

BE READY-LIVE READY

2016 State Missions Master Article

By Myriah Snyder

Jesus spent his earthly ministry walking the streets, ministering to the poor, desolate and despised. He saw needs and he filled them. He preached God's kingdom to the masses. He sent out His disciples to do the same.

After Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, His disciples received power from the Father and continued to proclaim the gospel. The apostle Paul traveled around the known world, sharing the gospel and planting churches. Others became Christ followers and they, too, were passionate proclaimers of Jesus as the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Times of persecution came to the followers of Christ. Peter wrote to "the temporary residents of the Dispersion" to encourage their faith, to encourage them to be ready and live ready to share the gospel and do good to others, no matter what happened.

And who will harm you if you are passionate for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear or be disturbed, but set apart the Messiah as Lord in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. However, do this with gentleness and respect, keeping your conscience clear, so that when you are accused, those who denounce your Christian life will be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

1 Peter 3:13-17 HCSB

Always be ready. Kentucky Baptists strive to be a living embodiment of this admonition in words and actions. This year, public school children are being reached with the gospel of Christ because a ministry is willing and ready to teach them. Right now, homeless families are being fed and their souls being drawn to the Savior because homeless shelters are ready and equipped to meet their physical and spiritual needs. Because Kentucky Baptists live ready, men, women and children are being shown the love of Christ across our state.

Join us as we look at eight ministries that have taken the challenge to be ready, live ready, seriously. These ministries are made possible through our prayers and financial support through the Eliza Broadus Offering. We, too, must be ready to join in ministry by giving of our time, resources and prayer.

2016 STATE MISSIONS EMPHASIS AND ELIZA BROADUS OFFERING

BE READY - LIVE READY

Refuge Louisville

The mission of Refuge Louisville is to help churches engage the nations in their backyard. To accomplish this, they work alongside area churches to encourage and equip them to engage the refugees and immigrants in their communities. They then provide avenues through which the church can meet the various needs of this international population, and build relationships that are transformative.

The primary focus of the ministry is refugees living within Louisville, though they aim for the methods they use to be easily reproducible anywhere. After they identify neighborhoods with significant refugee populations, they identify and work with neighboring churches to identify and meet that specific community's needs.

Refuge is currently working in multiple communities in Louisville's Metro area providing programs like English as a second language (ESL) classes, citizenship classes, kid's clubs, adopt-a-family programs, youth mentorship, artisan groups, computer classes, in-home tutoring and more. All of the services provided to refugees are free and are a means for the church to love the sojourners living among us in practical ways, as God has commanded us to do.

One Refuge* staffer recently told the story of an Iraqi Muslim woman who recently came to know Christ. "This past year Joy's** husband passed away unexpectedly. Both had been students at our ESL classes. We, along with a few of her ESL teachers, helped her with funeral arrangements. Soon after, she became suicidal and we feared for her life and the safety of her young daughter. What followed was a messy season involving Child Protective Services and intensive mental health care. Still, the ladies that helped with the loss of her husband stuck around through the months of care that were required to see them both have a good and stable home again.

Through this time, Joy started asking questions about Jesus and attending church. Recently, she said that she no longer believed in Islam and wanted to follow Jesus. She is being disciplined and cared for by these same women, and is exhibiting a new found joy in Christ. Her journey is just starting. Please pray for her."

Joy once said, "Islam is all about 'Don't do this and don't do that,' but Christianity seems to be about doing and loving and giving." Refuge workers regularly hear Muslims express that their Muslim neighbors aren't helpful, but that Christians are. "Their past and present experiences are forcing them to reconsider everything they

think about God, so that through genuine care and concern, we gain opportunities to share where this hope in us comes from," explained one Refuge worker. "We never want to put any real or perceived expectations that someone needs to be converted to be helped by us. Far from it! Instead, the love of God compels us to love all people. The church must respond in this way. God is on the move in this refugee crisis, and we dare not miss an opportunity to join in where the battle is raging and where the field is ready for harvest."

The vision and goal for Refuge is to see families working with families. "We can do programs, but over time, programs come and go. The Church needs to be in homes, to be present with people, sharing life with one another," said a worker.

The importance of those who grew up in the United States being able to share their culture and faith with refugees is vital to the ministry. However, it is also important for the refugees to share their culture and who they are. The relational aspect is key.

"It's been beautiful to see some families begin that.

We're hoping that more families are moving that direction of really investing in other families, being present with them, but more importantly making opportunities to share Christ," said a worker.

In the upcoming year as more refugees settle across the state, Refuge hopes that more churches

get involved "in the frontlines of ministry." Those who aren't in the Louisville area can contact a local resettlement agency and "start sharing life with those who are coming as refugees." Another avenue in which churches can get involved is by sending short term mission teams to work with Refuge to be "educated and equipped in cultural ministry." "Our hope is that they can return home and begin to impact their community for Christ," said one worker.

Refuge Louisville is grateful for Eliza Broadus Offering funds. They primarily use them for their youth and children's programs and to provide resources to the churches as they minister in their communities. "Between Bibles and various items, the grant has gone a long way to provide for many people in our communities and also throughout our city and state with the gospel," a worker commented. "Bibles and Jesus film DVDs in different languages help to get God's Word out."



Refuge.

Refuge Louisville Prayer Requests:

- Pray for the thousands and thousands of refugees that will be entering the United States and specifically Kentucky.
- Pray for Refuge, that they can flourish and begin to come alongside churches and help equip and encourage them to engage the nations.
- Pray for Kentucky churches to step up and begin to sponsor and adopt families and to love refugees that are coming from horrific places.
- Pray that God would provide adequate finances for Refuge's ministry.

Learn more: www.refugelouisville.com

*Staff member names are not mentioned for the sake of security and future ministry opportunities.

**Name changed



The infographic is titled "Quick Refugee Facts" and features the "Refuge." logo with a red silhouette of the state of Kentucky. It is divided into three main sections: Louisville, U.S.A., and World. Each section contains bullet points with statistics and facts about refugees. The background of the infographic shows a map of the world with various countries highlighted in different colors.

Quick Refugee Facts

Refuge.

Louisville

- **109 languages** spoken in JCPS school system.
- **2,300 refugees** resettled in Louisville in **2015**.
- At least **55,000 internationals** in Louisville.
- Refugees and immigrants make up **half** of Louisville's population growth each year.

U.S.A.

- **2.5 million** refugees resettled in U.S. since 1959.
- Roughly **73,000 settled annually**
- **2015** top countries of **origin** (for U.S. resettlement):
 - Burma
 - Iraq
 - Somalia
 - Congo
 - Bhutan
 - Iran

World

- Over **55 million** persons of concern in the world (refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons).
- Over **15 million** refugees in the world
- Top refugee **nationalities**:
 - Syrian
 - Afghan
 - Somalian
- Top **hosting** countries:
 - Turkey
 - Pakistan
 - Lebanon

Refugelouisville.com Updated February 2016

BE READY-LIVE READY

Impact Ministry and Christian Women's Job Corps

Impact Ministry has been living ready to help the Christian County community since it opened its doors in 1995. The ministry is part of the Christian County



Baptist Association. Its twofold purpose, according to Impact Ministry's director, Arlene Miller, is "to help low income persons and to give our churches an opportunity to be on mission at home."

Impact achieves this purpose by offering spiritual counseling to each person who comes to the ministry for assistance, free clothes, food, Bibles, hygiene items, diapers, school supplies, birthday party in a bag, new baby bag, winter needs and help with Christmas gifts.

The ministry is open three days a week and help is provided via volunteers from 20 of the association's churches. They serve around 200 people a month, which totals 400-500 family members. Around 15 people a year receive Christ as a result of the ministry's work.

No individual receives help without first going through spiritual counseling. The counselors also work on a volunteer basis.

"I remember the time a mother came asking for shoes for her son," Miller reminisced, sharing how the ministry turns each opportunity to help into an avenue in which to Glorify God.

She continued, "He had been wearing pink floral tennis shoes that belonged to his sister because there was no money to buy shoes for him. We had just been the recipient of the Associational WMU project of 'soles for souls' in our community. We reminded her as we gave her new shoes for her son of how God had provided."

Miller shared another time where God came through for the ministry "just in time." "A lady came asking for a bed. We explained that we do not have space for furniture. As she was telling us her story about staying in the home of a friend who had an extra room for her but no bed, a man drove up to our door with a couch in the back of the truck. He asked if we needed a couch and she immediately answered that she wanted it saying that she would sleep on a couch instead of the floor."

"He responded, 'you don't have to sleep on a couch, this thing makes a bed.' We were all rejoicing as we reminded her of our on time God. The man delivered to the house where she was staying," she said.

Another avenue of ministry housed in the same building is **Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC)**. Arlene serves as the co-director along with Linda Moore. CWJC takes ministry to those in need to the next level by helping women to develop personally and spiritually. Women who come for help at Impact have a place to learn new skills and experience transformation through CWJC classes.

"We decided to begin CWJC after seeing so many women in need and wanting to do more for them. Three of us went to training and after a year of training and preparation, we began classes in 2005," said Miller. "We offer weekly life and job skills classes, and we always have Bible study. Many tell us that their favorite part of class is Bible study."

"We are a strength based ministry," explained Miller. "We allow the women to tell us what they see as their need or how they want to improve. We build on their strengths." CWJC invites women to learn about the program and provides them with a list of possible classes. At the introductory meeting, the CWJC program is explained and requests for classes are processed. Plans are then made for classes such as nutrition, women's health, parenting, conflict management, dealing with change, sewing, cooking, computer basics, writing resumes, budgeting, GED preparation, and self-protection awareness.

An important part of the CWJC ministry is giving back. After completing a class, participants are allowed to choose an area where they will contribute their time or an item. One lady choose to volunteer at Impact Ministry by sorting donated clothing and helping people who come in. After a few weeks of working, she said "I have never before felt the love and friendship of so many Christian women as I do now here with these ladies all working to help other people."



Utilities for the building which houses Impact Ministry and Christian Women's Job Corps are provided by Christian County Baptist Association. Additional funding for these ministries comes from churches, donations and grants, including the Eliza Broadus Offering. With the EBO funds, the ministry purchases Bibles, baby items, food, and the other things necessary to be ready to share the gospel.

Individuals may get involved in both Impact and CWJC by donating needed items, volunteering, and by praying for the ministries.

Impact/CWJC Prayer Requests:

- Pray for opportunities to share Christ with those who come to Impact and CWJC.
- Pray for physical health of all of the volunteers so they will be able to serve others
- Pray for women who participate in Christian Women's Job Corps to learn how they can live ready, both spiritually and through employment.
- Pray for the Arlene and other leaders to have wisdom in leading these ministries.

For more information about Christian Women's Job Corps and Christian Men's Job Corps:

www.wmu.com/jobcorps



BE READY - LIVE READY

God's Appalachian Partnership



God's Appalachian Partnership (GAP) lives ready to share the gospel by meeting the spiritual and physical needs of people in Appalachia. Located in McDowell, GAP focuses on Floyd County and a 22 mile stretch of State Route 122 that runs between the towns of Martin and Wheelwright. This area is characterized by the beauty of the Appalachian landscape as well as poverty and social issues that are prevalent.

John and Shaughanessy Morris, NAMB missionaries since 2001, serve with GAP. John became the second executive director in 2014. Shaughanessy is the graphic designer and oversees GAP's media. Serving with them is Kathy Henson, director of distribution, who oversees resource distribution and helps teach classes.



The GAP staff and volunteers meet spiritual and physical needs by:

- Meeting the person on the level of spiritual need so that they will grow into the person God created them to be and share that with others.
- Meeting the physical needs through food, clothing housing and other areas essential to wellness in an effort to promote personal responsibility.
- Meeting the personal development need through special training which enhances the economic potential of the individual and the community as a whole.

GAP ministers to people in need providing food, household supplies, furniture, home repairs and classes. Classes include parenting, nutrition, money saving tips, budgeting classes and Bible studies.

In addition, in their distribution center, the ministry hosts "BeansTalk" to give a place for the community to share a hot meal and get to know each other. Some of their

other ministry events include a community Easter egg hunt; KidStock, a fun event for families where various school supplies and tennis shoes are provided; and a Christmas project.

GAP ministry is partially funded through the Kentucky Baptist Convention Missions Mobilization Team which provides resources for Church and Community Missions (CCM). The Eliza Broadus Offering provides funds to KBC for missionary support as well as CCM initiatives to more effectively reach the lost.

"God's Appalachian Partnership is showing people the love of God in tangible ways," said Eric Allen, Missions Mobilization Team Leader. "Their ministry contributes to community transformation as they endeavor to develop people, not just distribute items to meet human needs."

He continued, "I am fascinated about the creative and innovative ways that GAP has chosen to share the life changing message of the gospel with people in need. John and Shaughanessy Morris work so well as a team and it is evident that God has gifted them for this particular ministry."

"I'm enthusiastic about the future ministry of GAP and believe it will continue to expand and strengthen in response to the growing needs of people who don't yet know Jesus Christ as Lord," Allen added.

Sarah (name changed), a former client of GAP and now a volunteer in ministry to others, shared her story. "My husband and I moved back to Eastern Kentucky about 10 years ago. We had three little girls and a very limited budget. I can't recall how I heard about GAP. All I know is that I am very thankful that we found it. Many times the food we received helped us get from paycheck to paycheck without my family going hungry. The biggest blessing was in items that food stamps could not purchase such as detergent, shampoo, diapers, wipes, etc. I remember praying one time before my appointment and telling God of all our needs. I walked back to the diaper section and they didn't have my girl's size. I asked the person working if there were any more in the back. She checked and there on the shelf was one bag of diapers the very size I needed! I was amazed how God use GAP to meet my need. God heard my prayers. He cares about my family and He supplied our needs."



Sarah continued, “Another time I remember praying and asking God to supply winter coats for the girls. One day there was a knock on the door and there was GAP handing us bags of Christmas gifts for the girls. When we opened the gifts, they included winter coats for each of them. I was blown away in how God uses GAP and the people that donate to GAP to provide for others.”

“Sarah is no longer in need of assistance from GAP. Now she and her family serve as volunteers and minister to individuals who are where she once was,” said John Morris. “Sarah currently serves full-time at the local church where she and her family attend. It is exciting to see how the Lord is using this family for His glory.”

Gwen (name changed) had been coming to GAP for about a year when a mission team from Pennsylvania came and offered haircuts, styles, and manicures. Gwen had not had a haircut in years, but decided that she would like to have her waist-length hair cut “short and spiky” like one of the female missionaries at GAP. Later that day she stopped in to see Morris. As he got up to greet her, he said “Gwen, I love your hair, it’s beautiful.” Gwen began to cry and said to Morris, “Today is the first day in my life that I have ever felt beautiful.”

“Those words hit me like a ton of bricks,” said Morris. “This was the opportunity we had been waiting for God to provide. I said, ‘Gwen, you are beautiful because God created you. You have been created in the image of the Almighty God. Psalm 139 says that you are fearfully and wonderfully made.’ I went on to share the plan of salvation and just how much God does love her. Gwen’s life was transformed as we met her at the point of her need that day – which happened to be a haircut – and then shared with her the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

Mission teams are invited to volunteer as well as individuals and families. Additionally, summer

internships are available. For more information on how to get involved, visit gapky.org or call 606-377-0332.



GAP Prayer Requests:

- Pray that the 325 families that come to GAP each month would see the provision of God and look to Him alone for salvation.
- Pray for a women’s Bible study that meets every Wednesday at noon. Pray that these ladies will continue to grow in their relationship with Christ and would reach their neighbors for Him.
- Pray for the funds to build a new building for this ministry. Since 1999 GAP has rented buildings from a coal mining company. However, the current buildings place limits on what can be done through the ministry. A few years ago GAP was able to purchase land and would like to build new facilities to better serve the community.
- Pray that those who come to know Christ through the ministry of GAP will become connected to a local church.
- Pray that God will send more partners who will be willing to pray, give, and serve.



BE READY - LIVE READY

BREAK Ministries

BREAK ministries is ready to share the gospel each week with children in public schools. BREAK or Bible Released-time Education Association of Kentucky is an off campus program that is offered as an elective in public elementary schools.

BREAK, also known as KRTBEA (Kentucky Released Time Bible Education Association, Inc.) teaches children what the Bible says about things such as God and the Christian life. The classes focus on character training practical application of Biblical principles.

Throughout the week, this program offers the students Bible stories, Bible memory, music and activities all in a safe Christ centered environment. They do this by meeting in a renovated bus parked just off of campus. The time together is treated just like any other elective offered to the students. Parents must request that their child receive this Bible based moral education.

The 10 year old ministry began in one elementary school in Corbin with 75 students. Today it is in four schools in two school systems totaling nearly 900 third through sixth graders.

The idea of RTBE (Released Time Bible Education) has been around since 1914. BREAK is part of a movement to revive this mission tool – especially in Kentucky. However, BREAK has also been used to encourage RTBE in Ohio and Tennessee.

“Released Time worked hand and hand with our school to improve the overall culture in our building. Whenever we would see certain misbehaviors arise, I would communicate this to the Released Time teachers and they would teach lessons in their classes to reinforce proper behavior in the building,” Sharon Ball, principal of Corbin Elementary, said.

She continued, “Several of our students who attended Release Time would mention to me what they had learned in Bible class. In fact, one student wrote a note to me, and at the end she mentioned a lesson she had learned in Release Time that day.”

“Often, students who attend Released Time may be students who struggle academically. This program offers encouragement and adult mentoring which has helped our students to be influenced to work harder in their classes and perform better in class,” Ball added.

Through BREAK ministries, the teachers have been able to see many children come to a saving faith in Christ. One of the goals of the ministry is that through this daytime school program not only the children, but families can be reached.

The BREAK team, which is staffed by three self-funded missionaries and around 20 community volunteers, “feel called by God to evangelize and disciple public school children during the school day, teaching them, to trust and obey Jesus. We also feel these children are the avenue to further reach families and school staff to trust and obey Jesus,” Beth Arnold, Teacher/Advocate and NAMB MSC missionary, said.

BREAK is thankful for support from the Eliza Broadus Offering because with those funds the ministry can renovate the buses where the children are taught. In the past, funds provided through the KBC helped the ministry expand to another school.

BREAK always needs more teachers, volunteers, renovated buses and drivers and financial support. For more information on how to get involved, contact BREAK4children@gmail.com. However, the greatest need is for dedicated prayer warriors.

BREAK Prayer Requests:

- Pray for continued good favor and open doors to minister and expand BREAK ministries.
- Pray that the physical needs of the ministry will be met.
- Pray that God called leaders will rise up in other communities to champion and help organize Bible Release-time for schools near them.
- Pray for God’s guidance, direction, and wisdom.



BE READY - LIVE READY

LIFEproject with the Kentucky Baptist Convention

Imagine living ready to share the gospel by taking your hobby or something that you are passionate about and turning it into a mission field.

This is what LIFEproject through the Kentucky Baptist Convention is about.

“LIFEproject is a church-wide strategy designed to help churches engage community affinity groups. We believe LIFEproject will help KBC churches fulfill the Great Commission by reaching the communities within their communities with the gospel of Jesus,” Andy McDonald, Affinity Strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said.

“We know that nearly every person in every community (including our church members) has a connection to other people through common hobbies, interests, needs, concerns, work and neighborhoods. LIFEproject helps believers leverage this connectedness to reach the lost,” continued McDonald.

LIFEproject uses hobbies and activities such as archery, motorcycles and ATVs, hunting and fishing, fitness and health, community celebrations, Power Lunch, Military and First Responders events, church sponsored 5K runs and sports outreach ministries, student and collegiate events, and so many others to make community connections and thereby share the gospel. This approach is referred to as affinity evangelism.

“Affinity evangelism has helped multiple churches reach thousands for Christ! LIFEproject is a simple but effective way for believers to reach people for Jesus while doing what they love to do or have a burden for,” McDonald shared.



The materials for LIFEproject consist of a Leaders Guide, Members Guide and other practical online tools that will guide churches in a step-by-

step process. “Look, Identify, Focus and Engage” any affinity group in their community is the theme of the project.

Officially launched during the 2015 Kentucky Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in Elizabethtown, the project is being promoted through a LIFE Tour which began in March. “We are going to

make nine stops over nine months and will end in Northern Kentucky the week before the Kentucky Baptist Convention Annual Meeting,” explained McDonald. He described the LIFE Tour as a

“series of training events offered in different regions of the state designed to help pastors and other leaders understand how LIFEproject works.” He also said that the LIFE Tour included a Power Lunch evangelism event so that attendees could see the strategy in action. “To quote Chuck McAlister,” said McDonald, “LIFE Tour will be like a mini RISK conference.”

Previous cooperating endeavors with LIFEproject include Kentucky Baptist Bikers to help bikers encounter Jesus, over 30 churches using Centershot archery ministry, Tell Your Story and the Spanish version of Tell Your Story.

“At one Kentucky Baptist Biker event a young man gave his heart to Jesus,” McDonald said. “That young man later posted the following on Facebook, ‘I feel great! You guys are what I needed to help me find hope in God. I finally trust in Jesus... Thank you guys and thank God I’ve been found and redeemed.’” Additionally, Centershot has seen children, students and adults come to Christ, including four people who trusted in Jesus at our first ever Centershot tournament in May 2015.

“Eliza Broadus Offering funds have paid for the printing of the LIFEproject materials as well as funding for all or part of many Engage events...Kentucky Baptist Bikers, Centershot, Outreach to students at Elizabethtown Community Technical College, a Veterans worship service at Stithton Baptist in Radcliffe where many came to Christ...these are only a few of such events,” McDonald said. “Eliza Broadus Offering will continue to fund these kinds of events as well as LIFE training events.”

“I also believe it needs to be stated that LIFEproject is about more than affinity events,” said McDonald. “It also acts as the catalyst for ongoing affinity ministries that the church can use to help



people encounter Jesus. This is the ultimate goal of LIFEproject, to transcend the affinity event and create an atmosphere where people are encountering Jesus in multiple ministries through the church. It's actually a means by which a church can engage their community to show their care and concern for the community. It allows the community to experience the love of Jesus through the acts of love shown by the church."

For more information on LIFEproject, contact Andy McDonald with the Kentucky Baptist Convention at andy.mcdonald@kybaptist.org or visit www.kybaptist.org/lifeproject.

LIFEproject Prayer Requests:

- Pray that all KBC Churches would be deeply burdened for the lost in their communities.
- Pray that LIFEproject will be a powerful tool in God's hands to help churches reach the lost in their communities through affinity style evangelism.
- Pray that LIFEproject and Tell Your Story together, would inspire and equip individual believers to see the affinity groups they are already involved in as their mission field, emboldening them to share the Gospel with these groups as they do what they love to do or have a passion to do.



BE READY - LIVE READY

Louisville Rescue Mission

Louisville Rescue Mission (LRM) has been helping the homeless and hurting of Louisville since 1881 under various names. Their goal is “to proclaim the gospel and extend God’s mercy to the homeless and hurting of the greater Louisville area in support of the local church.”

LRM has stood ready to serve thousands of those homeless and hurting in more ways than one. From February 2015 to February 2016, the Emergency Day Shelter served 2159 individuals totaling 32,755 visits. They provided approximately 31,500 meals, laundry service for 2,600 loads and 6,400 showers/toiletry items. Their Permanent Supportive Housing program provides homes and supportive services including case management and subsidized rent for 11 disabled men.

“They embrace men and women experiencing homelessness and poverty with the compassion of Jesus Christ, as He alone gives hope and healing for a restored life. They offer a variety of programs to meet the needs of the whole person,” Eric Allen, leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention’s Missions Mobilization, said.

Allen continued, “When someone is homeless or hurting, they have immediate physical needs. The hope is to meet these needs through Emergency Services, which include food, clothing, hot showers, laundry, storage and mail services. The residential LifeChange program for men helps heal brokenness and build positive new lives with a biblical foundation. They provide subsidized permanent housing to men coming out of homelessness who have a diagnosed disabling condition.”

Another way they seek to combat the “Crisis of Homelessness” is daily chapel services at the day shelter. The gospel is faithfully proclaimed through pastors, students, volunteers and staff.

LifeChange is a program provided by LRM for men with life-controlling issues. LifeChange is a residential program lasting six to nine months. Their goal is to help these men confront their issues and empower them “to change through gospel-centered

teaching, biblically based care and counseling, case management, life skills training and involvement in a local church,” according to their website.

At LifeChange, the men are given a place to stay, meals, weekly counseling sessions, daily small groups and classes, job training and preparation and are connected with a local church. LRM is committed to walk alongside these men and point them to the cross, see their lives transformed by the power of God, and help them walk in the light.

John had a seemingly great life as a successful businessman in marketing and a happy marriage. However, his addictions consumed his life and left his marriage broken, him jobless and hopeless. Through LifeChange’s case management, counseling and Biblical teaching, he left LRM with a new job and more importantly a new life as a baptized follower of Christ.

Robin began his time at LRM through the day shelter, eventually entering the LifeChange program. He struggled to leave the program, being unsure of his next step. LRM could provide that next step through the Permanent Supportive Housing program. Today Robin is no longer homeless and is employed and an active member of a local KBC church. Additionally, Robin serves as the Resident Manager at LRM and is a positive influence on the other residents in permanent housing and LifeChange.

Louisville Rescue Mission is thankful for the Eliza Broadus Offering funds that they receive. EBO funds are used to help support the programs and services of LRM, especially the LifeChange residential recovery program and emergency services. Expenses include curriculum for the program, supplies, transportation, equipment and personnel.

Volunteers are needed to help with meal preparation, mail distribution, managing the laundry schedule, bag storage, chapel leadership, holiday events and maintenance. Women only are needed in the women's shelter. For more information on how to get involved, contact LRM at 502.584.6543 or info@louisvillerescuemission.org.

Learn more: www.louisvillerescuemission.org.



Louisville Rescue Mission Prayer Requests:

- Pray for additional volunteers and workers.
- Pray that the men in the LifeChange program will find meaningful employment.
- Pray that those trusting in Christ through the ministry will be assimilated into local churches.
- Pray for the finances as LRM will not accept grants or funding that restricts their ability to share Christ.



BE READY-LIVE READY

Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids

In June of each year, children gather in two locations for three days of hands-on missions as well as Bible study, track time, prayer walking, recreation and more. The occasion is Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids (MAKK). During this three day summer event, children in grades 4-6 learn to live ready to share their faith.

The first MAKK events were held in 2015 in Princeton and Inez. In 2016, MAKK trips were held in Bowling Green and Richmond.

Prayer walking lays the foundation for the ministry projects and helps children see needs in each community. Other ministries throughout the weekend include ministries such as helping at local thrift stores with sorting items, singing at area nursing homes, Backyard Bible Clubs, and sports camps.

The goal of MAKK is to help children grow closer to Christ. They strive for this goal by learning to develop a missional lifestyle and be sensitive to the needs of others, develop the habit of daily quiet time and learn to use and appreciate their God-given gifts to share the gospel.

“During the 2015 event, the children were divided into teams to prayer walk the community. It was amazing to see how quickly kids learn to pray for the needs they saw!” shared Stacy Nall, preschool and children’s consultant with Kentucky WMU. She told the story of one boy who saw a beer can laying on the side of the road. The boy asked if they could pray for the person who drank that beer.

Another thing the children did during MAKK was singing at nursing homes. After singing some well-known hymns, the kids were encouraged to talk to the residents. There the students not only were a blessing to the residents, but they learned from the residents too.

One of the girls shared, “I was blessed when I went to the nursing home and met a lady named Mrs. Mary. She was 98 and she was still painting. She even was learning a new technique and it showed me you can always learn something new.”

During the Backyard Bible Club some children led crafts, others led games and music, and others told the Bible story through drama. The kids even went out on their own and invited neighborhood kids to come. They then led that particular club without any assistance from the adults.

The Eliza Broadus Offering helps make Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids possible. While participants do pay a small fee to cover meals and some of the event expenses, EBO provides the rest, allowing WMU to keep the participation fee lower. EBO provides funds for a variety of missions education resources and events sponsored by Kentucky WMU, allowing children and students opportunities to experience missions first hand.



MAKK Prayer Requests:

- Pray that the children that MAKK participants minister to will see the love of Christ in the kids.
- Pray for Kentucky WMU staff and the volunteers who are leading these mission adventures.
- Pray for the children and the adult chaperones.
- Pray for the communities where the children will minister.
- Pray that participation in a mission adventure will lead to many more for each child.



BE READY - LIVE READY

Ministry to Ramey-Estep Homes

When the Women on Mission Prisms from First Baptist Church of Russell began discipling 24 troubled girls in the Ramey-Estep Homes in 2005, they knew they had taken on a great responsibility.

Ramey-Estep Homes is a private, not-for-profit organization offering residential treatment and community based services to boys and girls, ages 12 through 18 in Boyd County, Kentucky. To minister to the girls at Ramey-Estep, the Prisms began missional parties, including devotions, music and refreshments. Sometimes they add games, crafts and/or ministry projects, depending on the theme of the evening. Everything is Christ centered, and they give the girls Christian resources, including DVDs, CDs and literature, for use in their cottages.

As the number of girls grew, the Prisms group realized that they could not handle the task alone. That's when they decided to live ready and discovered the beauty of associational partnership.

"As more girls were coming to Ramey-Estep Homes, we reached out for help about five years ago," explained Pam Holbrook, WMU Director at First Baptist Church, Russell. "Each visit is a big undertaking, and we want to do it right."

"We prayed for guidance and were led to ask another WMU group from a church in our association, Garner Missionary Baptist, and those ladies were happy to also be on mission in that place. We coordinate our visits throughout the year, and every month is covered," she said.

At events, the WMU members break participants into groups of six girls or so and a couple of ladies for personal time, including taking prayer requests that "break our hearts," said Holbrook.

"The girls have been removed from their homes because parental presence/guidance is missing. Some parents are in jail, and some of the girls have had brushes with the law and other authorities because of truancy, drugs, cutting, suicide attempts, being in gangs, sexual acting out and other destructive behaviors," she explained.

By 2014, the girl's part of the home all had Christian mentors but the boys had no ministry. The WMU groups began to pray about this dilemma and asked men's groups in the association to step up. In December 2014, a group of men from Garner Missionary Baptist answered that call.

The group gives the credit to the Lord for the "vital meaningful ministry covering the entire Ramey-Estep Homes campus" that was made possible by the addition of the boy's ministry.

"We love our Ramey girls!" Holbrook said. "We have laughed, cried, prayed, sang, danced and crafted. And we have eaten our way through just about every snack/appetizer known to mankind! We have dressed up like princesses for princess parties (our royalty in Christ) and made our own essential oils while learning about their uses from Biblical accounts."

Holbrook went on to account for many adventures that the girls and mentors have had together, including ministry projects that the girls have been able to be involved in. "They are sweet girls who love to do things for others!" she said.

"The EBO grants help us do all of this and more. We are so thankful to all those who give to the Eliza Broadus offering! Young, precious lives are being transformed by and for Christ!" Holbrook concluded.

Prayer Requests:

- Please remember the girls and boys as they work through individualized treatment programs and receive education at REH and the agency's high school, with the goal of wellness and becoming successful young adults.
- Pray they will always put Christ first and influence their families and friends.
- Pray for their incarcerated/abusive/absent parents, and for the grandparents who often take over child-rearing duties.
- Pray for the REH workers as they help, instruct and treat. Pray for Prisms, as well as the Garner men and women, as we reach out to the boys and girls with love, care, grace and hope in Jesus' name.
- Pray more men and women will join us on mission. We need loving, caring people gifted with teaching, music, crafts, administration and hospitality -- and those with big hearts who just love children and the Lord.
- People that God continues to provide funds for the work of the ministry.

BE READY - LIVE READY

The stories presented here are just a sampling of the ministries across Kentucky. Through these ministries, Kentucky Baptists show that they want to Be Ready - Live Ready to share the gospel. With prayer support from across the state and gifts given through the Eliza Broadus Offering, these ministries will continue to meet needs and present the gospel.

May the words of Paul challenge us even today to Be Ready - Live Ready!

*But honor the Messiah as
Lord in your hearts. Always be ready
to give a defense to anyone who asks you
for a reason for the hope that is in you.
- 1 Peter 3:15*

About the writer: Myriah Snyder is a news writer for the *Western Recorder*, a freelance writer/editor and a Sunday school teacher at Walnut Street Baptist Church. You can find her work at myriahgailsnyder.wordpress.com.