



VOLUME 16, NUMBER 1, OCTOBER, 2009

WHAT IS HOPE?

HOPE is a missions organization for women. We are not a group constricted by age, labels or traditions but one with a common goal -- Helping Others Pursue Eternity. Our prayer is that we will not only meet physical needs but that we will also share the love of Jesus Christ with those who do not know of his love.

HOPE...Called to Love...Refocus

What do Outhouses, Gardening and Clinics have in common?

At our meeting on September 22, we welcomed everyone to Amanda Atkin's home and handed them a card that started the thought process of what our year would entail. The card read:

Welcome to our first HOPE meeting for 2009-2010. This year we want to see God's children as He sees them – through His eyes of love. We want to refocus our thoughts, feelings, and eyes so that we may accept God's love for ourselves and then give it away to those in need. To begin, we would like for you to think about the last time you have seen...a brand new puppy or kitten...a sunrise...a full moon over the ocean...a newborn baby...a beautiful landscape...a four leaf clover...a marching band...a sporting event...a lightning storm...

We talked about how easy it is to feel joy and happiness when we witness these events. We said we are probably guilty of taking these things for granted. We acknowledged that it is also easy to feel love for them...a parent who loves her child and watches them succeed at something...a pet owner who loves their dog or cat and finds joy in their companionship...soothing sounds of nature...the beauty of fall trees with all of their blazing colors. We love all of these things and so does God.

What about people different from us? Those living in unsanitary conditions? People whose religious beliefs

are different from ours? People who struggle with health issues? People who don't know about proper nutrition? Does God love these people? He most certainly does. Remember John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him would not perish but have everlasting life."

As HOPE members this year, we will try to love as God loves, unconditionally and through His eyes of love. We need to learn to **refocus** our eyes of love and see people as God sees them and as missionaries Don and Teresa Bolls see them. To symbolize this theme, you were asked to donate your old eyeglasses that you no longer use to a local Lions Club. You symbolically **refocused** by bringing 45 pairs of eyeglasses to our meeting. Thank you.

Have any of you ever lived where you had no indoor bathroom facilities and depended on an outhouse? Some of our ladies had experienced this and shared their insights – Imagine getting out of a warm bed at night in the dead of winter to go to a cold outhouse; no lights to guide you; spiders lurking; fear of falling in; smelly – Yuck!!

Believe it or not, Teresa and Don Bolls found ways that smelly outhouses, gardening, and clinics could be used in their ministry. An article in the September issue of *Missions Mosaic* introduced us to the Bolls. They have been missionaries for 25-plus years and have become aware of suffering and great need in West Africa. They came to realize that their upbringing in a ranching and farming community prepared them for missions in a way they could not imagine. Teresa had learned the skills of gardening, canning, preserving, sewing, and ministering to her community. She applies these skills daily for survival while living in the "bush" and also uses them as ministry opportunities to the Zerma people in the village of Ouallam, Niger, West Africa.

Outhouses: In 2006 Project Outhouses was born with a goal of building 100 latrines. Thankfully the project was successfully completed, but they hope to build at

least three more latrines at schools. Can you imagine no restroom for a bunch of 1st to 6th graders? Most would just go outside by a bush.

Through HOPE, we will attempt to raise \$400 to build at least one of these latrines.

Gardening: While Don Bolls has been involved for years in helping the Zerma people improve their farming skills, the Bollses learned of a way that trees could help the Zerma meet the basic needs of everyday living. They discovered that one healthy producing tree can provide annual income for a Zerma family. In November 2008 the Orchardman Tree Project was begun. Partnering churches have provided fruit trees and trees for wood and shade to the village of Ouallam. They have taught the Zerma farmers how to plant and take care of the trees.

HOPE will explore our gardening ministry potential through an organization called Grow and Share and/or a community garden called Anathoth Community Garden.

Clinics: Caring for Mariama, a small, ill, motherless, Zerma baby girl led the Bollses to see the great medical needs in Ouallam. Today, Teresa offers classes there on health, hygiene, nutrition, and AIDS awareness. She has plans to take AIDS awareness and prevention to over 1,200 area villages.

HOPE will also minister to those with medical needs. We will sponsor Alliance Medical Ministry, a non-profit charitable corporation that provides affordable, primary medical care to low income, uninsured working families in Wake County.

Prayer: According to the Zerma website, www.zermateam.org, "Prayer is and will continue to be a key in reaching the Zerma people." This year HOPE will **refocus** our prayer time during our meetings to include the daily prayer requests of the Zerma team. If you would like to also hear the prayer concerns of the Zerma team, you can let me know, and I can give your e-mail address to Don and Teresa Bolls so that you can receive their monthly prayer guides.

To date, these are the names I have: Carol Carter, Vivian Denning, Dawn Brown, Sheila Devins, Elizabeth Biser, Linda Stribling, Jennifer Coltrane, Kathy Parrish, Tricia Jones.

HOPE...Called to Love...Refocus will commit ourselves to think how we can minister to God's people through outhouses, gardens and clinics. While building outhouses is not much of a priority in America, we can look for opportunities to share our experiences with others. Look for prayer reminders during the coming week. When cleaning your bathroom, pray for the Bollses' and HOPE ministries of building outhouses. When preparing a salad, pray for Don as he helps farmers and for HOPE as we research our

gardening ministries. When you see an infant, pray for Teresa as she helps the Zerma women learn mothering skills and for HOPE as we minister to the needs of the working uninsured. There is hard work ahead, but together we are committed to Christ and sharing Him with the world.

For more information about HOPE, contact Tricia Jones: 460-0437 or wpjones@bellsouth.net.

SESSION 1: Angel Tree

Although Angel Tree has nothing to do with outhouses, gardening, or clinics, it is still a ministry that needs our attention. This will be our 8th year to sponsor Angel Tree of North Carolina.

Angel Tree is a ministry of Prison Fellowship Ministries. Churches who sponsor Angel Tree ministry are asked to provide Christmas gifts for the children of incarcerated parents assigned to that church. Many of the children who receive gifts through this ministry are affected by poverty. Churches register annually with the local Prison Fellowship office to receive names and addresses of Angel Tree children in their area. Volunteers phone the caregivers to discover what items of clothing (one) and toy (one) each Angel Tree child needs and/or wants for Christmas.

Our congregation will be given the opportunity to pick angels during Wednesday night supper on Wednesday, **November 18** and during both services on Sunday, **November 15 and 22**. Congregants are asked to purchase the gifts listed on the angel. Gifts will be returned to GFBC on **November 29** at our 11:00am Hanging of the Green Service. Gifts are given to the children on behalf of the incarcerated parent.

A team of coordinators are needed to phone caregivers of the children to find out sizes, gift requests, addresses and phone numbers, assist with the registration of "angels" on Wednesday, **November 18** and at the services on November 15 and 22, wrap the Angel Tree gifts and plan the method of delivery and gospel presentation to the Angel Tree families. This year GFBC will sponsor 100 children from Wake County. Those who have signed up, so far, to be on the Coordination Team are Amanda Atkin, Diana Bell-Smith, Mary George Brewer, Dawn Brown, Linda Chappell, Jennifer Coltrane, Jean Harris, Lydia Hoyle, Frances Jones, Tricia Jones, Jean Lamb, Sandra Linney, Sandra Philbeck, Gerry Ritter, Susan Sherron, Linda Stribling, and Susan Yeargan. If you would like to join this team, please call or e-mail Tricia Jones, (460-0437 or wpjones@bellsouth.net).

This year we will **refocus** our Angel Tree efforts to continue to improve this ministry. We will use new Angel Tree materials as well as think of new party ideas and activities such as inflatable bouncers.

HOPE Working Meeting

WHEN: Tuesday, October 13, 2009 at 6:30pm
WHERE: Gerry Ritter, 105 Windy Point Ln., Cary
WHAT: Prepare Angel Tree materials for November Worship Services and inventory supplies.
SIGNUP: Call or e-mail Tricia to come and/or to bring food. We need sandwiches, salads, fruit, chips, desserts, and soda/tea.

Coordination Teams

Coordination Teams plan HOPE's mission action projects and activities for the different agencies that we sponsor. Signups for all teams are still open, so if you have an interest in being on the Coordination Teams for any of our projects, contact Tricia Jones, (460-0437 or wpjones@bellsouth.net)

To date, the Coordination Team for "**Building Outhouses**" is Amanda Atkin, Elizabeth Biser, Linda Chappell, Vivian Denning, Tricia Jones, Jean Lamb, Nance Salkeld, Susan Sherron, Linda Stribling, and Susan Yeagan. The Coordination Team for the "**Local Gardening Ministry**" project is Amanda Atkin, Linda Beam, Dawn Brown, Carol Carter, Linda Chappell, Vivian Denning, Sheila Devins, Tricia Jones, Sandra Linney, and Etta Weatherman.

Hostesses for our Meetings

We are **refocusing** our meeting sites this year. Instead of restaurants, we are giving our members an opportunity to hostess a meeting in their homes. Thank you to Gerry Ritter (Oct. 13, 2009), Shelia Devins (Jan. 12, 2010), Vivian Denning (Feb. 9, 2010), and Jean Lamb (April 13, 2010) for opening your homes to us.

BackPack Buddies Follow-up

On Friday, Oct. 2, four of our HOPE members (Linda Chappell, Tricia Jones, Teresa Lamb, and Addie Smith) delivered your food donations and backpacks to Interfaith Food Shuttle in Raleigh. We had two trunks full of donations. Thank you to those who donated supplies as well as \$245 to buy items needed.

We also enjoyed shopping at the Farmers Market and eating a delicious lunch at the restaurant.

A Note of Thanks

Tricia,

Thank you to you and your girls who are so dedicated to helping provide for the needs of others.

Jayne Smallwood

Called – Missions Extravaganza and The 119th Annual Meeting of WMU NC Lifeway Ridgcrest Conference Center

April 16 – 18, 2010

Join us for a weekend of fun, fellowship, thought-provoking speakers and animated conference leaders that will inspire and uplift you as you hear that we are all **Called** to follow Christ, taking the Gospel with us to all the people of the world. Sharon Decker will serve as the keynote speaker, and Kyle Matthews will lead us in worship.

- *Depart GFBC around 11am on Friday, April 16 and return mid- to-late afternoon on Sunday, April 18*
- *Money for lunch Friday and Sunday*
- *Money for dinner on Friday and Saturday*
- *Money for shopping at Bookstore and (maybe some other fun shops in Black Mountain)*
- *For breakfast we may choose to pick up a few items at the grocery store to share, eat at McDonalds, or bring your own.*
- *Registration for conference is unknown at present but last year it was \$75 plus \$10.00 for Saturday's lunch on campus.*
- *Lodging is generously paid for by our church. Location to be determined.*
- *Those signed up so far are Carol Carter, Vivian Denning, Lydia Hoyle, Tricia Jones, Jean Lamb, Kathy Parrish, Lois Rice, and Susan Yeagan*

Calendar of Events

Session 1

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| October 13, 2009
6:30pm – 8:30pm | Topic: Angel Tree
Preparation
Home of Gerry Ritter |
| November 18 | Pick Angel Tree Angels in Fellowship Hall |
| November 15 and 22
8:45 and 11:00 services | Pick Angel Tree Angels from Chrismon Tree (Our Angel Tree children will be from Wake County.) |
| November 29
11:00am Service | Hanging of the Green Service/Deadline for Angel Tree gifts |
| Thursday,
December 3
10:00am – 1:00pm | Gift Wrapping Party in GFBC Fellowship Hall |
| Saturday, December 5 | Delivery of Angel Tree gifts and Angel Tree party at GFBC |

Session 2

January 12, 2010
6:30 - 8:30 pm Topic: **Building Outhouses**
Home of Sheila Devins

February 9
6:30-8:30pm Planning Meeting
Home of Vivian Denning

Feb. 19 - 21 GFBC Women's Retreat

March Mission Action Project

Session 3

April 13
6:30-8:30 Topic: **Local Gardening**
Ministry
Planning Meeting
Home of Jean Lamb

April 16 – 18 WMU Missions
Extravaganza Lifeway
Conference Center
Ridgecrest

Session 4

June, July, August,
and September Topic: Alliance Medical
Ministry
Collect medicines and/or
supplies for clinic

The WMU NC Heck-Jones Offering

The missions and ministries of Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina are made possible by contributions to the Heck-Jones Offering. In your September Offering envelopes mailer, there was a special envelope for the Heck-Jones Offering. The 2009 Goal for this offering is \$1.3 million. Please consider supporting WMU NC's missions and ministry endeavors by giving to this offering. To read more about the offering and what it supports, visit the WMU NC website and click on Heck-Jones Offering.

<http://www.wmunc.org/>

Welcome to our New and Returning HOPE Members

I want to officially welcome our new and returning HOPE members – Diana Bell-Smith, Elizabeth Biser, Sheila Devins, Carla Liberatore, Sydney Linney, Kathy Parrish, Marlen Ruegg, Nance Salkeld, and Linda Stribling. I pray that you will receive many blessings as you work with HOPE.

HOPE Contact Updates

In order to try and save money, we are now sending the majority of our HOPE correspondence and information by e-mail. If you are not currently on our HOPE Yahoo group list and would like to receive HOPE announcements, current project information, or anything HOPE related, please send me your e-mail address at wpjones@bellsouth.net.

HOPE Packets for 2009-2010

If you would like to have additional information about HOPE for 2009-2010, I have several HOPE packets left from our first meeting. I would be happy to leave them in the church office for you to pick up.

HOPE...Called to Love...Refocus in 2009-2010