

Meet

Carolyn
FOUNTAIN

THE 25TH PRESIDENT OF WMU, SBC

WMU® God's mission.
Our passion.



Carolyn and Leroy Fountain celebrate 48 years of marriage in 2026.

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Share a little about your family and where you grew up.

I was born Carolyn Jean Jones to the late James W. and Odell Jones, in Tallulah, Louisiana. I am the second oldest of ten children.

I grew up Baptist. My maternal grandfather was a pastor. My dad was a deacon at the same church his entire adult life. My mom sang in the choir and was the church secretary. Sunday School and church attendance were not optional in our house. I also attended Baptist Training Union, Vacation Bible School (VBS), and any other church programs that were offered. And I was involved in missions. I can remember being a Sunbeam (now Mission Friends), thanks to my grandmother, who made certain I attended the meetings.

I attended grades 1–12 in Tallulah and earned a bachelor of arts in English and journalism at Grambling State University thanks to scholarships, grants, and work study. After graduation, I attended a writing and publishing program on the campus of Harvard University.

I then moved to Los Angeles, where I began working for the *Los Angeles Sentinel*. After about a year, I discovered newspaper work was not for me and moved to a garment manufacturer supply company in accounts receivable. I worked there for about four years before Leroy returned from the US Air Force. We had initially met in college, reconnected, and married about six months after his return.

Tell us a little about your work and ministry over the years.

Leroy and I were appointed as church planters by the Home Mission Board (now North American Mission Board, NAMB) in 1983 until 1996 and in 2006 until 2013. Over the years, I've organized and facilitated WMU missions discipleship groups, taught Sunday School, codirected youth ministry, led Acteens, sung in the choir, and served on committees and as a trustee, and I was a pastor's wife for 11 years. I've worked with Northeast Louisiana Baptist Association to organize association-wide missions events. I am past president of Louisiana WMU/ Women's Missions and Ministry (2020–23) and

served on the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Committee on Order of Business. I also served as campus minister at Alabama State University and led students on missions trips to Detroit, Nashville, and Atlanta.

My work was and is my ministry. I was an educator for 15 years. I began as an English as a Second Language (ESL) fourth grade teacher in Dallas, Texas. I got my teacher certification in linguistics because I wanted to make a difference in the lives and education of Spanish-speaking students.

When Leroy and I left Dallas and returned to active missionary status with NAMB, I continued in the classroom in Conyers, Georgia. I led general education for fourth grade, but second language learners coming from the international school were also placed in my class. I still used my ESL certification and had opportunities to minister to families.

Presently, I work with the Women's Learning Center (CWJC), a ministry of Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Services in Monroe, Louisiana. Tutoring women in reading and writing as they strive to achieve their HiSet (GED) diplomas is one of the most fulfilling ministries of my career. I have the opportunity to pour into women who have had setbacks of the worst kind and are striving to find their way closer to God and out of low-income jobs. I teach them life skills and, above all else, about walking with God and serving Him as they serve others. I have been blessed to assure these women of God's love for them and to demonstrate His love through my love for them as I pray, cry, and rejoice with them.

What are some ways you have seen God at work in your life?

God has shown Himself faithful in my life over the years. As my husband and I stepped out in faith to serve, He led us to reach people and plant churches. Now He leads us as we serve as consultants and mentors for church planters and their families. He has taken this shy country girl who loves family and roots and helped me grow into a servant who is willing to go where He leads. After eight big moves, He has assured me

that "the will of God will not take me where His grace will not keep me."

I have learned to trust Him to give me the strength, ability, and power to do whatever He calls me to do. He has nurtured me through 48 years of marriage to a wonderful man of God who was my college sweetheart and in parenting three beautiful daughters. I could not do this on my own. He continues to bless the ministry He gave Leroy and me when we were newlyweds. He is faithful and I pray daily that I remain faithful and obedient to His will and His way.

What are your special interests or hobbies?

My passion is to work with and lead women in spiritual growth and development, such as evangelism, discipleship, worship, missions and ministry, and fellowship. I enjoy reading and journaling and always welcome the opportunity to teach. I wrote curriculum during my years as an educator, including early training and writing for national WMU and VBS curriculum for Lifeway Christian Resources. I've also written several devotions, which is my present pastime.

I have done more public speaking and presenting at conferences in recent years for Louisiana Women's Missions and Ministry at state meetings and retreats as well as in Mississippi, California, and Alaska and at the Black Church Leadership and Family Conference at Ridgecrest.

I am blessed with five grandchildren, and grandparenting is one of my greatest joys.

Carolyn with Sandy Wisdom-Martin, executive director-treasurer of WMU, SBC



Carolyn gives a report at an SBC Executive Committee meeting.



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OF CAROLYN FOUNTAIN.



In addition to your work at the Women’s Learning Center, in what other ways are you currently serving?

Leroy and I are members of the Well of Monroe, a church plant of First Baptist Church of West Monroe, where I’m encouraging missions discipleship and awareness. As we start new churches and revitalize churches in Northeast Louisiana, I join my husband to help pastors of church plants and revitalizations incorporate missions into their strategy for church health. I recently helped Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans to reorganize WMU. I serve on the state Women’s Missions and Ministry Leadership Team and on the Louisiana Baptist Convention State Missions Offering Committee. I also serve on the SBC Executive Committee (EC), where I was a board member for two years and EC representative on the SBC Credentials Committee for three years.

What motivates you to be involved in WMU?

His call to missions motivates me. I love the Lord and I know He loves me! Since I have chosen to be a Christ follower, I feel I have no other choice for my life except to do His will. I was introduced to WMU in 1979, when I went to work at the Home Mission Board, by Mrs. Gene Dorsey, who was a member of Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta. While my grandmother had led me to do missions work since my childhood, I saw WMU as the best way to organize missions work in the church. I was fascinated to learn I could organize missions discipleship in age levels to pray, go, give, and support missions. Since that time in 1979, I am persuaded that WMU provides the best foundation and ongoing plan for carrying out Matthew 28:19–20 and Acts 1:8—taking the good news of Jesus Christ and His salvation power to all peoples.