

# THE WEST VIRGINIA SOUTHERN BAPTIST

*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.*



**WINTER BEACH PARTY** Missionary Martha Moore talks with students at a Connexion event in her apartment in Braunschweig, Germany. Martha started Connexion — a campus evangelism ministry — in 2000 on one East German campus. Today she supervises teams in three German cities and one in Spain.



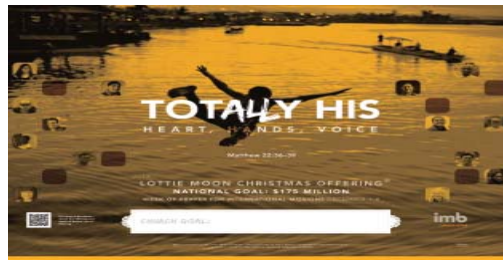
**LEAVING HOME** Shortly before leaving home to serve as a missionary to Japan, 23-year-old Steven Kunkel (center) stands with his parents, missionaries Tim and Iracema Kunkel, in the family's backyard in Asunción, Paraguay. Eighteen years ago, Steven was diagnosed with the developmental disorder autism. (IMB) photo by Rebecca Springer



**LOVE LANGUAGE** Drew Robinson (far left, above) runs basketball drills with students at a Deaf school in Antananarivo, Madagascar. Despite not knowing Malagasy sign language, Robinson and a team from Warren Baptist Church in Augusta, Ga., were able to connect with the Deaf using basic signs, gestures and games. (below) Play is a universal language for kids, Robinson says, and "that's something the Lord can use to let us speak." (Photo by Joann Bradberry)



**ON THE COURT** (left) "I'm in an area where God is providing opportunities for real, authentic, genuine relationships," says missionary Gena Wilson. Whether she's playing basketball or leading Bible study, Gena is intentional about pointing people around her to the cross.

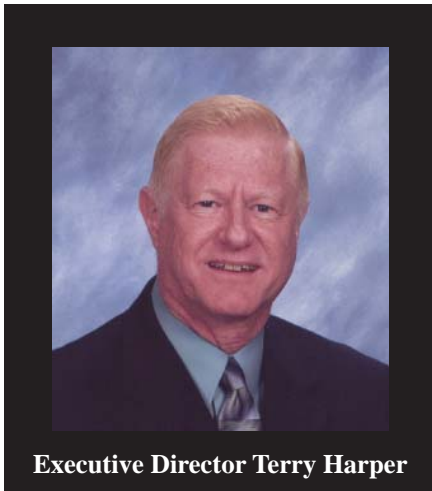


**GIVING ENABLES MISSIONARIES** "The giving of Southern Baptists is what allows us to be here," missionary Chris Ammons (left) says. He connected the Tijaltepec Mixteco with Valley Baptist in Bakersfield, Calif., and helped train church members as they made plans to reach this people group. Valley Baptist also is reaching out to Mixteco family members Ammons discovered were living and working near the church.



**FILTERS BRIDGE TO GOSPEL** Scott Branding [left] (name changed) and a Burmese pastor meet with Burmese villagers at a rubber tree farm, teaching them how to properly use water filtration pots. Many of the Burmese cross into Thailand, finding work on plantations and fish markets, often isolated in remote areas.

**THE PLAN** (above) Quichua Indian Cebrián Bolívar (name changed), now a church planter in South Asia, has been effectively developing relationships with students at nearby universities. Southern Baptist missionary Sam Cordell (name changed) encourages this and goes with Bolívar from time to time. One of the students recently made a profession of faith.



**Executive Director Terry Harper**

From The Executive Director:

I am writing this column just before our annual meeting of the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists, in order to get this to press. We have had a great year for the Lord's work and we are grateful for His blessings in our lives.

As our year 2013 draws to a close we thank God for these blessings, but we look forward to greater days in the future. Hopefully, many of you were at the meeting and you heard about the many church plants we have had and about the training offered in Evangelism, Small Groups, specific training for Deacons,

## From the Executive Director:

and other church resources. Not only are we planting more churches than we ever have, we are also offering great resource help for our existing churches.

Please consult our web site and read the articles in this paper. If you see something that strikes a chord that you think would help you in your ministry, call and register and attend that event. If you know of some training that you believe would help, but you have not seen it offered by the state convention, give one of us a call at the state office building and we will certainly consider offering it. We are here to help our churches accomplish the work that they believe God has called them to perform. I realize that many of our larger churches do not need as much assistance from us, but many of our smaller ones do need assistance. So, if we can help, let us know. Often I go to churches to train their search committee or team. Many times these groups really are not sure where to start or how to proceed. I can assist with that. Our office receives many resumes of individuals who are interested in serving a church in our state. We can provide you with resumes and other helpful information.

I was presenting recently in a church that had little or no understanding of the Cooperative Program and how it works. Together with other Southern Baptists, we support 6 seminaries and the International Mission Board, as well as the North American Mission Board. The IMB has over 5,000 missionaries serving in most of the countries of the world. I would be happy to come to your church to explain the CP and how we fund it together to support these seminaries and these mission boards.

The West Virginia Convention continues to increase the percent of Cooperative Program dollars that we send to the national body, and we are keeping less here in WV. We want to do more with less, in order to affect in a greater way our attempts to reach the lost with the Gospel here at home and around the world. This is our response to be obedient to the Lord's command to "go and teach" (Matt 28:19-20) and to reach the lost and claim them for the sake of the Gospel.

If there is any way that I can be of service to you or your church, please call upon me.

Thank you,  
Terry Harper  
Lead Missionary/Executive Director



After 25 years of howling winds, melting sunshine, freezing, thawing, battering rains, and even a couple of earth tremors, the windows on the front of the Convention's building needed some repair. Rain was leaking around some of the window joints into the foyer.

**THE WEST VIRGINIA  
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Greg Wrigley, Editor  
gregwrigley@wvcsb.org  
304-757-0944

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



## A TESTIMONY FOR BAPTISM

OXFORD, Miss. (BP) -- When he was 7 or 8, Sean Tuohy Jr. was sidelined by chickenpox on the day he was scheduled to be baptized. Now 20, Tuohy -- the young son portrayed in "The Blind Side" movie -- was baptized in mid-August by family friend Hugh Freeze, the University of Mississippi's head football coach.

Freeze has "been a family friend since as young as I can remember," said Tuohy, who goes by "SJ."

"His wife and my mom [Leigh Anne Tuohy] are good friends. I've looked up to him as a role model in faith," said SJ, who was baptized at North Oxford (Miss.) Baptist Church where Freeze is a member.

The Tuohy family of Memphis also includes husband and father Sean and daughter Collins -- as well as adoptive son Michael Oher, an offensive lineman with the 2013 NFL champion Baltimore Ravens. Oher's adoption into the family and his rise to one of college football's top recruits is told in *The Blind Side*, a 2006 book and 2009 movie. Freeze was Oher's football coach at Briarcrest Christian School and is mentioned frequently in the book, while the movie includes a character named Coach Cotton based on Freeze.



SJ, a basketball player, also was a sought-after athlete out of Briarcrest. He's starting his second year at Loyola University Maryland where he'll play as a redshirt freshman in the Greyhounds' upcoming season, their first in the Patriot League. Basketball skills run in the Tuohy family. Sean, a restaurateur and broadcast analyst for the NBA's Memphis Grizzlies, played guard at Ole Miss

and holds the all-time record for assists in the Southeastern Conference.

SJ said Loyola Maryland was the best college that offered him a scholarship. And it didn't hurt that "it was close to Mike," SJ said, referring to Oher, who lives in the Baltimore area.

Leigh Anne said, "I personally don't believe in coincidences. That SJ looked at so many colleges and so many looked at him..., this has to be 100 percent God-driven. For him to have landed there was a miracle."

It was in Baltimore earlier this year, Leigh Anne said, that SJ determined he'd waited long enough to be baptized.

During a visit, Leigh Anne attended church with SJ and Oher. After the sermon, she said the pastor "called on people who wanted to get baptized to come on up." Leigh Anne said SJ turned to her and said, "Mom, I've never been baptized." For a moment he considered walking forward, she said.

"He had always been a superstrong Christian," Leigh Anne said, "and he's really felt convicted that he hadn't been baptized."

Nevertheless, Leigh Anne said she told him, "I hate to stifle this, but your dad will be so mad if you get baptized and he's not here."

"What if we let Hugh [Freeze] baptize you," Leigh Anne suggested.

"Mom, coach wouldn't do that," SJ replied.

Leigh Anne then said, "What if I make Coach Freeze baptize you?"

Leigh Anne contacted Freeze last spring and he agreed to work out the details with North Oxford pastor Gary Richardson.

The Tuohys have strong ties to Ole Miss and attend North Oxford when they're in town, SJ said. His mom and dad met as Ole Miss students in the late '70s. Sean was a star basketball player, Leigh Anne was a cheerleader. Their daughter Collins, also an Ole Miss graduate, also was a cheerleader.

SJ said having Freeze baptize him was "an obvious choice. I grew up with his daughters as sort-of sisters. He was such a good influence on me growing up."

Just before the baptism, SJ said he and Freeze "talked about the journeys that Christ had led us on" and "just that he was proud of me as a brother in Christ."

Freeze also baptized his three daughters, the Ole Miss coach said during a news conference on Sept. 23.

"I'm thankful that my parents were people of faith," said Freeze, who came to Christ and was baptized when he was 7. "My faith is everything to me. I'm pretty clear and open about that. I was grateful to have a great family that introduced me to that."

*Tim Tune is a writer in Fort Worth, TX*



Want to learn more about the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists? Scan the qr code with your smart phone.



David Burt shared with interested leaders from across the state about THE MINISTRY GRID. The Ministry Grid is a new web based, video driven leadership training tool for churches and associations, from LifeWay. Burt serves with LifeWay as our regional consultant. He will come to your association to more fully explain this tool.



Easter 2013 Jesus was brought to life in a new way by the Crossing Youth Group in Saint Albans. The Youth Directors, Phillip Gessel & Pixie Bays, had seen works of several free-lance artists and put together their take on a portrait of Jesus by combining ideas they had seen. By using words such as *sin, addiction, lies, adultery, anger, and others*, there was an outline of words on canvas that were later covered by blackness reminiscence of the day Jesus died for our sins and then His blood to complete the portrait covering the words to make us anew. This was the Youth Groups contribution to a very memorable Easter Service.



**Get Ready!!**

# YSC 2014!

## Youth Sing Celebration

Concert at the Huntington Mall Center Court April 26, 2014 - 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Fellowship

Event is planned for Youth in the 6th through 12th grades.

Prizes  
Youth keep the music they receive

**Free T-Shirt**

**10,000 REASONS**


**15 GREAT SONGS**

**DRIVING & DAN ALLEN**

Multiple Church Directors including WVCSB Youth Director Randy Spurgeon.



[above, L to R] Larry McDonald, David Wheeler, Randy Spurgeon, Ken Kirkley, D. W. Feaster



**WVCSB**  
One Mission Way  
Scott Depot, WV 25560

This event is a ministry  
of the Cooperative Program.

## 2014 Marriage Enrichment Retreat

March 21-22, 2014 • Resort at Canaan Valley  
Clinicians - Murrill and Deborah Boitnott

**Date: March 21-22**  
**Location: The Newly Remodeled Resort at Canaan Valley, Davis, WV**  
**King and Queen size rooms**  
**Registration from 4:00pm to 5:45pm Friday**  
**Dinner together from 6:00pm to 7:00pm**  
**Session begins 7:00pm to 8:30pm Friday evening**  
**Saturday morning Breakfast**  
**Sessions begin 8:15am and go to 12:30**  
**Dismiss 12:30 - Lunch on your own**  
**Friday Dinner and Saturday Breakfast provided**

**Limited space available**  
**Deadline for registering - Feb 19th, 2014**  
**Early Registration by Feb 1st:**  
**Cost 85.00 per couple (includes Room, Dinner, Breakfast, and Breaks)**  
**After Feb 1st:**  
**Cost 90.00 per couple**

On Tuesday, September 10, **Potomac Highland Baptist Association** held its 1st Annual EPIC Conference. EPIC stands for Equipping People In Church.

This event featured two sessions in which people had the option of four different classes they could take, with a break for snacks and fellowship in between.

Ken Kirkley, Director of Missions for North Spartan Association in SC, taught Children's Worker training during both sessions. All who attended these events received free background checks courtesy of Potomac Highland Baptist Association. Dr. David Wheeler, Professor of Evangelism from Liberty University, taught two classes titled Using My Utility Belt and Neighborhood Watch. Dr. Larry McDonald, Dean and Professor of North Greenville University's Graduate School of Christian Ministry, taught two classes titled Leaving a Legacy and Laying the Foundation. Randy Spurgeon, WV Church Strengthening Missionary, taught two classes titled Maximizing Me and Full Throttle.

God blessed us with a total attendance of 115 with 10 churches represented from the Potomac Highland Baptist Association.

Serving Christ Together,  
Nathan Ertel



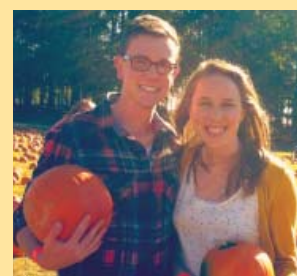
## July - Sept. 2013 Gifts from WV Churches

Organization	CP	Annie Armstrong	Lottie Moon	Ola Cox	World Hunger	Total
<i>Allegheny</i>						
Ansted	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Beaver Creek	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Calvary, Bolair	84.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	84.33
Calvary, Meadow Bridge	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cherry River	451.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	451.00
Crossroads, Burnsville	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Emmanuel, Lewisburg	3,566.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,566.57
Evangel, Fayetteville	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Faith, Rupert	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
First, Craigsville	4,407.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,407.46
First, Fairlea	6,002.28	320.00	0.00	250.00	541.00	7,113.28
First, Huntersville	1,857.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,857.65
First So., Sutton	1,123.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,123.42
Graydon	908.23	0.00	0.00	170.00	0.00	1,078.23
Hebron	335.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	335.53
Hines	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Light House, Ivydale	69.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	69.44
Little Birch	159.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	159.44
Living River	116.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	116.00
Lochgelly	124.50	0.00	0.00	56.00	0.00	180.50
Nettie	235.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	235.73
New Life, Cowen	208.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	208.26
New River	542.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	542.00
Restoration	1,200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,200.00
So Baptist, Summersville	4,925.03	0.00	0.00	288.18	0.00	5,213.21
Trinity, Buckeye	475.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	475.94
Westview	191.30	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	291.30
White Sulphur Springs	1,114.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,114.55
<b>Totals</b>	<b>28,098.66</b>	<b>320.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>864.18</b>	<b>541.00</b>	<b>29,823.84</b>
<i>Coalfields</i>						
Big Spring	69.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	69.30
Borderland	1,821.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,821.72
Bradshaw Mountain	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
Chattaroy	1,326.75	0.00	0.00	1,508.00	0.00	2,834.75
East Williamson	4,995.00	0.00	0.00	335.00	20.00	5,350.00
Ferrellsburg	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gilbert Creek	223.01	0.00	0.00	350.00	0.00	573.01
Gordon	30.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30.00
HarborLight	503.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	503.00
Horsepen	876.00	0.00	0.00	1,346.00	0.00	2,222.00
Living Stone	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
Neibert	99.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	99.87
New Covenant	530.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	530.67
New Hope, Madison	397.62	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	597.62
Peytona	101.58	0.00	0.00	61.63	0.00	163.21
Wharton	260.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	104.33	365.16
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11,560.35</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3,800.63</b>	<b>124.33</b>	<b>15,485.31</b>
<i>Greater Huntington</i>						
Abundant Hope	431.00	0.00	0.00	46.00	0.00	477.00
Altizer	1,200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,200.00
Calvary, Chapmanville	900.00	0.00	0.00	510.00	0.00	1,410.00
WV Chinese	1,117.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,117.93
Eastwood	75.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	75.00
First, Ceredo	6,366.00	0.00	0.00	2,076.00	0.00	8,442.00
First, Kenova	1,250.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,250.01
Freedom Biker Church	182.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	182.38
Grace, Branchland	75.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	75.00
Hamlin	3,300.00	1,883.00	0.00	929.00	0.00	6,112.00
Highlawn	477.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	477.56
Lincoln	225.00	95.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	320.00
Locust Grove	529.50	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.00	2,029.50
New Heights	653.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	653.99
Spring Valley Freedom	360.00	0.00	0.00	105.00	0.00	465.00
Twentieth Street	450.00	0.00	0.00	950.00	0.00	1,400.00
Westmoreland	2,430.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,430.27
<b>Totals</b>	<b>20,023.64</b>	<b>1,978.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>6,116.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>28,117.64</b>

### A WORD FROM JOY LIND

I was born in Ecuador as a missionary kid to James and Jerilyn Smith. I grew up learning about God and at the age of 7, when I was reading a book about a girl who became a Christian, the Holy Spirit tugged on my heart and I gave my life to Him. Having grown up on the mission field, I always had a passion and love for missions that I did not outgrow even after leaving Ecuador. When I got to college, I considered several majors, thinking maybe I should study something "normal." But after going on a mission trip to Uganda, the Lord reminded me again of my intense love and desire for missions, so the following semester I declared my major in Intercultural Studies.

My husband, James, and I decided to come to Southeastern Seminary because it is a very



missions-minded school. We wanted to be in an environment that not only taught us what we would need to know to be missionaries, but also a place where our passion and fire for missions would be kindled. My husband is getting his Masters of Divinity in International Church Planting. So, in about two years, we hope to go overseas with the IMB's "2+2" program they do through the seminaries. We would love to go to Africa to serve, but are open to wherever God may lead. I hope to use my M.A. in Biblical Counseling on the mission field to minister to women and children.

The Snedden-Slaughter Scholarship is a blessing to us because seminary is a challenging time in our lives in which we are both going to school and working part time. But life still happens- cars break down, computers crash, and so much more. I am so thankful to anyone who is willing to relieve some of that financial burden because it definitely lightens up our load. Thank you for your donation. It does make a difference. Thank you! Joy Lind



## Lottie Moon's Plain Tea Cake Recipe

From the Web site for Woman's Missionary Union (www.wmu.com):

As a way to earn the trust of the people and show her goodwill, Lottie Moon made tea cakes for the children in her village in China. Once the children ate the cookies, they would take Lottie to their homes where she would share the gospel with their mothers. The children began calling Lottie "the cookie lady" instead of "foreign devil."

Plain Tea Cake  
(As made by Lottie Moon)

Three teacups of sugar

One teacup of butter

One teacup of sour milk

Four pints flour

Three eggs, well beaten

Half a teaspoon of soda

Flavor to taste, roll thin, bake in a quick oven.

Adapted recipe:

2 cups flour

½ cup butter

1 heaping cup of sugar

1 well-beaten egg

1 tablespoon cream

Cream the butter and sugar.

Add the egg and mix well.

Add the flour and cream.

Dust a board with flour.

Roll the dough very thin.

Cut cookies with a round cookie cutter. Place on a buttered or nonstick cookie sheet.

Bake at 475 degrees for about 5 minutes.



Organization	CP	Annie Armstrong	Lottie Moon	Ola Cox	World Hunger	Total
<i>Immanuel</i>						
Brooksville	2,014.61	0.00	0.00	1,150.00	0.00	3,164.61
Calvary, Ravenswood	1,422.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,422.73
Camden Flats	570.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	570.34
Community, Grantsville	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fairlawn, Parkersburg	14,855.56	0.00	0.00	370.00	0.00	15,225.56
Faith, Mason	1,895.66	0.00	379.13	1,006.00	0.00	3,280.79
Faith, West Union	2,008.13	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	2,508.13
Grace, Parkersburg	9,262.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,262.00
Harmony	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hillcrest	579.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	579.46
Jackson Avenue	829.00	0.00	0.00	75.00	0.00	904.00
Mineral Wells	633.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	633.57
New Beginnings	291.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	291.34
So Baptist, Elizabeth	1,654.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,654.00
Southside	1,996.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	2,996.00
Victory, Belmont	562.00	0.00	0.00	95.00	0.00	657.00
West Ripley	748.26	0.00	0.00	7.00	44.07	799.33
Williams Creek	2,131.30	426.26	486.26	0.00	0.00	3,043.82
Zoar, St. Marys	181.54	363.07	363.07	181.54	0.00	1,089.22
<b>Totals</b>	<b>41,635.50</b>	<b>789.33</b>	<b>1,228.46</b>	<b>4,384.54</b>	<b>44.07</b>	<b>48,081.90</b>
<i>Monongahela</i>						
Berean	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Calvary, Belington	235.22	0.00	0.00	112.00	0.00	347.22
Calvary, Grafton	1,002.53	0.00	0.00	29.00	0.00	1,031.53
Calvary, Morgantown	2,906.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,906.64
Canaan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Charity, Wyatt	2,071.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,071.27
Church of the Good Shepherd	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
Crossroads	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Evangel, Bridgeport	3,920.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	0.00	4,070.00
First So., Fairmont	694.80	0.00	0.00	1,147.00	0.00	1,841.80
Freedom, Nutter Fort	6,865.01	0.00	0.00	1,716.25	0.00	8,581.26
Frontier	17.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17.20
Grace Fellowship, Wana	653.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	653.49
Kingwood	794.00	0.00	0.00	85.00	0.00	879.00
New Creek	306.66	0.00	0.00	65.00	0.00	371.66
New Life, Weston	862.62	0.00	0.00	745.00	0.00	1,607.62
Real Life	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rowlesburg	60.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	60.00
Southern, Philippi	716.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	716.97
Urbancrest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Wayside, Buckhannon	653.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	653.80
<b>Totals</b>	<b>21,760.21</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>4,149.25</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>25,909.46</b>
<i>Potomac Highland</i>						
Amazing Grace	191.73	0.00	0.00	225.00	0.00	416.73
Canaan Valley	251.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	251.50
Carpendale	223.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	223.50
Cherry Grove	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Covenant, Romney	1,596.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,596.95
Danville Community	900.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	1,100.00
First, Burlington	1,890.40	0.00	0.00	822.00	0.00	2,712.40
First, Brandywine	1,268.00	0.00	0.00	330.00	0.00	1,598.00
First, Fort Ashby	1,486.81	0.00	0.00	56.00	0.00	1,542.81
Foxes Hollow	125.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	125.79
Knobley Road	244.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	244.00
Living Hope	984.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	984.90
Mountain Ministry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
New Day	1,960.00	0.00	0.00	380.00	0.00	2,340.00
North Fork	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Old Fields	264.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	264.44
Petersburg So.	96.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	96.20
P. H. Baptist Assoc.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	240.00	240.00
Second, Keyser	1,827.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,827.81
Valley	1,049.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,049.00
Wayside, Franklin	503.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	503.94
Zoar, Augusta	547.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	547.78
<b>Totals</b>	<b>15,412.75</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,013.00</b>	<b>240.00</b>	<b>17,665.75</b>

Organization	CP	Annie Armstrong	Lottie Moon	Ola Cox	World Hunger	Total
<i>Mountain State</i>						
Brenton	145.47	0.00	0.00	145.47	0.00	290.94
Brushfork	1,552.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,552.68
Burke Memorial	2,935.69	0.00	0.00	845.00	50.00	3,830.69
Calvary, Bluefield	174.00	0.00	0.00	130.00	0.00	304.00
Calvary, War	726.24	1,232.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,958.24
Ceres	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Covenant, Princeton	308.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	308.00
Cumberland Heights	1,500.00	0.00	0.00	1,165.00	0.00	2,665.00
East End	4,156.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,156.95
Edgemont	3,615.00	0.00	0.00	840.00	0.00	4,455.00
Faith	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fellowship, Princeton	450.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	450.00
First, Bluewell	150.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	650.00
First, Hinton	683.57	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	783.57
First, Princeton	10,130.71	200.50	178.50	1,009.50	0.00	11,519.21
First So., Grandview	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Freedom, Beckley	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
Glade Community	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	1,200.00
Grace, Fayetteville	2,712.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	0.00	2,862.00
Immanuel, Princeton	4,604.31	0.00	0.00	85.00	0.00	4,689.31
Isaban	331.78	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	381.78
Lilly Grove	1,590.00	0.00	0.00	798.00	0.00	2,388.00
Lorton Lick	1,544.00	0.00	0.00	765.00	183.33	2,492.33
Memorial	10,386.73	430.00	185.00	437.00	0.00	11,438.76
Messiah	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mt. Calvary	142.95	0.00	0.00	135.00	0.00	277.95
Mt. Hermon	436.40	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	486.40
Nehemiah	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
New Hope Tabernacle	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Northgate	1,109.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	554.91	1,664.73
Pineville	680.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	680.64
Pipestem	770.14	0.00	0.00	60.00	0.00	830.14
Riverside	203.00	0.00	0.00	300.00	0.00	503.00
Shawnee	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Silver Springs	2,592.51	0.00	0.00	1,903.00	0.00	4,495.51
Sun Valley	614.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	614.28
The Bridge	84.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	84.00
Voice of Calvary	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
Willowbrook	850.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	850.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>56,705.90</b>	<b>1,962.50</b>	<b>363.50</b>	<b>9,567.97</b>	<b>788.24</b>	<b>69,388.11</b>

<i>Pioneer</i>						
Agsten Manor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cathedral of Prayer	1,430.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,430.79
Centerpointe	1,366.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,366.00
Cross Lanes	32,475.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	32,475.13
Fairlawn, Dunbar	504.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	504.32
First, Chelyan	1,400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,400.00
First, Tyler Mountain	0.00	0.00	0.00	350.00	0.00	350.00
Freedom, Charleston	358.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	358.40
Good Shepherd	20,921.60	734.00	0.00	3,211.00	60.00	24,926.60
Heritage	2,019.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,019.58
Lighthouse, Hurricane	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Malden	399.20	0.00	0.00	496.00	0.00	895.20
North Charleston	5,379.61	0.00	0.00	666.00	0.00	6,045.61
Shrewsbury	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
The Crossing, St. Albans	2,640.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,640.54
West Charleston	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Witcher	2,689.52	0.00	0.00	637.00	0.00	3,326.52
<b>Totals</b>	<b>72,084.69</b>	<b>734.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>5,360.00</b>	<b>60.00</b>	<b>78,238.69</b>

<i>Non-Association</i>						
Berkeley	799.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	799.50
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	360.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	360.00
Other	305.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	305.93
Riverview Chapel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
The Bridge	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,465.43</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,465.43</b>

## WVCSB Calendar

### December

1-8 - Week of Prayer for  
International Missions & Lottie  
Moon Christmas Offering  
25 - Christmas  
(Office Closed 12/24/13 -  
1/2/14)

### January

Call to Prayer Month  
1-5 - January Bible Study  
11 - WVCSB Executive Board Mtg  
17-18 - Youth Evangelism  
Conference  
19 - Sanctity of Human Life  
Sunday  
25 - WV Foundation Officers Mtg

### February

True Love Waits Emphasis  
9 - Racial Reconciliation Sunday  
10-13 - Deacon Training  
10-16 - Focus on WMU (SBC)  
15 - Children's Ministry Day  
15 - Men's Ministry Planning Mtg  
21-22 - State VBS Clinic  
23 - Volunteer Recognition  
Sunday

### March

1 - Sermon Preparation for  
Pastors  
2-8 - Youth Week (SBC)  
2-9 - Week of Prayer for North  
American Missions & Annie  
Armstrong Easter Offering  
7-8 - Bi-vocational Pastors  
Retreat  
9 - Daylight Saving Time Begins  
16 - Substance Abuse Prevention  
Sunday (SBC)  
16 - Church Planting Emphasis  
(SBC)  
20 - WVCSB Order of Business  
Committee  
21-22 - Marriage Enrichment  
Retreat  
28-29 - State Evangelism  
Conference

### April

5 - State Sunday School Builders  
/Church Directors  
6 - SBC Seminaries Sunday  
12 - WVCSB Executive Board Mtg  
13 - Cooperative Program  
Sunday (SBC)





### TRAIN-STATION EVANGELISM

Steven Kunkel (right) and Japanese pastor Saburo Akazawa (center) hand out tracts and talk about the Gospel with Japanese people at the train station in Shiojiri, Japan. Steven, the autistic son of missionaries with IMB in South America, works closely with Pastor Akazawa as a volunteer missionary at an evangelical church in Shiojiri. (IMB) photo by Wilson Hunter



### A SHOW OF FAITH

Stuart Bell, pastor of First Baptist Church Centerton, Ark., poses for a picture with a new Bedia believer. The young man said he was embarrassed to cut off the jujube bracelets that he has worn on his wrists most of his life, but he did so after praying to receive Christ.

### HELPING WITH HOMEWORK

Lisa Bell, First Baptist Church Centerton, Ark., looks over homework with some children in India. "I went in to see what was going on with the children. I noticed they had books. I sat down and started pointing and they would say the letter or name the picture in English," Bell explained.



Organization	CP	Annie Armstrong	Lottie Moon	Ola Cox	World Hunger	Total
<i>Tri-County</i>						
Baker Heights	3,615.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,615.91
Emmanuel, Great Cacapon	307.91	0.00	0.00	130.00	0.00	437.91
Mountain View	450.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	450.00
New Vision	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Second, Martinsburg	1,623.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,623.61
South Berkeley	1,732.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	0.00	1,882.00
The Church at Martinsburg	3,243.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,243.00
The Church at Winchester	1,021.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,021.90
Westview	8,170.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	21.38	8,192.14
<b>Totals</b>	<b>20,165.09</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>280.00</b>	<b>21.38</b>	<b>20,466.47</b>
<i>Upper Ohio Valley</i>						
Abundant Life	1,489.33	60.00	60.00	0.00	80.00	1,689.33
Avondale	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Calvary, Follansbee	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cameron	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,312.00	0.00	2,312.00
Emmanuel, St. Clairsville	1,584.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,584.05
Evangel, Weirton	249.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	249.63
Faith Community	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
First, Chester	838.00	0.00	565.50	0.00	0.00	1,403.50
Friendly	523.00	0.00	0.00	350.00	0.00	873.00
Grace, Pleasant Valley	237.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	237.73
Immanuel, New Martinsville	2,234.00	0.00	0.00	784.00	0.00	3,018.00
Indian Creek	191.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	191.64
Lighthouse, Follansbee	0.00	0.00	0.00	125.00	0.00	125.00
Marland Heights	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Open Door	2,082.00	0.00	0.00	1,954.50	0.00	4,036.50
Ryerson	1,092.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,092.05
Solid Rock	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
South Wheeling	89.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	89.36
Temple, Moundsville	1,479.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,479.70
U.O.V. Assoc.	2,186.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,186.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>14,276.49</b>	<b>60.00</b>	<b>625.50</b>	<b>5,525.50</b>	<b>80.00</b>	<b>20,567.49</b>
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>\$303,188.71</b>	<b>\$5,843.83</b>	<b>\$2,217.46</b>	<b>\$42,061.07</b>	<b>\$1,899.02</b>	<b>\$355,210.09</b>

### A SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF LOTTIE MOON

from the International Mission Board web site

Lottie Moon was born Charlotte Diggs Moon, Dec. 12, 1840, in Albemarle County, Va.

Lottie rebelled against Christianity until she was in college. In December 1858, she dedicated her life to Christ and was baptized at First Baptist Church of Charlottesville, Virginia.

Lottie attended Albemarle Female Institute, female counterpart to the University of Virginia. In 1861, she was one of the first women in the South to receive a master's degree.

Lottie stayed close to home during the Civil War but eventually taught school in Kentucky, Georgia and Virginia.

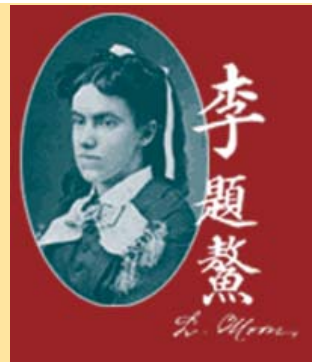
Edmonia Moon, Lottie's sister, was appointed to Tengchow, China, in 1872. The following year, Lottie was appointed and joined her sister there.

Lottie served 39 years as a missionary, mostly in China's Shantung province. She taught in a girls' school and often made trips into China's interior to share the good news with women and girls.

Lottie frequently wrote letters to the United States, detailing Chinese culture, missionary life and the great physical and spiritual needs of the Chinese people. Additionally, she challenged Southern Baptists to go to China or give so that others could go. By 1888, Southern Baptist women had organized and helped collect \$3,315 to send workers needed in China.

Lottie died aboard a ship in the Japanese harbor of Kōbe on Dec. 24, 1912. She was 72 years old.

In 1918, Woman's Missionary Union named the annual Christmas offering for international missions after the woman who had urged them to start it.





## West Virginia Prayer Focus

Your state convention staff meets each working day for a brief time of prayer. We pray for the 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>
Dec. 2	Tri-County	WVU Morgantown	Knobley Road	Ministry of Salvation
Dec. 3	Upper Ohio Valley	Bluefield State	Lighthouse, Ivydale	Mountain Ministry Chapel
Dec. 4	Allegheny	Concord Univ.	Lighthouse, Hurricane	New Heights, Milton
Dec. 5	Coalfields	Marshall Univ.	Lilly Grove, Princeton	New Vision, Berkeley Springs
Dec. 6	Greater Huntington	Shepherd	Lincoln, Branchland	Salt & Light, Clarksburg
Dec. 9	Immanuel	WVU Morgantown	Little Birch	Solid Rock, Hundred
Dec. 10	Monongahela	Bluefield State	Living Stone, Delbarton	South Wheeling
Dec. 11	Mountain State	Concord Univ.	Lochgelly, Fayetteville	Urbancrest, Beverly
Dec. 12	Pioneer	Marshall Univ.	Locust Grove, Huntington	Abundant Hope, Barboursville
Dec. 13	Potomac Highland	Shepherd	Lorton Lick, Bluefield	Carpendale
Dec. 16	Tri-County	WVU Morgantown	Malden	Centerpointe, Hurricane
Dec. 17	Upper Ohio Valley	Bluefield State	Memorial, Beckley	Cherry Grove
Dec. 18	Allegheny	Concord Univ.	Mineral Wells Fellowship	Cherry River, Richwood
Dec. 19	Coalfields	Marshall Univ.	Mountain View, Hedgesville	The Church at Martinsburg
Dec. 20	Greater Huntington	Shepherd	Mt. Calvary, Beckley	The Church at Winchester
Dec. 23	Immanuel	WVU Morgantown	Mt. Hermon, Bluefield	Cornerstone, Berkeley Springs
Jan. 2	Monongahela	Bluefield State	Nehemiah, Cool Ridge	Crossroads, Burnsville
Jan. 3	Mountain State	Concord Univ.	Neibert, Stollings	Dawn's Light, Harrisville
Jan. 6	Pioneer	Marshall Univ.	Nettie	Dayspring, Charleston
Jan. 7	Potomac Highland	Shepherd	New Beginnings, Pt. Pleasant	Exalt Comm., So. Charleston
Jan. 8	Tri-County	WVU Morgantown	New Covenant, Logan	Ferrellsburg
Jan. 9	Upper Ohio Valley	Bluefield State	New Creek	Friendly
Jan. 10	Allegheny	Concord Univ.	New Day, Fort Ashby	Frontier Comm., Morgantown

## Retirement Advice

### Fact vs. Fiction

Pick up any magazine, surf to any website or talk to friends about retirement savings, and you're likely to hear a lot of contradictory information, sometimes from the same source.

While most financial planners will emphasize one-size-fits-all financial advice should be taken with a grain of salt, the reality is that some advice should generally be avoided by everybody.

Consider some of the following popular retirement myths:

**NO. 1** { **Fiction:**  
*Avoid stocks — the stock markets are very risky*

**Fact:** This is bad advice without reservation. With interest rates at all-time lows, it's nearly impossible to stay completely out of stocks, even for those near or in retirement. If you're 10, 20 or 30 years (or more) away from retirement, you can potentially afford even more exposure to equity (stock) investments.

How much should you have invested in equities? Your time horizon until you need to draw these investments matched with your risk tolerance help answer this question. Tools such as GuideStone Advisors' GPS: Guided Planning Services (free for GuideStone retirement plan participants) can help answer that question for you.

Bottom line — you will probably need to keep some money in equity investments.

## News from West Virginia Churches

### ALLEGHENY

#### **A Holiday Story from Cherry River Southern Baptist Church**

by Pastor John Reed, Church Planter

Last year, early in the month of December, I called Dennis Cherry, Director of Missions for the Allegheny Association, and asked for a meeting to which Dennis readily agreed. At this meeting, held at a local restaurant, I explained that I was in great need to find (80) eighty whole chickens to prepare Christmas baskets for people in our community. I explained that I had (20) chickens already and if he could help me round up just 80 more we would prepare 100 Christmas dinners for our most needy clients. I explained that this was not sufficient; but it was all we could afford. I asked him to go to Wal-Mart upon his return to Summersville and secure the best price that he could and we would proceed from there. This was the very best we could do.

As we were leaving the restaurant and I was exiting the door, I received a phone call from a man in Statesville, North Carolina, who identified himself as Gene Dellingler. He told me the reason for his call was to see if we could use (200) whole chickens. When I told him the highlights of my meeting with Dennis, he told me that God had been working through a lady in his church to assist people in Appalachia and he had been given my number as a contact.

With this we were able to give out 125 Christmas dinner baskets and had enough to give out another 125 in January as well. This was what God could do. We are excited to see what God has planned for this year!

Cherry River is also celebrating its new portable baptistry!



LIFEWAY'S  
**Agency D3**  
DISCOVER DECIDE DEFEND | PETER 3:15



The Coalfields Association of Southern Baptists Choir did a tremendous job presenting The Songs of Bill & Gloria Gaither on October 19th. I wanted to share this picture of the choir from the musical with you. ----Randy Rhodes

#### THIS IS ONE WAY TO TRY IT...

I received your post card today regarding Sunday School High Attendance Sunday. I thought I would fill you in on how **East Williamson Baptist Church (EWBC)** will manage this event.

At EWBC, the ladies of the church organize a Ladies' Prayer Retreat for the first weekend in October every year. This year, it will coincide with the regularly scheduled high attendance day, Oct. 6. Therefore, we will celebrate high attendance day the following week, Oct. 13. The Sunday School teachers, in coordination with the kitchen committee, are planning to have a Sunday School breakfast that day. To paraphrase the movie Field of Dreams, "If you feed them, they will come."

This is the third such breakfast I have planned since becoming the EWBC Sunday School director. The first time, my wife and I planned and prepared a Healthy Breakfast, with fruits, boiled eggs in whole-wheat pita pockets, and fruit juices. The second time, we organized a Not So Healthy Breakfast, with French Toast casseroles, waffles and pancakes.

This time we are planning a Not Even Vaguely Healthy Breakfast, with eggs and bacon, biscuits and gravy, fried potatoes and cooked apples. I will e-mail you with our attendance for that day.

Thanks

Steve Baisden, Sunday School Director  
East Williamson Baptist Church  
Williamson, WV

**Fairlawn Baptist Church in Parkersburg, WV**, will host its fourth annual Sportsman's Banquet & Expo on February 8, 2014. The Expo is from 4:30-6 p.m. with dinner from 6-7:30 p.m. The special guest speaker, Brent Henderson, will speak at 7:30 p.m. Brent is a professional hunter, a professional musician, and a professional men's minister.

Admission includes dinner, access to vendors, a wild game sampling, and door prizes. This is a huge outreach event with many unchurched men in attendance. Prayers would be appreciated for those who will hear the gospel message – some for the first time. Tickets go on sale December 1 and are \$15.

For more information or for tickets, please contact Fairlawn's church office at (304) 863-6782.



**B MEN**  
ONLINE



## News from West Virginia Churches

**Southside Baptist Church, in Parkersburg,** has experienced many blessings in the past couple of years. They have acquired some adjacent property which made it possible to expand their parking. The church was also able to purchase an adjacent building and renovate it into their fellowship hall. The new



space gave them room to add an education wing to their worship auditorium, which has also been recently renovated.



The added space has allowed for some new growth. The congregation averages about 120 in attendance now, "We are looking to call an associate who can help us with our Sunday School, our youth and children's ministries, and in visitation ministry," said Pastor Paul Drake.

The congregation has plans to extend its ministries, and to possibly be involved in starting a new church.

If you know someone who may could serve in the staff position, please send the resume to Pastor Paul Drake, Southside Baptist Church, 2004 Gihon Road, Parkersburg, WV, 26101.



The winning team at the Men and Boys Golf Tournament, in June: [l to r] Wayne Kirk, Doug Kirk, Jackie Runyon, and not picture is Dennis Craven.

### Southwestern offers spring 2014 revival preachers

By Keith Collier

FORT WORTH, Texas (SWBTS) – Churches can join Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in promoting spiritual awakening across the United States by hosting revival preachers as part of the seminary's Revive this Nation program, March 9-12, 2014. Revive this Nation is open to churches in all 50 states, and Southwestern aims to send preachers to every state.

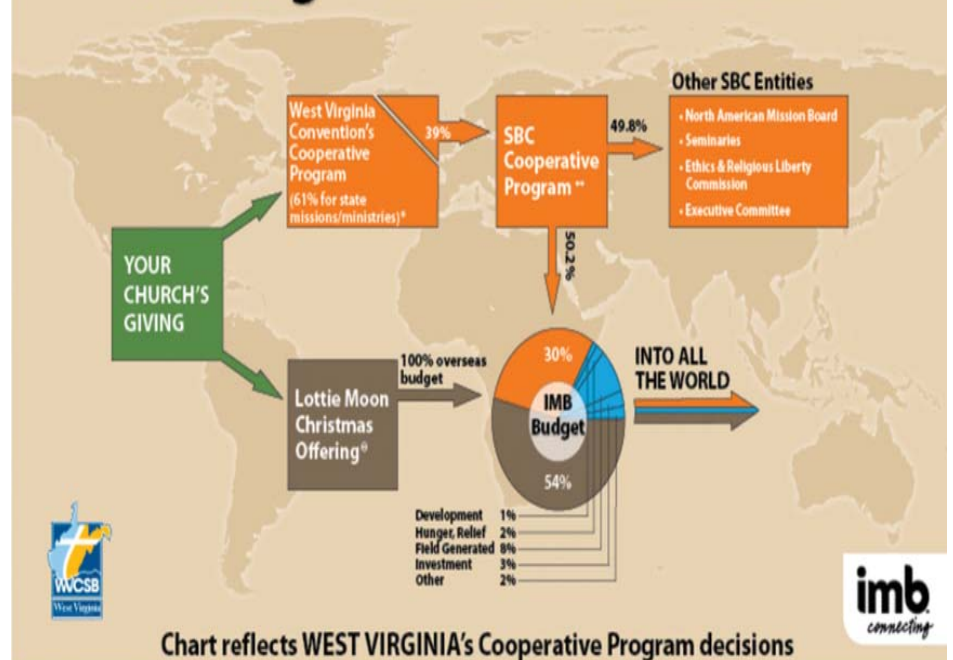
"This long standing tradition of Southwestern is one of the most exciting parts of the year," said Steven Smith, vice president for student services and communications. "Our students love lost people, and they love the location church. We are thrilled that churches allow us to serve them in this way."

During Revive this Nation, Southwestern will send more than 100 students and professors to preach in churches across America and to evangelize the communities around them. The seminary has provided this program for more than 50 years.

Southwestern pays for round-trip transportation of preachers to and from the revival locations, while churches provide housing, meals and local transportation. Churches of any size can request revival preachers and download resources at [www.swbts.edu/rtn](http://www.swbts.edu/rtn) <<http://www.swbts.edu/rtn>>. For more information, call 817-923-1921, ext. 7304.



## Funding International Missions



- Your church decides how much of the money members give will be sent to your state convention for use through the SBC Cooperative Program.
- State convention messengers vote on what percentage of these funds stay in the state and what percentage is forwarded to the Cooperative Program.
- Slightly more than half of these Cooperative Program funds go to IMB (comprising 30% of IMB's total budget) and the remainder to other SBC entities.
- Every penny your church gives to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering directly funds your IMB missionaries as they work to bring unreached peoples to Christ.
- More than half of the IMB's total budget comes from Lottie Moon gifts.

IMB connecting<sup>®</sup> is a registered trademark of IMB. Lottie Moon Christmas Offering<sup>®</sup> is a registered trademark of IMB. \*Compiled as of January 2013 West Baptist Two reports and for the SBC Executive Committee (state percentage includes church ministry expenses). \*\*Percentages as of October 2012.

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#### CULTURE DIGEST: 'Soul surfer' Bethany Hamilton marries

Posted on Aug 23, 2013 | by Staff

NASHVILLE (BP) -- Bethany Hamilton, known for continuing her surfing career after losing an arm in a shark attack 10 years ago, married a Christian youth minister in Hawaii Aug. 18.

Even People magazine noted the wedding between the star of the 2011 film "Soul Surfer" and Adam Dirks, reporting that the event took place in front of 300 friends and family members at a secluded 130-acre estate on Kauai's north shore near the town where Hamilton grew up.

Hamilton and Dirks, 25, met on a blind date last year. He works on Kauai with the Christian-based Young Life organization as a youth ministry volunteer, according to People.

"I know Adam and I are right for each other and that God has us together for Him," Hamilton, 23, said, according to WORLD magazine.

Hamilton expressed hope and excitement for her marriage.

"To open up your heart to a complete stranger and learn to love a new person, it's different; it's beautiful. I believe it's what God has created for us; but it can be intimidating," she said, according to WORLD.

Hamilton added that she is learning from God how to love well.

"Christ is the greatest definition of love and it's been amazing to learn from the greatest."

In a blog post about her wedding, Hamilton wrote, "Today was the most beautiful, wonderful best day of my life! God is more than good."

