





A Mission Friend is determined to send his Christmas in August package.



Joy Lee, Korean WMU coordinator, always stands ready to help.



Gail Gierhart shares watchword in Japanese at WMU's annual meeting.



Bridget Bell visits with Joyce Peters at a reception for WMU retirees.



North Carolina brings a bus to WMU, SBC; participants tour, pray, and do ministry projects.



Connie Dixon records a podcast with Jennifer Rash of The Baptist Paper.



Candace McIntosh having fun at a ministry site during Embark: WMU's Rolling Missions Adventure



A site visit to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in preparation for the '23 Southern Baptist Convention activities



Connie Dixon and Christine Gill invite guests to New Orleans in '23.



Sandy spends a night in the museum with Lottie and Annie.



Pastor Clint Sullens having fun with his wife, Lauren, at a ministry site during Embark: WMU's Rolling Missions Adventure



Marilyn Graves and Judith Carpenter enjoy fellowship at the national Baptist Nursing Fellowship Summit.



Teens at the Youth on Mission event during the Southern Baptist Convention in Anaheim harvesting squash and zucchini for an area food bank



Lena Kappen filming a Compassion Ministry video



A proud graduate from Begin Anew, a Christian Women's Job Corps site



Volunteers work hard to spruce up the grounds at national WMU.



Sisters Who Care leadership team from the Black Church Leadership and Family Conference at Ridgecrest



Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer observance at national WMU



Heather Keller with leaders of today and tomorrow



Baptist Friendship House delivers its WorldCrafts products to national WMU.



WMU Panel on the Cooperative Program stage at the SBC



Mother and daughter team of Cindy Goodwin and Anne Wilson promoting Missions Mosaic

Nonprofit annual reports typically begin with a letter from their executive director. You would expect the organization's ambassador to paint upbeat and uplifting pictures that communicate organizational health and celebrate significant successes. Yet most of us know 2022 was an incredibly hard year—for a myriad of reasons layered on top of previous extremely difficult trips around the sun that have left us all a bit bewildered and dazed.

Our 2022 sales were 37 percent below pre-COVID numbers even as inflation and skyrocketing costs seem to hold us hostage. Stock market losses hampered our ability to maintain current levels of engagement (in some cases), let alone significantly expand our ministry footprint. Most employers are struggling to balance the needs of their organization or business with the current remote work culture as well as staggering skilled labor shortages. The list of challenges could go on and on.

But God ...

God rescues, relieves, recovers, restores, redeems, reclaims, and rebuilds. In spite of—or maybe even because of—our current ministry climate, I can tell you I am truly excited about what was accomplished for His kingdom in 2022 through the ministry of WMU®. We remain focused on making disciples of Jesus who live on mission. In the pages that follow, I invite you to reflect on 22 remarkable moments of '22.

Thank you for your partnership in the gospel. Thank you for your commitment to persevere. Your strong resolve in the face of overwhelming obstacles encourages me. Your generosity inspires me. Keep living authentic faith in Christ evidenced by your words and actions. Remain secure in God's love and continue to serve with great purpose. Keep your heart set on the kingdom.

—Sandy Wisdom-Martin Executive Director-Treasurer WMU, SBC



We are laborers together with God.

22 Memorable Moments-in '22



ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING HITS HISTORIC MILESTONE

We join with the North American Mission Board in celebrating that Southern Baptists gave a record \$68.9 million to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® in 2022, breaking the giving record for a second year in a row. Since WMU began the offering, more than \$2 billion has been given to this North American missions endeavor.

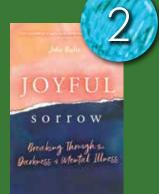
Sandy Wisdom-Martin, executive director-treasurer of national WMU, said, "The wonder of God's plan is that it continues to unfold throughout eternity and He invites us to join Him. As Christian believers, our mission is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our responsibility lies in choosing how we will become involved in His mission. For 134 years, WMU has been passionate about praying for and supporting our North American missionaries. We celebrate this historic milestone knowing it will mean lives are transformed by the gospel to the glory of God."

JOYFUL SORROW

We want to encourage people to find help and hope and demonstrate that even in the sorrow of mental illness, joy can coexist. In the 2022 release of Joyful Sorrow, Oklahoma WMU President Julie Busler invites readers into her journey where a mental breakdown took her from being a missionary to a suicidal patient in a psychiatric hospital.

One reader wrote, "I cried throughout the entire book. It was so relatable to my struggles. Julie has a way with words, and the way she explained things really resonated with me. Just knowing other Christians struggle with mental health helps me so much and gives me faith that even with this 'thorn in my mind,' I can still be used to bring God glory. I can still feel joy even in the midst of my sorrows."





HOLDING HANDS WITH WOMEN OF THE WORLD

Psalm 2:8 (NIV) says, "Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession." This verse resonated in Joy Bolton's heart while attending the Baptist Women's Union of Africa 14th Quinquennial Conference.

Joy (center) serves as international WMU strategist. Baptist sisters from 23 nations gathered to praise the Lord, share information, and encourage one another to be faithful in service to God. Joy watched as IMB missionaries encouraged African Baptist sisters to take prayer cards to pray for unreached African people groups on the continent and beyond. Joy taught a conference entitled "Sending Missionaries?



Ideas for Encouraging and Supporting Their Ministries." The Lord placed the world on Joy's heart as a member of Girls in Action®. He has indeed made the nations her inheritance.







LEADERS FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

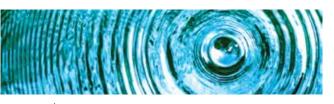
Four young women were named as 2022 National Acteens® Panelists: Grace Carter of University Hills Baptist Church in Charlotte, North Carolina; Taylor Glover of Harps Crossing Baptist Church in Fayetteville,

Georgia; and Aileen Gregorio Mejia and Nievez Montanez of Freeman Heights Baptist Church in Garland, Texas.





"We are excited to have these young women represent Acteens this year," said Heather Keller, WMU ministry consultant for children and students. "Acteens is an amazing opportunity of growth, a time to build confidence, and a place for teen girls to realize their role in the Great Commission," Heather added. "The young women on this year's panel are amazing examples of what Acteens is all about: making disciples of Jesus who live on mission."



LOVING MISSIONARY KIDS

More than 50 missionary kids (MKs) traveled from various areas around the world to gather for the MK Re-Entry Retreat hosted by Alabama WMU. The retreat is for children of international missionaries who are entering college in the United States for the first time, and it provides a setting for MKs to process the transition to college and life in the US.

"Missionary children face their own set of challenges as they enter a culture many have not grown up in," says Candace McIntosh, executive director of Alabama WMU. "The MK Re-Entry Retreat gives these students a place to 'adult in' for one week to prepare them for the days, weeks, and years ahead." A grant from the WMU Vision Fund is given annually to states to assist with costs of the event. Mississippi WMU will host the event in 2023. Tammy Anderson, executive director of Mississippi WMU, said, "Mississippi WMU is so excited to be loving on and encouraging MKs at the next MK Re-Entry Retreat."



DELLANNA WEST O'BRIEN AWARD





Libo Krieg (left)
was awarded the
Dellanna West
O'Brien Award for
Women's Leadership
Development. This
prestigious
leadership award
recognizes Baptist
women who

demonstrate the ability to foster leadership in women, display the potential to be leaders in their community and world, and excel in missions discipleship. The award is also accompanied by a grant to allow the recipient to continue her ministry to others.

"A trainer and leader for over 30 years, sister Libo Krieg has demonstrated servant leadership, personal integrity, courage, and selflessness," said Tamiko Jones (right), executive director-treasurer of WMU of Texas. From being a Mission Friends teacher to serving as an associational Hispanic WMU director, Libo "has a heart to develop leaders, especially in Hispanic churches and communities around the United States and around the world," Tamiko said. "She is a bridge-builder and an encourager of bridge-building. She recognizes and knows the potential in women."

Note: Taken from https://www.baptistpress.com/resource-library/news/wmus-annual-meeting-looks-different-this-year-with-rolling-missions-adventure/

WMU'S ROLLING MISSIONS ADVENTURE











Instead of gathering at a venue near the convention center prior to the SBC Annual Meeting, participants loaded up on buses for an experience called Embark: WMU's Rolling Missions Adventure and traveled around the greater Los Angeles area to get to know the churches and ministries there a little better. The event launched at Gateway Seminary, where attendees toured the facilities, met faculty and staff, heard their stories, and prayed for them. During the meeting, Connie Dixon of First Baptist Church, Elida, New Mexico, was reelected to serve another year as national WMU president, and Shirley McDonald of Greens Creek Baptist Church in Dublin, Texas, was

reelected as national WMU recording secretary. At the conclusion, participants were transported to different ministry sites. Day two began at a local pier praying for missionaries and missions leaders. Visiting other mission points continued throughout the day. Angela Jones, president for Alaska WMU, said, "What a phenomenal experience. WMU opens up windows of opportunities through their events. I learned about and experienced other cultures.

I received direction, guidance, inspiration, and hope by participating in the adventure."

Note: Adapted from https://www.baptistpress.com/resource-library/news/wmus-annual-meeting-looks-different-this-year-with-rolling-missions-adventure/

RECORD LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING

We rejoice at God's work through the generosity of Southern Baptists, who gave \$203.7 million to the 2021–22 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®—the largest offering in the 177-year history of the International Mission Board. Since WMU began the offering, more than \$5.2 billion has been given to this global missions endeavor.

"Each and every day, we enjoy God's abundant grace toward us," said Sandy Wisdom-Martin, executive director-treasurer of national WMU. "The historic record receipts of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering [mean] more will have the opportunity to hear and respond to this message of grace. How grateful I am to Southern Baptists for their incredible generosity. The Great Commission is indeed imprinted on our hearts. Now we pray diligently for a rich harvest for the sake of the gospel."





Project HELPSM is an initiative of WMU that identifies a critical issue, seeks to raise the level of awareness of that issue, and provides practical approaches anyone can implement to open the door for meeting needs and sharing the gospel. As Christians, we are called to encourage those around us with the love of Christ, walk alongside them through difficult seasons, and help them know the Lord is near.

In 2022, WMU launched Project HELP: Mental Health. Kristy Carr, senior hub manager for WMU, SBC, did not see her father for 11 years because of his paranoia. He thought he was protecting his children and grandchildren. Kristy said, "My father obviously suffered from a mental illness, but it was undiagnosed. He lived his life as though it was, to him, normal. As we launch into mental health as our critical issue, for me, it is not someone else's critical issue. It is part of mine too. [With] many critical issues, we can almost have an 'us' and 'them' mentality. Mental Health is an issue we have all dealt with to some extent during the pandemic and beyond."



Nurses from across the United States came to the national WMU building in Birmingham, Alabama, for their annual Baptist Nursing FellowshipSM (BNF®) Summit. Participants were challenged to stand FIRM by being faithful, intentional, relentless, and missional. Continuing education is an important aspect of the gathering as well as inspiration and Bible study. Marilyn Graves is the BNF executive director. She said, "One of the many benefits of attending the BNF Summit is renewal of fellowship with Christian nurses." The event always concludes with a meaningful blessing of the hands. A highlight of the BNF Summit was a free medical clinic held at Iglesia Agape in Irondale, Alabama. Barbara Goodman said of BNF members, "I am so thankful for their influence in my life and their willingness to use their skills as a springboard to tell others about Jesus."



WATER FOR JACKSON, MS

Pure Water, Pure LoveSM supplies missionaries with water filters as well as provides clean water for people who are served by missionaries and Baptist partners. WMU responded in the midst of the water crisis in Jackson, Mississippi. While drinking water has been compromised in the area for years, the recent crisis was precipitated by floods and failing water systems. The WMU endowment committee approved emergency grants to provide three tractor trailer loads of bottled water. Cindy Townsend (above), minister of WMU and women's enrichment ministries at First Baptist Church, Jackson, and Linda Scafidel, church WMU president, said they "continue to be amazed as the WMU family comes together to glorify the Lord in times of celebration and crisis. We are so glad to be a member of a family of Christ followers who are always ready to meet needs of all of God's children, in Jerusalem, Judea, and the uttermost parts of the world."



ONE MILLION WORDS

In 2022, WMU published more than 1 million words through channels such as publications, products, resources, blog posts, and more. What is the impact of 1 million words? Lauren Sullens, Georgia WMU president, said, "All the words WMU provides as resources have consequences. Words ignite ideas. When we read letters shared by readers of *Missions Mosaic*, we are motivated to either try the same thing, or it gets us thinking of new projects we can try in our own churches. It strikes a light bulb in our hearts and minds: 'We can do that!'"

Our mandate—to make disciples of Jesus who live on mission—is the foundation of every word published. Missions advocate Margaret Harding said, "I've been in WMU since I was a Sunbeam (photo above). Years ago, when I was a [member of Girls in Action®], I memorized Bible verses. To this day, I can recite many passages of Scripture and know where to find them in my Bible. Today, reading stories about our missionaries compels me to pray more boldly for them. I use what I read to get ideas for mission action projects for my own church. I grow in my discipleship spiritually through the Bible studies provided."

SEEN AROUND THE SBC

WMU had a presence at multiple venues of the 2022 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in Anaheim, California. WMU's report shared on the floor of the convention focused on gospel conversations. National WMU President Connie Dixon (right) said, "Our prayer is that every touchpoint of WMU—every ministry—will lead to conversations that transform lives. We teach the missional disciplines of prayer, giving sacrificially, learning about God's work in the world, doing missions—but we want everything to lead to opportunities to tell others about Jesus." Sandy Wisdom-Martin (left), executive director-



treasurer, concluded the report by sharing how SBC cooperation led to her brother coming to faith in Christ. WMU also coordinated the Youth on Mission experience, the missions component of the SBC day camp, and a missions discipleship panel discussion featured on the Cooperative Program stage in the SBC exhibit hall.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND SECOND CENTURY GRANTS



The endowment committee of WMU, SBC awarded \$90,896 in scholarships and \$124,930 to state WMUs for women's leadership development in WMU. Liz Encinia, Kentucky WMU executive director-

treasurer, said, "We are grateful for Second Century Fund grants, which help invest in our leadership and develop the next generation of WMUers to continue the work. We are dreaming big." Montana WMU executive director, Tami Park, said, "We are grateful for these funds as this is our primary source of funding for training and hosting our event to educate Montana about missions discipleship and WMU compassion ministries." As a result of an event in Montana, a statewide Acteens group has started. New York WMU executive director, Cathy Meyer, was able to use a portion of the grant to provide scholarships for her leadership team with online learning through WMU's Christian Women's Leadership Center.







CHILDREN LEAD THE WAY

Children love to share God's love. And children love to learn by doing. Through missions discipleship, children learn to share His love in multiple ways, from collecting school supplies for back-to-school backpacks to distributing water at sports events, from taking a meal to a homebound community member to sharing a smile or a prayer with someone who needs it. Members of Girls in Action® (GA®) at Honea Path First Baptist Church in Honea Path, SC visited a retirement home and delivered cards to residents. Members of Royal Ambassadors® (RA®) along with GAs at Eastwood Baptist Church in Monroeville, AL collected donations for patients' goody bags for Pilots for Christ for Children's Missions Day™. Children toured the plane and Ruby (center left) was granted pilot status. RAs and GAs of Dogwood Grove Baptist Church in Montevallo, AL held a Bike-A-Thon and raised more than \$1,300 to send to their Christmas in August missionary. Thousands of children participate in special projects such as Children's Missions Day and Christmas in August as well as ongoing missions discipleship.

CAMP LIFE



Ann Lawrence started serving as a camp staffer at age 19, and it's been in her blood since that very first summer. She said, "I loved it and loved what was happening, and it was the first time I was around missionaries a lot. It was life changing for me." For the past 12 years, Ann has helped with camps in Farmington, Maine. The entire staff serves as volunteers. Ann said, "People serve here because God has called them to do it." They

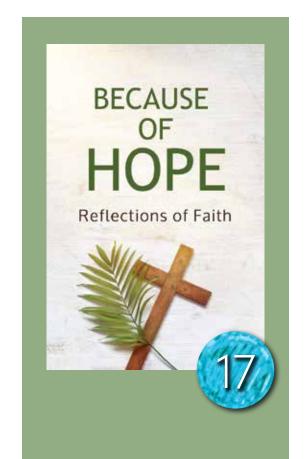
persevere despite challenges. Ann concluded, "We want to keep the camp going well and for campers to be able to come here and hear God's voice." WMU, SBC provides a grant from the Vision Fund to help underwrite the cost of creating camp curriculum. Camp has transformed thousands of lives, and we want the legacy to continue.

Note: portions taken from article written by Grace Thornton and published July 21, 2022 at thebaptistpaper.org

BECAUSE OF HOPE

In 2022, WMU published a collection of faith reflections from 50 different Southern Baptist missions advocates. The book supports the emphasis launched in the same year, Hope in Christ. Readers will journey with authors as they are mentored by others, walk in obedience, face unimaginable loss, persevere through hardship, overcome trials, witness incredible love and compassion, gain insight from God's Word, and find direction through prayer. Their reflections will leave you filled with hope in Christ.

Ben Mandrell, CEO of Lifeway Christian Resources, wrote about a significant transition in his life. Ben explained, "Here's the reward of having a willing heart to step out of your comfort zone and into a new season: As you walk into a new season, you experience the power of the Holy Spirit." Ben continued, "The reason many of us don't experience this power is because we don't leave what's easy. We've gotten too comfortable in our current season."



MISSIONS IN A BOX: NIGERIA

In 2022, WMU released the latest installment in the Missions in a Box series. The focus is on a country in West Africa. Send children on a journey through Nigeria, its culture, and the work missionaries are doing among the people of Nigeria. This box includes a leader/parent guide, informational activity cards, an interactive activity booklet, a fun gameboard with corresponding learn and pray cards, and a beautiful map of Nigeria.

Trish Jackson of Alabama WMU said, "Missions in a Box: Nigeria is a one-stop shop for a great children's missions experience. This resource helped our camp with creative cultural experiences and led us to pray for the work in Nigeria. The best part is the info-packed





WORLDCRAFTS

The Bloom Bracelet from The WellHouse is one of the 14 new WorldCraftsSM products WMU was able to bring to market in 2022. WorldCrafts develops sustainable, fair-trade businesses among impoverished people around the world. Its vision is to offer an income with dignity and the hope of everlasting life to every person on earth. The WellHouse works with victims of human trafficking. DL is a survivor of both labor and sex trafficking. She was very insecure and unprepared to reenter public spaces. She began working in a quiet space on bracelets. Thanks to WorldCrafts, she was able to make many pieces of jewelry and even found she had a flair for design and marketing. She eventually applied for a management position in the jewelry-making program and excelled at the cataloging, inventorying, and scheduling of the program. After a year, she was able to take a new job outside of the program and has done very well at it. She continues to thrive.

OUR GREATEST ASSETS





WMU has the finest collection of missions advocates and experts as employees. They are WMU's greatest assets. WMU staff members are passionate about what they do, and it is reflected in how they serve day in, day out. WMU has faced extreme challenges with serious gaps in critical roles. Yet in the midst of a nationwide shortage of skilled labor, God abundantly blessed WMU with five new hires in 2022 who understand why we do what we do. Sarah Murray (left) is the new design editor for children's resources. She said, "I wanted to work for WMU because I have become guite familiar with the children's curriculum over the past six years, having taught Children in Action at our church. I am so thankful for the emphasis on missions discipleship that WMU provides children through Missions Journey: Kids. God has called all believers, regardless of your age, to be on mission for Him. Missions Journey: Kids helps children practice doing missions right where they are (and it's not hard . . . it's fun!), helps them learn about being faithful to pray and to give, and plants those seeds for a lifetime of living on mission. We have to be taught how to live for Christ, and WMU's children's curriculum is a wonderful tool that helps do just that."



CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CENTER

2022 offered a unique opportunity to reenvision the Christian Women's Leadership Center (CWLC). A strategic plan was outlined for the fourth quarter of 2022 into 2023. The first action step was to move nine leadership certificate classes from quarterly to on demand all the time. Cheryl Stahlman (above) said, "The leadership certificate courses came at a time when I didn't know if I had the time for it. I took them one at a time, knowing that with homeschooling four kids, I might not have a lot of time to fit it in. As the months went by, I was learning so many tools to help me be a better leader, a more godly leader. And it was at the end of these months when God knew I would need them the most, as I unexpectedly entered the position of Missouri WMU executive director. Thank you for offering these courses!"

LAUNCH OF NEW CHRISTIAN JOB CORPS SITE

WMU launched a new website at christianjobcorps. com. Lena Kappen, national coordinator, hosted six national certification trainings for Christian Women's Job Corps® and Christian Men's Job Corps® leaders (CWJC®/CMJCSM). WMU piloted Mental Health First Aid training with CWJC/CMJC leaders first. Five webinars were sponsored throughout the year as continuing education for site leaders. Here are some comments regarding national certification training events:

"This training was great, and I now have a better understanding of how CWJC/CMJC connects nationally and with other sites. Before, I didn't realize there were so many sites doing similar yet different things."

"The discussion about strengths-based leadership will impact the way we develop and train our board."

"This training (Level 1) has been a great refresher for me and will help our site as we are in a time of transition."



2022 STATISTICAL REPORT

REVENUES*

October 2021-September 2022

PERIODICAL SUBSCRIPTIONS \$2,312,408

PRODUCTS AND LITERATURE \$474,114

INVESTMENTS (\$1,854,238)

CONTRIBUTIONS \$2,029,813

OTHER \$237,428

TOTAL \$3,199,525

EXPENSES

October 2021-September 2022

PAYROLL AND BENEFITS \$2,072,243

COST OF PRODUCTION \$910,854

FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS \$677,094

TRAVEL AND MEETINGS \$56,426

PROMOTION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS \$44.989

OFFICE EXPENSES \$277,735

GRANTS AND MISSIONS SUPPORT \$139,682

PROJECTS \$15,234

TOTAL \$4,194,257

NET (994,732)

Armstrong Easter Offering* or Lottie Moon Christmas Offering*. National

NATIONAL WMU OFFICERS



SANDY WISDOM-MARTIN

Executive Director-Treasurer Birmingham, Alabama



CONNIE DIXON President Elida, New Mexico



SHIRLEY **MCDONALD** Recording Secretary Stephenville, Texas

NATIONAL WMU EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

The region in parentheses is the state convention represented by the board member. (Board members as of December 31, 2022)

Shirley Smith Vashti Jones Dozier, Alabama

Angela Jones Fairbanks, Alaska

Shirley Arnold Tempe, Arizona

Laura Bramlett Hope, Arkansas

Margaret Collins Rancho Cucamonga, California

Ann Perry Cedaredge, Colorado

Katrina Sellers Floral City, Florida

Lauren Sullens Monroe, Georgia

Kristine Jocson Waipahu, Hawaii

Lindsay Wineinger Princeville, Illinois

Chris Conrades Richmond, Indiana

Deb Speas Van Meter, Iowa Wichita, Kansas (Kansas/Nebraska)

Linda Cooper Bowling Green, Kentucky

Carolyn Fountain Monroe, Louisiana

Dale Jones Mount Rainier, Maryland (Maryland/Delaware)

Odelle Cadwell Redford, Michigan

Tia Underbakke Maplewood, Minnesota (Minnesota/Wisconsin)

Terrie Harwood Batesville, Mississippi

Jan Turner Nixa, Missouri

Mandi McCraw Fort Smith, Montana

Teresa Howard Portales, New Mexico

Ineabelle Rodriguez Belleville, New Jersey (New York)

Deborah Taylor Lumberton, North Carolina

Mary Habila Puyallup, Washington (Northwest)

Susie Emery Woodsfield, Ohio

Julie Busler Shawnee, Oklahoma

Fanny Grote Camp Hill, Pennsylvania (Pennsylvania/South Jersey)

Cindy Burns Easley, South Carolina

Ramona Hicks Cookeville, Tennessee

Earl Ann Bumpus Belton, Texas

Sonia Gutierrez West Jordan, Utah (Utah/Idaho)

Lucianne Warren Red House, Virginia

Janora Skeens Huntington, West Virginia

The WMU Executive Board, which is comprised of women who serve as WMU presidents in their state or multistate territory, gathered twice in 2022 to conduct the business of the organization. These meetings took place January 7 and June 3 via video conference call.