

A Recent History of the College Street Foreign Missions Program

Submitted by Randy McManamay

1977-1990: Philippines, Rwanda, and Brazil

College Street Baptist has a reputation of being a "mission-minded" church, as evidenced by our support of local, national, and international missions through generous giving to the Cooperative Program and to the Beaverdam Association. In



This certificate was awarded in 2001 for our contributions to the Cooperative Program in support of missions.

March of 1977, an extension of that commitment resulted in the first trip in the church's recent history to the foreign mission field. John Kelley and Pastor George Tichenor joined other Southern Baptists from South Carolina in a trip to the Philippines. The focus of this trip was to conduct one-on-one evangelism and to lead home Bible studies.

In 1988, the church again answered the call to missions when two groups organized by Beaverdam Director of Missions, John Dent, traveled to Rwanda, Africa to assist IMB missionaries and Oconee natives, Crawford and Teresa Keese. Each team consisted of 15 members from a total of 18 churches in the Beaverdam Association. Their goal was to assist in the construction of a classroom building for the Petit Seminary. From January 2 – 31, College Street members Harold and Violet Gibson traveled with the first team. A second team included Tom Burch,

Buddy Byars, Betty and Jimmy Stephens, and Chevis Wald who relieved the first team on January 30 and continued through March 1.

Our church joined other South Carolina Baptists in the Rio, Brazil Partnership with the Carioca Baptist Convention. The teams were involved each day with street evangelism in slum areas. They held nightly church services and also helped with some construction projects. Kathy Kuhman and Betty Stephens joined the September, 1989 team. In 1990, Betty Stephens and Chevis Wald represented our church in a second trip.

1999-2004: Three trips to Moldova, one to China

College Street renewed its commitment to foreign missions in 1999 when it formed a partnership with Emanuel Baptist Church in Beltsy, Moldova. The partnership included providing labor and funds for the construction of the church, as well as conducting street evangelism, door-to-door evangelism, Bible schools, and Bible studies. Our teams worked with Pastor Vasilli Sanduleac and various church leaders in their outreach to several other communities.

Randy McManamay served as the facilitator for planning and organizing each team. On the initial



June 2000: Our 2nd Mission Team to Moldova

trip taken in July 1999, our church joined a team organized by Ron Duncan of East Pickens Baptist Church. Twenty three team members represented nine churches from South Carolina, Alabama, and Georgia. Pastor John Adams and Paul Fidler were

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At College Street Women's tea funds missions

More than 200 women attended "A Missions Tea Thru Time" at College Street Church, Walhalla, on May 12. It was the third annual event sponsored by WMU to raise money for the church's mission to Moldova.

Kirkland "Two years ago," explained pastor John Adams, "we adopted a church in Moldova, pledging both financial and prayer support." The church committed \$2,000 annually to the Moldova congregation. However, Adams said College Street has actually raised between \$6,000 and \$7,000 each year for the missions project. "This is the most selfless congregation I have ever seen," the pastor said.

College Street's contributions to the work in Moldova are above Cooperative Program gifts. The church, a member of Beaverdam Association, ranks



Linda Bowden, left, was guest speaker for the WMU tea. Helping coordinate the missions event were (l to r) pastor's wife Donna Adams, Sue Maher, Gail Medlin, Margene Gravely, and Ann Yelton.

among the top 50 in South Carolina in total amount given to the Cooperative Program.

"It is our hope," Adams said, "that every dollar given will transform a life."

For the event, women wore dresses typical of different periods in WMU history. Acteens served the tables during the event. Linda Bowden, wife of Clemson football coach Tommy Bowden, was guest speaker.

the College Street members who worked in Cricova on that trip. Kelly Conway and Ryan, Sharon, and Randy McManamay were on the team in Beltsy.

In June 2000, Randy McManamay led a team of fourteen to Beltsy represented by five churches from Oconee and Pickens counties. College Street members were Mike Bonham, Kelly Conway, Niki and Ricky Cook, Catherine Davis, Julian Davis II, Paul Fidler, Ryan McManamay, Betty Stephens, and Sarah Wilson. A third trip led by Randy McManamay was taken in June, 2001 consisting of eleven members from five churches. College Street members were Mike Bonham, Ricky Cook, Ryan McManamay, Sharon and Randy McManamay, Betty Stephens, and Sarah Wilson. A final trip was made in July, 2004 led by Ricky Cook. The six members from three churches included College Street members Niki and Ricky Cook, Betty Stephens, and Sarah Wilson.

A second international trip was taken in 2004, when Sharon and Randy McManamay joined missionaries in China traveling to Beijing, Xian, Xining, and the eastern part of the Tibetan plain. The purpose of the trip was to research and to prepare for future trips by other volunteer teams.

2006-2010: Many Trips to Peru

After eighteen months of prayer for a new direction by a number of individuals, Randy McManamay organized a vision trip to Peru in February 2006, along with Bryon Compton, Sharon McManamay, and Betty Stephens. Missionaries Boots

Holder and Larry Jackson led the team to the province of Ambo. As a result, College Street adopted the Ambo-Pasco Quechua people group.

The church served as the strategic coordinator for evangelizing this people group. A strategic planning team was elected by the church to carry out the mission. Those who served as members of this team were Allan Addis, Mike Bonham, Ricky Cook, Randy McManamay (facilitator), Pastor Ken Reid (staff liaison), Betty Stephens, Kyle Stephens, Scott Wooten (prayer leader), and Julian Yelton.

Ten trips were made from February 2006, through September 2009, led by Allan Addis (August, 2007) and Randy McManamay (nine trips). Two additional trips were in planning stages at the time of this writing with a final trip planned for March of 2010. Teams were initially involved in forming relationships with indigenous church leaders and their local communities. Teams visited schools, making and giving student pictures, speaking in classrooms, and giving school supplies to students and teachers. Early teams also led local churches in conducting Bible School for children. In 2007 and 2008 leadership training conferences were conducted with a total of two hundred and forty five enrolled participants. Final years involved church planting in villages in the highlands. This involved encouraging the indigenous Christians, supplying materials for Bible study and evangelism, one-on-one evangelism, and conducting Bible studies and evangelistic services.



Randy McManamay, Gladys (their interpreter), and Betty Stephens work in a village in Peru.

At the time of this writing, eighty *Thompson Chain Reference* Bibles had been purchased as gifts to pastors of churches in the Ambo province. In addition, thousands of tracts, hundreds of New Testaments, and hundreds of Bible study lessons were distributed to seekers and New Christians. Various groups made dolls, baby blankets, and dresses for babies and young girls.

The following College Street members have participated in trips to Peru, with the number in parentheses representing the number of trips each took through September 2009: Allan Addis(4), Amanda Bannister(1), Jean Bonham (2), Mike Bonham(2), Mark Carroll (1), Rev. Bryon Compton(1), Ricky Cook(2), Niki Cook(2), Randy McManamay(9), Sharon McManamay(5), Pastor Ken Reid(2), Kyle Stephens(3), Betty Stephens(4), Stella Welsh(2), and Julian Yelton (3). In addition, five individuals from four area churches joined one or more of our teams including Beaverdam Director of Missions, Fred Astin(1).

Individuals Answer the Call

In addition to church sponsored trips, a number of individuals have responded to the call for foreign missions over the past decade. In 1999, Rev. Ray Conway joined the Singing Churchmen in a trip to Romania. In the same year Catherine Davis joined a team in Slovakia sponsored by Campus Crusade. In 2000, John Adams and David King responded to an invitation to teach apologetics in Romania.

Also in 2000, Catherine Davis left for a school in Budapest to

Mission Ministries of College Street Baptist Church

CARE (Christians Actively Reaching Everyone)

Outreach ministry of CSBC

Food Pantry

Ministry seeking to meet the spiritual and physical needs of families in crisis in Oconee County

Apartment Outreach

Off-campus Bible Study held on Sunday mornings and bus pickup for free play on Tuesday evenings in CSBC gym

Lakeview Nursing Home Ministry

Ministers to the residents on a monthly basis

Home Partners

Sharing the love of Christ by maintaining, repairing or upgrading the homes and property of members of our church and community that need assistance

Tyger River Prison Ministry

A ministry to the inmates

Angel Tree

Christmas ministry to children in Oconee County with an incarcerated parent

Prisoner Packets

Providing gifts for prisoners in state penal institutions

Pass it on Ministry

Used reading materials are distributed to the local law enforcement center

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child

Packing and sending shoe boxes with gifts to children in other countries

Peru Partnership

Three to five-year partnership with IMB missionaries in Lima, Peru for the purpose of strengthening the work of indigenous pastors and churches in the mountainous regions of Ambo-Pasco, Peru

Havelock, NC Mission Project

Partnership with Havelock Community Missionary Baptist Church involving adult and youth mission trips that includes Bible Schools, building/repair projects, and music presentations

Disaster Relief Team

Members trained to provide relief during disasters throughout the United States through the SC Baptist Convention and the North American Mission Board

teach for two years. Rev. Conway again joined the Singing Churchmen along with Brad Price as they traveled to Taiwan in 2003. Laura Beth Thomas joined Focus on the Family in a trip to Ecuador that same year. Britnie Reid accepted an invitation to serve short term in India in 2006. In October 2007, Ricky, Niki, Austin, Coby, and Kelsey Cook began full time service in Lusaka, Zambia. They served as guest house managers until January 2009. Garry Freeman made two trips to Kenya in 2008 to teach entrepreneurship. In 2009, Laura Beth Thomas returned to Ecuador on a medical trip sponsored by Volunteers in Medical Missions.