



2018 Appalachian Christmas Outreach

Appalachian Coalfields Ministry, sponsored by NC Baptists on Mission, seeks to 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 2018.

GOAL and COLLECTION DATE:

The statewide goal is to collect **12,000 backpacks** of items to be distributed to Appalachian children in areas of need in December of 2018. The state-wide collection day for 2018 is **Saturday, November 3** 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. **We encourage churches to begin collecting and filling the packs early – and throughout the year.**

AGE GROUPING and LABELING.

Each backpack should be labeled boy or girl as well as the appropriate age. New: Age groupings for this year are 4-7, 8-10 or 11-15. Due to labels falling off in previous years, we are going to a ribbon system for labeling starting in 2018. A **royal blue** (or similar) ribbon will indicate a **boy's backpack**. A **pink** ribbon will indicate a **girl's backpack**. In addition, a **yellow** ribbon will indicate that the backpack is for **ages 4-7**, a **green** ribbon for ages **8-10**, and a **red** ribbon for ages **11-15**.

Please prepare each backpack as you would for your own child or grandchild, with new items, not used ones. 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.

“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!”

ITEMS TO COLLECT:

Each zippered school backpack should each include:

1) **Small items of NEW clothing** such as winter hats, gloves, socks, underwear, scarf, rolled t-shirts, etc.

2) **Small pop-top canned food** such as ravioli, tuna, beef stew, vegetables, fruit (*3-4 cans*)

3) **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!*)

4) **Hygiene items** including toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, washcloth, brush or comb, shampoo, deodorant (*please fit these items into a one gallon Ziploc bag so they will not leak out*).

5) **A children's or youth Bible** (*no particular version is required*)

6) **Fresh, wrapped candy** (*no chocolate please, as it may melt – and no peanut products please due to allergies*)

7) **A copy of "The Christmas Story"** (*downloadable and printable .pdf found on NCBM website*)

For more information contact

NC BAPTISTS ON MISSION

Mark Abernathy
mabernathy@ncbaptist.org
919-459-5607

Or visit our webpage at:

www.baptistsonmission.org/aco2018