

Blanket America Ministries, Inc.

P. O. Box 472008

Charlotte, NC 28247-2008

Phone 704-542-5533

Fax 704-542-5534

Cell 704-534-1321

Email lou@lstablescpa.com

www.blanketamericaministries.org

September 2011

Dear prospective volunteer for the 2011 edition of Blanket Appalachia:

Blanket Appalachia is scheduled for the weekends of October 28 - 30 and November 5 this year. Due to distance, the distribution at churches in the Bluefield VA area will be one week later.

The Lord has mightily impressed upon the board of directors of Blanket America Ministries that we have to do a better job, an excellent job, of being a witness for Jesus Christ. That does not mean we would force feed the gospel to anyone but rather want to share the gospel with everyone. If a church addresses its responsibility to God and the lost as less than a burden upon their hearts then we need to find another location where that burden evidences itself in action. We will not go where we would be seen as a mobile social service agency dispensing favors freely. Churches wanting to participate at a higher level of Christian responsibility have been asked to sign a "contract" that they understand what is required of them and will do it. These responsibilities specifically include praying with and witnessing to all who come if they will allow us. If they will not sign that form we will not go with our weekend missionary volunteers or our goods. This is God's work and it must be conducted in a manner that evidences Who is our Lord and how we must respond to Him and His word.

Therefore we are not "inviting" prior year host churches to join us but are sending them an "application" to join us, if you will. In the past some churches did a good job of welcoming people to the churches on distribution day and being friendly with those who came. Unfortunately they were hesitant or declined to share the good news of Jesus Christ with those same people. Many churches said they would take our people out to various places in the community the afternoon of distribution day and did not. Others did not do one-on-one follow up with the families who came. In the past some churches have merely wanted us to come and bring our coats. Evangelism must be at the forefront of everything we do, not buying and distributing coats, blankets and socks. Those items warm cold bodies but our purpose is that they also encourage the local residents to come to the churches where we can meet them and share the gospel.

Additionally this year, only those family members who are present at the distribution will be allowed to have the goods we bring. They may not shop for anyone not in attendance. The reason is simple. We cannot witness to anyone who is not there.

With these policies in effect we expect all our volunteers to also be able to share the gospel, not in a canned approach but a relational one, being a friend that asks another friend about their spiritual condition, inquires where they stand in their relationship with Jesus Christ and proceeds from there as appropriate. Evangelism Explosion teaches that evangelism is like one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread. If doing what we are asking our Appalachian neighbors to do takes anyone out of their comfort zone, great! God isn't as concerned about your comfort as He is about your obedience. So if you are willing to step forward as a disciple of Jesus Christ taking the good news of your Lord and Savior to a lost friend, this may be the place for you.

Are you personally asking and preparing yourself to be sent as a disciple out into the Lord's harvest field? Will you be one of His workers? The field is ripe for harvest. It is said only about 10% of the people of Appalachia are in church on a given Sunday. Few here and in the mountains really have a proper understanding of who Jesus is, the relationship He wants to have with them and take seriously living a life of surrender to His lordship.

Accompanying this letter is a sign up sheet for serving the weekend of October 28 through 30, 2011 (on November 5) if you feel God calling you to this place of service. Please pray about it and respond as you sense the Lord's leading.

Do not delay. We must have Tuesday the 11th of October as the date all sign up sheets are to be in this office. That date is absolutely necessary for the minimum time required to do our organization of the volunteers and to order Blanket Appalachia T shirts. Included on the sign up sheet is a space where you give us your size and prepay \$15 for a Blanket Appalachia T shirt. Please sign up by submitting a hard copy of your application form with payment by that date. Participating church groups are responsible for submitting payment for all their applicants. Please staple a check for \$15 made payable to Blanket America Ministries to your sign up sheet. Buying hundreds of T shirts is a very significant expense, so payment for the shirt must accompany your application.

We look forward to hearing from you, not later than Tuesday October 11th.

In Him alone,

Lou Stables

Blanket Appalachia
Participant info and sign up sheet
October 28 to 30, 2011 and November 5 (Bluefield area only)

All please read, understand, sign and forward to your church or youth leader or on to Lou Stables. See below:

This is Blanket Appalachia, a mission trip focusing on personal contact with our neighbors in Appalachia . It is not a camp or retreat. It will be memorable and possibly life changing. Since we go being obedient to the Lord's commands, everyone is expected to share their faith through word and deed. We go relying on the Holy Spirit to work in us and through us that others will be drawn to Jesus because they see that same Jesus alive in us. We will be divided into teams for service so you should not count on being assigned to a crew with your best friend.

I sign below indicating I understand the above and will endeavor to present myself exemplary, a child of God cherished by Him and called by Him into service. I will be ready to share the gospel message with those I meet and work with.

Signed _____

Date _____

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

October 28-30

November 5

Circle the weekend(s) you want to attend

First name _____

Last name _____

Mailing address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home phone _____

Work phone _____

Cell phone _____

Email address _____

Emergency contact and phone number _____

I am an adult

I am a parent bringing younger children with me

(Parents of younger children are responsible for them 24/7)

(Please furnish names and ages)

I am a college student

I am an adult youth leader

I am a student in my church's youth ministry

I am a

I am a member of what church and/or location

Will you be driving to Appalachia?

If so, can you help transport team members to sites?

Will you be sleeping in a motel at your own expense?

(If so, you must make your own reservations)

If with us last year, where did you serve?

Do you have any special needs?

If yes, details please

Any particular passions or gifts?

No guarantees, but is there a site or area of the ministry

where you would like to serve?

2011 Blanket Appalachia dates: Friday October 28 through Sunday October 30 and Saturday November 5.

Attach a check for \$15 made payable to Blanket America Ministries and mail to us not later than Oct 10, 2011

Circle your T shirt size-Youth Medium, Large, XL or Adult Small, Medium, Large, XL or XXL.

For questions contact Lou Stables at 704-542-5533 or email at lou@lstablescpa.com.

When complete and signed, please return to your youth leader or directly to

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We look forward to having you be a part of this wonderful ministry. God is alive and well and oh, so busy!

See most of you October 28th at 7 PM at Jonesville FBC. Come to partner with Him in His miracles of grace & love.