

LDS S(RIPTURE OF THE DAY

I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.



Transylvania Baptist Association

675 Hendersonville Highway, Pisgah Forest, NC 28768 828-877-3203 - transylvaniabaptist@gmail.com - transylvaniaams@gmail.com - www.tbanc.org Rev. Terry Stockman - Association Missions Strategist

James Felty - Moderator Rev. Michael Childers - Vice Moderator Angie McGee - Treasurer Nancy Kilpatrick - Clerk

February 2024 Volume 34 Issue 2

TERRY'S THOUGHTS



What does the number 125 represent for the Transylvania Baptist Association (TBA)? Is 125 the age of the association? No. Is 125 how old I am? Dah, NO! So, what does the number 125 represent? It represents the number of baptisms I am praying for here within the TBA in 2024. If you recall we, in 2023, almost double the number of baptisms we had in 2022 with 78. My hope is that in 2024 we will concentrate afresh and anew on evangelism/discipleship. Additionally, I am praying we would become more concerned with sharing the gospel and discipling those we reach in 2024 than any other effort we endeavor to achieve. It is easy to

Obviously, there are a number of very important activities or initiatives occurring and will occur within the TBA, however, without concentrating on the gospel in everything we do, I wonder how effective we will be building the Kingdom together. In order for us to achieve the above-mentioned baptism goal, it will be important for all of us to realize the fields of our communities are "white" with harvest. Therefore, we all have a role to play in this enIt is easy to make excuses when we ought to be making opportunities

deavor. Working together this goal of 125 baptisms in 2024 is indeed possible. I love what Jesus said to His disciples while impressing on them the urgency of sharing the gospel, "Don't you say, there are still four more months, and then comes the harvest. Listen to what I'm telling you: Open your eyes and look at the fields, because they are ready for harvest."

The question is, "Are we taking the time to truly see the opportunities that are all around us?" Warren Wiersbe once said, "It is easy to make excuses when we ought to be making opportunities." What needs to change in your life so that you can see and seize the opportunities available to share your faith? Let us not be guilty of making excuses, but rather making opportunities to share the greatest news ever uttered! Will you please join me and your sister churches to reach this extremely possible goal of 125 baptisms in 2024? We certainly can't achieve this goal alone unless of course the Lord decides for one church or person to do so. Chances are He wants us all to participate. Therefore, lets show our County that Jesus is greater than any earthly achievement and worth investigating!

Oh, Transylvania Baptist Association, please know I love you, consider it one of my highest privileges to serve you, and can't wait to see what He will do through us here in 2024. As always please don't hesitate to call if you need assistance of any kind! In His Grip we all stand!

Terry

SERVE NC

In years past we have used different names for what we do in local missions. The most recent was called Operation Inasmuch. ServeNC is very similar. The plan is simple - identify needs in your community,

then put teams together to accomplish those tasks. We recommend a lay person in your church to take the lead, identify the needs, and organize teams to complete the tasks - all during the week of August 3-10, 2024. This initiative is not about us, but about bringing glory and honor to God and showing our communities what is possible through God and His strength.

The association-wide contact person is Nathan Smith, and he can be contacted at nathanevansmith@gmail.com or 828-553-7919.



Register your church today at ServeNC.com

February Pastors Fellowship Monday, February 5 10:00am



Association Financial Summary December 2023

Biltmore Brevard Blantyre Blue Ridge Boylston	Current \$ 1,250.00 \$ 125.00 \$ 75.00 \$ 276.12	Year-to-Date \$ 5,000.00 \$ 1,500.00 \$ 825.00 \$ 4,159.17		
Brevard First	\$ 2,270.21	\$16,541.91		
Calvary		\$ 4,965.20		
Carr's Hill	\$ 0 \$ 250.00 \$ 150.00 \$ 223.00 \$ 732.00 \$ 275.43 \$ 0 \$ 0 \$ 0 \$ 0 \$ 0 \$ 0 \$ 0 \$ 0	\$ 3,000.00		
Carson's Creek	\$ 150.00	\$ 1,750.00		
Cathey's Creek	\$ 223.00	\$ 2,682.00		
Cedar Mountain	\$ 732.00	\$ 5,620.00		
Cherryfield	\$ 275.43	\$ 4,090.81		
Church at Sapphire	\$ 0	\$ 1,860.00		
Cove Church	\$ 0	\$ 150.00		
Dunn's Rock	\$ 0	\$ 7,990.40		
East Fork	\$ 0	\$ 1,200.00		
Enon	\$ 0 \$ 2 5 5 5 00	\$ 1,200.00		
Faith Missionary	\$ 3,555.00	\$ 4,913.00		
Grace Hope Church Brevard (See Off)	\$0 \$0	\$ 3,147.74 \$ 0		
Lake Toxaway	\$0 \$0	\$ 4,913.00 \$ 3,147.74 \$ 0 \$ 653.04		
La Primera Mission	\$ 0 \$ 0	\$ 000.04		
Little River	\$ 535.50	\$0 \$2,142.00		
Middle Fork	\$ 200.00	\$ 2,400.00		
Morningside	\$ 179.25	\$ 2,139.90		
Mt. Moriah-Calvert	\$ 0	\$ 0		
New Hope	\$ 0	\$0 \$200.00		
North Toxaway	\$ 0	\$ 550.00		
Oak Grove	\$0	\$ 600.00		
Pisgah Forest	\$ 218.12	\$ 4,049.79		
Rocky Hill	\$ 400.00	\$ 4,800.00		
Temple	\$ 131.25	\$ 1,575.00		
Turkey Creek	\$ 200.00	\$ 2,400.00		
Zion	\$ 0	\$ 2,201.12		
Checking Interest	<u>\$ 2.97</u>	\$ 80.59		
Total Receipts	\$ 11,048.85			
Total Expenses	\$ 9,741.37	\$133,514.23		
2023 Budget	\$141,973.00			
Needed Monthly to	\$11,831.00			



Prayer Walking Training Develop a Prayer Walking Lifestyle Thursday, February 29 - 6:30pm Turkey Creek Baptist Church

Sponsored by the TBA Mission Development Team

"Prayer is not incessant talking to God but unceasing walking with God."

Church News

Brevard First - is seeking a director for the Weekday Early Education Program. For more information, please contact Peggy Alverson at 828-877-2007 or peggyalverson@yahoo.com.

Cove Church - Cove Shelter is now open on Code Purple nights, providing overnight assistance to homeless individuals, including sleeping accommodations, hot meals, access to shower and laundry facilities, and the Gospel.

Enon - is seeking a pianist/music leader fluent with all worship styles. For more information please contact the church at 828-877-4418 or praygoshare@gmail.com.

Little River - is seeking a part-time worship leader. For more info, please visit https://lrbchurch.org/employment.

Pisgah Forest - is seeking a part-time music director/leader, For more information, please contact Gene Parker at 828-508-9142.

Rocky Hill - is seeking a worship leader. For more information and to apply, please contact Pastor Leland Holland at 828-553-3308 or lelandholland@yahoo.com.

Etowah Baptist - is seeking a Student Pastor & Children's Pastor. For more information, please contact the church at 828-891-7153 or office@ebcetowah.org.

Funds are being raised to purchase a convection oven for the *Veterans Restoration Quarters*. For more information and to help, please contact Sherwood Mackey at 828-577-3634.



Sun						Sat
In the event of inclement winter weather, if Transylvania County Schools are closed, the Baptist Center may be closed or have reduced hours. Emails will be checked regularly as long as services are operative. Please call the Center at 828-877-3203 before coming.			1 Weekly Prayer Baptist Center 9am	2	3	
4	5 Pastors Fellowship Baptist Center 10am	6 Weekly Prayer North Toxaway 7am	7 Susan Plotts Birthday (La Primera)	8 Weekly Prayer Baptist Center 9am	9 Marriage Conf. Truett Camp <u>Feb. 9-10</u> GO Conference Southeastern Seminary Feb. 9-10	10 NCBAM Wheelchair Ramp Training Cary, NC
11	12 Shuler Anniversary (Cherryfield)	13 Weekly Prayer North Toxaway 7am	14 Valentines Day	15 Weekly Prayer Baptist Center 9am	16 The Call College Student Conference Fort Caswell Feb. 16-18	17
18	19 Presidents Day <i>Katie Whitmire</i> <i>Birthday</i> <i>(Carr's Hill)</i> <i>Whitmire</i> <i>Anniversary</i> <i>(Carr's Hill)</i>	20 Weekly Prayer North Toxaway 7am	21	22 Weekly Prayer Baptist Center 9am <i>Kim Owen</i> <i>Birthday</i> (Turkey Creek)	23	24
25 Racial Reconciliation Sunday	26 Region 9 Missions Rally Woodland Baptist Church Waynesville	27 Disciple Making Conference Charlotte Weekly Prayer North Toxaway 7am	28	29 Prayer Walking Training 6:30pm Turkey Creek Weekly Prayer Baptist Center 9am		

Update from Rick Plotts:

It's been very busy here since my return from my mission trip to Germany in November and then through the holidays.

We've had two visits from our former troubled young Latino kids over the holidays. One family over Thanksgiving, and the other over Christmas break. We ministered to these kids starting 17 years ago. They now have beautiful families and are following after the Lord and live back in Miami, Florida. We still keep in contact with at least 12 of these former troubled teens, for over 17 years. We ministered to these Job Corps kids for 7 years and still now we are seeing His fruit from our labor. Some were once in gangs, involved in drugs, and running in the streets, and now most are doing well and serving our Lord with their families! Praise God!!! It was wonderful to have them in our home and be blessed to see what God is further doing in their lives.

Also my dear mother-in-law went home to be with the Lord Jesus five weeks ago. She had a beautiful homecoming, as she was surrounded by family, and she went home with hymns sung around her bed. It was a beautiful sight.

I am still ministering twice a week with our Spanish church, on Sunday and Tuesday evenings. I am also helping lead a men's Bible study in Cashiers, and am still keeping a presence with Bible study in the schools where I minister with a GREAT FCA team.

I'm excited for the new year, and I sense a need of urgency to keep sharing the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ more than ever. We see the day of His approaching growing closer and closer! Perhaps this may be the year of His return, and I just want to finish the race well, just as we often say.

We are eternally grateful for your encouragement, prayers, and support. In this season, it has been a huge blessing to us! Thank you!

Please keep praying that we maintain our zeal and that we remain fervent in the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 12:11-12).



Pastor Rick Plotts

During the year 2023, **Baptists on Mission Disaster Response** volunteers served in Spring Hope, Cherryville, Thomasville, and Garner, NC, and Scotland, Nash, Edgecombe, Durham, Guilford, and Henderson counties. Volunteers also served n Rutland, Vermont; Guam; Live Oak, Florida; Maui; Lunenburg, Massachusetts; and Israel.

> Volunteers - 1,224 Volunteer Hours - 41,694 Volunteer Days - 5,357 Meals - 10,769 Jobs Assessed - 859 Jobs Completed - 603 Chaplaincy Contacts - 1,152 Laundry - 1,032 Showers - 2,056 Salvations - 16 Churches Involved - 450



We always have room for more volunteers to be training. **There are 5 opportunities for training in all the ministries of Disaster Response (Jacksonville, Raleigh, Huntersville, Forest City, and Dillsboro).** Would you consider inviting or encouraging people from your church, Bible study group, Sunday School class, small group, men's/women's/youth group, etc.? For more information, and to register, please visit baptistsonmission.org/training/disaster-relief-training and vimeo.com/channels/baptistsonmission/668240781.





News from the Pennsylvania Partnership: Let's start out 2024 with praise for answered prayer!

In the Northwest: At the Deaf Gospel Rally,

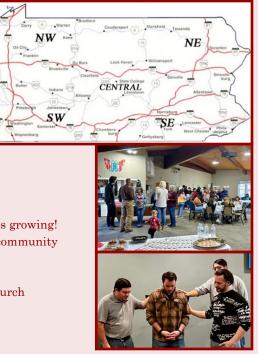
3 people came to Christ.



• The building campaign has begun at Edinboro Community Church. https://www.edinboro.org/rooted-for-life

In Central:

- Grove Community Church is growing! An international hot chocolate community event was held.
- Grace Reformed Baptist Church ordained Josh, their first Elder.



This month we have spent time calling numerous ministry leaders and pastors throughout WV and east TN. Next month we will focus on calls to PA and New England pastors. We also have visited some ministries in NC and east TN this month and plan for many more visits into VA, KY, TN and NC during February. With each conversation, we get wonderful updates of what God is doing in communities throughout Appalachia. We also listen as some express frustration, loneliness, despair, and challenges. We strive to encourage each of these as we pray with them and speak of how volunteers can assist them in their work.

Next week I will be sending 2024 Christmas backpack applications to around 100 ministries. With the goal of 22,000 backpacks, NC Baptists are already looking forward to working with Appalachian Christmas Outreach again. We have just received participation forms from some new participants and the 2024 info has only been on the web site two days! We will train associational leaders soon to keep getting the word out to our churches across the state. What a blessing!

We also have numerous churches preparing to go on mission this year through the three partnerships with which we work. We have associations and churches entering long term partnerships as well. Our own local association is partnering with communities in the Northern Tier of PA. Pray that as we begin, the Kingdom will grow in that area of PA where gospel presence is sparse.

Thank you for your prayers for our family as well as ministry. Your partnership and prayer support mean more to us than you may ever know. We are reminded how important it is to hold up each other as we serve together. Prayer changes things. Almost daily we see how God is working to resolve some very difficult situations in people's lives. It should never surprise us but should just reinforce the power and majesty of our God. We are praising Him for each of you and pray for you to continue seeing Him work in your lives as you trust Him only.



NC Baptists Eclipse \$29M in CP Giving, Post Record Highs in Special Offerings

NC Baptist churches gave more than \$29 million to missions through the Cooperative Program (CP) and also contributed record -setting gifts to special missions offerings in 2023, according to financial data released Wednesday (Jan. 10) by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

State convention officials reported nearly \$29.3 million in CP receipts in 2023 – the highest total since 2017 – and more than \$15 million in gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for international missions and more than \$7 million in gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American missions, both of which were record highs.

In addition, gifts to the North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO) totaled more than \$2.3 million, which was also the highest total in convention history. The NCMO supports disaster response efforts, church planting and local missions across the state. For 2023, NCMO giving was up by about \$6,500 from 2022.

Cooperative Program giving by N.C. Baptists totaled \$29,288,078.46 in 2023, which was just short of last year's \$29.5 million budget by about \$212,000 or 0.72%. Despite finishing the year just under budget, the state convention finished 2023 in the black, and year-over-year CP giving was up by more than \$1.1 million or 4% from 2022.

The increased giving by N.C. Baptist churches comes at a time when nonprofit organizations have reported declines in charitable giving in recent years.

Gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering by N.C. Baptists totaled \$7,369,305.25 in 2023, which was up by more than \$633,000 or 9.4% from 2022. Gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering by N.C. Baptists totaled \$15,739,526.87 in 2023, which was up by nearly \$1.3 million or 8.9% from 2022. The record giving totals also marked the first time that N.C. Baptists have surpassed \$7 million in Annie Armstrong giving and \$15 million in Lottie Moon giving.

N.C. Baptists led all state conventions in giving to the Annie Armstrong and Lottie Moon offerings in 2023. N.C. Baptists have led in Lottie Moon giving for the past 19 years and have led in Annie Armstrong giving in all but two years during the same time period.

"When charitable giving has been decreasing, NC Baptist missions giving has been increasing. Thank you for your generosity! To God be the glory!" ~ Todd Unzicker, Executive Director/Treasurer, Baptist State Convention of NC

> Chad Austin, Managing Editor, Biblical Recorder January 11, 2024 For the complete article, please visit brnow.org/news



With the help of partnering churches and volunteers, the NCBAM Call Center was able to meet needs in 89 counties in 2023!

- Calls In 5,397
- Calls Out 8,972
- Completed Needs 1,292
- Individuals Served 1,421
- Hope Line Calls 255
- Information & referrals Provided 547
- Partnering Churches 317
- Ministry Projects Completed with Partnering Churches 398

Save the Dates for 2024:

- ▶ Wheelchair Ramp Construction Training February 10, Cary
- ► Aging Well Conference April 18, Vale
- ► Aging Adults Innovating Ministry Conference May 7, Thomasville
- Camp BAM June 19-23, Thomasville
- ▶ Field of Makers September 7, Thomasville



9 Things I've Learned About Bible Reading

For years, I've written a daily online devotion for folks who want to read the Word together. Over those years, I've learned some realities of Bible reading that I hope are helpful to you.

1. We in North America have incredible access to the Scriptures in our language. I've been all over the world where believers have none of the Bible in their language – and they sacrifice greatly to hear the Word taught anytime they have opportunity. Many of us, though, have more Bibles than human beings in our homes.

2. I need a reading plan. I wish I were disciplined enough to get up each morning, determine what I want to read, and let nothing get in the way of my reading. I can get sidetracked, though, so I need a plan.

3. I need to know the night before what I'm going to read the next day. This point, of course, ties to the previous one. Any time I spend in determining my reading each new day is an opportunity for something else to draw me away – so, I want my Bible open to my reading for the day when I wake up in the morning.

4. I enjoy some reading plans better than others. I prefer, for example, reading both Old Testament and New Testament materials each day rather than reading straight through the Bible. For me, the latter approach makes it seem like Thanksgiving before you get to the New Testament.

5. It's not imperative that I read through the entire Bible in one year. I do, but I don't feel obligated to do so. I do think we ought to read through the Scriptures at least every two years (a little less than two chapters a day), but it's most important to me that we spend some time with God each day.

6. Quantity of reading is not always best. I fear we've been taught that more reading is always better than less reading – that is, more chapters are always better than fewer chapters. This formula now reflects my thinking, however: Consistency (reading regularly) + quality (reading with some depth; not just skimming the text) + accountability (letting someone else know what I'm learning) > quantity of material.

7. Accountability matters. My writing daily online devotions began when I started holding myself accountable to a number of my own mentees. I needed them to know what I was reading, and I wanted to encourage them to read with me. All of us can send a quick email to others to let them know what the Lord's teaching us through His Word.

8. The Word is convictingly sweet. It really does penetrate deeply into the soul (Hebrews 4:12). It hurts and soothes at the same time – and I cannot imagine not reading it every day.

9. I want to give the next generation worn-out, well-marked, intentionally highlighted Bibles that reflect my love for God and His Word. Even if young people don't appreciate the gift until later in their lives, it seems to me that a used Bible's a good gift to give.

What Happens When You Partner with IMB Teams?





One thing's for sure, you won't be a tourist! You will serve alongside IMB missionaries and be a vital part of the missionary task. Your time might look something like this:

Chuck Lawless, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

Article Courtesy Biblical Recorder

January 2, 2024

Entry - College sophomore Eric Walker hiked a trail leading through indigenous villages, gathering information on language, culture, and beliefs. His two months of work cultivated gospel access for missionaries to share with these unengaged, unreached people groups.

Serve alongside one of our IMB teams working among unreached peoples and be an active part of the missionary task. Start your missionary journey today at https://www.imb.org/2024/01/22/partnering-with-imb-teams/



April 5-6, 2024 Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Charlotte https://baptistsonmission.org/events/missions-conference



2024 TRUETT RETREATS









Revíve Isaiah 57:15

We are the ideal place to retreat from the burdens of daily life. Here, you will feel God's presence. Our staff will take excellent care of you. The end result is that you will be more alive in Christ than before.

Refresh

Philemon 1:7

Spend time in fellowship with others. Deepen your friendships. All your needs will be met, allowing you to rest and adventure as much as you wish!

Renew

Isaiah 40:30-31

Encounter the transformative power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Thousands of guests have had their hearts renewed and transformed to be molded more into the image of our Savior.

January 13-15: Winter Youth Retreat

Grades 6-12: Youth Groups can bond, make memories, and encounter the Gospel in a fun, friendly environment.

February 9-10: Marriage Matters

An amazing event for a husband and wife to improve their relationship through Biblical guidance and a weekend getaway.

March 22-24: Women's Conference

Ages 18+: An event for women to connect, be encouraged and equipped to follow the Lord closer.

April 5-7: Mother & Daughter Retreat

Ages 6-12: Invest in your relationship in a fun setting that continually points participants towards Jesus.

April 26-28: Grandparent Camp

Ages 6-12 w/ a grandparent: Bridge the generational gap by making lasting memories with a retreat that appeals to all ages!

May 3-5: Father & Daughter Campout

Ages 6-12: Get outside and unplug from the worries of daily life to grow in relation to the Heavenly Father.

June 6-8: Western Happiness Retreat

All ages: An event for people of all ages with developmental disabilities to enjoy a weekend of fun, friendship, and faith!

October 4-6: Father & Son Warrior Weekend

Ages 6-12: Dads fight for your sons in the battle for being a man after God's own heart while enjoying great outdoor recreation.

November 1-3: Forged Man Camp

Ages 18+: Come be men with great outdoor recreation and iron sharpening iron in the beautiful fall mountains.

August 16-18: Grandparent Camp

Ages 6-12 w/ a grandparent: Bridge the generational gap by making lasting memories with a retreat that appeals to all ages!

Retreats repeat annually on the same weekend.

Scan for more info/to register.



177 Truett Lane, Hayesville, NC 28904 828-389-8828 www.truettcamp.org





SUMMER







Week 1 June 10-14: <u>Girls Camp #1</u>

Week 2 June 17-21: <u>Boys Camp #1</u>

Week 3 June 23-28: Youth Camp #1

Week 4 June 30-July 5: <u>Youth Camp #2</u>

Week 5 July 8-11: <u>Children's Church Camp</u>

Week 6 July 15-19: <u>Boys Camp #2</u>

Week 7 **July 21-26: <u>Youth Camp #3</u>**

Week 8 July 29 to Aug 2: <u>Girls Camp #2</u>

Girls Camp & Boys Camp \$240 per person (ages 7-17)

These incredible overnight camps feature strong friendships, outdoor adventure, and the transformative power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Youth Camp \$350 per person (ages 12-17)

Designed for churches to experience mission projects, outdoor recreation, and spiritual mentoring. All activities, food, and lodging are included in the price!

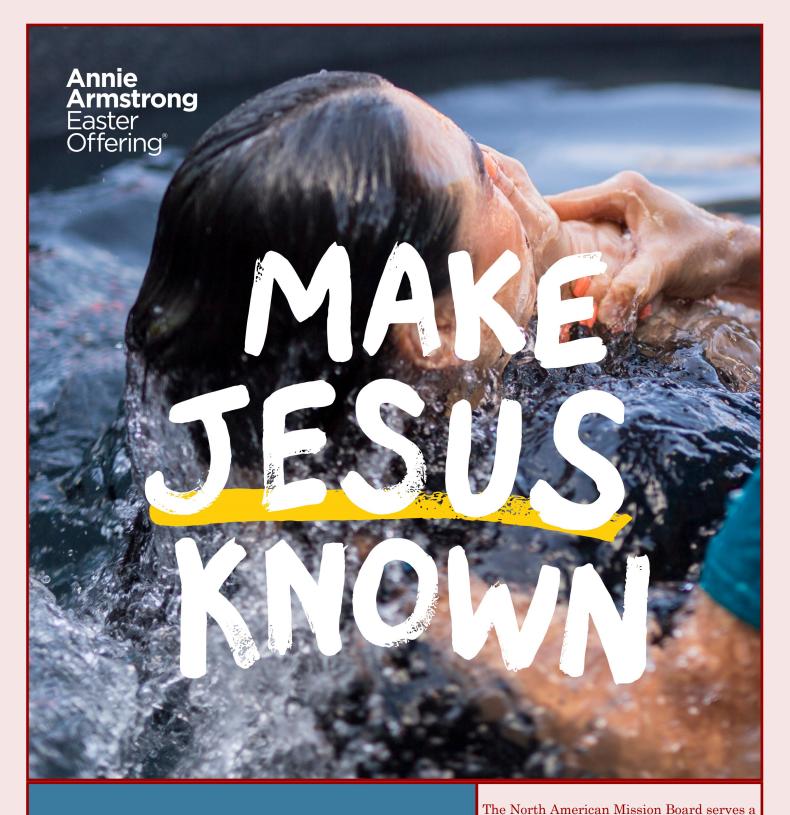
Children's Church Camp \$275 per person (ages 6-11)

A similar experience as Youth Camp, but catered to younger kids. Experience the thrill of summer camp in a comfortable setting focused on the Gospel.



177 Truett Lane, Hayesville, NC 28904 828-389-8828 www.truettcamp.org







Annie Armstrong.com

diverse and complex region comprised of the United States, Canada, and the territories of Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa. Population: 371 million Languages: 350 Estimated Lost: 281 million Unreached People Groups: 159