

Tarheel Talk

FALL 2024



What
Joy!

A WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION OF NORTH CAROLINA PUBLICATION

Inside Talk

Fall 2024

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Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina is a missions organization whose purpose is to challenge, prepare and equip Christian believers to be radically involved in the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

Tarheel Talk is a newsmagazine produced by Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina for **all church WMU leadership in North Carolina**. Allison Markwood, editor, allisonmarkwood@gmail.com; Angie Dickinson, graphic design, angiedesign@me.com; RR Donnelley publisher, rrdonnelley.com

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Radical Involvement: Departing from the Customary



“Woman’s Missionary Union of North Carolina is a missions organization whose purpose is to challenge, prepare, and equip Christian believers to be radically involved in the fulfillment of the Great Commission.”

I’ve always loved that the word “radical” is included in our mission statement.

At the very beginning, our WMU foremothers were radically involved in the fulfillment of the Great Commission by boldly stepping into leadership roles, educating children for missions, collecting money (pennies at a time) for foreign missions, and doing missions in their own communities and across the globe.

Later in our history, WMU continued radical involvement in the fulfillment of the Great Commission by stepping across racial barriers in the United States, creating opportunities for women to be educated to do missions, and continuing to be one of the greatest financial supports for missions.

WMU has always been willing to depart from the customary if it meant more people would hear about the love and sacrifice of Jesus.

The world radically needs the Gospel. It is an extreme and urgent need that requires bold and drastic action on the part of believers. We cannot complacently continue old traditions if they aren’t effectively spreading the Gospel. We cannot be satisfied fitting into societal norms or accruing “American Dream” success when the world is full of people who do not even have access to the Gospel.

So what does “radical involvement” look like today? Where do we need to depart from the customary in our everyday lives and as an organization?

This issue of *Tarheel Talk* explores some of the ways WMU NC is boldly departing from the customary. From volunteering in hard places and giving sacrificially to updating our modes of communication, we are excited to see what God can do when we are willing to be radically involved in His mission.

Are you ready to be radical?

— Allison Markwood, *Editor*

Welcome Barbara Hill – Our New WMU NC President



WMU NC elected Barbara Hill of Fairview Baptist Church in Statesville as our new president at this year’s Ignite conference. Barbara grew up in WMU, is a phenomenal missions leader, and has been an integral part of WMU NC, serving on the executive board and in every officer position. Learn more about Barbara and her journey on page 15.

Barbara, we can’t wait to see how God radically works through you to lead WMU NC into the future!

WMU Around the World



In May, I had the privilege to be on a Zoom call with ten other countries that have WMU. It was such a delight to hear from representatives from Ghana, Japan, Taiwan, Mozambique, Nigeria, Cambodia, Singapore, Cuba, and Kenya. WMU is in 50 countries altogether! You are a part of something huge and great!

We praise God for the faithful missionaries who took WMU with them when they went to their assigned fields. It has flourished all over the world, and each country makes it relevant for themselves and their needs.

The first speaker was from **Ghana**. They just had a very large Prayer Summit with 2,000 women, and then

a GA conference with 1,000 girls! After the GA meeting, the girls went out to evangelize on the streets and in homes, carrying a sign that read, "You're not alone. Jesus is with you." Then they visited an orphanage. Ghana has a large Christian camp, but two of the dormitories have burnt down. Because of this, women sleep outside in the rain and in the hallways. Ghana's WMU's prayer is for funds to rebuild the dormitories.

Secondly, we heard from WMU in **Nigeria**, which is celebrating its 105th anniversary. They have Sunbeams and GA's, and 10,000 women recently attended a 3-day WMU event. The women travel to different cities for meetings and celebrations, yet travel is always a problem. Nigeria's economy is very bad and many people cannot afford food. Because of hunger, there are many beggars and homeless people.

What a joy it was to see five women from **Mozambique** where I served as a missionary! They have started a Literacy program for the women who were never allowed to attend school. The WMU groups take up dues to pay the teachers. They also have a needy pastor's project and try to support as many pastors as they can. Their prayer request is for God to move among the Islamic terrorists in the north of the country where many people have been killed. National WMU just got the contact number for a WMU leader in Mozambique, and this was their first time on the call.

The WMU in **Taiwan** will have their Annual meeting soon and 300 will be in attendance. They also partner with the IMB to send missionaries from Taiwan to other countries.

Cuba is celebrating the 110th anniversary of having WMU in their country. Their prayer request is that it is hard for all the women to gather as there are 4,195 islands! Transportation is a challenge!

In **Japan**, they are celebrating their anniversary as they began in 1920. They recently had a country meeting with 400 women in attendance. The population of Japan is decreasing. So is the number of churches. They asked for prayer for this and for the financial problems in Japan that are causing a shortage of all necessities.

Singapore just had a change in government and they voted in a new Prime Minister. They are very concerned about the new Minister and are waiting to see if he will allow freedom of religion. Please pray for this right, and that more young women will be involved in WMU in Singapore.

Cambodia reported that the nearby countries of Malaysia and the Philippines have been helping them with their WMU. A WMU missionary from the Philippines has been sent to work in Cambodia. Pray for their first WMU assembly in November.

In the **Philippines**, the WMU gave 20 chickens to 30 church planters, so they don't have to worry about feeding their families.

Finally, we heard from **Kenya**. They have been discipling their members through a country-wide Bible study. 3,000 participated! After a woman and a young girl finish their study together, they are commissioned and given a WMU headscarf. A recent flood in Kenya took 500 lives, and thousands are now homeless. Due to Kenya's economy, it is difficult for people to buy food for themselves or to help those in need. Their prayer concern is for missionaries to be called to serve in Africa.

Pray for your sisters around the world. One day we will all be around Jesus' throne with people from every country praising the Lord. He is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords! Let's praise His name together.

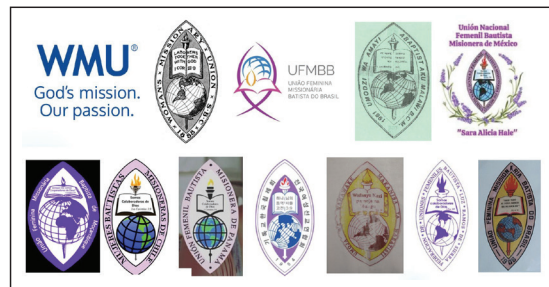
Amy

Amy Pardue Boone,
WMU NC Executive Director/Treasurer



G. A. ORGANISATIONAL PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS

2024 BWMU ANNUAL CONVENTION G. A. PRESENTATIONS



Serving the World at Home

Being involved in international missions doesn't require a passport or an airplane ticket. For the last 15 years, North Carolina has been a hub for immigration and refugee resettlement. In college towns, our state schools host hundreds of international students each semester. People from all over the world walk by us on the sidewalk, shop alongside us at the grocery store, and sit beside our children in classrooms.

"The nations" are in our backyard. All we have to do is walk out the door.

WMU North Carolina has a heart for reaching the nations. That's why we partner with the International Mission Board and pray for missionaries and WMUs around the world. That's also why we partner with the North American Mission Board, NC Baptists, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and churches like North Raleigh International Baptist Church to reach internationals right here at home.

If you have a heart for international missions, WMU NC can connect you with places to get involved. We have hands-on opportunities (*like those shared on these pages*) where you can be an international missionary right here in our state. Or, if you feel called to GO, we can also connect you to sending organizations or mission trips to locations and people groups around the globe.

Someday, people from every nation, tribe, and tongue will worship before the throne of God (Revelation 7:9-10). What role will you have played in the gospel reaching these worshippers?

Facts

- According to the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI), "Refugees resettled in North Carolina come primarily from Bhutan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Iraq, Russia, Somalia, Syria, and Ukraine."¹
- In April 2024 alone, 238 refugees from 15 different countries arrived in North Carolina²
- Guilford County hosts two "Newcomer Schools" specifically for school-aged children of refugees and immigrants. Students at the Newcomer Schools focus on English as a Second Language (ESL) classes and skills for navigating American culture in addition to other academic subjects. Students eventually transition to their local public schools.
- Churches throughout the state offer ESL classes and tutoring for internationals in their area.
- Near college towns, some churches host programs, such as the Piedmont International Fellowship,³ where families "adopt" international students. American families invite internationals to worship with them and share in holiday celebrations and family traditions. They aim to be their "home away from home" and pray these students will come to know Christ so they can carry the gospel back to their country when they are finished studying.

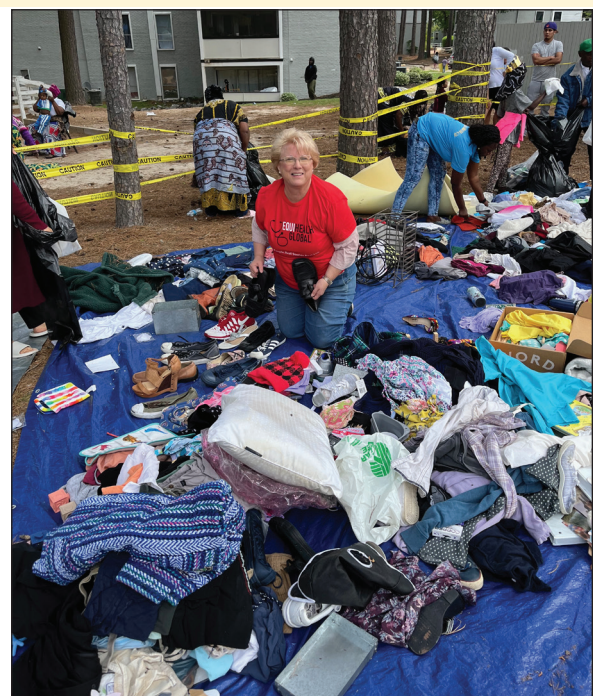
NRIBC Health Clinic

Though necessary, many people don't have access to sufficient healthcare opportunities. For resettled refugees, language and educational barriers make this even more challenging. North Raleigh International Baptist Church (NRIBC) partners with multiple organizations, including WMU NC, to help refugees in their community access critical educational opportunities, screenings, mental health assessments, and medical care during Free Health Fairs offered several times a year.

The spring fair took place on Saturday, April 27. In addition to the Health Clinic offerings, the fair featured a prayer station, a food giveaway, and a thrift store of items donated and transported to Raleigh by WMU NC members (and husbands!) from Fruitland Baptist Church. Amy Boone and Barbara Hill joined several other WMU NC ladies to volunteer in the thrift store, talking and praying with guests throughout the day.

Our prayer is that, as we work with NRIBC and other organizations to meet the physical needs of the refugee community, God will open opportunities for us to share the gospel. Pray for NRIBC as they pour into this community and for other churches to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the many other communities like this in our state.

If you'd like to get involved with the NRIBC Health Clinic, let us know! You can also check out NRIBC's website, www.nrIBC.org, for other upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.



Amy Boone organizes items for the thrift store at the NRIBC Health Clinic.

¹"USCRI North Carolina - U.S. Committee for Refugees & Immigrants," USCRI, March 12, 2024, <https://refugees.org/nc/>.

²Emma Rubin, "Where Refugees in North Carolina Are Arriving From," Stacker, May 10, 2024, <https://stacker.com/north-carolina/where-refugees-north-carolina-are-arriving>.

³"Piedmont International Fellowship - Pif," Facebook, accessed June 4, 2024, <https://www.facebook.com/piedmontinternationalfellowship/>.

Honoring God's Heart for the Peoples of the Earth: International Children's Camp



If you've ever been on any camp staff, you know the secret of all secrets...camp life is hard, but it's worth it. It's early mornings, and late nights, and cabin chants, and nature walks, and smiles, and sometimes meltdowns, and obstinance, and saying "YOU DO HAVE TO TAKE A SHOWER TODAY," and always, always it's making Jesus known.

At the end of June, I had the privilege of helping lead the International Children's Camp at Camp Mundo Vista. I saw faces from Thailand, Burundi, Congo, Sudan, Kenya, Nigeria, Somalia, Tanzania, Eritrea, and America just to name a few. Many of these children are refugees or the children of refugees. I heard Swahili, French, Thai, and several other languages I could not identify. I also heard the stories of how these children are treated daily at school and in life. I heard them describe often being treated as "less than" because of the way they speak or the tone of their skin. I encountered the skepticism and guardedness that teens have when approached by those outside their culture and experiences. I also experienced the open hearts of elementary school children who have not yet put on that armor to protect themselves from the world.

We host International Children's Camp for both of these groups. For the wary and for the wanting; for the hurting and for the hopeful. This is the hard work of missions. Sometimes it is saying, "I'm sorry you've been hurt," and other times it is simply saying "let's play."

Vance Pitman, Send Network President, said this year, "We are planting churches with a heart for the nations because God's heart is for the peoples of the earth." Similarly, Annie Armstrong said, "God is bringing the nations of the world to America...the need for chapels and other help is immediate." International Children's Camp is where we celebrate and honor God's heart for the peoples of the earth. It is a place outside of the politics of the world; a place where the stranger is welcomed, where Jesus speaks through play, and where hungry mouths are fed. It is not an easy ministry, but I have to believe it is exactly the place that Annie Armstrong would have been and these are exactly the kind of children that Fannie Heck would have ministered to.



God willing, next year I will get to sit on the floor of a cabin again and share Jesus with both children in Hijabs and with those in unicorn headbands. The need for volunteers is immediate and your churches can help. This year First Baptist Church, Asheboro and Antioch Baptist Church, Lillington sent their youth ministers and volunteers to lead games on two of the camp days. They were quite literally an answer to prayer. Prayerfully consider bringing a team or just yourself next year. The nations will be there. Will you join us?



– Rebecca Lindhout
Adult and Children's
Ministry Catalyst



New WMU Emphasis for 2024-2026:

In our world of discouraging circumstances, heartbreaking news stories, and general brokenness, one of the most radical things we can choose to be is joyful. We know that our joy comes from Christ, and our joy even in difficulty is an excellent testimony to the love and promises of our Savior.

This fall, National WMU begins its new two-year emphasis, What Joy! Let's "renew our focus on the assurance of our God-given joy in Christ and how we can share our joy with others by serving them in His name" (wmu.com).



OBJECTIVES:

We are passionate about the lost.

We are compelled by love.

We are generous in sharing.

We serve with great delight (joy).

WATCHWORD:

"Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well." – 1 Thessalonians 2:8 (NIV)

Kick Off A Radically Joyful Year in Your WMU

As the leaves turn and we embrace the fall season, it's time for WMU groups across North Carolina to reignite their commitment to the Great Commission. In line with the National WMU emphasis, "What Joy!," we encourage all WMU groups to kick off their new year with activities and initiatives focusing on living and sharing the gospel with joy.

A great way to start the new year is by hosting a Focus on WMU event or worship service at your church. Some churches do this in February, but any time is a great time to focus on WMU! Invite a WMU speaker, involve all age groups, do missions together, and collect gifts for the Heck-Jones Offering that funds all the missions and ministries of WMU NC. God is working through WMU! Let's celebrate this in our churches and get our congregations excited to get involved.

Here are some other ideas of joyful ways you could kick off your new year of missions and ministry.

- 🕊 Organize a prayer walk in your community. Invite members to walk through neighborhoods praying for the residents and seeking opportunities to share the gospel.
- 🕊 Attend a faith-building retreat for your group, like Carolina Women coming up in October.
- 🕊 Celebrate God's faithfulness by hosting a "Joy in Missions" night where members can share stories of how they have seen God at work. This can include testimonies from mission trips, community outreach successes, or personal stories of transformation.
- 🕊 Create a "Joy Journal" where members can document and share moments of joy they encounter throughout the year. This not only fosters a culture of gratitude but also serves as a reminder of God's continuous blessings and presence.
- 🕊 Launch the new year with a mission project that addresses a pressing need in your area. This could be a food drive, a neighborhood cleanup, or a support program for local schools.
- 🕊 Encourage members to mentor new believers or young people in your church or community. Establishing one-on-one discipleship relationships fosters deep, lasting change and equips the next generation to carry forward the mission.

Whatever you do, be sure it is infused with joy. It is a delight to share with others the gospel of God and our lives!

**AND OUR GUEST
SPEAKER IS...**



**WMU NC has
you covered!**

- Church Services
- Retreats
- Group Meetings
- Focus Weeks
- Trainings
- And More!

REQUEST A SPEAKER AT
www.wmunc.org/speaker-request

Carolina Women

RETREAT AND MISSIONS LEADERSHIP TRAINING WEEKEND
OCTOBER 11 - 12, FORT CASWELL, NC



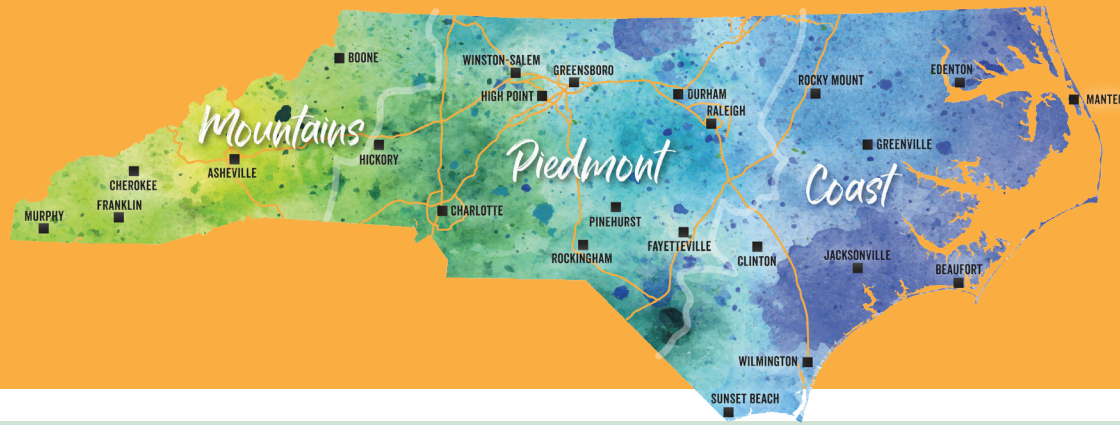
Keynote: Angela Donadio

Discover Angela Donadio, acclaimed author, international speaker, and host of the top-ranked Make Life Matter Podcast. Her resources empower people to find their worth in the Word, transforming pain into purpose and embracing the fearless life for which they were created. As the Founder of Voice of the Voiceless, Angela champions women through impactful initiatives at home, throughout Africa, and in other parts of the world.

- HEAR FROM MISSIONARIES
- ATTEND MISSIONS AND LEADERSHIP BREAKOUT SESSIONS
- WORSHIP JOYFULLY
- EXPLORE FORT CASWELL AND ENJOY THE BEACH!

REGISTER TODAY AT
WWW.WMUNC.ORG

WMU™
North Carolina



Mountain Region

First Baptist Church, Swannanoa

If your church were to close its doors, would your community notice? Being the hands and feet of Jesus in our neighborhoods is one of the great ministries of the Church. One way the First Baptist Church of Swannanoa does this is by partnering with the Black Mountain Police Department. In this ongoing relationship, the Women on Mission group prays for the officers and provides food for them at appreciation events. But their service doesn't stop there. By caring well for the officers, they care for their community as a whole. They recognize that the police department is a front door to ministering to those who may never enter a church.



Coastal Region

First Hispanic Baptist Church, Wilmington



The Children in Action and the women of the First Hispanic Baptist Church of Wilmington gave heartfelt gifts to the seniors of Spring Arbor Senior Living. Or rather, they gave "felt heart" gifts. Together, they made heart pillows out of fabric and sponge to take to the facility. They also prepared bags with snacks and socks and added a card with a Bible verse for each resident. While visiting the Senior Living facility, the children brightened everyone's day by singing and praying for the residents.



REGIONS RECALL MOUNTAINS TO THE COAST

“Every year, the Women on Mission group takes stuffed animals and blankets to the Black Mountain Police Department. The officers keep these gifts in their cars and at the station to distribute when children are experiencing traumatic situations. These items help comfort the children in circumstances with stress, abuse, or injuries. We enjoy providing these gifts and working with the police department. This is one of the ways we share God’s love.”

— Edwina Messer

If your Mission Group is looking for an opportunity to share God’s love with your community, definitely reach out to local Police Departments and precincts. Other first responder groups could equally use the types of appreciation, prayers, and donations with which FBC Swannanoa is blessing their community.



Piedmont Region

Rolesville Baptist Church, Rolesville

By Caring Connections Ministry



Rolesville Baptist Church, just east of Raleigh, is a valued partner of Caring Connections Ministry, their local Christian Women’s Job Corps (CWJC) site. In May, the children’s ministry group of Rolesville Baptist created and delivered “Birthday Bash Baskets” for moms who had children with upcoming birthdays. Each birthday bundle was an individually tailored party in a basket. The baskets included birthday plates in each child’s favorite theme, cake mix and icing, party decorations, a gift, and party favors. The individualization and attention to detail made

each child feel special on his or her birthday. These gifts also lifted a financial burden for these single moms struggling to make ends meet on a tight budget.

Thank you Rolesville Baptist for loving our families well and thank you to Lynn Brown Johnson for her commitment to and love of this ministry and leadership on this project.



Is God moving through your church WMU? We’d love to share it with others! Send pictures and descriptions of your events or ministries to allisonmarkwood@gmail.com.

Support the ministries of Woman’s Missionary Union of NC through the Heck-Jones® Offering at bit.ly/GivetoWMUNC

For Moms Making Missionaries

When I quit my teaching job to stay home with my kids, I quickly recognized that my home was a mission field. I lived with three little non-Christians ages five and under who proved to me that sin is inherent in the human heart.

In a world where society defines success, I realized the radical thing to do would be to intentionally disciple my kids and instill in them a love for Jesus, missions, and people. At my church, parents are often reminded that our "kids were made for more than straight A's and soccer." They are arrows in the hand of a warrior, ready to be shot out to take the gospel to the nations (Psalm 127:4). No pressure, right?

Whether we work or stay at home, we moms are primary disciple-makers in our children's lives, and WMU NC is here to support us in this most important of callings.

Mom Camp is a weekend retreat full of fellowship and fun that focuses on equipping you to disciple your kiddos well. Let someone else do the planning, the cooking, and the cleaning for a change. Take a few days to soak in God's love and wisdom so you can pour it out on your kids the rest of the year. Mom Camp was a breath of fresh air when I desperately needed it, and God worked through the weekend to heal my heart, instill peace of mind, and refresh my energy. All moms should take advantage of this amazing retreat!

The *Beyond the Moment* Podcast, hosted by WMU Staff (and fellow moms) Amanda Martinsen and Rebecca Lindhout, is like a cup of coffee on a stressful day. Each short episode offers a rejuvenating perspective full of ideas about how to make every moment missional.

With *Beyond the Moment* in my AirPods and Mom Camp on my calendar, I feel ready to take on every eye-roll, groan, and temper tantrum. More importantly, I feel better prepared and equipped to use each of these moments to intentionally disciple my kids. If you need support and encouragement as you strive to make missionaries, sign up for Mom Camp today at www.wmunc.org and check out *Beyond the Moment* wherever you like to listen to podcasts. There's a whole community of moms standing with you and cheering you on!

– Allison Markwood



The graphic features a stylized mountain range in shades of blue and purple under a sunset sky with a large yellow sun. In the top left is the WMU North Carolina logo. The title 'Mom Camp' is written in large, purple, bubbly letters. To the right, it says 'November 8-10 Camp Mundo Vista Sophia, NC'. Below the title are four purple buttons with white text: 'Worship', 'Fellowship', 'Leadership', and 'Fun'. At the bottom, it reads 'LEARN TO LEAD YOUR CHILDREN ON MISSION... AND HAVE SOME SERIOUS MOM FUN.' and 'Register Today! www.wmunc.org'.



MISSION Friends



Touch and Feel MISSIONS Day



Join us for a time of music, play, and sensory learning as preschool-1st graders explore what missionaries do around the world!

Forbush Baptist Church

10:00-12:30
August 24th, 2024

3917 Old US 421 Hwy E,
Yadkinville, NC 27055



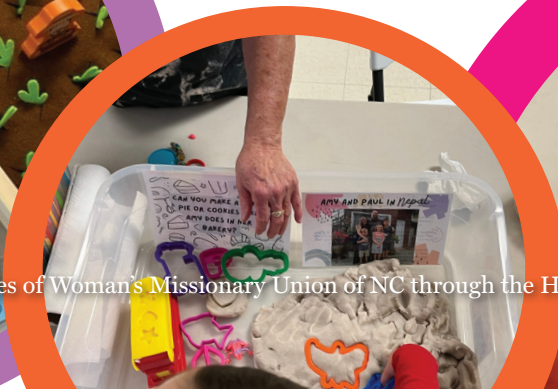
Center Road Baptist

10:00-12:30
Sept. 28th, 2024

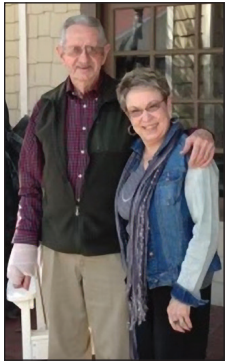
2484 Center Rd,
Bladenboro, NC 28320

12 Missions Sensory Stations

exploring missions in:
Nepal, Germany, Colorado, Japan,
China, Mexico, Uganda
and North Carolina
as well as **Lottie Moon** and
Annie Armstrong



Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Delores Thomas: *A Beacon of Radical Service and Love*



Richard and Delores

This past May, WMU NC bid farewell to one of its most beloved and dedicated members, Delores (Dee) Thomas. Her legacy of unwavering commitment and service to the Great Commission left an indelible mark on all who knew her. As we reflect on her life, we celebrate the profound impact she made through her service, love, and dedication to missions.

Delores Thomas grew up in Peachland, North Carolina, next door to Deep Springs Baptist Church, where her faith journey began. After studying business administration at Kings College and earning a bachelor of science degree in business and religion from Wingate University, Delores dedicated 36 years of her professional life to the administrative staff at Wingate.

Dee's husband of 60 years, Richard, shared her passion for service. Together, they were described as "pillars" of Deep Springs Baptist Church, contributing to every area from choir to Sunday School and missions leadership.

Delores' influence extended far beyond her church. She and Richard were active in multiple community organizations; however, their primary focus was always on missions. They embraced the call to be witnesses locally, statewide, nationally, and internationally.

For over forty years, Delores and Richard led by example, teaching and impacting generations of youth. Their hands-on service included countless hours building and renovating at Camp Mundo Vista, building ramps, landscaping for local senior adults, disaster relief efforts in North Carolina, and mission trips across the United States and beyond. They traveled to Alaska, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New York, Utah, Vermont, Wisconsin, Africa, Armenia, and

Lebanon to share the gospel, train leaders, and provide disaster recovery and renewal.

WMU NC was profoundly blessed by Dee's ministry. She held every significant role within the organization, from WMU Director for the Anson Association to president of WMU NC, and vice president of the National WMU Executive Board. She also served as the coordinator of Missions Carolina for five years, facilitating hands-on missions experiences for others. Her leadership was characterized by humility, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to the mission.

Dee was an ardent supporter of WMU NC, contributing not just her time and effort but also her finances. She and Richard gave faithfully and encouraged others to give to the Heck Jones Offering and through the WMU Foundation. For all of their contributions, both financial and in service, Delores and Richard received the NC Baptist Heritage Award in 2023.

Dee was known as the person who would do whatever, whenever, for anybody. "She loved everyone and never met a stranger," former EDT Ruby Fulbright reflected. She was also incredibly encouraging and had a special way of making people feel seen and loved. "She would look into your eyes before pulling you in for a hug," remembered former WMU NC president Deborah Taylor.

Dee lived out WMU NC's mission statement to "challenge, prepare, and equip Christian believers to be radically involved in the fulfillment of the Great Commission." Her legacy is one of radical service and love.

As we remember Delores, let us carry forward her passion for missions and her unwavering joy in serving our Savior. Her life was a beautiful glimpse of what missions can be and the impact it has on people near and far.



Clockwise: Delores and Deborah Taylor, Dee Dee Moody, Ruby Fulbright and Delores, Delores and Richard at Missions Carolina, Delores speaking.



Being a Lucy



Growing up there was a woman named Lucy Jenkins who was the adult I would talk to when I didn't feel like I could talk with my parents. She was always non-judgmental and willing to kindly

show me other ways of looking at things (ie -how I was wrong!). She taught Acteens, her husband taught me how to drive a stick shift, and she was always happy to see me.

I look at my teenage boys and wonder who in the church will be their Lucy? Who will be there to correct them with love? Who will be there to cheer them on and celebrate alongside them?

So how can we go about being Lucy for the youth in our lives?

Connecting with teens is all about building relationships that are authentic and meaningful.

First off, "Lucys" have an attitude that is relaxed and welcoming. Teens need a space where they feel like they belong, where they can kick back and be themselves without feeling judged.

Next, "Lucys" are excellent listeners. Teens have a lot on their minds – questions about life, faith, relationships – you name it. So, lend an ear, without jumping in with all the answers. Sometimes, just having someone listen can make a huge difference.

And of course, it's all about building relationships. "Lucys" get to know each teen personally – what they're into, what makes them tick, and what's going on

in their lives. Grab a pizza after church or hang out at a local coffee shop. Show them that you care about them as individuals. Attend their concerts, ballgames, dance recitals...whatever they are into. Sit with them at church dinners or chaperone a youth trip.

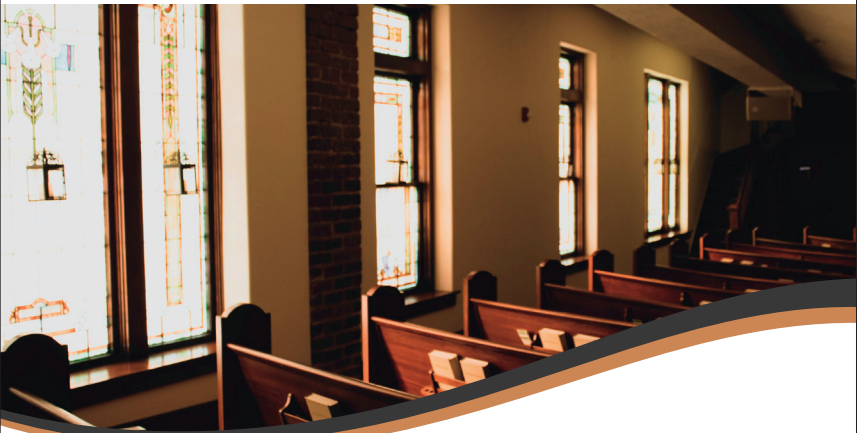
In the end, it's not about being formal or following a strict program – it's about being real, listening, and building genuine connections that help teens grow in their faith and navigate the crazy journey of adolescence.

There may just be a teen you know that needs a Lucy. And you can be that for them.

— Sara Lamkin,
Mission and Student Catalyst

PROJECT HELP: MENTAL HEALTH

And the Church



Invite WMU NC's Sara Lamkin
to speak with your church about:
What is mental health?
How can the church respond?
What's going on with youth and mental health?

Contact slamkin@wmunc.org for more information.

Ignite 2024 Recap

"Though Jesus could spread His light to the world in an infinite number of ways, He chooses to use us. It's an honor and a great responsibility."

This year's Ignite Missions Conference focused on the *"Light of the World."* In worship, attendees reflected on how Jesus called himself the "light of the world," but also called his followers "light of the world." As we reflected on scripture and our individual callings, we also celebrated the missions and ministries of WMU NC and how we shine brighter together.

Here are just a few of the highlights from this year's conference:

- God spoke directly through keynote speaker, Holly Myers of Gastonia. She encouraged participants to "come sit with the Father" to find rest and rejuvenation. She challenged women to pay attention to how they can minister to their "here, near, and far." Many women admitted they had come to Ignite tired and burnt out, but God used Holly's testimony and encouraging discussion of scripture to revitalize them. They left feeling brighter and ready to continue missions in their home churches with new fervor.
- Award-winning singer-songwriter Cindy Morgan led worship and shared several original songs throughout the course of the weekend. She played guitar, piano, and banjo at different points and even read a chapter from her new novel.
- Amazing missionaries from IMB, NAMB, and CBF gave their testimonies during the worship services. These first-hand accounts of what God is doing around the world brought missions to life. Kerry Jackson from NAMB not only spoke and led a breakout session, but also painted a beautiful portrait of Jesus as a part of one of the worship sessions.
- A highlight of the weekend was the One More Child Food Packing Party that took place Friday before the official conference start time. In only a few short hours, over 70



participants packed more than 15,000 meals for human trafficking victims. "Even though we were all working hard... it really did feel like a party!" one participant commented. The project was an awesome way for people of all ages to participate in hands-on missions.

- The WMU NC Youth Advisory Council hosted a panel discussion breakout session about what teens think about the church today. The consensus among attendees was that this one session was worth the price of admission for the entire conference. We have some phenomenal young people we are mentoring and who advise us on how best to reach teens today.
- Over \$5,000 was given to the Heck Jones Offering to continue the mission and ministries of WMU NC.
- Former staff member, Margaret Harding, was honored at Friday night's dinner for being the recipient of this year's Heritage Award.
- This year featured a Missions Journey Kids Day called "Bold in Brazil." Missionary to Brazil, Kristin Trick, and her family spent the day teaching kids about Brazilian culture and traditions and how they share the gospel. Students received special passports to have stamped as they traveled from session to session. They also worked together to pack hospitality bags for Raceway Ministries.



- Youth also had their own track this year. Middle and high school students attended their own breakout sessions specific to their life stage and mission field, and participated in a mission project.
- WMU NC President Deborah Taylor was honored for her years of service, and Barbara Hill was elected president for the 2024-2028 term. God did all this and more at Ignite! Missions Conference! For those who attended, we pray He continues to encourage you and ignite your heart for missions.



If you missed it this year, be sure to save the date for next year's conference: April 25-26, 2025, at Trinity Baptist Church in Raleigh.

From Sunbeams to Service: My Journey Through WMU



As I reflect on my journey through the WMU organization, from my early days as a Sunbeam to my current role as President of WMU North Carolina, I am overwhelmed by the faithfulness of God and the profound impact this organization has

had on my life.

My journey began with wide-eyed wonder as a young Sunbeam, eager to learn about Jesus and His love for the world. In those early days, surrounded by a community of faith, seeds were planted in my heart that would later bloom into a deep passion for missions. I remember my mother, Willie Lavery, teaching Girls in Action (GAs) and I could not wait until I was old enough to go to GAs and learn about different missionaries.

Transitioning to GAs was a natural progression, as I delved deeper into understanding the diverse cultures and peoples around the world. Through GAs, I learned not only about the practical aspects of missions but also about the importance of prayer and giving in supporting God's work globally. I learned to pray for the missionaries and how I could be a missionary.

But it was in Acteens where my faith truly flourished. Acteens became a place of spiritual growth and empowerment, where my love for Jesus Christ was nurtured, and an unquenchable fire was ignited in my heart to share His love with others. Each week, I eagerly soaked in the lessons about God's work in the world, finding strength and purpose in the Scriptures.

Acteens wasn't just a youth program; it was a community of like-minded girls committed to learning about missions, praying for missions, giving to missions, and being on mission for Jesus Christ. Here, I embarked on the Acteens Individual Achievement Plan, affectionately known as StudiAct, progressing from Queen to



Queen Regent in Service as I immersed myself in serving others and sharing the Gospel.

After marrying my best friend, Paul Hill, I felt called to give back to the organization that had



given me so much. I began teaching GAs and Acteens, passing on the knowledge and passion for missions to the next generation. As my two daughters joined GAs and Acteens, we embarked on a family journey of taking mission trips together, believing it to be the best way to teach our children about missions



firsthand. While we modeled a lifestyle of living on mission, by loving our neighbors in our community daily, by serving our cashiers, wait staff, etc; we were also able to take our first international mission trip as a family to Honduras where we served in an orphanage. This paved the way for our daughters to learn what it meant to live on mission.

As my daughters grew and moved on from Acteens, so did I. I transitioned to teaching women about missions, and my passion for spreading the Gospel only deepened. Before the pandemic, I had the incredible opportunity to lead groups of WMU ladies from across the state on several



mission trips to Armenia, where we shared Christ's love with Armenian women and Ladies from the South. These experiences reaffirmed my belief that missions is not just something we do; it's who we are.

Now, as the director of WMU at my church, Fairview Baptist of Statesville, North Carolina, I am humbled to continue serving and leading in the organization that has shaped me into the woman I am today. My journey through WMU has been one of growth, faith, and service, and I am grateful for every step along the way. Together, let us continue to ignite hearts for Christ and His mission, for the glory of God and the transformation of the world. As President of WMU North Carolina, I am committed to continuing the legacy of igniting hearts for Christ and His mission, just as mine was ignited many years ago.

— Barbara Hill,
WMU NC President

Photos clockwise: Barbara Acteen - Barbara achieved the highest level in the StudiAct Curriculum as an Acteen: Queen Regent in Service; Barbara Acteen Leader - Barbara later led Acteens to inspire other young women to fall in love with missions; Barbara Family Missions - Our first family mission trip - The Hills in Honduras; Barbara Armenia - 2019 Mission Trip to Armenia.

God has called you to lead. You don't have to do it alone.

Women's Leadership Cohort



Join the next 5-week virtual women's leadership cohort to **grow your leadership skills, gain clarity about your purpose, and learn how to be on mission with God right where you are.**

The cohort is held virtually via Zoom

(Join live or watch on demand!)

Cost: \$40.00

Next Cohort Begins:

AUGUST 27, 2024



DO YOU...

- **Want more clarity** about your purpose and calling?
- **Feel God is calling you to lead** but are unsure of your direction?
- **Desire to know more** about your strengths, spiritual gifts, and leadership skills?
- **Want to connect** with other women with similar passions?
- **Want to be better equipped** for your leadership role?

*Clarify your calling.
Connect with your community.
Cultivate your leadership skills.*

VISIT WMUNC.ORG FOR DETAILS

SOMETHING EXCITING IS COMING THIS AUGUST!

GO CERTIFICATES

WMU North Carolina and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary are excited to announce a new partnership! Together, we are bringing you the brand-new **GO Certificate in Women's Missions Leadership**.

This virtual GO Certificate will combine theological courses with courses focusing on missional living, understanding the Bible, ministry to women, and more. It will be paired with WMU NC's current Women's Leadership Cohort. Be on the lookout for this exciting opportunity to grow in your leadership skills!

¡Programa de certificación disponible para hispanohablantes!



5 Strategies for Creating Lasting Change



Why is change so hard for us? Why do we often resist change?

There are many reasons it can be hard to enact change. We resist change because it's different and new. We resist it because it's overwhelming or it's a situation we have not encountered before, and we often fear what we do not know.

We have to shift our mindset not to see all change as bad. In fact, change can be very good! But how do we create lasting change? A lot of times, we want to change things, but we aren't sure of the best way to go about it and how to make it stick. Here is the good news, change is possible! Here are 5 strategies and opportunities I have found helpful in creating lasting change.

Strategies for Creating Lasting Change

- 1) One small change at a time.** People often resist change when it comes too suddenly, or it's too radical or different from what was there previously. Making small changes over time instead of big changes all at once helps people adjust better. It takes time for change to stick. You will have more success and transformation if you make changes gradually, one step at a time.
- 2) Create buy-in.** We have an emotional connection to people, places, and things. When there is an emotional attachment involved, it's always harder to enact change. People do not buy into change if they can't see how it will benefit them or will benefit something close to their heart.

Lovett H. Weems Jr. says in his book *Take the Next Step*, "Lasting, transformational change grows out of the congregation's current sense of its story and its mission. Transformational leaders know how to build on the church's identity, making new ministries the natural extension of what has gone before. In other words, they know how to make the story of change the next chapter in the book of the congregation's life, rather than throwing the book away and trying to start over."

In theory, it sounds good to wipe the slate clean and start over, but coming through with a sledgehammer to your church programming won't help. You must get buy-in. You are never going to please everyone, but as much as possible, get buy-in from others. **Trust is essential in creating change.** We must trust someone before we can believe the change they want to make is a good one.

- 3) Make people a part of the change.** It helps ease any feelings of uncertainty during times of transition. People will feel more empowered because they have some knowledge and investment in what changes are happening. Withholding information makes

people go on the defense. Be as transparent as possible about the changes you want to make and reasons for those changes.

- 4) Change must be flexible.** We have to be able to adapt and willing to change the plan. This helps in addressing resistance, adjusting plans based on feedback, and ensuring that the change is sustainable and effective.
- 5) Set realistic goals.** The process of implementing change can feel overwhelming for us, and that can make it hard to start. Be specific in your goals. Clearly define what you want to accomplish. Use S.M.A.R.T. goals. S.M.A.R.T. goals are **S**pecific, **M**eaningful/**M**easurable, **A**chievable, **R**elevant, and **T**ime bound.

Don't give up if you try something new and it doesn't work the way you thought it would. Remember, change takes time. I know it's frustrating at times. Our culture is inundated with instant gratification. But remember, we aren't just seeking change, we are seeking transformation. Change that lasts, that is transformative, takes time and can't be rushed.

When you want to create change, whether personally, professionally, or in your church or organization, ask yourself:

- What is the purpose, outcome, or goal of this change?
- What action step are you willing to take to make the change?
- When and how will you do it?
- Who can help you or keep you accountable?
- What obstacle could possibly hold you back?
- What will you do when you reach your goal?

Change is inevitable. Things change in our world every day, but we don't need to worry because we love and serve a God who is unchanging.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. – Hebrews 13:8



Thinking Long Thoughts: *Tarheel Talk* Goes Digital and WMU NC Unveils an Exciting Website Makeover

WMU foremother Fannie Heck once challenged women to “think long thoughts.” She modeled this for us as her revolutionary ideas helped found an organization that has lasted over a century. Her dreams traveled beyond her own time, and thanks to her long thoughts, generations of people have heard the call to missions and learned to support missionaries through prayer, giving, and going.

As we follow in Fannie’s footsteps, and think our own “long thoughts,” we’ve realized God has granted us digital tools that will help expand the reach of Woman’s Missionary Union of North Carolina beyond our time and place. We’ve been praying and working in the background, and are now thrilled to announce two significant updates that will revolutionize how we connect with our readers and members. The *Tarheel Talk* magazine is transitioning to a digital format, and our website is undergoing a complete makeover!

Tarheel Talk Goes Digital

Starting this fall, *Tarheel Talk* will be available as a free PDF on our newly revamped website. This transition reflects our commitment to good stewardship of our resources and the desire to make our content more accessible to a broader audience. By going digital, we are embracing modern technology to spread our mission and message far and wide.

The digital format offers numerous advantages:

- 1. Good Stewardship:** Transitioning to a digital format reduces paper usage and printing costs, allowing us to pour our resources into Compassion Ministries and Leadership Development opportunities.
- 2. Accessibility:** Readers can access the magazine anytime, anywhere, from any device. Whether you’re at home, on the go, or traveling abroad, *Tarheel Talk* will be just a click away.
- 3. Shareability:** The digital magazine can be easily shared with friends, family, and church members through email or social media, amplifying our reach and impact.
- 4. Global Reach:** While our roots are in North Carolina, our mission transcends borders. The digital format allows us to reach readers beyond our state, fostering a global community united in the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

How Do I Keep Getting the *Tarheel Talk*?

Getting the *Tarheel Talk* digitally is easy! A link to sign up for the *Tarheel Talk* email list is available on our website, social media, and monthly e-newsletter. After signing up, each issue will be emailed directly to you when it is published. You can also access current and back issues on the website at any time for free!

For those who cherish the tactile experience of a print magazine, we will continue to offer a print subscription for a nominal fee of \$18 a year. This option ensures that everyone can enjoy *Tarheel Talk* in the format they prefer. Be on the lookout for a Subscription Form on our website in October and printed in the *Tarheel Talk* Winter 2024-2025 issue.



A New Look for Our Website

Alongside the digital magazine launch, we are excited to unveil a completely redesigned website. The new site features a streamlined look and improved functionality, making it easier than ever to navigate and access the wealth of resources we offer.

Key enhancements include:

- 1. Improved Accessibility:** Events, resources, and offering materials will be more accessible, ensuring that you can find the information you need quickly and efficiently.
- 2. Storytelling:** The revamped site will tell the story of WMU NC in a compelling and engaging way, catering to both newcomers and long-time members. Our history, mission, and impact will be evident through dynamic content and visuals.
- 3. Enhanced Functionality:** The new website is designed with user experience in mind. Whether you're registering for an event, accessing materials, or exploring our latest initiatives, the process will be seamless and intuitive.



Prayer Requests

As we embark on this new digital journey, we invite you to join us in prayer. Here are three specific prayer requests:

- 1. Guidance and Wisdom:** Pray for wisdom and discernment for our team as we navigate this transition. May we make decisions that honor God and advance His kingdom.
- 2. Reach and Impact:** Pray that the digital magazine and new website will reach a wider audience and touch the hearts of women around the world, inspiring them to be radically involved in the fulfillment of the Great Commission.
- 3. Community and Connection:** Pray that the digital platform will foster a sense of community and connection among our readers, drawing them closer to each other and to Christ.

We're Here to Help

We understand that transitioning to a new format and navigating a redesigned website can be daunting. As a staff, we are committed to supporting you every step of the way. If you have any questions or need assistance accessing the magazine or using the new website, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Our team is here to provide guidance, answer your questions, and ensure that you have a positive experience with our digital resources.



The transition to a digital *Tarheel Talk* and the launch of our revamped website represent a bold step forward for WMU NC. We are excited about the opportunities these changes will bring and look forward to journeying with you as we continue to challenge, prepare, and equip Christian believers to be radically involved in the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

Let us “think long thoughts” together with faith, hope, and a shared commitment to the Great Commission. Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to the mission of WMU NC.

Ministry Partner Talk

North Carolina Baptist Ministers' Wives

The Annual NC Baptist Ministers' Wives Retreat took place July 8-10 at Caraway Conference Center. We explored what it means to be "Centered in Christ" with guest speaker Sharie King. As always, this was a beautiful time of spiritual rejuvenation and fellowship.

Save the date for our Annual Meeting which always takes place in conjunction with the Pastor's Conference and the NC Baptist State Convention Annual Meeting. This year's meeting will be on Monday, November 4 at 9 am. All Baptist Ministers' Wives are invited for "a little bit of meeting and a lot of worship and fellowship!"

Visit the NCBMW website: <https://ncbminwives.wixsite.com/ncbmw>

Connect with other ministers' wives, stay updated on events and opportunities, and pray for one another through our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NCBMW>

— Duronda Hood,
WMU NC Liason to NC Baptist Ministers Wives



North Carolina Baptist Nursing Fellowship (BNF)

BNF is excited to report that we have recently started two new chapters in North Carolina. The Little River chapter includes the Eastern Part of the state near Sanford and Broadway while the Triad chapter covers Winston-Salem, Kernersville, and High Point.

During National Nurses Week in May, the Little River chapter took Survival Kits full of candy and small gifts to nursing students to support them during their final exams.

On July 6, the Triad BNF partnered with Triad Journey Church in Winston-Salem to host the medical/dental bus.

The National BNF Summit will be held in Louisville, KY on October 18-20, 2024. Register online at www.baptistnursingfellowship.org

Baptist Nursing Fellowship is open to any nursing or health-care professionals interested in Christian professional fellowship; who want to promote continuing education and growth for members and nurse missionaries; as well as encouraging nursing service projects evolving from a personal commitment to Jesus Christ.

Are you a Nurse or Medical Professional? **Join** online at www.wmunc.org/nc-baptist-nursing-fellowship or contact Penny Jones for more information. penjones@wakehealth.edu



Baptist Nursing Fellowship exists to **empower, educate,** and **encourage** nurses & medical workers to be on mission for Christ.



Christian Women’s Job Corps (CWJC)

Happy 25th Anniversary, CWJC!

In June CWJC hosted Level I and Level II National Certification Training at Camp Mundo Vista. Because of CWJC’s partnership with WMU NC and CBFNC, we were able to offer scholarships to the first 10 registrants from North Carolina and use the camp facilities for free. Thank you for investing in CWJC!



Several groups working with refugees in North Carolina have expressed interest in beginning CWJC sites with their clients and friends. Please pray for these groups, the communities they want to serve, and that God will raise up leaders for sites in these areas.

If you are in conversations in your church or community about responding to needs in your area, please remember CWJC. If there is a site near you, invite the site coordinator to be part of these conversations. A complete listing of current CWJC sites is available at www.cwjnc.org. If you don’t have a site or are interested in getting involved with CWJC, please contact Cara Lynn Vogel at cwjc@gmail.com.

Sisters Who Care (SWC)

Did you know Sisters Who Care hosts a bi-weekly Zoom Bible Study? In April and May we hosted the Discovery Series “I am H.E.R. (Healed. Empowered. Restored.) Bible Study: Life Lessons from Women in the Bible.” If you’d like to join us for these studies, connect with us on our Sisters Who Care - North Carolina Facebook page and click on “Events.”



In March, SWC collected over 100 Bibles for distribution to pastors and ministry leaders in Uganda and Kenya. This project was led by international missionary, Reverend Regina Stevenson.

Over 55 women gathered at Caraway Conference Center on May 31 - June 1 for our annual spring retreat. This year’s theme was “I am H.E.R.”

Save the Date for our Mission & Outreach Conference on Saturday November 9, 2024 in Raleigh, NC.

Contact Elder Lisa D. Jacobs for more information or to get involved:

ljsevent@gmail.com



(Ministry Partner Talk continued)

La Union Feminil de Misionera (UFM) Hispanic WMU

WE ARE ALL PART OF THE GREAT COMMISSION

Colossians 1:27

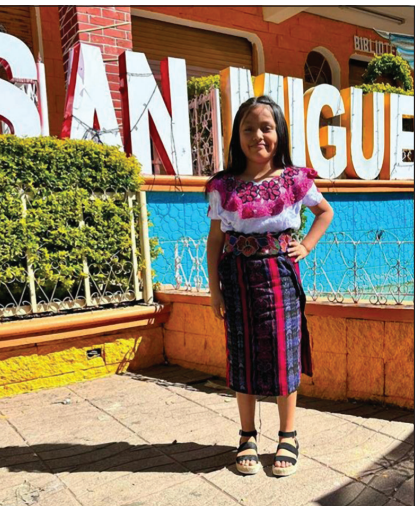
As President of the Hispanic Woman's Missionary Union in North Carolina, I can see more women and children getting involved in fulfilling the Great Commission. My heart fills with joy knowing that nothing we do for the glory of God is in vain. It is through the UFM's Missions Education Organizations (Missions Friends, Children in Action, Youth in Action, Women on Missions) that each person can be challenged to fulfill the Great Commission.

This is accomplished by participating in the four Missionary Activities: Learning about missionary work, Praying for the missionaries, Giving to missionary work, Doing missionary Work and witnessing for Christ.

I work with the Children in Action group at my church every Sunday during worship time, and it is truly amazing to see the children grow in their love for God and commitment to Him. The children love to pray for the missionaries by using the map of the United States and the world map to locate exactly where the missionaries are working.



On one occasion I was relating the story of how God called the Apostle Paul and how He had a plan for Paul's life. One



little girl, only 8 years old, named Leslie González, came up to me and asked, "Sister Raquel, do you believe that God has a plan for my life, just like He had for the Apostle Paul?" At first, her words shocked me. Then I answered her question. "Of course, Leslie," I replied. "God has a plan for your life."

Then she said, "I am going to travel to Guatemala to meet my parents' family and there I will have the opportunity to talk to them about the love of Christ." In Leslie's life, I see that the Great Commission is not for a select few. It is for the whole Church and it involves all believers in Christ.

It is wonderful to know that God has a plan and a mission for people of all ages. Lately the idea of being an "Ordinary Missionary" has resonated in my mind. This means that we do not need to receive a special call to take the Gospel of Jesus to distant lands, but that we can all influence other people in the places where God has put us. In our family, at school, at work, in our neighborhood, at the park, in the supermarket, and wherever we live, we can be an

"Ordinary Missionary." **Everyone. Every day. Everywhere. We are all on mission!**

In our Hispanic Woman's Missionary Union, we are happy to support Missionary Clara Huff, a very active woman in God's work who continues to inspire us towards Missions. We are also committed to supporting Missionaries Lucas and Betsabe Colmenares in leadership training and Personal Evangelism in the Winston-Salem area.

The UFM Retreat will be from August 23-25, 2024. The theme is *Called to Share Christ to the Nations*, Colossians 1:27. Sister Libo Krieg will be our keynote speaker.

Contact Raquel Garcia for more information at raquelgarcia.09121975@gmail.com

— Raquel Garcia, UFM NC President

Photos from top: Children Pray—Children in Action praying for US and International Missionaries; Leslie González—Leslie traveled to Guatemala and shared Jesus with her family after learning He has a plan for her life; Clara Huff—Missionary Clara Huff serves others continually and inspires the women of UFM.



Calendar Talk

WMU NC 2024
CALENDAR

August 2024

3-10 ServeNC

21 Leadership Luncheon

24 Mission Friends Touch and Feel Missions Day,
Forbush Baptist, Yadkinville

23-25 WMU Hispanic Women's Conference,
Caswell Conference Center

September 2024

2 Labor Day Holiday (*Office closed*)

7-13 Mission Trip, Guatemala

18 Leadership Luncheon

21 Children's Mission Day, National and
North Carolina

28 Mission Friends Touch and Feel Missions Day,
Center Road Baptist, Bladenboro

October 2024

11-12 Carolina Women, Caswell Conference Center

23 Leadership Luncheon

November 2024

4-5 BSCNC Annual Meeting*

4 Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer

8-10 Mom Camp & Military Wives, Mundo Vista

9 SWC, Live Sent Conference

20 Leadership Luncheon

27-28 Thanksgiving Holidays (*Office closed*)

December 2024

1-8 International Missions Emphasis and Lottie

Moon Christmas Offering

23-27 Christmas Holidays (*Office closed*)

**Not a WMU NC sponsored event*



**There's still time to
collect Red Box
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Shipping Dates: Oct. 23-Nov 1
Drop Offs at FBC Asheville: Nov 4-8

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Tarheel Talk

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Sharing Hope

ROMANS 15:13 (NIV)



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for WMU NC
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