



An Unfinished Mission WEEK OF PRAYER OVERVIEW

On October 28-29, 1823, a group of 15 men and women gathered at Salem Baptist Church near Greensboro to organize the Alabama Baptist State Convention. A nearby historical marker notes, "They met to promote missions, education, and closer cooperation among Baptists of Alabama."

Throughout these 200 years, Alabama Baptists have not only maintained an unwavering commitment to these priorities but also to praying fervently for missions and missionaries. And while we have much to celebrate, there remains an unfinished Gospel task before us that demands our greatest efforts.

During this Week of Prayer for State Missions, we invite you to join us in boldly praying for the five strategic Great Commission Ministries featured in this prayer guide and to prayerfully consider your gift to the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering. Your gifts provide resources to help Alabama Baptists carry the life-changing power of the Gospel to our local communities and beyond.

- Pray for **Alabama WMU** as they encourage missional living by challenging, equipping and empowering Alabama Baptists.
- Pray for **Disaster Relief** efforts that will bring hope and healing to the hurting.
- Pray for **Church Planting** efforts among the unreached and unchurched in our state.
- Pray for **Church Revitalization** to take place in churches and leaders across Alabama.
- Pray for relationships between Alabama churches and missionaries around the world to be fostered through **Partnership Missions**.



Helping the Hurting DISASTER RELIEF

When Bob Cooper sat down beside Mr. D, the man gave him one directive – he wasn't allowed to talk about religion or politics.

"When Hurricane Ian came through Arcadia, Florida, he and his wife only had minor damage, but she called and asked for a chaplain to come because her husband had liver cancer and knew he was dying," said Bob, an Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief chaplain.

Mr. D was an atheist and "defiant about the Word," but before Bob left, Mr. D let Bob pray with him. Another ABDR chaplain, Thelma Goolsby, had also been there that night visiting with Mr. D's wife, who is a believer. And after Thelma returned to Alabama, she couldn't stop thinking about the couple. So she went back to Florida to visit Mr. D, and as she talked with him, something happened – he softened. Then he softened some more. And when Thelma asked him if he wanted a relationship with Jesus, he said yes, and he prayed for that.

"He had a smile on his face and no hardness in his voice," Thelma said. "I talked to his wife in the weeks following that, and she said he was different – he was kind."

A few months later, Mr. D passed away. Thelma said only God can change a heart, but she's grateful ABDR chaplains were able to plant the seeds.

- Pray for ABDR chaplains as they respond to the hurting.
- Pray for more people to volunteer to train and deploy as chaplains.
- Pray for Mark Wakefield, state disaster relief strategist, as he leads ABDR efforts.



Job Skills and Eternal Hope ALABAMA WMU

Elaine Dickson says a lot of stories have stuck with her over the years from Christian Job Corps, a ministry of Alabama Woman's Missionary Union.

But one woman's story in particular leaps to the top. The woman wasn't originally from the U.S., and when Elaine met her, she had recently taken her children and fled an abusive marriage.

"We worked alongside her and gave her the confidence she needed," Elaine said. Through CJC's job and life skills training, the young mother got a college degree, started a career that could support her family and grew in her faith.

Elaine, who serves as Alabama's CJC coordinator, said that's what CJC is about – watching God work miracles in people's lives.

"What I have gained from serving in Christian Job Corps was the opportunity to see God's power like I had never experienced before," she said.

Pat Ingram, Alabama WMU missions and ministry consultant, said the work of Alabama's seven CJC sites is practical for sure, but it's so much more than just that.

"At CJC, someone gives them hope in the form of Jesus and helps them understand how loved they are," she said.

- Pray for the men and women who come to CJC to find ultimate hope in Jesus.
- Pray for Elaine Dickson and Pat Ingram as they coordinate and support the CJC ministry in Alabama.
- Pray for churches and individuals in the state to feel burdened to start more CJC sites.



Seeing God Move Among Hispanics CHURCH PLANTING

Not long ago, there were no Hispanic Baptist church plants in the Mobile area. Then Brian Harper, lead church planting strategist for the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions, started talking with Ramón Vielza about the possibility of moving there.

Ramón, who at that time served as Hispanic catalyst for Baptists in North Carolina, had been part of a major movement in Cuba – 170 churches planted in nine years. As he talked with Brian, he began to catch a vision for what God might do in lower Alabama.

Now he's pastor of I-10 Church, a new plant in Mobile, and he's helped train church planters to plant four more churches from Montgomery southward.

"We're also training five brothers so they can likewise plant five churches around the northern part of Florida," Ramón said.

The effort has been a partnership between the SBOM, local Baptist associations, the North American Mission Board and local churches, including First Baptist Tillman's Corner, which houses I-10 Church. Brian has walked alongside Ramón, supporting him throughout the process and helping strategize next steps. Brian added that "the Lord has brought this about."

"They're seeing people come to the Lord, people being baptized," he said. "God has really opened the doors."

- Pray for Ramón Vielza as he leads I-10 Church and trains more church planters to go out.
- Pray for Brian Harper as he continues to recruit and train people to reach Alabama with strategic new church plants.
- Pray for God to raise up more church planters to send to a field white unto harvest.

Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering

The Week of Prayer for State Missions is a concentrated time of prayer for Alabama Baptists. Southern Baptist churches across 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 Great Commission Ministries featured?

Find additional information and videos at
Myers-Mallory.org or the QR code below.

