



The Messenger

March 2024

Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association

"The Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association is a network of Churches committed to evangelizing, teaching and ministering to our World."

"But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord." Acts 11:20-21

Recently I attended a Revitalization Conference, and during one specific session, Dr. Jeff Iorg was speaking on the priority of Evangelism in the Church. He used the example of the Church at Antioch to encourage us to think about the three categories of strategic evangelism.

An *attraction strategy* is a Christian event or program designed to accommodate unbelievers and introduce them to Jesus Christ. Examples of these would include concerts, movie nights, holiday events like Easter or Christmas, youth pizza feasts, and many others. The attraction strategy is a "y'all come and see" event. Most churches do attractional events. The church sets up the event and expects lost people to attend. Hopefully, someone shares the Gospel during the event so that the lost will hear. The strategy is to attract lost people to hear the Gospel.

An *engagement strategy* is an event or program designed to extend ministry to unbelievers and introduce them to Jesus. These may include a concert in the local park, renting out the movie theater to show a Christian film, having a Bible study at a local business, etc. The strategy is to engage the lost in places outside of the church in order to share the Gospel with them.

An *infiltration strategy* is the deployment of believers throughout the culture to introduce unbelievers to Jesus Christ in their context. This strategy is training church members on how to have Gospel conversations in various settings outside of the church. For instance, they go to places where people gather and purposefully engaging people in Gospel conversations. They are trained to be local volunteers in sports leagues, public schools, and local government with the intent of building relationships with lost people so that the volunteer can share the Gospel.

All three of these strategies have value and are important to be doing as a church. The synergy of the church can make all three strategies more effective. Interesting to note that attraction and engagement are increasingly inadequate for reaching secular people, becoming more expensive, and largely ignored by today's culture. The church's resistance to infiltration strategies is rooted in our fear of ministering in venues where we are not in control.

As you think about your church's evangelism strategy, let me encourage you to think about five things. What Gospel outline does your church teach? Does your church train people to share a gospel presentation? Does your church help to create opportunities for people to share witnessing experiences? Does your church make ways for everyone to be on the "evangelism team?" And does your church celebrate everyone who contributes to a conversion?

As we consider evangelism strategies let me remind everyone that this year's Spring Worship Rally will emphasize evangelism. So, plan and encourage everyone to attend. [See Page 2.](#)

Now go, have a Gospel conversation,

Kirk

Easter Highlights

- Lantana Road Baptist: The Living Last Supper – A theatrical play and choir presentation. March 29 @ 6pm. Open to the community.
- Lantana Road Baptist: Kids East Experience – Kids can walk through four historical scenes (Christ in Gethsemane, The Last Supper, The Crucifixion, The Resurrection). March 30 @ 10a-12p. Open to all.
- Bethlehem Baptist: Easter Walk-through. March 23-24. Go back to the time that Jesus walked the earth. This is a hands-on, real-life experience where you can smell, taste, and feel what it was like during that time. Areas you will see include the village market, herb store, pottery, and more. The tour starts in the village and ends at the empty tomb.

April 11-13, 2024 Missions Get-Together

Brentwood Baptist Church 7777 Concord Rd, Brentwood, TN
www.tnbaptist.org/event/missions-get-together



Missions Get-Together is an annual event planned and hosted by Tennessee WMU for women 18 years of age and older to: Experience Personal Growth Engage in Meaningful Worship Discover Missions and Ministry Opportunities

SPECIAL GUESTS:

- ◆ BRENDA CROSTON – Bible Study Leader
- ◆ FIRST BAPTIST CONCORD WORSHIP TEAM – Worship Leaders
- ◆ MISSIONARIES:
 - ◆ Kevin Godin – NAMB Denver
 - ◆ Kerry Jackson – NAMB Atlanta
 - ◆ Liz Harper – IMB, South Asia



CPBA Spring Worship Rally

April 28, 2024

6:00 pm

at Central Baptist Church

Special Guest

Dr. Roc Collins

Strategic Objectives Director

TN Baptist Mission Board



Here are some upcoming dates for youth ministers. Please pray for our youth and our youth ministers.



•Registration to open October 1, 2023

•Prices: \$30 Oct. 1 - Feb. 14

\$35 starting Feb. 15



YEC 2024

Join us this Spring as we come together to for an incredible line up to celebrate Jesus!

Registration opens October 1st!

[Register Here](#)

<https://www.tnbaptist.org/yec>

YEC Mission Trip

- When: June 15-22, 2024
- Where: Vancouver, Washington
- With: Pastor Ryan Sidhom

River City Church

Contact Ministry Specialist Jay Barbier for more details

email: jbarbier@tnbaptist.org

Phone: 901-558-2090

Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

April 6 9:00am—4:00pm Wallace Memorial Baptist Church (Knoxville, TN)

Youth Mental Health First Aid is a 7-hour training for adults who regularly interact with young people ages 12 to 18 – youth ministers/workers, parents, teachers, school staff, etc. This training will introduce common mental health challenges for youth, review typical adolescent development, and teach a 5-step action plan to help young people in both crisis and non-crisis situations. Topics include anxiety, depression, substance use, disorders in which psychosis may occur, disruptive behavior disorders, and eating disorders.

Click below to learn more about the course. Cost is \$10 for lunch.

www.tnbaptist.org/event/youth-mental-health-first-aid-training/

Church Spotlights

Oak Hill Baptist Church

Located at 3036 Genesis Rd (Crossville, TN 38555)

Phone: 484-5065

Email: ohbc@benlomand.net

Website: www.oakhillbaptist.net

Pastor: Jim Mersereau

Year Established: 1939

Ave Attendance in 2023: 87

Total Baptisms in 2023: 5

Service Times: Sunday 10am, 6pm; Wed 6pm

God Is Working: Through our Acts 1:8 program, each

quarter we provide a meal for the residents at the Bread of Life Rescue Mission and a handout meal to the community. On Feb 14, 2024, approximately 90 meals were served.



Lantana Road Baptist Church

Located at 3270 Lantana Rd (Crossville, TN 38572)

Phone: 788-2844

Email: LRBC@LRBC.church

Website: www.LRBC.church

Pastor: Scott Johnson

Year Established: 1983

Ave Attendance in 2023: 308

Total Baptisms in 2023: 27

Service Times: Sunday 10am, 5pm; Tues 9:30am

God Is Working: We had a group of 15 travel to the country of Panama in January for missions. They did a medical clinic, gave away eyeglasses, and participated in several building projects.



Bethlehem Baptist Church

Located at 626 Potato Farm Rd (Crossville, TN 38571)

Phone: 456-0239

Email: bethlehemcrossville@gmail.com

Website: www.BethlehemCrossville.com

Pastor: Mark Bass

Year Established: 1872

Ave Attendance in 2023: 200

Total Baptisms in 2023: 9

Service Times: Sunday 10:15am, 6pm; Wed 6pm

God Is Working: Our Upward Volleyball program of 2 yrs

has doubled in size to 10 teams. Our AWANA program of 10 yrs serves about 100 kids. Each year we prepare 200+ boxes for Operation Christmas Child. And each spring our Mission Journey Kids paint and decorate birdhouses for a silent auction. Proceeds go to the Annie Armstrong offering.



Week of Prayer for North American Missions/Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

March 3—March 10

The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO) is the primary way Southern Baptists fund missions in North America. One hundred percent of gifts given to AAEO go to the field to support more than 2,400 missionary families serving across the United States and Canada.

www.anniearmstrong.com/

Ministry Training Institute

The Big Emory Baptist Association in Harriman, TN, has begun a Ministry Training Institute. The following is their next class.

UPCOMING COURSE INFORMATION

Spring B - ZMTI 102 Intro to Old Testament

Instructor: Rev. Mike Hammonds

Cost is \$50 plus text book.

Tuesday from 6-9 PM March 26 - May 14 at BEBA office at 1245 S. Roane St., Harriman, TN

Course Description: Participants will learn more about the various genres of the Old Testament writings. Attention will be given to the Christology of the Old Testament and the application of the books in the life of the believer.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Articulate the history of the Old Testament writings.
- Identify and explain the different types of genres in the Old Testament
- Describe the lives of the authors and the context of their writings.

Explain the anticipation of the Messiah (Christology) of the Old Testament.

Text for the Course, *A Popular Survey of the Old Testament* by Norman Geisler

You can Register at [MTI — Big Emory Baptist Association \(beatn.com\)](http://MTI—BigEmoryBaptistAssociation(beatn.com))



Disaster Relief Training Opportunities 2024

(tndisasterrelief.org/events/list)

Mar 8-9: East TN Regional Disaster Relief Training — Knoxville, TN

- Chainsaw Operation & Safety
- Mass Feeding
- Spiritual Preparation/Evangelism
- Flood Recovery
- Site Security
- Fire Recovery
- Rebuild
- Shower/Laundry
- And more

Mar 15-16: Bucket Truck Classroom Training & Hands-on Training — Newport (East TN)

Mar 16: Introduction to Disaster Relief, Chainsaw, Flood Recovery, and Shower/Laundry — Gallatin (Middle TN)

Call Kirk for more information.





March 2024 At-A-Glance

Mar 1-2	Youth Evangelism Conf (EAST)
Mar 2-10	Annie Armstrong Easter Offering: Week of Prayer
Mar 4	Pastors' Conference 10:30 AM Speaker: Sing Oldham
Mar 10	Daylight Savings Time Begins
Mar 11-12	Love Packages Mission Trip
Mar 18	Pastors' Conference 10:30 AM Speaker: David Mahan
Mar 22-28	County Schools: Spring Break
Mar 22-23	Youth Evangelism Conf (MIDDLE)
Mar 29	GOOD FRIDAY
Mar 31	EASTER SUNDAY

Pastors' Conferences are generally scheduled on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month.

Looking Ahead to April 2024

Apr 1	Pastors' Conference 10:30 AM Speaker: Gary Howard (church safety)
Apr 7-8	State Evangelism Conference Murfreesboro
Apr 8-10	Secretaries' Conference Sevierville
Apr 9	Leadership Team Meeting
Apr 9	Executive Council Meeting
Apr 11-13	WMU Missions Get-Together Brentwood
Apr 15	Pastors' Conference 10:30 AM Speaker: Scott White
Apr 28	Spring Worship Rally
Apr 29-30	Senior Adult Get-Together

More information about many of our calendar events can be found on our [EVENTS](#) page.

Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association

Office Hours:

Mon.-Thurs.

9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

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