

1

day one

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Earlier this year, churches all over the world were forced to find new and creative ways to gather in corporate worship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Alabama Baptists were no different. With a barrage of sudden shifts caused by the virus, it was comforting to see one thing that never changes—a resolute focus on the Great Commission and its impact on our state.

As we kick off the fifth annual Week of Prayer for State Missions, Alabama Baptists are invited to refocus on the most important, never-changing truth of the Gospel. Our state needs a fresh touch from the Prince of Peace perhaps more than ever before. Let's bind our hearts together in intercession before His throne this week.

Join us in boldly praying for the state missionaries and Great Commission Ministries featured in this prayer guide. And prayerfully consider your gift to the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering, as it helps equip Alabama Baptists to bring into focus the peace of the Gospel in our local communities and beyond.

- Pray for a renewed focus on God's never-changing Spirit across our state and beyond.
- Pray for Alabama WMU as they equip the local church to live out a missions lifestyle.
- Pray for long-term Disaster Relief efforts still ongoing in areas of recent catastrophes.
- Pray for Church Planting efforts among the unreached and unchurched in our state.
- Pray for Church Revitalization to take place among plateaued or declining churches.
- Pray for local churches to commit to making Partnership Missions a priority.
- Pray for great effectiveness among the staff of your Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions and Alabama WMU.



2

day two



DISASTER RELIEF

In April, while Alabama was still under a “shelter-in-place” order, a series of storms violated the stay-at-home rule. On Easter Sunday, 26 tornadoes ravaged north Alabama. A week later, south Alabama was hit with eight tornadoes, and a particularly dangerous thunderstorm produced near-90-mph straight-line winds in a large section of central Alabama.

Countless trees came crashing down on homes, campers, cars and more. The widespread destruction was incredible—as was the fact that more people weren’t hurt.

Immediately, Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief chainsaw teams began cleaning up the massive debris. Cleanup/recovery teams and chaplains were deployed. Feeding units provided meals for workers and survivors.

Volunteers with Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief, known as the Yellow Shirt Army, were serving beautifully, as they have been trained and equipped to do—but this time in a socially distant, COVID-pandemic atmosphere. It was a challenge, but not a deterrent. After Kris Rambo, Rockford’s town clerk, witnessed a team’s work on her property, she said, “I’ll never forget it. I have joked, and I mean it, I think yellow has become my favorite color.”

- Pray for the Yellow Shirt Army of volunteers as they serve during times of crisis, even during pandemics.
- Pray for spiritual fruit from the many seeds that were sewn back in April and throughout the year.
- Pray for protection and provision as these volunteers give of their hard work, time, sweat and tears in service to the Lord.
- Pray for more people to be trained ahead of disasters, so they will be ready at a moment’s notice when people are hurting.

3

day three



ALABAMA WMU – Pat Ingram

Meet Pat Ingram. As missions & ministry consultant for Alabama WMU, Pat equips women in Alabama Baptist churches to develop ministries that lead to spiritual growth and involvement in missions and ministry.

Pat's areas of focus include Women on Mission, women's ministry, WMU training, Christian Women's Job Corps, Christian Men's Job Corps, Christmas Backpacks, and more. She spearheads two large, statewide women's events each year—Renew in February and Equip in July. And she provides ongoing support for ministers' wives throughout the year, including coordination of an annual luncheon.

With so many plates spinning, what keeps her grounded? "My very favorite thing is getting to know and work with amazing women around our state. I love helping them fulfill God's call on their lives," she said. "It is such a privilege to share life and ministry with other women!"

Pat and the team at Alabama WMU encourage missional living by challenging, equipping and empowering Alabama Baptists to fulfill the Great Commission. An auxiliary to the State Board of Missions, they work hand-in-hand with state missionaries to equip and encourage local churches.

- Pray for Pat Ingram and her colleagues at Alabama WMU as they seek to encourage missional living among Alabama Baptists.
- Pray for new and creative ideas to reach women for Christ and for renewed energy, focus and passion among missions leaders statewide.
- Pray that missions discipleship would spread and grow in all Alabama Baptist churches and that it would be a priority for every congregation.

4

day four



CHURCH PLANTING – Brian Harper

Meet Brian Harper. As lead church planting strategist for the State Board of Missions, and one of our newest state missionaries, he oversees training and coaching efforts among the state's current and potential church planters.

Building on the foundation laid by his beloved predecessor, the late Lamar Duke, Brian and his team have a comprehensive strategy to increase the number of church plants in Alabama. The church planting process involves three steps: assessment, training and coaching. A network of support can make a huge difference in the life of a church planter.

According to Brian, "there is no greater joy than seeing a church birthed." He longs to see a long-term body of believers firmly established in every community in our state. After all, his missions and church planting experience began in Alabama. Since then he has been all over the U.S. and around the world serving in that capacity.

Today, Brian and his team at the State Board of Missions are serving Christ by serving church planters as they work together to build His church for the next generations in Alabama.

- Pray for Brian Harper and his colleagues at the State Board of Missions as they serve church planters.
- Pray for a clear understanding of where God is working strongly in church planting and how to better systems and processes to grow the impact.
- Pray for more associations and churches that would seek to partner with and send out planters to the harvest fields in Alabama.

5

day five



PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS— Scotty Goldman

Meet Scotty Goldman. As director of the Office of Global Missions, he assists churches in developing an Acts 1:8 missions strategy and coordinates partnership efforts. Scotty enjoys helping Alabama Baptist churches develop their own mission partnerships by connecting them with missionaries from Alabama.

Scotty says seeing churches and missionaries realize the value of a true partnership is what really excites him. “When I hear from missionaries who say, ‘This church partnership has been such a great help to our work!’ or churches that say ‘Our missionary partner is fabulous!’... that’s what we’re all about,” he affirmed.

Scotty and his team at the State Board of Missions work hand in hand with local churches and associations of all sizes to facilitate initial communication and assist with connections that bless all involved. From strategically praying or sending cards and encouraging notes, to going on a trip once or even going regularly, there are no set formulas for how a partnership has to work. Scotty says there are all kinds of needs for all kinds of churches.

- Pray for Scotty Goldman and his colleagues at the State Board of Missions as they serve churches and missionaries on the field.
- Pray for more churches to respond to partnerships with missionaries from Alabama and for more people to go out as missionaries from our state.
- Pray for all of our 300+ Alabama Baptist missionaries serving through the International Mission Board and all across North America. They all need our prayer support and many of them need volunteers. Pray that God will use Alabama Baptist churches to respond to their needs.



6

day six



CHURCH REVITALIZATION – Ken Allen

Meet Ken Allen. As church health strategist for the State Board of Missions, he leads church revitalization efforts among churches facing plateaued or declining attendance and growth. He also works in the areas of leadership development, church renewal, coaching, strategic planning and bivocational ministry.

Ken loves meeting with pastors both in group settings or one on one. “There is no substitute for getting out of the office and hearing from pastors and the current condition of a local body of believers,” he said. His passion for pastors runs deep and is part of what he calls his own “pastoral calling” from the Lord.

Ken and his team at the State Board of Missions coordinate a network of church revitalization coaches who walk hand in hand with pastors and churches around the state as they seek to intentionally renew the journey toward health and Kingdom effectiveness. They lead pastors and key leaders through an honest time of assessment and extended prayer before the first tangible action is ever taken. This “unseen work” is a key to true revitalization, Ken says.

- Pray for Ken Allen and his colleagues at the State Board of Missions as they continue developing a strategy for meeting the church health needs across our Alabama Baptist family.
- Pray for wisdom regarding how to best assist each church and their particular personality.
- Ask the Lord to awaken His church to His purpose of fulfilling the Great Commission and for those congregations who face plateaued or declining spiritual growth.
- Pray that there would be an army of church revitalizers rising up in Alabama to help coach others toward renewed focus and vision.

7

day seven



DISASTER RELIEF – Mark Wakefield

Meet Mark Wakefield. As the disaster relief and chaplaincy ministries strategist for the State Board of Missions, he coordinates all Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief efforts for the state and oversees the work of chaplains.

Mark's favorite part of his job is seeing people find a way to serve the Lord and serve other people. And serve, they do. Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers, known as the Yellow Shirt Army, are world renowned for sacrificial service during difficult times.

According to Mark, these volunteers are the heart and soul of disaster relief, recovery and rebuilding. "I love watching a volunteer see for the first time that they can truly be used by the Lord to make a difference," he said. "Sometimes it is as if the light comes on for them." And once the light comes on, there's no stopping them.

Mark and his team at the State Board of Missions work tirelessly to recruit and train volunteers ahead of a crisis, equip and coordinate deployments after a disaster, and oversee long-term recovery efforts for healing and restoration of survivors.

- Pray for Mark Wakefield and his colleagues at the State Board of Missions as they train and equip volunteers to respond quickly, powerfully and in an orderly manner when disaster strikes.
- Pray for the Yellow Shirt Army of volunteers. Pray that they will represent Christ well and bring hope to the hurting.
- Pray for volunteer leaders who coordinate deployments that they may have wisdom, patience and strength.
- Pray for more volunteers to obey God's call to be the hand and feet of Jesus in the midst of crisis.

8

day eight



ALABAMA WMU – International Friends Retreat

Seven years ago, Alabama WMU came alongside Collegiate & Student Ministries at the State Board of Missions as they began hosting the International Friends Retreat at WorldSong Missions Place. This annual weekend away has grown to become an impactful world missions opportunity for college students across Alabama—without ever leaving the state!

American students invite their international friends to enjoy a weekend of canoeing, mountain climbing, zip lining, archery and breakout sessions about life in Alabama. The retreat provides an avenue for relationship building and sharing of the Gospel. Over the years, more than a thousand international students from 30+ countries have attended.

Each international student receives a welcome bag put together by WMU groups across the state. Collegiate & Student Ministries personnel place a simple English Bible in each bag. Above all, every student is prayed for individually as their goodie bag is packed. Seeds of faith are planted at every turn before, during and after the weekend. Last year, the International Friends Retreat saw a harvest of salvation— prayerfully, the first of many to come.

- Pray for the International Friends Retreat that takes place each October. Ask the Lord to prepare hearts and friendships even now.
- Pray for the campus ministers and staff of the Collegiate & Student Ministries office at the State Board of Missions, Alabama WMU and WorldSong as they plan for, pray over and conduct follow-up outreach from the event.
- Pray for the young man from South Asia who surrendered to Christ as a result of last year's event. Pray for his ongoing discipleship and that his family and friends will respond to the Gospel as he shares.