



You make known to me the path of life: in Your presence there is fullness of joy; — Psalm 16:11

Four. Hundred. Years. God's chosen people longed for a word from Jehovah. In the Old Testament, David spoke of "fullness of joy." Nehemiah declared "the joy of the Lord is my strength." But for many, there was no joy. Despite memorizing and singing the Psalms, with more than eighty references to joy and rejoicing, years of disobedience and rebellion had silenced their rejoicing. The promise of "pleasures forevermore" was seemingly out of reach.

Then. Christ. Came. Out of the darkness, heavenly angels appeared to shepherds, declaring, "I bring you Good News that will cause GREAT JOY for all people. Your Savior has been born."

The Greek *chara*, translated "joy" or "rejoice," implies a deep-rooted inner gladness or delight is not to be confused with happiness. *Chara* is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, accessible to each person who believes in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Kaye Warren defines joy as "the settled assurance that God is in control of all the details of my life, the quiet confidence that ultimately everything is going to be all right, and the determined choice to praise God in all things" (*Choose Joy: Because Happiness Isn't Enough*).

Joy is a gift you can choose to affirm and accept. To live a joyful life empowered by the Holy Spirit, in all circumstances, choose joy!

In the Gospel of John, Jesus told His disciples, "Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full." Therefore, Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina is asking God for people everywhere to experience the joy that comes from being a disciple of Christ. Will you pray, too?

As you pray for WMU NC this week, may the Wellspring of Joy fill your spirit, and may your desire for all nations to know the joy of the Lord be renewed.

2025 HECK-JONES®
Offering **WEEK OF PRAYER for WMU NC**
GOAL: \$325,000
www.wmunc.org

DAY 1

Joy in Fellowship

"Our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy."

— Psalm 126:2a

In 1816, long before Fannie Heck and Sallie Bailey Jones organized WMU NC in 1886, North Carolina had 72 organizations. Imagine the joy felt around kitchen tables, in flower gardens, and in church parlors as women were learning about, praying for, supporting, and doing missions.

In Philippians 2:2, Paul wrote: "Make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose." Authentic joy occurs when women engaged in meaningful fellowship find a unified purpose in making disciples of Jesus who live on mission.

Mom Camp-Military Wives Retreat deepens relationships with the Lord and encourages Christian fellowship. Kathleen, a Mom Camp attendee, shares: "I learned so much that I took back with me, not just as a mom, but also in serving in our mom group at church, as well as at my job as a teacher. I was able to teach my art students about 'holy rest,' which we learned about during our painting class led by Beca."

Pray today for organizations/events engaging NC women:

- Women on Mission Groups
- La Union Feminil Misionera (Hispanic WMU)
- Sisters Who Care
- Ministers' Wives Retreat
- Mom Camp
- Military Wives Retreat
- Ignite Missions Conference

DAY 2

Joy in Leadership

"A little quiet reflection will remind me that 'Yes' to God always leads in the end to joy."

— Elisabeth Elliot

Hundreds of women across our state say 'Yes' to leading missions education in their churches. WMU NC staff designs leadership development events and strategies tailored for you who accept this call. Many of these leadership principles extend into professional and personal lives of participants.

An exciting leadership platform on the state level is the Co-Ed Youth Advisory Team. In her last speech as WMU NC President, Miss Fannie Heck said: "*Lead the young women gently into places of joyful responsibility.*" As many churches embrace the co-ed organizations of Children in Action, Youth on Mission, and Adults on Mission, Miss Heck would most likely add, "And lead the young men, too!"

Pray for *yourself* in the level of leadership God calls you to. As you see leadership qualities in others, encourage them to explore their gifts.

Pray today for:

- The WMU NC Staff and Board
- Leaders of age-level missions organizations
- A new certificate program at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
- Women's Ministry Leadership Cohort
- Monthly Leadership Lunches
- Beyond the Moment Podcast
- Monthly featured website resources
- Leadership trainings at ABOUND and Ignite
- Co-Ed Youth Advisory Panel
- PROJECT HELP: Mental Health

DAY 3

Joy in Missions Education

"In Your presence, there is fullness of joy."

— Psalm 16:11

Month after month, dedicated missions education leaders bring in totes overflowing with missionary-specific crafts, international treats, and dress-up outfits. As they hear the squeals of children winning the pinewood derby contest and cheers of girls reciting the GA pledge to earn a badge, they know the "fullness of joy." God's children are learning about His plan for the world.

WMU NC facilitates missions education for children, youth, and adults as well. 1) A youth at Camp Mundo Vista International Camp decided to follow Jesus. Her Buddhist parents refused to allow her to be baptized. Following a year of prayer, her parents allowed the baptism. 2) The mother of a Mission Friends child asked if she could sit in. By the end of the lesson, she was moved to accept Christ!

Dani Bryson, former National Acteens Panelist, current assistant district attorney, and SBC Executive Committee member, wrote:

To every Mission Friends teacher: To every GA and Acteens leader: To every camp counselor: To every Sunday School and Discipleship Training teacher: To every VBS worker: To every woman who was willing to mentor, to pray, to go, and to give so little girls could learn more about Jesus: Little girls grow up.

Pray today for participation in:

- Age-level Missions Education organizations for Preschool, Children, Youth, and Adults
- International Children's Camp
- Mission Friends Touch and Feel Days
- Children's Missions Days



DAY 4

Joy in Serving

I slept and dreamt that life was joy.

I awoke and saw that life was service.

I acted and beheld, service was joy.

— Rabindranath Tagore, Bengali poet

Joy overflows where these gifts collide. Two Bible verses Mission Friends learn are, “Be ye kind, one to another” and “By love, serve one another.” Jesus said, “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.” When we remember “inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.” We become more like Christ and find joy in service.

Thank you for your contributions to the more than 3000 Red Boxes distributed last year as Christmas gifts for women incarcerated in NC prisons. One recipient shared: “I pray that I can make a difference in someone’s life when I am released and help someone the way you have helped me.”

Pray today for the following channels of service:

- **The hundreds of mission projects carried out by children, youth, and adults across the state.**
- **Christian Women’s Job Corps with a new site in Uganda, and the first Christian Men’s Job Corps (in Ahoskie)**
- **Baptist Nursing Fellowship**
- **Support for missionaries from North Carolina**
- **Volunteers for Military Wives Retreat, Prison Retreat, Mom Camp, and all WMU NC ministries and events**

DAY 5

Joy in Sharing Christ

“Surely there can be no greater joy than that of saving souls.”

— Lottie Moon

Sydney’s* family felt God calling them to plant a church in a large suburban housing development. While prayer-walking the neighborhood, Sydney strolled behind a young mother pushing a double stroller with another child alongside riding a small bike. Sydney, mother of three, thought back a few years, “O, my. That was me!” When God said to her, “Sydney, do you know the difference between you and this woman? You had me. You have me now. She is doing this life without Jesus.” Sydney began to weep, and she knew this neighborhood, with so few Christians, was where God meant for her to be.

Though most believers *want* one-on-one Jesus conversations; fear of rejection, ridicule and persecution sometimes rob them of the joy of sharing the greatest story ever told. Consider Acts 13:49-52. As the gospel was being spread, opponents stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas. When they left that place and came to Iconium, “the disciples were filled with JOY and with the Holy Spirit.”

Pray today for:

- **Persons you know who are doing life without Jesus.**
- **Boldness in sharing Jesus wherever you are without fear**
- **Missionaries who leave the familiarity of home and family to share Christ in the US and abroad.**
- **WMU NC Mission Trips**

DAY 6

Joy in Anticipation

“Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the JOY set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

— Hebrews 12:2

RC and Briana Brunstetter, IMB missionaries from Mocksville, NC, know the joys and challenges of anticipation! They arrived in Slovenia in 2022, expecting Baby #1. Baby #2 arrived in 2023. Imagine welcoming two babies in thirteen months in a new culture! They excitedly hosted family members and mission teams. Then, in joyful anticipation, they returned to the US in 2024 for official commissioning. Now back to Slovenia, RC and Bri are in intensive language learning and are training to be lead student strategists for Slovenia’s four largest universities. They eagerly anticipate how God will move among university students.

Just as our missionaries fix their eyes on Jesus and live in anticipation of what God will do in their people groups, WMU NC is excited about what lies ahead.

Pray with hopeful anticipation today for WMU NC to:

- **continue supporting missionaries in NC, the US, and around the world;**
- **find new and creative ways to communicate the joy of fellowship, leadership, missions education, serving, sharing Christ, anticipation, and giving;**
- **attract more young women to discover God’s will for their lives through WMU;**
- **continue to explore the channels of social media and digital resources for best practices for sharing Christ;**
- **identify and train new volunteers to lead mission trips both at home and abroad;**
- **start new WMU age-level organizations in NC churches.**

DAY 7

Joy in Giving

“The people rejoiced over the offerings, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord, and King David was filled with JOY.”

— 1 Chronicles 29:9

The Apostle Paul’s Jewish readers would have known the Psalms of David, having recited and sung them in worship. They would have known that many of the references to joy were associated with giving of one’s financial resources. One familiar New Testament scripture about giving is 2 Corinthians 9:6-8: “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly.”

La Union Feminil Misionera (Hispanic WMU) is an excellent model for giving. These ladies cheerfully contribute funds to support two missionaries each month. They traveled on two mission trips last year.

Through your joyful giving to the Heck-Jones® Offering, you are part of WMU NC’s mission of challenging, preparing, and equipping Christian believers to be radically involved in the fulfillment of the Great Commission. Fannie Heck and Sallie Bailey Jones caught a vision of what God was wanting to do through NC women: to teach, pray for, do, and support **missions**. Together, these beloved leaders founded WMU NC. They left a lasting impact on missions that continues today with you. The missions and ministries of WMU NC are funded entirely by the Heck-Jones® Offering. Thank you for praying for the ministries of WMU North Carolina, and for being open to the ways God is calling you to give to the Heck-Jones® Offering.

WHAT JOY!



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