



**ANNUAL OFFERING: FORMER FOSTER
CHILD PROCLAIMS CHRIST**

Share Tyler's story (see below) as part of your church's Annual Offering focus. Resources are at bchoffering.org



Charity & Children

The historic publication of Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina—first to tell the story since 1887.



@bchfamily

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Issue 7

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Former foster child is now child of God

Today is a normal day for Tyler. The high school senior has a full day of classes as well as football practice; he'll soon be on the field for the team's first game of the season. Part-time, the teen works at a local grocery store which helps him put gas in his truck and spending money in his wallet.

In the middle of the day-to-day busyness, Tyler is involved in student activities at his church and spends time with his family and siblings including his baby brother, Liam.

Tyler's life today is surrounded by a compassionate community of family, friends, and believers. This was not always the case.

"I know like I wouldn't be where I'm at today if it wasn't for foster care and these adoption families that do these miraculous works," Tyler reveals. "That love that these families have to take in these random kids off the streets or of these different living situations—it's made a big impact to me."

Tyler, along with his three-year-old brother Liam, were among these "random kids." Life prior to being placed in the NC foster care system in January 2022 was opposite of what he has received today. Not only has he been adopted by a Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) foster-to-adopt family, Tyler has been adopted into God's family having now placed his trust in Christ.



*"That love that these families
have to take in these random kids
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(Continued on page 3.)

All the parts are needed in the body of Christ

By **Kristyn Butts**, BCH Director of Volunteer Engagement

During the last six months of serving as the Director of Volunteer Engagement, I have been overwhelmed with joy watching brothers and sisters in Christ live out what it means to be the body of Christ. At Baptist Children's Homes (BCH), we serve children, adults, and families who have suffered tremendous hardship—yet time and time again—volunteers have stepped up and been the hands and feet of Jesus. While most of the volunteering opportunities are indirect in nature, one can never underestimate the impact that service has on a person's life.

Volunteers of all ages serve BCH across the state in a variety of capacities. Some are first time volunteers and others have been serving BCH for years—decades. This summer, children attending VBS have enthusiastically brought their offerings and gifts to help. In July, I had the privilege to attend VBS and teach a missions lesson to the children of First Baptist Welcome who eagerly brought as their mission project pajamas, books, and money for the residents of Mills Home. After learning about foster care and how the BCH ministers to children, the kids were excited to share about times when they visited Mills Home. They were excited to invite their families to the Mills Home Friends of Children event on September 21. Their enthusiasm and selfless hearts moved me in such a special way.

While some volunteering opportunities this summer have been planned in advance, others were the answer to specific calls for help. We had volunteers from the Vietnamese Church in High Point help Fancy Finds move a large furniture donation to the store. The showroom of furniture was given to Fancy Finds and all of the proceeds will go to further BCH's min-



istries and programs. Without the help of the volunteers, there would have been no way for the staff to move the large donation on such a short timeline. Other groups from Piedmont Baptist Association responded to help assemble chairs for the new Mills Home park. One of the South Elm Street Baptist Church volunteers was a 94-year-old woman. She told stories of serving at Mills Home in 1949 when she and her

husband brought gifts to the children. Her love for Jesus and her passion for serving were infectious to those around her including BCH's Chief Operating Officer Keith Henry.

Most volunteers serve for a few hours or a day, but several groups have served for multiple days this

past month. Deep Impact and Brookwood Baptist Church youth both served at Odum Home for several days doing landscaping and cleaning. Green Street Baptist Church helped Christian Adoption Services for their first Heritage Weekend where adoptive families got to celebrate and embrace the Filipino culture of their adoptive children. Members of Scotts Hill Baptist Church served at Mountain Camp providing an unforgettable four days of Spirit-filled fun, worship,



Volunteers come in all sizes and all different ages—from toddlers to aging adults. Left, a toddler from Lake Junaluska First Baptist Church wash windows at Broyhill Home's indoor pool. Scotts Hill Baptist Church students warmly welcomes BCH's boys and girls with open arms to Mountain Camp. Mountain Camp is a four-day camp experience produced by the church.

and fellowship for the children in the care of BCH. Whether it was an hour or a week of service, the impact was tremendous and demonstrated the love of Christ to those BCH serves.

There is a spot for everyone to serve regardless of age, skill, or the amount of time you have available. As the body of Christ, we are all called to serve. Whether one is the hands assembling chairs, the feet picking up donations, or the ear listening com-

passionately, a volunteer's service makes a difference to those who are healing from suffering. On mission together, we get to share in the joys of God's redemptive work! Visit www.bchfamily.org/volunteer to Find Your Spot to serve.

"If one part suffers, every part suffers with it. If one part is honored, every part shares in its joy. You are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of it"

— 1 Corinthians 12:26-27

Mission:
sharing hope . . . changing lives

Vision:
To provide the highest quality of Christian services to children, adults and families in a caring culture of measurable excellence

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Former foster child has become a child of the King

By **Blake Ragsdale**, Managing Editor

(Continued from page 1.)

T Tyler and Liam are half brothers—they have the same mother and different fathers. The two men have had little to no presence in their sons' lives. There is a 14 year difference in age between the two siblings who barely spent any time together prior to being placed in the NC foster care—a system overtaxed with more than 10,000 children in its care at the state level.

Instability and other challenges at the boys' home (details which are confidential for the best interest of Tyler and Liam) made it impossible for them to stay. In December 2021, the Department of Social Services (DSS) removed three-month-old Liam from the home for his well-being. One month later, they placed Tyler in the foster care system as well.

"It was definitely a different living situation than it is now," Tyler explains. "(Today), we always get provided what we need—clothes, food, shoes, socks, whatever we need."

The family providing those needs and the safe home for Tyler and Liam is Chris and Lindsay Ciufo (pronounced Chew-fo). Chris is the Associate Pastor/Student Minister at Cowee Baptist Church in Franklin. He and Lindsay have four biological children from ages five to 12.

"There was a dream for more (children)," Chris says, "and God opened up some doors in a different way and that was through foster care."

Chris and Lindsay are an EVERY CHILD foster-to-adopt couple through Baptist Children's Homes (BCH). EVERY CHILD is a partnership between BCH and NC Baptists where BCH team members come

alongside churches to train and license couples in congregations who feel called, as a part of their faith, to be Christian foster families.

Cowee Baptist held an informational meeting where interested couples could learn more about the process. As a result, the Ciufos, along with several other families, became foster families through BCH.

Chris and Lindsay brought three-month-old Liam into their family. Tyler was placed with the Welch family, another couple at Cowee who was licensed by BCH. As a result, the estranged



High school senior Tyler and his three-year-old brother, Liam, are former NC foster care children. Through Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) and the EVERY CHILD foster & adopt partnership with NC Baptists, they have found their forever family with Chris and Lindsay Ciufo, a BCH foster-to-adopt couple. Above, Tyler swings his brother. Below, the siblings were adopted in February 2024. Watch Tyler's baptism video ---->



brothers not only had compassionate homes with their respective foster families, they began to form a relationship because of the community they shared through their church. It also became an opportunity for Tyler and the Ciufos to form a bond of their own.

As time passed and relationships grew, it

became apparent that a new opportunity was presenting itself.

"One day after school, we had a DSS meeting with my case worker. We were talking about where I wanted to be placed permanently," Tyler explains. "They said I could stay with my foster family at the time or come to (the

Ciufos) and be with my brother."

Through the cooperation of the two foster families, Tyler moved in with Chris, Lindsay and their children. Tyler has another older brother, but there is not a strong connection between them.

"I wanted to be with Liam since I didn't really

have my brother to grow up with," Tyler says. "I want my little brother to have a good childhood, and I didn't want him to have that same feeling as me."

Tyler and Liam have thrived as brothers in the same household. Tyler has also grown personally and spiritually throughout his experiences with his foster families. His spiritual journey culminated in Summer 2023 during a Sunday morning worship and baptism service at Cowee.

"I was feeling a bunch of conviction during that service," Tyler recalls. "I don't even remember what the service was—I was just convicted the entire time."

As associate pastor, Chris Ciufo was standing at the front of the stage in case any one needed to pray. All of a sudden, Chris saw Tyler rise from his seat and walk towards him. It was at that moment that Tyler placed his faith in Jesus Christ as foster father and foster son prayed together. Then, the two entered the baptismal.

"It's been our prayer since the moment we received him into our family that he would be our son, but also our brother in Christ," Chris tearfully shared with the congregation as he prepared to immerse Tyler into the water.

With members of the Cowee Baptist family surrounding them, Tyler and Liam were adopted by Chris and Lindsay in February 2024.



Remembering to pray makes a difference in their lives

By **Brenda B. Gray**, Executive Vice President, Development & Communications

Praying, talking with God, sharing joys and burdens, professing our adoration, and connecting with our Lord is a vital part of our daily lives. Prayer is as essential to our well-being as breathing and makes a difference in other's lives.

Will you pray for me?

Each one of us has had someone ask this question, and each time we have answered, "yes." Each of us has had a friend share a struggle they are going through and we have responded by saying, "I will be praying for you" or "You will be in my prayers." As we leave their presence, we pause and say a prayer with commitment in our hearts to continue to earnestly pray for them.

But, have you ever made that commitment and a few days later realized, "I forgot to pray for my friend?"

Our lives are so busy we often forget those things we really intend to do and need to do. With the busyness of life and as I get a little older, I find myself needing to find ways to remind me of those commitments. I have become a list maker, and it has become a blessing. It helps me remember and it helps me to go back and see the many ways God answers my prayers. I also use my refrigerator, my notes app on my phone, and my personal journal to get my attention.

Will you pray for "our" children?

Right now you may be saying to yourself, "Of course, I will pray for the children." Great. Now go get a piece of paper, write in bold letters "pray for the children and the ministry of Baptist Children's Homes," and attach it to your refrigerator or notes app on your phone as a reminder. Our children and staff need your commitment to care and pray.

Our children come from difficult situations that have left physical and emotional scars. It is our hope that while they are with us, they will find hope and healing. School has just begun and many of our children began the school year behind a grade level. Because of their emotional scars, they come to us believing they cannot learn—believing they will fail.

Take to heart these words:

Ashley, Tim, Kendra, and Mike came into care when their mother overdosed and their father was still on drugs. They were given love, food, clothing, and a safe place to live. They loved their cottage

parents. One day Ashley began to act out and her cottage parents lovingly struggled with her all day long. She finally screamed out and said, "My mother died on this day and we were not allowed to go to the funeral!" She cried and asked, "Where is my mother buried?" Everyone was taken back and we found out where the mom was buried. The next day, we took the children, with each having flowers, to visit their mother's grave. They cried and grieved for her. A month later, BCH staff took up a collection for a gravestone and we took the children to be there when it was erected. From that point on, the children excelled. They were with us for two years and finally got to go live with a relative. Ashley has visited us and one of her memories is that we cared enough to help her through her mother's death.

Your prayers and support made a difference for these children!

Kevin was living in a storage bin with his mother and brother. DSS found them and placed both Kevin and Justin at Broyhill Home. The cottage mother was sharing about the cottage when Kevin asked, "Do you have rats here?" The cottage mother was shocked and told Kevin, "We do not." He said, "Good, because I could not sleep or they would bite my ears." They were so excited about their bathroom. Kevin was crying tears of joy when he asked if we had

a washing machine to wash his one outfit of clothing. This was very hard on the cottage mother, and with tears in her eyes she shared they had a washer and dryer and certainly would wash his clothes. Kevin then sat on the bed and said, "I will take my clothes off and cover up so you can wash these." The cottage mother quickly gathered up clothing for the boys to wear for the rest of the day and then took them shopping. Kevin and Justin had never had new clothing and they were overjoyed. They quickly grew and loved the routines at the cottage and proudly wore their clothing and new shoes. Kevin asked, "Who pays for this?" The cottage mother quickly responded that many donors to BCH take care of the boys' needs and will always take care of their needs.

Your prayers and support made a difference for these children!

Marcy came into care as both of her parents were placed in jail for robbery and cooking meth. No one could care for her. She was six years old and came with just the clothing she had. She was crying, not about her parents, but because she could not bring Buffy, her stuffed dog. The house was a meth house and she was not allowed to bring anything out of the house because of the residue. She said, "Buffy helps to protect me when the bad people come." The cottage mother quickly gave her three new stuffed animals from the storage closet. Marcy stopped crying and held onto all of them. She felt safe and settled into cottage life. She was a loving child and when we prayed with her she always prayed for Momma, Daddy, and Buffy. By giving to Baptist Children's Homes you helped to protect Marcy and you gave her a safe, loving environment to grow. She was finally placed with a foster family who adopted her.

Your prayers and support made a difference for this child!

Everyday the "least of these" walk through our doors. You make it possible for us to be here to welcome them with open arms, sharing God's love.

Please continue to pray for the staff, children, and the many ministries of Baptist Children's Homes. Please continue to pray for the Search Committee as they seek the next CEO to lead BCH. Pray for our Trustees as they lead during this time of transition.

For more information on how you can be a part of helping hurting children, please call me at 1-800-476-3669 ext. 1230. The cost of sending our children back to school is an enormous financial responsibility. It's also time to begin praying about being a *Christmas sponsor* for a child.

Remember, your investment will reap wonderful benefits. I look forward to hearing from you.



It was Paige's first time seeing the ocean.

Paige climbed the sandy steps of the boardwalk, catching her first glimpse of the ocean. Her eyes grew wide with awe as the ocean waves crashed on the shore and the blue sky stretched out further than she could see.

Paige's life had been hard. She bounced around from house to house, sleeping on couches with no parents in her life to truly love and care for her. That would change after she went to live with cottage parents Tim and Stacie and the other girls at Baptist Children's Homes. The day she arrived, the first thing Paige asked for was a Bible.

When the cottage went to the beach together, Tim and Stacie shared how God's thoughts towards them outnumbered all the grains of sand (Psalm 139). Recently, Paige publicly proclaimed her faith by being baptized.

Through your support, God works through children's firsts. As Stacie says, "The girls will remember this for the rest of their lives. They will remember somebody loved me enough to do this."

Please give to help children, like Paige, know they are valued and loved by God.

Use my gift to help children know they are loved.

\$75 \$150 \$300 \$600 \$ _____ Any size gift!

To make a gift by check: Print your information below and mail this form with your check.

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

You can make a credit card gift at bchfamily.org/backtoschool or scan the QR code. You can also phone **Faith Frazier at 336-474-1312**.

- Yes, I would like to receive email updates.
- Contact me with information on how to prepare a Christian Will.
- I have included Baptist Children's Homes in my estate.



“ Through the support of Baptist Children’s Homes – and through giving and praying – I can’t thank them enough. I know it’s impacted our lives.”

CHRIS CIUFO

FOSTER-TO- ADOPT FATHER AND ASSOCIATE PASTOR, COWEE BAPTIST CHURCH



SONS & Daughters

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”
ROMANS 8:15



The Ciufo Family Story



For Pastors: A Message from Pastor Jason Smith



WATCH THE NEW VIDEOS

Just as God has modeled adoption through the good news of the Gospel, NC Baptist couples like Chris and Lindsay Ciufo (Chee-fo) stepped forward in faith to first foster and then adopt brothers Liam and Tyler. As a result, **Tyler accepted Christ in 2023**. God uses your mission dollars through Baptist Children’s Homes’ (BCH) Annual Offering to make the Ciufo’s story possible.

ANNUAL OFFERING

ORDER MATERIALS >> SHARE THE CIUFO STORY >> HELP CHANGE LIVES!

WEEK OF PRAYER: 11/3 TO 11/10 | GOAL: \$1.5 MILLION

RESOURCES: BCHOFFERING.ORG OR 336.474.1218



SHARING HOPE...CHANGING LIVES
Baptist Children’s Homes
of NORTH CAROLINA

BCH's Susan Lee on mission with granddaughters

By Jim Edminson, Editor

When longtime friend and pastor of Brunswick Island Baptist Church Keith McKinney called Kennedy Home (KH) cottage parent Susan Lee to ask if she and husband Keith wanted to go with a mission group from his church to serve at Good Shepherd Ministries in Guatemala for a week, she was ready to sign up. When Keith Lee decided to stay behind, Susan invited her 17-year-old granddaughters Leah and Zada.

"Keith and I have always been involved in missions," Susan says. "Going to Guatemala with Leah and Zada was a way to instill in them the importance of missions and serving others."

Before coming to KH, Susan served 34 years as the preschool director at East Flat Rock First Baptist Church near Hendersonville in western North Carolina. Keith retired after 30 years working for Wilsonart in Fletcher.

Keith wanted to be closer to his mom as she aged. To create a base for the couple and possible retirement home, they bought a fixer upper in Kenansville near his mom. Retirement was here: Lake fishing and trips to the beach were calling.

"I felt I was too young to retire," 63-year-old Susan says. "To leave our home and move east would be hard for me. Our roots ran deep in the mountains near our daughters and seven grandchildren."

Susan struggled but moved ahead. She prayed for a change of heart—that she would be able to leave her family, beloved church, and mountains.

"I asked God for a sign," she confesses. "I needed to know it was okay to move and things would be alright."

Driving back to the mountains after an appointment in Durham, she was praying about her sign. Needing a break, she took an



BCH cottage mom Susan Lee and 17-year-old granddaughters Zada, left, and Leah served at Good Shepherd Ministries in Guatemala in July. Susan and husband Keith have served at Kennedy Home since 2021. Right, Leah and Zada trim new bricks made on site. Left, front row left to right, are Brunswick Island Baptist Church mission team members Hillori, Kim, Zada, Leah, Susan and back row, left to right, are Juan, Hoov, Pastor Keith, Kemp, and Ricky.

exit off Interstate 85 and there it was. The large, green-reflective highway sign read, "Baptist Children's Homes of NC."

Keith and Susan have fostered 36 children during their married life. Considering becoming cottage parents was a calling but not a stretch. Susan was in touch with BCH's Chris Allabaugh and, in the spring of 2021, they were serving in a KH cottage.

"The experience we had caring for foster children was invaluable," Susan asserts. "Our first day on the job, one set of cottage parents left.

A few weeks later, another left. Staff stepped in and helped—and we worked hard. We believe in what they do at KH for children. We believe with our whole heart and will do anything to support the mission."

Keith McKinney moved to the beach

after serving churches in the mountains. At each place, he has promoted BCH. He has led four church groups to Guatemala and members' sup-

port of BCH at Brunswick Island is growing. It is partly due to the three annual presentations Susan and Keith Lee have given.

"Susan's three daughters were in my youth group when I served at Flat Rock," Pastor McKinney says. "Now, I've served with her two oldest granddaughters on mission, spending one-on-one time with the children and missionaries."

The experience was life changing for the girls. Not only did they experience the country, they got their hands dirty moving rocks and trimming the bricks that are made on site for the building projects.

"While in Guatemala, I saw children hurting from the awful ways they were treated," Leah said, reporting her experience. Leah is the daughter of Susan's oldest daughter Kristina.

Zada was not as surprised by the poverty in the country. She knows hardship personally. She was one of Susan's and Keith's

foster children and was later adopted by their middle daughter Jenny's family.

Both girls agreed they will return. The work and the new friendships created was meaning-

ful. Their hearts were touched and their call to serve affirmed.

Susan not only wanted to see her granddaughters' faith grow from being on mission in Guatemala, she wanted to be a blessing and serve those serving at Good Shepherd Ministries. She knows first hand the difference volunteers make and wanted to support her BCH colleagues in Guatemala.

"We could not do what we do without our volunteers' help and encouragement," Susan says. "Their actions, kind words, and prayers are vital to our success in helping children and families."

Pastor McKinney was pleased to learn that Susan is planning for the next mission trip to Guatemala. This time, she is bringing her oldest grandson, Logan.



Family determines to make other lives better

By Jim Edminson, Editor

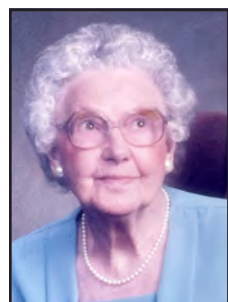
Beside the gate of the fence that wraps around the children’s playground, nestled between two cottages on the Mills Home campus in Thomasville, is a simple sign. The words memorialize one of Baptist Children’s Homes’ dearest friends. It reads, “Mary Hinkle Doby Memorial Playground. Dedicated to her life of Christian love, faith, and service to Baptist Children’s Homes of N.C. by her loving family and friends. ‘Well done, good and faithful servant!’”

“The word ‘Christian’ in the text is essential,” her 75-year-old son Wiley Doby, Jr. asserts. “My family has wanted to help children since my grandparents first hosted a child from Mills Home in their own home for holidays and summers. And it was their desire for the children to know Jesus that drove their passion. It is at the heart of our family’s desire to help—it is done in His name.”

Stanford Oscar (S. O.) Hinkle understood children’s hardships. He was fatherless at age five and by age six was plowing fields behind a mule. “He had a heart for



S. O. Hinkle, Sr.



Fannie Hinkle

hurting children. He was committed to helping kids have a better life and he wanted them to know the Lord,” Wiley says.

S. O. and his wife Fannie were determined to make children’s lives better. Wiley has memories of riding from Winston-Salem with his grandparents to pick up Dean Lunsford from his Mills Home cottage. He remembers Fannie’s home-cooked meals and he and his sister Nancy, with parents Mary and Wiley Jacob Doby, Sr., sitting at the dinner table with Don and their grandparents, creating good memories.

S. O. and Fannie taught their children, oldest daughter Mary, sons S. O., Jr. (Pete) and Talmadge, and daughter Becky, the importance of faith and caring for others. The family attended New Friendship Baptist Church on Old Lexington Road in Winston-Salem. It is the church that Mary and Wiley, Sr. attended after they married and where Mary played the organ for more than 30 years.



Mary Hinkle Doby lived to be 104. Above, Wiley, Ila, daughter Beth, Mary, son Mark, and Mark’s wife Allison gather to celebrate Mary’s 95th birthday. Below, Wiley stands beside the sign in front of the Mary Hinkle Memorial Playground on the Mills Home campus in Thomasville.

“Nancy and I were in church before we could walk,” Wiley says. “It is not more than a quarter of a mile from where we grew up. When the doors were open, we were there. Church was a big part of our family’s life.”

Like their parents, Mary and her siblings had a heart for Baptist Children’s Homes (BCH). The family gave many gifts through the years to help with operating needs, renovations, and furnishing and constructing buildings. As a special way to remember S. O. and Fannie, their children donated the family’s office supply store to help fund the construction of Hinkle House, one of BCH’s first homes for intellectually/developmentally disabled adults.

Wiley’s father passed 42 years ago. He had owned and operated Doby’s Bakery on West Fourth Street in Winston-Salem.

He was compassionate and kind. It is said that no one could speak badly of him. Mary was a life-long educator who retired when Wiley, Sr. was diagnosed with cancer, only to return after his death in 1982 to



become a substitute teacher until she was 81. When she stepped out of the classroom for good, she dedicated her time as a BCH volunteer. She became known as “Miss Baptist Children’s Homes.”

Lessons of service were learned by her children. Nancy Doby Elrod was an elementary school reading instructor for many years before her retirement. When Wiley was asked to become a BCH trustee, he gladly accepted, serving several terms. After

retiring from public education and serving as school superintendent in several counties, Wiley became BCH’s director of planned giving. “My job was to help others realize how they could help children through a financial legacy.”

A diagnosis of multiple myeloma in 2016 brought an end to working at BCH, but it did not change his heart. Now, in full remission from this complex form of blood cancer, Wiley remains dedicated to his family’s legacy.

He and wife Ila’s two children Beth and Mark strive to live up to the family example. Beth, husband James, and children Ila and Nora live in Salt Lake City. She is a pediatric infectious disease doctor and James designs and creates pediatric prosthetics. Mark, wife Allison, and children Cate and Myers live in Salisbury. He is a lawyer and a Meals on Wheels volunteer and Allison is dedicated to children’s education.

“Our family, through four generations, has been dedicated to Christian service,” Wiley says. “It was at the heart of our parents’ and grandparents’ lives.”

Legacies pass down from grandparents, to parents, to children, and to grandchildren. The Hinkle/Doby family legacy continues making other lives better.



Mary Doby

Family shares Filipino culture with adopted children

By Jim Edminson, Editor

Jeffrey and Mary Hope were born in the Philippines. Jeffrey was two-and-half when adoptive parents Alli and David Owens brought their son home to the United States in 2018. He was too young to have memories of living in his country of birth. Thirteen-year-old Mary Hope was 11 when the Owens returned to the Philippines to adopt her in 2022. She is keenly aware of her past. She has memories, good and bad. She fondly remembers the food and the simple joy of the Filipino people—and she remembers how she and the other children in the orphanage prayed desperately to be adopted.

When Alli and David decided their family would attend the Heritage Weekend at Mills Home in Thomasville on July 26-28, they were excited that Jeffrey and Mary Hope and their birth children, 15-year-old daughter Eden and 12-year-old son Jagur, would meet other families with adopted children from the Philippines.

“I began praying about having an event after attending a conference in the Philippines where I learned about a camp experience for Filipino adopted children,” Christian Adoption Services’ Lead Director of International Adoptions Laura Nichols-Virgilio recounts. “But the Lord impressed us to focus on the whole family—adopted child, parents, and siblings. We began planning a special time where we would provide support and encouragement for these families who adopted Filipino children. We decided to produce a weekend event with a strong spiritual emphasis and build around it fellowship times and immersion opportunities into Filipino culture.”

Heritage Weekend brought together six families and 11 children born in the Philippines. It was a unique opportunity. The Owens know other families who have adopted children, but for Jeffrey and Mary Hope, this was their first time together with adoptive families who have children from the Philippines.

“We were drawn together by our shared stories and experiences,” David asserts. “Seeing our kids spend time together with the other children was important. The weekend was invaluable to our entire family.”



Six families participated in the inaugural Heritage Weekend on July 26-28 where families with adopted children from the Philippines were immersed in a time of spiritual enrichment and encouragement. Adopted children, siblings, and parents fellowship with other adoptive families and experience Filipino culture through food and games. The Owens family, left to right: Jeffrey, Mary Hope, Jagur, Eden, family friend Bri Reapsommer, Alli, and David, tackle a family team building exercise. Below, Jeffrey and Mary Hope study at their home.



Alli adds, “Jeffrey was so young when he became a part of our family but he is proud of being Filipino. Attending Heritage Weekend helped him learn more about where he came from.”

Mary Hope feels at times as if she stands out in her new country, looking different from her parents and siblings. She is more reserved than Jeffrey who is often the “life of the party.” But during Heritage Weekend, she played familiar Filipino games and enjoyed eating familiar food that was specially prepared for the event. She and the other Filipino children shared language and culture. She could feel good about her Philippine heritage.

The couple had reservations about adopting an older child. When they went to pick up Jeffrey, Alli and David spent time with the teens at the orphanage. They realized the older children

needed a home, too. They needed to be loved.

“We are aware of the emotional baggage older children carry but we realized every adopted child faces challenges. We determined then to come back,” David says.

When they went to bring Mary Hope home, Alli was drawn to an older girl who had been returned after a failed adoption. She was sad. It can be hard for the children as they watch families come and take children away.

“You are here for Mary Hope,” she said—and with a tender voice, added, “I’m glad she is getting her miracle.”

The Owens learned that every child prays and believes they will one day be adopted. Each child at the orphanage hopes for a family. They are hoping for their miracle.

“Adoption has humbled me,” Alli confesses. “God has allowed us to be that miracle for two special children. Children who had hoped and prayed for us to come and be their family.”

The 2025 Heritage Weekend is set for July 25-27. Scan the QR code to view the 2024 Heritage Weekend highlight video.

To learn more about Philippine adoption, visit christianadopt.org/adoption-philippines.



2024 Homecoming filled with hugs and memories — Homecoming Team delivers an event to remember

By **Lib Johnson** (336) 299-7412 libsjohnson@triad.rr.com

We can say once again that we had a very special Homecoming. We enjoyed a lot of hugs and wonderful memories and we thank everyone who participated. We sincerely thank BCH's **Chris Allabaugh** for a warm welcome and thanks to the staff members who made the campus beautiful for us. We also thank **Ron and Lisa Lancaster, Keith Campbell, Martha Berndt Fisher, Johnny Shields, and Flora Hicks Patton** for coming up in July to clean God's Acre. We give another thanks to Flora who came another day with **Martha Berndt Fisher and Cecelia Townsend Wilkerson** to put their special "touches" on the gym and church to make things extra special for Homecoming. So you see a lot of loving and care go into preparing for our Homecoming yearly.

As is the case most years, several Alumni Council Members arrived on Thursday to start working and others came in Friday to help decorate and set up tables for the evening meals and for the auction. It was amazing to witness the dedicated work and see all the marvelous donations for the auction. By 6:00 pm, they had accomplished a lot and were ready for the meal sponsored by two alumni. It was a meal of delicious hamburgers and hot dogs with all the trimmings. We thank the Brown family that includes **Danny, Jane, and daughter Sana Myers** for preparing that food. Assisting the Browns in preparing both evening meals in the gym's kitchen were **Linda Rochelle, Bucky Clark, and Keith Campbell**. **Rich Lewis** provided desserts for the occasion. Of course, all the "Homecoming Team" and other alumni and friends helped in serving the food or were on duty manning the auction tables: those groups of workers included **Jackie Elliott Walker, Rich Lewis, Mark and Cecelia Townsend Wilkerson, Sharon Dehart Stiles, Martha Berndt Fisher, Ruth Berndt Hodges, Ron and Lisa Carter Lancaster, Flora Hicks Patton,**

Johnny Shields, Michael Hazzard, Sherri Townsend Alexander, Bucky Clark, Linda and Keith. (They all did a lot of other things in the course of the weekend.)

Saturday of Homecoming began with registration in the gym from 11:00 am-5:00 pm. It was pretty cool seeing all the Alumni Council members decked out in matching sweatshirts that labeled them as "The Homecoming Team," and they worked solidly all weekend. The Silent Auction also began at 11:00 and lasted until 5:00 with donations coming in all that time. It resumed again on Sunday and ended at 2:00 pm. It was amazing how the auction workers could find room for one more thing. Many, many tables set up in the teen room were already loaded with some amazing items: beautiful home decorations such as mirrors and pictures, bedspreads, small kitchen appliances, neck pillows, jewelry, books, a sewing machine, some luggage, ladies pocketbooks, shoes and clothing, games, puzzles, gift baskets, golf clubs, flowers, decorative table decorations, a few small pieces of furniture, and MORE. **Mark and Cecelia Wilkerson** did another great job heading up the auction as they have now for many years. Assisting them were **Keith Campbell, Rich Lewis, Michael Hazzard, Sherri Townsend Alexander, and Pat Baucam**. Year after year, Mark and Cecelia find new ways to make the Auction more efficient. Soon after the close of the auction, folks packed up to return home.

The Associational Meeting took place Saturday at 5:00 pm in the Teen Room. The ever efficient **President Ruth Berndt Hodges** opened the meeting with a most beautiful prayer, setting a sweet and positive atmosphere for the annual meeting. Of course, there were the usual "trouble makers" present doing their best to keep us laughing at one thing or another but we still accomplished a lot. Our beloved friends

who have passed away since last Homecoming were memorialized in silent prayer and in a reading (by Lib) of the names and years they were at Mills Home (MH). (A list of the deceased will be in the next issue.) Following that was the awarding of the Oscar Award which honors alumni and any others who have contributed outstanding time and effort in the work of the association. A tie vote this year allowed awards to go to **Ron and Lisa Lancaster**. The usual business reports given by committee chairpersons showed our organization to be in good shape. Other things that took place in the meeting included a wonderful update by **Chris Allabaugh** of what is happening with the MH children and the growth of the MH church specifically. In connection with **Jackie Elliott Walker's** Mitchell report, Mr. Allabaugh introduced BCH's Senior Director of Special Projects **Cyndie Truax** and Mitchell Museum Curator **Marilyn Moore**. Ms Moore is already digitizing the memorabilia in preparation of transferring it to the new museum location in the old kindergarten. (More on Mitchell in the next column.)

Near the end of the meeting **President Ruth Hodges** recognized the new slate of officers and council members who pledged to observe all objectives of our association. Replacing President Ruth for a two year term is **Jackie Elliott Walker**. (A list of all council members will be in the next issue.)

The Saturday evening meal at 6:15 pm was prepared by the same people who prepared the Friday evening "supper." As you passed through to get a plate full of delicious food, you could see the entire Alumni Council serving side by side in their cute council designed 'uniforms' that declared them to be "The Homecoming Team." And what a team they were!

The Sunday morning worship service was wonderful. **Mr. Chris**

Allabaugh welcomed alumni back home and to our beloved church. Thanks to **Rev. Dr. Randy Stewart** for playing the organ and piano for the two wonderful performances, one by the choir and one by **Danny, Jane, and Sana**. Thanks to the speakers **Charles and Clifton Lambreth** who helped us recall qualities we developed at MH. They were amusing, impressive, and inspiring. **Pastor Luis Quintanar** made closing remarks. **Danny Bryant, Keith Campbell, Michael Clay, Walter Jolly, Ron Lancaster, and John Shields** served as ushers. **Linda Rochelle** placed the beautiful flowers in memory of her husband **Jimmy Rochelle**. We thank MH for the lunch on Sunday and all the photographers who made the picture taking so much fun.

We certainly could not function without the work and myriad efforts of MH personnel. So we send many thanks to the staff and foster care workers who helped: **Chris Allabaugh, Linda Taylor, Patricia Carroll, Melinda Helsabeck, Bobbie Heilig, Kevin McPherson, Becky McPherson, Kristen Hunt, Julieta Santillan, Sarah Savage, Andrea Walker, Mike Lucy, Larry Morris, Jada Cable, Hannah Smith, Andy Snovak, Kimberly Johnson, Pam Burgess, and Blake Ragsdale**.

We also thank BCH's **Brenda Gray and Keith Henry** for all they do to help us make a great Homecoming and assist us with decisions and projects.

Please contact **Flora Patton** (flo-rapatton@ctc.net) or 704-791-7866 if you wish to add or correct an address for the alumni directory or for your **Charity & Children** subscription. Contact **Sharon DeHart Stiles** to discuss use of the God's Acre Columbarium: 704-685-2443 or 1588 Elkhart Circle, Gastonia, NC, 28054.



Lib Johnson was a resident of Mills Home from 1946 to 1957. Johnson began writing the Mills Home alumni column in 1992.

Don't wait to sign up for the Alumni Beach Retreat — Youngins remember jobs on and off campus

By **JOHN THOMPSON**, 102 Maritime Court, Havelock, NC 28532 (252) 671-3515 jbthompson43@gmail.com

I hope by now everyone has October 4, 5, and 6 on their calendar for the Annual Beach Retreat. Be sure to call and let us know you are planning to attend. You can come to the cottage Friday afternoon. Sunday we will have lunch together and clean the cottage before returning home. Remember, do not bring animals.

Bobby Brinson wrote about life at Kennedy Home (KH) and staying in the Williams Cottage in the early to mid 90s. “My houseparents were **the Mannings, the Beachams, and Fredett and Mr. Stanley. Mr. Godwin** was my counselor. I enjoyed my time especially swimming and skating in the gym. I loved staying in the Skeeter Hut from time to time as it was a lot of fun.”

James Skinner Quidley sent word from **Mrs. Manning** saying that her husband had passed away after you left and remembers you were a “cute” redhead.

Mazie and Etherage Waters had lived in a village outside of Madrid, Spain before arriving at KH in the 70s to be houseparents, bringing a beautiful nine-month-old baby girl. In Spain, they had no television, no phone, and no English speaking radio station. It was a big adjustment returning to North Carolina. Etherage was the cook for Bryant Cottage and Mazie was the housemother. They cared for 12 boys and girls.

Mazie shares, “We they arrived at the beginning of summer and suddenly realized just how big the farm garden was and the true meaning of canning and freezing vegetables. The cottage learned how to blanch tomatoes and can carrots, green beans, and corn. It helped us build relationships and we had fun. Discovering the mystery of peanuts growing under ground was amazing to our daughter as she grew. I often think about the kids we lived with

at Bryant Cottage and have been able to reconnect with several of them now that they are adults with families, children, and jobs. We were at KH about five years and then moved to Asheville. But the memories are often fresh and alive and bring a smile to my heart. Because of my years at KH, I went into full-time work at an emergency shelter for kids, then a homeless shelter, and later an independent living program for older teenage girls. I celebrate every day and every kid I had the pleasure of sharing time with at Bryant Cottage.”

One of the things I remember from my days of service, and all our Baptist churches should know, is that the boys and girls were taught the responsibility of having a job. Boys and girls until the teen years received an allowance. After a youngin’ turned 13, he or she could have a job on the campus and receive a salary. They also learned about giving a tithe. I had about six youth help keep the sanctuary and all the Sunday school rooms, bathrooms, kitchen, and hallways cleaned. When I taught piano, **Wayne Jackson** helped teach beginning students. I also taught Wayne how to direct the congregational singing to help out sometimes. He had special permission his senior year to continue helping.

Debbie McCormack Caulder writes: “KH helps students to prepare to leave and live on their own. In preparation for that it was important to work at a job, practice a skill, or learn something that we could take with us in our lives after we left. My on-campus job was working in the main office doing administrative work. It was more that stuffing and stamping envelopes. Every week it was ‘me’—yes me, typing and mimeographing the next week’s church program. I loved transferring those blue

sheets onto the paper and folding them just so. I especially loved knowing which hymns would be sung before anyone else.

“My off-campus job was a seasonal job at J. C. Penney’s in Long Leaf Mall. I worked in the fabric department, cutting fabric and selling thread. But my favorite off-campus job was working at King’s BBQ with my sister **Penny and Joyce (Conie) Surgaugh**. Sometimes we had the early morning breakfast shift where customers would order ‘brains and eggs.’ Clayton Pate, Paul Stoner, and Wayne McDowell had the job of driving us to our jobs.”

The boys and girls learned how to take care of their own living space. They cleaned their own bedrooms and sometimes the children had to learn to clean the kitchen floors. Some youngin’s had the job of keeping all the weeds out of the flower beds. Of course, they all learned to shell beans and shuck corn.

Back in the day, 1972-1977, **Bill Beacham** was the cottage father in charge of recreation on the KH campus. My favorite time was in the summer when the “pool” was open for all to use. The trampoline was my next favorite activity. I could jump very high but I never learned how to do a high flip. Some of the children were great at flipping. They could flip and land on the gym floor. I couldn’t get up the nerve to try.

“Ping Pong” was the next favorite activity. I suppose this was liked by all because there was always someone waiting in line to play. Everyone waited your turn to play. Of course the gym was used for basketball games. We had some excellent players, too. Mr. Beacham was a great coach, teaching the children the fundamentals. There were also puzzles and table games to play. We were all thankful to all the Baptist churches who helped to make the

gym possible. We had fun in the gym even on the coldest winter nights.

At the beginning of my stay at KH, Becky, my two boys, and I lived in the old clinic right in the middle of the campus. Many times, I would sit on the porch so I could talk to youngins who were on the way to the gym. We lived just a little way from the front door of the gym. There was a campus rule about not stopping at places on the way to the gym, but I allowed it at my home. I considered it a great outreach and part of my job to get to know all my youngins better. I even taught piano lessons in my home. I had 62 piano students who gave two recitals a year.

I had a lot of fish tanks and the boys and girls could watch while I was giving lessons to one of my students. Life at KH was one of the highlights of my service to the Lord. I would really like to be back there but I am now 80 years old. That would really make a difference.

As I write my column this month, I keep thinking of my **Becky**. She went to Heaven three years ago on August 21—one day before her birthday. When she turned 21 on August 22 back in 1965, we got married—on her birthday. We had 56 wonderful years together. I miss her so much. She gave me two very good sons. I live with son **Scott** and daughter-in-law **Melisa** in Havelock. My son **Johnny** and my grandchildren see that I get to where I need to be. I really need all of you to keep sending me stories to add to my column in *Charity & Children*.

Thanks for reading every month. Love ya!—jt



John Thompson served at Kennedy Home from 1972-1977. At age 80, he continues to serve the Lord.

Remember Mom and Dad

NOTE: Listed are *all* Honor and Memorial gifts made to BCH from March 1 through July 1.

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|---|---|--|---|--|--|---|
| <p>IN HONOR</p> <p>Todd Amos By Frances A. Lohrer</p> <p>Baptist Children's Homes' Staff By M/M C. Wayne Lassiter</p> <p>Samantha Barker By Cape Fear Interpreters</p> <p>Rev. Mike & Teresa Barrett By John Pierce</p> <p>Belhaven Missionary Baptist By Boyd Proctor</p> <p>Hannah & Tristen Benedict By Beth Pennell</p> <p>Betty Bennett By Robert T. Porter</p> <p>Ron & Carolyn Boswell By M/M James D. Murphy</p> <p>Tim Boyd By Bobby Morgan</p> <p>Timothy Boyd By Janet Y. Patty</p> <p>Kennedy & Grace Boyd By R. Kristy & Jeremy Gaines</p> <p>Raymond A. Braxton By Dillard Braxton</p> <p>Richard Braxton By Dillard Braxton</p> <p>Mary, Mike, & Lisa Britt By M/M Rayford A. Mims, Jr.</p> <p>Vaughn Brown By Debra & Mark Vanhoy</p> <p>L.T., Faye, & Shelley Brown By Georgia L. Moore</p> <p>Kay Burriss By Terri N. Kittrell</p> <p>Sara Bus By M/M Jerry Fisher</p> <p>Robert Byrd By M/M Joe F. Sikes</p> <p>Patricia Carroll By Linda K. Taylor</p> <p>Joe & Debbie S. Cearley By David & Deborah Shaw</p> <p>Pastor Steve & Kristie Chipps By Mrs. Barbara Barrett</p> <p>Clayton SS Class By Reginald Carter</p> <p>Stephen & Patricia Coble By M/M Gary L. Moore</p> <p>Noah Cory By Ethel F. Robbins</p> <p>Bobby Cox By M/M S. Bart Jones</p> <p>Knox Crawford By M/M Danny R. Gillespie</p> <p>Ramsey Crawford By M/M Danny R. Gillespie</p> <p>Ted & Frankie Denton By Cindy Jennings</p> | <p>Rev. Vernon & Sharon Eller By Lowell K. Younce</p> <p>Lisa & Jim Everette By Dr. & Mrs. Stephen B. Smith</p> <p>Brenda & Roger Ferguson By Brenda W. Emmons</p> <p>Elizabeth Fisher By M/M Jerry Fisher</p> <p>Five Grandchildren By M/M David E. Mikeal</p> <p>Wilma Foushee By Cecilia F. Cook</p> <p>Wilma Foushee By Lynn Brown</p> <p>Elizabeth Garner By M/M Don R. Garner</p> <p>Mrs. Barbara Geddie By Carolyn & Donald Kearns</p> <p>Gracie By M/M Bill Shoemaker</p> <p>Grandsons Hunter, Hemi, & Edison By M/M Jerry Fisher</p> <p>John Gray By M/M Leonard W. Yeargan</p> <p>Brenda Gray By Susie Stroud</p> <p>Shirley Green By Green's Auto Service</p> <p>John Grindstaff By Tabitha Clement</p> <p>Stacy M. Guerin By M/M Dennis A. Young</p> <p>Lucy Hands By M/M John Fulbright</p> <p>Mae Hands By M/M John Fulbright</p> <p>G. Hannibal By John Adamcik</p> <p>Gwen Hazlehurst By Rachel Corvin</p> <p>Joe & Pat Hedrick By Brenda W. Emmons</p> <p>Melinda Helsabeck By Linda K. Taylor</p> <p>Roger & Katherine Hodges By David & Deborah Shaw</p> <p>Gavin Hoskins By Beth Pennell</p> <p>Victoria Houle By Carole M. Nason</p> <p>Hunter Children By M/M James C. Keller</p> <p>Natalie Hutchinson By M/M Robert H. Garner</p> <p>Lillian James By M/M Dock Ayers</p> <p>Lib Smathers Johnson By M/M Harrill L. Blanton, Jr.</p> <p>James W. Johnson By Stephen & Sandra Boone</p> | <p>The Johnsons By Elaine B. 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Tyson</p> <p>Helen McIntosh By Heather & Jeff Morgan</p> <p>Jim & Mary Ann Moore By M/M Michael A. Gibbs</p> <p>M/M Brad Morrison By Carolyn & Donald Kearns</p> <p>Nancy S. Murray By Judy K. Murray</p> <p>New Vision SS Class By Sharon L. Schultz</p> <p>Margie Oldham By Dorothy H. Vandessel</p> <p>Rudy Oliver By Lois G. Weeks</p> <p>Pat Osborne By First Baptist Church</p> <p>Ray & Cathy Owen By Alan Bentley</p> | <p>Laura Cooper Patterson By M/M R. Fuller Beasley</p> <p>Flora Hicks Patton By Alice Stamey</p> <p>Alexander Paul By Douglas Rumley</p> <p>Pat Peele By Betty Warnock</p> <p>Phillip Pannel By Jan H. Pannel</p> <p>Wayne & Rena Phillips By William R. Phillips</p> <p>Rev. Charles & Marcia Pittman By Dr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Margolis</p> <p>Joshua Privette By Malcolm & Denise Privette</p> <p>Christopher & Mackenzie Privette By M/M R. Malcolm Privette</p> <p>Robert & Allison Privette By M/M R. Malcolm Privette</p> <p>Hallie Elizabeth Ray By Ellen M. Ray</p> <p>Emily Ann Robbins By Ethel F. Robbins</p> <p>Peggy Robertson By M/M James L. Proffitt</p> <p>Deborah Roebuck By M/M W. Kenneth Roebuck</p> <p>Ryn Rogers By Raymond S. Allen</p> <p>Soladad Lopez Romero By Joanne W. Smith</p> <p>Lila & Holland Rose By Pat Murray</p> <p>Alton Ross By Elsie L. Brumback</p> <p>Keith Rushing By Macedonia Baptist Church</p> <p>Alan Rushing By Macedonia Baptist Church</p> <p>Ed Schemper By Ami Uselman</p> <p>Donna Willis By Rita & Gayle Varriale, Sr.</p> <p>Reba Wood By Sylvia W. Lauten</p> <p>Jody and Staci Yopp By M/M Ronald A. Yopp, Sr.</p> | <p>Nancy Stewart By Nancy A. Sherrill</p> <p>Catherine Stone By Kelley Garris</p> <p>M/M Jon Stone By Patricia Rhodes</p> <p>Faye Storie By Barry & Elisa Bailey</p> <p>Corey Sturdivant By Gerald D. Fitch</p> <p>Rev. & Mrs. Danny Sweet By David & Lucille Ollis</p> <p>Lynda Swisher By Clara Ann P. Crutchfield</p> <p>Bertha Taylor By M/M Larry F. Tuggle</p> <p>Nelson & Amy Teague By Sylvia M. Teague</p> <p>Reina Tinsley By M/M James C. Keller</p> <p>Magnolia Fenn Triplett By Judith P. Fulbright</p> <p>Matthew & Haley Truitt By Barbara Barrett</p> <p>Rit Varriale By Rita & Gayle Varriale, Sr.</p> <p>Gloria Walker By Sandra B. Smith</p> <p>Jean Walsh By M/M Paul H. Walsh, III</p> <p>Tom Walters By T. G. "Wes" Westmoreland</p> <p>Carol Weathersbee By Frankie Sue Denton</p> <p>Donald Wetherington By O. S. "Sandy" Bain</p> <p>Amber Fox Whittaker By Beth Pennell</p> <p>Jane Williams By Diane & Carl Williams</p> <p>Donna Willis By Linda A. Pope</p> <p>Reba Wood By Sylvia W. Lauten</p> <p>Jody and Staci Yopp By M/M Ronald A. Yopp, Sr.</p> | <p>Janie H. Allred By Robert Allred, Sr.</p> <p>Ed Ancherico By Marina Carleton</p> <p>M/M Jon Stone By Kerri S. Hurley</p> <p>Graham Andrews By Elizabeth Rogers</p> <p>William Harley Ashe By M/M James D. Pullium</p> <p>Dorothy B. Austin By Jerry L. Austin</p> <p>Everette C. Austin By Jerry L. Austin</p> <p>Janet Thomas Babcock By Charles Babcock</p> <p>Mike Baker By Carolyn J. Baker</p> <p>Carol Baker By M/M Larry F. Tuggle</p> <p>Linda Barber By Cynthia & Faiz Popal</p> <p>By Diane Smerling By Thomas & Judy McDaniel</p> <p>By Amanda L. Wilson By Culdee Presbyterian</p> <p>By Betty M. Thrower By Cheryl M. Ward</p> <p>By M/M Robert M. McDaniel, III By M/M Robert M. McDaniel, III</p> <p>Keith Barefoot By M/M John D. Wheeler</p> <p>Charles Barfield By M/M Pete Parrish</p> <p>Ray & Lucy Barger By Sandra Walker</p> <p>Brenda Barlow By J. D. Barlow</p> <p>Anna Jean Bass By M/M Truman L. Jenkins</p> <p>Durwood Batchelor By Kaye G. Batchelor</p> <p>Juanita Beard By Kay Sharples</p> <p>Dovie Beasley By Daniel & Jean Grimsley</p> <p>Priscilla Beaver By M/M M. Ronald Jenkins</p> <p>Christopher Bell By Brian Beaver</p> <p>Brandon Bell By Shirley S. Childers</p> <p>Worth Bentley By Tom & Opal White</p> <p>M/M Parks Bentley By Linda E. Bentley</p> <p>William I. Bigger, Jr. By Linda E. 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- Bill Buckalew**
By Larry & Carol Hibschan
By M/M Robert Woodall
By Jo Boggs
- William D. Buckalew, Jr.**
By Elizabeth Baptist Church
By Thomas & Vallery McCoy
- Tom Buckner**
By Joseph V. Smith
- Louise Bullock**
By Linda Bullock
- Ward & Alice Burch**
By Vernita J. Turpin
- Jacquelyn G. Burgess**
By Elizabeth B. Chappell
- Lucille D. Burgess**
By Rose Clark-Hunt
By Pleasant View Baptist Ch.
By Nadine F. Patrick
By Helene R. Varis
- Paul Burmahl**
By Valerie P. Burmahl
- Neddy Joe Burris**
By Miss Daphne P. Pickler
- Marie Burrus**
By M/M Ronald C. Dilthey
- Floyd Burton**
By M/M John C. Hellard
- Ada Fry Cammerer**
By M/M H. Cornell Mock, Sr.
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By Kathryn Pace
- Mammie Capps**
By Prudence Clark
- Ann Carr**
By Tom & Opal White
- Verona & Clyde Carter**
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- Jack Cartwright**
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By Brenda H. & Lloyd Bost, Jr.
- Mae Enloe Case**
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By Patty Nelson
By Ruth & Roddy Schmitt
By Henry & Alesa Wray
- Cole L. & Beulah May Chavis**
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- John & Mary Clayton**
By Emmett E. Stobbs Jr.
- G.W. Clontz, Jr.**
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- Edith Combs**
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By Janet Cooper Henry
- M/M Nelson B. Cox**
By Billie C. Harrell
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By Supply Baptist Church
- Rev. & Mrs. Horace Crouse**
By Nelson & Dorianne Beam
- Floyd Ray Crowell**
By Bonita C. Cauble
- Marshall Crowell**
By M/M Michael H. Walters
- William (Bill) Howard Crump**
By Thomas E. Galloway
By Jean H. Forbes
By Vicka B. Weaver
By Margaret Stallings
By Barbara J. Lail
- Justin Gregory Cundiff**
By Sharon Cundiff
- Clifford Steven Dailey**
By Jep & Mary Parker
- Bobby Daughtry**
By M/M Douglas O. Wilson
- Bill Davis**
By Tanner Singletary
- Ann Davis**
By Harry Davis
- Ronald & Mrs. Robby Dellinger**
By Douglas Rumley
- Effie Dempsey**
By Linda Bullock
- Vicky Baker Denton**
By Danny & Debbie Ray
By Linda Arnold
By Cynthia Phillips
By Anna Lyman
By Carol Crosby
By M/M John E. Gardner
By Patricia Kramer
- Rupert & Eunice Dilday**
By Martha R. Rawls
- Pam Dixon**
By Martha Misenheimer
- Nell Hoyle Donadio**
By Donald A. Donadio
- W. Grady Dotson**
By Allen C. Dotson
- Floyd & Hazel Drye**
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- Don Duncan**
By M/M Larry F. Tuggle
- Neil Dunn**
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- M/M William J. Earp**
By Linda E. Bentley
- Geraldine B. Edge**
By David L. Edge
- Heather Joy Edmonds**
By Sandra Edmonds
- Gwen Edwards**
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Making News Every Day Around the State



ServeNC efforts benefit Broyhill Home
Lake Junaluska Baptist with members of the Christian Motorcycle Association took part of NC Baptists' ServeNC.



Foster family aids child's cancer battle
The Biggerstaffs at River Hill Refuge not only give their foster child a home but are caring for her through cancer.



Kelsey is adopted, Tirrell has a sister
BCH foster couple John and Erin Stuebe have adopted Kelsey, a child they fostered, making Tirrell a big brother.



Birth mother chooses adoption
Chris and Nina have adopted their baby through Christian Adoption Services who ministered to the birth mother.



Planned giving couple read about their efforts in Charity & Children
Ruby and Wilburn Lefier, longtime friends of Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) who have placed the ministry in their will, read their article in the legacy-focused edition of Charity & Children. If you are interested in learning about leaving a legacy that will change children's lives, visit bchlegacy.org or call BCH's Jody Yopp at 704-314-5291.



Mercer Home men visit the beach
Men at Mercer Home in Sanford, for adults with developmental/intellectual disabilities, enjoyed their beach trip.



Children head back to school
BCH's boys and girls, equipped with new clothing, backpacks and supplies, are ready to begin the new school year.



Odum blessed with paper products
Benjie Mathis, a youth pastor for 28 years, brought former youth to volunteer at Moody Home in Franklin.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

JOIN US FOR SUMMER & FALL EVENTS/MISSION DAYS

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>SEPTEMBER 5: Western Area Conference at Broyhill Home in Clyde bchfamily.org/wac</p> <p>7: NCBAM Field of Makers at Mills Home in Thomasville ncbam.org/events/</p> <p>NOVEMBER 3-10: NCBAM: Week of Prayer for Baptist Children's Homes bchoffering.org</p> | <p>4-5: Annual Meeting of Baptist State Convention (NC Baptists) in Greensboro ncbaptist.org/annual-meeting</p> <p>09: Thanksgiving Dinner at Cameron Boys Camp in Cameron</p> <p>23: Thanksgiving Dinner/Founders Day at Camp Duncan in Aberdeen</p> | <p>FRIENDS OF CHILDREN SATURDAY MISSIONS DAYS Odum Home, Pembroke – Sept 14 Kennedy Home, Kinston – Sept 14 Mills Home, Thomasville – Sept 21 Camp Duncan, Aberdeen – Sept 21 Cameron Boys Camp, Cameron – Sept 28 Oak Ranch, Broadway – Oct 26</p> |
|--|---|--|

Complete info and registration at bchfamily.com/events

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Little Leaguers put winning into right perspective

By Jim Edminson, Editor

Finally made it. I attended the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. I have watched the games on television for decades and hoped to one day sit in the stands of Volunteer and Lamade Fields to watch the best Little League teams from across the United States and the best international teams from as far away as Tokyo, the Czech Republic, and Australia. It is a tournament that brings 20 teams together, ten representing the U.S. and ten international teams to demonstrate the finest in sportsmanship and each player's pursuit for personal best.

On day one of the 11-day tournament, the Caribbean team from Aruba faced the team from Tamaulpas, Mexico before a packed stadium with 6,824 in attendance. It was a nail-biter and hard fought, but Mexico ended the game with a no-hitter. Early in the game, the Caribbean pitcher was struggling and threw a pitch that hit the batter. The player went to first base, medical staff met him, and concerned coaches stood by, but they weren't the only ones standing with the hit player. The Caribbean pitcher was there. After the player was given the okay to play, the pitcher who had thrown the wild ball stepped in and the players hugged.

Now ten days in, players representing Texas are playing the team from Hawaii. The bat cracks and pitcher and catcher dart to catch the short popup. Both reaching for the ball, they stumble, tripping over the other's legs and fall to the ground. The pitcher rises from the ground with ball in glove but immediately turns to his teammate to make sure he is not hurt. A shoulder hug and a nod puts them back on the field and the game continues.

The Little League players recite a pledge before every game. The boys pledge to trust God,



Little League World Series players attend games when they are not playing. Mexico's catcher #18 Ulises Ortiz and pitcher/short stop #12 Antonio Guerrero take a minute after the Cuba/Czech Republic game on Thursday, Aug. 15 for a selfie with me outside Volunteer Stadium.

love their respective countries and keep their laws. They commit to play fair as they strive to win, but win or lose, each player pledges to do his best.

In Acts, Luke records Paul's words as he testifies to the elders of the Ephesus church, "However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace (NIV 20:24)."

It is Paul who writes to the Colossians, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters (3:23)." In Paul's analogies of the racer, there is never a competitor that needs to be defeated. The focus of the race is not about beating another person, it is focused on the runner, his race to the finish line. Paul urges his readers to give their best to complete the course.

In the recent movie *Young Woman in the Sea*,

real life actor Daisy Ridley portrays Gertrude Ederle who swims the English Channel and becomes the first woman to cross the span, breaking the time of the previous four male swimmers. But the power of the story is not that she succeeds on her second attempt after her first try was sabotaged by her male coach; it wasn't that she would be the first woman of many who would take on the mammoth task and make the swim from France to England; and it wasn't that she obliterated male swimmers' times by more than two hours, or risked her life, lost in the shoals off the English coast. No, the story is about one person achieving her personal best and finishing. For Ederle, it wasn't about winning or beating an opponent, it was about something greater.

When Ederle commits to going back into the Channel waters her second time, she tells her coach, "I need you to promise me something Mr. Burgess. Don't let anyone take me out of the water, no matter what."

Her coach understands. He had swam the channel. He had taken on the challenge that pushed himself to the point between life and death and completed the course—and he promises.

Last week as I sat in the stands of Volunteer Stadium as a spectator, I was reminded we do not compete against flesh and blood. It is my task, my race, to be faithful to my calling. Winning is not about beating someone. Winning is about being my best, surrendered, usable by the Spirit, and glorifying to God. The victory is in finishing. The words of Paul to Timothy make my heart beat faster, "I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race, I have kept the faith (2 Tim 4:7).

May we run as unto the Lord, giving our best.

SHARE

The Story!

3

WAYS A BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES (BCH) SPEAKER CAN SHARE AT YOUR CHURCH:

1

FULL SERMON
20-25 mins

A speaker will prepare a message for your worship service to edify the congregation, provide a BCH missions update, and share stories of lives that have been changed through your support.

2

MISSION MOMENT
2-5 mins

A speaker will share a BCH update and talk briefly how your missions dollars are impacting God's kingdom. The speaker can also set up a small display table to greet people.

3

SMALL GROUP/
SUNDAY SCHOOL

A speaker will share a BCH mission update and stories of lives changed. Your group will hear ways to pray, volunteer and support the ministry as a group or as a church.

TO INVITE A SPEAKER, GO TO BCHFAMILY.ORG/SPEAKER OR SCAN THE CODE. CALL 336-474-1218.

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