

WGTH PROBLEMS & PROGRAMS LIST

THIRD QUARTER 2012

JULY - SEPTEMBER

ADDRESSING REGIONAL ECONOMIC, ADDICTION, AND MORAL ISSUES

Having recently experienced massive layoffs with additional layoffs pending, the entire region was in shock from the staggering news. There was grave concern for the welfare of the communities and their ability to survive the job losses, because significant employment alternatives are almost nonexistent. The coalfields were already feeling victimized by the federal government, particularly the Obama administration, because of the tough environmental standards that appeared to target the coal industry.

Additional devastating difficulties have plagued the region for quite some time. Exorbitant numbers of area residents have become drug and alcohol addicts. Many children are being raised by grandparents, great-grandparents, and others, because the parents are in jail due to drug-related crime. The divorce rate is high, and many citizens are opting to live together outside the marriage covenant. Area pastors and their congregations, as well as other community leaders, see all these downward trends as a call to action.

Program: Special news report (recorded interview)

Date: September 7, 2012 @ 10:05 a.m.

September 8, 2012 @ 12:05 p.m.

Guest: Strother Smith, pastor from Abingdon, Virginia

Due to the alarming and potentially devastating events that had recently occurred regarding unemployment, pastors throughout the region called upon their congregations - and all those interested - to participate in a corporate prayer service. The service was held at the Richlands Tabernacle in downtown Richlands... a large church with a sizable sanctuary. Different pastors took part by leading the attendees in prayer for a specific concern of the region.

WGTH aired a pre-recorded interview with Strother Smith. Pastor Smith, of Abingdon, and Brother Phillip Horton, from the Tabernacle, were co-coordinators of the prayer gathering. Detailed information regarding the gathering and the various prayer concerns were discussed. An invitation was extended to all WGTH listeners.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF AREA YOUTH

When people in the community accomplish great things, those achievements should be recognized. This is especially true of young people. Recognition encourages them to continue to strive to do their best, and they sense the appreciation and the pride of the adults in the community for their contributions.

Program: Halftime interview during the Richlands vs. Honaker High School football game

Date: September 28, 2012

Guests: Little League 13-14 Year-old Girls' Softball coach - Jody Shelton
Honaker Little League president - Darrell Ritchie

The Honaker 13-14 Year-old Girls' Softball team had an amazing year. They won the Virginia State tournament in Richlands. In late July, they won the sectionals in Florida and went to the World's Series in Washington (state). Although they did not win the World's Series, they progressed farther than any area team in recent history and played extremely well.

Coach Jody Shelton and Honaker Little League president, Darrell Ritchie, spoke with pride about the girls, their terrific athletic performances, and the excitement of going to Washington (state) for the Little League Softball World Series for 13 and 14 year-old girls.

Program: Remote broadcast from the Tazewell County Fair

Date: August 14, 2012

Guest: Lauren Christian, Miss Tazewell County Fair

Program: Remote broadcast from the Cedar Bluff Heritage Festival

Date: September 15, 2012

Guest: Jasmine Vanover, Miss Greater Richlands

WGTH interviewed Lauren Christian, Miss Tazewell County Fair, at the fair, and Jasmine Vanover, Miss Greater Richlands, at the Cedar Bluff Heritage Festival. Both young ladies had competed with a host of other entrants in order to receive their crowns. Each expressed their interest in representing their titles, serving their communities, and aspiring to great goals for their futures.

MINISTERING THROUGH MUSIC

Times of stress, heartache, loneliness, and other painful circumstances are difficult to navigate through or overcome. Unless there is a source of soothing and comfort for the soul, misery and depression can take hold of a vulnerable person. Sometimes music provides healing like a salve or balm.

Program: Special interview with Patricia Smith regarding her recently released CD, "Use Me"

Date: July 13, 2012 at 7:05 p.m.

Guests: Sister Patricia Smith and her husband, Brother Cecil Smith

Sister Patricia Smith has been blessed with lovely vocal ability, as well as, many opportunities to minister to hurting people through her gift of song. The words, the melody, and the abundant compassion that are apparent in her songs, have touched many lives in concert and through her recorded music... according to the testimonies of people in live performances and those that have purchased CD's. In fact, the name of her music ministry is "Abundance of Blessings Music."

In a pre-recorded interview, Sister Patricia and her husband, Brother Cecil, shared some of the trials they had endured - particularly regarding Sister Patricia's health - and how the Lord has been so faithful throughout those times of adversity. As a result of her suffering, she has surrendered her life more completely to the service of the Lord Jesus Christ. The title cut of her new release, "Use Me," reveals her desire to yield her life to His service and for His glory. Portions of the CD were played during the broadcast as Sister Patricia and Brother Cecil explained the significance of the songs.

Program: Remote broadcast from the Cedar Bluff Heritage Festival

Date: September 15, 2012

Guest: Benny McGhee, singer with the Jubalaires Quartet

The Jubalaires Quartet was one of the groups singing in the gazebo in Town Square during the Cedar Bluff Heritage Festival. The popular Southern Gospel group resides locally. In an interview with Benny McGhee, a member of the quartet, the most recent recordings and appearances of the group were discussed. During the interview, Benny was asked about the ministry of the group to its audiences. He spoke of some of the positive feedback the quartet has received regarding the spiritual impact of their music.

Program: Remote broadcast from the Tazewell County Fair

Date: August 14, 2012

Guests: Sister Peg McKamey and her son-in-law, Roger Fortner, of the popular Southern Gospel singing group, The McKameys

The beloved Peg McKamey is about as genuine as any human being comes. Her compassion and incredible love and concern for others is evident in The McKameys' concerts and in personal interviews. She is all about ministering to the needs of others. Peg's son-in-law, Roger Fortner, has been with the group for quite a while; however, he has, only recently, come out from behind the scenes and begun to minister more conspicuously. Both Peg and Roger gave testimonies of opportunities the group has had to minister to individuals through music and during one-on-one connections with their fans and concert-goers.

SERVING THE NEEDS OF OTHERS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

For the most part, some of the poorest people in the United States would be considered fairly well off by third world country standards. Most people in the WGTH listening audience have the means to help others in need abroad. Even what might be considered a very small contribution in the United States, can be of some help to those in need of food, medical help, and other necessities overseas.

Program: Remote broadcast from the Tazewell County Fair

Date: August 14, 2012

Guest: Stan Wikle, gospel music promoter and representative for
Compassion, International

Stan Wikle, president and CEO of Stan Wikle Gospel Music Promotions, uses every opportunity he can to also promote the benevolent Christian organization, Compassion, International. Stan has been to Guatemala and elsewhere to visit some of the children that Compassion cares for through the generous sponsorship of individuals, families, and various groups. Because Compassion does so well in caring for the needs of others and has a very good stewardship reputation, Stan feels quite comfortable asking people to give to the organization or, better yet, to sponsor an individual child.

In an interview during the Gospel Night remote broadcast at the Tazewell County Fair, Stan talked about the wonderful ministry of Compassion, International. He encouraged WGTH listeners to consider sponsoring a child, and shared some of the joy that he and his family have experienced after actually meeting the child they sponsor.

ADDRESSING COAL INDUSTRY WOES

The coal industry is suffering from excessive government intervention, by way of unreasonable regulations, in such areas as mine safety and environmental protection. That is not to say that the industry is not concerned for the lives and safety of those that mine coal, or the environment, or any other issues related to coal mining. After all, the people involved in the industry - from the top down - are members of these communities that are affected in the case of a mine-related death or air quality problems. Improvements have been made in regulatory compliance for safety and air quality, and research and testing to find solutions for further improvements regarding these and other issues are constantly in the works.

The bottom line is that the entire region depends on coal mining for its economic base. As with other sections of the country, Southwest Virginia and portions of neighboring states have taken a hard hit because of the economic slowdown. However, nothing has hurt this area worse than the massive loss of jobs in the coal mines due to the United States government.

Program: Live interview at the WGTH studios aired at 5:40 p.m.

Date: July 13, 2012

Guest: Former Virginia Governor, George Allen, Republican Candidate for United States Senate from Virginia

On one of his campaign swings through Southwest Virginia, the former Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, George Allen, stopped by the WGTH studios and took a few minutes to discuss his plan for economic recovery in the coalfields. As the Republican candidate for United States Senate from Virginia, Allen realizes the need to put unemployed Virginians - and Americans from every state - back to work. In his first years of practicing law, Allen worked and resided in nearby Abingdon, Virginia. Therefore, he has an excellent working knowledge of the coal industry and its vital importance to Southwest Virginia. He outlined a commonsense plan that would benefit this region and all Americans.

FIRE DEPARTMENT UPGRADE IN CEDAR BLUFF

Not until fairly recently did the Town of Cedar Bluff have its own fire department. At first, the facilities were rather modest. The fire engines and other vehicles were not even under cover in most cases. However, the current building housing the Cedar Bluff Fire Department is not only a perfect size and location, but it is quite attractive in appearance, as well.

Program: Remote broadcast from the Cedar Bluff Heritage Festival

Date: September 15, 2012

Guest: Barry Patton, Cedar Bluff Fire Chief

The Cedar Bluff Heritage Festival presented the perfect opportunity for Fire Chief, Barry Patton, to highlight the upgrades in the fire department facilities. The new building is quite charming in appearance. This is fitting for a town that has worked so diligently to establish and maintain curb appeal... especially on Cedar Valley Drive, the town's main street. Each vehicle has its own bay with direct access to the road; therefore, each one is protected from the elements when not in use, but can be on the road in seconds. Chief Patton is, understandably, proud of the new facilities and the department is grateful for them.

CHARACTER BUILDING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT IN YOUNG MEN

Helping young men become men of integrity and good character requires intentional training. Likewise, developing skills to help boys become men with a wide variety of abilities to build, to fix and repair, to cook and care for themselves and others, and to have survival skills (should the situation require them)... all require purposeful instruction.

Program: Remote broadcast from the Cedar Bluff Heritage Festival

Date: September 15, 2012

Guest: Gary Shifflett, troop leader in the Boy Scouts of America

The outstanding reputation of the Boy Scouts of America organization speaks for itself. However, the scouts in the Richlands and Cedar Bluff area are proof positive of the goodness and benefits of scouting. The positive influence on the boys and young men that participate is so clearly seen. Whether the scouts are presenting a demonstration or assisting in some way, their excellent manners and responsible behavior are characteristic of the citizenship training they receive as scouts. Furthermore, the skills and knowledge that they display reflect experience that can only come from opportunities to follow instructions and, repeatedly, practice what has been learned.

Troop leader, Gary Shifflett, is proud of this area's scouts. He and others have worked with scouting for years and enjoy pouring their lives into the boys. In helping the boys achieve their badges, taking them to camp, training them to respect God and country, etc., Shifflett and others provide purposeful activities to assist the boys in gaining knowledge, honing skills, and developing character.

Some of the specific badge requirements and local scouting activities were discussed during the interview. Young men from the community that have earned, or will soon earn, their Eagle Scout rank were acknowledged.

ANIMAL RESCUE

Sometimes, God's creatures are abused or neglected and are in need of tender loving care. For instance, owners of domestic and/or exotic pets do not always realize the degree of difficulty their pet's care entails. Therefore, many people start out with good intentions, but soon find themselves incapable of caring for their pets. Some are thoughtful enough to seek a good home for their pet; others neglect their responsibilities.

Program: Remote broadcast from the Tazewell County Fair

Date: August 14, 2012

Guest: James Cox, owner and keeper of the "Little Ponderosa Zoo" in Clinton, Tennessee

People with good hearts often find creative ways to do good and benefit others at the same time. Sometimes, the "others" may be furry or feathery or scaly. Mr. James Cox is a great example of a man that loves "all creatures great and small."

James Cox travels with a goodly number of "zoo" animals from his "Little Ponderosa Zoo" in Clinton, Tennessee. Some of his animals were on exhibition at the Tazewell County Fair. Many of his animals are exotic by description, but almost all of them are rescue animals.

His participation in such events as county fairs has a two-fold purpose. First of all, Cox is on a mission to make people aware of animal abuse and to try to diminish or stop it altogether. Secondly, the cost of running a zoo and caring for all the animals is very expensive; therefore, the money raised by benevolent contributions of fair-goers helps to maintain the zoo. (Note: James Cox is a neighbor and close friend of The McKameys.)

PROMOTION OF AREA EVENTS/TOURISM

The Lord has blessed this region of the country with beautiful scenery and, more importantly, wonderful and caring people. Although this area is rural and averages a much lower income than many other parts, it is a special place. The "heart" of Southwest Virginia is mostly good and kind. The people, as a whole, are quite talented with such arts as music, drama, and writing. Cooking and crafts - anything done with the hands - would, characteristically, be done well by Southwest Virginians.

Largely because of the economic strains on the listening area, the promotion of area events is very helpful to the localities themselves and the individuals and organizations participating as vendors in those events.

Program: Infobits regarding area events, including essential information and some additional specifics that are peculiar to each event

Fourth of July celebrations - invitations aired several days prior to and including the actual day of the Independence Day celebration:

Historic Crab Orchard Museum - Charlotte Whitted, Executive Director of the museum

Tazewell - Becky Duncan, Executive Director of the Tazewell Area Chamber of Commerce

Honaker - C. H. Wallace, Mayor of Honaker, Virginia

Event: Main Street Heritage Festival (Tazewell, Virginia)

Dates: July 23 - 28, 2012

Guest: Becky Duncan, Executive Director of the Tazewell Area Chamber of Commerce

Event: Cedar Bluff Heritage Festival

Dates: September 11 - 15, 2012

Guest: Linda Singleton, Chairperson of the Cedar Bluff Heritage Festival

Event: Burkes Garden Festival

Dates: September 24 - 29, 2012

Guest: Donna Bell, Spokesperson for the Burkes Garden Festival

Program: Remote broadcast from the Tazewell County Fair

Live interviews with various guests associated with the fair and detailing certain entertainment and activities featured at the fair

Date: August 14, 2012

Guests: Garland Roberts, Member of the Tazewell County Fair Committee

Craig Smith, Events Director for the Tazewell County Fair

Paul Cornelius, Evangelist - featuring a special program performed with his family at the fair

PRESERVING LOCAL HERITAGE

The knowledge and understanding of local history and culture is essential to preserving the heritage of any locality... large or small. Realizing who was responsible for settling an area and why, what have been the most predominant sources of income and recreation, what crops and animals and other natural resources are common to the region, what significant events may have occurred there, etc., are all things to consider when learning to appreciate the uniqueness of a locality.

Program: Remote broadcast from the Cedar Bluff Heritage Festival

Date: September 15, 2012

Guests: Barry Blevins and Terry Hunt, "War Between the States" reenactors

Barry Blevins and Terry Hunt are very well-versed in their knowledge of "War Between the States" history... especially the battles that occurred locally. Relating fascinating stories with information of which most people are unaware and throwing in local tidbits of interest, Blevins and Hunt provided an audio history lesson that was captivating and very descriptive.

Guest: Danny Chamberlain, Spokesperson for the Appalachian Highlanders, featuring Scotch-Irish instrumental music played on pipes and drums

Other than the Native Americans that inhabited the area initially, the Scotch-Irish were among the first to settle in the region. The Appalachian Highlanders - complete with tartans featuring the appropriate pattern for the clan they represent - have enjoyed preserving the very unique music that is produced with the bagpipes and accompanying drums. Danny Chamberlain gave some of the history of the instruments' uses in the Scottish Highlands and here, as well.

Guest: Ray Rife, local gospel music artist and radio preacher

Gospel music is a very important part of the cultural heritage of the area... from its settlement to this very day. Many people in this area are extremely gifted musically. Brother Ray Rife and his wife, Cheryl, are among those that minister to local churches and other groups through gospel music. They have recently produced a new CD and shared with the listeners about the songs they recorded.

Guests: Linda Singleton, Sharon Lowe, and Linda Morris - Members of the Cedar Bluff Heritage Festival Committee, and Jerry Herron, Mayor of the Town of Cedar Bluff

Every year, the Cedar Bluff Heritage Festival Committee attempts to highlight numerous facets of local history and the cultural influences of those who settled here, fought in battles that took place locally, created mills and opened mines, etc.

The two Lindas, Sharon, and Jerry all told of various aspects of the festival that represent historical importance and/or of new developments in the town that add to the current appeal to visitors. A museum was set up in a part of Town Hall to mark the Centennial celebration of the charter that officially declared Cedar Bluff to be an incorporated town in 1912.

(Note: Linda Morris and her husband, Terry, were recognized for their many years of tireless service to the town and the festival... as they will soon be relocating elsewhere in the state.)

LAW ENFORCEMENT UPDATES/RECENT CASES BROUGHT TO LIGHT

A rash of unusual criminal cases and well-deserved, yet bittersweet, awards for some of our law enforcement personnel had recently been part of the local news.

Program: Remote broadcast from the Cedar Bluff Heritage Festival

Date: September 15, 2012

Guest: Brian Hieatt, Sheriff of Tazewell County

The local news had featured some unusually bizarre criminal cases about which Sheriff Hieatt gave detailed accounts. For instance, there was a fugitive from the area caught in Texas, a fugitive from Maryland caught here, and a citizen reported finding a starving horse that led to an arrest for animal abuse. Additionally, several area law enforcement officials had been awarded Medals of Honor... two were posthumously. The others received theirs in person, although some have not completely recovered after a long time in rehabilitation.