



October 27, 2019

## Mission Opportunities in West Virginia

Hello from West Virginia VOAD. We have exciting news to share! WV VOAD has received a grant to repair and reconstruct 111 homes that were damaged in 2016 flooding. This work will continue over the next two to three years.

Volunteers are working with WV VOAD site supervisors to complete projects. That's where you come in! Please consider placing us on your mission schedule in the coming months. We will help you get set up with housing in the community where your team will be working. We are engaged in all phases of construction and will match your team up according to their skills. For a volunteer application packet or for more information, use the contact info below. We hope to hear from you soon! Volunteers like you are crucial to helping people get home!

Thanks, Melisa Morse, WV VOAD Housing Construction Liaison

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**2019**  
**Fall Meeting**

**Sunday, November 17th**

**@ Ursinus College—Bomberger Hall**

**2:30 pm Registration / 3:00 pm Meeting**

**Register at: <https://psec2019fall.eventbrite.com>**

## Pray Always, and Do Not Lose Heart

*Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. —Luke 18:1*

Tell me about a time when you lost heart.

It happens. I have come to treasure those times (once survived) and to be grateful for the people and parables that help me get found.

I lost heart in Iraq long ago when one of our Marines was shot by a sniper. After keeping an exhausting 24-hour prayer vigil going, I was invited to offer a blessing on his departure to the next level of medical care in Germany. The prayer I offered was much more frustration and fear than it was faith. I had lost heart long before I realized it.

Late that same day, I was called to the office of our battalion Sargent Major. He was built like a tank. Commended with a look as much as with a word. Exuded courage and conviction and had absolutely no interest in anything Christian.

"Chaps," he asked, "why are you so angry with God?" His simple question unleashed confession, tears and conversation that remains to this day a moment of life sustaining redemption. My atheistic Sargent Major lead me back to my heart.

Before I left his office, he gave me a key inscribed with the only prayer he'd ever known: "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference."

When I lose heart, I go back to that moment. I go there often. As often, I imagine, as the widow went to the judge in Jesus' parable. I've let go of some of the anger. I've held onto the compassion and understating.

I trust you have those moments. I hope in our churches and communities we are creating those moments – and telling of them. Often. Our nation and our people continue to lose heart; as nations and peoples always have. And God is always asking us, the church, clergy, lay people and leaders, to help them find their way back.

I pray for your heart and for the people blessed by it.

Pastor Bill

*Rev. William Worley, PSE Conference Minister*