

The West Virginia Baptist Newsletter

June—July 2022

Loving to Learn



The Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies has been equipping people for ministry since its formation in 1993.

What if I were to tell you that there is a flexible and affordable way to learn more about the Bible, Theology, Church History, Community Ministry, Discipleship, Evangelism, Teaching and many other topics!? While the **Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies (BWSCS)** has its roots in providing valuable education for pastors of local churches, it is also available to church leaders, Sunday School teachers and anyone who enjoys exploring biblical and ministry-related topics. It is a great opportunity to become better equipped to serve wherever the Lord calls you. Numerous bi-vocational pastors who were trying to juggle family, work and ministry have found the flexibility of the program an ideal way to fit continued theological study into their already full schedules.

As a BWSCS graduate, I know the value of the program firsthand. In 1996, Bobby Wood asked me if I was interested in taking some classes. My response was, "Bobby, with my 60-hour workweek, I don't have time to travel an hour each way every Tuesday evening to attend the closest class." His response was, "Find five more students and we will start one right here at the church you attend." I asked five people I knew and a class was formed at Crab Orchard Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh) which continues to this day. The BWSCS ignited in me a hunger to learn, and so I enrolled in seminary and found that the BWSCS had prepared me extremely well for the challenges of master's level theological study. Now, I have the joy of teaching classes in the BWSCS and watching students grow and learn just like I did many years ago.

Currently, there are over 70 pastors serving churches in West Virginia who are graduates of the BWSCS. And there are several hundred more who have taken classes and answered God's call to serve in other ministry roles in the local church and on the mission field.

The BWSCS offers multiple degree tracks to fit your level of interest, including a three-year Pastoral Ministry Diploma and two-year Certificates in General Studies, Teaching or Lay Ministry. If you are not interested in completing a degree track, you can also just select individual classes and attend them for audit.

And coming this fall, the BWSCS will be offering an Advanced Certificate in Missions track that will explore the biblical, theological, historical and practical aspects of missions and cross-cultural work. Learning to reach across differing cultures to share the message of Jesus Christ is just as important in the local community as it is in foreign countries.

Currently, there are weekly classes meeting in local churches across the state, as well as several one-day classes being offered on select Saturdays at Parchment Valley. Classes are also offered digitally for those who need more flexibility or prefer online learning. Flexibility and affordability are two goals of the BWSCS as they seek to complete the mission of "bringing honor and glory to God by developing quality church leaders through training that will help them grow in spiritual maturity, biblical knowledge and ministry skills." **To learn more about the BWSCS, visit our website at: wvbc.org/school-of-christian-studies/.**

Also, if you are interested in continuing your education through Palmer Theological Seminary, the BWSCS Pastoral Ministry Diploma can count toward fulfilling the undergraduate education requirement to enroll for a Master of Divinity.

Pastors, we would love to start a class at your church. If you know of six or more people interested, please contact Mark McCloy at mccloy@wvbc.org to get organized.

Blessings,
Mike Sisson, WVBC Executive Minister

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

by Mike Sisson, Executive Minister

Contextual Intelligence

In his book, *Intentional Living*, John Maxwell writes, “An unintentional life accepts everything and does nothing. An intentional life embraces only the things that will add to the mission of significance.” In other words, we could say that nothing of significance ever happens without intentionality. I think this is especially true when it comes to reaching our communities for Jesus Christ.

One area that requires intentionality is developing a healthy Contextual Intelligence. Contextual Intelligence is the ability to apply knowledge to real world scenarios and situations. This is what the apostle Paul was referring to when he wrote to the church in Corinth, which was one of the most diverse cities in the ancient world. Paul’s strategy for intentionally reaching the people there was to, “become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings” (1 Corinthians 9:22b-23).

Like Paul, we are surrounded by many different cultural contexts. Often, these contexts are just different than we are accustomed to, but admittedly some we may find confusing, unappealing or even offensive. However, rather than avoiding them, Jesus has called us to try to reach into them with the Good News! Doing that requires us to learn how to avoid focusing only on the differences and instead look for the opportunities to share Christ in those differing contexts.

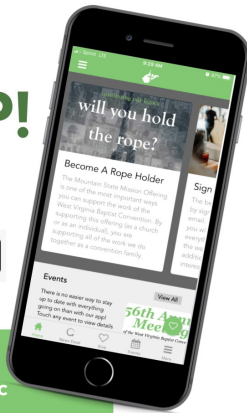
In John chapter four, Jesus provides us with an excellent example. To begin with, Jesus confuses the disciples when He announces that He must go through Samaria. Orthodox Jews despised Samaritans, and most would take a much longer route rather than step foot in the country. Jesus, however insisted they travel through the country. He then goes to the Samaritan town of Sychar and stops to rest at Jacob's Well while His disciples go into the town to buy food. While Jesus is waiting for his disciples to return, a Samaritan woman comes to the well and Jesus asks her for a drink. The woman is surprised that Jesus asks her for a drink and the narrator comments that Samaritans and Jews do not associate. When the disciples return, they are equally surprised to find Jesus speaking with a Samaritan woman. However, this is where the story takes an important turn. While the disciples are focused on Jesus’ interaction with this woman from the wrong side of the tracks, Jesus redirects their attention to the crowds following her from town to meet Him. Jesus instructs, “Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!” (John 4:35). In other words, do not miss the forest for the trees!

In the Old Testament, the Israelite tribe of Issachar was known as those who “understood the times and knew what Israel should do” (1 Chronicles 12:32). In other words, they had a high level of Contextual Intelligence. In a time of great transition and change, they were able to accurately diagnose the context (discern the times) and effectively apply their knowledge of the Scripture (know what to do). Missionaries must do this to be successful in other countries. Our communities need us to become hometown missionaries and microchurch planters and look for opportunities to take the unchanging Word of God and the hope of Jesus Christ to people in different contexts and cultures.

Blessings,
Mike

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<https://tithely.app.link/wvbc>

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Table of Contents

Mike Sisson: Commentary	2
Meet the 2022 Ministry Interns	3
WVBC Russia Partnership Update/ Camp Global	4
AB Men Work Party at PV/ Whippoorwill Covered Campfire	5
Camp Cowen Maintenance Director/ Men’s Work Party at Camp Cowen	6
Re-missioning/ Palmer Theological Seminary	7
Intentional Grandparenting Seminars/ Spring Golden’eers Conference	8
Legacy Story: Gordon and Mildred Jackson/ AB Men & Boys Camp	9
Pastors4Pastors Summer Events/ Baptist Campus Ministry Update	10
Fifth Avenue Baptist Sesquicentennial/ One Great Hour of Sharing	11
Area Minister News	12-13
Obituaries / Association Meetings	14
Prayer Calendars	15
Coming Events/ Annual Meeting	16



DOING CHRIST’S WORK *together*

by Intentionally Engaging Communities for Christ

Ministry Internship Program

Meet the 2022 Ministry Interns



Patrick Fisher

Patrick is a sophomore Music Education student at Glenville State University. He is from Clarksburg and enjoys singing and leading worship. He also enjoys sharing Christ with everyone, especially those of other religions. He served as an intern this spring at Anchor Bible Church (Little Kanawha).

Daniel McCloy

Daniel is a student at Marshall University, where he majors in Computer Information Technology. He is active in Baptist Campus Ministry and serves on their leadership team. He will be interning this summer at New Hope Baptist Church (Parkersburg), assisting with their communications.



Asa Dick

Asa is a senior Land Surveying student at Glenville State University. He is from Greenbrier County and plans to use his degree to make an impact for Christ in his community and around the world. He served as an intern this spring at Anchor Bible Church (Little Kanawha).



Sam Dudgeon

Sam is a sophomore Math Education student at Glenville State University. He plans to return to his hometown of Welch after graduation to become a school teacher and impact others for Christ. He served as an intern this spring at Anchor Bible Church (Little Kanawha).



Elijah Dick

Elijah is a sophomore Natural Resources/Criminal Justice student at Glenville State University. He is employed by the Army Corps of Engineers and plans to continue working there after graduation. He served as an intern this spring at Anchor Bible Church (Little Kanawha).



Rebekah Williams

Rebekah is a nursing student at West Virginia University, where she is active in Baptist Campus Ministry. She served last summer as a ministry intern at her home church, Clarksburg Baptist (Union), and is returning there this summer to serve as an intern with their youth group.



Charles Hinzman

Charles is a current student in the Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies and is a member of Sand Fork Baptist Church (Little Kanawha). He is returning for his second year as a Ministry Intern, serving as a youth ministry intern at Weston First Baptist Church (Broad Run).



Samantha Karle

Samantha is an English/Creative Writing student at the University of Washington and was formerly a member of the Youth Ministry Planning Team and the Youth Leader Core. She will be serving this summer as an intern at her home church, Clarksburg Baptist Church (Union).



Where Does the Russia Mission Partnership Go From Here?

Written by David Bess,
WVBC/Russia Mission Partnership Chair



The war has had a major impact on the WVBC Russia Mission Partnership.

What does the war in Ukraine mean for the future of the **West Virginia Baptist Convention's Russia Mission Partnership**? The bloodshed continues day after day. The Russian government is determined in its goals. Many Ukrainians are just as determined to defend their land. Sanctions from the West upon Russia are heavy, essentially closing down interaction with the United States. For supporters of Russian missions, where do we go from here?

First, pray for the war to end. Our Russian brothers and sisters in Christ share our abhorrence for the taking of human life. Anything they may wish to share about peace, however, could be taken as resistance to their government and punished severely.

Second, pray for reconciliation to begin. This conflict is more of a civil war than a war between two sovereign countries. Families within both Ukraine and Russia are deeply divided over whether Ukrainians should be independent or a part of the Russian nation. Even if the Russian military retreats, a bitter rift between the two factions will remain.

Third, pray for wisdom for the WVBC/Russia leadership team. The challenges for the partnership are enormous. In 2016, the Russian government enacted a new, oppressive law that prohibits mission team members from preaching or teaching. Any kind of group ministry by foreigners could result in heavy fines, including construction and renovation projects. With the outbreak of COVID-19, mission trips were no longer feasible. Now with the war in Ukraine, money transfers aren't possible and communication is restricted. Only the Economic Development fund remains since the fund and the transfers all occur within Ryazan.

Finally, pray for Russian Baptists. They face a severely strained economy. The oppression by the government and the opposition from the Russian Orthodox Church continues. Pray that they unite in spiritual devotion to their Lord despite political division over Ukraine. Pray that their boldness for the Lord Jesus remains strong. Pray that God provides for their needs in absence of help from international partners.

So, what does the war in Ukraine mean for the future of the West Virginia Baptist Russia Mission Partnership? Only the Lord knows. He is always faithful. For now, we pray, we wait and we see what doors the Lord may open for greater ministry in the future.

Camp Global

Intentionally Engaging
Communities for Christ

July 29 - 31

Camp Cowen

Camp Global is a family missions camp designed to inform, inspire and equip individuals and churches to better engage with what God is doing in His redemption of the nations.



To learn how you can register for FREE, contact Todd McClure at todd@wvbc.org

Parchment Valley Conference Center

AB Men Work Party at Parchment Valley



Volunteers moved branches and other debris during the work party.

I was always told, “When the going gets tough, the tough gets going.” The work party at **Parchment Valley Conference Center** was an example of that. It was an absolute success as our loyal volunteers came together to prepare the facility for an upcoming season of worship, fellowship and reaching people for Jesus.

This year we had several new volunteers come along side us and what a blessing that was! One new volunteer, Mathew Keith, pastor of North Shinnston Baptist Church (Judson), called in advance and said, “Frank, I am coming down and bringing my sons, so you better have something for us to do!” We had plenty for them to do, and we are grateful for their work. They repaired the driveway to one of our rental houses and rebuilt the road to the American Baptist Men’s building that had washed away.

We are also thankful for the city of Ripley, which donated asphalt millings for us to spread on the roads. In total, 35 people volunteered, arriving with tractors, dump trailers and excavators. A few of the volunteers finished rebuilding two of the lower lodge rooms, others poured concrete, a couple caulked the columns of the Barn and others ran weed eaters, power washed and painted.

A special thank you also goes out to Evan Frees and George Bradbury, who spent countless hours picking up branches and other debris in order for us to mow.

On behalf of the Parchment Valley staff, we want to thank each of you for the way you served. We are very blessed by your continual support of the place “where lives are changed.”

- Frank Miller, Director of Operations

Help Us Build the Whippoorwill Covered Campfire

For decades, Christians have assembled in faith on the holy grounds of Parchment Valley (PV) to participate in recreation, worship and fellowship. Through people intentionally sharing the gospel, many lives have changed. Now, in 2022, a wonderful blessing is before us: we have the opportunity to construct the **Whippoorwill Covered Campfire** as a way of honoring all those volunteers who have faithfully dedicated their time and resources to help build all that we enjoy today.

Ground was broken earlier this spring, but as construction moves forward, it is amazing how God continues to work in such mysterious ways:

- Our land surveyor, who was tasked with preparing the ground, formerly worked here as a lifeguard under Charlie and Judy Swisher when he was just a teenager.
- One of the Wirt County Boy Scouts who volunteered to move the playground equipment as an eagle scout project shared with us that his dad also volunteered here under Charlie and Judy Swisher.
- Another volunteer, Joe Johnson, who assisted with prepping the site for the foundation to be poured, also helped lay the foundation for the Santrock Education Building more than two decades ago.

It is amazing watching God work! And it is also amazing see God’s people step up and serve! The response across the state has been overwhelming as churches and individuals have continued to make donations to help fund this new facility.



The soon-to-be site of the Whippoorwill Covered Campfire.

This Whippoorwill Covered Campfire will be handicap accessible and located close to spacious restroom facilities. Still nestled in the wood line, this rustic, 300-seat structure will be available for year-round events, expanding our opportunities for ministry. With so many decisions for Christ being made during campfire services over the last several years, we cannot wait to see how God uses the new facility!

Would you like to be part of this exciting project? Donations can be made to Parchment Valley Conference Center and mailed to PO Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102. Make sure to put “Covered Campfire” in the memo!

WE ARE HIRING CAMP COWEN MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR

Full-time, year-round staff position with onsite housing with responsibilities that include the maintenance of buildings and equipment, the upkeep of grounds and the supervision of volunteers, staff and vendors.

APPLY AT CAMPCOWEN.ORG

With questions, contact
Jill Narraway at jill@wvbc.org



Men's Work Party at Camp Cowen

During the winter months, things slow down a lot at camp. However, the winter weather leaves a lot of clean up and repair work to be done. Ditches need to be cleaned, potholes patched, dead trees taken down, buildings repainted and the pool cleaned in order to prepare for the upcoming summer. Every year, the Men's Work Party is where a lot of these projects are completed.

The weather was unpredictable this spring. On the week that led up to the work party, it continued to jump back and forth between winter and summer. Just a few days before the men arrived, snow was falling and the temperature was 24 degrees! However, it warmed up just in time as the weekend was full of sunshine and temperatures that reached 84 degrees. It felt like summer and, with the help of all the men in attendance, a lot of projects were completed, ensuring that camp was ready for a full season!

If you have never been to a Cowen Work Party, there are a few things you should know:

1. Lots of hard work needs to be done all over camp.
2. It is a great time of sharing Cowen stories and enjoying the camp facilities.
3. Good food is always served!

In addition to the normal jobs that were completed, there were also some significant, continued upgrades to our cabins. The Adopt-a-Cabin program began in 2020 as a way to refresh the cabins with new paint, upgrade light fixtures and do minor repairs. However, thanks to several donors, that project has grown to also include window replacements, door repairs and electrical

upgrades. We are incredibly thankful to those individuals, as to date, five cabins have received electrical upgrades and seven have received new windows!

Since 1943, the **West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen** has been blessed with hard-working volunteers who donate their time, talent and finances to build camp into the wonderful facility we have today. Work days provide the opportunity for groups to come together and work to maintain the camp property. Camp would not be the same without all of your help! Thank you to our many volunteers and camp supporters!



Repairs being made to the camper bathhouse.

Re-Missioning is All About Your Church's Health

People visit the doctor for a variety of reasons. Some go when they know they are sick. Some go for annual or semi-annual checkups. Some go when they are not feeling quite right and want to find out why. The bottom line is: your health is important, so you must take it seriously.

For the better part of this year, you have heard the West Virginia Baptist Convention (WVBC) staff use the term "re-missioning."



The church's mission is the Great Commission, but sometimes we become focused on other things and the original mission, unintentionally, gets neglected. Re-missioning is intended to help churches return to the priority of the mission Jesus gave us.

However, in a recent conversation with some pastors, related to the process of re-missioning, they offered the perspective that re-missioning is really all about a church's health. That perspective challenged me to look at re-missioning much like I would a visit to the doctor.

As a result of your visit, the doctor might tell you that you are the picture of health and encourage you to continue to do those things that keep you healthy. The doctor could also run some tests to help you figure out why you are not feeling quite right. In some cases, the doctor might prescribe medication, or even recommend surgery necessary to return you to health.

We, the staff of the WVBC, are interested in the health of our churches. After all, each one is family! Because of that, we want to partner with others in our WVBC family who have a passion for church health to develop a consistent and comprehensive way for our churches to get a diagnosis and take corrective action if necessary. You will hear more about that in the very near future.

A visit to the doctor requires an individual to realize the importance of their health and possess a desire to do what it takes to improve it and then maintain it with regular checkups. It is important that the church, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the help of others, do the same.



PALMER

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Palmer Theological Seminary would like to congratulate its 2022 graduates from its West Virginia Program. Those who have completed their degree requirements or are in the process of finalizing them for the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree include Jacob Eastman, Richard Eaton, Jacob Henley, Timothy Mitchem, Deborah Myers and Keith Myers.

The M.Div. degree is a 78-hour program that can be completed in a hybrid format with residencies held at Parchment Valley. Palmer Seminary is accredited by the Association of Theological Students, which ensures the highest standard in theological education. The average completion time is four years.

Have you ever considered pursuing a Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree? Palmer Theological Seminary is developing a new cohort for the fall semester. It is not too late apply! Those interested should have a graduate degree in theology (M.Div. or equivalent) and three years of ministry experience.

Attention all Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies (BWSCS) graduates: Did you know that your completion of the BWSCS program allows you to apply to Palmer Seminary? Traditionally, students need to complete an undergraduate degree prior to starting their seminary experience. However, the Association of Theological Schools will allow us to accept students who have significant ministry experience, previous ministry training and the aptitude to succeed in graduate studies.

Don't let finances keep you from applying to seminary! Students from West Virginia Baptist Convention (WVBC) churches have access to two scholarships: The Bowen Charitable Trust Scholarship and The WV Baptist Education Society Scholarship. Together, these scholarships cover approximately 84% of Palmer's already affordable tuition. Application forms can be found on the WVBC website: wvbc.org.

For more information, contact program director Dr. Allan Copenhaver at rcopenha@eastern.edu

Senior Adult Ministry

Biblical Intentional Grandparenting Seminars



The Baptist Temple, Fairmont, was one of three host sites for the Biblical Intentional Grandparenting Seminars.

The Discipleship Commission sponsored three **Biblical Intentional Grandparenting Seminars** this spring, led by Jerry Losh and Koreen Villers. They used the “Grandparenting Matters” resources from Legacy Coalition. In total, 40 people attended, representing 19 churches. Each attendee left with more ideas of how to be intentional Christian grandparents.

Here are some quotes from those who attended the seminar:

“We were thankful to know that we are already doing some things well, and now we know what we can improve to be able to share our faith more intentionally. We have such an important role as grandparents!”
- **Regina and John Cummings**, Nitro First Baptist Church (Teays Valley)

“We gleaned some really great ideas and strategies from this seminar. Wow! We are blessed to be grandparents and look forward to undertaking the journey of becoming intentional Christian grandparents.”

- **Gary and Brenda Knighton**, Charleston Baptist Temple (Kanawha Valley)

“We were so encouraged by the seminar. It was helpful, practical and well organized, and we came away with so many resources to help us become intentional Christian grandparents.”

- **Tom and Faye Hollinger**, Hurricane First Baptist Church (Teays Valley)

“It was a very worthwhile way to spend the day in this seminar. The next generation deserves all that we can give them.”

- **Marcia and John Corkrean**, Spencer First Baptist Church (Good Hope)

“It made me aware of what an impact we can make on the lives of our grandchildren. We need to intentionally set aside time for one-on-one time with them as they get older.”

- **Joan Hall**, Vienna Baptist Church (Parkersburg)

The closer we get to our grandchildren, the more likely we will impact their heart. Have you ever told your grandchildren about how you were saved – your faith story? Dr. Josh Mulvihill says, “We must understand the biblical purpose of a grandparent. This is God’s idea – that you partner with God so the next generation would know and love Jesus.”

We would love to have every church host a “Biblical Intentional Grandparenting” seminar. Please reach out to Koreen Villers at villers@wvbc.org for more information on how your church can prepare grandparents to be intentional Christian grandparents.

Spring Golden’eers Conference

As the sun shone and the birds chirped, accompanied with the smell of fresh cut grass, senior adults once again gathered at Parchment Valley for the **Spring Golden’eers Conference**. After a two-year hiatus, the big smiles and the long hugs demonstrated how much we have missed each other. Judy Prater, a member at Emmanuel Baptist Church (Parkersburg), reflected, “It was so fabulous to be back together after COVID!”

The Golden’eers Conferences are designed for adults over the age of 55, consisting of times of fellowship, in-depth Bible studies and a variety of entertainment. This spring’s conference had the theme of Biblical Intentional Grandparenting. A Bible study was led on this topic by Jerry Losh and Koreen Villers.

The afternoons were full of fun activities. Inside, attendees played games, worked puzzles and shopped at the bookstore provided by Christian Supply Centre of Parkersburg. Outside, they played cornhole, croquet, Kan Jam and pickleball. These activities preceded the evening events – a good ‘ole fashioned hymn sing on Monday and a movie on Tuesday. The conference came to an end on Wednesday, as everyone shared in communion.

Tonabell Turner, a member of Newark Baptist Church (Parkersburg), said, “The best part of Golden’eers is always the



Attendees participating in some fun indoor activities.

music and the Bible Study.” Judi Forren, a member of Saint Albans First Baptist Church (Teays Valley), added, “Golden’eers is always the greatest three days of Spring!”

Please plan to join us September 12-14 for the Fall Golden’eers Conference at Parchment Valley. The theme will be “Seniors Safety.”

Supporting Their Church for More Than a Century

Gordon and Mildred Jackson's membership at Main Street Baptist Church (Teays Valley) covered a period of 79 years dating from May 31, 1914, when Gordon was baptized, to the time of Mildred's death on June 13, 1993. Gordon served many of those years as a church trustee, and Mildred served as a choir director, a Sunday school teacher and a member of the Women's Missionary Society (now referred to as the American Baptist Women). They were both faithful to their community, their country and especially their church.

Gordon's father, Oscar Jackson, was called to pastor Main Street Baptist Church in 1910. During his tenure, a church building fund was established that commenced with the construction of the new church building in 1925. When a new worship center was added in 1991, Mildred remained very interested in and supportive of the addition. By that point, Gordon had already passed away and Mildred was to the stage where she was no longer able to attend services due to her health. However, she still felt it was important to continue praying for and financially supporting her church family.

Upon Mildred's death in 1993, a trust was established with the West Virginia Baptist Convention (WVBC) for the benefit of Main Street Baptist Church. Through investments, that trust has grown to over \$230,000 and continues to support the church's needs. Per the documentation, the trust is administered by the trustees of the WVBC and remitted to the church upon their request. The most recent distribution assisted the church during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Main Street Baptist Church is located in Point Pleasant, WV.

Have you considered establishing a trust to support your church? This can be done through the WVBC. Dozens of trusts have been established that continue to support churches, WVBC ministries and/or foreign missions. These trusts are crucial to our mission of doing Christ's work together.

To learn more about how you can establish a trust, contact Todd McClure at todd@wvbc.org.

AB Men & Boys Camp

AUGUST 5-7, 2022

CAMP COWEN

Featured Speakers



ED ROGERS

RENEW
TRANSFORMATIONAL
STRATEGIES



KEITH MYERS

INTERNATIONAL
MINISTRIES GLOBAL
SERVANT



LEARN MORE AT CAMPCOWEN.ORG

Pastors4Pastors Summer Events

Pastors4Pastors, also known as the West Virginia Baptist Ministers' Council, would like to invite all pastors and their families to join us for our fun events this summer:

- Our **Summer Family Picnic**, hosted in partnership with the Ministers Wives Fellowship, will take place on June 25th at Shelter 1 of our Parchment Valley Conference Center. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided. Your family is encouraged to bring your favorite covered dish item to share. Lunch will begin at noon, followed by guest speakers, Richard and Judy Sargent, and some worship, led by Jon and Koreen Villers. We will also have lots of recreational activities for your family to enjoy, including two giant inflatables! With questions, contact Anthony Pratt at: anthony_pratt@hotmail.com.
- The **Pastors-4-Pastors Dinner Cruise** will take place on August 20th at 7 PM. The cost is \$100 per couple, which includes dinner. We will meet in Marietta, Ohio, and travel aboard the Valley Gem. Special singing will be provided by Joseph and Misha Dolpies. With questions, contact Sandra Walker at: reverendswalker@gmail.com.

Pastors4Pastors exists to provide fellowship among the ministers of the West Virginia Baptist Convention; to provide opportunities for education, inspiration and personal/professional growth; and to encourage pastors and churches to maintain healthy relationships in ministry. We hope you can join us for these fun events!

Hosted by Pastors4Pastors and the Ministers Wives Fellowship

2022

Summer FAMILY PICNIC

JUNE 25 · NOON-4 PM
PARCHMENT VALLEY (SHELTER 1)

Pastors and families can RSVP at wvbc.org



DATE: AUGUST 20TH AT 7 PM

LOCATION: MARIETTA, OH

COST: \$100

LEARN MORE AT WVBC.ORG

Rebuilding Community Through Baptist Campus Ministry



73 students participated in Beach Week 2022.

Post-pandemic, building community is vital to our goal of reaching college students with the love of Jesus. Many of our **Baptist Campus Ministry (BCM)** associates were forced to find new ways to develop community over the last couple of years, but it has been to once again be physically active on our campuses and in our communities this past year. The following quotes provide just a glimpse of what that looked like this past semester:

“With this being my first year as a BCM associate, it has been a bit of a rebuild at Concord University. Thankfully, we have been able to develop a strong leadership team and have had around a dozen students involved. We are building great relationships look forward to next year!”

- **Tim Mitchem, BCM Associate at Concord University**

“At West Virginia University (WVU), we focused heavily on relationships this year. We also focused a lot on discipleship, as we studied the New Testament in the fall and the Old Testament in the spring. It was fun seeing students grow in their faith.”

- **Kevin Sions, BCM Northern Director at WVU**

“We had a great year at WVU Tech! We averaged around 20 students for Bible study and had the chance to get really involved on campus and in the community. We adopted two students from Beckley Elementary School for Christmas and we helped serve meals with Helping Hands Community Resource Center, a ministry of Beckley First Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh). We also partnered with other Christian ministries to host our annual Jesus Week on campus.”

- **Anthony Pratt, BCM Associate at WVU Tech**

Rebuilding community has been essential on all of our campuses. It has also been essential to BCM overall. After a two-year hiatus, we were able to once again host our annual BCM Beach Week, where 73 students from multiple campuses came together to deepen their love for Christ and for others.

Please pray for us as we make plans for the fall. And thank you for your support as, together, we “**change lives that change the world.**”

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Written by Lisa Rothenberger-Winter,
World Relief Officer, American Baptist Churches USA

The world has changed dramatically in the last two years. Communities around the world have been both socially and economically affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. That impact has been felt even more deeply in the most vulnerable communities and in those affected by other disasters.

Wildfires continue to get worse year after year in the U.S. and Canada, and the same is true in Europe. Severe drought affects communities around the world, making safe water even more difficult to access in a time when it is needed more than ever to stop the spread of disease. Earthquakes have destroyed homes, lives, and livelihoods in many global locations. And conflict continues to uproot families and communities, forcing more people to be displaced. In the past year alone, we have witnessed this in places like Myanmar, Afghanistan, and elsewhere in the Middle East.

Even so, through your support for **One Great Hour of Sharing**: love remains. In the midst of much uncertainty and suffering, One Great Hour of Sharing continues to be a tangible expression of love—walking with communities in times of crisis.

Love responds
Love rebuilds
Love remembers

Together, we provide immediate relief and long-term recovery support after disasters; equip churches and leaders in disaster



preparedness measures; offer assistance to displaced people; and support global development projects that empower communities around the world to thrive. Our partners have persisted in this life-saving work despite the challenges of the pandemic and in the face of other disasters and humanitarian crises that continue to escalate in frequency and severity.

We are called to witness to this gospel truth: despite evidence to the contrary, even in the most difficult of circumstances, love remains. **When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing you put love into action.** Your giving shares faith, hope and love all around the world. But the greatest of these is love.

Resources available at abc-oghs.org.

One Great Hour of Sharing resources are available at abc-oghs.org

Fifth Avenue Baptist Church Celebrates Their Sesquicentennial

Written by Donna Dingus,
Fifth Avenue Baptist Church Sesquicentennial Chair



Fifth Avenue Baptist Church recognized their 88 members who have been there for more than 50 years.

Fifth Avenue Baptist Church (Guyandotte) in Huntington is celebrating a truly historic milestone this year, as it marks 150 years of providing spiritual comfort and salvation, along with community leadership, to the good citizens of the River City and

around the world. Along with learning to spell “sesquicentennial,” the church’s members have organized 12 months of celebration, recalling their distinguished history and contributions to so many.

Through wars, depressions, recessions, plagues, pandemics, epidemics and floods, Fifth Avenue has inspired, comforted and blessed generations of members, visitors and even those just passing by. They have included outstanding community leaders as well as those afflicted with heavy burdens of body and spirit. Countless numbers have been blessed by a church seeking to become a family of faith, loving and serving God and each other.

The celebrations began in February with guest sermons by Dr. Jeff Woods, General Secretary of the American Baptist Churches USA, and Dr. Mike Sisson, Executive Minister of the West Virginia Baptist Convention. In March, the church honored no fewer than 88 members who have belonged for fifty years or more - three for more than eighty years! In May, the church packed 50,000 meals to be sent to Nicaragua, where they have long had a prominent missionary presence. Later in the year, there will be Michael Belk’s inspiring art exhibit and, in October, a Homecoming Weekend for all present and past members.

A very special Christmas celebration will conclude the year as the church embarks on a future of even greater dedicated service.

Northwest Area News

by **Mark McCloy**, Northwest Area Minister

God Provides



The opening night of the Harrisville Association revival was hosted by Harrisville Baptist Church.

The story of Jonah is a fascinating one. It is about crime and punishment. It is about disobedience and grace. But it is also about God's provision. God provides. For the Ninevites, He provides a preacher and a chance to repent. For Jonah, He provides a great many things – most famously, He provides the fish. That is the word it uses, depending on your translation. God “provides” or “appoints” a fish to swallow Jonah, both to rescue him from the depths of the sea and to imprison him while he contemplates some repentance of his own. Later, God provides a plant to shade Jonah, followed by a worm to destroy the plant and a scorching east wind. All of these things were provided in order to further Jonah's spiritual journey.

God provides for us as well. One of the things He has provided is a spiritual family. Thankfully, we are once again able to experience gatherings of our spiritual family. I really missed those over the last couple of years! Two of my area associations – Harrisville and Good Hope – have recently hosted multi-night, multi-location “roving” revivals. It has been good to visit with one another again – to worship together, sing together, eat together and fellowship together. Thanks be to God for the way He provides!

Northeast Area News

by **David Hulme**, Northeast Area Minister

John Golden Ordained at Salem Baptist Church

John Golden was ordained to the gospel ministry on Sunday, April 3, at Salem Baptist Church (Broad Run). Pastor David Carpenter led the service and Pastor Dan Meadows, Goshen Baptist Church (Goshen), preached the ordination sermon. Others participating in the service were Tammy Kniceley, Doug Bailey, Karen Davis, Joann Golden, Pastor Robert Marino and myself. A reception was held following the service.

Mathew Keith Ordained at North Shinnston Baptist Church

Mathew Keith was ordained to the gospel ministry on Sunday, May 1, at North Shinnston Baptist Church (Judson). The service was led by Danny Minor, deacon. Participating in the service were Dr. Allan Copenhaver, Pastor Garry Layfield, Rev. Frank Miller and myself. Twila Barker provided special music. A reception was held following the service.

Philippi Baptist Church Celebrates Villers' Ministry

On Sunday, May 1, Philippi Baptist Church (Union) celebrated Pastor Jon and Koreen Villers' 12 years of ministry at the church. The morning service included a slide shown, special music, a sharing of sent messages and a sermon by their son, Pastor Caleb Villers. The service was followed by a lunch, which included a time of sharing and “roasting,” as well as a presentation of a gift from the church.



Top: David Hulme congratulates John Golden. Bottom Left: Jon and Koreen Villers with grandchildren. Bottom Right: Danny Minor presents Mathew Keith with his ordination certificate.

Southwest Area News

by *Evan Arkell, Southwest Area Minister*

Spring: A Reminder of New Life

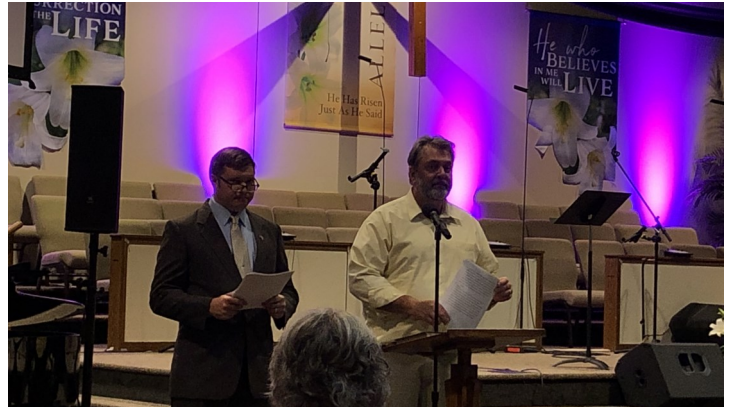
This spring has once again proven to be a wonderful time of blessing and growth. As God demonstrates His majesty on earth – reminding us each year of how He takes things that are seemingly dead and turns them into colorful beauty – it reminds me of our resurrection in Christ, first in the now as He calls us to Himself as Savior and Lord, but also in the future, when He will take these old, dry bones and call us forth to enjoy eternity with Him. We also catch glimpses of God's majesty when people say "yes" to following Christ. This spring has given us the opportunity to celebrate that on many occasions through ordinations.

In the Kanawha Valley Association (KVA), Oakwood Baptist Church celebrated Kyle Huffman's ordination on May 1. This followed after earlier meetings with the KVA ordination committee and ordination council. Kyle has been the youth pastor at Oakwood for seven years and also serves in the West Virginia National Guard. On the same day, Emmanuel Baptist Church celebrated an ordination of their own, ordaining John Tucker as a deacon. John has also been a Camp Cowen legend counselor!

Also on May 1, in the Teays Valley Association (TVA), Mount Vernon Baptist Church celebrated the ordination of Charles Chitekwe. Charles and his wife, Pam, serve in a variety of different associate roles at the church. His ordination also followed after meetings with the TVA ordination committee and ordination council.

A week prior, the Guyandotte Association ordination committee and council met and recommend Jeff Fetty for ordination. Jeff is a member of New Baptist Church and recently accepted a call into full-time pastoral ministry to serve as the senior pastor at Main Street Baptist Church in Point Pleasant (Teays Valley). Though New Baptist is the ordaining church, they chose to celebrate Jeff's ordination with his new congregation on May 8.

What an exciting time it is in my area! We are certainly excited to see what God continues to do in the lives of those that say "yes" to Him!



Jeff Fetty (left) and Trent Eastman (right) standing before the Guyandotte Ordination Council.

Southeast Area News

by *Jim Anderson, Southeast Area Minister*



Jim's granddaughter, Cora Jo, walking alongside her ducklings.

Are Your Ducks in a Row?

During the Easter break, our daughter, Chelsea Clarkson, sent us a precious photo of our granddaughter, Cora Jo, walking alongside her young ducklings. This reminded me of the old phrase, "Are your ducks in a row?" - which refers to having and/or getting everything in your life in order (and I might add keeping it that way).

After spending a portion of Holy Week in the hospital and receiving two heart stents (including the widow maker artery that was 95% blocked), this phrase has taken on much more meaning! Hopefully it reminds us that we should always be asking the Lord to help us spiritually, emotionally and physically keep our ducks in a row. My physical story is that during my annual checkup, my doctor was not satisfied with some pressure I was feeling near my heart. He sent me to a cardiologist and within a span of two weeks, I was receiving heart stents. Talk about not having your ducks in a row but getting them so!

The good news is that on Good Friday, I returned home to my loving family with a new heart...and praise God that due to Good Friday, we can also have and keep a clean and new heart through our risen Savior and Lord Jesus Christ!

Please, if you even suspect something is physically wrong with your heart, see your doctor immediately! As for spiritually, please say the prayer of Psalm 51:10, "Create within me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." With that verse in mind, may we in all aspects of our lives "get our ducks in a row!"

DONALD 'DONNIE' IRELAND BALLARD, 62, of Fayetteville, died on April 17th, 2022. He was a member of Fayetteville Baptist Church (Fayette), where he served as a deacon and in leadership with American Baptist Men.

CAROL SUE CARR, 77, of Petersburg, died on April 10, 2022. She was a member of Petersburg First Baptist Church (Eastern), where she served as a deaconess, on the flower committee, as a custodian and as a member of the American Baptist Women.

CAROL DAVIS CHILDRESS, of Parkersburg, died on March 25, 2022. She was a member of South Parkersburg Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where she had served as the choir director and a Sunday school teacher.

LEO HENRY KNOWLTON, 94, of Cross Lanes, died on March 25, 2022. He was a member of Nitro First Baptist Church (Teays Valley), where he served as a deacon.

PEGGY SUE OWEN, 82, of Spencer, died on March 19, 2022. She was a member of Spencer First Baptist Church (Good Hope), where she served many years as the church secretary.

JAMES G. RICHARDSON, 89, of Kopperston, died on March 19, 2022. He was a member of Tonedra Missionary Baptist Church (Rockcastle), where he served as a trustee and an usher.

Leadership Updates

BRYAN BARNETT to Cowen First Baptist Church (Hopewell) as pastor on 4/3/2022

TONY CONRAD to Sand Fork Baptist Church (Little Kanawha) as pastor on 2/28/2022

RUFUS HOALCRAFT to Union Valley Baptist Church (Parkersburg) as interim pastor on 2/15/2022

KENNETH MILLER to Buckhannon First Baptist Church (Broad Run) as interim pastor on 4/3/2022

MICHAEL RUBIN to Pine Grove Baptist Church (Parkersburg) as pastor on 3/15/2022

SANDRA WALKER to Goose Creek Baptist Church (Harrisville) as pastor on 3/1/2022

2022 ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

July 28

Rockcastle Association
Saulsville Baptist —5:00 PM

August 4

Little Kanawha Association
Enon Baptist —4:30 PM

August 9

Greenbrier-Raleigh Association
Shuck Memorial Baptist —5:00 PM

August 9

Harrisville Association
Goose Creek Baptist —9:30 AM

August 14

Broad Run Association
Fisher Camp—3:00 PM

August 18

Teays Valley Association
Bethel Baptist —5:30 PM

August 21

Good Hope Association
Gilboa Baptist —1 :00 PM

August 21

Goshen Association
Goshen Baptist —3:00 PM

August 27

Elk Valley Association
Birch River Baptist —8:30 AM

August 28

Eastern Association
Little Capon Baptist —3:00 PM

August 28

Judson Association
Shinnston First Baptist —4:30 PM

September 11

Fairmont Association
Bethesda Baptist —3:00 PM

September 14

Fayette Association
Gentry Baptist —6:00 PM

September 16

Kanawha Valley Association
Judson Baptist —5:00 PM

September 17

Twelve Pole Association
Macedonia Baptist —8:00 AM

September 18

Panhandle Association
Weirton Heights Mem. Baptist—4:00 PM

September 18

Union Association
Mount Carmel Baptist —2:00 PM

September 20

Parkersburg Association
Emmanuel Baptist —4:30 PM

September 21

Hopewell Association
Millbrook Baptist —6:00 PM

September 24

Coal River Association
TBD —9:30 AM

September 25

Logan-Mingo Association
TBD —4:00 PM

Prayer Calendars

June 2022

JUNE 1 – Sarah McCloy, International Ministries Global Servant to Japan
JUNE 2 – Waleska Febres, International Ministries Global Servant to Colombia
JUNE 3 – Younger Midler Camp beginning today at Camp Cowen
JUNE 4 – The American Baptist Women’s Ministries Annual Conference happening today at Parchment Valley
JUNE 5 – Junior 1 Camp beginning today at Camp Cowen
JUNE 6 – Greg Swisher, member of the WVBC Discipleship Commission
JUNE 7 – The ministry of Breckenridge Missionary Baptist Church; Corey Brooks, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh Association)
JUNE 8 – Phil Smith, International Ministries Global Servant to Brazil
JUNE 9 – Dilia Zelaya, International Ministries Global Servant to Honduras
JUNE 10 – The ministry of Zoar Missionary Baptist Church; Chris Venoy, pastor (Guyandotte Association)
JUNE 11 – The ministry of Enon Baptist Church; Larry McKim, pastor (Broad Run Association)
JUNE 12 – Junior High 1 Camp beginning today at Camp Cowen
JUNE 13 – The ministry of Big Union Baptist Church (Elk Valley Association)
JUNE 14 – Sarah McCurdy, International Ministries Global Servant to Mexico
JUNE 15 – Vital Pierre, International Ministries Global Servant to the Dominican Republic
JUNE 16 – The ministry of North Mill Creek Baptist Church; Rick Bergdoll, pastor (Eastern Association)
JUNE 17 – Vonnie Wykle, member of the WVBC Stewardship Commission
JUNE 18 – Jeff Dieselberg, International Ministries Global Servant to Thailand
JUNE 19 – Junior 2 Camp beginning today at Camp Cowen
JUNE 20 – Brothers’ Keeper happening this week at Parchment Valley
JUNE 21 – The ministry of Bethel Baptist Church; Ed Moats, pastor (Goshen Association)
JUNE 22 – The ministry of Deep Water Baptist Church; Thomas Skaggs, pastor (Fayette Association)
JUNE 23 – Joel Harpold, member of the WVBC Leadership Commission
JUNE 24 – Anita Gutierrez, International Ministries Global Servant to South Africa
JUNE 25 – The ministry of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church; John Ellison, pastor (Good Hope Association)
JUNE 26 – High School 1 Camp beginning today at Camp Cowen
JUNE 27 – Peter McCurdy, International Ministries Global Servant to Mexico
JUNE 28 – The ministry of Hebron Baptist Church (Fairmont Association)
JUNE 29 – Don Nestor, member of the WVBC Outreach Commission
JUNE 30 – The ministry of Yawkey Missionary Baptist Church; Toney Darrell Searls, pastor (Coal River Association)

July 2022

JULY 1 – The ministry of Riverside Baptist Church; Michael Hanna, pastor (Teays Valley Association)
JULY 2 – Ethan Starcher, member of the WVBC Outreach Commission
JULY 3 – Junior High 2 Camp beginning today at Camp Cowen
JULY 4 – The World Mission Conference beginning today at Green Lake, Wisconsin
JULY 5 – The ministry of Hepzibah Baptist Church; Alan Rosenberger, pastor (Union Association)
JULY 6 – The ministry of Nutter Fort First Baptist Church; Ronald Owens, interim pastor (Judson Association)
JULY 7 – Eric Kendall, president of the WV Baptist Education Society and member of the WVBC Leadership Commission
JULY 8 – Boaz Keibarak, International Ministries Global Servant to Kenya
JULY 9 – Ryan Baumgart, International Ministries Global Servant to Japan
JULY 10 – High School 2 Camp beginning today at Camp Cowen
JULY 11 – Madeline Flores-Lopez, International Ministries Global Servant to the Dominican Republic
JULY 12 – The ministry of Dallas Pike Baptist Church (Panhandle Association)
JULY 13 – The ministry of Pond Creek Baptist Church (Parkersburg Association)
JULY 14 – Yuree Lembke, International Ministries Global Servant to Thailand
JULY 15 – The ministry of Diamond Baptist Church; Keith George, pastor (Kanawha Valley Association)
JULY 16 – Catherine Longkumer, International Ministries Global Servant to South and East Asia
JULY 17 – The ministry of Turkey Creek Baptist Church; Glenn Hatfield, pastor (Rockcastle Association)
JULY 18 – Katrina Williams, International Ministries Global Servant to Thailand
JULY 19 – Patrick Vincent, member of the WVBC Discipleship Commission
JULY 20 – Tim Reese, International Ministries Global Servant to the Dominican Republic
JULY 21 – Gordon Hwang, International Ministries Global Servant to Japan
JULY 22 – Family Camp beginning today at Camp Cowen
JULY 23 – Marijane Kiley, chair of the WVBC Stewardship Commission
JULY 24 – The ministry of Matewan Missionary Baptist Church; Carl Butler, pastor (Logan-Mingo Association)
JULY 25 – The ministry of Ebenezer Baptist Church; James Asbury, pastor (Twelve Pole Association)
JULY 26 – Older Midler Camp beginning today at Camp Cowen
JULY 27 – The ministry of Burnsville First Baptist Church (Little Kanawha Association)
JULY 28 – The Rockcastle Association Annual Meeting at Saulsville Baptist Church
JULY 29 – Camp Global beginning today at Camp Cowen
JULY 30 – Rob Ely, director of Student Ministries, West Virginia Baptist Convention
JULY 31 – Amy Estelle Trout, International Ministries Global Servant to the Philippines

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

Upcoming Events

JUNE

June 3-5

Younger Midler Camp (Grades 2-4)

Camp Cowen

June 4

ABW Ministries Annual Conference

Parchment Valley Conference Center

June 5-11

Junior 1 Camp (Grades 5-6)

Camp Cowen

June 12-18

Junior High 1 Camp (Grades 7-9)

Camp Cowen

June 19-24

Brothers' Keeper

Parchment Valley Conference Center

June 19-25

Junior 2 Camp (Grades 5-6)

Camp Cowen

June 25

Pastors4Pastors/Ministers Wives

Fellowship—Summer Family Picnic

Parchment Valley Conference Center

June 26—July 2

High School 1 Camp (Grades 9-12)

Camp Cowen

JULY

July 3-9

Junior High 2 Camp (Grades 7-9)

Camp Cowen

July 4-9

World Mission Conference

Green Lake Conference Center, WI

July 9

Senior Day (High School Graduates)

Camp Cowen

July 10-16

High School 2 Camp (Grades 9-12)

Camp Cowen

July 15

Bobby Wood School of Christian

Studies Digital Learning Initiative:

Old Testament I (B-01)

Online

July 15

Bobby Wood School of Christian

Studies Digital Learning Initiative:

Baptist Polity (E-01)

Online

July 22-25

Family Camp (All Ages)

Camp Cowen

July 26-29

Older Midler Camp (Grades 3-5)

Camp Cowen

July 29-31

Camp Global (All Ages)

Camp Cowen

AUGUST

August 5-7

AB Men and Boys Camp (All Ages)

Camp Cowen

August 20

Pastors4Pastors Dinner Cruise

Marietta, OH

Newsletter Submissions

Send submissions for *The West Virginia Baptist* to: thewvbaptist@wvbc.org or mail submissions to the West Virginia Baptist Convention, Attention: Todd McClure, P.O. Box 1019, Parkersburg, West Virginia, 26102. If you are submitting text, send typed copy only. 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..

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Save the Date

157th
ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
WEST VIRGINIA BAPTIST CONVENTION

October 20-21, 2022
Summersville Baptist Church

Intentionally Engaging
Communities for Christ



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