicts with other accounts of how the song came about. The themes of forgiveness, dealing with fear, and overcoming resentment are clearly depicted. A cause of concern might be the violent scenes shown in a series of flashbacks that deal with the Crusades.

Many of you may have seen SON OF GOD already. Overall, it gets things fairly right. It is well done. There are some violent scenes. It is probably worth seeing. [the movie is produced by "Touched by an Angel"'s Roma Downey]

Coming in June is a film based on the story of sisters Barbara and Regina Leininger. ALONE YET NOT ALONE is set during the French and Indian War. The movie may not be suitable for children as it shows violent scenes and the kidnapping of the children. The acting may not be great, and the story line deviates from the book in places, but the strong Christian faith of the two girls is clearly shown.

You may want to see MOMS' NIGHT OUT. It is a comedy about a group of moms wanting to spend some girl time together, but that means the dads need to care for the children. What could go wrong?

The film GOD'S NOT DEAD got a lot of attention because it is well done, had some good actors, and it has done very well at the box office despite its limited showings. It is worth seeing.



Need help with some training, planning, music, organization, Sunday School, or something else? Contact your church development department: 800-411-5758 OR gregwrigley@wvcsb.org OR randyspurgeon@wvcsb.org

Organization	CP	Annie Armstrong	Lottie Moon	Ola Cox	World Hunger	Total
<i>Immanuel</i>						
Brooksville	3,467.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,467.20
Calvary, Ravenswood	1,841.99	551.21	551.21	893.09	20.00	3,857.50
Camden Flats	0.00	0.00	320.00	0.00	0.00	320.00
Community, Grantsville	507.00	0.00	1,040.00	0.00	0.00	1,547.00
Dawn's Light	335.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	335.60
Fairlawn, Parkersburg	15,046.94	20.00	2,387.00	0.00	0.00	17,453.94
Faith, Mason	1,883.72	423.11	100.00	0.00	0.00	2,406.83
Faith, West Union	1,483.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,483.76
Grace, Parkersburg	9,469.00	0.00	3,190.00	0.00	0.00	12,659.00
Harmony	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hillcrest	327.37	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	377.37
Jackson Avenue	1,328.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	1,528.00
Mineral Wells	534.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	534.22
New Beginnings	269.49	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	369.49
Salt & Light	650.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	650.00
So Baptist, Elizabeth	1,707.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,707.00
Southside	2,029.16	1,553.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,582.16
Victory, Belmont	360.57	0.00	128.00	0.00	0.00	488.57
West Ripley	552.98	0.00	70.00	0.00	0.00	622.98
Williams Creek	1,643.56	328.71	1,788.71	0.00	0.00	3,760.98
Zoar, St. Marys	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Totals	43,437.56	2,876.03	9,924.92	893.09	20.00	57,151.60
<i>Monongahela</i>						
Berean	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Calvary, Belington	224.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	224.00
Calvary, Grafton	441.60	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	541.60
Calvary, Morgantown	3,191.56	0.00	1,681.00	0.00	0.00	4,872.56
Canaan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Charity, Wyatt	1,596.53	0.00	630.00	516.00	0.00	2,742.53
Church of the Good Shepherd	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Crossroads	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Evangel, Bridgeport	600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	600.00
First So., Fairmont	0.00	0.00	1,819.00	0.00	0.00	1,819.00
Freedom, Nutter Fort	7,519.33	0.00	3,000.00	2,088.71	0.00	12,608.04
Frontier	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grace Fellowship, Wana	714.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	714.13
Kingwood	922.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	922.00
New Creek	331.98	0.00	233.00	0.00	0.00	564.98
New Life, Weston	772.75	0.00	840.00	0.00	0.00	1,612.75
Real Life	389.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	389.55
Rowlesburg	80.00	0.00	57.00	35.00	0.00	172.00
Southern, Philippi	1,284.77	0.00	211.00	0.00	0.00	1,495.77
Urbancrest	165.43	0.00	260.28	0.00	0.00	425.71
Wayside, Buckhannon	486.38	0.00	66.00	0.00	0.00	552.38
Totals	18,720.01	100.00	8,797.28	2,639.71	0.00	30,257.00
<i>Potomac Highland</i>						
Amazing Grace	194.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	194.00
Canaan Valley	169.32	0.00	365.00	0.00	0.00	534.32
Carpendale	230.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	230.10
Cherry Grove	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Covenant, Romney	1,178.48	0.00	917.00	0.00	0.00	2,095.48
Danville Community	900.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	900.00
First, Burlington	1,922.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,922.59
First, Brandywine	931.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	931.00
First, Fort Ashby	1,451.71	0.00	979.75	0.00	0.00	2,431.46
Foxes Hollow	174.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	174.68
Knobley Road	434.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	434.00
Living Hope	1,729.15	490.00	130.00	0.00	0.00	2,349.15
Mountain Ministry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
New Day	1,927.00	0.00	280.00	0.00	0.00	2,207.00
North Fork	100.00	0.00	255.00	0.00	0.00	355.00
Old Fields	324.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	324.46
Petersburg So.	61.13	0.00	52.00	0.00	0.00	113.13
P. H. Baptist Assoc.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	480.00	480.00
Second, Keyser	1,724.98	0.00	630.00	0.00	0.00	2,354.98
Valley	849.20	0.00	395.00	0.00	0.00	1,244.20
Wayside, Franklin	400.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	400.02
Zoar, Augusta	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Totals	14,701.82	490.00	4,003.75	0.00	480.00	19,675.57

Organization	CP	Annie Armstrong	Lottie Moon	Ola Cox	World Hunger	Total
<i>Mountain State</i>						
Brenton	54.57	0.00	0.00	54.57	0.00	109.14
Brushfork	2,043.50	0.00	561.30	0.00	0.00	2,604.80
Burke Memorial	3,456.18	1,117.00	65.00	0.00	0.00	4,638.18
Calvary, Bluefield	233.00	105.00	444.00	0.00	0.00	782.00
Calvary, War	431.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	431.48
Ceres	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Covenant, Princeton	452.00	0.00	1,221.27	0.00	0.00	1,673.27
Cumberland Heights	1,836.00	1,260.00	2,139.00	0.00	0.00	5,235.00
East End	3,979.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,979.94
Edgemont	3,019.00	1,549.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	4,618.00
Faith	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fellowship, Princeton	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
First, Bluewell	150.00	890.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,040.00
First, Hinton	722.22	50.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	797.22
First, Princeton	12,111.37	510.00	3,989.00	0.00	0.00	16,610.37
First So., Grandview	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Freedom, Beckley	225.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,225.00
Glade Community	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grace, Fayetteville	2,097.00	0.00	293.00	0.00	0.00	2,390.00
Immanuel, Princeton	7,517.67	0.00	4,681.00	0.00	0.00	12,198.67
Isaban	349.39	265.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	614.39
Lilly Grove	1,840.00	0.00	960.00	0.00	0.00	2,800.00
Lorton Lick	1,770.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,770.00
Memorial	6,417.42	199.98	3,440.68	143.34	0.00	10,201.42
Messiah	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mt. Calvary	123.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	123.61
Mt. Hermon	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nehemiah	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
New Hope Tabernacle	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Northgate	467.91	0.00	8,460.20	0.00	233.95	9,162.06
Pineville	1,206.75	0.00	65.00	0.00	0.00	1,271.75
Pipestem	736.46	0.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	936.46
Riverside	262.00	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	562.00
Shawnee	0.00	0.00	487.89	0.00	0.00	487.89
Silver Springs	3,172.89	2,090.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	5,362.89
Sun Valley	498.54	0.00	580.00	0.00	0.00	1,078.54
The Bridge	84.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	84.00
The Church @ Three Rivers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Voice of Calvary	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
Willowbrook	1,117.00	0.00	1,137.56	0.00	0.00	2,254.56
Totals	56,424.90	9,335.98	28,899.90	197.91	233.95	95,092.64
<i>Pioneer</i>						
Agsten Manor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cathedral of Prayer	1,951.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,951.39
Centerpointe	624.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	624.00
Cross Lanes	46,358.95	0.00	25,000.00	0.00	0.00	71,358.95
Dayspring	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Exalt Community	146.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	146.10
Fairlawn, Dunbar	902.81	0.00	30.00	0.00	0.00	932.81
First, Chelyan	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
First, Tyler Mountain	0.00	0.00	260.00	0.00	0.00	260.00
Freedom, Charleston	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Good Shepherd	14,626.97	2,414.00	843.00	0.00	0.00	17,883.97
Heritage	1,789.24	300.00	300.00	300.00	0.00	2,689.24
Lighthouse, Hurricane	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Malden	448.52	355.15	495.00	0.00	0.00	1,298.67
North Charleston	5,713.18	175.00	2,298.00	0.00	0.00	8,186.18
Shrewsbury	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
The Crossing, St. Albans	2,298.68	0.00	655.00	0.00	0.00	2,953.68
West Charleston	105.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	105.00
Witcher	1,423.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,423.23
Totals	77,388.07	3,244.15	29,881.00	300.00	0.00	110,813.22
<i>Non-Association</i>						
Berkeley	3,259.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,259.33
Crosspoint	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Freedom Fellowship	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Jordan Christian Fellowship	480.00	0.00	860.00	0.00	0.00	1,340.00
Other	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Totals	3,739.33	100.00	860.00	0.00	0.00	4,699.33

DOCTRINE DOES MATTER
NASHVILLE (BP) -- The 4,000-member **Menlo Park Presbyterian Church** has decided to sever ties with Presbyterian Church (USA) over differences in doctrine and evangelistic philosophy.

The move will cost the San Francisco Bay-area church, popularized by the preaching of Pastor John Ortberg, \$8.89 million, because all church property is owned by the PC(USA)'s local presbytery and not individual churches. Menlo Park's members, which include former Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice, approved the severance with the PC(USA) earlier this month, with 93 percent of the church's members signing off on the move.

In a statement, church leadership contended Menlo Park's evangelical identity was "increasingly out of alignment with the PC(USA)."

"For years we have referred to ourselves as a 'Jesus church.' We believe that God has expressed himself uniquely in his son Jesus, who lived, taught, died and rose again for our sakes. We believe that ... God has revealed the truth about himself in the scriptures of the Old and New Testament, which are our unique and authoritative guides in faith and action," according to the rationale provided by the church's leaders.

The rationale also said the PC(USA) "increasingly represents a wide range of beliefs on who Jesus is and on his relationship to our salvation." Those beliefs include denials of the deity of Christ and his role in salvation. In a 2011 denominational survey, only 41 percent of the denomination's pastors "agreed" or "strongly agreed" with the statement, "Only followers of Jesus Christ can be saved." Forty-five percent said they "disagreed" or "strongly disagreed."

The PC(USA) lost 61,000 members in 2010, 64,000 in 2011 and 103,000 in 2012. Today, only 1.8 million members remain in the denomination, according to the denomination's own reports.

Menlo Park voted to join the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO), which was founded in 2012 and which includes 115 churches previously separated from the PC(USA). It did not join the more conservative Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), founded in 1973 over the increasing theological liberalism of the PC(USA). The PCA also has resisted female leadership in its churches, which may have prevented Menlo Park and other churches from joining its ranks.

Gregory Tomlin is a writer based in Fort Worth, Texas.

Organization	CP	Annie Armstrong	Lottie Moon	Ola Cox	World Hunger	Total
<i>Tri-County</i>						
Baker Heights	4,027.85	0.00	611.00	0.00	0.00	4,638.85
Emmanuel, Great Cacapon	180.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	180.62
Mountain View	450.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	450.00
New Vision	299.61	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	349.61
Second, Martinsburg	3,347.52	200.00	660.00	0.00	0.00	4,207.52
South Berkeley	3,675.00	0.00	513.00	5.00	0.00	4,193.00
The Church at Martinsburg	4,592.00	3,700.00	3,700.00	0.00	0.00	11,992.00
The Church at Winchester	968.14	0.00	250.00	0.00	0.00	1,218.14
Westview	8,792.50	0.00	4,251.57	265.00	229.60	13,538.67
Totals	26,333.24	3,900.00	10,035.57	270.00	229.60	40,768.41
<i>Upper Ohio Valley</i>						
Abundant Life	3,629.21	60.00	1,257.00	0.00	160.00	5,106.21
Avondale	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Calvary, Follansbee	0.00	0.00	475.00	0.00	0.00	475.00
Cameron	86.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	86.00
Emmanuel, St. Clairsville	1,733.25	0.00	888.49	0.00	0.00	2,621.74
Evangel, Weirton	1,127.40	0.00	170.00	0.00	0.00	1,297.40
Faith Community	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
First, Chester	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Friendly	692.00	0.00	300.00	0.00	0.00	992.00
Grace, Pleasant Valley	144.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	144.73
Immanuel, New Martinsville	3,118.00	0.00	797.00	0.00	0.00	3,915.00
Indian Creek	113.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	113.46
Lighthouse, Follansbee	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Marland Heights	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Open Door	3,224.00	2,677.00	3,531.38	0.00	0.00	9,432.38
Riverview	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ryerson	1,214.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,214.03
Solid Rock	74.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	74.18
South Wheeling	78.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	78.04
Temple, Moundsville	754.73	0.00	15.00	0.00	0.00	769.73
U.O.V. Assoc.	2,454.00	30.00	270.00	0.00	0.00	2,754.00
Totals	18,443.03	2,767.00	7,703.87	0.00	160.00	29,073.90
Grand Totals	\$325,908.23	\$33,177.43	\$126,665.83	\$5,497.61	\$2,474.06	\$493,723.16

15th Annual

Men and Boys' Golf Tournament

June 6, 2014, tee time is 8 a.m. (arrive by 7:30 a.m.)

Mingo Bottom Golf Club in Elizabeth

WVCSB's annual golf tournament is open to both men and boys. Registration forms and \$40 per golfer are due by May 31. Make checks payable to Fairlawn Baptist Church. The cost includes 18 holes, lunch, and prizes.

Reservations are limited to 120 participants.

Please mail registration and entry fee to:
Fairlawn Baptist Church
Attn: Rob Noe or Mark Welch
215 Fairlawn Drive
Parkersburg, WV 26101



Questions? Call Rob Noe at (304) 483-9558 or Mark Welch at (304) 483-6415

WVCSB Calendar

May

- 3 - Children's Bible Drill
- 4 - Senior Adult Sunday (SBC)
- 11 - Mother's Day
- 11-17 - Christian Home Week
- 16-17 - Missions Celebration
- 17 - Children's Choir Training
- 17 - Youth Pastor Training
- 18-24 - Baptist Association
Emphasis (SBC)
- 26 - Memorial Day (Office Closed)

June

- 6 - Men & Boys Golf Tourney
- 7 - Crossover, Baltimore, MD
- 8-9 - National WMU Annual Mtg
- 10-11 - Southern Baptist
Convention, Baltimore, MD
- 15 - Father's Day
- 15 - Baptist Men's Emphasis
(SBC)
- 22-28 - SonPower Trip
- 29 - Citizenship & Religious
Liberty Sunday (SBC)

July

- 4 - Independence Day
(Office Closed)
- 13 - Missions Camp Volunteer
Orientation
- 14-18 - Missions Camp
- 20 - LoveLoud Sunday (SBC)
- 26-Aug 2 - Mission Trip to Tyrone,
PA

August

- 3 - Social Issues Sunday:
Christian Persecution (SBC)
- 10 - Student Evangelism Day
(SBC)
- 11-15 - Music Training Week
- 17-23 - Worship Music Week-SBC

September

- 1 - Labor Day (Office Closed)
- 6 - WVCSB Executive Board Mtg
- 7 - Single Adult Sunday (SBC)
- 7-14 Week of Prayer for State
Missions & Ola Cox Offering
- 15 - Discipleship Rally (SBC)
- 19-20 - Men & Boys Retreat
- 21 - Anti-Gambling Sunday (SBC)
- 26 - WVCSB Nominating Comm.
& Committee on Committees
- 26-27 - WMU Officers' Council

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 church plants by name each day. We invite our readers to pray as well.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Association</u>	<u>Campus</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Church Plant</u>
May 5	Allegheny	Concord Univ.	Calvary, Ravenswood	Dayspring, Charleston
May 6	Coalfields	Marshall Univ.	Calvary, War	Exalt Comm., So. Charleston
May 7	Greater Huntington	Shepherd	Camden Flats, Glenville	Friendly
May 8	Immanuel	WVU Morgantown	Cameron	Frontier Comm., Morgantown
May 9	Monongahela	Bluefield State	Canaan, Mill Creek	Grace Ch. of Pleasant Valley
May 12	Mountain State	Concord Univ.	Canaan Valley, Davis	Grassroots-Greenbrier Valley
May 13	Pioneer	Marshall Univ.	Cathedral of Prayer	Lighthouse, Follansbee
May 14	Potomac Highland	Shepherd	Centerpointe, Hurricane	Living River, Flatwoods
May 15	Tri-County	WVU Morgantown	Ceres, Bluefield	Manger, Wellsburg
May 16	Upper Ohio Valley	Bluefield State	Charity, Wyatt	Marland Heights, Weirton
May 19	Allegheny	Concord Univ.	Chattaroy	Marshall Comm. Fellowship
May 20	Coalfields	Marshall Univ.	The Church at Martinsburg	Messiah, Christiansburg, VA
May 21	Greater Huntington	Shepherd	Church of the Good Shepherd	Ministry of Salvation
May 22	Immanuel	WVU Morgantown	Community, Grantsville	Mountain Ministry Chapel
May 23	Monongahela	Bluefield State	Covenant, Princeton	New Heights, Milton
May 27	Mountain State	Concord Univ.	Covenant, Romney	New Vision, Berkeley Springs
May 28	Pioneer	Marshall Univ.	Cross Lanes	Salt & Light, Clarksburg
May 29	Potomac Highland	Shepherd	The Crossing, St. Albans	South Wheeling
May 30	Tri-County	WVU Morgantown	Crosspoint Comm., Huntington	Urbancrest, Beverly
June 2	Upper Ohio Valley	Bluefield State	Crossroads, Morgantown	Abundant Hope, Barboursville
June 3	Allegheny	Concord Univ.	Cumberland Heights, Bluefield	Carpendale
June 4	Coalfields	Marshall Univ.	Danville Comm., Rawlings, MD	Cherry Grove
June 5	Greater Huntington	Shepherd	East End, Bluefield	Cherry River, Richwood
June 6	Immanuel	WVU Morgantown	East Williamson	Church at Three Rivers, Hinton

NORTHEASTERN BAPTIST COLLEGE NOW A REALITY

Posted on Feb 25, 2014 | by Tom Strode

BENNINGTON, Vt. (BP) -- The launch of Northeastern Baptist College means faith has become sight for its president, Mark Ballard.

The new school in Vermont opened for classes in August, bringing to fruition a seed planted in Ballard's life more than two decades earlier. With a goal of preparing students to evangelize the world, especially New England and the rest of the Northeast United States, the college now has 44 students in its second semester.

When Ballard was a teenage preacher in Colorado in the 1980s, he did not have the opportunity most of the Northeastern Baptist College students now have for the first time -- to attend a Southern Baptist-related college in the same region of the country.

Ballard sensed a need to attend a Baptist school, but the "options were nearly nonexistent in my home state at the time, and it burdened me that most of our young people had to move to Texas or

Oklahoma to attend a Baptist college," he told Baptist Press.

That burden increased when churches in southern Colorado began approaching him about being their pastor. "I felt needed on the field immediately but also believed I needed college," he recalled in an email interview. "It was during this time of struggle the Lord planted a seed in my heart that one day He would use me to start a Baptist college where that



option was not readily available."

Ballard said he "pretty much lost sight" of it while in college and seminary, but God began reminding him "of that seed He

planted so many years earlier" when his wife and he moved to New Hampshire in 1998 to start a church. "In October 2009, the Lord seemed to tap me on the shoulder and say, 'Now is the time' and he subsequently began organizing teams of people to work toward the launch of the school. After 12 years as pastor of Christian Fellowship Baptist Church in Londonderry, N.H., he began working full-time in 2010 to put together staff, faculty, program, facilities and students for the 2013 start-up of Northeastern Baptist College (NEBC) in Bennington, Vt. Tom Strode is the Washington bureau chief for Baptist Press.

NEED HELP WITH SONGS FOR WORSHIP? Try

www.lifewayworship.com

From the site you can get sheet music, a stereo tract, a listening track, or a split track. You can listen to the song before you buy it. You can build an online library. You can get some songs in multiple keys. Check it out. It might meet your needs.





Mission Celebration & 2014 Annual Meeting Of West Virginia W MU

May 16-17, 2014

Special Guest

Northgate SBC, Beckley, WV

** Missionaries from NAMB*

Registration 6:00 pm Friday

*George & Cathy Chinn, Directors
of Mississippi River Ministries
(need: school supplies (toiletries)*

Session 1- 6:45 pm Friday

Session 2- 8:30 am Saturday

** MNB Representative with Global
Resource Team serving South East
Asian Peoples*



Auction and Country Store:

Please bring items

Special project:

lilysplace.org (for list)

DATES FOR ASSOCIATION VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CLINICS

PIONEER
POTOMAC HIGHLANDS

MAY 5
MAY 9

6:30-8:30 PM
5:30-7:30 PM

GOOD SHEPHERD BAPTIST
OLD FIELDS BAPTIST CHURCH



The congregation at Lighthouse Baptist Church, Hurricane, helped their Pastor celebrate his birthday. The church hosted a drop-by cookout luncheon with hamburgers, hot dogs, and the trimmings. Pictured are Pastor Kevin Pre-vett, his wife, Lisa (L), and daughter, Lauren.

Top CP Giving Per Capita for 2013

Church	Total Giving	Members	Per Capita
Baker Heights	\$18,473.32	62	\$297.96
New River	\$2,211	11	\$201.00
Cross Lanes	\$105,488.22	630	\$167.45
Freedom Nutter Fort	\$32,800.75	200	\$164.01
New Creek	\$3,716.30	23	\$161.58
Good Shepherd	\$59,146.31	374	\$158.15
Friendly Baptist	\$1514	10	\$151.40
Valley	\$4,237.53	29	\$146.13
WV Chinese Mission	\$4,071.25	30	\$135.71
New Day	\$6,823.00	53	\$128.74



Pastors from the Pioneer Association met for lunch. The fellowship time was to share prayer needs, discuss concerns, trade ideas, and get to know each other. The men met at La Roca, in Cross Lanes.

News from West Virginia Churches

Compensation Survey Helps Determine Fair Pay for Southern Baptist Church Pastors and Staff

By Shelly Moon

DALLAS — Ministers and church employees are invited to participate in the 2014 SBC Church Compensation Survey: a tool used by churches of all sizes to determine fair wages and benefits. Participants will be entered for a chance to win an iPad. The survey and complete contest rules are available at www.GuideStone.org/CompensationSurvey.

Survey results are not reported individually. Compensation and benefit information can be contributed anonymously.

Churches often don't contribute to salary surveys because they don't have time or receive enough valuable information in return. But according to Fausch, GuideStone's survey is worth the time because it provides customized reports to allow administrators, personnel/finance committees and minister search teams to

better determine adequate compensation for ministers and staff. That can be essential information for thousands of churches, which makes the survey worth the few minutes it takes to complete.

Southern Baptist church ministers and staff have until May 31 to complete the online survey. Survey results will be released this summer. Survey participants will receive advance notification of the results and can begin to access the data upon notice.

Contact GuideStone Financial Resources with any questions or issues. Call toll free 1-888-98-GUIDE (1-888-984-8433) Monday–Friday between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. CST to speak with a customer relations specialist, or send an email to info@GuideStone.org.

Shelly Moon is a marketing writer at GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

From: "Brian McClure" <mccluredb@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2014

Subject: McClure's STAS Aug-Nov 2014 Greetings ,

I hope that this email finds you doing well. Our family is going to be in WV from the middle of Aug until the end of Nov and I am beginning to plan out our speaking and sharing schedule. I would like to make myself available to you and the convention during that time if that would be a blessing to the WV SBC.

I am willing to travel through out the state to share how God is using SBC churches to further the kingdom in Prage. Most of Oct and Nov are empty right now so I am ready to fill it up as you can use me!

Look forward to talking and connecting with you soon!

Brian
International Mission Board



May 9 - 10, 2014
10 AM Friday— 1 PM Saturday
Register Now!
Held at WVCBSB Offices

The Intentionally Evangelistic Church Strategy seeks to assist you in developing an individualized process for effective evangelism. The biblical basis for the IECS is found in Acts 2:41-47. Rather than being just one person's successful paradigm, this approach takes insights from more than 100 pastors who are effectively and consistently evangelistic.



Led by: Don McCutcheon (former SDOE NCBC)



The seminar is **FREE** but registration is required!

Registration begins now & closes May 5th, 2014

Please call: 304—757-0944
Or
Email: Kimkoletka@wvcbsb.org

Gotta Tell It!

"There's nothing else we can do. We have to speak about the things we've seen and heard." (Acts 4:20 NIV)

WVCSB Missions Camp 2014

*****NEW LOCATION*****

Fairmont State University
700 Falcon Crest Lane
Fairmont, WV 26554

*Come prepared to make new friends
that will last beyond a lifetime!!*

Date: July 14-July 18, 2014

Other important Dates & Information to Remember:

Deposit: \$75 Total Cost: \$145

Reserve spots with deposit and camper info starting 3/1

Scholarship applications with camper info no later than 5/27

Registration with \$75 Deposit Deadline 6/9

Camp registration begins on Monday, July 14 @ 1:30 p.m.
and ends at 3:00 p.m.

Camp ends at noon on Friday, July 18 Campers must be
picked-up by 1 p.m.



CAN I KNOW GOD?

The answer is yes, you can know God, in a personal way. In fact, the Bible indicates that unless you know God as you would know a friend, then just knowing about God does you no good.

And the amazing thing is that God wants to know you! Now you may think that where you have been or what you have done may cause God to want to have nothing to do with you. The Bible tells us that Jesus, God's one and only Son, came to this earth to explain to us who God the Father is, and to shed His blood to provide the way that we could be forgiven.

The Bible is clear that God is Holy, and Pure, and Perfect, and people are not. God is so Holy that He cannot even be in the presence of unholiness. So why does God want to have a friend relationship with us? Because He made us, and He loves us.

So how do I get past my sin problem? That is what Jesus did in His death---He made a way to trade us His Holy nature for our unholy nature so we could be friends with God.

How can that happen? First, admit to God that you are not holy, or good, or good enough, to be in His presence. Then tell God that you believe that Jesus, His Son, died on the cross and shed His blood for your sin problem. And then, confess Jesus to be your only Savior and Lord, and commit your life to Him.