

# The Messenger

## February 2021

### Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association

“The Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association is a network of Churches committed to evangelizing, teaching and ministering to our World.”

*“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God. Ephesians 2:8*

The world (or maybe the card companies) has chosen the month of February to demonstrate love. Love will be displayed by the number of cards that are shared by valentines whose words will soon fade away. Love will be presented by the bouquet of roses that will wilt before the end of the month. Love will be exhibited by the box of chocolates that will melt away in days. Here is a love that is enjoyed for a moment but it is a love that does not last.

Do you want a love that lasts? Think about how God has demonstrated his love. Romans 5:8 states, “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Here is God’s love and His awesome expression of grace. Jesus did for us what we could not do for ourselves. God offers us the gift of eternal life even while we do not deserve it as sinners.

While visiting one of our churches this past Sunday I contemplated God’s amazing grace by which we are saved. We were actually singing an old hymn entitled, “Grace Greater Than Our Sin.” Let me remind you of the words:

*Marvelous grace of our loving Lord, Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt,  
Yonder on Calvary’s mount outpoured, There where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.*

*Dark is the stain that we cannot hide, What can avail to wash it away?  
Look! There is flowing a crimson tide; Whiter than snow you can be today.*

*Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace, Freely bestowed on all who believe;  
You that are longing to see His face, Will you this moment His grace receive?*

*Grace, grace, God’s grace, Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;  
Grace, grace, God’s grace, Grace that is greater than all our sin.*

Do you want true love that will last forever and never fade away? You can receive God’s love that is wrapped up in the gift of salvation offered by grace through faith. If you have already experienced God’s marvelous, infinite, matchless grace, than you have His love to share with the world.

How will you demonstrate His love this February?

Kirk

## Pastoral Counseling Center of the Cumberland Plateau

Submitted by Carolyn Scott, Pastoral Counselor, Licensed by NCCA

February 2021



### What's at the **Heart** of Your Marriage?



It's nearing **Valentine's Day** and **Love** is in the air!

Can you remember back to grade school when everyone brought those silly cards, or sweetheart candies, and exchanged them in school? Some of us might remember how exciting it was, but others might remember the heart-break of not receiving one from that special someone in which we were infatuated. We experience rejection and failed expectations very young in life and these can often-times compound as we grow older. For some, Valentine's Day isn't all chocolates and roses. Instead, it is a difficult day as it reminds us of a recent troublesome time in our marriage, a breakup, or even divorce.

According to Christianity Today, one in two marriages end in divorce. Catholic couples were 31% less likely to divorce; Protestant couples 35% less likely; and Jewish couples 97% less likely, which in itself is quite impressive; I must say. **53% of very happy couples agree with the statement, "God is at the center of our marriage"**. God wants Christian marriages to be strong and last a lifetime, but all too often we allow bad choices to lead to un-Holy practices, leaving our spouse feeling betrayed, disrespected, and unloved; thus causing the demise of the marriage.

There are a few basic foundational truths to build a loving and lasting marriage. Two of the foundational truths are **Love** and **Respect**; they go hand-in-hand in marriage. But, which comes first the husband loving his wife or the wife respecting her husband? Both are equally important for each spouse to demonstrate to the other to have a lasting marriage.

When the husband and wife truly demonstrate love and respect, it is easier to reciprocate love and respect. All too often one spouse may be forced to give 150% one day because their spouse may be acting in immaturity and only give 50% or less. It takes three to make a marriage work - God, husband, and wife. It takes three to allow a marriage to fail – satan, husband and wife. People go looking elsewhere when needs at home are not being met. This is not only relating to intimate needs but rather Spiritual and emotional needs which reach the top of this list.

*Continued from Pastoral Counseling....*

Here are a few essential qualities that make up love and respect and help to build a strong marriage:

- Personal relationship with Jesus Christ** – Each spouse should strive to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and demonstrate God’s love through the fruits of the spirit – love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Galatians 5:22, Ecclesiastes 4:12, Deut. 6:5)
- Pray Together** – Pray about everything together (1 Thess. 5:16)
- Laugh Together** – laughter is like a good medicine (Proverbs 17:22)
- Pursue Peace** – If God is truly at the center of your marriage, then make this a rule in your home ... “There is no excuse for violence!” (Isaiah 26:3, Romans 15:13)
- Long-Suffering** – This does not mean domestic violence! It means having or showing patience in spite of troubles, especially those caused by other people. (John 16:33)
- Humble/Gentle** – Be kind to each other and quiet nature – most fights are over stupid things that don’t matter; learn communication skills that allow you to disagree, but not fight - then you will never go to bed mad. (Ephesians 4:2, 3)
- Be faithful** - Use self-control, abstaining from pornography, lustful looks at others, avoiding adultery – Marriage is worth the investment to have unadulterated, undefiled intimacy with one partner for a lifetime (Hebrews 13:4)
- Self-Controlled** – exercising, looking your best for your spouse; not speaking profanity; not yelling, screaming, or hitting; eating healthy, etc.
- Dependability** - being a consistent income provider, is able to be trusted to do or provide what is needed (Luke 16:10, Hebrews 3:14, 1 Corinthians 16:13, Philippians 1:27)
- Reliability** – paying bills, being tried and true (1 Corinthians 4:2-4, Psalms 1:1-6, 2 Timothy 3:17)
- Trustworthy** – One who can be trusted, never doubting their ability or choices (Psalms 22:4-5, Proverbs 11:1, Luke 16:10-12)
- Listen** – not interrupting, not dominating the conversation, God gave us two ears so we can listen twice as much as we speak (Job 33:31-33, Proverbs 15:2)
- Supportive** – to encourage each other in their interest, careers, education, accomplishments (Jeremiah 29:11)
- Understanding** – demonstrating forgiveness (Matthew 6:14, 15)
- Be Honest/Showing Integrity** – not lying, stealing, or cheating (Proverbs 2:20, 21; Proverbs 28:18, Proverbs 6:19)
- Intimacy and Excitement** – Intimacy can be as simple as holding hands, or sitting quietly watching a movie; have date nights, take a weekend trip, have a picnic in the living room with candlelight, take a moonlit walk (Song of Solomon)

*Continued from Pastoral Counseling...*

Remember to do something beautiful for your special someone **all throughout the year!**

The Pastoral Counseling Center of the Cumberland Plateau is ready to help you get your marriage back on the right track. Or, if you are planning to get married, we provide pre-marital counseling. Contact the office, or Carolyn Scott today to schedule an appointment. Carolyn may be reached at 931-787-9033 or speak with Alta at (931) 484-1858 Office.



## **SAVE THE DATE**

April 13, 2021 6:00 p.m.

CPBA Ministers & Spouses

Appreciation Dinner

Cumberland Fellowship

Nothing Can Separate Us from  
*The Love of God*



**Nothing can socially distance you from God's love today---or ever.**

We're all living through a *strange* season of separation, aren't we? We're physically separated by six feet and masks, emotionally separated from many of the activities we used to share together, mentally separated from any certainty about what the future holds. Sometimes I feel great hope and sometimes it's just *hard*. I imagine you feel the same.

I thought about all of this as I walked the trail around our neighborhood this morning. As I prayed, a comforting phrase came to my heart, "Nothing can separate you from My love."

I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our

worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39

Holley Gerth [holley@holleygerth.com] Text *reprinted with permission.*

WMU  
Yolanda Heuser  
February 2021

## TN WMU EVENTS.....

### 2021 WMU Missions Emphasis Meetings

- ▶ **MARCH 18<sup>th</sup>** - Oak Hill Baptist--3037 Genesis Road, Crossville, TN 38571
- ▶ **JULY 15<sup>th</sup>** - Fairfield Glade First Baptist Church-130 Towne Centre Way, Fairfield Glade, TN 38571-  
Speakers: The Smith's, retired missionaries
- ▶ **NOV 18<sup>th</sup>** - Pine Eden Baptist Church—976 Genesis Road, Crossville TN 38555  
Speaker: Kim Cruse, former Missionary & TN WMU/TBMB Missions Discipleship Specialist

ALL MEETINGS START AT 6:00 PM AND ARE 60/65-EAT MEETINGS- [last no longer than 60/65 minutes, then we EAT.] MEN, WOMEN & CHILDREN ARE WELCOME..

# WHO



# ARE

# YOU?

### *WHO ARE YOU?*

I am not asking your name; but who are you?

Last night as I strolled through Facebook, I came across a post. This post had a list of things you had done in your past, and included things that you would not be readily willing to admit. For each “mistake” you admitted to, you would accumulate points. The higher the score, the more mistakes or not so proud moments you had done in the past. As I read over the list, I soon realized my score was high. I began to think about this and quickly realized just how many mistakes I had made. Then I realized something so much more important, just who I am! Yes, I am a sinner, but I am so much more than that. I am LOVED...by my Lord and Savior! I am His beloved. I belong to Him. He died for me. He loved me that much, no matter the MISTAKES I made, the bad decisions or the things I did. He saw them and said, “come unto me I will give you rest, your burdens are heavy, BUT my yoke is easy”. When I look in the mirror and see the person I don’t want to be, He says, NO, you are my beloved. I died for you. When I think I am never enough, He reminds me you are my beloved and I died for you.

So who am I? I am His and I have a story to tell. A story of a messed up life. A story that relates to the lost world. A story of forgiveness. A story of redemption. I have a love story, that Hallmark cannot touch. I have a story of a Savior, that loves me so much that all those mistakes are forgiven. A story that relates to that waitress, that cashier, that person that Jesus put in my path today. A story that says, I was lost but now I am found. Let me introduce you to my Lord and Savior. You can become His beloved too. We all have a story to tell, about who we were, but more importantly WHO WE ARE!!!

**..lets get going and share our relentless faith in our Lord and Savior and start making disciples of Jesus who live on mission for Him.**

### *Remind Me Who I Am*

Jason Gray

When I lose my way  
And I forget my name  
Remind me who I am  
In the mirror all I see  
Is who I don't wanna be  
Remind me who I am  
In the loneliest places  
When I cant remember what grace is

Tell me, once again  
Who I am to You, who I am to You  
Tell me, lest I forget  
Who I am to You, that I belong to You  
To You

When my heart is like a stone  
And I'm running far from home  
Remind me who I am  
When I can't receive Your love  
Afraid I'll never be enough  
Remind me who I am  
If I'm Your beloved can You help me believe it

Tell me, once again  
Who I am to you, who I am to You  
Tell me, lest I forget  
Who I am to you, that I belong to You  
To You

I'm the one You love  
I'm the one You love  
Tell me, lest I forget  
Who I am to you, that I belong to You  
(Woah)

Tell me, once again  
Who I am to You, who I am to You  
Tell me, lest I forget  
Who I am to You, that I belong to You  
To You  
To You

### **TN WMU EVENTS.....**

**Pray that the State can begin to schedule with confidence events that are paramount for the best interest of the WMU.**

# Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association's



## Spring Mission Trip

**February 28 - March 6, 2021**

**Rebuild - Cherry Hill, NC**

**Deadline: February 22, 2021**

Our annual rebuild partnership with Sequatchie Valley Baptist Association will be to the flood areas of Cherry Hill, NC caused by the flooding from Hurricane Florence in 2018. The work will be finishing some newly built houses. We will be making these homes functional in order for families to have a new home to move into.

Our main task is to show the love of Jesus through words and actions. Everyone is watching – homeowners, neighbors, restaurant workers, and the clerk in the grocery store.

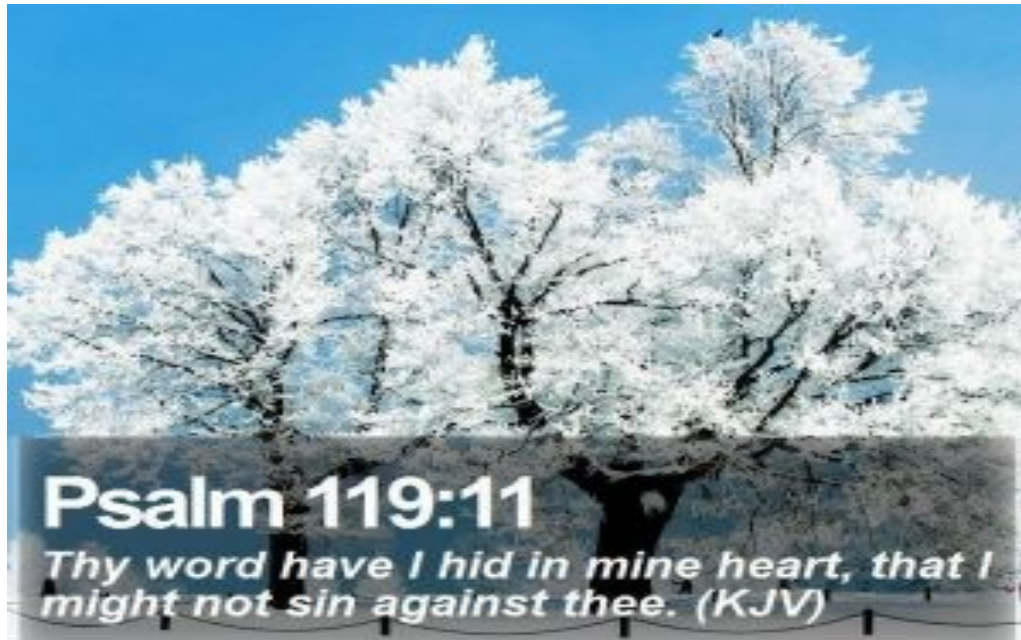
This mission opportunity will be for men and women. **This site has new housing in a recently remodeled Middle School.** So, no more shower trailers or sleeping on the floor or in bunk trailers. There are a **limited number of RV sites** available on location with full hook-ups.. The cost of this trip will be approximately **\$50**. If you are interested in this rebuild project contact me before the **February 22, deadline.** Direct questions to Kirk Casey at the CPBA Office: 931-484-1858 or 931-787-6565.

# CUMBERLAND PLATEAU BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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## Associational Directory

Office Hours Mon.-Thurs.

9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Email- cpba4ma@gmail.com

Web: www.cpbaptistassociation.com

Kirk Casey, Associational Missionary

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Alta Wagner, Ministry Assistant

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Fax: 931-484-0203


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**Carolyn Scott, Pastoral Counselor, PCCCP Counseling**

Phone: 931-787-9033

cpbacounseling3@gmail.com



February 1	Pastor's Conference
February 8	Pastor's Conference
February 14	Valentine's Day 
February 15	Pastor's Conference
February 22	Pastor's Conference