

The West Virginia Baptist Newsletter

August—September 2022

Enduring Love: Crossing Borders, Changing Lives



Six new believers were baptized in Ain Zhalta, Lebanon.

Six New Believers Baptized in Lebanon

Enduring Love is a ministry that focuses on church planting and discipleship across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Launched in 2013 by Dan Chetti, an International Ministries global servant, the vision has always been to support nationals as they reach their own people.

In June, I (Todd McClure, Associate Director of Enduring Love) joined Dan on a two-week trip to visit some of our Enduring Love missionaries. In total, we support 29 missionaries across seven countries. Most of these missionaries are graduates of Arab Baptist Theological Seminary and are involved in church planting. On this particular trip, we visited Lebanon, Egypt and Sudan.

Our first stop was to the Shouf mountains of Lebanon, where A* and R* (names protected) have planted a church among a predominately Druze and Muslim community. An extremely hard area to reach, this couple has found great favor in the community by offering education, community programs, free produce and even job opportunities. On June 5th, we witnessed the baptism of six new believers (all from Druze or Muslim background). This brings their total number of baptisms to 55 over the past year.

Discipleship Among the Darfuri People

The entire nation of Sudan is less than 0.5% evangelical. The areas of Darfur (western Sudan) are an even lower percentage. The 2003 war in Darfur introduced more complications, as several hundred thousand Darfuris were killed and many fled as refugees. However, what many have found as they have sought refuge is the hope of the gospel.

After our quick stop in Lebanon, we traveled to Egypt, where Y* is ministering to a Darfuri refugee community located outside of Cairo. Dozens have come to Christ through this ministry and have started house churches all around the area. Through a grant, Enduring Love was able to start a discipleship school this year that is training these refugees in evangelism and discipleship. Whether they remain in Egypt or relocate elsewhere, they will be equipped with the tools to reach others for Jesus.

We also traveled to Sudan to meet with several more Darfuri believers who are being supported through a church planting initiative that is led by the Sudanese Baptists. Enduring Love supports this initiative, which trains prospective church planters for two years and sends them back into their community. Five Darfuri leaders are currently being trained through this program.

It was incredible to see first-hand how God is at work across the MENA region. There is a great spiritual awakening and people are coming to Christ at record numbers. I am grateful that God is allowing Enduring Love to be part of it!



Interviews were conducted with each of our Enduring Love missionaries and will soon be available at www.enduring-love.org.

I would love to share more with you about how God is at work throughout the MENA region. **If you are your church are interested, contact me at todd@wvbc.org.**

- Todd McClure, Minister of Missions and Finance

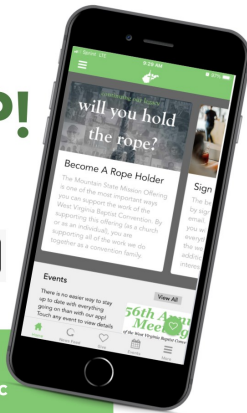
The West Virginia Baptist Convention is a family of churches committed to reaching all generations for Jesus Christ both here and abroad by equipping one another to be healthy, growing and unified in Christ and for Christ.

Doing Christ's Work Together

by Mike Sisson, Executive Minister

Download the WVBC APP!

Have the WV Baptist Newsletter delivered to your phone!



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

Vol. LXXXIX, Issue 05 August-September 2022

Table of Contents

Mike Sisson: Commentary	2
Brothers' Keeper 2022 Recap / BCM Advertisement	3
Saints Prison Ministry / World Mission Offering	4
AB Men Scholarship Golf Outing / Musician Summit Recap / Summer Family Picnic Recap	5
Camp Cowen Update / Fall Rally & Women's Camp Ads	6
Annual Meeting Information	7-9
Annual Meeting Registration Form	10
ABWM Annual Conference Recap / Spiritual Growth Retreat & Fall Golden'eers Ads	11
Area Minister News	12-13
Obituaries / Fall Children's Rally	14
Prayer Calendars	15
Coming Events	16

A Personal Invitation

It is with great joy and anticipation that I look forward to the 157th Annual Meeting of our West Virginia Baptist Convention family at Summersville Baptist Church in Summersville, WV, on October 20 & 21. One of the highlights every year is the gathering of our WV Baptist family. The Annual Meeting is a time to encourage one another and experience the rich fellowship and relationship building opportunities that have come to define us as WV Baptists! Therefore, I want to personally invite you to join us for this special occasion of celebration, worship, fellowship, learning and dreaming as together we anticipate all the wonderful things God has for us to accomplish for His Kingdom and His glory in 2023!

This year we continue our theme of "Intentionally Engaging Communities for Christ" by focusing on the key word **communities**. Community has been defined as a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common. Our local congregations are surrounded by a variety of communities in need of a relationship with Jesus Christ. When the teacher of the law asked Jesus the question, "who then is my neighbor?" Jesus responded with the parable of the Good Samaritan which could be interpreted simply as, "a neighbor is the person right in front of you." Our challenge as the WVBC family is to learn to see people who make up the various communities all around us through the eyes of Jesus Christ.

This year I look forward to being challenged and inspired by our guest speaker Dr. Michael Beck. Dr. Beck has focused his ministry on helping the local church develop the contextual art of looking, learning and listening to equip them to think differently about how to reach their mission field. This has allowed the church he currently pastors to be effective in reaching many people who may have otherwise gone unengaged with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

I hope to see you in October!

Blessings,
Mike

WVBC Announces a New Resource for Local Churches

The WVBC is in the process of creating an informational system to assist our churches in sharing with the wider WV Baptist family the ministry employment opportunities they may have within their church. Starting soon there will be a "Ministry Employment Opportunities" board located on the homepage of the wvbc.org website. Information regarding this service and the current openings in local churches will be included in our regular communications to our WVBC family.



DOING CHRIST'S WORK *together*

by Intentionally Engaging Communities for Christ

Brothers' Keeper 2022: Intentionally Engaging Communities for Christ



A team of youth providing hope to the homeowner by rebuilding his deck.

Brothers' Keeper (BK) 2022 celebrated another year of watching the Holy Spirit change lives throughout Jackson County. This missional work camp was comprised of 131 people from 18 churches representing eight different states. It was exciting to see how both our adults and young people came together to serve both the community and the Lord.

First-time crew chief leader, Roy August (who has an extensive background in construction), said, *"Thank you for allowing me to participate in BK. It is one of those lifetime experiences where you receive so much more than you give. Our team of young adults was excellent and the BK leadership team deserves so much credit as well!"*.

We appreciate Roy's involvement. And we also appreciate the involvement from all of the other volunteers.

In total, 30 homes were repaired, three community projects were completed and – most importantly – two of our youth gave their lives to Christ! We also had two more express a call to pastoral ministry.

But to understand the impact that these projects have on the homeowners, let me share a story with you. One of our teams had the objective of rebuilding a large deck that had become unusable. The lower portion of the house was also barely visible due to tall, overgrown weeds. Lastly, trash was piled up around the house. The disarray of the house had also led to neglect.

But after three days of working on the porch, the young man who lived in the house (only a senior in high school), came out and begin to clear away the weeds and the trash. Noticing a change in his demeanor, he was asked what had prompted him to come outside and to join the work. He responded, *"I had mostly given up on life. My dad is a drug addict and is now incarcerated, my brother recently died in an ATV accident, another family member was charged for murder and so now I live with my grandmother. I stopped going to church many years ago, but watching the way you worked encouraged me to get involved in church again!"*

That is why Brothers' Keeper exists. Our theme this year was "Intentionally Engaging Communities for Christ." The above story is just one example of how that was lived out.

Please consider bringing your youth next summer and joining us for Brothers' Keeper 2023.

Peace,

Frank Miller, Parchment Valley Director of Operations

*"...every year
over one
million young
people will
walk away
from the
Christian
faith."*

The Great Opportunity | February 2018

**This is why Baptist Campus Ministry holds to its mission:
changing lives that change the world.**

Help us reach the young adults in your church by
sending their contact info to kayla@wvbc.org.

BCM is active on nine campuses in West Virginia:

- Alderson Broaddus University
- Concord University
- Fairmont State University
- Glenville State College
- Marshall University
- Potomac State University
- University of Charleston
- West Virginia University
- WVU Institute of Technology



Serving God by Connecting With Prison Inmates Through Sports

Written by Brian Morrison,
WV Saints Prison Ministry

Founded in 1987, **Saints Prison Ministry** teams have visited over 400 prisons throughout the United States and Canada. After several years of serving on four-day mission trips to various parts of the country, earlier this year, a new West Virginia-based men's team was established. Numerous individuals from our WVBC family play on this team. We have spent several Saturdays throughout the spring and summer traveling into local men's prisons within a couple hours of Huntington/Charleston to share God's love. Statistics tell us that only 20% of men in prisons attend a church service, however, 80% of them will come to watch a ball game. Therefore, we use competitive softball as our way of connecting with them.

During our trips, and between our doubleheader games, one of our men shares his testimony, followed by another who delivers a Jesus-focused message. The other men on the team hand out copies of the Gospel of John, each with a card in it for the inmates to fill out and which are then returned to Saints players. These cards, which request information regarding each inmate's salvation, also oftentimes include prayer requests which we pray over after leaving the prison yard. Cards are then sent back to the Saints' home office where follow-up information, birthday cards and even pen pal letters are provided to each inmate who requests the same.

As of this writing, the WV Saints have traveled to three prisons so far this season, with five more on our schedule for August 6 and



The WV Saints pose for a picture prior to one of their trips.

27, and September 17. So far, we have witnessed 60 men indicate they made a first-time decision to accept Jesus as their Savior and 105 men rededicate their lives to Christ. Several more are not quite ready to accept Christ but have requested more information about Jesus.

We appreciate your prayers as we travel into the prisons to witness to inmates. Missionaries don't have to leave the country to spread the Good News. If you are interested in joining the Saints and this unique missionary opportunity, we would love to have you join us. I can be reached at (304) 541-6974.

International Ministries: God is Doing Something New

In early July, around two dozen individuals from our WVBC family traveled to Green Lake, WI, for the biannual **World Mission Conference**, hosted by International Ministries (IM). This year marks the 208th anniversary of IM, which has commissioned thousands of missionaries all around the globe during that span. Included in that total are 42 missionaries from our very own WVBC family.

At this year's conference, 41 missionaries were present, as well as numerous IM staff, IM global consultants and other partners from around the world. It was a great place to learn, network and celebrate together the many ways God is working through our denomination. The theme was, "God is Doing Something New." It was incredible seeing the creativity of God on full display as He is using ordinary men and women to accomplish great things for His kingdom.

If you are interested in getting a small sense of how God is at work, we encourage you to connect with one of our IM missionaries. Over the next several months, several of these missionaries will be traveling through our state to speak at churches, camps and our Annual Meeting. Keith and Deborah Myers, as well as Sarah McCloy, are also both based out of West Virginia, making them even more readily available. Connect with them and get ready to be amazed at what God is doing.

Another way to get involved is through supporting the **World Mission Offering**. Many churches choose to collect this offering in the early fall, with donations going entirely to support our global mission efforts.

To schedule a missionary or to request World Mission Offering resources, contact Todd McClure at todd@wvbc.org.



First Annual ABMen Scholarship Fundraising Golf Outing

Earlier this year, the American Baptist Men (ABMen) of West Virginia voted to establish a scholarship program to support and provide tuition/financial assistance to male high school graduates attending a WVBC church and looking to pursue higher-education through an in-state college or university. This program will be similar to the program offered through the American Baptist Women's Ministries of West Virginia.

In their first official fundraiser, the ABMen hosted their first annual **ABMen Scholarship Fundraising Golf Outing** on June 11th at the Nicholas Memorial Golf Course in Summersville. In total, seven four-person teams participated and had a great time on a beautiful day of fun and fellowship. Thanks to sponsors who provided breakfast and sponsored each of the nine holes on the golf course, the ABMen were able to raise close to \$2,000 to fund the program which will begin in the fall semester of 2023.

If you are interested in making additional contributions to this fund, you can send checks written to the West Virginia Baptist Convention, with "AB Men's Scholarship Fund" written in the memo, to: 1019 Juliana Street, Parkersburg, WV 26102.

We are excited to see how God uses this scholarship program to further the ABMen's mission of *"bringing men into a saving relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ."*



The first place team consisted of Dustin Osborne, Adam Fisher, Hank Davis and Sam Gasaway.

Musicians Summit

Written by Brian and Sara McClure, worship leaders,
Parkersburg First Baptist Church



Several dozen musicians gathered in worship around the campfire at Camp Cowen's first-ever Musicians Summit.

This past May, the gates of Camp Cowen opened for a new group of weekend campers who came to experience the first-ever **Musicians Summit**. Imagine a weekend dedicated to worship, worship prep, developing worship leaders and a time for these leaders to have the opportunity to rest in the presence of God. Imagine aspiring teenage worship leaders seated around the campfire with those who have served for more than forty years. Imagine a group of people not afraid to sing loud their praise and thanks to God. Friendships were established, the music was rich and God was enthroned by the praises of His people.

This year's Musicians Summit was the beginning of something new. A team from around the state has already started dreaming about what next year may hold. If you missed this year's camp, be watching for calendar updates later this year for our 2023 weekend camp that will surely prove to be the second of what will be a time of worship you will look forward to year after year.

For more information on Musicians Summit, please contact Jill Narraway at jill@wvbc.org or Koreen Villers at villers@wvbc.org.

Summer Family Picnic

Written by Anthony Pratt, president,
Pastors4Pastors



Several pastors and their families enjoy the second annual Summer Family Picnic at Parchment Valley Conference Center.

On the last Saturday of June, Pastor4Pastors and the Ministers' Wives' Fellowship hosted their annual **Summer Family Picnic** at Parchment Valley. There were over 50 in attendance and we enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of fellowship and worship. Jon and Koreen Villers led us in worship, Richard and Judy Sargent shared some tips for balancing ministry and family life, and we enjoyed a picnic together. There were also plenty of activities for the entire family, including swimming, waterslides and corn hole. Fellowship like this is extremely vital for pastors and their families so that they are not on the journey alone!

You are invited to join Pastors4Pastors for their pre-Convention event at this year's Annual Meeting. The event will take place on Thursday, October 20, in Summersville. Dr. Lee Spitzer will be joining us and leading us through his book; *Making Friends, Making Disciples: Growing Your Church Through Authentic Relationships*. The cost is \$25 and you can register on the Annual Meeting registration form.

To learn more about Pastors4Pastors, you can contact me at anthony_pratt@hotmail.com.

WV Baptist Camp at Cowen

“The Place Where People Meet Jesus”

When it comes to **Camp Cowen**, we often like to focus on numbers. While it is true that hundreds of decisions are made for Christ at camp every summer, we must not overlook the story that is behind each decision. Here is a story of a 13 year-old boy who attended Junior High 2 Camp. For privacy reasons, we have changed his name to Cory.

Coming to Camp Cowen wasn't high on Cory's priority list. A 13 year-old who lives with his grandmother, he really just wanted to spend time with his mom and dad. However, his grandmother insisted on him attending camp and that is where he ended up for the week. Cory knew about the good things the Lord had done for others around him, but, in his own words, he said he was ready to give up on God because God never answered his prayers.

That was Monday.

Cory struggled with patience. He wanted only the answers from God that he favored, and he wanted them answered on his time. What Cory didn't understand was what to do in the waiting. How should he respond when the answer to his prayer was later than he would prefer? Or what if God's answer was different than what he had asked?

For 13 years, God had waited on Cory to accept His offering of salvation, a free gift of eternal life and joy in the kingdom of God. Over the course of the week, God began to move in Cory's life. After a few short days, Cory began to realize there was beauty in the waiting. On Thursday, Cory made a decision to accept Jesus Christ into his heart and to live for Him!

What led Cory to this spot was the candid conversations with counselors. It was hearing the Word of God spoken and sung each evening. It was the power of the Holy Spirit moving in the midst of every camper, every staff and every counselor that week. It was each of these elements that God used to bring Cory into a relationship with Christ.

Cory's life is changed forever because of what happened at this summer at Camp Cowen. And added to Cory's story are several dozen more stories of youth whose lives have been transformed at camp this summer. That is why they say that Camp Cowen is a place “where people meet Jesus.”

From being ready to give up on God to being a child of the one true King in a span of six days is something maybe no one but God saw coming. What a blessing it is to know Christ and to make Him known among all people!



Students at Junior High 2 Camp are enjoying a time of worship.

YMPT 2022-2023

Community

Faith • Fellowship • Action

FALL RALLY September 9-10
Camp Cowen
6-12th grade

JUNIOR HIGH CONVENTION November 11-13
6-9th grade

SENIOR HIGH CONVENTION February 24-26
9-12th grade

SUMMER KICK OFF May 12-13
Camp Cowen
6-12th grade

share
your
story

women's camp 2022

sept. 30- oct. 2

at the WV Baptist Camp at Cowen

\$45 for the weekend

includes housing, meals & t-shirt

157TH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE WEST VIRGINIA BAPTIST CONVENTION



MIKE SISSON
Executive Minister



JONATHAN TURNER
Annual Sermon



MICHAEL BECK
Keynote Speaker

20-21

OCTOBER

Summersville Baptist Church

422 Main Street, Summersville, WV 26651

INTENTIONALLY ENGAGING COMMUNITIES FOR CHRIST

[The greatest commandment is:] "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

-Mark 12:30-31 (NIV)

Register online at wvbc.org

Host Association Welcome Letter

What is the second part of that wise saying: “If at first you don’t succeed ...?” No, it’s not: “Skydiving isn’t for you.” It is: “Try, try again.” It was actually a song that children would sing, “Tis a lesson you should heed, try, try again. If at first you don’t succeed try, try again.” And that is exactly what we are doing here at Summersville Baptist Church this October as we “try, try again” to host the Annual Meeting of the West Virginia Baptist Convention.

In 2020, our church had all of the committees and teams in place - excited about opening our doors and community to our WVBC family, but just like with everything else, COVID put the brakes on that. Here we are again with different committees, different teams, but the same excitement and invitation. We think this is going to be a great celebration of our mission as a Convention. It will be the perfect time to enjoy the beautiful fall foliage of central West Virginia. It will also be the perfect time to remember why we partner to do ministry together. We hope that you will make plans to join us that week ... and bring somebody with you!

**-Dana Gatewood, Senior Pastor
Summersville Baptist Church**

Annual Meeting Location

Summersville Baptist Church



Address:

422 Main Street
Summersville, WV 26651

Meet the Speakers

Michael Beck - Keynote Speaker

Michael is the Director of Re-Missioning for Fresh Expressions, Director of Fresh Expressions Florida, and the Director Fresh Expressions House of Studies at United Theological Seminary US. A fresh expression is, in its simplest form, a pattern for believers to share their faith in their everyday lives. Fresh expressions are about getting creative in your church’s reach. Michael and his wife Jill actively participate in thirteen Fresh Expressions that are a product of the local church where he is pastor. These take place in places such as dog parks, salons, running tracks, community centers, burrito joints, and tattoo parlors. Together, he and Jill have 8 children, 4 grandchildren and 2 pugs.

Jonathan Turner—Annual Sermon

Jonathan is a WV native who has been pastoring in Lewisburg at Shuck Memorial Baptist Church for the past twelve years. He is a graduate of Eastern University and Palmer Theological Seminary. He also serves as the chaplain of a local nursing home, Stonerise Lewisburg, which is a wonderful expansion of his ministry in the community. He is a certified mental health coach and helps lead a weekly recovery program at the church. He is passionate about knowing Christ and making Him known by being a bridge to our communities. Jonathan and his wife Nikalee love serving together and have three children, Paisley, Matherly and Elijah.

Worship Leader

Monty Foster

Monty has served various churches within the WVBC as pastor, youth pastor, children’s pastor and music pastor. He has led music for every part of the WVBC at one time or another since he was 17 years old. He currently serves as the pastor of the Barboursville Baptist Church.

Lodging Options

Quality Inn. (4.3 miles away) - 304-872-6500
903 N Industrial Dr., Summersville, WV

** A discount is available at this hotel by mentioning “WVBC Group Rate” when making the reservation.*

Econo Lodge (3.9 miles away) - 855-809-1495
1203 Broad St., Summersville, WV

La Quinta Inn (4.1 miles away) - 304-872-0555
106 Merchant Walk, Summersville, WV

Hampton Inn (4.2 miles away) - 304-872-7100
5400 W Webster Rd., Summersville, WV

Sleep Inn (4.2 miles away) - 304-872-4500
701 Professional Park Dr., Summersville, WV

Super 8 (4.2 miles away) - 304-209-6218
306 Merchant Walk, Summersville, WV

Annual Meeting Schedule

Thursday, October 20

9:30 AM—2:00 PM: Pre-Convention Activities

2:45 PM: Session 1

- Welcome from the Host Church
- Business Meeting 1
- Executive Minister Address

5:00 PM: Baptist Campus Ministry Banquet

6:30 PM: Session 2

- Ward Hibbs Award
- Annual Sermon
- Communion

8:30 PM: Alderson Broaddus Reception

BAPTIST CAMPUS MINISTRY

BCM Banquet (All are invited) - \$15

Time: Thursday, October 20 at 5:00 PM

Location: SBC Family Life Center (beside the church)

* All proceeds benefit the ministry of BCM

Alderson Broaddus University

Alderson Broaddus University Reception (All are invited)

Time: Thursday, October 20 at 8:30 PM

Location: Summersville Baptist Church Pavilion

* Campfire with s'mores and music led by Tony Nutter

** You are invited to bring camp chairs

Friday, October 21

8:00 AM: WV Baptist Education Society Breakfast

8:30 AM: Workshop Session 1

9:15 AM: Session 3

- Recognition of New and Retired Pastors
- Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies Graduation
- James Anderson, Sr. Bivocational Award
- Keynote Address

11:15 AM: Workshop Session 2

12:00 PM: Lunch Break

2:00 PM: Session 4

- Business Meeting 2
- Installation of Officers
- Keynote Address
- Commissioning

Pre-Convention Activities

Registration for Pre-Convention activities are done on the Annual Meeting Registration form even if you are not planning to attend any of the Annual Meeting sessions.

American Baptist Men of WV - \$25

Registration: 9:00 AM at Summersville Baptist Church

Event Location: Summit Bechtel Reserve (Tour)

* Shuttle is available for transportation

American Baptist Women's Ministries of WV - \$6

Registration: 9:00 AM at Summersville Baptist Church

Event Location: Summersville Baptist Church Sanctuary

Speaker: Sandra Lutz

Missions Speaker: Deborah Myers

Topic: Beautifully Blessed

* Nursery provided for preschool children

Pastors4Pastors - \$25

Registration: 9:00 AM at Summersville Baptist Church

Event Location: Summersville Presbyterian Church

Speaker: Dr. Lee Spitzer

Topic: Making Friends, Making Disciples, Growing Your Church Through Authentic Relationships

WV Baptist Education Society

WV Baptist Education Society Breakfast (Members Only)

Time: Friday, October 20 at 8:00 AM

Location: Shoney's in Summersville

Cost: FREE

Friday Lunch Options

Ministers' Wives' Fellowship - \$12

Location: Summersville Baptist Church Pavilion

Palmer Theological Seminary - \$12

Location: SBC Family Life Center (beside the church)

WV Baptist Historical Society - \$15

Location: Summersville Presbyterian Church

Speaker: Dr. Lee Spitzer

Topic: "Sympathy, Solidarity, and Silence: Three European Baptist Responses to the Holocaust"

* The Presbyterian church is located two blocks away

Annual Meeting Registration Form

This registration form can be used by delegates, visitors and exhibitors. Please use a separate form for each person. All mail-in registrations must be postmarked by October 10. Online registration will be open on wvbc.org until October 16.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Church: _____ Association: _____

REGISTRATION TYPE:

Delegate (\$20)

Non-Delegate (\$20)

Exhibitor (\$20)

NOTE: DELEGATES MUST HAVE THIS FORM SIGNED BY PASTOR OR CHURCH CLERK

Pastor or Clerk Signature: _____

PRE-CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Please mark any pre-conference activities you plan to attend.

American Baptist Men of WV (\$25)

American Baptist Women's Ministries of WV (\$6)

Pastors4Pastors (\$25)

MEAL OPTIONS

Please mark any meals for which you wish to purchase tickets.
They will be available for pickup at the registration table.

THURSDAY AT 5 PM:

Baptist Campus Ministry Banquet (\$15)

FRIDAY AT NOON:

Ministers' Wives' Fellowship (\$12)

Palmer Theological Seminary (\$12)

WV Baptist Historical Society (\$15)

CHILDCARE

Childcare is available during the following sessions. Please list the names and ages of children you will be dropping off.

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

Registration Fee Total: _____

“Along the Road” - American Baptist Women’s Ministries Annual Conference Recap

Written by Sandy Foster Currey, Conference Coordinator,
American Baptist Women’s Ministries of WV

On Saturday, June 4, 2022, a group of women (and a few men), took a journey “along the road” of the **American Baptist Women’s Ministries (ABWM) of West Virginia**. Their 88th Annual Conference, held at Parchment Valley, weaved through their past, present and future missions and ministries.

The day began by honoring the legacies of Peg Greenlee, Dorothy Santrock and Jane Mullen. Meeting for the first time in the Greenlee Activities Center provided a great opportunity to honor Peg and her husband Joe. Peg had been a long-time member of the ABWM of the Charleston Baptist Temple. Linda Snedegar had the privilege of honoring her best friend.

For many years, the group had met in the Santrock Educational Center but had never officially recognized the tremendous ABWM legacy of Dorothy Santrock. Rose Marie Durig, a long-time friend, shared her many memories of Dorothy.

A present-day ABWM legacy is that of Jane Mullen, who has served as Scholarship/Loan Coordinator for over 20 years! Jane’s years of service were recognized with a special ABWM gift.

During the course of the day, Brian and Sara McClure provided times of praise and worship. In addition, throughout the day the travelers had the opportunity to move about, stopping at various displays to learn about the ongoing work of the ABWM of WV.

Past International Ministries missionary Debbie Mulneix was recognized for her 20+ years of mission work throughout Asia;

present day missionary, Debbie Myers, shared of the work that she and her husband Keith are doing with women’s ministries in Mexico; and future missionary, Sarah McCloy, shared the exciting news of her endorsement to serve in Japan. Sarah also led the group in two Bible Study sessions.

The journey concluded with communion, served by past ABWM presidents and administered by mother and daughter ministers, Mary Beth and Sarah McCloy.

Just as the early disciples moved “along the road,” spreading the Good News, may the ABWM continue to do the same, just as they have done for the last 88 years.



During the conference, an update was given on their 2022 Special Project: Camp Cowen’s Adopt-a-Cabin program.

We are Family

2022 SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT

May the Lord make your love an increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.
- 1 Thessalonians 3:12

“UNGLUED” BIBLE SESSION
MEDITATION/PRAYER ROOM
SPEAKER AMY BUSH
CHRISTIAN COMEDIANS
PAINT AND PRAISE SESSION
W/ MONA GOODALL (\$10 DONATION)

SEPTEMBER 17-18, 2022
PARCHMENT VALLEY CONFERENCE CENTER
EARLY REGISTRATION: FRIDAY, 7:00-9:00 PM
REGISTRATION: SATURDAY, 8:30 AM

WEST VIRGINIA
AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



Fall Golden'eers Conference 2022

“A conference for adults 55 years of age and older.”

September 12 - 14, 2022
Parchment Valley Conference Center



Bible Study Leader: Jeff Losh

Join us for bible study, evening group activities, indoor and outdoor games, vespers, book store, puzzles, crafts and much more!

The conference will begin on Monday in the Santrock Building with registration and pizza at 12:00 noon and will end on Wednesday at 11:00 a.m.

Northwest Area News

by **Mark McCloy**, Northwest Area Minister

Hope Center Ministries

Written by **Brian McClure**
Director, Hope Center Ministries



A group from Hope Center Ministries at the downtown Parkersburg overlook, located at Fort Boreman.

Raise your hand if you know someone battling addiction to drugs or alcohol. Growing up, I don't recall ever being exposed to drugs. I had extended family who drank but never heard about drugs except through the DARE program in school. As a youth pastor, having kids with parents in active addiction, I quickly became judgmental toward the lifestyle after seeing the effects on family and community. I took a boy home one night to find his dad being cuffed, face down on the front lawn. I drove a pair of sisters home one evening to no electricity and no parent having been home in a few days. I had eleven siblings who shared one mom and five different dads. All the effects of drug abuse.

A few years later, I went on staff as a worship pastor at a church with a thriving recovery ministry called **Hope Center Ministries (HCM)**. I met men and women pushing through the guilt and shame of who they had been, now walking in a new life in Christ. I saw hope being restored, weekly salvations, families reunited. **HCM is a Christ-based drug and alcohol recovery and discipleship program. HCM exists to lead addicts and their families to become fully devoted followers of Christ.**

Originating in Waverly, TN, fifteen years ago, there are now 37 locations of Hope Center with one of the newest locations in Jackson County, WV. You've seen our guys welcoming at the Women's Conference, assisting with yard work at Parchment Valley, and soon making an appearance at Camp Global and attending AB Men and Boys Retreat at Cowen. Parkersburg First Baptist Church is our home church, but we have volunteers stretching from Parkersburg to Elizabeth Baptist to Gilboa Baptist in Spencer.

As one who has been part of the WVBC family, I am excited to have the privilege to serve as the director of Hope Center and to introduce the men in our program to our WVBC community. More importantly, I aim to be in a position of seeing lives being restored and men joining an even bigger family as we have seen 12 salvations in the last three months! God is up to big things and we covet your prayers. Introduce yourself when you see us around; give a word of encouragement; and if you know someone battling captivity to addiction, send them our way. We serve a God who came to set us free!

Southwest Area News

by **Evan Arkell**, Southwest Area Minister

Thank You Volunteers!

As I sit here and reflect on all of the exciting events that have happened over the summer, I am extremely blessed and grateful for all of the volunteers from around the state who have made Vacation Bible School's, camps, mission trips and many other things happen in the name of our Lord Jesus.

In June, the Twelve Pole Association held their annual camp at Parchment Valley. There were several pastors and other volunteers who helped make that a special week for their campers. The southwest region was also well represented at Brothers' Keeper, another Parchment Valley event, that focuses on mission work and home repair in the Jackson County area.

Camp Cowen requires a huge volume of volunteers to make each camp happen. From the southwest area, Monty Foster (*Barboursville Baptist Church*) was the director of the Junior High 1; Lee Boso (*New Baptist Church*), Jeff Biddle (*New Hope Community Church*) and Claire Cottrill (*LifeSpring Community Church*) were part of the director team of High School 1; Rob Ely (*New Baptist Church*) was the director of High School 2; Justin and Bethany Cox (*New Baptist Church*) were the directors of Family Camp; and Todd McClure (*Oakwood Baptist Church*) was the director of Camp Global. My apologies for those not mentioned!

We all cherish our vacation time from work, and it is a blessing that so many folks take a week of their hard-earned vacation time to be volunteer counselors at these camps. I was blessed to spend a week as a counselor at the High School 1 Camp at Cowen, and I am always in awe of the way God shows up before, during and following each camp! It is because so many folks give of their time and resources that each camper gets the opportunity to have a great time and to grow in their relationship with Jesus. Thank you volunteers for making all of these events possible. Without you, they would not exist!



High School 1 Camp volunteers (from left-to-right): **Becky Arkell**, **Claire Cottrill** and **Carmen Boso**.

Northeast Area News

by David Hulme, Northeast Area Minister

Vacation Bible School

Hats off to Vacation Bible School workers...the leaders, planners, refreshment servers, teachers, craft makers, herders and all those who make this annual event possible. All the praying, planning, recruiting (sometimes known as begging), building, setting up and a host of other things are all worth it when that child whispers in your ear on the last night of VBS that they want to invite Jesus into their heart.

Paul wrote to the Corinthians about becoming "all things to all people, that I might win some." I know Paul was probably not talking about VBS, but I think there is application here. After all, VBS is where adults become kids so kids can find Jesus. Why else would an adult dress up like a minion, for example?

A college professor of mine, when describing what it takes to work with children said, "You either have to lose your inhibitions or take to drinking." While certainly not promoting the partaking of intoxicating drinks, his point was that children's ministry is not for the uptight and faint at heart. To do ministry with children is a special gift where, on occasion, you are called to think and act (within bounds) like a child...that you might win some.

VBS has become so much more creative and interactive than when I was a kid back in the Dark Ages. At our VBS, we would march into the sanctuary in some grand processional, say the pledges to the flags and Bible, sing a couple of songs, recite a few Bible verses and then march off to our classes. I don't ever remember one of our pastors dressing up like a circus ringmaster and such.



VBS volunteers from (left to right) Victory Baptist Church (Broad Run) and Nutter Fort First Baptist Church (Judson).

Now, I'm not knocking the way it was done back then, because it worked in the 1960's and lots of kids found Jesus. However, with VBS today you can travel deep into the sea, fly into outer space, visit foreign lands or even rub elbows with superheroes and cartoon characters. We've allowed ourselves to be adventurers... that we might win some.

Maybe there is a lesson for the larger church family here. VBS has evolved and revolutionized its approach over the years to reach kids where they are...all without compromising the gospel. The results are amazing; which should cause us to ask if the rest of the church has kept up with this kind of creativity and innovation...that we might win some?

So, here's to every volunteer or pastor who donned a gorilla suit, got a pie in the face, went off the high dive at the VBS pool party or whatever else you did to win some. Well done good and faithful (and at times uninhibited) servant!

Southeast Area News

by Jim Anderson, Southeast Area Minister

Golf Scramble for Bolivia Missions

A full field of 10 teams gathered together on Saturday, June 18th, for the 16th Annual WV Baptist Churches Golf Scramble for Bolivia Missions at Greenbrier Hills Golf Course in Rainelle, WV.

Churches represented included Millbrook Baptist (Meadow Bridge), Page Baptist, Scott Street Baptist (Bluefield), Sewell Valley Baptist (Rainelle), Crab Orchard Baptist, Rainelle First Baptist, New Baptist (Huntington), Springdale First Baptist, Oakwood Baptist (Charleston) and Send the Light Fellowship (Frankford).



The first place team consisted of (from left-to-right): Glenn Anderson, Dexter Moore and Gary Moore.

The team from Scott Street Baptist/Send the Light Fellowship finished first, shooting a 58 in a tie breaker with the Greenbrier Hills Team A coming in second. Sewell Valley Baptist came in 3rd with a 59. Each of the top three teams received prizes from the House of Hope. My team (WVBC) finished last, shooting a 73!

It is with great praise to our Lord that \$4,040 was raised to support the House of Hope ministries in Bolivia, which includes Helen Baptist and Springdale First Baptist sponsoring holes. This was the most we have ever raised since the inception of the tournament. Thanks to all the above churches and golfers for their support!

Carmen Flores Choque, the director of the House of Hope in Bolivia, sends her thanks to all the above and for all of WVBC churches that support their mission efforts. In Bolivia currency, that \$4,040 is worth over \$28,000 and will be a special blessing during this COVID-19 challenging time. She also wishes to let everyone know that the entire House of Hope family is well and anxious for the time short-term mission teams can return.

Finally, a special thanks goes out to course manager, Terry McClung, and his staff. Without their hard work, this tournament would not have happened. **Plans are in place for June of 2023 for the 17th annual tournament to be held again at Greenbrier Hills.**

PHOEBE KAY BIBBEE, 63, of Ravenswood, died on June 10, 2022. She was a member of Hopewell Baptist Church.

DORRIS JANE WITTE GHERKE, 93, of Grantsville, died on June 15, 2022. She was a member of Boothsville Baptist Church, where she served as a Sunday School secretary, church clerk, past president of the church's American Baptist Women and a member of the choir.

DALTON ALEXANDER JOY, 16, of Elizabeth, died on June 1, 2022. He was active in the youth group at Elizabeth Baptist Church, where he served as a leader and a role model to other youth.

CHARLOTTE L. LUCAS, 87, of Glenville, died on May 31, 2022. She was a member of Sand Fork Baptist Church and was active in the Sunday School program.

RONALD D. MCCLOY, 78, of Elizabeth, died on May 30, 2022. He and his wife attended Newark Baptist Church and were members of South Parkersburg Baptist Church.

DESSIE ELLEN MCELWAIN MILES, 83, of Sutton, died on June 18, 2022. She was a member of Stump Chapel Church, where she served as the clerk, a member of the choir, the assistant Sunday School secretary, the treasurer, the head of the kitchen crew, and the secretary and treasurer to the women's circle.

ANNA B. MORROW, 99, of Fairmont, died on June 21, 2022. She was a member of Willow Tree Baptist Church, where she was active in the mission circle group. She was also active in the Christian Singles Ministry at Fairmont Baptist Temple.

JAMES A. "JIM" RADER, 66, of Elizabeth, died on May 4, 2022. He was a member of Elizabeth Baptist Church, where he served as the church clerk and was a member of the choir.

HELEN LOUISE SOMMERVILLE, 83, of Reedy, died on June 18, 2022. She was a member of Gilboa Baptist Church, where she was active in the church's American Baptist Women's group and also helped with Vacation Bible Schools and various other church outreaches.

Fall Children's Rally
For children currently in grades K-5, 6th grade is optional.
Saturday, November 5, 2022
At Parchment Valley in the Greenlee Activities Center

THE SWEET LIFE

PSALM 34:8

It's a **SWEET** idea to trust God!

Cost: \$13 (if postmarked by October 17)
\$25 (if postmarked after October 17)

*T-shirts are available for \$11 if pre-ordered

Download the registration form or register online at: wvbc.org

Leadership Updates

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

JONATHAN BUTCHER to Hamlin First Baptist Church (Guyandotte) as pastor 5/15/2022

CHARLES B. DRAKE to Fairview Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh) as pastor 4/10/2022

JEFF FETTY to Main Street Baptist Church (Teays Valley) as pastor 5/1/2022

DAN HARDESTY to Sabraton Hill Baptist Church (Goshen) as associate pastor 4/1/2022

BOB MYLOTT to New Hope Baptist Church (Elk Valley) as interim pastor 3/1/2022

STEVEN SHUMATE to Panther Missionary Baptist Church (Rockcastle) as pastor 2/1/2022

DAVID C. SMITH to Buckhannon First Baptist Church (Broad Run) as pastor 6/26/2022

Prayer Calendars

August 2022

AUGUST 1 – The ministry of Liberty Baptist Church; Adam Cheeseman, pastor (Broad Run Association)
AUGUST 2 – The ministry of Calvary Baptist Church; Greg Swisher, pastor (Fayette Association)
AUGUST 3 – The ministry of Goose Creek Baptist Church; Sandy Walker, pastor (Harrisville Association)
AUGUST 4 – Little Kanawha Association as they celebrate their annual meeting
AUGUST 5 – AB Men & Boys Camp beginning today at Camp Cowen
AUGUST 6 – Keith Myers, International Ministries Global Servant to Mexico
AUGUST 7 – The ministry of Chapel Baptist Church; Harold Francis, pastor (Little Kanawha Association)
AUGUST 8 – The ministry of Sabraton Hill Baptist Church; Stephen Dodrill, pastor (Goshen Association)
AUGUST 9 – Greenbrier-Raleigh and Harrisville Associations as they celebrate their annual meetings
AUGUST 10 – Anthony Pratt, president of the P4P: Ministers' Council and member of the WVBC Leadership Commission
AUGUST 11 – The ministry of Milton Baptist Church; Allen Stewart, pastor (Guyandotte Association)
AUGUST 12 – Phil Wayman, chair of the WVBC Outreach Commission
AUGUST 13 – The ministry of Faith Baptist Tabernacle; Timothy Skaggs, pastor (Elk Valley Association)
AUGUST 14 – The ministry of Scott Street Baptist Church; Garry Moore, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh Association)
AUGUST 15 – Greg Boso, member of the WVBC Discipleship Commission
AUGUST 16 – The ministry of Marshville Baptist Church; John Mark Camenga, pastor (Judson Association)
AUGUST 17 – The ministry of Hopewell Baptist Church; Michael Anderson, pastor (Hopewell Association)
AUGUST 18 – Broad Run and Teays Valley Associations as they celebrate their annual meetings
AUGUST 19 – Kathy Rice, International Ministries Global Servant to the Democratic Republic of the Congo
AUGUST 20 – The ministry of Boothsville Baptist Church; Orville Wright, pastor (Fairmont Association)
AUGUST 21 – Good Hope and Goshen Associations as they celebrate their annual meetings
AUGUST 22 – Scott Coats, International Ministries Global Servant to Myanmar and Thailand
AUGUST 23 – The ministry of Madison Baptist Church; Jim Butcher, pastor (Coal River Association)
AUGUST 24 – The ministry of Comunidad Nueva Esperanza (Good Hope Association)
AUGUST 25 – Carrie Gasaway, member of the WVBC Stewardship Commission
AUGUST 26 – The ministry of Little Capon Baptist Church; Paul "Tony" Baker, pastor (Eastern Association)
AUGUST 27 – Elk Valley Association as they celebrate their annual meeting
AUGUST 28 – Eastern and Judson Associations as they celebrate their annual meetings
AUGUST 29 – The ministry of Charleston First Baptist Church; Paul Dunn, pastor (Kanawha Valley Association)
AUGUST 30 – Jorge Damasceno, International Ministries Global Servant to the United Kingdom
AUGUST 31 – Walt White, International Ministries Global Consultant

September 2022

SEPTEMBER 1 – Rhonda Reed, International Ministries Global Servant to Bolivia
SEPTEMBER 2 – Sandy Foster Currey, chair of the WVBC Discipleship Commission
SEPTEMBER 3 – Stacy Reese, International Ministries Global Servant to the Dominican Republic
SEPTEMBER 4 – The ministry of Summit Park Baptist Church; Richard Owens, pastor (Union Association)
SEPTEMBER 5 – The ministry of Old Pleasant Baptist Church; Scott Riffle, pastor (Twelve Pole Association)
SEPTEMBER 6 – Jeff Davenport, member of the WVBC Outreach Commission
SEPTEMBER 7 – The ministry of Man First Baptist Church; Perry Brown, pastor (Logan-Mingo Association)
SEPTEMBER 8 – Todd McClure, Minister of Missions and Finance, West Virginia Baptist Convention
SEPTEMBER 9 – Mark McCloy, Northwest Area Minister and Director of the School of Christian Studies, West Virginia Baptist Convention
SEPTEMBER 10 – The Fall Youth Rally happening today at Camp Cowen
SEPTEMBER 11 – Fairmont Association as they celebrate their annual meeting
SEPTEMBER 12 – The Fall Golden'eers Retreat beginning today at Parchment Valley
SEPTEMBER 13 – Greg O'Neal, WVBC trustee and member of the WVBC Stewardship Commission
SEPTEMBER 14 – Fayette Association as they celebrate their annual meeting
SEPTEMBER 15 – Moise Joseph, International Ministries Global Servant to Mexico
SEPTEMBER 16 – Kanawha Valley Association as they celebrate their annual meeting
SEPTEMBER 17 – Twelve Pole Association as they celebrate their annual meeting
SEPTEMBER 18 – Panhandle and Union Associations as they celebrate their annual meetings
SEPTEMBER 19 – The ministry of Pine Grove First Baptist Church; Jerry Kuhens, pastor (Panhandle Association)
SEPTEMBER 20 – Parkersburg Association as they celebrate their annual meeting
SEPTEMBER 21 – Hopewell Association as they celebrate their annual meeting
SEPTEMBER 22 – The ministry of Sam's Creek First Baptist Church; Shawn Brannon and Carl Radcliff, co-pastors (Parkersburg Association)
SEPTEMBER 23 – The Baptist Campus Ministry Fall Retreat beginning today at Camp Cowen
SEPTEMBER 24 – Coal River Association as they celebrate their annual meeting
SEPTEMBER 25 – Dwight Bolick, International Ministries Global Servant to Chile
SEPTEMBER 26 – Darrell Mayfield, chair of the WVBC Leadership Commission
SEPTEMBER 27 – The ministry of Cyclone Baptist Church; Stephen Walls, pastor (Rockcastle Association)
SEPTEMBER 28 – Mylinda Baits, International Ministries Global Consultant
SEPTEMBER 29 – The ministry of Mount Vernon Baptist Church; Ron McClung, pastor (Teays Valley Association)
SEPTEMBER 30 – Women's Camp beginning today at Camp

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

Upcoming Events

AUGUST

- August 4**
Little Kanawha Association Meeting
Enon Baptist Church
- August 5-7**
AB Men and Boys Camp (All Ages)
Camp Cowen
- August 9**
Greenbrier-Raleigh Association Meeting
Shuck Memorial Baptist Church
- August 9**
Harrisville Association Meeting
Goose Creek Baptist Church
- August 18**
Broad Run Association Meeting
Weston First Baptist Church
- August 18**
Teays Valley Association Meeting
Bethel Baptist Church
- August 20**
Pastors4Pastors Dinner Cruise
Marietta, OH
- August 21**
Good Hope Association Meeting
Gilboa Baptist Church
- August 27**
Elk Valley Association Meeting
Birch River Baptist Church
- August 28**
Eastern Association Meeting
Little Capon Baptist Church
- August 28**
Judson Association Meeting
Shinnston First Baptist Church

SEPTEMBER

- September 9-10**
Youth Fall Rally
Camp Cowen
- September 11**
Fairmont Association Meeting
Bethesda Baptist Church
- September 12-14**
Golden'eers Fall Retreat
Parchment Valley Conference Center
- September 14**
Fayette Association Meeting
Gentry Baptist Church
- September 15**
Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies Digital Learning Initiative: Old Testament 2 (B-02)
Online

- September 15**
Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies Digital Learning Initiative: Making Peace (Mod-04)
Online
- September 16**
Kanawha Valley Association Meeting
Judson Baptist Church
- September 17**
Twelve Pole Association Meeting
Macedonia Baptist Church
- September 17-18**
AB Women's Ministries Spiritual Growth Retreat
Parchment Valley Conference Center
- September 18**
Panhandle Association Meeting
Weirton Heights Memorial Baptist Church
- September 18**
Union Association Meeting
Mount Carmel Baptist Church
- September 20**
Parkersburg Association Meeting
Emmanuel Baptist Church
- September 21**
Hopewell Association Meeting
Millbrook Baptist Church
- September 23-25**
Baptist Campus Ministry Fall Retreat
Camp Cowen
- September 24**
Coal River Association Meeting
TBD
- September 30—October 2**
Women's Camp
Camp Cowen

OCTOBER

- October 7**
WVBC Executive Committee
Parchment Valley Conference Center
- October 8**
WVBC Executive Board
Parchment Valley Conference Center
- October 20-21**
WVBC Annual Meeting
Summersville Baptist Church

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..

PO Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102;
304-422-6449, US Postage Paid at
Parkersburg, West Virginia

Executive Minister: Dr. Michael Sisson
Editor/Layout: Mr. Todd McClure
Assistant Editor: Mrs. Ginny Prunty

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

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permitting No. 36
Parkersburg, WV