



Connecting With Overseas Missionaries PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS

When you're moving overseas as a missionary, you can prepare and plan, but you can never know exactly what it's going to be like. But State Missionary Scotty Goldman said he does know this – you need all the support you can get.

So when Nicole*, a young woman from rural Alabama, was preparing to go to South Asia as a missionary about a decade ago, Scotty wanted to connect her with more churches who could support her. Her home church, First Baptist Church Livingston, was a natural choice, but he also reached out to Siloam Baptist Church in Marion. They responded with a wholehearted yes.

From there, the partnership has grown, from prayer support to sending resources and teams. Recently Scotty led a team from both churches to help Nicole put on an appreciation banquet for the teachers at a local school. He said it was amazing "to actually see firsthand the inroads made in that people group."

John Nicholson, Siloam's pastor, said it's been a "beautiful thing" for his church to have that relationship with Nicole and see the work God is doing there – so much so that they officially adopted her people group.

"The big thing has been having that personal connection," he said. "She has become that clear point of contact for us."

- Pray for Nicole to have perseverance as she serves in South Asia.
- Pray for Alabama Baptists churches to catch a vision for partnering with international personnel from Alabama.
- Pray for Scotty Goldman as he connects churches with missionaries, that God might strengthen those relationships.

**name has been changed*



Joining God As He Revives Churches CHURCH REVITALIZATION

In the spring of 2022, Kevin Johnson felt something just wasn't right at his church.

"We were a good church, but some things were not where they needed to be," he said.

So Kevin, who serves as pastor of First Baptist Church of Florence, spoke with Rob Jackson, state missionary for church revitalization, about what might light a fire there. Then Kevin began praying for revival in his church, beginning with him.

"That's when I felt things began to turn," he said.

That fall, as the college ministry started once again, students began coming to Christ and being baptized. Their presence in the church grew more and more significant.

"It's been exciting to see students leading students to Christ, and that has gotten adults excited, too, and wanting to go out and share their faith," Kevin said. "We're having our own little revival."

Rob said God "flipped a light switch on" at First Baptist Florence.

"Seeing God breathe a breath of excitement over that church is amazing," he said. But he added that it's not just happening in Florence – "I'm seeing it in place after place, and I want us to rejoice with God and join what He's doing."

- Pray for First Baptist Florence to continue to grow in making disciples in its own community.
- Pray for Rob Jackson as he coaches churches around the state toward revitalization.
- Pray for Alabama Baptist churches who may need revival to consider starting their own revitalization journey.



Standing With Disaster Victims DISASTER RELIEF

Cathy Loftin's life was full already – for years, she had served in a supervisory role for her local school system, in addition to serving at her church, First Baptist Church of Prattville. When the call came for more Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers, she could've easily said no.

But she didn't, because much like she had in other ways over the years, she felt God nudging her in the direction of caring for people who need help.

"I can't prevent suffering or pain or grief or loss, but I can intentionally and purposefully enter into a crisis or trauma situation to remind hurting people that they're not alone," she said. "There's something about physically standing with people in crisis and listening to them and listening to their stories."

As Cathy has served as an ABDR chaplain, she's gotten the opportunity to love people well and share the hope of the Gospel.

"I count it a privilege to be a representative of God and stand with hurting people and remind them that God loves them and that He cares about them and is there in their brokenness," she said.

- Pray for Cathy and other ABDR volunteers to have opportunities to share the Gospel as they meet practical needs.
- Pray for ABDR volunteers to have physical and emotional strength and stamina for the long days of hard work.
- Pray for God to provide the financial resources to keep teams going and to purchase and maintain the equipment they need to help disaster victims.



Supporting Missionaries' Families ALABAMA WMU

Harper's* mom said when her daughter's family moved overseas to serve as missionaries in a high-security location, she had a whole basket of concerns. But she and her husband were careful whom they discussed them with.

"We were not sure if we wanted to discuss where our children were or details about their work with people we did not know because of security issues for our children," she said.

But then another couple in her church introduced her and her husband to Alabama International Parents Fellowship, a group that provides a safe place for parents of overseas personnel to share their joys, common concerns and prayer needs. IPF meets twice a year – once in the fall and once in the spring.

"From the very first meeting, we were told, 'What is said here will stay in this room,'" Harper's mom said.

Candace McIntosh, executive director of Alabama Woman's Missionary Union, said IPF is a way to support the work of missionaries by "helping our missions personnel not have to worry about their family at home."

"I think it is an honorable thing that the Lord allows us to do, to allow us to support families of our missionaries," Candace said.

- Pray for IPF to continue to grow as a supportive community.
- Pray for missionaries' work to flourish and for IPF to help relieve burdens they feel about support for their families back home.
- Pray for Candace McIntosh and her team as they encourage overseas personnel and their families.

**name has been changed*


Myers-Mallory
State Missions Offering

2023 PRAYER GUIDE



WEEK OF PRAYER
FOR STATE MISSIONS