

Baptist Men's Day

BAPTISTS ON MISSION 

JANUARY 28, 2024

IDEAS FOR PLANNING BAPTIST MEN'S DAY IN YOUR CHURCH

The fourth Sunday in January is the designated day each year for Baptist Men's Day. Churches use this day to remind their entire congregation of the importance of Baptist Men's ministry within the church, community, and the world. The 90th observance of Baptist Men's Day this year falls on January 22. But if January 28 is not a convenient date for Baptist Men's Day in your church, please feel free to plan it for any another Sunday.

Here are some tips to help you prepare for this important day in your church:

- ◇ Form a planning team. This team should reflect the size of your church and Baptist Men's group. Those who comprise the team might include the church Baptist Men's director, the Men's Ministries director, the pastor or assigned staff member, and any other men as deemed necessary.
- ◇ Your planning team should begin meeting six to eight weeks before Baptist Men's Day. Look toward accomplishment of the following:
 - Coordinate the date on the church calendar.
 - Determine what you hope to accomplish.
 - Plan activities related to these goals.
 - Determine responsibility for each activity.
 - Make assignments.
 - Secure needed materials.
 - Keep track of the progress.

Six Weeks Before...

- ◇ Select a special ministry project to be completed in conjunction with Baptist Men's Day. (see special section on p. 2)

Visit our website at www.baptistsonmission.org for more Men's Ministry resources. Go to "Programs/Men's Ministry/ Baptist Men's Day".

"Living Sent"

John 20:21

- ◇ Plan a Sunday morning prayer breakfast along with Baptist Men's Day. (See p. 2)
- ◇ Consult with your pastor about the Sunday morning service. Ask your pastor about adopting the ideas - or similar ideas - suggested on page 3. If your men do not participate in the service, ask your pastor to bring an uplifting message to men or to suggest a guest speaker to do so.
- ◇ Plan a recognition time during the morning service for men involved in missions and ministries through your local Baptist Men. Sample certificates are available from BOM—mabernathy@ncbaptist.org.
- ◇ Select men to share testimonies of missions and ministry involvement in each adult Sunday School class.
- ◇ Select men to share, during the worship service, a testimony of how they have experienced God at work in their life.

One Month Before...

- ◇ Place announcements of BMD activities in the church bulletin and newsletter.
- ◇ Have a display of Men's Ministries materials and photos of your activities over the past year ready for display in the church foyer.
- ◇ Enlist men to make announcements about BMD activities in all adult Sunday School classes for each of the next four Sundays.
- ◇ Begin practice for men's choir.
- ◇ Begin creation of a short PowerPoint of the past year's Baptist Men's activities to be shown during the worship service.
- ◇ Confirm with those responsible for all activities you have decided upon.
- ◇ Check progress of all plans and correct anything not progressing as scheduled.

BAPTIST MEN'S DAY SATURDAY EVENTS

Plan a special event for the Saturday before Baptist Men's Day. Some suggestions are listed below. You may think of others.

Conduct a **Handyman Ministry Day**, dedicated to helping those who may not be physically able to do simple home chores. This can be for church members, and/or as an outreach to the community. (This may launch a new ministry!)

Conduct an **Outdoor Ministry Event** (skeet, archery, etc.) and/or wild game supper, incorporated with a men's worship rally Saturday night.

Plan a **Men's Golf Tournament** or other outing that unchurched men could be invited to. Any proceeds to go to missions.

Plan a showing of the opening session of **Tony Evans' Kingdom Men Rising** series. (Or similar Men's Ministry video study) Leader's packet is available at Lifeway.com. Plan a meal, and invite unchurched men. Incorporate worshipful singing, small group discussion (guide available) and a prayer time. Use this as a kick-off to doing the rest of the series over the next few weeks or months.

BAPTIST MEN'S DAY SUNDAY GATHERING

If you did not plan Saturday events, a Sunday morning men's breakfast gathering may be an excellent way to start your Baptist Men's Day celebration. It allows men to gather for fellowship, a spiritual challenge, and prayer before the activities of the day.

This gathering can serve three purposes: it calls men together to discover what God is doing in their lives and the life of the church; it is a good way to encourage ongoing relationship-building among men; and it can be used as a challenge to begin small groups (prayer or book study) if they do not already exist in your church.

If your church does not currently have a ministry to men, this might be a good time to start one. Contact the Baptist on Mission Office for starter information. mabernathy@ncbaptist.org

Some churches ask the church hostess to prepare a breakfast for this gathering. In others, men prepare the food themselves or meet in a local restaurant.

Suggested Schedule:

- ◇ **25 minutes:** Breakfast and fellowship.
- ◇ **3 minutes:** Welcome & opening prayer.
- ◇ **10 minutes:** Promote opportunities for your men, including: Disaster Relief Training, Local, State, National, or International Mission Projects. Go to our website for ideas.

Also Promote:

Special Baptist Men's Day Offering. Consider taking up a special offering to help in one of several on-going ministry needs. To learn more, go to www.baptistsonmission.org. Click on "Donate" to see a list and description of possibilities. You can give online or make checks payable to Baptists on Mission, PO Box 1107, Cary, NC 27512. Put the name of the particular ministry you wish to give to in the memo line.

NC Missions Conference. Plan to attend the NC Baptist Missions Conference, which will be held April 5-6, 2024 at Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Charlotte. Call the Baptists on Mission office at 919-459-5596, or go online to register at www.baptistsonmission.org.

Men's Outdoor Weekend. Plan join us for an inspiring weekend of outdoor fun and fellowship for men on May 3-4 2024 at Camp Caraway in Asheboro. Skeet, rifles, pistol shoot, tomahawk throw, archery, fishing, and more!

- ◇ **10 minutes:** Explanation and highlights of the Men's Ministries program in your church or a challenge to begin one. Go to the website at www.baptistsonmission.org to view information about how to have a well-rounded ministry to men in your church on a consistent basis. Cast a vision for your men of how this might look in your church. Download any number of Men's Ministry handouts, including the manual "Men's Ministries: A Resource for Starting and Strengthening Men's Ministries In Your Church" or show a Men's Ministry PowerPoint presentation. [Click on Programs/Men's Ministry and go to the Events and Resources page]
- ◇ **5 minutes:** Show a Baptists on Mission video segment. BOM has a Vimeo channel. Mission videos depicting a variety of mission opportunities—such as Hurricane Recovery, International and National Missions, Mission Camps, Handyman, and more, can be downloaded and/or shown. Visit www.baptistsonmission.org. Vimeo link is at bottom of the BOM webpage.
- ◇ **7 minutes:** Singing of two praise choruses

10 minutes: Scripture & Theme Interpretation

Theme: Living Sent
Scripture: John 20: 21

Many men really enjoy following the NFL, and can't wait until opening day each year. This used to be pretty much a September (opening weekend) to early February (the Super Bowl) pursuit. Following the Super Bowl, most men turned their attention to other sports and the NFL became a distant thought. Now, however, it seems the obsession with the NFL lasts all year long. March through July, sports radio and television airwaves are filled with talk about the upcoming draft – evaluating each team's needs, ranking the potential draftees, and mock draft after mock draft! Then there are endless discussion about who is going to be a free agent and where they might go, as well as possible trades that teams should make to fill their needs. By July it's time for training camp and pre-season games, and, before you know it, opening day is here again!

In addition, once the season begins, the NFL is an every-day-of-the-week point of interest and discussion for many men. Most games occur on Sunday, with Monday night and Thursday night thrown in for good measure. Monday and Tuesday involves digesting each game from every angle. Replay after replay. Who played well, who didn't? Who was injured and how long will they be out? Did such and such coach make good decisions? What should he have done differently? By Wednesday the attention turns to the next Sunday's slate of games. What matchups are compelling? Who gains the edge from them? What is the betting line? Saturday college football whets the appetite for what's to come. And here we are at Sunday again!

What if Christian men took our faith in Christ as seriously as some take an interest in the NFL. What might that look like? Sunday would not be the beginning and end of our weekly interaction with God, but simply a continuation of it. Monday through Saturday would not be dominated by secular conversation and *anything-but* Christ like behavior. Instead, each day would begin with a thankful acknowledgment of God's sovereignty in our life before our feet hit the floor. It might continue with two minutes of complete silence as we focus on nothing other than being in the presence of Christ each morning before heading out the door. Conscience thought throughout the day of how Christ would want us to react with those we encounter could turn the way we see the world, and our place in it, on its ear. We would begin to hunger for God's word each day. "Living Sent" means that we always strive to see the world through Jesus' eyes. Opportunity to share his love and the incredible meaning he brings each of us is all around us at every moment of every day. Let's dedicate ourselves to living as the "sent ones" he has called us to be!

- Mark Abernathy, *Baptists on Mission*

10 minutes: Discussion

Ask men to gather in small groups of three to discuss the following questions:

- ◆ Why do you think it is easy for men—even Christian men, to be so passionate about secular pursuits, such as the NFL
- ◆ What kind of actions—maybe just small changes in our everyday routine—can we make that would lead us to a closer daily walk with Christ?
- ◆ If we dedicated ourselves to doing this, what kind of difference you anticipate it might make in our lives?

10 minutes: Prayer time in small groups.

Divide into groups of three. Encourage each man to pray that God would turn secular passions and pursuits in our lives into a hunger and passion for living as "sent ones" for him each and every day. The leader will close the session with prayer around the nine-minute mark.

BAPTIST MEN'S DAY SERVICES

Baptist Men's Day is an opportunity to highlight the contributions of the laymen of the church. Make this a special day for them. By doing so, the family is strengthened. There is great need in our society for strong Christian male role models. Recognizing the contributions of the men of the church, make those role models visible.

Work with your pastor to plan the service. Recognize one or two outstanding members of the Baptist Men. Present them with a certificate of appreciation. (Sample certificates are available from BOM—mabernathy@ncbaptist.org)

Enlist men to hand out bulletins, take up the offering, and sing in a men's choir. You may also want to enlist men to read Scripture, give a short testimony, or share a meaningful song.

Also consider building the service around men sharing personal testimonies of how God is working in their lives. Give at least two men five minutes each to share. Include participants of local, national and/or international mission projects, as well as individuals who have become active in men's small groups or other spiritual development activities for men.

You might also consider allowing a time to let the men report on their activities from their Mission Action Team, small group, or prayer team during the past year. Ask the pastor to sum up these activities and to bring an encouraging message for the future.

2024 CALENDAR DATES—NC BAPTISTS ON MISSION

JANUARY

19 - 20 BOM Board of Directors Meeting - Caraway
20 NCBOM Annual Business Meeting - Caraway

FEBRUARY

20 Region 1 Mission Rally
20 Region 4 Mission Rally
20 Region 6 Mission Rally
22 Region 2 Mission Rally
22 Region 5 Mission Rally
22 Region 8 Mission Rally
22 Region 10 Mission Rally
24 DR Training - Jacksonville
26 Region 3 Mission Rally
26 Region 7 Mission Rally
26 Region 9 Mission Rally

MARCH

9 DR Training - Raleigh
23 DR Training - Huntersville

APRIL

5 - 6 Baptists Missions Conference, Hickory Grove
Baptist Church, Charlotte
20 DR Training - Forest City

MAY

3-4 Men's Outdoor Weekend
4 DR Training - Dillsboro
18 - 19 Deep Impact **KIDS** - Red Springs Mission Camp

JUNE

10 - 13 Deep Impact *HALF* - *Shelby Mission Camp*
10 - 14 Deep Impact **KIDS** - Hendersonville, NC
10 - 15 Deep Impact - Shelby Mission Camp
17 - 21 Deep Impact **KIDS** - Shelby Mission Camp
17 - 22 Deep Impact - Hendersonville
23 - 26 Deep Impact **KIDS** Mini - Charity Mission Center
24 - 29 Deep Impact - Winston Salem
27 - 30 Deep Impact **KIDS** Mini - Red Springs Mission
Camp
30 - July 6 Deep Impact - Caswell

JULY

1 - 6 Deep Impact **KIDS** - Caswell (TBD)
6 - 13 Deep Impact - Cuba
8 - 12 Deep Impact **KIDS** - Red Springs Mission Camp
8 - 13 Deep Impact - Morehead City
14 - 17 Deep Impact **KIDS** Mini - Morehead City FBC
15 - 20 Deep Impact - Columbia, SC
20 - 27 Deep Impact - Puerto Rico
22 - 25 Deep Impact *HALF* - *Charity Mission Center*
22 - 27 Deep Impact - Charity Mission Center
29 - Aug 1 Deep Impact **KIDS** Mini - Blowing Rock
Conference Center

AUGUST

16 - 17 BOM Board of Directors Meeting - Caraway
17 BOM Advisory Council & Board - Caraway
19 Region 1 Mission Celebration
19 Region 4 Mission Celebration
19 Region 6 Mission Celebration
20 Region 2 Mission Celebration
20 Region 5 Mission Celebration
20 Region 10 Mission Celebration
22 Region 3 Mission Celebration
22 Region 7 Mission Celebration
22 Region 9 Mission Celebration

SEPTEMBER

1-30 *NC Missions Offering Month*
20 - 22 Deep Impact **KIDS** - Charity Mission Center

OCTOBER

18 - 20 Deep Impact - Red Springs (Fall Retreat)

NOVEMBER

1-2 DR Blue Hat Training - Shelby
7 Men's Worship Rally - Region 2
12 Men's Worship Rally - Region 4
14 Men's Worship Rally - Region 6
19 Men's Worship Rally - Region 8
21 Men's Worship Rally - Region 10