

BAPTISTS ON MISSION



GLORIFYING GOD BY MEETING HUMAN NEEDS IN JESUS' NAME.

FALL 2026



Read about the milestone in
Helene recovery, page 15.

PAGE 7
Living Sent Conference

PAGE 18
1,000th home in Helene
Recovery

PAGE 53
North Carolina Missions
Offering



Mission Statement: Baptists on Mission exists to glorify God by involving churches and christians in meeting human needs in Jesus' name.



BAPTISTS ON MISSION STAFF

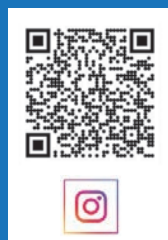
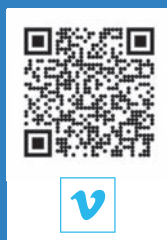
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Baptists on Mission is funded by the North Carolina Missions Offering.

www.baptistsonmission.org

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Are You Ready to Live Sent?



In John 20:21, Jesus said, “As the Father has sent me, so send I you.” Jesus was saying, as the Father made me a missionary, I’m making you a missionary.

Jesus’ followers were ordinary people in every way. They made mistakes, had bad attitudes and failures at times, just look at Peter.

Jesus’ disciples were an interesting bunch. One was a zealot, a tax collector, four or more were fishermen, others were tradesmen or farmers. Ordinary people. That’s who Jesus was talking to when he said “As the Father has sent me, so send I you.”

They were just a bunch of average people. But look what they went on to do. Once they gave their all to Jesus, He used them to change the world. Are you ready to change the world for Jesus?

Today as you read this edition of Baptists on Mission magazine, I’d like for you to think about how you can “Live Sent”, not only as you go to serve at a mission camp or rebuild center or serve nationally or internationally, but how you can be a missionary right where God has placed you with your family, friends, co-workers, in your neighborhood or other places.

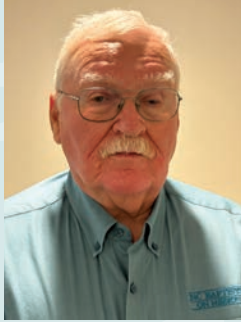
Are you ready to LIVE SENT?

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Brunson".

Richard Brunson
Executive Director-Treasurer
Baptists on Mission

**LIVING
SENT**
CONFERENCE
CALLED → GIFTED → SENT





Gardening for Christ

Living out in the country as a small child allowed me the freedom to roam and explore. It also gave my family the opportunity to plant a garden and harvest what the Lord blessed us with. With the harvest of fresh potatoes, green beans, butter beans, tomatoes, and sweet corn, came the enjoyment of eating the fresh produce. When thinking of a garden, most people want to focus on the bountiful harvest and leave out all the hard work. A successful garden includes preparing the soil, managing the proper soil pH and nutrient content, weed control, pest control, and even harvesting. All of this is hard work that includes sweat, sore muscles, and a tired body at day's end. Our reference book for life, the Holy Bible, refers to agriculture in teaching us about life.

During the creation, God created the only perfect garden. Adam and Eve lived in this perfect paradise until they disobeyed God's instructions. The consequences of that sin were that the ground was cursed requiring mankind to labor to grow food. All the hard work required in a garden is because of that first sin in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve were the first to sin, but many have sinned since then, including me. None of us are perfect, but that doesn't mean that I cannot dream about a garden without weeds and insects.

Our lives as a Christian are kind of like a garden. Before being saved, a Christian shows you love and develops a relationship with you, like we prepare the soil and plant the seed. Once born again, we are mentored by other Christians in growing closer to God, which is comparable to the gardener watering and caring for the plants. As a Christian we fight temptation daily, as the gardener fights weeds and pests. The gardener wins the battle when the vegetables are ready to be dug, pulled, or picked and consumed. We as Christians eventually win the battle when we live eternally with our Savior.

I continue living out in the country on a small farm. Upon getting up in the morning, I look out at the garden and consider what must be done. Once all the hard work in the garden is completed and harvest is done, I always consider not having a garden next year. However, the challenge of preparing the soil, planting the seed, caring for the crop, and harvesting the rewards always provides that challenge which I need to keep my aging body going. Baptists on Mission also provides opportunities for each of us that allow us to prepare the soil and plant the seed for a non-believer. The Lord can use you to show His love and touch the heart of someone needing to know Him!

Tim Etheridge

Event Dates

2026

JUNE

- 6 DI Kids One-Day Mission Colerain BC
- 13 DI Kids One-Day Mission Veritas Church Fayetteville
- 15-19 Deep Impact Shelby Mission Center
- 15-19 Deep Impact Charity Mission Center
- 22-26 Deep Impact Lumberton Rebuild Site
- 29-July 3 Deep Impact Shelby Mission Center

JULY

- 6-10 Deep Impact Red Springs Mission Center
- 11 DI Kids One-Day Mission Beverly Hills BC Rockingham
- 13-17 Deep Impact Lumberton Rebuild Site
- 18 DI Kids One-Day Mission Shiloh BC Garner
- 20-24 Deep Impact Red Springs Mission Center
- 27-31 Deep Impact Charity Mission Center

AUGUST

- 1 DI Kids One-Day Mission Sardis BC Smithfield
- 14-15 BOM Board Meeting, Caraway Conference Center
- 15 BOM Advisory Council Meeting w/Board, Caraway
- 17 Region Rally 1, 4, 6
- 18 Region Rally 2, 5, 8, 10
- 20 Region Rally 3, 7, 9

SEPTEMBER

- 1-30 NC Missions Offering Month
- 5 Construction Skills Training Red Springs
- 12 DI Kids One-Day Mission Salem BC Apex

OCTOBER

- 3 Construction Skills Training Shelby
- 3 DI Kids One Day Mission Cross Road BC Asheboro

NOVEMBER

- 5 Region 2 Men's Worship Rally
- 10 Region 4 Men's Worship Rally
- 12 Region 6 Men's Worship Rally
- 19 Region 8 Men's Worship Rally
- 21 Marriage Conference
- 30 Region 10 Men's Worship Rally



2027

JANUARY

- 22-23 BOM Board Meeting
- 22 BOM Advisory Council Meeting w/Board, Caraway
- 23 BOM Annual Business Meeting, 1:00 pm, Caraway
- 26-29 National SBDR Roundtable - Charlotte, NC

FEBRUARY

- 16 Regional Rallies - 1,4,6
- 20 DR Training - Leland, NC
- 20 Construction Skills Training - Charity
- 22 Regional Rallies - 2,5,8,10
- 23 Regional Rallies - 3,7,9

MARCH

- 6 DR Training - Edenton, NC
- 13 Construction Skills Training - Red Springs
- 20 DR Training - Winston Salem, NC
- 20 Construction Skills Training - Shelby

APRIL

- 2-3 Living Sent Conference - Charlotte, NC
- 17 DR Training - Lenoir, NC
- 30 - May 1 Men's Outdoor Weekend - Caraway

MAY

- 1 DR Training - Asheville, NC

JUNE

- 7-11 Deep Impact Week - TBD
- 14-18 Deep Impact Week - TBD (2 locations)
- 21 - 25 Deep Impact Week - TBD

JULY

- 12-16 Deep Impact Week - TBD
- 19-23 Deep Impact Week - TBD (2 locations)

AUGUST

- 2-6 Deep Impact Week - TBD
- 23 Regional Rallies - 1,4,6
- 24 Regional Rallies - 2,5,8,10
- 26 Regional Rallies - 3,7,9

SEPTEMBER

- 10 -11 Igniting the Hearts of Men Conference
- 25 Construction Skills Training - Charity

OCTOBER

- 9 Construction Skills Training - Red Springs
- 16 Construction Skills Training - Shelby

NOVEMBER

- 5-6 Blue Hat Training, Shelby
- 6 ACO Statewide Collection Day
- 11 Region 1 Men's Worship Rally
- 12-13 ACO Processing Day, Shelby/Red Springs
- 16 Region 3 Men's Worship Rally
- 18 Region 5 Men's Worship Rally
- 22 Region 7 Men's Worship Rally
- 30 Region 9 Men's Worship Rally

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE AUGUST 2026 REGIONAL MISSION RALLIES!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THIS EXCITING EVENT FOR MEN, WOMEN AND YOUTH!

► **REGION 1**

Monday, August 17

Ballard's Bridge Baptist Church 3025
Virginia Rd
Tyner, NC 27980

► **REGION 2**

Tuesday, August 18

Pinetops Baptist Church
710 W Hamlet St
Pinetops, NC 27864

► **REGION 3**

Thursday, August 20

Charity Mission Center
1333 W Charity Rd
Rose Hill, NC 28458

► **REGION 4**

Monday, August 17

Holly Springs Baptist Church
385 Holly Springs Church Rd
Broadway, NC 27505

► **REGION 5**

Tuesday, August 18

Lebanon Baptist Church
4635 Hicone Rd
Greensboro, NC 27405

► **REGION 6**

Monday, August 17

Benton's Cross Roads Baptist Church
109 E Lawyers Rd
Unionville, NC 28110

► **REGION 7**

Thursday, August 20

Fishing Creek Arbor Baptist Church
2446 Fishing Creek Arbor Rd
Wilkesboro, NC 28697

► **REGION 8**

Tuesday, August 18

Lincoln Avenue Baptist Church
618 S Grove St
Lincolnton, NC 28092

► **REGION 9**

Thursday, August 20

West Burnsville Baptist Church
222 203 N Main Street
Burnsville, NC 28714

► **REGION 10**

Tuesday, August 18

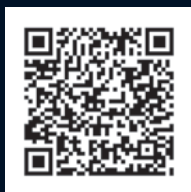
Buff Creek Baptist Church
1274 Mineral Springs Dr
Sylva, NC 28779

REGISTRATION IS DUE ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE RALLY DATE

Supper 5:30 PM (free) Program 6:30 – 8:30 PM

HOW TO REGISTER:

- Scan QR Code - Register online
- Contact BOM Office (919) 459-5596



Information needed:

name, email, phone number, church

LIVING SENT

CONFERENCE
CALLED → GIFTED → SENT

APRIL 2-3, 2027

HICKORY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH - HARRIS
CHARLOTTE, NC

Featuring 100 different breakout sessions,
Friday missions supper, mission testimonies,
mission exhibits and much more.

Cost:

- ⌘ Friday only - \$20
- ⌘ Friday Missions Supper - \$12
- ⌘ Friday and Saturday - \$35
- ⌘ Saturday only - \$20 (includes lunch)



Kyle Idleman



Jennifer Rothschild



Tom Richter



Karen Kingsbury



James Brown "JB"



Michael O'Brien
Worship Leader



**Scan the QR Code or
call 919-459-5596
for more information.**

"As the Father has sent Me, so send I you." -John 20:21



VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

It's hard to believe it's been a year and a half since hurricane devastated many parts of Western North Carolina. God has been so good to us and we've had thousands of volunteers who have responded. God has provided five Rebuild centers and because of the work of the Rebuild staff at those centers and the work of thousands of volunteers, God has allowed us to be a part of helping get more than 830 families back in their homes.

They're still years of work to go, but we're thankful for all that God has provided throughout this tragedy. We can Glorify God and make his name known.

After a disaster one of my favorite verses from Romans 8:28 is, "in all things God works for good". We are in a fallen world and bad things happen like disasters, but God is always working for good and God calls us to work for good. And because of the faithfulness of this group and of many of you, people know that God cares about them and many people have come to know him.

We want to recognize our Rebuild site leaders and just have them stand so that we can thank them.

East Flat Rock Rebuild- Cal and Robin Petticrew

Marion Rebuild- Tom and Susan Turner

Burnsville Rebuild- Keith and Christy Ashe

Spruce Pine Rebuild- Sid and Linda Pitman

Boone Rebuild- Gerald and Susan Hodges

We also want to recognize Richard and Tammy Weeks who are the overall Helene Rebuild coordinators.

These people have sacrificed so much to make our rebuild efforts possible. Some of these coordinators have quit jobs to serve, some have come out of retirement to serve, they have all spent time away from family and made many other great sacrifice so that those 830 families are back in their homes. Let's show these coordinators how much we appreciate them.

Normally we just recognize one person or one couple as our volunteer of the year but this is an unusual year and because of that we want to recognize all of these couples as our volunteers of the year for 2026.

Thank you for your faith Service and witness for Christ.



Baptists on Mission

Heritage Award Recipient

The Heritage Award recognizes many faithful years of outstanding service to Baptists on Mission.

This year's recipient was born and raised in Charlotte, NC. He was raised in a Christian home and accepted Christ at the age of 9. He graduated from UNC – Chapel Hill and married his wife, Pam, the same year. He attended Campbell University School of Law, graduating in 1982. After law school, he moved back to Charlotte, where he opened his own law practice.

He is a member of University Hills Baptist Church, where he has served in many capacities over the years, including deacon, Bible study leader, and Building

Committee member. His favorite place of ministry has been as a Bible study teacher with college students.

His involvement in Baptists on Mission began in the 1980's when a former NCBOM president, Hobart Smith, encouraged him to go to a Missions Conference. Since then Dana Hall has been involved in various BOM ministries and served on the Board in many capacities. He has participated in local, state, national and international mission trips and has been an encourager/prayer warrior for many others.

Dana has served as a past President, a regional director, a ministry coordinator and has helped us with our by-laws and other crucial board items.

We are very thankful for Dana and proud to name Dana Hall the 2026 Heritage Award recipient for BOM!





PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS

Building Bridges, Changing Lives



In 1984, groups from North Carolina began a three-year partnership in Togo, West Africa. Their mission was simple but ambitious: to build a bridge connecting two parts of a village that were cut off from one another for months each year when the Mono River flooded its banks.

Without the bridge, families were forced to walk upwards of 20 miles to maintain contact with one another.

What no one could have known at the time was that the bridge would do far more than connect communities. It helped pave the way for 60 churches to be planted and launched a movement of hands-on missions that continues more than four decades later.

For many volunteers, Togo was their first experience serving on an international mission project. What began as a construction effort became a life-changing experience as they discovered that God could use their practical skills to advance the gospel.

Skip Greene was among those first volunteers. Looking back, he describes Togo as one of the defining experiences of his life.

“Togo made more of an impact than anything I was ever involved in,” Greene said. “I thought it was going to be the excitement of the journey, but it was God calling me to use my hands to serve others. Togo opened the door to international missions for so many people.”

The bridge built in Togo accomplished far more than connecting two pieces of land. It became the beginning of a new way of doing missions. Volunteers discovered that God could use their gifts — whether construction, teaching, medicine, administration or countless other skills — to help local missionaries reach people with the gospel.

Now, 42 years later, that door remains wide open.

Since those early days in Togo, volunteers have traveled to dozens of countries to care for abandoned babies, rebuild homes, drill wells, teach children about Jesus, work with local pastors and meet practical needs in communities around the world. While the ministries have changed from place to place, the purpose has remained the same — to build bridges between local missionaries and the people they serve.

One example of those ongoing partnerships can be found in Eastern Europe.

When a tsunami struck Sri Lanka in 2004, Baptists on Mission coordinated relief efforts with Hungarian Baptist Aid, a relatively new ministry partner at the time. What began as a disaster response effort eventually grew into a flourishing, long-term partnership serving communities in Hungary, Ukraine and Romania.

Today, North Carolina volunteers continue to serve alongside local churches and ministry leaders throughout the region. Teams lead Vacation Bible Schools, train pastors, assist with church construction projects and serve in Hungarian-speaking schools to share the love of Jesus through English Bible camps.

In western Romania, medical teams provide another important bridge to the communities they serve. In many of the villages where teams work, access to health care is limited. Each year, physicians, nurses, pharmacists and other volunteers use their skills to care for physical needs while building relationships with local churches to open more doors for ministry.



While medical professionals care for physical needs, others spend time with every person who comes through the clinic. They listen to their stories, pray with patients and share the hope found in Christ.

Team members also visit homes throughout the villages, sometimes delivering much-needed food and always offering friendship, compassion and encouragement.

Alicia Jones, a Baptists on Mission missionary serving in the region, believes deeply in the value of short-term mission teams.

“Every week an American takes their time away from work and comes here and invests their gifts to advance the gospel in these communities, it matters,” Jones said. “It brings a small change. It’s a small step in the long and beautiful work that God is doing.”

Many volunteers return year after year. Their consistent presence builds something invaluable: trust. The impact is not always immediate, but faithful partnerships often produce fruit over time.

Otto Kirkner, who serves with Hungarian Baptist Aid as a driver and translator for these medical teams, has witnessed that transformation firsthand.

“It changes lives,” Kirkner said. “It doesn’t happen overnight, but slowly there is a change — in the way they act, how they treat their families. They start going to church and meet Jesus, and that changes everything.”

The first bridge in Togo was built from concrete and steel. The bridges being built today are formed through relationships, service and a commitment to return year after year. Together, volunteers and missionaries are helping to connect people to the hope of Christ in communities around the world.

Partnership missions is just one of the ministries supported by the North Carolina Missions Offering. Through your gifts, volunteers are equipped to serve, relationships are strengthened, and the gospel continues to be shared across cultures and continents.

Whether you travel across the world or support the work from home, you become part of every bridge being built and every life being changed.

Encourage your church to support the North Carolina Missions Offering and provide opportunities for volunteers to use their gifts and live sent.



To learn more about this project, visit our Vimeo channel or scan the QR code.

<https://vimeo.com/1175294631>



Disaster Response

Yellow Shirts Breathe New Life Into Jamaica

When Hurricane Melissa roared across Jamaica on Oct. 20, 2025, Clinton Pickering spent a sleepless night sheltering in the only place he could find safety—his bathroom.

As powerful winds battered his home, Pickering pulled an unused heavy mahogany door over his head for protection and waited for the storm to pass. When daylight finally came, he found giant holes in his roof, no electricity and 10 inches of water inside his home.

“The entire western half of Jamaica was devastated by this hurricane,” Pickering said. “It was a torturous night, and I was traumatized.”

Months later, Pickering stood outside that same home watching volunteers in yellow shirts unload lumber, roofing supplies and tools. The team had come to rebuild his roof and help restore what the storm had taken away.

“This is one of the happiest days of my life, and I want to say thank you for myself and on behalf of the many others you have helped,” Pickering said. “I’m so happy today, and why not? Because you guys are here.”

After Hurricane Melissa caused widespread damage across Jamaica and other island nations and territories, a call for help went out. Disaster response volunteers with N.C. Baptists on Mission were among those who answered, making multiple trips to Jamaica in the months following the storm to help homeowners regroup and rebuild.

Working alongside volunteers from other states, teams focused on two primary projects: constructing temporary tiny houses and replacing tin roofs on existing homes. In many cases, the destruction was so extensive that new roof trusses had to be built before sheets of tin could be installed.

Among those serving was a team from Ebenezer Baptist Church in Charlotte, a congregation well acquainted with Baptists on Mission. Over the years, volunteers from the church have responded to disasters ranging from wildfires in Maui, Hawaii, to Hurricane Helene recovery efforts in western North Carolina.

Despite the intense Caribbean heat and long days working, volunteer Jeff Wallace never questioned why he was there.



“Because God asked me to help,” Wallace said.

When asked about giving up a week of work to serve, Wallace offered a different perspective.

“I didn’t give up a week of my time,” he said. “I used my time to help other people. Even though I could be home



getting paid, I’d rather be here getting paid in other ways. Helping people. There’s nothing better.”

One of the common misconceptions about disaster

response ministry is that volunteers need specialized construction skills to make a difference. April Payne from Faith Fellowship Church in Yadkinville said that isn’t the case.

“You know I’m not a carpenter,” Payne said. “What can I do? You can hold a ladder, you can pick up sticks, you can love the neighbor. There’s something for everyone to do.”

For many homeowners, the impact of the volunteers’ presence extended far beyond repaired roofs and rebuilt structures.

While visiting his aunt, Patrick Lennon watched volunteers work on neighboring homes as well as his aunt’s house.

“With everything going on in the world, it’s good to know there are still good people around,” Lennon said.

His aunt, Verne, agreed.

“I’ve never seen people do so much for total strangers,” she said.

The construction work meets important physical needs, but moments of prayer and personal connection with homeowners throughout the day provide opportunities to encourage hearts and share the hope of Christ.

Every disaster deployment has its own unique challenges and stories. Whether serving in North Carolina, Hawaii, Jamaica or somewhere else around the world, one thing remains constant: N.C. Baptists on Mission volunteers are willing to answer the call wherever it leads.



Watch more of the story
<https://vimeo.com/1176305380/d35265821a>





WNC home dedication marks milestone in Helene recovery

Nearly two years after Hurricane Helene devastated communities across western North Carolina, N.C. Baptists on Mission volunteers continue helping families rebuild their homes and lives.

Nearly two years after Hurricane Helene devastated communities across western North Carolina, N.C. Baptists on Mission volunteers continue helping families rebuild their homes and lives.

Across the region, volunteers have completed hundreds of repair projects and are constructing new homes for families whose residences were damaged or destroyed by the storm.

One significant milestone in that ongoing effort was the completion of the first home built entirely from the ground up by Baptists on Mission volunteers. The home was constructed for Ashe County resident Loretta Swafford, whose previous residence was destroyed in Hurricane Helene.

For more than a year, Swafford lived in a camper on her property near West Jefferson, while volunteers, churches and ministry partners worked to provide her with a permanent home. The completed house stands as a testament to the long-term commitment of Baptists

on Mission to continue serving communities throughout western North Carolina.

When the home was completed, volunteers, ministry leaders and other partners gathered for a dedication service to celebrate God's provision after months of labor and to pray for Swafford as she began a new chapter in her new home.

"Thank every one of you," Swafford said, fighting back tears as she addressed those gathered for the dedication service. "I really, really appreciate it."

During the dedication service, ministry leaders and volunteers shared remarks, prayed and gave thanks for God's provision through the many months of work.

"It's amazing just to see your house, Loretta, and see what God's done," said Richard Brunson, executive director of N.C. Baptists on Mission. "There are so many people who have been a part of this and so many partners, but it's God who provided this house. Just remember that."

Gerald Hodges, a retired pastor who has served as a local

"There are so many people who have been a part of this and so many partners, but it's God who provided this house."



“Our goal was to demonstrate to you the love of Jesus so that you and your family would put your faith and trust in Him.”

coordinator for Baptists on Mission’s rebuild efforts in the region, presented Swafford with a Bible that had been signed by a number of the volunteers who worked on her home. Hodges added that some volunteers also wrote Bible verses on the home’s wooden studs in the hallway before they were covered with sheetrock.

One of those verses was Matthew 7:24, part of the parable of the wise and foolish builders, which reads: “Everyone who hears these words of mine and does them will be like the wise man who built his house upon the rock.”

Hodges reminded Swafford that while no one can guarantee what future storms may bring, God’s promises remain a sure foundation.

“We can’t guarantee that there won’t be another storm come through,” Hodges said. “And we can’t and won’t guarantee that if another one comes through like it did before, nothing will happen to this house. But here’s what we can guarantee you, Loretta — that God’s promises in His Word are a rock that you can count on.”

“He’s always there,” Swafford replied. “Rain or shine.”

Hodges said the home and the work that went into it was a tangible expression of the love of Christ in word and deed.

“Our goal was to demonstrate to you the love of Jesus so that you and your family would put your faith and trust in Him,” Hodges said. “Not in this house, and not in us. We’re thankful that we’ve had the opportunity to do that.”

While Swafford’s home marked an important milestone,

Baptists on Mission leaders emphasize that many families across western North Carolina are still waiting for repairs and rebuilding assistance. Recovery from Hurricane Helene will continue for years, requiring ongoing support from churches, volunteers and ministry partners.

“We’ve got many more to build,” said Richard Weeks, who, along with his wife Tammy, serve as the overall rebuild coordinators for western North Carolina. “Please come and volunteer and help us rebuild western North Carolina for the glory of God.”

To learn more about opportunities to serve, visit www.helenerebuild.org.

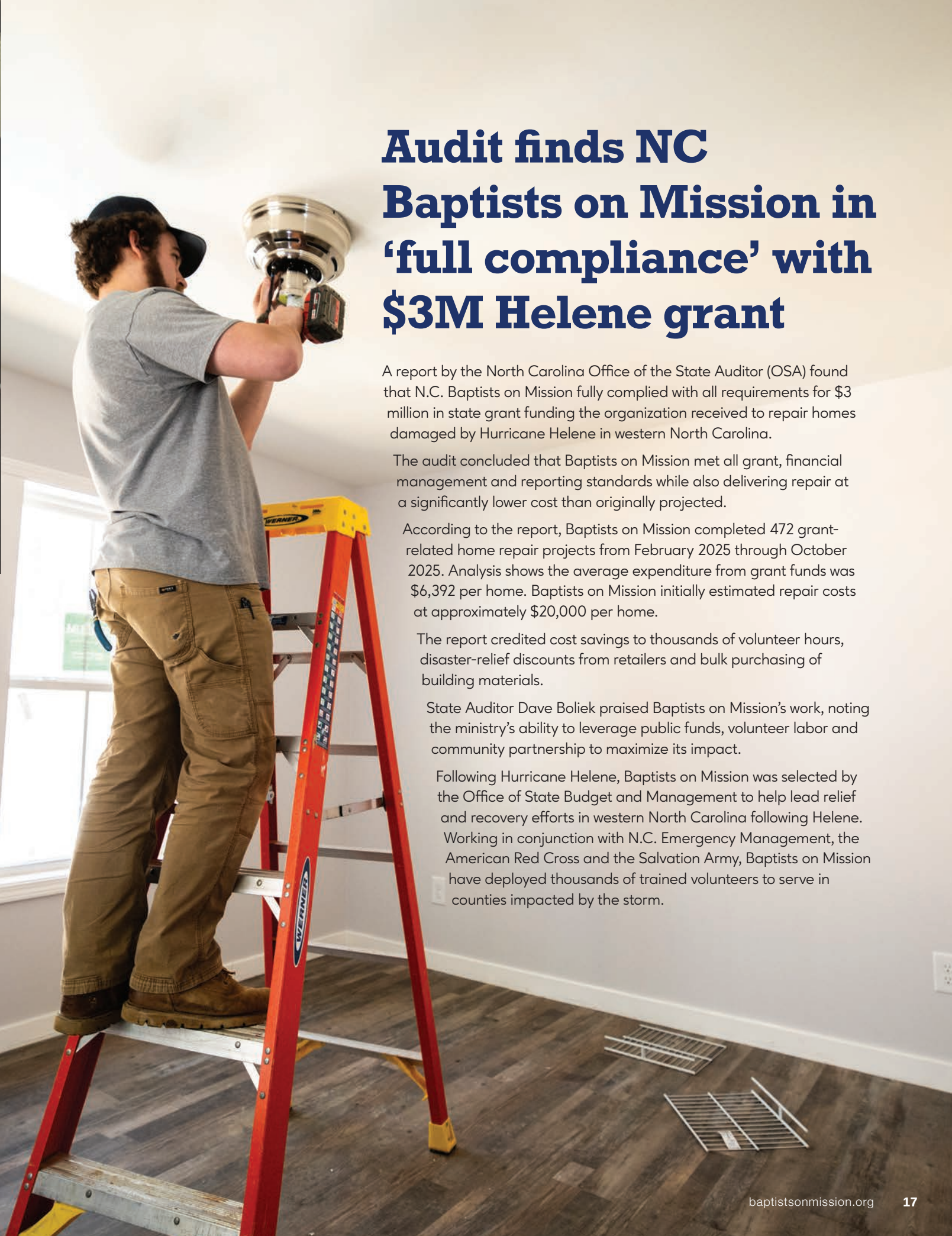
A new beginning in the mountains

Discover how N.C. Baptists on Mission volunteers built their first new house from the ground up in western North Carolina following Hurricane Helene and the dedication that made the house a home. **Scan the QR code to watch.**



<https://vimeo.com/1181439387>





Audit finds NC Baptists on Mission in ‘full compliance’ with \$3M Helene grant

A report by the North Carolina Office of the State Auditor (OSA) found that N.C. Baptists on Mission fully complied with all requirements for \$3 million in state grant funding the organization received to repair homes damaged by Hurricane Helene in western North Carolina.

The audit concluded that Baptists on Mission met all grant, financial management and reporting standards while also delivering repair at a significantly lower cost than originally projected.

According to the report, Baptists on Mission completed 472 grant-related home repair projects from February 2025 through October 2025. Analysis shows the average expenditure from grant funds was \$6,392 per home. Baptists on Mission initially estimated repair costs at approximately \$20,000 per home.

The report credited cost savings to thousands of volunteer hours, disaster-relief discounts from retailers and bulk purchasing of building materials.

State Auditor Dave Boliek praised Baptists on Mission’s work, noting the ministry’s ability to leverage public funds, volunteer labor and community partnership to maximize its impact.

Following Hurricane Helene, Baptists on Mission was selected by the Office of State Budget and Management to help lead relief and recovery efforts in western North Carolina following Helene. Working in conjunction with N.C. Emergency Management, the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army, Baptists on Mission have deployed thousands of trained volunteers to serve in counties impacted by the storm.

Celebrating 1,000 Homes Restored in Western NC

By **Chad Austin**, BR Managing Editor

Swannanoa, N.C. — Twenty months after Hurricane Helene, N.C. Baptists on Mission has reached a major milestone in the ongoing rebuild efforts in the region by completing work on its 1,000th home.

The home belonging to Theresa Allison became the site of that milestone. Her Swannanoa residence was inundated with 3 feet of floodwater and thick mud after Helene swept through the area in late September of 2024. After months of work, hundreds of volunteers helped restore Allison's home, allowing her to return.

For Allison, the completion of her home represented more than the end of a construction project. Volunteers not only repaired walls and floors damaged by the flood, but they also demonstrated the care and compassion that have marked the ministry's long-term response to the disaster.

"I just love the place," said Allison, who bought her home in 1986. "And I love the way they fixed everything. But it just makes me feel really good, and everything is so beautiful.

"We don't always know why things happen, but we know God is in control of all of it. And we must trust him."

Allison's home also represents one of the numerous recovery stories of loss, hope and restoration that Baptists on Mission leaders and volunteers have witnessed since Helene struck.

The milestone reflects nearly two years of ongoing recovery and rebuilding efforts by Baptists on Mission following

Hurricane Helene. Since the storm, thousands of volunteers have served homeowners across western North Carolina, completing projects ranging from mud-outs, tear-outs and debris removal to major reconstruction.

Repairs are under way on more than 200 additional homes, with even more projects in the pipeline. Volunteers have also built one home from the ground up and are currently constructing 24 others.

Although Baptists on Mission has reached a significant benchmark, rebuilding efforts continue as volunteers work to help families still recovering from Helene.

"Rebuilding our 1,000th home is a testament to God's faithfulness and to the thousands of volunteers, churches and partners who have answered the call to serve," said Richard Brunson, N.C. Baptists on Mission's executive director. "Every home represents a family that has experienced tremendous loss, and our mission has always been to share the hope and love of Christ while helping them rebuild. We're grateful for this milestone, but we know the work isn't finished. Many families in western North Carolina are still waiting to come home, and we're committed to continuing to help meet that need."



Disaster Response Training

Disaster Response Training is the foundation of everything we do when deployed. In the past two training seasons, we saw an incredible turnout with over 4,500 people getting certified—and we'd love to see that same energy this next spring.

Beyond just learning the ropes, DR Training helps you stay prepared, introduces you to the team leads you'll be working with, and ensures you're on the "first-call" list when a disaster strikes. While nothing compares to the hands-on experience of helping people on-site, this is where it all starts.

Registration for our Spring 2027 sessions opens this fall:

February 20	First Baptist Church, Leland, NC
March 6	Rocky Hock Baptist Church, Edenton, NC
March 20	Old Town Baptist Church, Winston Salem, NC
April 17	Union Grove Baptist Church, Lenoir, NC
May 1	Newbridge Baptist Church, Asheville, NC

For those volunteers who need to update their badges by the end of 2026 you can choose to participate in a zoom training this fall. Each person whose badge expires for one of our zoom DR trainings will get an email with registration information in the early fall of 2026.



Disaster Recovery

As the new Disaster Recovery White hat I want to offer a huge thank you to all who made this year's spring training a success. It is always encouraging to see new faces and familiar faces training to help with the work of Baptists on Mission Disaster Response. As with any group of volunteers, it is imperative to keep adding new members to move in where dedicated workers have had to step aside. With Disaster Response now being 40 years old that rotation has happened quite a lot and our prayer is that hearts will continue to be challenged to respond.

Our church family has watched as Karen and I have been away from home many times over the years and one question that comes up often, especially at our stage in life, is how much longer are we going to continue to go and serve? Our answer is simply this, God called us to do His service and He will let us know when to stop. But what is wonderful is there are so many of our volunteers that feel the same way. Without that

dedication, Disaster Response could not continue to go and share the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We could not continue to go and help those in need.

As Karen and I have been involved with Baptists on Mission for a good while now, we noticed from the beginning that whether we were at a training, a mission conference, a region rally, or a disaster response, we would see a lot of the same people at each event. As time passed and we got to know these volunteers closer, we looked forward to the different events so we could see our friends. These good friends have become our yellow shirt family.

For us it gives us a glimpse of what Heaven will be like. Being together for only one purpose and that is to praise and worship the Holy Father. How glorious it will be to worship day and night for all eternity.

Tom Hamrick
Disaster Recovery Coordinator



A Small Church, Making a Big Difference

In a rural North Carolina town of just over 1,000 people, something remarkable has been happening. What began as a simple step of faith by First Baptist Maysville, has grown into a powerful demonstration of compassion, community, and the Gospel in action.



For the past two years, their Community Care Day has brought together volunteers, local organizations, healthcare providers, and community members to meet practical needs and build meaningful relationships. While the event itself lasts only a day, its impact continues long after the tents come down and the buses pull away.

"It has been truly incredible to see how the Lord has used Community Care Day the past two years," organizers shared. "It's all been a learning curve

for us and just stepping out in faith to try to meet the tangible needs of our community, and God has proved faithful every single time," says Alex Padgett (First Baptist Maysville).

What makes the event especially remarkable is not its size or budget, but the willingness of ordinary people to serve faithfully. This year, more than 50 volunteers participated in a variety of roles, from organizing logistics to preparing meals and assisting guests.

One of the keys to the event's success has been strong leadership behind the scenes. An eight-person planning team spent months coordinating details, and dedicated team leads oversaw each area of service.

Alex describes, "One of the biggest blessings that helps with the smoothness of the event is our team leads," organizers explained. "Everyone owns their area and knocks out their part, and it all comes together by the grace of God."

The day offered far more than just a gathering. Families received free meals, children enjoyed games and

activities, guests received free haircuts, and local healthcare providers offered dental and medical care through Baptists on Mission mobile health screening and dental buses. A local ice cream shop served free ice cream, adding a joyful touch to the day.

Community organizations also came together to connect residents with vital resources. Representatives included the local pregnancy center, the Gideons International, an ABA therapy company, local health departments, and other outreach organizations committed to serving the area.

In addition, volunteers distributed 60 care bags filled with practical household essentials like laundry detergent, toilet paper, paper towels, and toiletries items many families quietly struggle to afford.

The need for these services is significant. Though the town is rich in diversity and community spirit, many residents face challenges related to low income and limited access to affordable healthcare and dental services.



That reality is what makes Baptists on Mission mobile health screening and dental buses such an important part of the event. During the first year, approximately 21 people received care on the health screening bus. This year, that number grew to 27. Many were referred for continued treatment and additional medical support. This year was the first year the dental bus was added as part of their outreach event.

But beyond the numbers, organizers say the greatest impact comes through relationships.

From Alex Padgett,

"Through meeting practical needs, you are able to build beautiful relationships in which people feel seen and cared for," they shared. "It is a very tangible way to not only share the Gospel but to demonstrate the Gospel by not just say that you love the people around you, but to truly get in the trenches and meet them where they are at."

One story from this year's event captured that mission perfectly.

A woman arrived suffering from severe tooth pain. Through the dental services provided that day, she was finally able to receive the care she desperately needed. Overwhelmed with relief and gratitude, she broke down in tears.

"It was such a tangible expression of the Lord's provision," organizers reflected.

Community Care Day has also created unexpected opportunities for outreach among volunteers themselves. Nurses, hairstylists, and dental professionals from the community including some who may not personally follow Jesus have joined the effort simply because they wanted to help.

For the church, those moments matter deeply:

"It's a very special

opportunity for them to see the Lord at work throughout the day and the beauty of the body of Christ."

Perhaps the most meaningful aspect of Community Care Day is its consistency. By returning year after year, volunteers are building trust and long-term relationships within the community. Familiar faces become friendships. Conversations become connections. Seeds of hope continue to be planted.

"Continuing to show up, love, and serve gives consistent reminders that there is a God who loves them and cares for them," organizers said.

In a culture often focused on large platforms and impressive numbers, this small-town church is proving that faithfulness still changes lives. Sometimes ministry looks less like a spotlight and more like a care bag, a warm meal, a dental appointment, or a listening ear.

And sometimes, the biggest difference begins with a small church simply willing to say yes.

Every church has the opportunity to become a greater blessing to its community through a Community Care Day. One of the most important ingredients for a successful outreach is having a devoted team that is willing to plan, organize, and execute the vision with excellence.

A valuable resource that is sometimes overlooked is the use of health screening buses. These mobile units can provide important preventive health services to people in the community while also showing the love and compassion of Christ in a tangible way. Churches may assume these resources are difficult to utilize effectively, but examples like First Baptist Maysville prove otherwise.

The success of a Community Care Day often comes down



to preparation and community involvement. Advertising the event throughout the community is essential. Flyers, social media, local newspapers, and word-of-mouth promotion can help spread the message and encourage attendance.

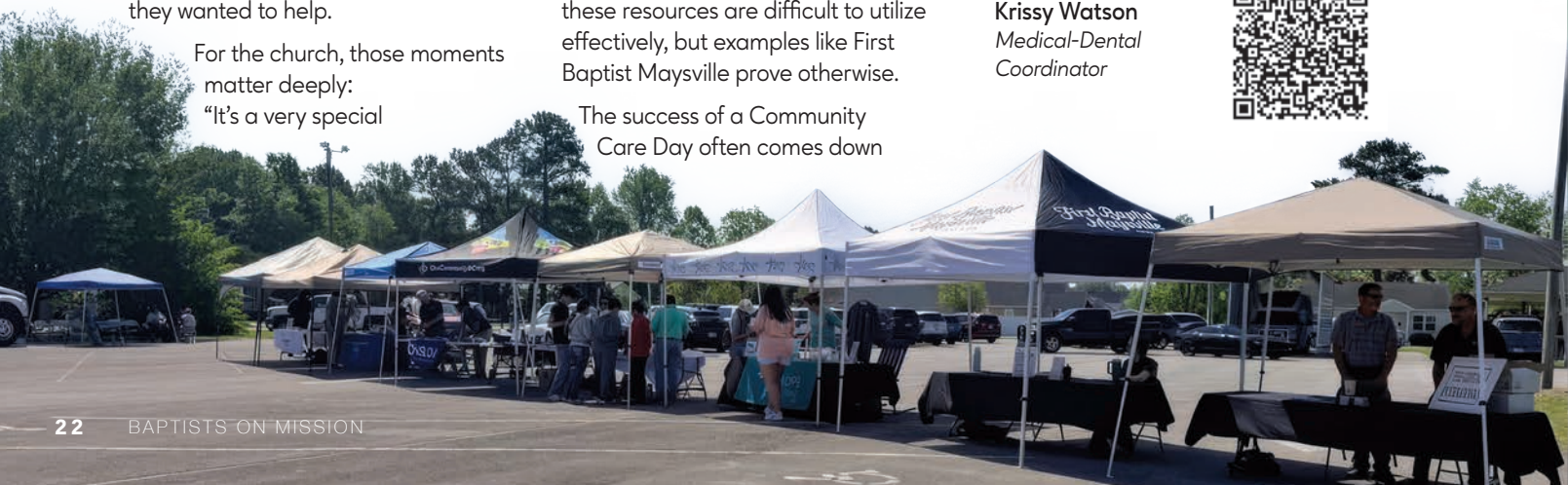
Another key factor is partnering with local organizations and ministries. Inviting community resources such as the local health department, pregnancy centers, Gideons, and other vendors can greatly strengthen the event. Many of these groups are willing to participate free of charge because they share a desire to help people and serve the community. Churches should never hesitate to ask for support or partnerships.

When churches work together with community organizations, the impact can be tremendous. Families receive practical help, relationships are built, and hearts are opened to the Gospel message.

If First Baptist Maysville can do it, so can your church. With prayer, planning, and willing hands, your congregation can host a Community Care Day that touches lives and glorifies God.

In Jesus' Name.

Krissey Watson
Medical-Dental
Coordinator



It's Finally Here



What - The newest Baptists on Mission mobile dental unit. This vehicle brings our current fleet up to three dental and two health screening units.

Facts - 2025 Freightliner with a custom shell

2 newly designed dental treatment rooms

Panorex X-ray system as well as a NOMAD

Why - With an estimated population of 11.3 million people here in North Carolina by the end of 2026, and with the rising cost of medical care, the number of people in our state without access to quality health care will continue to rise.

Baptists on Mission exists to glorify God by involving churches and Christians in meeting human needs in Jesus' name. This new unit will allow churches across North Carolina to provide free dental care to more individuals than ever before, utilizing compassionate volunteers while sharing the hope of Christ. It's one of the easiest ways to have a mission project right in your own community.

To find out more about the dental ministry, visit <https://baptistsonmission.org/Dental>



Mission Centers

CHARITY MISSION CENTER

Purpose— The purpose of Charity Mission Center is to assist churches, individuals, and organizations to get involved in missions by using their God given gifts and talents to impact the work of the Kingdom through Word and Deed. We accomplish this by offering affordable short term missions opportunities to men, women, students and families.

Facilities— Our facility can house 200 volunteers in our 62,000 SQ FT facility. We have 16 private shower stalls, with handicap availability and a self-serve laundry room. On our site we have a game room, a lounge, a gym, and sports fields. We have an exercise room for physical health and a prayer chapel for spiritual health. We also have a tool room that is equipped with all the tools and supplies needed. We have classrooms and conference rooms that teams can use to have Bible studies and team building time. There is an on-site thrift store and food pantry.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Construction, Handyman ministry, Wheelchair ramp construction, youth camps, Men retreats, Women retreats, Couple Retreats, Prayer Retreats, Packing and distributing senior adult food boxes, working in the thrift store or food pantry, Sports camps, VBS, Backyard Bible clubs. We are also willing to work with your team on creating your own mission experience that fits your church.

PLAN A TRIP

- Cost is \$25 per day and includes meals, lodging and supplemental insurance.
- The Center is open Monday through Saturday. No Saturday evening meals and the camp is closed on Sunday.
- Teams need to bring their own towels, toiletries, bedding, and pillows.
- RV sites are available upon request.
- Participants must be 12-years-old or have completed the 5th Grade.
- Youth groups must have 1 adult per 4 youths.

LOCATION

1333 W. Charity Rd.
Rose Hill, NC 28458
Exit 380 off of I-40



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Richard and Tammy Weeks
910-590-1720 - Richard
910-385-1567 - Tammy
Email: richard.weeks@ncmissions.org



Mission Centers

RED SPRINGS MISSION CENTER

Purpose— The purpose of Red Springs Mission Center is to get churches involved in missions. By providing affordable short term options, your church or youth group can experience missions without the cost and time involved in an out-of-state mission trip. You will be helping people who are in need in their own state.

Facilities— Our facility can house up to 200 volunteers per day and the ministry opportunities are endless. Our tool room and warehouse are fully equipped with all the supplies you will need for a construction or non-construction project.

Ministries offered through Red Spring Mission Center are: Construction, Handyman Projects, Children's Ministry, Women's Ministry, Yard work for the Elderly, Painting, Disaster Relief Work (Following a Disaster), Family Mission Weekends.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Labor needs: Volunteers with a servant's heart; roofers; carpenters; electricians; painters; cook teams; children's workers; cleaning teams; couples to work in the warehouse.

Material needs: Building materials; cleaning supplies; non-perishable food; furniture; appliances; toiletry items.

PLAN A TRIP

- Cost is \$25 per day and includes meals, and lodging.
- The Center is open Monday through Saturday.
- Teams need to bring their own towels, toiletries, bedding, and pillows.
- RV sites are available upon request.
- Participants must be 12-years-old or have completed the 5th Grade.

LOCATION

The camp is located at 114 Industrial Road, Red Springs, NC on the corner of Hwy 211 and Industrial Rd.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Larry & Teresa Osborne
(910) 843-7700 - Office (919) 264-4397 - Cell Phone
losborne@ncbaptist.org



Mission Centers

SHELBY MISSION CENTER

Purpose— The Shelby Mission Center exists to glorify God by involving churches and Christians in meeting human needs in Jesus' name. We do this by mobilizing church teams, organizations, and individual volunteers, to meet a variety of needs in Cleveland County and the surrounding areas.

Facilities— Shelby Mission Center exists to glorify God by involving churches and Christians in meeting human needs in Jesus' name. Located on 40 acres just minutes from downtown Shelby, North Carolina, the Mission Center provides lodging, dining, worship, and recreation space for up to 200 volunteers at a time, along with a warehouse stocked with the tools and supplies needed to support our ongoing ministry efforts.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Shelby Mission Center is built around volunteer teams coming to serve, stay, and participate in gospel-centered ministry in Cleveland County and the surrounding area. That is why the Mission Center exists: to help churches and volunteers join the work God is doing as practical needs are met, relationships are built, and the hope of Christ is shared.

Gather a team. Choose a time. Come serve.

Teams can serve through four primary ministry pathways: Handyman Ministry, the Community Farm, the Mobile Market, and Street Evangelism. Through these ministries, volunteers help meet practical needs, build relationships, serve local families, and point people to the hope of Christ. Other service opportunities may arise throughout the year as needs develop, including seasonal outreach events, skills training, and community ministry projects. These opportunities vary by season, local need, and team availability.

PLAN A TRIP

Gather a team from your church, choose a time you would like to come serve, and contact the ministry staff at Shelby Mission Center. From there, our staff will help connect your group with a ministry area that fits your team's skills, size, and availability.

- Cost is \$25 per day and includes meals, and lodging.
- The Center is open Monday through Saturday.
- Teams need to bring their own towels, toiletries, bedding, and pillows.
- RV sites are available upon request.
- Participants must be 12-years-old or have completed the 5th Grade.

LOCATION

Shelby Mission Center is located just south of Highway 74 in Shelby, North Carolina, approximately 45 minutes west of Charlotte. The Mission Center's address is 302 Sharpton Drive, Shelby, NC 28152.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robbie and Christie Alexander
(704) 472-0104 - Camp Phone
shelbymissioncamp@ncbaptist.org



Armenia The Land of Noah

ENCOURAGING, STRENGTHENING, AND PLANTING CHURCHES

Situated on the borders of Europe and Asia, Armenia is a strategic country for reaching Central Asia with the Gospel. After the fall of the Soviet Union there was only one Baptist church in Armenia. Now there are more than 100 groups meeting throughout the country with several more starting every year.

In the streets of Armenia towns you will see people from a closed country to the south where Christians are arrested and persecuted, refugees working to build a new life, students eager to learn, and adults who open their homes and hearts to welcome you.

Twenty five years ago Robert Stroup went with the first team from North Carolina to see the needs of the small Armenian Baptist Union, visit potential church plant sites, and seek God's direction for volunteer involvement. Today their border with Iran in Agarak, Armenia is a pathway used by many seeking refuge. The Agarak site is the last of the seven original sites to have a functionally completed church building. They need stucco and interior finish work estimated to cost \$100,000. It will be an even greater mission point for our Armenian brothers as they minister to Iranians entering Armenia through this very narrow passageway.

We felt this would be a very fitting remembrance of Robert. It will serve the people of that region in Christ's name and to God's Glory as they serve these people groups. We cannot all go, but we can all celebrate Christ's work in Agarak, Armenia. Please prayerfully consider donating in memory of

Robert Stroup and of his service in Christ's name!

Your team can work with church leaders when you lead Pastor's Conferences, Women's Conferences, conduct sports camps or VBS, help with construction of a new church, assist pastors and church planters, or teach at the Seminary. You can fan the flames of revival by volunteering or donating to the Armenia Partnership.

Contact Paul Langston to learn more about serving in this country at the crossroads between Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

Will You...

Pray: That church planters will answer God's call, and many hearts will be open to the gospel.

Give: Sponsor a church planter for \$200 per month, help with church construction costs in several locations, or assist with the Agarak church in memory of Robert Stroup.

Go: Send a team to serve alongside Armenian believers and strengthen church planters.

CONTACT

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Hope Rebuilt: Honoring Our Volunteers in Cuba

One of the most exciting achievements of our Cuba partnership has been ensuring access to clean, safe drinking water. Our volunteers have worked tirelessly to install water filtration units within local churches. These churches are now empowered to provide thousands of families in their surrounding communities with reliable, purified water during a time of immense need. With the current hardships that families are facing, clean, drinkable water is a necessity.

Our teams also brought hope through tangible, physical restoration. In Santiago, our volunteers continue to provide construction and maintenance work at the retirement home. Their efforts have not only repaired physical structures but have also restored comfort, safety, and dignity to the cherished residents who reside there.

In Santa Clara, volunteers poured vital energy into "My Camp." Volunteers rolled up their sleeves to tackle extensive construction work, rebuilding and revitalizing multiple spaces that means so much to the church and community's youth and future.

In the wake of Hurricane Melissa, the resilience of the Cuban people has been matched by the extraordinary dedication of our volunteers. When the storm cleared, leaving behind a trail of critical damage, our teams stepped forward without hesitation. Today, we extend our deepest gratitude to every individual who lent their hands, hearts, and time to bring relief and hope to the island.

From the plumbing of filtration systems to the hammering of nails and mixing of concrete in Santiago and Santa Clara, our volunteers proved that hope is something we build together. To our teams on the ground: you did not just repair buildings; you revived spirits and strengthened communities from the ground up. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus when Cuba needs it most.

For more information on how you can be involved in the Disaster Response efforts in Cuba or one of our partnership opportunities in Cuba, please contact Tom Beam at tbeam@ncbaptist.org.

CONTACT

Tom Beam, Coordinator
(919) 459-5605
tbeam@ncbaptist.org



GUATEMALA

Simply Say “Yes” to God

In March, our team from Ridgeway Baptist served at the Good Shepherd Center in Quetzaltenango (Xela), Guatemala. This trip marked an opportunity for Ridgeway to not only be a prayer and financial partner in international missions but also a physical laborer. It culminated in a dream fulfilled to be ‘boots on the ground’ at a ministry that has been in the heart of a father and daughter since 2014.

Our team went to help with construction. We had plenty of opportunity to utilize our skills and learn new ones. We were part of building a new house on the rural campus. Our team did electrical work, milled and stained wood for windows, made mud for block from the earth, laid adobe block walls, and did seamstress work on couch cushions. It was strenuous, but rewarding work. We were able to worship with a local church, tour the ministry at the Good Shepherd Children’s Home, enjoy the local cuisine, and spend an evening of fellowship with the GSCH children.

The heart-moving highlight of our trip was the building of relationships. We developed relationships with the indigenous workers on the construction site, those who give of their lives to serve

in ministry, and some of the children being served in Jesus’ name. We witnessed that God is being glorified in the lives of people through the ministry of the Good Shepherd Center. Children who almost certainly would not have hope amid their former broken backgrounds, are now experiencing that hope through the redeeming work of Jesus. This happens through the faithfulness of our missionaries Roger and Vicki, and the willingness of US churches to answer the call to go to the nations.

The call for help has been declared, the work is necessary, the Lord is working, and the opportunity exists. Consider and pray about being a part of what God is doing in Guatemala to bring the Quiche people into His Kingdom. One of our team members, Sierra said, “Serving there reminded me that sometimes the biggest blessings come when we simply say yes to where God is calling us. My challenge to you is to step out in faith and go serve the Lord. You will receive far more from the experience than you could ever imagine giving to the people you are helping.”

– Mike Leslie, Ridgeway Baptist Church, Candler NC

Baptists on Mission sends 20-25 teams each year to work with Roger and Vicki Grossmann and Good Shepherd Ministries. Teams serve in a variety of construction and maintenance projects—all necessary to keep the Good Shepherd Center vibrant and functioning. There is plenty of work for all to do—men, women, and older youth. Teams enjoy interacting with the 25-30 children who receive care and love through the Good Shepherd Children’s Home, another ministry of Good Shepherd. Medical teams also serve each year, providing medical care in remote and nearby villages. Pray about your church taking a team in 2027!

CONTACT

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KENYA Building Relationships – And Houses

I traveled to Kenya with the expectation of building houses through BOM's Houses of Hope project, I found out that what God really wanted me to do was build relationships! I had packed my hammer, my work gloves, and five days' worth of clothes for the trip to Ahero, Kenya, where we would build houses for people in need. On our first day, I wondered how I might be helpful. Houses in the region look quite different from what I am used to, so I set out to learn how to build a home out of poles, sticks, tin, and mud. We began nailing sticks to the posts of the house to make the walls. The locals, including family members and neighbors of the one receiving the house, were also hard at work. We completed a little more work, and then we headed back to the guest house. I felt like I had not contributed a whole lot to the building of this first house.

However, at the next day's worksite I recognized there were some Kenyan men at this house who were with us the day before. Then I remembered we were told that three local Kenyans are hired to work with the team in building the house, and that they would be with us every day. I decided that one of my tasks for this day would be to meet these men and get to know them. And that is exactly what happened. I arrived back at the guest house that evening with a feeling of peace and newfound purpose.

I realized that God's primary purpose for me in Kenya was not to build houses. It was to invest in people. And through those connections, He could use me to help the Kenyans come to know Him through sharing the Good News of Jesus. I went to Kenya to "build houses," but God wanted me to build relationships.

- Devin Warfield, Bethesda Baptist, Raleigh NC

Each team that travels to Kenya helps build four houses in four days at four different sites for a widow or a family in need. Construction of the homes is simple, and a team of Kenyans are there to help the team in its task. But as Devin mentions above, there is so much more than simply helping with the house build. Teams have opportunity to go door to door in the community with a Kenyan pastor/translator to share their testimony, present the good news of the Gospel, and pray with people. Children often gather at the worksite and teams have opportunity to share Bible stories, games, and sing songs with them. A house dedication service is held at the end of each day. Team members share in songs, testimony, and presenting an evangelistic message.

A trip to Kenya and participation in the Houses of Hope ministry is a life-changing experience for many. Use your hands, share the gospel, and build relationships! Visit our webpage to learn more!



CONTACT

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Small in Size – Great in Impact!

MOLDOVA

We are a small church, if you define a church by its Sunday morning worship attendance. But, while small in number, Triangle Baptist Church is having a Kingdom sized global impact through our church planting partnership in Moldova through Baptists on Mission.

Baptists on Mission introduced us to a Moldovan church with whom we partner to support a church planter in a neighborhood village. This quickly became more than just sending dollars because the church planter we help support sends us quarterly reports and frequent texts pictures and videos of their outreach events. Brother Andrei's frequent communication allows us to help share the story of the work in Moldova with our wider church family. We feel we have been welcomed into their story and have welcomed them into ours as well.

Our partner church planter and his whole family are invested in reaching the whole of their community with a gospel of both word and deed. They meaningfully engage people in every age group and every walk of life in their small village. This is incredible, and inspiring work. Through our partnership we have discovered that both of our churches are similar in size and in our Christ-focused mission imperative. We plan to send a team to join them onsite in ministry in Moldova in the coming year. We look forward to the opportunity to serve together side-by-side with Andrei and his congregation.

This church planting partnership has proven to be a very real blessing for both of our congregations. It has helped a small church just outside of Raleigh live out its part of the call of reaching the world for Jesus Christ. We are thankful for the role Baptists on Mission has played, and is playing, to help make this partnership possible for churches like ours!

- Pastor Tom Ogburn, Triangle Baptist Church, Raleigh NC



The primary focus of Baptists on Mission's Partnership with Moldova is to pair churches and/or associations with strong Moldovan "mother churches" for the purpose of supporting a church planter. These churches are led by visionary pastors, who are gospel-focused and mission-hearted. There are currently over 750 villages in Moldova with no evangelical presence. The leaders of these Moldovan churches want this to change—and they have invited North Carolina congregations to help in this task!

A monthly contribution of \$430 makes it possible for a church planter to both provide for his family and dedicate himself wholly to the task of church planting. Some NC partners are providing this amount on their own. Others join with one or more churches in their area to support a church planter. Please pray about how you and your church might make an eternal difference in Moldova through partnering with a Moldovan "mother church"!

Check out the full details of how this exciting partnership works by utilizing the QR code. Click the link and pray about how you and your church's participation!



CONTACT

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DESPERATE FOR HIS LOVE IN ROMANIA (ROMA)

Patricia Jarrell is a member of Aversboro Baptist Church. She has served on several teams in Romania through the partnership.



The pavement of the streets came to an abrupt end and the muddy paths began as our Baptists on Mission medical team entered into the Roma villages. Though I had been here several times, both for VBS and for medical missions, the heartbreaking circumstances that these people endured daily continued to sadden me. Driving by, I saw homes built with limited materials, holes in the roofs, some without floors, windows, or doors. Most homes were surrounded by dilapidated fences with chickens, ducks, and other animals in dirt yards. The lack of running water and electricity in their homes was evidenced by outhouses and primitive electrical wiring of questionable safety.

As our vehicles pulled into each village for our medical clinics, the curiosity of the Roma people was demonstrated by their watchful eyes as they gathered in the street. The look of hopelessness in their eyes let us know that we were in a place where sharing the love of Christ was much needed. They were hungry for God's word and desperate for His love. It was evident that while there were medical needs, their spiritual needs were of utmost importance. As a nurse, doing the

initial assessments, when asked if I could pray with them for anything, the offer was eagerly accepted and many tears, hugs, and prayers were shared.

Our team rotated throughout the six Roma villages where we held the medical clinics in the village churches. Throughout the week, the medical needs were great. Our doctors were able to treat the patients and the medications needed were given by the pharmacists. The spiritual needs were also great and were met by spending time in conversation and prayer.

The Roma people have been discriminated against and ostracized for generations and have had to resort to basic self-preservation. The extreme poverty results in very poor living conditions, relational problems, medical issues, and lack of hope. While our medical clinics were intended to help at least short-term with their medical needs, our more important goal was to give the Roma people a hope that can only be found in knowing Jesus Christ. God is at work here! Our prayer is that God will continue to move in these villages and that these precious people will come to experience the love of Christ in their lives.

I feel so blessed to have been a part of this team of people serving in Romania. I only knew a couple of our team members prior to serving that week, however, our team of 7 functioned as though we had known each other for years. It was evident that God had placed us together for His purpose and that our common goal for the week was to share God's love and word with everyone we encountered.

CONTACT

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South Africa – Door of Hope Village

OFFERING HOPE TO THE HOPELESS

Imagine holding a baby who was abandoned in a ditch as he fills his belly with a full meal, watching homes rise up on what was once a farm so that children have a place to call home, seeing children laugh and play who began life abandoned and with no hope. The Door of Hope gives children a place to grow up rooted in faith, hope, and the love of God. Helping children know that they are loved is the backdrop for serving at Door of Hope.

Building homes is one part of serving at Door of Hope. Door of Hope rescues abandoned infants and cares for them in “Baby Houses” until they are toddlers. There are normally more than 60 infants being cared for at the Door of Hope Baby Houses. Some are adopted by new families or reunited with their birth families but one out of every three babies cared for at Door of Hope is not chosen for adoption will need to make their home at Door of Hope Village. The alternative for most would be spending their entire childhood in a state-run orphanage only to be sent out at eighteen years of age with no one to help them make their

way in life. Door of Hope Village will offer those not chosen for adoption a place to grow to adulthood. That will mean building a school, a child development center, and dozens of homes in the years to come.

You can also serve as an intern at the Door of Hope at one of the Baby Houses caring for children. Interns can serve for as little as six weeks or for several months. You can assist the aunts who are caring for the babies and be a lifeline to a child who is beginning a new life filled with God’s love.

You can offer hope to the hopeless through Baptists on Missions’ partnership with Door of Hope Children’s Mission. There is space for your team in 2026!

CONTACT

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UKRAINE SOUP KITCHEN

Can you hear it? The sound of 150 excited children walking into a place of warmth, nourishment and love. Most have come for the only hot meal they will receive that day.

Matthew 25:40 reminds us of Jesus' words: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

In this chapter, Jesus points us toward those the world often overlooks — the vulnerable, the forgotten and those living with the greatest need.

You can find many of the "least" in a Roma village outside Svalyava, Ukraine. Families there face deep poverty and limited opportunities. Yet everything changes when children walk onto the grounds of a small village church that operates a soup kitchen sponsored by Baptists on Mission.

Five days a week, between 150 and 200 children receive a hot meal, hear a Bible story and leave knowing they're loved.

The soup kitchen began during the COVID-19 pandemic as a way to help address rising food costs and limited food supplies. Today, the ministry continues to serve not only children but parents as well.

Once each month, food parcels are delivered to some of the village's most vulnerable families. Through the generosity of believers, practical help and the love of Christ are reaching homes where both are desperately needed.

While opportunities to serve in Ukraine are limited due to the ongoing war with Russia, a team plans to travel there this summer to lead weeklong camps for children. Once the war is over, Baptists on Mission hopes to expand ministry opportunities in the future.

Thank you for praying, giving and going as we offer relief for today and hope for tomorrow to children and families in Ukraine and around the world.

For more information about opportunities in Ukraine:



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When the Rain Falls

APPALACHIAN COALFIELDS



Throughout the mountains of Appalachia, there is a problem that raises its head every few years, causing extreme pain for people. Yes, there is definitely cyclic, generational poverty that many families deal with continuously. There is food insecurity and joblessness since the coal mines have closed years ago. There is ever growing drug addiction and all the health and mental issues that brings. But then there are the floods.

Numerous times over the past several years, many mountain towns have experienced flooding. In these towns, the abandoned buildings, lingering small businesses and homes are located down each side of the highway. On one side of that highway is the railroad, on the other side is the river. When it rains hard, the mountain earth gives way and rushes down the mountain. The town river comes out of its banks into homes. There is no place for the water to go. The result of this devastation is life changing floods.

February 2025 was the last big flood that affected numerous towns in WV, VA and KY. When we received the call from one of our ministry center directors that stormy night, she was in a panic. "The water is rising fast and I am watching it take over the houses below. Oh dear Lord, not again."

Having lived through Hurricane Helene just months before, my heart was aching and crying out for my friend. I felt her pain.

In the months following, Baptist volunteers once again

reached out to help these weary mountain families. Food, water, supplies were delivered. Teams helped mud out homes and churches. One mission team built a new sanctuary for a church that had been affected by the floods. Once again, the people have begun to rebound and live.

In our visits and calls to pastors and ministries, we have seen something interesting happen in the months since these last floods. We can name four churches in this area who are experiencing spiritual awakening. The gospel is being preached, people are being saved and baptized, young families are being disciplined to reach their communities for Christ. It seems that in those towns, the spiritual drought is being lifted. Sometimes when we lose much, our hearts ache for renewal and change. Maybe that is what the Holy Spirit is stirring in hearts throughout our mountains- the desire for real life in Christ. You can continue to be part of that change by helping these churches and ministries with outreach and renewal. You can make a difference in Appalachia.

- Kathie Aiken, On-Site Coordinator, Baptists on Mission

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Baptists on Mission has developed the Appalachian Coalfields Ministry to minister both physically and spiritually to people in some of the poorest areas of our nation. Teams serve throughout West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, and North Carolina. Projects include weekend to week-long service in children's ministry, sports clinics, and construction, to name a few. There are dozens of requests for mission teams to help each year.

Blessed to Play a Part

APPALACHIAN CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

The Appalachian Christmas Outreach has become a ministry that I am so blessed to be a part of! In 2015, I heard about this ministry during a meeting at Ridgecrest. Dewey and Kathy Aiken, On-Site Coordinators for Baptists on Mission, shared about the backpack ministry. They encouraged us to come to BOM's Red Springs Mission Camp to take part in the annual "processing" of the backpacks. It sounded excited, so I signed up to go.

Since that day, this ministry has become so personal to me. A group from our church had gone on a mission trip to West Virginia to repair houses and came back talking about how they felt they had been in a foreign country. They also mentioned the many other needs they saw there. Having worked in the school system before I retired, I suddenly had a desire to see these Appalachian children have a special Christmas like the children around us have!

Each year this ministry has become ever more rewarding. That first year at the processing day, I looked through the backpacks, making sure all the items that are requested were in each one. Soon, I was asked to oversee the operation of the processing of backpacks at Red Springs. I've been there every year since! Extra items are always needed. Throughout the year, I enjoy finding and buying all those extra items we need, assuring that any items missing

from the backpacks are available for us to add! I have also been able to deliver backpacks to one of the West Virginia churches that had requested them. They were so appreciative to receive these backpacks.

Someone asked me why I invest so much of my time doing this each year. I tell them the Lord knows how I love Christmas and how much I love shopping! So it's easy to do something I love so much! Putting these two together, could not get any better for me. The Lord helps me know where the sales are and puts me in place where the deals are! It's like having fun all year round, getting ready for our special day in November! I really thank the Lord for putting this opportunity in front of me. It is a blessing to serve Him in this way!

- Brenda Bullard, North Laurinburg Baptist Church, Laurinburg, NC

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Brenda plays an important role in the overall Appalachian Christmas Backpack ministry. We are so appreciative of her dedication! She is one of many hundred volunteers who serve in a variety of ways each year—from collecting items and filling backpacks in their local church, to processing backpacks at Red Springs or Shelby Mission Camp, to delivering backpacks to churches and ministry centers, to doing evangelistic events with an Appalachian partner. Every backpack is important and represents the love of Christ to so many children each year. We would love to have you and your church take part in this meaningful ministry.

PENNSYLVANIA

Prayerwalking and Encouragement

Bring your favorite walking shoes and head out to prayerwalk, encourage pastors and their families, and support churches serving in Appalachia, Pennsylvania, and New England! A team from our church did that very thing in Pennsylvania last summer. While there, we were privileged to learn the needs of many churches/pastors who work diligently in hard places to reach people for Jesus. Keeping in mind those needs, the team walked specific areas surrounding each church as we prayed for homes, businesses and church members. Churches were located in former movie theaters, traditional buildings, store fronts, office buildings and former restaurants. Not surprisingly, we learned that our God is at work everywhere.

In addition, we had opportunity to serve pastors and their wives at regional pastor appreciation suppers. Delicious North Carolina barbecue traveled with our team to great acclaim. During these events, sponsored by Baptists on Mission, more prayer needs were heard, information about

the Pennsylvania Partnership was shared, and much love was slathered all over these faithful servants. The pastors were given an encouragement gift. Each pastor's wife was given an appreciation bag filled with lotion, devotional books, journals, lip balm, and more. Our team thoroughly enjoyed meeting these potential partners and continue to pray for their individual needs.

Does this sound like a perfect opportunity for a group from your church? There are many similar opportunities to serve in Appalachia, Pennsylvania, and New England. Check 'em out!

- Lyn Owen , Denver Baptist Church, Denver NC

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Each year Baptists on Mission offers opportunity for couples and/or small groups from NC churches to travel to our three "Eastern" partnership areas for prayerwalking and pastor encouragement. Our On-Site coordinators, Dewey and Kathie Aiken, will work with you to identify areas of need and put you in touch with pastors and churches. The results have been amazing!

Baptist on Mission's partnership with Pennsylvania Baptists began in 2007. Requests come in each fall and are posted for teams to view and respond. Outreach events of all kinds, children's ministry, and construction needs can all be found on the projects list, located as a .pdf at the top of the Pennsylvania webpage. Pray about how God might use your congregation to assist a Pennsylvania congregation in reaching the lost in their community. It could be a one time mission opportunity—or one that your church invests in for a number of years. In either case, you and your congregation will be a blessing, and will be richly blessed!



NEW ENGLAND

A Promise From God Fulfilled

In 2023 we contacted Baptists on Mission to secure a mission project for our church in New England. We were provided three options to look into. The first and second choices did not materialize, leaving one from a Brazilian church. Vida Abuntante Baptist was asking for VBS support. Reluctant to call because of cultural and language differences I paused, but finally called Pastor Roberto. Within 30 seconds we knew where God wanted us to be!

On Sunday during that first trip to “Saugus in August” our team attended worship and enjoyed warm fellowship. Our weeklong VBS was staged in a park. The church and community made it a great success, as we talked about Jesus and shared Bible stories. Two kids, Dylan and Raphael left an impression on us that first trip, and we prayed over the next year that God would provide a chance to share salvation with them.

Lisa and I were the only volunteers able to go back in 2024. We felt God leading us to go, keep the fire burning and the partnership growing so that He would bless our work for the next year. Their church pitched in, and their VBS grew from the previous year. Bible stories, such as the Garden of Eden, Noah and the Tower of Babel gained the kid’s attention. Much to our disappointment, Dylan didn’t attend that week; and sadly rain washed out plans to share salvation with the kids on Friday. Leaning on God’s promise we kept our chin up.

Planning for a return in 2025 brought the largest team from our church yet. You could sense God stirring hearts in preparation for our third trip to Saugus. We once again worshiped with Vida

Abundante on Sunday. The fellowship meal afterwards brought laughter and hugs. On Monday, we shared the creation story with the children. The kids were engaging and asking questions. The songs, games, and crafts were terrific. Then, after the lesson, I noticed someone at recreation. (You know kids grow a lot in 2 years.) It was Dylan! It felt like the Holy Spirit covered the field!

Thursday is our big day with the bouncy house, pizza and cotton candy. There were 62 children in attendance. We shared about Christ and the Cross. Thirteen of those children accepted Jesus that day. And yes, we are thrilled to say that Dylan and Raphael will be in Heaven with us! To God be the glory!

- Bryan and Lisa Jackson, Radiant Church, Arden NC

This is just one example of how churches and mission teams are making a difference throughout New England. Visit BOM’s New England webpage and pray about how your church can make a Kingdom difference in New England in 2027!

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New Name, Same Great Opportunities

Western US Work & Witness

For many years, Baptists on Mission has had the honor of working with Baptist leaders in the Rocky Mountain area, Alaska, and Hawaii. During that time we have developed relationships that have led to some very unique opportunities for Baptist volunteers to use their time and talents to serve our Lord. Many years ago we developed the term “Work and Witness” to describe areas in which we had relationship, but not a formal “partnership”. That term perfectly describes the opportunities BOM offers throughout the Western part of our nation. Volunteers have, and will continue to render valuable “work” through serving at camps, helping with construction needs, conducting children’s outreach, and helping with other evangelistic outreach. The “witness” part has always shone through - loud and clear. Other than their love for Christ, why would anyone take vacation time, pay their own way, and give long hours toward doing the “grunt work” that most do not want to do! We are deeply appreciative of those who go and serve in these areas!

Wyoming, Montana, New Mexico, Idaho. Each year, BOM sends teams to serve in the Rocky Mountain area of our nation. Recent projects have been completed in Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, and New Mexico. Volunteers serve through construction, children’s ministry, servant evangelism, camp ministry, and more. Every year, teams serve at three sister Baptist camps in Wyoming and New Mexico. Cook teams of 10-12 volunteers render a tremendous service to these camps, making it affordable for hundreds of children to attend and hear the Gospel message. Maintenance teams are also needed for a variety of tasks. Teams enjoy getting to meet the campers and the camp staff.

Hawaii. For many years, Baptists on Mission have sent couples year-round to serve as volunteer staff at the Baptist conference center on the island of Oahu. Work may include housekeeping, general maintenance and cleaning, landscaping, laundry, and other duties as needed. Volunteers work 5 days and are off 2 days per week. We need those who are self-starters, in good physical condition and able to put in full day’s work. Volunteers provide their own transportation to Hawaii. A studio efficiency apartment is provided for the couple’s lodging. Volunteers will need to provide many of their own meals. Other projects are also submitted by Hawaiian churches as needed.

Alaska. Each year a variety of requests come in from our sister churches in Alaska. The state is populated by hardy, independent folk. The opportunity for sharing Christ and furthering His Kingdom here is wide open. The majority of Alaskan Baptist congregations are small in number. Many are located in isolated areas. Things we take for granted in our churches are simply not available to many of theirs. Our participation in missions in Alaska provides needed resources, leadership, and possibly most importantly, - encouragement. Requests for evangelistic outreach, camp work, and construction come in each year. Pray about how you and your church may answer the call.

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What is “Agricultural Missions”?

Often people are surprised to hear there is an agricultural ministry within the NC Baptist on Mission and ask, “What do you do?”.

The stated purpose of agricultural ministry is, “to help Christians share the love of Jesus by becoming involved in missions that address poverty and hunger wherever they exist.”

In the first half of 2026, the Ag Missions team has had great opportunities to promote agricultural stewardship at both the Missions Conference and the Shelby Mission Camp’s annual garden day.

At the Missions Conference, we reviewed what it means to biblically steward our resources; specifically the soil and the water, and how to use this as a testimony of creation and our faith. We also reviewed practical online resources for biblical stewardship and gardening.

At the Shelby Mission Camp’s garden day, we first learned how to improve and better steward our gardens. Information was provided by team members and mission camp staff where we learned about soil testing, soil health, and composting. Throughout the day we answered several questions regarding home, church, and community gardens. In addition, it was a practical, hands-on field day, assisting the Shelby staff with planting, irrigation, and weeding.

If you really want to experience ag missions in NC, you will definitely want to visit the Shelby Mission Camp. Check out their new mobile market and volunteer with them. They are

always looking for volunteers to help in the garden, as well as ag ministry outreach.

Other things Ag Missions does from time to time is help with agricultural issues. Sometimes these are issues with plants or animals, and sometimes they are questions regarding beginning a community garden or some type of agricultural ministry at local churches. We often don’t know answers to everything, but we may be able to point you to resources or other folks that can help.

From time to time, we have team members on foreign mission trips. Togo, Africa and Santiago, Cuba are recent trips. In Togo for example, the hope is to assist locals in the development of an agricultural demonstration farm where people can learn agricultural practices, while also being engaged with the Gospel of Christ.

We always want our work to glorify Christ. Please pray for our team members as they plan for and serve in the agricultural ministry. If you have any interest in the Agriculture Missions team or activities as an individual or church, please reach out. Please also visit the Agriculture Missions page of the NC Baptist on Missions website for more information.

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Wings of Intercession: Covering NC in Prayer

Baptists on Mission Aviation Ministry recently took to the skies to conduct a prayer flight over Mooresville, Statesville, Boiling Springs and Shelby, NC, covering local churches and communities with intentional prayer. By flying over these areas, we seek to intercede for pastors, congregations, police departments, government officials, and residents, blessing the region from the air and asking for spiritual revival, unity, healing for the sick and protection in Jesus' name.

The mission aviation team, often involved in transporting missionaries, providing disaster relief logistics, or facilitating medical flights, understands that physical flight is merely a backdrop for spiritual mission. A prayer flight is a tangible, airborne declaration that God's presence is over our state.

Over Mooresville and Statesville

As the aircraft circled over the bustling Lake Norman area of Mooresville and moved northward to Statesville, pilots Bob Joyner (BOM aviation team) and Dennis Couch (BOM Aviation Ministry Coordinator) prayed for the churches in these expanding communities. We prayed specifically for church leaders to have wisdom, for congregation members to be strengthened in their faith, for the sick to be healed and for the Gospel to be shared effectively within these towns. In a world of chaos, we know that prayer is direct access to heaven, and we wanted to lift every church roof in that area, praying that these locations would be beacons of light.

Covering Shelby and Boiling Springs

Continuing west, our prayer flight turned its focus toward Boiling Springs, Shelby NC. Bob and I engaged in intense intercession for the Shelby BOM Mission Camp, the Back Pack ministry, Boiling Springs and Shelby Churches and

specifically for the youth in neighborhoods there, asking for protection over homes and encouragement for the pastors, staff, volunteers working in the trenches. We also had the opportunity to stop at KEHO (Shelby-Cleveland County Regional Airport) and introduce flying to new Young Eagle Elijah for his 11th Birthday and for him to see God's creation from the air. Elijah's happiness and excitement was a pure joy for us as pilots, knowing we might have sparked a child's dream to be a pilot one day. From the air and with Elijah's parents we prayed over their church. After the flight we presented Elijah with a certificate, log book, free flying courses as mementos for his flight and how to receive future pilot training. The goal is always to support N.C. Baptist churches and BOM ministry and help them impact their communities with the Gospel.

A Ministry of Prayer and Action

Prayer flights are a reminder of the need to pray constantly. Similar to how our aviation ministry provides support for urgent needs and disaster relief, we believe in supporting the spiritual life of NC communities through prayer. We are grateful for every church and community member who acts as a prayer warrior, partnering with us to serve our Lord.

As we land, we continue to pray for the families, pastors, and leaders in Mooresville, Statesville, and Shelby. We know that prayer makes a difference, and we are honored to use the gift of flight to serve the Lord, living Sent and "keeping looking up" until the shout.

To learn more about Baptists on Mission Aviation projects, please visit our Aviation Project Page.

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How To Reach the "Don't Yet" Believers



Did you know that:

- 81% of Gen Z are curious about the Bible?
- 64% of Gen Z said they wish they read the Bible more?
- 60% of Gen Z said they want to know more about Jesus?

Wherever God has placed us, that is the place of our ministry. "Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you..." Jeremiah 29:7. NC Baptist Educators help support Christian teachers in public schools through prayer and blessings. We provide school supplies, snacks for Teacher Workdays, tutor students in reading, and on and on. But mainly, we also expect to "bless the city". That includes those teachers, principals and staff who do not yet believe in God. When churches build a relationship with a local school, they show what God can do! "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:16.

We also do Prayer Walks. One of our teachers relates the following story. "I really wanted to cover my school in prayer for the year, but I knew I couldn't do that by myself. So, I

decided to ask my Sunday School class to help me with that. They agreed to. Knowing that I had some prayer partners, I decided to go to school to see if I could find some teachers or staff who would like to have someone praying for them all year. I went from grade level to grade level asking the teachers and staff. 60 people said yes!" Within 6 months, not only was this Christian teacher able to lead her church to pray for her school classrooms, but they were able to start a weekly after-school Bible study for 8-12 teachers, some of whom had never been to a Bible study before. This is what God can do through one teacher and one church!

Another avenue is teaching English classes to internationals in your church. This is an easy way to reach those who **don't yet come to your church**. One example that we love to share is how three of us prayed at a church in Wendell that God would bring leaders and resources to a new Hispanic church in starting an ESL program. In 7 months time, God brought workers to

start and lead this outreach to Spanish-speakers in the area. It is blossoming and God is being glorified. We are finding that when we ask God to bring the resources and people we need, he fulfills the desires of our hearts. After all, it is God's will that all may hear the Gospel and say "yes", especially those who **don't yet believe!**

Do you feel God is calling you and your church to get involved in a local public school? What about your church starting ESL classes for internationals who don't know English? In all these places, we can share God's love to those who don't yet believe. Please pray about these opportunities.

If you need training for any of these areas, invite us to your church and we'll be glad to help you figure out what to do next. We know that God has a place for Christians in the classroom!

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Who doesn't need to be renewed?

Those who hope in the Lord will have their strength renewed, likened to soaring on eagle's wings (Isaiah 40:31).

In many congregations today, there is a quiet but unmistakable longing for renewal—a desire to move beyond routine and rediscover the vibrant, life-giving presence of Christ. A Church Renewal Journey answers that longing, inviting believers into a deeper, more intentional walk with God that transforms not only individuals but entire church communities.

At its heart, a Church Renewal Journey is not about programs or strategies, but about rekindling love for Jesus Christ. It calls the church to return to its foundation: prayer, Scripture, repentance, and authentic fellowship. As participants engage in this process, they begin to experience a spiritual awakening that stirs their hearts and reshapes their priorities. Faith becomes more than a Sunday expression—it becomes a daily pursuit marked by devotion and expectancy.

One of the most profound impacts of renewal is seen in personal transformation. Individuals who may have felt spiritually stagnant begin to encounter God in fresh ways. Through guided reflection, communal worship, and intentional discipleship, they rediscover the joy of salvation and the power of grace. Hearts once burdened by routine are reignited with passion, leading to renewed commitment and deeper trust in God's promises.

This personal renewal naturally extends to the wider church body. As hearts ignite, relationships within the congregation grow stronger and more authentic. Members become more compassionate, more unified, and more willing to serve. Church Renewal Journey fosters a culture of expectancy. Rather than simply maintaining traditions, the church begins to anticipate God's movement in new and powerful ways. There is a shared sense that God is actively at work, drawing people closer to Himself and equipping them for His purposes.

It's important to note, renewal is not a one-time event but an ongoing process. It requires humility, openness, and a willingness to be led by the Holy Spirit. Churches that embrace this journey often find that the initial spark of renewal grows into a sustained flame, continually inspiring growth and transformation. As hearts are ignited for Christ, the church becomes not just a place of gathering, but a living, breathing expression of God's grace—radiating hope, love, and truth to all who encounter it.

Church Renewal Journey is a starting point for churches and individuals. Our Church Renewal Journey team is ready to come meet your needs in your community. We also need help meeting the needs of others.



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Compassion with a Capital “SEE”

Throughout North Carolina, churches are asking how they can share the love of Jesus with their community.

Often it just takes us opening our eyes to see immediate needs around us. When we see, we can act and help others through compassionate hearts.

Each year, many of us plant gardens and harvest fresh vegetables throughout the year. Why should we only grow for our family when many people around us would benefit greatly from our bounty? Your church could gather vegetables from personal or community gardens and distribute to families.

An ongoing need at food closets, ministry centers or homeless shelters is the distribution of hygiene kits. Ziplock bags of soap, washcloths, shampoo, hair brush, deodorant, tooth brush and tooth paste can be prepared by all ages. Our church also enjoys preparing meals for the homeless shelter during cold winter months.

Think about what can be done for your local nursing home- sing-a- longs and worship services, holiday parties, just visiting and spending time with the residents. What about meeting the needs of the elderly in your community by cooking favorite dishes or building a needed ramp? Children and youth can especially help with yard clean up.

Preparing and mailing cards of encouragement can also be done by all ages. One 96 year old lady in our church prepared birthday cards as she sat in her wheelchair. She knew her community well and Ms Betty prayed for each family each day. It was a virtual prayerwalk from her own home. There are no age restrictions for showing compassion.

Many of our communities have scores of single mothers. The men in our church set up days for oil changes and car washes for these moms. At

a Laundromat, one church provided coins, free laundry detergent and dryer sheets for families doing their laundry. The church members would spend 2-3 hours on a Saturday morning doing this. Also, many single moms can benefit from money management instruction and helping to prepare a budget.

And then there are the children- Backyard Bible Clubs, sports camps, park cleanup, block parties, after school tutoring. The teachers at our schools love to have snacks brought in as well as appreciation luncheon. School supplies for the beginning of school are a great help to the teachers who often buy these from their personal budget.

One outreach we enjoy in our NC mountains is taking bottled water, snacks, maps and dog treats to distribute at our state forest. With 1 million visitors a year from all over the world, our area churches have opportunity to care for our visiting guests while having conversation with them. Many conversations have led to answering questions and sharing about Jesus.

These are only a few suggestions of compassion ministry opportunities. Look around, see the needs and then act in the name of Jesus. For more detailed suggestions, you may go to Baptists on Mission - Compassion Ministries. You will find.....compassion begins with seeing!

Kathie Aiken



CONTACT

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Investing in Marriages to Strengthen the Church

February is always a sweet time of year to reflect on love, but this past February, the Family Foundations team had the opportunity to minister to 22 couples from Shiloh Baptist Church who decided to invest in a love that goes far deeper than Valentine's Day cards and roses. The retreat, which began with a date-night atmosphere Friday evening and ended early Saturday afternoon, focused on the timely theme of *Growth and Grace*.

The 22 couples in attendance ranged from newlyweds still navigating how to merge two different lives to others who had been married for decades. No matter their stage of life, every marriage benefited from simply stepping away from the daily grind. For just a day and a half, the distractions of work emails, chores, and busy schedules were put on pause to focus entirely on strengthening their covenants.

Our goal was to help couples look honestly at their relationships through the lens of Scripture and the practical lessons we can glean from couples in the Bible. By the time we were dismissed after lunch on Saturday, the atmosphere was entirely transformed. Couples who arrived on Friday looking a bit tired and disconnected were sitting closer, laughing, and sharing a renewed sense of hope and commitment.

Ultimately, a local church is only as strong as its families—and the heart of the family is the marriage covenant. When our marriages are struggling, it ripples through our homes and our ministries. But when we take the time to intentionally pour into marriages, the whole church benefits. Healthy, Christ-centered marriages create peaceful homes where the next generation can truly see the gospel lived out. It strengthens our small groups, revitalizes our volunteer teams, and provides a powerful witness to our community.

Couples need this encouragement, and our churches need the reminder that God's design for marriage is worth protecting. You don't need a massive budget, a fancy resort, or a week-long event to make a lasting impact. When couples come with expectant hearts, the Lord meets them right where they are.

If you are interested in bringing this opportunity to your own church, please contact the Family Foundations team.

CONTACT

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THE Marriage YOU'VE ALWAYS Wanted

A BAPTISTS ON MISSION CONFERENCE

 SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2026

 BURKEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH
4668 Burkemont Road
Morganton, NC 28655

MORE INFO
missions@ncbaptist.org
919-459-5596

BAPTISTS ON
MISSION

*Hosted by the Family Foundations Ministry
of NC Baptists on Mission.*

COST

\$50/couple \$25 for individual
*Cost covers light breakfast, lunch,
and conference materials.*

TIME

8:30 am - 3:30 pm



SPEAKER
Dr. Gary Chapman

REGISTER AT
BAPTISTSONMISSION.ORG/FAMILYFOUNDATIONS

CONSTRUCTION SKILLS TRAINING

Jesus called on His followers to *let our light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven*. Hanging and finishing drywall, laying laminate flooring, framing a wall, or building a wheelchair ramp can be the avenue for you to make Christ known and seen in your community. You can you be “Jesus with skin on” to your neighbors or around the world.

The needs in your community may be for building wheelchair ramps, installing grab bars, doing small home repairs or assisting with other construction needs. Is your church prepared to answer the call? Hands-on training for those with limited construction experience can help us move out of our seats and into the streets to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Construction skills training can open the door for you to serve at the Baptists on Mission Red Springs, Shelby, or Charity Mission Centers; volunteer at our disaster rebuild centers in Eastern NC or in WNC; or go on a construction mission trip. There are projects in the Appalachian Coal Fields, New England, the Rocky Mountains, and throughout NC where you can use your new skills. You will also learn more about our rebuild

opportunities at six rebuild centers we are operating in Western NC after Hurricane Helene.

Imagine helping hurricane survivors return home, assisting a church plant or replant renovate a facility, or changing lives in your own community! Plan now to bring a group from your church to learn new skills, develop stronger relationships, and prepare to move out to serve and reach your community.

February 20 and September 25, 2027 - Charity Mission Camp

March 13 and October 9, 2027 - Red Springs Mission Camp

March 20 and October 16, 2027 - Shelby Mission Center

\$15 for Saturday training only

\$25 for Friday overnight and Saturday training

CONTACT

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THERE'S PEACE IN CHRIST

Anyone involved in the church has witnessed-or perhaps even experienced-"burnout": seasons when hardship, suffering, and spiritual attacks leave us feeling numb and doubting our calling or even God's goodness. Often, people continue serving while feeling overwhelmed, exhausted, and half-hearted.

Sadly, many of our brothers and sisters in Christ have become so busy serving others that they have mistaken the work of ministry for intimacy with Jesus. As a result, they fail to walk in the power and fullness of the Spirit who lives within them. Jesus said, "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

Just as salvation comes by faith in Jesus alone-for we were dead in our trespasses and sins, and dead people cannot choose life for themselves-it was God who removed the veil of ignorance from our hearts and gifted us with faith to believe in His Son. In the same way, we are to live our lives by faith in Jesus. Jesus said, "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you" (John 15:7). Scripture also tells us, "Without faith it is impossible to please Him... for He is a rewarder of those who seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6). Who does God reward with peace and courage? Those who abide in Christ. Those who seek Him.

To be in Christ means living our everyday-even mundane-lives by faith in Him. Daily reliance on Christ, along with the discipline of reading Scripture and praying, is how we fight for faith and guard against burnout. Through receiving His living Word by faith and walking in obedience under the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit, we are transformed and empowered to live with His peace and courage. God is always drawing us nearer to Himself. His heart's desire is the restoration of His people.

The Prayer Support Ministry invites you to join us in praying for our brothers and sisters in Christ. In humble faith, pray:

1. Ask Jesus to teach us how to pray and how to live each day in Him.
2. Ask Jesus to help us die to self and walk by faith, not by feelings.
3. Ask Jesus to give us patience to be still, to wait, and to listen. Then, when God reveals His plan to you, move forward with conviction and obedience by faith.

Will you join us? Please download the weekly prayer guide and become part of the Prayer Support Team. May all of God's children come to know His perfect peace.

CONTACT

Tracy Leonard, Prayer Support Coordinator
bomprayerline@gmail.com



Men's Worship Rallies - November 2026

Men's Worship Rallies will be held in five locations across the state in November 2026. These rallies feature a good meal, great fellowship, worship, a spiritual challenge for men, and missions information. The purpose of the rallies are three-fold – 1) to worship and fellowship together 2) to share information on mission opportunities, and 3) to provide inspiration, and a model for how to strengthen the ministry to men in your church. All men and their pastors are invited to attend the rally closest to them. Rally dates are as follows: Region 2 Thursday, November 5; Region 4 Tuesday, November 10; Region 6 Thursday, November 12; Region 8 Thursday, November 19; and Region 10 Monday, November 30. Registration is \$5 per person, which will go toward covering the cost of the meal. Come fellowship with us!

2027 Men's Outdoor Weekend



In early May 2026 over 150 men gathered for BOM's **Men's Outdoor Weekend**, a time of fellowship, worship, and outdoor fun. The annual event, held at **Camp Caraway** in Asheboro, provides men a fun outdoor experience that will also

challenge them to walk closer with Christ. The weekend begins with a time of worship on Friday night, followed by fellowship around the campfire. Saturday morning features demonstrations on a variety of shooting activities and hunting topics. Saturday afternoon includes competition in skeet, archery, tomahawk throw, pistol shoot, sling shot, and rifles. Next year's event will be **April 30-May 1, 2027**. Mark your calendars now and plan to bring your men to this fun event.

Igniting the Hearts of Men Conference 2027

September 11, 2027 – Hickory Area – Specific Site TBD



**IGNITING
THE HEARTS
OF MEN**
Baptists on Mission

Plan now to join us for one unforgettable day of encouragement, exhortation, and inspiration for men at the **Igniting the Hearts of Men Conference** on **Saturday, September 11, 2027**. This one day equipping conference is designed to prepare men to be courageous, effective Christ-followers. The IHM Conference is for men of all ages and will include worship, and inspiring messages from two nationally known speakers. Resources for men's personal growth and men's ministry development in the church will be featured. Three breakout session times will offered with a choice of 18 seminars led by men's leaders from around the nation. Mark your calendars now! You will not want to miss this.

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Baptist Men's Day 2027

The 93rd observance of Baptist Men's Day is January 24 in 2027. Churches use this day to remind the congregation of the importance of Baptist Men's ministry within the church, community, and the world. A detailed planning guide is available on our Men's Ministry webpage.

Men's Ministry Training Available

The Baptists on Mission Men's Ministry Advisory Team is available to provide men's ministry training for the local church and/or the Baptist Association. Training helps churches develop an intentional strategy for reaching and discipling men. If you would like help in training and preparing the men of your church or association, contact Mark Abernathy at 919-459-5607 or mabernathy@ncbaptist.org.



MISSION OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS



Charity Testimonial



Last Fall, I had the opportunity to go on a mission trip to the Charity Mission Center in Wallace, North Carolina, with my church, Brookwood Baptist. It was a small group of us, maybe 15-20 students, as well as 5-6 adults. We were tasked with food and clothes distribution for people who were insecure in those areas. We were told to bag the food or other necessities the people may need, while also getting to know them spiritually. We would bag their items, walk the people to their car, and help them load up. Before the people would depart, we would offer a prayer and share the good news of the gospel with them. Many of them even offered to pray over us as well. I saw the Lord moving during this mission trip through joy. These people were

so happy to be helped with their physical needs, but I saw even more joy in them through the sharing of the gospel and through prayer. – Holden Smith, High School Student

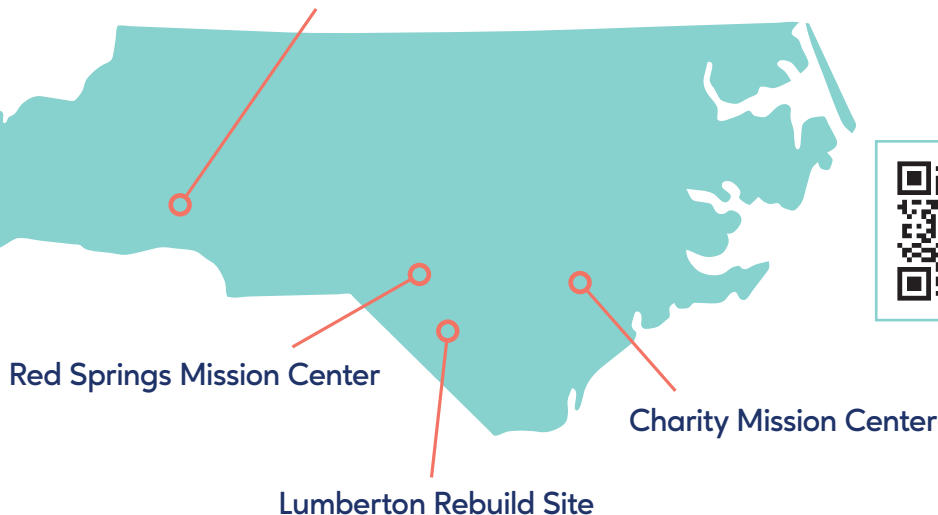
Red Springs Testimonial



In July of 2024, I had the opportunity to coordinate a mission trip for our student ministry alongside Red Springs Mission Camp. We had a total of 5 mission teams that went out and served the community: a Vacation Bible School, construction, sports camp, retirement home, and a women's ministry team. Each team had so many amazing stories about how they saw God working in the lives of the people that they were serving. I, alongside another adult, led the sports camp team, and we had a total of 6 middle/high school students serving with us. Many of the children we played different games with told us that they had a general idea of who Jesus was. We quickly realized that many were not familiar with the Good News of the

gospel. We were able to consistently pour into these children and share the love of Christ with them, teaching them tools that they could use to share their faith, such as the Three Circles. Each day, the children would get so excited that we came back, spending time with them and learning their stories was truly amazing. I am so thankful that the Lord provided a path and let us meet and fellowship with these kids!

Shelby Mission Center



CONTACT

Tina Holder
tholder@ncbaptist.org
(919) 459-5596

DI Kids: One Day Mission Events



DI Kids will continue offering churches the opportunity to host the One-Day Mission Events in their community. This allows children and their parents/leaders to serve for one day in local communities across the state. Watch for upcoming events in your area or sign up to host your own one-day event at your church.



**2026 DI KIDS
ONE-DAY MISSION
EVENT**

**8:30AM - 3:30PM
\$10 PER PARTICIPANT
LUNCH/SNACK PROVIDED**



Scan the QR code below if you are interested in hosting a One-Day Mission Event at your church.



CONTACT

Dollie Noa
(919) 459-5598
dnoa@ncbaptist.org



In Loving Memory



Jasper Evans—a man whose century-long journey has been defined by service, humility, faith, and a lifetime of dedication to his family, community, and country. Jasper entered the Kingdom of Heaven April 20, 2026.

Jasper was born on April 2, 1925, at home on the family farm in Bladenboro, North Carolina. He was the second of ten children, raised in a hard-working farming family. Growing up during the Great Depression, Jasper learned the value of faith, family, and perseverance at an early age.

After high school, Jasper was drafted into service during World War II and chose to join the U.S. Navy. Jasper was assigned to the USS Hayter, an Assault Personnel Destroyer.

Following his service, Jasper married Mary Lou Williams in 1949 and pursued higher education at NC State University, earning

a degree in mechanical engineering. After the tragic loss of Mary Lou in 1967, Jasper continued to lead his family with strength and faith. He later married Jean McNeill, and together they welcomed their daughter, Stephanie. After Jean's passing, Jasper married Sue Faye Sudderth, and they shared many happy years together.

Today, Jasper's incredible legacy is seen in the many churches and communities he helped build, but most importantly, in the family he has lovingly raised and the countless lives he has touched. He is the proud father of seven children, numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

In the 1980s, Jasper began his second chapter of service—disaster relief and mission work. Through North Carolina Baptist Men, he traveled across the country and around the world, volunteering to rebuild churches, schools, homes, and orphanages. From Africa to Eastern Europe to Hawaii, Jasper's hands and heart were always at work for others. Jasper served selflessly and joyfully, reflecting God's love in all he did.



John "Mark" Rice, aged 66, resident of Moncure, North Carolina, passed away peacefully at home in the early morning hours of Friday, February 13th, 2026, with his wife Lois by his side. Mark was born on April 19, 1959, in Missouri. He was the only son of John and Margaret Rice of Rolla, Missouri.

Beloved by many, Mark is survived not only by his loving wife of 23 years, he was the adored "bonus dad" of Kaitlyn Friis Burley (Austin Burley) of Raleigh, NC, and Erik Friis (Pearl Friis), and Mark's granddaughter, Sophia Friis of Charlotte, NC. He is also survived by both of his parents, John and Margaret Rice, and his three sisters Debbie Rice Clark (Walter), Denise Rice Boger

(Jeff) and Kara Rice Smith (Brian), along with numerous nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews.

Mark served faithfully for many years as the Baptists on Mission State Agriculture Ministry Coordinator and as a member of the Advisory Team. His passion for missions and agriculture made a significant impact on many lives through his leadership and participation.

Mark volunteered a great deal of his time in working with Baptists on Mission throughout the U.S. and the world to help communities in need and contribute to folks building up their food sovereignty and self-sufficiency, and sharing the Gospel.

We hope that the memories of Mark's life and his dedication to Christ will point others toward the faith, and that fellow believers find renewed joy in the assurance of being reunited in heaven.



Robert Stroup entered eternity on Friday, January 9, 2026, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. However, neither his illness, nor military service, nor athletic ability, nor college career really define Robert Stroup. God blessed Robert & Ruby with 47 years and 11 months together as husband and wife.

Robert Stroup was a man of character, humility and integrity. He was a prime example of a good neighbor, an encourager, and a true-blue friend.

Robert's call from Jesus was not preaching, but one of action... specifically mission work. His generous service for Christ took

Robert all over the world on 72 BOM mission trips, many of them accompanied by his traveling companion, Skip Greene. Robert used his construction skills in numerous ways, sometimes spending not just weeks, but literally months, building bridges, fixing roads, drilling water wells, and constructing churches and schools. Robert served Almighty God in Togo, Kenya, South Africa as well as in Poland, Ukraine and Jamaica. What a servant's heart he had!

For over 40 years, Robert Stroup volunteered for the NC Baptist Men, now known as Baptists on Mission. He set up feeding units for disaster relief victims and even served food at the Pentagon just after the terrorist attacks on 9/11/2001. Richard Brunson, referred to Robert "As one of our best leaders with BOM."

President Tim Etheridge, *Greenville*
Vice President, East Tammy Weeks, *Rose Hill*
Vice President, Piedmont Steve Reavis, *Elon*
Vice President, West Linda Pitman, *Spruce Pine*
Recording Secretary Lynn Tharrington, *Louisburg*
Past President Steve Couch, *Durham*

- #1.....Susann Schlichter, *Camden*
- #2.....Brenda Boberg, *Farmville*
- #3.....Wendy Henderson, *Rose Hill*
- #4.....Robert Simons, *Hurdle Mills*
- #5.....Roy Carter, *Pleasant Garden*
- #6.....Scott Baucom, *Marshville*
- #7.....Beverly Eckard, *Boonville*
- #8.....Bob Joyner, *Mooreville*
- #9.....Perry Brindley, *Asheville*
- #10.....Carol Millsaps, *Robbinsville*

Nona Hardy, *Apex* – 2028
Wanda Temple, *Creedmoor* – 2027
Beth Rogers, *Spruce Pine* – 2026

Agriculture Missions.....	Chris Bellamy, <i>Tabor City</i>
Aviation	Dennis Couch, <i>Sherrills Ford</i>
Baptist Educators	Kevin Rutledge, <i>Strasburg, VA</i>
Children's Mobilization	Renea Henderson, <i>Asheboro, NC</i>
Church Renewal.....	Joey & Genevieve Hamer, <i>Clayton</i>
Compassion Ministries	Taylor & Susan Field, <i>Black Mountain</i>
Disaster Rebuild	Tom Poston, <i>Fayetteville</i>
Disaster Recovery	Tom Hamrick, <i>Spindale</i>
Disaster Relief	Terry Hall, <i>New Bern</i>
Family Foundations	Rex & Emily Stroud, <i>Dobson</i>
International Projects	Gene Kirby, <i>Morganton</i>
Medical Dental Fellowship	Sheila Prevatte, <i>Salisbury</i>
Men's Ministry	Pete Teague, <i>Salisbury</i>
Mission Centers	Don Pittman, <i>Shelby</i>
National Projects	Randy Swisher, <i>Conover</i>
Prayer Support	Tracy Leonard, <i>Castalia</i>
Student Mobilization	Travis Suttles, <i>Jacksonville</i>





"... as the Father has sent Me,
I also send you."

JOHN 20:21



Living Sent

NCMISSIONSOFFERING.ORG

SCAN TO GIVE
TO NCMO



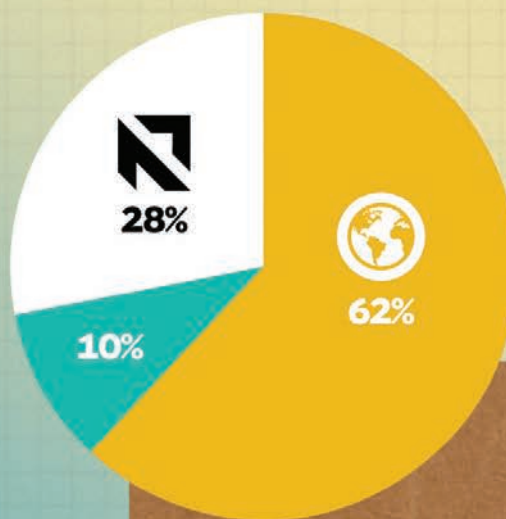
\$2.8 *million*
2026 GOAL

NCMO

SUPPORTS:

■ Baptists on Mission Ministries	\$1,724,800
■ Church Planting	\$795,200
■ Associational Missions	\$280,000

TOTAL **\$2,800,000**





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LIVING SENT

CONFERENCE

Living Sent Conference *p. 7*

2027 Living Sent Conference
April 2-3, 2027
Hickory Grove Baptist Church—Harris, Charlotte, NC
Featuring Kyle Idleman, Jennifer Rothschild,
Tom Richter, Karen Kingsbury, James Brown.
Worship by Michael O'Brien.



WNC home dedication marks milestone in
Helene recover *p. 15*
baptistsonmission.org/helene



Disaster Response Trainings *p. 19*

Contact: Tom Beam (919) 459-5605;
tbeam@ncbaptist.org
baptistsonmission.org/training/disaster-relief-training



It's Finally Here - Newest Mobile Dental Unit *p. 23*

To learn more, contact Krissy Watson,
kwatson@ncbaptist.org