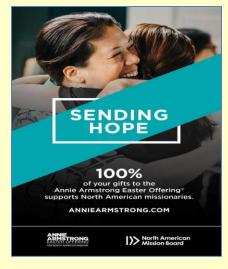
Tulip Grove Baptist Church, 563 Shute Lane, Old Hickory, TN 37138 www.tgbc.org 615.883.1856

Volume 15 Issue 1 Spring 2019

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"We must not love with words or speech, but with truth and action."

1 John 3:18 (HCSB)

#### What is the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering?

The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® for North American Missions has been an annual offering benefitting missionaries and their work of sharing the life-transforming gospel of Jesus Christ since 1895. Named in honor of Annie Armstrong, a passionate Southern Baptist advocate of missions who lived 1850-1938, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is the primary funding channel for the North American Mission Board, comprising 49 percent of our total annual support.

Every dollar goes to train, resource and equip missionaries working throughout the United States, Canada and their territories. The offering represents the trust that Southern Baptists place in our missionary force and our stewardship of these funds. Each year the offering totals approximately \$60 million with more than \$1 billion having been raised since the offering's inception.

**Pray...** At the center of every great evangelistic movement is prayer. North America needs the gospel. Your prayers make a difference. **Prayer guides for the Week of Prayer for North American Missions March 3-10 are being mailed with this newsletter.** 

**Give...** The hope of the gospel is the thread that weaves through every ministry. Caring for the forgotten opens doors to gospel conversations. Planting churches in areas where the lost live and work plants the gospel message inside those communities. Your gifts spread hope throughout North America. **Our church goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® for North American Missions is \$15,000.** 

**Turning Dollars into Difference...** All of the North American Mission Board's ministry is made possible by generous givers—churches and individuals just like you. Whether it is Southern Baptist churches supporting the Cooperative Program and giving sacrificially to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® or individual church members moved to sponsor a particular missionary, each plays a vital role in the salvation of the lost in the United States and Canada. Our missionaries are resourced and encouraged by people like you—people who believe in them and in the Great Commission. What difference can one dollar make? An eternal one.

Pray. Give. Go. Be a blessing. Be blessed.

#### **MISSIONS** PROJECTS

#### LOCAL/ONGOING:

Begin Anew (CWJC) Coordinator:
Renee Mathis

**Dodson Elementary Coordinators:** Nancy Andrews, Eric Boswell

Human Trafficking Ministry Team:
Jo Lena Corkern, Kevin Corkern,
Mary Fowler, La Rita Gillispie,
Charlene Hubbard, Stella Poole,
Karen Sepulveda, David Shirey,
Dan Wilson

**In His Grip Coordinator:**Joey Hickman

**Love on the Homeless Coordinators:**David & Connie Horton

Men of Valor Coordinator: La Rita Gillispie

Pregnancy Care Center
Coordinator:
Desha Hearn

#### **INTERNATIONAL:**

Cuba #2

Mar 16–23, 2019 Coordinator: Janet Darden

Cuba #3

May 5–11, 2019 Coordinators: Ryan Hayes and Trevor Morris

Cuba #4

Aug 16–23 Coordinators: David and Kendall Shirey



Our ESL classes love to eat. Here we are at our Thanksgiving dinner!

# **Dodson Elementary** Good News Club

By Nancy Andrews

Our Good News Club is running in fine fashion! We regularly have an average of 12 children each week and 12-15 volunteers who selflessly give their time and energy to these children. We are currently studying the story of David, and each week the children clearly hear the gospel. They have memory verses each week and complete their JAM (Jesus and Me) sheets which have daily devotionals and activities. We have had two children come to know the Lord and submit to Him as their Savior. We also had a family visit TGBC because of Good News Club. We are very thankful for this continuing opportunity to serve in the public school system. Please pray that God will continue to keep this door open for us to serve these children and their families.

We also provided teacher appreciation gifts at Christmas. If you or your class would like to support the teachers at Dodson, please contact Nancy Andrews or Eric Boswell for more information.

### **Pregnancy** Care Center

By Desha Hearn

Looking back at 2018, we reflect on the numerous ways the Lord has shown us His great love from day to day, month to month, and year to year. 2018 Year in Review:

- 845 individual visits
- 178 first-time visits
- 137 free pregnancy tests
- 28 free ultrasounds
- 645 pre-natal & parenting lessons
- 60 babies born
- 6,400 items of material assistance distributed
- Thousands of hours of compassion, hope, & help

**SAVE THE DATE:** Thursday, May 2, will be our annual banquet, and it will mark our ministry's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We are honored to have Roland Warren, President of Care Net, as our guest speaker. We hope to see you there! *(pregnancycarecentertn.com)* 

# **Unshakeable** Pursuit





By Renee Mathis

**Experience** personal growth by choosing from 30+ breakout conference topics from spiritual renewal, prayer, leader development, meet missionaries and learn how they answered God's call, and more. **Engage** in meaningful worship and surrender to the Holy Spirit through congregational singing, personal testimonies, prayer, and powerful messages. Be radically challenged in how to be involved in God's mission. **Discover** missions and ministry opportunities through our missions fair with 50+ vendors, and participate in the Silent Auction that benefits the Tennessee 'N Touch Endowment at the WMU Foundation. **Be Radically Challenged** to grow and be involved in the mission of God. **Enjoy** the fellowship of other Christian women and girls across Tennessee and surrounding states.

Contact Renee Mathis by March 13 to register for this Missions Get-Together & Connection conference in Gatlinburg before the early bird deadline and have your registration fee covered by TGBC WMU! (www.tnbaptist.org/gtcon2019)

# Let's Learn English Together

By Carmen McCreary

This school year (Aug-May) has been a great year for TGBC's English as a Second Language (ESL) ministry. We started strong and now have eight dedicated students from the Middle East to Guatemala! We recently switched to an adult English curriculum that includes testing and workbook work called Future by Pearson, and it has been a great success. As we learn and teach English, we are praying for meaningful conversations through memorization of scripture and ultimately, to share Christ through the learning of the English language.

Please pray for consistent attendance for our students to advance to their next level. As we prepare for this upcoming fall, please pray for this ministry to double in size, that God will provide more volunteer teachers from TGBC (that's you!), and for students as we outreach to our neighboring communities. If you are interested in what we are about and want to be a part of changing lives, contact Carmen at <a href="mailto:carmen@esltulipgrove.org">carmen@esltulipgrove.org</a> or fill out a form on our website, <a href="mailto:esltulipgrove.org">esltulipgrove.org</a>. You only need to know English and a heart to share your life with others, so you are a pro already!

## **South Asia Trip:** Dec. 31, 2018 – Jan. 15, 2019

By Matthew Mathis

For the first few weeks of January I lived my life in South Asia. I went with four other members of my church I attend while at college, The Church at Sugarcreek. While we were there, we worked with local American workers whose goal was to disciple and equip the local church to go out and evangelize in their communities.

We "surveyed" for the local workers there which included finding churches, schools, and mosques then describing the people and the area over which the local worker was responsible. We were helping the workers by being hands and feet for them to use. One thing we did was do a lot of prayer walking while we were doing this surveying. This includes praying for the people we see, the churches we find, or praying for mosques we find.

We also had the opportunity to help with a youth missions conference. While at the conference, I had the opportunity to lead worship. We sang songs in English and in their native language, so it was an experience I won't forget. It was special to be able to hear worship in multiple languages and made Philippians 2:10-11 come to life.

We also got to see some pictures and videos of some of the evangelizing they had done. One thing they did was to take a truck on Christmas day and drive around handing out calendars with Bible verses and sharing the gospel. This is in a country where people are disowned by their family or, even worse, killed for their faith. This was really convicting for me because we live in a society where the worst thing that can happen when we share our faith is the other person says, "No thanks. I'm fine.", yet we're still scared to go out and share.

Seeing the boldness of some of the local believers in South Asia has really encouraged me to live my life on missions no matter where I go.



By Estriberto Britton

Last year we had the privilege of participating in a TGBC Mission Trip to Santiago, Cuba, February 23-March 2, 2018. We experienced the activity of God in a special way. The team was involved in the following ministries: Evangelism, Training of Children's Ministers, Worship services in local churches, and home meetings, and a Leadership Conference for Pastors/Ministers.

The pastors told us that the presentations were very easy to understand, but profound and practical. The host pastor got a good grip on the Biblical Discipleship Process. He has a passion for discipleship, because the church has grown very rapidly in the past three years. They are baptizing an average of 35 per year, and they are also having seven or eight visitors every Sunday.

Shortly after we returned home from Santiago, we received an email from the host pastor. He said, "Yesterday we started working on how we are going to begin the discipleship. The church is very encouraged, and they have testified to the benefit of the visit. Thank you."

Later on, we received a phone call from the pastor, who wanted to share some good news. He said: "I would like you to know how useful your teaching has been as we confronted a delicate situation in our church... We followed the guidelines that you shared with us and it worked! Both of you came at the right moment, and it was just as if you were aware of our needs... I give thanks to God for all the teaching you gave us."

The first TGBC Mission Trip to Cuba this year (February 22–28) was cancelled because the Religious Visas were denied. Please be in fervent prayer for the Cuban believers as they face some new challenges. Thanks for your prayers!



**South Asia Team** 



Matthew and his new South Asian friend



Traffic in South Asia

#### **2018** Missions Offerings

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions Church Offering: \$20,101.25

Mother's Day Offering for TN Baptist Children's Homes Church Offering: \$10,443.67

Father's Day Offering for TN Baptist Adult Homes Church Offering: \$6,765.00

Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions Church Offering: \$11,851.00

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions Our Church Goal: \$56,214.94

2019 Missions Offerings
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
for North American Missions
Our Church Goal: \$15,000



Amy Austin with the TN Baptist Children's Home house family adopted by WoM Sisters



Janet Konig sharing about TGBC's Room in the Inn ministry



Kristen Thorbjornsen with HALO Missions



Women's Ministry Ladies' Prayer Tea-Luncheon Saturday, March 23 10:00 a.m. Christian Life Center Speaker/Entertainer: Kay Dekalb Smith Tickety: \$15 . Sign up in the Welcome Center beginning February 24. Contact Pam Reasonover if you would be interested in hosting a table.

# **Women On Mission** Sisters

By Renee Mathis

Our WoM Sisters evening group encourages living a missional lifestyle and building relationships through fellowship at each other's homes. Our normal meeting time is the first Tuesday of each month 6:30-8pm.

Our December project to provide a Christmas party for one of the house families at the TN Baptist Children's Home in Brentwood was a huge blessing to everyone involved. In January, Janet Konig shared about TGBC's Room in the Inn (RITI) ministry. WoM Sisters provided a BBQ meal for RITI and enjoyed the fellowship with our RITI guests. Our February meeting focused on the work at Begin Anew of Middle TN with guest speaker Heather Norvell, their new Executive Director.

Our March 5 meeting will be at Judy Ester's home with guest speaker Nancy Miller who will share about TGBC's Love on the Homeless ministry. The April 2 meeting will be at La Rita Gillispie's home and will focus on human trafficking awareness with guest speaker Dr. Rondy Smith from Rest Stop Ministries. We will wrap up our 2018-19 year with fellowship at our May 7 meeting at Five Oaks Clubhouse in Lebanon and will make plans for resuming meetings for the upcoming 2019-20 church year starting in August.

## Women On Mission Celebrators

By Charlotte Maynard

We had six people head downtown to the Nashville Baptist Association Toy Store in December as we volunteered to take those less fortunate than us around to shop for their family. It was such a blessing to see lots of smiling faces and also be able to talk and share God's love with each one.

Sue Ann Martin came to bless November's WOM meeting as she told us about her years in China as a missionary. We thank Abby Carter for arranging this.

In December we were able to bless our Security Team at TGBC with gift cards and lots of thank you notes for taking such good care of us each week.

Matthew Mathis left on a mission trip in January, and we were able to bless him and his team with cards of encouragement for their trip. Thanks ladies! That is such a ministry in itself.

February's meeting hosted Kristen Thorbjornsen, founder of Halo Missions (halomissions.com). She gave her testimony and also told us all about how she and her team use old guitar strings to make jewelry providing proceeds to help women in recovery. Any OLD guitar string donations would be appreciated.

Please join us at our next meeting Monday, March 11, at 10 a.m. and become a part of our great missions-minded ladies.

## **Hat** Ministry

By Charlotte Maynard

Our Hat Ministry started out as the Mats for the Homeless ministry in April 2013. Over the past five years over 300 mats were made and donated to Room in the Inn downtown. As the years progressed many of the ladies who crocheted had to stop due to pain issues in their hands. We appreciate so very much all those who saved plastic bags, cut and rolled strips, and crocheted.

We now come together the third Monday of each month 10am-2pm to work on hats, a project started by Sue McDonald. (Thanks Sue!) Hats of all colors and sizes, blankets, scarves, potholders, and so forth are made and donated to the Pregnancy Care Center, Human Trafficking victims, Dodson Elem. and other schools, Room In The Inn, Love on the Homeless, KY missions, Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, Rest Stop Ministries, and others.

Welcome to our newest members: June and Amelia. We would love for lots of you to come and learn how to use the loom—it's sooo easy. Come join the fellowship and the fun. Hope to see you March 18.

# **Homebound** Ministry

By Charlotte Maynard

Larry Dearth has retired, and Ben Clark is now interim over this ministry which blesses homebound members by sending cards, making phone calls, taking time to visit, and praying for each one. Barbara Helton has volunteered to email our team members with an updated list every other month in order to save postage. (Thanks Barbara!)

This ministry is vital to all the homebound in our congregation. A lot of them do not get out, so they enjoy so very much receiving a card, phone call, and/or visit. Their day is brightened and it gives them a feeling of keeping in touch and being loved.

Join us for our next meeting March 24 at 5pm. Watch for an announcement in the bulletin.

# **Mission** Friends

By Linda Sharp

We may be small—but we are mighty! Mission Friends never slow down! We have continued to make placemats each month for Room in the Inn, while still learning about our missionaries both in our lessons and within our church.

In November, Judy Ester shared with us about her trip to Israel. She even brought us each a bottle of water from the Jordan River! Also in November, Mrs. Kim told us about her trip to Macau. In December we celebrated Christ's birth with a fun Christmas party. We ate Christmas tree cakes, played games, and decorated our very own wreaths to take home. We even listened to stories from Mrs. Jane Scott. January brought Ms. Carolyn Dudley to see us. She brought in SO many wonderful things to share from her trip to India! We were mesmerized by her!

Judy Ester - Israel





Kim Capps - Macau



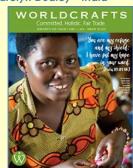
Jane Scott – Christmas stories



Carolyn Dudley - India

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# **Girls** in Action

By Ashley Byrd

The GAs have had an exciting winter! We spent the month of January learning all about the Rager family in Indianapolis. The girls loved learning about how the Ragers share cookies with the families in their neighborhood to help create relationships. The GAs made bags of cookies to take to their friends to show God's love. In February we learned about Chile. We have also spent time this winter decorating lunch bags for Room in the Inn. We are excited for a fun spring!

## **Begin** Anew

By Renee Mathis

Begin Anew empowers individuals to overcome the obstacles caused by poverty by providing education, mentoring, and resources. They serve the Middle Tennessee area through five locations in Nashville, Madison, and Franklin, TN. The program provides three curriculum tracks for students: High School Equivalency test preparation, Computer and Job Skills, and Life Skill English. Their faith-based educational program and missional, life-changing community is composed of more than 250 volunteers and a ministry staff. Each volunteer dedicates their time and energy to offer mercy and care, as Jesus did for the underserved and the overlooked. TGBC has supported Begin Anew (formerly Christian Women's Job Corps) since their inception in 1997. For more information about Begin Anew, visit <a href="https://www.beginanew.org">www.beginanew.org</a>.

#### **During 2018:**

- 563 individuals and children received free services.
- Begin Anew had the largest number of graduates in its history. Of the 66 adult students graduation:
  - o 38 received their first HiSET (High School Equivalency Test) certification
  - 20 achieved ESL (English as a Second Language) Level 2
  - 2 graduated the Job/Computer Skills course
  - o 6 achieved personal goals
- Approximately one half of the students served are seeking their HiSET and one half of the students are pursuing ESL skills.
- It costs almost \$3,000 per person each year to provide services.
- Students originated from 25 different countries.
- Free childcare was offered to 163 children to remove further obstacles and cost burdens from parents pursuing their goals.
- Both men (35%) and women (65%) participated in programming last year.
- Over 300 volunteers provided almost 7,599 service hours as instructors, tutors, mentors/encouragers, prayer partners, and childcare workers. The value of their time is over \$183,000!

## WorldCrafts

By Renee Mathis

TGBC's Women on Mission and Women's Ministry partnered to host three WorldCrafts benefits for Begin Anew of Middle Tennessee in 2018 with Begin Anew receiving 20% of our sales. These benefits provided a total of \$992.24 for Begin Anew! Begin Anew is very thankful for our support.

We plan to continue our support for Begin Anew with WorldCrafts benefits for them in 2019. Our next Begin Anew WorldCrafts benefit will be in March in conjunction with the Ladies' Prayer Tea-Luncheon where items from the new spring/summer WorldCrafts catalog will be available. Make plans now to attend! For more information about WorldCrafts, visit <a href="www.worldcrafts.org">www.worldcrafts.org</a>.



#### 2018-2019 Missions Leadership

- Senior Pastor:
   Dr. Gerald Bontrager
- Missions Pastor and
   Missions Ministry Team Coordinator:
   David Shirey
- WMU & WoM Sisters Coordinator,
   Missions Newsletter Editor:
   Renee Mathis
- WOM Celebrators Coordinator: Charlotte Maynard
- Mission Friends Coordinator:
   Linda Sharp
- Girls in Action (GA) Coordinator:
   Open Position
- Royal Ambassador (RA) Coordinator:
   Eric Boswell
- Youth on Mission Coordinators:
   Ryan Hayes
   Jaime Breedlove
- Women's Ministry Coordinator:
   Laurie Abel
- Men's Ministry Coordinator:
   Ryan Hayes

## **CALENDAR** OF EVENTS

Mar		
3–10	Week of Prayer and Annie Armstrong Offering for North American Missions	
5	WoM Sisters	6:30–8pm, Judy Ester's home
11	WoM Celebrators	10am, Room 100
16-23	Cuba Mission Trip #2	Cuba
18	Hat Ministry	10am–2pm, Room 223
20	Ladies' Craft Day	10am-3pm, Room 223
23	Ladies' Prayer Tea-Luncheon and	10am, CLC
	WorldCrafts Begin Anew Benefit	
31	Men's Ministry Breakfast	7:15am, CLC
Apr		
2	WoM Sisters	6:30-8pm, LaRita Gillispie's home
5–7	Missions Get-Together & Connection	Gatlinburg, TN
8	WoM Celebrators	10am, Room 100
15	Hat Ministry	10am–2pm, Room 223
17	Ladies' Craft Day	10am-3pm, Room 223
28	Men's Ministry Breakfast	7:15am, CLC
May		
2	Pregnancy Care Center Annual Banquet	6:30pm, Victory Baptist Church
5–11	Cuba Mission Trip #3	Cuba
7	WoM Sisters	6:30–8pm, Five Oaks Golf & CC
13	WoM Celebrators	10am, Room 100
15	Ladies' Craft Day	10am–3pm, Room 223
19	Men's Ministry Breakfast	7:15am, CLC
20	Hat Ministry	10am-2pm, Room 223