

# FOR HIS GLORY

TennesseeWMU

136th Annual Meeting  
April 12, 2024  
Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, TN  
Executive Director's Report

**"...so that in all things God may be glorified  
through Jesus Christ."  
1 Peter 4:11c**

Dear Friends:

Tennessee WMU encourages and equips Tennessee Baptists to engage in missions discipleship and involvement, which enables them to fulfill the Great Commission. This report shares information about various state events, ministries, and initiatives that have taken place this past year.

I am inspired and grateful for the lives impacted by all you do through missions discipleship groups, churchwide missions, missions trips, ministry projects, events, etc., to make disciples of Jesus who live on mission. Together, let us continue to teach, learn, pray, give, do and tell – for His glory!

For we are laborers together with God,

Vickie Anderson  
Tennessee WMU Executive Director-Treasurer

## 2023 EVENTS

### Missions Get-Together

Get-Together was held on March 16-18 at Brentwood Baptist Church, with 664 people attending from over 132 churches (466 women and 169 personnel, volunteers, and exhibitors). The event featured four general sessions, six breakout session times with over 20 choices, and missions & ministry displays with over 35 exhibitors.

Special guests were Bible study leader Mary Wiley, worship leaders Jason & Lena Cox, national WMU executive director Sandy Wisdom-Martin, and international, North American, and state missionaries. Through the event ministry project, participants donated over 77,000 items, \$300 in cash, and \$1,725 in gift cards to Tennessee Christian Job Corps sites. Participants also gave \$18,814 to the event missions offering, with 90% going to the We Must Have a Place/Youth Village Project at Linden Valley and 10% to the Tennessee WMU Touch Tomorrow Today Endowment.



# Tennessee WMU Annual Meeting

The 135h Tennessee WMU Annual Meeting was held on March 17, 2023, during the Friday morning general session of Missions Get-Together. The meeting included highlights of the work of Tennessee WMU and the election of 2023-24 state officers and new Executive Board members.

- State Officers: President: Ramona Hicks, Recording Secretary: Linda Rader, Vice President, East: Sheila Hall, Vice President, Middle: Kim Griffin, Vice President, West: Sandy Loudon
- Executive Board members: Tracey Gholson, Becky Jackman, Jean Warren



## Connection

The 2023 Connection was held in Cookeville at TN Tech University BCM on September 15-17 and had 87 youth girls and leaders representing 11 churches in attendance. The girls and leaders experienced a refugee simulation, Bible study led by Arbor Diggs, a multi-sensory virtual trip to South Asia, worship, breakout sessions, a missions fair, games, food, laughter, and friendship.



## RA Camp-O-Ree

RA Camp-o-Ree took place on October 14-16, 2023, at Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center with 355 boys, leaders, and personnel in attendance. Boys participated in a multitude of activities, challenges, and crafts while enjoying the great outdoors, meeting missionaries, and enjoying two action packed worship services.



# Tennessee WMU 135th Birthday Celebration

Tennessee WMU was organized on October 19, 1888, in Columbia. From the beginning, our purpose has been to make disciples of Jesus who live on mission through praying, giving, and serving. On November 4, 2023, over 175 people gathered for a birthday celebration at the Missions Mobilization Center in Mt. Juliet to remember the rich legacy left by those who came before us and to celebrate the possibilities and opportunities in the days ahead.



## MINISTRIES

### Christian Job Corps

Christian Job Corps (CJC) is a ministry of WMU that seeks to provide a Christian environment in which women and men are equipped and encouraged for new life in Jesus and where they gain job and life skills to enhance their lives and the lives of their families. There are 13 CJC sites in Tennessee. In their 2024 annual ministry reports, these sites reported 1,305 participants in their various programs, 115 graduates, four decisions for Christ, and 342 volunteers serving 16,995 volunteer hours.

Sites	Serving	Location	Site Coordinator
Begin Anew - Madison	Men & Women	Madison	Andrea Waters
Begin Anew - Nashville	Women	Nashville	Tonya LaDeau
Begin Anew - Franklin	Men & Women	Franklin	Rick Duvall
Begin Anew - Woodbine	Men & Women	Woodbine	Landon Stratton
Begin Anew - Online	Men & Women	Online	Shane Hitchcock
Champion Recovery Community	Women	Jasper	Alyson Riley
Down Home Missions	Men & Women	Beech Grove	Buck & Annie Barton
Gibson County CWJC	Women	Trenton	Christy Skelton
Greater KY Lake	Men & Women	Paris	Kenny & Sandy Loudon
Empowered to Hope	Women	Collierville	Julia Binford
Moving Forward with CWJC	Women	Chattanooga	Beth Ray
SWC Transformation Place	Women	Chattanooga	Cynthia Brown
WEBS	Women	Memphis	Pat Culp

## Missionary Care

Tennessee WMU missionary care ministries are supported through funds from the Missions for Life Fund and the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions.

- **MK Re-Entry Retreat** - Two missionary kids from Tennessee were provided travel assistance funds to attend the MK Re-Entry Retreat August 1-4 that was hosted by Mississippi WMU and the International Mission Board.
- **Missionary Parents Fellowship** - On September 8-9, 2023, 18 parents of IMB missionaries gathered with program personnel for fellowship, information, prayer, and encouragement at First Baptist Church Hendersonville. Tennessee WMU supports the Tennessee MPF by maintaining its database, distributing communication/promotion materials, and helping to coordinate and host the annual state retreat.
- **Former Missionary Fellowships** - Former missionaries in west, middle, and east TN gather several times throughout the year for fellowship, connection, and encouragement. Tennessee WMU provides funds for meals during these gatherings.
- **Christmas Gifts** - In December 2023, Tennessee WMU sent Christmas gifts to missionary kids and retired missionaries.
  - A \$150 gift was sent to 12 missionary kids whose parents serve with IMB and are from Tennessee.
  - A \$50 gift was sent to 69 retired IMB missionaries who were born in Tennessee.
- **Missionary Homes in Mt. Juliet**—The Tennessee Baptist Mission Board has two missionary homes in Mt. Juliet that provide much-needed rest for missionaries on stateside assignment: the Tennessee WMU Missionary House (Mary's House) and the Missions Mobilization Center (MMC) Missions House. Tennessee WMU takes care of reservations and hosts the missionary families for both houses. Donated gift cards are used to stock pantry staples and other household items.
- **Encourage Collegiate MKs** - Each year Tennessee WMU assigns a Missionary Kid attending college in Tennessee to every association so churches can encourage them. Eleven MKs were assigned to associations for the 2023-24 school year.

## Student IMB Go Impact Team

A team of nine students and adults, including Kim Cruse and three Tennessee WMU Youth Venture Team members served in the Philippines, July 12-25. Team members went out to parks every day and partnered with Filipino believers to share the Gospel with students and young adults. Over 30 people prayed to accept Christ. Every person on the team got to share the Gospel multiple times and experienced leading someone to the Lord. For the five students on the team, this was their first time doing that and now they are eager and excited to do it at home as well.



## Denver Prayer Advocacy Partnership

As part of Tennessee WMU's prayer advocacy partnership with Denver, Tennessee WMU sent a mission team of eight women to Denver, September 7-11, 2023. The team met with eight church planters and prayed for them, their ministry and family, and the community around each church.



## ADDITIONAL AREAS OF EMPHASIS

### The LINK

The Tennessee WMU e-newsletter, The LINK, is emailed to church and association WMU/missions leaders at the beginning of every month.

### Scholarships

Tennessee WMU awarded \$39,100 in scholarships to 42 students attending graduate school, seminary, and undergraduate schools in Tennessee for the 2023-24 school year. These scholarships are funded through endowments, invested funds, and the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions.

### Youth Venture Team

Three high school students were chosen to serve on the 2022-23 Tennessee Youth Venture Team – Lydia Nakamine and Emma Henley from Red Bank Baptist in Chattanooga, and Jacob Murray from Silver Springs Baptist in Mt. Juliet. The students participated in a team retreat and bi-monthly virtual meetings for discipleship, mentoring, and missional study.

Due to a lack of applicants, there is no 2023-24 Youth Venture Team.

### Sports JAM Missions Event Kit

Tennessee WMU produced the SPORTS JAM missions event kit for children in grades 1-6 with plans, ideas, tips, and instructions to help churches host a missions event for the children in their church or community. The event kit included a Bible lesson, missions lesson highlighting IMB missionaries in Spain, and suggestions for crafts, games, and mission projects.



## Birch Village Legacy Hall at Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center

Tennessee WMU helped raise over \$50,000 for Linden Valley's new Birch Cabin Village meeting space, Legacy Hall, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of TBMB's camps/conference center. Legacy Hall officially opened in August 2023 with seating for 80 people, a small kitchenette, bathrooms, and audiovisual meeting equipment. We will add a history wall to one of the inside walls in 2024 to highlight the journey to the Conference Centers that started in 1947 with Tennessee WMU's vision for Tennessee Baptists to have their own camping facilities. Camp Carson opened in 1949 with weeks of RA, GA, and YWA camps. Camp Linden began operations in 1950.



## Tennessee Missions Emphasis

The Week of Prayer for State Missions and the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions exist to call Tennessee Baptists to focus on making Christ known among the residents and visitors to Tennessee and responding to ministry needs and opportunities through prayer, personal involvement, and financial support. Tennessee Baptists have heard the message that any way you slice it, Tennessee is a mission field, and they continue to give generously through the Golden Offering.

The Golden Offering is a cooperative effort of Tennessee WMU and Tennessee Baptist Mission Board. The Week of Prayer for State Missions and promotion for the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions are coordinated by Tennessee WMU.

2022-23 Golden Offering (collected September 1, 2022- August 31, 2023)

- \$2,262,288 was given by 1,132 TBC churches, the highest amount ever given in the offering's history.
- GOTM contributions have grown on average 5.5% over each of the last 10 years.

2023-24 Golden Offering (collected September 1, 2023- August 31, 2024)

- Goal is \$2,700,000.
- 1,285 churches ordered promotion materials for the September Tennessee Missions Emphasis.
- GOTM promotional materials included 15 videos, digital graphics, and print files - Planning & Promotion Guide, Highlights & Talking Points, Any Way You Slice It, Tennessee is a Mission Field flyers, Activities for Preschoolers, Children, Students, & Adults, One Annual Church Missions Offering, and Worship Tools - reading, skit, monologue.



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