

## Appalachian Regional Ministry

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*A Partnership Ministry of  
Southern Baptists to  
Appalachia*

**PLEASE CALL FOR SHIPPING  
ADDRESS**

## Facing Poverty In Appalachia

Central Appalachia has been described as the “poverty pocket of America.” A conspicuous thirty-seven of the 100 poorest counties in America are in the 10 state region served by Appalachian Regional Ministry. This neediness makes the work challenging for those who serve in the high poverty areas.

In addition to limited resources, our churches and ministry centers deal with other related issues—abuse, drugs, illiteracy, health needs, substandard housing, food, clothing, transportation, worldview, and a whole list of other issues. Whether it is a Bible study group or a children’s event the above challenges confront those who minister to the poor.

It is easy for those who have enough to meet their physical needs to be condescending toward those who are living in poverty. It is also easy to give token allegiance to reaching them for Christ, while at the same time, because of social economical differences, not to welcome them into our churches.

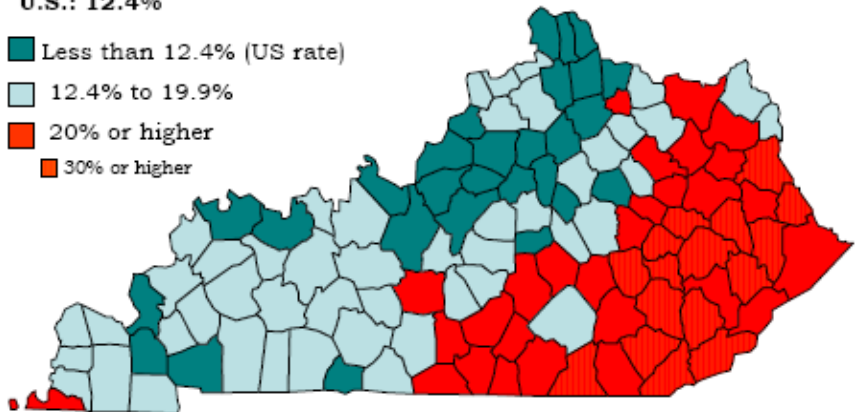
I’m reminded of a well meaning

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## Percent of Population in Poverty, 1999

**Kentucky: 15.8%**  
**U.S.: 12.4%**

- Less than 12.4% (US rate)
- 12.4% to 19.9%
- 20% or higher
- 30% or higher



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Map prepared by RUPRI

## Just the Facts

- A child in Kentucky is abused or neglected every 28 minutes.
- A child in Kentucky is born into poverty every 44 minutes.
- A child in Kentucky dies before her first birthday every 22 hours.
- A child or teen in Kentucky is killed by gunfire every week.
- There are 994,818 children in Kentucky.

(Children’s Defense Fund)

The U.S. poverty rate in 1999 was 12.4 percent. In Kentucky the poverty rate was 15.8 percent. The poverty rates in Kentucky counties ranged from 4.1 percent (Oldham County) to 45.4 percent (Owsley County). Forty-four counties in Kentucky had poverty rates over 20 percent (all were nonmetro), and sixteen counties had rates over 30 percent.

The Economic Research Service, USDA, defines “persistent poverty counties” as those with poverty rates of 20% or higher in 1969, 1979, 1989 and 1999. Forty-

three counties in Kentucky are “persistent poverty counties.”

(Census 2000)

## Poverty Rates in Kentucky’s Ten Poorest Counties

County	Poverty Rate	Child Poverty Rate
Breathitt	37.8%	51.5%
Clay	37.3%	51.8%
Jackson	34.8%	48.1%
Knott	33.7%	46.6%
Knox	35.4%	50.6%
Magoffin	38.0%	51.2%
McCreary	41.4%	56.9%
Morgan	36.3%	48.4%
Owsley	46.6%	65.4%
Wolfe	38.9%	57.2%

(US Census Bureau Data, Reported by Eller et al. 1994)

1995 Kentucky Population Research Data  
(<http://cbpa.louisville.edu/ksdc/kpr/povest/>)

*“What a devil art thou, Poverty! How many desires - how many aspirations after goodness and truth - how many noble thoughts, loving wishes toward our fellows, beautiful imaginings thou hast crushed under thy heel, without remorse or pause!*

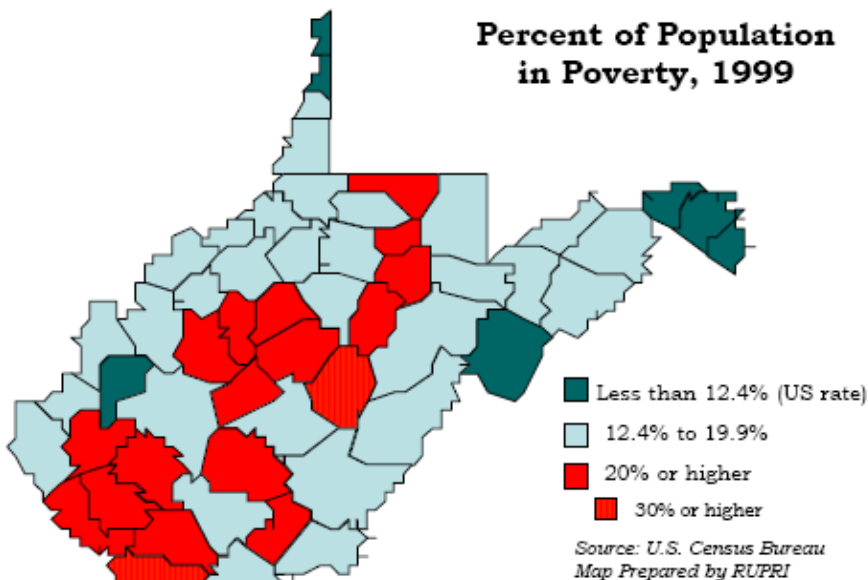
**Walt Whitman**

**Of the 100 Poorest Counties in the United States by Median Household Income, the following are in Appalachia: KY, 29; WV, 6; Tennessee, 1; VA, 1.**

The Median Household Income in the United States of America: \$41,994

National Rank	County	Median Income
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3	Owsley County, KY	\$15,805
4	Clay County, KY	\$16,271
8	McDowell County, WV	\$16,931
11	Martin County, KY	\$18,279
12	Knox County, KY	\$18,294
14	Lee County, KY	\$18,544
15	Leslie County, KY	\$18,546
17	Harlan County, KY	\$18,665
20	Bell County, KY	\$19,057
21	Breathitt County, KY	\$19,155
22	Wolfe County, KY	\$19,310
23	McCreary County, KY	\$19,348
24	Magoffin County, KY	\$19,421
26	Clinton County, KY	\$19,563
27	Hancock County, TN	\$19,760
33	Jackson County, KY	\$20,177
35	Knott County, KY	\$20,373
45	Wayne County, KY	\$20,863
49	Elliott County, KY	\$21,014
51	Webster County, WV	\$21,055
52	Letcher County, KY	\$21,110
53	Summers County, WV	\$21,147
54	Floyd County, KY	\$21,168
57	Mingo County, WV	\$21,347
61	Cumberland County, KY	\$21,572
62	Calhoun County, WV	\$21,578
63	Casey County, KY	\$21,580
64	Lawrence County, KY	\$21,610
67	Morgan County, KY	\$21,869
74	Russell County, KY	\$22,042
75	Menifee County, KY	\$22,064
76	Whitley County, KY	\$22,075
77	Perry County, KY	\$22,089
81	Clay County, WV	\$22,120
83	Lewis County, KY	\$22,208
85	Buchanan County, VA	\$22,213
91	Monroe County, KY	\$22,356



**293,000 West Virginians live in poverty.**

More than 293,000 people in West Virginia live below the poverty line. West Virginia's poverty rate is 16.8 percent and nearly one in six West Virginians lives in poverty. ("2003 Annual Social and Economic Supplement," U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2003)

**96,000 West Virginia children live in poverty – nearly 25.1 percent.**

Over 96,000 West Virginia children age 18 and younger live in poverty. At 25.1 percent, nearly one in four children in West Virginia lives in poverty. ("2003 Annual Social and Economic Supplement," U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2003)

**33,000 West Virginia seniors live in poverty.**

Over 11 percent of West Virginia's 283,000 seniors live below the federal poverty line. ("2003 Annual Social and Economic Supplement," U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2003)

**Just the Facts**

The U.S. poverty rate in 1999 was 12.4 percent. In West Virginia, the poverty rate was 17.9 percent. The poverty rate in West Virginia's counties ranged from 9.3 percent (Putnam County) to 37.7 percent (McDowell County). Eighteen counties in West Virginia had poverty rates over 20 percent in 1999 (4 metro and 14 nonmetro counties).

The Economic Research Service, USDA, defines "persistent poverty counties" as those with poverty rates of 20% or higher in 1969, 1979, 1989 and 1999. Nine counties in West Virginia are "persistent poverty counties." (Census 2000)

*If anyone has this world's goods and sees his brother in need but shuts off his compassion from him—how can God's love reside in him? (1 John 3:17 HSCB)*

*[They asked] only that we would remember the poor, which I made every effort to do. (Galatians 2:10 HSCB)*

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preacher from the deep south who came to central Appalachia to preach in 2004. After visiting with the pastor and learning that he received only \$34.00 a week, the visiting preacher decided to teach the congregation on Biblical Stewardship. A few weeks later I was visiting and one of the ladies in the congregation told me about his sermon and then added, "but he didn't understand that you can't tithe off of food stamps." What the visiting preacher also did not know was that the local pastor seldom got paid and it made no difference to him. He loved his people and week after week faithfully preached the Word, visited the sick, and cared for the dying.

As the fall and winter months approach, ministry centers across West Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee face real challenges as they work to provide food, basic household items such as toiletries, detergents, cleaning supplies, and hygiene items. Other needs include Back to school supplies and new mom packs.

You and your church can get involved. As a matter of fact, every member of your church can become involved in missions without leaving home.

**To the right of this column are some suggested lists you may want to use as you get involved in ministering to the physical needs in Appalachia. A suggested food box is on page 4.**

How? Working with your pastor, Women's Ministry Director, Men's Ministry Director, and Youth Director decide on which need you feel God is leading your church to meet or contact Appalachian Regional

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### Hygiene Packs

Suggested list for children, youth, and adults: toiletry items, such as-



- Bars of soap
- Shampoo Deodorant
- Lotion
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrush
- Mouthwash
- Comb/hair brush
- Wash cloth
- New underclothes/socks (please identify size), etc.
- Other



Please do not use travel or sample size items. Place these items in a large zip-lock bag for distribution. Include a gospel tract and/or New Testament in a modern translation.

### Clothing/Coats



Throughout Appalachian there are clothing centers that distribute clothing to needy families and persons. Often these centers are staffed by local volunteers. You

can help them by -

- Boxing the clothing according to size
- Making sure the clothing is in good repair and clean
- Do not ship clothing that is out of date
- New clothes are welcome
- New shoes are needed for children and youth (no used)

### New Mom Packs

- Disposable Diapers
- Baby wipes
- Pacifier
- Baby gowns
- Baby booties
- Baby care items - shampoo, baby brush, etc.
- Receiving blankets
- Cloth diapers



Include a New Testament in a modern translation and other literature for new moms.

### Back-to-School packs



Paper, pencils, erasers, pen, glue, scissors, ruler, crayons, notebooks, etc.

Let children and youth become involved in project by gift-wrapping the items and placing them in a

shoebox. You can also use backpacks or 2 gallon zip lock bags.



Talk to a local school teacher for ideas on what your school pack should contain. You may want to place a suggested age or grade on the outside of the pack. Include a New Testament in a modern translation.



**Please call 606-316-4298 or email [bbarker@arministry.org](mailto:bbarker@arministry.org) for a shipping address.**

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Ministry and we will give you the contact information of a ministry center that needs assistance.

- Then place a list of the needed supplies in your church bulletin.
- Set a date for the collection of the materials. Allow 3 or 4 weeks for people to purchase the supplies.
- Ask each family to put together a package(s) or food box(es.)
- If possible, get individuals from the church to take a weekend and personally deliver the materials/supplies.

For a shipping address to a ministry center in Appalachia call Bill Barker at 606-316-4298 or email him at [bbarker@arministry.org](mailto:bbarker@arministry.org).

Web address: [www.arministry.org](http://www.arministry.org)  
Prepared August 4, 2005

### From The Bible We Read

Happy is one who cares for the poor; the Lord will save him in a day of adversity. **Psalms 41:1 (HCSB)**

The one who despises his neighbor sins, but whoever shows kindness to the poor will be happy. **Proverbs 14:21 (HCSB)**

Kindness to the poor is a loan to the Lord, and He will give a reward to the lender. **Proverbs 19:17 (HCSB)**

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith, but does not have works? Can his faith save him? If a brother or sister is without clothes and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well," but you don't give them what the body needs, what good is it? In the same way faith, if it doesn't have works, is dead by itself. **James 2:14-17 (HCSB)**

### The Golden Food Box



Below is a suggested food list of non-perishable food for a family of four. Each box is individually packed and ready for distribution.

Determine what food items you want to include, purchase a supply of suitable boxes, tape the suggested food list on the outside of the box and challenge each family in the church to fill at least one box. You may want to include a New Testament or Bible in each box. Please contact Appalachian Regional Ministry for suggested delivery sites.

- 5lbs. sugar
- 5lbs. self-rising flour
- Salt
- Pepper
- Canned soups
- Canned meats
- Pasta
- Spaghetti sauce
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Crackers
- 4 cans green beans
- 4 cans corn
- 4 cans peas
- 4 cans pork 'n beans
- 5lb. bay of dry beans (pinto, great northern, navy)
- Small can shortening
- Powdered milk
- Box instant potatoes
- Box instant oats
- Dry cereal
- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Mayonnaise
- Mustard
- Catsup
- Coffee and/or tea
- Flavored drink mix
- Clothes detergent

For a location to ship to, call or e-mail us at 606-316-4298

E-mail [bbarker@arministry.org](mailto:bbarker@arministry.org)

### From the Lips Of Jesus We Hear

Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed by My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you took care of Me; I was in prison and you visited Me.' "

Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You something to drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or without clothes and clothe You? When did we see You sick, or in prison, and visit You?'

"And the King will answer them, 'I assure you: Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me.'

Then He will also say to those on the left, 'Depart from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the Devil and his angels! For I was hungry and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty and you gave Me nothing to drink; I was a stranger and you didn't take Me in; I was naked and you didn't clothe Me, sick and in prison and you didn't take care of Me.'

"Then they too will answer, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or without clothes, or sick, or in prison, and not help You?'

"Then He will answer them, 'I assure you: Whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for Me either.' **Matthew 25:35-45 (HCSB)**