

Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering

2025 MISSIONS STUDY

Statewide Goal: \$1,200,000

*by Candace McIntosh,
Alabama WMU Executive Director*

This year marks the tenth anniversary of our observance of the Week of Prayer for State Missions and the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering. As we reach this significant milestone, my heart is filled with profound gratitude for the unwavering commitment of Alabama Baptists to fulfilling the Great Commission.

Yet, this anniversary also serves as a poignant reminder of the immense responsibility that still lies before us. We must not overlook the fact that more than half of our state remains unchurched, and it is believed that 90% of the nearly 300,000 college students in Alabama have no relationship with Jesus.

The task ahead is indeed great, but our God is greater. Let us celebrate the remarkable achievements of the past nine years and continue to look forward, driven by His love and grace.

continued



C E L E B R A T I N G A D E C A D E O F F A I T H F U L N E S S



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continued

BECAUSE YOU GAVE...

- Alabama WMU staff are dedicated to engaging the Next Generation. This year, through the Cultivate initiative and in collaboration with the Office of Collegiate and Student Ministries, they are focused on reaching college students for Christ. 400 individuals and groups have committed to pray weekly for our 17 campus ministers and their college students, who represent one of the largest mission fields in Alabama.
- Last fall, Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers responded diligently to three consecutive hurricane deployments. Nearly 800 trained volunteers served hundreds of families, contributing over 30,000 hours of volunteer service. At least 26 individuals professed their faith in Christ during these three deployments. This spring, more than 650 people have been trained.
- Our network consists of more than 70 church planters dedicated to mobilizing, assessing, training, coaching, and providing resources. Over the past four years, 25 new Hispanic churches have been established, with two of these churches multiplying from within.
- Through Partnership Missions, three Starlink internet kits have been purchased to be placed in remote villages in Alaska, enabling the streaming of worship services where there are no churches as well as helping to disciple and train church planters in those villages. This project has sparked a series of initiatives aimed at reaching Native Alaskans.
- In the past year, 1,100 people have attended at least one Church Revitalization training opportunity or conference. Currently, 12 pastors are receiving mentorship through Church Revitalization efforts.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR STATE MISSIONS

YOUR GIFTS HELP
SUPPORT THESE GREAT
COMMISSION MINISTRIES:

Alabama WMU • Disaster Relief
Church Planting • Partnership Missions
Church Revitalization



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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 7-14, 2025. 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 materials for churchwide distribution and for use in missions discipleship or other small 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 334.613.2225
3. Emailing dclark@alsbom.org

Activities for PRESCHOOLERS

Read the Myers-Mallory Prayer Guide to familiarize yourself with the areas of ministry referenced below.

1. Welcome preschoolers at eye level. Tell them they will be learning about some special helpers today. Encourage them to work together to build a barn and put animals inside. As they build, tell them about a man and his church. Pastor Darnell didn't have a church building. His church started in the bottom of a house - the basement. Ask: Have you been in a basement? A basement is under the ground. Then the church people moved their church meetings from the basement to a barn! Ask: "Do you know what lives in a barn?" (animals) Let preschoolers take the animals out of the barn to make room for the people to go to church. Say: "As the preschoolers play, tell them that Mr. Brian Harper helps Pastor Darnell. (Show a picture of Brian Harper*.) Now Pastor Darnell has a building where his church people worship God and sing praises to Him. Pray for Pastor Darnell and Mr. Harper."

2. Mr. Rob Jackson helps churches who want more people to learn about Jesus and God. (Show picture of Rob Jackson*.) He helped Pastor Butler at his church; then Pastor Butler asked if he would go help his friend, Pastor Phillips, at another church. Mr. Jackson loves to help others. Pray for Pastor Butler, Pastor Phillips, and Mr. Jackson. Print the "I Can Help Others" page* (one per child). Draw around each preschooler's hand on the paper, and allow them to color if time permits. Talk about how they can be a "helping hand" to others. Examples: help clean up the room at church; pray for people who are sick; invite a friend to church.

3. Mrs. Beth Gardner is a Baptist Campus Minister at the University of South Alabama. (Show picture of Beth Gardner*.) She loves God and loves college students. Tell preschoolers that college students are about 18, 19, 20, and 21 years old. She helps college students learn more about Jesus and teaches them to tell others about Jesus. You can tell other people about Jesus, too! Pray for Mrs. Gardner and the college students she teaches. Ask: "Who can you tell about Jesus?" Then lead preschoolers to sing the following song to the tune of "Are You Sleeping?": "Jesus loves

you, Jesus loves you. Yes, He does. Yes, He does. He will always love you, He will always love you. Yes, He will. Yes, He will."

4. Mrs. Trish Jackson works at Alabama WMU. (Show picture of Trish Jackson*.) Mrs. Jackson enjoys helping teenage girls learn more about Jesus. Then they can tell people about Jesus. Say: "One day you will be a teenager." Count from the age of the preschooler to age 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19. Mrs. Jackson has kept a jar with sticky notes teenagers have written. Show preschoolers a jar and a pad of sticky notes. Help each preschooler draw a heart on their note and put it in the jar. Say: Always remember that Jesus loves you!

5. Mr. Scotty Goldman helps churches far away. (Show picture of Scotty Goldman*.) One place he helps is Alaska. Some of the churches don't even have roads for people to get to them. People have to use planes or boats. Using a map, show preschoolers where Alaska is and where Alabama is. Let them pretend to fly to Alaska to help. Say: "Money given to the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering helped get Starlink internet kits to some churches in Alaska. Starlink makes it possible for some people who cannot go to church to watch the church service. Pray for the people in Alaska to hear more about Jesus."

6. Give each preschooler a tube of M&Ms with a Myers-Mallory State Mission Offering label* on the side. Show how to open the tube and empty the candy into a Ziploc bag. Then show them how to put money into the tube. Tell them they will get a tube to take home and fill with money. Then they bring it back to church and give it to the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering. Remind them their money will help people and churches. As preschoolers are picked up from the classroom, give their parents/guardians a tube of M&Ms. Ask them to empty the candy, fill the tube with money, and bring it back to church. The money for the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering will help people and their churches.

**Download these resources at [Myers-Mallory.org/resources](https://www.Myers-Mallory.org/resources)*

Activities for CHILDREN

Read the Myers-Mallory Prayer Guide to familiarize yourself with the areas of ministry referenced below.

1. Complete: A Gathering for Teen Girls is an event sponsored by Alabama WMU where girls get together to learn more about missions and ministry. Read the story from the Prayer Guide Day 2. Give each child a large sticky note. Say: "Let's ask God to show us the talents and gifts He's given us and how we can use them to tell others about Jesus." Pause to pray. Then invite children to write or draw one way they can serve God using their gifts. Post the sticky notes on a wall or bulletin board. Ask for volunteers to share what they wrote. Invite children to silently pray over each other's notes. Close with the prayer prompts from the Prayer Guide Day 2. Optional: Move the sticky notes to a public space in your church to encourage adults to pray for the children.

2. Lynn Darnell planted LifeChurch in Boaz so he could reach people who don't go to church and people who don't know Jesus. In advance, set up several stations that simulate community outreach (i.e., a popsicle handout, a blanket/coat sorting and folding station, a food pantry, a card-making station). You may also create stations based on your church's ministries. Read the story from the Prayer Guide Day 4. Say: "LifeChurch was planted to serve people who don't attend church and to show them Jesus's love. The church has met in several different buildings. Remember, the church is the people—not the building." Invite children to rotate through the stations. Afterward, ask: "How could each activity teach people about Jesus' love for them?" Close with prayer using the Prayer Guide Day 4.

3. Funds from the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering have helped Alaska Baptists purchase Starlink internet kits so people in remote areas can watch church services. In advance, gather flashlights and print the Light Cards*. Display the cards on a wall. Read the story in the Prayer Guide Day 5. Say: "In Alaska, some people live in places you can only reach by plane or boat. With Starlink, Alaska Baptists can send church services and Bible messages to these places. Let's shine the light and learn more! Invite children to shine their flashlights on each Light Card

and read it aloud together. Next, guide children to sit in a circle, taking turns shining a flashlight and saying one way they can shine God's light (being kind, telling someone about Jesus, giving to missions offerings, etc.). Close with prayer using the Prayer Guide Day 5.

4. Pastor Neal Butler of Bower Memorial Baptist Church met with Rob Jackson from the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions to create a plan for helping his church share the gospel with their community. In advance, gather large blocks and write the following words on index cards, one word per card: Pray, Plan, Invite, Visit, Serve, Tell. Read the story in the Prayer Guide Day 6. Say: "Just like the members of Bower Memorial, we are going to work together to build up the church." Place the blocks and cards on the floor and ask children to sit in a circle around them. Guide them to take turns drawing a card, explaining the word, and adding a block to the church "tower." Ask how each word connects to the story and how it could apply to your church reaching its community. To encourage participation, ask each child to add a block to the tower after sharing a thought. Conclude with a sharing time and pray using the Day 6 Prayer Guide.

5. Cultivate is a partnership between Alabama WMU and Alabama Baptist Campus Ministries. In advance, create a floor map using painter's tape or a large sheet showing key campus areas: dorm, cafeteria, library, gym, classroom, green space, parking lot. At each location, place a Scenario Card*. If space is limited, draw the map on kraft paper on a classroom table and let children "finger walk." Read the story from the Prayer Guide Day 8. Say: "Let's explore how college students can show God's love on campus." Guide them to take turns walking to a location, picking up a scenario card, and sharing how students can respond with Christ's love. After everyone has participated, gather around the floor map and pray for BCMs using the prompts in Prayer Guide Day 8.

Give children an offering envelope to take home. Remind them when to return their offering.

**Download these resources at [Myers-Mallory.org/resources](https://www.myers-mallory.org/resources)*

Activities for STUDENTS

Read the Myers-Mallory Prayer Guide to familiarize yourself with the areas of ministry referenced below.

1. Ask students or other groups at church to donate gently used coats, clothing, shoes, new socks, new toiletries and gently used luggage pieces. Place the items in different areas of the room. Divide students into as many groups as you have pieces of luggage. Set a timer for two minutes, and have them try to pack their bags with the things they would need if they were quickly displaced from their homes in a natural disaster. Did they remember chargers? What about social security cards? Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief works to help disaster victims focus on rebuilding their lives while volunteers take care of some of the needs like cleanup, feeding, showers and laundry. See Days 3 and 7 of the Prayer Guide for real stories of the ministry's impact. When finished, it's a great idea to donate the items to a shelter or clothes closet in your area.

2. Take a look at the recipes from Alaska found at <https://www.tasteofhome.com/collection/the-best-recipes-from-alaska/> and choose one (or more) to make for your student gathering (link available at Myers-Mallory.org). Allow students to taste and discuss whether they liked the food(s). Alaska was the missions focus for WorldSong's 2025 Missions Adventure Camp, a ministry of Alabama WMU. Not only did campers learn about the work God is doing in Alaska, but, like your students, they got to experience a little bit of the culture there. Visit WorldSongRetreat.org to learn more about Missions Adventure Camp and opportunities for your students to attend camp or train to become a leader there!

3. Fill a small pot with potting soil and a plant for a visual. Or if you prefer, bring enough pots, soil and plants for each student to plant and take one home. Explain that plants need three things to grow: good soil, water and light. Church plants also need these things - the firm foundation of the Word of God, rooted in Scripture and built on truth (Mt 7:24-27, Isaiah 40:8), the living water of Jesus Christ dwelling in them and an understanding that any growth is through His power (John 4:13-15, John 7:38), and the light of Christ shining through its members (Mt 5:16). Through

the Office of Associational Missions & Church Planting, church plants are equipped and encouraged to build churches in this manner. See Prayer Guide Day 4 to learn about Alabama Baptist church planting efforts.

4. Read Acts 1:8 together. Discuss your local community as "Jerusalem," and brainstorm ways you can serve them. Next, move to the state or the United States as their "Judea and Samaria." Discuss mission projects your group can do to serve them, as well. Lastly, "the ends of the earth." Once you've talked about work your church or group of students has done overseas, discuss the Prayer Guide Day 5 story and what your group can learn from the faithfulness expressed there. Brainstorming helps: Jerusalem - Local soup kitchen/ clothes closet, local mission projects, school/town clean up days, etc. Judea and Samaria - Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering, Christmas Backpacks ministry, Angel Tree, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, domestic missions trips. Ends of the earth - Lottie Moon Christmas offering, global church partnerships, Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, international mission trips, etc.

5. Purchase a bag of M&Ms, enough for everyone in the group to have two or three. Have students pass the bag of M&Ms around and choose one of a different color each time the bag reaches them. The colors correspond to questions you've placed around the room. **Red:** What story in the Bible means the most to you right now? **Blue:** What holds you back from sharing your faith? **Yellow:** What story of someone sharing their faith (a missionary, someone you know, etc.) inspires you? **Brown:** What is one thing you can do to deepen your faith walk? **Orange:** With whom do you need to share the Gospel? Name names. **Green:** Do your actions match what you say you believe? When you're finished, come back together as a group and discuss how the ministries supported by the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering work together to equip Alabama Baptists to grow in their faith and then share it boldly both in their day-to-day lives and in the world at large.

Give students an offering envelope to take home. Challenge them to personally give.

Activities for ADULTS

Read the Myers-Mallory Prayer Guide to familiarize yourself with the areas of ministry referenced below.

1. Complete: A Gathering for Teen Girls is an annual event sponsored by Alabama WMU where girls study God's Word, worship, hear missionary testimonies, and learn how to navigate today's culture, with the goal of helping the next generation catch a vision for God's call on their lives. In advance, print a Mapping My Mission worksheet* for each participant and gather pens and clipboards. Share the story from the Prayer Guide Day 2. Give each person a worksheet, which includes life zones such as work, family, community, and spiritual gifts. Say, "This activity will help us reflect on how our own daily lives can reflect Christ's calling. Through guided prompts, we'll identify how we currently serve and how God may be leading us." After completing the worksheet, invite volunteers to share what they learned and how they hope to follow through. Close by praying that each person will act on what God has shown them, then pray together through the Prayer Guide Day 2 prompts.

2. Lynn Darnell planted Life Church in his hometown, Boaz, in 2022. The church's goal is to be so present in their town that the community would miss them if they were gone. Share aloud the story from Day 4 of the Prayer Guide. Discuss what it means to be a church that would be missed. Talk about your church's current community outreach; then divide into pairs or small groups to brainstorm monthly outreach ideas related to the seasons, the school year or other events that occur in your community. Regather and create a simple outreach plan your missions discipleship or small group could implement monthly or quarterly. Challenge participants to adopt one idea personally or with their family. End the session by praying through the Day 4 prayer prompts.

3. Funds from the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering have helped Alaska Baptists purchase Starlink internet kits to reach remote villages, opening new doors for gospel outreach and church planting. In advance, print the "Alaska" brochure from the Alaska Baptist Resource Network (https://www.alaskabrn.com/wp-content/uploads/AK_Brochure2022.pdf) and use the Connected by Grace prayer guide* to set up four prayer stations. Read aloud the story from the Prayer Guide Day 5. Tell participants they will spend time visiting interactive prayer stations related to Alaska, the technology used to reach remote areas, the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering, and our own personal commitment. Give participants time to rotate through the stations to pray quietly and intentionally. After everyone has visited each station, gather to pray through the Prayer Guide Day 5 prayer prompts.

4. After his own church's revitalization journey, Pastor Neal Butler of Bowers Memorial Baptist Church is now encouraging others in the revitalization process. In advance, print one Encouraged to Encourage worksheet* for each participant. Read the story in the Prayer Guide Day 6. Ask a volunteer to read 1 Thessalonians 5:11. Distribute the worksheets and explain that participants will reflect on people who have encouraged them in their faith journey and identify how they can become encouragers themselves. Allow time for individual reflection or discussion in small groups. Afterward, invite brief sharing, then close the session by praying through the Day 6 prompts.

continued

Activities for ADULTS (continued)

5. Cultivate is a partnership Alabama WMU and the Office of Collegiate and Student Ministries have developed to pray for and encourage Baptist Campus Ministries. In advance, visit alabamawmu.org/bcm and print the Campus Minister Information pages. Cut the pages apart to create a card for each campus minister. Set up three tables for this activity: one with campus minister prayer cards, one with note-writing supplies, and one with a laptop or tablet for signing up to encourage campus ministers and to receive Pause & Pray emails. During the session, read the Prayer Guide Day 8 story and explain that participants will rotate through the stations. At the first table, they will pray for

campus ministers using the cards. At the second table, they will write notes of encouragement. At the third table, they can sign up to adopt a campus minister and to receive Pause & Pray emails. Encourage each person to take a few campus minister prayer cards home to continue praying. Conclude by praying together using the Day 8 prompts.

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

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