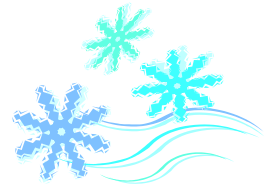


The Messenger



January 2012

Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association

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

“Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying.” Jonah 1:1

“Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying.” Jonah 3:1

How wonderful it is to serve God that gives each of us another opportunity. Most of us know what happened to Jonah between verse one of chapter one and verse one of chapter three in the book of Jonah. Simply put, Jonah failed. He was disobedient to what God had asked him to do. In fact, he tried to run as far in the opposite direction as he could to get away from what God had told him to do. After God disciplined and corrected Jonah’s course, God gave Jonah another opportunity to get it right.

Yes, we have arrived at the end of another year. 2011 is complete and in the history books. Now it is 2012, as difficult as it may be to believe, we begin a new year. A new year is always a time of evaluation and new beginnings. A new year always brings with it the opportunity to start over, to begin again, and a time to get it right.

As you evaluate the year 2011, what do you discover? Have you found yourself between chapter 1:1 and chapter 3:1? Has there been something that God has called you to do and for whatever reason you have been disobedient or just simply failed to accomplish. Listen to the word of God a second time and take the opportunity of a new year to get it right!

Happy New Year!

Kirk

Upcoming Events

If your Church has any special upcoming events the Associational Office would like to know about them. Email them to cpbama@frontiernet.net or call the office at 484-1858.

If you would like to have something put in the Messenger the deadline is the 25th of each month.

Executive Council Meeting

Monday, January 16th

Make plans now to attend this meeting. If you are not an Executive Council Representative for your church and would like to attend this meeting please do so. Let’s start the new year off right and have every church represented.

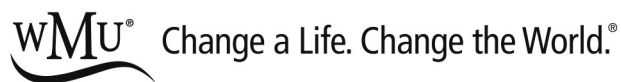
From the Pastoral Counseling Center January 2012

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. - Philippians 3:13-15 KJV

Entering a New Year, Christians often take the opportunity to rededicate ourselves to a more consistent, Godly daily walk. As the Apostle Paul urged the Philippian church, we seek with God's help to mold ourselves increasingly into conformity to the behavior modeled for us by our Lord. Christian psychologist Harold Darling proposed seven marks of psychologically healthy Christian behavior in his book, Man in Triumph (1969):

1. **Confident Surrender:** A sense of belonging to Christ, absolute surrender, a definite decision allowing no turning back.
2. **Transparent Spontaneity:** Honesty and openness, no masks required, because God knows us as we are. Made in the image of God, we can be spontaneous and creative, able to operate "outside the box" and not to accept mediocrity in the work of the Lord.
3. **Purposeful Integration:** Harmony, wholeness, unity of purpose. Living for Christ provides real meaning and purpose.
4. **Adjustment of Tension:** The Christian life involves constant tension between the real and the ideal. *Romans chapter 7* explains the real; *Chapter 8* describes the ideal. The spiritually healthy Christian accepts personal weaknesses and strengths and depends on the Lord to sanctify him or her through growth over time.
5. **Wholehearted Affirmation:** All of life is sacred to the Christian. There is no division between sacred and secular. Every believer has a priestly role before our Heavenly Father as we pray for self and others. We can affirm our own personal worth because we are sons and daughters of God and co-heirs with Christ. We can affirm others because love for the brethren is the mark of the Christian.
6. **Appropriation of God's Resources:** No one is sufficient for this work without the abundant resources found in Christ. We seek continually for a refilling of God's grace (power for ministry). Prayer, Bible study, worship and praise, and the exercise of spiritual gifts in the Body of Christ are the keys to this. We must let ourselves become God's vessels continually being filled with the Spirit of God (*Ephesians 5:18-19*).
7. **Investment of resources:** The healthy Christian shares the "new wine" of the Christian life with others through discipleship, evangelism and outreach to others in need. Our priority is to give our whole lives for the kingdom of God in service to others in His name.

In the months ahead we confidently expect to see the ministry of your Baptist Association growing as a result of diligent preparation and faithful work by Association staff, member congregations and pastors. God is at work in a mighty way. This counseling ministry is in transition and is growing in its outreach and effectiveness. We are grateful to everyone who contributes to this work by prayer, financial support and referral of clients for counseling. Together we labor to bring in the harvest. -Rev Bob Ridley LPC

Woman's Missionary Union**Yolanda Heuser**

Welcome 2012! The beginning of a new year, what will it bring, what will happen this year, is this the year the Lord will return? We may not have the answers to these questions but we do know that He has commanded us to go into the fields until He does return or calls us home. In December the Lottie Moon “theme” was as you know “HIS HEART HIS HANDS HIS VOICE.” I would like to challenge each of you as well as myself to really take an inventory of ourselves, are we doing all we can to be “HIS HEART HIS HANDS HIS VOICE”? We must as the IMB ask us, to own the Great Commission as never before through obedience and praying without ceasing for the lost and the missionaries serving around the world, as well as being missionaries through our WMU activities. Let us have a year that is filled with many lost souls coming to know the Lord through our prayers and “owning” the Great Commission as never before!

Memorial will host the January Winter Missions Emphasis Meeting, January 19th @ 6:00 p.m., please make plans to attend. This will be a wonderful time of fellowship and learning about missions. The meeting will be 6:00-7:00 p.m., followed by refreshments.

Please continue to pray for the TN WMU stateside home for missionaries.

Sammie Jo Barstow's article in the “Mosaic” January issue told us “Planning + Flexibility = God's Mission Fulfilled”, so let's get going in 2012 and be “HIS HEART HIS HANDS HIS VOICE” and let's fulfill God's Mission!

See you January 19th @ 6:00 p.m. at Memorial, can't wait, can you?

Cumberland County Christian Women's Job Corps®

CCCWJC will be taking applications for enrollment through January 20th for their classes starting in January. For further information contact Carolyn Scott at (931) 797-9033.

Cumberland Plateau Baptist
Association

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Dates to Remember

- January 2nd– Office Closed
- January 9th– Pastors Conference
- January 16th– Pastors Conference
- January 16th– Executive Council Meeting
- January 17th– Disaster Relief Meeting
- January 19th– WMU Missions Emphasis Meeting @
Memorial
- January 23rd– Pastors Conference
- January 30th– Pastors Conference