

Woman's Missionary Union's
Janie Chapman Offering

For State Missions, Missions Education, And Great Commission Living



In 1884 members of Baptist Woman's Missionary Societies of South Carolina gave \$70.34 to the State Mission Board and marked their beginning of state missions support. Four years later, at the request of the Executive Board of the state convention, they agreed for \$300 a year to fund the Cannon Street Mission in Charleston. In 1891 the salary for a missionary was added.

Thirty-five years before the Cooperative Program (the unified system for funding Baptist missions causes) was begun, the societies' Central Committee voted to give one tenth of all undesignated money received to state missions but that was not enough. On Wednesday, November 30, 1899 at the annual meeting of Woman's Missions Societies of the Baptist Denomination in South Carolina, the members voted to establish the first state missions offering. The first offering, in the amount of \$235, was received in September 1900. State missions referred to the total scope of the work of the Convention at the turn of the century. Eight years later, in 1908, a Season of Prayer was begun. The eight day observance for the Season of Prayer began in 1987.

In 1902, the women's organization changed her name to Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary to South Carolina Baptist Convention. The first president was Janie Weston Chapman, wife of a prominent upstate pastor, J.D. Chapman. In 1937, WMU's state missions offering was named "The Mrs. J.D. Chapman Offering for State Interests" to honor Mrs. Chapman's strong missions leadership. In 1985, the name was changed to the "Janie Chapman Offering." In 1995 the subtitle "for State Missions, Missions Education, and Empowering Kingdom Growth" was added. Now the offering subtitle changes to reflect the current SCBC emphasis.

The state missions portion of the offering (\$5,000 of \$20,000) was first dispensed through the office of the General Board in 1946. Twelve years later, Missions Department allocations were administered by the General Board of the Baptist Convention. In 1969, the South Carolina Baptist Convention began serving as the receiving agent of WMU for all money given to the Mrs. J. D. Chapman Offering for State Interests. Monies received for the offering are transferred to WMU monthly. In 2009 the offering totaled \$1,814,913.39. An additional \$3,368.96 was received from interest. The monies collected in 2009 were distributed in 2010 in accordance with the budget allocations recommended by the WMU Finance Committee and approved by the WMU Executive Board. Allocation and distribution information is available each year in the state missions materials and at other times upon request.

The permanent logo of South Carolina Woman's Missionary Union's Janie Chapman Offering for State Missions, Missions Education and Great Commission Living appropriately combines symbols of WMU and South Carolina.

The torch, which gives the logo its defining focus, was taken from the permanent insignia of Woman's Missionary Union. It symbolizes the taking of Christ, the light of the world, to the world. Placed within the outline of South Carolina, it symbolizes the task of all South Carolina Baptists to take that same light to South Carolina.

The double fish head, which provides a shield upon which the torch and the state are placed, also comes from the WMU insignia. Early Christians used this sign to assure fellow believers that they were followers of Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior (the first letters of which in Greek form the word fish). Here it reminds us that, like those early Christians, we are to be imitators of Christ and take to our state God's message of salvation and hope.