**2019 National Report**

#1 *Financial audit: Terry Hill*

#2: We are the **women’s ministry department** existing to help each woman fulfill her God-given roles in the Great Commission at home, in her church, community, and around the world. So we pray for wisdom as we seek to know our times, perceive the trends of our day, discuss major issues, evaluate information, and develop strategies to move forward. We will maintain our current ministries while broadening our reach and focus.

Most, if not all, of our FWB churches have a women’s ministry. Each of these ministries is seeking to meet the needs of their women. Our goals are the same…. though our methods and programs may be different. That is a good thing. God did not create us to be exactly alike. The questions are (1) what can we learn from your women’s ministry….and (2) how can WNAC help/encourage/strengthen your women?

WNAC has been a **thriving** ministry since her inception helping send Miss Barnard to India forward. The ladies have carried the torch for missions and ministry causes.

This year we are 84 years young!!

#3: 1873….early historical records indicate the FWB Female Missionary Society was organized, authorized to receive funds, and send missionaries. Their assets were given to the American Baptist group in 1920. This group had merged with the northeastern FWBs.

#4: 1899….Glennville, GA mentions an auxiliary which is the earliest record in the south. These “sisters” had contributed $5.95 to the pastor’s annual salary.

#5: 1910….following this merger, local groups continued to work for the cause of Christ under various names:

Missions

Women’s Work

Ladies’ Aid Society

Women’s Missionary Society

Auxiliaries

#6: 1920-1935: there was not a national organization. FWB women were alive and active in the southeast, southwest, and midwest. Records indicate that women in Texas, Missouri, Ohio, and North Carolina supported the organization of the northeast.

#7: June 13, 1935 … Women’s National Auxiliary Convention was officially organized at the Black Jack FWB Church in Pitt County, NC. As the Home Missions (North American Ministries) and International Missions departments assumed the major fund raising roles in the early 1960s, our roles shifted to keeping folks aware of missionary and ministry needs while raising funds and garnering prayer support.

#8: The **Provision Closet** ministry began in 1962 and is a tangible expression of our love for church planters and international missionaries, Bible Institutes and our international sisters. Last year we met the specific needs of 230 missionary families.

#9: We also provided gifts/funds for three international retreats. In this small way we can encourage our international sisters whose women’s ministry looks much like our own. These sisters are from Bulgaria. Of this group, ¼ were non-believers. Please pray for God to bring to fruition the seeds that were planted.

#10: Two of our scholarship programs began during this era of thriving. **Cleo Pursell Foreign Student Scholarship** benefits students studying in their native language at our Bible institutes and seminaries. It is so exciting to visit our mission fields and interact with our pastors who have been the beneficiaries. As our mission fields become “partnerships” led by indigenous people, the **leaders** most often are graduates of these Bible institutes! How exciting to see the legacy of faith cycle continue.

#11: These young men are our 2019 recipients….students at our Bible institute in **Bouna**, Cote d’Ivoire, West Africa.

#12: Let me *tell* you about **Bro. Jonas**.

#13: The **Dr. Mary Ruth Wisehart Student Scholarship,** which began in 1957 as a student loan fund,benefits young ladies studying at one of our four FWB colleges here in the states. God is using these scholarship recipients in various capacities in our FWB churches and ministries. The financial aid department at each college selects their recipient.

Hannah Katherine Gorrell (Welch) said, *“I am so thankful for God’s sovereign hand that continues to work in my life, providing answers to even my biggest worries…financial aid.”*

Hanna Poole (Southeastern) graduated with a bachelor degree in elementary education with a proficiency in social studies. She will be teaching a Mt. Calvary Chrisian Academy.

Autumn Vandivort (Randall) graduated with her associates degree and will be completing her bachelor’s in Letter. Her goal is to be a writer.

#14: The ministry of our bi-monthly or quarterly Bible study guides began during this time frame as well. ***Co-Laborer, Together with God,*** and now ***Treasure’s*** thought-provoking Bible studies help equip women **to grow**, **live victoriously**, and **faithfully serve** the Lord. These Bible studies address relevant topics that daily face our FWB women.

#15: Again this year, the ladies have given approximately $450,000 to missions and ministry causes. God has been faithful to bless our efforts….proving again that little is much when God is in it.

#16: Dr. K and her family finally arrived in Cote d’Ivoire in March 2019 after a two-year wait for visa approval. Her husband, Bro. Yosniel, is a church planter. What a precious family to minister among our Lobi people. Bro. Yosniel has utilized his various abilities in laying tile, doing carpentry work, etc. on the hospital. I am rejoicing as I see these “refurbishing efforts” come to fruition.

#17: The **Cuban medical team** is now complete….serving together in Doropo. Lazara, on the far right, is the x-ray tech who arrived in May 2017. The ladies provided the **travel expenses** for all five members of this team. Dr. K and her daughter are pictured along Lazara (the x-ray technician on the right) and Mme. Solange, (in the middle), president of Women of the Good News, our Ivorian sister ministry.

#18: In the early years, WNAC sponsored **declamation contests**, the Young People’s Association(YPA) and Girls’ Association (GA) groups, the precursors to

CTS and Vertical III. Those activities were also released to CTS in the early 1960s.

#19: A new need arose in ministering to young ladies. Thus our ***Shine!* conferences** began in 2015. We are grateful for the three grants received from the FWB Foundation allowing us to launch this ministry.

#20: The goal of these conferences is simply to help our young ladies realize their identity is in Christ and in Him alone. Once they grasp this truth, they will be able to filter any cultural message through this lens grounded in God’s Word. Sometimes hearing “a familiar truth” from a different voice is what God uses to solidify His message to one’s heart.

Our adult attendees are given pertinent information to help their young ladies navigate the technologically saturated society in which we find ourselves.

#21: To date we have had 7 conferences that have touched the lives of 665 girls and their 257 youth leaders/moms….

#22: ….from 18 states and 106 churches. We are so grateful for how God is working through these conferences!

#23: The **Miley International Student Scholarship** began the same year as the *Shine! Conferences.* This scholarship assists international students from our FWB international churches who come to the United States to study at one of our FWB colleges. They do not have much access to financial aid. Two of the three recipients, Keren Delgado and Debbie Trifonova, have recently been approved by IM for 2-year terms to serve in Bulgaria! This is another full circle story for our FWB missions efforts.

Keren was selected to share her senior testimony during Welch’s graduation. She thanked the Lord for IM sending Mom and Pop Willey to Cuba. It was from their ministry that her grandparents….then her parents….and herself came to know the Lord. Her maternal grandparents from Cuba were present! What a blessing to see fruits of the pioneer work being replicated as Keren begins her itinerate to serve in Bulgaria. You can access the complete testimony on WNAC’s Facebook page…..May 10th. Keren shared with me last year that she wanted to be a missionary….not in an English or Spanish speaking country. She wanted to go where she had to learn the language and customs of the people. God has granted the desire of her heart as she heads to Bulgaria. To Him be the glory.

#24: As we seek to broaden our outreach and footprint in the denomination at large, we recognize the need to minister through regional events. Many women will never be privileged to our annual convention but they would be able to attend a Ladies’ Day Event in their area. Relevant topics will be addressed at each **FLOURISH event** as we seek to mentor, come alongside, and help women live victoriously and serve faithfully. Fellowship and networking will be important aspects as Free Will Baptist women from all of our churches gather together.

The first regional event will be held in the Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia area: March 28, 2020 at Central FWB Church in Huntington, WV. It is our goal for these regional events to be within driving distance of all Free Will Baptist women in the months ahead.

#25: ***Treasure*** Bible study guide will become an **on-line resource** as of December 2019. There will be NO subscription fee. It will be accessible to every FWB woman and her friends. The Bible studies for each month will be available online in a PDF format for download or printing purposes for those of us who prefer printed copies. Ladies can print as many copies as they like. Previous years’ Bible studies are also online now for women to use in personal or corporate devotions.

#26: Departmental **funding** of these efforts will take many forms. The women have faithfully given gifts, offerings, and dues since 1935. Special offerings have been received for which we are thankful. Together Way funds received monthly are deeply appreciated. What a blessing to have had churches place WNAC in their annual budgets. God will direct each local group to determine which method works best for them. We strive to be wise stewards of the funds entrusted to us because we believe that where God leads He provides. This is where we rest as we move forward in faith.

#27: Follow us on **social media**. Also subscribe to our **e-blast mailing** **list** to receive current information of various projects, happenings, and needs of the FWB women’s ministries.

#28: It is the goal of WNAC’s leadership to grow and change to meet the needs of all women for the generations who will take our places.

We have not done things exactly as our mothers and predecessors nor did they. Neither will those who come behind us, mirror us. We desire to leave a firm foundation upon which to build. May they do extraordinary things for God that change the trajectory of their generation.

But…. may **we** also be faithful until such time as God completes His work with us. “*Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ*” (Philippians 1:6).

**I am very grateful for Phyllis York who is my “right arm.” She works diligently and keeps the office running smoothly while I am traveling. She is the wind beneath my wings as I serve as director for WNAC.**

#29: How can we help your women? What can we learn from them? How can we serve together to accomplish more for the Kingdom?

**To God be the glory…..great things HE is doing!!**

*Thank you, Mr. Moderator. That is my report.*