

State Missions Offering for Alabama Baptists

Listen to this word from Candace McIntosh, AL WMU Executive Director (*edited for space*):

WHEN I LOOK BACK over the brief history of the Week of Prayer for State Missions and the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering, I am overwhelmed with gratitude by all the Lord has done. Just three short years ago, we, as Alabama Baptists, came together for the first time for a week of dedicated prayer for state missions. Local churches all across Alabama gave generously to the offering, and the Great Commission Ministries that are featured continued to thrive and to be blessed to an even greater degree through God's answer to those specific prayers and gifts. Perhaps one of the most beautiful blessings has been the demonstration of true cooperation and unity of purpose among Alabama Baptists on display. Never was that more evident than last year during the unprecedented string of horrible hurricanes that battered the coast from Texas to Florida to the Caribbean. Even before the first storm hit, we watched our brothers and sisters in Disaster Relief begin to ready their volunteers and resources. They were already trained and equipped, and the infrastructure and equipment needed for a timely response was already in place. In addition, Alabama Baptists sent an immediate gift of relief funds to our partner state conventions. As the first storm, Hurricane Harvey, made landfall, Alabama WMU issued a call to prayer through our social media channels. The prayer guide was shared and forwarded tens of thousands of times... during each subsequent disaster. Each person played their part. Some gave their time as disaster relief volunteers. Others volunteered their talents and utilized their influence to mobilize prayer teams. Whether it was by praying fervently for others or giving sacrificially to the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering and specific hurricane relief, Alabama Baptists joined together in unity and love. It is with this same heart that we move forward into the third year of observing the Week of Prayer for State Missions and gathering of the Myers-Mallory State Missions offering. Alabama Baptists remain strong in their conviction of living out the Great Commission and commandment of Acts 1:8 as we serve in our Jerusalem and Judea. As we read through the Week of Prayer for State Missions Prayer Guide this year, we will be absolutely encouraged by the examples of selfless service offered by individual godly men and women, and by groups of Disaster Relief volunteers. As you join together with Alabama Baptists around the state for the Week of Prayer for State Missions, take a moment to marvel at the truly amazing ways God is using the Body of Christ to accomplish His purposes. You are part of that story. Are you willing to give sacrificially to the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering so that the Great Commission Ministries featured can continue to reach our state with the Gospel? Most of all, may we, as Alabama Baptists, remain steadfast as we move forward together in sharing the Gospel in the vast mission field of our own state. May we not forget that more than two million Alabamians remain unchurched. May we stay strong in our resolve to make Him known...each one doing our part until He returns!