

Love West Virginia!

Students Leader's Guide 2009 Season of Prayer for State Missions

“Love West Virginia” the 2009 State Missions theme highlights ways West Virginia Baptists are showing God’s love in West Virginia through ministries which seek to meet the physical and spiritual needs of those who are lost. Students will learn how giving to the Ola Cox State Missions Offering supports ministries throughout West Virginia.

The Ola Cox Offering goal is \$115,000. This money stays in West Virginia and goes to many worthy ministries. Four Associations are featured emphasizing how they benefit from the offering*. A large portion goes to help new congregations get started.

PURPOSE

This leader’s guide is designed to help you as a youth leader in guiding your youth in a study of state missions. We will focus our study on several ministries throughout the state that benefit directly from the Ola Cox Offering.

Encourage youth to observe this season of prayer for state missions. Encourage them to do something to enable them to give to the Ola Cox Offering. Begin teaching them about sacrificial giving so others might hear the Good News of Jesus.

PREPARATION

1. Pray for yourself, your youth, and for West Virginia ministries and missionaries.
2. Read the material included in the Leader’s Guide. Read the articles in the State Missions offering packet sent to your church.
3. Provide one copy of the back page of this guide to students.

Lesson Outline

(Introductory Activity)

Lead students to complete the quiz on the handout. (If you cannot copy the handout, write questions on pieces of paper and divide youth into four groups to answer questions.) Lead students to discuss what an Association is and how they can get involved in the work of the Association. Ask them “what people do we need to share God’s love with?” How can youth do this?

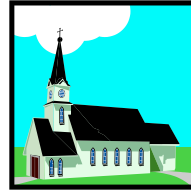
**We will use the Emphasis on Associations for this Student Study.*

What Does the Bible Say?

Ask one student to read 1 John 4:10-21.

1. Discuss what these verses tell us about God’s love.
2. Ask how God’s love for us should affect how we treat others.

3. How can youth use this verse in their daily lives?
4. How should God's love affect the church in its daily life?



What is an Association?

1. What is a Southern Baptist Association?
 - a. A group of Southern Baptist churches in a geographical area, usually with a Director of Missions, working together to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - b. A group of Baptists in the south.
 - c. An elite social organization.
 - d. None of the above
2. Why does the WV Convention of Southern Baptists partner with Associations to plant churches?
 - a. Christians take the great Commission seriously.
 - b. The closest church is too far away to make it home for the Super Bowl.
 - c. A street corner was found without a Baptist Church on it.
 - d. They are in a contest.
3. What are some things Associations do?
 - a. Church Planting
 - b. Evangelism
 - c. Missions
 - d. All of the above
4. Does the Ola Cox Offering help Associations?
 - a. No
 - b. Yes
 - c. If yes, can you name one thing the Ola Cox Offering does for Associations?

Answers: (a,a,d,b)

Fishing in my Missions Pond

Choose and discuss a way you can do missions in your church and association.

1. Invite friends and neighbors to events at your church.
2. Correspond with a missionary via email or snail mail and ask them for needs you can fulfill. (Your state WMU office can help you with this.)
3. Attend a local cultural or ethnically distinctive event in an effort to understand the cultures in your area.
4. Work with youth in your church to promote the Ola Cox State Missions Offering and challenge each other to find unique ways to contribute to the offering.
5. Contact your Associational Director of Missions and become active in the work of your Association.
6. Provide cookies to the children in your neighborhood on a regular basis with an invitation to children's events going on in your church.
7. Show God's love to someone who you see as not that loveable.
8. Pray daily for Southern Baptist Missionaries on the field. (Your state WMU can help!)

For weekly or monthly mission studies, check out Acteens, Youth on Mission materials available from WMU.com as well as Challengers (missions education just for guys) from namb.net.