**2021 Woman’s Missionary Union Annual Report**

Truly this past ministry year has been like none that any of us have encountered. Yet, during some of the most challenging and difficult circumstances Alabama Baptists rose to the occasion and persevered in staying true to making the name of Jesus known!

Members of Woman’s Missionary Union (WMU) while working alongside their pastors persevered and when many of our churches had to shut down due to the pandemic, put into action their call to missions.

When mission discipleship groups were unable to meet in person, many began to find ways that they could love on their neighbors through prayer, provision of basic needs and encouraging notes. In addition, these groups found ways to gather via online programs such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, and Facebook Messenger. Others prepared missions discipleship lessons for their preschoolers and children and delivered them to the homes of students. While the pandemic has been heartbreaking and challenging, it has also forced us to look beyond our normal and find new ways to engage our Alabama Baptist churches for the cause of missions.

Alabama Woman’s Missionary Union was called upon to assist missionary families that found themselves reassigned to the United States for a time as the world determined the best way to handle the pandemic. During this time, they assisted in helping to find housing and met other needs. Capitalizing on this unique time in history, they began offering Zoom gatherings entitled “Great Commission Conversations” that allowed Alabama Baptists the opportunity to meet our mission personnel, get to know them personally and learn how to pray and support their work. To date 54 gatherings have been hosted.

In addition, to meet needs of our Ministers’ Wives, Alabama WMU created a Zoom gathering for ministers’ wives entitled “Ministers’ Wives Connection”. These gatherings meet monthly and offer a place of prayer and encouragement for these servants.

Encouragement was also offered for missions discipleship leaders and women’s ministry leaders through Zoom gatherings and leadership training offered online. These touch points became important to our leaders as we all attempted to minster to one another and reach our communities during this unusual time in history.

Much concern was expressed about the continued support of our mission personnel through this time. Alabama Baptists stayed true to supporting our missionaries through their giving and praying. Support through giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering remained strong even in this time when many were without employment. Giving through the Cooperative Program during this time was also unprecedented.

Spring 2021 in-person gatherings resumed as did Alabama WMU’s missions events. These events were hybrid events, meaning there was a small in-person group as well as a digital option.

WorldSong Missions Place, the camp owned and operated by Alabama WMU, was shut down during the year as well. However, this did not stop missions camping. The summer of 2020 missions camping was offered online, and the summer of 2021 missions camp was taken to the local church and associations.

Praise the Lord for His goodness, strength and wisdom which has guided us all to persevere during this challenging time and allows us to look to the future of missions with great hope!