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Unbeatable

The girls on the softball team had gone undefeated for the entire season. Opposing teams arrived at the games, knowing they would lose. These girls had made the practices, worked hard, improved their fielding and batting skills, and deserved every win they received. In the Western Branch community, that summer, they were as good as the Carolina Panthers are in their NFL division this year. After having coached several teams during the 1990s, the memories of that team are more valuable to me than the trophies we were given.

Israel had seven undefeated years in their history as a nation during the time of their invasion and conquering of the land of Canaan. Joshua records every battle, writes down the list of kings and cities which fell to the God-led companies of Jewish warriors. The wilderness wanderers became hope-filled homesteaders. They were so completely victorious, the historian wrote:

So the LORD gave to Israel all the land of which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they took possession of it and dwelt in it. The LORD gave them rest all around, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers. And not a man of all their enemies stood against them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand. Not a word failed of any good thing which the LORD had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass. (Josh. 21:43-45)

The victories won by the Israelites in their land are available to us today in our lives. We don't war against Canaanites, but we do wrestle with discouragement, debt, disapproval and other teams of terror arrayed against us.

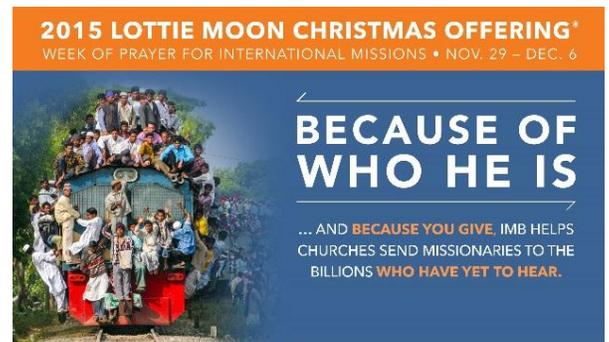
In January we begin a 16-week sermon study in Joshua together titled, "Unbeatable." I will begin to share with you a vision for Blackwater and we will set the course for the direction we need to go. We will learn skills for defeating the enemy's best strategies. My advice: don't miss the practices (sermons)!

Dr. Lynn Hardaway

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Blackwater Baptist Church's Lottie Moon support opportunities included:

- Our traditional Christmas Card Mail Delivery Service – Raised \$816
- Breakfast with Santa – Raised \$331
- Honorary/Memorial Poinsettias to honor loved ones
- Monetary Gifts - using designated offering envelopes.



Christmas Play – Wrapping all the Way



Thank you to all of the participants who did such a wonderful job in our annual Christmas play. It is

such a joy and a blessing to watch the Blackwater Baptist Church children each year sharing the true meaning of Christmas. A special thank you to Debbie Keller for her talents and dedication to the play again this year.



Crochet Club

Linda hosted a Christmas pot luck party on Tuesday, December 15 at her house. She and Danny were such wonderful hosts, everyone enjoyed a great time of food and fellowship.



The Crochet Club finished their 3rd "Covered With Love" crochet blanket project and presented it to a dear, sweet church member who had been unable to attend church. She loved it for sure; it was in her

favorite colors. Sadly, she passed on to be with our Lord less than two weeks after it was given to her.

Crochet club members are always working on hat donations for cancer patients and the homeless. They appreciate your hat donations if you have time to make them as well as yarn.

Join them on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 pm in the ladies Sunday School class room.

Ruth Walden Circle

The Ruth Walden Circle will be feeding the Creeds Ruritans on Tuesday, January 12th. They will conduct their meeting at that time.

Please see Phyllis Arth for information if you would like to become a part of Ruth Walden Circle.

Luta Tebault Circle

The Luta Tebault Circle was busy this month raising money for the Lottie Moon Christmas offering. They hosted Breakfast with Santa which was a great time of fun and fellowship for the children and the adults. Their annual Christmas card delivery was held again this year during the entire month of December. Thank you to everyone who supported these two efforts. They took time out to have a little fun at their annual Christmas Party where they have a fun game of Christmas Jeopardy.

Their next meeting is January 18 and they would love to have you join them.

Breakfast with Santa



GAs, RAs & Acteens



The GAs and RAs focused on Lottie Moon in December by making ornaments to sell. They sold these ornaments at Breakfast with Santa and on Sundays. Thank you to all who supported their efforts. They look forward to what the New Year holds for this amazing group of kids.

The Youth celebrated December by caroling around the neighborhood. They had sixteen children participate and they went to seven homes and the fire station to spread Christmas Cheer! The residents of the homes they visited were so appreciative that the children took time to come carol to them, they have been sharing their touching experience with everyone. What a blessing Blackwater Baptist Church children and their adults leaders and supporters are to our community. They ended the night with pizza, games, and a sock exchange. Everyone had a great time and extend a heartfelt thank you to all of the adults who drove and fed them!

Blankets for the Homeless

Collection Dates:

January 10 – Shoes, Jeans and all previously collected items

Mariah will visit Blackwater Baptist Church and give her testimony on January 10. Please visit blanketsforthehomeless.org or their Facebook page: Blankets for the Homeless Hampton Roads. You can find pictures and testimonies of the hard work and many volunteers that are helping Mariah with her mission. You can also find ways to help.



Update: The good folks of BBC donated over \$900 in a love offering collected after church following Mariah's presentation.



If you or a family member are interested in recovery from the mental, physical and spiritual effects of alcoholism and addiction, please contact us at this email: BBCVB@cox.net for more information.

****REMINDERS****

- ❖ All BBC members are requested to help in supplying food for **funeral receptions**. This responsibility cannot fall solely on the Funeral Committee members. This shares the burden and helps everyone to be able to focus on the affected families during their time of loss. Please contact Nancy Daniels 421-2467 (you may leave a message), so you can be added to the contact list to be notified when the need arises.
- ❖ Save your Labels for Education box tops! A small collection box is on the hall table for donations of Campbell's barcodes and box tops. Farm Fresh receipts also count so bring them too!

Blood Drive

Mark your calendars!

February 17
2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



Check the Sunday bulletins for more information on how you can help.

Upcoming Events:

Always subject to change, please refer to the weekly bulletin for any updates.

- 1/10 – Blankets for the Homeless Presentation by Mariah Smith
- 1/10 – Final Date for Blankets for the Homeless Donations
- 2/14 – Youth Sunday
- 2/17 – Blood Drive

Join Us Sundays:

Sunday School 9 a.m.
Service 10 a.m.