

Week of Prayer and Ola Cox State Missions Offering

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Why Praying for and Giving to State Missions is Important



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The time of our State Mission Offering is always an exciting time for me. All of the money that comes in through this offering is spent right here in our State.

You can look at the list in the enclosed materials

and see where every penny will be spent. Some of it goes to help Pastors who are having an emergency. What a joy it is to be able to say to them, "we can help you because of our state mission offering".

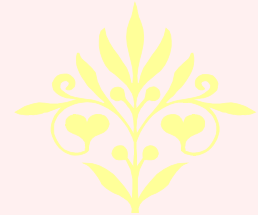
Further, we are able to help some of our small churches when they have an emergency and do not have the funds to meet that emergency. We seek to be very responsible in using these funds, but we also strive to be generous when we feel that you would want us to be that way.

But the largest portion of this offering (58%) goes to help new congregations get started. The second largest percentage (10%) goes back to the Associations.

As you can see our goal this year is a significant one, but one that we should be able to meet with a small sacrifice from all of us. Join me in giving to our Ola Cox State Mission Offering this year and together we will "Make a World of Difference".

In This Issue

- ◆ Church Planting in Mountain State Association
- ◆ Church Planting in Allegheny Association
- ◆ Multi-Family Housing Ministries
- ◆ Ministry in Monongahela Association
- ◆ West Charleston Baptist Church
- ◆ Missions Camp!



Church Planting in Mountain State Association

Mountain State Association has experienced record growth in new churches under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Credit is also given to the leadership in the association.

They have developed guidelines for Mission Expansion and Associational Growth.

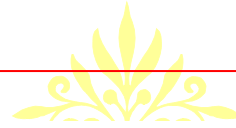
1. Council selects 2 people to understand and direct the operations of mission with the consent of the DOM.
2. The DOM may, at his discretion involve these 2 people for council and decision making concerning missions of the association.
3. Study demographics to determine which county work is to be started.

4. Conduct a Probe, includes prayer, house to house surveys in the area, visiting businesses, Post Office, schools.
5. Location, find a suitable place to meet and decide which is best a Bible study, prayer group or a church plant.
6. Involvement, at least 2 sponsoring churches providing workers and financial support.
7. Person to start the work: everyone involved will actively seek direction of the Holy Spirit to begin the work.

The association has developed the following steps for accepting churches into the association:

1. Our major emphasis is on prayer and the Word of God. God only blesses His Word and His strength is perfected through our weakness.
2. We do not solicit any church to come into our association. Any church wanting to fellowship with MSBA must first contact the associational missionary (DOM).
3. Churches that come into our association are referred to the associational missionary (DOM) by other churches, pastors, or laypeople.
4. New church starts are by MSBA established guidelines.
5. Often churches desire to associate with us because of our conservative theology, needed fellowship or benefits of various programs.

Multi-Family Housing Ministry



The purpose of the Assessment was to help the association find ways to intersect with the Multi-Family Housing Communities to meet needs with Kingdom responses. The results will be seen in transformed lives from face to face interaction with community lostness.

There were several reasons for the assessment:

- Connect the churches in the Pioneer Association with Multi-Family Housing Communities.
- Create an opportunity to identify unmet needs with Kingdom ministries.
- Identify where and with whom to share the gospel through word and deed.
- Allow the churches in Pioneer Association to be viewed as caring, compassionate people.
- Identify prospects.
- Identify ethnic populations.
- Challenge members to grow in discipleship as witnesses and to be involved in local missions.

This Assessment for Pioneer Association discovered housing commu-

nities ready to invite churches to minister to residents through a variety of methods and ministries.

The Assessment Team gathered for a **time of reporting, seeking God's leadership** in establishing priorities and developing the first steps of ministry strategies to meet the discovered needs. The overarching goal of this assessment was to provide some solutions while connecting churches to people and people to the gospel and to churches. The ministry priorities and first steps are :

Prayerwalking, collectable stamps, household items, furniture, etc), life skills classes, ministries for children, youth (such as recreation, Bible clubs, mentoring, sports, VBS), and elderly (such as meals, socialization, recreation, arts and crafts, knitting classes, etc.).

New Multi-Family Housing Missionary, Danny Cunningham, feels he can best utilize the assessment information in the following ways:

1. Communicate with the churches
2. Communicate with Housing managers

3. Enlist and train volunteers
4. Assign volunteers
5. Ask volunteers to report, evaluate and encourage each other
6. Invite mission teams to work with local volunteers to provide ministries
7. Secure storage space for household donations

Pray for the following:

- Missionary Danny Cunningham to see where God is at work in housing communities.
- For the worship services that he has started at Lee Terrace in Charleston.
- For volunteers to work with children at Orchard Manor.
- For relationships to be established in the Jenna Apartments in Sissonville to result in a new church start.



Missions Camp

Missions Camp Core Values: Missions - study and hands-on, missionaries; Gospel - share and lead campers to salvation; help campers know how to witness; Call—help campers understand God can call them to missions/service; Fun—campers and volunteers enjoy camp. Missions Camp is for campers!

Missions Camp activities: missionary visits, Bible Study, Mission Study, Crafts, and mission ministries that share Jesus. As a result of the ministries to children in public housing, communities were saved.

One camper described missions camp as a favorite T-shirt, comfortable and

enjoyable to wear!

Missions Camp 2007 registered 131 participants from about 25 churches in 7 associations. By Thursday afternoon, as a result of the ministry of campers, more than 1200 lives were touched by the gospel. Eight children & two adults in Multi-Family Housing Communities accepted Jesus.

The missions offering was designated for the Missionary Christmas Fund which provides a gift subscription to *West Virginia Magazine* for missionaries who claim WV as their home state and serve in the states. Those serving outside the US borders receive a cash gift in an amount at least equal to the subscription cost. The campers

gave \$268.26 Monday through Wednesday.

Camp would not happen without the commitment of countless volunteers who serve joyfully and tirelessly in order for the campers to experience Jesus in ways that help them grow as well as provide mission experience to stretch them in learning to live a missions lifestyle

Pray for campers who make decisions and for volunteers who serve so faithfully.

Church Planting in Allegheny Association

Living River Baptist Chapel, Flatwoods, WV. REV: 22:17 says And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely."

When Ace and I moved to West Virginia a little over two years ago, starting a church was not exactly in our plans. We were retired, content to share Jesus, work in a local church and Ace wanted to do a little preaching. Dennis Cherry approached us about doing a church plant. We do know one thing at our stage of life, Ace is nearly 68 and I am 63, if God wants you to do something he makes it pretty clear, so we started.

After the first site we were working on did not work out, we looked for another, praying and traveling around driving up and down the road passing the two buildings in Flatwoods that we finally rented for about half of what they are worth. We have indeed been blessed. Since we signed the lease, we have started Higher Grounds (Psalms 34:8 Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!) – a free coffee café three to five days a week with plans to turn it into an internet café as soon as we get DSL (in a couple of months). I teach knitting, and this often turns into a Bible Study. We do have Sunday Service and Thursday night Bible Studies, but have not had an official grand opening as of yet. It is slow with numbers, but we are able to spread God's Word thru volunteer work and reaching out to the community in general. Ace has been able to lead someone to the Lord thru counseling at a resource center. I am trying to help build a renewed interest in Missions thru WMU and will be able to teach Missions at our children's camp this summer.



Never think you are too old or don't have the resources to do what God calls you to do. He will and does provide. Praise God for bringing us to West Virginia.

Dianne Sligar

Monongahela Association Missions

The Monongahela Baptist Association exists to involve churches in a cooperative fellowship and to resource those churches and their pastors as they seek to fulfill their unique God-given vision for carrying out the Great Commission. We want to do whatever it takes to help and support the local church do its job. One of the ways we do that is by providing training in areas such as Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and Disaster Relief. We also have training to help deacons and their wives to minister more effectively.

Another area of emphasis for our association is church planting. While we would welcome any church planters and new church starts, we are particularly interested in the indigenous principle of church planting, where folks in our churches are called to start churches. It is exciting and encouraging to watch as the Lord calls out the called from our churches! Since March of this year the Lord has raised up 2 new church starts in Webster and Lewis Counties. The church planter in Webster County is Wendell Gum, born and raised there. The new work in Lewis County has 3 couples making up the church planting team. One couple has lived there 4 years and the other 2 are from that area. A three-year old church plant called Mountaineer Baptist Church in Morgantown, is led by Marty Turner, who is from Preston County. **Pray** that the Lord of the harvest

raises up more church planters to reach lost West Virginians.

Pastor G. Lindell Smith, served as the church planter and pastor of Berean Baptist Church in Morgantown for seven and a half years. He loved the Lord and people with all of his heart. He had a vision to purchase a school for the church so they could broaden their outreach and ministry. Toward the end of 2007 that vision became a reality as the church purchased a school in the Sabraton area of Morgantown. The church began meeting there in January 2008 and began working on the building. Other churches in our association have also helped with the painting and renovation of the building. Pastor Lindell passed away on May 1. Please **pray** for Sister Judy, his widow, and for the church that the vision to minister and reach people for Christ will continue in them.

Camp Monongahela is a very important ministry of our churches. They provide us with the volunteers who serve as counselors, cooks, nurses, Bible study leaders, activity leaders, recreational workers and lifeguards. The youth and children come from all over the association. The goal of the camp is that lost campers will come to know Jesus in a personal way and the Christian campers have a closer walk with the Lord. Last year 5 campers made professions of faith.

Last year we had our first associational mission trip in the United States. Twenty people from 5 of our

churches took part in a mission trip to Cleveland, Ohio. For most, it was their first time doing such a trip. During that week, we painted a house, conducted a Backyard Bible Club in a nearby park, and most importantly, 3 people came to know Jesus. This year we will be returning to Cleveland for another mission trip (July 20-26) to paint a house and help in other ministries.

We have had 3 mission trips to Ecuador. Two years we did ministries in a church, and the last year we held dental clinics in order to help start home churches. We are planning another trip to Ecuador for the summer of 2009.

For several years we have had a partnership with Yekaterinburg, Russia through Tommy and Kate Williams, mission volunteers from Macon, GA who go twice a year there with mission teams. They visit orphanages, hospitals, drug rehab centers, and churches, distributing large amounts of humanitarian aid as well as large numbers of Bibles. Our churches help collect toboggans, gloves, baby clothes, toys, and money for Bibles each year to send with them. This year the youth at Southern Baptist Church of Philippi collected 672 matchbox cars to send to the kids there. Last year, one of our pastors, Jeff Ramsey went with the Williams' to Russia. Tommy and Kate will be leading a group there in July 2008.