



THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST FOUNDATION

Winter 2010



Go, tell it on the mountain... Jesus Christ is born!

About this time last year, I gathered with about twenty members of a Jr. High Sunday School class for an evening of Christmas caroling. Most, if not all, of these young people have been involved in church their entire lives. As the students piled onto a flatbed trailer, they were equipped with sufficient energy and enthusiasm to embrace this ministry project.

At the first house I attempted to lead the group to sing age-old Christmas songs such as "Joy to the World! The Lord is Come", "O Come, All Ye Faithful", "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," and "Go, Tell it on the Mountain." Surprisingly, most of the young carolers struggled with the words to these Christmas classics. Someone suggested that we sing "Frosty the Snowman" and "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer." Others agreed wholeheartedly and the majority of our caroling was spent singing these two songs along with "Jingle Bells" and "Santa Claus is Coming to Town."

That caroling experience reminded me of the need to reevaluate personal priorities and the influence that my life is having on others both in the present and for all of eternity. I hear afresh the words of Jesus "As you go...make disciples...baptize them...teach them..." Please receive this edition of Foundation News as a reminder of the real "reason for the season." Prayerfully, the following articles will provide insight and inspiration for many Mississippi Baptists to explore available avenues for touching a single life, a whole community, and the entire world with the good news of Jesus Christ.



Daniel Hall
Executive Director
Mississippi Baptist Foundation

David and Brenda Young: Striving to Please God

Copiah County residents David and Brenda Young desire to have a Kingdom-sized impact in “all the world.” As David elaborated on this goal, he stated, “I’ve always seen others do things and I wanted to be involved also. Thus, my prayer became ‘Lord, how can you use me? Lord, please show me what I can do and be for you.’” David continued by saying, “When I pray that prayer, I seemingly become more in tune with opportunities to be used of the Lord. Sometimes, months may pass, but when a unique opportunity surfaces, I am reminded of the specific prayer that I prayed and I begin to understand how the Lord is providing an answer to my prayer.”

David related a story of an experience through which God honored an act of obedient stewardship. During a program that was broadcast on a Christian radio station, a generous donor offered an automobile to a particular Christian organization. That testimony inspired David and Brenda to make a similar gesture to assist with mission efforts to Mexico. After giving his truck for this purpose, David asked the recipient of the gift to drop him off at the rental car establishment. The missionary asked incredulously, “Do you not have transportation? Why did you give your truck away?” David said, “I have enough money to rent a car for three days. After three days, we’ll see how the Lord is going to handle the situation.”

With the end of the third day approaching, God revealed His

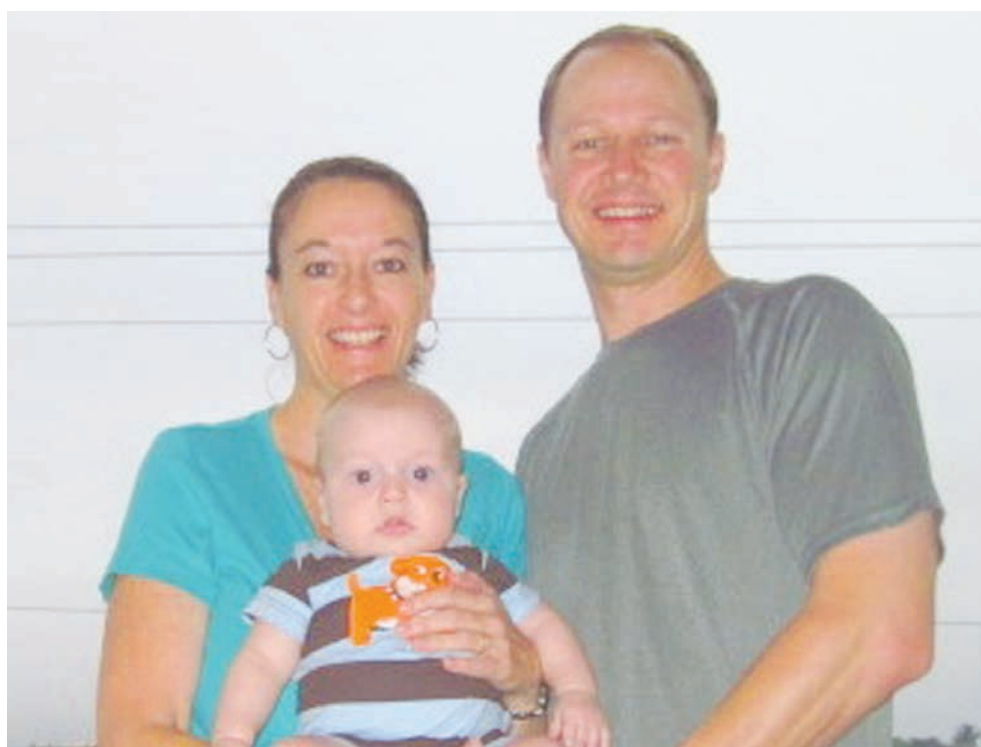


DAVID AND BRENDA YOUNG

plan. David asked a friend if he had a truck for sale. Interestingly enough, this friend “happened” to be in David’s path at that particular time. Surprised by the inquiry, the friend indicated that he did have a truck that he was planning to sell although he was curious how David would know about the truck since no advertisement had been posted. The arrangement was made that David would advertise the truck for sale while commuting in the vehicle to Jackson everyday for work. David could only marvel at God’s faithfulness in providing for his needs.

From this experience, and others, David and Brenda desire to be “on mission” continually through service to others. When the Youngs sold some timber a few months ago, they contacted the Mississippi Baptist Foundation to inquire about establishing a mission endowment. In particular, David and Brenda wanted to honor a young couple from Crystal Springs, David and Regina White, who serve as missionaries to Guatemala through the International Mission Board. With the help of Foundation staff, this desire became a reality with the establishment of the “**J. David and Brenda T. Young Mission Trust.**” Earnings from this fund are distributed by the Mississippi Baptist Foundation to the International Mission Board with preference being given to missionary support in Guatemala.

The prayer of David and Brenda remains “God, we’ll be on the look-out. We don’t know how in the world you can use us, but we’ll be on the look-out. Then, whatever we can do that pleases you, we will do.”



DAVID, REGINA, AND CRUZ WHITE

Connie Stone Memorial: That Others May Go

Connie Stone was born and raised in Leake County, MS. As was common in the days of her youth, the more rural communities had Sunday services only one or two Sundays each month. Therefore, Connie and her family attended the local Methodist church and the Baptist church on alternating Sundays. However, when given the opportunity to attend a “full-time” church, Connie readily chose the Baptist church as she was a devoted Southern Baptist all of her life. When the Stones moved to Kosciusko in 1972, Connie and Wayne transferred their membership to First Baptist Church on the first Sunday in their new hometown. Thereafter, they attended church every time the church gathered, whether on Sunday morning and evening or Wednesday night.

Connie’s devotion to her Lord and love for His church was not limited solely to her attendance. Rather, she and her husband Wayne could be characterized as “good workers” in many aspects of church

life and ministry. For many years, Connie led the two-year-old Sunday School class. As they grew older, Connie and Wayne remained very active in the Senior Adult ministry of FBC.

Connie believed in praying for and caring for the ministerial team that God had assembled. She loved and appreciated



CONNIE CELEBRATING MRS. J.B. LEWIS' 100TH BIRTHDAY

her pastor Barry Corbett, Associate Pastor Mark Parnell, and all of the worship leaders and musicians at First Baptist. In addition, Connie and Wayne were avid supporters of missions both prayerfully and finan-



CONNIE STONE WITH MARK PARNELL

cially. Connie was active in WMU at First Baptist Church and was encouraged by the quality statewide leadership of Kay Cassibry (who Connie referred to as “vivacious”) and the WMU leadership team.

Though a growing and continuing struggle with cancer began to limit her attendance at church, Connie remained faithful in praying for and giving to missions and ministry through her church. When the Lord called Connie into “higher service” with him in August of 2009, her daughter Kathy established the “**Connie Stone Memorial Missions Trust**” through the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. The goal of this fund is to provide financial assistance for members of First Baptist Church of Kosciusko as they promote the cause of Christ through participation in national and international mission trips. While reflecting on the values and priorities that she learned from her parents, Kathy offered, “I think my mom would be pleased with the Memorial Fund and its purpose.”

Vicky Dowdy: A Heart for Missions

Vicky Dowdy had a heart for missions and she took seriously Christ’s command to have personal involvement in the spread of the gospel around the world. Not only did Vicky participate in multiple mission trips to Mexico, but she also traveled to Oklahoma, Kansas, and Maryland. The trip to Maryland was a mission experience shared through the Warren County Baptist Association. In addition, Vicky joined with fellow Baptists from the Yazoo County Baptist Association to the Mississippi Gulf Coast to engage in clean-up efforts related to Hurricane Katrina.

Vicky supported her husband, Dr. Billy Dowdy, in the various ministry and mission opportunities to which the Lord led him. Often, Vicky’s encouragement and support came in the midst of physical challenges and uncertainties associated with cancer. A pastor since 1979, and the Associational Missions Director from 2000-2010 with

the Warren and Yazoo County Baptist Associations, Billy has either led or participated in mission experiences both within and outside the United States. Stateside trips include Mississippi, Massachusetts, Maryland, Texas, Ohio, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, and Washington. Mission trips outside the U.S.A. include Mexico, Canada, Honduras, Belize, Brazil, England, Thailand and various other Asian countries.

One particular region and area of ministry to which God has led the Dowdy family is Eastern India. As part of the mission emphasis in Eastern India through the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, Billy helped lead the Yazoo County Baptist Association to adopt a church in Imphal, India. The association provided funds to build a church facility and a home for the pas-

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Vicky Dowdy – Continued

tor. In addition to this experience, Billy has been privileged to teach Bible courses to other pastors.

Through this relationship with the adopted church and pastors in India, God impressed on the Dowdy family the need to provide training for pastors in the Maniphur Baptist Convention. Vicky's own experience as a life-long educator helped foster the family's interest in making biblical and theological instruction available to these Indian pastors.

On August 28, 2010, Vicky's earthly sojourn came to an end as she began living in the mansion promised to her and prepared for her by Jesus, her Savior. Her legacy of education and missions, however, continues through the "Martha Victoria Smathers Dowdy Memorial Scholarship" that has been established through the Mississippi Baptist Foundation by her husband Billy, pastor of FBC Leakesville, MS, and their two daughters, Rebekah Fleming of New Orleans, LA and Kathryn Latch of Ocean Springs,

MS. The earnings from this endowment will offer a continual means of financial support for training pastors from the state of Maniphur in Eastern India.



BECKY & OWEN FLEMING, VICKY & BILLY DOWDY, AND JACOB & KATIE LATCH

LMCO: Are We There Yet?

During this time of the year when Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, Southern Baptists highlight the unique opportunity to partner with thousands of Southern Baptist missionaries in the sharing of this good news through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. The collective giving goal for all churches within the Southern Baptist Convention for the current year is \$175 million. While this figure is a large amount to be sure, the cooperative efforts of churches, individuals, and other organizations can ensure that the attainment of this goal becomes a reality.

I'm reminded of the challenge issued by a friend of mine to every church where he has served as pastor. He challenged his congregation to give an amount to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions that equaled or exceeded the amount that was spent on the most expensive Christmas gift purchased that year. In other words, "seek first the Kingdom of God" rather than turn inward with an emphasis on self and personal wants.

Through the generosity and foresight of hundreds of stewards across our state, the Mississippi Baptist Foundation has the privilege of partnering with the International Mission Board as "laborers together with God" by distributing thousands of dollars each year for mission support. The amount distributed by the Foundation during the most recent year approached \$200,000 with a large portion of these monies being designated for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.



In the midst of the "Black Friday" and "Cyber Monday" kind of shopping events that garner much media attention and many consumer dollars during the weeks leading to Christmas, please remember the baby in the manger. Read and reflect on Luke 2:1-20, Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:18-20, and Romans 10:9-15. Perhaps spend a few moments singing "Away in a Manger" and "Silent Night, Holy Night" with your family and friends. Be open to the possibility that God would have you establish a legacy of mission giving and going in a manner similar to the Youngs, the Stones, and the Dowdys. And, as you go, remember that the Mississippi Baptist Foundation is available to help you "tell it on the mountain and everywhere that Jesus Christ is born."