

2017 Appalachian Christmas Outreach



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.

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.

"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