

MISSION MINISTRY NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH MISSIONS MINISTRY

150 EAST 2ND STREET, BURLINGTON NJ 08016
HTTP://WWW.TABERNACLE-BURLINGTON.ORG
REV. DR. CORY L. JONES, SENIOR PASTOR



MARTA'S STORY OF HOPE

IN THE WORDS OF MARTA LABOY

Experiencing a traumatic event that changes your life in every which way has got to be one of the toughest chapters in my life. Trying to raise five beautiful kids alone is extremely tough. I was raising my children in the city where the rent was in my budget. Unfortunately, in that City the crime rate was very high. On June 16th 2020 I became an innocent bystander of a drive-by shooting in front of my own home. And in just a split-second my life was forever changed. I felt the fire of a bullet strike my back and immediately lost all feeling from my waist down. Becoming a paraplegic puts you in sort of a catch-22, where you're both still alive, but not fully alive. Somewhat in prison. You're not in prison, but you're kind of imprisoned by your disability. Despite the obvious difficulties of losing my mobility to walk in the prime of my life, ending up in a wheelchair also marked a positive turning point. **(CONT'D ON PAGE 2)**

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MARTA'S STORY OF HOPE (CONT'D)

I've met some amazing people who have helped me in more ways than none. I have also received help from people I have never met in person. One of those people I would like to give a huge shout out to is Vicki Conaway. Vicki is a part of the Mission Ministry through Tabernacle Baptist Church. When Vicki heard my story she immediately put some things together with the ministry that has helped me and my five children. What Vicki does not know is that her huge heart and how she helped me has got me out of the city where I was senselessly shot and I truly thank her for that.

It goes back to what I meant when I said becoming paralyzed has marked a positive turning point for me. Living with a disability and raising 5 kids alone is more challenging than anyone could ever imagine. Physically my ability to keep things in order at home stresses me out. My eight-year-old daughter is the one person I lean on the most to help around the house. It makes me feel so guilty because all I want is for my kids to be just that, kids. My tragedy has affected me emotionally as well. I now have major anxiety, depression, and PTSD. Another major change from all of this is financial. I am so young and I don't have a long enough work history. Because of this social security disability pays very very little and I worry every day how I'm going to feed my kids or how my rent is going to be paid.

What people don't talk about are the daily struggles with learning things all over again like a newborn baby. Showering is a challenge, getting dressed is a challenge, cooking is a challenge, cleaning is a challenge, man everything is a challenge. Learning to live life with a half-dead body is not easy. But, I'm determined. I have days where I want to give up and throw the towel in. Then I have days where I can't stop progressing. It's a huge battle within myself but I refuse to stop now. I have had people here for me since day one. And I have had people that disappeared. But what I refuse to do is be ungrateful because God has given me another opportunity in life and the right people are here for me every day!

Although we cannot control the struggles we unexpectedly face, we do possess a quality - RESILIENCE - that helps us overcome the pain and maintain HOPE! Resilience brings us back to our dreams when the storm is over! With my tragedy, I was on the hunt for a gun violence support group and I ended up nowhere but at dead ends. So I took my tragedy and turned it into a Triumph. I started my very own support group. The group is called Flying Bullets and Falling Victims. It is solely based on Facebook for the time being. I plan on having this group grow and start meeting in person but with that, I have to be well prepared and ready mentally, physically, and emotionally. This group not only helps me but also helps others who are looking for that same support I was looking for. The group is open to any victim or family member of the victim due to gun violence. If you are interested, please request to join, and let's get through this together! Thank you to everyone who has supported me through my journey and to those that will continue to support me! Signing off to continue my journey is "The Determined" Marta Laboy!

Please help us continue to support Marta Laboy by making a donation to her directly via paypal @mlaboy08. For additional information, please contact missionaries@tabernacle-burlington.org

FEB 2021

MISSION MINISTRY NEWS

Official Newsletter of the Tabernacle Baptist Church Missions Ministry

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY VICKI CONAWAY

I count it as an honor and Privilege to preside over the dynamic Missionary Ministry of TBC in the second decade of the 21 st century. There is much work to do.

Our Lord and Savior called his followers to have the traits of servants and missionaries. 1 Peter 4:10 says "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied Grace" or Isaiah 6:8 "And I heard the voice of the Lord saying "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us", "Then I said, "Here am I! Send me".

The Mission Ministry will continue to support local and global missions. Locally, we installed Cultural Mini Library boxes in the Burlington New Yorkshire district. Globally, we have sent countless medical supplies, toys and books to our adopted school and hospital in Ghana.

The rich legacy of Missionary Work of TBC can be seen throughout the Burlington Community. We will continue to utilize our talents that the Lord placed in us to render fruitful service to him. The Lord has declared that Missionary Work is the responsibility of all who follow him. Make your life a Mission today!

MISSION MINISTRY OFFICERS

President: Sis. Vicki Conaway

1st Vice President: Bro. Quentin Moore

2nd Vice President: Sis. Mary Patterson

Recording Secretary: Sis. Dawn Parreott

Treasurer: Sis. Joanne Johnson

Financial Secretary: Sis. Marilyn Rankins

Mission Adviser: Rev. Helen Thomas

Liaison Deacons:

Dea. James Johnson

Dea. Elijah Tard

Dea. Harry Vereen

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

Meet and Greet

Cultural Library boxes

Purses Full of HOPE

Kids against Hunger

Backpack Giveaway

Breast Cancer Walk

SaltPond Municipal Hospital

Gift Cards for the Local Food Pantry

Lunch for Local Nursing Homes

Mission Appreciation Day

Christmas for families in need

Tour De Tabernacle

Camp Cedar Knoll

The Garden of Hope Community School

Benevolence

Condolence

Gifts to our TBC Senior High School Graduates

MY SOLO JOURNEY TO THE MOTHERLAND

BY VICKI CONAWAY

My first year as Missionary President was filled with so much anticipation, excitement, and expectation. I hit the ground running at full speed. One of my first tasks was to plan a Missions trip to Ghana. October 23, 2020 was the day that 24 missionaries from TBC were traveling to Mama Africa. I had been planning and making connections all year so excited about the trip, and then Covid hit and the trip was canceled.



One September morning, I woke up and heard the borders to Ghana had opened. I immediately purchased my ticket. I did not understand at the time why God was sending me to a place that I had never visited. There was always such a strong connection to Africa in my spirit.

My trip was life-changing. I had nine suitcases filled with coloring books, crayons, masks, and other various items donated by my Missionary brothers and sisters. My second indication that this trip was ordained by God is when I arrived at John F. Kennedy Airport in New York expecting the ministry to spend \$1400 dollars on baggage fees. Delta Airlines did not charge any fees due to it being a Mission Trip.

I arrived---Mama Africa. She was everything I expected and more. There were days when the trip was extremely emotional like my trip to Cape Coast Castle and the infamous door of no return. Smelling the blood-stained cells of my ancestors I was caught up in the spirit of their presence. Or the time I visited Salt Pond Hospital Children's Ward and saw two small boys that had severe burns from boiling water. There was so much pain in their faces that I was moved to do more.

"I AM AN AFRICAN
WOMAN
SISTERHOOD IS
THE AIR THAT I
BREATHE WHEN
MY TIME COMES-
BURY ME AT SEA
LET THE TEARS OF
MY ANCESTORS-
WASH OVER ME"

D'ABBOH





MY SOLO JOURNEY TO THE MOTHERLAND (CONT'D)

The highlight of my trip was visiting TBC’s adopted school, The Garden of Hope Community School in the Village of Apese. I arrived at the school and was amazed to see so many people awaiting my arrival. The school rolled out the red carpet and had a special program just for me. There was an electronics demonstration by a student made from old parts he found in the trash. The students shared with me the needs of the school. They asked for additional classrooms, a computer room, a library, and a school bus.

Some of the kids from the school live across the street in an open defecation free community. Eight years ago, the children were learning under a tree, today through our generous donations there are four classroom buildings, a polyfill fresh water tank, a canteen, new textbooks, and other learning resources. While we have accomplished much, but there is so much more work to be done. Each morning I would leave my rented African cottage and walk along the beach to the local village. I would hand out gifts such as coloring books, crayons, and taffy.

The children would run after me after I ran out of supplies. I always promised that I would be back the next day. I would hear the children say “Can I please have a book?” There is so much that we take for granted each day. On the last day in Ghana, I broke down and cried on my way to the airport, but I knew my journey was not over. Without a doubt, I knew I would be returning to the Motherland once again.

If you would like to donate medical supplies or provide a financial donation to Saltpond Municipal Hospital please email missionaries@tabernacle-burlington.org.

"THERE IS SO MUCH THAT WE TAKE FOR GRANTED EACH DAY."

VICKI CONAWAY





CULTURAL LIBRARY BOXES

BY JOANNE JOHNSON

You know the old saying, reading is fundamental? Well we couldn't agree more and that is why our Mission Ministry has worked to establish two library boxes in the Burlington City community. On February 23rd and September 27th of 2020, the Mission Ministry dedicated two library boxes to the City. As we worked to explore ways to be a blessing through community outreach, one of our primary goals was to increase our capacity to work within our local neighborhoods.

We knew that we wanted to establish relationships that reached beyond a single act and would have a lasting impact on the communities we serve. The library boxes are permanently fixed structures that rest in two of the City's local parks; Jones Avenue and York and Clarkson Street playground. They are easily accessible to children and families and offer opportunities to share in the love of reading.

Learning to appreciate reading is an incredibly important value to instill in young children. Reading helps to spark a child's imagination and stimulate their curiosity. Reading assists in the development of a child's brain function; their ability to concentrate and focus, their ability to make sounds and language.

Another important role that reading plays in the lives of children is the development of their social skills.

Storytelling is one of the most culturally significant aspects of the great oral tradition of West African culture. As children develop their language, they do so by listening to the stories read to them by their elders. The sounds and cadence make the pictures on the page come alive.

Today, storytelling takes many forms. We encourage you to continue to help those pictures come alive, to provide opportunities for our communities to continue to grow and enhance the lives of children by donating a book today.



MICHELLE FOWLER
LIBRARY BOX ARTIST



TBC BACKBACK GIVEAWAY

BY MARY PATTERSON AND JOANNE JOHNSON

Come one, come all to TBC's Annual Backpack Giveaway! The last week of August is always a special time of year in Burlington and the Fall of 2020 was no different. Though we found ourselves teaching and learning in ways that were unfamiliar, the needs of the students in our schools remained the same. Bags to store their school supplies, notebooks, pencils and pens, paper and folders, erasers, crayons and markers were accompanied this year by personal bottles of hand sanitizer, dry erase boards and masks that were lovingly made by our Missions volunteers.

Though we faced a pandemic, we were determined that the giveaway would move forward and we were able to successfully and safely distribute 265 backpacks to the children of the Burlington community. We want to thank all of those individuals that assisted with the packing and storing of the bags, the set up for the Saturday distribution; the music and the balloons, the socially distanced space markers and the many other elements that made this year's giveaway such a success. So when you see those spiral and marble notebooks on sale grab a few and set them aside for us. We will be needing them for the next school year. See you in August!

MISSIONARY APPRECIATION DAY

BY JOANNE JOHNSON

On October 3rd, 2020 the Mission Ministry held an outdoor gathering to its members to celebrate the dedication and long standing commitment of its members. Chef Quentin Moore and the Culinary Team of TBC put on a delicious brunch menu that included shrimp and grits, tenders and waffles, boiled eggs, fruit salad, assorted coffee cakes and breads as well as beverages. The program included inspirational music and varied speeches by our executive team lead by Vicki Conaway, President of the Ministry. Plaque presentations, certificates of appreciation, gifts and flowers were exchanged with our honorary members, members, volunteers and supporters. Words and worship were provided by Rev. Dr. Denise Graves who spoke using the following scripture Colossians 3:12-17, Isaiah 6:10 and Acts 20:22-24.

The honorees included Brother Earl Conaway, Brother Seldom Grooms and Sister Michelle Fowler. The event was held outside to accommodate the gathering restrictions that are currently in place due to our ongoing battle with the Coronavirus. As an activity that was originally planned to celebrate the women of the Ministry, we settled upon the importance of continuing to focus on celebration and ultimately finalized this event as an opportunity to instill hope, positivity and inspire a continuation of our vision to our team members as we continue to fight the constraints of the virus.

As the ministry moves into 2021, we look forward to the opportunity to continue to inspire greater works.



2020 BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

BY MARILYN RANKINS

October 1st is the commencement of Breast Cancer Awareness month and ends on October 31ST every year. We are all in this together. One of the top priorities is educating women (and men) on what they can do to be proactive with their breast health. Through this annual campaign we increase knowledge and early detection, which can save lives.

The pink ribbon signifies the promise Komen Founder Nancy G. Brinker made to her dying sister, Susan G. Komen, to do what she could to end breast cancer. The Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure is an education and fundraising event for breast cancer. The series of 5K runs and fitness walks raises significant funds and awareness for the breast cancer survivorship and honors those who have lost their battle with the disease.

That being said....Find A Race! On October 4, 2020 at 9AM, the TBC Mission and Women's Ministry sponsored Sistas Against Breast Cancer Walk from Tabernacle Baptist Church to Green Acres Park. All participants were advised to adhere to CDC guidelines by social distancing and wearing masks. To kick off the walk, before our opening prayer, two survivors gave their inspiring testimony, Sister Mary Patterson and Sister Brenda Mitchell Danzler.

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

BY DAWN PARREOTT

The Christmas Season is a glorious season of celebrating the birth of Jesus, but it is also the season of giving. The TBC's Mission Ministry sponsored two families in Burlington City for the 2020 Christmas Season.

2020 was not only the year of the pandemic and homeschooling but for our sponsored family, it was the death of a daughter and mother of 4 young children. The children aged 5 to 13 are now living with their grandmother who feared that she would not be able to provide for the grandchildren for the holiday. Through the generosity of the Mission Ministry and donations from the community, each child received outfits and 2-3 toys. As an added blessing, we were able to provide gift cards for the grandmother from Walmart.

The most poignant moment of the evening came when the grandmother expressed to the Mission Ministry members that one of the younger children heard the door ring and ask their grandmother if it was another one of their mom's angels coming to help them at Christmas time.

SPOTLIGHT ON AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY | CAMP CEDAR KNOLL

BY QUENTIN MOORE & JOANNE JOHNSON

Bethany Baptist Association Headquarters Woodbury, New Jersey



Above is the picture of the beautiful Bethany Home and Headquarters, located at 229 S. Barber Avenue, Woodbury, N. J. This is one of the finest properties in the City of Woodbury and is valued at about \$12,000.



Above is the picture of our recently acquired property located five miles below Millville, N. J., known as "Cedar Knolls" one of the most attractive properties in the entire state. It consists of about 45 acres of beautiful wood land (mostly cedar) of the most beautiful to be found anywhere. It was acquired and liquidated in less than 12 months at a cost of \$12,500. Its west and northern boundry is a beautiful stream suitable for fishing and boating. On the property is a beautiful cottage, garage and storehouse that could be easily made into a dwelling. In the years to come, many of the religious activities of the association and possibly that of the state and other religious bodies as well as civic, will be held here.

"A PEOPLE WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR PAST HISTORY, ORIGIN AND CULTURE IS LIKE A TREE WITHOUT ROOTS."

MARCUS GARVEY

Camp Cedar Knoll has a long and rich history. Once an important link in the Underground Railroad which conducted runaway slaves North to Freedom. Camp Cedar Knoll sits on a 45 acre estate in South Jersey. African American campers use to play where formers slaves breathed the air of freedom. Tabernacle Baptist Church Mission Ministry would like to restore Camp Cedar Knoll to its original beauty.

On May 22, 1946, forty-five acres of land was purchased under the leadership of Rev. Victor S. Griggs. This property, known as Cedar Knolls, was acquired under the guidance of the late Rev. James A. Frink. Shortly after the land was purchased, there was a need seen for the property to become a campsite. It then became known as Camp Cedar Knolls. On the property was a cottage that would become known as Bethany House; to include a garage and storehouse.



SPOTLIGHT ON AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY | CAMP CEDAR KNOLL

Cabins were later erected after being purchased from the federal government to house soldiers stationed near Atlantic City during World War II. In 1986, the site came under assault by developers looking to erect a hazardous waste site near the camp. Friends of the Bethany Baptist Association gathered together during this critical time to agitate for the preservation of the space. Through much prayer, attendance at meetings, and a trip down the Maurice and Manumuskin Rivers with then-Senator Frank Lautenberg, the association was successful in ensuring that no waste site would pollute this pristine space. It was said that during this journey the Senator saw two bald eagles perched along the waterway and counted the tour as "a rejuvenation of the spirit."

DINING FACILITIES

The spacious dining area comfortably seats 250 people with ample kitchen facilities for full banquet preparations.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY AREA

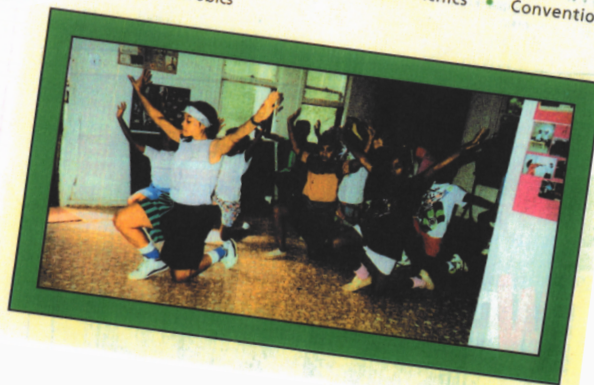
The Frink Hall seats 350 people audience style with a raised pulpit at the front of the auditorium. The facility is comfortably heated in winter, cooled in summer and has conveniently located restrooms.



YEAR ROUND FUN

Camp Cedar Knoll is forty-five beautiful acres of pinelands, that offer year-round enriching experiences for all ages including a Summer Residential Program for ages 6-14.

- Day Camping • Overnight Camping • Reunions • Receptions
- Banquets • Dinners • Cookouts • Volleyball • Recreation
- Bible Study • Swimming • Hiking • Arts and Crafts • Badminton
- Sketball • Softball • Volleyball • Drama • Field Trips
- Tennis • Horseshoes • Environmental Conservation
- Trips • Seminars • Weddings • Picnics • Conventions
- Yoga • Aerobics



SPOTLIGHT ON AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY | CAMP CEDAR KNOLL

CONCERNED STAFF, HEALTHFUL ATMOSPHERE

OUTDOOR FACILITIES

Picnicking
The camp grounds consists of forty-five acres of ground enclosed with a seven foot high chain-link fence. The campground being generously populated with cedar, pine, spruce and other foliage, has been outfitted with picnic tables and barbecue sites creating a natural picnic setting.

Nature Trails
The variety of vegetation in its natural habitat lends itself well to nature studies, particularly the indigenous trees and shrubs of South Jersey that are in abundance on the campgrounds.

Swimming
The grounds include a beautiful 80 foot by 40 foot in-ground pool, water depth ranging from 3 feet to the 8 1/2 feet diving area. Around the pool is ample space for sunbathing and socializing. Separate bathroom facilities are available for both boys and girls. Swimming activities are supervised by certified lifeguards.

Sports
There is space and equipment for basketball, volleyball, tennis, and softball on the campgrounds.

Children's Playground
Swings, sliding boards and other areas are available for the younger children to thoroughly enjoy themselves.

Campfires
The campfire pit provides an opportunity for many memories roasting hot dogs, marshmallows, listening to yarns and singing songs around the campfire.



Boys - Girls Wholesome Atmosphere

The Summer Residential Camping Program for boys and girls between the age of 6 and 14 usually lasts from six to eight weeks, beginning late in June or early July (for specific dates and registration information, call 609-386-5234 or 609-825-5531).

SLEEPING ACCOMMODATIONS

Campers and others who remain overnight enjoy the comfort of a fully air conditioned dormitory which houses eighteen carpeted bedrooms, all at ground level. Each can accommodate two to seven people with individual clothing closets. The dormitory meets all mandatory fire protection codes.

The dormitory has two residential wings, one for boys and the other for girls. Each wing includes modern, sanitary rest rooms, shower facilities and emergency exits. There is a general assembly room between the two wings for group gatherings. The dormitory can adequately house seventy-five people.

Additional sleeping accommodations can be provided in Cabin #2 which is located in the proximity to the dormitory.

The accommodations include beds (some bunkbeds) and mattresses. The camp does not provide pillows, blankets, or other bed linens, unless other arrangements have been made in advance.

DIRECTIONS

From North Jersey
New Jersey Turnpike South to Exit #4
To Rt. 73 North 1/4 mile to Rt. 295 South
To Rt. 295 to Rt. 42 (toward Atlantic City)
Travel 1 1/2 miles to Rt. 55 South
Rt. 55 South to Exit #21 Schooner Landing Road
Campground is immediately to the right

From Philadelphia:
Walk Whitman Bridge to Rt. 42 South (toward Atlantic City)
Exit Rt. 55 South
Exit Rt. 55 South to Exit #21 Schooner Landing Road
Rt. 55 South to Exit #21 Schooner Landing Road
Rt. 55 South to Exit #21 Schooner Landing Road
Campground is 1/2 mile on the left

From the Airport (Atlantic City):
Rt. 47 North past Rt. 55 to Schooner Landing Road (2 miles North of Rt. 55)
Turn right Schooner Landing Road (2 miles North of Rt. 55)
Campground is 1/2 mile on the left

From Atlantic City:
Rt. 40 West to Rt. 552 West (first traffic light West of Rt. 50)
Turn left onto Second Street (Rt. 47), turn left on Rt. 47 South
Travel South on Rt. 47 approximately 3 miles to Schooner Landing Road, turn left
Campground is 1/2 mile on the left



CAMP DIRECTOR
DEACON NORMAN J. MORGAN
12 Landowne Road
Burlington, NJ 08016
609-386-5234

MODERATOR
REV. EZEKIEL GRAHAM BEY
Union Baptist Temple
Drexel & Pennsylvania Ave.
Atlantic City, NJ 08401
609-344-0744

(609) 825-5531

WHOLESONE FUN



As such, the location was designated as a watershed and natural habitat and no development would occur on the land. This recounting of the tale was later shared in the Bethany Baptist community with the following comments and scripture. "For such a time as this"...God sent an Eagle. " But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary, and they shall walk, and not faint." Isaiah 40:31 KJ.

Today, Camp Cedar Knolls remains the oldest property of its kind owned by African Americans. It is a site that can be used for retreats and summer camping activities to this day. In honor of African American History Month, we recognize Camp Cedar Knolls and the Bethany Baptist Association for their continued management of this national treasure. Please support Camp Cedar Knolls with your donation today. Camp Cedar Knolls is located at Schooner Landing Road in Millville, NJ 08332.

SPOTLIGHT WITH DR. GRAVES



The Missionary Dept. has been blessed to have Tabernacle's own Rev. Dr. Denise Graves deliver a weekly "Word Of Encouragement." Every Friday at 12 o'clock noon you can dial in to our weekly conference number and be blessed to hear an uplifting meditation that always reminds us of the goodness of God. Dr. Graves has been and continues to be a voice of strength and comfort to all who call in.

We look forward to "Words Of Encouragement" and if you want to be blessed, join us every Friday as Dr. Graves speaks from the Word of God and blesses us with a closing prayer. Call in # (425) 436-6316 Access# 472737





