

CBA MISSIONAL INSIGHTS

Missional Insights from the Cumberland Baptist Association

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Missions Focus: Local Schools



In December, the CBA facilitated several of our churches in reaching out to Burt Elementary School by providing Christmas presents for almost 50 children. In the CMCSS there are 23 elementary schools. In every one of those schools there are children who have some very real needs. Many of those schools also have needs that could be identified by any of their leadership staff. In December, most SBC churches have made a big push for International Missions. What a great way to participate in the Great Commission the Lottie Moon Offering is for our churches. What if our churches also adopted a local school and explored meeting some practical need to show care for the local community, as well? If you would like some ideas for this, give us a call at the CBA.

Sermon Ideas



Here is a thought for preaching or Bible study. Have you considered the power of the names of God? When you look at the scripture, there is no shortage of places where God reveals Himself to His people in special ways. For example, at the burning bush in Exodus 3, we see the "I AM," name show up. In the Gospel of John we see that expanded with the 7 "I AM's" of Jesus. Throughout the scripture there are places where God reveals Himself with words that give greater depth to our understanding of His character and might. Here are three great books on the Names of God: ***Knowing God By Name***, by David Wilkerson, ***My Father's Names***, by Elmer Towns, ***The Names of God***, Ken Hemphill. You may be surprised at the ways this sermon series or Bible Study series can refresh your appreciation for the character and power of our Great God!

Servant Evangelism Ideas



Most of us take laundry for granted. We simply gather up the dirty laundry and sort it to go in the washer. However, around town there are some laundromats. Maybe you have not been in one for a long time. People who come there may be there for a variety of reasons. Perhaps their washer is broken. Maybe they are in transition and don't have access to their normal equipment. Sometimes they have come in to wash a large item too big for the washer at home. However, everybody needs to wash clothes sometime.

One idea you could try is going to one of these laundromats and offering to pay for one load of clothes and also handing them something to look at while they wait. How about giving out some fresh baked cookies. You might turn a task that they dreaded into a God Appointment, where you could strike up a conversation and be a witness. When you catch people doing something routine and let them know you care, you never know what might happen!

Children's Connection



When you think about helping our children understand the concept of missions, there are some important building blocks. Children need to understand what a missionary does. They need to understand why a missionary does what they do. They need to understand that all Christians are to be missionaries. However, one key for helping them identify with missions is the need to put a face on missions. We have hundreds of children, who are growing up in missionary families in a foreign country or in a church planting family here in the states with NAMB. Many times churches need help people make a personal connection. When thinking of children, they can be a powerful encourager to a child being raised in some form of a mission environment. Our IMB, NAMB and state WMU can help you get some names and connections for children that are MK's or Missionary Kids. What if you got some of those names and helped your children connect with them to be a modern version of a pen-pal? With internet, social media, email, and other means, there are many ways to connect. You may be helping a child in your church nurture a call to missions themselves!

Book Nook



Tell Someone: You Can Share the Good News, by Greg Laurie is a great challenge for us to be active in evangelism on a personal and church level. Small in size, it is great in quality content. Greg shares his own experience sharing his faith and the biggest hang-ups that many people have with evangelism. He talks about the need to care for lost people. He discusses the way to live an evangelistic lifestyle. He describes Biblical examples like the Rich Young Ruler and the need to actually call people to make a decision, or "close the deal." Laurie's book closes with 5 practical ways to stoke the fires of evangelism in the local church. A book like this can be read in one sitting. Take an evening and open it up and think about what God is saying to you about evangelism.