



# 2020 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 2020.

## GOAL and COLLECTION DATE:

The statewide goal is to collect **18,000 backpacks** of items to be distributed to Appalachian children in areas of need in December of 2020. The state-wide collection day for 2020 is **Saturday, November 7** from 9am to noon. Thirty plus collection sites will be set up across the state for churches to bring their backpacks to. Specific sites will be listed on the Baptists On Mission website in September. **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. Age groupings for this year are 4-7, 8-10; 11-14; and 15-17 Due to labels falling off in previous years, we have gone to a ribbon system for labeling the backpacks. 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**, a **red** ribbon for ages **11-14**; and a white ribbon for ages **15-17**.

**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. Please do not neglect to put in a Bible! This may be the only Christmas present this child receives, and will be a witness of Christ's love.

## ITEMS TO COLLECT

Each zippered school backpack should include:

- 1) At least three **ITEMS OF NEW CLOTHING** such as winter hats, gloves, socks, scarf, etc.
- 2) **SMALL POP-TOP CANS OF FOOD** such as ravioli, tuna, beef stew, vegetables, fruit (*3-4 cans*)
- 3) At least one or two **NEW, AGE APPROPRIATE TOYS** Examples: small cars, balls, dolls, small stuffed animals, yo-yos, jump rope, sidewalk chalk, Slinky, card games, Legos, other (*no toy weapons, please!*) For older youth category, substitute appropriate item for toy. No pocketknives! (*See website for suggestions.*)
- 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.*)
- 5) **FRESH, WRAPPED CANDY** (*no chocolate please, as it may melt – and no peanut products please due to allergies*)
- 6) A **CHILDREN'S or YOUTH BIBLE** (*no particular version is required*) **This is the most important thing that goes into the pack!**
- 7) A **COPY OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY** (*downloadable and printable .pdf found on website*)

For more information contact

## NC BAPTISTS ON MISSION

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More information and specific details available on our ACO webpage at:

[www.baptistsonmission.org/aco](http://www.baptistsonmission.org/aco)

**“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!”**