



The 12th National WHFMs Triennial Conference opened with a warm welcome from Mrs. Karen Hall, who introduced this year's theme: "A Tiny Seed, A Powerful Deed: The Story Continues." Rev. Justin Nash, Executive Director of ACGC, then offered greetings and heartfelt thanks for the funds raised in an effort to bring Pastor Johnson and Amos to the conference. Music leader Rev. Heath Simpson began with "Little Is Much" and later performed "Dream Small," a powerful new song Karen had asked him to learn for the event. Jeff Walsh, International Missions Director, also brought greetings and thanked Karen for her many years of faithful service as WHFMs President.

Jeff then shared a story from a recent trip to India. He explained that about 120 years ago, WHFMs member Ella Louise Jones arrived there and became the longest-serving female missionary in India, serving for 47 years from 1906 to 1953. Among her many contributions, she supervised the construction of a well that initially produced no water. Rather than becoming discouraged, she gathered several believers to pray around it, and the well filled with water. A marker remains there today in her memory: "In loving memory of Ella L. Jones," along with Colossians 3:4: **"When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."** Jeff also named the past year's Bread of Life recipients: three churches in India; Oro Bible College; two churches in Myanmar; Agape House and St. Carlos in the Philippines; a homeless shelter in Japan; ministries in Mexico; and Agape House in Papua New Guinea. He then introduced Rowena Cabrizos, a missionary to the Philippines.

Rowena began by thanking everyone for their loving support. She affirmed that their labor is not in vain and expressed gratitude for their continued prayers. Marking Agape House's 25th year, she shared several updates: "Four people have graduated from MTI, and another four will be attending. One of the first four helped plant a church." Rowena then used pottery as an analogy. She explained that while Americans may discard broken pottery, her friends in Japan carefully gather every piece, including the smallest fragments. Using a special tree-based adhesive, they painstakingly reassemble the pottery, allow it to be cured in a safe place, and decorate the repaired seams with gold. The restored piece becomes stronger and more beautiful at its broken places. In the same way, God gathers our broken parts, restores us, makes us stronger, and creates an even more beautiful story.

Jeff returned to introduce the mission's speaker, Kristi Ellis Libby. Kristi, originally from Ashland, Maine, is a missionary nurse in Mexico; her husband, Craig Libby, serves as ACGC's Latin America Area Director. When called to missionary nursing, Kristi told God she would go anywhere except Tijuana. She has now served as a missionary nurse for 30 years—29 of them in Tijuana, Mexico. Kristi organized her message around "Three Seeds."

Seed #1: Showing Up

When the Holy Spirit nudges you to go—often at an inconvenient time—and you are unsure what to do, ask, “What is the right thing to do?” His answer is, “I want you there.” Isaiah 43:1 says, “I have summoned you by name; you are mine.”

Hospital visits, parties, funerals, coffee meetings, supporting a divorced friend, and listening to familiar stories all provide opportunities to be present. We may not know what to say or do, but what matters is showing up. It is a tiny seed with a powerful impact, so do not neglect it.

Seed #2: Service

One of Kristi’s outreach efforts involves setting up medical tents in parks for dental care, general medicine, consultations, vision services, and other specialties, depending on the volunteers available. A boy who uses a wheelchair often attends with his mother. He receives medical care and encourages others as they wait in line. His quiet mother always covered her face, and the team assumed she was protecting herself from illness so she could care for her son. At one event, a dentist who specialized in bridges volunteered. Although he expected to make bridges throughout the day, the team had limited supplies. Craig spent most of the morning searching through the other tents and his office for the materials the dentist needed. Once enough supplies were gathered, the dentist spent about an hour or two creating a bridge for his first patient. When Kristi and Craig entered the tent for the presentation, they were surprised to see the boy’s mother in the dental chair. She was the only person that day to receive a bridge, and the Lord knew how much she needed it. Her eyes lit up as she smiled brightly and showed them her new teeth.

Serving others shows them that they matter, are worthy, and are seen.

Seed #3: Sharing the Gospel

Kristi explained that every park outreach also includes prayer tents. After receiving medical care, people are invited to a prayer tent to hear the gospel. Outside those tents, one can hear tears of brokenness, healing, and forgiveness. Without this spiritual focus, their efforts would be humanitarian work alone.

Her final challenge was: “If everyone around you is already a believer, find an outlet where you can...”

Show up. Serve. Share the gospel.

This portion of the conference concluded, and the WHFMs delegates were asked to register out in the hallway to go into another conference room to take part in the Business Session.

Submitted by: Deanna L Davis