

# Annual WMU Report

WMU's focus on missions, through age level groups and congregational activities, helps a church fulfill God's mission for His people and to do the work of missions within its reach. This missions focus results in church members having a Christ-like concern for people in every culture, ethnicity and nation.

The national WMU theme for 2016-2017 is "By All Means" and is based upon I Corinthians 9:22b-23, NIV, "I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings".

The Missouri State Missions Celebration was held April 11-12 Kansas City Midwestern Seminary. Several women from our association made the trip to participate in this special time of hearing from missionaries, sharing mission projects, and worship.

April 30 Cape Baptist Association women participated in a prayer retreat at Shawnee Hills Baptist Church in Jackson. This time was a call to prayer in a format similar to the Prayer Center in Jerusalem where women spent time in guided prayer times learning new ways of communicating with God and listening to His direction in their lives.

The National WMU Convention was held in St. Louis June 12-13, prior to the Southern Baptist Convention. Cape Girardeau Baptist Association was well represented among the participants.

Your associational WMU women have been active in Disaster Relief responses to state and national disasters this year. Some have volunteered at Peaceful Valley Camp. Others have gone on mission trips outside the US. Many are active in community outreach. Several churches participated in Buckets of Hope, by sending 14 hospice buckets to Africa. The supplies in these buckets provided items to be used by family members who were caring for a dying loved one. Together Missouri WMU members helped to send over 2000 buckets. Each of these activities follow the purposes of WMU.

Throughout the Southern Baptist Convention WMU groups in churches help to keep members informed of the missions offerings collected throughout the year. These offerings support our missionaries and help churches fulfill the Acts 1:8 command given by Jesus, to be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and "Ends of the Earth".

I challenge each church to consider increasing the missions education in your churches and if you need help in organizing a new missions group through WMU's resources I am available to help.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Blevins, Associational WMU Director