

# power to SERVE

## 2014 Kentucky State Missions Master Article

By Kristen White

Acts 1:8 reveals both a call to serve and the power to serve. Jesus said to his disciples, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8 HCSB).

The call and the power are at work through Kentucky Baptist missionaries and missions volunteers. This year there are people in eastern Kentucky who heard the name and story of Jesus for the very first time. There are children in western Kentucky who received their first bikes—with the message that Jesus loves them. Across Kentucky, prisoners and their families heard that Jesus can save and set them free and hungry people were fed by members of church plants who want to build lives more than buildings. Dozens of self-funded missionaries, hundreds of short-term volunteers, and thousands of givers are working together, obeying God’s commission to go and tell. Through Him, they find their Power to Serve!

Join us as we take a look at eight ministries that share Christ with the lost. These ministries, and so many others, depend upon our giving to the Eliza Broadus Offering. May we find our power to pray, give and serve as the Holy Spirit speaks to us through the Word and through resources which make us aware of needs and opportunities.

This year’s emphasis is on service. We serve as we pray for Kentucky missions. We serve as we give sacrificially. We serve as we personally share the gospel with others. We serve as we go and minister in the Name of Jesus. And in every avenue, the Power to Serve comes from the Holy Spirit.

# power to SERVE

One day in the summer of 2012, Eduardo V. walked through his apartment complex in despair. His twin brother had just committed suicide, and his mother left him a bottle of pills and a note encouraging him to do the same thing. Eduardo considered it, because his step-father cruelly abused him. But that day he met guys from the Kentucky Baptist Campus Ministry (BCM) Experience 1:8 team embedded with First Baptist Church, Shelbyville. Instead of suicide, through the witness and friendship of collegiate summer missionaries, he met Jesus.

The 1:8 students virtually adopted Eduardo and disciplined him the rest of the summer. They helped Eduardo understand that his Heavenly Father had a purpose for his life and wanted him to live with victory over his fears and feelings of rejection. Open Door of Hope Men's Shelter (an EBO recipient), the church, and the Experience 1:8 team worked together to help Eduardo in his tumultuous transition from broken to born again.

All over Kentucky, children, international college students, people living in low-income housing, fair workers, and camp-goers have been influenced by the enthusiasm and clear passion 1:8 team members have for Jesus Christ. Every summer through the ministry of 1:8 teams, salvation and life change results in many lives.

To be selected to serve on an Experience 1:8 team, students apply to serve in the fall semester. They receive training paid for in part by EBO funding through the spring semester and land on the field to serve for eight weeks in the summer.

Each Experience 1:8 team is unique and provides a local missions opportunity and an international experience. Students have partnered with Kentucky WMU to lead summer camps and with local churches for area ministries. WMU staff and church members have the opportunity to work alongside the college students and mutually beneficial, lifelong friendships naturally happen.

"The beauty of Experience 1:8 is that it gives the opportunity for students to *do* one-on-one sharing of the gospel and to *receive* one-on-one mentoring from campus ministers and church leaders," says Brian Combs, Collegiate Evangelism Strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. "We prioritize helping students develop a biblical foundation of missions in an environment appropriate for



## Day 1 – Experience 1:8

effective spiritual and personal development. This positions students to learn what it means to be an active Christ-follower and to help more people encounter Jesus."

"A holistic discipleship emphasis," explains Combs, "provides each team with study plans that touch on everything from conflict resolution, how to plan ministry events, how to share your faith, to how to make good choices now that will lead to the best future later. Thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for continuing to support college students. Because of your gifts to EBO, college students are learning that they have power to serve. And given that 67% of our BCM students end up in leadership positions within the local church, your investment in college students is an investment in the local church that changes lives for eternity. That makes EBO a worthy investment."

Combs is also excited about expanding Experience 1:8 through Mission 1:8. "Starting this year, we are challenging former 1:8ers to step up to Mission 1:8 (M18). Each Kentucky BCM will have at least one or two M18 collegiate mobilizers that will assist in recruiting, developing and leading mission teams in Kentucky, the U.S., and around the world. M18 will increase the number of college students mobilized by more than six times to close to 200!"

College campuses today are some of the darkest places in the world. The party culture and rejection of God that is deliberately taught in classrooms bring doubt and destruction to huge numbers of young people. Kentucky Baptist Collegiate Ministries reach into this darkness and literally rescue lives, then teach them how to give their lives away in Christ's name through missions experiences.

**Prayer:** Pray that God will draw college students to His Son, Jesus Christ, as they start their fall semesters. Pray that God will guard, guide, and strengthen Christian college students. Pray that through the witness of Baptist Collegiate Ministries, many lives on campuses and in communities will be utterly transformed.



# power to SERVE

Can a fresh-baked cookie change a life? Can a wild game dinner recharge a church? What do these have in common? They are tools used by churches to reach people for Christ through Affinity Evangelism. “Through Kentucky Baptists’ evangelism strategy, Affinity Evangelism, we are seeing lives, churches, and communities utterly transformed,” says Chuck McAlister, Team Leader for Evangelism, Church Planting, and Collegiate Ministries for the KBC.

When Randy Boyd of Grapevine Baptist Church in Madisonville contacted Chuck about hosting a wild game dinner in March 2013, he had no idea what God was about to do. The church worked hard to gather door prizes, prepare food, and invite the community. Chuck had the men who came to the dinner on the edge of their seats with stories of hunting expeditions. Then it was time for an explanation of the One who created the great outdoors, the God who loved these men enough to send His Son for them. During the response, 128 men gave their hearts to Christ.

Late last year, Chuck stopped in Madisonville to meet with Grapevine about this year’s wild game dinner. The room was filled with men ready to work toward giving more people the opportunity to hear about Jesus Christ. “The unique thing about this planning meeting,” Chuck explains, “was that I was greeted by men who became Christians at the first wild game dinner. These men had plugged into the church. They didn’t just mark a card. Their lives were changed.”

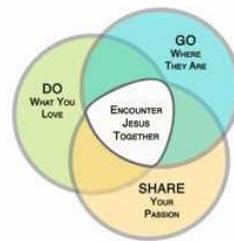
Affinity Evangelism is a nonthreatening strategy churches can use to reach their communities for Christ. Using the surveys and advice given in the Affinity Evangelism Workbook, churches can assess the interests of families and individuals in their community, then select an evangelistic approach that will appeal to people who may never feel comfortable attending a traditional church service or revival. Since its introduction at RISK in 2013, this workbook has been used in hundreds of churches in Kentucky, other states, and even other nations. It is provided free to churches online or in print thanks to EBO funding.

## Day 2 - Affinity Evangelism

“By meeting people where they are and showing you care about their needs, they will be more receptive to hearing the message you share about Christ – and they may come plant their lives in your church,” says Andy McDonald, Affinity Evangelism Strategist for the KBC. “Some churches have found that kids in their community want to learn archery skills. Some churches have hosted other kinds of sports leagues, motorcycle rides, wild game dinners, or women’s events. There is no limit to the type of emphasis a church could have, but the uniting factor is a clear Gospel presentation.”

Employees at the KBC have started their own Affinity Evangelism outreach this year. With help from Kentucky WMU, KBC employees took cookies to more than 200 business people in Louisville and invited them to leadership lunches held once a month. As KBC employees reach out to business people through this affinity, friendships will be built and lives will change.

What do families in your community care about? Find out—and start there to reach them with the Good News that Jesus loves them. For help determining your Affinity Evangelism strategy, contact Andy McDonald at the Kentucky Baptist Convention.



**Prayer:** Thank God for the effective and creative ways in which churches are reaching out to their communities. Ask God for a continued resurgence in evangelistic efforts of local churches. Pray that many people who have never heard a clear explanation of Jesus Christ will come to Affinity Evangelism events this year and decide to follow Him.

# power to SERVE

When Jenny's\* husband was arrested and sent to prison at the Big Sandy Federal Penitentiary, she felt scared and helpless. Without her husband's income, she lost her home and had to sell most of her belongings to make ends meet. On the weekends, she had the opportunity to go to visitation at the prison, but how could she afford to travel and pay for lodging? Through the hard work of Haven of Rest Family Ministries in Inez (east of Paintsville), supported by the EBO and churches around Kentucky, Jenny found hope and met Jesus. Now she looks forward to what she calls her "weekend retreats." Although the prison is still a stressful place for her, she knows she is loved at Haven of Rest.

For 10 years, Haven of Rest has provided free food and lodging for families who are visiting inmates at Big Sandy. Joyce and Harold Scroggs, who accepted the position of directorship two years ago, share God's love through meeting physical needs, providing a safe place of encouragement, and holding a chapel service on Saturday evenings. The lodge is also used during the week to house teams providing VBS, Backyard Bible Clubs, block parties, nursing home, home repair, and Christmas on the Mountain ministries. Through various types of outreach, people's needs are met and lives are literally changed for an eternity. Those who have never heard the name of Jesus or a clear explanation of the Gospel come face-to-face with truth.

## Day 3 - Haven of Rest

Laundering linens, shopping for food, making meals, assigning rooms, loving people in desperate circumstances—the adventures at Haven of Rest never end, Joyce explains. "There's never a dull moment!" she says. When she and Harold could be spending their retirement years focusing on their own happiness, they are committed to focus on others. How do they find their energy to serve?

"We remember where our source of power comes from. During a lengthy battle with health issues, we wondered if our ministry was coming to an end, but God had other plans for us. Even during that difficult period of our lives, God was preparing us for our next ministry at Haven of Rest. We find power to serve as long as God is leading the way. All we have to do is be obedient and be blessed!" Joyce shares. "The moment we are saved, our lives are changed forever and we have a divine calling to share our



faith. Ask God what He wants you to do and do it. When we asked, God confirmed that our call was at Haven of Rest."

Jenny is one of many who travel to Inez to visit their family members in prison – and some come from as far as California. Some drive all night after getting off work on Friday to have time with their loved one on Saturday. Haven of Rest is a crucial step in the journey of these families toward restoration and wholeness, but it takes money and people to maintain the buildings, purchase food, and reach out into the community in other ways. "Pray for the fruits of our labor," Joyce says. "We are doing this to intervene in families who have no hope outside of Christ. He gives us our power to serve. He has power to transform lives."

**Prayer:** Pray that God will grant Harold and Joyce health, resources, energy, and help from teams to carry out this life-changing ministry. Ask God to protect those traveling each weekend to visit their loved ones in prison. Ask God to give prisoners and their families the ability to understand that Jesus can wash away past mistakes and help them restore their lives.



Harold & Joyce  
Scroggs

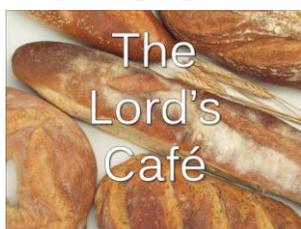
\*Name changed.



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## Day 4 – The Lord’s Café at Crossroads Community Baptist Church

It is a beautiful afternoon in Stearns. In the café, you can hear the tinkling of water glasses see people laughing and eating a full meal, including fresh yeast rolls, just like they would in any other restaurant across the United States. Except this one is free. Run solely by volunteers, who greet customers, pray with them, and cook food that is donated, The Lord’s Café exists to meet the physical and spiritual hunger of people in Eastern Kentucky.



Henry T. serves as one of The Lord’s Café hosts. A couple of years ago, Henry’s house was extensively damaged by fire. He began eating lunch at The Lord’s Café because of his limited

resources. He got acquainted with Grant and Gina Hasty, who oversee The Lord’s Café, and soon told them about his need. Through this friendship, Henry has met Christ, made connections to get the help he needed for his home, and has experienced the joy of service.

The Lord’s Café is just one of the many social ministries of Crossroads Community Baptist Church, a church plant started in 2010. They also provide baby care items for a local pregnancy center, hygiene, cleaning supplies, and adult care items for three adult care organizations, clothing, tutoring, day camps, recovery programs, and a laundry ministry. They also match mission teams with construction/home repair projects. God called Grant to plant this care-focused church in 2010, and he has seen the best and worst that ministry can bring.

“Sometimes when we close the door to The Lord’s Café on Friday, we are completely out of food. We have no idea where Monday’s meal will come from, but it comes. We have never had to close because of a lack of food. I call it a modern day loaves and fishes. God does miraculous things when we lean forward and trust Him. Mission teams flood in to meet needs



and change lives in the summer. But there are days of great discouragement, too. We need more churches that understand our calling to encourage and help us on a regular basis,” Grant says.

Crossroads Community reaches out to what Grant calls “de-churched” people. These are people who once attended church, but were asked not to come back because of life issues, the way they dressed, or other reasons. Some people served by The Lord’s Café and other Crossroads ministries have overwhelming needs and are deeply troubled. Grant admits it is hard to know how to respond. The goal, however, is showing people the hope of Christ in practical ways. “We can’t fix every problem, but I believe when people see us meeting their physical needs, then addressing their spiritual needs with Scripture, people experience what life in Christ looks like and fall in love with Him,” Grant says.

The challenge to reach people in Stearns is great. EBO makes a difference by assisting with church planting, but with hundreds of people served through Crossroads’ ministries each week, resources, supplies, and mission teams are always welcome.

Chuck McAlister, KBC Evangelism and Church Planting Team leader reports that “This year we have seen the birth of several new churches, including new ethnic works. Many people are experiencing the transforming power of Jesus Christ through these church plants. We continue to thank God for the partnership we share with WMU and faithful support through the Eliza Broadus Offering.”

**Prayer:** KBC has set a God-sized goal of planting 50 new churches in the next year, including church plants on several college campuses. Pray for these new churches as they lead more people to encounter Jesus.

Pray that God will provide bountifully for The Lord’s Café and other ministries of Crossroads Community Baptist Church. Ask God to allow people in eastern Kentucky to hear a clear explanation of how Jesus can save and set them free from addiction, child abuse, poverty, and spiritual darkness.



# power to SERVE

## Day 5 - IICE Intentional Innovative Community Evangelism

Wood chips fly in Van Yandell's shop. He is making another game to be used by churches and ministries across Kentucky in block parties and other evangelistic outreach. While Van's hands craft wood, his heart for the lost crafts broken lives into ones that know about the Redeemer and Rebuilder.

For 12 years, Van Yandell of Fredonia has served as an evangelist, preaching revivals and evangelistic messages at events. His wife Marjorie presents creative monologues about women in the Bible. As they were preparing to retire from teaching careers, they asked God how He wanted to use them. God kept saying, "Go. Reach the lost."

Through their self-supported ministry, Intentional Innovative Community Evangelism (IICE), Van and Marjorie have gotten their hands in all kinds of projects and lives. They lead a worship service and support ministry to homeless people at River City Mission in Paducah, providing the residents with inspiring teaching and a clear explanation of the plan of salvation, as well as Bibles, reading glasses, gift bags of hygiene items, and crucial encouragement. One man who came to Christ through this ministry told Van that when he asked God to save him, "I felt a rush go through me like nothing I ever felt. This is real, man."

Homeless ministry is just one small aspect of their work, however. Their work reaches people in disaster situations, prisons, convalescent centers, in other countries, and at festivals nearby. In 2013, at "Kid's Fest" in Muhlenburg County, where Van preached and provided fair games, 108 people gave their lives to Christ. Local pastors and the DOM fol-

lowed up with those who made decisions, and many were baptized and are now connected to churches.



Kid's Fest was fun and shared the gospel.



Van & Marjorie Yandell

A new ministry, "West Kentucky Kingdom Riders," is impacting lives, too. As participation in each ride grows, Christian motorcyclists are able to answer the curiosity of onlookers and fellow bikers about their purpose. "Questions are like an invitation to tell people about Jesus," Van says.

One of Van's loves is training people to share their faith, and he believes that common interests are a great starting point to share the Gospel. "Quit putting off living out your calling!" Van encourages, "The mission field is not getting any smaller. We can hold onto our insecurity and fear of getting involved and ignore the spiritual needs around us, or we can get out of our comfort zone and let God use us as vessels to literally hold someone's hand and lead them to Jesus. We can be the one who tells someone about Jesus. We can give and we can go."

Van and Marjorie also oversee the care of a mission house in Fredonia, available for missionaries on furlough or in need of rest.

Through EBO funding, IICE distributes more than \$1,000 worth of Bibles and New Testaments yearly to adults and children. "We cannot tell you how encouraging it is to receive that grant each year," Marjorie says. "Local friends and supporters of the ministry are essential in self-supported ministry, but knowing that financial support will come from Kentucky Baptists is such a relief. Please keep giving!"

Van and Marjorie demonstrate that when God calls—at whatever age and to whatever task—He will grant the power to serve.

**Prayer:** Ask God to provide the financial needs of IICE and that He will make clear which opportunities IICE is to partner with in the coming year. Pray for Van and Marjorie's health and energy to continue and for lives to be changed for eternity because they meet Jesus through the witness of IICE.

# power to SERVE

## Day 6 – Missions Mobilization

A box of dolls unexpectedly arrived at the Appalachian Regional Ministry office. The first thing director Bill Barker did was to call Teresa Parrett, Missions Mobilization Coordinator for Kentucky Baptists, to see where they might best be used.

From dolls to construction projects, from sending supplies to showing up and serving on the ground, from the Mississippi River basin in the west to the mountains in the east, more than 100 self-funded missionaries and 30,000 short-term volunteers are working to impact lostness in Kentucky in 2014.

How do churches find out about projects? Who helps partnerships get started, projects get organized and promoted, and educates ministries how to do evangelism and personal follow-up? For 15 years, Teresa Parrett has worked tirelessly to connect churches and individuals to ministry opportunities that fit their interests, budgets, and timeline. She receives requests daily from pastors and ministry directors on the field, promotes the needs, and finds people to help. Teresa also helps self-funded missionaries get the help, supplies, and training they need.

“I am constantly amazed at God’s powerful hand on mission work in Kentucky. Some days, I discover a need and have no idea how to meet that need, then later that day a team calls that is a perfect match or a gift comes in that far outreaches what I imagine,” says Teresa. “God wants to call the unreached in Kentucky to Himself. He is using those with a heart to go and give to bring salvation to people who don’t even know who Jesus is. Missions doesn’t happen only across the world. It is happening right here in our communities every day in the most creative ways.”

Another important part of Teresa’s work is to encourage prayer support for Kentucky missionaries. Through interSEED, a monthly prayer calendar listing Kentucky missionaries on their birthdays, Teresa involves Kentucky Baptists in praying. This prayer calendar is posted monthly on the KBC web site.

The dolls that Bill Barker asked Teresa to deliver are a wonderful example of Teresa’s role in Missions

Mobilization. Teresa felt led to take them to Christians by Choice Ministry in Corbin directed by Robin Reeves. At first, Robin didn’t know what to do with the dolls, but quickly the Lord showed her how she could use them to make connections to the hurting children in her community. Many children have learned about Jesus and come to Him through this simple ministry. Wouldn’t you like to be the person who sent a doll that led an impoverished little girl to

understand that she has a Heavenly Father who created her and cherishes her?

Since that first box of dolls, women’s groups in churches have begun to make witnessing dolls regularly for Christians by Choice, and Robin has traveled all the way to South Africa and Russia to teach women how to use dolls to share Christ with children in their communities.

Teresa Parrett is a connection point for countless ministries and resources. Gifts to the Eliza Broadus Offering help to make her position with the Kentucky Baptist Convention possible.

Want to be part of what God is doing to bring the message of Christ’s salvation to people in our state? Visit [www.kybaptist.org](http://www.kybaptist.org) and click on Missions Mobilization to get started on your search of missions needs and opportunities across Kentucky.

**Prayer:** Pray that God will grant Teresa strength and safety in her job and that He will distinctly lead every connection. Pray that more Kentucky Baptists will have courage to try short-term missions and that churches will promote the collection of items and short-term service for ministry centers with which they have connected.



Teresa Parrett



Robin Reeves witnesses to children with Salvation Dolls.

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## Day 7 – Mississippi River Ministry

Do your children's old bicycles stay propped in the corner of your garage collecting dust? Did you know old bikes can change lives? Frank Riddick never had a bike as a child. Now, as a retired farmer, Frank's mission is to take bicycles that he has restored – 400 to 600 bikes a year – into low-income areas along the Mississippi River, both rural and inner



city, to give kids the gift he never had and a chance to hear about a Heavenly Father who will never leave them.

Frank is just one of dozens of men and women who work to spread the Gospel and alleviate poverty in western Kentucky. Many of these ministries are run by self-supported volunteers. Providing coordination for this regional network are

**George and Cathy Chinn**, directors of Mississippi River Ministry (MRM), a ministry that impacts eight states, including Kentucky. "I see one of my biggest jobs as that of encourager. Many of those ministering to people in poverty live humbly themselves. Some don't take a vacation for years. I want them to know they are not alone, that people want to partner with them, that they make a difference for the Lord every day. I love telling their stories and winning support for these unsung heroes," says George.

At missions conferences, WMU events, churches, associations, and everywhere they can, George and



Cathy tell the stories of MRM: those who are leading restoration ministries for homeless and jobless persons, distributing food and clothes, teaching GED or ESL classes, leading VBS or

block parties for children, and helping men and women in the state penitentiaries know freedom is found in Jesus Christ. They help connect churches and individuals who want to help by providing short-term volunteers, funds, or supplies to the ministry that best suits their goals.

Poverty is a common denominator in many MRM ministries. Various church plants, with training, encouragement, and resources provided in part through MRM,

are giving away school supplies, backpacks with non-perishable food, and other practical helps.

Short-term teams coordinated through MRM often provide Vacation Bible School. George remembers on one trip, an 18-month-old walked by herself to the center in which they were meeting. "The volunteers on this trip lived in places where they had seen need, but never this level of hopelessness."

At a newly formed Christian Women Job Corps (CWJC), volunteers celebrated their first graduation class with a 100% graduation rate. CWJC is a job-training, literacy, and life coaching program that prepares women who haven't had many opportunities for their next steps. From this graduating class, one woman enrolled in college, and all of them heard the Good News that Jesus can change their lives even more than a degree.

Why reach people in poverty with ministries that require a steady stream of volunteers and funds? "Poverty is a different culture," George explains. "It takes a long time to build trust, to prove that you don't want anything in return. It also takes a long time to walk alongside people who need job training or literacy training. But this is a principle that Jesus used over and over—He met people where they were, gave them healing, food, and friendship. That's how people came to know Him when He walked on earth. It's still a great way to help people understand His love." To learn more about the work of MRM and see a 6-minute video about reaching people through social ministries, visit [www.riverministry.com](http://www.riverministry.com).

**LoveLoud Christmas Backpacks:** The North American Mission Board is sponsoring a national project to provide backpacks at Christmas for impoverished children and youth in the Mississippi River Ministry and Appalachian Regional Ministry regions of the United States. Mississippi River Ministry and Appalachian Regional Ministry work with more than 450 compassion ministry sites and church plants across 18 states. Learn more: [www.namb.net/backpacks](http://www.namb.net/backpacks)

**Prayer:** Ask God to give churches all over Kentucky a heart to serve their neighbors in poverty. Pray that God will encourage and provide special blessings to self-supported missionaries. Ask God to help George and Cathy Chinn connect volunteers and supplies to areas in greatest need.



## Day 8 – Appalachian Regional Ministry

A little boy at a Christmas for Children event in eastern Kentucky received a backpack full of nonperishable food, hygiene items, school supplies, clothes, a toy, and a pamphlet with a gospel presentation using the Christmas story. He smiled and said, “I don’t know who Jesus is, but I sure like Him.” The backpack became the gateway to tell about Jesus.

At another Christmas for Children backpack distribution, as a Baptist volunteer read the Christmas story and told about the love God showed to us through Jesus, one mother stopped the presenter and asked sincerely, “You are talking about Jesus. I don’t know much about Him. Can you explain who He is?”

In 2013, Appalachian Regional Ministries (ARM) and partnering churches, state conventions, ministry centers, missionaries, church planters, and volunteer teams gave 23,808 backpacks to needy children in dozens of counties in Kentucky and several other states. Again and again, recipients of backpacks asked to know more about Jesus. “There is a spiritual hunger out there that we Baptists haven’t even touched,” says Bill Barker, longtime director of ARM. “People who have never heard who Jesus is want to know. They want to be saved.” Hundreds of salvation decisions were made as a direct result of backpack distributions.

At many Christmas for Children events, families received more than backpacks. At some sites, people also received coats, shoes, and socks. At other sites, families received boxes of food or blankets. As donations poured into the area through ARM, Bill knew which distributions were happening where and how to connect semis of supplies to the right distribution sites. But one connection was trickier than expected. As a North American Mission Board (NAMB) Disaster Relief semi crawled up the steep, narrow mountain road to the Freeda Harris Baptist Center in Elkhorn City, Kentucky, the entire community looked on and held its breath. “Nothing has impacted this community more than seeing that 18-wheeler come up the mountain,” says Greg Whitetree, director of the center.

“In counties where illiteracy sometimes nears 90 percent, we must find ways to help people understand

that Christ came for them and wants to help them in their lives. They can’t read the Bible. The church experience and all the words we use and reading we do can be intimidating for them. Outreach ministries like Christmas for Children show them they are valued, remembered, and cared for,” says Bill. “It is a starting point for them coming face to face with Christ and His love.”

**LoveLoud Christmas Backpacks:** This year, NAMB is sponsoring a national project to provide Christmas Backpacks for impoverished children and youth in the Appalachian Regional Ministry and Mississippi River Ministry (MRM) regions of the United States. ARM and MRM work with more than 450 compassion ministry sites and church plants across 18 states. With the help of Kentucky Baptists and other state conventions, Bill hopes to distribute more than 40,000 backpacks.

Complete information about the project and instructions for participation are found on the NAMB website: [www.namb.net/backpacks](http://www.namb.net/backpacks).

For additional projects, the ARM webpage includes information about requests from ministry sites, helps for leading a mission team and much more [www.namb.net/arm](http://www.namb.net/arm)

**Prayer:** Ask God what He would have you and your church do to support LoveLoud Christmas Backpacks for Children. Ask God to provide a huge number of backpacks to needy families, and that those who receive the backpacks would understand God’s love for them in Jesus Christ. Pray for the distribution sites and events to share the gospel with the backpacks.

A promotional graphic for "LoveLoud Christmas Backpacks". At the top, it says "CHRISTMAS LOVELOUD BACKPACKS" in a stylized font. Below that, it reads "Share a gift of LOVE and the GOSPEL with a child in need this CHRISTMAS." The graphic features a photograph of a young child in a winter coat standing next to a backpack. Text on the graphic includes: "Mississippi River Ministry and Appalachian Regional Ministry work with more than 450 compassion ministry sites and church plants across 18 states." and "The national goal for number of backpacks received this year is 40,000." At the bottom, there is a logo for "SERVING across North America" and the website "Visit www.NAMB.net/Backpacks for more resources and information."



## Power to Serve

The setting of the 2014 state missions focal verse is in the context of Acts 1:4-11. After giving the challenge of Acts 1:8, the passage tells us: “After He had said this, He was taken up as they were watching, and a cloud took Him out of their sight. While He was going, they were gazing into heaven, and suddenly two men in white clothes stood by them. They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up into heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you have seen Him going into heaven.’”

Some have said of this passage, “Why are you standing there? Jesus is coming again. There’s work to be done. Get going!”

Are you ready to serve? Maybe God is prompting you to get more involved in a ministry you’re already acquainted with. Maybe as you move toward retirement, the Lord will lay an affinity group on your heart. Feel like you aren’t able to do all the things the ministry requires? That’s right where the Lord wants you—recognizing your dependence on Him, yet ready to do what He asks. At the intersection of our inability and our willingness is where the Lord shows His glory and gives His Power to Serve!

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### CONTACT INFORMATION & WEB SITES FOR FEATURED MINISTRIES

#### KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION:

##### **Experience 1:8 / Baptist Campus Ministry**

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##### **Affinity Evangelism**

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[www.kybaptist.org/evangelism-and-church-planting/affinity-evangelism-training/](http://www.kybaptist.org/evangelism-and-church-planting/affinity-evangelism-training/)

##### **Church Planting**

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##### **KBC Missions Mobilization**

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[www.kybaptist.org/missionsmobilization](http://www.kybaptist.org/missionsmobilization)

##### **InterSEED Monthly Missionary Prayer Calendar**

[www.kybaptist.org/homepage/missions-mobilization/missions-kentucky/interseed](http://www.kybaptist.org/homepage/missions-mobilization/missions-kentucky/interseed)

#### OTHER MINISTRY SITES:

##### **Crossroads Community Baptist Church**

Grant Hasty. Email: grantohasty@gmail.com  
[www.crossroadscommunitybc.org](http://www.crossroadscommunitybc.org)  
[www.kybaptist.org/missionopportunities/crossroads-community-baptist-churchthe-lords-cafe-whitley-city-ky/](http://www.kybaptist.org/missionopportunities/crossroads-community-baptist-churchthe-lords-cafe-whitley-city-ky/)

##### **Haven of Rest Family Ministries**

Harold & Joyce Scroggs – Email: jrandjoyscroggs@aol.com  
58 Haven Place, Inez, KY 41224 – Phone: 606-298-0520  
[www.kybaptist.org/missionopportunities/haven-of-rest-family-ministries-inez-ky](http://www.kybaptist.org/missionopportunities/haven-of-rest-family-ministries-inez-ky)

##### **IICE (Intentional Innovative Community Evangelism)**

Van & Marjorie Yandell – Email: vmy@att.net  
270-545-3429

##### **Mississippi River Ministry (MRM)**

George & Cathy Chinn – Email: gcchinn70@att.net  
270-298-7570 or 270-791-6094  
[www.riverministry.com](http://www.riverministry.com)

##### **Appalachian Regional Ministry (ARM)**

Bill Barker – Email: bbarker@namb.net  
[www.arministry.org](http://www.arministry.org) or [www.namb.net/arm](http://www.namb.net/arm)

##### **LoveLoud Christmas Backpacks**

[www.namb.net/backpacks](http://www.namb.net/backpacks)

For additional state missions information and planning helps, visit: [www.kywmu.org/ebo](http://www.kywmu.org/ebo).