

HEART for the KINGDOM

TGBC Missions Newsletter



TULIP GROVE
BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Volume 14 Issue 2
Summer 2018

"A Broken Vessel Restored" reprinted from Spring 2010 Unionite with permission from Tim Ellsworth.

Inside This Issue

- 1 [A Broken Vessel Restored](#)
- 2 [Cuba Mission Trip #1](#)
- 2 [Cuba Mission Trip #2](#)
- 2 [Uganda Mission Trip](#)
- 2 [Kentucky Mission Trip](#)
- 3 [Dominica Mission Trip #2](#)
- 3 [In His Grip Golf Ministry](#)
- 4 [Dodson Elementary](#)
- 4 [Mother's Day Offering for TN Baptist Children's Homes](#)
- 4 [Father's Day Offering for TN Baptist Adult Homes](#)
- 4 [Missions Offerings](#)
- 5 [Rescue 1 Global](#)
- 5 [5K July 4th Walk/Run for Missions](#)
- 5 [Love on the Homeless](#)
- 6 [Women on Mission](#)
- 6 [WMU Mission Trips](#)
- 7 [Mission Friends](#)
- 7 [Girls in Action \(GAs\)](#)
- 7 [WorldCrafts](#)
- 10 [Calendar of Events](#)

Amy Brown Austin is currently the Elementary Spiritual Life Director at Donelson Christian Academy. Prior to DCA, she worked as a recruiter for Union University. She and her husband Jared have been visiting Tulip Grove Baptist with their two sons. She will give a brief testimony about the TN Baptist Children's Homes in our morning worship services on Mother's Day, May 13, and is the guest speaker for the May 14 WOM Celebrators meeting.

A BROKEN VESSEL RESTORED:

Despite turbulent childhood, **Amy Brown finds healing in the arms of Christ**

by Tim Ellsworth

The alarm blares, and 10-year-old Amy Brown rouses herself from sleep and prepares to face yet another haunting day. It's her responsibility to wake her brother, one year older than she is, and get both of them off to school. Because if Amy doesn't do it, nobody will.

She walks by her parents on her way out the door. Both of them are passed out from the previous night's drinking binge. When she returns home later in the day, they'll be awake and already hard at work on another night's worth of drinking and drugs that will result in the same routine the next day. At school, Amy encounters a fresh day of teasing and ridicule from her classmates: "Oh, you're the one with the retarded daddy."

She finishes school and heads home, knowing full well the horrors she's likely to encounter that evening. Her mother is a bipolar, alcoholic junkie who's loud and vulgar and mean. Her father is a drunk, too, with the mental capacity of a 12-year-old. Think Lenny in "Of Mice and Men," and you get the picture. Because he doesn't know any better, he's also a sponge for his wife's constant spewing of filth-ridden insults and harangues that Amy can't help but overhear.

Amy fixes supper for her brother – cold hot dogs and cold canned green beans, again – and takes it to him where he's hiding between his bed and the wall, scared to death of what his parents might do to him if they find him. Physical abuse isn't uncommon in the Brown home. Amy bears a scar underneath her lip from where a book hurled by her father found its mark.

(continued on page 8)

MISSIONS PROJECTS

LOCAL/ONGOING:

Begin Anew (CWJC) Coordinator:
Renee Mathis

Dodson Elementary Coordinators:
Nancy Andrews, Eric Boswell

Human Trafficking Ministry Team:
Dan Wilson, La Rita Gillispie, Lisa McIntosh, Liz Sutherland, Joy Wilson, Charlene Allen, Ernie McAninch, David Shirey

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:
Lisa McIntosh

NATIONAL:

Kentucky
October 17-21, 2018
Coordinator: Nancy Andrews

INTERNATIONAL:

Uganda
Aug 16-28, 2018
Coordinator: Jeff Gilliam
Macau
November 8-19, 2018
Coordinator: Todd Capps

A notebook is available at the church receptionist's desk in the church office with descriptions and signup sheets for all church mission trips and missions opportunities!



2018 TGBC SEMINARY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Rosalia Caridad Durán Herrera

3rd & 4th year (specialty), member of 2nd Baptist in Santiago, 27 years old, and started attending church when she was 6 years old

Yuleidys Pérez Linares

2nd & 4th year, member of 2nd Iglesia Bautista de Campechuela in Granma, and is 31 years old

Rafael Valido

1st & 2nd year (exception requested by Rhode) from the Baptist Church in Jiguani

Cuba Mission Trip One

By Todd Capps

Team Members: Pastor Gerald, Pastor Todd, Estri Britton, Bill Johnson, David Elliott (FBC, Mt. Juliet), Janet Darden, JP Kirkham, Dan Wilson, Joy Wilson



The first 2018 mission trip to Cuba was Feb. 23 – Mar 2. Pastor Gerald and Estri led a **pastors conference** encouraging and providing support for pastors and their wives. Pastor Todd taught 40 seminary students at a **conference for children's ministry leaders**. (See 2018 TGBC Seminary Scholarship Recipients listed below.) The rest of the team participated in **evangelistic efforts** to reach people in the Santiago metroplex through Sunday School, worship, house churches and evangelism. **They made 91 visits and shared the gospel with 1,241 people resulting in 211 first time decisions!**

Cuba Mission Trip Two

Team Members: Janet Darden, Ginger Gaines, Robin Schutt, Ryan Hayes, Trevor Morris, Ben Clark, Chris Redmond, Joel Kyker, David Shirey



The second 2018 mission trip to Cuba was April 21-28 and included a **retreat for women**. The focus was the **Proverbs 31 Woman**. It included conferences, small groups, guided prayer sessions, games and crafts. While the conferences were in session, teams were working with guides and translators visiting in homes and sharing Christ. The first day there were over 150 women in the conference at Vicente Baptist and 20 people received EvangeCube training. David preached that night. The second day there were 160 in the women's conference and 200 the third day with Ben preaching that night. Four different cell groups met the fourth day. The last day everyone was involved in evangelism. **Watch the announcements for this team's share night to tell how the Lord worked through them on this trip!**

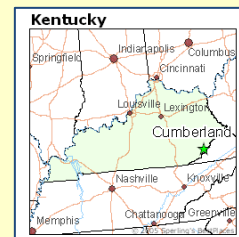
Uganda Mission Trip

By Jeff Gilliam



Dates: Aug. 16-28, 2018

We are scheduled to return to Uganda August 16 – 28 for our third mission trip in the area of Tororo to **plant churches and evangelize** with our Ugandan and Kenyan brothers and sisters. In the two previous trips, 16 churches were planted and hundreds accepted the Good News of Jesus Christ. **There are still openings for this trip!** If you are interested, please contact **Jeff Gilliam** at jeff.gilliam01@comcast.net. The approximate cost of the trip is \$2,800 - the final cost will be determined by the airline ticket cost.



Kentucky Mission Trip

By Nancy Andrews

Dates: October 17-21, 2018

The dates for this trip coincide with both Wilson County and Metro Nashville fall break dates. This is a wonderful **opportunity to serve as a family** alongside your children. We will be doing **light construction** and a **variety of family-friendly projects** for all ages. Our ladies' craft ministry will be making hats again this year, and we have been asked to bring blankets and gloves for distribution to families in need in this economically depressed area. **There is an interest meeting for this trip Sunday, May 6, 4-5pm in room 300.** Please contact **Nancy Andrews** at nma0626@tds.net for more information.

TGBC Team Roofs Home in Dominica; Sees Homeowner Profess Faith in Christ

By Lonnie Wilkey

A team of 10 men from Tulip Grove Baptist Church spent the week of March 9-17 in Dominica, helping residents recover from the wrath of Hurricane Maria last September.

The team served in the village of La Plaine and worked in concert with Pastor Asha Laronde and La Plaine Baptist Church.

The team reroofed the home of Peterson Barry who lives within walking distance of the church but was not a Christian. During the week, however, he made a decision to accept Christ and promised the team he would begin attending church. Reports since the trip indicate he has kept his promise and has attended.

The village of La Plaine was hard hit by the hurricane with every one of the 400 or so homes receiving damage. After more than six months, most of the homes in the country still do not have electricity. Those that do are dependent upon gas-powered generators. Many homes are covered only with a blue tarpaulin.

Pastor Asha said the team's presence in La Plaine "made a great impact in the community."

Team members were impressed by the friendliness and passion of the La Plaine Christians.

"The people are wonderful and helpful," said Jon Zeiller. "They have a passion to win all of the people of Dominica to Christ."

The March Dominica team included Jeff Gilliam, Doug Morris, Roger Nash, Jon Zeiller, Chuck Collins, Kevin Corkern, Elbert Ross, Malcomb Helton, Ron Chandler, and Lonnie Wilkey.



The March 2018 TGBC Dominica team, from left: Kevin Corkern, Roger Nash, Ron Chandler, Jeff Gilliam, Lonnie Wilkey, Jon Zeiller, Doug Morris, Elbert Ross, Chuck Collins (kneeling), and Malcomb Helton.



Elbert Ross and Malcomb Helton (on ladder) frame a wall for a utility building at the house where missions teams from Tennessee are staying



With his home being reroofed by Tennessee volunteers in the background, Peterson Barry, center, accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior. With him are TGBC team members Jeff Gilliam, left, and Kevin Corkern.

In His Grip Golf

By Joey Hickman

Do you want someone to stroll the fairways of life with? If yes, we have exciting news for you below. **Each league will begin in the Word first**, followed by golf at some of the finest courses in the area.

• Mondays

- **Smyrna Municipal GC** will host In His Grip League Play through the summer and will begin April 30 at 9:00 am.

• Tuesdays

- **McCabe Golf Course** will host In His Grip League play at 5:00 pm and run through the summer.

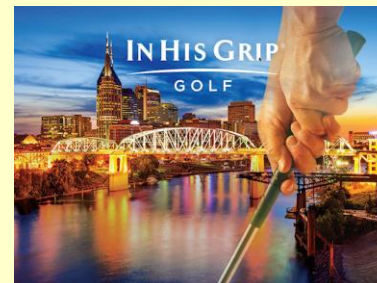
• Wednesdays

- **Cheekwood Golf Club** will host In His Grip League play for eight weeks in a row at 5:00 pm through May 30. Titan Long-Snapper Beau Brinkley joined this league.
- **Old Hickory Country Club** began hosting In His Grip on April 18 at 9:30 am with golf afterward and will run through the summer.

• Fridays

- **Vanderbilt Legends Club & The Little Course** will host In His Grip League play for six weeks on Fridays. Start time is 7:45 am in the Sara lee Room at Golf House followed by golf at both courses.

Other leagues will start later throughout the city. **Call Joey Hickman if you want to play in one of these leagues.** You do not have to be present each week, but we ask that you let us know two days prior if you plan on playing at one of the locations listed.



The mission behind In His Grip is to come alongside men and help them to be connected to the Vine, to live with passion and play with purpose. Our goal is to be in 12 to 20 clubs or courses by the end of the summer, and we are well on our way.



The Mother's Day Offering makes a huge difference in the lives of the TBCH children. This one effort provides approximately 33% of the annual operating funds needed to support ongoing ministries. See <http://tennesseechildren.org/> for more information.

2018 Missions Offerings

**Annie Armstrong Offering
for North American Missions**
Church Offering: \$19,376.25

**Mother's Day Offering
for TN Baptist Children's Homes**
Mother's Day is Sunday, May 13
Statewide Goal: \$3,000,000

**Father's Day Offering
for TN Baptist Adult Homes**
Father's Day is Sunday, June 17
Statewide Goal: \$475,000



Rainbow Acres Jacksboro residents



TBAH – Anthony and Jonathan

Dodson Elementary

By Nancy Andrews

We are excited to announce that we will be starting our **Good News Club** again this fall at Dodson. Thank you so much for your response to our request for volunteers. If you would like to volunteer and have not yet done so, please contact either Pastor Eric or Nancy Andrews (nma0626@tds.net).

Our **Fathers Heart** ministry is also continuing to serve, and we have provided assistance to two families since the last newsletter. This includes helping with an electric bill for one family whose service was being disconnected and helping a single dad with a dresser and mattresses for his two children. Requests for assistance come through the guidance office at Dodson and are prayed over by a team here at church. We are so blessed to be able to help the families at Dodson in these practical ways.

Finally, this year we have provided volunteers to read to classrooms through **Book 'Em** where volunteers read to the class and provide each child with their very own book to take home. A number of at-risk children don't have a single book of their own at home, and this ministry is a blessing to them. Books are provided by Book 'Em. The children are so excited to see the reader and to get their very own book.

Volunteers also proctored in classrooms during TCAP exams in April and have provided ongoing assistance to teachers throughout the school year. **If you would like to be involved as a school volunteer during the 2018-19 school year or would like more information about any of the above opportunities, please contact Nancy Andrews.**

Father's Day Offering for TN Baptist Adult Homes



Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes is a benevolent Christian ministry providing **quality residential care for seniors and developmentally disabled adults**. Today, TBAH has **nine ministry facilities** providing Christian care and homes for senior adults in retirement or convalescence and also for adults with developmental disabilities. More than **200** adults are provided a home in these facilities. We now have two group homes in Knoxville, one in Jacksboro, two in Lebanon and one in Hermitage. In addition, since 1996, TBAH has held two weeks of **"Special Friends Camp"** annually. Approximately **280** intellectually and physically challenged adult campers are served each year.

- **Middle Tennessee:** Brooks House in Hermitage; Stoneway Acres - Nabi House and Stoneway Acres - White House, both for men and both in Lebanon
- **East Tennessee:** Rainbow Acres Knoxville - Fred Lay Home, Rainbow Acres Knoxville - Estine Bush Home, Rainbow Acres Jacksboro
- **Senior Adult Independent Living:** Deer Lake Retirement Community in Nashville, Baptist Village in Johnson City, and Williams Ferry Pointe in Lenoir City/Knoxville

The **Cooperative Program** of the Tennessee Baptist Mission Board provides 3.5% of the funding for TBAH, and the **Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions** provides one third of the funding for Special Friends Camp. Additional funds are provided by an annual fund, estate planning, and online giving. Since 2001, the **Father's Day Offering** has brought in **more than \$1.3 million in support for the ministry**, most of the funding being used to help underwrite the group homes for adults with intellectual disabilities. **The 2018 goal is \$475,000.**

For more information and volunteer opportunities such as being a prayer partner or donating labor and materials for TBAH, go to www.tnbaptisthomes.org.

Why the TGBC Focus on Rescue 1 Global

By Dan Wilson

The Fight Human Trafficking Ministry at TGBC is new but active. At our first meeting in January, Pastor Gerald proposed that we focus our time and resources on one organization that is already in the war against the insidious evil of human trafficking. He proposed and the team members agreed that for at least the first year the church would focus its efforts on **Rescue 1 Global (R1G)**.

Last September many of you will remember that we held the mini Night of Hope event during which we had organizations which are involved in the fight against human trafficking come and share. The Night of Hope led right into the *Engage Together* series of 8 workshop sessions wherein the participants researched the different areas of engagement in which the church could serve. Those areas that make up what the *Engage Together* class material called the *Freedom Strategy* are Prevention, Identification, Rescue, Reformation and Reforms. For each of these areas the workshop participants researched what was already taking place in our community in the fight against human trafficking. We needed to know both what we were doing as a church (or could do) and what already established organizations were doing. There are many organizations already at work here in Middle Tennessee fighting the battle. **Rescue 1 Global** is one of the organizations that our research showed is very active fighting human trafficking, not only here in Tennessee but globally (as their name suggests).

When the ministry team met that first time, we were considering all the organizations that we could work with and were trying to determine how we were going to use our resources, the most valuable resource being our time. Pastor wisely suggested that we focus our efforts initially on one organization proposing **Rescue 1 Global** as that organization. We had developed a theme coming out of our 8 week workshop that we needed to focus our time and energy on what we as a congregation could do best. We realized that we could not and should not try to do everything (the fight is large and there is a lot to do). So, Pastor's suggestion to focus on one organization, to come alongside and help them in what they are already doing here in our communities, fit that theme of giving our all in a focused, measured way.

Rescue 1 Global's work locally is a "three-prong, strategic plan to Prevent, Rescue and Restore the vulnerable, the vagabond and the victimized" (from **R1G** website). Since TGBC and **R1G** began the partnership earlier this year, we have had training by the founders, Lacy and Daniel Tolar, and have had extensive volunteering and donations from our congregation to help with one of the main ministries **R1G** has here in middle Tennessee, *Grace Oasis*, "a safe haven for both minor and adult survivors of human trafficking that fosters safety, unity and empowerment with a deliberate approach to serve each survivor in four key areas: emotional healing, educational support, physical health and wellness, and spiritual growth." **R1G** offers our church many opportunities to serve in the fight against this evil of human trafficking.

Through **R1G** our congregation can learn and serve at the same time, as we continue to grow and mature in this new area of ministering we have chosen to take on.



What has the Lord been doing at TGBC with the Human Trafficking Ministry Team?

- **Partnering with Rescue 1 Global to serve in the battle**
- **Training on Saturday March 3rd by Lacy and Daniel Tolar of R1G**
- **April 20th Senior Adult Lunch with R1G**
- **Joshua 1:9 SS Class adopted R1G committing donations and volunteers, class work day on January 24th**
- **Ben Clark's SS Class, volunteers and donations**
- **Six-week Engage Together information class taught by La Rita Gillispie and Daniel Wilson February through April**

July 4th 5K Walk/Run for Missions

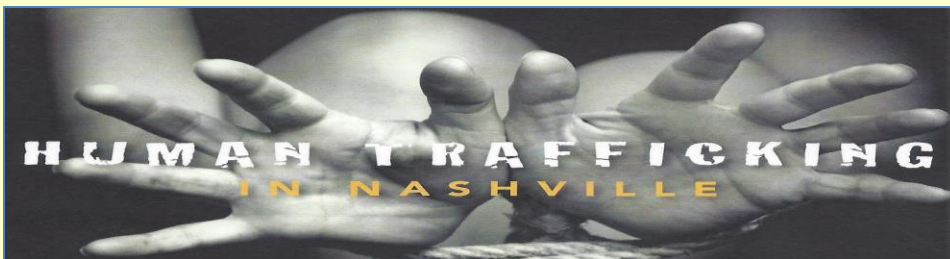
**7:30-9:30am
Church Pavilion**

*Proceeds benefit
Rescue 1 Global!*

Love on the Homeless

This group goes to the area near the downtown Nashville library once each month to minister to the homeless. **Volunteers are always welcome!**

Items currently needed include seasonal clothes, socks, underwear, backpacks, totes, bottled water, toiletries, wet wipes, tissues, Bumble Bee chicken and tuna snack boxes, beef jerky, raisins, yogurt raisins, snack cakes, individual packs of cookies, breakfast bars, Reeses cups, pudding, applesauce, fruit cocktail, and any individually wrapped snacks like mints or gum.



Women On Mission

By Charlotte Maynard



Mats & Hats Ministry at the March WOM Celebrators Meeting



Making a hat with a loom



Hats are made for babies, children, and adults



Making mats for the homeless with plastic grocery bags

Stand Firm was the theme of the WMU conference in Gatlinburg in March. Renee Mathis, Linda Sharp, and I were able to attend and were so very blessed by all the speakers and worship services. What a privilege to get to go! **Next year's conference will be April 5-9.** We hope to have more of you ladies join us for a GREAT inspirational weekend.

Women on Mission was blessed to have some of the ladies from our **Mats & Hats Ministry** speak at our March meeting. They displayed many different colors and sizes of hats that go to various ministries such as Pregnancy Care Center, Vanderbilt Children's Hospital's cancer patients, the homeless at Room in the Inn, and our Kentucky Mission Trips each October. Several of our WOM ladies expressed an interest and are joining the Mats & Hats Ministry team to learn how to use the looms to make hats. Several different size blankets are also being made by the ladies to donate.

Our hard-working ladies in the **Mats & Hats Ministry** meet every month on the second Monday from 10am to 2pm. We are learning how to crochet and make hats on a knitting loom to be donated to various ministries. Come join us and be a blessing as we fellowship and work together to turn out hats by the hundreds. Blankets are also made to donate and bless others.

Nancy and Larry Dearth came in April and shared with our ladies all about the **Homebound Ministry** at Tulip Grove. They each gave their testimony then told about how the Homebound Ministry blesses our homebound by sending cards, making visits, and calling. We were thrilled to add seven of our WOM ladies to the Homebound Ministry team.

The **Homebound Ministry** meets every other month on Sunday evening at 5pm to go over our list of homebound people. Cards are sent, visits and phone calls are made during the time between meetings as we bless those who cannot get out and attend church. Cards and stamps are provided if needed.

May's final WOM meeting before our summer break will be at the home of Renee Mathis Monday, May 14, at 10 a.m. Amy Austin will be our special guest speaker. We would love for you to join us and learn all about Amy and her incredible testimony. See the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home article on page 1 of this newsletter for a preview of her testimony!

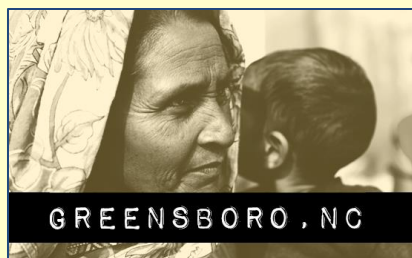


SAVE THE DATE!

**Women's Ministry
Mini-Retreat**



**Saturday, August 18
9am - noon
Youth Basement**



**myMISSION: Greensboro, NC
May 25-28**

<https://www.purecharity.com/mymission-greensboro-2018-1>



**Familyfest: Long Beach, CA
July 21-26**

<https://www.purecharity.com/familyfest18>

Mission Friends

By Linda Sharp

Mission Friends are in need of teachers for the 2018-2019 year which runs from August through May. We meet Wednesday evenings 6:45-7:30 for only 45 minutes. All materials and snacks are provided. Many plans and activities are pre-arranged and require no extra planning or instruction time for teachers. Please consider helping us next year! Contact Linda Sharp for more information.

Our little Mission Friends continue to stay busy each month. **At the end of February, Pastor Gerald visited with us and shared about the Cuba mission trip.** The children were mesmerized by the slideshow that he presented.

We also made place mats and lunch bags for the March Room in the Inn guests. In April, we planted 44 pots of pansies and made cards for some of our Anna ladies in the church. A BIG thank you goes to Mimi Fisher for taking a leading role in this project and working so hard to make it happen! The Anna ladies were so appreciative and many sent us thank you cards in return.

During the month of April, we are learning about Cindy, a student we have adopted as a group through Compassion Ministries. Cindy is 18-years-old and lives in Indonesia. We have been writing letters to her and enjoying receiving letters from her as well. We recently sent her a birthday package too!

Girls in Action (GAs)

By Ashley Byrd

The GAs have had an exciting spring! **In February, we had our annual "Almost Sleepover!"** During the event the girls learned about Inner Beauty and how we are all fearfully and wonderfully made by God with a purpose. The girls enjoyed getting to learn more about each other! **They made crafts, decorated cookies for the RA chili challenge and put together flower bouquets for the senior ladies at church.**

In April the girls have been collecting new and used shoes to help local non-profit NeedLink Nashville. The girls set a goal of 100 shoes and with the help of our generous church members have far exceeded that goal.

We are sad to see another year of missions end but excited to celebrate what all the girls have learned at our GA Tea and awards ceremony in May.

WorldCrafts



WorldCrafts is a division of WMU established in 1996 that develops sustainable, fair-trade businesses among impoverished people around the world. Their vision is to offer an income with dignity and the hope of everlasting life to every person on earth.

WorldCrafts began with just one artisan group in Bangkok, Thailand. Today they work with numerous artisan groups to import and sell hundreds of fine, handcrafted items from many countries around the globe. **This ministry opens doors for missionaries to go into countries that would otherwise be closed.**

WorldCrafts is **committed** to the in-country partners and artisan groups with whom they work. Their aim is to develop viable employment for women and men in poverty. Why? So women no longer need to turn to prostitution for their next meal. So fathers and mothers can provide education and nutrition to their children. **One group in Birmingham, AL fights human trafficking by providing victims of human trafficking with jobs to support themselves and their families. One of the most recent WorldCrafts groups started this year here in Nashville in conjunction with Begin Anew!**

WorldCrafts is **holistic**. Our artisan groups seek to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of their workers. Men and women receive job training and enjoy comfort, camaraderie, friendship, and purpose, perhaps for the first time. Women find a safe haven and receive counseling as they leave the sex industry. Individuals and families discover the abundant life and see that life lived out in front of them.

WorldCrafts is **fair trade**. It abides by and requires all partnering artisan groups to abide by Fair Trade Federation guidelines. Fair-trade buyers, such as WorldCrafts, ensure that artisans receive fair wages and that the goods purchased were produced in an ethical and environmentally-friendly manner.

Watch our church announcements for a WorldCrafts party this fall! See the WorldCrafts catalog for a preview at <https://www.worldcrafts.org/shop-with-worldcrafts>.



Pastor Gerald shares about his Cuba mission trip



Making "Happy Birthday" pic for Indonesia adopted student



4-yr-old Mission Friends learn to show Jesus' love through music. Youth Molly Hooter and Alena Trahan share instruments and voices to praise God.



GA "Almost Sleepover"





Amy doesn't hide, but she doesn't stick around, either. She spends the evening playing somewhere down the street, or sitting in silence in the shed behind the house – just waiting for the day to end so she can go to sleep and repeat her hellish cycle of life the next day. She thinks it can't get much worse, but she is wrong.

To look at her now, you'd never guess the backstory that clings to Amy like a stubborn headache. At 21, she is outgoing and confident, with a bright countenance and smiling blue eyes that successfully conceal the hardships she's endured. That's because she found healing, redemption and grace in the arms of the Lord. She found a family in her "second parents." And she found reconciliation with the father who once abused her and neglected to care for her the way a father should.

"About the age of 10, I realized that I was smarter than anybody else in my family," Amy says. "That was a pretty difficult place to be. About the age of 11 I started helping with financial things. I started taking care of my brother in school and took on more of an authority position in the family."

Amy grew up watching her mother slowly killing herself with drugs. She remembers one night when her mom passed out into a coma in her front yard. She'd watch her dad get drunk, and witness strangers coming into the house on a regular basis. Her mom left her dad so many times that Amy lost count.

"I became really fearful of a lot of things," Amy recalls. "I never wanted

anybody to know that I feared as much as I did. That's probably why I assumed such an authoritative position in everything I did. I had to be in charge of everything."

Her parents set no boundaries, offered no nurturing and provided no affection. The only person who invested in young Amy's life was her grandmother – her father's mother – who, though she had grown up in a dysfunctional family herself, had become a Christian.

"Every Friday my grandmother would come pick me up," Amy says. "She's the only one I have any memory of giving me a bath, or brushing my hair, or changing my clothes for the week. It was very evident to me that there was a difference in the peace that my grandmother had in her home versus all of the destructive, verbal and physical things that went on in my home."

Her grandmother sent her to a Christian Crosspoint camp when Amy was 12, and she remembers the Lord speaking to her heart during one night's invitation time. She knew she needed to respond, so she went forward, prayed and acknowledged her need for a God who was greater than she was.

But following the camp, Amy had nobody to teach her what a relationship with God meant. Little changed in her life – until tragedy struck about a year later when she found out her grandmother had colon cancer. For about eight months, her grandmother wasn't around. Then as a freshman in high school, Amy remembers being called to the office of Bolton High School by teacher Douglas Van Neste, the late brother of Union's Christian studies professor Ray Van Neste. Mr. Van Neste was the one who broke the news to her that her grandmother had died.

"I remember him being the first person, besides my grandparents, to tangibly and physically grab ahold of me and let me weep," Amy says. "I wasn't much of an emotional person at all, and it was the hardest thing ever."

That's when Amy's life, though always difficult, spiraled out of control. She grew angry with God for taking away the one person who loved her. We're all going to die one day, Amy reasoned with herself, so why not live it up? And that's exactly what she did.

Her mom had occasionally forced Amy to smoke pot and do other drugs, and at age 14, Amy became a full-fledged alcoholic and drug addict. She soon left home and found herself in a crack house in downtown Memphis, living on the streets, with no place to go. One night the police found her, recognized her as a 14-year-old girl, and took her to the station for her to call her parents. A conversation with her grandfather initially brought Amy to a realization that she needed to be rescued.

"Amy," he said, "I'm so afraid that the next time I see you is going to be when I flip through the channels, and there you are, announced dead in a ditch."

He then told Amy that her grandmother went to her death convinced that if Amy could get out of her home, the Lord would use her.

"The fact that my grandmother, who never saw any fruit in her family whatsoever from a Christian standpoint, went to her deathbed believing that the God to whom she had surrendered, if I would surrender to him, that he would be faithful to work in my heart," she says. "I really believe that because my grandmother's faith was so strong, even upon death when all she had seen was destruction happen within her family, I was willing to take this chance."

Amy agreed with her grandfather that her life was out of control. She was ready to take drastic steps.

So she signed herself into the **Tennessee Baptist Children's Home in Bartlett** a couple of months later.

When she arrived to her new home and her new life, she found a Bible lying on her bed. She'd never read the Bible on her own before, and the first words she

(continued on page 9)

encountered – the first five words of James – changed her life: “James, a servant of God...”

“I realized that I had served myself for so long, and that I had tried for so long to do something to accomplish a good in my life, and that I wasn’t able to do that,” Amy says. “I finally realized that what I could surrender to was a God that could use such a filthy and such a broken vessel. I could find satisfaction in His mending and His grace, which were sufficient. God would still be able to use me, and it wouldn’t be because I was controlling it.”

Life at the children’s home was different for Amy and a challenging adjustment. Whereas before, she had nobody to tell her to do anything, now she had to ask when she wanted to go to the bathroom. At times, she struggled to submit to the authority over her. But she gradually grew to embrace the structure and discipline that the children’s home provided her. She learned that discipline is a part of love, and the reason she felt so unloved as a child was because nobody set any boundaries for her.

“The children’s home really transformed my perspective on what it looked like to have authority in your life, to respect that authority, to receive discipline as an aspect and avenue of one’s love for you,” Amy says.

Her commitment to the Lord strengthened, her attitude improved and her life changed under the care of the children’s home. One day as she was sitting around a lunch table with some friends, the topic of college came up. One of her friends told Amy that she was thinking about attending a Christian college.

“A Christian school?” Amy asked. “You mean there’s such a thing as a Christian school?”

Yes, her friend replied, there’s one in Jackson just an hour up the road called Union University. The minute she heard about it, Amy knew that Union was where she would go to college. She can’t explain the feeling that came over her, but she knew it was unmistakable: “It was as clear as the day for me,” she says.

Her junior year of high school, Amy

applied to Union, and then began applying for various scholarships. By the end of her senior year, she had enough scholarship money to cover her costs for all four years of her college education.

Amy was a biblical studies major who graduated in May as part of the class of 2010. She plans to pursue a master’s degree in counseling. At Union, she found a family atmosphere that she treasured during her four years of college.

“Being an ambassador for the school and telling people we are Christ-centered, I truly believe that,” Amy says.

During her time at Union, when school wasn’t in session, Amy found another family as well – Jimmy and Mary Turner. Mary was a former employee of the children’s home who became a second mother to Amy. Amy lives with the Turners and calls them her “B-Mom and B-Dad.”

As for her biological parents, when she entered the children’s home, Amy prayed specifically that she would never have to see her parents again. She harbored great bitterness toward them and was reaping the consequences of their failures. Though she has no relationship with her mom, her dad attempted to visit Amy occasionally and remain a part of her life. She struggled with that initially.

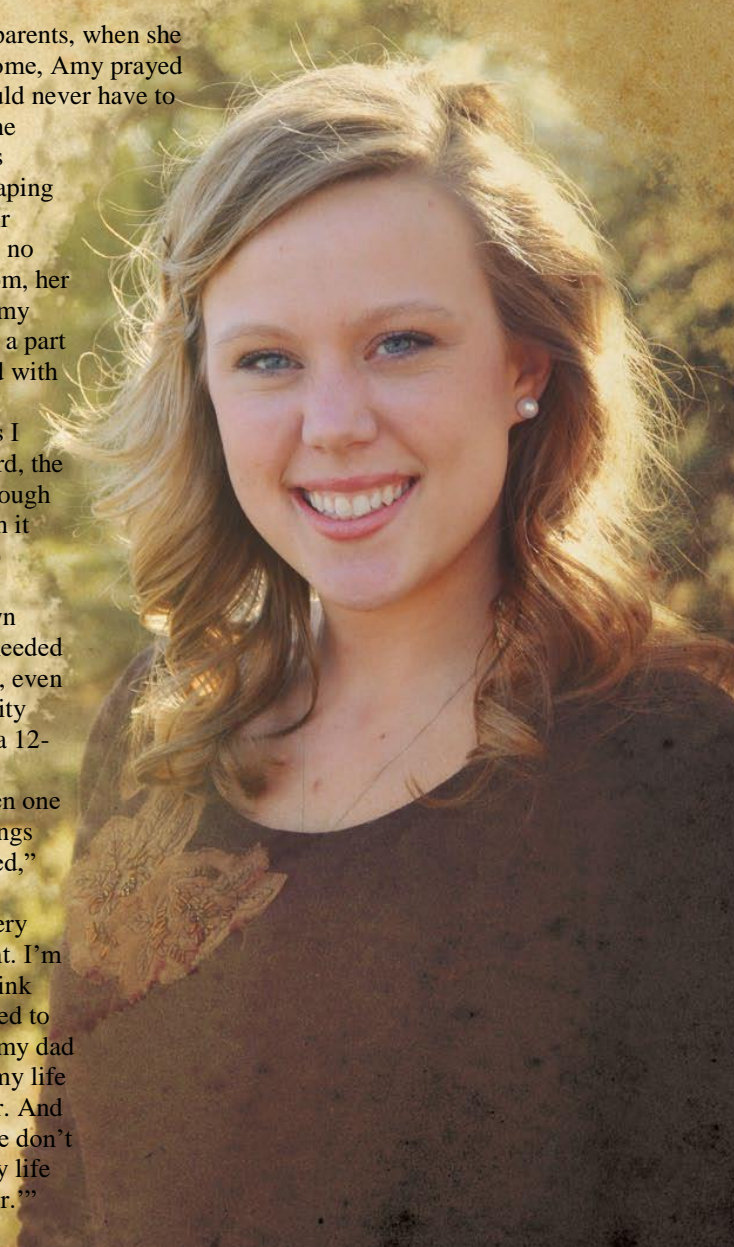
“Slowly and surely, as I began to grow in the Lord, the Lord began to reveal through His Word just how much it was my responsibility to forgive my dad and take responsibility for my own actions,” Amy says. “I needed to let my dad be a father, even though his mental capacity only reached the age of a 12-year-old.

“I have to say, it’s been one of the most beautiful things that I’ve ever experienced,” she continues. “Because now I talk to my dad every day. We pray every night. I’m so humbled because I think about how my prayer used to be that God would take my dad out of my life, because my life would be so much easier. And now I pray, ‘Lord, please don’t take my dad, because my life would be so much harder.’”

Her father is now one of the most consistent parts of Amy’s life. They have reconciled. And Amy is forever grateful.

“In the midst of me giving up the control, I’ve actually watched my dad become more godly and actually respond to the gospel,” she says. “My dad is so much more joyful than he used to be, and

I couldn’t be more full of praise towards the Lord for the way that **He was gracious in hearing my prayers,** but doing what He knew was best.”





TULIP GROVE
BAPTIST CHURCH

563 Shute Lane
Old Hickory, TN 37138

2017-2018 Missions Leadership

Senior Pastor:

Dr. Gerald Bontrager

Missions Pastor:

David Shirey

Missions Ministry Team Coordinator:

Jeff Gilliam

WMU Coordinator and

Missions Newsletter Editor:

Renee Mathis)

WOM Coordinator:

Charlotte Maynard

Mission Friends Coordinator:

Linda Sharp

Girls in Action (GA) Coordinator:

Ashley Byrd

Royal Ambassador (RA) Coordinator:

Eric Boswell

Women's Ministry Coordinator:

Laurie Abel

Men's Ministry Coordinator:

Ryan Hayes

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May		
13	Mother's Day Offering for TN Bapt Children's Home	
14	Men's Ministry 6 th Annual Golf Tournament	Old Hickory Country Club
14	WOM Celebrators Meeting	10am, Renee Mathis' House
16	Ladies' Craft Day	10am-3pm, Room 220
18-19	RA Lock-in	7pm-7am, CLC
20	Men's Ministry Breakfast	7:15am, CLC
20	RA Derby	4:30pm, CLC
21	Mats & Hats	10am-2pm, Room 223
25-28	myMISSION Mission Trip	Greensboro, NC
Jun		
4-8	Children's VBS	
17	Father's Day Offering for TN Baptist Adult Homes	
20	Ladies' Craft Day	10am-3pm, Room 220
24	Men's Ministry Breakfast	7:15am, CLC
Jul		
4	5K July 4 th Walk/Run for Missions	7:30-9:30am, Pavilion
18	Ladies' Craft Day	10am-3pm, Room 220
21-26	Familyfest Mission Trip	Long Beach, CA
29	Men's Ministry Breakfast	7:15am, CLC
Aug		
8	Music & Missions Resume-Mission Friends/GA/RA	6-7:30pm
13	WOM Celebrators Meeting	10am, Room 223
15	Ladies' Craft Day	10am-3pm, Room 220
18	WMU Equipping Missions & Ministry Leaders	7:30am-1:30pm, Bellevue
18	Women's Ministry Mini-Retreat	9am-noon, Youth Basement
26	Men's Ministry Breakfast	7:15am, CLC