

Tarheel Talk

WINTER 2021/2022



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A WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION OF NORTH CAROLINA PUBLICATION

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Winter 2021/2022

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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**. Meredith Wilson, editor, mwilson@wmunc.org; Angie Dickinson, graphic design, angiedesign@me.com; RR Donnelley publisher, rrdonnelley.com

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My family has played a huge role in my faith and what it is today. I was saved at the age of five and baptized at the age of nine. My grandfather is a Southern Baptist preacher, so I have grown up in church my entire life. When I was younger, I had a “childlike” faith that was so pure and innocent. However, as I grew older and life became harder, my faith shifted and I became more distant from God.

It took me a long time to develop a deeper and intimate relationship with Jesus. It wasn't until college that I started attending a church that sparked a passion for Jesus in me like I've never felt before. A few months after graduating from college, I started attending the Summit Church-Garner Campus and joined a small group. I then became a middle school leader in student ministry. This community has strengthened my faith and has given me the blessing to mentor others as well.

As my passion for Jesus grew, I began to truly desire a career in ministry. One that would allow me the opportunity to grow in my faith, use my creativity, but most importantly serve others and point them to Christ. When I learned about this certain position, I applied immediately and accepted an offer just a few weeks later. Throughout the process, I felt complete peace that I was right where I needed to be. A month later, I still feel that peace and am so excited to see how God can use me through this role with WMU NC, specifically *Tarheel Talk*. This opportunity was what I prayed for and even more!

The theme of this THT edition is **The Relentless Pursuit of God**. In other words, the act of growing and forming a close relationship to God despite any circumstance. It is inspired through my own story, but also the current chaos of reality we face each day.

The basis is **Matthew 7:7-8** which states: *“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.*

I hope this edition encourages you that no matter what stage of life you are in, no matter what circumstance or worldly outcome, you can always turn to God-through asking, seeking, and knocking. Even through times where you feel disconnected and distant, like I was at one time, God can always change your heart, bring you back into His loving arms and use you for the glory of His kingdom. We just have to make ourselves available.

Meredith Wilson

— Meredith Wilson

Goodbye to Jenn

On behalf of the Staff, Executive Board, and all the members of WMU NC across the state, we want to thank Jenn for the wonderful publications she put out during her 5½ years with us. We will miss her greatly. At times during the 5½ years, she was the webmaster, social media queen, and editor of *Tarheel Talk*. She also blessed us by speaking at various events. She has a passion for WMU that is very contagious and real. I know you will want to write a word of appreciation for the 20 or so *Tarheel Talks* she created and edited during this time. We wish her and her family of 6 well as they move to Florida. What a blessing she has been!

— Amy Boone

Other Fun Facts About Me:

- My favorite foods are steak and pasta
- I graduated from the UNC Wilmington with a major in Communication and a minor in Leadership Studies
- Target, Hobby Lobby and Pop Shelf are my favorite places to shop!
- I love anything lemon or coconut
- Quality time is my #1 love language and I try to make this a priority with family and friends
- I can say the alphabet backwards!

Jesus Wept Too

My heart has been extremely heavy these past few weeks due to the devastation happening around us. It is extremely easy to become burdened by the world and the hurt it faces. It is especially difficult to process any burden when we live in a society that is conditioned to fear authenticity, especially in the Christian community.

Many of us were taught that authenticity and vulnerability were not the way to witness to others. However, we are proven wrong by scripture itself where emotion is shown by someone we would not expect.

One of the simplest, yet most powerful verses in the Bible is *John 11:35*, which states:

“Jesus Wept.”

Did you know that Jesus wept too? Sometimes, I still find that surprising.

As the Son of God, shouldn't He be obligated to hide that emotion, empathy and leave this impression He is content with the reality of sinners? Absolutely not. Jesus knew what would happen. He knew He would be the sacrifice to save us from our sins. He knew other people would die and not be saved. This caused tears to pour down His face. People turned (and still turn) away from our Savior and He knew that they would.

Jesus still remained faithful. Just because He hurt in different circumstances that were out of His bodily control, does not mean that He stopped trusting God's will.

When I think of the statement, “Be a Light of Jesus,” I imagine His time of prayer in the garden. This was right before He was arrested to be crucified and had been overcome with an unbelievable sadness for the pain He was about to experience. However, these emotions did not stop Jesus from trusting in the good works of the Lord. He recognized the sovereignty of God and still hoped in the love of the Father. He still loved His enemies.

Even when we are overcome by grief, our circumstances, and pain from this broken world, we should not let it make you question the goodness of our God. Our trials will not last forever for Jesus already claimed victory over them when He conquered the grave. We can still be a light in this darkened world too.

Go before God with your feelings because hiding them will do no good. God already knows. He wants you to come to Him in prayer and strength to give Him your burdens.

Just like Jesus did because He wept, too.

— *Meredith Wilson*



How *Relentless* is Your Knocking?



There are two types of knocking in the Bible. *The first type is God's people knocking on Heaven's door and crying out to Him.* In the Bible, there are examples of Elijah, Abraham, Paul, and countless others knocking for God to work in their circumstances. *The second type of knocking is when Jesus*

is pursuing us to come to Him. Revelations 3:20 talks about how Jesus is knocking on our hearts, crying out for us to accept and live for Him. We pattern our knocking in prayer to the way He knocks—earnest, repetitive and relentless.

Dr. Maurice Graham, former IMB missionary to Kuwait, was one that had to knock on heaven's door for a long time. In the fall of 1990, Iraqi troops took control of Kuwait where they took Graham hostage along with his wife and two sons. They did release his family a few weeks after being captured. However, for over 4 months, Maurice waited in captivity. The Iraqi troops cut off water and electricity to the compound where they stayed and they did not have fresh water or food. He ate canned tuna and rice for 4 months.

Despite the unfortunate circumstances, Maurice continued to minister to the International Church through regular phone calls of encouragement, recorded sermons and led nightly prayer services at the US Embassy for the hostages. To be released from Kuwait, Saddam Hussein would have to sign his release papers which seemed unlikely to happen. However, he kept praying. He kept knocking.

At the beginning of the Week of Prayer for International Missions, Dr. Keith Parks, President of the Foreign Mission Board, asked Southern Baptists to pray for Maurice Graham and other hostages to be released. He declared December 9th as the day of prayer for a resolution to the crisis in Kuwait. On the final day of the Week of Prayer, Maurice was miraculously released along with the other hostages. Saddam Hussein had a dream in which he was in torment over the fact that he was holding many hostages which made him change his mind. Baptists believed they were praying for a missionary, but they were changing the world.

I hope this story encourages you to continue to pursue Jesus even more than before and also reflect on these questions below:

Who do you need to pray for? How relentless is your knocking?

Dr. Graham recently wrote a powerful book about their time as hostages. He tells of his daily emotional anguish and struggles, how he endeavored to remain true to the Lord, the miracle of how he was released and why he has waited 30

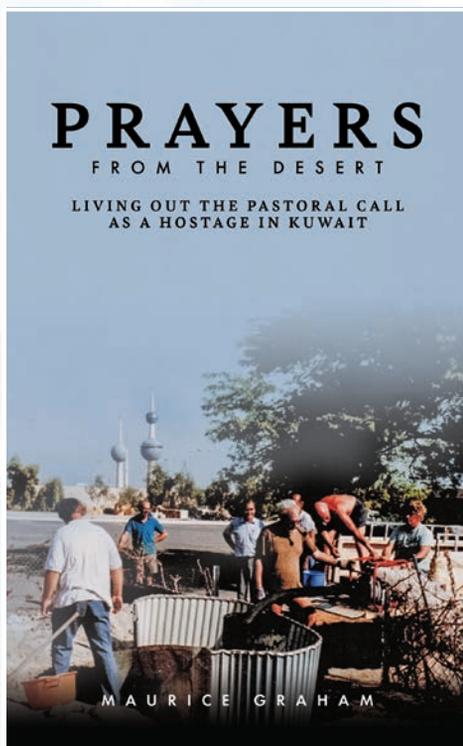
years to share the story. It can be purchased on Amazon in print or as an eBook.

WMU NC will be privileged to have a time with Dr. and Mrs. Maurice Graham on a zoom call on December 1, during the Week of Prayer. During the call, we will hear his story and the power of knocking on Heaven's door. There will be a time for questions and answers and we will, of course pray for this generation of missionaries, 30 years after this miracle, that still need that Holy touch.

In His Love,

Amy

Amy Pardue Boone,
WMU NC Executive Director/Treasurer





For the past year, WMU has been challenging us to be “relentless”—in giving, in serving, in leading and teaching, in sharing the Gospel, etc. We are grateful for all of the ways you have met this challenge and continue to share the Gospel. In Matthew 7:7, as part of the Sermon on the Mount, God gives us a visual image of using our senses of speech, vision, and touch to ASK, SEEK, and KNOCK as we pursue God. We are relentless in praying for His direction and resources so we can then be relentless in our giving, serving, and teaching.

When our new *Tarheel Talk* editor, Meredith Wilson, shared her vision to use this verse for the theme of this issue, God also convicted and reminded me that the only way we can be relentless in pursuing God is to align our priorities and focus on His Kingdom. There are so many good things we can choose to be a part of or so many needs we may feel call for relentless giving or serving. Being relentless is not a measurable mark on a yardstick or a glowing gauge on a light panel. God’s version of relentless is described in Matthew 6:33, also part of the Sermon on the Mount. “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness...”

I have claimed Matthew 6:33 as my “life verse” since early college days. This verse was engraved over the entrance door of the Baptist Student Union Center (ok, I know it was long ago—think Baptist Campus Ministry or CRU, etc.) God used that verse and my BSU Director, Nancy Aulds, to guide my four years there; the choices I made during those years have shaped the rest of my life.

Seeing Nancy’s ministry was one of the first times I realized that God could use women in ministry in other ways than music or children/youth. Growing up as a GA, of course the ultimate relentless service was a missionary. Nancy was less than a decade older than us students and showed us how to live a relentless life through our daily decisions and conversations. She disciplined us as a “mentor” long before I knew that term. Seeking God’s kingdom gave me an eternal purpose that did not change with the culture, philosophies of the day, or the choices of those around me.



Nancy (*pictured*) recently retired after serving for 42 years as a college BSU Director on three different campuses in Louisiana and Mississippi. Catching up with her recently, she reminded me that she still prayed Matthew 6:33 every morning at 6:33 AM when her alarm went off for so many years. She admits that now in retirement, she sometimes prays it at 6:33 PM!

I continue to challenge you to be relentless in leading, serving, praying, or giving, I also ask you to join me in keeping a relentless focus on God’s kingdom and, like my friend Nancy, disciple someone else to join you in our asking, seeking, and knocking. Find a young college student or professional and invite them to:

- “Here and Now” mission experience January 3-5, 2022 at the Charity Rebuild Center
- check out the monthly MyMISSION resources on wmu.com/missions-discipleship/adults
- contact Rebecca Lindhout, WMU NC Young Women Consultant

Deborah Taylor
Deborah Taylor
WMU NC President



REGIONS RECALL



Coastal Region:

On the first Sunday of May 2021, in the parking lots of Old Dock Elementary and Nakina Middle School, Palmyra Missionary Baptist Church split up into groups and did a prayer walk around the schools. Not only that, but they laid hands on the walls of the schools and prayed specifically for teachers, students and other staff. For those who wanted to participate, but struggled with mobility, they were taken on golf carts just close enough to where they could physically touch the walls of the buildings. Beth Dorsch, leader of her WMU group, decided to lead her church where there was a need and focus on the power of prayer. Beth is a very creative leader—her group has t-shirts they can wear when they are doing a mission project together, and they have a Secret Sister Encouragement ministry. Her church also participated in Christmas in August, which is a ministry our children do to bless our home missionaries. The group included her pastor and his wife. We appreciate Beth's leadership of these acts of service and sharing these ideas.

Piedmont Region:

Clara Huff welcomed 17 friends from Primera Iglesia Bautista De Wilmington into her home for a weekend in this past May. They toured Salisbury, where Clara lives, did a prayer walk around her church and other places, and had multiple times of worship and prayer in her home. Clara, in her Facebook post, said "Before they left, they cleaned my apartment!! They are welcome to come back." As believers, we are supposed to unite and connect through our love of the Lord. We are supposed to open our homes and welcome others, just like Clara did. We

are inspired that as a retired IMB missionary, Clara does not let location or title stop her from serving, but continues to minister regularly through WMU and acts of kindness.



Mountain Region:

This past July, Calvary Baptist Church, in Sylva NC, collected Bingo prizes for four local nursing homes. While wanting to give back to the older population, they included prizes of shampoo, lotions, large print word searches, sugar free cookies, stuffed animals drink cups and puzzles. They even included one-dollar bills in their bags so they can buy snacks and created purses for women. Doris Melton, facilitator of this project, stated, "Our residents have not been able to get out and go on trips like they do with a lot of the facilities. We just wanted to be able to let them know that we still care, that we still love them, and that God loves them. It was something we could give back to our community." Thank you, Ms. Doris and team, for giving back to your community in this sweet way!



On page 7 of the Fall 2021 edition of Tarheel Talk, we apologize for putting the incorrect name of the church that participated in the MT11:28 Project. The correct church is CrossLife.



BAPTIST RETIREMENT HOMES

As part of the Baptist Retirement Homes family, our commitment to quality care and meaningful living is an opportunity every one of our residents deserves. Baptist Retirement Homes is a faith-based, not-for-profit organization with a 70-year legacy of excellence, providing older adults with a second-to-none senior living experience rooted in our core values – honesty, fairness, compassion, cooperation, dependability, humor, kindness, loyalty, patience, and conscientiousness.



BAPTIST RETIREMENT HOMES OF NORTH CAROLINA

Has Provided Quality Care to Seniors for 70 Years



A legacy of excellence!

“The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.”

Deuteronomy 33:27a KJV

2022 Week of Prayer and North Carolina Offering for Older Adults

JANUARY 30 – FEBRUARY 6, 2022

This year’s goal is **\$650,000** and 100% of the funds will provide quality care for Older Adults who cannot afford the care they need and deserve!

Online contributions accepted at
BRH.ORG/FOUNDATION





2022

Medicine from the Heart

Baptist Retirement Homes is initiating what it calls the “Medicine from the Heart Medication Vial Campaign”. This program helps older adults across North Carolina receive their medications more cost effectively.

FILL A
VIAL
TODAY!



If you would like to become a partner today, email Keith Dixon at kdixon@brh.org and let us know the number of vials you would like.

You also can make an online donation today by visiting [BRH.ORG/FOUNDATION](https://brh.org/foundation).

“The help you provide, enables me to take the multiple prescriptions I need, on my limited income.” – Katherine

Support the **Medicine from the Heart** program. It will be good for your *heart!*



BAPTIST RETIREMENT HOMES

CALL (336) 725-0202 FOR MORE INFORMATION

BROOKRIDGE - WINSTON-SALEM / TAYLOR GLEN - CONCORD

TAYLOR HOUSE - ALBEMARLE / WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA - ASHEVILLE

Highlight of WMU Christmas Devotionals

Not in the Christmas Spirit Yet?

Please enjoy these previews of a few devotionals that will be released in December of 2021. We hope each theme encourages you and provides different perspectives of the meaning of Christmas. — WMU NC

Love

“To love as Jesus loves us means that we stop deciding who deserves Jesus’ love and just give it away to everyone whether they want it or not. Isn’t that what our Rabbi did? If we want the world to see the Jesus that saves, then we need to start living like we follow the Jesus that saves and love one another. It’s as simple as that.” — *Kim Bounds*

Birth of Christ

“Mary and Joseph were harboring an extraordinary fact about this newly born child in Bethlehem. Especially Mary, young, pure, devoted and ‘highly favored.’ She, of all people, knew He was something supernatural, a God send. Not only a God send, but He was God in flesh, God with us. He was with God in the beginning and now He is God in a cold, musty, dirty stable. He is God’s gift to humanity.” — *Dr. Mike Boone*

If you will say with Mary, ‘Yes, I am a servant of the Lord; let this happen to me according to your word.’ She knew that this could be a death sentence since she was not legally married. She was instructed not to be afraid. God wants our availability; He did not give us a spirit of fear; He has prepared us and gifted us to do all He has for us to bring about His kingdom on earth. The burning question for each of us is: Are we willing to do whatever it takes to see the next generation come to know Christ? Or will we let our fears and insecurities limit our influence in sharing the good news?” — *Dr. Mike Boone*

Joy

“But isn’t it just like God to multiply our joy when we take our eyes off of ourselves and pour into those around us. Keeping our eyes open and watching for what He does through others can be such a source of joy as our own faith is grown and encouraged through sitting back and watching our Father be Himself—good, loving and the giver of JOY!” — *Lisa Sandston**

Peace

“So in this month of December, let’s also turn our thoughts
To all of those around the world who never have been taught.

Though prayer and missions’ studies and with your offerings
Through your service there at home or maybe traveling.

You are light to the world and good news to ALL you bring
So they too can celebrate the birth of the King.”

— *Submitted by Amy Boone,*
Written by Kylah Goff

**Name changed for security reasons.*



HELPING PASTORS THRIVE

A Ministry of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina

PASTOR-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

 **IS NOW
Accepting Applications**

Helping Pastors Thrive is now accepting applications for the four-week Pastor-in-Residence/ Study Leave programs that take place at the divinity schools of Campbell, Duke, Gardner-Webb and Wake Forest Universities.

All expenses for the residency, including food, transportation and housing are paid for by the Helping Pastors Thrive program. In addition, churches are provided funding for securing supply preaching and leadership during the pastor's time away.

While in residence, pastors participate in a wide range of educational, spiritual, artistic and cultural opportunities while on campus. These may include auditing courses, participating in spiritual direction and vocational coaching, engagement in community worship and other campus activities. Pastors may also be given opportunities to interact and mentor enrolled students as they prepare for the transition from school to first-time ministry settings.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
and to access the application,
visit helpingpastorsthrive.org/campaign-3.

Or contact Scott Hudgins
at shudgins@cbfnc.org.



Cooperative Baptist
Fellowship North Carolina

WMU NC Leadership Training and Missions Fair



About the photos:

Left, Caldwell Baptist Association Missions Fair;

Above, Training at New South River Baptist Association

"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." Luke 6:36

CHILDREN'S MISSION DAY

March 5th 2022
 Pinetops Baptist Church, Tarboro, NC
 10:00 AM-3:00 PM
 Grades: 1st-6th

Guest Speaker: Linda Moore
 Chaplain at Vidant Medical Center

We will worship, play games, and learn how God is working in the world!

Registration: February 1st-28th, 2022
 Cost: \$25 per person
<https://www.wmunc.org/children-events>

IT'S TIME FOR A NEW JOURNEY!

Children's leaders around the country are requesting children's missions discipleship materials that are **simple to use**, contain **more robust Bible study**, and offer **in-depth mission studies**.

Introducing Missions Journey: Kids Available Fall 2021

With *Missions Journey: Kids*, you will be ready to lead your kids on the adventure of a lifetime—an adventure born in the heart of God.

Written with every church in mind, *Missions Journey: Kids* gives you flexibility to create the missions discipleship your kids need, whether you lead boys, girls, or a coed group, or whether your group is large or small.

So, what's different?

Every session in *Missions Journey: Kids Leader* will give you targeted tips for teaching mission study and discipleship, Scripture memory and application, and suggestions for customizing the session to your group.

In *Missions Journey: Kids Adventure*, boys and girls will have fun while they discover and explore our heroes of the faith, from contemporary missionaries to the great men and women of the Bible.

You can look to *Missions Journey: Kids Leader Kit* for full-color posters, games, and activities.

How do I maintain the identity of my children's group?

While WMU will no longer produce individualized curriculum for Girls in Action, Royal Ambassadors, and Children in Action, we will continue to create and carry resources for these missions disciple groups, including badges and patches; achievement plans; and identity items like bracelets, footballs, and posters and flags for your meeting space. We love GA, RA, and CA too!

To learn more, visit wmu.com/MissionsJourneyKids.

*Let us hold fast the confession
of our hope without wavering,
for he who promised is faithful.*

Hebrews 10:23 (ESV)

Unwavering *Hope*

Missions Extravaganza 2022 & 131st Annual Meeting

Snyder Memorial Baptist, Fayetteville, NC

April 22-23, 2022

2021/2022 State Acteen Panelists



Sara Lamkin
WMU NC Consultant for Preschool, Children & Youth

Each year, Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina chooses outstanding young women to be our State Acteen panelists. For the 2021-22 year, four Acteens have been chosen to represent North Carolina. They each show the qualities of serving hearts, open minds, the desire to lead, a solid relationship with Christ, and a love of missions. I, Sara Lamkin, look forward to working with them as they are role models to our children and ambassadors to our state.



Skyy Sanderson is in 10th grade and attends Elrod Baptist in Rowland, NC.

Her favorite food is boneless wings and French fries.

Her Bible verse for 2021-22 is Philippians 4:4.

She says Acteens is important to her because "I know that being involved in missions is one way to share God's love and help others become a Christian. I think I have had many opportunities to help others when they needed encouragement or food or basic needs."



Emma James is in 10th grade and attends Jarrett Memorial Baptist in Dillsboro and Acteens at First Baptist Sylva.

Her favorite food is steak.

Her Bible verse for 2021-22 is Jeremiah 29:11.

She says Acteens is important to her because she gets to "be around people my own age and educating myself about missions and living a mission's lifestyle."



Emily Young is in 11th grade and attends Galeed Baptist in Bladenboro.

Her favorite food is chicken tenders.

Her Bible verse for 2021-22 is John 13:7.

She says Acteens is important to her because "Mission work is important to me because God says it should be important to all of His children. God's word tells us to be servants and to help those in need. He tells us to tell everyone about His love for them and how, through the death and resurrection of Jesus, they can have salvation. I am saved, and I want everyone to be saved and to spend eternity with our Lord."

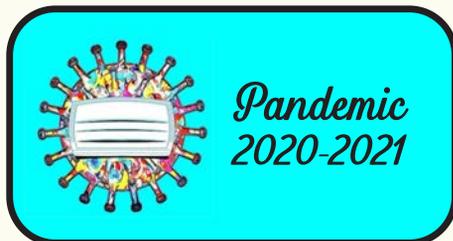


Grace Carter is in 11th grade and attends University Hills Baptist in Charlotte.

Her favorite food is hamburgers.

Her Bible verse for 2021-22 is Jeremiah 29:11.

She says Acteens is important to her because "Acteens is important to me because it gives me more opportunities to do organized missions activities, and to learn more about missions. It also gives me time to hang out with other kids who want to follow Christ. Having the support of the youth group, especially girls, has been helpful to encourage me to follow Christ. It gives me the opportunity to show and live my faith alongside a loving community."



**Pandemic
2020-2021**



**PAIDEMIC
2020- 2021**

GA Badges

Order badges from: Southern Creations Embroidery

1901 N Main St, Lillington, NC 27546, (910) 814-8399

Cost is \$10 for one badge, \$8 a piece for multiples badges.

For more than a year, we have been living in a global pandemic. So many of our churches rose to the occasion and continued to be the light of Christ to the world. This includes our children! Two of our Girls in Action (GA) members here in North Carolina, decided it was important to have badges to mark this unusual time. Ruby and Olivia from Lillington Baptist designed COVID badges. WMU NC is proud of these GAs and are proud to introduce their badges!



How can I help? a simple mission

After being virtual for almost a year, it is common that children and staff in schools are having a hard time getting their rhythm back. Teachers were one of the populations hardest hit by the pandemic. Having to teach students virtually, handle the concerns of parents, and follow the curriculum, teachers were under a lot of emotional strain. Now, meeting back in person in the classroom, it is tougher for teachers to gather supplies, to form a new routine, and to make sure students are taught safely.

When we think of “mission work,” we tend to fall on the popular concept of international missions or mission trips. We have this specific idea that missions involve traveling and interacting with different cultures. This is all amazing work that we do for the Lord, but what if there was a different concept of mission work that we are overlooking?

The same communities we live in are hurting. There is

poverty, loss, and a lot of people struggling with sin who do not know what the grace of Jesus even is. International missions are a calling, but what is God asking you to do in your everyday life location?

Maybe it is as simple as asking yourself this question:

How can I help?

We can probably all agree that teachers need to be appreciated more as they are shaping the future generations to come. Since these generations affect us all, we can come together to help those who are committing their lives to teaching these students. Even if you are not able to help financially, start praying specifically for the educators in your community. Caring for your local educators and schools by spreading the light of Jesus through kind acts of service is “mission work” that can truly make a difference.

Here are some prayers you can use for teachers:

- Pray that they have softened hearts for their students
- Pray for their endurance and stress
- Pray for their health and safety
- Pray that they have wisdom and creativity
- Pray that they have flexibility and adaptability

Some ways to give back to your educators:

- Write them handwritten notes
- Donate books
- Create gift baskets for the teachers' lounge
- Buy items from their wish lists or give them gift cards

“ we need
s'more
teachers like you ”

Print ready art for the

'S'more'

The card or label for the bag is four inches by five inches. It can be glued, taped or stapled to the clear bag.

The smaller card is four inches by three inches, just print, trim and glue, tape or staple to the bag with the S'more ingredients in it.

Relentless HOPE

ROMANS 12:9-16

⁹Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹²**Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.** ¹³Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

— Romans 12:9-16 (NIV)

2022
HECK-JONES[®]
Offering WEEK OF PRAYER
for WMU NC
GOAL: \$400,000
www.wmunc.org

Relentless HOPE

... is possible through your gifts to the Heck-Jones Offering

1 How has the work of missions through the provision of Heck-Jones Offering provided you hope in your role?

Have you ever met a military wife worn thin from carrying all of the burden of family responsibility while her husband is deployed? Have you listened to the stories of moms with multiple kids and a tank running on absolute empty? Have you ever thought to yourself that if the offenders in our prisons could have just had a true encounter with Christ, their lives could have been so different? Have you talked with or been a WMU leader who is struggling to find new ideas and encouragement to keep moving forward in leadership?

To all of these questions I can very clearly say, "I have!" These are the questions and women who run through my heart and prayers every single day. Without your gifts to the Heck-Jones Offering, I might feel hopeless to help. However, because of your generosity I am not hopeless or helpless, no, just the opposite! Because of your kind gifts, WMU NC is able to help that military wife have a moment to breathe, worship and share with others on similar journeys through the **Military Wives Retreat**. Because you share, frazzled moms from across North Carolina will have their cups filled and learn what it means to be a mission's leader in their own homes at our **Missions and Motherhood Mom Camp**. Because you believe in our leaders and donate to the ministries of WMU NC, we are able to train adult leaders and host **Carolina Women** and **Missions Extravaganza**, both of which are overflowing with resources and ideas to recharge every leader.

At WMU NC I have every reason for hope. Because of your faithfulness in the Lord and generosity to the Heck-Jones Offering my hope is a reflection of my blessings which are "A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over." - Luke 6:38

Thank you WMU NC!

— Beca Lindhout

2 How have you seen the impact of the Heck-Jones Offering in your work with WMU NC?

As the Leadership Development Consultant with WMU NC, one of my greatest joys is getting to see missional leaders step into their callings and lead in their churches and communities. The Heck-Jones Offering provides us with the opportunity to make

sure leaders receive the training and equipping they need to serve in their leadership roles. Whether it's through our leadership luncheons, summer age-level trainings, or helping new WMU NC groups to start up, I truly view it as a privilege to walk alongside leaders and make sure they have the resources they need to lead. To have people see themselves as leaders who are making an eternal impact on the lives of those around them—that is a priceless gift to me.

— Amanda Martinsen

3 How has the mission's involvement and support provided through the Heck-Jones Offering been meaningful to you?

In the movie "Pearl Harbor," the main character goes to Great Britain to help the Royal Air Force defend against German attack planes. His commanding officer asks him if all Americans are anxious to die, and he replies, "Anxious to matter."

That line stuck with me. I grew up in WMU NC, but I've stayed with WMU NC because WMU NC is the best avenue to help me live a life that matters.

WMU NC taught me to believe I *could* live a life that matters. In WMU NC, we hear amazing stories about what missionaries are doing around the world, and we use this inspiration in our plans for what we can do in our communities. We don't just learn about missionaries, but also get to meet them. We see they are real people like us. God uses them, and God can use us, too.

WMU NC welcomes me to serve. I've had WMU NC leadership positions in local churches, in an association, and state level; but before the titular positions, WMU NC trained me through GA and Acteens activities. Small responsibilities and challenges leading to bigger responsibilities and challenges.

In WMU NC, I'm not alone in living on mission. Some groups are stuck in the status quo and in complacency. They get offended by the invitation to become more involved in the Great Commission. WMU NC ladies challenge me to do more. WMU NC Ladies welcome me to join them. WMU NC Ladies welcome innovation.

That's a few of the ways WMU NC helps me to live a life that matters.

— Karen Burnette McCracken



We hear the term “missions” a lot in our churches. What does that mean for elementary school students?

MISSIONS ON THE MOUNTAIN

Children’s Church groups of boys and girls in grades 1-6 with adult chaperones will stay overnight together in a camp cabin setting. Our staff will plan interactive activities, fun music, missionary visits, and good food as we learn how God is calling us to be on mission together.

DECEMBER 4-5 - INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS
APRIL 23-24 - NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS
\$95 PER PERSON



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Seek God in Prayer for Your Year Ahead

To discover. To go in search of. To ask for help or advice. All of these definitions embody a familiar word...**seek.**

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.” —Matthew 7:7-8



Amanda Martinsen
Leadership Development Consultant
and Resource Coordinator

To seek something implies persistency and intentionality. Seeking is continual. Seeking is purposeful. Seeking requires action.

I have certainly had my fair share of times where I was seeking something, like my misplaced car keys or a child’s lost sock in the morning school rush; but purposefully seeking God feels different than seeking my lost car keys. In the hustle and bustle of busy life I had to ask myself recently if I was being as intentional about seeking God as I was with other things in my life.

I wonder how many of us take this approach in our personal time with the Lord. Do we approach this time with the attitude of needing to check a box or marking it off of our to-do list? Or do we come expectant, seeking Him out each time.

Many of us are probably familiar with the phrase “having a quiet time with God.” As believers, we know that spending time with God is essential because it rejuvenates us, renews us, and draws us closer to Him. For each of us, this time will look differently.

For some of us our time with the Lord may look like waking up early and sitting with a cup of coffee with our Bible open and our favorite journal and pen nearby.

It may look like time spent sitting around our messy kitchen tables where Cheerios are ever-present and

our Bibles may or may not be colored in by our favorite little ones.

For some of us it may look like listening to scripture on our audio Bible app while driving to work in the mornings or spending some quiet moments with Him late at night after everyone else is asleep and we finally have a moment to breathe and reset from the day.

There is no right or wrong way to meet with God and to seek Him out. The important thing is to be intentional in spending time with Him.

As you move forward and look to a new year ahead, ask yourself how you can be intentional in seeking God in a new way. You may find that you need to seek Him more in your own personal time with Him, or that your WMU team or group wants to seek Him in a new way in the coming year. Be prayerful about where the Lord might be leading you, your group, or your church this year and how He might want to use you.

As this year comes to an end and a new one soon begins, look back on the ways God has moved and worked in your life, and set aside some intentional time to seek out His leading for the upcoming year ahead.

Don’t worry so much about how you seek Him out, but focus on being intentional in the time in which you do seek Him. You may just discover something new about God that you never knew before, or you

may be challenged to serve Him in a new way.

In whatever ways you do seek Him out, know that He welcomes that time with you. He is delighted to spend it with you! He desires that special time with you and He wants you to relentlessly pursue Him.

Some of my favorite devotionals and resources to use during my time with the Lord are:

- ❖ *Jesus Calling* by Sarah Young
- ❖ *New Morning Mercies* by Paul David Tripp
- ❖ *The One Year Bible for Women*
- ❖ The audio Bible or Daily Bible Reading App
- ❖ Proverbs 31 Ministries First 5 App
- ❖ *Secrets of the Secret Place* by Bob Sorge

Welcome New Organizations

<p>New Hope Baptist Church Tuskegee Association Midland, NC <i>Mission Friends & Children in Action</i></p>	<p>Lighthouse Baptist Church Tuskegee Association Dillsboro, NC <i>Women on Mission</i></p>	<p>First Baptist Church Murphy Truett Baptist Association Murphy, NC <i>Youth on Mission Caring For Anyone</i></p>
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Good Day,

I do not know if it will be morning or evening when you read this—so, I will be safe and say “Good Day.” I would like to introduce myself for those who may not know me. I am Duronda Hood and at this time, I am working as a Ministry Assistant with Truett Baptist Association in Murphy. As a long-time Women’s Missionary Union member, I have been asked to represent WMU NC with Minister Wives. After attending the North Carolina Baptist Ministers’ Wives Retreat in July, I can attest to what a great group the minister wives in North Carolina are.

My Dad was a bi-vocational pastor for 55 years so I grew up with missions and ministry. God has a sense of humor because I have been married to Al Hood

for almost 50 years. Al has been a pastor (not before I married him) and now is an Associational Mission Strategist. Minister wives are my friends.

“Ask, Seek and Knock” is our theme for this *Tarheel Talk*. Are you asking God what He wants you to do during this season of your life? Are you seeking God’s will for your life? Are you knocking on heaven’s door with prayers of praise, adoration, thanksgiving and intercession for others? We have missionaries and mission groups all over the world doing so many different ministries that need our prayers.

In Christ’s Love,
Duronda Hood

What’s Your Rhythm?

The North Carolina Baptist Ministers’ Wives met for their 59th annual retreat on July 12-14, 2021 at Caraway Conference Center in Asheboro, NC. This year’s theme was “*What’s Your Rhythm?*”

with guest speaker Linda Branch Pitman and worship leader Wendy Ellis. Fifty-five ministers’ wives were in attendance. Each year the retreat is a wonderful time of Bible Study, Worship, Fellowship, and Rest.



The North Carolina Baptist Ministers’ Wives in attendance were gifted with prayer shawls that were hand made and prayed over by ladies in Mitchell and Union Counties and the South Yadkin Baptist Association

Relentless in God's Mission

Our leadership had been thinking about the possibility that again our annual WMU retreat could be cancelled, as the pandemic continued to ravage our world and many of our churches and groups had lost family, friends, and acquaintances.

Thanks to the mercy of God that allowed us to carry out this retreat, we decided to be relentless and continue with our plans to have the retreat. We gathered at Mundo Vista with 168 people from different churches in NC.

We were challenged by Dr. Raquel Contreras to continue to be relentless in sharing the gospel of Jesús with our neighbors and family, putting Hebrews 10:39 into practice.



We were very privileged to have Raquel Contreras as the guest speaker from Texas. Raquel Contreras lives in El Paso, TX and is the director of the Spanish Publishing House in El Paso. She has been there 10 years. Before that she was President of the Women's Department of the Baptist World Alliance. She and her husband (deceased) were students at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas, and then he was pastor of one of the Hispanic missions of FBC Dallas. They have two children.

"But we are not of those who retreat to perdition, but of those who have faith for the preservation of the soul."

—Hebrews 10:39

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



WMU
NC
 La Unión Femenil
 Misionera

Knock Until It Opens!



Sometimes life mirrors the Exodus story where God reveals His loving kindness and exposes the danger of weariness. He knows when we're physically tired, emotionally drained, and spiritually dry in worship. Imagine you're the last person to cross the Red Sea. While Egyptian chariots approach, you cry out, "God help me make it through!"

Yet despite life's uncertainty we are not consumed. So, like Jeremiah, we must remember to give God thanks because His great love and compassions renew every morning. We trust Matthew 7:7-8 which affirms that God welcomes our asking, seeking, and knocking for answers.

Recently we partnered with Reverend Dr. Jae Richardson of *The Fresh Anointing Show* for a virtual prayer symposium. Dressed in God's full armor, we linked our faith shields across America for intentional intercession. For six hours, we cried out to God for deliverance in our churches, our nation, and our world.

Upcoming events:

Tuesdays through December 2021: "Secrets, Shame & Silence" Sisters Who Care, NC join *The Fresh Anointing Show* with Reverend Dr. Jae Richardson, 7 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Date/TBD: Christmas Pajama Collection

— Lisa M. Duncan
SWC-Union County NC
Volunteer Regional Director of Union County
980-239-2448 or SWCUnionCountyNC@gmail.com

Relentless for Truth



I hear almost daily, "No one knows what to believe" regarding COVID-19, vaccinations, boosters, government, variants of COVID-19, jobs, global warming, the world, etc. Isn't it a blessing to know that God is truth and God cannot lie? He is no respecter of persons. God is love and peace. God

is our provider, protector and comforter. God is the Great Physician. God is faithful. God is our counselor. When we feel the need to find an answer, God has just that, the true answer. What if we seek God relentlessly for spiritual truth? Who could be a better counselor than Almighty God?

The search for truth in our present society is not as important as our relentless search for spiritual truth. Matthew 7:7-8 gives us the key components to truth: "Ask, Seek, Knock." If God gives you the truth, you can be set free from worries, fear, and doubt; you can bask in the surrounding love and care of our Heavenly Father.

BNF has been able to offer two scholarship donations this year. We are so glad to be able to support future nurses.

Love in Christ,
— Penny Jones, RN, MSN, FNP-C
President, NC Baptist Nursing Fellowship
336-884-2624
tkapsbug@northstate.net

SAVE THE DATES/ ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- BNF annual meeting is scheduled March 25-26, 2022 at Camp Mundo Vista. If you are a nurse or know any nurses, please consider attending.
- Looking for help with medical missions? Let our group know and we can be a resource for your medical/health outreach.
- BNF Membership: www.wmu/bnf.org (Join through National and choose NC BNF)

BNF Membership: <https://www.cfmvinc.org>
<https://www.wmunc.org/nc-baptist-nursing-fellowship>

Calendar Talk

WMU NC 2022
CALENDAR

January

- 3 New Year's Day observed (Office closed)
- 3-5 Here and Now 2022, Charity Rebuild Center

February

- 13-20 WMU NC Heck-Jones Offering & Week of Prayer
- 20 Focus on WMU
- 21 Presidents' Day (Office closed)
- 17 Leadership Luncheon – ZOOM meeting

March

- 5 Children's Missions Day, Pinetops Baptist Church, Tarboro
- 6-13 North American Missions Emphasis & Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
- 17-18 CBFNC General Assembly, Trinity Baptist Church, Raleigh*
- 17 Leadership Luncheon – ZOOM meeting
- 25-26 NC Baptist Nursing Fellowship, Camp Mundo Vista
- 25-26 NC Baptist Men's Missions Conference, Calvary Baptist Church, Winston Salem*

April

- 2 Military Wives Meetup, TBD
- 14 Leadership Luncheon – ZOOM meeting
- 18 Easter Holiday observed (Office closed)
- 22-23 Missions Extravaganza and Annual Meeting, Snyder Memorial Baptist Church, Fayetteville

May

- 12 Leadership Luncheon – ZOOM meeting
- 30 Memorial Day Holiday (Office closed)

June

- 16 Leadership Luncheon – ZOOM meeting
- 12-13 WMU Annual Meeting and Missions Celebration, Anaheim, CA*
- 14-15 Southern Baptist Convention, Anaheim, CA*

**Not a WMU NC sponsored event*



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Tarheel Talk

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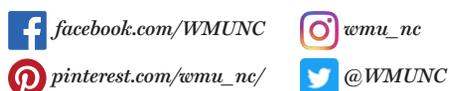
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WE REACH THE NATIONS

100% of your gifts to IMB through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® directly support IMB missionaries and their ministries overseas.

2021 GOAL

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million

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