



LMPC

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*Researching, Teaching,
Mobilizing, for the Name—
Serving Primarily African-
Americans*

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www.RMNI.org

WebWatch:

- **Christian health co-op to which we belong:** <http://www.samaritanministries.org/>
- **2.9¢/minute long distance:** www.onesuite.com/ We're trying it.
- **Excellent investment education site:** www.fool.com/
- **Christianity Today online:** <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ctmag/> Helpful articles and resources.

Reconciliation Report

Lookout !

What are we doing here?

When we arrived in Chattanooga in 1990 we decided to join Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church (LMPC) due to the beauty of its setting and its worship and preaching. During the week I walked among broken bottles in housing projects, and needed beauty as much as common nourishments—almost more.

Otherwise, it was an unlikely choice. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in his “I Have a Dream” message mentioned “Lookout Mountain of Tennessee” among the places from which he wanted to see freedom ring. The church is white. It perches above Chattanooga, not downtown. The median household income was over \$90,000. Lookout at night is a tiara above the housing projects and the object of resentment of probably many residents.

We kept wondering if we’d made the best ministry decision, and some others wondered too. We didn’t know that LMPC gave 50¢ of a dollar income away—25¢ to local and 25¢ to global missions (over a million dollars for missions annually). We didn’t know the extent of its leadership involvement and funding in local ministries.

Urban Ministry

God was providentially leading in an unlikely way. LMPC has been incredibly important in almost every facet of our work. The Home Missions committee gave \$10,000 for Jesus Film equipment to show the Jesus Film in the Chattanooga housing projects, which we did for three years (before sending the equipment to Uganda). The same committee now provides our largest single source of operational income. The committee funds educational scholarships to evangelical institutions for African American pastors in the area . I head the committee that distributes those funds to an inner city pastor taking a bachelor of ministry degree by correspondence, to a pastor and his associate pastor taking a modular course on worship from Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis, to a Ph.D. student who commutes to Southern Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY.

On occasion our pastor, Joe Novenson, goes with us as we evangelize in the projects, and I learn much about patience, humility and apologetics from him. He challenges young men to go with us. Funds from LMPC enabled us to recently buy over 200 complete Bibles for distribution.

Mobilizing African Americans for Global Missions

The World Missions committee also funded a missions conference for African

American churches in the Chattanooga area in 1998, organized by Advancing Churches in Missions Commitment (ACMC). Fifty-seven came, with ten Black Chattanooga churches represented. As a result one African American Chattanooga church regularly supports global missions in Haiti and Uganda and others are giving to world missions.

Uganda

One day in 1993 I sensed the Lord telling me to go to Africa. About ten days later at a LMPC Wednesday night meeting I overheard two friends talking about needing someone to use a free ticket they had to go on a short-term missions trip to Africa. They asked me if I knew of someone. One of those friends not only provided the ticket, but paid for the medical shots and helped with the outfitting. Each of the succeeding six mission trips to Uganda has been substantially supported by LMPC’s World Missions committee. The committee also contributed thousands of dollars toward our African American team members’ mission expenses over the years.

In 1998, as a result of dialogue among several of us from LMPC and the Ugandan coordinator of African Christian Training Ministries, Rashid Luswa, who directs our work when we’re in Uganda, a Christian secondary high school was proposed to LMPC. The church, together with Worldwide Christian Schools, contributed \$35,000 for phase one of the project. This year, LMPC is contributing another \$15,000 toward phase two of the school building, so that the school can support itself from school fees when the new classrooms are built.

In 1999 LMPC contributed \$6,000 to plant a church at Kajansi, Uganda, which our team was able to do, by God’s grace. These funds provided land and a large building with metal supports and roof. In 2001 LMPC gave another \$6,000 to fund a Christian primary school under the Kajansi pastor—Francis Mayanja. The additional property for this school will be purchased very soon. An exciting new proposal to LMPC for two self-sustaining Christian elementary schools in southern Sudan is being considered.

One LMPC member gave over half the funds toward the completion of our home—the place where the RMNI office is, and others substantial chunks of it. LMPC members have been chairmen and members of our Board of Directors, and others from the church have supported the ministry and us in unusual ways—providing a Taurus, providing tickets for Judi to visit me at Trinity, and on. The initial mysteries of God’s providential leading to LMPC are no longer mysterious. We’re grateful for all our supporting churches and for all their help—two of which have supported us for over 25 years, and for supporting families, and we’re grateful to our LMPC family for her amazing partnership and provision for ministry. Dr. King might like to know of the message of freedom in Christ flowing from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee.

Prayer and Praise



↑ The neurosurgeon now does not advise surgery, thanks to your prayers and the home gym! Great work! There is still leg pain, but the back is far better.

↑ Thanks for praying for teaching opportunities: we have one financial seminar at the black Bible Way church May 6th and 20th, and another at Northwest

Baptist Church in Milwaukee.

↑ Judi has fewer headaches, but still needs prayer for no migraines.

↑ At Westside projects-James has now joined the evangelistic team. Several girls now come to church, and a Bible study has begun. Pray for many disciples.

↑ Please pray to the

Lord of the Harvest that all who the Lord wants to go will be included in the Uganda September 2002 Team.

↑ Our Susanna and Ethan will have summer studies and Susanna will need a fulltime job in September.

↑ Pray for Pastor Francis Mayanja at Kajansi, Uganda, for encouragement.