

THE WEST VIRGINIA  
**SOUTHERN BAPTIST**

September

VOL. 42, NO. 7

*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.*

# TELL THE STORY

"LET THE REDEEMED OF THE LORD SAY SO."

PSALM 107:2



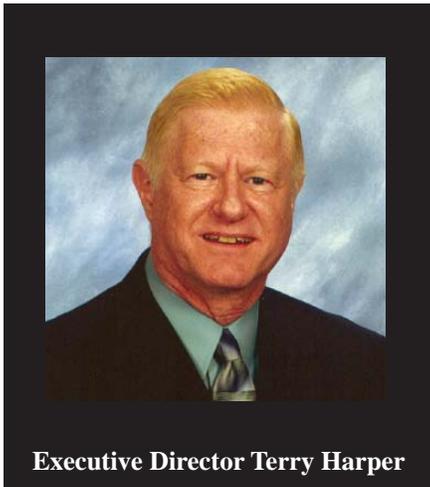
**\$125,000**

## OLA COX OFFERING

**WEST VIRGINIA STATE MISSIONS**

**SEPTEMBER 9-16, 2012**

RESORT MISSIONS-----3%	ASSOCIATIONAL DEVELOPMENT---10%
MISSION MINISTRIES----5.1%	MISSIONS CAMP AND SUPER SUMMER---5.5%
PASTOR ANNUITY-----5.5%	EMERGENCY HELP FOR CHURCH STAFFS-----2.75%
DISASTER RELIEF-----4.5%	MISSIONS EDUCATION---1.4%
EMERGENCY HELP TO CHURCHES-----2.75%	PROMOTION---1.5%
CONGREGATIONAL ASSISTANCE--58%--funds to assist the starting of new churches	



My Dear Friends,

We have just returned from our Shepherding the Shepherd Conference which was a great one. What a joy it was to spend time with so many of our great Pastors and their families.

Prior to that conference, we had a great time at the Send North America Conference at the North American Mission Board. It was exciting to attend this conference with Pastors and church planters as well as staff from all across North America. We heard great messages by Louie Giglio, Ed Stetzer, Kevin Ezell

**THE WEST VIRGINIA  
SOUTHERN BAPTIST**  
(USPS 097-990)

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Published nine times per year by  
The West Virginia Convention  
of Southern Baptists  
Number One Mission Way  
Scott Depot WV 25560-9406.

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

**Note: No paid advertising or  
subscriptions accepted. This  
paper is fully funded by Southern  
Baptists in West Virginia.**

**Periodicals Postage Paid  
Scott Depot, WV 25560  
and additional mailing offices**

**POSTMASTER:**

Send address changes to:  
The West Virginia Southern Baptist  
Number One Mission Way  
Scott Depot, WV 25560-9406

## From the Executive Director:

and others. There were also wonderful breakout sessions. I was pleased that my nephew, a church planter from Virginia, was leading one of those sessions. He has grown a church from 150 to over 3000 in attendance.

I feel that we are making good progress in our transition to the new directions adopted by our convention last November. Our CPCs are working well in their regions (these are being featured in each monthly paper by Dr. Wrigley, see article elsewhere in this issue). We have a couple of church planters just getting underway here in our state.

Meanwhile, we are working with NAMB in seeking to find more ways to assist our existing churches, especially those in changing neighborhoods or with aging and declining populations.

I really believe it is a bright new day in our convention. We have many young, sharp pastors coming along that offer much hope for the future. We need to be willing to encourage them as well as be willing to offer them shared leadership in the future. Together we will find ways to work through this difficult financial time in which we find ourselves and we will deal constructively with the changes that have been brought upon us! It is a blessing to serve you as your state leader. Call upon me if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,  
Terry L. Harper



(L to R) Jason Barber, Dr. John Sullivan, and Marc Ivey, were the guest worship leaders at Shepherding the Shepherd.



(above) Convention President Greg Varndel led the assembly at Shepherding in a dedicatory prayer for Pat and Paul Blizzard as they go to Vietnam to be missionaries in September.



(above) God treated us to a beautiful sunset on Monday evening.

(left) [left to right] Cheryl Harper, Jeanne Beall, Debbie Spurgeon, provided special music for the ladies' meeting at Shepherding.

**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**

## What the Constitution says about messengers to the state convention:

This Convention shall consist of messengers who are members of and elected by Southern Baptist churches which are in agreement with "The Baptist Faith and Message," as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention and which cooperate with, fellowship with, and contribute to the work of the Convention. Each church shall be entitled to three (3) messengers for the first fifty (50) members or fractional part thereof and one (1) additional messenger for each additional fifty (50) members or major fraction thereof, but in no case shall any church be entitled to more than fifteen (15) messengers. Messengers shall be elected and certified by their churches to the Convention.

November 2-3, 2012, Fairlawn Baptist Church, Parkersburg

### Dr. Kevin Ezell Calls Bivocational Ministers – "The Iron Men of the SBC"

The Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in New Orleans, June 17-20, 2012, became a milestone event in the history of bivocational ministry across the Southern Baptist Convention.

While addressing the Bivocational Ministers luncheon, Dr. Kevin Ezell, President NAMB, labeled bivocational ministers the "Iron Men of the SBC". In his address he challenged and encouraged the group and then presented each one with an "Iron Men of the SBC" tee shirt and pin. Two books were given out, *Bivo Planters and Pastors* edited by Aaron Coe, and *Rural Church Planting*, by George Garner.

Another exciting time for bivocational ministers came during the NAMB presentation during a general session of the annual meeting. In his presentation, Dr. Ezell said, "Thank you for all you do as bivocational pastors. Not until I came to the North American Mission Board did I realize the enormity of what bivocational pastors do in North America." He said that one of the key initiatives of NAMB in the future will be to call out and equip thousands of bivocational pastors to reach North America.

Also mentioned in the presentation,

NAMB now has a scholarship program for bivocational pastors. "We have established a fully online master's degree through Union University. Any bivocational pastor is eligible and as of right now, NAMB is paying for 100% of the tuition." For those that are interested, they can request more information by emailing [ironmen@namb.net](mailto:ironmen@namb.net)

Praise God for this strong affirmation of bivocational ministry.

This article was edited and taken, by permission, from the Bivocational and Small Church Leadership Network website "A WORD FROM: Ray Gilder", BSCLN National Coordinator. I encourage you to read all of Ray's comments regarding other encouraging bivocational happenings from this year's SBC Annual Meeting at the BSCLN website ([www.bivosmallchurch.net](http://www.bivosmallchurch.net)).

We just thought all of you who are called to serve as bivocational ministers across West Virginia need to know that not only does your state convention leadership affirm and support you in your ministry, but your ministry is also recognized, affirmed and held in high esteem at the very top levels of the SBC.

**Vernon and Jean Beachum,  
Coordinators for Bivocational  
Ministries**



The team of Scott Lymer, Mark Welch, Larry McDonald, and Shirley Fitzwater won the Men and Boy's Golf Tournament held at Mingo Bottom Country Club, in Elizabeth. Next year's tournament is planned for June 7, 2013.

## WVCSB Calendar

### September

- 2 - Single Adult Sunday
- 3 - Labor Day (Office Closed)
- 8 - WVCSB Executive Board Mtg
- 9-15 - Church Music Emphasis
- 9-16 - Week of Prayer for State Missions & Ola Cox Offering
- 14-15 - Men and Boys Retreat
- 16 - Anti-Gambling Sunday
- 17 - Discipleship Rally
- 21-22 - WMU Officers' Council
- 27-29 - Basic Training Journey
- 28 - WVCSB Nominating Comm. WVCSB Committee on Committees

### October

- Cooperative Program Emphasis
- 4 - New Ministers' Orientation
- 7 - Great Day in the Mountains (SS High Attendance)
- 7 - Soul-Winning Commitment Day
- 14 - World Hunger Sunday

### November

- 1 - WVCSB Executive Board Mtg
- 1 - Pastors' Conference Ministers' Wives
- 2-3 - WVCSB Annual Meeting
- 4 - Daylight Saving Time Ends
- 4 - Children's Missions Celebration Day (SBC)
- 22 - Thanksgiving (Office Closed 22-23)

### December

- 2-9 - Week of Prayer for International Missions & Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
- 25 - Christmas (Office Closed 12/24/12 - 1/2/13)

### January

- 2-6 - January Bible Study
- 12 - WVCSB Executive Board Mtg
- 18-19 - Youth Evangelism Conference
- 20 - Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
- 26 - WV Foundation Officers Mtg
- 27 - Day of Prayer for the SBC

## SIX WAYS NAMB CAN HELP YOUR CHURCH IN EVANGELISM

By Larry Wynn 6-4-12

ALPHARETTA, Ga. - Evangelism is the key component of any missions endeavor. This is why we are committing even more resources toward evangelism efforts in 2012 (\$4.1 million) than in 2009 (\$3.5 million). Whether you're planting a church or assisting someone in crisis, our driving motivation is to reach the whole person with the Gospel so that communities are made whole in Him.

There are six key components of NAMB's evangelism strategy with which every church can connect:

1. God's Plan for Sharing (GPS)
2. LoveLoud ministry evangelism
3. Disaster Relief
4. Chaplaincy
5. Church revitalization
6. Collegiate ministry

Let me take a moment to explain each.

### GPS

This year God's Plan for Sharing is focused on helping churches intentionally engage the community through attractional events. Facilitated by Ken Ellis, NAMB's GPS team leader, GPS 2012 will emphasize the catalytic effect an evangelistic event can have on a community. Events like these provide a non-threatening way to engage people in friendship and with truth. Many churches will demonstrate the effectiveness of attractional events during Crossover 2012 and throughout the year as churches draw their communities to opportunities to hear the Gospel.

### LoveLoud

Al Gilbert, executive director for NAMB's LoveLoud emphasis, is casting a biblical vision for loving neglected neighbors, neglected children and communities and cities in North America through ministry evangelism. Al is leading LoveLoud with the understanding that if we offer the truth of the Gospel without ministering to the needs of the whole person, we are only offering half of the truth.

Through LoveLoud ministries, Southern Baptists will join together to meet the felt needs of their communities through opportunities such as pregnancy care, ministry to children, standing up against human trafficking and other injustices, and a list of other urgent needs faced in many North American communities.

### Disaster Relief

A recent change in NAMB's organizational structure brought Southern Baptist Disaster Relief into the Evangelism Group and I think that's right where it belongs. We are committed to resourc-

ing and serving our state partners in a way that will continue to allow Southern Baptists to provide timely, top-quality assistance to victims of disaster.

In addition, we want to give our disaster relief volunteers top quality resources and training that will allow them to offer the hope of Christ while they are giving the physical help so urgently needed in times of crisis.

### Chaplaincy

I am thrilled to have retired Maj. Gen. Doug Carver leading our Southern Baptist chaplaincy ministries. NAMB undergirds chaplains serving in healthcare, correctional facilities, public safety, disaster relief and corporate environments as well as the U.S. military. His aim is to strengthen our chaplain base as well as find ways to connect chaplain ministry to local churches.

The need for ministry to chaplains and armed service personnel is a growing opportunity for Southern Baptist churches. As returning servicemen and service-women re-enter their stateside lives, we want churches to be positioned to meet critical emotional, spiritual and other needs of military families. Local church involvement and military base church plants are among the many new long-term ventures NAMB's chaplaincy team is exploring.

### Church Revitalization

Plateaued, declining and dying churches are a growing reality for Southern Baptists. Some 880 SBC churches die every year. And 70 percent of our churches are either plateaued or declining. Churches do have an inevitable life cycle but we don't want to see any of them die without a fight. This is why NAMB is developing a variety of approaches for bringing churches back from the brink of death.

For churches that are in a slump, we want to assist them getting healthy again and reengaging with their community.

If the decline is deeper, we want to help churches come under the care of a healthy church in hopes of bringing new life to the congregation.

Other churches might need a re-plant-a fresh start and new effort in connecting with the community around them. For others, it might be best to merge with a healthy congregation. For some there is no other option than closure, but we want to help be sure their property ends up with a new congregation that will shine the light of the Gospel in the community.

### Collegiate ministry

Collegiate ministry is an investment in our future. If we can play a role in a student coming to Christ and being disciplined, then we are developing the future leadership of the church. NAMB knows this needs to be a key area of focus and

we are currently taking a close look at what role is best for us to play.

I truly believe we are on the brink of something big as Southern Baptists. My heart's desire is that we would be found faithful in our call to introduce the lost in our lives to the life-giving truth of the Gospel. God has given us an opportunity, in our time, to see a world worshipping Him. I don't know about you, but I want to be a part of that heritage.



Larry Wynn is vice president of evangelism at the North American Mission Board.

May 22, 2012

## GuideStone Funds Garners Top fi360 Ranking

By Roy Hayhurst

DALLAS — GuideStone Funds ranked No. 1 out of 223 mutual fund families for the quarter ending March 31, 2012, according to fi360's Fund Family Fiduciary Rankings. These rankings are updated quarterly and this is the first time GuideStone Funds has achieved the top ranking by fi360 but follows 2011, when the Funds consistently finished in the top 10 spots.

The ranking comes on the heels of the March announcement that GuideStone Funds ranked No. 1 out of 182 funds, receiving industry ranking firm Lipper's 2012 Best Overall Small Fund Group award, one of the nation's premier financial industry honors, presented to mutual fund families with up to \$40 billion in assets.

"We are thankful, first and foremost to the Lord for these achievements," O. S. Hawkins said. "On each desk at GuideStone sits a card reminding us that we seek to Honor the Lord by being life-long partners with our participants in enhancing their financial security. That commitment drives our daily decisions at GuideStone. We are thankful for the integrity and excellence of our investment team who are now being publicly recognized as leaders in the entire industry."

## Fritz Wilson Named Executive Director of NAMB Disaster Relief

By Mickey Noah

ALPHARETTA, Ga. - Fritz M. Wilson, disaster relief and recovery team strategist for the Florida Baptist Convention since 2006, today (June 7) was named executive director of the North American Mission Board's disaster relief team. Wilson will be working with NAMB's disaster relief team leader Mickey Caison through a time of transition.

Wilson has already begun developing a strategy plan, but will officially begin his leadership of disaster relief at NAMB in October of this year to enable him to continue leading Florida disaster relief until the end of the current hurricane season. He will eventually relocate to Alpharetta, Ga.

During the time of transition, Caison will continue to utilize his relationships and expertise in the disaster relief network with special concentration on new-work states.

"Fritz brings many years of great experience and relationships throughout the disaster response network that will allow him to build on the outstanding foundation Mickey Caison has established over the years," said NAMB president Kevin Ezell. "This ministry is so significant to Southern Baptists and so essential to the United States disaster response network, we want to handle this transition with great care."

Since 1996, Wilson has served in a variety of positions of increasing responsibility while directing the disaster relief ministries for the Florida convention in Jacksonville, Fla.

Since 1999, Wilson has led Florida Baptists in more than 100 disaster responses. During the same period, the Florida convention's roster of credentialed disaster relief volunteers grew from 800 to more than 9,000. In 2006, DR became a stand-alone, dedicated department in the Florida convention and in 2007, Florida Baptist Disaster Relief won the Governor's Hurricane Conference Award for "most outstanding volunteer organization in the state." Wilson also played a key role during the 9/11 response in New York, establishing the SBC DR/Salvation Army partnership and heading up the first kitchen operations at Ground Zero and Staten Island.

"I am humbled and honored to be asked by Dr. Ezell to fill this role at NAMB," Wilson said. "I covet the prayers of all Southern Baptists as I seek to serve shoulder-to-shoulder with my brothers and sisters across the convention, ministering as the body of Christ to survivors, responders and anyone in need."

The 50-year-old Wilson said he is also excited by the recent announcement that NAMB will shift disaster relief to the mission entity's evangelism group, headed by vice president Larry Wynn.

"Disaster relief volunteers have always done evangelism-seeking opportunities to share their faith as they serve a meal, gut out a flooded home or provide a hot shower," he said.

Wilson said he is also "humbled" to follow in the footsteps of 62-year-old Caison.

"God has used Mickey to lead Southern Baptists through exponential growth in disaster relief following Hurricane Andrew in 1992 to today," Wilson said. "Mickey is recognized and respected throughout the U.S. emergency management community, and has played a significant role in establishing NAMB's national relationships and partnerships with government agencies and volunteer organizations like FEMA, The Red Cross and The Salvation Army. He will continue to be our liaison with those groups."

A native of Jasper, Ala., Wilson earned a B.S. degree in health, physical education and recreation at Mobile College, and a Master of Divinity degree in religious education at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

Wilson and his wife, Deborah, are the parents of two sons, Benjamin, 18 and Elijah, 13.

From NAMB's disaster operations center in Alpharetta, Ga., Caison, Wilson and NAMB staff members will continue to coordinate and manage Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBDR) responses to major disasters throughout North America via a partnership among NAMB and the SBC's 42 state conventions, most of which run their own state disaster relief programs with state convention-owned assets.

Total SBDR assets are comprised of 82,000 trained volunteers, including chaplains, and some 1,550 mobile units for feeding, chainsaw, mud-out, command, communication, childcare, shower, laundry, water purification, repair/rebuild and power generation. SBDR is one of the largest mobilizers of trained, credentialed disaster relief volunteers in the United States, including The Red Cross and The Salvation Army.



## Poll: Pastors Want to Keep SBC Name

By Russ Rankin

Jun 8, 2012

LifeWay Research asked the question: "Do you agree that the Southern Baptist Convention should continue to be the name for this convention?" and found 72 percent of pastors agree (strongly or somewhat) the name should continue to be used. Twenty-three percent disagree and 5 percent "don't know."

*Jimmy Draper*, chairman of the task force that made the recommendation, told Baptist Press the "survey is about what I expected."

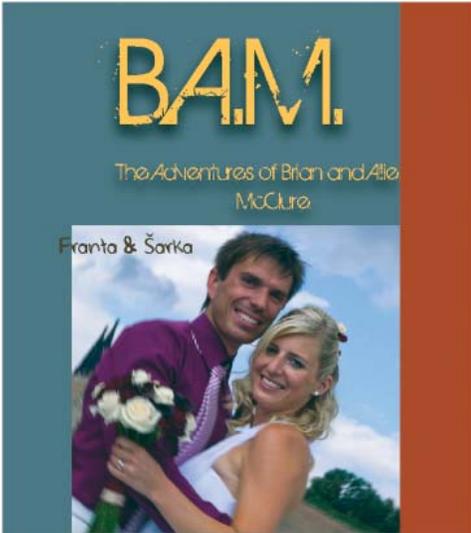
"The vast majority of Southern Baptists prefer to keep the Southern Baptist name," Draper told Baptist Press. "In our study we concluded that there were many reasons why we should keep the Southern Baptist name. That is why we recommended keeping that name. Approximately 90 percent of those who attend the convention annually are from the south. For most of us, we see the value of the name as a brand worthy of maintaining."

*Scott McConnell*, director of LifeWay Research, said that "while more than one in five pastors indicate they are ready for a change in the name of the convention, across all subgroups measured the majority of pastors agree the current name should continue to be used."

When pastors were asked if they agree "that a non-legal name like 'Great Commission Baptists' would be acceptable for use by those who would find it beneficial?" an equal number of pastors agree and disagree (46 percent) with the statement.



Raleigh Sadler accompanied the pastors' children to New York City to help them get around on the island. The group formed a mission team that went to Parkslope Community Church in Brooklyn this past June. They assisted with a Bible Club, prayer stations, handed out bottled water and breakfast bars, fed the homeless, and helped do a cookout and block party on Friday. The group plans to go to Indianapolis in 2013.



**Franta & Šarka**

Franta was the instructor for the sailing class Brian took last summer, and we connected with him and his wife Šarka a few evenings after the class. We had dinner again with them earlier this year and Franta told us that he had read parts of the Old Testament but was confused and turned off by what he read. Brian explained the entire Gospel to him and encouraged him to read the New Testament as well to see the completion of the story. Since then, we've invited them over several times, but they haven't been to come.

Pray that Franta has continued to read the Scriptures, and that we would have an opportunity to re-connect with them soon. They are also expecting their first child this fall, so pray for Šarka and the health of their child.

Ministry Transition

Of course we are always in prayer about how God wants us to best reach this city with the Gospel. During this first half of the year, our team has been praying and strategizing about doing ministry in an area of Prague that currently has no evangelical church or church planting efforts. We are excited about this new opportunity, which may include the possibility of us moving to this area as early as this fall. We covet your prayers as our team makes decisions this summer regarding future ministry.

Camp

Summer is quickly approaching which means that most Czechs will have 4-6 weeks of vacation coming up. Many Czechs choose to spend some of their vacation at English camps where they can practice speaking English and learn new grammar and phrases. These camps are such a great way for us to connect and share the Gospel with people because we are with them the entire week and they are usually more relaxed and open since they are away from home, work, demands of life, etc. We, along with our teammates, will be hosting an English camp August 4th - 11th. Please pray that God would bring exactly the people he wants to be there and that he would continue to guide us during the planning process.



**Rick Canfield** has been called as the new pastor for **The First Southern Baptist Church (FSBC) of Sutton**.

The church most recently was led by **Rev. Bill Hopkins and wife, Jean**. After Hopkins' retirement nearly two years ago, the church looked far and wide for a new pastor but found him close by in Clay County. Canfield was called by unanimous vote.

Canfield has served in the ministry some 27 years; five of those as a missionary with the North American Mission Board. Additionally he is an alumnus of the Appalachian Bible College in Raleigh County. He was also a pastor in Elyria, Ohio, and the Ivydale area in Clay County.

He was born in Gassaway in 1959, but was raised in Elyria, Ohio. He spent many years in Ohio and worked as a Regional Manager for DeVry University for 12 years.

He and his wife, Sheila, celebrate their 35th year of marriage this summer. They have five children: Aaron, Jeremy, Seth, Nicole and Nathan. Sheila is a nurse, employed by the Little Laurel Nursing Home.

Canfield follows Rev. Bill Hopkins who served the First Southern Baptist for some ten years. Since Hopkins' retirement, the church was assisted by Interim Pastors, Greg Carpenter, of Cross Lanes, and most recently by Dennis Cherry, of Summersville.

"I am mission minded," Canfield said. "I will not only care for our congregation, but also want the church to play a role in serving the community." Canfield quickly announced plans for a church-friends day picnic and the church exceeded his challenge of 100.

Canfield expressed his interest in a very strong Sunday School program. He said, "A vibrant Sunday School effort builds a strong church," He is currently visiting the homes of church members.



[above] Pastor Bill Hopkins [R] passes the ministry key to new pastor, Rick Canfield.

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

1. Franta and Šarka would have a desire to study scriptures with us.
2. Transition ministry & decisions regarding where and how to start the new work
3. Pray that camp would hinge around the topics and questions people are asking in their lives and that the conversations we have with them will lead them to Jesus.

**SEND NORTH AMERICA CONFERENCE**

-----Delton Beall

More than 2,000 church planters, pastors and other Southern Baptist leaders - triple the number originally predicted - attended the North American Mission Board's (NAMB) Send North America Conference at First Baptist Church in Woodstock, Ga., July 30-31.

Twenty-three West Virginia Southern Baptist Church Planters, pastors, missionaries and their wives attended the two and a half day conference. There were general sessions where the group heard from various speakers including David Platt, Ed Stezter, and John Bisagno.

A key intent of the conference was to help mobilize churches to the North American Mission field so they can have a more personal connection to and

involvement with church planters, pastors and missionaries.

Workshops throughout Tuesday covered topics such as "Reaching the Nations in North America," "Knowing Your Mission Context," "How to be an Effective Sending Church" and "Rural Church Planting." Other topics covered evangelism, bi-vocational pastoring and planting. A separate track featured content for minister's wives.

This year's conference also combined the annual summer state leadership meetings where missionaries and state leaders from across the SBC convene for partnership planning and missions dialogue.

The second night of the conference was highlighted with the commissioning of 23 new NAMB missionaries. Jim Drake and Tony Inmon were in this group.

To come from a small town in West Virginia to the most ethnically diverse square mile in the US is not an easy leap to make, but this small youth group from First Baptist Church Hinton did just that. They stepped out of their comfort zones and experienced things they never thought they would inside the borders of the United States. They learned a lot about how internationals live and what the life of a refugee is like. "I learned what it was like to put myself in someone else's shoes," said Russel. The team participated in many activities including visiting the homes of refugees, putting on Backyard Bible Clubs for the children and prayer walking.



During the week, the group was also given the opportunity to visit the huge Swaminarayan Mandir, the largest Hindu temple of its kind outside of India. During the visit, the team saw the dedication and sincerity of the Hindu people as they came to worship the idols. Their eyes were opened to the spiritual warfare that goes on in the temple, as well as in the community of **Clarkston, Georgia**.

The team learned a lot during the week about different cultures. At times it was difficult for them to simply sit around someone's house with minimal conversation or to eat strange foods,



but they learned to adapt. A big theme of their time on missions was the two major rules of missions—flexibility and perseverance.

## NEWS FROM BAPTIST PRESS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) -- The **United Methodist Church** has opted not to follow other mainline Protestant denominations in a drift toward liberalism on the issue of homosexuality in declining to alter language in a guiding document.

In a vote of about 60 percent to 40 percent May 3, delegates to the General Conference, the denomination's governing body, maintained language in the Book of Discipline characterizing homosexuality as "incompatible with Christian teaching." Methodists prohibit same-sex unions and expect clergy to be celibate if single and monogamous if married.

The number of Methodists in the United States is shrinking while the denomination is growing in African and Asian countries where the church is theologically conservative, the Associated Press said.

Mark Tooley, president of the Institute on Religion and Democracy, credited delegates from Africa, who comprise about 30 percent of the total, with upholding the denomination's official stance.

"Thanks to its global membership, United Methodism uniquely is growing in members and rejecting liberal accommodation of secular Western culture, unlike declining U.S. mainline Protestant denominations," Tooley said.

"Likely to have an African membership majority within a decade or so, United Methodism can anticipate a bright future ahead that is more tied to vibrant global Christianity than to dying liberal Protestantism in America," Tooley said.

At the General Conference, homosexual activists wearing rainbow stoles protested the vote by singing and interrupting the meeting, AP said. Some cried when the tally was announced, and leaders briefly halted the business session because of the protest.

Because the General Conference convenes once every four years, the denomination's stance on homosexuality is not expected to come up again until at least 2016.

**KOREANS FIND BABY FLESH IN PILLS** -- South Korean customs authorities have found in luggage and mail during the last nine months more

than 17,000 pills filled with the ground-up flesh of unborn and stillborn babies.

The gruesome trade originates in China, where some healthcare providers are informing medical groups when babies are aborted or delivered dead, according to the Daily Mail. The babies' corpses are dried in medical microwaves, then ground into powder and placed with herbs in capsules, the British newspaper reported. Tests on the pills showed they consisted of 99.7 percent human remains, according to a San Francisco Times report cited by the Daily Mail.

Some of the babies whose bodies were used in the pills may have come from China's "dying rooms," where children are left to die by parents who already have a child, the newspaper said, citing some unnamed reports. China has a coercive population control program, known as the one-child policy, that has produced a regime of forced abortion and sterilization, as well as reports of infanticide.

The capsules are considered to have medicinal powers, according to various reports, including the enhancement of sexual performance.

**GA. ENACTS BAN ON PAIN-CAPABLE ABORTIONS** -- Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal, a Republican, signed into law May 1 a ban on abortions at 20 weeks or more into pregnancy based on evidence a baby in the womb experiences pain by that point.

Georgia becomes the sixth state to prohibit pain-capable abortions with legislation modeled on a bill crafted by the National Right to Life Committee. The others are Alabama, Idaho, Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma.



One of the thousands of trees that was blown down by the "hurricane" that hit West Virginia June 29, landed on the education building of Southern Baptist Fellowship, Summersville. The big oak tree made useless one of the rooms. Insurance will cover the costs.



## Arab opportunity

Across the Arab world, young people want the freedom to think for themselves. They don't want to go back to the way it was before change began sweeping across the Middle East last year. That mindset offers an historic opportunity, believes one Christian worker who knows the region.

"We've never seen an opportunity like this," he says. "We've been able to pass out materials door to door. We're able ... to have a clinic when before the government said we couldn't do that.

"It is a window of opportunity that could close so quickly. We have been praying for revival. This may not have been the response we were thinking of ... but right now we have the opportunity and we need to respond to it."

A church in a border town between Jordan and Syria is fully responding. Church members deliver food, blankets, medicine and other basic supplies to Syrian refugees. They go to their houses, visit and drink tea, share their lives, ask what they need.

What started as assistance to 30 families has grown to more than 270 families.

"Jesus loved us, and He asked us to help people," says the pastor. "That takes a lot of time."

But the important thing is how the Syrians see it. "For them, 'The Christians are helping,'" he says. "The main thing is the love. We cannot do it without love."

*For more updates on the situation and work in Northern Africa and the Middle East, see the summer and fall issues of CommissionStories.*

My name is Jim Drake and I am your **Church Planting Catalyst for the Southeast Region** of West Virginia. Many of you know me from my time serving as pastor of the wonderfully loving people of Brushfork Baptist Church in Bluefield, WV. Before that, I served in the US Air Force for twenty years, retiring as a Master Sergeant. I hold three degrees from the Community College of the Air Force, as well as a Bachelor's Degree from Liberty University and a Master's Degree from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary.



My wife Miranda and I will be celebrating our 25th wedding anniversary in August. We have three children—Kyla, Katelyn and CJ. Kyla is currently serving in the US Navy and is the mother of our beautiful grandson, Kent. Katelyn is a freshman at North Greenville University, majoring in education. CJ is in the 11th grade, splitting his time between homeschool classes, dual enrollment college classes and working at Chick-fil-a.

In this new position, I am excited to come alongside you, your pastors, churches and associations to do three things—identify and develop people who are called by God to plant healthy churches, identify and develop places that are chosen by God to

plant healthy churches, and identify and develop partners who are called by God to plant healthy churches. People, places and partners—all for the purpose of planting healthy churches that will cooperate with our existing churches and associations to reach the over 190,000 unchurched people of Mercer, Raleigh, Fayette, Nicholas, Webster, Pocahontas, Greenbrier, Monroe and Summers Counties.



Keep planning events for fall that will draw people in order to give you a chance to witness to them.

### WEEK OF PRAYER MISSIONARIES

9 - FRANK & CHERYL PILCHER

10 - CHARLIE & CINDY MINNEY

11 - JIM & MIRANDA DRAKE

12 - JAMES & JERILYN SMITH

13 - TONY & DENITA INMON

14 - GLENN & AMY LARUE

15 - SCOTT & AMANDA WHITAKER

16 - ROY & BEVERLY CARTER

### DISASTER RELIEF HELP

Thousands of people were grateful that the feeding units from Kentucky and North Carolina arrived to cook some hot meals. Bottled water and ice were also provided through the units. Kentucky was stationed at Restoration Fellowship in Summersville. North Carolina worked out of FBC Fairlea. The Red Cross used their trucks to carry meals to people as far away as Bradshaw Mountain.



# 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.

## SEPTEMBER 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<sup>1</sup> WV Disaster Relief
<sup>2</sup> Monongahela Association	<sup>3</sup> WVCSB State Staff	<sup>4</sup> Missions Camp	<sup>5</sup> Pioneer Association	<sup>6</sup> Bi-vocational Pastors	<sup>7</sup> New Congregation Assistance	<sup>8</sup> Mountain State Association
<sup>9</sup>	<sup>10</sup>	<sup>11</sup>	<sup>12</sup>	<sup>13</sup>	<sup>14</sup>	<sup>15</sup>
<b>WEEK OF PRAYER FOR WEST VIRGINIA STATE MISSIONS</b>						
<sup>16</sup>	<sup>17</sup> Immanuel Association	<sup>18</sup> Mission Ministries	<sup>19</sup> Coal Fields Association	<sup>20</sup> Pastor Annuities	<sup>21</sup> Upper Ohio Valley Association	<sup>22</sup> Pastors & Families
<sup>23</sup> Greater Huntington Association	<sup>24</sup> Tri-County Association	<sup>25</sup> WV NAMB Missionaries	<sup>26</sup> Allegheny Association	<sup>27</sup> WV IMB Missionaries	<sup>28</sup> Potomac Highlands Association	<sup>29</sup> Associational Development
<sup>30</sup> Congregation Assistance						

TELL THE STORY

"LET THE REDEEMED OF THE LORD SAY SO." PSALM 107:2

### WEST VIRGINIA OLA COX STATE MISSIONS

STATE OFFERING GOAL \$125,000

<u>Date</u>	<u>Association</u>	<u>Campus</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Church Plant</u>
Sept. 4	Upper Ohio Valley	Charleston Area	Twentieth Street, Kenova	North Jefferson
Sept. 5	Allegheny	Concord Univ.	Valley, Mathias	Solid Rock, Hundred
Sept. 6	Coalfields	Marshall Univ.	Victory, Belmont	South Wheeling
Sept. 7	Greater Huntington	Mt. State Univ.	Wayside, Buckhannon	Southside, Richwood
Sept. 10	Immanuel	WVU Morgantown	Wayside, Franklin	Abundant Hope, Barboursville
Sept. 11	Monongahela	Bluefield State	West Charleston	Carpendale
Sept. 12	Mountain State	Charleston Area	West Ripley	Centerpointe, Hurricane
Sept. 13	Pioneer	Concord Univ.	Westmoreland, Huntington	Cherry Grove
Sept. 14	Potomac Highland	Marshall Univ.	Westview, Caesars Mountain	Chinese Fellowship
Sept. 17	Tri-County	Mt. State Univ.	Westview, Martinsburg	The Church at Martinsburg
Sept. 18	Upper Ohio Valley	WVU Morgantown	Wharton	Crossroads, Burnsville
Sept. 19	Allegheny	Bluefield State	White Sulphur Springs	Dayspring, Charleston
Sept. 20	Coalfields	Charleston Area	Williams Creek	Ferrellsburg
Sept. 21	Greater Huntington	Concord Univ.	Willowbrook, Princeton	Freedom Biker Church
Sept. 24	Immanuel	Marshall Univ.	Witcher	Friendly
Sept. 25	Monongahela	Mt. State Univ.	Zoar, Burlington	Frontier, Morgantown
Sept. 26	Mountain State	WVU Morgantown	Zoar, St. Marys	Grace, Pleasant Valley
Sept. 27	Pioneer	Bluefield State	Abundant Life, Triadelphia	HarborLight, Oceana
Sept. 28	Potomac Highland	Charleston Area	Altizer, Huntington	Hatsal Korean, Martinsburg
Oct. 1	Tri-County	Concord Univ.	Amazing Grace, Capon Bridge	Lighthouse, Follansbee
Oct. 2	Upper Ohio Valley	Marshall Univ.	Ansted	Living Hope, Petersburg
Oct. 3	Allegheny	Mt. State Univ.	Avondale, East Liverpool	Living River
Oct. 4	Coalfields	WVU Morgantown	Baker Heights, Martinsburg	Marland Heights
Oct. 5	Greater Huntington	Bluefield State	Beaver Creek, Meadow Bridge	Marshall Community

## News from West Virginia Churches

### ALLEGHENY ASSOCIATION

**First Baptist Church** of Craigsville held a Sports Day Camp in July with the assistance of a Mission Team from Shiloh Baptist Church in Monroe, NC. Boys and girls learned the fundamentals of basketball, baseball, soccer, and cheerleading in a safe and faith-based environment. Other activities were offered for children not interested in sports, including music, crafts, recreation, and Bible stories. **David Sommerville** is the pastor of First Baptist.

**First Baptist Church, Fairlea**, baptized ten in the last few months, sent youth to Fuge camp, and held Vacation Bible School. The church celebrated Christmas in August, featuring a message from Church Planting Catalyst **Jim Drake**, opportunities to support a new church plant in Richwood, and sharing a Christmas dinner. **Kevin Prevett** pastors the church.

### PIONEER ASSOCIATION

**West Charleston Baptist Church** is seeking a youth missionary: someone who can relate to and talk to the late teens and 20 somethings.

*We need a youth leader, not because we have youth, but because we have so little youth.*

*It will not be easy. No mission work ever is, but I truly believe whomever God sends, He will strengthen in a mighty way. I request prayerful consideration on this matter and have faith, God will send exactly the right person to accomplish His will.*

Pastor Rick  
PastorRick@westcharlestonbaptist.org  
PHONE: 304-543-1302

### TRI-COUNTY ASSOCIATION

*Amazing Wonders Aviation Vacation Bible School at **Second Southern Baptist** in Martinsburg was a huge success. Total registration was 79, and they look forward to next year being even better. The centerpiece of the runway was a bi-plane hand made by **Billy Williams**. Fathers were honored with a Father's Day Breakfast. The youth served for a week through Impact VA. **Brian Persinger** serves as pastor.*

**Pastor Everett Powell** is leading a study of *MasterLife 1: The Disciple's Cross* at **Berkeley Baptist Church**. This six-week course is designed to help Christians develop a deeper relationship with Christ as they practice the six biblical disciplines of a disciple. Other studies in the *MasterLife* series will be offered in

the future.

### UPPER OHIO VALLEY

"Praise the Lord! Through donations and gifts, the congregation of **Abundant Life Baptist Church, of Tridelfia**, celebrated the 'burning of the note' May 6th. The church experienced an exciting VBS July 15-19. And the youth participated in Youth Survival Days July 19-21. They camped out, cooked their own food, then went to church on Sunday. The annual church picnic was August 20. And the congregation will celebrate its 20th anniversary on September 16."



The picture (above) shows **Pastor and Mrs. Tom Rentfrow** holding one of the beautiful cakes made for the note burning celebration.

*Psalm 126:2-3 (KJV)*

*2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them.*

*3 The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.*

*These verses describe us in the associational office and those pastors and others with whom we have shared the news of the receipt of a \$200,000.00 check in our associational office on Monday, May 14, 2012.*

*It happened for me as follows: I was at home dressing to go to Steubenville, Ohio, to help one of our pastors fill out the paperwork for their WV incorporation, their WV business license, and their 501 (c-3) tax exempt applications when Linda Ott called from the office. She asked me if I was sitting down and I being in a hurry leaving the closet in our bedroom just said yes. She then told me that she was opening our mail and opened an envelope containing a check for the amount of \$200,000.00! I said "Linda, I lied I wasn't sitting down but I am now." Then I ask:*

*Are you kidding? Who is it from? Who is that? It was for \$200,000.00? Are you sure? Then all I could do is laugh and say wow! The check came from a lady in Mandeville, La. On the top of the check she had written "Glory to God alone". Amen, thank you God and thank you ma'am! Every time I have told others about this we ended in laughter, amazed at it all.*

*I have tried to call the lady to personally thank her and to ask her why us? Think about it. Of all the associations in the Pioneer states that are facing the same loss of income from NAMB and their state conventions, why us? I want to know the answer to that question from her and from God. Why us and not others? What are we that we are graciously blessed by this lady and by the Lord through her? I hope and even now in tears hope and pray that it is some affirmation that we are doing the things the Lord is leading us to do.*

*Ron McCoy said that we occasionally hear of something like this happening to someone (usually in some far off place) we do not know, but to have it happen to us is a once in a lifetime occurrence.*

*Lord God, Thank you for putting this in your servant's heart to be so generous to us. We stand in awe of You and wonder why us. Please, lead us in the wise use of this gift. Help us to make the right decisions concerning it. Help us to use it to Your glory. WOW!*

-----Mike Watson, Association Missionary, Upper Ohio Valley Baptist Association

### MOUNTAIN STATE LEAVING FOR VIETNAM

Cheryl and Terry Harper (L) stand with Paul and Pat Blizard, at a reception



in honor of the Blizard's, as they leave for the mission field. Brother Paul was the pastor at Memorial Baptist Church in Beckley. They plan to be in Vietnam by the middle of September. Though he will be working with the IMB, they are not IMB appointed missionaries.

BETH MOORE  
SIMULCAST ALSO AT  
CROSS LANES  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
102 Knollwood Dr.,  
Cross Lanes WV  
9:30 am - 4:30 pm  
Doors open at 8:00 am  
Tickets On Sale Now  
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**304-776-3154**

**LIVING PROOF LIVE 2012  
SIMULCAST**

Speaker  
Beth Moore  
Worship Leader  
Travis Cottrell

Saturday  
September 15<sup>th</sup>  
2012

Open Door  
Baptist Church  
Eldersville Road  
Colliers, WV 26035



**Schedule**  
8:00 AM - DOORS OPEN  
9:30 AM - EVENT BEGINS  
10:00 AM - SESSION 1  
11:30 AM - LUNCH  
(PROVIDED BY OPEN DOOR)  
1:00 PM - WORSHIP  
1:30 PM - SESSION 2  
3:00 PM - INVITATION  
3:30 PM - WORSHIP  
3:40 PM - SESSION 3  
4:10 PM - WORSHIP  
4:15 PM - CONCLUDE

**Cost**  
Non-Refundable  
**\$20**

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**SIMULCAST**  
WITH  
**BETH MOORE**  
& **TRAVIS COTTRELL**



**SEPTEMBER 15**

FAIRLAWN BAPTIST CHURCH  
www.fairlawnbaptist.com  
215 Fairlawn Drive, Parkersburg, WV 26101  
Phone: 304-863-6782

Ticket: \$20 (Includes continental breakfast & on-site lunch)

Doors open: 8:00 am    Time of Event: 9:30 am    Ending Time of Event: 4:15 pm

[lifeway.com/lpsimulcast](http://lifeway.com/lpsimulcast) | 800.254.2022

Items subject to change without notice. Sales tax applied to retail cost. If applicable.

Lifeway Women

**Lighthouse Baptist Church, Follansbee W.V.** (Upper Ohio Valley) recently celebrated 5 baptisms.

On July 22, 2012, Lighthouse Baptist enjoyed fellowship, baptism, fun and food with an outdoor worship service and picnic at Bethany Park. We started the day off with our service conducted by Pastor Dick Ryan. We then enjoyed great food, fellowship and fun at our picnic. We ended the day with 5 baptisms in Buffalo Creek.

We thank the Lord for his wonderful blessings as our church continues to grow.



Pictured with Pastor Dick Ryan are 4 members who were baptized.

Front Row: Gaynell Gamble, Misty Gamble, Becky Cantor and Elizabeth Ryan

Back Row: Ryan Smurthwaite who assisted his grandpap and Pastor Dick Ryan

Dear West Virginia Baptists,  
 During the recent meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans, a number of concerned messengers visited the Association of Baptists for Scouting booth to ask if they had heard correctly that the Boy Scouts of America were planning to loosen their standards regarding requirements for adult leaders. I am pleased to say this is NOT the case. The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) remains committed to the moral and ethical standards which have been affirmed several times in Southern Baptist Convention resolutions.

Scouting remains one of the finest evangelism, family ministry, and religious education tools available for established churches as well as new church plants. Scouts and their families involved in the religious emblems program are often reached for Christ and it is not uncommon for youth participants to clarify their calling to vocational ministry.

While I am happy to report Scouting's commitment to the leadership standards, I remind readers that opponents to these policies are relentless and highly vocal. Unfortunately, the "silent majority" remains largely unheard. I believe this is an opportune time to encourage Southern Baptist churches and individual members to send a note of affirmation to BSA for the moral and ethical commitments to which they have remained true for 102

years. Their address is: Boy Scouts of America, P.O. Box 152079, Irving, TX 75015-2079.

With appreciation,  
 R. Chip Turner  
 2012 SBC Messenger, Chairman of BSA Religious Relationships, and Past National President of the Association of Baptists for Scouting.

**MEN AND BOYS  
 RETREAT**  
*September 14-15*  
 Camp Caesar, Cowen, WV  
 ----\$10 per person registration due by September 6; checks payable to "WVCSB".  
 ----bring your bedding, towels, and other personal items  
 ----registration begins at 1 PM  
 ----Supper at 6:15  
 ----archery, air rifle, fishing, other outdoor activities  
 ----bring your bow, fishing gear, musical instrument  
 ----guestspeaker, Jeff Hessinger, Florida Baptist Convention  
 ----more info and registration form at  
[www.wvbaptists.com](http://www.wvbaptists.com)

**GOD WANTS YOU  
 TO KNOW**

HE LOVES YOU. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. [John 3:16]

MAN IS SINFUL AND SEPARATED FROM GOD. As it is written, there is none righteous, no not one. [Romans 3:10] For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. [Romans 3:23]

JESUS IS GOD'S ONLY PROVISION FOR SIN. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. [Isaiah 53:5] For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. [Romans 6:23]

WE MUST RECEIVE JESUS AS LORD AND SAVIOR. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. [Romans 10:13]

THE DECISION IS NOW YOURS. And you shall seek me, and find me, when you shall search for me with all your heart. [Jeremiah 29:13]

Admit to God that you have sinned and have been wrong to Him. Believe that Jesus is God's Son, and that He died on the cross for you. Confess Jesus as your Savior and Lord, and commit your life to Him.

**2013 YOUTH EVANGELISM CONFERENCE**  
**NAZARENE TABERNACLE, SUMMERSVILLE**  
**January 18-19      A L I V E !**

*FLAME      LUMINATE      David Wheeler*