

2022 MISSIONS STUDY

Statewide Goal: \$1,200,000

by Candace McIntosh, Alabama WMU Executive Director

We are celebrating our seventh year of the Week of Prayer for State Missions and Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering. To God be the glory for His goodness and for the steadfast faithfulness of Alabama Baptists!

Since its inception, Alabama Baptists have rallied around this new offering. In 2016 Alabama WMU's Kathleen Mallory Mission Offering was combined with the State Board of Missions Disaster Relief Offering to create the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering, Alabama's first-ever State Missions Offering. This offering expanded to include three additional Great Commission Ministries: Church Planting, Partnership Missions and Church Revitalization.

The Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering provides approximately 50% of Alabama WMU's annual budget needs (previously provided through the Kathleen Mallory Mission Offering). Gifts given to the offering assist Alabama WMU in providing training for church and associational missions discipleship leaders, support for missionary families, mobilization tools for the church to be on mission, as well as missions camping opportunities at WorldSong Missions Place, the camp owned and operated by Alabama WMU.

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The Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering complements the work of the Cooperative Program by providing above-budget funding for Great Commission Ministries. In these seven years, your gifts have become a consistent funding source for the Disaster Relief ministry. Each year hundreds of volunteers respond to numerous storms and other disasters ministering in Jesus's name. In addition, much needed equipment was added to the Disaster Relief fleet.

Church Planting is an important ministry that aids in spreading the Gospel across Alabama and beyond. State Missionary Brian Harper trains planters (more than 95 in the past 6 years) who seek out strategic locations to plant churches in Alabama and beyond. One exciting development has been the establishment of Church Planting Cohorts, connecting 44 leaders in the past two years. Read more about church planting in Alabama in Day 4 of the Prayer Guide.

Partnership Missions has worked tirelessly over these seven years to connect Alabama Baptist churches with our Alabama Baptist missionaries serving across North America and around the world. Your gifts assist in providing security training for those traveling to work with missionary partners. This is an integral part of ensuring a safe, productive partnership. Your gifts also assist in transporting the thousands of Christmas backpacks collected each year to ministry partner sites in Alabama, the Mississippi Delta and portions of Appalachia, ensuring that the Gospel is shared with each backpack delivered.

Church Revitalization has grown to include a full-time state missionary to assist Alabama Baptist churches as they seek to breathe new life into their congregations. Your gifts have assisted in training church revitalization coaches, provided Church Revitalizing conferences, and provided an opportunity for 64 churches to participate this year in the "Return to Me" conference led by Claude King.

Because of the continued, fervent prayers and faithful giving of Alabama Baptists to the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering, these Great Commission Ministries are robust and thriving and lives are being changed for the sake of the Gospel. We give all the glory to God alone, and we commit together to stay faithful to our high calling.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR STATE MISSIONS

**Your gifts help
support these
Great Commission
Ministries:**

**ALABAMA WMU
DISASTER RELIEF
CHURCH PLANTING
PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS
CHURCH REVITALIZATION**



Alabama Baptist
STATE BOARD OF MISSIONS



Myers-Mallory.org

PREPARATION FOR PASTORS & CHURCH MISSIONS LEADERS



GATHER missions leaders in your church (pastor, missions pastor, WMU director, etc.) for a time of prayer for state missions and for planning your churchwide Week of Prayer.

PLAN with your leadership team.

1. Set a date for your observance. Suggested dates are September 11-18, 2022. If those dates present a conflict for your church, feel free to choose another. Set your church's offering goal. The statewide goal is \$1,200,000.

2. As a team, make a plan for promotion. Reserve space in church newsletters, on social media calendars, in worship service presentations and other outlets you plan to use for promotion. Visit Myers-Mallory.org/resources to explore the resources for the Week of Prayer and offering.

ORDER (see below) materials for churchwide distribution and for use in missions discipleship groups. Consult age-level leaders to determine their needs, and, if possible, submit one order for your church.

SOME OPTIONS FOR PROMOTION INCLUDE:

- Displaying posters throughout the church, distributing prayer guides, and placing envelopes in pews
- Utilizing one or more of the videos or graphics available at Myers-Mallory.org during worship services
- Enlisting a State Missionary or Alabama WMU consultant to speak to your congregation or group
- Promoting on social media and in the church newsletter using graphics available at Myers-Mallory.org
- Using the activities in this study guide during missions discipleship gatherings like Mission Friends, Children in Action, GA, RA, Acteens, Women on Mission, etc. or during other discipleship times

Order free Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering materials by:

1. Ordering online at **Myers-Mallory.org**
2. Calling 334.613.2223 or 800.264.1225 ext. 2223
3. Emailing tfuller@alsbom.org

Activities for PRESCHOOLERS

In advance, determine if anyone in your church has been to WorldSong Missions Place or has been a Disaster Relief volunteer. If so, invite them to come tell your preschoolers about their experiences. In addition, read the Myers-Mallory Prayer Guide to familiarize yourself with the areas of ministry referenced below.

1. Talk with your preschoolers about going to camp. Ask them what activities they think children do at camp. Using an iPad or laptop, show them the video of WorldSong Missions Place (find at the top of the homepage of worldsongretreat.org or download at Myers-Mallory.org/resources). If you have a child or teen who has been to WorldSong, let her/him tell preschoolers about her/his time there. Then sing the song below (to the tune of "This Is the Way") making up your own motions with each verse:

"This is the way we ride to camp, ride to camp, ride to camp; This is the way we ride to camp, when we go to WorldSong.

This is the way we make new friends, make new friends, make new friends; This is the way we make new friends, when we go to WorldSong.

This is the way we climb a hill, climb a hill, climb a hill; This is the way we climb a hill, when we go to WorldSong.

This is the way we pray to God, pray to God, pray to God; This is the way we pray to God, when we go to WorldSong."

2. Make a giant thank-you card, using a piece of folded poster board. If available, have a Disaster Relief volunteer tell how he/she has helped people after storms. If no volunteer is available, show pictures of volunteers in their yellow shirts (find at Myers-Mallory.org/resources), and explain how the Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers help by cleaning up limbs and trash, giving out water and food, and providing places for people to shower and wash their clothes. Tell preschoolers the volunteers do not earn any money for what they do. They do it

because they love God and want to help others. Say: *"We are going to tell disaster relief volunteers 'thank you' by drawing on this card for them."* When finished, pray and thank God for the Disaster Relief "helpers". (Take the card to your Association, if your church doesn't have Disaster Relief volunteers.)

3. Now, take a walk around your church building. Ask preschoolers to point to things that don't belong, such as trash or small limbs outside. Wearing gloves, you pick those up and put them in a trash bag (or child's wheel barrow, if available). Tell preschoolers you all are helping, just like Disaster Relief workers do.

4. Put preschoolers in pairs. Give them assignments, such as putting together a puzzle, building a church with blocks, picking up toys on the floor and putting them back where they belong, wiping off the tables, etc. Talk about how nice it is to have a "partner" to help you. Using a world map, show that partners from Alabama go to help our missionaries all over the world. Tell preschoolers that partners from Alabama help missionaries by doing Vacation Bible School, helping missionaries teach local pastors about the Bible, helping build churches, prayer walking, and so much more!

5. Pray for all the people you have learned about in this study - WorldSong staff and campers, Disaster Relief volunteers, partners from Alabama who help our missionaries. Then give each preschooler a tube of M&Ms and a sticker label for the tube (download at Myers-Mallory.org). Help them put the label on their "offering banks". Demonstrate with an empty tube how to put money inside. Say: *"Once you eat your candy, you can use this tube as a bank. The money will be used to help people. God wants us to help others."*

Before they leave, remind preschoolers and parents when to return their offering.

Activities for CHILDREN

In advance, read the Myers-Mallory Prayer Guide to familiarize yourself with the areas of ministry referenced below.

1. Have children think of a job/career they want to have when they get older. Play charades, letting each child have a turn acting out his/her desired future career. It may be helpful to let kids use sounds and even dialogue to communicate specific jobs as long as they do not share what job is being acted out specifically. Share the *Training Up Missionaries* story (Prayer Guide Day 3). As a group, ask children to brainstorm how someone can serve as a missionary in each of the jobs that was acted out. Who can they tell about Jesus? How can they share the truth of God's Word in that job? How can they let coworkers know God loves them? Use the prayer points from Day 3 to close the activity.

2. Share the church revitalization story (Prayer Guide Day 6). An evangelistic block party is an event held by a church for members of a community to come together and have fun while also hearing the Good News that Jesus loves them and wants to save them from their sins. First Baptist Church Rogersville held block parties and saw people decide to follow Jesus and begin attending their church. Sort your students into groups of 3 or 4. Give each group a large sheet of paper or posterboard and markers/crayons. Ask each group to design a block party that your church could host. What games, events, or other entertainment will they offer? Will there be food? How will people from your church tell those who attend about Jesus? Encourage older kids to think through the resources that will be needed (equipment, volunteer roles, budget, etc.). If possible, follow through on hosting the block party!

3. Highlight the ongoing work of Alabama Disaster Relief (Prayer Guide Day 7).

To illustrate the difference machinery can make, divide the kids into two groups and explain they will race to see who can move items faster. Time each group. Have the first group move a designated pile of items (items can be anything - use your imagination) from the room you're in to another specified location. A larger amount

of items to move over a longer distance will add to the effect. Then give the second group a set of wheels (rolling cart, large suitcase, etc.), and ask them to move the items back to where they were originally. It should be obvious that having "equipment" can help the job get done quicker. Encourage students to give to the Myers-Mallory offering so that needed equipment can be purchased and properly stored. Emphasize that this will allow more work to be accomplished to help those who have endured a disaster. Use the prayer points from Day 7 to close the activity.

4. Read the Partnership Missions in Europe story (Prayer Guide Day 5). Display a large world map that has a string attached with one end taped at Lineville, Ala., and the other end taped to a Western European country to spatially show the ministry connection of Lineville Baptist Church to missionaries Wallace and Dee. Challenge children to dream about where God might want them to go one day to tell others about Jesus. Help them cut and tape pieces of string to attach to the map reaching out from your city to other parts of the world they feel compelled to visit to share the love of Christ. In addition to the prayer guide prayer points, have each child pray that he/she will always be willing to go where the Holy Spirit leads - whether that's across the classroom, down the street, or around the world.

5. Download the biographies of Dr. Martha Myers and Kathleen Mallory (find at myers-mallory.org/myers-mallory/#myers). Talk about the legacies of faith these ladies left behind. Introduce an epitaph to your kids: a phrase or short set of words written in memory of someone who has died, sometimes inscribed on a tombstone. Encourage kids to live their lives for things that will matter in eternity. Give each child a piece of paper, and instruct them to write an epitaph reflecting how they want to be remembered. **Be mindful this could be an emotional exercise for children who have experienced loss recently.*

Give children an offering envelope to take home. Challenge them to personally give. Remind them when to return their offerings and to pray for the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering.

Activities for STUDENTS

In advance, read the Myers-Mallory Prayer Guide to familiarize yourself with the areas of ministry referenced below.

1. Gather all of your students in the middle of the room in a cluster. Have each of them grab two different people's hands. They should all be tangled in a large web. Instruct them to untangle themselves without letting go of each other's hands. It'll require teamwork, patience, and the ability to pivot their strategy when necessary. The ministry of church revitalization in Alabama is often not well understood until a church is in need of it. When churches walk through difficult seasons, they might need a little help untangling the issues and getting back to the ministry at hand. Through the same type of teamwork, patience, and flexibility needed to untangle your human chain, church revitalization helps bring churches to a place of health. Review Prayer Guide Day 6, and ask a student to pray for the requests from that day.

2. Choose one student to be the "guesser" of your group. Send her/him into the hallway where she/he can't see or hear what the rest of the group is doing. Choose one of the remaining students to be the leader. That leader will choose dance moves for the rest of the group to mimic, and the goal is to keep your guesser from figuring out who the leader is. Once students are familiar with the moves, bring back the guesser, and time how long it takes the guesser to determine who the leader is. Explain that, when at a disaster site, understanding the job is critical. Utilizing clearly-defined leaders, followers, and roles (chaplain, for example), Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief works to ease suffering for those who've experienced loss. Volunteers cut through the chaos that often accompanies such situations and show Jesus to those who desperately need to see Him. See Prayer Guide Day 2 for specific prayer requests.

3. This activity is most easily done outside but can be done in a large room. You'll need a long rope and some sort of marker line (masking tape works well). Divide the group into two teams, and let them play tug-of-war for a few rounds to determine the

winner. You can also switch up the teams as time allows. Explain to students that many years ago, missionary William Carey (often called the father of the modern missionary movement) answered the call of God to go to India to spread the Gospel. Using the metaphor of a mine, he said he'd go down into the mine (mission field) as long as those at home were "holding the rope" in prayer. Rather than a literal rope around his waist, he knew the power of prayer would be the same sort of lifeline for him. Tell students Alabama WMU works to equip those in churches all over Alabama to hold the ropes for our missionaries in prayer.

4. Collect enough play-doh and paper/pens (or dry erase boards) for each team to have their own. Write out different actions and objects on strips of paper and put them in a bowl beforehand. Divide into two to three teams. When it's one team's turn, a representative will choose a strip of paper from the bowl and have two minutes to either act out, draw or model with play-doh the word or phrase. Their team will try to guess the word or phrase. The team with the most points at the end wins. Flexibility is one of the most important virtues for a church plant. Church planters never know what may be thrown at them, and being trained and well prepared is critical as they follow God's leading (see Prayer Guide 4).

5. Create a life-sized tic-tac-toe game on the floor using masking tape big enough for students to stand inside. Divide into two teams, and give each team construction paper circles - red for one team, blue for the other. Give them a moment to determine their strategy. Students will tape the dots to their foreheads to differentiate teams and take turns trying to achieve tic-tac-toe vertically, horizontally or diagonally. Missions in any setting requires both a strategy and partnership. See Prayer Guide Day 5 for specific Partnership Missions prayer needs.

As you conclude, give each student an offering envelope. Encourage them to pray about how much they should give, and remind them when to return their offering.

Activities for ADULTS

In advance, read the Myers-Mallory Prayer Guide to familiarize yourself with the ministries referenced below.

1. As you introduce the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering, arrange for your group to watch the video about the namesakes, Martha Myers & Kathleen Mallory: <https://vimeo.com/145596030>

One resounding theme in the lives of these two women is that of devoted prayer and sacrificial giving. This week, as you learn about and pray for the work of state missions, agree upon a time of day as a group when you will commit to read the Week of Prayer Guide and pray. Set your watch or phone alarms to be a reminder each day at this agreed-upon time to pray simultaneously. Also, as you give sacrificially toward this offering, create your own banks using square tissue boxes that have been emptied of tissue. Give each group member sheets of construction paper that they may cut and glue to the outsides of this box, including the top. Using scissors, make a small slit through the construction paper at the top where the tissue opening is. Design the box to represent missions in Alabama, and write Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering on the outside with markers. Then brainstorm as a group and discuss how you will each emulate the two missionaries you are remembering by foregoing a personal expense this week in order to give more sacrificially (coffee, snack, a mealtime, shopping, etc). Return your sacrificial gifts at the next meeting. Close this activity by praying together for the missional work God is doing in Alabama.

2. As you prayerfully support the work of Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief through the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering, prepare ahead of time by alerting group members that you will be making simple hygiene kits. Assign the following items: gallon bags, toothbrushes, toothpaste, bars of soap, travel-sized shampoo, conditioner, body lotions, shave gels, deodorant, combs, razors, lip balm, wash cloths, bandaids, hand sanitizer, tissues, nail clippers, and feminine hygiene products. As you come together, ask,

“What are some of the natural disasters that a family or community might experience for which they would need prayer and assistance?” Say that the Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief team ministers to many people who have lost everything they own. Even basic toiletries and necessities are needed in many of these circumstances. Take time to assemble hygiene kits, one per group member, and encourage them to leave these in their car trunks so that they, like disaster relief volunteers, will be ready to assist when they encounter someone in need. If additional time allows, have each member write a small encouragement card to include for the person who may receive this bag. Pray for the ministry and impact of Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief.

3. The Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering supports the many ministries of Alabama Woman's Missionary Union, including leader support and training for Mission Friends, a missions discipleship program for preschoolers.

Preschoolers are not too young to begin hearing about other people groups around the world and the missionaries who are ministering to them in creative ways. As a group, pick a country or people group (visit peoplegroups.org if you need guidance). Split into teams of 3 or 4 people and plan some activities that you could use to teach a young child, approximately age 3-5. Come up with a traditional simple, allergen-friendly cultural snack, research an easy traditional game, find a sample of music from the country, design a role playing activity for the child where they could act like a missionary meeting someone in that country, sing the song “He’s got the whole world in His hands,” and create new verses about your country/people groups. Be creative! Come together and share your ideas with the whole group. If possible, speak with the children’s leader at your church and ask if there is a free time when you could come present a combined lesson! Pray for the preschoolers of your church and community to understand more about God’s love for all people! Consider beginning Mission Friends in your church, if you don’t already have it.

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Activities for ADULTS *(continued)*

4. Ask your group ahead of time to wear walking shoes, if health permits.

Through the ministry of Church Revitalization, churches with declining membership and attendance are coached and trained by church health strategists who encourage them to think creatively and get into the community to meet new people and build relationships. One way many churches do this is through a simple block party or a prayer walk. Anyone needing assistance might consider a prayer drive. Have your group relocate to a strategic area that is populated to participate in a simple prayer walk. This may even be right around your church. Or print out maps of the area, and do a "virtual prayer walk", praying block by block as you follow along the map together. As you walk, encourage everyone to have eyes that see the needs in this area, and pray as you consider who may live or work there. If prayer walking in person, when you encounter people, be friendly, and tell them what you are doing, asking specifically if they have a way you can pray for them. Ask God to show you with fresh eyes any situation where the church could serve or be a blessing. Pray for the salvation and spiritual growth of the families and individuals who live there. Pray that God would grow His kingdom by drawing people to Him through the local church.

5. Partnership Missions helps to partner Alabama churches with Alabama Baptist missionaries who serve across the world.

One of the most unexpected blessings is the way that such partnerships with missionaries can embolden Alabama Baptists with a fresh desire to reach the lost right in their own communities. Ahead of time, make a label with a Scripture verse printed on it...perhaps John 4:14. Size it to wrap around an average bottled water. In your group time, use clear tape or glue dots to adhere these labels to individual bottles of water. Then, as members leave your gathering, send them out in groups to local parks, gymnasiums, walking trails, or other outdoor areas to pass out these bottles. As you do, say, "This is a free bottle of water we would like to share with you as a blessing!" Perhaps you could ask how you could pray for them or you could share an invite to your church. When you gather again, share stories of who you met, and pray for the Alabama Baptist missionaries in other parts of the world who are being just as intentional to meet and build relationships with the lost.

Take time to pray for and collect the offering, or remind the group when the offering will be collected.



Myers-Mallory.org