



Appalachian Regional Ministry

A.R.M. Journal

Building Bridges of Hope and Change through Volunteer Missions

Introducing Dewey and Kathie Aiken

Just the Facts:

- The Aikens are native Appalachians
- Both were saved in small Appalachian churches
- Today, one out of every two SBC missionaries serving through the NAMB are MSC or M.O.S.T. Missionaries
- MSC/M.O.S.T. missions with NAMB provides a way that every Southern Baptist can become personally involved in missions in North America

As the work of Appalachian Regional Ministry has grown from 1,795 short-term volunteers and 70 projects ten years ago to 750 projects and 67,541 short term volunteers in 2009, the need for assistance has become necessary. During a typical year A.R.M. will work with over 100 ministry center sites in addition to church planters and existing churches.

While Bill Barker, the National Director of A.R.M. appreciated and recognized the value of each state coordinator in the A.R.M. partnership, he expressed to the A.R.M. Executive Committee in 2008 that additional help was needed if the ministry was to continue meeting the needs in Appalachia. Late in 2008, Dewey and Kathie Aiken approached Barker and shared that they felt God calling them to serve in Appalachia working with the poverty in the coalfields (Central Appalachia). As Barker, the Aiken's, and the Executive Committee made this a matter of prayer, it became evident that God was leading this MSC Missionary couple to serve with A.R.M..

In November 2009, the Aiken's completed their missionary assign-

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Mission Service Corps

Mission Service Corps (MSC) is a team of self-funded missionaries who serve for two years or more. They provide their own support in an assigned ministry that supports the evangelism and church planting efforts of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and its mission partners. The placement comes through the Mission Service Corps office of the North American Mission Board.

The genius of MSC is that it is structured so that every Southern Baptist can be directly involved. For some, involvement means a

willingness to go and serve; for others, it is becoming ministry partners to financially support someone else to go. For still others, it means faithfully praying for those who go and those who support as ministry partners; and for many, it is a combination of these.

To learn more about MSC missionaries go to www.answerthecall.net/.



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Mission Service Corps (MSC) Missionaries serve in many of the same mission roles as Career and Limited Term Missionaries. They do not receive salary and benefits from NAMB but do receive support through training and placement services.



Dewey and Kathie visiting with Dr. Donnie Fox, President of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College. They are discussing how volunteers can help with the many construction needs on the campus. Renovations are needed on several buildings that are used to house single students, students with families, and faculty members. Work is also needed on the gym. For information about CCBBC go to www.ccbbc.edu. For information on how you can become involved as a missions volunteer contact the Aikens.

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ment in Vermont and were moved to a MSC National status and assigned to A.R.M.. Below is their story.

Being born and raised in western NC, our hearts and memories are filled with the nostalgia of mountain living. No matter where our lives have taken us, our mountain roots go deep. The smell of wood stoves burning, the dampness of the forest, the simpler ways of family, church and community are fresh in our souls. As mountain people, we appreciate our heritage. Coming back to live and work in these hills was no struggle. Our hearts are here.

It was in small Baptist churches

that both of us heard the gospel, accepted Christ as our Savior and were raised to know Jesus. We were blessed with strong believing parents and siblings. Much of our lives revolved around church happenings. We began to realize that many people do not have faith as a pivotal part of their lives. As we grew up and launched out, sharing our faith and helping others became driving forces in our lives.

After spending 25 years in careers, raising a family and carrying out ministry in the Piedmont of N.C, we made a trip to New England. The spiritual needs of rural New England laid heavy on our hearts. We knew that God was calling us to be missionaries for Him in that part of the country. After a five year God-orchestrated wait, we went as NAMB Mission Service Corps missionaries to serve in Washington, Vermont. There we managed a retreat center that housed mission volunteers and coordinated mission teams coming to help the small churches of rural Vermont. For seven years we served Christ in the Green Mountains, experiencing the blessings of seeing God's Kingdom grow in an unevangelized area. We praise God for the time we spent, the huge network of friends and prayer warriors that developed and the work that was done.

Now God has led us in another direction. Without any doubt, we know that He has brought us to work in central Appalachia to assist in caring for the physical and spiritual needs here. We look forward to meeting and

working alongside ministry center directors throughout east Tennessee, eastern Kentucky, southern West Virginia and northwestern N.C. We desire to learn ways we can help the centers to have the resources and workers they need to get the job done. This will include enlisting and training volunteers. Encouraging our ministry sites in follow up evangelism will be part of our responsibilities. Some of our time will be spent sharing in churches and associations about Appalachian Regional Ministry. We are excited about the adventure ahead as we work with our people again.

As time goes by, we pray we will develop strong friendships with many throughout our region and that God gets glory for every effort in our partnerships. We pray that souls will see Jesus and desire to know Him as we minister together. It is our privilege to serve our Lord and you as missionaries here in the mountains of our Appalachia.

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All gifts are tax deductible if you itemize. Please make your check payable to North American Mission Board.

Ministry Partner Opportunity with the Aiken's

In the last months of transition to North Carolina, we have seen God's hand work in so many ways. He has allowed us to establish a home which has been a blessing. We have met with the leadership of Appalachian Regional Ministry and NC Baptist Men. The preliminary work for the new ministry to which God has called us is moving forward. We know His peace in it all.

Ministering fulltime as your self funded National Mission Service Corps missionaries through North American Mission Board is what God has led us to do. Our focus is working in poverty areas of North Carolina, eastern Kentucky, southern West Virginia and east Tennessee. Visiting the scores of ministry centers throughout central Appalachia, knowing their needs, enlisting and training volunteers to help and encouraging evangelism efforts in the coalfields will require travel. One realization we have had in the last weeks is that our travel expense budget for the future will be much more than it was in Vermont. Because we have lost \$1200 per month in partnership support since coming to N.C, we must regain that deficit and more in order to travel.

Working in areas of extreme poverty requires compassion, discernment and unconditional love. It is a unique ministry but one that we know many of you have a heart for as we do. We

have committed to be feet and hands to the poor. We would like to invite you to be a part of the team of workers who hold the ropes for us, who enable us to get into the mountains and hollows to work.

North American Mission Board encourages partners like you to pray for missionaries like us. They also have a system by which you can financially support us on a monthly basis. Using the enclosed form, you may commit to being a part of Appalachian Regional Ministry and NC Baptist Men's Appalachian Coalfields Ministry by supporting our travel budget. The enclosed form can be mailed to us and tax deductible monthly support sent directly to NAMB. The Mission Board will enable you to keep good financial records by sending you envelopes and year end reports.

We ask that you prayerfully consider becoming a part of our partnership team. We will routinely inform you of what God is doing through your commitment. You may never know of all the results until heaven. But without doubt, you will be making eternal difference in lives. In this day of many choices, this is one that will last forever- that will really count.

Thank you so much for your prayers and your commitment to help meet the physical and spiritual needs of the poor. May you be blessed as we work together to share the love of Christ and the good news that will transform lives.

The Commitment

Your partnership can make a difference in reaching people for Christ.

Would you make a commitment by pledging \$25, \$50, \$75, \$100, or some other amount in monthly support beyond your regular giving through your church?

Name *Mr.* *Mrs.* *Miss*

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone: Home/Work

E-mail:

Signature/Date

Would you be interested in us sending you information that allows ministry partners to give regularly through electronic funds transfer? Yes No

Amount pledged _____

For MSC Missionaries: Dewey and Kathie Aiken, Account # 7854

All gifts are tax deductible if you itemize.

Please make your check payable to North American Mission Board.

Mail to: NAMB-MSC, PO Box 116543, Atlanta, GA 30368-6543 and include the above account number in the memo section.

Please return this form to the MSC missionary.

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**On the web at
www.arministry.org**

Appalachian Regional Ministry is an intentional missions response to the spiritual and physical needs of persons living in the Appalachian region to mobilize Southern Baptists and their resources to provide ministries, to evangelize the lost, to assist existing churches and to start new churches in the multi-state region of Appalachia.

Appalachian Regional Ministry is a Cooperative Program ministry of thirteen Southern Baptist State Conventions in the ARM region in partnership with the North American Mission Board and the Woman's Missionary Union.

Southern Baptists on Mission in Appalachia

A.R.M. Journal is a publication of Appalachian Regional Ministry
Bill Barker, Editor



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Volunteer Missions



Top left clockwise: Kathie and Carol Bolin talking about the Wedding Dress Ministry at Manchester FBC, KY. The Aikens in jail with Susie Lacefield at Booneville, KY. The old jail is a ministry center. Discussing building projects at Clear Creek BBC. Learning about the needs in Owsley County from Susie Lacefield. Picture of an old cabin room and Ms. Cooke showing the Aikens the Museum and Gift shop at Oneida Baptist Institute. Dr. William Underwood from Oneida Baptist Institute sharing volunteer needs with the Aikens. Ken Bolin, pastor of Manchester FBC, KY sharing about the John R. Rice II Ministry Center.

