

For many years, Paul Harvey captured attention on the radio as he told little known engaging stories about people and situations with some key element of the story held back until the end. The stories always ended with the tagline “And now you know the rest of the story.”

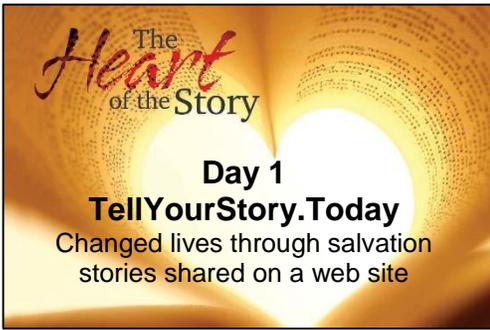
Jesus disciples wanted to know the rest of the story when they asked Him about a man born blind and whose sin had caused the blindness. Jesus told them that neither the man or his parents had sinned, but that the blindness had happened “so that the work of God might be displayed in his life” (John 9:3). The rest of the story happened later, when after being healed by Jesus, the man was questioned by the spiritually blind who were sure that Jesus was a sinner because He healed on the Sabbath. The man answered their inquiry with these ringing words, “*One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see*” (John 9:25b ESV). At the heart of this story was a man in need and our compassionate Savior who not only healed physical blindness, but led the man to faith as He revealed himself as the Son of Man.

This year we want you to know **the heart of the story**. Join us as we listen to the stories of real people who have been won to Christ through Kentucky missions. Learn about the ministries which touched their lives. Lift these ministries to the Lord in prayer. Leave an offering to support continuing work across our state.

The Eliza Broadus Offering is sponsored by Kentucky WMU in cooperation with the Kentucky Baptist Convention. It supplements the Cooperative Program to provide much needed funds for missions. In addition to evangelism, church planting, language missions, collegiate ministries, disaster relief, and church revitalization, the offering provides grants to every association and a variety of ministries.

And now, let’s listen to the heart of the story!

About the writer: Joy Bolton is the Executive Director-Treasurer of Kentucky WMU.



She was a Muslim student at a Kentucky university and lis-

tened to a testimony on the website tellyourstory.today. Now she is a believer in the Lord Jesus. Through the simple act of sharing stories, Kentucky Baptists are reaching thousands of people with the gospel. In fact the web site had so many visitors, that it collapsed and had to be completely redone to handle the volume of traffic.

Tell Your Story is as easy as one-two-three-four. First, visit the website and call the toll free number listed to record your story. Two, press 1 and follow the instructions. Three, a text message will be sent to you (usually within 24 hours) when your story is posted in the “Stories” area. Four, share your story with others. You can post a link to your story on social media, send an e-card to a friend, or print cards with the web address of your story that you can give to people you meet. And every time someone listens to your story, you will get a text message letting you know that someone has listened.

Tell Your Story was officially launched at the Kentucky Baptist Convention last November. Pastors were urged to tell the story of their own encounter with Jesus and then encourage their congregations to share their stories. For many, just writing out their story before recording it was life changing. Tommy Webb, Buck Creek Baptist Church, shared that he had a member who had not felt comfortable witnessing. He helped her write out her story, then she followed the steps to record her story and it was posted on the website. She was ecstatic when she received the first text message that someone had listened to her story.

Barbara Flener, a retired teacher and active member of Aberdeen Baptist Church, had completed a Beth Moore Bible study and in conjunction with Tell Your Story, decided to share her story. Barbara had been ill for some time and the night she wrote out her story, she passed away. Her story continues to inspire others to faith in Christ.

Donnie Patrick, pastor of Crestwood Baptist Church in Oldham County, asked everyone in the congregation to write out their story and turn it in. “It was a first for some of our members,” he says. “Some, I believe, found healing as they shared their story. It was helpful to witness how honest and transparent the people were with their stories. As I read the stories, I could keep in mind people who have struggled and been delivered from similar backgrounds. This has been helpful to point out when others find themselves struggling.”

In 2015, Crestwood Baptist Church issued a 90 day challenge each quarter asking members to share their story at least once. Thus, by year end, the goal is for each member to have told their story to at least four people. When the effort began, Crestwood started by asking their entire staff to share their story with their young children. One mom shared her story for the first time with her elementary age children and the older daughter said, “Wow! Why didn’t you tell us this before?”

A student at Crestwood who at the time was struggling with several tough things in her life, was also reaching out to a friend. After praying and learning Scripture verses, the student wrote out her story and then led her friend to faith in Christ. Upon receiving Christ, her friend said, “Now I have a story!”

In the first three months that the site was live, over 35,000 people from 10 different countries listened to the stories on the site. In January, someone from China shared their story. Since then the numbers of listeners and countries continues to climb. Through a website and stories of believers, Kentucky Baptists are reaching out all over the world.

“I think that it is the easiest method that I have seen thus far in presenting the gospel,” said Stephen Bruce, pastor of Crosswoods Baptist Church in Nicholasville. “Tell Your Story is a great idea for anybody and everybody to do. You are not going to have the nerve, maybe, to go up to the cashier at Kroger, or the bag boy and sit there and tell the gospel. You will probably not have the time anyway. But it does not take much to give them a card and say thank you for helping me, would you mind to listening to my story.”

Preparing to record your story is the first step. For many, just writing out their testimony is a first and prepares them not only to record the story, but also to share it more easily with others in person. Printing up cards with the web address of your story is a great way to share a witness with store clerks, restaurant staff, friends and neighbors. Then get ready to rejoice as the text messages keep coming to let you know someone has listened to your story. With each message, say a prayer for the listener and for God’s blessing on this phenomenal way to share the heart of the story!



Prayer Requests

- Pray for more people to go to the web site, call the toll-free number, and record their stories.
- Pray for those who tell their stories to share the link to their story with others.
- Pray for those who visit the web site and listen to the stories. Pray that lost people will be saved through hearing the salvation stories of others and reading resources from the web site.
- Pray that this ministry will spread across Kentucky and around the world. www.tellyourstory.today



DjoDjo Nsenga Tshiunza became a Christian eighteen years ago in his home country, The Democratic

Republic of the Congo. The Congo is in central Africa and bordered by Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zambia, and Angola. Tshiunza served the Lord there by going door to door in the village and sharing Christ.

Because of the political turmoil and religious persecution in the Congo, Tshiunza and his family prayed for God's protection and an opportunity to escape. Rebels from surrounding countries have spilled over into the Congo, killing many civilians. God opened a door for the family to move to Uganda and eventually to come to America as political refugees.

"I know God preserved my life for a reason," said Tshiunza. "I struggled with knowing what God wanted me to do. After moving to Lexington, I noticed that there were no French speaking churches and then I knew what God was calling me to do. I knew that God was calling me to church planting but I did not know how."

After knowing that God wanted him to become a church planter, Tshiunza prayed for God's direction. One Sunday, while prayerwalking around Lexington, he met Job Juarez, Church Planting and Development Associate with the Kentucky Baptist Convention. After exchanging pleasantries, the Holy Spirit led them to have a lengthy conversation regarding the need for African French-speaking churches.

Guided and coached by Juarez, Tshiunza completed the KBC's Basic Training for Church Planters and was connected to the local Baptist association. A few months later, Tshiunza and Juarez, launched the first evangelistic crusade focused on French-speaking African refugees. The crusade was coupled with community service projects and out of these efforts, Assembly of Saints Church was born.

Today, Assembly of Saints meets every Sunday evening at the office of the Central Kentucky Network of Baptists (Elkhorn Association). They average 40-50 in attendance and expect to continue growing. One of the challenges of their present location is space for children's activities. A visit to the congregation finds the pastor preaching to youth and adults in the meeting room and the pastor's daughter trying to teach the children in the kitchen.

Some language churches have found that partnering with an established English speaking church a helpful arrangement. Children and youth participate in English speaking classes while adults have Bible study in their language. Then everyone gathers for worship together.

Both Carlos De La Barra, Church Planting Strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, and Donnie Patrick, pastor of Crestwood Baptist Church, are excited about how Anglo and language churches can work together.

"Iglesia Bautista de Crestwood started as God began to work in several hearts at the KBC and also here at Crestwood," says Patrick. "We had been praying for God's heart and when we found out that they were looking for a place in Oldham County to plant a church to reach an unreached people group in our area, it was just an automatic, 'Yes, Lord.' We are thrilled to be two churches in one location."

Many second generation family members of internationals do not learn to read and write in their parents' language. So a partnership allows for having classes in English for the children and in another language for adults. "In our Hispanic church, we are having Sunday School for the children in English, not in Spanish," explains De La Barra. "They never learn to read and write in Spanish, so we teach them in English and have Sunday School in Spanish for our adults."

A church planting partnership does far more than provide meeting space. "Because of the church plant and our partnership, we have discovered that we are learning more of God's heart for all peoples, all nations...not only around the world, certainly that would be included, but also right here at home," explains Patrick. "And some great things have happened together. There are special times, such as a baptism in the Hispanic church, that we worship together. Even though we can't understand what each other is saying, we know that the Lord is speaking to our hearts. And it is one of the times that we watch our congregation just stand up and cheer and be reminded that God has no language barriers because he is the Creator of us all."

The Eliza Broadus Offering is vital to church planting. "Probably more than half of the money that we use for church planting is EBO money," says De La Barra. "But it is not only this. It is Super Saturday for Hispanics and the Evangelism Conference for ethnics. These and other events are fully funded, 100 % from EBO. So without EBO most of the ethnic ministry cannot be done."

Prayer Requests

1. Pray for the Assembly of Saints congregation as they reach French speaking people in the Lexington area.
2. Pray for new congregations to reach other language and ethnic groups that have come to Kentucky.
3. Pray for more church planting partnerships which will assist language congregations in reaching internationals with the gospel.
4. Pray for more church planters who will take on the challenge of starting new congregations to reach the lost with the gospel.

www.kybaptist.org/churchplanting

www.kybaptist.org/ethnic



In 2013 Kentucky WMU was asked to take responsibility for two popular student ministry opportunities – Kentucky

Changers and Creative Ministries Festival (CMF). After much prayer, the Kentucky WMU Executive Board approved the request and called Peggy Murphy as coordinator of the two events.

In taking on these two ministries, WMU decided to give CMF a rest for one year to allow time to focus on launching Changers. The delay also gave time to meet with past leaders and determine the direction of this event for the future. Past attendees shared that they had struggled with putting their skills into practice and how to find places to use their skills. From those discussions, Creative Ministries Festival 2.0 was born. The first CMF 2.0 was scheduled for March 2015 but due to snow, had to be postponed until August. However, it is scheduled annually for the second weekend in March.

Creative Ministries Festival 2.0 is a two-day worship experience that equips students to share the gospel in creative ways. The event includes classes in various aspects of creative ministries such as puppets, balloons, interpretive movement, sign, “God Rods,” skits, juggling, face painting, magic, lip synch, clowning and human video.

New elements have been added to Creative Ministries Festival 2.0 to take this event to the next level in missions. First, a practical application component in the form of block parties (which may be indoor events due to weather) was added to allow students an opportunity to perform, mingle with the crowds, and see creative ministries in use to share the gospel.

In addition, a Missions Fair was planned to allow churches that want to take their students on a mission trip and use their creative ministry skills to meet people from various ministries that are seeking creative ministry teams to help them. Ministries across Kentucky and neighboring states are invited to have displays explaining their ministries and how creative arts teams could help them share the gospel.

To prepare students for personal evangelism, an additional element of CMF 2.0 is the requirement that every participant attend a workshop on sharing the gospel. Participants are first challenged to confirm their own relationship with Christ and then to share Jesus as they use creative arts in missions.

The 2015 Creative Ministries Festival 2.0 featured guest artist Jeff Smith, director of Salt and Light Ministries, Richmond, VA. A popular participant in previous

festivals known for his use of drama, music and storytelling, Jeff came to provide instruction on a variety of creative arts, but his niche is creative movement and human video where he is known as “The Rodfather.”

A team of workshop leaders offered creative arts classes as well as conferences for adult leaders on planning mission trips, block parties, on-going missions involvement for students, and other topics.

To introduce more missions leaders to how creative arts can be used for missions, the 2015 Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting featured a missions block party. With the help of clowns, balloonists, puppets, and more, missions leaders experienced what CMF is all about. The puppet team from Bethel Baptist Church, Harrodsburg, performed a variety of songs which brought smiles as well as the truth of the gospel. Backyard Ministries, an ongoing block party ministry, provided food. The Creative Ministries Team from Sand Spring Baptist Church shared ways to capture attention and share the gospel. Kentucky Raceway Ministries brought their racecar and Timothy Cup track for racing miniature toy cars. Pit Stop Challenge gave people a chance to change tires on a race car mock up. All are avenues for sharing the gospel in many settings.

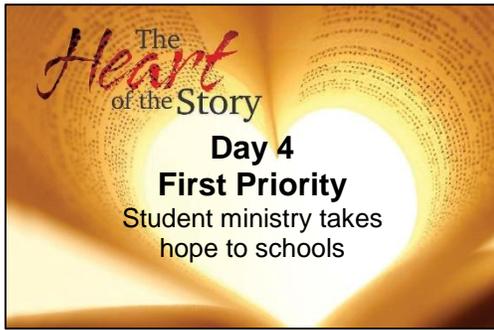
Prayer Requests

1. Pray for students and leaders who attended the re-scheduled CMF 2.0 in August. Pray that they will continue to use creative arts skills to share the gospel.
2. Pray for ministries that would like to have creative arts teams come assist in their work. Pray that teams and ministries will get connected.
3. Pray for the 2016 Creative Ministries Festival to grow in size and impact. Pray for many ministries that want teams to come participate in the Missions Fair. Pray for the Block Parties where students can use their skills to share the gospel. Pray for workshop leaders to effectively teach creative arts and how to use the arts in evangelism.

For more information: Peggy Murphy, Coordinator, Kentucky WMU, Toll free (KY) 866-489-3534
www.kywmu.org/cmf



David Blankenship and the Sand Spring Creative Arts Team on a mission trip to Inez in May 2015.



Allison Smith simply told her story and it was posted on YouTube. It is the story of a student who had been bullied and suf-

fered from depression. She began cutting her arms and felt that God had left her. In her sophomore year of high school she reached a breaking point and spent four months in a psychiatric hospital in Lexington.

Allison says that it was prayer that helped her get through. Her dad would tell her “When you are down to nothing, God is up to something.” After coming home a friend introduced her to First Priority (FP). There she found family and a place to belong. When asked to be a First Priority leader, “I saw it as an opportunity to tell my story and help others,” said Allison.

“I feel closer to other students in First Priority. They are my brothers and sisters in Christ. We are going to heaven together,” says Allison. “Being in First Priority has not only helped me, but helped others, too. People know my story so it helps others, too.”

Tim Bargo, Kentucky MSC missionary and director of First Priority, is excited about the impact of this ministry. After being involved with First Priority as a youth pastor for over 10 years, Tim joined the staff of First Priority Tri-States for a year before starting the Tri-County group. After recruiting a board of directors, the group applied for non-profit status as a 501c3 organization and began raising funds. FP Tri-County is a chapter of the national organization and is based in southeastern Kentucky and now includes Clay, Knox, Laurel and Whitley Counties.

The vision of First Priority is “The hope of Christ for every student.” Through club meetings on school campuses, FP is sharing the gospel with students and encouraging believing students in their walk with Christ. At this time, FP Tri-County has 30 local schools with clubs meeting mostly before school starts. Tim’s job is to train student leaders, keep them accountable, give them a strategy to use, and raise money for them. Each school has a \$300 budget per year to buy snacks, etc.

The activities done by each First Priority club vary from servant evangelism to school programs. The Tri-County group does several large events each year to raise awareness in the schools of the presence of the clubs. Events include a FP Bowl football game, feeding each team at the State Regional Basketball Tourney, and several other smaller events. First Priority also hosts a yearly outreach rally where student leaders are trained to use the First Priority “HOPE” strategy and then are encouraged to participate in “See You at the Pole” the following Wednesday at their schools.

Students can witness and share Christ in their schools during the course of normal interaction with other students. FP equips believing students to witness and gives them courage to stand for their faith.

The FP Tri-County website (www.studentsreachstudents.com) has this message for students: “Are you wondering, what’s my purpose in life? Does God even notice me? Yes! He does. The Bible says that God is for you and not against you. We have moved from being a club to a ministry.... We are a group of Christians on your school campus that isn’t judgmental and show you the love of God by putting your needs above ours... First Priority is a way to Connect you to the spiritual Father of the universe!” The page also includes a link to information on how to become a Christian.

During the first five years of FP Tri-County, over 1500 students have been saved. Clubs are student led and First Priority serves to encourage, empower, and equip students to witness. First Priority has changed the culture in the schools by equipping students to be leaders and evangelizing lost students. It has made such an impact that school administrators are now contacting them monthly asking for help in school events.

Local churches are a critical part of FP. “Churches in the area have a secure place to have a presence on the school campus through First Priority,” says Tim. “We have volunteer coaches available for each school. I also meet with youth workers and pastors monthly for lunch to discuss how they can be more involved in each of our counties. Each church gets a contact list to follow up with students who accept Christ monthly.”

FP Tri-County began hosting a weekend community DiscipleNow (D-Now) event three years ago. Churches have joined for this yearly event as well as the annual See You at the Pole rally. “EBO funds this past year helped supply training and materials for us to give student leaders,” explained Tim. “EBO helps us to equip students to lead their friends to Christ and help disciple them.”

First Priority is a nationwide ministry. This past year also EBO assisted FP Heritage which is reaching students in Boyle, Garrard, Lincoln, Madison, and Mercer Counties.



Prayer Requests

- Pray for FP Tri-County and FP Heritage in their outreach to students. Pray for open doors to the gospel and receptivity among students.
- Pray for churches that are doing follow-up with students who have accepted Christ through FP. Pray for these to be disciplined and become active in local churches.
- Pray for the annual See You at the Pole Rally which engages students and faculty in standing for their faith.
- Pray for First Priority leaders and volunteers.

FP Tri-County: www.studentsreachstudents.com

FP Heritage: www.hope4students.com

<http://youtu.be/dUgIGcxs41M>



“My youth pastor always had a motto, ‘Let’s go serve their socks off,’” said Becca Keen, student

leader with LoveLoud in Liberty Baptist Association. “Throughout the day I would repeat that along with ‘Be the hands and feet of Jesus.’ With those sayings running through my head it was so easy to stick to serving because I could focus on why we did it all, and that is for Him.”

At evening worship after a day of LoveLoud ministries, Becca described the scene. “I love looking through the crowd of students seeing hands lifted, tears falling all at the name of Jesus. I close my eyes and imagine us all thousands upon thousands standing in glory, singing in unison. Those few days serving with youth make me so excited for God’s Kingdom. They always say there is strength in numbers, but I think there is power in youth who love Jesus. When we all came together and worked for His Kingdom souls were saved and many grew in maturity.”

The North American Mission Board (NAMB) describes LoveLoud as “a movement of churches demonstrating God’s love by meeting significant human need while sharing Christ.” Kentucky Baptist Associations are finding ways to “love loud” with assistance from the Eliza Broadus Offering.

Since 2012, EBO has provided each of the 70 associations affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention at ministry grant of \$500. Each association determines the use of the funds and reports back on how the money was used. Projects are varied and reports range from Bibles to ministry trailers, from jail ministry to block parties, and from ministry to children to senior adults.

LoveLoud in Liberty Baptist Association includes three days of missional service opportunities designed to engage middle and high school students in sharing Christ in their tri-county area. Through LoveLoud, students can be involved in construction, community service, and evangelistic outreach. In their 2014 LoveLoud effort, Liberty Association had almost 150 volunteers engaged in 20 projects designed to share Christ through meeting practical needs. In addition to people touched in the community, three high school student participants came to personal faith in Christ. One of those students was Kiley Sanders. Jordan Woodie, Director of Missions, had the privilege of baptizing her a few months later.

“2014 was my second year participating in LoveLoud and I could not have asked for a better ending to the three-day missions program. As I worked I did not realize until the final day that I had the greatest need. The final day

was when I came to understand the need for Christ in my own life,” said Kiley.

Kiley served on a team of nine students and several adults. Over the three days of LoveLoud the team helped build a deck and do landscaping with Habitat for Humanity, helped with clean up and painting at a church, cleared brush at an overgrown cemetery, and painted a mobile home roof for a senior citizen. Each night, Kiley and her team met with other teams for supper and worship. “On the third and final night at our worship gathering, God spoke to my heart. I prayed and asked to be forgiven of my sins and accepted Jesus as my Savior that very night,” said Kiley. “I was so happy that I did not want the night to end. I thank God for the LoveLoud mission program and what it means to me today.”

While not every association uses the term, the spirit of LoveLoud is evident in many of the ministries. Here is a sampling of association ministries using 2014 EBO funds:

- Blackford/Breckinridge shared the gospel through a block party in Owsley County and through canvassing the area to visit and witness.
- Boone’s Creek purchased supplies for Familyfest. There were 20 salvation decisions during the week.
- Casey County conducted a “Big Top” Backyard Bible School near two apartment complexes and a live nativity, “’Twas the Night Jesus Came,” on the courthouse lawn.
- Nelson engaged in evangelism and outreach through “Crossover Shepherdsville”
- West Kentucky held “Summer Fun Days” to reach unchurched families.

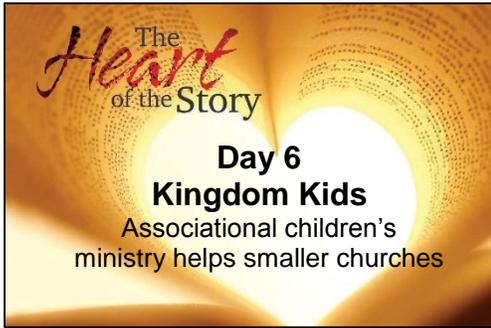
In addition to the \$500 provided to each Kentucky Baptist Association, a portion of the Eliza Broadus Offering is designated for Special Ministry grants. Ministries across the state apply each year for funds to help with ministries such as crisis pregnancy, youth outreach, equestrian ministries, addiction ministries, Friendship International, jail ministries and much more. A complete list of the Special Ministry grants from last year’s offering is found online at www.kywmu.org/eboallocations. Applications for grants from this year’s offering are due by December 15 and will be awarded in February 2016. The application form with instructions and eligibility criteria is also online: www.kywmu.org/eboapplication.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for LoveLoud summer outreach in Liberty Baptist Association. Pray for students and leaders as they work and share Christ’s love in the community.
- Pray for Kentucky Baptist associations as they utilize Eliza Broadus Offering funds for ministry.
- Pray for your own Baptist association and leaders.

www.namb.net/loveloud
www.kybaptist.org/associations





“I served my home church as Children’s Minister for ten years,” said Stacey Burton, “but always felt heartbroken

for the smaller churches in the association who did not have enough children or funds to provide the activities and opportunities for families that could be found in larger churches.”

“I watched as families left those smaller churches in search of something for their children instead of staying where they were and building programs there,” explained Stacey. “In 2005, God used an associational children’s choir in Texas to show me His plan for my heart. I resigned at my church and began an associational ministry that is now Kingdom Kids.”

Kingdom Kids is a ministry for children and families that offers a variety of activities including a children’s choir, mission action projects for the whole family, missions education for children, days camps, family movie nights, and much more! All of the events are promoted through social media and through the school systems. Activities draw in both churched and unchurched children.

Through relationships built through Kingdom Kids activities, Stacey then connects unchurched children with local churches. “For example,” she says, “if Johnny does not attend church but becomes friends with Matt who does, I contact Matt’s family and church and encourage them to reach out to Johnny’s family. My prayer is that unchurched families find a church home and that the smaller churches grow.”

During the school year children have the opportunity to sing with Kingdom Kids Singers, an elementary choir, and A Joyful Noise, a middle school choir. The choirs sing at community events, revivals, nursing homes and wherever they are invited. Kingdom Kids also offers family missions projects such as serving a community Christmas dinner to clients of a local homeless ministry, day trips to visit Kentucky missionaries and serve alongside them for a day, and Children’s Ministry Day projects.

In the summer months, Kingdom Kids offers day camps and assists smaller churches with Vacation Bible School. “In 2014 we had a sports day camp and a creative ministries day camp,” said Stacey, “each with an average of 65 children in attendance.”

Kingdom Kids also hosted family movie nights all over the county and churches used the movie nights as outreach. “Our smallest attendance was 30 on a very cold evening in April, and our largest was 90 in August,” said

Stacey. “The churches donated refreshments and door prizes, then followed up with the prospects who attended.”

“Through the years I have met many children as a result of Kingdom Kids events,” said Stacey. “Some come one time and we never see them again, but the majority attend as long as they are in the age range. Many even come back as leaders in the program instead of aging out. We have planted seeds and even been invited to the baptisms of children who felt that our events played a large role in their development and wanted us to be part of the celebration.”

Through Kingdom Kids, families have connected and become friends and support systems for one another. Several families have found church homes as the result of these connections. Best of all, churches in the association have seen that partnership in reaching children and families is the best way to reach the community. “When we work together, we can accomplish great things,” said Stacey. “Each year a couple more churches will join in. I love watching the network grow!”

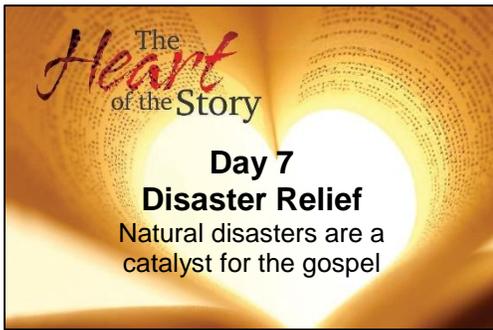
Rick Hatley, Director of Missions for Pulaski Baptist Association, says “Kingdom Kids is a wonderful ministry of outreach and inreach within the Pulaski Baptist Association. It reaches out to the lost and the saved and forms a wonderful atmosphere for evangelism, discipleship, ministry, fellowship, and worship. It is a growing ministry that is supported by Pulaski Baptist Association through prayer, giving, and participating. I appreciate the wonderful leadership of Stacey Burton.”

A grant from the Eliza Broads Offering in 2014 helped provide a sound system for Kingdom Kids. It is used by the choirs when they sing and at every family movie night.

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for Stacey Burton, NAMB Evangelism Catalyst, as she leads Kingdom Kids activities. Pray for outreach to unchurched families through Kingdom Kids.
- Give thanks for the churches of Pulaski Baptist Association that are working together to support Kingdom Kids and follow up with families.
- Pray that family movie nights will reach families all across the county and that churches will make contact with the unchurched in their immediate communities.
- Pray that children attending Kingdom Kids day camps will come with open hearts and respond to the gospel.
- Pray that God will send the volunteers and mission teams needed to lead each event Kingdom Kids has scheduled and more!
- Pray for other associations and groups of churches to work cooperatively for ministries that would not otherwise be possible.

For additional information: burtionsb89@windstream.net



Doris (name changed) was bitter and defensive when the Kentucky Disaster Relief team arrived to help her family after a wildfire took the home that had been in her family for over 100 years. Yet through the compassion of the team, God began to break down the barriers she had put up to Him and on the morning of the third day, she surrendered her life to Christ. The next Sunday Doris was in church for the first time in her life and the Bible given to her by the Kentucky team was the first she had ever owned.

Thus the heart of the story of Disaster Relief (DR) is in the lives of those who come to faith in Christ through the witness of volunteers in a time of crisis. Like many other locations, DR opened the door to an area of Colorado Springs that had been closed to a gospel witness.

When disaster strikes, the yellow shirts and hats of DR volunteers are a welcome sight. Working in cooperation with Southern Baptist Disaster Relief, Kentucky units are called out for response to all kinds of disasters. Kentucky teams have gone in after floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, forest fires, and more.

Kentucky DR has responded both in state and in other states as well as for international needs. In 2014 Kentucky DR witnessed 57 recorded decisions for Christ which represented 20% of all decisions in the Southern Baptist DR response.

Last year Kentucky Baptist DR teams recorded 1,012 chaplain family ministry contacts and almost 3,500 volunteer ministry contacts. In the Detroit Metro flood response, Kentucky Baptist DR chaplains led 15 people to make decisions for Christ including two Muslims and opened doors for ethnic ministry work in the greater Detroit Metro area.

Internationally, in 2014 Kentucky DR teams were able to provide safe drinking water through the establishment of 16 wells in villages in Madagascar, Mozambique, and Uganda as well as working with missionaries in sharing the Living Water of Christ. In addition, an assessment team went to refugee camps created by the South Sudan civil war and was a catalyst that led to drilling seven wells in refugee camps that desperately needed clean water. The wells led to opportunities to present the gospel to 9000 people with 195 professions of faith and the start of 10 new church plants.

“The Eliza Broadus Offering provides funds for ministry in times of disaster that enable us to minister with compassion in times of crisis as we seek to supply basic needs and a positive witness for Jesus Christ,” says Coy

Webb, DR Director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. “These funds enable us to have resources to mobilize disaster relief units and to provide resources that enable our volunteers to serve with effectiveness as they respond.”

To staff all of the work of Kentucky DR it takes a host of trained volunteers. Throughout the year, Disaster Relief training is offered in various locations. Every DR volunteer must be certified through the completion of a basic training course and must be recertified every three years. In addition, Kentucky DR offers Unit Leader, Collegiate, Chainsaw, and International training events.

“In 2014, Kentucky DR trained over 1,000 volunteers in six regional trainings,” said Coy. EBO helped to provide training resources and nationally recognized ID cards for DR volunteers. EBO also helped us conduct a Baptist Global Response Disaster Relief event, provide training for over 100 college students at four campus training events, and provide training for 67 chainsaw operators. We were also able to provide leadership training for over 70 unit and state DR leaders.”

The importance of the Eliza Broadus Offering to Kentucky Disaster Relief is also reflected in the equipment used. “Our equipment continues to need repair and maintenance as it is called on more and more,” said Webb. “We are also facing a time when some of our equipment after years of use will need to be replaced. Kentucky Baptist DR is seeking to replace most of our kitchen equipment on three main feeding units which is aging and demonstrating the wear-and-tear of heavy use. We need to systematically replace tilt skillet and convection ovens on all three units.”

Kentucky Disaster Relief volunteers help across other ministries as well. There are many who do double duty with Kentucky Changers and ministries in their own associations. Several Kentucky Baptist associations have formed DR response teams and invested in equipment. EBO has helped a number of associations to purchase the specialized equipment needed for disaster response.

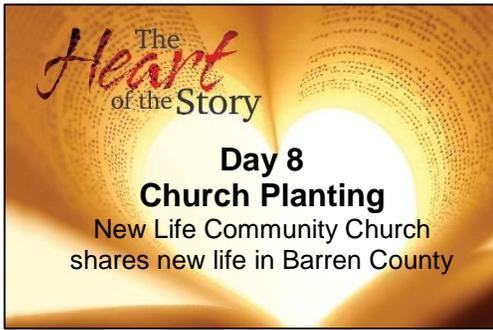


Prayer requests

- Pray for Coy Webb and other Disaster Relief leaders.
- Pray for the training of DR volunteers.
- Pray for open doors for the gospel when responding to disasters.
- Pray for the protection of volunteers as well as for the equipment they use. Pray that God will extend the useful life of all DR equipment.

www.kybaptist.org/disaster-relief
Coy.Webb@kybaptist.org





“Will” was interested in what Christianity was all about. Over the course of a few weeks, Wes Simpson,

lead church planter for New Life Community Church, had a chance to minister to him one-on-one.

“We were planning a class called ‘Christianity Explained,’ which is centered around the study of the same name,” explained Simpson. “This class is a great way for non-believers to learn the foundations of Christianity in a non-threatening environment.”

Will came for a couple of the meetings in the 6-week course, but his work schedule would not allow for him to participate in all six, so Simpson met with him to continue the study. They grew in friendship and Will became more open to Jesus Christ. A few weeks later, God lifted the veil off of his eyes and he recognized Jesus as Lord and Savior. “I began teaching Will what it means to follow Jesus and His commands. He has just recently moved and we are praying that he holds fast to the faith and that we can still connect with him,” said Simpson.

A native of Barren County, Kentucky, Simpson understands the lostness around him. “Our county is full of lost people, many of whom have no interest in Jesus Christ or visiting an existing church,” explains Simpson. “We knew God was calling us to plant a new church in a different way than just being the next trendy modern church.”

The need for a new church was also driven by the rapid growth in the southern part of Barren County, specifically the Haywood community. “Haywood is our focus community. Our emphasis in these early stages is to build relationships and share the gospel abundantly with our community. We do not want to just start a worship service and ask people to come to us. We want to sacrifice our time and resources to meet them where they are, evangelize them, teach new converts to follow Jesus, and then multiply further and further until it is necessary to gather these new believers into a formal church body,” says Simpson.

“Many people in our county have seen the same approach over and over from churches, which is to invite them to a service or have a special event to try to lure them into regular attendance at an event. We just focus on sharing our faith and trusting the Lord to give growth through evangelism and discipleship versus thinking any event will be the key to our success.”

New Life church began by meeting weekly in community groups where the small band of believers came together to study the Bible, build one another up, and pray

for one another after enjoying a meal and family time together.

Last fall, New Life participants were able to take part in the Barren River Lake Trashmasters Classic, which is a lakeshore cleanup service day. “This wasn’t just an advertising ploy to get our name out there. We really care about the health of the lake and its inhabitants because it is God’s creation, our community cares about the lake, and it is in our target area,” explains Simpson.

New Life church held their first preview service on March 1, 2015 to give those participating in their community groups an opportunity to worship together as well as inviting others to join the group to see how they worship.

New Life has access to approximately 1,000 students weekly at WKU-Glasgow campus through partnership with Baptist Campus Ministry. “We have built some relationships on campus and are exploring how to effectively reach students with the gospel,” says Simpson. “Funds for church planting help tremendously. Every penny we receive from the KBC is going straight to the work we are doing. I take no compensation from the funds and we have no building expenses at this time, so we are able to use funds to reach our community. We have been able to provide food for college students at WKU which has opened doors to faith conversations.

Simpson is appreciative of the Eliza Broadus Offering and the funds provided to the Kentucky Baptist Convention for church planting from the offering. “We have been able to buy Bible study materials and other things for building up the body. We have been able to donate door prizes to community events. And we now have funds to be able to help those who may be in need. We are currently looking at renting a space for Sunday gatherings, so the funds will be very helpful. I am so proud to be a Baptist because of our cooperation in reaching the world with the gospel,” Simpson exclaimed.

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for New Life Community Church and their outreach to the Haywood community.
- Pray for Wes Simpson, lead church planter with New Life Church.
- Pray for outreach to college students at WKU Glasgow Campus.
- Pray for new church plants across Kentucky.
- Pray for more people to respond to the call of church planting. Pastors and other committed leaders are needed.



For more information about church planting, contact Carlos De La Barra, Church Planting Strategist, KBC

Carlos.De.la.Barra@kybaptist.org
www.kybaptist.org/churchplanting

New Life Community Church: www.newlifeglasgow.org
 Wes Simpson: wsimpson@gmci.com

The Heart of the Story & You

The stories featured in this year's state missions emphasis help us look at the impact of Kentucky missions on people – those who are lost as well as believers who have experienced spiritual growth through missions involvement.

Do our ministries make a difference? Just ask Mike Hoy, pastor at New Liberty Baptist Church in Metcalfe County. "In 2014 and 2013, my wife Jessica and I had the opportunity to be team leaders for LoveLoud. This gave us the opportunity for what the students called 'Live Action,' meaning what Jesus left us here on earth to do, The Great Commission in Matthew 28," said Hoy.

"LoveLoud gave us the opportunity to build relationships in our own community with kids and their parents in an apartment complex in our county when the Tree Top Apartment complex allowed us to hold a Backyard Bible study at their facility. Over the last two years our LoveLoud teams have had the opportunity to see 'that our work is not vain' (1 Corinthians 15:58) when a young girl came to Christ. LoveLoud also allows the teenagers to take charge of the Bible study as they teach the lessons and show the love of Jesus. We have been blessed to be able to see the fruits of our labors. This also opened the door for the church to follow up and invite the children to other church events. Love Loud caused all involved, saved and lost, to draw a little closer to Jesus Christ."

Drawing closer to Christ, sharing Jesus with the lost, and changed lives. That's the heart of the story. Your prayers, your personal involvement, and your giving are also at the heart of the story.

Now it's up to you.

- **Listen** to the stories of people around you.
- **Learn** about the ministries in your area.
- **Lift** these people and ministries to the Lord in prayer.
- **Leave** a gift for the Eliza Broadus Offering with your church to support continuing work across our state.

**Kentucky WMU challenges Christian believers
to understand and be radically involved in the mission of God.
We help Kentucky Baptist churches to learn, pray, give, go, and send!**