



**PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS IN ALASKA**

A small church in Alaska has undertaken a big task—a church replant under the leadership of their bivocational pastor. And the Alaska Baptist Convention’s connection with Alabama is playing a surprising role.

One day, State Missionary Scotty Goldman’s counterpart in Alaska told him about the little church with a big heart. Scotty asked him to “dream big” about what could help. His answer was for someone gifted in evangelism, church revitalization, discipleship, community outreach and construction to come help for six months. Both men laughed and agreed that was quite a dream.

But God makes dreams come true. State Missionary Jamie Baldwin had just retired, and his skillset checked all those boxes. Surprising even himself, Jamie accepted the call to work with Liberty Church in Craig, Alaska. Now, he’s bringing teams from Alabama to help out too.

Scotty said Jamie’s willingness to use his skills to accomplish God’s plan is inspiring. “Many Alabama Baptists could do similar things. Maybe not for six months but for three. Maybe not replanting a church but working at a camp. The possibilities are abundant,” he said. “God only needs a willing heart.”

- Pray for Jamie Baldwin and Liberty Church. Pray that the six-month mission will be a dream come true for the church’s replanting efforts.
- Pray for mission teams from Alabama to answer the call to help this church in Alaska and anywhere else the Lord sends them.
- Pray for all of our 300+ Alabama Baptist missionaries serving through the International Mission Board and across North America. Pray that God will use Alabama Baptist churches to respond to their needs.
- Pray for Scotty Goldman and his colleagues at the State Board of Missions as they serve churches and missionaries on the field.



**ROB JACKSON LEADS OFFICE OF CHURCH HEALTH**

The pandemic amplified the special challenges of many congregations that have plateaued or are in decline. But help is on the way, and there is fresh hope for those who need intentional prayer and coaching.

The State Board of Missions recently created a new Office of Church Health, which will have a singular focus on church revitalization and church health for Alabama Baptist congregations. State Missionary Rob Jackson was tapped to serve as office director.

Rob once studied to be a pharmacist, but God had plans for him to focus on *spiritual* health instead of physical remedies. With a heart for the local church, Rob has previously served as a state missionary in the Office of Evangelism and as a pastor in Alabama and Kentucky.

When he was unanimously called to lead this new office, Rob said that more than anything he wants “to see healthy churches become healthier and unhealthy churches to become healthy.” He is energetic and hopeful, ready to see the “power of the Spirit of God” on display as the Lord brings true revitalization to struggling churches around our state.

- Pray for Rob Jackson 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 its particular personality.
- Ask the Lord to awaken His church to His purpose of fulfilling the Great Commission and for those congregations that face plateaued or declining spiritual growth.



**DISASTER RELIEF VOLUNTEER SHIRLEY LOEWEN**

What comes to mind when you hear “Disaster Relief”? It’s often caring volunteers performing hands-on work immediately after a storm. Or perhaps chaplains praying for the survivors or cooks providing food. But the *Yellow Shirt Army* is made of more than those on the frontlines.

Consider how important it is to have good data when managing a disaster response. That’s where volunteers like Shirley Loewen shine. An accomplished project manager with experience in IT and account management, Shirley uses her unique skillset behind the scenes.

Last year, she spent countless hours cleaning and managing the volunteer database, migrating it from one platform to another and organizing shared documents to streamline the process. “It was a labor-intensive project but so worth the effort,” she said. “I’m the one blessed by serving. If I’ve helped someone else, that’s just icing on the cake.”

State Missionary Mark Wakefield said Shirley is a great example of someone using their career skills and applying them to a volunteer ministry with DR. “I’m so glad the Lord gifts each person differently. It definitely takes all of us,” he said.

- Pray for more volunteers to use their specific talents to help teams be the hands and feet of Jesus in the midst of crisis.
- Pray for the *Yellow Shirt Army* of volunteers, both seen and unseen. Pray that they will represent Christ well and bring hope to the hurting.
- Pray for Mark Wakefield and his colleagues at the State Board of Missions as they train and equip volunteers to respond quickly, powerfully and orderly when disaster strikes.



**ALABAMA WMU ENCOURAGES MINISTERS’ WIVES**


Ministers’ wives serve the Lord in a unique way. As they serve beside their husbands, they experience many highs and sometimes lows that are unique to their special calling.

Alabama WMU’s desire is to support and encourage ministers’ wives through assisting local fellowships, gathering annually at the State Evangelism Conference and engaging directly with ministers’ wives throughout the year. During recent months, online fellowship has opened new avenues for connection.

One participant shared her experience. “For many years, I have appreciated the efforts of Alabama WMU to support ministers’ wives. That support has been even more meaningful during this past year with COVID restrictions and isolation. . . .I encourage ministers’ wives of all ages to join us. We are true sisters in Christ!”


Missions & Ministry Consultant Trish Jackson coordinates the ministry for Alabama WMU. As a pastor’s wife, she knows firsthand the value of fellowship. “The opportunity to share joys, difficulties and insights with others in similar situations is a blessing,” she said. “There is just something about being seen that helps us find encouragement and strength.”

- Pray for your own pastor’s wife right now as well as for the other ministers’ wives you know in your own life. Ask God to minister to them as they minister to others.
- Pray for the next online and in-person gathering of ministers’ wives. Ask God to bring the ladies who need this connection and pray for true refreshment for each participant’s heart.
- Pray for Trish Jackson and Alabama WMU as they seek to encourage and equip ministers’ wives to fulfill the special calling God has for their lives.





**Myers-Mallory**  
State Missions Offering

**WEEK OF PRAYER**



**FOR STATE MISSIONS**







### PRAYERFUL UNITY DURING THE WEEK OF PRAYER

The past year was a challenging and difficult time, to say the least. But more than anything, it was a season where we could truly see the faithfulness of God. He was and is our Hope in difficult times. As the clouds have begun lifting this year, we are seeing a harvest of fellowship and evangelism from all those tearful prayers of the past months. The Gospel light shines bright in Alabama, and it is our blessing to be a part of His work in our state.

As we turn our focus toward rebuilding, recalibrating and refocusing on what truly matters, you are invited to join with other Alabama Baptists in prayerful unity during this Week of Prayer for State Missions.

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 the healing hope of the Gospel to 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 staffs of your Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions and Alabama WMU.



### DISASTER RELIEF VOLUNTEER JOHN HAYES

For nearly a quarter of a century, John Hayes has used his chainsaw to clear trees from storm-battered homes. But the joy he gets from volunteering with Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief's *Yellow Shirt Army* comes from lifting more than debris. He's all about lifting the name of Jesus.

John has amazing stories from his time in Disaster Relief; yet all stem from THE story of salvation through Christ alone. "The most valuable thing I've learned is Jesus doesn't expect me to save anybody. I just tell the story. Because I know if I do that, He'll do the rest," John said.

John longs for more people to be trained and ready to share the Gospel story through Disaster Relief. "All you have to do is make yourself available, and God will use you in ways you never imagined," he said.

State Missionary Mark Wakefield echoes John's desire. "We are looking for Alabama Baptists who are willing to be the hands and feet of Jesus," Mark said. "Anyone can be trained in Disaster Relief. They just need a caring heart and a willing spirit."

- Pray for a new generation of willing servants to join the *Yellow Shirt Army* of volunteers as they share the Gospel story during times of crisis.
- Pray for spiritual fruit from the many seeds that have been sown by John and all the other volunteers who have served so faithfully.
- Pray for protection and provision as these volunteers give of their hard work, time, sweat and tears in service to the Lord.
- Pray for Mark Wakefield as he leads Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief. Ask the Lord to guide him in all the decisions and plans that are made and carried out each day.



### ALABAMA WMU'S GREAT COMMISSION CONVERSATIONS

Shortly after the COVID-19 pandemic started, Alabama WMU began hosting an online missions gathering called Great Commission Conversations (GCC). The goal is to get close and personal with missions through intimate conversations with real, live missionaries.

Through the Zoom platform, missionaries from all over the world have given keen insight into how God is working in nearly every affinity group of the IMB and of North America. Guests share about family, work and stories of their people. Participants ask questions, and then the group prays together.

Alabama WMU Executive Director Candace McIntosh said the impact has been wide reaching. "GCC has not only made our missionaries seem like friends to the men and women who join the conversations, it has offered much-needed encouragement to our missions personnel who have found themselves in a challenging place during this unique time in history," she said.

The GCCs have been so powerful and effective, they will continue beyond the pandemic. Each month, participants become better "pray-ers," and missionaries are reminded of the love and support they have from Alabama Baptists.

- Pray that GCC can help Alabama Baptists pray more effectively, give more sacrificially and answer God's call to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth.
- Pray for the missionaries who have participated in GCC to be encouraged by the experience and to have renewed stamina for ministering during difficult times.
- Pray for Candace McIntosh and the staff of Alabama WMU as they constantly seek new ways to spur missions learning and involvement among Alabama Baptists.
- Pray about joining the ongoing GCCs that continue to provide powerful connections with real, live missionaries and their families.



### CHURCH AT THE OAKS

Far from his home in New Jersey, a college student named Matthew was all alone in the "COVID dorm" at the University of Alabama. He now thanks God for that difficult sickness, for it brought true healing to his heart.

Matthew received a "COVID care bag" that UA Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM) provided to quarantined students. It included a snack from a local WMU group, a connection card and other useful items. He responded to the card, and a student from BCM followed up with him.

Matthew began weekly discipleship with BCM, where he learned of a new church plant specifically designed to give students deep spiritual roots and inspiring outward reach. He found a spiritual home at Church at the Oaks, where he accepted Christ as Savior and was one of their first-ever baptisms earlier this year.

Pastor Britton Latham said Matthew's story reveals the need for workers to bring in the spiritual harvest. "There are so many students who are hungry for God," he said. "We just have to be faithful to obey His call to share the Gospel with them."

- Each morning at 10:02am, Pastor Britton prays Luke 10:2 over his church. Join him in asking the Lord of the Harvest to send mature Christian workers to help in the leadership of Church at the Oaks.
- Pray that more associations and churches would partner with, encourage and send out planters to the harvest fields in Alabama.
- Pray for State Missionary Brian Harper and his colleagues at the State Board of Missions as they serve and equip church planters all over the state.



The Week of Prayer for State Missions is a concentrated time of prayer for Alabama Baptists. Southern Baptist churches all over the state join together to pray for our state and for various Great Commission Ministries of the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions and Alabama Woman's Missionary Union.

The Week of Prayer coincides with the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering, received all year with special emphasis during this week.

Want to know more about the people & Great Commission Ministries featured?

Additional information and videos are available at [Myers-Mallory.org](https://Myers-Mallory.org).

