

# Lamplighter



Fall 2009

## A Message from Maggi



Maggi Payne

Plans are underway for the 2010 national Baptist Nursing Fellowship<sup>SM</sup> (BNF<sup>®</sup>) Annual Meeting in Fort Worth, Texas. Marilyn Graves and her committee have prepared a spectacular program of events. The program and registration information are printed in this issue of *Lamplighter*. Pray for the meeting and make plans now to attend.

Called to Love, Called to Fellowship is the theme for the annual meeting. "But if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from

all sin" (1 John 1:7 NRSV). Let us focus on fellowship and get to know those in attendance. Invite other nurses/health-care professionals to become members and to attend this meeting. Lifelong friendships are sparked by common interests among Christian medical professionals at national BNF meetings. It is so interesting to hear the testimonies of nurses and physicians actively involved in missions.

Fellowship is best when we feel connected. Become a part of your state organization. If the state organization is inactive, work with the BNF contact in the Woman's Missionary Union<sup>®</sup> (WMU<sup>®</sup>) office at the state convention. As a member, one can obtain names of national BNF members in your state from the national BNF office.

A visioning team made up of members, including a nursing student and a male member, is considering the future direction of BNF. Jean Roberson of the WMU staff serves as consultant for this project. Results were compiled from the email survey sent to members in September.

## A Message from the Executive Director

Most people who know me or have been in my home know that I am a great admirer of Abraham Lincoln. This has been easy for me since I spent my growing up years in Illinois. All over my house I have collectible items that remind me of Lincoln. My bookcases are lined with books about Lincoln; some I have read and some I have not. During my employed years when I needed encouragement in a given situation, I turned to some of the writings of Abraham Lincoln. Invariably I was motivated and inspired by his philosophy of life and leadership. He truly was a visionary.



June Whitlow

Again I have picked up some articles and books on Lincoln to help me as I prepare for the Visioning Team that has been charged to look at the future of BNF. A Lincoln principle is, "When making a decision, understand the facts, consider various solutions and their consequences, make sure that the decision is consistent with your objectives, and effectively communicate your judgment." In a nutshell that is what the Visioning Team is trying to do. You received a survey either by email or US mail. Many of the forms were submitted and we are grateful. To begin our work we wanted

to know your thoughts about the organization. It is from that point that we are moving forward. Wanda Lee has graciously offered WMU staff and equipment to help us with this project. Jean Roberson, ministry consultant, will be the facilitator for the team and staff members will join the team at appropriate places. The team is made up of persons representing our BNF membership who will come together on November 13-14, 2009. They will look at the future and discover ways that BNF can be more relevant in the twenty-first century.

Another Lincoln principle is, "You must set, and respond to, fundamental goals and values that move your followers." The team is looking for those things which excite you and for which you have a passion.

I mention a last principle. "Unite your followers with a 'corporate mission.'" Believing that the mission of BNF will continue to be to encourage persons to use their skills and abilities in order that the peoples of the world may come to know Christ, BNF will move forward toward the twenty-first century.

Pray for the Visioning Team. Ask for God to lead the Visioning Team as they try to discover what BNF should look like in the future.

## BNF Annual Meeting

The BNF Annual Meeting, April 15–18, has the potential of being one of the very best. The meeting begins with a prayer experience and a time of fellowship on Thursday afternoon. Worship experiences, four hours of continuing education, hearing three missionaries, having opportunity to bid at the silent auction, expressing appreciation to outgoing officers and electing new ones, hearing a report from the Visioning Team, and participating with Baptist Medical Dental Fellowship (BMDF) in evening sessions are just a few opportunities packed into the four-day session. State organizations are encouraged to meet on Saturday from noon until 1:15 P.M. Both the program outline and the registration form are carried in this issue of the *Lamplighter*. Note the times and places of the events. Take advantage of the early-bird registration fee and register today.

## The Silent Auction Returns

Plans are in the making for a silent auction this spring at the annual meeting in Fort Worth. We need your participation. The idea is not for you to clean out your garage or attic, but to bring a treasure that you would be pleased to own. There are values galore around your house or workplace. Discover them, dress them up, and bring them to Fort Worth. We will use this method to generate funds for the Grober Special Projects Fund. It is possible for a state to bundle items on which to bid. Perhaps there are things indigenous to your state and you could group them together attractively. Grouping an assortment of like items usually brings more than an individual item would bring. If it is an item that cannot be displayed, high-quality photos are necessary. Use your creative juices and bring things that would be of interest to health-care professionals. There will be a place designated for the silent auction. Upon arrival, bring the treasures to this place so they can be displayed for auction.

## Flu Season Tips

On the BNF Web site, you will find tips for flu season. The BNF Executive Committee prepared this information to help persons during this flu season. You may download this information and distribute it to churches, schools, offices, or other places that may profit from such information.



## State News

### Mississippi

Mississippi received the plaque for having the most new members during 2008. This was accomplished because of Mississippi College BNF and professor Deborah Bolian. Due to the timing of the annual meeting in Sevierville, there were no students present; therefore, a longtime member from Mississippi, Jimmy Payne, received the plaque. Mississippi College will have the plaque until the 2010 meeting in Fort Worth. Congratulations, MC.

### Georgia

The Georgia BNF president, Barbara Lewis, passed away on September 22 from cancer. The vice-president, Cathy Segelman, has stepped in and is leading the organization. Pray for Barbara's family during these days.

BNF of Georgia celebrated 20 years of mission service on April 17, 2009, at Dawson Street Baptist Church in Thomasville. Forty-two were in attendance. On May 5, the Pam Thomaston Mitchum Chapter was organized. Pam Mitchum worked tirelessly for 5 years trying to start a BNF chapter in Thomasville before her untimely death.

### Kentucky

Twenty-three nurses volunteered at the GuideStone Wellness Center at the Southern Baptist Convention in Louisville in June.

On June 26, 10 from Kentucky and 2 from Oklahoma ventured to North Dakota for an incredible week of ministry with the Spirit Lake Nation Tribe on Devil's Lake. We did three Baby Boot Camps, two Women's Health Ministry events and a Kid's Health Fair and cookout.

We learned and experienced so much. Benita Decker is president of Kentucky BNF.

## States, Listen Up

National BNF is recommending a project for state BNF organizations this year. Ideas for a party or a gala will be unveiled at the national meeting in Fort Worth. Each state president (or a representative) should be present at noon on Friday, April 16, to see the fabulous hands-on, personalized demonstration being provided by the WMU Foundation. At that time a packet of material with step-by-step instructions for reproducing this fun event in your state will be provided. The purpose of the gala is to generate funds for national BNF trust funds. As you know, these funds are used for missions projects, activities, and scholarships which in turn benefit every BNF member. States can determine how they want to promote this project within the state. The important thing is for state BNF organizations to work with national BNF to have fun and fellowship and accomplish this worthy goal. Send your representative to Fort Worth.

## From the Missionary Mailbag

**Nancy Carley** served as staff nurse at their orientation camp for new personnel last spring in Zambia. She worked the first two weeks of the monthlong camp. Nancy continues to request that we pray for new believers.

**Viola Palmer** is on a leave of absence from the IMB and is living in Athens, Texas. The Palmers are working with a group of Baptist churches to develop a strategy for mission partnerships in Ethiopia. They will continue to work with the IMB in coordinating our Miskito Missions Network. Pray for strength for the Palmers and that Christ will be glorified as they minister healing in His name.

**Joye Watson** asks for prayer for Bautista and Enrique. They began some new community health worker courses with the Wayuu. These are being taught 100 percent orally in the heart language. This is the first time this has been done. Pray that the students will learn the materials and that they will be able to share what they learn with family, friends, and neighbors. Pray that those who do not know Christ will become believers as a result of the course. Pray also for the nutrition programs that were begun in the Guajira with the Wayuu.

**Jesse and Jessica Koski** send greetings from Chiang Mai, Thailand. They are short-term missionaries with the IMB. They began their time on the field in August of 2006 and will soon have completed their commitment of three years. They are both registered nurses from Louisiana. They thank BNF for supporting them during these years.

**Wendy Cloud**, Brazil, South America, recently completed an online BSN program that she had been working on part-time for about three years. She completed her clinical hours and is awaiting her diploma. Congratulations, Wendy! They have recently moved to Georgia, where her husband will be serving in a church as associate pastor.

## Annual Meeting Service Project

—Eileen Goode

Thank you for generously participating in the giving of more than 100 Walmart gift cards during the 2009 BNF annual meeting. North American Mission Board (NAMB) missionary Bill Black and others working in the Smoky Mountain Resort Ministries used those cards to assist international students who worked in the resorts this summer.

It's not too early to plan to attend the 2010 BNF Annual Meeting in Fort Worth, Texas, and to take part in a similar ministry opportunity. Walmart gift cards for \$10.00 will be collected and distributed to a ministry. Very soon we will let you know which ministry will benefit from your generosity. We have a couple of great options and just need to determine exactly who will be the recipient.

I would like to suggest that we each purchase at least one card per month between now and April. By doing so we can make a significant contribution without spending a great deal of money at any one time. The cards need to come from Walmart only, and \$10.00 is the only requested amount. Remember to pray for the ministry and for those who will use our gifts to reach others with the love of Christ. (God knows who it will be!)

Another opportunity to assist other nurses is continuously available through the BNF funds in the WMU Foundation. A gift in honor or memory of your friends and loved ones can pay a portion of a missions trip for a BNF member, or it can provide funding for a student nurse's missions project or for an educational opportunity for a missionary nurse. Together we can make a difference.

At the recent Executive Committee meeting we discussed additional opportunities for members of BNF to offer tangible assistance to nurses serving our Lord throughout the world. These ideas include helping with the preparations for the Winter Olympics in Vancouver; assisting nurses in Hawaii as they prepare for the Baptist World Alliance meeting next July; partnering with a hospital in India; partnering with colleges of nursing; and many others. We will let you know as each of these opportunities becomes available.

Above all else, please remember to pray for each other and in particular for those nurses who are serving as appointed missionaries. James 5:16b says, "you can pray for one another and be healed. The prayer of an innocent person is powerful, and it can help a lot" (CEV\*).

\*Contemporary English Version, © 1995 by American Bible Society.



Irene Branum and Debbie Moore at her August birthday party given by Arkansas WMU

**Irene Branum**, long-time missionary to China and South Korea and former national BNF officer, passed away on September 30, in Hazen, Arkansas. A service of celebration was held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 10, at First Baptist Church, Hazen. The family requests memorial gifts

to given to international missions through First Baptist Church, Hazen. Cards may also be sent to her nephew, Jim Branum, 745 Country Club Trail, Gardendale, AL 35071. Maggi and Jimmy Payne, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, represented BNF at the funeral.

You may choose to send BNF a memorial gift to one of the endowments or fund: Ellen D. Tabor Endowment, Student Endowment, BNF Hope Endowment, or Marjorie Grober Special Projects Fund.

## Grants Awarded During 2009

Jennifer Shearer was granted \$1,000.00 from the Ellen D. Tabor Endowment to accompany six nursing students to Ethiopia on a missions trip.

Jan Burton was granted \$1,000.00 from the Ellen D. Tabor Endowment for a medical missions trip to Kenya, September 24–October 4, 2009.

Charlotte Wyckoff was awarded \$1,000.00 from the Student Endowment toward her nursing education degree.

These funds are made available to BNF members who apply for specific missions activities. Our endowments are not growing very rapidly; we need your help. Have you made a contribution recently? Brief reports from those who received grants are carried in the *Lamplighter* and on the Web as space is available.



Jan Burton's medical mission trip to Kenya,  
September 24–October 4, 2009  
Report will be in the spring issue.

### CMDA/CMDE-Sponsored Program in Thailand

Jesse B. and Jessica Koski, IMB missionaries in Thailand, were granted \$500.00 each to attend a CMDA/CMDE-sponsored program in Thailand in February 2009.

In January 2009, my husband, Jesse, and I attended a ten-day conference at a beautiful resort named Suan Bua near our home here in Chiang Mai, Thailand. We were so blessed that the BNF provided a grant to pay for this conference.

The CMDA (Christian Medical and Dental Association) Conference is held annually, with the location alternated between Thailand and Kenya. This year's conference was the 30th conference held. The meeting is held with several purposes in mind: continuing education for physicians, dentists, nurses, and public health professionals serving in agencies,



Sharon Kay Favazza was granted \$750.00 from the Ellen D. Tabor Endowment. Sharon is an International Mission Board (IMB) missionary in Western Europe. She is working on a PhD in nursing at the University of Hawaii.

institutions, and clinics outside of North America; fellowship; spiritual renewal; and sharing of testimonies.

For the continuing education, the conference offers up to 72 CEUs, with daily lectures in four different fields of practice: medical, surgical, community health, and dental. In addition, ACLS and BLS classes were taught for physicians and nurses to be recertified. Jesse and I both took advantage of the ACLS and BLS, since our certifications had expired while here on the field.

Most of these continuing education classes were taught by physicians who traveled from the US to teach. Other classes were taught by physicians living outside the US, serving as missionaries.

The classes we chose to attend were those dealing with medical needs we often see in our work here in Thailand. Some of the classes we attended were those that covered such subjects as dermatologic infestations, dengue fever, fevers of unknown origin, malaria in Asia, the pregnant traveler, traveling with infants and children, influenza vaccination program ethics, and medical disaster planning.

As for the spiritual renewal aspect of the conference, we were extremely blessed to have Dr. J. Robertson McQuilkin, author, speaker, and former president of Columbia International University (1968–1990). (Columbia International University is an evangelical Bible college, seminary, and graduate school.) When Dr. McQuilkin's wife of 40 years was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, he resigned his position as president so that he

could make good on his promise to her to be true in sickness and in health. He brought us spiritually rich messages every day as he drew from his experiences both on the mission field and from taking care of his wife for over ten years.

Not only did Jesse and I experience great spiritual renewal, but our 11-year-old daughter, Birdie, enjoyed a Vacation Bible School experience that was put together by wonderful volunteers from the US. She enjoyed being with other missionary kids during these ten days as they studied the Bible, had praise and worship time, and enjoyed recreation.

### **Trip to Ethiopia**

I left the US in May for a mission to Ethiopia with six students from Charleston Southern University in South Carolina. I returned with six students, but they were not the same six students who left the US. In fact, none of us were the same after our two weeks in Ethiopia. The purpose for going on mission was to deliver textbooks to nursing faculty I had met on a previous trip. We believed that our mission, though not the traditional medical mission model, contributed to nursing education in Ethiopia.

As we met for planning and strategizing, flexibility was our mantra from the beginning. The students were told only that the mission was to take textbooks into the country. That would mean taking fewer personal items in their suitcases and planning for multiple use, sharing, and improvising. Our list of necessities seemed to grow as the trip date neared. Because we were being flexible, I accepted an invitation from a missionary to come to her primary school to paint the classrooms and bring needed supplies.

As the list of requested supplies grew, our suitcases seemed to shrink. But we continued to collect nursing texts and primary school books, baby items for orphans, even rolls of duct tape. Students began to question how they should pack. With the luggage limits for airline travel and the weight of some of the nursing books, our mission was daunting. I knew our purpose and I knew that God would provide for our mission. My professional nursing organization (Sigma Theta Tau International) paid the hefty fee for overweight baggage. I knew that God was sending us and He would provide the rest of the way.

Being open and accepting the invitation to work at the primary school provided one of the greatest blessings of our trip. When we arrived and the missionary gratefully opened the footlocker with all the requested supplies (and extras), the students felt their mission was complete. They had sacrificed to pay for the trip, had sacrificed their luggage allowance, had lived without modern conveniences, and now they saw what joy it brought to those working at the school. They participated in the hard work,

painting mud and dung walls even as the rains came in through shuttered windows. In four days, they had made friends with the teachers and children and were reluctant to leave.

The next leg of the mission was to visit the school of nursing and to take textbooks there. We met the nursing school director and teachers and presented the textbooks to their library staff. They were very appreciative and requested a partnership for future exchanges. My colleague and I are excited about the possibilities this will open for our school as we plan our return. Again, the students' role in this mission was to show the support of our entire university with the resources we brought them.

We experienced God's guidance and protection and were blessed to have the opportunity to engage in His work. I am very thankful for the generous provision of Baptist Nursing Fellowship that allowed us to make this missions trip.

—Jennifer Shearer

### *An Invitation to "give34"*

Dear Friends:

What a special blessing it is to serve as a WMU Foundation trustee! Through the generosity of friends committed to missions, we are able to support WMU ministries including Pure Water, Pure Love<sup>SM</sup>, Christian Women's Job Corps<sup>®</sup>/Christian Men's Job Corps<sup>®</sup>, and International Initiatives<sup>SM</sup>—to name a few. There are always more requests for support than we have the funds to give. Thirty-four (\$34.00) will support one hour of ministry. I am inviting you to give \$34.00 to provide one hour through the WMU Vision Fund!

There are three ways to make your gift:

1. Mail your gift to: WMU Foundation, 100 Missionary Ridge, Birmingham, AL 35242.
2. Give online at [www.wmufoundation.com](http://www.wmufoundation.com).
3. Call 1-877-482-4483.

Make checks payable to WMU Foundation.

Blessings,  
Ellen D. Tabor



# BAPTIST NURSING FELLOWSHIP ANNUAL MEETING

*Called to Love, Called to Fellowship*

**Radisson Hotel Fossil Creek**

**Fort Worth, Texas**

**April 15–18, 2010**



In conjunction with the Baptist Medical Dental Fellowship National Meeting

Please complete this registration form and mail it with credit card information or your check payable to:  
*Baptist Nursing Fellowship, PO Box 830010, Birmingham, AL 35283-0010.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Attending Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTENDANCE FEE** (covers program and educational costs, Thursday snack supper, and breaks)

Regular registrants \$160 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

After January 1, 2010 \$185 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/family member/non-member friend (includes Thursday meal) \$100 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Friday CNE one-day registration fee \$125 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Undergraduate student or missionary (active or emeritus) \$ 0 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Thursday snack supper for undergraduate student, missionary, or guest \$ 25 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Graduate student (includes BNF membership and snack supper) \$185 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**OPTIONAL BNF/BMDF Events:**

Friday, Breakfast with Missionaries \$25 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday, Breakfast with Missionaries \$25 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday, Dental Prayer Breakfast \$25 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Evening Fellowship Banquet \$40 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL INCLUDED** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

BNF accepts checks and VISA and MASTERCARD credit cards. Mail or fax (205)-995-4846 registration form(s) with payment.

**Deadline for Reservations and Cancellation:** April 1, 2010

CARD # \_\_\_\_\_ EXP DATE \_\_\_\_\_

VISA  MASTERCARD SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

**SUGGESTED HOTEL INFORMATION**

Radisson Hotel Fossil Creek

Fort Worth, Texas

April 15–18, 2010

\$129 per night/double (BMDF rate)

# Baptist Nursing Fellowship



**Sponsored by**  
**Woman's Missionary Union**

P. O. Box 830010 • Birmingham, AL 35283-0010

*The main purpose of BNF is to encourage nursing service evolving from a personal commitment to Jesus Christ.*

**Phone:** (205) 991-4014

**Fax:** (205) 995-4846

**Internet Access:** [www.wmu.com/bnf](http://www.wmu.com/bnf)

**Email:** [bnf@wmu.org](mailto:bnf@wmu.org)

**How to join?**

Membership is open to nursing professionals, nursing students, and other health-care professionals. To join contact the BNF office at [bnf@wmu.org](mailto:bnf@wmu.org), online at [www.wmu.com/bnf](http://www.wmu.com/bnf), or call (205) 991-4014.

**Email Address Requested:**

Prayer requests and missions opportunities go out periodically via email. If you are not receiving these emails, send your email address to [LPeek@wmu.org](mailto:LPeek@wmu.org).

## BNF Executive Committee Candidates

The ballot for election of members of the 2010 BNF Executive Committee will be sent out in February 2010. Only dues-paying members and missionary nurse members are eligible to vote.

Here are the candidates for the open offices for your consideration:

**Program Chairperson**

Judy Dillow, N. Charleston, SC

Lisa Kirkland, Maryville, TN

**Nominating Chairperson**

Deborah Bolian, Brandon, MS

Beverly Strickland, Decatur, AL

**Resource Development  
Chairperson**

Donna Rodgers, Kannapolis, NC

**Nominating Committee  
Members**

Dolores Gilmore, Henderson, KY

Nancy Jones, Duluth, GA

**Service/Missionary Nurse**

**Liaison Chairperson**

Regina Mobbs, Trinity, AL

Charolette Rock, Louisville, KY

## Wanted: State News

Please send the BNF office your state newsletter or any other promotion pieces that you have. We want to hear what you are doing. We will feature your state activities in the *Lamplighter*. Also send the current listing of your officers so that the BNF office can communicate with you.

[www.wmu.com/bnf](http://www.wmu.com/bnf)



Moving? Contact BNF to update our files with your new address, phone number, and email address.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Birmingham, AL 35283-0010

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