

# CBA MISSIONAL INSIGHTS

Missional Insights from the Cumberland Baptist Association

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## Missions Focus: Annie Armstrong

This month is a great time to consider the families of those who serve in Missions and Ministry. Our TBC WMU office can help you to connect with children of missionaries so that you could send them something and pray for them. Even back here in the US, children of NAMB church planters have a unique family situation. Children of pastors, missionaries and church staff often miss their parents who are keeping unusual hours and who have lives that in some ways rotates around the ministry of their parents. Have you thought lately about those children? What could you do to lift them up and encourage them, even from a distance. Be creative and reach out. You won't regret it! These young people also need to be lifted up in prayer. Their families are often in the midst of spiritual warfare.

## Sermon Ideas

If you are looking for a rich series of teaching, one of the great places to go is the letters to the 7 Churches of Revelation. Each of the churches has a unique past, personality, and future potential. When you look at each of the seven, the language is full of great lessons that show the way the text spoke then and now with direct application. One valuable asset for a series on these Churches is the book, Flickering Lamps: Christ and His Church. This book is co-authored by Henry and Richard Blackaby. This resource is especially valuable for churches that need to see revitalization. Any time we see the Bible address the local church, we see His love and purpose for His people.

## Servant Evangelism Ideas

Around our area, there are several nursing homes or assisted living facilities. One great thing to do is any project that reaches out to the people who live in those places. Sometimes there are residents there who are seemingly forgotten. However, it would be great to move beyond that to consider another forgotten group. The employees of these facilities often do some very difficult work that many would not be able to handle. What if you did something that was a gesture of gratitude for the employees that provide care in these facilities?

## Children's Connection

When we think about missionaries, we often think of those who go far away through our IMB to serve as career missionaries. This Spring, there is a great way you could help your children get a very practical appreciation for missions. Our local BCM, under the leadership of Stacy, Murphree, sends out students each year for Summer Missions. Those students need sponsoring families to contribute financially and with prayer to support them during the summer. How great would it be to connect your 4th grader with a BCM student as prayer partners? If you would like to connect with this great ministry, call Stacy at the APSU BCM.

## Book Nook

On a recent mission trip with some long flights to our destination, God used a book to speak to me in a unique way. *Dangerous Calling* by Paul David Tripp is a truth telling book that speaks to the heart of ministry. In a 200 page book, Tripp asks some very piercing questions about ministry can renew one's sense of call. Tripp deals in some depth with a subject that may pastors ignore. He describes the absence of spiritual vitality that can come with the scars and pace of ministry. He dares to question the ways that ministers are trained and addresses the culture of the church and its relationships with the people who serve in ministry. Early in the book, Tripp calls individuals to make sure they are not confusing their ministry position with **their** personal identity. If you would like a powerful, easy to read book that will give those in a ministry a great check-up, this is for you. Tripp loves the church and those who serve. He challenges us by concluding with some great actions steps for moving forward. Those steps are: Knowing Your Place, Resting in God's Care, Taking Ministry Seriously, Resisting the Enemy, and Trusting God's Sanctifying Grace. Give your heart a booster and spend a little time with Tripp's questions.