

Tarheel Talk

SPRING 2021

RELENTLESS

HEBREWS 10:39

Missions Extravaganza 2021
& 130th Annual Meeting PAGES 14-15

Love Your Neighbor as Yourself PAGE 16

Plan Your Leadership Retreat PAGES 19-20

Inside Talk

Spring 2021

Inside This Issue

From the Editor	2
Perspective	3
Note from Amy	4
Hello from Deborah	5
Regions Recall.....	6
Mother's Day Offering.....	7
Among the Stars.....	8
CBF of North Carolina	9
Adults	10-11
Youth/College/Young Women.....	12
MT11:28 PROJECT.....	13
Missions Extravaganza '21 & 130th Annual Meeting.....	14-15
Preschool & Children	16
Camp Mundo Vista	17
Leadership Development.....	18-20
CWJC/UFM	21
BNF/SWC	22
Calendar Talk	23
Talk Back	24

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.** Jenn B, editor, jennb@wmunc.org; Angie Dickinson, graphic design, angiedesign@me.com; RR Donnelley publisher, rrdonnelley.com

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Never Give Up....

Have you ever given up on something? A project? A sport? Learning a musical instrument or foreign language? Attempting the recipe you ripped from a magazine, only to let it sit in your recipe book, hoping it will miraculously make itself? What about a challenging conversation with a friend or relative, because it's easier to pretend everything is "fine?" Have you given up on someone because his or her efforts to "change" or "do better next time" are cyclical. There are seasons in our life that **giving up** seems to be the easiest choice, but what are you missing out on? Our culture has FOMO (Fear Of Missing Out) on almost everything, but when it comes to challenges, our culture tends to lean to the path of least resistance.

Currently in my home the youngest child at 15 months is learning to walk. Learning to walk has not been an overnight anomaly, but a process. All beginning with him gaining the strength and muscle control to hold his head up on his own, steadying himself on all fours, crawling, pulling himself up to stand, learning to balance while standing, using his toes for grip and stretching his little arms above his head to offset the weight of his head and body leaning forward. Then, only then when he is ready he lets go, one foot in front of the other. Watching him over these months reminds me of our theme **Relentless**. We, who are saved by God's grace, children of God should embrace life as a process.

Each day we have the choice how we respond to our circumstances, conversations, and impromptu interactions. May we not **shrink back**, as is mentioned in our theme verse of Hebrews 10:39, but be relentless in our pursuit of God and trust in his purpose for our lives. May we each be open to how God desires to use us amidst the "challenges" we face, leaning on Him and trusting that He is using it ALL to bring people to a relationship with Him. When we look at life from this perspective maybe we will value the relentless spirit and never give up.*

Jenn B.

*If you need a good song to encourage you **not to give up**... check out King and Country's "Never Give Up," from their **Burn the Ships** album.

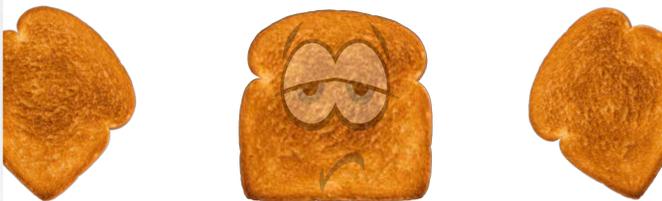


Editor's Note: A recent Facebook post caught my attention. It was not a typical post, which I would have continued scrolling past. This post halted me in my tracks because it was a direct address to my perspective on life currently. I was so moved and motivated that I found myself sharing with others. I hope that as you read Alex's words that you too will be motivated to share with someone who may need these encouraging words.

“Don't feel sorry for or fear for your kids because the world they are going to grow up in is not what it used to be. God created them and called them for the exact moment in time that they're in. Their life wasn't a coincidence or an accident. Raise them up to know the power they walk in as children of God. Train them up in the authority of His Word. Teach them to walk in faith knowing that God is in control. Empower them to know they can change the world. Don't teach them to be fearful and disheartened by the state of the world but hopeful that they can do something about it. Every person in all of history has been placed in the time that they were in because of God's sovereign plan. He knew Daniel could handle the lions' den. He knew David could handle Goliath. He knew Esther could handle Haman. He knew Peter could handle persecution. **He knows that your child can handle whatever challenge they face in their life. He created them specifically for it!** Don't be scared for your children, but be honored that God chose you to parent the generation that is facing the biggest challenges of our lifetime. Rise up to the challenge. **Raise Daniels, Davids, Esthers and Peters!** God isn't scratching His head wondering what He's going to do with this mess of a world. He has an army He's raising up to drive back the darkness and make Him known all over the earth. **Don't let your fear steal the greatness God placed in them.** I know it's hard to imagine them as anything besides our sweet little babies, and we just want to protect them from anything that could ever be hard on them, but they were born for such a time as this. Just some thoughts from a dad who is rocking his sleeping baby and thinking about what a crazy day it has been in our country.”

— Alex Craven
Husband, Father

DON'T LET YOUR MEETINGS GET STALE!



Join Us For Our Monthly Missions **SHAKE UP**

Let's shake up our meetings with creative and interactive missions lesson ideas to keep our groups energized, connected and learning!

Use for your monthly Women On Mission meeting, or with other age groups. This will serve well as a leader's guide for new ideas or an opportunity to hold a virtual meeting!

In addition to the video, you will receive all the resources and handouts for the lesson.

So what are you waiting for? Check it out!

Visit: www.wmunc.org/monthly-missions-shakeup

This Is Relentless Love

The Relentless Call of the Great Commission Can't Be Stopped



We have experienced our ladies, youth, and children display His love during the pandemic in so many ways, and I praise God for this. I am reminded of the Emphasis verses in Hebrews. The Author reminds them that in times past, they had been victims of persecution. He thanks the people for standing side by side with those who are currently being persecuted. Some have even gone to prison for their faith, and the people sympathized with those in prison. These are great examples of people who were able to stand by and to sympathize with others during this difficult time of persecution. ***This is Relentless Love!***

Love God and Others in the Good Times and the Bad

One of the ministries I would like to feature is Sisters Who Care, the African-American expression of Women on Mission. This year they have done tremendous projects, with many more planned in 2021. Here are some of what they did during the pandemic:

- Fourth of July fundraiser for the Christian Life Home for pregnant teenagers and young ladies
- A Domestic violence workshop led by “Called to Peace”
- Diaper Campaign for the Dorothy Mae Hall Foundation
- Led monthly Podcasts with Dr. Jae Richardson from the Baptist State Convention of NC
- Fed nurses on the front-line through the Lunch and Love Campaign (They gave lunch to the ICU nurses of Atrium Health in Cabarrus.)
- Cycle Forward Campaign, providing feminine products to women and girls (Can you believe many go without these in our very own state?)
- Two Racial Reconciliation Workshops with many guest speakers

- Red Rubies Foundation Book Drive – giving books to 10 girls and 3 boys, along with 10 mothers who received easy-to-read Bibles
- Weekly Bible studies and prayer times for COVID-19 and our nation

Serve God in the Good Times and the Bad

For 2021 they are holding a Virtual Tour of the Welcome House for refugees in Raleigh and a Dementia Workshop. They have also organized a yearly calendar of projects and events. Just as God called out and credited the people in Hebrews 10 for their faith and relentless steadfastness, my heart is full of appreciation for all which Sisters Who Care did and are doing. Thank you to all that SWC has done and to all who participated in these mission projects. The President, Lisa Jacobs, is a visionary and has given of herself to find places that need our assistance. She is a wonderful missionary.



Our key verse for the emphasis ***Relentless***, is Hebrews 10:39 – “*We are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.*” May none of us shrink back in these difficult times. May we remain faithful in the good times and the bad.

In His Love,

Amy

Amy Boone,
WMU NC Executive Director/Treasurer

Live by faith



It is amazing to learn that the scriptures for WMU Focus and themes are chosen two years ahead for printed resources. I know that the Holy Spirit definitely guided the plans for 2020-2022, no coincidence there. The Relentless

theme has four components: living authentic faith in Christ, seeking God in prayer, giving sacrificially, and witnessing to others. Reflecting on the past year I see how myself and other believers were challenged to live out each of these components. This past year definitely demanded that we seek God in prayer and give sacrificially. Through the political and cultural events of 2020, we were challenged to live an authentic faith. The pandemic health concerns continue to affect the way we worship and serve God, causing us to find new ways to witness to others.

WMU's scripture focus is Hebrews 10:39, but I encourage you to read and think about the action words used in verses 32-39 in light of the our past, our present, and our future.

“Remember those earlier days after you had received the light”

Sitting home alone or with my family has given me time to reflect and remember. I am grateful I received Christ as my Savior at age 10. There certainly have been times over this past year when I have cried out to God. I have seen and felt, in His timing, a new filling of His light, grace and direction. *WMU NC certainly has been blessed for one hundred and thirty-five years with leaders who have been Relentless to pray, give, serve, and go.*

“When you endured”

Notice the writer does not say “if” you endured or “did you” endure. The writer knew that the Hebrew Christians had endured political and religious changes and persecution, even in the few decades since Christ had returned to heaven. Almost everyone has struggled with the changes brought about as a result of COVID-19 and in some ways we may have felt persecuted for our own beliefs or actions. We may even be frustrated with the

changes in plans for our ministries, but let us not lose heart. *I pray that when the history of WMU NC for 2020-22 is written it will say “when we endured.”*

“So do not throw away your confidence”

I know there are times I have and do struggle with this! In Psalms 71:5, David says that God has been his confidence; his hope since his youth. So I will say, my confidence does not lie in myself, as a Christian, in my nation, or in the organization of WMU. *Our confidence is to be in our sovereign Lord. This is our command for the present.*

“You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God”

This is another reminder of our current calling! I have recently been tempted to say, ‘I don’t know what to do’



or “It doesn’t matter right now anyway.” The writer of Hebrews reminds us we do know what to do now because of God’s Word. The Bible clearly says to “...love God and love our neighbor;” (Mark 12:30-31). The Bible also states what is required of us, “...to act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with your God,” Micah 6:8. What we do and how we do it does matter—the world is looking to see how we persevere and have hope; that is not only part of living authentic faith, but serving as a witness to others.

“live by faith and not to shrink back”

This is a command for the future. As some may say, “Keep on keeping on, with one foot in front of the other!” I pray that each of us and WMU NC will find ways to be relentless and not shrink back. Throughout this issue you will find opportunities to challenge, equip and prepare you to be relentless.

Deborah Taylor

Deborah Taylor
WMU NC President



REGIONS RECALL

Living on Mission

The Diaper Bank of NC, although begun in Durham, gives diapers and adult incontinence products to needy women all over the state. The diapers are wrapped into groups of 25 for distribution. With the rise in need since COVID-19, this is a great project. Our group volunteered outside to wrap diapers in bundles. Churches or businesses can volunteer or choose to be a collection site. Visit their website for details. Diaper Bank of North Carolina (ncdiaperbank.org)

— Lynn Odum, WMUNC Executive Board



New River Baptist Association of Fayetteville, in partnership with the Baptist Children's Homes of NC, have been busy making "Baskets of Blessing" for children this Easter. Last year they made 887 baskets. 100 went to DSS in Hoke County, 17 went to a Group Home, 35 went to DSS in Sampson County, and because Cumberland DSS could not participate due to the pandemic, the remainder 735 were picked up by BCH in 2 truckloads and delivered to the Baptist Children's Homes.

Want to use this idea? Here's what's in a basket: Stuffed animal, Easter candy, eggs filled with candy, Christian coloring book, & crayons. Don't forget the decorative Easter grass and cellophane to wrap it all in.

Sister Marie and I purchased a bag full of crackers, cookies, candy, etc. and delivered them to health care workers at Atrium Hospital in Wadesboro. They were most appreciative! Our Anson church WMU groups will do this weekly as an encouragement and show of appreciation to our health care workers. Another church in Anson Association has delivered pizza to the hospital and to the EMS folks each Wednesday for several weeks now.



Anson Rescue Squad

Jan 13 · 🌐

🚒 **THANK YOU - Polkton Baptist Church, for the goody basket donated today from your wonderful church. We appreciate the constant support we get from the community that helps keep our mission going!** 🙌



A pastor's wife friend in Kansas shared this with me. They are going to family's homes as outreach and will hide 12 eggs in each yard, with 1 of the eggs empty, to signify the empty tomb, then leave a **sign** on their door. This idea could be used for children, teens or adults. (We do suggest asking permission of the parents whose yards you are looking to hide eggs in). See *You've Been Egged* at www.wmunc.org/youve-been-egged to download a **sign**.

— Deborah Taylor
WMU NC President

Giving Thanks

WEEK OF
PRAYER
MAY 2-9, 2021

MOTHER'S DAY
OFFERING

*Create in me a clean
heart, O God; and renew
a right spirit within me.*

PSALM 51:10

MEET STELLA

What began as an overnight hospital stay for newborn Stella turned into 22 days of complications. Born with Down syndrome, Josh and Gina Grant's little girl wasn't thriving. Exploratory stomach surgery was a last resort...but it worked. What wasn't working was figuring out how to pay all the medical bills. The family was talking bankruptcy when their bills were paid by the Mother's Day Offering. "They helped save Stella's life," says Gina. That was 2014, but the Grant family's gratitude is still fresh all these years later. ...even though Josh was sick with COVID in January and slowly recovering. "With Stella and her follow-up surgery, even when I had COVID, we know it's in the Lord's hands," he says. "Every trial we had has always brought us closer to Him. Today, people are losing jobs, insurance, people they love. They need help, and now's the time to help them."

 Wake Forest[®]
Baptist Health

mothersdayoffering.org



*Stella Grant mugs for the camera
with her big brothers.*

Additional Mother's Day Offering stories and information on how you can help are available at www.mothersdayoffering.org.

Among the Stars

What happens when two women become convicted about a cause and wrangle four other women to join them in their cause? You get a mission trip to Birmingham, Alabama. After our May 2020 Board meeting, Joyce Rogers and I felt the Lord speak to us about the plight of National WMU. We reached out to Terry Powles, Ruby Fulbright, Deborah Taylor and Amy Boone to accompany us, and I personally couldn't have asked for better traveling companions on such a journey.

No other mission trip I have been on has come together as this one did. We quickly bonded during this time of COVID-19, van travel, and where to stop for bathrooms and restaurants. We prayed for people we had never met before, while never forgetting our mission to pray for God's will over WMU.



As we arrived on Missionary Ridge we became hushed. Upon being greeted by Sandy Wisdom-Martin, our National Executive Director, she prayed for us and gave us a carefully and prayerfully prepared prayer guide. The six of us prayed in the

Fannie Heck room and then visited the museum. While there we saw the letter penned from Lottie Moon to Annie Armstrong, requesting more people to come to China. We talked and imagined the young women who sat around a table as they prepared to go on mission around the world as part of their missionary training. I was especially drawn to the portraits of our past Executive Directors and Presidents, overwhelmed to the timeliness of each one, chosen to lead WMU in her time. Each one dealt with all kinds of problems, financially and spiritually, as she led this organization. We walked and prayed around a building that was finally getting a new heating and cooling system, after a hot Alabama summer without air conditioning. We prayed with people we met, about their children and their jobs. For two days we walked, prayed, listened, watched, contemplated and marveled at our past, present and future for WMU. We hurt for our future because we don't know what is going to happen in a Post pandemic world, but we must be ready.

“What has been done for the glory of God will be steadfast as the stars.”

Outside the building is a prayer garden, a place for contemplation and quiet. It was filled with the wise words of our foremother's. Two quotes from former Executive Director, Dellanna O'Brien, a woman I never met, truly spoke and continues to speak to me, “We must not stop. We must keep moving forward. We must trust our Guide and His promises.” Another one of her quotes also remains within me, “We are part of the seamless history in which we connect the stories of the past to write our own chapters in preparation for those who come after us.”

If you have never been to this sacred place of WMU history and present work I encourage you to do so. You won't be sorry. Take some friends or family. Immerse yourself in our past, work in our present and pray for our future. Annie Armstrong once wrote, “What has been done for the glory of God will be steadfast as the stars.”

I believe in my heart that WMU and WMUNC has such a place, in the future, among the stars.

— Sandy Simpson
Region 6 Director

Pastor-in-Residence/ Study Leave Program

Are you a mid- to late-career pastor in North Carolina who desires a short-term leave/sabbatical from the daily practice and activity of ministry? CBF North Carolina's Helping Pastors Thrive program provides a study leave program for extended reflection on your life, your pastoral identity and the long arc of your ministry. Experienced pastors who have served without intentional time away often feel constrained, weary and depleted, wondering if they can remain vital, creative and feeling good about their later years as spiritual leaders. This Pastor-in-Residence program provides the short-term leave for pastors that many churches are not equipped or financially able to do.

**Applications are now being accepted
for the Fall 2021 semester through Winter/Spring semester
of 2023. The four-week Pastor-in-Residence/Study Leave
is fully funded by the Helping Pastors Thrive program and
includes support for congregations while away. The residencies
are located at the four CBFNC partner theological schools.**

**For more information or to start an application,
visit our website at helpingpastorsthrive.org.**



Note: Residencies are contingent upon campus regulations and plans related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Updates concerning viability of a given term and on-campus regulations will be shared when available.

Love Your Global Neighbor Through WorldCrafts



Every day I learn something new at WMU. Lately, I have been diving deep into WMU's Compassion Ministries. How could I not be in awe of the work that is taking place globally by WMU International?

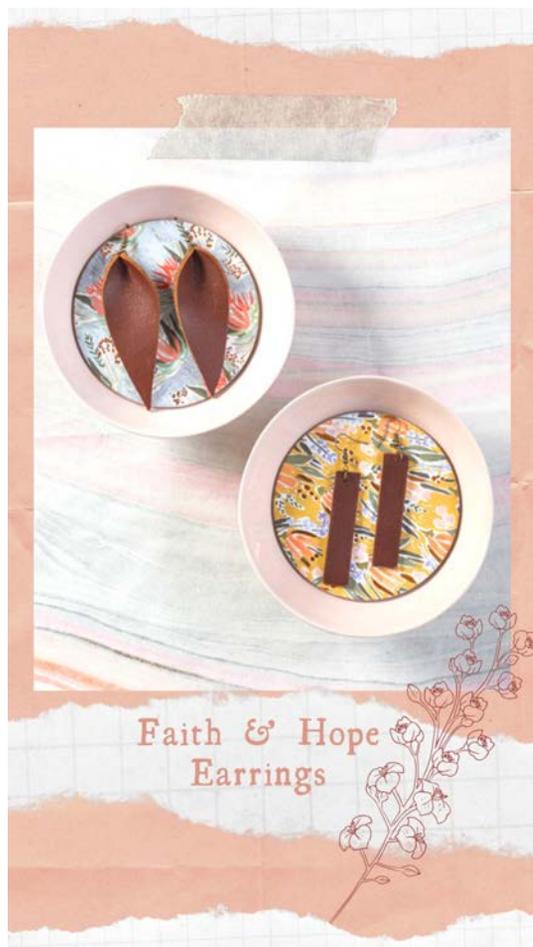
As I learn about WMU's push to end human trafficking and exploitation, I am overcome with a sense of joy, outrage and admiration over the stories of women in the United States and worldwide who are helping one another overcome desperate situations in amazing ways as WorldCrafts artisans. I have challenged you in the past to shop WorldCrafts for Christmas, but I would like to challenge you to go a step further to make shopping at WorldCrafts a lifestyle!

January was Human Trafficking Awareness month, and as I read the stories of WorldCrafts artisans across the globe, I saw that they all had two things in common: poverty and restoration. What WMU is doing through WorldCrafts and Christian Women's Job Corps is important, life-changing work; work that sustains physically and spiritually and changes poverty into prosperity. I want to challenge you to be a part of this work! Read their stories and then do something! Go online to order one of these ministry's products highlighted here in *Tarheel Talk*; all of which are under \$30. Seriously, how quickly do you spend that much money in a big

box store? This is an impactful way to love your global neighbor, especially during a pandemic!

The forward-thinking women of Sak Saum, ministries in Cambodia, are rescuing women from sex trafficking in Cambodia by introducing them to a living Savior and paying them a living wage for beautiful handicrafts so they don't have to return to harmful lifestyles to feed their families. That work is amazing enough in itself, but beyond the challenging work of rescuing women from a dark and dangerous underground industry, at Sak Saum they also seek to "preempt exploitation by equipping and hiring the most vulnerable in the local community before they fall prey to traffickers." They literally recruit women to artisan work before they can be lured into exploitation. Check out their "refuge necklace" online.

Mentors make the difference at Christian Women's Job Corps of Madison County, AL. At this branch of CWJC,



women are provided with mentors who are committed to one-on-one relationships and encouragement as the women take intensive courses that include Bible study and computer classes as well as training in leatherworking and jewelry crafting to earn a paycheck as they continue their education. These women are doing the kind of hard, poverty erasing, neighbor-loving work that Jesus calls us to! If we can't volunteer as mentors at CWJC, let's give these women our support in their partnership with WorldCrafts. Their Faith, Hope and Joy leather earring line would be beautiful and an impactful purchase.

These women are doing the kind of hard, poverty erasing, neighbor-loving work that Jesus calls us to!

Annie Armstrong's letters encouraged generations of Baptists to give, to go and to pray for missions. Annie was one of the founders of WMU and Thai Country Trim was our founding WorldCraft ministry in 1996 which started under the stilts of a missionary's home. This artisan community is rescuing women from abusive home situations and exploitation and teaching them to make treasures, like the Annie Armstrong doll at WorldCrafts. Order a doll and teach a child about the trailblazing work of Annie, Thai Country Trim and WMU!

— Rebecca Lindhout
Adult Ministries Consultant



20 **MILITARY WIVES RETREAT** 21

Not Retreating:

BRAVELY FACING LIFE'S CHALLENGES WITH FAITH

AUGUST 13-15, CAMP MUNDO VISTA

CAROLINA WOMEN CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 15&16, 2021 • FORT CASWELL, OAK ISLAND

We Have This Hope...

Hebrews 6:19

Join us as we move beyond fear into hope in Christ. Come with your faith energized, experience powerful worship, and hear exciting new new ways to reach out in the name of Jesus.

Announcement



After 27 years of mission service with WMU (5 in Kentucky and 22 in North Carolina) Julie Keith, WMU NC youth, collegiate and young woman consultant will be retiring from this role. Julie has touched the lives of so many throughout this time.

We are excited to celebrate and recognize Julie, and we need your help. If you have any pictures or stories from events you have been a part of with her please send these to jennb@wmunc.org or the WMU NC office. Julie is also known for her card ministry, let's overwhelm her mailbox with cards to express our love and appreciation for her. Her last day will be April 30, 2021.

WMU NC Office
 PO Box 18309
 Raleigh, NC 27619-8309

Julie Keith
 207 Oakway Ridge Ct
 Kernersville, NC 27284

Carolina Girls

May 1, 2021
FREE VIRTUAL EVENT

for middle school, high school,
 & college-aged girls

Join us at 10AM, Saturday May 1st.
 Visit the Carolina Girls Facebook page
 (facebook.com/WMU.Carolina.Girls)
 or the WMU NC website
 (wmunc.org/carolina-girl) to watch
 the pre-recorded videos. We will have
 engaging speakers and interactive
 mission projects.

Register at:
<http://bit.ly/CarolinaGirls2021>

Support the ministries of Women's Missionary Union of NC through the Heck Jones' Offering at bit.ly/Give2WMUNC

myMISSION NC

WHAT: ENGAGING YOUNG WOMEN IN MISSIONS
 WHEN: OCTOBER 9TH, 2021 FROM 10AM-1PM
 WHERE: LAWNSDALE BAPTIST CHURCH, GREENSBORO, NC
 WHO: FOR YOUNG WOMEN AGES 18-35

THERE WILL BE WORSHIP, BRUNCH, CHALLENGING
 MISSIONARY STORIES, AND HANDS-ON PROJECTS FOR
 COMPASSION MINISTRIES.

WMU NC URGENT MISSIONS NEED:

MT11:28 PROJECT

HOSPITAL FRONT-LINE WORKERS ARE
WEARY AND BURDENED (MATTHEW 11:28).

WE ASK YOU TO MINISTER WITH US AS WE SERVE THEM IN JESUS' NAME.



FOR WHOM: FIVE HOSPITALS OF THE WAKE FOREST BAPTIST HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

DEADLINE: MAY 15, 2021

Please Visit to Donate: www.wmunc.org/mt1128project

Need Requested By: Dr. Brian Davis, Director of Community and Congregational Health at FaithHealth NC

ITEMS NEEDED:

- Please donate money for coffee, hot chocolate, hot cider, and cookies (no outside food allowed in hospitals).
- Cards, posters and banners with words of encouragement.
- Candy bars wrapped with an encouraging note.
- Lotions and lip balms for frequent hand sanitization and mask dryness.
- Handmade lavender/rice heating pads (<http://bit.ly/howtolavendarbags>)
- **Please use this specially designed WMU thank you note.**
(Download here: <http://bit.ly/mt1128cards>)

ALL PHYSICAL DONATIONS CAN EITHER BE MAILED OR DROPPED OFF AT:
WMU NC OFFICE AT 1200 FRONT STREET, SUITE 110, RALEIGH NC 27609 **OR**
CENTER FOR CONGREGATIONAL HEALTH 1920 QUEEN STREET, WINSTON-SALEM NC 27103
**PLEASE SIGN-UP FIRST BEFORE DONATING ANY ITEMS. EMAIL DONATIONS
COORDINATOR, AMY BOONE AT [ABOONE@WMUNC.ORG](mailto:aboone@wmunc.org) FOR ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS.**



Missions Extravaganza '21

Virtual Mission Celebration & Annual Gathering

April 24 – 9:00 am-3:30pm

\$20 per person to include:

All-Access Digital Pass & Conference Program Packet*

Access to **ALL** Worship Sessions, Conference Sessions,
& Missions Expo for 90 Days*

Free Printables & Resources from Missions Expo*

Online Voting*

Weekly Giveaways*

Your Ticket is Valid for 90 Days!

**from April 24*

Mission Project: MT 11:28

Focusing on all front line workers.
Visit link below for details & access
to “Thank-you Card,” as seen below.



**for all you do on the front lines
in service and sacrifice,
we appreciate YOU!**

*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest.
Matthew 11:28. NIV*



wmunc.org/mission-me-2021

3 easy ways to make the most out of Missions Extravaganza:



Register to attend Mission Extravaganza today!



Invite a friend to register and watch the conference together!



Get resources to prepare and equip you to live out God's call on your life.



Take a picture of me!

wmunc.org/mission-me-2021



Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Matthew 22:39

Sara Lamkin
WMU NC Consultant for Preschool & Children

We have been living through a pandemic for a year now. Our lives have been turned upside down. Work has not been normal. School has not been normal. Church has not been normal. However, Jesus’ commandment to love your neighbor still stands. No matter what the world looks like around us, we are still called to love.

For some, being forced to do life differently has allowed them to reach out to new people or in ways they would not have before. More cards have been sent. More phone calls received. Staying connected became important. Checking in on others to make sure they were okay became significant.

How have you been reaching out to friends more? Did you spend some time talking on the phone with a church member? Play more board games as a family around the table? Have you taken all this time of slowing down to show love? Have you worked tirelessly to keep connected to your GAs, RAs, or CAs by learning Zoom or planning socially distanced activities?

Our world needs to see, hear, and do more acts of love for others. And in many ways, it feels like our children are leading the way. I have personally read stories about children who wrote cards to every single student in their school, ensuring no one was forgotten or alone. I have seen youth gather to put together Red Boxes for incarcerated women. There is a story about a girl who helped gather all the carts in a parking lot and pushed them to the entrance. Another story about a boy who saw an older woman struggling to carry grocery bags up the sidewalk and stopped to carry them for her.

What are you, your church, your children doing to show love? Send me your stories and pictures to slamkin@wmunc.org.

Let us all lead the way in showing the world that God loves them.



Top: Pinehurst, NC – Children delivering a Popcorn Party for staff at a local assisted living. Bottom: Weaverville, NC – Children delivering Valentines to the senior adults at church.

SAVE THE DATES!
CHILDREN'S MISSIONS DAY

CAMP MUNDO VISTA
OCTOBER 9, 2021
FOR CHILDREN GRADES 1-6

FIRST BAPTIST
WEAVERVILLE
NOVEMBER 13, 2021
FOR CHILDREN GRADES 1-6

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO
WMUNC.ORG/CHILDREN-EVENTS

Children and Youth Missions Day

Our virtual Children and Youth Missions Day on March 6 was wonderful! We learned how TransWorld Radio shares the love of Jesus with the world and under difficult circumstances. We praised God through music, learned about sharing others with Jesus by watching a Christian magician, and heard former National Acteen Panelist Maddy Davis teach us about the Great Commission. Videos will remain on the WMU NC Facebook page (facebook.com/WMUNC) for anyone who wishes to see them!



WHERE EVERY MOMENT IS QUALITY TIME

Summer 2021

CAMP MUNDO VISTA

Located near Asheboro North Carolina, Camp Mundo Vista (CMV) is a place where God can speak, His voice will be heard, and His words will have impact! During our summer camps we use fun experiences to grow our faith in Christ, develop relationships, learn life skills, and serve others.

MUNDO VISTA DAY

Join us on May 15 at the Camp Mundo Vista open house! This is a time for families to visit and participate in new recreation, meet our summer leadership team, and learn more about all the fun we will be having at Camp Mundo Vista.



HORIZONS CAMP FOR GIRLS

Join us July 5-9 for Horizons Camp! This is our Summer Camp Program for girls who have completed 3rd grade up to 17 years old. We create a fun, experiential learning environment away from the norm of life for girls, to expand their horizons through a biblical worldview. Each day is filled with recreation, skill classes, interactive missionary times, Bible teaching, and more!

TIMOTHY PROGRAM

The Timothy Program is a high school leadership program for students 16 to 18 years old. Our mission is to introduce high school students to camp ministry and challenge them to grow in teamwork and servant leadership, while encouraging growth in their faith. There are 3 sessions to choose from and an orientation weekend is June 12-13.

QUESTIONS? Contact Corrie Lindsay at corrielindsay@caraway.org or 336-521-9214

PROGRAM REGISTRATION? Contact Shelly Gandy at sgandy@caraway.org or 336-521-9210

For more information visit www.campmundovista.com





Amanda Martinsen
*Leadership Development Consultant
and Resource Coordinator*

Training is essential for leaders. It's important for leaders to feel equipped and prepared to lead their age-level groups at both the church and associational levels. While there are still limitations on event gatherings, I encourage you to get creative with leadership training. There are ways you can provide leadership training for WMU leaders while still following current safety procedures.

If you are able, purchase a copy of the 2021-2022 Missions Leader: WMU Planning Guide in the WMU online store. It contains a thorough Leadership Retreat Plan for you to use with your groups and ministry teams. You can use this brief retreat plan, based on the retreat in the planning guide, to help get you started. You will also find some tips for hosting a virtual retreat if you decide not to meet in person.

Planning a leadership retreat gives you as a WMU leadership team time to set goals for the coming year and to explore the WMU emphasis theme Relentless. Together you will discover what it means to live an authentic faith in Christ, seek God in prayer, give sacrificially, and witness to others.

JOIN US FOR OUR MONTHLY LEADERSHIP LUNCHEONS!

Our luncheons aim to encourage, inspire, and renew leaders. Each month we host a FREE online luncheon where we cover different leadership topics that will help you grow as a leader.

For upcoming dates and topics visit:

wmunc.org/leadership-luncheons



Leadership Training Retreat Plan: Relentless Leaders

Emphasis theme: *Relentless*

Focus scripture: Hebrews 10:32-39

Our watchword: “*But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.*” (Hebrews 10:39 NIV)

Before the Retreat:

Before you begin planning the retreat, start with prayer! Ask God to oversee the details of the retreat and pray for those that will attend. Then select a date and time that works for the majority of your leadership team. If you plan to host an in-person retreat, be mindful of any current CDC or local public health safety guidelines that need to be put in place.

➔ **Order each leader a 2021-2022 Missions Leader: WMU Planning Guide if possible!**

The Day of the Retreat:

This retreat is designed to be two hours. For a more extensive retreat, you can use the plan in your *Missions Leader WMU Planning Guide*.

- ❖ Welcome the team and allow time for group introductions. If time permits, do a brief ice breaker activity to get the group comfortable and ready to engage with one another.
- ❖ Introduce the *Relentless* theme by asking the team to share their responses to the question: **What makes a relentless leader?** Collect and discuss responses.
- ❖ Lead a devotional on the theme interpretation (found in your *Missions Leader WMU Planning Guide*). Include the watchword scripture and highlight the four objectives of the *Relentless* theme.
- ❖ Ask the team to share what each of these objectives means to them and how it relates to being a relentless leader.
- ❖ Encourage leaders to have a time of prayer, choosing one of the objectives to focus on and pray for. For example, how am I living an authentic faith in Christ? Close in prayer, then take a break.

Age-Level Planning & Setting Goals:

Use this time to break into age-level groups (if applicable), or work together as one big group.

- ❖ As the group comes back together, review the WMU mandate: *To make disciples of Jesus who live on mission.*
- ❖ Evaluate what this looks like for your church or association. Use this time to discuss past mission projects or ministry ideas implemented in the last year.
- ❖ Discuss the importance of setting goals as a WMU leadership team. **Encourage team members to set clear and concise goals, setting both short and long term goals for the year.**
- ❖ Use this time to develop an annual WMU calendar for the year ahead. Bring to the meeting a copy of your church calendar for the coming year, as well as the WMU NC calendar. (The WMU NC calendar can be found at wmunc.org and pg. 23 of the latest *Tarheel Talk*). Include mission project ideas and dates, special events (Focus on WMU, missions offerings, Children’s Missions Day, etc.), and any activities for the year.
- ❖ Ask age-level leaders to share their goals and plans for the year.
- ❖ As a group revisit how these goals complement the WMU mandate. Then take a break.

Wrap Up the Retreat:

- ❖ Review any plans or goals made during the retreat.
- ❖ Set dates for any future meetings.
- ❖ Revisit the four objectives of the *Relentless* theme. Encourage the team to be relentless leaders.
- ❖ Read the watchword together and close in prayer.

➔ **Be sure to give copies of any planning worksheets to your pastor, leadership team, and additional church staff as needed.**

Retreat Leader Tips:

1. Prepare for the retreat by reading the exclusive theme content in the *Missions Leader WMU Planning Guide*.
2. **Make it FUN!** Get creative with this retreat and don't be afraid to mix things up.
3. You know your team the best. What will they respond to the most? What areas might they need some additional encouragement or help in?
4. This is simply a guide. Feel free to add or delete things as needed to make it applicable to your leadership team.
5. Don't hesitate to reach out if you need help planning a leadership retreat. Bring the team in on the planning, or reach out to a WMU NC age-level consultant for help.

As always, if I can be of any help to you or your WMU leadership team, please contact me! **Remember:** you are a relentless leader. God has placed you in your position for a reason. How will you pursue being a relentless leader in the coming year?

Tips for Hosting a Virtual Retreat

Depending on the current state of the pandemic and event gathering recommendations, you may feel more comfortable hosting a virtual retreat. Here are some tips to help you prepare for a virtual retreat:

- ❖ Decide which online format you will use. (Zoom, Google Meets, etc.)
- ❖ Record the meeting for team members who cannot attend live.
- ❖ Utilize the “breakout rooms” option if available to organize age-level group leaders and allow them time to meet and plan together.
- ❖ As you would an in-person retreat, build in break times and stretch times for attendees.
- ❖ Allow extra time for discussions as it takes some people awhile to warm up to sharing through the computer screen.
- ❖ Begin the retreat with a warm up activity or small ice breaker to help the group feel more comfortable and get excited to participate in the retreat.
- ❖ Make use of the chat feature to allow leaders to ask questions and share ideas with one another.
- ❖ Give away door prizes before or after break times if possible. **Make it FUN!**
- ❖ **Get creative!** Don't be afraid to try something new!



LOOKING TO
START A NEW
WMU GROUP?

We can help you:

- Develop a plan to start
- Order resources or materials for your age-level group
- Plan your first meeting *and more!*



Contact Amanda Martinsen for more information:
amartinsen@wmunc.org
 (919) 882-2344 ext. 208
 Visit: wmunc.org/starting-new-org-level

National Certification Training Provides Path to New Lives



Each Christian Women's/Men's Job Corps site has something in common with every other site. The site coordinator in that site has completed National Certification Training.

This training provides resources for dreaming, developing and operating a CWJC or CMJC site. Each of the elements are addressed and time is spent becoming familiar with the foundations of asset based ministry and the Biblical basis of poverty.



This training is offered in individual states and certifies individuals to begin a site anywhere in the world. In NC's training last year, we had a missionary who serves wither family in Mozambique attend the training virtually from Brazil while waiting to return to Mozambique. There were also persons attending from Texas as well as several North Carolinians.

This training will be offered again in June virtually. Please visit www.CWJCNC.org for more information and registration. There are scholarships available to those living in North Carolina through gifts to CWJCNC from WMUNC.

Graduation Celebration at Pivot CWJC in Winston Salem. This type of celebration is possible because of National Certification Training and many hours of work and prayer.

You Are Invited to Celebrate Mother's Day!



The Hispanic WMU/UFM is planning a virtual celebration for Mothers who need a little encouragement, during this difficult time of the pandemic. We want to pray and encourage them to continue to be a model for their children. As Christians we must model a life dedicated to our Lord and Savior and train our children to follow his ways.

Proverbs 3:6 – *“In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”*

This means we are to consult with God regarding our decisions, thoughts, spoken words and responses. May I challenge and encourage you to do something special with your ladies at church and invite friends. Host a special time to come beside them and renew their strength in God.

— Darbelia A. Saucedo
Hispanic President WMU/UFM
darbeliasaucedo@gmail.com or 252-402-7379

Finding the Good



Lisa Jacobs

We have all heard the saying “when life gives you lemons... make lemonade.” Its intent is to encourage us to take the most discouraging and disappointing moments in life and find the good in them.

In 2020 we experienced great disappointment and we were at times discouraged. It has been difficult to find the good in anything.

King Solomon, who is credited with being the wisest man in the world, wrote in Proverbs 11:27 “if you search for good, you will find favor: but if you search for evil, it will find you.” In other words, if you look for trouble, trouble will find you.

We are offered two very distinct choices with two distinct outcomes: Search for good and you will find favor or search for evil and you will find evil. For the believer this should be an easy choice, but unfortunately sometimes it is not so easy to find the good amongst so much suffering and pain.

King Solomon reminds us that “good” will not always be obvious, evident or easily discernible, therefore we must search for it. To search means to look carefully and thoroughly in order to find something that is lost or missing. The first place to search is our own hearts. King David states in Psalm 51:10 “create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me.” In order to find the good, our hearts must be clean, and His spirit must reside within us.

When I am unable to see the good in people it is because I am viewing them through a dirty lens, biased toward finding trouble. The Apostle Paul says, “I find this law at work: although I want to do good, evil is right there with me,” Romans 7:21.

While on my quest to find the good I am aware that evil is present, yet I will search for the good and not dare look for trouble.



For more information or to join SWC contact
Lisa D. Jacobs, Volunteer Coordinator
ljsevent@gmail.com or (919) 349-5462

Sisters Who Care
A Ministry of WMU North Carolina®

Released - Set Free!



A Good Deed done in Acts 3:6-7 when Peter replied, “I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk. And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. Jumping up, he stood and began to walk.” It was because of this man’s **Faith**. This healing was explained in Acts 3:16. “And by faith in Jesus name, his name itself has made this man strong.” This man was released from not just physical pain, but with an opportunity to be **Released** to accept salvation. Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said, “There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.” Once we believe and are set free, we want to share this good news with others. We desire for all to be **Set Free** from bondage of sin and shame. Through good deeds done out of love the Gospel will be shared and the love of Christ fulfilled.

What activities do you believe will be helpful for your church members and for your community?

Nurses have the opportunity to share their gifts and expertise in wellness and health. Volunteers offer help through projects, events and activities. We plan these activities by assessing the needs of the people. In times of crisis, grief or loss, we offer our care and support in the name of Jesus. These days, visitation is prohibited because of COVID-19, but we can connect through the internet, and with mailings and phone calls.

Cynthia Furr, MSN, RN
President, NC Baptist Nursing Fellowship
(704) 982-4065 | (704) 960-3391 | rifurr@yahoo.com
BNF Membership: www.wmu/bnf.org
www.wmunc/ncbnf.org

**NC Baptist Nursing Fellowship Annual Meeting
April 9-10, 2021 at Camp Mundo Vista
Released - Set Free!** Acts 12:7

You may register and pay online: www.wmunc.org/bnf

All nurses and other interested healthcare providers are invited. You do not have to be a member of BNF to attend. Student nurses may attend at a reduced fee - Contact Claudia Hayes (910) 818-2283

Calendar Talk

WMU NC 2021
CALENDAR OF
EVENTS

April 2021

- 5 Easter Holiday observed (Office closed)
- 9-10 NC Baptist Nursing Fellowship, Camp Mundo Vista
- 15 Leadership Luncheon – ZOOM meeting
- 24 Missions Extravaganza and Annual Meeting, Virtual event
- 25 Sisters Who Care (SWC) Workshop – *The Roots of Colorism and Skin Tone Discrimination* – ZOOM meeting

May 2021

- 1 Carolina Girls, Virtual event
- 13 Leadership Luncheon – ZOOM meeting
- 25 Sisters Who Care Workshop – *How to share the Gospel Message with Confidence* – ZOOM meeting
- 31 Memorial Day Holiday (Office closed)

June 2021

- 10 Leadership Luncheon – ZOOM meeting
- 13-14 WMU Annual Meeting & Missions Celebration, Nashville, TN
- 15-16 Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville, TN*

July 2021

- 5 Independence Day Observed (Office closed)
- 5-9 Horizons Camp for Girls, Camp Mundo Vista*
- 6-11 World Missions Week, Caswell*
- 11 Sisters Who Care Workshop – *Finding Rest for Your Soul* – ZOOM meeting
- 13-15 NC Baptist Ministers Wives Retreat, Caraway CC*
- 22 Leadership Luncheon – ZOOM meeting
- 30 – Aug 1 Mother/Daughter Retreat, Camp Mundo Vista*

August 2021

- 13-15 Military Wives Retreat, Camp Mundo Vista
- 19 Leadership Luncheon – ZOOM meeting
- 20-22 Hispanic Women's Retreat, Camp Mundo Vista*
- 25 WorldCrafts Christmas in August Event (virtual hosting)



September 2021

- 6 Labor Day Holiday (Office closed)
- 16 Leadership Luncheon – ZOOM meeting
- 22-28 Vermont Mission Trip

October 2021

- 8-9 Children's Missions Day, Camp Mundo Vista
- 9 MyMISSION NC, Lawndale Baptist Church, Greensboro
- 15-16 Carolina Women, Caswell
- 16 Missionary Parent Fellowship, Camp Mundo Vista
- 21 Leadership Luncheon – ZOOM meeting
- 23 Motherhood & Missions, Military Wives Fall Meet Up, TBD
- 29-31 Nat'l BNF Annual Meeting, Birmingham, WMU Building*

November 2021

- 1 Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer*
- 7 Sisters Who Care (SWC) Workshop – *Biblical Hope for Resolving Conflict* – ZOOM meeting
- 13 Children's Missions Day, First Baptist, Weaverville
- 15-16 BSCNC Annual Meeting, Koury Conv. Center, Greensboro*
- 18 Leadership Luncheon – ZOOM meeting
- 24-25 Thanksgiving Holidays (Office closed)
- 28-Dec 5 International Missions Emphasis and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

December 2021

- 16 Leadership Luncheon – ZOOM meeting
- 22-31 Christmas Holidays (Office closed)

*Not a WMU NC sponsored event



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Tarheel Talk

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Connect with us on:

