

The West Virginia Baptist Newsletter

SPECIAL EDITION

MISSION MATTERS

Leslie Turley Appointed Area Director Designee

American Baptist International Ministries (IM) is pleased to announce that Leslie Turley has accepted the invitation to become area director for Southeast Asia and Japan. The current area director, Stan Murray, plans to retire in 2015. Leslie will begin in her new role on July 1, 2015.

Leslie and her husband, David, have been serving as International Ministries' missionaries in Japan (mainland) and Okinawa since 1991. "Leslie served as a Christian school administrator, teacher, counselor and mission trip coordinator. She has also done leadership training," noted Murray. "She shared Christ through it all."

Turley is currently engaged in the Master's program in Global Leadership at Fuller Seminary and plans to pursue ordination in 2014. "I could not be more pleased that Leslie feels called to be my successor," said Murray. "God led in discerning this call in Leslie and I believe God has been 'growing her' into this leadership position for some time now."

David Turley, who served in Japan with Leslie for the past 23 years, supports the new role. He said, "It is Leslie's time to shine and I support her fully. It was hard for me to think about leaving this ministry [in Japan], but now that Leslie has accepted this offer, I can leave with joy and peace in my heart." David



David and Leslie Turley and their daughter, JoAnna.

will be departing from active missionary service to re-enter local church pastoral ministry.

"It is clear the Holy Spirit has equipped Leslie with spiritual gifts, skills and experience that have uniquely prepared her for this ministry," said Reid Trulson, executive director for International Ministries. "I am delighted she has embraced God's call to enter this work of ministering to fellow servants of the Lord in Southeast Asia and Japan."

The Turleys are returning to the United States in July 2014 for

their planned three-month United States/Puerto Rico Assignment. From October 2014 - June 2015, Leslie will be a missionary on special assignment as "Area Director Designee."

Those will be very full months of preparation for her area director ministry. The work of the area directors is based out of International Ministries' home office in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. The Turley's plan is to initially locate in West Virginia prior to moving to the Valley Forge area next year.

International Ministries requests prayer for the Turleys, "that Leslie and her family really have a sense of God's peace, especially when they transition from West Virginia to moving to the Valley Forge area," said Murray.

Leslie will continue to serve as an IM missionary in need of your ongoing support until she goes on staff in July 2015.



David and Leslie share with friends at the World Mission Conference in Green Lake, Wisconsin.

The mission of the West Virginia Baptist Convention is to **empower** local churches to be Christ honoring communities of faith and to help them fulfill their mission by **enabling** them to do together what they cannot do alone.

by **John E. Simmons**, Associate Executive
Minister, Missions and Administration



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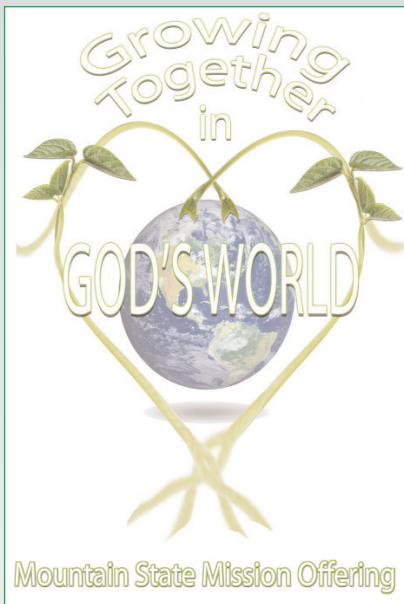


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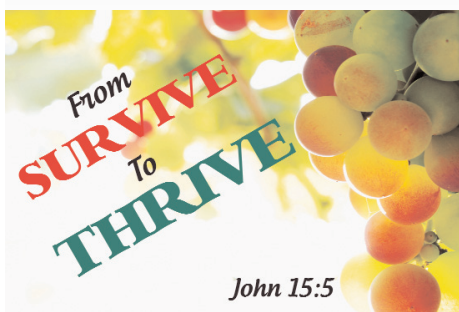
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Rise to the Challenge



Rev. John Simmons

A full bus of West Virginia Baptists journeyed to Green Lake, Wisconsin for the 2014 World Mission Conference. This conference was a celebration of our 200 years of overseas mission work. All of our global missionaries were at this historic event as well as representatives from most of our global partners.

Those of us blessed to be there on opening night heard the packed house of 1,300 sing *How Great Thou Art*, each in their own language. The tent was filled with the awesome presence of God as we began to hear the stories - God's stories of lives changed through mission.

Annie Dieselberg, missionary to Thailand, shared the ministry of *Night Light*. She told about her work in the "red-light" district of Bangkok, and the work of national partners she has brought together to minister to the hundreds of women and girls sold into prostitution. She shared a story of redemption, a story of love.

Bill Clemmer, missionary to South Sudan, shared how God had multiplied a simple project for South Sudan into a national health care system.

The voices echoed out of the windows as the standing room only crowd of West Virginia Baptists stood and sang the "Doxology" at the close of worship in the Chapel Car Grace. Grace is stationed at the American Baptist Assembly at Green Lake, Wisconsin. The sound of the reed organ bellowing out the notes as we sang the *Old Rugged Cross* made a lasting memory.



Stan Murray, International Ministries' director for Southeast Asia and Japan

Stan Murray, International Ministries' director for Southeast Asia and Japan, took us on a journey through the back alleys on the back of a motorcycle in Ho Chi Men City to visit a secret church in his first visit there. He also shared how God has now opened the doors for Christians that had previously been closed.

Each speaker, night after night, invited us to rise to the challenge of God's global mission. We were challenged to pray. We were challenged to go. We were challenged to send. We were challenged to follow God into our third century of missions.

I invite you to visit our West Virginia Baptist Convention resource page on Facebook and watch the sessions from this event. I also invite you to rise to the challenge of mission as you prepare your church budget and mission support for 2015.

This special issue of the *West Virginia Baptist* newsletter and *Mission Matters* features pictures and stories from the World Mission Conference. It also includes some breaking news and updates from our West Virginia Baptist missionaries.



Annie Dieselberg and her husband, Jeff, missionaries to Thailand



Bill Clemmer and his wife, Ann, missionaries to South Sudan

Blessings

J.D. and Rhonda Reed, Missionaries to Bolivia

Once In A Lifetime

It was one of the funniest and most historical moments I have ever witnessed - it was like herding cats. Standing in the rose garden at Green Lake Conference Center watching the photographer shout directions and make broad hand gestures to this crowd was insane. Then I looked around and realized the hundreds of years of service represented by the International Ministries' (IM) missionaries I call my colleagues and friends. It was a magical moment when we all looked up smiling as a record of our amazing time together.

Combined with the great worship, times of prayer and dreaming about the future, networking with other missionaries and much more, our all-staff gathering was a grace-filled week. Both it and the World Mission Conference were filled with great and significant conversations and connections with hundreds of partners and supporters. Did I mention I got to play the congas with Grammy winners? That was pretty cool too.

Most of us only knew about 15% of our colleagues, and now we have met them all. More importantly, we can now put people with the online articles and Facebook status updates. Now, we are rising to the challenge together with renewed passion and resolve to do God's work in this world and join with Him in growing His kingdom.



Back in Bolivia

After a whirlwind summer - 12 churches, 4 conferences and over 5,000 miles driven - we have flown back to Bolivia to get back to life and work. At the writing of this update, the kids have one day of freedom left until the start of school. Rhonda has already returned to Santa Cruz Christian Learning Center as the school nurse to get ready for the coming year. God has truly blessed her work with students and their families, and we know

He will continue to put opportunities in her path to share Christ's love with the kids. She also spends significant time traveling and working with short-term teams that come to Bolivia and provides medical care to rural and indigenous people.

Tablet Ministry Goes National

In September/October 2014, J.D. will begin to take his School of Leaders' training project to eight additional cities to train pastors and help develop other leaders. By the end of October, there will be over 140 students in the program. Because of this expansion, he will be doing much more traveling in Bolivia. As you can imagine, this support of pastors and leaders will be costly both in time and resources. The travel expense alone will add \$300 monthly to their ministry budget, which is a cost that wasn't expected. If you would like to sponsor one trip (\$150) or more, please contact our Mission Partnership Team (MPT) convener, Bill Morlan at bill@gassawaybaptist.net or Joan Hall at hall@wvbc.org or 800.879.9822 for more information.

Reflections from the 2014 World Mission Conference

"Fifty-four people gathered in Parkersburg, Ripley and Dunbar Sunday, July 20, 2014 to catch the bus headed to Green Lake, Wisconsin for the World Mission Conference to celebrate 200 years of global missions. The sense of family and fellowship helped make the bus trip pleasant. The West Virginia Baptist Convention mission staff put together an Exploring Missions - Experiencing God devotion and exploration guide that proved to be a very useful tool. In addition to having a daily devotion, it also had a list of questions where most of the answers could be attained by talking with the missionaries."

- Yvette Shafer, Shuck Memorial Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh)

"For excitement, how can you beat the parade of flags of the world, carried joyously aloft by our missionaries, each with the flag of the country of their service at the start of the evening program? To the beat of the "hot" band of Los Angeles, California First Baptist Church, beautiful, young and enthusiastic

was the leader, and I whispered to my seat mate, "I believe he must eat Mexican jumping beans for breakfast!"

- Avis Triplet, Dover, Delaware First Baptist Church

"God's people are such an amazing variety. Looking around the conference one recognizes our rich diversity of people. Christians don't all look alike, sound alike, walk the same or certainly think the same, but can love our Lord Jesus and desire to faithfully serve Him. International Ministries (IM)/American Baptist Churches (ABC) World Missions seeks to develop through the denomination a growing desire to take the gospel into the world - as Acts says it, "to the uttermost." It is finding what we can do together in Christ, and join in a world

transforming enterprise that eternally changes people's hearts."

- Tom and Debbie Stevens, New Hope Baptist Church (Parkersburg)



Celebrating Two Hundred Years of Global Mission

2014 World Mission Conference - Green Lake Conference Center



"The conference was awe inspiring. I found the work Mario Morales is doing with hydroponic farming and cob house building to be unique. Hearing so many testimonies from people of very diverse life experiences, every story ending the same, God grabbing hold of their hearts. I am compelled to help share and support mission work. The stories of God's grace and love in our lives must never stop."

- Ammie Rasmussen
Parkersburg First Baptist Church (Parkersburg)

"Experiences like these provide a bigger picture of our church's ministry, not only in our community, but around the world. We truly are a community of faith in a world of opportunity."

- Ron Edinger, Parkersburg First Baptist Church (Parkersburg)

"This 'family' is made up of many gifted and precious people. What a blessing to meet some of them!"

Valma Adams, office manager, West Virginia Baptist Convention

"I gained an understanding of how we work with our mission partners. I love the concept of coming alongside what God is doing and helping do what God wants us to do ... together!"

- Rob Ely, director of Discipleship, Camping and Youth,
West Virginia Baptist Convention



"Someone made the comment that we will never really understand the word 'mission' and what missionaries really do until we have attended a World Mission Conference. Only after talking and listening to about a 100 different missionaries will we really understand about the sacrifices they make to serve our Lord."

- Lou Ann Samuelson
Pine Grove Baptist Church (Parkersburg)

"It was great seeing all of the missionaries and meeting many of the International Ministries' partners from all over the world. Such an exciting time for all who attended. The classes, bible study and worship services were wonderful and the speakers excellent! I came home with a feeling of renewal!"

- Jenny Jones, Elizabeth Baptist Church (Parkersburg)

"Just being at Green Lake leads you to be inspired. Worship the first night was amazing, hearing 1,300 voices sing *How Great Thou Art*!"

Richard McClure, pastor, Parkersburg First Baptist Church
(Parkersburg)



Keith and Debbie Myers, Missionaries to Mexico

Our family has been very blessed this summer by the love we have received from the folks in West Virginia. Thank you for your love and support of our family and God's work in Mexico. We were privileged to spend two weeks in Green Lake, Wisconsin attending the 2014 World Mission Conference. The kids were able to reconnect with some of the missionary kids they knew and met new kids as well. Attending the World Mission Conference reminded our family we have a precious larger family in Christ.

We are excited for the ministry this fall! Keith and I will continue building relationships with our churches and learning Spanish. In October, we have an annual meeting with Colegio de Ingenieros Civiles del Estado de México - College of Civil Engineering of the State of Mexico, (CICEM), the organization we partner with in Mexico. The chicken project will be in full swing and we are praying about starting a goat ministry as well. Bible classes will be offered to our pastors and leaders of the churches several times this fall.

*In Christ,
Keith and Deb Myers*



Keith (l) and Debbie (2nd from left) Myers visit with Doris and Ron Toothman at the World Mission Conference.



Baillie (2nd from left) and Boyden (2nd from right) Myers with Abigail (left) and Grace (right) Reed at the World Mission Conference

Young Adults: Skilled and Waiting

How to Encourage Millennials to Become Involved with Mission

Contributed by Lisa Simmons, Associate in Mission Support, West Virginia Baptist Convention

Millennials are full of passion. They like to be involved in mission, and while they are not going to do it like their parents, God still works through them. While previous generations trusted organizations and contributed general dollars to mission through them, millennials want to first believe an organization is matching their passion and then doing something that is making a difference.

Millennials need to be inspired. They want to hear the stories about missionaries and what God is doing through their ministries. We need to be ready to share those stories, so that may mean we practice sharing with the younger generation.

Millennials get information mostly through electronic communication. It is important that in our sharing of stories we use different kinds of mediums. About 67% of young adults interact through Facebook and 65% are still seeking information through websites. When they want to learn more about missionaries and mission, they will search for information through Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, websites and other electronic media, so it is important to have information posted in key places.

Millennials are team players. They have been taught to work together in teams since they were in kindergarten and are good at team work.

Millennials want to be part of something that has a higher purpose. They will connect with an organization or group that

is doing something they believe in and in which they feel they can play a significant part. One example is an annual conference for young adults focusing on issues related to human trafficking. The participants, who are mostly college students, gave millions of dollars to the sponsoring organization to help address and stop human trafficking. When they saw a way to play a significant part, they gave generously.

Millennials need to see, feel and touch. They need to see and meet the missionaries in person to discover what God is doing through them, hearing how lives are being changed and how funding is used to make a difference. Their biggest pet peeve is not knowing where their money is going.

Millennials do not want to give to administrative costs. Missionaries need people who "have their back" and this includes sharing in administration work. We need to give millennials a different picture of what administration is all about and how that is an important component of changing lives and making a difference in the world. How can we help them to understand every dollar does go to and is used for mission?

Millennials prefer to give electronically. They do not carry cash or checkbooks, but prefer to give online or through any means in which they can give electronically with a credit or debit card.

Missionary Deputation

To schedule a missionary, please contact Lisa Simmons, associate in Mission Support at lsimmons@wvbc.org or 304.273.9693. Booking is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Moises Quembo
General Secretary, Mozambique
Baptist Convention
August 23 - September 1, 2014

August 23, 2014
Elk Valley Association, Gassaway Baptist Church, 8:30 p.m.

August 24, 2014
A.M., Bethel Baptist Church, Rio
P.M., Eastern Association,
Dorcas Baptist Church, 2:30 p.m.

August 25, 2014
Private Meeting

August 26, 2014
Private Meeting

August 27, 2014
Private Meeting

August 28, 2014
Private Meeting

August 29-31, 2014
Camp Global, Camp Cowen

September 1, 2014
Private Meeting

Carlos and Mayra Bonilla-Giovanetti
Nicaragua
July 29 - September 10, 2014

August 29-31, 2014
Camp Global, Camp Cowen

August 31, 2014
A.M., Rainelle First Baptist Church
P.M., Comunidad Nueva Esperanza

September 3, 2014
A.M., Available
P.M., Lubeck Community Baptist Church
Event

September 4, 2014
Available

September 5, 2014
Available

September 6, 2014
West Virginia Baptist Convention
Stewardship Commission and Executive Board

September 7, 2014
A.M., Calvary Baptist Church, Oak Hill
P.M., Private Meeting

September 8, 2014
Available

September 9, 2014
Private Meeting

September 10, 2014
Eastern Area

Mario Morales
Regional Missionary,
Latin America
September 11 - 18, 2014

September 12, 2014
A.M., Available
P.M., Private Meeting

September 13, 2014
Hopewell Association,
Little Laurel Baptist Church,
9:00 a.m.

September 14, 2014
A.M., South Parkersburg Baptist Church,
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services

September 15, 2014
Available

September 16, 2014
A.M., Available
P.M., Parkersburg Association, Williamstown
First Baptist Church, 5:00 p.m.

September 17, 2014
A.M., Available
P.M., Fayette Association,
Mount Hope Baptist Temple, 6:30 p.m.



“Come over ... and help us!” Acts 16:19b

HAVE YOU HEARD
of the spiritual need in Macau,
where only 1% of the popula-
tion is Christian?

This Chinese island -
home to one of the largest
casino gambling industries in
the world - may look thriving
and prosperous. But beneath
all the glitter and glamour is a
dark story of addictions,
crime, prostitution and broken
families.

Concerned youth and
college students were desper-
ately looking for hope and
encouragement. Two of
International Ministries' part-
ners were calling out for help

to raise up a new generation
of Christian leaders.

Thanks to your sup-
port through the **World
Mission Offering**, their voices
were heard. *Help has now
arrived!* Emerson and Ivy Wu,
International Ministries' devel-
opment workers, are now pro-
viding crucial pastoral, coun-
seling and teaching leadership.
Pray for them!

Please give gener-
ously to the **World Mission
Offering** today to help grow
and sustain IM's ministries and
global staff who serve in more
than 70 countries worldwide!

**Rise to the Challenge with
International Ministries!**

www.internationalministries.org



Camp Global 2014



Family Mission Camp

"We Are Unstoppable with God"

August 29 - 31, 2014
Camp Cowen

Cost: \$90 per person
\$350 maximum per household
\$40 Saturday only

Groups of five or more - call for discount pricing.

Programming for children, youth and adults!



Bible Study
Leader:
Dr. Charles Jones,
Area Director for
Africa, Europe and
the Middle East



Missionary
Guests:
Carlos and
Mayra Bonilla-
Giovanetti,
Missionaries to Nicaragua



David and
Leslie Turley,
Missionaries to
Okinawa



International
Guests:
Raul Figueroa -
Gely,
Puerto Rico



Manuel Moises
Quembo,
General Secretary,
Baptist Convention
of Mozambique,
Africa

Schedule

Friday

7:00 - 7:30 p.m. -
Opening Music and Introductions
7:30 - 8:00 p.m. -
Vespers - David and Leslie Turley
8:00 - 9:00 p.m. - Store and Evening
Activities for All Ages

Saturday

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. - Breakfast
9:00 a.m. - Hands-On Activities
10:30 a.m. - Gathering Music in
Hylbert Hall, Adult Bible Study, Youth
and Children
12:00 p.m. - Lunch
1:00 - 2:00 p.m. - Gathering Music,
IGNITE - Lilly Corathers
2:00 - 4:00 p.m. - Elective Options
3:00 - 5:00 p.m. - Conversations
with Charles Jones (by appointment)
4:30 - 5:00 p.m. - Carlos and Mayra
Bonilla - Giovanetti
5:30 p.m. - Dinner
6:30 p.m. - Intergenerational Games
7:15 p.m. - Vespers - Carlos and
Mayra Bonilla - Giovanetti
8:00 p.m. - Pink Piggy Party

Sunday

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. - Breakfast
9:00 - 10:30 a.m. - Gathering Music
in Hylbert Hall, Adult Study, Youth
Activity, Children
10:30 - 10:45 a.m. - Break
10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Gathering
for Worship, Sermon - Manuel
Quembo
12:00 p.m. - Lunch

For more information, contact the office of

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**Details and registration available online at www.wvbc.org. For more
information, contact Joan at 800.879.9822 or hall@wvbc.org.
Registration deadline is August 25, 2014.**