



DAY 5 Connecting Churches and Missionaries PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS

Since 2003, **Wallace and Dee** – an Alabama couple serving with the International Mission Board – have invested their lives to share the hope of Jesus in their western European city. But they’ve known the whole time they can’t do it on their own. “We are desperate for people to come here and pray,” Wallace said. “We recognize God working here is tied with prayer.”

So in 2018 when State Missionary Scotty Goldman told him that God had put it on his heart to connect the couple with Lineville Baptist Church, Wallace said let’s do it. That’s the strategy of Alabama Acts 1:8 Connections – to help Alabama Baptist churches develop relationships with missionaries from the state.

Wallace said this partnership has been a perfect fit. The church has sent teams to prayer walk and encourage them, and he feels “they truly are invested here with us.”

Ben Curlee, Lineville Baptist’s lead pastor, said partnering with Wallace and Dee has impacted the church too. “It galvanized our people in ways I’ve never seen in my years as a pastor. There’s been a new concern and desire to see the lost reached.”

- Pray for Wallace and Dee to see God move in their western European city as Lineville Baptist partners with them in the effort.
- Pray for more churches in Alabama to partner with missionaries through Alabama Acts 1:8 Connections.
- Pray for Scotty Goldman and his colleagues at the State Board of Missions as they serve churches and foster partnerships with 300+ missionaries on the field.



DAY 6 Encouraging Churches to Grow CHURCH REVITALIZATION

Brandon Rainey came to First Baptist Church Rogersville as a revitalization pastor. When he got there, he said the church had a great staff in place but had gone through a split and was trying to bounce back.

And they did. For the next four years, the church’s journey went well, but then they hit another season of transition, and they started to decline again. They adjusted some things, but then the COVID-19 pandemic happened. “In the process of that, our leadership decided we would like to bring in a church revitalization consultant to discuss what things could look like post-COVID,” Brandon said.

They asked George Yates, a church health strategist with the State Board of Missions, to come alongside them, and he led their annual vision retreat. They created themes for the coming year and action plans. “We developed all that and put it together, and George has been a big part of helping us with that,” Brandon said. And the church has grown. They’ve been active in reaching out to the community through block parties and other ministries, and they’ve seen people give their lives to Jesus and families join the church in recent months. George said revitalization support “can help any church refocus for the current reality.”

- Pray for FBC Rogersville to continue to grow and reach its community.
- Pray for churches around Alabama that need revitalization to reach out for the support they need.
- Pray for George Yates as he helps churches recast vision and reach their communities with the Gospel.



DAY 7 Doing More for More People DISASTER RELIEF

Disaster relief has been a vital ministry for Alabama Baptists for a long time. But when Ron Culberson first got involved 16 years ago, volunteers couldn’t accomplish as much as fast as they can now. “You had to pull the limbs to the street or load it in wheelbarrows and move it out there,” said Ron, who leads the St. Clair Baptist Association disaster relief team.

But now, disaster relief volunteers are able to use skid steers to move larger pieces of trees. Mark Wakefield, state disaster relief strategist, said not only is it less strenuous on the volunteers, “they’re able to do the work more quickly and move on to the next job and take care of more homeowners that way.”

Ron said he’s grateful that the generosity of Alabama Baptists has provided a growing supply of heavy equipment. “Seeing the faces of the people when we arrive to help them out is my favorite part of the work, and these skid steers enable us to help more people,” he said. Mark said the equipment fleet is growing, as is the need to have somewhere to store it. They’ve almost outgrown the current state disaster relief facility and are in the process of adding more warehouse space.

- Pray for God to provide funds for Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief to continue to expand its capabilities to reach survivors of disaster with help and hope.
- Pray for disaster relief volunteers to have endurance to keep going when the work is hard and the hours are long.
- Pray for the emotional and spiritual healing of those impacted by disasters far and wide.



DAY 8 Hearing God’s Call at WorldSong ALABAMA WMU

Hannah Thomas* said God’s call on her life was very real when she was a camper at WorldSong Missions Place. “I really felt confirmation that I was to be a full-time missionary in Africa,” she said. That experience propelled her into a career of missions service in Sub-Saharan Africa that is now going on 18 years.

“I have so many amazing memories of WorldSong,” she said. “It is a place where I feel at home and where I have always felt the presence of God. I feel like the heart and soul of WorldSong is the desire to help children understand missions and the role they can play in taking the Gospel to the ends of the earth.”

Candace McIntosh, executive director of Alabama Woman’s Missionary Union, said WorldSong’s Missions Adventure Camp – which is run by Alabama WMU – is a vital way to plant those seeds early. “We plant that understanding of God’s desire for all peoples of the world to know who He is and have that personal relationship with Him,” she said. “We help each child at an early age know they can be a part of that, whether it’s serving their community, their state or the world.”

- Pray for Hannah to continue to see God work among the unreached in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Pray for God to call out more missionaries through Missions Adventure Camp.
- Pray for God to provide the resources and staff for WorldSong to continue its vibrant ministry in the years to come.

**name has been changed*

Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR STATE MISSIONS



ALABAMA
WMU

DISASTER
RELIEF

CHURCH
PLANTING

PARTNERSHIP
MISSIONS

CHURCH
REVITALIZATION

2022 PRAYER GUIDE



DAY
1

Boldly Uniting in Prayer GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Missionary and author Elisabeth Elliott wrote, "Prayer lays hold of God's plan and becomes the link between His will and its accomplishment on earth." God does amazing things when His people pray, not the least of which is to draw His people together in a spirit of unity.

During this Week of Prayer for State Missions, we each have the opportunity to be a part of what God is doing here in Alabama and beyond simply through the power of prayer. Beyond that, our gifts to the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering and our active participation in Great Commission Ministries provide Alabama Baptists an effective way to be involved in five strategic ministry areas.

Will you 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 **Alabama WMU** as they equip and encourage local churches to live out a missions lifestyle.
- Pray for **Disaster Relief** efforts that are ongoing and yet to come in areas near and far.
- Pray for **Church Planting** efforts among the unreached and unchurched in our state.
- Pray for **Church Revitalization** to take place among plateaued or declining congregations.
- Pray for more Alabama churches to connect to missionaries around the world through **Partnership Missions**.



DAY
2

Sharing Hope with the Hurting DISASTER RELIEF

Cookie Baker doesn't forget the conversations she has with people who have gone through a disaster. But when Cookie, an Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief chaplain, talked with families who had been affected by tornados in western Kentucky in December 2021, the weight of the conversations hit her in a fresh way.

"One family I talked to, a couple and three boys – the oldest was 6 years old – they were living in the car," she said. "They were almost emotionless, like they were devastated. It's heartbreaking to see children like that." They had lost a lot of things, including the kids' Christmas gifts. But thanks to the generosity of Alabama Baptists, Cookie was able to give the family gift cards to help out. She said the mother "just broke down crying and said, 'I told you an angel would show up, I told you God would send a way.'"

Mark Wakefield, state disaster relief strategist, said Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief chaplains have conversations like this one over and over with hurting people as they go to the places devastated by natural disasters. They walk through neighborhoods and accompany cleanup teams to share the hope of the Gospel with the hurting.

- Pray for disaster relief chaplains to have strength to continue in the work.
- Pray for God to send them to people who need to hear about the hope Jesus offers.
- Pray for Mark Wakefield as he guides and coordinates Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief efforts.



DAY
3

Training Up Missionaries ALABAMA WMU

Marti Richardson said a reluctant "yes" when she was asked to serve in Mission Friends at Eastmont Baptist Church in Montgomery more than 25 years ago. But she quickly saw that preschoolers – the target age group for the Mission Friends curriculum produced by Woman's Missionary Union – were like sponges for the message. "That's the age when they're forming ideas about everything. They're learning motor skills and relationships," Marti said. "We're missing a really big opportunity if we don't start instilling missions in them when they're little."

She loves it when lightbulbs go off and preschoolers see that they can pray and give to real missionaries serving Jesus in other places. And she's loved seeing those seeds grow and some of her Mission Friends grow up to be missionaries. "I say to them a lot, 'One day you'll be the missionaries,'" Marti said.

Trish Jackson, Alabama WMU missions lifestyle strategist for preschool, children and students, said that's true whether they end up overseas or not. "Whether it is to pray or to walk across the street with mom and dad or help a neighbor, Mission Friends teaches them they can be a missionary right now," Trish said. "That's lifelong discipleship."

- Pray for Marti to continue strong in her ministry as she teaches preschoolers and partners with Alabama WMU to train other Mission Friends leaders and write curriculum.
- Pray for churches in Alabama to continue to place value on missions discipleship.
- Pray for God to call out missionaries from among the children growing up in missions discipleship.



DAY
4

Reaching People in Huntsville CHURCH PLANTING

Jamey Pruett said wherever there are people, there's a need for the Gospel. So when Gilliam Springs Baptist Church in Arab – the church Jamey serves as pastor – realized their area was growing in both population and diversity, they knew there was a need for more churches.

They began praying, and they reached out to State Missionary Brian Harper, who began to guide them through the process of planting a church. As they prayed, they felt God was opening the doors for Will Harbison, the church's student pastor, to serve as a church planter in the Lincoln Mill area of Huntsville, and so he began to take steps in that direction. To start, he went through the SBOM's church planter training along with Jeremy Patterson, the church's missions minister. Over a three-month period, the training covers 11 competencies of a church planter.

Jeremy said it's "a great process, a great systematic approach and it makes you think about things upfront." Brian said Gilliam Springs is "a model of a good, healthy, reproducing church," and he's thankful for their example. Around the state, planting numbers have doubled in recent years, and Brian said part of his challenge is just keeping up with what God is doing.

- Pray for Mill City Church in Huntsville's Lincoln Mill area to grow spiritually and numerically.
- Pray for God to burden existing churches with the need to multiply.
- Pray for Brian Harper as he equips and encourages church planters all over the state.

Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering

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).**



Alabama Baptist
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