



The MISSIONARY

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ALABAMA BIBLE METHODIST MISSIONS

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Meet Your Executive Officers

President—Lela Crawford

My husband, Leslie Crawford, and I have been married for thirty-four years. We have three sons, Ben, Matt, and Jac. Matt is married to Megan Ritchey Crawford, and they are expecting my first grandchild in December! We attend the Talladega Bible Methodist Church.

I first learned about the Bible Methodist Church while sitting in my ninth grade Civics class. Now, I know you are thinking what a good witness my teacher must have been; but no, my teacher had probably never heard of Bible Methodists either. It was a friend sitting behind me who tapped me on the shoulder and whispered, "Are you dating Leslie Crawford? He goes to my church." Civics was quickly forgotten as I learned all about Leslie's family, how they looked, exactly where they all sat in church every Sunday, and a little about the church itself. (My friend was from a large family of children and the Crawfords had been faithfully taking them to Sunday School for many years.)

Since I was just fifteen, my parents would only let us have one date a week. We soon learned to add attending church together. (Who could count going to church as a date?) So of course, Leslie would just happen to come to my church every Sunday night. However, he had a very wise mother who was not comfortable with this situation. So she and Leslie's sister, Maudine Wilcox, began taking turns inviting us to their house for supper every Sunday night after church. The only catch was, their church started at 6:00 and mine didn't start until 7:00, so if we ate supper with them, we had to go to the Bible Methodist Church. (We were invited to supper every Sunday night for the next five and a half years.) It worked.

I was saved when I was in the seventh grade, but I had wandered away from the Lord without even realizing it, as I had always been taught "once saved, always saved." As I attended church with Leslie the Lord began speaking to me, and when Bro. J.D. Young spoke for a revival, Leslie and I were both saved. A few years later, we were both sanctified during a revival with Bro. R.G. Humble. We have been serving the Lord together and growing in our faith continually. The Lord has been so faithful to lead me in the way of holiness, and I appreciate the Christian examples that many of you in our conference have shown me.

Vice President—Sue Fleming

I grew up in our Bible Methodist Conference. I am the daughter of Herman and Peggie McDonald and granddaughter of Rev. Fred and "Dickey" Brazier. I have been married to Wayne Fleming for thirty-seven years. We have three married children; Krista and Leonard Collins, Ben and Bethany Fleming and Holly and Daniel Walker. Krista has given us three wonderful "grands": Jerrel 7, Patrick 4, and Madelyn Rose 15 months.

I enjoy sharing part of every week keeping the grandchildren. The entire family live in the area, Krista in Leeds, Ben in Pell City, and Holly in Irondale. We all attend our Tarrant Church.

Holly and Daniel are in the process of domestic adoption which is both exciting and trying as we anxiously wait to meet the new "grand" the LORD has for us.

Wayne and I find ourselves extremely busy in our "retirement!" My hobbies are decorating my home (mostly dreaming), reading, and loving the "grands!"

Secretary—Karen Blankenship

The Lord called me to be a pastor's wife while I was a student at God's Bible School, and I have been married for twenty-six years to my wonderful husband, Bob. We have lived in Alabama and pastored the Talladega Bible Methodist Church for almost seventeen years.



Executive Committee Meeting—Connie Unger, Lela Crawford, Sue Fleming, Karen Blankenship, and Holly Walker

We have two children. Andrew is a freshman at God's Bible School. Alissa is in the ninth grade, and we are "home-schooling" this year. I love my family, and I love to be an encouragement to others. I enjoy cooking and trying new recipes for my family, neighbors, and friends.

I teach piano lessons, and I truly love teaching music to children and teens. I also teach the teen Sunday school class at church. I enjoy serving the Lord and walking close to Him.

WMS Treasurer—Connie Unger

My husband, Larry, and I have been married for forty three years. Larry is secretary of the Church Expansion Department.

I was not raised in a Christian home. The times that my four siblings and I went to Sunday School we walked nearly a half mile to the church down the road. If it was raining or too cold to walk and we wanted to go to Sunday School, on a special occasion, our father would take us to Sunday School and then pick us up to take us home.

I believe the Lord starting speaking to me about following Him when I was nine or ten years old, but it was not until I was sixteen years old and occasionally attending church with Larry that I really became aware of what it meant to be a Christian.

Larry's mother was very faithful in praying for the girl her son was dating. I was saved at the age of seventeen, and I firmly believe it was because of those prayers. I was sanctified several years later.

Larry's family started attending the church where Bro. Levi Whisner was pastoring. Larry and I were the first to be married in their new church, and we were there when the Christian School the church had established was taken to court by the state of Ohio.

In 1984, Larry had the opportunity to move south---away from the snow---and we began praying about the move. Our main concern was whether there was a Holiness church in the area where we would be living. Bro. Whisner's son is married to a daughter of Bro. Vess. One Sunday, when Sis. Vess was visiting them, we asked her if she knew of a church in the Gadsden area. She told us about the Bible Methodist Church in Glencoe. This was the first time we had heard about the Bible Methodist. What a blessing the people of that church and the Bible Methodist family have been to us! We count it a privilege to be a part of you.

CMB Superintendent—Holly Walker

I grew up in our Alabama conference and attended the Bible Methodist Christian School in Pell City. I went to Hobe Sound Bible College and graduated with a BA in elementary education.

In 2003, I married Daniel Walker and returned to Alabama the next year. I taught at BMCS for six years, both in Kindergarten and fifth/sixth grade. My husband and I are currently in the process of adopting our first child. We attend the Tarrant Bible Methodist Church, and are glad to see how God is using our body of believers to impact the community. I was saved at the Pell City Camp as a young child. When I was twelve years old, I told God that He could have every part of my life, past, present and future.

I am excited about CMB. I love to see God putting missions on the hearts of our children, and can only imagine the impact they may have. David Livingstone once said: "This generation can only reach this generation." I believe it is important to train our children to fulfill the Great Commission by supporting missions abroad and sharing God's love here at home. My goal is that our children will learn to "expect great things from God [and] attempt great things for God." (William Carey)



CHURCH NEWS

Several churches ministered to families in their areas affected by the tornadoes: **Active** sent a love offering to the Tuscaloosa Church for tornado relief, and a group went to Holt to do storm clean up and help feed the residents and volunteers. Several individuals and families from the **Ada Chapel, Glencoe, Golden Grove, and Talladega** churches donated their time and resources to help hurting people in the Tuscaloosa area. They partnered with **Bro. Doug Eads** and the **Mark Potter family** from the **Tuscaloosa** church to help feed people, and many from the churches listed above helped cook and serve meals for the victims and volunteers. **Chattanooga First** made "bedtime backpacks," and for Mother's Day,

Melinda Shirk, Valerie Womelsdorf, and Karen Blankenship put together gift bags of personal items for mothers who had lost their homes. **Waycross** also gave and ministered to families that were affected in their area.

Youth camp in Pell City was well attended, and several boys and girls gave their heart to the Lord. Many churches reported being blessed by the ministry of camp meeting and conference and offerings were given for camp expense and camp caretaker support. The special mission's service was also a blessing. Love offerings were given to Marc and Melodie Sankey in appreciation for their labors in Mexico. Tom and Judy Davis were honored with cards and gifts in celebration of their 40th wedding anniversary!

Many of us were able to enjoy the ministry of Hobe Sound Bible College Choir. Several churches also hosted two trios from Hobe Sound, a trio from Union Bible College, and a quartet from God's Bible School. Bible Methodists were well represented in these groups. Kenny Stetler was with UBC, Jac Crawford with HSBC, and Kent Stetler with GBS.

Some of our ladies have taken in meals for those who have had surgery and lost loved ones.

Mothers and fathers were honored with small gifts on their special days. Harold Martin and his family visited and spoke about Missionary Flights International. His emphasis was on aid to earthquake victims in Haiti.

Support was given to the families of Tim Boyd, Steve Stetler, David Black, and Don Shirk.

Active announces the arrival of their newest member, William Thomas O'Dell, who was born on May 19, 2011. He weighed 7 lbs. and 5 ozs. His parents are Brandon and Laurie O'Dell, and his big sister is Laura Beth.

They enjoyed a visit from the Reynolds family.

In **Ada Chapel** Hardie Medders celebrated her 90th birthday in the fellowship hall. Charlotte White led a week of VBS, and the church enjoyed an Old Fashioned Sunday followed by lunch on the grounds and an afternoon singing. Granny Verna Mae Marchant's 94th birthday was celebrated.

Brent sent money for the youth and children in Mexico. The ladies of the church are making contacts through cards and telephone calls.

In **Burlington** Esther Dotson and her family sang and spoke for their Mother-Daughter banquet. Frances Stetler and her helpers did an excellent job with their VBS. The Steve Gardner family told of the work they are doing in Afghanistan. A good offering was given to Amy Weddle towards her internship to Ukraine. She went with a TLC group from Hobe Sound, FL, and they worked with the Boyds and Katrina Randolph.

Chattanooga First gave a card shower to a shut-in and sent a "Taste of Chattanooga" package to the Hutchisons.

Chattanooga Temple bought equipment for the camp kitchen. Two children from the church held a bake sale for the orphanage in Romania where Sally Sebo ministers. During VBS, the children who attended raised a good offering which was later earmarked for the CMB's project of 'kid's' furniture for Mexican Sunday Schools. Bro. Davis and some families did yard work for senior citizens of the church.

Sis. Purselley has been encouraging **Floral** to pray more for their missionaries and officers. They completed some home mission projects.

Friendsville was excited to have Miss Pat Smith and Amanda, Melinda and Massenat Ulysses, their new daughter and Bro. Ulysses' dad from Haiti. They had a special service telling about the Haitian Children's Home. Bro. Hedstrom visited and shared a message of encouragement. The story of John Wang, who was tortured for his faith in China, was also shared.

Glencoe enjoyed attending the graduation ceremony at the Bible Methodist Christian School. A graduation celebration was given for Courtney Hill and Josh Palmer. Support was given for Etowah County Pregnancy Center.

The CMB from **Golden Grove** scored the highest for the past conference year with 96%. Congratulations to the children who worked so hard!

Nixon Chapel bought towels and wash cloths for the camp. The church was saddened by the home going of one of their members, Bro. Earl Haynie, their pastor's father.

Pell City had a memorial service honoring special people in their lives. A bridal shower was given for Amber St. John, who married Jared Habecker in September. Nate and Shelly Orvis were welcomed back with a singsperation and fellowship. Nate is teaching at the Bible Methodist Christian School. Sis. Jonna Marsh's brother and family visited from Indiana and blessed the church with their singing.

Talladega honored Andrew Blankenship with a "college dorm/going away party." Table decorations and gifts included items needed in a college dorm room. Andrew graduated from BMCS as Valedictorian of the class of 2011. He is attending God's Bible School.

Tarrant sent money to the Philippines to pay for an electric guitar for one of the pastors to use in his church services. They also paid to have a sign placed along the interstate announcing the Bible Methodist Christian School. They helped a young lady with fuel expense so she could attend church.

Waycross had VBS with Sis. Billie Ruth Montz directing. A kitchen shower was attended to supply needed items for the church's newly remodeled fellowship area. They also blessed their pastor with gift certificates to Cracker Barrel. They received the Sunday School of the Year award for the second year in a row! Spencer Clements received the 2011 Superintendent of the Year award, and Don Clements was the 2011 Sunday School Teacher of the Year runner-up.

Bro. Bill Martin had emergency surgery and the church ministered to him with food and a monetary gift during his recovery. The church was saddened by the passing of Gladys Kynard and Joe Nick Hoggie.



Marc and Melodie Sankey

We appreciate the faithful service of Marc and Melodie and their family in Mexico. They have been a blessing and they will be missed!

Kids with a Heart for Missions

"...ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8

Spotlight on Young Missionaries

Several young ladies from our Burlington Bible Methodist Church have been having bake sales for missions; *what a great idea!* Abbey, Brittany, Charlie, and Kaylen have been working for several years now, baking yummy treats, selling them, and using the proceeds for missions. Their mission statement on their web site, www.cheerachild.org says: **"...We desire to meet children's needs around the world. We provide clothing and school supplies. Our vision is to see every Bible Methodist church have a team of 3 or 4 having a bake sale at their church every month or every other month...Someday we want everyone to know about CAC (Cheer A Child)."** They claim Matthew 19:14 as their promise: *"But Jesus said suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."*



Kaylen, Charlie, Abbey and Brittany have lots of fun working to raise money for missions!

Thank you for helping us raise \$2,400.00 for our **2011 camp project**. Our goal was \$1,500.00, so we exceeded it by \$900.00!
Praise the Lord!

Our **2011-2012 CMB Special Project** will be equipping our Mexican Sunday Schools with much needed supplies such as tables, chairs, easels, and flannel boards.

Reminder

Please send a picture of your CMB to Holly Walker, 5388 Amber Hills Rd., Irondale, AL 35210 or HollySWalker@bellsouth.net, so we can update our website:
www.biblemethodist.org/alabama/childrens-missionary-band

Prayer Praises

With some real hesitation and trepidation, our WMS (and whole church, for that matter) took another step in ministry recently. Much prayer had gone before about what God wanted us to do to further our outreach and ministry to our community. Then, when a new convert became homeless, we suddenly found ourselves grappling with issues we felt unprepared for...finding housing, a job (in this economy), and transportation. But, the LORD has miraculously helped us! He moved our hearts to do what we could, opened doors, and stretched us all. Everyone has gotten involved and a job, decent housing, and a reasonable car were found! (The church helped purchase the car. As it is paid back these funds will be available to use for another need.) Praise the LORD! God is still interested and more than capable of answering the prayers of His people, and in using us to show His love to others. It is so exciting and fulfilling to see God working in the 21st Century!! ~ Sue Fleming

The person shared her testimony and stated, "I have been shown such love from this church lately as I have never known, and am so grateful and blessed."

"The history of missions is the history of answered prayer." ~ Samuel Zwemer