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Joining Hands with Hope

by Greg Creasy

RYAZAN - Joining hands in ministry has always been a positive experience for me. There is so much more we can do together! That truth is becoming a reality through the Russia Mission Partnership, a partnership between the West Virginia Baptist Convention, International Ministries and Russia Missions. Recently, Rev. Greg Creasy, pastor of Pea Ridge Baptist Church (Guyandotte) and chair of the Russia Mission Partnership Committee and Dr. Phil Smith, pastor of Summersville Baptist Church (Hopewell) traveled to Ryazan, Russia and the surrounding area to see the impact that has come as a result of joining hands with our Russian brothers and sisters. "I am overwhelmed to see all that God is doing in the Ryazan region," stated Creasy. "God is at work in mighty ways!"

One of the projects we have been involved in is the purchase of a building, which is the home of New Horizon. Through the collective efforts of the West Virginia Baptist Convention, International Ministries and Baptist World Aid, a building was purchased in the fall of 2003 and is now the permanent home for New Horizon. "The building has given New Horizon a solid foundation from which to work," commented Creasy. "There is a sense of purpose and responsibility to minister in the name of Christ in the areas right around the building." Located in a main section of Ryazan, the building is surrounded by apartment buildings housing approximately 200,000 people. Before occupying the building, there was no Protestant church in this area. Now, Hope Church of Ryazan is meeting in

the building and New Horizon has already begun two new groups that are the beginnings of new church plants. One church planter is Sasha Kazak. He came to Ryazan just one year ago and has been active in starting two groups in Ryazan. He has a heart for evangelism and reaching people with the message of hope found in Jesus Christ. He has many good strategies for church planting, but his main goal now is to continue developing trust among the people surrounding the building.

Another ministry supported through the partnership is the orphanage at Sapajok. This ministry of support and encouragement is funded by the Summersville Baptist Church. "We love these children and want to show them the love of Jesus Christ," stated Smith. "We are humbled to be involved in such a hands-on ministry as this." This was



Left to right: Greg Creasy, Sasha Kazak and Phil Smith

Smith's second trip to the orphanage and he was no stranger to the children. They greeted him with smiles and hugs. Daniel Slobedenko, director of New Horizon, has been working with the children at the orphanage on a weekly basis. They

are receiving much needed support in the way of food, clothing and supplies, but more than that, they are experiencing the love of Jesus first hand!

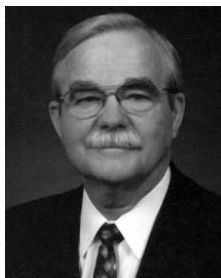
Both Creasy and Smith spent time touring the region of Ryazan, visiting projects in Shatsk, Uholovo, Sapajok and Ryazan, offering encouragement and support to missionaries and pastors along the way. They also participated in the annual board meeting of New Horizon.

Reach out your hand and join hands with our brothers and sisters in Russia as we offer hope to the dying world!

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

COMMENTARY

My Father's Business



Dr. James E. Lutz

“Did you not know that I must be about my Father’s business?” These are Jesus’ words spoken to His parents after three days of searching (Luke 2:49). What was His father’s business? Jesus came to be the Messiah - that was His mission. He never lost sight of it, never wavered, never detoured and could not be distracted from it. Time and time again the religious leaders attempted to distract Him by confronting Him with other issues. But, He would not be deterred. The cross

was ever before Him as He relentlessly marched toward Jerusalem.

While Jesus focused on His mission, He did so with an eye toward His vision of the Kingdom of God. Remember His words so often repeated in the Gospels, “The kingdom of God is like...” “The kingdom of heaven is like...” He knew that beyond the cross was the fullness of the kingdom, our salvation, our eternity, our hope - and He never lost sight of it. Jesus knew the end of the story.

Just as Jesus Christ focused on His mission with an eye toward the vision, so must we as the West Virginia Baptist Convention. We exist for the local church. We are here to resource and strengthen West Virginia Baptist Convention churches for ministry and mission. To fulfill our mission, it is our assignment to help the church be equipped to do what God has called it to do - to live out the character of Christ in our personal and corporate lives and to tell forth the good news of Jesus Christ everywhere we go. Further, it is our responsibility to assist the church in moving beyond itself in ministry to the community and world for Christ.

“...With an eye toward the vision.” What vision? Zechariah 8:20-23 says, This is what the Lord almighty says: “Many peoples and the inhabitants of many cities will yet come and the inhabitants of one city will go to another and say, ‘Let us go at once to entreat the Lord and seek the Lord Almighty. I myself am going.’ And many peoples and powerful nations will come to Jerusalem to seek the Lord and to entreat Him.”

This is what the Lord Almighty says: “In those days ten men from all languages and nations will take firm hold of one Jew by the edge of his robe and say, ‘Let us go with you, because we have heard that God is with you.’”

Could it possibly come to the time when people from one city would go to another and say, “Come, let us seek the Lord?” Can you see churches in Charleston going to the churches in Parkersburg, the believers in Beckley going to the believers in Bridgeport, even believers in West Virginia extending the invitation to believers in the Middle East? Can you imagine a time when West Virginia Baptist Convention churches were so manifesting the glory of God that a stranger would take your hand or grab the coattails of a believer and say, “Let us go with you because we believe God is with you.” I can! I dream this dream, see this vision for West Virginia Baptist Convention churches. I believe Zechariah’s message strongly applies to us today. This, I believe is our Father’s business.

Dr. James E. Lutz
Interim Executive Minister

Search Committee Announces Job Opening

PARCHMENT VALLEY - The Search Committee for Executive Minister of the West Virginia Baptist Convention has announced that it is accepting applications and/or nominations for the position of Executive Minister for the West Virginia Baptist Convention.

Applicants should send their resumes and/or American Baptist Personnel Services (ABPS) profiles to:

Pat Solomon, West Virginia Baptist Convention President
R.R. 3 Box 272-A6
Philippi, West Virginia 26416

Nominations should include contact information and be sent to:

Lois Merritt, West Virginia Baptist Convention Secretary
850 Hibner Avenue
Huntington, West Virginia 25705

The deadline for receiving applications is: June 11, 2004!

A complete job description and qualifications are available upon request.

It is asked that the churches in the West Virginia Baptist Convention pray daily for the Search Committee as they seek God’s guidance in this process.

Fix Your
Eyes on Jesus

Reaching Up
Reaching Out

Mountain State

Mission Offering

West Virginia Baptists
Worshiping
IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH John 4:24

100% of this offering supports the ministry of the West Virginia Baptist Convention.

Our mission is to **empower** local churches to be Christ honoring communities of faith and to help them fulfill their mission by **enabling** them to do together what they cannot do alone.

2004
State
Goal:
\$50,000



It is Harvest Time...



Why talk about harvest time when we are just entering into the spring and summer seasons? This harvest is a special harvest; a spiritual harvest. Following Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman, the disciples returned from town to acquire food. They pressed Jesus to eat, but were puzzled at His reply; "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work. Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest?' Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored and you have entered into their labors." John 4:34-38 (NKJV)

The disciples missed the understanding, the opportunity and the urgency of harvest time. They were more concerned that someone else had given Jesus provision and that the someone could have been a sinful woman.



The harvest is here, now! In West Virginia, the population is 1,800,000. If the same statistic is true as in other states, sixty percent of the population is unchurched. This translates to a harvest field of 1,080,000 people!

One of the better ways to reach new believers is through new church planting. The Outreach Commission's future story includes recruiting twelve Harvesting Church Partners who will birth a new church. Our dream is to commission twelve Harvesting Partner Churches at the West Virginia Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in Vienna this October. Would your church prayerfully consider becoming a Harvesting Church Partner? At this moment in time we have five Harvesting Church Partners and desire to add seven more. Take a good look at the fields, it is already harvest time! For more information, contact Jack Eades at 304.872.1204 or eades@wvbc.org.

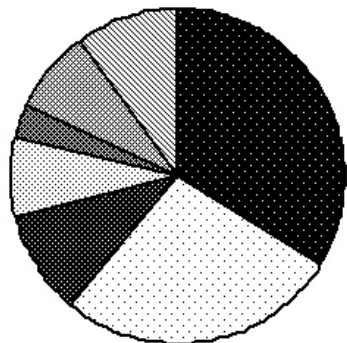


One Great of hour Sharing.

What You Gave in 2003

Undesignated - \$2,048,533
 Other designations - \$210,026
 Total - \$2,258,559

"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" John 6:9



How it was Used

- 34% - Emergency Relief
- 27% - Economic Development
- 10% - Administration & Promotion
- 10% - Refugee Assistance
- 8% - Education
- 8% - Health & Medical
- 3% - Agriculture

2004 STATE GOAL
\$200,000

IT'S REMARKABLE WHAT YOUR GIFT WILL DO.

AB Men Disaster Relief Supplies Needed



The American Baptist Men of West Virginia continue to be involved in flood and other disaster relief efforts as needed. Past efforts have exhausted the cleaning supplies.

Donations of mops, brooms, bleach, water, buckets and other items are always appreciated during times of flood and clean up.

Churches or individuals that would like to make donations of these items should contact Fred Duffield, coordinator for Disaster Relief at: 304.776.3206 or e-mail fedover66@aol.com. More information is available at: www.wvbc.org - related organizations - West Virginia Baptist Men.

The Commission on Christian Stewardship of the West Virginia Baptist Convention has suggested that churches have a special event to collect relief items or make this a Vacation Bible School project.

SPRING GOLDEN'EERS CONFERENCE

for adults over 55
MAY 17-19, 2004
 West Virginia Baptist Conference Center

Theme: *What is a Disciple?*

Monday Night:
 Concert by the "B-TIES"

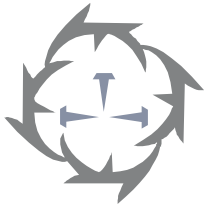
Tuesday Dinner:
 "Hat Parade"
 Wear your favorite hat!

Tuesday Night:
 Annual Talent Show

Activities include: Bible studies, crafts, games, worship, singing and fellowship.

Bible Study Leader:
Max Hill
Vesper Speaker:
Pat Hess
Song Leader:
David Hulme

For registration and housing information, contact Barbara at 800.879.9822 or blayton@wvbc.org.



THE REAL PASSION OF CHRIST

The Mel Gibson production “The Passion of Christ” has created a lot of controversy, interest and for his company, a lot of money. Whether the controversy was generated to stimulate interest or not is up for debate. What is not debatable is that the film made millions of dollars as multitudes witnessed the portrayal of the last week of Jesus’ life.

As I have read the reviews and listened to the discussions about the film, it is clear that the film is a powerful and graphic depiction of the story of Jesus as shared in the Gospels.

I have often wondered why the last week of Jesus’ life was referred to as “The Passion.” As I study the life of Jesus, I find that His passion was to:

Thinking Missions

- Seek and save the lost
- Share the Good News of the kingdom of God with all who would hear
- Minister to the whole person and recognize their value
- Make disciples.

For me, this is the real passion of Christ. It was motivated by His great love for each of us. He did His ministry in obedience to the will of God regardless of the price He had to pay.

I believe the passion of Jesus should also be our passion - the passion of His church.

His passion led Him to the cross - ours should lead us into the world.

John Simmons
Minister of Mission Support

The Practical Place - A Mission Link Is A...

A *MISSION LINK* is a man or woman, who as a member of the West Virginia Baptist Convention, has committed to being a “link” between the congregation, the West Virginia Baptist Convention and American Baptist Churches USA, in sharing about the mission and ministry that is being done in Christ’s name at home and around the world. The *MISSION LINK* serves as spokesperson, informer and encourager for the church and the pastor.

A *MISSION LINK* should also be a MODEL. *MISSION LINKS* model an understanding that mission is who we are, as well we as something we do. A *MISSION LINK* should:

- Know the basic history of American Baptist mission.
- Know the history of West Virginia Baptist mission and share that mission is what unites West Virginia Baptists.
- Understand American Baptist Mission and West Virginia Baptist Convention Mission Support. The West Virginia Baptist Convention Mission Support office is always ready to answer questions and give complete explanations of both American Baptist Churches Mission and West Virginia Baptist Convention



Mission. Contact the Mission Support office in Parkersburg (800.879.9822) for information and materials.

- Know American Baptist and West Virginia Baptist terminology. Do you know what the following acronyms stand for: BIM, BCM, BNM, RMMO, OGHS, WMO, AFC, MSMO, YLC, SCS, ECT? The answers can be found by con-

tacting the Mission Support office!

- Offer the lay perspective about mission giving. Help the pastor to be sensitive to the atmosphere and attitudes of your congregation while serving to help challenge the congregation to be “mission-minded.”

MISSION LINKS help bring Acts 1:8 and Acts 2:42-47 to life!

Our goal is to have a *MISSION LINK* in EVERY church. For more information, please contact Lisa Simmons, Associate in Mission Support, at lsimmons@wvbc.org or call 1.866.309.2448.

JUNIOR HIGH CONVENTION 2004

BECKLEY - Jr. High Convention 2004 was a moving experience as well as a great opportunity for spiritual growth and good clean fun. Nearly everyone involved laughed together and cried together. Although we experienced a few difficulties due to our speaker's, Bruce Ashford, flight being delayed, we just re-arranged the schedule and everything worked out fine. Bruce delivered the message in a straightforward manner that was well-received by the junior high students. While he was speaking, the sanctuary was completely silent. Bruce has just the right mix of humor and cold hard truth in his sermons that junior and senior high students like to hear. The band, *Spikefoot Tragedy* was incredi-



ble as well. The lead singer, Abbey, has an amazing and distinguished voice that was perfect for leading praise and worship. The band performed some of their original songs on Saturday evening. Also on Saturday evening, was a "No Talent Show." Many students participated and, in turn, got everyone involved and provided a great time for all. Youth leaders present told of three first time decisions and numerous rededications. After the last speaking session, the altar was opened to anyone who wanted to come and pray. It was really awesome to see students bow down at the feet of Jesus and give their worries and struggles to Him. God was there.

**Christian Community Credit Union
Offers \$30,000 in Scholarships**

Christian Community Credit Union's Focused on the Future Scholarship Program is giving \$30,000 in scholarships for the 2004 academic year. The Scholarships range from \$500 to \$2,000 and are open to members of Christian Community Credit Union. Students must be enrolled in 12 units or more for undergraduate students; eight units or more for graduate and post-graduate students at an accredited college, university or seminary. Scholarship applications are due on June 15, 2004 and will be awarded in July.



CAMP COWEN

DATES for 2004

**Older
Middler**
June 9-12
Grades 3-4
Jana Raines

Jr. High II
June 27-
July 3
Grades 7-9
J.D. Reed

Junior I
August 1-7
Grades 5-6
Debbie
Shadowen

**ABMen's
Camp**
August
13-15
Tom Holstein

Family Camp
July 18-24
Tonabell
Turner &
Debbie
Hladik

Mid-High
June 20-26
Grades 9-11
Willie Wilson

Senior High
July 4-10
Grades 10-12
Rob Ely &
Tim Gray

Junior II
August 7-13
Grades 5-6
Judi Funk &
Susan
Armstrong

**Ministers'
Camp**
August
16-18
Ministers
Council

Jr. High I
June 13-19
Grades 7-9
Monty Foster

**Younger
Middler**
July 30-
August 1
Grades 2-4
Nancy
Brannon

*Are you
ready for
Camp
Cowen
2004?*

If you have any questions or would like a registration form, please call Barbie at 800.879.9822 or e-mail blayton@wvbc.org.

Olivia Hill Selected for International Ministries Xtreme Team

HUNTINGTON - Marshall University student, Olivia Hill, has been selected by International Ministries, ABC-USA to be a part of the 2004 Xtreme Team that will spend six weeks doing mission work in Bulgaria. The Xtreme Team takes college students each year on an Xtreme mission. Hill is one of a select group that will Xperience what God is doing in Bulgaria.

Hill is an active member of the Clarksburg Baptist Church (Union) and Baptist Campus Ministries. Hill was instrumental in creating the "I Teams" at Marshall. "Impact Teams" are small groups that stress spiritual accountability in addition to the regular Baptist Campus Ministry worship services. This ministry is making a visible difference in the lives of the students. She is a lead singer and travels with the Marshall Baptist Campus Ministry praise band.

Hill also serves on the program and WorshipFest committees for the West Virginia Baptist Convention.

"It is both comforting and exciting to know that God has a plan for our lives," she says. "On most days our mission field is the office, the classroom and other places in our community, but sometimes God calls us to step out in faith and GO into a mission field that is unfamiliar and often uncomfortable."

Financial support for Hill's participation in the Xtreme Team may be sent to the Clarksburg Baptist Church, P.O. Box 327, Clarksburg, WV 26301. You may follow her adventures step-by-step beginning June 29 at: www.xtremeteamonline.org.

Hill will also be participating, along with the rest of the team, in the annual World Mission Conference at Green Lake, Wisconsin from July 31 - August 5, 2004.

A-B College Students Participate in Two Spring Break Mission Projects

PHILIPPI - Eighteen Alderson-Broaddus College students spent their spring break learning to serve others through two mission projects.



Nicaragua Mission Team

On Saturday, March 6, a team of students - Karen Samrany, Rebecca Ganzow, Erin Anderson, Malorie Hawkins, Adam Acord, Jill Carr and Travis Calder - and two faculty/staff advisors - Dr. Danny Franke, associate professor of religion and philosophy; and Joe McClain, resident director/leadership coordinator at A-B - departed for Las Lajas, Nicaragua. The community of Las Lajas is located in Boaco, in the northern region of Nicaragua. Although very close to the towns of San Lorenzo, Tecolostote and the Boaco junction, the community of Las Lajas can only be reached on foot or by horse. Once the mission team arrived in Las Lajas, they were heavily involved in a community water project that involved digging lines for pipes, clearing areas for tubes and making a water holding tank out of cement and bricks. They also led a vacation bible school for the Las Lajas children and participated in worship services. The team returned to the United States on Sunday, March 14.

"This was an exciting experience for the students as well as myself," said Dr. Franke. "Immersion into another culture is so different from our own and in such a secluded rural village, creates unique opportunities for spiritual introspection and growth. At the same time it should serve to broaden one's view of the Church as the Body of Christ, beyond that which we are used to and give us a fresh vision for ecumenical opportunities in the future."

The other mission team departed on Sunday, March 7 for a week of urban ministry. Students - Amie Tennant, Jacob Bowling, Amie Corkrean, Chasity Boatright, Lea Anne Johnson,

Bo Weddle, Ryan Reed, Irene Mace, Amanda Edwards, Faye Lucus, and Danielle Harpold - and faculty/staff advisors - Dr. Jim Stinespring, chaplain/assistant professor of religion and philosophy; and Josette Prinkey; graduate assistant/resident director - worked with Urban Promise Ministries, Camden, New Jersey. They helped children in Urban Promise's After School Program, giving homework assistance, encouraging spiritual development, and leading arts and crafts, recreation and special events. They also assisted in light building renovations, maintenance and landscaping as well as neighborhood cleanup. The team returned to campus on Friday, March 12.

"By participating in this cross-cultural setting, our students learned to appreciate other people whose lives may be largely different from their own and yet at the same time much like their own," said Dr. Stinespring. "As they committed their spring break to this ministry, they also learned the rewards of dedication to serving others."

Students raised funds for both mission trips by selling concessions at West Virginia University football games, selling candles, and holding a yard sale.

Sponsors for both trips include the Student Government Association (SGA) of Alderson-Broaddus College, the Morrison Mission Fund, Students Learning in Community Education (S.L.I.C.E.) of Alderson-Broaddus College, the A-B Chaplain's Department, Shuck Memorial Baptist Church, Trinity United Methodist Church, Fayetteville Baptist Church and Mentor Baptist Church. Many individual gifts were also made by faculty, staff, alumni, friends of A-B and the participating students themselves.



New Jersey Mission Team

My Day with a Missionary

In January, I had an opportunity to travel to Bolivia and spend nine days with Mario Morales, one of our American Baptist missionaries from International Ministries. Following are some of my experiences and thoughts after the first day.

My first day here, where to begin? My flight was long and difficult. The airplane was nice enough, but I hardly slept at all. Mario was able to sleep during much of it, but I felt just like a sardine. Upon boarding, jazzy Bolivian music was playing, which was very different from the other flights I had been on. I could tell almost immediately that I was entering a different culture. Families with children were allowed to board first, which I thought was very nice. Across the aisle from me, was a cute little boy and seeing him and his mother's struggles with him reminded me of my own kids.

The airport in Cochabamba, Bolivia is brand new, built in 2000 with the help of the Japanese. Everything is shiny and bright and all the signs were in English and Spanish. Our flight arrived at 5:30 a.m. and we went through immigration with no snags, received our visas, and customs was virtually non-existent. They just waived us through. Some very subservient porters were more than ready to assist us with our bags, which they loaded and carted over to the cafe for us, where we had some breakfast. The coffee was great and the view from the airport is awesome – sort of exotic. Palm trees and tropical vegetation were tastefully planted and the mist-covered mountains surrounded us on every side. It was beautiful.

At 8 a.m., several folks showed up to meet us: a Canadian Baptist missionary, the newly retired head of the seminary and some friends from the Bolivian Baptist Union. They were very nice. Within moments, they had grabbed our luggage, loaded it in the vehicle and whisked us off.

Later in the day, we drove around the city, went up to an enormous statue of Jesus overlooking the city, and ate at a

nice outdoor cafe for lunch. This is a place of contrasts. The needy are everywhere, but not just sitting around. I saw many people working hard to help themselves. Some were gathering what I would call weeds to eat from out of the median. Every few moments, someone would stop at the cafe and try to sell us some trinket or offer to shine our shoes or just do anything to earn some money. One child asked for the food that was left on our plates. It was heartbreaking and not having exchanged any currency yet, I didn't even have one boliviano to give him. Mario got some change out of his car for the boy.

Cochabamba has an altitude of about 8,500 feet. Mario said I adjusted better than most to the altitude, but I could still feel the affects of it. That combined with the relative lack of sleep had my body feeling kind of weird.

The rest of the day included a visit to the seminar where Mario teaches, a late supper with the Canadians and a meeting with church leaders to finalize the plans for the Pastors Clinic (an annual gathering of Bolivian pastors). We made plans for the next day, when we would be off to the Chapare region, which is in the lowlands jungle on the road to Santa Cruz. It is about 150 km away.

What an experience. The coming days would include teaching and sharing at the Pastors Clinic, meeting with pastors and leaders to discuss needs and visiting churches and mission sites from the jungle to the altiplano (high plain) to the mountains. I would grow in my faith and in my appreciation for our missionaries and the work that they do. Pray for Mario, his family and for all of our missionaries. Pray for Bolivia – for a beautiful country with friendly people, but with much poverty. Pray for a people who live in the shadow of Jesus' statue, but who still need Him in their hearts.

*Mark McCloy
Pastor, Elizabeth Baptist Church*

West Virginia Baptists Serve as Short Term Missionaries to Cuba

From March 6-15, 2004, a group of six West Virginia Baptists served as short-term missionaries to Cuba. They worked with the Fraternity of Cuban Baptist Churches, one of the mission partners of International Ministries of the ABC/USA.

Dr. Max Hill, central area minister, led the group. He was accompanied by Rev. David Hulme, Tim Williams and Melinda Hill, all of the Clarksburg Baptist Church; Katie Smith of the New England Baptist Church; and Rev. James Hamrick, pastor of the Tonedá Missionary Baptist Church.

The group was based at the El Jordan Baptist Church in Havana and traveled to several of that church's mission sites in the central part of the country, where they engaged in worship services in several different churches. In addition, the mission

team worked on a new construction site, which will house El Jordan's new worship center and office space for the fraternity.

The Cuban Baptists are deeply grateful for the fellowship of North American

Christians and delight in hosting us. One member of the mission team had such a profound experience that she is preparing to return for a six-week stint this summer.



Cuba Mission Team

West Virginia Baptists in Haiti for Mission Construction Project

On January 15, 2004, fourteen West Virginia Baptists began their journey to Cap Haitian and Limbe, Haiti, to construct a room addition for future work groups or visiting teams that will visit our American Baptist missionaries in Haiti. After an overnight stay in Florida and some flight delays, the group traveled on to Cap Haitian, Haiti, about a two and a half hour flight. At the airport, the team was met by American Baptist Churches missionary, Nzunga Mabudiga. After clearing immigration and customs, the luggage was loaded into trucks for the hour and one-half drive to Limbe. Limbe is the location of the Baptist Seminary and Nzunga's home. The construction project was to build a 24' X 20' room that could accommodate men and/or women, complete with restroom, hot shower, sink and commode. The group arrived too late to work on Friday evening, but did have enough daylight to get an idea of the project.

On Saturday morning, the group was up early and found fellow Haitian workers already at work. The West Virginia Baptist team and about eight Haitian men worked together side-by-side on the construction project. Saturday's main project was to pour the concrete floor, so it could dry over the weekend. Haitian men mixed batch after batch of concrete by hand, while our team formed a bucket brigade to move the cement from the mixing site to the pouring site. The team worked nearly all day on this project, as well as the installation of a water supply line from Nzunga's home to the new addition and dug part of the pit for the septic tank. It was a full day!

On Sunday, the West Virginia group was divided into three groups so that visits could be made to Haitian churches both nearby and in the countryside. One of the groups, including Regina Flinner, Donna Estep, and Paul Fulks, visited a church that was about 45 minutes away. During their drive, they saw potholes large enough to hold an SUV (Sport Utility Vehicle)! The entire group expressed appreciation for worshipping with Haitian brothers and sisters in the Lord on this day. In the afternoon, everyone enjoyed a front-yard picnic at the home of Dr. Jules Cassius, the president of the Baptist Seminary.

On Monday, it was back to work! Blocks were laid and doors and doorframes were made for the room addition. The concrete floor was dry enough for walking on and laying the block, so work began immediately. Sand and gravel had to be sifted to get sand for mixing the mortar. Additional boards had to be purchased to make doors and doorframes, even though Charlie Swisher and his crew tried to use every scrap of wood

possible. The group brought door handles, locks and hydraulic door closers from West Virginia and worked on installing them. The pit for the septic tank was halfway finished, when it began to rain and fill with water, making it impossible to dig the rest of the eight-foot depth.



Haiti Mission Construction Team

The group worked Monday and Tuesday, but on Wednesday it rained heavily all day, so no work was done. It was really a blessing in disguise because everyone was tired and God gave the group a day of rest. But on Thursday morning, everyone was back to work again. Projects for the day were sifting sand and gravel for mixing mortar, carrying block for building the walls and building doors and doorframes. Friday saw more doors being built, rafters being built and installed, and a metal roof was also installed. A few things were left unfinished due to the rain out on Wednesday, including installation of the electric wiring, the completion of the septic tank pit and several other small items. Fortunately, enough money was left from the project so that the Haitian men could be hired to continue to work for a small daily wage and complete the room addition.

The West Virginia group left the seminary at 5:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 24 to travel to the Cap Haitian Airport for departure. At the airport, there was a delay in departure to determine how many persons and their baggage could make the flight as weight was an issue. The airline service decided to have one passenger and his luggage stay behind and take another flight later in the day. It was also decided not to take a full load of fuel and then make a stop in the Bahamas for re-fueling! WOW! What an adventure! Those who participated in this mission team were: Alex Amaya, Fred Basnett, Jr., Sonny Cossin, Juanita Cossin, Donna Estep, Regina Flinner, Paul J. Fulks (team leader), Barbara Reed, Fred Runyon, Jr., David Sheppard, Mary Sheppard, Charles Swisher, Judy Swisher and Allen Tinnel. Please invite a team member to your church or your men's or women's group and let them share their experiences in Haiti and possibly present a slide show.

Mission Deputation

To schedule one of the participants of the many mission trips shared in this issue, contact them or their church directly. To schedule an International Ministries missionary, contact Lisa Simmons at 1.866.309.2488. Fall dates are still available.

Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary Establishes the Robert E. Matherly Award

WEST VIRGINIA BAPTIST CONFERENCE CENTER (PARCHMENT VALLEY) - At its annual banquet celebrating the graduation of students from the West Virginia program of Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Dr. William R. Thomas, on-site administrator, announced the establishment of the Robert E. Matherly Excellence in Ministry Award. The award will honor each year someone in ministry that has demonstrated the excellence modeled by Dr. Matherly throughout his ministry career.

Dr. Matherly was the keynote speaker for the graduation banquet and was awarded the first annual Robert E. Matherly Award.



Left to right: Douglas Hill, Robert Matherly, Lloyd Hamblin and William Thomas

Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary to Undergo Name Change

In a recent letter from Dr. Wallace Charles Smith, co-president of Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, it was announced that the school's name was being changed to "Palmer Theological Seminary." This change is to honor Dr. Gordon Palmer, the fifth president of Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary. It was under his leadership that the seminary weathered the Depression, moved to City Line Avenue and remained a part of the American Baptist family during a time of great schism.

Currently, the main building on the Philadelphia campus bears the name of Dr. Palmer. The change is in name only. Eastern, now Palmer Theological Seminary, will continue to be a professional school of Eastern University. The seminary will continue to be involved in the West Virginia location at the West Virginia Baptist Conference Center (Parchment Valley). Palmer Theological Seminary will continue the commitment to excellence in theological education that has long been associated with Eastern.

In making the announcement, Dr. Smith did not indicate a date for the implementation of this change. However, it is assumed that this change will happen on or about July 1. There are still a number of logistical issues that need to be completed.

Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary has had a 14-year history of special service in West Virginia, with the opening of the West Virginia Program. In that time, the seminary has graduated 27 persons who have done all or most of their course work at the West Virginia Baptist Conference Center (Parchment Valley) campus. Dr. William Thomas, on-site administrator for the West Virginia Program, has been assured that this commitment will continue and be strengthened under the new name. This change is occurring as the seminary is working with the West Virginia Baptist Convention and others to bring a doctoral level program to the Ripley campus.

West Virginia Baptists in Nicaragua for Medical Mission

On January 15, 2004, fourteen people departed from Yeager Airport for Nicaragua. Three more people were added to the team in Miami, Florida. And the 18th and final team member was waiting for us when we arrived in Managua. After much prayer and negotiations in the airport, the custom's officials released our medicines.

On Sunday morning we visited the Managua Baptist Hospital during the Sunday school hour and were given the grand tour by their assistant director. They are in the process of building on to their Intensive Care Unit and need help finishing the job according to director, Dr. David Parajon.

On Sunday afternoon we headed for the hills southwest of Managua to the town of San Marcos, where we stayed at the Casablanca Hotel. It is located four kilometers from La Concha Baptist School, where we conducted our clinics Monday through Friday.

Because we did not have the proper papers for our medicines (which we weren't aware of), we had to wait for Alex Amaya and David Parajon to return from the Ministry of Health on Monday to start our clinics. While we waited, the team organized the pharmacy and the individual clinics and the dentist, Ed Atkins, and his assistant, Sherry Layton, went around to

all the classrooms and presented dental hygiene demonstrations. Later in the week, each child in the school of 350 students received a toothbrush and a tube of toothpaste. Soon Alex came with the good news that we could start our clinics. We had three doctors; Paul Bostrom, Sheryl Mehta, and Carmella Molina; two fourth-year Marshall medical students, Amanda Snodgrass and Jerome Aya-ay; seven nurses, Judy Fulks, Donna Hoffman (Charge Nurse), Ashlee Hutchison, Sherry Layton, Sheila Lowther, Lori Persinger, and Patricia Stevens; and four workers, Alex Amaya, Paul Fulks, Lloyd Daubenspeck, and Stacey Deerfield; and our dentist, Ed Atkins.

We saw over 700 people during the five day clinics. We did some minor surgeries and removed wax from about 15 people's ears (wax was so compacted people could not hear). Even though we did not have an eye doctor, we sent a couple of people to a nearby town for an eye exam and paid for their glasses. We made some home

visits to people who could not come to the clinics, such as a paraplegic down the street from the school and a man who was dying. Our hospice nurse, Lori Persinger, was able to comfort the family and let them know what to expect during the end-of-life process.



Nicaragua Medical Mission Team



American Baptist Women's Ministries 70TH ANNUAL Conference

*Theme: "Friendship...
A Balancing Act of
Giving and Receiving"*



*June 4-6, 2004
Alderson-Broaddus College
Philippi, West Virginia*

Inspiring speakers, outstanding praise and worship music, meeting new and old friends, relaxing, having fun and being inspired by the surrounding beauty of the A-B campus are just a few of the reasons to come to this year's conference!

Featured Speakers:

Jan DeWitt is a national ABW leader. Her topics will be Hospitality... a Real Balancing Act of Giving and Receiving, Barriers to Friendship and Called to be Friends with Others and God.

Lauran Bethel is a global missionary and is known for getting and holding the audience's attention as she describes her work and situations on the mission fields where she serves.



Workshops

Leadership - ABW State Officers
Uniquely You - Janey Carrieco, Leader
**Spiritual Healing from Hurts, Habits
and Hang-ups** - Annette Crislip

What on Earth are the Women in Your Church

Doing? - Pat Hless and Lisa Simmons

Craft - Cora Withers and Friends

Balancing Your Diet - Cherri Cowan

Scrapbooking - Linda Ramsey

How to Organize a Bible Study in Your Church -

Frieda Arthur

Banish Bad Hair Days - Robert Matherly

Walking Tour of Campus - Roxanne Bright

Cost:

PLAN ONE (\$72.00) -

2 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, 1 Dinner (no Friday Dinner), 2 nights lodging and registration

PLAN TWO (\$78.00) -

includes all of the above, plus 2 Sheets, 1 Pillow Case, 1 Towel, 1 Washcloth and blanket

Please Note: Full-Time First Timers Can Deduct \$10.00.

Celebrations

The Seventy-Year Friendship of ABW and A-B College

Friends of the ABW Scholarship Program

Friends of the Weirton Christian Center

Going Global with Missionary Friends

Friends Love Your Leadership Style

Friends of Parchment Valley/Camp Cowen

As you register, you will also register for one of the Celebrations (see above).

You will have an opportunity to give a monetary gift at the Celebration you attend. Women from Barboursville, Beckley, Philippi, Riverside, Simpson Creek and Vienna will create the atmosphere for a wonderful time.

•There is limited room at the Erickson Alumni Center.

Call 304.457.6702 for reservations.

•There will be four offerings taken: Love Gift, Conference/Missionary Project, National Support and the Celebration of your choice.

•Questions, please contact Joyce Mills at 304.252.0534 or Gerry Prunty at 304.428.1679. To receive a registration form, please call Valma Wilburn at 800.879.9822 or go to www.wvbc.org/ABW/page2.html.

STATE EVENTS

It's Back...

BROTHERS' KEEPER is a regional mission work opportunity for the youth of our West Virginia Baptist Convention churches across the state. If the youth of your church are looking for a mission work trip this summer then look no further!



JULY 11-16, 2004

**WEST VIRGINIA BAPTIST
CONFERENCE CENTER**

WHEN: July 11-16, 2004 (Sunday-Friday)

WHERE: West Virginia Baptist Conference Center

COST: \$185.00 each - youth (grades 7-12) and adults

PROJECTS: Home maintenance, repairs, painting and minor construction

Don't be left out this year. Make your plans now to attend and make your reservations prior to June 1, 2004.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

Wade Coffindaffer at 800.489.8564 or e-mail coffindaffer@wvbc.org

CHILDREN'S MUSIC CAMP



JUNE 27-29, 2004

West Virginia Baptist Conference Center

**For Children
Entering Grades 3-6**

**COST:
\$95.00**

if paid by June 14.

The music learned at camp will be performed at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday evening.

The concert will be open to family and friends.

Camp Director:

Koreen Villers

Music Leader:

Rebecca Thompson

Camp Nurse:

Chris Kulpa

**Space is limited,
so please
register early!**

For registration forms and information, contact Barbie at 800.879.9822 or blayton@wvbc.org.

Music Conference

June 18-19, 2004

at the West Virginia Baptist Conference Center

Featuring:
Cindy Berry

Cindy is a composer/arranger of sacred choral anthems for all voices, for children's anthems and piano collections for several major publishers.

She frequently serves as choral and keyboard clinician and leads "composer weekends" and various workshops throughout the country.

She currently lives in Killeen, Texas with her husband, Bruce. They are the parents of three grown sons.

Workshops:

- 1.) Vocal Techniques and Diction
- 2.) Creative Choir Ideas
- 3.) Praise and Worship Teams
- 4.) Children's Music
- 5.) Music for the Small Church

For a registration form, contact Barbie at 800.879.9822 or blayton@wvbc.org.

LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

Leadership Changes

Rev. John Barnhouse has moved to Maysel Baptist Church (Elk Valley) as pastor on December 14, 2003.

Rev. William L. Boblett has moved to 26th Street Baptist Church (Guyandotte) as interim pastor in February 2004.

Mr. James H. Caldwell has moved to Hamlin First Baptist Church (Guyandotte) as pastor on October 1, 2003.

Rev. Alvie L. Edwards has moved to Calvary Baptist Church (Fayette) as interim pastor on March 7, 2004.

Rev. Ivan K. Hawkins has become pastor at Shinnston First Baptist Church (Judson) on April 1, 2004. He was previously interim pastor.

Mr. Jeremy S. Myers has become youth pastor at Oakwood Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) on March 16, 2004. He was previously interim youth pastor.

Rev. Ronald Smith has moved to Morrisvale Missionary Baptist Church (Coal River) as interim pastor on February 4, 2004.

Rev. Leon Brown Accepts Call to Mount Carmel

Rev. Leon Brown, along with his wife, Margaret, has accepted a call to the Mount Carmel Baptist Church (Union). He was installed in a Covenant Service of New Beginnings on January 11, 2004. The service was led by Marijane Kiley, a member of the West Virginia Baptist Convention Executive Board.



Left to right: Margaret Brown, Leon Brown and Marijane Kiley

Rev. Brown was licensed in 1980 and ordained to Gospel Ministry in 1988 by Mount Carmel Baptist Church and the West Virginia Baptist Convention/American Baptist Churches, USA. He has served as pastor of the Valley Bend Baptist Church (Union) during the past twenty years, along with the Little Bethel Baptist Church (previously of Union) for five of those years.

The Browns live near Beverly and are the parents of three grown daughters: Cindy, Annie and Joy. Cindy and her husband, Jim, and their two children, Jacob and Victoria, reside in Altavista, Virginia; Annie and her husband, Joe, reside in Elkins, and Joy is attending college in California.

The church welcomed Rev. and Mrs. Brown with a luncheon in the fellowship hall.

Trading Post

2001 Chevy Van 3500 Ext. Express LS (from Newark Baptist Church), 15 passenger, cruise, power steering, power brakes, dual heat and air, 5.7 V8, AM-FM cassette and running boards. 41,000 miles. For more information, please contact 304.275.8935 or 304.275.3061.

Windows, 1875 vintage (6 pane and leaded) and **8" decorative glass blocks** available. For more information, please contact Valma at the West Virginia Baptist Convention Office at 304.422.6449.

Old Greenbrier Baptist Church Promotes Caravan Club

The Old Greenbrier Baptist Church (Greenbrier) Caravan Club is a youth group that ranges in age from Pre-Kindergarten through 6th grade and has been active for the last 8 years. They meet every Wednesday evening from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. During the meeting time, the children sing songs, have games, crafts and lessons about God's word. The church family provides snacks and closes with a short devotion. There are monthly activities scheduled throughout the year, which include bowling, swimming, hayrides, craft nights, snow tubing and roller-skating.

The Caravan Club also focuses on missions at home and abroad. They try to implement one mission service per quarter. The most recent mission project included health kits, donated and assembled, for the Iraqi children. The Caravan Club has an ongoing adopted grandparent program in which the children visit the shut-ins and older members of the church family and friends, read scripture and deliver seasonal "goodies."



Emily, one of the angels on the Caravan Cub float for Old Greenbrier Baptist Church. The float won first prize. The theme of the float was, "Hark the Herald Angel."

Ordinations

Mr. John Amtower was ordained as a deacon by Romney First Baptist Church (Eastern) at an ordination service held on March 14, 2004.

Mr. Ronnie Jenkins was ordained as a deacon by the Healing Stream Missionary Baptist Church (Coal River) on March 7, 2004. The service began at 7:00 p.m. with several special music selections. Rev. Keith George, pastor, gave the sermon; Rev. Paul J. Fulks, area minister, gave both the Charge to the Church and Charge to the Candidate; Rev. George, Rev. Fulks and Rev. Phil Nicholas participated in the laying on of hands to ordain Mr. Jenkins. Ronnie was presented a new Bible and certificate from the church.

Mr. Danny Hemmings was ordained as a deacon by the Diamond Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) on March 14, 2004. Those who participated included Rev. Bobby Goldsburg, pastor, Diamond Baptist Church; Rev. Paul J. Fulks, area minister, who gave the Ordination Sermon; Rev. Lloyd Daubenspeck, who gave the Challenge to the Deacon; Rev. Clarence Hutton, who gave the Charge to the Church; Mrs. Alice Goldsburg, Mrs. Ruth Hudson, and Mrs. Sherry Goldsburg, who provided special musical selections; Mr. Herb Walker, deacon, who gave the Ordination Prayer; Mr. P.J. Cooper, who read the Scripture passage from I Timothy 3:8-13; Mr. Herman Rowe and Mr. John Williams, who gave the opening and closing prayers, respectively. A reception followed.



Obituaries

James H. Cantwell,

76, of Middlebourne, died February 26, 2004. He was a member of the Middlebourne

Baptist Church (Panhandle); a retired employee from Conalco of Hannibal, Ohio; a 52-year member of the Boy Scouts of America; a life-time member of the Middlebourne Volunteer Fire Department; a member of the Middlebourne Lions Club; and a member of the Tyler County Heritage Museum.

Emma Jane Dale, 75, loving wife of

Dennis S. Dale, formerly of Parkersburg, died February 13, 2004. She was a former member of South Parkersburg Baptist Church (Parkersburg). She was the mother of Rev. Larry Dale.

Robert Roland Eglinger, 74, of

Augusta, died February 21, 2004. He was a member and past deacon of Romney First Baptist Church (Eastern). He was a chemical salesman having retired from Green Inc., of Winchester, Virginia.

Howard Glenn Elder, 75, of Cairo,

died March 11, 2004. He was a member of Cairo Baptist Church (Harrisville), where he served as Sunday School superintendent, teacher, trustee and deacon. He was an oil and gas contractor for 53 years.

Tolley W. Fitzwater, 95, of

Glenville, died March 18, 2004. He was a member of the Fola Baptist Church (Elk Valley). He was a member of the United Mine Workers of America. He was a certified mine foreman since 1947. He retired from Rochester-Pittsburgh Coal Company.

Charles H. Ferguson, 83, died

December 7, 2003. He was a long time active member of Wayne Baptist Church (Twelve Pole) and was also an ordained deacon.

James E. Hamric, 84, of Spencer,

died February 15, 2004 at his home. He was a 53-year member of Spencer First Baptist Church (Good Hope), where he served as a deacon and was instrumental in planning and construction of the current building. Hamric was also a businessman and community leader in Spencer.

Norma Jean Hartman, died January

23, 2003. She was a member of Marmet First Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley). She was a faithful member for many years and served in many areas of church work.

Madge Huber, 95, died February

28, 2004. She was a member of Sunrise Baptist Church (Parkersburg).

Beatrice A. Jones, 94, of

Middlebourne, died February 28, 2004. She was a member of Middlebourne Baptist Church (Panhandle), taught school in Tyler County for 47 years, was a 50-year member of Eastern Star and was a 50-year member of Rebekah



Joseph Gluck

Joseph C. Gluck, 89, died February 18, 2003. He was many things to many people, a living legend to all of West Virginia, especially at West Virginia University, where he served the administration and students for 70 years.

He graduated from Bethany College in 1936 and the Yale Divinity School in 1942. He did post-graduate study at Harvard and Oxford Universities.

He began his tenure at West Virginia University in 1933 as a youth counselor at Jackson's Mill. During World War II, he served as the youngest Navy chaplain from West Virginia. Following the war, he returned to West Virginia University to serve as the Veteran's Coordinator. In 1949, he was appointed Dean of Students. In 1980, he retired as Vice President of Student Affairs and became a Special Counselor to Students, the position he held until his death.

His honors include: Most Loyal Mountaineer (1979), the Paul B. Martin Award (1997), charter member of the West Virginia University Student Affairs Hall of Fame (1998) and the Zackquil Morgan Award. He was a founding member of the National Association of College and University Concert Directors and the Order of Vandalia, as well as an early inductee. He was a member of the XX Club, the Monongahela Historical Association and the Friday the 13th Club.

Gluck was a minister of the American Baptist Convention, serving in several West Virginia and Pennsylvania churches. Gluck was an active member of the Morgantown First Baptist Church (Goshen).

Tony H. Pauley, 73, of Yawkey, died February 29, 2004. He was the pastor of Morrisvale Missionary Baptist Church (Coal River), one of several area churches he has pastored over the past 43 years. He was retired from Brewer Sprinkler Company with 50 years of service.



Tony Pauley

Lodge.

John E. Knapp, 83, died February

19, 2004. He was a long time member of Williamstown First Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where he held offices as an ordained deacon, trustee, finance committee member and long range planning committee member. He worked at American Cyanamid in Pleasants County.

Eva Lavoie, 94, of Buckhannon died

March 2, 2004. She was a longtime member of Broad Run Baptist Church (Broad Run). She was a retired church clerk and past president of the American Baptist Women.

Cornelius Martin Luther Leeson,

66, died February 22, 2004. He was a member and leader at Murphytown Baptist Church (Parkersburg).

Velcie June Lowers, 72, of

Parkersburg died March 17, 2004. She was a member of Pine Grove Baptist Church (Parkersburg).

Charles Leonard Morris, 78, of

Davisville, died March 17, 2004. He was a member of Baptist Temple (Parkersburg) and was a World War II Navy veteran. He retired after 35 years of service from DuPont.

Alberta Jackson Morrison, died

January 1, 2004. She was a long time active and supportive member of Wayne Baptist Church (Twelve Pole). She was a faithful supporter of the American Baptist Women's Ministries and was also a member of the choir.

Veda Morrison, 98, died March 5,

2004. She was a longtime member of Grantsville First Baptist Church (Little Kanawha), where she had been a Sunday School teacher and choir member.

Mae Louise Phillips, 94, of

Parkersburg died Thursday, March 18, 2004. She was a member of Broadway Baptist Church (Parkersburg). She was a homemaker and had worked at American Viscose and the West Virginia Masonic Home.

Rev. Virgil Sallee, 87, of

Parkersburg and Saint Marys, died March 19, 2004. Retired as service manager for Mullen Motors, after 33 years of service, he was ordained into ministry in 1963, and was a member of Sunrise Baptist Church (Parkersburg). Virgil served as pastor of churches in Jackson, Pleasants, Wood and Taylor Counties.

Virginia W. Sommerville, 91, of

Clarksburg, died Thursday, March 18, 2004. She was a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church (Parkersburg). She had been employed as a manager by the former Adkins Fat Boy Restaurant of Parkersburg.

Robert Turner, Sr., 84, of

Parkersburg, died February 17, 2004. He attended Broadway Baptist Church (Parkersburg) and was president of Turner Oil.

Jean E. Wood, 74, of Reedy, died

February 14, 2004. She was a long time member of Bethel Baptist Church (formerly of the Parkersburg Association) and later South Parkersburg Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where she sang in the choir. She also volunteered at the West Virginia Baptist Convention office.

Virginia Woody, 78, died February

26, 2004. She was a long time active member of Emmanuel Baptist Church (Parkersburg). She retired from Wood County Commissioners' Office and volunteered at Blennerhassett Island as well as with the Cancer Society.

PRAYER CALENDARS

May

May 1 - Clark Mills, member of West Virginia Baptist Convention Stewardship Commission.
May 2 - Magda Aguirre, ABC missionary to El Salvador.
May 3 - Wendy Bernhard, ABC missionary to Democratic Republic of the Congo.
May 4 - Thomas Whaley and the ministry of Center Branch Baptist Church (Broad Run).
May 5 - Tom Myers, ABC missionary to Bulgaria.
May 6 - Dave Curry and the ministry of Romney First Baptist Church (Eastern).
May 7 - Nora Kalkman, ABC missionary to Czech Republic.
May 8 - William Boblett, interim pastor of 26th Street Baptist Church (Guyandotte) and member of West Virginia Baptist Convention Outreach Commission.
May 9 - Richard Farmer and the ministry of Fairmont First Baptist Church (Fairmont).
May 10 - Baptist Campus Ministry Beach Week taking place at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.
May 11 - Tim Gray, Baptist Campus Ministry director, West Virginia University Campus.
May 12 - Mabudiga Nzunga, ABC missionary to Haiti.
May 13 - John Price and the ministry of Good Hope Baptist Church (Good Hope).
May 14 - Kevin Higginbotham, member of West Virginia Baptist Convention Discipleship Commission.
May 15 - AB GIRLS Festival happening this weekend at the West Virginia Baptist Conference Center.
May 16 - Warren Gilpin and the ministry of Hinton First Baptist Church (Greenbrier).
May 17 - The Golden'eers Conference starting today at the West Virginia Baptist Conference Center.
May 18 - Lionel Mees and the ministry of Central Big Creek Baptist Church (Guyandotte).
May 19 - The Executive Minister Search Committee as they seek the Lord's guidance.
May 20 - Robin Saunders, clerk/treasurer of the Coal River Association.
May 21 - Youth Work Party starting today at Camp Cowen.
May 22 - Donald Ketcham and the ministry of Morgantown First Baptist Church (Goshen).
May 23 - William McClung and the ministry of Lochgelly Baptist Church (Fayette).
May 24 - Lynn Nelson, ABC missionary to Democratic Republic of the Congo.
May 25 - Rick Canfield and the ministry of Big Otter Baptist Church (Elk Valley).
May 26 - Jerry Losh, West Virginia Baptist Convention director, Baptist Campus Ministries.
May 27 - Geoffrey Saunders and the ministry of Danville First Baptist Church (Coal River).
May 28 - Jean Waychoff, moderator of the Panhandle Association.
May 29 - Harry Drake, pastor of Auburn (Harrisville) and Chapel (Harrisville) Baptist Churches and member of the West Virginia Baptist Convention Leadership Commission.
May 30 - Susan Brown, ABC missionary to India.
May 31 - Churches as they prepare for summer Vacation Bible School programs.

June

June 1 - Camp Cowen Staff as they prepare for those who will be coming to camp this summer.
June 2 - David Brown, ABC missionary to India.
June 3 - Judith DeRolf, ABC missionary to Japan.
June 4 - American Baptist Women's Ministries Conference happening this weekend at Alderson-Broadus College.
June 5 - The Executive Minister Search Committee as they seek the Lord's guidance.
June 6 - Shirley Gilmore and the ministry of Mount Zion Community Baptist Church (Union).
June 7 - Doris Godby, member of West Virginia Baptist Convention Outreach Commission.
June 8 - Justin Moran and the ministry of Ashton Baptist Church (Teays Valley).
June 9 - Older Middler Camp starting today at Camp Cowen.
June 10 - Allen Copenhaver and the ministry of Beaver First Baptist Church (Raleigh).
June 11 - M. Cecilia Broadous, ABC missionary to South Africa.
June 12 - Charles DeRolf, ABC missionary to Japan.
June 13 - Junior High I Camp starting today at Camp Cowen.
June 14 - Kent Boone and the ministry of North Parkersburg Baptist Church (Parkersburg).
June 15 - Vital Pierre, ABC missionary to Nicaragua.
June 16 - William Cook and the ministry of Little Cub Memorial Baptist Church (Rockcastle).
June 17 - Flint Miller, ABC missionary to Philippines.
June 18 - West Virginia Baptist Convention Music Conference happening this weekend at the West Virginia Baptist Conference Center.
June 19 - Connie Johnson, co-pastor of New England Baptist Church (Parkersburg) and member of the West Virginia Baptist Convention Leadership Commission.
June 20 - Mid High Camp starting today at Camp Cowen.
June 21 - Kristina Gutierrez, ABC missionary to Nicaragua.
June 22 - Thomas Fuller and the ministry of Old Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church (Twelve Pole).
June 23 - Lori Oakland, member of West Virginia Baptist Convention Stewardship Commission.
June 24 - Sarah Clement-West, ABC missionary to South Africa.
June 25 - Valma Wilburn, West Virginia Baptist Convention office manager.
June 26 - Rita Chapman, ABC missionary to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
June 27 - Children's Music Camp starting today at the West Virginia Baptist Conference Center.
June 28 - Junior High II Camp happening this week at Camp Cowen.
June 29 - Wanda Clark, ABC missionary to Haiti.
June 30 - Anna King, member of the West Virginia Baptist Convention Discipleship Commission.

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

Coming Events

MAY

May 4
Retired Ministers and Mates Retreat
West Virginia Baptist Conference Center

May 4
School of Christian Studies
Church History (H-01)
Six Weeks Class
Various Locations

May 10-17
Baptist Campus Ministries
Beach Week
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

May 15-16
AB GIRLS Festival
West Virginia Baptist Conference Center

May 17-19
Spring Golden'ears Conference
West Virginia Baptist Conference Center

May 21-22
Youth Work Party
Camp Cowen

May 31
Memorial Day
West Virginia Baptist Convention
Office Closed

JUNE

June 4-6
American Baptist Women's Ministries
Conference
Alderson-Broadbudds College

June 9-12
Older Middler Camp
Grades 3-4
Camp Cowen

June 13-19
Junior High I Camp
Grades 7-9
Camp Cowen

June 18-19
Church Music Conference
West Virginia Baptist Conference Center

June 19
School of Christian Studies
Baptist Polity (E-01) Elective
One-Day Class
West Virginia Baptist Conference Center

West Virginia Baptist Newsletter Submissions

Send submissions for *The West Virginia Baptist* to: thewvbaptist@wvbc.org or mail submissions to the West Virginia

Baptist Convention, Attention Donna, P.O. Box 1019, Parkersburg, West Virginia 26102. We accept hard copy and digital photos of 300 dpi. 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 even numbered months.

The **West Virginia Baptist** is a newsletter of the West Virginia Baptist Convention, associated with the American Baptist Churches, USA, PO Box 1019, Parkersburg WV 26102; 1.800.879.9822. US Postage Paid at Parkersburg, West Virginia.

Interim Executive Minister: Dr. James E. Lutz
Editor: Rev. John E. Simmons
Assistant Editor: Mrs. Valma Wilburn
Layout: Mrs. Donna Snyder

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

SPRING RETREAT
 one-day event

MAY 4, 2004

West Virginia Baptist Conference Center

9:30 am - 4:00 pm

Theme:
 "Come Let Us Worship"

If you would like to make arrangements to spend the night, please call the West Virginia Baptist Conference Center at 800.489.8564.

Retired Ministers & Mates

Cost: \$10.60

2004 Retired Ministers and Mates Spring Retreat Registration Form

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Telephone _____
 Church _____
 Association _____

Please make your check payable to and mail to: West Virginia Baptist Conference Center, Attn. Retired Ministers and Mates Spring Retreat, RR 2 Box 304, Ripley, WV 25271.

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