

2017 Appalachian Christmas Outreach

A Ministry of North Carolina Baptist Men

The Appalachian Coalfields Ministry, sponsored by NC Baptist Men, seeks to help meet the physical and spiritual needs of people living in the Appalachian Area. One of the greatest ministry needs in this area occurs at Christmastime. We are calling on churches statewide to respond to this need through **APPALACHIAN CHRISTMAS OUTREACH** in 2017. Our goal is to collect 10,000 filled backpacks for distribution.

WAYS CHURCHES, FAMILIES, and INDIVIDUALS CAN HELP:

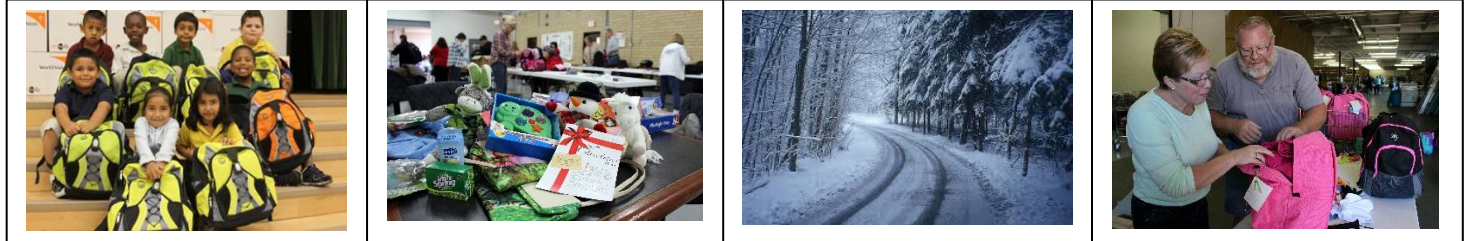
Your church and association: _____
Contact person's name: _____
Contact's Email : _____
Contact's Phone number(s): _____

- 1) Our church will **COLLECT/FILL BACKPACKS AND TAKE THEM TO THE NEAREST COLLECTION SITE**. State-wide collection will take place **Saturday, November 4** at 25-30 sites across the state. We will access information on what items to collect and how to pack them from the NCBM website at www.baptistsonmission.org/aco2017 (Information is also listed on the reverse of this page).
- 2) Our church will be willing to **BE A COLLECTION SITE FOR OUR AREA** for Christmas backpacks. We will have volunteers ready to meet and assist those who might bring backpacks by on Saturday, November 4 from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. We can have either an enclosed trailer or a box truck available for the backpacks to be loaded into for later transport (or will be able to store them in our church until we can transport them). A volunteer from our church will then transport the backpacks to either Shelby Mission Camp or Red Springs Mission Camp on Friday, November 10.
- 3) Our church would like to **PARTNER WITH AN APPALACHIAN MINISTRY/CHURCH** to conduct a Christmas event. Event may include preparation of food, games, gospel presentation, etc. We understand that we would deliver and distribute filled backpacks to the ministry site at the event and participate in ministry activities, which will be planned according to the desires and direction of the ministry center/church. Teams wishing to participate must register through NCBM's Appalachian Coalfields Partnership. Instructions will be sent to the team leader.
- 4) Our church can send volunteers to **WORK A DAY AT SHELBY MISSION CAMP or RED SPRINGS MISSION CAMP** to process the backpacks that are collected from across the state. This will include examining the backpacks to make sure they include needed materials, placing the Christmas story in each one, praying over them, sorting them according to age and gender, and preparing them for transport. This will take place from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm on Saturday, November 11. Place a check by the mission camp below that you would be available to work at. *(We will determine how many volunteers are needed at each site and confirm with you beforehand).*

____ Shelby Mission Camp- Sat. November 11
_____ Volunteers (approximate number)

____ Red Springs Mission Camp – Sat., November 11
_____ Volunteers (approximate number)

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BACKPACK COLLECTION:

Our goal is to collect 10,000 backpacks of items to be distributed to Appalachian children in areas of need in December of 2017. The state-wide collection day for 2017 is **Saturday, November 4** from 9am to 3 pm. Twenty-five to thirty collection sites will be set up across the state for churches to bring their backpacks. Specific sites will be listed on the Baptists On Mission website later in the year. These **zippered school backpacks** should each include:

- 1) **School supplies such as crayons, notebook paper, pencils, pens, composition books, folders, erasers and rulers**
- 2) **Small items of NEW clothing such as winter hats, gloves, socks, underwear, scarf, rolled t-shirts, etc.**
- 3) **Small pop-top canned food such as ravioli, tuna, beef stew, vegetables, fruit**
- 4) **At least one NEW, age appropriate non-breakable toy. Examples: small cars, balls, dolls, small stuffed animals, yo-yos, jump rope, sidewalk chalk, Slinky, card games, Legos, other (no toy weapons, please!)**
- 5) **Hygiene items including toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, washcloth, brush or comb, shampoo, deodorant (try to fit these items into a one gallon Ziploc bag).**
- 6) **A children's Bible or youth Bible (no particular version is required)**
- 7) **Fresh, wrapped candy (no chocolate please, as it may melt)**
- 8) **A copy of "[The Christmas Story](#)" and a "[Mailbox Bible Club](#)" enrollment.****

***We ask that you enclose a copy of the Christmas story in each bag as well as an enrollment card for the Appalachian Regional Ministry Mailbox Bible Club. The Mailbox Club is an ongoing correspondence discipleship program that has been very effective throughout Appalachia. (These documents can be downloaded from the ACO website: www.baptistsonmission.org/aco2017). Packing hint: The Bible, Christmas Story flyer, and Mailbox card seem to fit best in the front pocket of the backpack.*

Each backpack should be labeled boy or girl as well as the appropriate age. Age group labels should be 3-5, 6-9 or 10-14. Labels should be on cardstock or index card and attached to the backpack in a secure manner. We suggest punching a hole in the card and using ribbon or twine to tie the tag on. Please do not try to use masking tape for this, as it will likely come off during transport.

Please prepare each backpack as you would for your own child or grandchild, with new items, not used ones. Also, please include items from each category listed above. This quality gift may be the only Christmas present this child receives, and will be a witness of Christ's love.

FOUR WAYS YOU AND YOUR CHURCH CAN HELP WITH THE 2017 CHRISTMAS BACKPACK COLLECTION ARE LISTED ON THE BACK.

"Thank you for helping us meet this great need. Your gifts will mean so much and may make an eternal difference in a child's life!"

For more information contact Mark Abernathy, NC Baptist Men at mabernathy@ncbaptist.org or 919-459-5607 or visit our website at www.baptistsonmission.org. (Mission Projects/United States/Appalachian Coalfields/ Christmas Outreach) or at www.baptistsonmission.org/aco2017