

Mountain State Mission Offering

100% Supporting the Mission and Ministries of the West Virginia Baptist Convention



AREA MINISTRY

One facet of the West Virginia Baptist Convention's ministry that is supported by the **Mountain State Mission Offering** is Area Ministry. Though other West Virginia Baptist Convention staff members are regularly in our churches, Area Ministers unique ministry has them in churches virtually weekly.



Has your Area Minister engaged your church lately? If not, he likely soon will. Area Ministers often fill the pulpits at churches in their areas. They preach for pastors who are away on vacation or continuing education events, preach special occasions like ordinations, and pastor installations and they are often asked to preach revivals. Sometimes they visit area churches simply to offer encouragement to the pastor and people.

Some call the Area Minister a "pastor to pastors." Certainly the AMs are available to counsel, coach and resource local pastors. In addition, they fill pastoral roles when the pastor and/or his family are in crisis.

One major function of Area Ministers is to work with pulpit committees when there is a vacancy in a church's pulpit. Much time is spent guiding those committees through the vital task of leading the church to the call of a new spiritual leader. In addition, the Area Minister is available to work with finance committees, trustees, deacons or other committees as invited.

Area Ministry is not limited to the local church, however. The associations of the West Virginia Baptist Convention also experience the work of the Area Minister. He is engaged in the executive committees helping to plan and pursue the association's ministry. Often the Area Minister leads, or is the point person for the association's ministers' group. In many cases, the Area Minister is called on to teach classes for the School of Christian Studies which helps to train pastors, teachers and other church leaders.

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CAMP COWEN

On the banks of the Gauley River in Webster County lies a beautiful **Mountain State Mission** station. The 97 acres of the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen have been a place “where people meet Jesus and grow as His disciples” since 1943. A visit to the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen will enhance your life through the relationships and personal commitments made to seek and serve God. The rocks at campfire, bleachers at vespers and late night discussions in a cabin have hosted many a Bible study, sermon or discussions that have led thousands to deepen their walk with Christ.

Camp Cowen continues to upgrade facilities to meet the changing needs of campers. This fall/winter Hylbert Hall received a remodel. Removing two interior walls and adding a 40-foot stage extension on the “river side” has made it a fantastic facility. It will easily seat 400 plus for a concert, Bible study or wedding. Pray as the work continues on sound, video and lighting. This is another example of God providing people and resources to make the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen a better place!

Our little **Mountain State Mission** station in Webster County is about changing lives for Christ.

“Camp Cowen has greatly impacted my life by being a vessel the Lord used to put people in my life to disciple me and help me grow deeper in a personal relationship with Jesus.” (Meredith Hall)

“Through my experiences here, I’ve grown so much in my faith and love for God. Having those people pour into me with hopes of me pouring into others (as is my plan) is an experience I wouldn’t change for the world. Coming to camp is an awesome decision and experience for everyone.” (Hannah Short)

“Camp has helped me make lifelong friends and it has also shown me what it means to live as a man or woman of Christ. Cowen also helped introduce one of my best friends to Jesus.” (Morgan Hensley)

“Camp Cowen has impacted me in life skills and in my spiritual connection with Christ. The camp helped me grow closer with God.” (Quinton Burton)

“Camp Cowen has been the catalyst for change in my Christian walk, not only through the message brought by wonderful speakers, but through fellowship with other believers.” (Brooke Estep)

Attitude Check!

Praise the Lord for many lives changed for the Kingdom.

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