



JOURNEY

Making a Difference ...

Inside this issue:

Christmas "Stores"	2
Couponing for Missions	2
Made to Crave Bible Study	3
FEMINAR conference	3
Christmas "Wonder in Woodhaven"	4
Mom 2 Mom	5
More ways to be involved	6

Special points of interest:

- Mom 2 Mom
- "Made to Crave" Bible study
- Secret Sister "Reveal" Party
- Couponing for Missions
- Holiday Happenings

Her head bowed in respect, her darting eyes seemed to be seeking approval from our group. The young Thai woman in front of us shared, perhaps for the first time to an audience, her life story of neglect, abuse, deprivation of love from family, and finally exploitation by those she thought she could trust.

Tears flowed ...from her face and the faces of those in her audience.. She swayed gently from side to side perhaps from nervousness as her story was unveiled.

My heart ached as I listened to a story I would hear repeated many times during my recent visit to Thailand and Cambodia, countries where human exploitation has reached epidemic proportions. Exploitation occurs when people are mistreated or unfairly used for the benefit of others.

Victims of trafficking from many nations are easily deceived or lured because they face poverty, unemployment, broken families and unstable governments in their own countries. Victims are often lured by the prospect of an opportunity to earn money for a family left behind in a small village. Other times they are sold into slavery by drug-addicted family members. Thailand has become one of the major countries in the world where thousands of young girls are sold or lured into human trafficking or are exploited in other ways.

The ever-present theme of the story of the young woman in front of us was that as she sought love and acceptance she was exploited and ended up in a life-style that she did not choose. As her story grew to a close, the translator shared with us that she now knows that God loves her because of the acceptance and love she found when introduced to those who work at "The Well" ministries in Bangkok, Thailand.

"The Well" is one of many WorldCraft artisan groups that offers help to young women in similar situations by providing them with a fair trade job. They learn a trade and earn a living for themselves and their families through organizations such as "The Well."

The first-ever WorldCrafts Tour of Thailand and Cambodia had brought me to this part of the world as one of 22 trip participants. Most of us involved knew about WorldCrafts as a ministry of national Woman's Missionary Union and were involved in supporting it in one way or another. But none of us had actually visited artisan groups in this part of the world nor heard face to face stories of the young women who had been exploited in various ways.

As we visited The Well, Thai Country Trim, Kingdom Kreations, New Life Foundation, and Treasures from the Heart ministries, we heard story after story of exploitation, human trafficking, prostitution, and other forms of abuse and mistreatment which took place mostly with very young women and girls. One example was the story of a family who sold their four year old daughter into sex trafficking for two months only so they could purchase a television for their home. They justified their actions by declaring that it was ONLY for two months and the daughter was returned to their home. My mind could not even wrap around that fact.

Other stories involved exploitation by employers who promised high wages but only offered hard forced labor with no benefits for underage employees. Exploitation knows no age or gender boundaries, it seems.

In one location, some of us had the opportunity to prayer walk in the Red Light District where there were 175 bars located on one side of the street in only a two block area. As we walked past bar after bar, I focused my eyes on one young girl after another. "Surely they can't be more than 12 years old," I thought. The truth is that they may not be older than that. I prayed for each as I smiled and offered greetings with a heavy heart.

Our local workers have started holding English classes in two different bars and have been bringing small gifts to some of the girls as they build relationships. Three girls have come to know Christ as their Savior in recent months and are trying to find other ways of earning a living.

Human exploitation is a travesty



WorldCraft artisan in Cambodia puts finishing touches on an ornament that when sold will help provide for her family.

of justice, no matter what part of the world it takes place in. Here in the United States, we are not immune to the cold hard facts of trafficking and sexual exploitation. WMU's emphasis on human exploitation as part of our Project HELP campaign is providing us with necessary information and facts. We must first be aware of the needs so that we can share information with others in our sphere of influence.

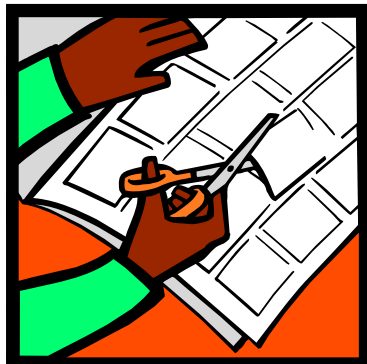
As we share information with others, we can begin to pray intelligently and look for ways that we can get involved in helping put a stop to the mistreatment of others. During this Christmas season, one way to make a difference in the lives of women like these in 30 countries is to support WorldCrafts ministries by buying products that are made by women who have been offered an opportunity to leave exploitation in the past and forge ahead with pride as they are provided a sustainable income for themselves and their families. Learn more about the Set 1 Free Campaign at www.worldcrafts.org.

Judy Hathorn, FBC World-Craft director will be selling World-Crafts products on the evening of our "Christmas Wonder in Woodhaven" tour of homes. We will end our evening back at the FLC where she will have these products for sale. There will also be a powerpoint presentation shown of some of these artisans I met in Thailand and Cambodia.

Remember this holiday season that we CAN make a difference... one person at a time!

~ Cindy Walker

Coupons for Missions group



This fall, a group of ladies met at the church during Heart 2 Heart to share ideas about couponing, which is a popular way to shave costs on household products, toiletry items, and cooking necessities. A large group met to hear Jody Johnson Nida share her experiences and knowledge. She also encouraged participants to consider using coupons to purchase items that can be used for mission projects. The response was so favorable that four groups have been formed with four to five members each who share

coupons between themselves.

There is also a facebook group (Couponing for Missions group) that has been formed to pass along couponing tips and special sales information. It's an open group which means that anyone is welcome to post links to special product promotions or to information about upcoming mission projects for which we need specific items.

Jody reported that over \$4000 worth of expired coupons have been collected and organized to send to an organization that uses them for our troops overseas. Coupons can be brought to the church office or to Grand Central and placed in the small

bin labeled COUPONING FOR MISSIONS.

Jody plans for the small coupon trading groups to meet again in the near future. Be watching for news in the Broadcaster or Sunday/Wednesday Notes at church. There will also be announcements on the facebook group.

If you would like more information on couponing or on being a part of collecting coupons for missions, please contact Jody at jody.nida@yahoo.com.

Thanks to everyone who has been collecting coupons for this ministry.



"What a surprise to find out at the end of summer that my Secret Sister was one of my closest friends! I never guessed!"

from a summer participant

If you've noticed gifts being left for people in the church office, it may be the work of Secret Sisters! Over 40 FBC ladies of all ages have been participating in our Secret Sister program for the last few months. Prayers have been lifted for each other and cards and gifts have been delivered! What a great way this has been of helping new members connect with long-time members!

On Thursday, January 5, 2012,

Martha Tucker will host our "REVEAL" party (her address is 102 Tucker Lane) where everyone will find out who their Secret Sis has been! Martha plans to make a pot of chili and Rose will bring a pot of soup. Please help us by bringing crackers, corn bread, desserts, salads, cheese trays, etc. The time will be 6 p.m.

Secret Sisters, don't forget to limit your "gift-giving" to twice a month, please! Cards and notes are welcome anytime! Please don't for-

get to pray daily for your Secret Sister! If you need helping delivering a gift, please let us know.

If you have questions, contact Rose Crawford or Cindy Walker, co-directors of Women's Missions/Ministry at First Baptist, or call Judy Jackson at the church office at 377-4434.

Christmas Stores

Town and Country/Meadowview Nursing Homes

Volunteers are needed. Please contact the church office to indicate where you can serve.

Needed Items: Kleenex, candy (sugar-free and regular), men's white socks/gripper socks, white undershirts (X-2X),

Bibles (Large Print)



FEMINAR 2012

"Healing is in Your Hands" is the title of the Feminar conference to be held on February 24-25, 2012, in Longview, Texas. The theme verse is "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." Psalm 147:3.

Speakers this year include Angela Thomas and Janet White. Worship leader is Christy Nockels. The conference will be held at the S.E. Belcher, Jr. Chapel and performance Center on the LeTourneau campus in Longview.

The cost for the conference

is \$55.00 which includes conference fees, hotel stay, supper Friday and breakfast Saturday. Plan to bring money for lunch on Saturday.

The group will leave the church at 3:30 on Friday and return Saturday by 3 p.m. Hotel accommodations are at the Comfort Suites in Longview, Texas (phone 903-758-7848).

Please call Judy Jackson in the church office to sign up for this weekend of spiritual enrichment with our ladies.



"Made to Crave" Bible Study

Has food become more about frustration than fulfillment? The **New York Times** bestselling book **Made to Crave** is the missing link between a woman's desire to be healthy and the spiritual empowerment necessary to make that happen. Author Lysa TerKeurst personally understands the battle that women face. In **Made to Crave**, she will help you:

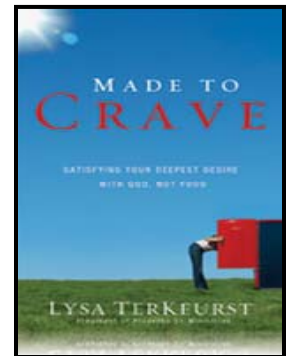
- Break the cycle of "I'll start again on Monday," and feel good about yourself today,

- Stop agonizing over numbers on the scale and make peace with your body.
- Replace rationalization that leads to diet failure with wisdom that leads to victory.
- Reach your healthy goals and grow closer to God through the process.

This book is not a how-to manual or the latest, greatest dieting plan.

Made to Crave is a helpful companion to use alongside whatever healthy eating approach you choose—a book and Bible study to help you find the "want to" in how to make healthy lifestyle changes is available for \$20. Join Lysa and experience all that you were made to crave!

Bible study group will meet on Monday evenings, January 9th—February 13th at 6 p.m. in the home of Judy Moorehead, 1387 Hwy. 159, Minden.



Sign up in the church office!



Fellowship and accountability are essential to help Christians grow in spiritual maturity. When life throws curve balls, sometime it helps to share our experiences, strengths, and hopes with one another. "Celebrate Recovery" offers a specific time and framework in

which an honest spiritual inventory can be taken.

"Celebrate Recovery" is a recovery program based on the eight principles from the Beatitudes. People are changed when we begin to accept God's grace and forgiveness to solve our

life's hurts or habits.

Consider joining Celebrate Recovery group on Tuesday nights at First Baptist Minden at 6:30 p.m. in the LightHouse.

Call Ginger or Joe Ratcliff, directors, at 377-6617 for more information.



Celebrate Recovery!

"Christmas Wonder in Woodhaven"



"Christmas Wonder in Woodhaven"

On November 29, a First Baptist Christmas tour of homes will be held in the Woodhaven subdivision in north Minden. Homes which will be open for touring include the homes of Danny and Dee Milam, Terry and Debbie Gardner, and Tommy and Nelda Davis.

Ladies will meet at the Family Life Center at 6 p.m. and will ride the bus together for this festive evening of Christmas fun. When the tour is finished, we'll reconvene in the church dining room for Christmas snacks and shopping for World Craft items. WorldCrafts and its local partners develop fair-trade businesses that provide sustainable in-

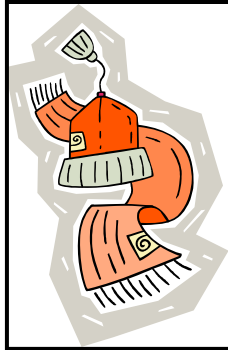
come and offer eternal hope for impoverished people around the world. Marketed items from these artists help transform their lives by giving them sustainable skills and livable wages. This ministry is affiliated with national Woman's Missionary Union. Judy Hathorn serves as our WorldCrafts director for First Baptist Church. See the following link: www.worldcrafts.org for a preview of products.

There will also be a short power-point presentation by Cindy Walker of some of the World Craft artisans from Thailand and Cambodia. Cindy is part of a group of national WMU travelers who toured these countries in early November to meet the

artisans and hear their stories of redemption and hope because of the World Crafts ministry. Some of these were young women who were rescued out of human trafficking and prostitution.

Be sure to put THIS date on your calendar NOW! Sign up in the church office and pay for your \$5 ticket. Space is limited. We will be divided into groups so that we are not all viewing the same house at the same time. Please help us stay organized by remembering that we ALL will ride the bus!

KNIT UNTO OTHERS



Hundreds of knitted scarves, hats, and socks have been donated to UCAP, Shreveport-Bossier Rescue Mission, the HUB ministries, and several homeless ministries in neighboring areas in the last year!

We can always use yarn if you find some on sale at Michael's, Hobby Lobby, or Wal-Mart. Contact Cindy Walker at 371-0927 for more information or for pick up of donated items.

International Missions Emphasis

Tom and Gloria Thurman will share the wonder of God taking ordinary daily tasks and using them to build HIS kingdom in Bangladesh.

On Sunday, November 27, 2011, Rev. Tom and Gloria Thurman, retired missionaries to Bangladesh, will be our special guests to help focus our attention on mission work around the world.

Tom and Gloria served in Bangladesh for over 35 years as missionaries with the International Mission Board. A book about Gloria's ministry called GLORIA was written by Barbara Joiner in 1998 and their work has also been featured in THE COMMISSION

magazine of the IMB. They are popular speakers in churches and state and national convention meetings across our country. Rev. Thurman is currently serving as full-time Interim Minister in FBC, Columbia, MS.

On Sunday, Dec. 4th, our church will collect its annual World Missions Offering. The Mission Committee has set a goal of \$105,000. Once the Lottie Moon portion of our goal has been met, the rest of the offering will

be split between our North American Mission offering (Annie Armstrong) and our state mission offering (Georgia Barnette), according to percentages determined by our mission committee.

We are always reminded to give a SACRIFICIAL offering to missions during this special time of mission giving. Please start talking with your family NOW about what YOUR gift will be!

Team Noel

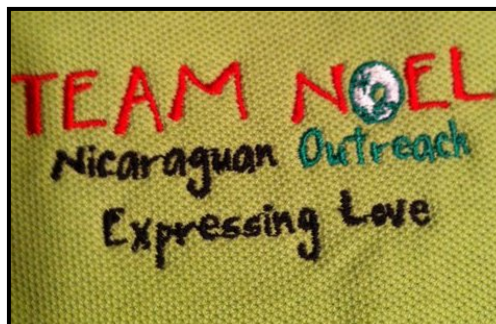
For six years, a small team of women from FBC Minden has joined hands with other teams of mission volunteers to serve from December 5-10 as the "hands and feet of Christ" in the small village of Diriamba, Nicaragua.

Nicaragua is the second poorest nation in the western hemisphere and has many needs that our church members have been trying to meet in different ways. We send building teams to construct simple houses for those without homes; we send medical and surgical teams who provide medical care to those who can't afford to see doctors there; we provide a hot meal to feed children once a day; and we share the plan of salvation to those we meet in all these environments.

TEAM NOEL has a little different approach to meeting the needs of people there. Many of the children live without even simple pleasures such as a toy to play

with, a ribbon for their hair, or a ball to kick around in the dirt. So, during the month of August, our church members help us collect small toys which will be packed in bins to take to Nicaragua in early December. These toys will be sorted and placed in cloth ditty bags that are being sewn by our Dorcas sewing ministry and will be handed out to bring Christmas joy in numerous villages and poverty-stricken areas in the country of Nicaragua. We also hand out simple dresses and shorts to little children. Mothers and grandmothers receive bags of rice and beans, a food staple in their homes.

Team members for this year's trip include: Judy Hathorn, Rene Tate, Cara Beth Walker Buie, Kandi Talbert, Christie Watson, Vallie Hammett, and team leaders, Cindy Walker and Elizabeth Hollingsworth. Please pray as the time grows near for this trip!



Team Noel will travel to Nicaragua in December to deliver Christmas joy to underprivileged children.

Mom 2 Mom

Mom 2 Mom has plans to meet January through April with special programs designed to interest moms of all ages. Meetings will take place in E107 at 6 p.m. Reservations must be made if you need the nursery. Supper will be provided.

On January 17, 2012, the speaker will be Laura Spillers talking about "Photography Moments." The door prize will be a photo shoot with Laura.

Ginger Ratcliff will speak on "Loving Yourself" on February 7, 2012. The door prize will be a massage by Carla Hubbard.

"Teaching the Bible to your Children"

led by Judy Chandler and Linda Miller will be the topic for March 13, 2012. A Life-Way gift card will be the door prize for this meeting.

On April 17, 2012, the theme will be Creating Family Nights with "Minute to Win It" games and door prizes from Fanette's.

Amber Romero, director of Mom2Mom, and her committee are also formulating plans to do ministry projects with moms helping other moms who have experienced heartache (death of a child, miscarriage, etc.) Call the church office to sign up.

Sign up NOW for Mom 2 Mom meetings starting in January! Nursery available with reservation ONLY!

AWAKEN 2012

"Be Prepared"

Imagine what could happen if more than a half million people, young and old, men and women of all races in Louisiana humbled themselves before the face of Almighty God? What if they gave themselves to a Spirit-led shift in priority that put His will above their own?

The explosion of Godly passion would change Louisiana ... and the world ... It's Time!

"If my people (First Baptist) pray ... I WILL hear and heal their land."

Watch for more information about how FBC will be involved in January and February!

Intercessory Prayer Ministry
Roberta Kitchens, Director



301 Pennsylvania Avenue
Minden, LA 71055



Rose Crawford and Cindy Walker
Co-Directors of Women's Missions/Ministry

Non-profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Minden, LA 71055
Permit #101

We're on the Web and Facebook!

www.firstminden.org and [FBC Minden Women's Missions/Ministry page on facebook](#)

Holiday Happenings ...



There are lots of ways to celebrate the birth of Jesus during this busy holiday season!

Here are some more ways to get involved in the life of First Baptist Minden during the holiday season:

- **"The Giving Tree"** - Angel gift tags will be placed on the tree in the church foyer and will be ready for you to choose by December 4. All gifts **MUST** be returned by December 18th so that gifts can be picked up or delivered. Please help make this a special Christmas for a needy child!
- **Prayer Coffees**—On Tuesday, Dec. 7, there will be a prayer coffee held at the Dulaney House with IMB missionaries Orvell and Suzan Bryant in charge. Then on Thursday, Dec. 9, Charlie and Angie Lechner, also IMB personnel, will lead prayer time at the Ichter House. Prayer time will focus on the needs of our IMB missionaries. Time for both coffees will be 9:30 a.m. This is for men **AND** women. Please come!
- On Wednesday, December 14, our youth will host a **Christmas party for our Apartment Ministry kids** in the LightHouse. Webster Manor and Hillside Apartments are involved in backyard Bible club ministries.
- Bring a friend to hear **"The Gift of Christmas"** on Sunday, December 4, at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary. This worship service will feature the Celebration Choir and Orchestra.
- **"Sounds of Christmas"** will feature Keyboards at Christmas and the Celebration Orchestra on Sunday night, December 11, at 6 p.m.
- Come join us as we **Christmas Carol** as a church family on December 18 at 6 p.m. What a great way to involve your **PRIORITY ONE** person!
- **Community Christmas Eve** service will be on December 24 at 5 p.m. at FBC Sanctuary.

- Celebrate the birth of Jesus on **Christmas morning** with one worship service at 10 a.m.
- **UCAP NEEDS:** Sugar, corn meal, canned chicken. Also, mens' pants 32/34 are needed. Any canned or boxed items are always welcome.
- **The Basement**— If you would like to visit with homeless folks in Shreveport on a Tuesday morning, contact Vallie Hammett at 371-2282.

