

2024 MISSIONS STUDY

Statewide Goal: \$1,200,000

Myers-Mallory.org



*by Candace McIntosh,
Alabama WMU Executive Director*

We are in our ninth year of observing the Week of Prayer for State Missions and giving to the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering. To God be the glory for all He has accomplished through Alabama Baptists in these years! We have seen countless lives reached and changed with the Gospel message and eagerly await what God will do this year through Alabama WMU, Disaster Relief, Church Planting, Partnership Missions and Church Revitalization.



While your giving through the Cooperative Program and to the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering provides a foundation for the work to be accomplished, it is your prayers that avail much. As you use this missions study to learn more about the ministry efforts, may prayer be at the forefront of our strategy.



Chuck Kelly from LifeWay Christian Resources recently shared a startling statistic. By the year 2030, which is only six years away, 70 percent of the world's population will not identify as Christian. This statistic is remarkably sobering. I also remind you that currently, more than two million people in Alabama are considered unchurched.

While these numbers are both overwhelming and heart-wrenching, may they not just be a statistic. Recognizing that every one of those numbers is an individual soul created by God and deeply loved by Him, may those numbers compel us to action as we strive to live out the Great Commission here in Alabama and beyond. By praying. By giving. By going.

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May you be encouraged that because you gave...

- Six WorldSong summer staff workers have committed in the past two years to serving through summer missions overseas or in a full-time capacity at a local church. This commitment is due in part to the many hours our WorldSong and WMU staff invest in training and mentoring these students each summer.
- Our "Yellow Shirt Army" of trained Disaster Relief volunteers was deployed in multiple locations across Alabama and beyond throughout the year. Each callout affords the opportunity for the love of Jesus to be extended and the Gospel to be proclaimed, and their efforts resulted in at least 15 known salvations in Alabama alone.
- Ten replanters, 28+ Hispanic planters and many regional planter teams have been trained and are committed to multiplying and expanding the kingdom. Many churches are deciding to replant or plant new works rather than construct new buildings. God is moving through church planting and replanting in Alabama!
- More than 360 churches took advantage of 18 church revitalization events hosted by the office of Evangelism & Church Revitalization. In addition, 40 pastors were equipped and trained with Logos software to help them be better leaders in the revitalization process.
- Since 2019, more than 1,000 Alabama Baptists have been trained in Safe Travel Preparedness. Through this ministry, we are helping volunteers go deeper into the world in as safe a manner as possible.

I remain grateful for the heart of Alabama Baptists who desire to see the Gospel go forward and for His servants called to carry it.

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



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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 8-15, 2024. If those dates present a conflict for your church, feel free to choose another time. 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/resources
2. Calling 334.613.2226
3. Emailing smayes@alsbom.org

Activities for PRESCHOOLERS

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

1. Welcome preschoolers at eye level. Provide toy food, pots and pans, and plates. Encourage preschoolers to pretend to cook for people whose homes have been hurt by big storms. As they cook, talk about storms and how sometimes they can cause the roof to come off the house or the power to go off inside. When that happens, refrigerators and stoves do not work. Not long ago, a group of 17 helpers from Alabama went to Mississippi to take food to people whose houses were hurt during a strong storm.

Optional: Make a tornado in a jar. You will need: a round jar with lid, water, dish soap and food coloring. Fill the jar with water, leaving about 1 inch space at the top. Add about 1 teaspoon of dish soap and 1-2 teaspoons of food coloring. Put the lid back on the jar, and swirl it around to mix it. Then swirl the jar quickly in a circular motion until "tornado" forms. (If too bubbly, add a teaspoon of vinegar.)

2. Before the study, make copies of the

Christmas Backpacks coloring sheets (find at Myers-Mallory.org/resources). Cut out the pictures of items that would go into a backpack. Have preschoolers sit at a table. Show them a backpack. Tell them that some children do not have backpacks or fun things to fill them with. Their moms and dads may not have enough money to buy one for them. We can help by filling a backpack to send to them. People from Alabama WMU and the Missions Mobilization Team will make sure the needy children get a backpack. Let preschoolers color the backpack sheet. Then let them choose items to put inside. Help them glue those. Pray that Alabama WMU will collect many filled backpacks to send to the needy children.

Optional: Bring actual items for preschoolers to put in a real backpack.

3. Show preschoolers a picture of an Alabama

Baptist Disaster Relief trailer (find at Myers-Mallory.org/resources), and encourage them to build a trailer out of blocks. Tell preschoolers that Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief has people who are ready to take the trailer to places where people need help. Say: "We can help by praying for them." Then lead the group in a short prayer.

4. Talk to preschoolers about WorldSong

Missions Place. Show pictures of WorldSong Missions Place (find at Myers-Mallory.org/resources). Talk about the many fun things they could do at camp. Pretend to sit around a campfire (made with paper towel tubes and tissue paper). Sing songs like *Jesus Loves Me*, *Jesus Loves the Little Children*, *God Is So Good*, or *I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy, Down in My Heart*. Say: "You can go to camp at WorldSong when you get just a few years older!"

5. Encourage preschoolers to play with dolls.

As they play, tell them about a group of women at a church in Alabama. The women were sad because they worked in the church nursery, but no babies were coming. So they prayed! They asked God to fill their nursery with babies to love. God answered their prayers. Now they have babies in the nursery at their church.

6. Give each preschooler a tube of M&Ms.

*Make sure none of the preschoolers have food allergies first. Say: "The money we give to this offering helps with the Christmas Backpacks, Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief Trailer, and WorldSong Missions Place that we have talked about today, plus more. After you have eaten your M&Ms, you can put money in the tube and bring it back to church." Demonstrate putting money in the tube. Say: "Your money will help others." Send a note home with each preschooler about the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering, asking families to fill their tubes with money and bring them back to church.

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

1. Christmas Backpacks, a ministry of the

Missions Mobilization Team, provides Christmas presents for children and teens and lets them know they are loved. In advance, gather a backpack and items for sorting, some appropriate for a Christmas backpack and some not. Visit AlabamaWMU.org/backpacks and click "How to Pack a Backpack" for ideas. Include a copy of The Christmas Story. Display the backpack, and hide the other items in a paper bag. Use Prayer Guide Day 3 to explain the ministry. Let children take items out of the bag one at a time, and discuss why or why not each item is appropriate to pack. Then hold up The Christmas Story. Ask why every backpack needs this item. Explain that the offering helps provide copies of The Christmas Story and helps cover the cost of transporting backpacks to children in need. Pray for churches who collect backpacks and that each child who receives a backpack will want to know Jesus.

2. Brian Harper and the Alabama Baptist church

planting office worked with Valleydale Baptist to replant The Church at Old Town. In advance, tape a large piece of craft paper on a table. Divide the paper into four sections and label: "Before Replant," "Prayer and Help," "Growth," and "Community Impact." Read the Prayer Guide Day 4 story, and tell children you are going to create a Replant Journey Map. Give children markers, and ask them to write specific events or changes that occurred during the replant process under the matching heading. Discuss the significance of each stage and how it impacted the church and community. Pray for The Church at Old Town, its leaders and Brian Harper.

3. Through Partnership Missions, the Alabama

Baptist State Board of Missions helps Alabama churches connect with missionaries serving throughout the world. In advance, gather poster board, glue, markers, colored paper and old magazines for creating collages. Tell the story from Day 5. Explain that you are going to explore partnership by creating collages together. Divide the group into pairs, or if you have a smaller

group, work together as one group. Invite the children to cut out pictures and colored paper shapes and arrange them on poster board to create a collage that tells about partnership missions. Encourage them to use markers to add captions or short phrases or prayers to the collage. Talk about the challenges and benefits of partnering with others.

4. The Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions

provides mentoring and encouragement to help churches through a revitalization process. In advance, write these phrases on separate index cards: Camden Baptist Church, group of women, church nursery, meeting for prayer, Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions, mentoring and encouragement, Sunday mornings, tremendous growth, you can always learn more, praise the Lord. Hide the index cards around the room. Read the story from the Prayer Guide Day 6. Then encourage the children to find the hidden cards. As each child finds a card, ask them to sit on the floor to form a circle. Invite them to share the card they found and explain what it has to do with the story they heard. Challenge them to put the phrases in order and retell the story. Use the prayer points in Day 6 to pray for church revitalization efforts in Alabama.

5. Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers

help people who have been hurt by disasters like tornadoes and hurricanes. In advance, gather office supplies and a white board. Show the ABDR promotion video at sbd.org/resources/video-resources and read the Prayer Guide Day 7 story. Invite children to use office supplies to set up an ABDR field office. Use what you learned to discuss the needs of volunteers and survivors. Help children role play what might happen in the office, assigning some as volunteers and others as survivors. Ask: "What questions would volunteers need to ask to help survivors? How can they help people who come to the trailer? What scriptures might volunteers use? How might volunteers pray with disaster victims? Pray using the requests found in the prayer guide.

Give children an offering envelope to take home, and remind them to pray and when to return their offering.

Activities for STUDENTS

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

1. Packing Christmas Backpacks - A few weeks

before the meeting, have students bring supplies for packing a Christmas Backpack (visit AlabamaWMU.org/backpacks and click "How to Pack a Backpack" for ideas), or go as a group to purchase them. At your meeting, pack the backpacks together and discuss the Prayer Guide Day 3 story about Christmas Backpacks and the work God is doing through them.

2. Forever Ready: Disaster Relief - On a white

board or poster board, brainstorm ideas with your students about things someone might need after a tornado strikes. Food, water, shelter, childcare and electricity to charge phones are a few ideas, but they're just the tip of the iceberg. Stretch students to think of things like insurance cards, identification, medicines, food for pets, diapers, and so much more. When done brainstorming, discuss the Prayer Guide Day 2 story from Alabama Disaster Relief and the work they did in Rolling Fork, Mississippi, and the tangible example of the love of Christ on someone's worst day.

3. Rebuilding the Nursery - Ask your church's

preschool or children's minister if your group might come and help with the programming for a week. You can prepare a VBS type program for them, or you can simply plug your students in to whatever their curriculum calls for that week. When finished, read the Prayer Guide Day 6 story about Camden Baptist Church and the importance of young families to the future of a local church. Encourage students to sign up to help in the nursery or children's ministry if they enjoyed the activity, as they could always use help.

4. The Wisdom of Change - The goal for these

activities is to help students recognize that change can be difficult.

Game 1: Ask students to cross their arms and/or their legs. Then, ask them to cross and fold their arms/legs the other way. Some may have no issue with it, but

for others it will feel awkward and uncomfortable.

Game 2: Arrange chairs in a circle with an object sitting in the middle (the more intricate design this object has the better). Ask participants to describe the object from their point of view, then ask the group to switch seats and describe from the new point of view. Discuss how the object didn't change at all, but the way they related to it did.

Tie it together: Read the Prayer Guide Day 4 story from First Baptist Helena and the changes they had to make in order to take their church from one that was slowly dying to one that is thriving and growing. Discuss how difficult it can be to make changes, but that often it's necessary in ministry and in our lives.

5. Chilean Eats and Treats

Option 1: Before the lesson, make this recipe of Pan de Pascua, a traditional dessert cake in Chile that resembles a fruitcake (<https://www.thespruceeats.com/chilean-holiday-fruitcake-pan-de-pascua-3029403>). It's a Chilean holiday tradition that can be served at both Christmas and Easter.

Option 2: Did you know that olive oil is among one of Chile's largest exports? In recent years, the amount of olive oil exported is estimated to be over 100 million US dollars worth, and is increasing every year. Making olive oil can be more difficult than students might think, but it's something you can try together. Following these instructions (https://telegraphhill.co.nz/blogs/olivery_news/how-to-make-olive-oil-at-home), make olive oil as a group, and allow students to take a small container home at the end of the night.

Tie it together: Read Sonali Albus's story found in Day 8 of the Prayer Guide about how WorldSong helped stir her heart to missions and her service in Chile as a result. Pray together for Sonali as the Lord guides her future.

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.

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

1. Every year, Christmas Backpacks, a ministry of the Missions Mobilization Team, provides Christmas presents for children and students in need and lets them know they are loved. Alabama WMU leads churches and associations around the state to fill backpacks for under-served children. Before your session, visit AlabamaWMU.org/backpacks to learn how to collect backpacks. Consult the appropriate leaders to plan for collecting backpacks in your own church. Collection week will be Oct. 21–27, 2024. Pack a sample backpack to display during the session. After women arrive, direct their attention to the backpack and show the “Christmas Backpack Information” video available at AlabamaWMU.org/backpacks. Then brainstorm how to involve your church in the backpack ministry. You could ask different small groups to provide specific items and then plan a day to assemble backpacks, or invite families and individuals to pack complete backpacks. After determining how you will involve the church, make promotional posters and collection boxes, write blurbs for your church newsletter and create posts for social media. Work with your pastor and worship leader to set a date to collect and pray over the backpacks during a worship service. Enlist volunteers to take them to a collection site. Be sure to order backpack bands and copies of *The Christmas Story*. Use this time to begin praying for the Missions Mobilization Team as they prepare for this year’s backpack ministry and for each child who receives a backpack.

2. First Baptist Church Helena partnered with Valleydale Church and the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions to replant as *The Church at Old Town*, becoming a “community church that is blessing the community.” Before the session, set up scripture stations, each containing a scripture related to vision and renewal (for example, Proverbs 29:18, Jeremiah 29:11, Isaiah 43:19, Proverbs 16:9). Share the story from the Prayer Guide Day 4, and then give each person paper and a pen. Invite them to visit each

station and quietly engage with what God’s Word tells us about renewal. Ask them to write down their personal reflections, insights and prayers as they explore the stations. After they have visited the stations, bring them back together to share their insights and reflections. Discuss why churches must pursue God’s vision. Cover these key points:

(1) God’s vision enables us to pursue transformation; (2) Even in times of decline or uncertainty, He has a vision of renewal for His people; (3) He is constantly at work bringing new beginnings; (4) While we make plans, it is ultimately God who guides and directs our paths. The only way for true fulfillment is to trust and follow His vision. Conclude by praying through the prayer requests in the Prayer Guide Day 4.

3. Partnership Missions helps local pastors and churches travel to visit international missionaries to catch a vision for what they are doing in their fields of service. In advance, make three posters: (1) Personal Transformation: How did Terrence’s trip to Central Asia change his perspective on global missions? What aspects of his experience do you find most impactful? (2) Community Engagement: How is Terrence involving his church and other leaders in his community in the mission of embracing global outreach? What can we learn from his approach? (3) Collaborative Action: What steps can we take to foster partnerships between churches and missionaries overseas, especially among minority communities? How can we pray for an increased passion for international missions?” Place the posters on different walls around the room. After reading the story in the Prayer Guide Day 5, divide your group into three smaller groups. Instruct each group to stand next to one of the posters. Give each group a different colored marker and three to five minutes to answer the questions. When the time is up, have groups rotate to the next poster and add additional information. After every group has visited the three posters, come together as a large group to discuss their answers. What insights did your group uncover? After your discussion, pray through the prayer requests in the Prayer Guide Day 5.

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4. Pastor Justin Nelson has led Camden Baptist Church through a church revitalization. He says he is thankful for the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions' support and coaching. In advance, place paper and pens on each table or at each seat. Read the story in the Prayer Guide Day 6. Divide into small groups and provide each group with these discussion prompts: What role did prayer play in the revitalization process of Camden Baptist Church? How can mentorship and community support contribute to the growth of a church? Why do you think continuous learning and seeking guidance are important for church leaders? Invite the groups to share their responses. Next invite personal reflection. Ask the group to use the provided paper to jot down their thoughts or prayers using the following prompts: (1) Reflect on a time when you witnessed growth or transformation within a church community. What factors contributed to that change? (2) Imagine yourself as a member of Camden Baptist Church during their revitalization journey. What emotions and experiences would you have encountered? Invite volunteers to share their reflections. Follow with prayer as directed in the Prayer Guide Day 6.

5. Managing the logistics of disaster relief is a big job that often requires many weeks on the field. Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief has a new incident management trailer that can serve as a field office, eliminating the need to find space in the area. After reading the Prayer Guide Day 7, guide your group to consider the magnitude of managing a disaster relief field. Go to sldr.org/find-your-ministry and click on "Administration" for an overview. Print the ABDR ministry cards (find at Myers-Mallory.org/resources). Pass out cards to participants, ensuring that every ministry has been assigned to at least one person. If multiple people have the same ministry, ask them to gather in small groups. Guide participants to read the cards and share the key responsibilities and potential challenges of the ministry. Wrap up with a round table discussion summarizing key takeaways and emphasizing the importance of organization and administration during a disaster relief callout. Conclude with prayer as directed in the Prayer Guide Day 7.

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



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