

# Tuesday reports reveal Holston's love for giving

## African missions have strong calling

**M**aria Humbane was overcome with emotion. "How can I thank you? How can I thank you?" she said tearfully, before stopping to embrace Bishop James Swanson, then asking again.

"How can I thank you, Holston Conference? The answer is, I can't thank you enough."

It was that kind of day on Monday of the 2006 Holston Annual Conference. It was a feel-good day of celebrating past mission and ministry, thanking others for their contributions, and rallying the troops to reach new highs for the glory of God.

It was also a day for a Bible study concerning women in the church, and the Council on Finance and Administration presentation of the 2007 budget.



**Missionary Maria Humbane breaks into tears on the stage, thanking Holston for their gifts to Ishe Anesu in Zimbabwe.**

Humbane, missionary for Ishe Anesu in Zimbabwe, stood before the conference after hearing that Holston had collected more hands-on missions kits for Zimbabwe and Liberia than ever before. In the past few weeks, 12 districts collected a total 6,778 kits containing food, clothing, health and school supplies – all expected to be shipped from Charleston, S.C., by Tuesday, bound for Africa.

"Jesus is watching you," Humbane said. "Jesus said, whatever you did for these little brothers and sisters of mine, you also did for me."

Also during the afternoon missions presentation, members gave to an offering that will benefit the work of missionary Fran Lynch in Alaska. (The results of the offering will be announced today.) They celebrated Holston's seven-year streak of giving to African missions as well as those in the Baltics, India, Latvia, and at home. They learned that more than 4,000 Holston volunteers have participated in hurricane recovery work in Mississippi, and the Volunteers in Labor building ministry has served churches and church agencies from Wytheville District to Mexico.

### Other news from the day:

- **Citing** both "negative text" and "positive text" regarding women in the church, Bishop Scott Jones of the Kansas Conferences urged listeners to consider the "general tenure of scripture" when understanding the Bible. "Simply preaching one text of the Bible, one

little verse, isn't going to cut it," he said. Today's Bible study (at 11 a.m.) will continue to examine conflicting scripture concerning women, Jones promised.

- **Jaymie Derden** represented the Children's Ministries Team. Of \$55,800 given by Holston churches to Change for Children, one-half (\$27,900) was awarded to nine groups within the conference. The remaining funds were awarded to three missions benefiting African children.

- **The Rev. Don Hanshew**, representing the Peace With Justice Team, updated members on accomplishments of the Sudan Action Team, including the "Have a Ball" campaign and an initiative for all church members to read the book, "They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky." He encouraged church groups to apply for Peace With Justice grants, announcing that Lennon-Seney UMC of Knoxville District had recently won a grant.

- **Older Adult Councils** have been established in three districts: Big Stone Gap, Tazewell, and Wytheville, reported Ginny West Case of the Older Adult Ministry Team. The goal is to have councils in each district, fostering ministry "for and with" older adults, she said.

- **The Witness Ministry** Team recognized three people with the Denman Evangelism Award: Wayne Scott of Unicoi UMC, Johnson City District; the Rev. Will Shewey of Hiltons Memorial UMC, Big Stone Gap District; and 10-year-old Ashton Taylor Huff of First Hillville UMC, Wytheville District.

- **In the Stewardship** Ministry report, the Rev. Bill Kilday noted that Holston had given \$1.32 million last year to disaster relief, Change for Children, the Bishop's Appeal for Russian Seminary, and Special Sundays.

- **The Rev. Andy Ferguson**, president of the Council on Finance and Administration (CFA), presented a \$15.89 million budget for 2007. He announced corrections to the budget as published in the "Book of Reports" (see box on this page for more information). Ferguson also said the CFA had reviewed the Board of Trustees' proposal to purchase a building for the conference office. "Basically, it appears the financial aspect of this purchase is good, and I recommend it to you," he said.

- **In a packed-house** Laity Session in Shackford Hall, Conference Lay Leader Bob Lockaby explained the role of laity in the Annual Conference. "The key reason you are here is to develop a sense of understanding of the programs, mission, and finances, so that you can be an interpreter of those things back at your local church," said Lockaby. When he added that members should explain the formula for Fair Share apportionments to their congregations, the audience laughed. "Can you?" one member asked. "Yes, I can," Lockaby said.

- **Please note:** Persons who did not bring their offerings for Alaska to yesterday's session may take them today to Harrell Center, room 202.

- **Correction:** Tonight's Missionaries Dinner in Lambuth Dining Room begins at 5 p.m. *The Call* regrets the error in Sunday's newspaper. ■



**Holston members give to yesterday's offering for Alaska. Results will be announced today.**



**Bishop Scott Jones leads a Bible study on women in the church.**

### Corrections to proposed budget

Please consult the following pages in the "Book of Reports":

- **Page 68**, VII. B. Wesley Institute Change 52,400 to 26,500
- **Page 69**, VIII. D1. Pastoral Counseling Change 143,958 to 146,129
- **Page 71**, X.C. Comm. on Equit. Comp. Change 155,000 to 179,700
- **Page 71**, X.C. Equit. Comp. Shortfall Change 15,500 to 17,970
- **No change** to subtotals or bottom line



**LEFT: Bishop Richard Looney, Bishop James Swanson, and the Rev. Sandra Johnson present the Denman Evangelism Award for Youth to 10-year-old Ashton Taylor Huff of First Hillville UMC, Wytheville District.**



**RIGHT: Bob Lockaby, conference lay leader, leads the Laity Session in standing-room-only Shackford Hall.**



**LEFT: The Men's Ensemble of First Broad Street UMC, Kingsport District, moves worshippers with "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" at last night's "Service of Remembrance."**