



Using Baseball As Missions PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS

Brian Williams says there's not much going on in rural Alaska in the summers to engage kids with the Gospel. That's why Brian – a pastor in the Copper Center area – had a vision for starting a baseball camp ministry.

There was just one missing piece – all the equipment.

But Scotty Goldman, director of the State Board's Office of Global Missions, said God already had a plan for that. Around the same time, someone from a city league athletics group in Alabama called him and said they had a huge amount of surplus equipment – especially for baseball. He connected with Brian, and Brian said it wasn't long before big boxes started arriving.

"God really provided," Brian said.

Scotty says Brian's vision for engaging rural areas is part of the next season of Alabama Baptists' partnership with Alaska Baptists. Funds from the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering help with that in a variety of ways, including covering the shipping costs for the baseball equipment.

Investments like this are "long lasting and have eternal impact," Scotty said.

- Pray for Brian Williams and other pastors in Alaska as they seek to reach even the most remote parts of Alaska with the Gospel.
- Pray for the Alabama Baptist churches who are partnering with churches in Alaska to continue to strengthen those partnerships and send teams to serve there.
- Pray for God to provide resources for the work in Alaska to continue to expand into rural and hard-to-reach areas.



Starting a New Journey CHURCH REVITALIZATION

Southside Baptist Church in Monroeville wasn't sure how much longer it could keep going.

"They knew they were headed in the wrong direction and needed to change," said Steve Dunn, associational missionary for Bethlehem Baptist Association.

Turning to the State Board of Missions for help, Dunn and State Missionary Rob Jackson began walking alongside the church to start a new vision. Then they hit an unexpected obstacle, and things got more difficult. A key leader in the church passed away.

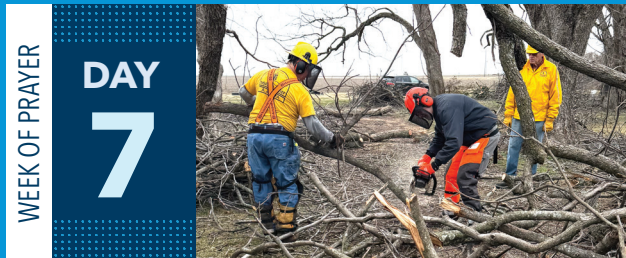
"That took the wind out of their sails," Steve said.

But leaning on the Lord and the support of partners, the church started to walk forward again. At that point, their pastor realized it was time to retire. Steve continued to walk alongside the church as their coach and connected them with a new pastor, Stephen Smith, whom he had been mentoring.

In Stephen's first year, Steve connected Southside to an evangelism strategy from the State Board, and they went from 25 to 50 in attendance and began renovating their building.

"I think a lot of churches get discouraged, and I think they need to realize that perspective can change – just start," he said. "The support and partnership are key."

- Pray for the SBOM's church revitalization team as they help churches find and follow a new vision for the future.
- Pray for Southside to continue to grow and be a light in its community.
- Pray for more churches to see the need for a revitalization journey.



A Full Circle Moment DISASTER RELIEF

Janice Mason had just lost her husband of 21 years when Hurricane Sally rolled into the Alabama Gulf Coast in 2020. She and her daughter sat up through the night listening to the wind batter the house.

"I'm thinking the roof is fixing to come off any second," she said. "I was wondering if I was going to live through the night."

But she did, and the next day, an Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief volunteer found her standing in the yard still processing the storm.

"It was her talking to me and praying with me that got me through it and got me moving again," Janice said.

She looked at the volunteer's ABDR shirt and said, "I'm going to do that too."

Fast forward to 2026, and Janice bumped into someone who looked familiar – the same volunteer she had met in the yard that day when she couldn't wrap her head around what she had lived through.

This time, both were deployed to help those affected by Winter Storm Fern in the Mississippi Delta.

"It's all God," Janice said. "It's all about what you're doing for others. They see it, we feel it, and God blesses it."

- Pray for Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers to have wisdom and endurance as they go out to serve those surrounded by tragedy and devastation.
- Pray for God to raise up more people to serve as volunteers.
- Pray for God to comfort those affected by storms and use ABDR volunteers to share the hope He offers.



Ministry to Women ALABAMA WMU

In a lot of ways, Shannon Maddox's call to missions and ministry was built by Alabama WMU. "I grew up in Parkway Baptist in Auburn, and I did Girls in Action there as a young girl, Mission Friends before that," she said.

She also went to Missions Adventure Camp and later served as a cabin leader.

"I was really enthralled with the stories of missionaries being willing to go and immerse themselves in a different culture for the sake of the Gospel," Shannon said.

That led to her serving as a summer missionary, then as a campus minister. She said she "can't count how many countries" she led teams of students to serve in during that time.

"It all was part of my journey to follow God's calling to serve and mobilize young people to missions," she said.

Now Shannon is continuing that call by serving the women of Alabama. Shannon has helped develop a strategy that will assist in equipping and connecting women's leaders across the state.

"Good ministry is already happening in churches around the state, and we want to undergird that with support and say, 'Hey, you're not alone in this,'" she said.

- Pray for Shannon as she talks with leaders of women's ministry around the state to find better ways to resource them.
- Pray for Alabama WMU leadership as they prepare to expand their ministry to Alabama Baptist Women, which includes Alabama WMU, women's ministry, girls' ministry, and ministry wives.



2026 PRAYER GUIDE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR STATE MISSIONS



YOUR GIFTS HELP SUPPORT THESE GREAT COMMISSION MINISTRIES:

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

Myers-Mallory.org



A Prayer Journey WEEK OF PRAYER OVERVIEW

During the next week, you're invited to take a journey. This journey won't require a passport, a plane ticket, or even a suitcase. But it will take you to places as far away as Alaska and as close as communities in our own state. It will introduce you to compassionate nurses and dedicated disaster relief volunteers. It will open your eyes to other cultures and age groups.

Your only investment in this journey is time and a willing heart. Your vehicle is prayer.

You won't be alone on this journey. Each day, you'll be joined by Alabama Baptists across our state, as together we lift up key ministries and the people being reached by them. Your prayers this week will touch people you may never meet, open doors you may never see, and strengthen ministries across Alabama in ways only God can measure.

As you pray, you'll also be invited to consider how your gifts through the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering become the fuel God uses to carry these ministries forward.

- [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 relationships between Alabama churches and missionaries around the world to be fostered through Partnership Missions.](#)
- [Pray for Church Revitalization to take place in churches and leaders across Alabama.](#)



Fulfilling a "Unique" Calling ALABAMA WMU

Catherine Duke says as a nurse, she has a "unique opportunity" – she's with people at a time in their lives when they are often more willing to talk about faith. So she takes those opportunities, as do other members of the Alabama Baptist Nursing Fellowship.

"This is the whole premise of the BNF, 'to empower, educate and encourage healthcare professionals to use their healthcare skills to be on mission for Christ,'" said Catherine, who serves as team leader for Alabama BNF.

Last year, Alabama BNF members blessed the hands of 823 graduating senior nurses across 19 college campuses, prayed for them and put a Bible in their hands.

"To be able to impact that many nursing students as they're going out to the field, that's amazing," Catherine said. "To me it's one of the biggest opportunities we have."

It's a big statement, because they have a lot of opportunities. Each year, they provide hundreds of survival kits to women and children through hospitals in the state and take part in several medical missions events.

They also put on health fairs all over Alabama and, in addition to medical screenings, offer Bibles and reading glasses.

- [Pray for nurses all over Alabama to use their gifts as an opportunity to demonstrate and speak the love of Christ.](#)
- [Pray for Alabama BNF to continue fulfilling its mission to mobilize healthcare professionals for the sake of the Gospel.](#)
- [Pray for the people they serve in hospitals and at health fairs to come to faith in Jesus.](#)



Meeting Needs Fast DISASTER RELIEF

When a disaster happens, whether it's a tornado, a hurricane, a flood or something else, one thing remains constant – people need a way to eat. And now Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief has a way to start handing out hot meals faster – a new Quick Response Kitchen.

"In essence, it's built just like a food truck, so it has some of the same equipment we use in the Big Kitchen but also a gas stove and a serving window," said Mark Wakefield, state disaster relief strategist.

ABDR's Big Kitchen feeding unit can churn out 20,000 meals a day but can take two or three days to set up. The Quick Response Kitchen can be ready to go quickly with easy meals like hamburgers, hot dogs or chili and can serve up to 1,000 meals each day.

"We are excited to have the addition of our Quick Response Kitchen because it's going to allow us to minister to survivors within the first 24 to 48 hours after a disaster, which can be their most critical time of need," Mark said. "We feel like it will round out our ministry by allowing us to not only assess their needs for recovery but also provide meals for them as they come to terms with their situation."

- [Pray that the Quick Response Kitchen will be a tool for ABDR volunteers, also known as the Yellow Shirt Army, to meet physical needs and share the hope of the Gospel.](#)
- [Pray for those affected by disaster to find peace and comfort in Christ.](#)
- [Pray for more volunteers to be trained in feeding and other disaster relief ministries.](#)



Reaching the Haitian Community CHURCH PLANTING

Two years ago, Theron Hawkins got an unexpected call – Danny Wiggins was seeing more and more Haitians attend his church, County Line Baptist in Coffee County.

Danny knew they could use a church in their heart language. That's how Theron got the call – he knew Haitian Creole from his time planting churches in North Carolina.

"Eager to answer this call, I detailed the resources and support we would need to establish a new congregation," said Theron, pastor of Next Level Church in Tuscaloosa. "With the generous backing and gifts of County Line Baptist Church, the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions, and the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering and Cooperative Program, we secured a meeting space in Enterprise that became the first home for our new church."

Every week, he and his wife made the trek from Tuscaloosa to Enterprise, and the church – New Life Haitian Baptist – grew from a handful meeting for Bible study to more than 100 in six months. They eventually found a bigger location in Dadeville, and now they're looking toward planting another Haitian congregation in Dothan.

"We have witnessed God's hand at work, transforming lives and bringing hope to many," Theron said.

- [Pray for Theron Hawkins as he continues to lead New Life Haitian Baptist Church and plans to start another church soon.](#)
- [Pray for God to continue to draw Haitians to faith in Christ.](#)
- [Pray for God to raise up more planters to start new churches across the state.](#)



The Week of Prayer for State Missions is a concentrated time of prayer for Alabama Baptists. Southern Baptist churches across Alabama 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](https://myers-mallory.org) or the QR code below.

