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Woman's Missionary Union reports growth nationwide

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) -After several years of declines and plateaus, enrollment in Woman's Mission Union programs nationwide grew more than 12 percent last year.

"We are very excited to see a renewed interest among Baptists in missions education and missions involvement," said Wanda Lee, executive director-treasurer of WMU. "It is encouraging to see an increasing number of churches implement and develop WMU age-level organizations that provide an opportunity for Christians to better understand and be personally involved in the mission of God."

The increase in WMU enrollment was reported across the United States. Thirty-two out of 41 states or conventions with WMU organizations showed growth. The largest gains were reported in Texas, followed by Alabama, Virginia, Florida and Mississippi. Rounding out the top 10 were Missouri, North Carolina, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Indiana.

In addition to missions organizations, WMU also experienced increased participation in an array of ministries that offer hands-on missions opportunities, such as MissionsFEST and FamilyFEST missions experiences through WMU's Volunteer Connection, as well as Christian Women's Job Corps and Baptist Nursing Fellowship.

Founded in 1888, Woman's Missionary Union is an auxiliary of the

Southern Baptist Convention that seeks to equip adults, youth, children and preschoolers with missions education.

News of religion, faith, missions, Bible study and Christian ministry among Texas Baptist churches, in the BGCT, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and around the world.