

TENNESSEE MISSIONS EMPHASIS 2026-2027

together

WE PRAY. WE GIVE. WE GO.

**Celebrating 125 Years
of Prayer & Giving for
Tennessee Missions**

PRAYER GUIDE

**“...striving TOGETHER AS ONE
for the faith of the gospel”
Philippians 1:27**



T:M } *Tennessee Baptist*
MISSION BOARD

What is the Golden Offering?

For 125 years, Tennessee Baptists have set aside a special season of prayer and giving for state missions. What began in 1902 through the leadership of W.C. and Mildred Golden continues today through the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions. As we mark the 125th anniversary of this missions emphasis in 2026-2027, we celebrate God's faithfulness and renew our commitment to reach Tennessee for Christ.

Today, GOTM is meeting human needs through Compassion Ministries, restoring communities after storms through Disaster Relief Ministries, sharing the hope of Christ on college campuses through Baptist Collegiate Ministries, and much more.

Pray about how you can reach, connect, and give to state missions through the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions.

For more information, visit GoldenOffering.org.

To request promotional materials, contact Tennessee WMU at 615.371.7908 or wmu@tnbaptist.org. To place a standing order for materials, visit tnwmuorder.org.



TBM

**Tennessee Baptist
MISSION BOARD**

Thank you, Tennessee Baptists, for supporting missions and ministries through the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions.

A HISTORY OF THE GOLDEN OFFERING FOR TENNESSEE MISSIONS



1902 Recognizing the urgency of the needs in Tennessee and feeling all Baptists should know about them, Mildred Golden suggested a special season of prayer with an offering for state missions just as churches prayed for and gave to foreign missions and home missions. Dr. W.C. Golden was State Missions Secretary at the time; together they prepared and distributed the materials from their home. The first offering received was \$800.

1943 Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union officially named the state missions offering in honor of the Golden; it became the Golden State Missions Offering (GSMO).

1952 The offering goal was \$35,000. Allocations included camps, rural work, women missionaries, and preachers' schools.

1962 The goal of \$75,000 included allocations for an international student retreat, student aid at Harrison-Chilhowee Academy, & a church lot fund.

1972 More than doubling in a decade, the goal of \$170,000 included gifts to native Tennessee missionaries, ministry to the deaf, student summer missions, mission center ministries, and special rural and mountain ministries.

1982 The offering goal was \$550,000. Allocations included student scholarships, disaster relief, language missions ministries, ministry to the handicapped, resort missions, scripture distribution, and world witness through the World's Fair in Knoxville.

1992 The offering topped a million with a goal of \$1,050,000. Tennessee had a population of 4.9 million. Allocations included homes for the developmentally disabled, mega-focus cities, a site fund for new churches, and seminary extension.

2002 In the centennial year, the offering name was changed to the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions to clarify its purpose and still honor the legacy of Dr. and Mrs. Golden. One-half of the \$1.6 million offering focused on starting new churches.

2008 A total of \$1,730,525 was received for the 2007-2008 offering, exceeding the state-wide goal for the first time in 13 years.

2022 A total of \$2,227,364 was given to the 2021-2022 offering, surpassing the state goal once again since 2007-2008 and going over \$2 million for the first time.

2025 A grand total of \$2,888,182 was given in 2024-2025. This amount included \$2,731,089 given through GOTM and \$157,093 given through Golden Opportunity Projects. Allocations included new churches, compassion ministries, adoption ministries, missions, discipleship ministries, disaster relief, collegiate campus ministries, BlueOval City initiative, and associational ministries.



Week of Prayer for Tennessee Missions

*Special Literature
for
Week of Prayer
for
State Missions
1902.*

The Week of Prayer for Tennessee Missions is a focused time for Tennessee Baptists to pray for the spiritual and physical needs across our state. It coincides with the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions, which is received throughout the year and highlighted during this special week.

The 2026-2027 theme 'Together: We Pray. We Give. We Go.' reminds us that Tennessee is our mission field. As you use this guide, pray for the lost, for communities in need, for Tennessee Baptist ministries, and for the ways God may be calling you and your church to join Him in His work across our state.

The suggested dates for the Week of Prayer are September 13-20, 2026, but churches can observe when it is most convenient for them.

**SCAN QR CODE
FOR MORE
INFORMATION,
STORIES & VIDEOS**



"My prayer? That every home in Tennessee may become a Christian home! My part? To have a share, however small, in a work so blessed of God, so pleasing in His sight."

-Mildred Golden-

SUNDAY: IGNITING SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

"After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly."
Acts 4:31

There is no strategy more powerful than a church on its knees. Spiritual awakening has always begun not in programs or plans, but in prayer - desperate, believing, expectant prayer that God is not done with Tennessee.

For 125 years, Tennessee Baptists have cried out for revival in this state. Today that cry feels more urgent than ever. Our churches need fresh fire. Our neighbors need to see what genuine transformation looks like. Our communities need to feel the shockwave of a people who have truly encountered the living God.

The Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions supports prayer initiatives, evangelism training, and tools that equip Tennessee Baptist churches to be centers of spiritual awakening in their communities.

PRAY FOR SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

- Ask God to shake your church the way He shook the upper room in Jerusalem.
- Pray for a hunger for God's Word to spread across Tennessee - in sanctuaries, in living rooms, in jails, in dorm rooms, and in recovery houses.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to move with such evident power that people in your community ask, *"What is happening at that church?"*
- Pray that this Week of Prayer is not just a church tradition, but a turning point.

MONDAY: ENGAGING LOSTNESS

*"Go out to the roads and country lanes
and compel them to come in, so that my
house will be full."
Luke 14:23*

Here is a sobering reality: right now, more lost people live in Tennessee than at any point in our state's history. Our population is growing. Our churches, in many cases, are not keeping pace. In dozens of counties across the state, there is one church for every 10,000 people - or more.

But Jesus said *compel them to come in*. Not wait for them to show up. Not hope they find their way. Compel them. That word carries urgency - the urgency of a host who knows the feast is ready and the chairs are empty, who cannot bear the thought of anyone missing what has been prepared.

Tennessee is full of people who have never been compelled. They've driven past our church buildings for years. They've never been invited. They've never been sought.

The Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions funds evangelism strategies, church planting assessments, and missional training to help Tennessee Baptist churches stop waiting and start going.

PRAY FOR THE LOST

- Pray by name for someone in your life who doesn't know Christ. Ask God to give you the words - and the courage - to compel them toward Jesus this week.
- Pray for Tennessee Baptist churches to feel the holy discomfort of a community full of lost people.
- Ask God to raise up bold witnesses in every county of this state, and pray that your church would be known as a place where the lost are genuinely welcomed and pursued.



TUESDAY: **CARING** **FOR THE** **VULNERABLE**

"Pure and undefiled religion before God the Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained from the world."
James 1:27

There are children in every county in Tennessee right now who need a home. Children who have known instability, fear, and loss - who are waiting to experience what every child deserves: safety, love, and belonging.

At the same time, thousands of women across our state are facing unplanned pregnancies, often alone, often afraid, often lacking a single person to walk alongside them. Pregnancy resource centers - many supported through the Golden Offering - are meeting those women in the most vulnerable moments of their lives, offering practical care and the hope of the gospel.

God has always had a special heart for the vulnerable. And He has always intended for His church to be His hands extended toward them.

The Golden Offering supports the Amy Hood Adoption Endowment, which provides funding to Tennessee Baptist couples pursuing adoption, as well as resources for foster care support and pregnancy ministry across the state.

PRAY FOR THE VULNERABLE

- Pray for the thousands of children in Tennessee's foster system.
- Ask God to stir hearts in your church toward foster care and adoption.
- Pray for the women walking into pregnancy resource centers this week, that they would encounter the grace and truth of Christ.
- Pray for the families who have already opened their homes, that they would have endurance, joy, and a community of support surrounding them.

"He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow."
Deuteronomy 10:18

WEDNESDAY: TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

*"Seek the welfare of the city where I
have sent you into exile, and pray to
the Lord on its behalf, for in its
welfare you will find your welfare."
Jeremiah 29:7*

The church was never meant to be a refuge from the community - it was meant to be a force within it. When Tennessee Baptist churches engage their neighborhoods, communities change. Hunger gets addressed. Loneliness gets interrupted. Darkness gives way to light.

Across Tennessee, TBMB Compassion Ministries is helping churches discover practical, relational ways to meet real needs - feeding ministries, school partnerships, English language ministries, restorative justice programs, and more. These aren't just social services. They are doors that swing open toward the gospel.

Every meal served, every child tutored, every family helped carries a message: You are seen. You are loved. There is a God who sent His people to find you.

The Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions funds these compassion ministries throughout our state, equipping churches to be the most loving, most transformative institution in their community.

PRAY FOR TRANSFORMED COMMUNITIES

- Pray for your church to see its community with new eyes, as a mission field right outside your doors.
- Ask God to show you one family, one school, one neighborhood where your church could plant a seed of His kingdom this week.
- Pray for compassion ministry leaders and volunteers who serve faithfully, often unseen.
- Ask God to transform the communities of Tennessee one act of Christlike love at a time, until entire neighborhoods look different because a church decided to show up.

ELL MINISTRY BRINGS nations together IN JACKSON

Calvary Baptist Church is reaching internationals in its own backyard through an English Language Learning program funded in part by the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions.

The ministry is a cooperative effort among Calvary, the Madison Chester Crockett Baptist Association, and the Tennessee Baptist Mission Board. Volunteers teach English while sharing the gospel each week with students from multiple countries.

"It's a great opportunity because we have a lot of folks that are interested in doing that and trying to be a part of international missions," said Gary Snuffin, Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church.

Peter Frost, Director of English Language Learning, said the program reflects God's global purposes being fulfilled locally.

"God is bringing the nations to us," Frost said. "We can have people from all over the world gather in a small city in Tennessee learning another language and at the same time finding out how much we have in common because we have the same Savior."

Students say the classes equip them to share their faith with English-speaking neighbors - turning language barriers into gospel bridges.



THURSDAY: **BUILDING THE KINGDOM**

*"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."
Matthew 9:37-38*

Right now, in the rural fields of West Tennessee, something remarkable is happening. The Ford Motor Company's BlueOval City facility - the largest automobile manufacturing plant in America - is under construction. It will draw more than 10,000 workers and an estimated 90,000 new residents to a region that has never seen growth like this.

Tennessee Baptist churches in the seven-county BlueOval City impact zone are praying and planting - with a goal of four new church plants every year for ten years. New congregations are already launching. Workers from around the world are arriving, searching for community, for meaning, for something that will hold in the midst of such sweeping change.

The Golden Offering supports church planting training, assessment, coaching, and funding for planters and their families across Tennessee - including this extraordinary moment in West Tennessee.

PRAY FOR GOD'S KINGDOM TO COME

- Pray for the new church plants in Brownsville, Gallaway, and Stanton - young congregations still finding their footing, led by church planters who left comfort behind to follow the call.
- Pray for a pipeline of church planters to emerge from Tennessee Baptist churches.
- Ask God if *you* - or someone in your congregation - might be the answer to the very prayer you're praying.
- Pray that Tennessee Baptist churches would catch the vision for every unreached community in Tennessee having access to a healthy, reproducing, gospel-preaching church.

REVIVED **church reaches** COMMUNITY

When Leon Jones arrived at the Dwelling Place Christian Church in Mason, the building had been sitting empty for three years - packed with debris, covered in mold and in need of six dumpsters just to clean out.

Jones, a Memphis pastor who felt called to Mason, partnered with Tennessee Baptist churches to install flooring, secure paint, and obtain chairs. He canvassed neighborhoods, knocked on doors, and moved the service time to 2 p.m. to better serve the rural community. People came.

Now supported in part by the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions, the church hosts community meals and youth movie nights.

"It's been here since the 1800s, but because of you and your gifts and generous giving, it has helped us reopen it to bring glory to God," Jones said.

"The worst place to be is lost and nobody's looking for you, but we are looking for them."



FRIDAY: HEALING BROKENNESS

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free."
Luke 4:18

Tennessee has one of the nation's highest addiction rates, leaving our prisons full. Behind every statistic is a person experiencing seemingly permanent brokenness. But grace runs deeper.

Through restorative justice, recovery programs, and Christian Job Corps, Tennessee Baptist churches enter our state's darkest corners to set people free. In Clinton, 81-year-old volunteer Fred Owenby has led a team of 30 to the Anderson County Detention Facility weekly for sixteen years. Through the 180 Program - funded in part by TBMB Compassion Ministries - incarcerated men and women engage in Bible-based curriculum focused on personal transformation.

The results are life-changing: inmates started mid-week prayer groups, led three peers to Christ, and continue attending church after release. Their handwritten letters echo a powerful truth: "I know God has always been with me and He loves me."

The Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions funds these vital ministries, providing Bibles and resources, bringing the gospel where no one else will go.

PRAY FOR HEALING AND NEW BEGINNINGS

- Pray for Tennessee's incarcerated men and women encountering the gospel through faithful Tennessee Baptist volunteers.
- Ask God to break through every wall.
- Pray volunteers do not grow weary in doing good.
- Ask God to raise up more churches for recovery, restorative justice, and healing ministries.
- Pray Tennessee becomes known not for its brokenness, but for God's transformative work in the midst of it.

SATURDAY: RESPONDING IN CRISIS

*"God is our refuge and strength, an
ever-present help in trouble."
Psalm 46:1*

Disasters arrive without warning, instantly changing everything. Recently, Tennessee Baptists responded to two rapid crises, showing up when needed most.

In Hickman County, an explosion at the Accurate Energetic Systems plant killed at least 16 people. Within hours, Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief (TBDR) volunteers deployed a mass feeding trailer to serve first responders, while chaplains offered critical emotional and spiritual support.

Months later, Winter Storm Fern crippled the state with ice, leaving 380,000 homes without power and claiming 21 lives. TBDR chainsaw and feeding crews were deployed across a 150-mile corridor, while local churches mobilized to evacuate vulnerable nursing home residents.

This is the church in action - showing up fast, staying long, and sharing Christ. The Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions funds the vital training, equipment, and facilities that enable this constant readiness, ensuring Tennessee churches are prepared to move whenever the next disaster strikes.

PRAY FOR RECOVERY

- Pray for families rebuilding after these storms, and for TBDR volunteers serving them for weeks and months.
- Ask God to sustain those who have grown weary.
- Pray that everyone receiving meals, cleared roads, or rebuilt walls experiences the hope of the gospel.
- Ask God to raise up a new generation of disaster relief volunteers in Tennessee Baptist churches, understanding that the church showing up on someone's worst day is the sermon. We must be ready.



SUNDAY: REACHING THE NATIONS

*"May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face shine on us - so that
your ways may be known on earth, your
salvation among all nations."
Psalm 67:1-2*

You don't have to go overseas to reach the nations anymore. They're already here.

International students fill our campuses, refugees resettle in our cities, and families from Latin America, Southeast Asia, East Africa, and the Middle East are moving into Tennessee neighborhoods. Many arrive from countries where the gospel is restricted, settling next door to Baptist churches.

Consider Tennessee's Hispanic communities. This past spring, over 250 Hispanic church leaders gathered at four regional trainings - funded through the Golden Offering - to learn how to lead Vacation Bible School in Spanish. Many represented small, autonomous churches led by first-generation Christians, eager to reach neighbors but lacking training in their language. Now, they are sharing the gospel with Latino families in apartment complexes and backyards, introducing many to Jesus for the first time. As TBMB Ethnic Churches Specialist William Burton noted: "When they see that a church loves their kids, doors open." The Golden Offering fuels this engine.

It supports BCM campus missionaries, Send TN Collegiate Ministries, ten BCM facilities, and ministries reaching the nations in our backyard.

PRAY FOR THE NATIONS

- Pray for international students and refugees in your community - by neighborhood, by university, by zip code. Ask God to open a door through your church to reach someone from another country this year.
- Pray for BCM campus missionaries who pour their lives into students, and for the students who are discovering Jesus for the first time in Tennessee.
- Ask God to give Tennessee Baptists a vision as large as the globe - and the faith to start right where they are.

equipping STUDENTS FOR LIFE

The Baptist Collegiate Ministry at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville is shaping students into gospel leaders through discipleship, evangelism, and student-led ministry.

“The BCM focuses on two pillars: deepening the faith of Christian students and sharing the gospel with those who don’t yet know Jesus,” said Rodney Norvell, the Tennessee Baptist Mission Board’s BCM Director at UT Knoxville.

Students lead Bible studies, plan events, and conduct regular evangelism on campus - building skills they will carry into church ministry for life.

“My hope for students when they leave campus is to really be everything that God has designed them to be,” Norvell said.

Enji Mendoza, a UT student, said the BCM confirmed his calling to vocational ministry.

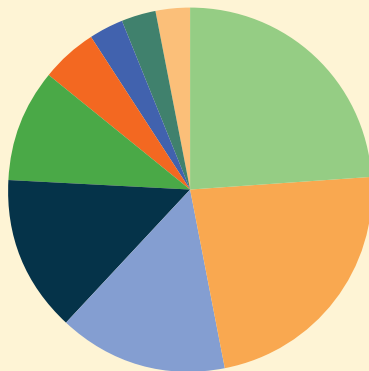
“Because of the BCM, upon graduation I’ll be working full-time as an associate pastor,” Mendoza said.



2026-2027 GOLDEN OFFERING FOR TENNESSEE MISSIONS

Ministry Allocations

Compassion Ministries & Adoption Fund	\$700,000
Multiplying Healthy Churches (includes BlueOval City)	\$685,000
Conducting Disaster Relief	\$435,000
Associational Ministries (15% of church contributions)	\$420,000
Developing Leaders on Campus	\$310,000
Multiplying Gospel Leaders	\$150,000
All Nations Camp	\$100,000
Discipling Missions Leaders	\$100,000
GOTM Promotion and Development	\$100,000



2026-2027 GOTM GOAL:
\$3,000,000

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY PROJECTS: \$500,000
CHALLENGE GOAL:
\$3,500,000

**Call to
Action:**

**TENNESSEE is our
MISSION FIELD**
it always has been

For 125 years, Tennessee Baptists have prayed for Tennessee missions, given to Tennessee missions, and gone to serve in Tennessee communities. That mission continues today.

The needs are real. The opportunities are everywhere. Across our state, people need the hope of the gospel - in neighborhoods, on campuses, in prisons, in disaster zones, in growing cities, and in rural towns.

Your church can make a difference. Pray for God to move across Tennessee. Give through the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions. Go where God opens doors in your community and across our state. The 2026-2027 Golden Offering goal is \$3,000,000 with a challenge goal of \$3,500,000. Every dollar given supports ministries like the ones highlighted in this guide.

GIVE. PRAY. GO. TOGETHER.

"Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ...striving together as one for the faith of the gospel." Philippians 1:27