# The Messenger

## Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association

A network of churches committed to evangelizing, teaching, and ministering to our world.

**October 2026**

- Missions Get-together
- Candy Walk
- Christmas Backpacks
- Bivocational Retreat
- Disaster Relief Training
- And more!

## A Word from Kirk

*"The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away."*
*I Peter 5:1-4*

Would you like this job? 72% of the workers report working between 55 to 75 hours per week. 84% of workers feel they are on call 24/7. 80% believe his work has negatively affected his family. 65% of workers feel their family lives in a "glass house" and fear they are not good enough to meet expectations. 78% of workers report having their vacation and personal time interrupted with work duties or expectations. 53% of workers report that their education did not prepare them for their work. 90% of workers report their work was completely different than what they thought it would be like before they entered the work. 57% of workers believe they do not receive a livable wage. 75% of workers report significant stress-related crisis at least once. 80% of workers and 84% of their spouses have felt unqualified and discouraged in their role at least one or more times. 80% of workers expect conflict within their job and 40% report serious conflict with a volunteer at least once in the last year. 70% of workers report they have a lower self-image now than when they first started. 70% of workers do not have someone they consider to be a close friend. 57% of workers feel fulfilled yet discouraged, stressed, and fatigued.

Would you want to be one of these workers? The workers that are being described are our pastors. These statistics come from Pastoral Care Inc.

Hopefully, your church is planning something this month to show appreciation to your pastor. After all, October is Pastor's Appreciation Month.

Let me encourage our churches to do something helpful for yourselves and your pastor. Send them to the Summit November 15-18 in Sevierville, TN, especially the pastor's conference time. If he can't go to the Summit, then how about one of the retreats for ministry couples that TBMB is planning in 2027? First is the Bivocational Ministers and Wives Retreat January 28-30. The second is a new retreat, "Thrive: A Marriage Retreat for Ministry Couples," January 14-16 at Dollywood's HeartSong Resort in Pigeon Forge. See the TBMB website for more information:

Spouse and Family Enrichment for Gospel Leaders - Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

If your pastor just needs to get away for some quiet time, both Carson Springs and Ridgecrest offer discounted get away times. Lighthouse Christian Camp also offers a pastor and spouse retreat and a pastor's retreat home for times to get away.

There are many ways that you can encourage your pastor during Pastor's Appreciation Month. Not only will your pastor be encouraged, but your church will benefit for encouraging him.

Thank your pastor for the way he has persevered to serve your church,

*Kirk*




Stay tuned to https://tnbaptist.org/event/missions-get-together/ for updates.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS & SPREAD THE WORD!**

**Missions Get-Together**
**March 12-13, 2027**
**Cookeville First Baptist Church**

This is an exciting weekend to join women from across the state to worship, learn what God is doing in Tennessee and around the world, receive valuable information and resources to take back to your church, meet new friends, hear powerful testimonies from missionaries and ministry partners, open God's Word, and so much more!

**More information coming soon: suggested lodging list, Bible Study leader, worship leader, and schedule.**




## MK Project
Click for Sign-up Sheets

Please pray for our "adopted" MK Sage Suiter. He is currently a sophomore at TN Tech.

If anyone could sign up for one month this fall to minister to him by sending notes, emails, gift cards, and/or one care package, just let me know.

His birthday is Oct 25!

## CHRISTMAS BACKPACKS

We are moving into the seventh year of receiving Christmas Backpacks. This year's goal in Tennessee is 7,000 backpacks. As so many deal with rising costs of food and gas, the need for Christmas backpacks has only increased. Around 35 churches/ministries have made application for Christmas Backpacks with almost 7,000 requested. Every Christmas Backpack given this year will be given to children in Tennessee.

To assist you in shopping, please consider these possibilities:

- For backpacks and contents, see www.DollarDays.com.
- Mark McSwain has a ministry called The Slip Disc: The Original Gospel Tract Flying Disc. You can purchase discs complete with an attached gospel presentation through his website: https://slipdiscministries.com/.

Please let us know if you will join us by signing up to donate backpacks. When you do, we will send you copies of "The Christmas Story" to insert in each backpack. These will be mailed in mid-September. The backpacks will be collected at various sites across the state between October 19-21, 2026. You can find out everything you need to know about donating Christmas Backpacks at www.tnbaptist.org/backpacks. If you have questions, call Beth Moore at 423-440-6225.

Backpacks will be collected at Oaklawn Baptist from 9am-3pm October 19-21.

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**

**2027 Bivocational Ministers and Wives Retreat**
Theme: "Joy in Every Season"
John 15:11

Music Road Hotel & Convention Center
303 Henderson Chapel Road, Red Light #1
Pigeon Forge, TN

January 28-30, 2027
Begins at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday
Concludes at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday

Cost: $275 per couple
(Includes hotel, breakfast meals and Thursday night meal, breaks & materials)

We must have complete registration & full payment to reserve your room.
Due to circumstances beyond our control, No Refunds can be issued after **December 8, 2026**.

Brochures with the full program have been mailed.

Click the button below to **register** for the retreat!

Click here to register.

**For more information contact:**

**Roger Britton**, Bivocational Ministry Specialist, rbritton@tnbaptist.org or 423-322-0176

**Carrie Kidd**, Ministry Assistant, ckidd@tnbaptist.org or 615-371-2025

## Disaster Relief: Hands-On Specialized Classes

**October 10, 2026 – Missions Mobilization Center, 6434 John Hagar Road, Mt. Juliet, TN, 37122**

To pre-register for this class, REGISTER ONLINE – click here.

For questions, contact Elizabeth Holmes at eholmes@tnbaptist.org.

Please pre-register by Monday, October 5, for the meal count.

You must be current with your Disaster Relief credentials. Depending on which course you take, you may need current classroom training.

Classes being offered are:

- Bucket Truck Classroom and Hands-On Training (all day) – includes test – Must have current Chainsaw Operations & Safety classroom training OR
- Chainsaw Hands-On Training (morning class or afternoon class) – Must have current Chainsaw Operations & Safety classroom training OR
- Forklift/Skid Steer Classroom (1 1/2 hours) and Hands-On Training (1 1/2 – 3 hours depending on class size) – includes test OR
- Mass Feeding Hands-On Training (all day) – Must have current Mass Feeding classroom training

Lunch – $5 person (prepared by the Mass Feeding Hands-On Class)

Click link for the agenda – 2026 Hands-On Specialized Training – October 10 – MMC

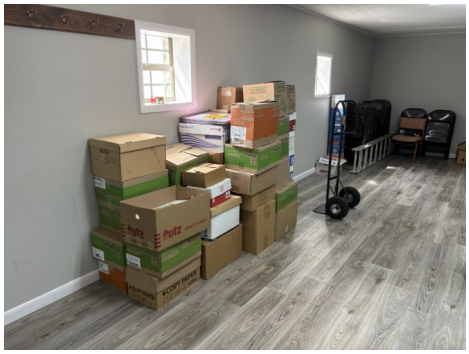
**Registration Forms** Disaster Relief volunteers can now download the following forms to their computers and fill them out and bring them with you to training or send them to the DR office. By typing these forms, you are helping us save time with data entry and increasing our accuracy of keeping your records. Use this link to fill out the Record of Volunteer Training form.

# Love Packages in September





Loading the trailer now half full.



The other half of the load.



Our load is complete.



The trailer is loaded and ready.



FBC Fairfield Glade standing in front of literature bound for Kenya. LuAnn Klein, Joel and Linda York, Kathleen and Sam Newell, Jo Archambault, Nancy Bouchillon, Doreen Ford, Susan Riches, Kirk Casey



Jason giving everyone instructions before we begin.



Sorting Sunday School literature are Nancy Bouchillon and LuAnn Klein.



Packing Bibles and Christian books are Joel York, Sam Newell, and Susan Riches.



Dale Klein packing boxes with others behind him.

# Love Packages in September (cont.)



Linda York packing boxes.




Kirk Casey gathering literature for the binder.



Doreen Ford packing Bibles.




Ice cream stop on the way back to Crossville.

## “Putting the Word of God into Hungry Hands All Over the World

Love Packages collects bible donations—as well as donations of Christian books, Sunday School materials, and more—from people and publishers across the U.S. and ship it to our network of distributors all over the world.

We ship over 2,000 tons of recycled gospel literature on the mission field every year. Our goal for 2026 is to ship 2,200 tons overseas.”

***Learn how it all started.***

# Roane State Meals in September



Ladies from Bethlehem Baptist Church preparing to serve students. Betty Woods, Betty Betts, and Debbie Nielsen.



Students making their way through the potato bar.







## October 2026 At-A-Glance

| | |
|---|---|
| Oct 4 | CPBA Annual Meeting<br>Pine Eden |
| Oct 5 | Pastors' Conference<br>Guest Speaker: Scott White |
| Oct 12-16 | Fall Break<br>CC Schools & Roane State |
| Oct 19 | Pastors' Conference<br>Guest Speaker: Andy Weaver |

## Looking Ahead to November 2026

| | |
|---|---|
| Nov 1 | Daylight Savings Time Ends |
| Nov 2 | Pastors' Conference<br>Guest Speaker: Phillip Smith |
| Nov 15-18 | Summit<br>Sevierville, TN |
| Nov 16 | Pastors' Conference - CANCELLED<br>TN Baptist Summit |
| Nov 25-27 | Thanksgiving Break – CC Schools and Roane State |
| Nov 26 | Thanksgiving Day – OFFICE CLOSED |

### DONATE

Please consider donating to support CPBA. All donations are tax deductible. Donate by mail, in person, or online at www.cpbaptists.com/donate

### SUBSCRIBE

If you currently receive the newsletter in print but could switch to the online version, please subscribe at www.cpbaptists.com/subscription

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