



The Messenger

February 2012

Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association



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

“Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her; and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but his wife does.” I Corinthians 7:3-4

A well anticipated movie entitled “The Vow” will be in theaters in a few weeks. The stated synopsis of this movie is “A newlywed couple recovers from a car accident that puts the wife in a coma. Waking up with severe memory loss, her husband endeavors to win her heart again.” How far would you go for love? This question is a tag line to the movie. I hope, by the title of the movie, the husband is an example of one that goes as far as the vow he made; “in sickness, in health, till death do us part.”

Recently, a high profile couple announced that they would be divorcing after seven years of marriage. Surprisingly this couple had renewed their wedding vows at elaborate parties each year on their anniversary. The pair reinforced their commitment throughout their union with over-the-top romantic gestures. A source close to the couple is quoted, “It’s a crazy love affair with highs and lows . . . they realized there were more lows than highs. They realized they love each other, they’re just not in love anymore.”

The marriage vows have come to mean very little to nothing in today’s world. Sadly, it is also true for many in the church. The commitment to love for life is no longer based on the promise one made before God, family, and friends. The commitment to keep the marriage vow ebbs and flows according to the feelings of one’s love.

My parents recently celebrated their wedding anniversary. Fifty-six years ago they stood before God, family, and friends repeating to one another their sacred wedding vows. Throughout the many highs and lows of these years, they have continued to be examples of living out the vows they made years ago. They have passed on a wonderful Christian legacy of marriage. In fact, between my parents and their four married children one will discover a total of 159 years of marriage.

My parents will be the first to say that their example of love is the one that God has given us. “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” The greatest example of love is found in how God loves us. “For God so love the world, that he gave his only begotten Son . . .” God exemplifies an unconditional love that acts on what is best for others even when the sacrifice is great.

As we celebrate love in the month of February, may we strive to follow God’s example of unconditional love. Whether you are riding the highs of life or facing one of life’s lows, remember the vows you have taken in marriage. Our churches should do all they can to encourage couples to live out their marriage vows for a lifetime.

“Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.” I Corinthians 13: 7-8

From the Pastoral Counseling Center February 2012

A practiced observer of the human condition sometimes can discern principles or lessons being acted out before one's eyes in the daily encounters of life. Today was such a time for me at the fitness center. During renovation, several areas are closed and access can be gained to the second floor only through the elevator. Using the elevator seems counter-productive if one's goal is to expend more energy, so the change has been inconvenient to all of us.

On my way into the lift today, a friend entered with me. A former Marine, veteran of the South Pacific theater of WWII, he had not been in the fitness center for several months. He volunteered on our way up that his wife's two terminal illnesses have taken a toll on them both, and that this was his first time back:

"We've had 60 good years together. I am thankful that we have today, and I am glad to be able to begin my workout again after so long. It feels good to be here again."

Later, as I waited for the elevator at the end of my run, another man voiced different sentiments:

"I hate this stinking elevator. Why can't they keep the stairs open? Why do we have to do this? I don't appreciate the way they are managing this work here."

I am fond of the dictums of motivational speaker Zig Ziglar. He gives an illustration drawn from aviation lore. The angle of the aircraft with respect to the ground (*the "attitude"*), along with the power of the engines, will determine whether it climbs or descends: *Your attitude determines your altitude*. And so it is with life. In his book, Born to Win, Zig writes:

"You find what you look for in life. If you look for the good things in life, you will find them. If you look for opportunities to grow and prosper, you will find them. If you look for positive, enthusiastic friends and associates who will support you, you will find them. On the other hand, if you look for ways to cheat, you will cheat. If you look for ways to justify leaving your spouse, you will find them. If you look for justifiable reasons to hold a grudge against another person, you will find those, too. It is a natural tendency of us all to look for things that will justify what we think we need or want. If you are not living by the foundation stones of honesty, character, integrity, faith, love, and loyalty, you will be drawn to seeking selfish gratification, and that leads to misery and unfulfilled dreams. Whatever you have will never be enough. Always look for the good and for ways to help others."

"Happiness, joy, and gratitude are universal if we know what to look for. I believe you can have everything in life you want if you will just help enough other people get what they want. All people want happiness and joy in their life, but you have to know what produces real happiness and how to do the things that produce it. The moment you begin to worry about the things you want and the things you don't have in life is the moment you will lose your gratitude for what you actually have. If you are ungrateful, you will never be satisfied or content or joyful about your life. The greatest source of happiness is the ability to be grateful at all times."

May we have that Godly attitude that continually sees His hand in every event in our lives! He will work everything together for the good of those who love Him (*Romans 8:28*). Let me express my personal joy and gratitude for the work of everyone in our Association to promote the work of God's kingdom. Together we will win this area for Christ. - Rev Bob Ridley LPC.

Woman's Missionary Union

Yolanda Heuser

What is the first thought you think of when you hear February is here? Valentine's Day, Love or Children's Ministry Day. Oh wait I know, it is National WMU Leadership Training in Alabama, no, ok, I got it this time, it is WMU Focus Week! Did I guess it? WMU Focus Week is February 13th-19th. The emphasis is "Unhindered", and the featuring phrase is "Get In the Race".

¹Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, ² Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrew 12:1-2


When we look at these verses we realize what we are to do. Lay aside everything that hinders us from running the race or getting into the race for missions. So, whatever our first thoughts are when we think of "February", let's remember to lay aside everything that keeps us from doing missions work, whether it be through showing our love to a stranger, or that someone who we might think is an "EGR" (Extra Grace Required), who knows, they may think that about us. Let's remember "*When somebody needs a helping hand, he doesn't need it tomorrow or the next day. He needs it now, and that's exactly when you should offer to help. Good deeds, if they are really good, happen sooner rather than later.*" Marie T. Freeman

Let's encourage the children in our churches to participate in the Children's Ministry Day, February 18th, the theme for this year is "Operation Education.". Work with them to find a school in your area and help the children in your church fulfill a need in that school. An added bonus, we will put God back in school for a day, through our love for one another.

I don't know about you, maybe I am the only one that needs to lay aside every weight and sin that is keeping me from moving forward with my race. However, I am determined by the Grace of God and only through His strength to do just that and become more mission's minded. Let us start in our own backyard. Let's turn Cumberland County into a race track. Ready, start your prayer engines, GO! I can't wait to hear at the October Emphasis Meeting, when the WMU's, Adults on Missions, GA's or RA's share how they ran their race in 2012. How will everyone take the checkered flag this year and help win the race for Missions Growth?

"Love is not measured by what it gets, but by what it costs. Oswald Chambers

Now you know why we had a "race car driver" hand out the bulletins at the Winter Missions Emphasis Meeting, hosted by Memorial Baptist Church. Wow, what a GREAT meeting that was with 90 plus in attendance! Praise God! It was the beginning of our 60/65-EAT meetings. They will last no more than 60/65 minutes and then we eat! Make plans to be at the Spring meeting at Fredonia April 19th @ 6:00. Our Summer meeting, well let's just say, "Hawaii" is coming to Crossville. Details forthcoming. Stay tuned.

 WMU® Change a Life. Change the World.®

Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association

Treasurer- Angela Blalock

Financial Report- January 2012

<u>Church</u>	<u>January Contributions</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>
Bethlehem	1,030.25	1,030.25
Calvary	107.01	107.01
Central	4,739.47	4,739.47
Clear Creek	0.00	0.00
Crossville, First	1,180.27	1,180.27
Cumberland Fellowship	399.78	399.78
Cumberland Homestead	395.00	395.00
Cumberland View	0.00	0.00
Emmanuel	92.00	92.00
Fairfield Glade, First	1,132.70	1,132.70
Fredonia	18.40	18.40
Friendship	0.00	0.00
Haley's Grove	98.46	98.46
Isoline	110.81	110.81
Lantana Road	717.34	717.34
Mayland	303.35	303.35
Memorial	415.00	415.00
Meridian	0.00	0.00
New Life	0.00	0.00
Oak Hill	195.83	195.83
Oaklawn	278.00	278.00
Pine Eden	530.00	530.00
Plateau	90.00	90.00
Pleasant Hill, First	0.00	0.00
Southwest	33.41	33.41
PCCCP Counseling	655.00	655.00
Associational Supplement	987.00	987.00
DOM Mission Trip	0.00	0.00
Reimbursements	0.00	0.00
Interest On Checking	0.00	0.00
On Mission Celebration	0.00	0.00
Total	13,509.08	13,509.08
Beginning Total for January	77,170.28	
Total Contributions for January	13,509.08	
Less Expenses for January	11,961.76	
Total As Of January 31, 2012	78,717.60	

Evangelism Rally

Central Baptist Church

Sunday, April 29th

6:00 p.m.

Speaker: Paul Dixon

2012 Spring Construction Mission Trip

May 7th– 11th

More information to follow

FROM THE CREATORS OF FIREPROOF

COURAGEOUS

HONOR BEGINS AT HOME

will be shown at

Lantana Road Baptist Church

Sunday, February 12th

6:00 p.m.



Disaster Relief Meeting

Monday, February 13th

6:30 p.m.



**The Cumberland County Christian Women's Job Corps (CCCWJC)
announces the following schedule:**

- Volunteer and Mentor Training– Tuesday, February 7th from 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (lunch provided). Classes will be held at the Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association. Deadline for registration is Friday, February 3rd.
- CCCWJC is now taking enrollments for its Jobs for Life spring semester. This training is open to all women 18 years of age or older. Classes are free of charge. Classes begin Tuesday, February 21st and continue thru June 12th. Participants will meet weekly on Tuesdays, 8:30 a.m.– 1:00 p.m. at the Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association. Deadline for registration in Monday, February 13th.
- Parenting classes offered for parents of children ages 4-12, at the Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association, beginning March 15th, 8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m., for four weeks and free of charge. Deadline for registration is March 9th.
- CCCWJC offers "Breaking Free" Bible Study by Beth Moore, beginning Friday, March 2nd at the Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association. Charge is \$15.00 (covers cost of work book).

For more information on all classes, contact Carolyn Scott at (931) 787-1806 or (931) 787-9033.

**NOT
Ashamed!**

*So do not be ashamed to testify
about our Lord... (2 Timothy 1:8)*

*Missions
Get-Together
AND
Connection*

MISSIONS GET-TOGETHER,
AN EVENT FOR WOMEN
CONNECTION, AN EVENT
FOR GIRLS IN GRADES 7-12

MARCH 23-25, 2012
GATLINBURG CONVENTION CENTER
GATLINBURG, TENNESSEE

Cumberland Plateau Baptist
Association

P. O. Box 2508
Crossville, TN 38557

Phone: 931-484-1858
Fax: 931-484-0203
E-Mail: cpba4ma@gmail.com

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Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Crossville, TN
Permit No. 3

Associational Directory
Office Hours Mon.-Fri.
8:30a.m.—2:30p.m.
Email— cpba4ma@gmail.com
Web: www.cpbaptistassociation.net
Kirk Casey, Associational Missionary
cpbadom@gmail.com
Cell: 931-787-6565
Angela Blalock, Ministry Assistant
Office: 931-484-1858
Fax: 931-484-0203

Robert M. Ridley, MA, MMin,
PCCCP Counseling
Phone: 931-544-1096
cpbacounseling1@gmail.com
Andy Loomis, LMSW,
PCCCP Counseling
Phone: 931-787-8289
cpbacounseling2@gmail.com
Carolyn Scott, Pastoral Counselor,
PCCCP Counseling
Phone: 931-787-9033
cpbacounseling3@gmail.com

Return Service Requested



Dates to Remember

- February 6th— Pastors Conference
- February 13th— Pastors Conference
- February 13th— Disaster Relief Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
- February 20th— Pastors Conference
- February 27th— Pastors Conference
- March 4th— 11th— Season of Prayer for North American Missions

ANNIE ARMSTRONG
EASTER OFFERING®
FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR
North American Missions
March 4-11, 2012

Whatever It Takes

National Goal: \$70 Million
www.AnnieArmstrong.com

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MISSION BOARD