

The West Virginia Baptist Newsletter

February-March 2015

Parchment Valley Conference Center - Blessed by God's People

Just as exciting as the changing of the seasons is the blessing of God's people who are chosen to serve. *"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light."* (1 Peter 2:9)

Over the Christmas and New Year break, I received a phone call from Rob Ely. He requested one lodge room for one night for Noah, a young man in from college. The next day Noah stopped by the administration building (the barn), where he and I chatted. This bright young man was excited to share how after spending a day at the prayer labyrinth at Parchment Valley Conference Center, God redirected a change in his life that mended broken relationships and produced forgiveness, an answer to prayer.

In the pioneer years of Parchment Valley Conference Center, Vairl Winters expressed to Mr. Hyre, who owned the land, "If you sell this land to the West Virginia Baptist Convention, it will become much more than a dairy farm."

It is very evident God's hand is upon His people who answer the call to serve Him and do a good work, resulting in "changed lives." Thank you for serving the Lord faithfully and investing yourself in this ministry.

When Noah's parents, who are involved in ministry, picked him up, we talked for a while. They told me that many years ago they also volunteered here at Parchment Valley Conference Center. Praise the Lord for our volunteers and the work they do.

During our Parchment Valley Conference Center board of director's meeting and staff Christmas party, many great stories were shared and laughter echoed throughout the barn. I thought about Dorothy Santrock, Don Loudermilk and the many other faithful and committed people who shaped, blessed and transformed this place we love.

Early in the morning before the Christmas party, a volunteer and supporter of Parchment Valley shared with me that

he and his wife purchased a new tabletop tennis game and two air hockey games for the loft in the Greenlee Activity Center. I am so thankful for the people who consistently give and serve, especially in a time of economic uncertainty. God is good, all the time.

As we kick the dust of 2014 from our heels, we joyfully waltz into 2015 with a changed and thankful heart and a renewed spirit because you are coming alongside us doing what the world says can't be done.

*Frank Miller
Director of Operations
Parchment Valley Conference Center*



Brothers' Keeper 2015

We have just received a \$7,500 grant for Brothers' Keeper from the Jackson County Community Foundation. This enables us to do more life-changing ministry through our Lord and Savior!

Register your team now for Brothers' Keeper 2015 at <http://bkpv.weebly.com>.



Frank Miller (c), director of operations, Parchment Valley Conference Center, receives a \$7,500 grant from Jane Winters (2nd from left), regional manager of affiliates, Jackson County Community Foundation. Also pictured are Joe Greenlee (l); Kevin Emerick (2nd from right), maintenance supervisor, Parchment Valley Conference Center; and Rene Delong (r), community service specialist, Community Resources, Inc.

The mission of the West Virginia Baptist Convention is to **empower** local churches to be Christ honoring communities of faith and to help them fulfill their mission by **enabling** them to do together what they cannot do alone.



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Partners Needed



Dr. David
Carrico

With Christianity as the fastest-growing religion in the world, we see a world hungry for the good news of Jesus Christ ... that is, with the exception of North America. North America needs to get hungry for the gospel! As God's chosen people, Christians love Jesus and want to change the world for Christ. But, have many believers lost their focus? The days of generally accepted Christianity within our culture are over. It is no longer easy to be a faithful believer and a faithful witness to the truth of the gospel. We are allowing history to be rewritten and our values are being reformulated by our culture. The church has been captured by the values of a secular society and we have forgotten about the evangelism of the total human experience.

One benchmark of cultural intrusion is the anti-Semitism in Europe, which will visit our nation very soon as well as the anti-Christian elements that are growing like unwelcomed weeds in the garden of our society. One recent survey noted two out of every three people questioned have either never heard of the holocaust or do not believe the historical accounts were accurate, and yet we still have military personnel who helped liberate the concentration camps and can still recount the horror.

The job description of a witness is to share experiences and tell the truth about how God has blessed them and how to be a blessing to others. Among those blessings we share as believers are:

- corporate worship
- fellowship with other believers
- discipleship
- evangelism
- missions

American Baptists are known as a people of prayer, purpose and passion, which is a *good* thing. Yet, there are occasions when *good* becomes the enemy of *great*. We become complacent with our *good* while we need to be a *greater* witness, focusing on the communities

where we live.

When we encounter Christ, the body of believers experiences an ever increasing capacity for relational and spiritual vitality. With the celebration of Easter not too far away, we should remember the resurrection of Christ screams of the vitality of hope and eternal life.

It is time for us to refocus our focus! If we attempt to reach everyone in a general way we will reach no one. Our focus may need to shift to a greater dependency on God rather than on ourselves, becoming a *partner* with God to change the world for Christ. It is so great when a plan comes together. God's plan of salvation is just incredible!

We should remember we are all sinners and deserve nothing, but God, in His perfect grace and mercy, gives us the gift of forgiveness and eternal life. During our entire life we need to increase in Godly qualities and *partner* with God on a journey of missions.

There is a fascinating book by Stephen Bevans and Roger Schroeder, *Constants in Context*, which deals with a theology of mission for today. The last sentence of that book calls us to constant partnership with God in the context of the day.

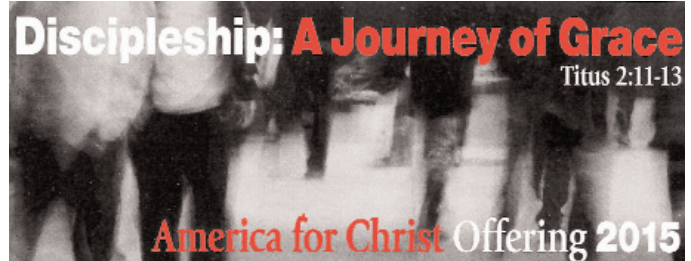
"Only by preaching, serving and witnessing to the reign of God in bold and humble prophetic dialogue will the missionary church be constant in today's context."

II Timothy 4:2 addresses the change in context by reminding us to "be ready in season and out of season" to share the gospel. We partner with God who gives us strength to be constant, even when the context of life changes. During this new year, who will you partner with? Allow the Holy Spirit to be your strength and guide you to a deeper place of relationship and loving service to the reign of God in today's world. Be a constant partner with God in the context of our world during this new year.

Blessings

America for Christ Offering 2015

Your *America for Christ* offering supports transformational ministries that manifest the grace of God's love to neighborhoods and communities throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.



STATE GOAL: \$130,000

www.abhms.org



An Extraordinary Grace Journey

One of many ministries at NextGen Church, Princeton Junction, New Jersey, is the "adoption" of Grant Elementary School, Trenton, New Jersey. The idea is to help meet the needs of the school's students, families and teachers in a city plagued with high rates of school drop-out, poverty, broken families and gang violence.

Begun in 2012, the program involves the following components: providing three-hour Saturday tutoring to academically struggling students; encouraging the staff through an annual staff breakfast and luncheon; providing classroom supplies and books; sponsoring those who experience family crisis; providing a health fair for children and families; supporting the parent association; and assisting school-wide projects, such as field day and graduation.

A major aspect is to provide educational assistance to students closely with the principal and administration, the program targets reading, writing and mathematics. Two New Jersey-certified teachers were hired to lead

instruction, and NextGen provides volunteer tutors and adult mentors.

Although the program began as Saturday academic support for elementary school students, it has grown in the past two years into an outreach for the entire community. The long-term vision is to transition into a full-service family community center, focusing on mind, body and spirit, available to people of all ages in Trenton's northern section.

NextGen members believe that we all belong to the family of God, that taking care of others is an integral part of Christian life and that the church must continue to play an active role in the betterment of marginalized people in the community.

Your support of the America for Christ offering helps to make possible programs that serve students and educators throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. Dr. Lola Akiwowo is associate pastor at NextGen Church.

Baptist Campus Ministries: Reflecting on 2014, Dreaming about 2015

I love how the end of a year brings a natural time of reflection. It is a time to stop and celebrate how the Lord has worked in both wonderful moments and heartbreaking situations. I love looking back to see how God has answered prayers and done more than we could have thought to ask for. I also love dreaming about what He might have in store for the new year. What adventures has the Lord already planned out? Whose heart is He already stirring in and who will consider 2015 as the year they come to salvation?

As I look back at Baptist Campus Ministries' (BCM) previous year, I am completely blown away with how God is continuously moving on the college campus. Hundreds of students gathered weekly to worship the Lord in small and large groups. I think about the freshman that had the initiative to start a weekly Bible Study in the freshman dorm to reach out to their non-believing neighbors. I think about the hundreds of free hot dogs passed out to students by BCM students who could offer an answer for spiritual hunger as well as physical hunger. I



BCM

Changing Lives that Change the World

smile thinking about the incredible number of international students we had the opportunity to love on and share the gospel with while they were on campus. I praise the Lord for the individuals who gave their lives to Christ this year and those whose faith became real this year. The Lord has done great things in 2014.

As I dream about the new year, I get chills thinking about what God has in store. As we traveled to the Passion Conference in January, I was excited to see God work. As we offer a place of hope for the hopeless and a place of accountability to those who want to grow, I am sure God's glory will reach across campuses all over West Virginia. Please pray 2015

will be a year His name is proclaimed to every soul on our college campuses and lives will be eternally changed because of His great gospel.

*Adam Goodwin
Baptist Campus Ministries' Director*

Hispanic Ministries: A Call to Be Salt and Light - Una Llamada a ser Sal y Luz

The numbers of international migrants across the globe are staggering. Estimates indicate there are over 231 million - 3.2% of the world's population - international migrants worldwide. A global exodus of women, men and children fleeing the misery and violence in their countries is taking place before our own eyes. When people lack the resources to provide shelter, food, clothing, education and medical care for their children, they are forced to cross borders in search of a better life and economic opportunities. The perils of their journey are offset by the remarkable hope of a future with dignity. The immigrants' journeys reveal an exceptional hope in their desire and effort to overcome the challenges of life.

People from Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and other countries in the world believe that in the United States they will fulfill their yearning of a better life for them and their children. Because of this, the United States tops the list as a destination for international immigrants. In 2013, over 45 million people - 14.3 % of the population - living in the United States were immigrants. Last year, news media nationwide brought to our attention the stories of unaccompanied children who, in record numbers, were attempting to cross the southern border and were detained and held in appalling conditions. Where are they now? For most of us, the stories of their tragedies and suffering are already out of range from our news radar. They are old news. They were statistics. They were, as scores of immigrants, nameless people.

In the gospels, the characters of the parables do not have names. However, in the gospel of Luke, Jesus relates a telling parable in which one of the characters, who happens to be a pauper, is named. His condition was tragic. His name was Lazarus and he sought the help of his wealthy neighbor whose name, by the way is not mentioned. "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores." (see Luke 16:19-21)

Today, impoverished people (and nations) are laying at the gates - borders - of rich nations, seeking an opportunity for a better tomorrow. Yet, their plight is disregarded. By naming the poor man, Jesus seems to suggest God personalizes his deep concern for those who are vulnerable in our society - the poor, the homeless and the immigrant. They are created in the image and likeness of God (see Genesis 1:26-27) and their human dignity must be recognized. Moreover, if their tragic condition is to change they must not remain nameless. We have to get to know them and their stories on a personal level so we can be salt and light in their lives. (see Matthew 5:13-16)

Filogonia Perez is from Oaxaca, Mexico. She could be another nameless immigrant to you. But I want you to get to know her by hearing her story:

I was 15 years-old when I decided to come to the United States. My mother was very ill and when my father took her to the doctor, they found a tumor in her chest. I told my mother, "I will go to the United States. Do not worry because I will make lots of money and will send money so you can go to the doctor, so my siblings do not have to suffer what I suffered, so they can study." They said that - in the United States - whatever you make at home in a week, you could make it in a day. I never imagined what it would be like.

The first time we tried to cross the border, the van dropped us at the border and we were robbed - they had masks and guns pointed at us. I was the youngest, 15 years-old and I had nothing. The border patrol caught us. We were jailed in Nogales. The second time, we only lasted one night and were caught again. The third time was very, very hot. We walked for one day and one night. The following night, the coyote said, "At dawn, we will be arriving in Phoenix." But he took us the wrong way so when it was morning we were still in the desert. There was no water, no food, nothing. At noon, I began to cry. I remembered everything I had told my mother. I began to cry and I told my brother, "I'm going to die here. I don't know why I came here." My brother started to cry too. We made holes in the ground and got in them because the heat was unbearable. The border patrol caught us. That was the third time. They sent us to Nogales again.

Despite all that, I did not lose hope. I wanted to get here. When we tried for the fourth time we were robbed again. It was very difficult, but we finally arrived in Phoenix. I couldn't find work because I was 15, and I looked for a job for about two months. I walked up and down, up and down - I did not get anything. I lied to people and said I was 18 years old, but nobody believed me. Months went by and I was still looking for a job. I cried and said "I don't know why God sent me to this world if I cannot find a job. I have never stolen, I have never hurt anyone," I cried. Every morning, I went outside to ask the Lord for help. I told him, "You know I don't know why I came to this place. I am only here to suffer and be humiliated by people because I don't know how to speak English." Then, I met my husband, Eusebio, and everything changed. I see everything different now. I feel very happy here. I know a lot of people look at us in a different way: as foreign people or illegals. I only thought about working, and working in order to have a better future so my children would not suffer what I suffered. So my siblings and parents would not continue to suffer because of money.

International migration is not going to end. How are we going to respond to people like Lazarus? How should the church treat immigrants like Filogonia? Most of us do not think of ourselves as wealthy, but we are when compared to immigrants who seek a better life in this country. What does God expect from us? God wants our continual involvement in the lives of people like Lazarus and Filogonia (see Matthew 25:34-40, James 2:14-17). Failure to demonstrate compassion is failure to fulfill God's call in our lives.

Thank you for your financial support and prayers as we continue to make a difference in the lives of Hispanic immigrants across the Mountain State.

Amazing Grace



It has been over a month since you opened your Christmas gifts. Can you even remember what you got? Better yet, can you remember what you got and who got it for you? It is amazing how quickly the presents that had been anticipated for so long, lose their appeal and become a part of the ordinary.

During the Christmas shopping season, I read a story about some parents that decided to punish their children by not having Christmas. They told the kids they had been naughty and did not deserve anything. So they cancelled Christmas celebrations for the family.

There was a place for people to respond to this story asking if people thought it was fair that these parents did this. As you can imagine the responses were many. Some said it was cruel. Others thought it was no one's business but the parents.

Some questioned what behavior could be so bad that would lead the parents to do this.

I could not help but respond to this story. Imagine me having something to say. My response was this: "Christmas is not about what we deserve. Christmas is the celebration of God's gift to us in sending Jesus, His Son."

How easy it is for us to forget that not one of us deserves God's grace. Why is it that we spend so much of our time passing judgment instead of offering grace? Why do we rush to place blame and indict instead of looking for reconciliation and forgiveness? How can we accept the grace God offers without also offering it to others?

Our mission together is to help others know Jesus and the amazing grace He offers to all, even me!

Committed to Missions

High Impact Community Ministry Training - May 11-14, 2015

One of the primary reasons the West Virginia Baptist Convention exists is to **empower** local churches to be Christ honoring communities of faith. This year, our convention theme: ***From Survive to Thrive*** encourages us to move out into our communities with the good news.



Joy Skjegstad

On May 11-14, 2015 the convention will sponsor a training event in each area (northwest, northeast, southwest and southeast) specifically designed to help your church make a positive impact in your community. National speaker and trainer, Joy Skjegstad, author of 7 Creative Models for Community Ministry, Winning Grants to Strengthen Your Ministry and Starting a Non-Profit in Your Church will be working within each area with

your area minister to help your church move into the community with needed ministries.

Skjegstad has more than 20 years of experience starting and growing non-profit organizations, with a special focus on faith-based groups and youth and community development. She

has served as the executive director of the Park Avenue Foundation at Park Avenue United Methodist Church and is the founder of the Institute for Ministry Leaders, a university-based training program that builds the management capacity of churches and other ministry organizations. She also served as the president of the Sanctuary Community Development Corporation and has held a variety of other leadership positions with non-profits in the Minneapolis/Saint Paul area.

The training will be a one-day event with lunch included. The morning will be spent in training and high energy discussion and the afternoon will include a walk-about in the area discussing needs and ways to meet those needs. This is a practical training experience designed for pastors and church leaders. Participants will be able to return to their area and begin the process of determining how their church can impact the community for Christ.

Dates and locations will be announced in the next issue of the *West Virginia Baptist* newsletter and on the convention website at www.wvbc.org. Plan now!!!

Weirton Christian Center - “Witnessing” Blessings

by Kim Weaver, director, Weirton Christian Center

Weirton Christian Center had a tremendous 2014. We were so blessed by many of our West Virginia Baptist churches, American Baptist Women's ministries and individuals across the state and country. Financial support, in-kind support and prayers keep us serving.

As we begin our 98th year of service to the children and families of the Weirton area, we ask for your prayers for our ministry and the direction God would have us go. Since school started, we have had the use of the Boys and Girls' Club facility, as we took over their program at no cost to us. This has provided the additional space we needed, and since the facility is now available we are in the process of evaluating the possibility of purchasing both buildings. We would not be able to maintain both locations, which are 1.8 miles apart. As we were looking to build a new facility last year at this time, we have realized the \$2.5 million estimate is way beyond our reach. This facility would be much easier to cover the cost of, but we will have to plan ahead for the maintenance issues that arise with an older facility. Please pray our board is able to clearly see the will of God in this area of our ministry.

The holidays brought amazing witnessing opportunities for our children. Since we had more area for programs this year, we packed in parents and friends for our preschool Christmas program, a Christmas musical and Christmas party with our afterschool kids. We also were able to witness in the Weirton Christmas Parade with our Christmas nativity float and “Jesus Loves You Snow Much” float, where we passed out the Romans Road books from New Hope Baptist Church (Parkersburg). The best news is we won first place! Our teens were even involved with their WCC (Weirton Christian Center) RAZE crew van.

Each day, we try to show the kids our love and teach them a scriptural lesson about living in this world, as Jesus would have them do. Much of our time is spent teaching them to treat others right and behave in a manner that makes God smile. This is the most important lesson they can learn. We are feeding them a healthy snack and dinner three days each week; offering basic needs in the donation room, such as school supplies, hygiene kits and clothing; and providing transportation home from the center. As we try to train them up spiritually, we are also trying to help them in the way they learn at school. We provide computer access and programs as well as people to help with homework. We are trying to teach accountability, when there may be no one at home doing that. We reward them for good grades and good behavior. As they grow, we also try to provide lessons in life skills, such as nutrition, gardening, cooking, career choices, hygiene, health and fitness. Our older youth have even been involved in learning about job skills and money matters from our partner agencies. We feel we are providing a service to the youth of our community that no one else is offering or even thinking about.

Please be in prayer for the financial sustainability of the Weirton Christian Center. We are embarking in a new direction that has not yet been determined, but we feel God is connecting us with the right people to be able to accomplish more for His kingdom and provide sustainability for the ministry. We truly appreciate all the consistent support that has been given for the past 97 years by our West Virginia Baptist family. We need you more than ever as partners who will take us into our next century of doing God's business with “the least of these.”



Weirton Christian Center kids celebrate winning first place in the commercial float category in the Weirton Christmas Parade. The center will be able to keep the large, traveling trophy for the next year.



The preschool kids' program at Weirton Christian Center.



In God's Work

Mountain State
Mission Offering
2015

100% supporting the mission and ministries of the West Virginia Baptist Convention.

Materials will be mailed to churches in April 2015.

\$290,000 received in 2014.

Thank you for your support!

For more information, contact the office of Mission Support at the West Virginia Baptist Convention office in Parkersburg.
800.879.9822, 304.422.6449
P.O. Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102-1019

Associate Executive Minister: John E. Simmons - jsimmons@wvbc.org
Associate in Mission Support: Lisa Simmons - lsimmons@wvbc.org, 304.273.9693
Administrative Assistant: Joan Hall - hall@wvbc.org

Be a Pioneer in the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) Pilot Internship Program

The 2015 internship pilot program is an intensive, hands-on journey into the world of cross-cultural mission. It is ideal for meeting undergraduate or graduate level field education experiences, for those taking a gap year and for young adults who desire to explore the call of God in their lives. Designed to provide an authentic experience of both the joy and rigor of mission work, this ten-week program facilitates the development of global leaders in the context of close cooperation with career missionaries. Interns will have specific project-based responsibilities as they co-labor and co-learn with community members. Each participant will be part of a cohort of interns who, through the use of an online meeting place, will support and encourage one another throughout their experience and beyond.

- 2015 Dates:**
- Orientation:** Detroit, Michigan; May 28 - 31
 - Internships:** In Country, June 1 - August 1
 - Debriefing:** Detroit, Michigan; August 2 - 5 Domestic Abuse/Immigration

- Tijuana, Mexico - **RAY SCHELLINGER** - Domestic Abuse/Immigration
Puebla, Mexico - **KEITH AND DEBBIE MYERS** - Economic Development
Cochabamba, Bolivia - **J.D. AND RHONDA REED** - Women/Children/Economic Development
Santa Cruz, Bolivia - **J.D. AND RHONDA REED** - Theological Education/Equipping Leaders
Manila, Philippines - **J. AND T. NAMBU AND DEBBIE MULENIX** - Human Trafficking

- Cost per internship:** \$2,000 (estimated)
Costs do not include: Transportation from home, orientation, country, debriefing, home, passport, immunizations, personal expenses, personal computer and internet connections you will need for cohort meetings.
Costs do include: Transportation in country of service; room and board; Visa, if needed; orientation and debriefing costs.

If you are a pioneer called to serve God in a unique setting, e-mail Angela Sudermann, coordinator of volunteers in Global Missions, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) at angela.sudermann@internationalministries.org or call 610.639.4689. Locally, contact Lisa Simmons, associate in Mission Support at lsimmons@wvbc.org or 304.273.9693.

MISSION MATTERS

in the MOUNTAIN STATE

Reflections on a Changing Relationship

With President Obama and President Raul Castro's recent joint announcement that the United States and Cuba would reestablish full diplomatic relations, it seems the attention of our entire country has been focused almost solely on our southern neighbor. Reactions have ranged from euphoria to absolute disgust and anger. Few have been disinterested or ambivalent.

My initial reaction was and remains positive. Our long-standing policy of isolation and disengagement did not deliver the desired results. It is not yet clear a new policy will have the desired effects, but it was past time for a change. Now, I have any number of questions about the policy.

It is clear diplomatic relations will not be a panacea for our relationship with Cuba. While there will be numerous economic changes and new opportunities, the embargo is still in place. It will literally take an act of Congress to repeal it. Some in Congress, notably Cuban-Americans, are opposed to any change in our relationship to Cuba. Their opposition is understandable as many of their families suffered greatly, both politically and economically, during and following the Cuban Revolution. Opposition and mistrust on both sides from 50 years of an adversarial relationship mean it will be years before our relations are completely normal. I expect things to move slowly and in fits and starts.

This change is complex and has ramifications for many. For instance, the Cuban opposition on the island is concerned they were not consulted. Which political prisoners are to be released? What will United States policy toward the Cuban opposition be under this new policy? Have they been abandoned?

What of United States immigration policy? Currently any Cuban who reaches United States soil is offered immediate political asylum. The policy is called “wet foot-dry foot,” meaning those caught at sea are repatriated to Cuba, while those who reach land can stay. With normal diplomatic relations can this policy legally be sustained? Does the United States wish to

maintain it? Immigration issues affect both sides. For years, the Cuban government has offered asylum to numerous Americans whom we consider common criminals that they consider political criminals. Initially, the Cuban government has said their status will not change. Will that be renegotiated as time passes? Each side has extradited some individuals in the past.

As one who has had a long-standing (23 year) relationship with the Fraternity of Cuban Baptist Churches, I am deeply concerned about the impact of these changes on the church in Cuba. With the involvement of Pope Francis, a thaw in the relationship between the Cuban government and the Roman Catholic Church is already underway. My hope is this will mean

an easing of the strain between the government and the universal church in Cuba. This would be most helpful. Initially, the change should make it easier to get resources to the church and easier for the church to purchase needed resources in the country.

Finally, how will travel to Cuba change? It is said travel to Cuba will become easier under the new relationship. As of this writing, we do not know much beyond that. The United States Department of Treasury has yet to write the new travel rules. This will take some time and is not likely to affect our February-March 2015 trip. Of course, we must still deal with the Cuban

government as well. They have the sovereign right to decide who may enter their country and under what conditions. We do not know what, if any, changes to expect from the Cubans.

There is great optimism that ultimately these changes will benefit the people of both countries. As a Cuban friend wrote, “This year we will have a great Christmas for the first time in more than 50 years!” While hopeful for the future, this seems more a beginning than an end. We pray these changes will lead to a bold and happy new day between our countries.

Max Hill
Central Area Minister and Associate Executive Minister,
Missions and Ministry



El Jordan Baptist Church, Havana, Cuba

WEST VIRGINIA MISSIONARY PARTNERS David and Leslie Turley - THAILAND



In October, Leslie visited missionaries and partners in Thailand with Stan Murray (l) and Lisa Simmons (2nd from right). They are pictured with Lea Lindero (r) at the border crossing from Thailand to Burma.

Thailand was at the beginning of the trip in October and it was wonderful to be with members of Thailand Baptist Missionary Fellowship. Being in Japan for the last part of the journey in early November was a blessing as I was able to see old friends and the work of missionaries currently there. A visit to Kanto Gakuin University where I used to teach was awesome as I will be able to continue these important relationships.

I am so thankful for the opportunities I have had to share at churches this fall. I have been able to share with many about the changes which have taken place in our family as we made the difficult decision to return to the United States and also about the change in my status as I am in training now to become area director for southeast Asia and Japan. Thank you so much for all your continued prayer and financial support. Although I alone will be actively working with International Ministries from this fall, it was a family decision and I still feel all of us are involved in mission as a family. Both David and Joanna were wholeheartedly behind this change and have been unbelievably supportive.

This past year was certainly one of transition for our family as we have settled back in the lovely hills of West Virginia. Our transition was made much softer because of your love and care for our family in many ways. We know this coming year will bring even more transition as we make the move to be near our mission headquarters in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. It means change for our whole family, but we know our God will provide ... just as He has provided much for us already, through you. We are thankful you have been the hands and feet of Jesus for us.

WEST VIRGINIA MISSIONARY PARTNERS Rick and Anita Gutierrez - SOUTH AFRICA



The Gutierrez Family

Recently, Rick was not available to pick up the 140 fertile eggs for our incubator from the township of Amaoti. As I neared the meeting point, I realized without Rick I didn't know exactly where the building was where I was to collect the eggs. So I drove to a nearby yard where some teens always hang out and watch our car where I could make a phone call and wait. How wonderful it was to see six young men with wide welcoming smiles simultaneously lighting up their faces as soon as they saw me. Shortly afterwards, Manosi

I have been blessed this fall to be able to travel in early October to India for the All India Mission Summit held in northeast India in Kohima, Nagaland. Although India will not be a part of my area, many people representing southeast Asia were there. This time of training is crucial as I will need to be up to speed on the various work being done in South East Asia. Trips are planned for 2015 to include Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia and Vietnam. It is a busy but important time. I am thankful for a family that is extremely supportive of this ministry as well as for International Ministries as they have made this possible.

hurried over and directed me to the meeting place. I asked her what these kids do all day because a group of kids is there on any day we happen to visit. Manosi told me they have nothing to do. The kids in this massive urban township are the children of a generation that has been the hardest hit by the HIV crisis in possibly the entire world. These are the faces of kids behind the dismal high school completion statistics.

Later that same week, a health builder from another area named Jabu called us to her home to talk. She has been leading a weekly discovery study since June and she told me, "We are fixing a lot of things in our lives. We arrive to our group stressed, but leave at peace." She has a 15 year-old son who she worries about. The reason she called us was she has been concerned about the big problem of high school dropouts in her community and how they get into drugs, alcohol, crime and teen pregnancy and wants to do something about it. She told us teens could really benefit from learning skills such as health building and poultry rearing and hopes that she could help train them. We talked about the importance of a holistic approach to this problem and how we could get started on this together in the new year.

We thank God for all those faithful people whose tender and responsive hearts make it so we can support Jabu in her efforts to make a difference in her corner of the world.

WEST VIRGINIA MISSIONARY PARTNERS J.D. and Rhonda Reed - BOLIVIA



The Reed Family

decade in Cochabamba, over 70 ministries were either started or supported through this vital and vibrant ministry they created. One of the many ministries they engaged in was leadership training, which provided the House of Hope with wonderful leaders in the family of Richard Achu and Carmen Flores. As we talk about this time of transition, we would be remiss to skip over the years of influence and the countless lives impacted by the Morales' family and their ministry in Bolivia. So, where do we go from here?

As of the October 31, 2014, missionaries J.D. and Rhonda Reed will be assuming the responsibility of oversight and management of the ministries of the House of Hope. J.D. and Rhonda live in Santa Cruz, Bolivia and work in many different areas in Bolivia. We are currently assessing the ministry and needs of the communities, and then we will begin a process of determining a new focus and vision that will both encompass the successful ministries of the House of Hope currently, and look toward the future and new opportunities arising. Many of you have ministries you are passionate about at the House of Hope. We would like to strongly encourage you to continue supporting them as you always have whether in prayer, financially or by coming to work. This will give Richard and Carmen a little room to adjust and adapt to their new reality and structure. J.D. has been meeting with them weekly for about a month now and even though there is a little bit of fear and second-guessing, overall they are positive and excited about what the future holds, and so are we. God is refining us and preparing us for a new day in ministry. Our prayer is you will walk alongside us as we work together for the glory of God and His kingdom in Bolivia and in the rest of the world.

WEST VIRGINIA MISSIONARY PARTNERS Keith and Debbie Myers - MEXICO

What a joyous time of year, no matter where you might be. Our hearts and home are preparing for the celebration of the birth of the Savior of the world. We are quickly approaching our one year anniversary of ministry with the people in our communities within Mexico. This year will be a Christmas like no other for our family. We have decided to try and escape the commercialization of this time of year and spend this time in one of our communities: Santa Barbara Huacapa. We will spend six days visiting and teaching with this community. Our family has been invited to come and teach English to the youth. We will be



The Myers Family

will be filled with new adventures and challenges God has already prepared in advance for the glory of His kingdom. Deb is working on developing a more consistent women's bible study for the ladies of our communities as well as streamlining the current chicken project to be productive and self-sustaining. I am working with members of Colegio de Ingenieros Civiles del Estado de México (CICEM) and the seminary in revamping our extension program from the seminary in Mexico City. We will be offering a three-year certificate in Bible. Please pray for our language acquisition and relationships over the upcoming year.

Our hearts are full. We are so grateful for the partnership of the West Virginia Baptist Convention. It is because of the wonderful churches and individuals within those churches that we can continue to do what we do in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you for your support through your prayers and finances. If you would like to receive our weekly prayer letter, send an e-mail to our prayer advocate, Karla Carr at carr.karla@gmail.com.

Watch for more information on this years' American Baptist Women's Ministries of West Virginia (ABWM-WV) Mission Outreach Project 2015: Chicken & Veggie Project. Support Keith and Debbie Myers in their new ministry projects in Puebla, Mexico. The state goal is \$6,000.00. These funds will assist in providing protein for families through a chicken project and through a keyhole garden project will provide much needed vegetables. Participants will be encouraged to "gift" another family in the community with breeding chicken and vegetables. Your support is needed to encourage the Myers in their new ministry project. Each woman will be able to provide meat, eggs and vegetables for their families.

WEST VIRGINIA MISSIONARY PARTNERS Debbie Mullenix - PHILIPPINES



Debbie Mullenix

When was the last time you experienced a "God moment?" We each have had God moments. Sometimes they come when we are reading our Bible or in the middle of our daily devotions. Suddenly, God makes clear the verse we don't understand, gives us a clear example of how a passage pertains to our life or brings to us the realization of how we can be used to bring a particular passage into the lives of others.

Sometimes a God moment comes when we are walking in the woods, having a conversation with a friend or preparing a meal with family members. They are moments when we can almost feel God's hand on our shoulder as He shows His love to us and the people surrounding us. Sometimes, though, they come to

comfort us as we sit with friends who are close to death, when we are in pain or when someone we love will be leaving our lives, for any reason. We know He is with us. God moments. Sometimes they abound in our lives. Sometimes, though, we feel like they are few and far between, and we start to lose the joy that comes through knowing our Lord's presence. But be still, and know ... we are never alone. We don't have to have mountaintop experiences like Green Lake, Camp Cowen or the convention to feel His presence. He is always with us, His children.

Thank you for all of the prayers and cards you have sent to me since my knee surgery. Everyone has been so kind and understanding, especially those of you whose events I needed to cancel. My recovery is going well, but it seems very slow (or am I just too impatient?) At this time, the plan is for me to finish my physical therapy and have my second knee surgery in January 2015.

To encourage Debbie, cards can be mailed to % Chris Mulneix, 410 Locust Ave. Philippi, West Virginia 26416.

Plan Now to Attend the

2015 American Baptist Men ANNUAL NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFASTS

February 28, 2015



Locations throughout the state are now being sought for this very important day in American Baptist Men's ministry. This is a time for our West Virginia Baptist Convention men to gather together for concentrated prayer and biblical teaching in conjunction with a fellowship breakfast.

If your church is planning to host a prayer breakfast or if you think your church would be interested in hosting a prayer breakfast, please complete the form at www.abmen.org and mail to: Parchment Valley Conference Center, Frank Miller, 1715 Lower Parchment Valley Road, Ripley, WV 25271. For more information, please contact Frank at 800.489.8564.

Check for a location near you at www.wvbc.org.

MAY

**American Baptist Men's
Work Weekend**
May 1-2

Youth Work Party
May 15-16

JUNE

Hopewell
June 5-7

Older Midler
(grades 3-4)
June 10-12

Younger Midler
(grades 2-4)
June 12-14

Junior I
(grades 5-6)
June 14-20

Junior High I
(grades 7-9)
June 21-27

Junior II
(grades 5-6)
June 28-July 4

2015 Camp Cowen Schedule

Due to changing school schedules, the Camp Cowen Board has approved a revised schedule for the 2015 West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen summer program. Please mark these dates on your calendar as you plan your agenda for the coming year.



***"Where people meet Jesus
and grow as
His disciples in a
community of faith."***

JULY

High School I
(grades 9-12)
July 5-11

Junior High II
(grades 7-9)
July 12-18

Senior Day
2015 High School
Graduates
July 18

High School II
(grades 9-12)
July 19-25

**Raleigh/Rockcastle
Teays Valley**
July 26-31

Family Camp
July 31-August 3

Men's Camp
August 7-9

SEPTEMBER

Camp Global
September 4-6

The Great Date Night with Mark Cable

Singer, Songwriter, Funny Guy

West Virginia Baptist Convention Clergy Retreat



Friday, February 20-21, 2015
Hawk's Nest State Park
\$75.00 per couple

Sponsored by: Pastors4Pastors and the
Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board

*This clergy couple retreat begins at 6:30 p.m. on Friday,
February 20 in the lodge restaurant. The \$75 includes
Friday night lodging and dinner and Saturday breakfast
and lunch. There is a 30 couple limit.*

*Please make your check payable to: West Virginia Baptist
Ministers' Council. If you have any questions, please contact
Dana Gatewood at 304.872.1361.*

WEST VIRGINIA BAPTIST CONVENTION CLERGY COUPLE RETREAT

February 20-21, 2015

Name: _____

Spouse Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Church: _____

Mail registration and payment to: Mark Stauffer, Highlawn Baptist
Church, 2304 Jefferson Avenue, Saint Albans, WV 25177.

Junior High Convention

For grades 6-9

February 27 -
March 1, 2015

Highlawn Baptist Church,
Saint Albans

Band: **Set Apart**

Speaker: **Jonathan Herron**

For more information and a registration form,
visit www.wvbc.org or contact Valma
at 800.879.9822 or adams@wvbc.org.

Spring Children's Rally

For children entering grades K-5th, 6th grade is optional.

Theme:

Bee-Attitudes

Matthew 5:1-2

March 14,
2015

at Parchment Valley
Conference Center
in the Greenlee
Activities Center



Cost: \$12.00, if postmarked by March 2, 2015.
\$25.00, if postmarked after March 2 or at the door.

For more information and a registration form,
visit www.wvbc.org or contact Valma at
800.879.9822 or adams@wvbc.org.

HARRY JAMES BARNHART, 80, Weston, died November 10, 2014. He was a member of Weston First Baptist Church (Broad Run), where he was a deacon and sang in the church choir. He was a veteran of the United States Army.

DORA 'CATHARINE' BEALL, 95, of Morgantown, died November 20, 2014. She was one of the oldest members of Goshen Baptist Church (Goshen). She was a deaconess, served on the honorary board of servants and was church clerk for six years. She sang in the choir and was a faithful member of American Baptist Women's Ministries for many years.

EDNA MAE BECKETT, 85, of Parkersburg, died November 10, 2014. She was a member of South Parkersburg Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where she was a member of the Believer's Sunday School Class.

LILLIAN ILENE BLAND, 94, of Mt. Zion, died December 26, 2014. She was the oldest member of Enon Baptist Church (Little Kanawha).

ARTHUR LEE BOGGS, 87, of Saint Marys, died November 3, 2014. He was a member of Saint Marys First Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where he taught Sunday school and served on the deacon and trustee boards. He was a United States Navy Veteran of World War II.

BROOKMAN BRITT, 92, formerly of Saint Albans, died December 13, 2014. She was a member of Highlawn Baptist Church (Teays Valley), where she and her husband, James E. Britt, were charter members.

MARVIN K. CRAWFORD, 74, of Forest Hill, died December 22, 2014. He was a faithful member of Fairview Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh), where he was a church trustee.

JERRY LEE DAVIS, 76, of Williamstown, died November 20, 2014. He was a member of Boaz Baptist Church (Parkersburg) and former member of Williamstown First Baptist Church (Parkersburg). He directed the youth choir at Williamstown in 1979 and 1980. He served in the United States Air Force.

GERALDINE (GERRI) GAINES, 88, died September 27, 2014. She was an American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary alumna who served in the Philippines.

GLENDALL GOODALL GENTRY, 89, died December 24, 2014. She was a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) from early childhood. She joined the chancel choir at the age of 13.

G. PAULINE GENTRY, 82, died December 9, 2014. She was a longtime member of Highlawn Baptist Church (Teays Valley), serving as a deaconess and as a member of the Mary I. Laughlin Circle.

BETTY ALLEN GIBEAUT, 84, of Poca, died November 19, 2014. She was a member of Poca Baptist Church (Teays Valley) for 56 years, where she sang in the choir, taught Sunday school and was the prayer chain leader.

E. LARAIN BROWN GORE, died November 21, 2014. She was a member of Athens Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh) and had served as a deaconess and a Sunday school teacher. She prepared the church's welcoming bulletin board themes for over 25 years.

EMMA A. GREENLEAF, 74, of Reedy, died November 23, 2014. She was a member of Gilboa Baptist Church (Good Hope), where she was in the women's mission and was a Sunday school teacher.

GAYLE LYNN GANSTROM HOLT, 65, died May 7, 2014. She was an American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to the Philippines.

JAMES L. HOLT, 66, died March 8, 2014. He was an American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to the Philippines.

LORETTA JO HOSELTON, 76, of Murrysburg, died November 3, 2014. She was a member of Milhoan Ridge Baptist Church (Good Hope), where she was the clerk and member of the mission circle.

JEAN CAROLYN SHROUT JACK, 77, of Welch, died November 7, 2014. She was a lifelong member of Welch First Baptist Church (Rockcastle), where she was a member of the church choir.

MARGARET JUMP, 94, died September 29, 2014. She was an American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary alumna who served in what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo for 17 years.

LUCILLE VAUN (WILSON) MAHAN, 90, of Washington, died December 29, 2014. She attended the Hemlock church in her younger years and was the grandmother of Rob Ely.

CHRISTINE WALLS MCLAUGHLIN, 90, died December 24, 2014. She was the mother of Max Hill.

WANDA JUNE (HUDSON) PAXTON, 76, died December 24, 2014. She was a member of Oakwood Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley).

CAROLYN S. RADER, 94, of Elizabeth, died November 25, 2014. She was a member of Elizabeth Baptist Church (Parkersburg) for over 60 years, having served as a Sunday school teacher, member of the church choir, member of American Baptist Women's Ministries and a deaconess.

JOHNNIE SAMUEL RIFFLE, 95, of Oak Hill, died November 13, 2014. He served as a deacon in Montgomery Baptist Church and also Calvary Baptist Church in Oak Hill. He served in the United States Army during World War II.

ALMA LEE BEAN RUSSELL, 92, of Wadestown, died November 8, 2014. She was a member of West Warren Baptist Church (Fairmont), of which she became a member in June 1962. She had served as treasurer, children's Sunday school teacher, Vacation Bible School teacher and member of American Baptist Women's Ministries.

DANNY EUGENE SANDERS, 69, of Peterstown, died November 1, 2014. He was a member of Peterstown Missionary Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh), where he was deacon. He was also a United States Army Veteran.

HENRY DALE SASSI, died December 13, 2014. He was a charter member of New Hope Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where he participated in the choir and served in the financial missions of the church.

WILLIAM "BILL" E. SHARPS, 76, of Bridgeport, died December 23, 2014. He was a long-standing, faithful member of Middleville Baptist Church (Union), where he served in many capacities such as a Sunday school superintendent, deacon and treasurer. He was a veteran of the United States Army.

Continued on page 14...

BENJAMIN SIMMONS, died November 21, 2014. He was the pastor of Hebron Baptist Church (Fairmont). Churches that were under his pastoralship during his career were Worthington Baptist Church (Fairmont), Everson Baptist Church (Fairmont), Riverview Chapel, EUB, Gospel Tabernacle, Gospel Way Assembly, Enon Baptist Church (Broad Run), Bear Creek Brethren Church, Zion Christian Academy, Word of Life, Presbyterian Parish of Pocahontas County and Coon's Run Baptist Church (Judson).

LARRY KEITH SMITH, 80, of Washington, died November 10, 2014. He was a current member and chairman of the evangelism board at South Parkersburg Baptist Church (Parkersburg) and had taught Sunday school. He was a former member of Murphytown Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where he served as chairman of the deacon board, Sunday school superintendent and teacher of Sunday school. He served in the United States Army in the Signal Corps in Korea.

MARY JANE (JANEY) BROWN SMITH, 83, died November 8, 2014. She was an American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary alumna who served in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

TERRY M. STONESTREET, 71, of Harrisville, died November 21, 2014. He was a member of Harrisville Baptist Church (Harrisville), where he sang in the choir and had been a youth leader.

CHARLES RONALD "RON" STURGILL, 70, of Saint Albans, died, December 13, 2014. He was a member of Highlawn Baptist Church (Teays Valley) and served on the board of trustees, the finance board and the leadership team. He served his country with the United States Army.

GERALDINE "GERRY" S. WALLACE, 89, of Grantsville, died September 26, 2014. She was a lifelong active member of Enon Baptist Church (Little Kanawha).

CONSTANCE "CONNIE" JEAN MILLER WILLIAMS, 57, of South Charleston, died December 10, 2014. She was a member of Saint Albans First Baptist Church (Teays Valley), where she had attended for over 50 years. Her greatest passion was singing in the choir. She was also a member of the church's knitting group.

Leadership Updates

REV. LARRY MCKIM to Enon Baptist Church (Broad Run) as pastor on November 1, 2014

MR. KENTON MORLAN to Sand Fork Baptist Church (Little Kanawha) as youth pastor on May 1, 2014

Golden'eers

May 4-6, 2015

Bible Study Leader:
Rev. Mark McCloy

Racine First Dedicates Church Library

On October 19, 2014, Racine First Baptist Church (Coal River) dedicated its church library in memory of the late Rev. Roger Tinnel. The library was updated with new books, DVDs and other educational material so future generations could come to know and accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Roger's wife, Joan, joined the congregation for the service and refreshments followed.

Register Now for the 2015 American Baptist Men Spring Retreat

The retreat will take place March 13-15, 2015 at Parchment Valley Conference Center. The theme is Survive to Thrive in 2015. The event will feature keynote speakers, workshops, worship, music and fellowship. Registration will begin on Friday, March 13 from 4-6 p.m. in Hill Hall. The retreat begins with dinner at 6:00 p.m. in the administration building (the barn). The first session begins at 7:00 p.m. in Hill Hall. Meals served: Friday dinner; Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner; and Sunday breakfast and lunch. The retreat concludes after lunch on Sunday, March 15.

2015 American Baptist Men Spring Retreat Registration Form

Name: _____
Date: _____
Mailing Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____
E-mail: _____
Church Name: _____

Please select one from the following:

_____ **Dormitory Housing - \$85.00 per person (room sleeps up to ten).** Includes: program fee, two nights stay, six meals, two snacks, towels and linens. Please bring a pillow and blanket/sleeping bag. *Will room with _____

_____ **Lodge Housing - \$100.00 per person (room sleeps two).** Includes: program fee, two nights stay, six meals, two snacks, towels, bedding and pillow. Will room with _____

_____ **Lodge Housing - private room. Add \$15.00 per night.** All amenities included.

_____ **One Day Only - \$25.00. Must R.S.V.P.** Includes: lunch.

** Handicap rooms available upon request.*

Please send your completed registration form and payment to: Parchment Valley Conference Center, AB Men Spring Retreat, 1715 Lower Parchment Valley Road, Ripley, WV 25271.

February 2015

FEBRUARY 1 - Rita Barker, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission
FEBRUARY 2 - Patricia Vannoy, clerk/treasurer, Little Kanawha Association
FEBRUARY 3 - The ministry of Oak Hill Baptist Church; Bryan Knight, pastor (Fayette)
FEBRUARY 4 - The ministry of Faith Baptist Tabernacle; Timothy Skaggs, pastor (Elk Valley)
FEBRUARY 5 - The ministry of Racine First Baptist Church; Anthony Pratt, pastor (Coal River)
FEBRUARY 6 - The ministry of Harmony Baptist Church; Gary Crislip, pastor (Eastern)
FEBRUARY 7 - Church Officers' Training Event at Parchment Valley Conference Center
FEBRUARY 8 - Victor Shields, Northeast Area Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention
FEBRUARY 9 - The ministry of Providence Baptist Church; William Spears, pastor (Guyandotte)
FEBRUARY 10 - Ron Adams, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission
FEBRUARY 11 - The ministry of Center Branch Baptist Church (Broad Run)
FEBRUARY 12 - The ministry of Starcher Baptist Church; David Workman, pastor (Kanawha Valley)
FEBRUARY 13 - The ministry of Bethlehem Baptist Church; C. Gene Johnson, pastor (Little Kanawha)
FEBRUARY 14 - The ministry of Fairmont Baptist Temple; Holley Faulkner, pastor (Fairmont)
FEBRUARY 15 - The ministry of Kingwood Baptist Church; Kevin Sions, pastor (Goshen)
FEBRUARY 16 - Tan Coats, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Thailand
FEBRUARY 17 - Nancy James, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Haiti
FEBRUARY 18 - The ministry of Rainelle First Baptist Church; Bob Scharnhorst, pastor (Hopewell)
FEBRUARY 19 - Jeremy Myers, vice-chair, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission
FEBRUARY 20 - The ministry of West Point Baptist Church; Ron Miller, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh)
FEBRUARY 21 - The ministry of Strait Creek Baptist Church; Dobby Thrash, pastor (Harrisville)
FEBRUARY 22 - Howard Clark, moderator, Fairmont Association
FEBRUARY 23 - The ministry of Wallace First Baptist Church; Keith Swiger, pastor (Judson)
FEBRUARY 24 - The ministry of Comunidad Nueva Esperanza (Good Hope)
FEBRUARY 25 - Boyden Myers, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary (youth) to Mexico
FEBRUARY 26 - Richard Sargent, chair, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission and chair, Committee on Ministerial Standing
FEBRUARY 27 - Junior High Convention this weekend at Highlawn Baptist Church, Saint Albans
FEBRUARY 28 - American Baptist Men's Prayer Breakfast around the state today

West Virginia Baptist Convention staff and missionaries listed are on the occasion of their birthday.

March 2015

MARCH 1 - Emerson Wu, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Macau
MARCH 2 - Annie Dieselberg, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Thailand
MARCH 3 - David Parajon, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Nicaragua
MARCH 4 - Taku Longkumer, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to India
MARCH 5 - The ministry of Weirton First Baptist Church; Donald Dague, pastor (Panhandle)
MARCH 6 - Mark Wood, second vice-president and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission
MARCH 7 - Duane Binkley, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Thailand
MARCH 8 - Brenda Rosier, moderator, Union Association
MARCH 9 - The ministry of Concord Baptist Church; Richard Tench, pastor (Teays Valley)
MARCH 10 - Nathan Reed, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary (youth) to Bolivia
MARCH 11 - Joan Hall, assistant, Mission Support, West Virginia Baptist Convention
MARCH 12 - Donna Malcomb, clerk, Hopewell Association
MARCH 13 - American Baptist Men's Spring Retreat and Spring Children's Rally this weekend at Parchment Valley Conference Center
MARCH 14 - Jim Anderson, Southeast Area Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention
MARCH 15 - The ministry of Williamson First Baptist Church; Jarrod Belcher, pastor (Logan-Mingo)
MARCH 16 - Marsha Raker, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission
MARCH 17 - Karen Smith, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary
MARCH 18 - Tim Long, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Mexico
MARCH 19 - Richard Gutierrez, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to South Africa
MARCH 20 - Mayra Giovanetti, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Nicaragua
MARCH 21 - Steve McCartney, site maintenance manager, Camp Cowen
MARCH 22 - The ministry of Baileysville Baptist Church; Ronald Harvey, pastor (Rockcastle)
MARCH 23 - Janelle Skinner, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission
MARCH 24 - Donna Snyder, assistant, Leadership Ministries, West Virginia Baptist Convention
MARCH 25 - The ministry of New Hope Baptist Church; Tom Stevens, pastor (Parkersburg)
MARCH 26 - The ministry of Gallagher First Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley)
MARCH 27 - The ministry of Crum Missionary Baptist Church; Donald Matney, pastor (Twelve Pole)
MARCH 28 - Paul Ritchie, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission and president, American Baptist Men of West Virginia
MARCH 29 - The ministry of Webster Springs First Baptist Church; Stephen White, interim pastor (Hopewell)
MARCH 30 - The ministry of Bethlehem Baptist Church; Matthew Taylor, pastor (Judson)
MARCH 31 - The ministry of Summit Park Baptist Church; Richard Owens, pastor (Union)

Coming Events

February

February 7

**West Virginia Baptist Convention
Church Officers' Training Event**
Parchment Valley Conference Center

February 9-13

**Palmer Theological West Virginia
Program Class - M. Div. Program,
PRMN523 Pastoral Leadership,
Instructor - Dr. Lloyd Hamblin**
Parchment Valley Conference Center

February 16

President's Day Holiday
West Virginia Baptist Convention Office
CLOSED

February 20-21

**The Great Date Night with Mark Cable
- West Virginia Baptist Convention
Clergy Retreat**
Hawk's Nest State Park

February 24

**School of Christian Studies Old
Testament II (B-02) Six-Week Class**
Various Locations

February 27-March 1

Junior High Convention
Highlawn Baptist Church, Saint Albans

February 28

American Baptist Men Prayer Breakfast
Various Locations

March

March 13-14

American Baptist Men Spring Retreat
Parchment Valley Conference Center

March 14

Spring Children's Rally
Parchment Valley Conference Center

West Virginia Baptist Newsletter Submissions

Send submissions for *The West Virginia Baptist* to: thewvbaptist@wobc.org or mail submissions to the West Virginia Baptist Convention, Attention: Donna, P.O. Box 1019, Parkersburg, West Virginia 26102. If you are submitting text, send typed copy only. We no longer accept handwritten text. We also accept hard copy and digital photos of 300 dpi (dots per inch). Please include a caption for your photo and your name and address if you want your photo returned.

**Deadline for submission is the 3rd of
odd numbered months.**

The **West Virginia Baptist** is a newsletter of the West Virginia Baptist Convention, associated with the American Baptist Churches, USA,

PO Box 1019, Parkersburg WV 26102;
1.800.879.9822. US Postage Paid at
Parkersburg, West Virginia.

Executive Minister: Dr. David L. Carrico
Editor: Rev. John E. Simmons
Assistant Editor: Mrs. Valma Adams
Layout: Mrs. Donna Snyder

Join Us at Parchment Valley Conference Center on February 7 for the 2015 Church Officers' Training Event

Each participant will select one workshop for the morning session and one for the afternoon session. **The cost will be \$15 per person for the day, including lunch. If you bring eight from the same church, the next two registrations are at no cost.**

Schedule: 9:00 a.m. - Registration, 9:30 - 10:00 a.m. - Worship, 10:15 - 11:45 a.m. - Workshop Session #1, 12:00 Noon - 1:00 p.m. - Lunch, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. - Workshop Session #2, 2:30 p.m. - Head home

Workshops Include:	Session #1	Session #2	School of Christian Studies ADVANCED Credit will be available for the new Congregational Transformation three-year program or may fulfill one requirement for the original two-year (General Studies) program.
• Associational Leadership		P.M. ONLY	
• Children's Ministry	A.M. SESSION	REPEAT	For more information and a registration form, visit www.wobc.org or call Donna at 800.879.9822.
• Clerks		P.M. ONLY	
• Deacons	A.M. SESSION	REPEAT	
• Discipleship	A.M. SESSION	REPEAT	
• Exploring a Call (NEW)		P.M. ONLY	
• Financial Secretary	A.M. ONLY		
• Missions	A.M. SESSION	REPEAT	
• Pastoral Relations Committee (NEW)	A.M. SESSION		
• Pulpit Committee	A.M. ONLY		
• SCS ADVANCED - Transformational Leadership in Your Current Context (NEW)	PART A	PART B	
• Senior Adults	A.M. ONLY		
• Technology	A.M. SESSION	REPEAT	
• Trustees		P.M. ONLY	
• Worship and Music	A.M. SESSION	REPEAT	
• Young Adult Ministry	A.M. SESSION	REPEAT	
• Youth Ministry	A.M. SESSION	REPEAT	
ALL WORKSHOPS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.			

West Virginia Baptist Convention
P.O. Box 1019
Parkersburg, WV 26102-1019

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