

MOUNTAIN STATE MISSION OFFERING

Bear one another's burdens *Galatians 6:2*



100% SUPPORTING THE MISSION & MINISTRIES OF THE WEST VIRGINIA BAPTIST CONVENTION



STEWARDSHIP

- STUDENT MINISTRIES**
 - Baptist Campus Ministries
 - Camp Cowen
 - Youth Ministry Planning Team
 - Youth Leader Core
 - Senior High Convention
 - Junior High Convention
 - Omega & Fall Rally
 - Youth Ministry Support

CONVENTION AUXILIARIES

- American Baptist Men
- American Baptist Women's Ministries
- Retired Ministers and Mates
- Ministers' Wives
- West Virginia Baptist Historical Society
- West Virginia Baptist Education Society
- West Virginia Baptist Ministers' Council

DISCIPLESHIP

- DISCIPLESHIP / LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**
 - Weirton Christian Center
 - Leadership Training
 - Worship and Music Conference
 - Children's Rallies
 - Golden'eers
 - Parchment Valley
 - School of Christian Studies
 - Hispanic Ministries
 - Children's Ministries



OUTREACH

- AREA MINISTRY**
 - Association Support
 - Church Consultation
 - Pulpit Supply
 - Pastoral Support
 - Search Committees
 - Coaching
 - Conflict Resolution

LEADERSHIP

- MISSION SUPPORT**
 - Missionary Deputation
 - Mission Education
 - Camp Global
 - MPT/MPN Coordination
 - Mission Engagement
 - Mission Partnerships
 - Stewardship Education

COMMUNICATIONS

- The West Virginia Baptist Mountain Topics
 - www.wvbc.org
 - www.parchmentvalley.org
 - www.campcowen.org
 - www.bcmn.org

Bearers of Hope

Mountain State Mission Offering

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2018



Bearers of Hope

Bearers of Hope Mountain State Mission Offering 2018

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Order additional materials
and color bulletin inserts
by calling 304.422.6449

Information available online:
www.wvbc.org.

BEARERS OF HOPE

I can still hear my kids singing along to the "Donut Man" video by Rob Evans, "There's a hole in my roof..." "It was put there for a man with diseases as they lowered him down to Jesus." "What will I do if it rains?" (Look it up on YouTube)

It is a remarkable story – the friends who tore a hole in the roof to get their friend to Jesus. It is a story that demonstrates how much faith they had that meeting Jesus was what was best for the person they loved.

As the MSMO team thought about our theme: "BEARERS OF HOPE," we were drawn to this story as we clearly see the four friends fitting that role. There were so many people (obstacles) keeping them from getting to Jesus that they were forced to be creative. The end result was that their friend found both healing and forgiveness when he met Jesus.

Each of us has friends that need to meet Jesus. We have family that need Jesus. We live in a society that desperately needs Jesus. How radical – how creative – how determined are we in getting them to Jesus? It is not enough to simply wish they would find Him; it is not enough to hope they get it figured out – we must be "BEARERS OF HOPE." We must overcome the obstacles, whatever they may be, and help them meet Jesus.

Paul tells us in Galatians 6 we are to help those who sin recover from their sin by bearing (carrying) their burdens. It is the ministry of the spiritual to be "BEARERS OF HOPE" to those who have fallen. We are reminded that we are not to think we are better because we have yet to fall – it is, rather, that we humble ourselves in obedience to Christ and help those in need of spiritual guidance.

The **Mountain State Mission Offering** supports the mission and ministries of the West Virginia Baptist Convention as we, together, work to share the Good News of Christ in our communities. Your support of the work we do together is essential in every aspect of our mission.

As you promote this offering in your church; as you support this offering with a percentage of your mission dollars; as you participate in Convention ministries; remember that we are called to be "BEARERS OF HOPE" and your giving to the MSMO helps people meet Jesus.

It is very likely that the paralytic would have never walked had he not met Jesus. It is also likely that he would have never met Jesus without His friends being "BEARERS OF HOPE!"

We are counting on you as we "bear one another's burdens."

Mission Moments to share before taking the offering

Mark 2:3-4 (ESV)

And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men.

And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay.

All of us who claim the name of Christ are called to be "bearers of hope." While it is true one person can be a "bearer of hope," there are times when a collaborative effort is not just more effective, but essential.

The story of the paralytic is a perfect example. Instead of four friends, what would have happened if only one friend had shown up that day to bring the paralytic to Jesus? He most likely would have remained a paralytic because the task was too difficult for one person to accomplish. However, the man found Jesus and healing because his friends were able to do together what any one of them could not have done alone.

Enabling local churches to do together what they cannot do alone is the mission of your West Virginia Baptist Convention. Your gifts to the **Mountain State Mission Offering** make it possible.

Galatians 6:2 (NKJV)

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Whether it's financial, spiritual, physical or relational in nature, everyone knows what it's like to bear a burden. Burdens come into the lives of everyone; even Christians.

We also know the relief that comes when someone comes along to help us bear our burden. For many, that "someone" is their church family.

Churches have burdens they must bear as well. Who is available to help the church bear its burden? The answer is your West Virginia Baptist Convention family.

Through area ministry, discipleship and leadership development, education, student ministries, camps and conferences, mission support, and others, your West Virginia Baptist Convention family stands ready to help. Your gifts to the **Mountain State Mission Offering** make these things possible.

Bear one another's burdens *Galatians 6:2*

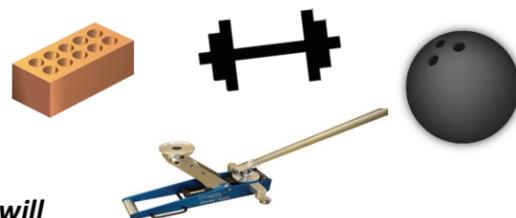
Promotional Ideas

1. If the church uses screens or TV's, include a picture of the four friends lowering their friend to Jesus as the background clipart, along with the logo of "Bearers of Hope" and scriptures from Mark 2:4 and Galatians 6:2.
2. Have elementary students use a shoebox to construct a diorama of the friend being lowered to Jesus. Place a cloth placemat with four strings attached on the table beside the diorama. Challenge the church to cover the placemat with spare change each week.
3. Instead of a thermometer as a gauge for how much money has been collected, show a display of the four ropes with a cardboard mat. Lower it a certain distance each time a monetary goal is met until it touches the ground.
4. At each church committee meeting and/or staff meeting during the MSMO promotion timeframe, read aloud Galatians 6:2.
5. Decide four ways your church benefits from the MSMO (Cowen, training teachers, youth events, etc.). Each week have someone (youth or adult) tell how MSMO has helped the church using one of the four highlighted benefits.
6. Each Sunday include something in the bulletin that tells how MSMO has made a difference in some aspect of ministry in the state.
7. Have a display of various sizes of luggage, all with the letters "MSMO" on them, with a sign that says: "What are your plans for the future?" Galatians 6:2
8. Trace hands of adults and children. Place on a poster that says: "Do your hands carry hope to others?" Mark 2:4 or Galatians 6:2. Also the MSMO letters.
9. Make a sign that says: "Our church is on a mission of hope. Will you join us?" Include Galatians 6:2 and/or Mark 2:4.

Children's Message

#3 Bearing Hope - Jesus will help you carry the load.

Object: Several items that are heavy (for children) - such as a brick, a ten pound dumbbell, a bowling ball, etc. and an automobile jack.



Scripture: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

How strong are you? Do you think you are pretty strong? How many of you think you could pick up this brick? How about a dumbbell like this one? Well, you must be pretty strong then.

(Allow children to pick up objects).

How many of you think you could pick up a car? Oh, you don't think you could pick up a car? Well, I think you could if you had some help. Here is something that would help you. It is an automobile jack. If you put this jack underneath the car and pump the handle, you can easily lift a car that weighs over 3,000 pounds, which is way more than that brick. Yes, with the help of a jack you can lift a car, but you couldn't do it alone, could you?

Some of you have some pretty heavy burdens to carry in life. Maybe your dad has lost his job and you don't have much money. Maybe someone you love is very sick and you are worried about them. You may be having a hard time in school. I don't know what the burdens are that you have in your life, but I do know there are some that you just can't handle by yourself. Well, guess what? You don't have to!

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest." There is no reason for you to struggle with burdens that are too heavy for you. God's word is full of promises to help us in times of trouble. Here are just a few: "Don't be afraid, I am with you." (Genesis 26:24); "I'll give you strength." (Psalm 28:7); "I'm with you in times of trouble." (Psalm 34:6). Remember that God is with you every minute of every day and you can ask Him to help you.

Does that mean if we will ask Him, God will take all of our troubles away? No, but He will help us. In fact, some of our struggles may help us to grow and become stronger. They may also help us learn to trust in Jesus. But when the load is too heavy, He will help us carry it -- and there is no burden too heavy for Jesus.



(Date)

Dear Congregation:

As we begin preparing for the **Mountain State Mission Offering** and the ministries that are supported, please pray for God's leading. This year's theme is "**Bearers of Hope.**"

Galatians 6:2 says, "**Bear ye one another's burdens.**" Camp Cowen is a place where people meet Jesus. We had 61 campers come to Christ last year at Camp Cowen. We have area ministers who travel throughout West Virginia to churches and functions to let us know what the West Virginia Convention is doing. There is the School of Christian Studies giving us the opportunity to advance in our knowledge of the Bible. Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM) is reaching our young adults on eight different college campuses throughout our state. These are just a few of the ministries the **Mountain State Mission Offering** supports. We have men and women spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. They are true "**Bearers of Hope.**" We are blessed.

100% of your giving to the **Mountain State Mission Offering** stays in West Virginia. Our Hope for 2018 is that as we bear one another's burdens, we become more aware of Jesus Christ in our lives and what He did for each of us.

Our MSMO Goal

\$ _____

Children's Message

#1 Help Others Carry the Load - We must do our part to bring others to Jesus.

Object: A blanket. (If a full-sized blanket is used, you might need to fold it in half to make a pallet.)

Scripture: Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Mark 2:3-5



This morning I have a blanket. I am going to spread the blanket out on the floor and ask "Johnny" to lie down on the blanket. Next I will ask a child to stand at each of the four corners of the blanket. (Choose children to take their positions as described.)

Our friend "Johnny" has broken his leg and we need to get him to the doctor. If I were to ask the children who are standing at the corners of the blanket to grab a corner of the blanket and carry "Johnny" out the door, down the street and into the doctor's office, that would be pretty difficult, wouldn't it? Do you think you could do it? Would you be willing to try?

Did you know this is almost exactly what happened when a group of men wanted to take a friend to Jesus? The Bible tells us that four men were carrying a paralyzed man (a man who couldn't walk) to Jesus, who was preaching in a house. They believed if they could just get him to Jesus, that Jesus could heal him, but they couldn't get to where Jesus was because of the large crowd.



The four men carried their friend up to the roof and made an opening in the roof. Then they lowered the man down through the roof to where Jesus was. When Jesus saw how much faith these four men had, He healed the paralyzed man, who was able to get up and walk right out of that house! Jesus even forgave him of all his sins.

How can you help people who need Jesus? You can tell them about Jesus and His love for them, you can invite them to come to church to learn about Him, and you can pray for them. It may not be easy, but if each of us will do our part, together we can succeed. We must hold on to our corner of the blanket and carry on until we bring them to Jesus.

Children's Message

#2 Bearing One Another's Burdens

Objects: Some sort of weights; a picture of a weight bench with weightlifters

Scripture: Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2

One day last week I went to the gym to work out and saw some other people lifting weights. Some of them would work together like this (demonstrate with a volunteer): One of them would lie down on the bench to lift the weights while the other would stand up near the lifter's head.



The person standing near the head is called a spotter. The spotter stands near the lifter's head just in case the lifter needs some help. Sometimes, the spotter didn't need to do anything at all. Just being there gave the lifter the confidence needed to lift the weights. Other times, the spotter would call out words of encouragement to the lifter, saying, "You can do it! You can do it!" That encouragement was just what the lifter needed to lift the weights. After a while, the two traded places and the spotter became the lifter and the lifter became the spotter (demonstrate trading places).

I think it is a pretty good picture of what the Bible teaches that we are to do for one another. The Bible tells us to "**bear one another's burdens.**" Sometimes we may have a friend who is going through some difficult times and needs someone to help carry their burden. Maybe our friend is sick, sad or lonely.



Many times, we don't even have to do anything. We just need to be there and tell our friend that we care. Just knowing we are there may be all they need to give them the courage to carry on. They may need for us to say, "You can do it! I believe in you! You can do it!" Those words of encouragement may be all they need.

Sometimes a person has a burden so heavy they may need for us to lift that burden for them. Perhaps they have no money and need food or clothing. We can lift their burden by giving them what they need, or helping them find someone who can.

Do you remember what the weight lifters did? After one of them helped the other, they traded places. The beautiful part of what the Bible teaches about bearing one another's burdens is that sometimes we are the lifter and sometimes we are the spotter. We must be willing to give help to others as well as to receive.

Bear one another's burdens Galatians 6:2