WMU NC Report to the BSCNC on Tuesday, November 8, 2022- Amy Boone

**Slide 1-**

The WMU emphasis for the next two years is Hope in Christ. Our theme verse is “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer” from Romans 12:12. It is a fitting theme as we see such a lack of hope in our world today. We must share the hope that we have in Christ.

The Hebrew word for Hope in the Old Testament is Tikvah. Hebrew is a picture language in which God paints us a vivid understanding of the word. Tikvah (**slide 2**) is actually a picture of a rope, woven together that we can hold on to when the world seems out of control.

Tikvah is used in the biblical story about Rahab. (**Slide 3)** Rahab knows that Jericho will be conquered and the only hope she has is that she will tie a scarlet rope (a tikvah) in the window, thus insuring that her whole family will be saved. This was her only hope. A connected relationship with God is like grasping onto a strong rope.

At WMU NC, we desire to share the hope that is in Christ. We do this by sharing the Gospel at the International Camp (**Slide 4**). This year we sponsored 52 internationals to attend a week-long camp. We also do this through leadership development (**Slide 5)** for the Hispanic WMU as they have their annual retreat each year. We share His love and His plan for (**Slide 6**) incarcerated women through the Prison retreat at Camp Mundo Vista and through the giving of (**Slide 7**) Red Boxes at Christmas. We want them to know how to grasp the rope of hope. We share hope in Christ (**Slide 8)** to Military Wives to help them with the many sacrifices they bear. We desire to reach children as they learn about different cultures and missions (**Slide 9**) at our Children’s Missions days. We share hope through having a Moms camp (**Slide10**) as we desire to disciple women, to be missions leaders in their home. We do this through mission trips (**Slide 11**) to Italy to work with refugees and to Vermont as we lead and encourage Church planter wives and college students.

The ladies that are discipled through Christian Women’s Job Corps (**Slide 12**) find His hope as they hold on to Christ’s rope in the midst of overcoming homelessness, poverty, addiction and hopelessness. We are so thankful for the leaders and mentors at the sites across our state. In churches (**Slide 13**) we are also thankful for the leaders across the state who teach preschoolers, children and youth about the Great Commission. They learn how to give, serve, and pray for the many missionaries in the US and around the world.

We celebrate the hope we have in Christ (**Slide 14**) at our annual WMU NC Missions Conference, formerly known as Missions Extravaganza. In the coming year it will be held at Lawndale Baptist Church in Greensboro. We are thankful for the CDs (**Slide 15)** that are made monthly for the blind, and for the 200 (**Slide 16)** Bible studies we have in our free lending library for women in our local churches. We desire to reach young women through our Podcast (**Slide 17**) about living on mission on a daily basis.

Finally each year we focus on a social issue (**Slide 18**) in our world and we desire to raise awareness and provide resources for this social issue. This year we are focusing on Mental Health and the church’s response. Christ is our only Hope, our rope to grasp on to, as we help those in our world that are struggling.

There was another time when the analogy of the rope was used to discuss missions. William Carey **(slide** **19**), the well-known ‘father of the modern missionary movement” was trying to challenge his Baptist brethren to obey the Great Commission. The man you may not have heard of, that is not so well known, is Andrew Fuller (**Slide 20**). Carey was trying to explain about his upcoming mission service in India and the lost souls in India were compared to an unexplored deep gold mine. “There is a gold mine in India, that seems almost as deep as the center of the earth. Who will venture to explore it? Carey said, “I will go down but remember you must hold the rope”. (**slide 21**). The people said, ”We solemnly engage to do so, nor while we live, shall we desert him.”

For 22 years Andrew Fuller held the ropes for William Carey. He prayed for him, raised money for him and did not let go of the rope. When Andrew Fuller died in England, his loss was particularly felt in India. He hadn’t ever been there, but he had held the rope 22 years for William Carey.

My question for you today is (**Slides 22**) who is your missionary? Who are you holding the rope for? These frontline soldiers of the cross continue to rely on those who ‘”hold the rope.” Which unreached (**Slide 23**) people group has your church or small group adopted?

Cling in your personal life to Biblical hope and hold that rope of prayer and support to a missionary and people group today.