



The Ambassador

CARING, WITNESSING, MAKING DISCIPLES

Summer 2015

christianworldmissions.org

Supplying the Seed A PLENTIFUL HARVEST

*I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—
a plentiful harvest of new lives.*
John 12:24, NLT

25 years ago, when Lee Ann & Lori were still Grace & Gladness Ministries and CWM was still in a little house on North Jackson Street, the Lord planted a dream in our hearts. We dreamed of a center where non-Christians could come to know Christ and where believers could grow in their faith and be sent into the world to share the Gospel.



This summer, we watched as the dream became more than we ever imagined,

and there was, indeed, “a plentiful harvest of new lives” in our local summer youth ministry, as 22 teenagers learned what it means to follow Christ.

We waited for over 25 years, and just as the verse from John 12 suggests, death preceded life, and despair threatened to overcome our faith... But God! We thank all of you for your part in making this dream a reality. Enjoy the story!

Several years after the dream was born, seeds of faith were planted and the dream seemed to be taking shape when land was purchased in Kansas City in 1998. Except that it didn't take shape, and hope grew dim. Neighborhood opposition turned ugly and a legal battle left us weary, discouraged, and financially strapped. Lori and Lee Ann both took ministry positions in local churches, and Grace & Gladness Ministries moved into a slower season.

Back in Mississippi, CWM built a 10,000 sq. ft. warehouse in the mid-90's to collect and refurbish retired medical equipment and ship it overseas. (Cont on pg. 2)

ACROSS THE STREET...

This summer, CWM launched its first daily local program, Youth Community Explosion. On September 29, we will add Parent 2 Parent, a weekly family night, partnering with parents to help their children exit poverty and live productive lives. Only Jesus can truly give people hope and help to live victoriously, no matter



what their circumstances. Here at CWM, we are seeing lives transformed as we reach out intentionally to the hurting world around us. John & Christine Zimmerman of About Face Ministries will join us for the month of February to help us learn more effective methods. More info to come!

...AND AROUND THE WORLD

As news of the devastating earthquake in Nepal reached us we began to pray about how we could help. With generosity from 1st United Methodist in Starkville, and many others, we were able to fund repairs for several homes and churches. Continue to pray for that small, vibrant country — Christians are facing great persecution now as the country votes to establish its first constitution since becoming a democracy in 2008. In order to hinder conversion, the Hindu government is campaigning to prohibit any public gathering of Christians, even for Sunday services. Persecution is spreading, but Christians are standing firm. Read about how you can pray for the Nepalese people now inside this issue.



Believers gathered for intercessory prayer & praise in Eastern Nepal

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEP—DEC 2015

We would love to come to your church for a renewal event, women's retreat, concert or to share about the work of missions in the U.S. and abroad. Please contact us to begin the process of scheduling.

North Starkville Outreach

CWM Headquarters, Starkville, MS
Meet & Greet/Program Registration

Sep 12, Noon—2 pm

Youth Community Explosion

Daily Mon-Thurs, 3:30-6:30

Beginning Sep 28

Parent-2-Parent/Family Night

Every Tues, 6-8 p.m.

Beginning Sep 29

**A Night Under the Stars
Dinner Theatre**

CWM Headquarters, Starkville, MS

Tickets available now!

Oct 8

Monthly Community Outreach

Oct 24—Harvest Festival

Nov 21 — Thanksgiving Dinner

Dec 19 — Christmas Party

Lori & Lee Ann's Ministry Schedule

Concert, United Methodist Church

Silverdale, WA

Sep 23

MS UMC Clergy Spouse Retreat

Brandon, MS

Oct 9-10

Women's Retreat & Sun Svc

Calvary UMC, Stockton, IL

Oct 17-18

CWM Council Meeting

CWM Headquarters Starkville, MS

Christmas Concerts

Schedule yours now!

Dec 1-20

Call us at 662-324-0390 or

email us at

lori@ChristianWorldMissions.org

A Plentiful Harvest, continued:

After 9/11, that dream died, as well, and for the next 10 years, the warehouse sat mostly empty, used only occasionally for disaster relief and other charitable collections.

In 2009, the Lord led Lori and Lee Ann back to Mississippi to take leadership of CWM. As difficult as it was, we let the dream fall into the ground and die. The land was put up for sale, and we turned toward God's new plan, which did not seem to include the dream at all. Little did we know...

The original dream died, but just as God promised, the seeds have multiplied and the harvest is plentiful!

When I thought of our warehouse, the phrase, "Use it or lose it," reverberated in my mind over and over. As we talked and prayed, God rekindled the dream, but God seemed to have much more in mind. Not only would we train believers, but we would also reach out to those who don't know Christ, especially among our neighbors in North Starkville.

In March of this year, two different government-funded organizations contacted us, wanting to place "volunteers" with us. We interviewed and selected our own personnel, but these organizations paid their monthly stipends. As of now, we have 3 full-time staff members through the AmeriCorps VISTA program (Volunteers in Service to America), and one part-time staff member through Experience Works, a program which places people over 55 in training positions. All four women love God and are passionate about winning the lost to Him.



From left: Tiffany Ward, assistant, & Brittany Radford, director of Youth Community Explosion, with Lori & Lee Ann



Martha Stovall, director of Parent 2 Parent, lighting a candle for each young lady during the Purity Ceremony

We had already been working with two other volunteer placement organizations, Volunteer Starkville and the Maroon Volunteer Center from Mississippi State University, and had teams coming to build, paint, play with youth, and do whatever needed to be done, at least a couple of times a year. We found our "house" full of family, precious men and women, young and old, who simply wanted to serve. What was God up to?

(Cont. on next page)

A Plentiful Harvest, continued:

This summer, with finances at an all-time low, we launched a ministry for at-risk youth, and 26 young people signed up to discover how God wants to make a difference in every part of our lives—if we will let Him. We began to see it happen: **a plentiful harvest of new lives!**

We didn't receive salaries for a couple of months, but we were reaping a far more valuable harvest of precious souls. We prayed more intentionally than ever before and we watched as God met our needs daily, both at home and in ministry. But far more important, we watched him shed light in darkness and bring hope and healing to His children.

The seed had died, BUT GOD had a better plan!

The final week arrived and 22 mid-high students completed the camp and gave powerful testimony to God's work in their lives. One grandmother even called and said, "Kenneth has learned so much. He's always telling me, 'You know God is with you and He will help you with that, if you'll just ask Him!'" Alley came to us shy and sullen, but by summer's end, learned to smile and love and reach out to help others. I could go on and on about the things God is doing, but you should just come and see for yourself!



Office Administrator, Rosella Goddard, leads the girls in a team-building exercise



Students from Service Dawgs help prepare surplus lumber

In disbelief, the week the program ended, we also watched God sell the land in KC. The proceeds of the sale enabled us to catch up with salaries, meet all of our international obligations for the year, and start strategizing about improvements in our warehouse, now officially an *outreach center*. He led us to a surplus lumber yard 35 miles from home, and for less than \$5000 we purchased almost all of the lumber we need to complete renovation in our warehouse: kitchen, craft room, game room, library, four large conference rooms, 2 storage rooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 offices, and most importantly, a prayer room. As you can see, construction is underway, and we hope to have it completed by the end of the year, mostly with volunteer labor.

Mr. Bob Coblentz continues to work as foreman of the project, celebrating the ministry that has already begun and calling all of us to remember Jesus' words in Matthew 25 — "Whatever you do for the least of these, you do for Me."

On September 28, we will launch our daily year-round program for youth, and we've invited parents to partner with us through a weekly program called Parent 2 Parent. We are seeing a harvest of souls grow up into fruit that remains, reaching out, serving others, making a difference. Thank you for all you have done through the years to help make this happen. You are truly making a difference!



Parent 2 Parent Associate Director, Delores Bradford, helping with the build

COME VOLUNTEER WITH US!

Mr. Bob Coblentz is in his 3rd year of volunteering as CWM construction foreman. He welcomes anyone willing to help. Do you have a few hours and/or a group looking for a way to serve? Call us at **662-324-0390** and we will help you schedule a work time!



ASIA 2015

INDIA - GOSPEL FRIENDS

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them!
For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children." Matthew 19:14

One of the highlights of our ministry is receiving reports from our wonderful partner in India, Ghuna Kumar, about the way lives are being impacted on their Living Hope Campus. For many years, Ghuna has offered a Vacation Bible School program unlike any you or I have experienced — 5000 children sitting in rapt attention for 8 hours a day, few games, no crafts, and lots of Bible memory, singing, and teaching. Lives are transformed! Many lives! Each year a temporary grass-roofed pavilion is constructed and earnest prayer begins to hold back the rain. Ghuna has prayed and invited others to help them erect a more permanent structure, which would not only be used for VBS, but also for on-going pastor training, evangelistic outreach, and other Christian growth programs. This was the year! As you can see, a bit more work is to be done, including erecting walls and providing electricity. They were

also able to add a boys' dormitory separate from the girls' facility, which was required by the government.

Everything Gospel Friends does is birthed in the prayer of faith, as you can see in this picture of their staff prayer meeting. Please continue to hold them in your prayers as they serve in a culture that is often hostile to the message of the Gospel. We who live with such freedom must pray that they will be filled with God's Spirit and boldness. That is our part!



NEPAL AND PAKISTAN

God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.
So we will not fear when earthquakes come and the mountains crumble into the sea. Psalm 46:1-2

Of all of our partners around the world, those who serve in Nepal and Pakistan probably face the most difficult opposition to their faith. Regularly threatened by militants from other religions, sometimes suffering great loss, injury, and even death, they continue to faithfully proclaim the Gospel. Because their lives could be in danger, we will not publish specifics about their names or locations, at this time, but we will give you specifics about their need for prayer and support:

- In Nepal, Christians helped Buddhists, Hindus, and Muslims in the aftermath of the earthquakes, aware of the great opportunity to show the love of Christ. Pray that they will also have resources to rebuild their homes and lives. We appreciate the Starkville 1st UMC for their help for our partners in Nepal.
- In Pakistan, riots and strikes, monsoonal rains, and fires often leave entire communities in devastation. Again, our Christian brothers and sisters give sacrificially to help their neighbors. Pray that many would come to know Jesus through their witness.
- From both countries, we are receiving regular reports of the baptism of new believers. Pray for these tender, young Christians to be strengthened in their faith as they walk away from centuries of family religion and tradition. Pray that the transformation in their lives will be a powerful witness to family and friends.



AFRICA 2015—A YEAR OF JUBILEE— RESTING FROM PLANTING

FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCES

For the first time in 15 years, we took a break from planting churches to conduct major follow-up conferences. Hundreds of clergy, lay pastors, and church leaders gathered for 4 days of instruction in evangelism and ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit. Many were encouraged, healed, and filled again for service. In the evenings, evangelistic crusades were held in a number of strategic locations, resulting in scores of new believers following Christ. Evangelist Joseph Otsin in Ghana reported, “Members in the {districts} were overwhelmed for such a follow-up and also pledged their continuing support of the young churches, including the building of pavilions for places of worship.”



TESTIMONIES FROM NEW FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST—GHANA

“While my father was on his sick bed, he appealed to me to replace him at the shrine to serve. According to him, the shrine has been his place of worship since birth. After his death, I was tasked to supply firewood to the fetish priest every Friday. After some time, I found it prudent to accept Christ and quit worshipping at the shrine. This decision met the timely establishment of Ebenezer Methodist Church, Nobesu. The Word of God I heard during the crusade motivated me to remain a Christian. I am glad to announce that I have been baptized and look forward to being confirmed.” Georgina, 53 yrs.

“According to my mother, I was named after the shrine priest because she conceived my sister and I by the help of the fetish priest. I have served there since childhood. I accepted Jesus Christ upon hearing the Word of God during the crusade. Even though my eldest sister is a fetish priest, I have decided to remain a Christian with my husband and children.” Joyce, 50 yrs.

LIBERATION CRUSADE—NIGERIA

In September of 2014, after much prayer, the CWM U.S. staff felt led NOT to be in Africa for the 2015 follow-up mission. The Ebola outbreak certainly figured into this decision, but God knew even greater reasons. Our normal schedule would have taken us there in March, but since Nigeria was in national elections and violence was erupting around the country, there was a last-minute schedule change and the crusade wasn’t held until May. Only God could have known — “Man makes his plan, but the Lord directs his steps.” (Proverbs 16:9)

Under the direction of Sir J.K. Udeze, a wonderful 4-day Liberation Crusade was held in the Mgbo diocese where we planted 10 churches in 2013. From the report: “We had an initial problem when the leadership of the diocese did not see any white man. It took time to convince them to participate. Thank God, they apologized during the debriefing based on what they experienced during the crusade. The results were overwhelming, as people in their hundreds received Christ as Savior. They were delivered from satanic bondages, and many could no longer stand on their feet due to the anointing when J.K. preached.”



The year of Jubilee was fruitful — what will the coming year of church-planting hold? According to God’s Word, it can only be even more fruitful! Is God calling you to be a part of the Africa 2016 Mission Team? Pray!



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"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last." John 15:16

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BOUNDLESS TREASURE



What was the last thing you saw, did, or experienced that made you think, "Wow, this is worth keeping! This is something I need to share with my grandchildren!" A number of years ago, my dad passed along a real treasure to me. It had come to him from a parishioner early in his ministry. For years, I was allowed to look at it only occasionally, and was only permitted to touch it when I was old enough to understand how precious and fragile it really was.

Have I piqued your interest? My daddy gave me a tiny, German prayer book which was printed in 1647. It has been wrapped in brocade cloth and kept in a felt-lined mahogany box for as long as it has been in our family. I can't read a word of it, and its monetary value is small, but it is a great treasure to me.

It would be hard for me to quantify the value of the ministry you and I share. We might add up the dollars spent for pavilions, pastor salaries, wells, orphanages, training, and equipment. We could total the amount of money given to support CWM over the last 45 years. We could even total the number of people who have been reached through evangelistic crusades, leadership training seminars, youth rallies, and church plants. But none of that would be the real value of the lives that have been saved and changed forever.

On August 31, I received a call from one of our regular supporters. She and her husband were preparing their wills, and they had decided to leave a bequest to CWM and one of our international partners. She explained that God had clearly directed them in this decision because we are "sharing the Gospel and people are being saved, healed, and delivered." Your gifts are priceless, achieving far more than their simple monetary value. You are giving life. Thank you, friends. You are helping mine the richest treasure of God's Kingdom.



Lee Ann Williamson is the Executive Director of Christian World Missions and is an evangelist, Bible teacher and worship leader. She began full time ministry in 1981 with her father, serving as youth and music evangelist. Lee Ann has traveled to many countries and across the US sharing the gospel through evangelistic campaigns, church revivals, women's retreats, concerts and discipleship training.