

MARGARET STATE
LACKEY OFFERING
MISSISSIPPIANS ON MISSION



2023 CELEBRATION GUIDE



DISASTER RELIEF
MISSISSIPPI



The Margaret Lackey State Offering is a lifeline for ministry among Mississippi Baptists. It provides support for ministry on our college campuses, camps for children and youth, new church plants in under-reached areas of the state, the process of connecting churches with mission partnerships, and much more. Without your support of the MLSO, we would not be able to do as much as we do for the glory of the Lord.

The underlying connection between all these ministries is the work of the gospel in bringing about spiritual transformation in people's lives. Whether it's an unbeliever who needs to meet Christ for the first time or a growing disciple who needs to take the next step of spiritual development, the ministries supported by this offering are taking the work to the next level. This evangelistic and discipleship focus is the bottom line in all we do!

I'm so thankful for your church's support of the MLSO because I'm aware there are financial demands in every church for local ministries that are making a difference. I can say confidently that the work being done through this offering is larger than any one church and truly would be difficult without cooperation. So, thank you for giving generously and for making a difference in Mississippi and around the world through the gospel of Jesus Christ!

Shawn Parker
Executive Director-Treasurer



YOUR GIVING IMPACTED LIVES

438 short-term mission volunteers from **39** churches shared the gospel in **13** states and **25** countries; **45** associations received assistance for evangelistic ministries and mission strategies in local communities; **135** incarcerated individuals attended seminary classes in two state prisons: **14** females completed an Associate's degree and **12** males completed a Bachelor's degree; **502** Disaster Relief volunteers were trained; **12** Christian Women's and Christian Men's Job Corps sites serve men and women in Mississippi by providing discipleship classes and job skills training; **136** individuals accepted Jesus as Savior and **73** other decisions were made at our two Baptist camps; **15** new churches were supported; **28** culture-specific events were provided for **5** different people groups; **500** international students were engaged in Mississippi Baptist Student Unions throughout the state; **1200+** crew members received gift bags with the gospel presentation in their language through port ministry; **27** literacy volunteers were trained to serve in one of **30** sites around the state

2,100

Mississippi Baptist Churches

64

Mississippi Baptist Associations

1,808,136

Lost Mississippians

2,175,642

Unchurched Mississippians

2023 ALLOCATIONS

Mississippians on Mission Serving at Camps and on Campuses

- 4.5% College & University Outreach
- 19.5% Central Hills Baptist Retreat
- 19.5% Garaywa Camp & Conference Center

Mississippians on Mission to People in Crisis

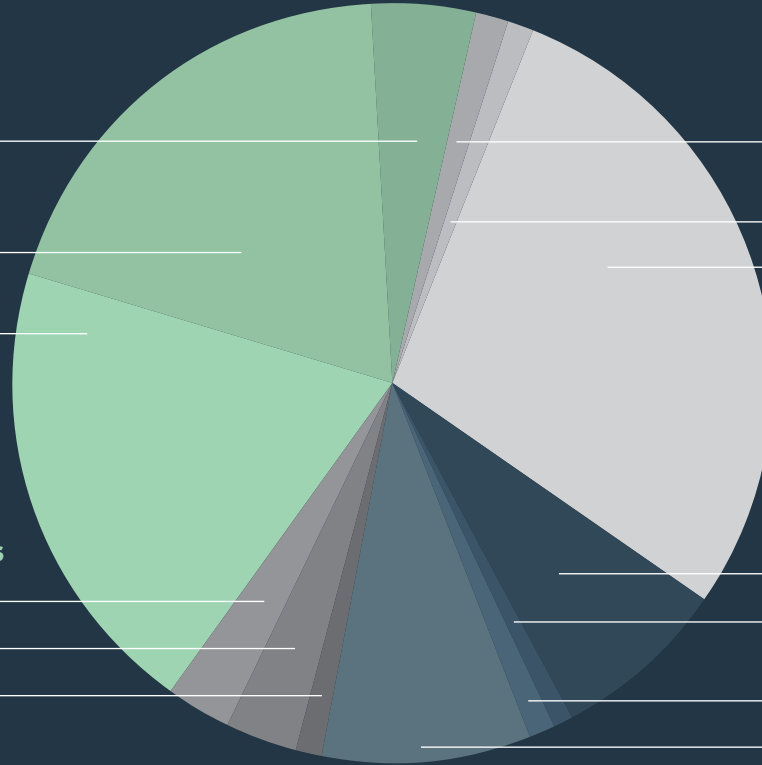
- 3% Criminal Justice Ministry
- 3% Disaster Relief
- 1% CMJC/CWJC

Mississippians on Mission Serving In and Beyond Mississippi

- 1.5% Cross-Cultural Ministries
- 1% Port Ministry
- 28.5% Short-Term Mission Servants

Mississippians on Mission in Local Communities

- 7.5% Community Ministry
- 1% Literacy Missions Ministry
- 1% Deaf Ministry
- 9% Church Planting/Church Revitalization



Mississippians on Mission in Local Communities

CHURCH PLANTING/ CHURCH REVITALIZATION

A few years ago, I had been talking about the possibility of planting a church. My friend, Philip Prince, had been talking about starting a basketball ministry. While having lunch one day, he said, “Why don’t we do it together?” I realized how unique that would be to do ministry and fish for people and then to make disciples. I contacted Philip and said, “We need a church that meets people at the arc, meaning the three-point line.” That statement evolved into the name of the church — Church at the Arc.

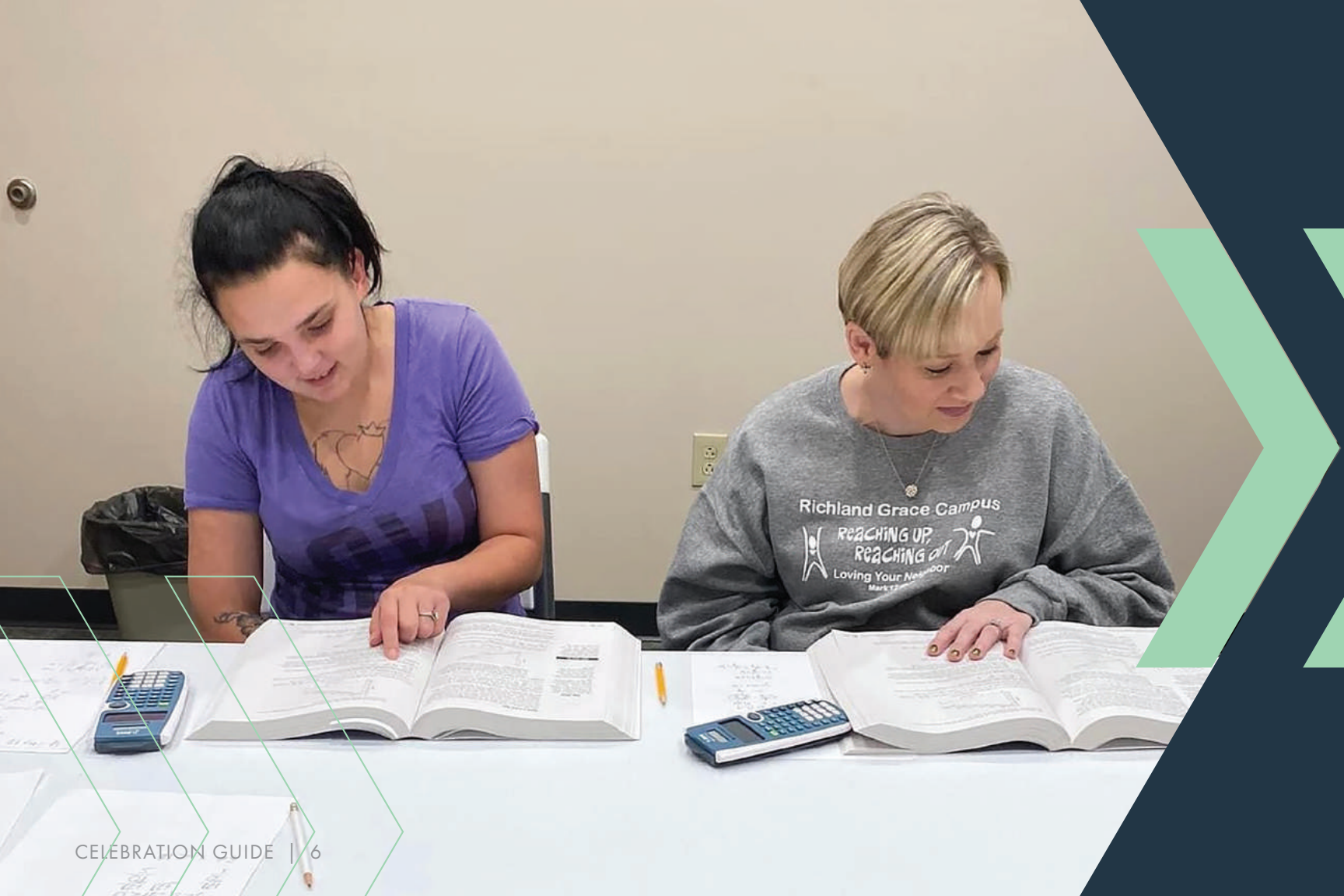
We found an available large metal building suitable for a basketball court. We have activities going on just about every day of the week — basketball training, pick-up basketball, Wednesday night kids and youth activities, and multiple small groups for adults. On Sunday mornings, we transform the gym into a worship center. The Church at the Arc is a multi-ethnic, multi-generational congregation: Caucasians, African-Americans, Choctaws, and people of all ages. We use the game of basketball to draw people. Whether it is a basketball camp for the neighborhood, our alcohol and drug recovery ministry, or Sunday morning worship — the message of the gospel is the top priority.

One of the great things about the partnership with the Church at the Arc and Mississippi Baptists definitely has been the resources they have poured into us. Margaret Lackey State Offering gifts provide the initial funding to start new churches. It’s really a beautiful, wonderful display of God’s glory through the community of faith.

— Jay Clark, Pastor, Church at the Arc, Philadelphia







Mississippians on Mission in Local Communities

COMMUNITY MINISTRY

“My name is Kelly, and I am a believer who has struggled with addiction for nearly twenty years. I served three years in prison as a consequence of my addiction. I have a degree...in English Education but have never been able to use it... because of my criminal history. As soon as I was released, I visited Grace Center...and have been a part of the ministry ever since.

Tutoring at the Grace Center allows me to use my degree and gives me a chance to do what I never thought I would be able to do. Hands Up Outreach provides me an outlet to serve the Lord and affords me the opportunity to be mentored and served by others. Not only have I been rewarded through my tutoring, but I have watched others receive their diplomas and Christ as their Savior! The volunteers at Hands Up Outreach have welcomed and embraced me and my family. I have made life-long friends through this ministry.”

Kelly’s story continues to this day, as God is working in and through Kelly. He has helped Kelly restore broken relationships and provided her with a job.

Hands Up Outreach is a community ministry of the Rankin County Baptist Association. The ministry serves those in the community at the Grace Campus in Richland by providing life and job skill training, Celebrate Recovery, and Bible studies. Grace is a resource center that offers Bible studies, Literacy/GED classes, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, and re-entry ministry for those being released from prison/jail. This is a Christ-centered ministry focused on reaching the community with the Gospel and God’s love.

Mississippians on Mission in Local Communities

LITERACY MISSIONS MINISTRY

Helen found herself starting over in Jackson after a series of life-changing setbacks. She met a couple from her home country, the Philippines, and they invited her to visit their church.

This was transformative for Helen. She felt an instant connection to the church and ministries there. Helen had studied English since her days in elementary school. At the church, she joined the International Sunday School class, attended the Friend to Friend Ministry (ESL), and became involved in the sewing ministry to help and encourage others who were just beginning to learn English.

Helen was a believer but had not been baptized. Several women in the church came alongside her to help her understand baptism and the commitment it represented. One of the women had even been a missionary to the Philippines. Helen was finally baptized on Easter Sunday.

God had been at work, surrounding Helen with the exact community she didn't even know she needed. Her joy overflows to those around her. Her testimony is proof it is never too late to begin — again. With Christ, all things are possible.

Your gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Offering provide literacy missions training so that volunteers can be equipped and empowered to reach their communities to meet a basic need while sharing Christ.

— **Maria Teel, State Literacy Missions Contact**



BAPTIST CHURCH



Mississippians on Mission in Local Communities

DEAF MINISTRY

The 2022 Mississippi Baptist Conference of the Deaf held its annual meeting in September. There were approximately 140 participants. It is one of the few opportunities when Deaf Mississippians can worship together in their heart language. Paula Smith, Director of the Multicultural Ministries Department said, "We had four college students accept Christ during the conference."

The Deaf is a largely unreached people group. There are only 58 churches in the Southern Baptist Convention specifically geared toward three million Deaf, and 40% of those churches are without a pastor. There is no Deaf church in Mississippi. Fifteen hundred Deaf people in the U.S. die daily without Jesus; 72 million Deaf worldwide are unreached. There is a critical need for Deaf churches, Deaf pastors, and Deaf missionaries. One feature of the annual meeting for the Deaf is an interpreter's workshop for those already qualified by the state of Mississippi. Forty-two interpreters attended this workshop.

Vickie Stuart, Contract Consultant for the convention said, "I see the shortage and the need for interpreters. I constantly get calls from churches wanting to know where they can get a sub, and sometimes I just have to turn them down."

We are grateful for the generous gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Offering that help us provide worship events for the Deaf in their heart language and training for much-needed interpreters in our churches.





Mississippians on Mission to People in Crisis

DISASTER RELIEF

Many people know Disaster Relief for mass feeding, chainsaw work, and disaster recovery. Disaster Relief teams set out to provide immediate care early on after a disaster/crisis, always pointing people to the local church for long-term care and follow-up. In 2022, Mississippi Disaster Relief took on a new role. Poland was identified as an area that desperately needed help after the Ukraine/Russia conflict began. Our teams were requested to assist churches in several locations in Poland. Our job was to work with our host in providing care for the 40+ refugees being housed in the church. They were helping refugee families, while at the same time, sending aid to Ukraine for believers there to minister to those trapped in horrific situations.

We assisted refugees in finding more permanent housing and employment to shorten their time in shelters. We began clean-up and renovations on a rental property next door to the church for more permanent housing. The teams provided childcare so parents could apply for government registration and obtain employment and other assistance during the transition.

What we witnessed was nothing short of miraculous! Servant-hearted volunteers jumped in, and despite great language barriers, loved hurting, weary people. We were able to show the Jesus film in Russian in conjunction with an Easter celebration. Over time, many of the families greeted us in English and smiled. The smiles told us they were beginning to heal. Only God could orchestrate the events that took place. He allowed us the privilege of serving the Ukrainian people who have suffered so much. Many thanks to Mississippi Baptists for giving to the Margaret Lackey State Offering, which funds the necessary training for Disaster Relief volunteers.

— **Tom and Vicki Kilpatrick, Disaster Relief Site Coordinators in Gdansk, Poland**

Mississippians on Mission to People in Crisis

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S JOB CORPS

RISE (CMJC/CWJC) is a faith-based, nonprofit ministry located in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. The purpose of RISE is to help men and women develop life and job skills that will allow participants to reach their full potential.

This past year, RISE leadership, hosted a Hot Air Balloon Festival at the Forrest County Multi-Purpose Center. They hoped to create awareness and raise financial support for RISE while bringing the community together. The event included a Patriotic Ceremony to salute the military, a recognition of first responders, an airshow, a balloon glow, live music, food trucks, vendors, petting zoo, art exhibits, demonstrations and tethered rides.

In her "Eyes on the Skies" article, Abigail Smith said that "hot air balloons are often a symbol of freedom or success of being in control of one's life, which makes them a perfect symbol for RISE." Site coordinator, Catherine Jorns said that the "mission of RISE is to educate, encourage, and empower men and women to RISE to self-sufficiency."

At RISE, participants attend classes while building relationships with mentors who encourage them on the path to reaching their goals. Gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Offering helped RISE to host their first Hot Air Balloon Festival in 2022.







*Photos used with
written permission*

Mississippians on Mission to People in Crisis

CRIMINAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board provided copies of Experiencing God workbooks for my class at the Marshall County Correctional Facility in Holly Springs last year. Since then, 150 men have completed Experiencing God, with a waiting list for others who want to attend. Several men who completed the study are now attending New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary classes within Parchman.

As a prison chaplain, I have witnessed what God does with men who study His Word. The Margaret Lackey State Offering has also provided Bibles and other discipleship materials to help us. I am thankful for your generous giving to the Margaret Lackey State Offering that provides seminary classes and discipleship materials to those in our jails and prisons. Together we work to “set the captives free!”

— **Jo Ann Hancock, Chaplain, Marshall County Correctional Facility**



Here's what the inmates have said about the Experiencing God study:

"I was walking, spiritually dead. My walk was dry and broken. Today, I am excited to hear and sometimes even share His word. I am a work in progress and with God's Holy Spirit, I am able to see progress, hope, and a change in my behavior. My attitude is to be the same as that of Jesus. Even under my circumstances, I strive to please Him and do His will daily." – Pete

"In obedience, I have come to experience God as a good, good Father and Friend. I am grateful for the loving relationship that we have. The goal was not to finish the book or course, but to have a life transforming encounter with God." – Chris

"It wasn't until I took the class that I established a real and true relationship with God that changed my life. Experiencing God has taught me to be a better follower of Christ, experiencing His goodness in my everyday life through Biblical truth. I was baptized on July 3, 2022. Now I feel the Holy Spirit guiding and teaching me to be more like Christ." – Michael

"Experiencing God taught me that God loves me no matter what. It brought me into God consciousness and a real love relationship with God." – Steven



Mississippians on Mission at Camps and on Campuses

GARAYWA CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

Who knew what an impact Garaywa would have on my sisters and me as we attended as campers and then later served on summer staff? Not only has Garaywa given us lifetime friendships and memories, but it has also helped us grow spiritually.

We arrived our first summer as shy little 8-year-olds, but our cabin leaders welcomed us with open arms. We learned so much during that week. We made new friends, went down the zip line, sang camp songs (that we have NEVER forgotten), and each of us accepted Christ into our hearts. The cabin leaders had fun with us, but more importantly, were positive Christian role models for us. As campers, we dreamed of the day that we could serve as cabin leaders!

Ten years later, our dream came true. We couldn't wait to share the love of Christ with campers, just like our cabin leaders had done with us. We learned the rewards of being cabin leaders. We continued to make new friends, sing camp songs, and share the love of Christ with many, many kids.

The summers we spent at Garaywa shaped our lives in so many ways. We are so thankful for Garaywa and the impact it had on us and continues to have.

— **Whitni Godbold, Former GCCC Camper/Staff Member**



SEED
ME
SMCC BSU

Mississippians on Mission at Camps and on Campuses

CENTRAL HILLS BAPTIST RETREAT

Central Hills Baptist Retreat holds a special place in my heart and the hearts of so many campers and staffers around the state of Mississippi. Most of my ministry experience has taken place at Central Hills. My history with the camp began as a camper in 2013.

God has continued to use Central Hills in my life. In 2015, I accepted Christ into my heart at camp. While serving on camp staff in 2021, God called me to ministry. I plan to serve on the summer staff again in 2023. Every day that I put on our staff shirt, I am blessed to be able to witness the grace of God.

My story is uncommon, but not unique. Countless staff members, campers, and chaperones can testify to how God moved in their lives during their time at Central Hills. Hundreds of people visit Central Hills every year, and each of them experiences the love of Christ. While God reveals Himself differently to each of them, the result remains the same: God is glorified.

Because of your faithful giving to the Margret Lackey State Offering, Central Hills Baptist Retreat continues to see lives impacted by the love of Christ!

— **Grant Smith, CHBR Staff**





Mississippians on Mission at Camps and on Campuses

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY OUTREACH

Mississippi State University BSU students hear we are to “Know Christ, and to make Him Known!” Funds from the Margaret Lackey State Offering allow us to train students to live out the Great Commission while they are in college. Then we give them opportunities to make Him known.

During Spring Break, a group of our BSU students traveled to New York City. They were equipped with gospel-sharing techniques to engage Arab Muslim people. We then challenged them to go to the Queens community and look for ways to have conversations with Arab Muslims. Three female students hit the streets to connect with some Muslim women.

At the beginning of the week, they met a lady with a fabric and scarves store. They soon struck up a conversation with her that led them back every day that week. On the next to the last day, they asked if she would have lunch with them, in hopes to share the gospel. She agreed. They were faithful to use what they had learned. While she did not choose to begin a relationship with Christ that day, the seeds were planted and they left with confidence that they had been obedient.

This is but one story of the difference that your giving makes in the lives of college students AND those that have never heard the Gospel.

— **Daniel Herndon, Associate Director, Mississippi State Baptist Student Union**

Mississippians on Mission Serving In and Beyond Mississippi

CROSS-CULTURAL EVANGELISM

The year 2022 was a difficult time for many in the Choctaw Nation of Mississippi. Most every family lost someone to COVID and many lost jobs and livelihoods. Two of the nine churches in the New Choctaw Association lost their pastors to COVID. Hopelessness among young people led many to suicide.

Even in these hard times, God showed His love, mercy, and comfort among the Choctaw people. Ray Duplessie, Contract Strategist with Multicultural Ministries, coordinated with church leaders to host a Choctaw Youth Retreat during Spring Break. Fifty-four young people from the Choctaw churches participated.

Among these was one young woman who had lost hope. Her mother passed away and her boyfriend severed their relationship. She turned to “cutting” as a solution. Although she was not interested in attending the retreat, her grandmother convinced her to go at the last minute. After one of the Bible study sessions, Ray told her, “You don’t need to listen to the lies of the devil but listen to the Truth of the ONE who loves you. Not only does Jesus love you but so do your grandmother, brother, and all of us.”

God’s love broke through and on the last night of the retreat she said ‘yes’ to Jesus.

This retreat would not have been possible without support from the Margaret Lackey State Offering. Thank you for giving to make an eternal difference in the lives of so many.

— **Paula Smith, Director, Multicultural Ministries**







Mississippians on Mission Serving In and Beyond Mississippi

PORT MINISTRY TO INTERNATIONALS

The Seafarers' Ministry at the Port of Pascagoula seeks to address the needs of international seafarers visiting our port. By meeting some of their physical and emotional needs, we earn the privilege to minister to their spiritual needs. We provide transportation to the center to offer them Christian hospitality, internet service, and refreshments.

Last year, we encountered more than 5,000 crew members from 225 ships. We also facilitated over 600 vaccinations and provided over 150 van rides for shopping in the area. We provided at least 1,200 gift bags that included the gospel presentation in their language.

It brings us great joy to hear their responses: "Loved your gift. Thank you very much. May the Lord Jesus Christ bless you." "Thank you for praying for me. I haven't been able to reach my family in the Ukraine for 6 weeks." "Thank you for the kindness you showed my crew. We often feel forgotten by the rest of the world. The gifts from the church remind us we are remembered."

Your generous gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Offering allow us to help fund the ministries in Pascagoula and Gulfport that touch the lives of international seaman from around the world.

— **Vince Smith, Director, Seafarer's Ministry, Pascagoula**

Mississippians on Mission Serving In and Beyond Mississippi

SHORT-TERM MISSION SERVANTS

As a short-term mission volunteer, God has broken my heart for those who have not yet heard the gospel. My journey to South Asia showed me the great need to share God's truth. For five days, we hiked to unreached villages. God opened doors for us to share the gospel with over 500 people! Fifteen accepted the gift of salvation and began a relationship with Jesus.

One day my translator and I visited a village school. I had been struggling to find satisfaction in sowing gospel seeds on very hard ground with Hindu and Buddhist adults. In the school, I had the opportunity to explain the gospel to eighteen young men. For more than an hour, I sowed seeds on freshly plowed soil. More than ever, I felt my calling to reach the world's youth press deeply on my heart.

Leaders in local churches will follow up in the villages that we visited. We are excited that God is going to continue the work He began. We are confident this country can become "reached" in our lifetime as the Church is obedient to the call of Christ.

Our team is grateful that funds from the Margaret Lackey State Offering help offset our cost of traveling internationally.

— **Nathan Ball, Volunteer Missionary, FBC Clinton**







MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD

Shawn Parker, Executive Director-Treasurer

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