

CBA MISSIONAL INSIGHTS

Missional Insights from the Cumberland Baptist Association

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Missions Focus:

April is a great time of year to promote the Cooperative Program and the Tennessee Baptist Convention. There is an official Cooperative Program day each year in April. Most SBC churches do not observe that day, however, this is a great reminder that our people need to be reminded of the many mission and ministry causes that are supported when we give through the cooperative program. Have you talked recently in your church about the different causes that stretch from the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes to the International Mission Board that are supported by your gifts? There are numerous quality resources that are available free to your church to promote the CP and the TBC and its work. You can begin with the website for the TBC and for the SBC. If you are looking for ideas, give us a call at the Associational Office and we will be glad to help.

Sermon Ideas

One of the things that is easy to take for granted in teaching is a classic piece of scripture like the Ten Commandments. We assume people know all about them. The Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5 passages that present the law are both rich passages for teaching. There are numerous ways to break them down. However, I suggest that you find a platform for being able to teach through all 10 separately. A series like "God's Top Ten," might yield some great teaching and some great discussion. When you consider the themes of marriage, materialism, purity, worship and other topics, the material is very appropriate for our culture. One of the many books on the 10 Commandments is called "I Am the Lord Your God." This book is written by Carl Braaten and Christopher Seitz. There are many out there that are good. So consider a look at God's Top Ten and think in terms of the ways they point to a need for a Savior!

Servant Evangelism Ideas

Everyone likes to have a picture of the family. One of the low cost things that a church could do to connect with people is to use the camera. Consider the holidays and seasons that come during the year. Valentine's day, Easter, Halloween, Christmas and July 4th are all times when a church may choose to do an event. From Trunk or Treat to an Easter Egg hunt, there are times when families may gather. Consider getting someone to take family pictures with a creative backdrop that may fit the season. Offer to take the pictures and email them or send them over the phone to the family. But giving them to the family is one of two things you can do. With permission, these are great to post on social media sites like Facebook. If you put them on the church page, this gives an opportunity for people to connect in a variety of ways with your church.

Children's Connection

We are right around the corner from VBS season. As you look to VBS, there is a perfect opportunity to promote missions. Lifeway VBS has a missions track included in the material. Make sure you plan to utilize that as a distinct part of your daily schedule with the children. Beyond that, you can do a great emphasis on missions by having the children collect something like money or a specific type of supplies for a mission cause. One of our churches used this money to buy bicycles for missionaries in a third world country. One of our churches paid for food bags to be distributed in Nicaragua. Whatever you do, don't let this opportunity pass you by. Make your VBS a mission teaching opportunity.

Book Nook

This month, we look at a book entitled A Different Kind of Tribe: Embracing the New Small Group Dynamic. This little book by Rick Howerton, is a helpful portrait of the goals for small group development in the church. He talks about the four key elements that need to be utilized for a healthy small group that makes disciples. Those four elements are family type relationships, correct theology, teaching a missional lifestyle, and the power of Jesus to restore people to health. The book guides the journey of building small groups that are a key part of what people hunger for in our culture. Many people are hungry for community. The book helps leaders think through the potential for a powerful alignment that involves more than just connecting people to a church. It focuses on the need to make disciples.