

# The West Virginia Baptist Newsletter

October-November 2019

## Camp Cowen - A Ministry that Brings Salvation!

The West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen is dedicated to being a place *"where people meet Jesus and grow as His disciples in a community of faith."* As fall settles across West Virginia, camp is quiet. But even in the stillness, echoes of the summer ministry resound, not just at camp, but across West Virginia and around the world.

*"How blessed I feel to have been able to serve the Lord at Camp Cowen this summer. We were reminded of the Lord's sovereignty through it all. We count it all as joy for the Lord and He met us in each moment. When I reflect over the summer, I see the countless blessings that He so graciously supplied ... thank you to everyone who was part of making this summer a great one."*

**Beth Perry, Cowen Staff 2019**

In 2019, campers heard day in and day out of the love God has for them and the call He places on their lives to live that love to a dying and broken world. "Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." Ephesians 5:1-2

*"I wish I could tell you how many times I heard the words 'You are loved' spoken to students this week. In our theme of Live Loved, students and adults were reminded daily of how deeply loved we really are and that we are called to live in love now. This week, I had a front row seat to watch lives given over to Christ, hearts softened and convicted, students encouraged and love shown all over the place. I saw students worship like we were created to worship - completely given over to magnifying Jesus."*

**Claire Cotrill, High School 1**

We celebrate a summer where 85 people were saved, 80 were rededicated and 25 heard God's call on their lives. In a world where the concept of love is misunderstood, abused and misused, we have children and teens desperately in need of knowing the love of God. Campers responded to the gospel of the true love of God presented. God is on the move in lives and that doesn't end when the week at camp comes to a close.

*"One of the kids at Junior High 2 camp came home and helped lead his little brother to Christ! His little brother felt like he wasn't worthy of being saved and Cody told him all about how God loves us and makes us worthy just because of what he learned at camp!"*

**Eric Kendall, Junior High 2**

Real life is full of difficulties. At camp, we have a chance to minister to campers in their good times and in their struggles. What a privilege to pray over graduating seniors, celebrate birthdays, high-five first-time campers and rejoice when someone surrenders their life to Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior. And we have a privilege in the hard times that we often forget to see for what it is: an open door for real life ministry.

*"We had one child who was terribly homesick. Every indication was that Sam needed to go home. But then God got involved. Tuesday evening, I heard Sam suggest to another homesick camper that he talk to a counselor. When I sat and talked with the second boy he told me, 'Sam prayed for me already.'" Well, 24 hours later, the second boy gave his life to Christ. If not for so many people pouring into Sam and God getting involved, maybe somebody else doesn't accept Christ. That is the beauty of Camp Cowen. That's what God does here."*

**Curtis Johnson, Junior High 1**

When we work through the difficult steps with a camper struggling with homesickness, as we respond to camper arguments, when we speak truth into a camper's life, as we pray with a camper dealing with abuse or loss ... that is when God gives us the amazing privilege as a community of faith to minister and work true discipleship.

*"This past week is always one of my favorite weeks of the year, but also one of the hardest. It is hard to see how much this earthly world has failed and broken these students. But what a joy it is to see 200 plus students learn it*

*has all been overcome because of Jesus Christ's sacrifice and that we can have hope because of Him. To see them worship our heavenly Father and grasp just how loved they are by our God was worth every cold shower and late night throughout the week."* **Joni Ely, High School 2**

That is real ministry: Ministry that brings salvation from eternity in hell as it extends rescue and ministry in the midst of the ravaging effects of sin here on earth. We are thankful for the joys and sorrows as well as the triumphs and trials because God is good and His work has been evident all summer long.

What a privilege we have in the West Virginia Baptist Convention to join together as a family of believers blessed by God with this amazing ministry!

*Jill Narraway  
Associate Director of Camping and Youth*

*The West Virginia Baptist Convention is a family of churches committed to reaching all generations for Jesus Christ both here and abroad by equipping one another to be healthy, growing and unified in Christ and for Christ.*

**Doing Christ's Work Together**



**Lifelong memories and friends are made at Camp Cowen.**



## West Virginia Baptist Convention

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Vol. LXXXVI, Issue 06 October-November 2019

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**BEARERS OF HOPE ...**  
*Doing Christ's Work Together!*

## Time to Refocus



Dr. Michael Sisson

Someone once said, "Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goals." This is an observation that seems to apply to many different circumstances. It certainly applies to every aspect of one's personal life, whether physical or spiritual. However, it also applies to ministries being done for Jesus Christ, whether they are being carried out as individuals, churches or as the convention family of churches.

Obstacles can be defined in many ways with some being brief and others lingering around for a longer time. Regardless of the nature of the obstacle, they all have the capability of distracting us from God's will and mission. It seems the writer of the book of Hebrews understood this principle very well when he wrote, "let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us fixing our eyes on Jesus" (Hebrews 12:1b-2a). He calls our attention to the fact that this "race" is a marathon, not a sprint, so extra caution must be used to not become distracted. The way to accomplish this is to maintain our focus on Jesus Christ and stay on course.

The Bible provides numerous examples of people who overcame incredible obstacles by keeping their eyes focused on the Lord. One such example would be the account of the battle between David and Goliath. Goliath was a giant and the undefeated Philistine champion warrior with a sword, a spear and 150 pounds of armor. David was a young shepherd no more 17 years old with a staff and a sling who was only there to bring food to his brothers serving in Saul's military. It is times like this people might say, "Hey David, you might want to do the math" which means, "look at the obstacles and accept that the odds are against you." Talk about the definition of an obstacle, Goliath was between nine and ten feet tall. He was hard to ignore. He was undefeated in war. "Do the math!" Beating Goliath was pretty much impossible. However, David's response to the Philistine makes it clear he had chosen to focus on the Lord and not on the very large and threatening obstacle standing in his way. David says to Goliath, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty ... for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give all of you into our hands" (1 Samuel 17:45, 47b).

What we focus on, we magnify. What we focus on, we energize. It is far too easy to allow the challenges we face to distract us from the mission. By their very nature, challenges and problems are threatening and can easily demand our attention, however the way forward is found in refocusing and placing our eyes back on the Lord!

As a convention family, our Goliath right now is finances, however we know money follows mission and our mission is *Doing Christ's Work Together* with the emphasis being on Christ. So, our focus must be on the Lord to guide us and like David to ask for ourselves, "Lord how will you work through me to overcome this giant obstacle?" It is cliché, but still true, "Where God guides, He provides!"

In the words of the psalmist, "I will lift up my eyes to the hills - From whence comes my help? My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth" (Psalm 121:1-2).

*Blessings,*  
*Mike*

## Learning While Leading: Summer Interns

Experiential learning is an important part of the way the early church operated. Jesus was very much a practitioner of the “hands on” approach to leadership training. His disciples first shadowed Him as He traveled, preached, taught and healed His way across the countryside. They had opportunity to ask questions, listen, learn and even make mistakes - all in the presence of the Master and with the support of one another. When they were ready, Jesus sent them out two-by-two to do a little ministry of their own. When they returned, they spent some time together to unpack what they had learned and experienced.

Last January, over 20 young adults came together at Parchment Valley Conference Center for our very first intern training session to learn, share and explore. Not all would go on to be interns, but many did. The idea was to learn from Jesus’ method and give our young adults opportunity to grow in their leadership using a summer, practical experience. Each intern was paired with a mentor. Each was given multiple books to enhance their learning experience. The interns received a wage for their work, roughly equivalent to what a summer worker at camp might make.

Internships are not a new or original idea. Many of our

churches have offered them before. But starting several summers ago, many began to feel this was an important part of what we needed to be doing together, as a convention. The first summer, there were three internships, all fully funded by the churches offering them. Last summer, there were six, with supplemental funding offered by the convention for those churches who needed help.

This summer saw 18 young adults try their hand at various types of ministry with our churches around the state. Some preached their first sermon, some wrote Christian music, some learned how to teach, lead and organize. There were interns who were gifted in personal evangelism, many worked with children or youth, and some led worship. We had an intern working in intercultural ministry, one helping with the School of Christian Studies and even one who was placed with a Christian business. All learned and grew in their faith and leadership. And we, as a convention family learned as well - how to make the internships better and more effective.

Already, we are looking to the future and next year. We are currently accepting applications, available at [www.wvbc.org](http://www.wvbc.org), for next year’s summer internship program and are planning for training in January 2020.



**Daniel McGuire, intern at New Hope (Parkersburg), preaches his very first sermon.**

## “The Missionary Intern Program Is Great!”

“The missionary intern program is great! Keep it up!” Those are the words of Mark Jarrell, pastor of [Genesis Fellowship](#) (Kanawha Valley). One of the young adults of his church, Taylor Huffman, was part of the internship program this summer. Along with Taylor, three other missionary interns were commissioned by our West Virginia Baptist Convention family this summer to serve alongside various mission partners around the world. The internship was designed to help young adults discern a possible long-term calling to missions.

Taylor, who spent three weeks in Tura, India, reflected on her trip, “I grew in my relationship with Christ through seeing Him in the people of Tura. Just seeing how they worship Him throughout the day was so moving to me. I also think my prayer life was strengthened because throughout the internship, I not only had to rely on Him more, but I also had to be in greater communication with Him.” She also added, “After getting home and sharing about my trip, my church home group decided they wanted to go on a mission trip next year. So for me, I am excited to go on another mission trip with them next year!”

Jenni Rosenberger, who along with Cortney Belcher spent five weeks in Mexico working alongside Keith and Debbie Myers, said, “Over the course of my five weeks in Mexico, we traveled to several different indigenous communities. From

Cerrillo to Oaxaca to Zongotzola, I had the opportunity to experience many different cultures. What stood out to me most during my time in Mexico was the sacrificial love the people showed us. They would give up anything to make sure we were provided for and through their actions, I was able to see the love of Christ like I have never seen it before.”



**Cortney Belcher (1) and Jenni Rosenberger (2nd from left) with Debbie and Keith Myers**

Abigail Harman served for six weeks among migrant workers in Beirut, Lebanon. Her missionary host was Sarah Chetti. As an international affairs’ major, she said, “What stood out to me most was how important politics, history, language and geography are to missions. I also learned my passions for those things can be used as a tool to bring the gospel. As I return for the second half of my time at Marshall University, I am looking forward to seeing how I can join my love of politics and international relations with missions and seeing how God wants to use me in His kingdom.”

In addition to the international mission trip experience, each of the interns also participated in a training program that focused on topics such as theology, missiology, culture and support raising. Interns were also intentionally placed with missionaries who could invest in them while on the field.

For those who are interested in participating in the missionary intern program in 2020, you can learn more or apply on our [website](#). The application period will be open until January 1.

## *Bearers of Hope: Journey Alongside - A Discipleship Conference Recap*

"How do we make disciples in the local church?" This is a question frequently asked by pastors and church leaders. Today, it seems the mission of the church is evangelism. Our goal is to preach and teach the gospel of Jesus Christ, bring people into the church, get them baptized and send them out on their own. It appears that over the years we have forgotten the last part of that Great Commission.

*"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age"* (Matthew 28:19-20, NIV).

The last part of Jesus' command is teaching. We call this discipleship. In many of our churches, there is no follow-up instruction after baptism. The Discipleship Commission of the [West Virginia Baptist Convention](#) held a special discipleship training event at [Parchment Valley Conference Center](#) on Saturday, August 24, 2019. The purpose of the event was to help pastors and churches step up their game in the area of discipleship.

The morning began with worship led by *Blind Journey*. There was such a wonderful atmosphere of worship that even a broken guitar string could not hinder the Spirit's movement.

The main speaker of the event was Dane Allphin, the Navigators' regional leader. Dane began by asking two very important questions: What is a disciple? How do I make disciples? He presented four important words for ministry in the local church: disciple, discipleship, discipling and disciple-

making. We discovered that in order to make disciples of others, we must first be disciples of Jesus Christ ourselves. This means we must have a growing relationship with Him. We must make quiet time with God a priority in our daily lives.

Jonathan and Koreen Villers led a time of worship at the conclusion of Dane's presentation, several people shared what they learned, and Jill Narraway closed the event with prayer. Each student was then presented with a workbook entitled [The Invitation, Thirty Days to a Changed Life](#) to help them develop into better disciples, which will allow them to also better disciple others.



*A time of worship with Blind Journey during the West Virginia Baptist Convention Discipleship Conference.*

## *American Baptist Men's Camp Recap*

by Dan Harbaugh

*Vice-President, American Baptist Men of West Virginia*

The first weekend of August 2019 proved to be another Spirit-filled chapter in the lives of the men, young and old, that attended the [American Baptist Men's Camp at the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen](#). Inspiring messages, thought-provoking challenges, times of worship and plenty of time to fellowship with our brothers in Christ made for an enjoyable weekend. The welcomed addition of several of our brothers from the Washington, D.C. area this year made it even more special!

John 15:4-5 was our verse for the weekend, with the focus being that "In Him and with Him we bear fruit." As men



*American Baptist Men join hands in a circle of prayer at the 2019 American Baptist Men's camp at Cowen.*

of God, sitting back and letting life happen isn't an option. We need to be in the mix - whether at home, at work, in our community or in our churches. The message of Jesus Christ must be central in all we do. The alternative is too serious.

It was a refreshing weekend and everyone that attended left ready to serve our Lord in a new and stronger way. It was encouraging to learn we have brothers in Christ, both in West Virginia and in Washington, D.C., that are ready to assist at a moment's notice - whether physically, emotionally or spiritually. Our hope and

prayer is more brothers will take advantage of this opportunity to recharge and refresh in 2020. We hope to see you next year on August 7-9, 2020, joining men for another great weekend of fellowship.

## 2020 Challenge: Will You Join Us in Holding the Rope?

When William Carey sensed the call to go to India, he likened it to going on a rescue mission into a deep, dark well. As he looked at the men around him, he said, "I will go down if you will hold the rope." Carey spent the next 41 years of his life in India while the other men spent the rest of their lives holding the rope for Carey and the other missionaries who would soon follow.

Missionary work requires rope holders. Did you hear the conditional logic of Carey's statement? "I will go down **IF** you will hold the rope." Without rope holders, Carey could not have gone to India.

Every month, exciting things are happening throughout our convention family. This newsletter is full of those stories! But work like this requires rope holders, and in order for these ministries to continue, we need people to hold the rope. For 2019, it was budgeted that we would continue to pull from reserves, relying on those who held the rope in the past. But after eight consecutive years of doing that, we cannot do that any longer. It's time for the current generation to also join in holding the rope.

Of the 369 churches in our convention family, 253 of them are holding the rope financially this year - that's just over 68%. There are also numerous individuals who have set up recurring giving through our online giving tool. To those individuals and churches: Thank you for holding the rope!

But to the other churches and individuals, I want to offer you a challenge. If 2,000 individuals or churches started or increased their giving to the [Mountain State Mission Offering](#)

by \$20 per month (consider this the **2020 Challenge**), then we could support the above-mentioned ministries and more for many years to come! Or consider doing what some of our other faithful saints of the past have done by setting up legacy gifts that support these ministries forever! I would be more than happy to help you set these up!

The reality is this current generation (myself included) needs to own the fact that it's our turn to hold the rope. It's what we have been called to do.

As you contemplate whether or not you are called to participate in this challenge, reflect over the words of William Booth (founder of the Salvation Army):

*"Not called!" did you say? 'Not heard the call,' I think you should say. Put your ear down to the Bible, and hear Him bid you go and pull sinners out of the fire of sin. Put your ear down to the burdened, agonized heart of humanity, and listen to its pitiful wail for help. Go stand by the gates of hell, and hear the damned entreat you to go to their father's house and bid their brothers and sisters and servants and masters not to come there. Then look Christ in the face - whose mercy you have professed to obey - and tell Him whether you will join heart and soul and body and circumstances in the march to publish His mercy to the world."*

Our state, our nation and our world are in desperate need of the gospel. That is why we **do Christ's work together**. The question for you is: Will you join us in holding the rope?

## Camp Global Recap

As West Virginia Baptists, we have much to celebrate when it comes to missions. Since our formation in 1865, we have commissioned 41 different full-time missionaries and we have seven who are still on the field - and that is just our International Ministries' (IM) missionaries. We have also commissioned hundreds of others who are serving with other agencies all over the world. In addition to our long-term missionaries, nearly 200 more individuals have gone on short-term mission trips this year to more than a dozen different countries on five different continents. We can celebrate the fact that we are working all over the world!

But at [Camp Global 2019](#), we were soberly reminded that more than 41% of the world has yet to even hear of Christ, implying we have a great task remaining!

Camp Global is a weekend-long family mission camp at [Camp Cowen](#). This year's theme of "Immigration, Emigration and the Gospel" focused on how the migration of people all around the world is opening doors for the gospel like never before. Dan Chetti, IM missionary in Lebanon, shared that more than 250 million people are currently on the move, which comprises the greatest migration of people in human history. He also shared how this has resulted in millions throughout the Middle East and North Africa coming to Christ. Todd McClure then talked about migration from a



*Attendees participate in a time of worship.*

United States' perspective and challenged people to consider how God might be opening doors for the gospel here as well.

Trent Eastman, pastor at [New Baptist Church](#) (Guyandotte) led Vespers on Friday evening and discussed what the missionary call truly means. Saturday was comprised of Bible studies; missionary updates from Dan, Rhonda Reed and

Debbie Mulneix; and workshops designed to either equip individuals to better reach internationals in their own communities or to provide updates on our mission partnerships around the world. This year, those updates came from partnerships in Mexico, Nicaragua, Haiti, Bolivia, Russia, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Sudan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and India. Andrew Ely, of [Huntington Community Church](#), led the group in worship all weekend and also led a campfire devotional.

The migration of people is opening doors for the gospel like never before. You can now take the gospel to the nations by getting on a plane or sometimes by just crossing the street. How might God want to use you in His redemptive work? Mark your calendar and join us next year at Camp Global 2020 from July 31-August 2, 2020 to learn of more opportunities.

## Bolivia - Missionary Update

International Ministries (IM) has three main focus areas. The first is "inviting people to become disciples of Jesus." One of the ways this is realized in Latin America and the Caribbean is through the [Master of Theological Education in Latin Ministries' Program at Palmer Seminary](#). This program is a joint effort through Palmer, IM and American Baptist Home Mission Society (for United States' students) to help train pastors and leaders in Iberoamerica and the Caribbean. Just two months ago, I joined International Ministries' (IM) colleagues and celebrated the graduation of 14 students in Campinas, Brazil with our national partner, the National Baptist Convention of Brazil (CBN). The goal of this program is to train local leaders who can empower the local church, but also who can train other local leaders to do God's work. Whether pastors, doctors, accountants or stay-at-home parents, all are welcome. So far, in just three years of the program, we have graduated over 50 students in the United States, Mexico and Brazil. We currently have students in Chile, Ecuador and Bolivia as well. This fall, we will start a new group in Ecuador and are excited to be in the planning stages of expanding this program all throughout Latin America.

The challenge is making the program affordable. In Bolivia, for example, the average wage is just under \$300 per month and these classes are more than double that when taken at full price. With a generous scholarship from Palmer, we can sig-

nificantly decrease that amount, but it is still more than they make in a month, so IM is trying to provide an additional scholarship so students can afford to be part of this amazing program. Because of their economic realities, only a few of them could participate without our help. Recently, I had the privilege to share with a student group that we were going to be able to give them a partial scholarship and joy filled the room. With a recession in their nation, many of the students were going to have to take a break from the program, but with this scholarship they will all be able to continue.

This is where I hope you can join in with this work. We need your help. Would you be willing to adopt a pastor and help them to be trained to meet the growing needs of the church in Latin America? We have a goal of training 500 leaders in the next ten years, but we can't do it without the help of churches and individuals that care about the church. If you would like to help us train these pastors and leaders who will change their communities for the kingdom of God, visit our project page and give today!

Project Page: <https://www.internationalministries.org/latin-america-mts-scholarships-in-latinoa-ministries/>

Thank you for being part of this movement in Latin America.

## Juan and Denise Aragon

### Mexico - Missionary Update

The Aragon's send our West Virginia Baptist Convention family warm hugs!

When we did our presentations about our call to serve in Chiapas, Proverbs 19:21 was our flagship verse. This passage keeps lighting our path. "We humans keep brainstorming options and plans, but God's purpose prevails" (The Message).



Members of a mission church in the Tselatl community of Petalcingo receive chairs for their children's ministry.

We understood a while ago that sometimes our plans don't align with God's. We're still learning to understand His will. For summer 2019 with CICEM's (Council of Rural Indigenous Evangelicals of Mexico) Tsotsil and Tselatl churches, we created a ministry

plan that included: hosting a young adult from [West Virginia Baptist Convention's missionary intern program](#), training Sunday School teachers, leading workshops for churches willing to start a children's ministry, organizing two regional youth activities alongside other CICEM national leaders and leading two regional workshops for the Tsotsil and Tselatl women. Juan's sudden

illness, however, knocked us off our tracks and the plans were stopped.

In the process of waiting to receive Juan's diagnosis and prognosis, our desire to serve was unmoved and we found other ways to do it. One way was to hire a carpenter to make children's chairs for the churches in the Tselatl area. Many of our churches have lots of kids, but no children's ministries. We sensed God is leading us to equip them to sow His word in the hearts of these children.

Another way was with pastor Antonio. He represents the Tsotsil churches. He's been sick since April. As time passed and he continued to be ill, we told him to come to San Cristobal and Juan would take him to a doctor. Spanish is not pastor Antonio's first language. He misunderstood and thought Juan was saying he would have to be admitted to the hospital! After many weeks, he finally decided to come. We took him to see an internal medicine doctor who referred him to a gastroenterologist. He had an endoscopy, which found bacteria causing gastritis. We got him enough medicine to treat it and get him better.

Your prayers have strengthened our faith and courage during this time. Juan and I are traveling to Los Angeles for appointments at UCLA (University of California at Los Angeles) Hospital this fall. We will see two doctors who specialize in Juan's condition. These doctors' surgery approach is less invasive than the one done in Mexico. Again, we appreciate your prayers for this process and for our children as we leave them with friends in Chiapas.

# Keith and Debbie Myers

## Mexico - Missionary Update

A couple of years ago, on a friend's recommendation, I began reading, [When Helping Hurts](#), by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert. Little did I know, that upon completion of the second chapter, our ministry in Mexico would embark on a profound, yet simplistic shift that would comprise, not only our CICESM (Council of Rural Indigenous Evangelicals of Mexico) churches, but be an extension of the entirety of our relationships as believers in Jesus Christ. It is no secret that at the root of creation, we were created for relationship. Our primary relationship, as believers, is the vertical one between us and God. The other three horizontal relationships exist between us and our own self, us and other humans and finally, between us and the rest of creation. Where humanity failed in disobedience, Christ redeemed hope for these relationships in His death, burial and resurrection.

In regard to relationships, this past spring and summer, Deb and I had the privilege of being part of the [West Virginia Baptist Convention's \(WVBC\) missionary intern program](#) by hosting two interns for five weeks. Additionally, engaging with teams from [Fairmont State University Baptist Campus Ministries \(BCM\)](#), [Alderson Broadus University](#), [Oakwood Baptist Church](#)

(Kanawha Valley), hosting two young women from [Sabraton Baptist Church](#) (Goshen) as well as Boyden and Baillie bringing a team from their university, BIOLA. Our hope of these relational encounters is building a bridge between cultures. We invite folks to appreciate the primary question in our ministry, which is not "how can we help?" At the root of our ministry is the question, "how do we [embrace](#) the people and their culture?" It's a subtle shift in our missional mentality that puts the relationship first.

There is not sufficient space to identify each of the impactful ministries that took place this summer; however, WVBC churches served as an integral part of [embracing](#) the people of our CICESM family and for that we are grateful. Our teaching and preaching is always undergirded with the idea of the restoration of these fundamental relationships. The connections we have with our brothers and sisters in West Virginia are essential in developing a deeper connection with our brothers and sisters here in Mexico. We ask for your continual prayers and financial support as we attempt to [embrace](#) the call of God in our lives.

## Debbie Mulneix

### Philippines - Missionary Update

One of the things I missed while in Asia was Autumn. I grew up in West Virginia and the state has some truly phenomenal fall seasons. I even love the bareness of the trees as winter begins because I understand the process is necessary for the new, vibrant season of spring. It was difficult to describe to people in the areas where trees only lose their leaves as new foliage is coming on.

I have come to the decision that my season has been, and still is, changing.

I will be retiring from International Ministries (IM) on October 31, 2019. I felt I needed to change my focus two years ago when I returned from the Philippines. I was excited to explore the new responsibilities of working with IM while living among my family in West Virginia and visiting several times a year with our partners in Asia. But now I realize my season as a missionary overseas is coming to an end. In other words, just like the trees, I need to make a break and strengthen my work with ministry here in the United States.

I have some deputation commitments before the end of October, but my focus will soon be on my home church, [Philippi Baptist Church](#) (Union), and specific local and international ministries that I support as an individual.

I have been blessed with an amazing Missions Partnership Team, including Rev. Dick Hepler, Rev. Dana Gatewood, Mrs. Sandy Phares, Mrs. Jeanie Phillips, Rev. Jim Stinespring and as volunteer assistant, Mrs. Susan Stinespring. I have had small churches faithfully support me with \$25 per month and large ones with several hundred per month. There have been several churches that have spent time stuffing envelopes and hundreds of people that prayed for me, and I have been blessed. I chose this time to retire so these churches and

individuals might seamlessly make support changes in their upcoming budgets. (However, I will still need support for September and October 2019, please.)

It has been a privilege and honor to work with our local Baptist churches, our international partners and with you for the last 20 years. Your faithfulness has been never-ending and your prayers continual. You have shown me mercy, understanding and forgiveness for my many shortcomings and faults. You have been examples of the "Hands and Heart" of Christ in so many ways, and I will always be grateful for you.

Philippians 1:3-6 says, "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Blessings to you as you continue your support of the ministry of our Lord, both in our country and abroad.



Debbie Mulneix with Rob Ely at Camp Global 2019

The 154th



# Annual Meeting

of the West Virginia Baptist Convention

**Friday, October 18 -  
Saturday, October 19, 2019**  
**Alderson Broaddus University**

"to equip His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." Ephesians 4:12-13



*Keynote Speaker:*  
*Rev. Kenneth Miller*  
*Retired Pastor*

*Annual Sermon Speaker:*

*Rev. Rich Blain*  
*Pastor, South Parkersburg Baptist Church*



*Guest Speaker:*  
*Rev. Mark Wood*  
*Pastor, Spencer First Baptist Church*

*Executive Minister:*

*Dr. Michael Sisson*  
*West Virginia Baptist Convention*



DOING CHRIST'S WORK *together.*

## PRE-CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

*Friday, October 18*

*Women's Day - American  
Baptist Women's  
Ministries of West  
Virginia*

Theme: The Woman God Sees  
Speaker: Erin McClure  
Location: Alderson Broaddus  
University - Wilcox Chapel  
Registration: 9:00 a.m. -  
program begins at 9:30 a.m.  
Lunch: Will be provided  
for \$6.00  
Nursery provided for  
preschool children  
Purchase tickets on the Annual  
Meeting registration form.

*Pastors4Pastors:  
The Ministers' Council*

Location: Withers Brandon  
Lecture Hall  
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.  
Speaker: Robin Crouch  
Topic: Pastor Soul Care  
Cost: Members - \$10.00,  
Non-Members - \$25.00,  
includes lunch  
Lunch served at 12:30 p.m.  
Purchase tickets on the Annual  
Meeting registration form.

*American Baptist Men*

Location: New Vision, Philippi  
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Depart from Alderson Broaddus  
University at 8:30 a.m.  
Cost: \$10.00  
Shuttle Available  
Purchase tickets on the Annual  
Meeting registration form.



## SCHEDULE:

### Friday, October 18

9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Pre-Convention Activities

#### 2:45 p.m. Session 1

Welcome and Opening Prayer -  
*Doris Toothman*

Welcome from Host Location -  
*Tim Barry*

Business Meeting 1 -  
*Doris Toothman*

Executive Minister Address -  
*Mike Sisson*

#### 5:00 p.m. - Dinner Break *Baptist Campus Ministries'* *Banquet*

#### 6:30 p.m. Session 2

Welcome and Opening Prayer -  
*Lee Boso*

Ward Hibbs Award - *Tim Barry*

Annual Sermon - *Rich Blain*

Communion

#### 8:30 p.m.

*Alderson Broaddus University*  
*Reception*

### Saturday, October 19

#### 7:30 a.m.

*Education Society Breakfast*

#### 8:00 a.m. - Exhibit Hall Opens

#### 8:30 a.m. - Workshop Session 1

#### 9:15 a.m. - Session 3

Welcome and Opening Prayer -  
*Ryan Stoner*

Recognition of New and Retired  
Pastors - *David Hulme*

School of Christian Studies'  
Graduation - *Mark McCloy*

James Anderson, Sr.  
Bivocational Pastor Award -  
*Jim Anderson*

Guest Speaker - *Mark Wood*

#### 11:15 a.m. - Workshop Session 2

#### 12:00 noon - Lunch Break

#### Luncheon Opportunities

*West Virginia Baptist*  
*Historical Society*

*Ministers' Spouses' Luncheon*  
*Palmer Theological Seminary*  
*Luncheon*

#### 2:45 p.m. Session 4 - Sanctuary

Welcome and Opening Prayer -  
*David Hoge*

Business Meeting 2 -  
*David Hoge*

Installation of Officers

Keynote Address - *Ken Miller*

Sending Out - *Mike Sisson*

## Delegate Registration

### Registration Fee:

(Please check the meal reservations you wish to secure and include the cost with your total registration. Registration packet and meal ticket(s) will be available for pickup at the annual meeting registration area.)

Please use a separate form for each person. (Copy as needed.)

Name:	
Name on Tag:	
Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
E-mail:	Phone:
Church:	
Association:	

DELEGATES MUST HAVE THIS FORM SIGNED BY CHURCH CLERK OR PASTOR.  
Clerk or Pastor signature:

	\$20.00 - __ Delegate, __ Visitor, __ Exhibitor Required Fee - Please Check One Above.
	\$10.00 - American Baptist Men
	\$6.00 - ABW Ministries - Women's Day
	\$10.00 - Members - Pastors4Pastors Ministers' Council Event (Includes Lunch)
	\$25.00 - Non-Members - Pastors4Pastors Ministers' Council Event (Includes Lunch)
	\$15.00 - Baptist Campus Ministries' Banquet
	\$12.00 - WV Baptist Historical Society
	\$10.00 - Ministers' Wives' Fellowship
	\$10.00 - Palmer Theological Seminary Luncheon
	<b>Total Enclosed</b> Make checks payable to WVBC and mail to: Annual Meeting Registrar, P.O. Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102.
<input type="checkbox"/> Executive Board Report	Please check the line at left if you would like a copy of the Executive Board Report.

### Child Care:

Please check appropriate box(es). List names and ages of children.

Women's Day	WVBC Session 1	WVBC Session 2	WVBC Session 3	WVBC Session 4

### Registration Deadline:

Please have your registration postmarked, with money enclosed by October 11, 2019.

## Working Toward a Harvest

As we transition from the beautiful leaves of fall in our beloved West Virginia and stare winter in the face, let us all be reminded of the seasons in time in which we live as we prepare for the harvest God has invited us all to participate in as workers in His field. Since the last update, all six associations in the Southwest Area have celebrated another year of *doing Christ's work together* with our annual meetings. The Teays Valley Association hosted a worship conference, along with their Annual Meeting, where a panel of worship leaders from various churches spoke and answered questions, and then broke out into workshop sessions. The Coal River Association also met for their annual picnic, a children's event at Kidderoos in Charleston and their annual World Communion Day celebration.

Many of our churches have celebrated homecomings and anniversaries these last couple of months: [Tabors Creek Missionary Baptist Church](#) (Twelve Pole); [Fort Gay Baptist Church](#) (Twelve Pole), 150th anniversary; [Charleston Baptist Temple](#) (Kanawha Valley), 150th anniversary; [Judson Baptist Church](#) (Teays Valley) 100th anniversary; and [Genesis Fellowship](#) (Kanawha Valley) 15th anniversary.

We have been blessed with the addition of three new pastors in the Southwest Area! We welcome Don Biram to [Emmanuel Baptist Church](#) (Kanawha Valley), Raymond Butcher to [Gauley Bridge Baptist Church](#) (Kanawha Valley) and Chris Moles and the congregation of Grace Community Chapel,

*Evan Arkell*, Southwest Area Minister

Eleanor, as they have come together and merged with the congregation of [Crossroads Community Chapel](#) (Teays Valley).

In our work toward Christ's harvest, we have the opportunity and privilege to show the love of Christ through acts of service. We have had

a couple of requests for assistance with the building of wheelchair ramps for folks in our area. At the time of this writing, we have been able to install a ramp for a member at [Leon Baptist Church](#) (Teays Valley). I believe there is a need for this type of ministry across the state, so if we have some willing and able folks that would like to help in this area, please let me know so we can be a resource for our brothers and sisters in Christ across our [West Virginia Baptist Convention](#) family and beyond!



*A wheelchair ramp is installed for a member of Leon Baptist Church.*

## Northwest Area News

*Mark McCloy*, Northwest Area Minister

### *Mill Creek: Modeling a Multi-Generational Approach*

[Mill Creek Baptist Church](#) (Good Hope) is located at Leroy, in a bend of the Spencer Road (Route 33), roughly half-way between Spencer and Ripley. Its red-brick building and nearby parsonage are not all that different from many a rural church in a state filled with rural churches. No, to see the difference at Mill Creek, you would have to look closer. The first clue would be the parking lot. Arrive late on a Sunday morning - even for Sunday School - and you might find yourself parking in the grass.



On any given Sunday morning, the lot is full, the pews are packed and the church is bustling with people of all ages.

Only a few minutes spent with the healthy, joyful crowd inside lets you know something is very right here. The normal accoutrements one would expect to attract a younger crowd (technology, projector, screen, praise band or praise music) are notably absent. The service is traditional in style and structure (church choir, hymns, opening assembly, Sunday School). So, what is different? Why are all of these people here?

Not long into the pre-Sunday School assembly, you begin to notice a difference. The children are all summoned to the front. As the crowd of young worshipers gather, an older adult pulls a box out from under one of the chairs on the platform. It has been there, unnoticed, the whole time. It is heaped full of drums, cymbals and noise makers of all shapes and sizes. Each of the children equips themselves with a selection or two from the box, and they begin to sing - and drum, tap and thump - a simple song praising the Lord. The congregation joins in and urges them on. At the end of the song, the noise makers are chucked back in the box, and the children quietly return to their seats. After this, the day mostly goes on as expected. There are classes for all ages - and I must say, the children's area looks pretty exciting, using a rotational station approach. And at the end of the day, more children come to the front to lead the church in its benediction - everyone raising their hands and crying, "Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!"

More could be said about their approach, including their youth choir, youth Sundays and other activities. However, the main difference in this church is their non-traditional attitude and multi-generational approach. The message? Everyone belongs. Everyone is important. Regardless of age.

# Southeast Area News

*Jim Anderson*, Southeast Area Minister

## *Fayette Baptist Association Outreach Emphasis for 2019*

On August 3, 2019, I joined pastors and members of the Fayette Baptist Association in handing out pamphlets at the Oak Leaf Festival in Oak Hill. Those pamphlets contained pictures, locations, pastors and contact information for all the ten churches of the association. An encouraging Christian wristband was also included, and by late afternoon over 400 packets had been given out. Moderator of the association, Debbie Bush, wishes to thank everyone for making this day special, and plans are in order to do the same at future festivals.



*Members of the Fayette Association handing out church pamphlets and wristbands at the Oak Leaf Festival in Oak Hill.*

everyone for making this day special, and plans are in order to do the same at future festivals.

## *Martin Presented with Certificate of Appreciation as Part of Millbrook Baptist's 150th Anniversary*

On August 11, 2019, I had the privilege of presenting a certificate of appreciation to Millbrook Baptist Church (Hopewell Association) as part of the church's celebration of their 150th anniversary. Accepting the certificate was longtime pastor of 20 years, Rev. Steve Martin. He expressed his thanks to the faithfulness of not only the current congregation, but of those past congregations who made this day possible. I then shared in song and sermon, and after worship there was a great fellowship time with barbecues, hot dogs and all the fixings.



*Jim Anderson (r) presents Steve Martin with a certificate of appreciation during the 150th anniversary of Millbrook Baptist Church.*

# Northeast Area News

*David Hulme*, Northeast Area Minister

## *Doing Christ's Work Together Through Associations*



*Fairmont Association members serve a meal at The C.R.O.S.S. Soup Kitchen in Mannington.*

While Baptists believe in the autonomy of the local church, we also believe in interdependence and accountability among churches. That's why we have associations. Walter B. Shurden writes, "Early Baptists believed associations :

1. Promoted fellowship among churches.
2. Maintained uniformity in both faith and practice.
3. Provided counsel and assistance to local churches.
4. Established a structure to facilitate interchurch cooperation in ministries of shared interest."

Today, associations are still fulfilling the intentions of those early Baptists. As the churches of the Broad Run, Eastern, Fairmont, Goshen, Judson and Union Associations have gathered for their annual meetings, we have celebrated the many ways we *do Christ's work together*, through associations.



*Kim Lupton and Ryan Weese share about youth work in the Eastern Association.*

As we celebrate, though, we are always mindful that there is more work to be done. While God has certainly given each church what it needs to accomplish great things on its own, imagine how much more could be accomplished working together.

# Parchment Valley Conference Center

by *Frank Miller*, Director of Operations

## ... But the Greatest of these is Love

The beautiful presence of God illuminates the way for each of us to follow and grow in Christ, and we are thankful for His glorious presence, especially at [Parchment Valley Conference Center](#). This season of “changed lives” at Parchment Valley is truly a joyful celebration through those the Lord touches. This season at Parchment Valley, 134 people were changed through salvation, rededications, baptisms and calls to ministry. The greatest things in life are nothing without His love. All things are possible through the love of Jesus.

[Brothers’ Keeper](#) (BK) 2019 was one of the most spiritual missional work camps our volunteers have ever experienced. There were 147 youth and adults who helped repair 50 homes in Jackson County and the impact of sharing the gospel with those families while doing that was amazing! Two of our BK workers were saved and an older gentleman who requested home repairs received more than a new porch! In a ninety day period,

Mr. Casto’s home was heavily damaged by a fallen tree; his wife became ill, then suddenly passed away; and in attempting to mow his yard, he had a tractor accident resulting in a badly broken leg. But as he received support and love from the BK team in the construction of his new porch, Mr. Casto received Christ as his personal Lord and Savior. Now, we have just learned, several weeks after Brothers’ Keeper, Mr. Casto has joined his wife in heaven.



*Mr. Casto received a new porch and a whole lot more at Brothers’ Keeper 2019!*

There are many other stories we want to share with you and our hope is that you will continue to pray for our events and programs that the Lord continues to change lives as we share the gospel.

The 2020 theme for Brothers’ Keeper is *A Higher Vision*. We pray you will come alongside us, sending your people to Parchment Valley to work, inspiring and doing something greater for His glory. Thank you for your continued support in doing ministry at Parchment Valley Conference Center.

## AB Men Disaster Relief Team Delivers Flood Supplies

Recently, [American Baptist \(AB\) Men’s Disaster Relief](#) received a call from the Tucker County Community Foundation requesting items to assist families affected by the flooding. The fast flooding was so intense that it changed the course of the river there in Harman. The [West Virginia Baptist Convention](#) (WVBC) office sent out the request that items were desperately needed and the response of churches was overwhelming.

Local churches began donating non-perishable items to be delivered to the area. As donations were delivered to [Parchment Valley Conference Center](#), local business owners in Jackson County called and said they wanted to help. Several drop sites were chosen for those giving goods locally. Local Jackson County Community Foundation director, Christy Sizemore organized the pickup date and supplies to be delivered. She was so touched by the giving, her organization rented a truck to deliver all the community and church donations to the Tucker County Senior Citizens’ Center.

Our American Baptist Men volunteered to take a day and deliver the goods to those waiting families. Then, a last minute call came from Joe Seese, pastor, [Clendenin First Baptist Church](#) (Kanawha Valley), and his wife, Debbie, requesting that the truck stop by the church. “We have donated supplies from our congregation to send,” he said.

After packing the rental truck full, Joe, with a trembling voice recalled June 23, 2016, and how his own community was devastated by the 100-year flood. “Lives were lost and families were left with nothing. But through the support from the WVBC, One Great Hour of Sharing and American Baptist Men’s Disaster Relief, you all came alongside us and made a difference. Now, we want to give back to those affected by this flood.”



*Joe Seese (l) and his wife, Debbie, along with John Vannoy, American Baptist Men’s Disaster Relief Coordinator, help load items from the congregation of Clendenin First.*

As John Vannoy and I drove to Harman, we were reflecting on the variety of donated items. One donor sent baby bottles and diapers, and I thought, “How could this help someone?” But as we pulled into the Harman Senior Center, we were greeted with local officials in mud boots who informed us that the night before, a family had lost their home to a fire and what they really needed were baby supplies.

We all gathered in a circle of prayer and some non-believers grasped hands and thanked God for sending hope.

Thank you to all the American Baptist Men and others who donated supplies. For those interested in volunteering with the AB Men, we need you to come join us in ministry across the mountain state. There is much work to do all for the glory of God.

## Russia Mission Update - Summer 2019

by Jason Marshall  
Russia Mission Partnership Team Member

Privet! Hello, fellow saints of the [West Virginia Baptist Convention](#)! I'm excited to share some exciting news about our brothers and sisters in Ryazan, Russia. The first update is regarding Central Baptist Church, which is located in downtown Ryazan. The church, which was built in the 1800's, is considered



Central Baptist Church, Ryazan, Russia

a cultural heritage site. As such, it is subject to strict government regulations regarding upkeep and repairs. Because of these regulations and the congregation's desire to be good stewards, several needs were addressed including renovating flooring and roofing. Unfortunately, the roofing problems created other issues which still need to be addressed. Interior repairs to ceilings and old, worn-out seating are next on the list of to-dos.

In other news, Ryazan's Camp Alpha had a successful summer program. Sixty-five children attended the camp and ten

of those kids made professions of faith! Though not as large and still in its infancy, Camp Alpha is a lot like Camp Cowen. It's centrally located and well staffed, providing a safe place for the Ryazan Baptist Churches to bring their children. The camp has a pond for fishing, his and hers' outhouses, housing for camp staff, a covered pavilion and a large field for soccer and other activities. Campers sleep in tents. Pictured is Dima Zhurov, camp coordinator.



Please pray diligently for our fellow saints in the Ryazan Baptist Union as they navigate strict governmental policies. Also pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to move within the Ryazan Oblast, drawing people to salvation.

If you would like to financially support [Russia Missions](#), or specifically, Central Baptist Church or Camp Alpha, you can send checks to the West Virginia Baptist Convention, designating them for Russia Missions, Russia Missions - Central Baptist or Russia Missions - Camp Alpha.

Slava Bogu (Glory to God)!

# Junior High Convention 2019 (grades 6-9)

## November 22-24, 2019



Speaker:

**Brock Gill**

*Illusionist, Stunt Artist, Evangelist*

*Worship Leader: Alena Adkins*

**Oakwood Baptist Church  
Charleston**

*Theme: Example*

*"Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father." (NIV)*

**Cost: \$40.00 - Early Bird Rate**, registration forms and balances must be postmarked by November 12, 2019

**\$50.00 - Late Registration**, postmarked after November 12.

**Online registration available at [www.wvbc.org](http://www.wvbc.org).**

For more information, please contact Jennifer at [jennifer@wvbc.org](mailto:jennifer@wvbc.org) or 304.422.6449.

### Leadership Update

**REV. GREG R. MILLER** to Sand Run Baptist Church (Broad Run) as pastor on August 1, 2019

# Baptist Campus Ministries' FALL RETREAT



**October 25-27, 2019  
Camp Cowen**

## Attention College-Aged Students:

*Come join us for our fall weekend retreat where we will enjoy times of teaching, worship and fellowship.*

Registration begins at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, October 25 and the event will begin at 8:00 p.m. The retreat will close by 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 27.

**Fees: First Time - \$35.00  
Returning Students - \$45.00**

Online registration available at [www.wvbc.org](http://www.wvbc.org).

If you plan to attend, please contact Jennifer at [jennifer@wvbc.org](mailto:jennifer@wvbc.org) or 304.422.6449 for a registration form.

Deadline for registration is October 18, 2019.

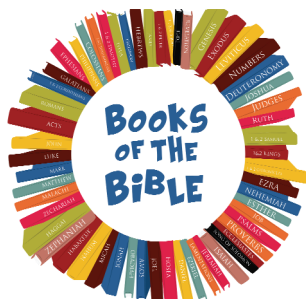
# Fall Children's Rally 2019

**November 2, 2019**

Parchment Valley Conference Center  
Greenlee Activities Center

Theme: *Books of the Bible*

*"God has breathed life into all scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right."  
(2 Timothy 3:16)*



**Cost: \$13.00 - Early Bird Registration,**  
postmarked by October 21, 2019 with money enclosed

\$25.00 - Late Registration,  
postmarked after October 21, 2019 or at the door

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.

Online registration available at [www.wvbc.org](http://www.wvbc.org).

For more information, please contact Valma at [adams@wvbc.org](mailto:adams@wvbc.org) or 304.422.6449.

**ROBERT "BOB" ARCHER**, 72, of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, died July 27, 2019. During his time in Glenville, he was an active member of Glenville First Baptist Church (Little Kanawha), where he served as deacon.

**JOELLEN PITTS BLAIR**, 85, of Belleville, died August 28, 2019. She was a member of South Parkersburg Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where she was a Sunday School teacher.

**MILDRED MORRISON CALDWELL**, 95, of Ona, died July 22, 2019. She was a member of Beulah Ann Missionary Baptist Church (Guyandotte). Over the years, she served as a Sunday School teacher, youth leader, church clerk and American Baptist Women's Ministries' leader. As a young mother, she began the church's monthly newsletter, which has now been published continuously for 62 years, with she being the editor for 59 years. She authored two editions of the history of Beulah Ann Missionary Baptist Church. She and her husband, Gene, were caretakers of the Guyandotte Baptist Association Camp in Ona for 30 years.

**LARRY R. FLEMING**, 84, died August 13, 2019. He was pastor of East Clarksburg Baptist Church (Union), but retired due to health reasons. He had served as pastor of Wallace First Baptist Church (Judson).

**JIM LUCHSINGER**, 68, of Orient Hill, died August 8, 2019. He was pastor of Smoot Baptist Church (Hopewell) since 1992.

**BARBARA B. REED**, 85, of Parkersburg, July 30, 2019. She was a very active member of Emmanuel Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where she was a member of the Harvesters' Sunday School Class, Bonnie White Circle, served on various boards and committees and volunteered in the church office. She participated in American Baptist Mission work in Haiti, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Alaska.

**CHARLES DAVID "CHUCK" SCHEICK**, 70, of Philippi, died August 4, 2019. He was a member of Philippi Baptist Church (Union), where he was a member of the choir, the Pastoral Relations' Committee and the Board of Christian Education. He was also a deacon and Sunday School teacher.

**DOYLE DAYTON SMITH**, 88, of Dunbar, died July 7, 2019. He served as pastor at Starcher Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) for five and a half years, and upon retiring became an on-call chaplain at Charleston Area Medical Center for 11 years. He continued his ministry by officiating weddings and funerals as well as serving as a guest pastor at several churches in the greater Kanawha Valley area.

**LAWRENCE O. SWAIN**, died August 25, 2019. He served as an area minister and later executive minister of the American Baptist Churches of Ohio until his retirement in December 2015. He returned last year to serve as ABC of Ohio's interim executive minister after the death of Ernest Jones. He was serving as executive staff coach for the region at the time of his passing.

**WILLIAM R. THOMAS**, 70, of Parkersburg, died August 6, 2019. Bill served as pastor for many churches, including Norristown, Pennsylvania First Baptist Church; Newark Baptist Church, Delaware; Somerville, New Jersey First Baptist Church; and Emmanuel Baptist Church (Parkersburg). He served many interim pastorates in Parkersburg, Glenville, Spencer, Ripley and West Union. He also served as a chaplain for Amedisys Hospice for nearly 10 years.

## October 2019

**OCTOBER 1** - Traci Longwell, Outreach administrative assistant, West Virginia Baptist Convention  
**OCTOBER 2** - Juan Aragon, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to Mexico  
**OCTOBER 3** - Debbie Myers, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to Mexico  
**OCTOBER 4** - The ministry of Yawkey Baptist Church; Toney Darrell Searls, pastor (Coal River)  
**OCTOBER 5** - The ministry of Gatewood Baptist Church; Harry Fuller, pastor (Fayette)  
**OCTOBER 6** - The ministry of Helen Baptist Church; Danny Lusk, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh)  
**OCTOBER 7** - The ministry of Stump Chapel Baptist Church (Elk Valley)  
**OCTOBER 8** - Patti Long, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to Mexico  
**OCTOBER 9** - Taylor Cox, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission  
**OCTOBER 10** - The ministry of New Found Freedom Baptist Church; Lloyd Stewart, pastor (Little Kanawha)  
**OCTOBER 11** - Matthew Mann, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to Thailand  
**OCTOBER 12** - Jonathan Nambu, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to the Philippines  
**OCTOBER 13** - Kihomi Nzunga, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to Haiti  
**OCTOBER 14** - The ministry of Hampton Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley)  
**OCTOBER 15** - Jon Good, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to Hungary  
**OCTOBER 16** - The ministry of Dallas Pike Baptist Church; Jonathan Stokes, pastor (Panhandle)  
**OCTOBER 17** - Matt Ash, chair, West Virginia Baptist Convention Committee on Ministerial Standing and chair, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission  
**OCTOBER 18** - The West Virginia Baptist Convention 154th Annual Meeting begins today at Alderson Broaddus University, Philippi  
**OCTOBER 19** - The ministry of Mount Union Baptist Church; Terry Blake, pastor (Guyandotte)  
**OCTOBER 20** - Erich Reggi, chair, Camp Cowen Board and member West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission  
**OCTOBER 21** - Will Bolick, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant (youth) to Chile  
**OCTOBER 22** - The ministry of Comunidad Nueva Esperanza; Bill Stewart, pastor (Good Hope)  
**OCTOBER 23** - The ministry of Olive Branch Baptist Church; Stuart Stover, pastor (Hopewell)  
**OCTOBER 24** - The ministry of Little Capon Baptist Church; Tony Baker, pastor (Eastern)  
**OCTOBER 25** - The Baptist Campus Ministries' Retreat begins today at Parchment Valley Conference Center  
**OCTOBER 26** - Preston Gore, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission  
**OCTOBER 27** - The ministry of Enon Baptist Church; Larry McKim, pastor (Broad Run)  
**OCTOBER 28** - The ministry of Willow Tree Baptist Church; David Knotts, pastor (Fairmont)  
**OCTOBER 29** - Glen Chapman, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to the Democratic Republic of the Congo  
**OCTOBER 30** - Nathan Myers, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant (youth) to Bulgaria  
**OCTOBER 31** - The ministry of Marshville Baptist Church; John Camenga, pastor (Judson)

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

## November 2019

**NOVEMBER 1** - The ministry of Cook Memorial Baptist Church; Keith Reed, pastor (Rockcastle)  
**NOVEMBER 2** - Fall Children's Rally happens today at Parchment Valley Conference Center  
**NOVEMBER 3** - Kim Brown, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to Thailand  
**NOVEMBER 4** - Marijane Kiley, chair, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission  
**NOVEMBER 5** - Nancy Rice, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant (youth) to the Democratic Republic of the Congo  
**NOVEMBER 6** - The ministry of Judson Baptist Church; Charlie Bolen, pastor (Kanawha Valley)  
**NOVEMBER 7** - Ryan Stoner, Second Vice-President, West Virginia Baptist Convention and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission  
**NOVEMBER 8** - The ministry of Shinnston First Baptist Church; Kevin Nuzum, pastor (Judson)  
**NOVEMBER 9** - The ministry of Cyrus Baptist Church; Manfred Langer, pastor (Twelve Pole)  
**NOVEMBER 10** - The ministry of Connolly Memorial Baptist Church (Logan-Mingo)  
**NOVEMBER 11** - Remember our Veterans who have served our country so faithfully  
**NOVEMBER 12** - Jennifer Huber, Student Ministries' administrative assistant, West Virginia Baptist Convention  
**NOVEMBER 13** - The ministry of Rock Grove Baptist Church; Benjamin Hall, pastor (Broad Run)  
**NOVEMBER 14** - The ministry of Pea Ridge Baptist Church; Dan Londeree, pastor (Guyandotte)  
**NOVEMBER 15** - The ministry of Elizabeth Baptist Church; Leary Vanhorn, pastor (Parkersburg)  
**NOVEMBER 16** - Ray Schellinger, International Ministries' (IM) Global Consultant  
**NOVEMBER 17** - Lea Lindero, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to Thailand  
**NOVEMBER 18** - David Parajon, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant (youth) to Nicaragua  
**NOVEMBER 19** - Clark Swepston, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission  
**NOVEMBER 20** - The ministry of Bethel Baptist Church; Ed Moats, pastor (Goshen)  
**NOVEMBER 21** - The ministry of Beulah Baptist Church; David Bess, pastor (Union)  
**NOVEMBER 22** - Jillene Narraway, associate director of Youth and Camping, West Virginia Baptist Convention  
**NOVEMBER 23** - Junior High Convention happens this weekend at Oakwood Baptist Church, Charleston  
**NOVEMBER 24** - Ruth Fox, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to Thailand  
**NOVEMBER 25** - Zola Miller, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission  
**NOVEMBER 26** - The ministry of North Fork Baptist Church; Darrell Farley, pastor (Harrisville)  
**NOVEMBER 27** - The ministry of Antioch Baptist Church; Larry Peck, pastor (Hopewell)  
**NOVEMBER 28** - Count your many blessings ... name them one by one  
**NOVEMBER 29** - The ministry of First Southern Baptist Church; Shane Boggs, pastor (Elk Valley)  
**NOVEMBER 30** - Teresa Miller, West Virginia Baptist Convention assistant director of Operations at Parchment Valley Conference Center

## Coming Events

### OCTOBER

**October 1**

*Retired Ministers and Mates' Fall Retreat*  
Parchment Valley Conference  
Center/Hill Hall  
Begins at 12:00 noon

**October 4**

*West Virginia Baptist Convention Executive Committee*  
Parchment Valley Conference  
Center/Santroek Building  
Begins at 6:30 p.m.

**October 5**

*West Virginia Baptist Convention Executive Board and Commission Meetings*  
Parchment Valley Conference  
Center/Santroek Building  
Begins at 9:00 a.m.

**October 18-19**

*West Virginia Baptist Convention Annual Meeting*  
Alderson Broaddus University

**October 25-27**

*Baptist Campus Ministries' Fall Retreat*  
Camp Cowen

**October 26**

*School of Christian Studies Spiritual Formation (Mod-01) One-Day Class*  
Parchment Valley Conference Center in  
Room Four of the Administration  
Building (The Barn)  
Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.  
Class begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 4:15 p.m.

### NOVEMBER

**November 2**

*Fall Children's Rally*  
Parchment Valley Conference Center

**November 2**

*American Baptist Women's Ministries' Executive Board Meeting*  
Parchment Valley Conference Center

**November 11**

*Veteran's Day Holiday*  
West Virginia Baptist Convention  
Office CLOSED

**November 22-24**

*Junior High Convention*  
Oakwood Baptist Church, Charleston

**November 28-29**

*Thanksgiving Holiday*  
West Virginia Baptist Convention  
Office CLOSED

### DECEMBER

**December 24-25**

*Christmas Day Holiday*  
West Virginia Baptist Convention  
Office CLOSED

### 2020

### JANUARY

**January 1**

*New Year's Day Holiday*  
West Virginia Baptist Convention  
Office CLOSED

**January 3**

*West Virginia Baptist Convention Executive Committee*  
Parchment Valley Conference  
Center/Santroek Building  
Begins at 6:30 p.m.

**January 4**

*West Virginia Baptist Convention Executive Board and Commission Meetings*  
Parchment Valley Conference  
Center/Santroek Building  
Begins at 9:00 a.m.

## West Virginia Baptist Newsletter Submissions

Send submissions for *The West Virginia Baptist* to: [thewobaptist@wvbc.org](mailto:thewobaptist@wvbc.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;  
304.422.6449. US Postage Paid at  
Parkersburg, West Virginia.

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West Virginia Baptist Convention  
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Parkersburg, WV 26102-1019

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**For MSMO resources:**

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