

JOURNEYS



In March 2015, during the fifth annual Hunger Challenge at Johnston Chapel, a crew of 1,200 volunteers packaged more than 285,000 meals for starving families in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Just a few short months ago, some of the 33 pound boxes traveled more than 20 miles, one way, on the heads of faithful women. They were delivered to pygmies in the Muhato Camp, a minority people group suffering poverty and discrimination. Their response? "We cannot believe that we are important and can be remembered from another part of the world!"



On April 8-10, 2016, Johnston Chapel partnered with Heaven Sent Ministries again to host the sixth annual

Hunger Challenge. The 213,000 meals that were packaged at this event are already on their way to meet the needs of families living on the isolated islands in Lake Volta in the country of Ghana. Growing conditions are poor in this area, and the people are forced to live on a diet consisting mainly of fish. They have to travel 2-3 hours to trade for vegetables providing the nutrients they desperately need. Please pray that these meals will serve as a tangible display of the love of Jesus Christ and open doors to sharing the gospel. Please also pray that the boxes will move easily through customs and arrive safely by small boat to these needy people. Over the years, God has superintended every shipment and not a single box has been lost.

Dear Missionaries,

Greetings from the Johnston Chapel family! Thank you for boldly proclaiming to the nations that Jesus Christ died for sinners and rose again in victory. We love each one of you, and we are lifting you up in prayer. Please continue to pray for us as we exalt Jesus Christ as the only Way, Truth and Life.



Pastor John King has continued preaching a Sunday morning series called *Becoming a Servant of God*, highlighting the life of Moses. In the G.R.O.W. class on Wednesday nights, Pastor John is teaching the Doctrine of Angels. These series are available on our website: johnstonchapel.org/media/newsermons/.

We celebrated our second Missions Sunday of 2016 on May 15. We enjoyed the presence of Steve and Vicky Pounds, our missionaries to France, and John and Maria Lawrance, our missionaries to India. The Pounds family serves in a unique ministry of hospitality to Muslim immigrants.



Recent studies have revealed a startling transformation taking place in the country. 25.5% of French teenagers are Muslim, and of these, 83% consider their religion something important or very important to them. France is host to 8,250 radical Islamists. What is the answer to halt such a startling transformation? Steve and Vicky believe the answer is another transformation only possible through the gospel of Jesus Christ, so they persevere through love and service.



We were also blessed by the testimony and report of the Lawrance family who have persevered through persecution in their homeland. As the Lawrance family reached out to hundreds of children through their Alive Bible Club (ABC) in North India, they met severe resistance from a predominantly Hindu community.

ABC offers education to children who are receiving very little instruction at school and home. Since Hindu parents would be strongly opposed to their children returning home with a Bible, John and Maria challenge the children to hide God's Word in their hearts. Over time, the Lawrance family was ostracized by the local community and even received threats for sharing the truths of God's Word. Since John and Maria had successfully trained their ABC teachers, they decided it was time to move to Bangalore, South India while the other teachers continued the work. The Lawrance family has started a new ABC in that region and have continued to support the leadership team in North India. Please pray for these missionary families as they boldly proclaim the gospel among the unreached.



Johnston Chapel Baptist Church

Love = Grow = Serve

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Shortly after I began medical school, I was invited to a Bible study by another student. I didn't go initially because I felt I needed to spend time studying medicine, but the invitations kept coming and soon I was attending every Friday night. I loved the fellowship, and I learned that this student chapter of the Christian Medical & Dental Association (CMDA) took an annual mission trip with International Christian Resources. That spring I went to Nicaragua. As a first year medical student, it was overwhelming to be treating so many patients in rustic settings, especially since I don't speak Spanish. However, as I began submitting myself to God's will, I no longer felt overwhelmed, but rather completely fulfilled.



After returning home, I was elected president of our campus-based ministry. That year we traveled to Peru. It was an amazing trip that began to convict my heart concerning medical missions, but I kept these thoughts to myself. The following spring, now my third year of medical school, I traveled to Guatemala. This trip refueled that conviction and I soon felt burdened to serve people through missions. After fighting these convictions for over a year, I went forward one Sunday morning and publicly committed to medical missions. The support I received from Johnston Chapel was overwhelming and such a blessing.

This past March, I served once more in Ecuador with my friends, and then in May, I graduated from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine. As I ponder my medical school experience, I can see how God was shaping me as a disciple of Christ. I am about to begin my residency training in Family Medicine, and I look forward to continuing to "love God, love people, through medicine."

Every missionary supported by Johnston Chapel is well acquainted with Sue Farley. Sue retired from nine years of faithful service as secretary in April. During those nine years, she read every missionary letter sent to the church office by more than 60 missionaries and agencies. Sue did not read the letters out of duty but rather out a heart for missions. She loves each and every one of you and is genuinely interested in your family and ministry. She celebrates with you as lost people turn to Christ for salvation. Sue has a rich history of serving in missions with her husband Blake. She has served people all across the world including missionary journeys to Haiti, Jamaica, Papua New Guinea, Togo and Venezuela. We will miss Sue's sweet spirit and attention to detail, but most of all we will miss her missionary heart!



- We have baptized 14 individuals in 2016.
- We have added 26 new members in 2016.
- Mercer Christian Academy graduated 12 students and Johnston Chapel celebrated the accomplishments of five grads on June 5.
- Kenneth Meadows shared his testimony and was ordained as a new deacon on April 24.
- A group of church members attended the Decision America Tour in Charleston, WV.
- Pastor James Walsh and his wife Sarah celebrated the arrival of baby Joshua Richard on May 4.
- The church celebrated the accomplishments of our children during the Awana Awards Night on May 25.
- Luke Huffman, a young man in our church, is serving with ABWE in The Gambia, West Africa until August.
- Children will enjoy camp at Alpine Ministries this summer from July 25-29.
- The Krew Missions Trip will focus on our local community from July 11-15.
- From July 10-15, the youth will be at Wayumi, a ministry of New Tribes Mission, to learn about reaching the unreached.
- Mercer Christian Academy will launch a new K3 program in the fall.
- 3D Archery, a community outreach, meets on the second Saturday of each month.
- The Undeclared Men basketball outreach meets every Sunday night.
- Cave Quest (3-4 yrs. old), High Power Soccer (Grades 1-3), and Centershot (Grades 4-5) will meet each Wednesday night during the summer months.
- Please pray that God would raise up laborers for the harvest from Johnston Chapel.

Thank you for remembering Johnston Chapel in your prayers!



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