

# EXTENDING



**2025 CELEBRATION GUIDE**

# OUR REACH

# CHRIST'S CALL TO MAKE DISCIPLES IS BOTH PERSONAL AND FAR- REACHING.

In fact, the commission is global for every one of us as disciples and as local churches. I'm thankful for the difference Mississippi Baptists make in this global call to reach the unreached with the long arm of God's love. I'm also convinced that the global reach of Mississippi Baptists can only be sustained if we begin the ripple right here in our own backyard.

The Margaret Lackey State Offering is an initiative to start the global ripple here in Mississippi. The MLSO provides support for ministries on collegiate campuses, camps for children and youth, church plants in less reached areas of the state, connecting churches with both national and international mission partners, and much more. All these stated ministries extend the reach of the local church into areas that go beyond the norm of church life.

Mississippi Baptists have been very faithful over many years to give generously to the MLSO, and I'm asking you to continue the spirit of generosity. I can say with confidence that the work being done through this offering is larger than any one church and allows a greater witness to be made. Thank you for your past support, and I'm praying for the Lord's deepest blessings on your church's faithfulness.



**Shawn Parker**  
Executive  
Director-Treasurer

# 2025 ALLOCATIONS

## Mississippians on Mission Serving at Camps and on Campuses

**Collegiate & University  
Outreach** 4.6%

**Central Hills  
Baptist Retreat** 19.3%

**Garaywa Camp  
& Conference  
Center** 19.3%

## Mississippians on Mission to People in Crisis

**Criminal Justice Ministry** 5%

**Disaster Relief** 3.3%

**Christian Job Corps** 1.1%

## Mississippians on Mission Serving In and Beyond Mississippi

**Cross-Cultural Evangelism** 1.5%

**Port Ministry** 1.1%

**Short-Term Mission  
Servants** 27.4%

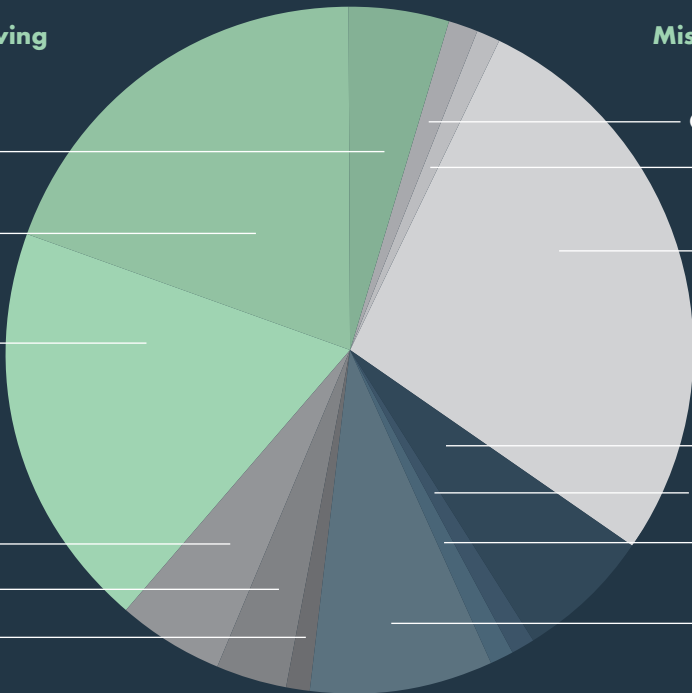
## Mississippians on Mission in Local Communities

**Community Ministry** 6.5%

**Literacy Missions Ministry** 1.1%

**Deaf Ministry** 1.1%

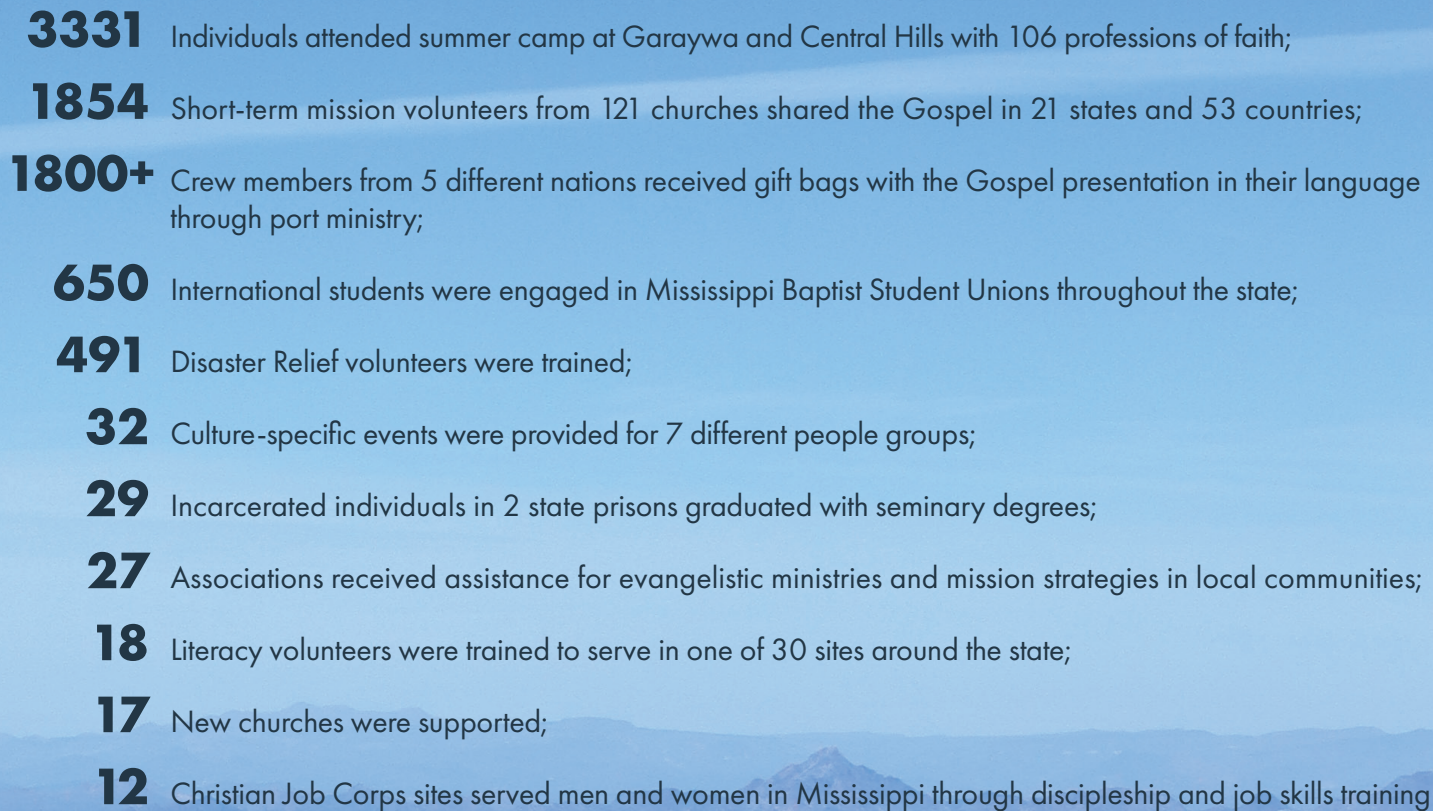
**Church Planting/  
Church Revitalization** 8.7%



**IN 2024**

**YOUR  
GIVING  
IMPACTED  
LIVES**



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- An aerial photograph of a city, likely Memphis, Tennessee, with a dense urban landscape and mountains visible in the distance under a clear blue sky. The image serves as a background for the text.
- 3331** Individuals attended summer camp at Garaywa and Central Hills with 106 professions of faith;
  - 1854** Short-term mission volunteers from 121 churches shared the Gospel in 21 states and 53 countries;
  - 1800+** Crew members from 5 different nations received gift bags with the Gospel presentation in their language through port ministry;
  - 650** International students were engaged in Mississippi Baptist Student Unions throughout the state;
  - 491** Disaster Relief volunteers were trained;
  - 32** Culture-specific events were provided for 7 different people groups;
  - 29** Incarcerated individuals in 2 state prisons graduated with seminary degrees;
  - 27** Associations received assistance for evangelistic ministries and mission strategies in local communities;
  - 18** Literacy volunteers were trained to serve in one of 30 sites around the state;
  - 17** New churches were supported;
  - 12** Christian Job Corps sites served men and women in Mississippi through discipleship and job skills training



# PLANT CHURCH PLANTING



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## MISSISSIPPIANS ON MISSION IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

# CHURCH PLANTING/CHURCH REVITALIZATION

A few years ago, my wife and I developed a great burden over the brokenness in our community. We began inviting our neighbors into our home and sharing the hope of the Gospel with them. This mission soon outgrew our house, so we moved to a building. Most of the people we met were affected by or struggling with addiction, so we developed a ministry called Restoring Hope, with the vision of providing Gospel-centered principles for overcoming addictions. The more we spent time with our community, the more we saw hopelessness in the lives of others. This was true, even among those not dealing with addictions. Our longing to see people find hope deepened; we knew that hope would only be found in the Gospel.

We contacted the Webster Baptist Association for a survey of our community and learned that 75% of our county was unchurched. It was evident the common denominator among them was that the church turned them off. We were desperate to connect them with a church that would meet them in their struggles with the hope of the Gospel.

Under the direction of the 242 Network and the church planting residency program of Longview Point Baptist Church, Hope Church was planted. This would not have been possible without the partnership and support of Mississippi Baptists and the Margaret Lackey State Offering, which provided the initial funding to plant the church. This served as a reminder that much more can be accomplished when we partner to see the Kingdom advance.

— **Brian Woodward, Pastor, Hope Church, Mathiston**

## MISSISSIPPIANS ON MISSION IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

### COMMUNITY MINISTRY

The Gulfport City of Light prayer initiative originated as the vision of Richard Smith, a retired pastor and member of First Baptist Church, Gulfport, in 2021. In August 2022, eight pastors initiated a plan for citywide prayer, systematically covering all seven wards. After two years of dedicated prayer, Hope Fest was planned for April 2024.

Brian Rushing, AMS for the Gulf Coast Baptist Association, sought financial support from the Margaret Lackey State Offering to help fund this multi-county event. A grant of \$5,500 covered approximately one-third of the total cost. For three consecutive nights, coastal residents gathered at the Barksdale Pavilion in Gulfport Harbor for an event filled with fellowship, worship, and faith sharing. Hundreds participated each evening, engaging with ten sponsoring churches and fourteen pastors. Six testimonies of God's transformative grace and three sermons centering on the hope found in Jesus were shared. Worship was enriched by seven music sets spread throughout the event. Participant registration cards were given to sponsoring churches for individual follow-up.

The Lord's provision for Hope Fest was made possible through the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering. The ultimate Gospel impact will affect generations of South Mississippians. Heartfelt gratitude goes to all who support missions in Mississippi.

— Jimmy Stewart, Pastor, First Church, Gulfport





# COMMUNITY MINISTRY

# MISSIONS



# LITERACY MISSIONS MINISTRY



# MISSISSIPPIANS ON MISSION IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

## **LITERACY MISSIONS MINISTRY**

September 8, 2024, Iglesia Bautista Libertad celebrated its inauguration with 27 charter members. The foundation for this church was laid some 15 years earlier when Philip and Peggy Gandy, pastor and wife from Liberty Baptist Church in Waynesboro, had a visit from the Uzziel Reyes family, a Hispanic family looking for a Hispanic Church they could join. Since there was not one in the area, the Gandy's began a Bible study with them and it soon grew to include their extended family and some friends. Because the interest was great, Liberty Baptist Church sponsored a weekend to train teachers to teach English to internationals. Twenty people were trained to minister to the Hispanic Community in the area. Through this ministry many more contacts were made and the Bible study became a church plant. Uzziel Reyes took the lead as pastor and they soon outgrew their space. For over a year they prayed for the Lord to provide a property where the church plant could stand on its own.

Meanwhile, just north of Waynesboro, in Clarke County, the six remaining members of Oak Grove Church congregated to make a decision about their church building and property. They wanted to honor God with the building He had blessed them with. Although offers were made, they continued to pray for God's guidance. They soon heard about the Hispanic church plant and called Pastor Gandy. It seemed the Lord answered the prayers of these six members as well as the prayers of the Hispanic community. That night, Oak Grove unanimously decided to give the building to the Hispanic ministry with no exchange of money.

Iglesia Bautista Libertad continues to grow and averages around 60 attendees. The church has greatly benefitted from the Margaret Lackey Offering and now gives to the offering for the benefit of more Hispanic work in the state.

## MISSISSIPPIANS ON MISSION IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

# DEAF MINISTRY

April 4-7, 2024, was a celebration time in the Deaf community. It was the premiere of "Jesus (A Deaf Missions Film)." For the first time ever the life of Jesus was portrayed in American Sign Language (ASL) by all Deaf actors and producers. The movie was produced by the ministry "Deaf Missions." This ministry has translated the entire Bible into American Sign Language (ASL) for free public use on their website and through their app.

A lack of resources is a critical barrier between the Deaf and the Gospel of Jesus. Roughly 98% (68 out of 70 million) of the worldwide population of Deaf people have never encountered the real Jesus. The number one issue Deaf people face when it comes to knowing Jesus is the communication barrier.

Statistics show that 3.3% of the adult population of Mississippi is deaf. This translates to approximately 97,000 people who do not have a church in their heart language. There are approximately 22 ministries to Deaf in Mississippi. This includes translations of a hearing church's worship service or a Deaf person leading a Bible study. But there is no Deaf Church in Mississippi.

Mississippi has recently added American Sign Language as a foreign language in schools. Thanks to the Margaret Lackey State Offering more resources are being developed and the groundwork is being laid to train more interpreters. Pray for the Lord of the harvest to call out workers — especially a Deaf pastor.





MINIST

# DEAF MINISTRY

DEAF



# DISASTER RELIEF





# MISSISSIPPIANS ON MISSION TO PEOPLE IN CRISIS

## DISASTER RELIEF

Mississippians are well acquainted with natural disasters, whether in the form of tornadoes, ice storms, droughts, or hurricanes. But for some areas of our nation, their experience with large-scale natural disasters is limited. Such was the case in 2024 with Hurricanes Helene and Milton struck the Southeastern United States. From Central Florida to Virginia, the effects of these storms left many in need of food, shelter, and assistance with debris cleanup.

Because of the gifts of Mississippi Baptists through the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering, Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief (MSBDR) was trained and prepared to deploy. Whether providing MSBDR shower units for Greenwood, South Carolina, helping those displaced and the volunteers serving them; a MSBDR Feeding Unit/Mobile Kitchen providing over 20,000 meals in six days in Florida; or chainsaw, incident management, assessment, and chaplain teams for the southeast Georgia towns of Alma and Douglas, MSBDR was on scene bringing help, hope, and healing in Jesus name!

Thank you, Mississippi Baptists, for supporting Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief through your gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering. Because you give, we can go!

**— Hubert Yates, State Director, Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief**

# MISSISSIPPIANS ON MISSION TO PEOPLE IN CRISIS

## CHRISTIAN JOB CORPS

Each Christian Job Corps (CJC) is unique in the services it offers and the people it serves. A Community Needs Assessment helps each site to determine both.

In 2009, the Gulf Coast CJC site found women being released from prison or substance abuse facilities with nowhere to go. Their only option was to return to the community and people where they had lived before.

In 2019, Magdalene House opened its doors to women needing a safe place to live. While living at the House, the CJC offers them a relationship with Jesus and a community of Christian women to mentor them. Residents complete job skills programs, find jobs, and eventually move out to become self-sufficient.

Melody, surviving years of drug abuse, was released after 14 months of incarceration. Homeless and on probation, she moved into Magdalene House. Today, Melody is sober, reunited with her family, working full-time, and volunteering with the ministry.

Brandi, addicted to methamphetamines, spent most of her adult life working in bars and strip clubs in New Orleans. Desperately needing help, she came to the CJC. Brandi is sober for two years, has completed her GED, and is attending Pearl River Community College in the medical records/coding program.

Because of gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Offering, women like Brandi and Melody can find new life in Jesus and hope for the future.

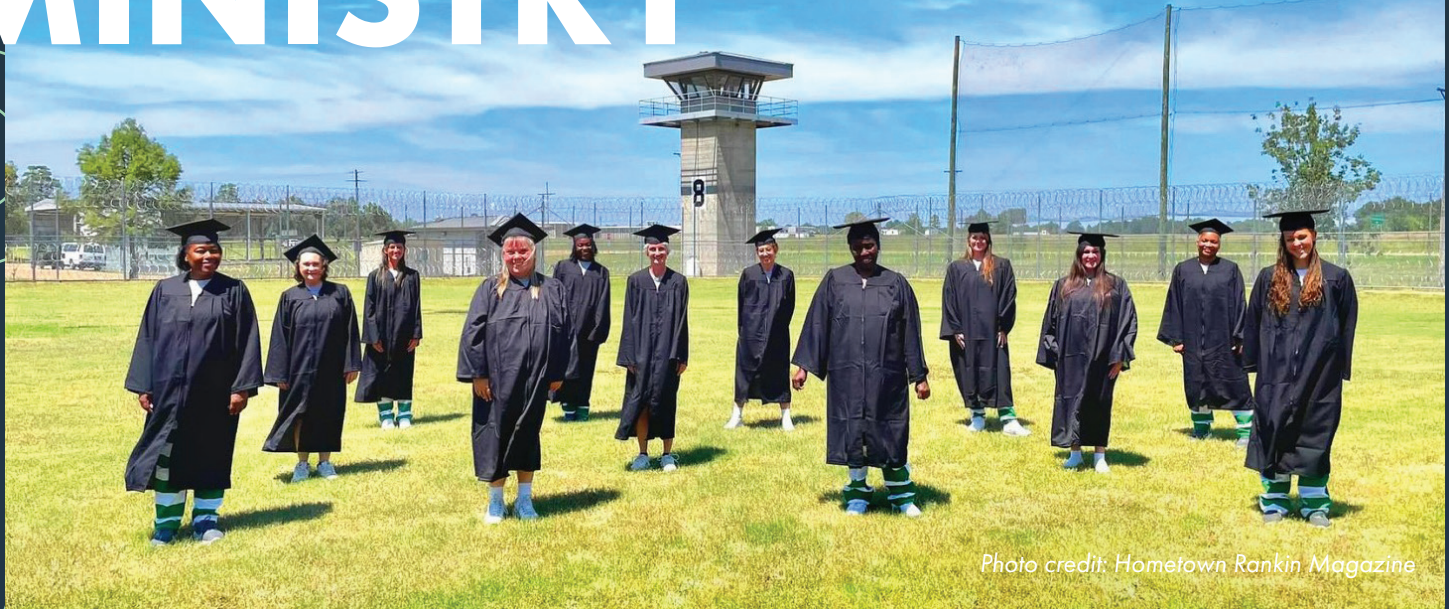


# CHRISTIAN



# CHRISTIAN JOB CORPS

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE MINISTRY



*Photo credit: Hometown Rankin Magazine*

# MISSISSIPPIANS ON MISSION TO PEOPLE IN CRISIS

## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE MINISTRY**

The commencement service for the graduating class of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS) and Leavell College was held at the Mississippi Correctional Institute for Women (MCIW) on Dec. 16, 2024. Twelve women graduated with either an Associate or Bachelor of Arts in Christian Service. Burl Cain, commissioner of the Mississippi Department of Corrections, expressed his gratitude: "I look back and can't express how much we appreciate folks in Mississippi, particularly the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, because of the funds you give."

Beth Masters, director of the MCIW Extension Center of NOBTS, said of the graduates, "Three of them will be heading to Delta Correctional Facility as field ministers ... we'll be able to expand our faith-based offerings because they will have the degree. My greatest aspiration would be to see them step into those roles with integrity and honesty. Love people well and walk in obedience to the Lord."

"There are 12 exceptional women graduating today," said Superintendent Tereda Hairston. "Your accomplishments today are a testament to your unwavering faith, unyielding determination, and resilience. As the first female graduates of the program in Mississippi, you have earned the title of field minister and have carved a path for countless women who will follow in your footsteps. You will minister to your fellow inmates offering solace, hope, and the transformative power of faith."

Your gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Offering help provide these educational opportunities to men and women serving in both state penitentiaries.

## MISSISSIPPIANS ON MISSION AT CAMPS AND ON CAMPUSES

# GARAYWA CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

Camp Garaywa has been a huge part of my life. I attended as a camper for many summers and worked as a cabin leader for five summers. Garaywa has always been special to me, but I never thought that it would pave the way for God's calling on my life. I started working at Garaywa when I was 18 in the summer of 2016. That summer, I decided to pursue music ministry because music was what I knew. However, as the summer passed, my love for sharing the Gospel with children and families grew.

In 2020, I finished my undergraduate degree in Worship Leadership and pursued vocational music ministry. When the world shut down, I had no responses to my applications. As the world reopened its doors, I decided to go back for a Master's Degree, still fully convinced that music ministry was the path I should take. In the summer of 2021, I spent my final summer as a cabin leader at Garaywa. Once again, my love for ministering to children became very evident to me, but with only a few courses left in the music master's program, I pressed on. Five summers, hundreds of campers, countless Gospel opportunities, and tons of salvations later, I was still running from God's plan for my life.

As I applied for jobs after graduation, I realized what God had been trying to show me since my first summer. This led me to apply for a Children's Ministry position. A few weeks later, to my surprise, I had an interview and was hired by Hardy Street Baptist Church. I am so thankful for the summers I spent at Camp Garaywa, because it truly led me to God's call on my life.

— Torian Miller, Children's Ministry Director, Hardy Street Baptist Church, Hattiesburg





# GARAYWA CAMP & CENTER





CENTRAL  
HILLS  
BAPTIST  
RETREAT



# CENTRAL HILLS BAPTIST RETREAT

## MISSISSIPPIANS ON MISSION AT CAMPS AND ON CAMPUSES

# CENTRAL HILLS BAPTIST RETREAT

This past summer, I had the privilege of attending Central Hills Baptist Retreat with a group of kids from our church. It was an unforgettable experience, and I am so thankful to have such a wonderful summer camp option right here in Mississippi. From the moment we arrived, it was clear that this camp is something special. The staff was warm, welcoming, and full of energy. Their enthusiasm and dedication were contagious, making each camper feel seen, valued, and loved.

The activities were a highlight. The kids had a blast with team-building games and outdoor adventures, all led by exceptional leaders who combined fun with meaningful lessons. Watching our group grow closer to God through these experiences was a joy. The worship sessions were another highlight. Being surrounded by the beauty of God's creation while seeing children and leaders praising the Lord together was powerful.

I want to express my gratitude to all who give to the Margaret Lackey State Offering. Your generosity makes Central Hills possible, providing opportunities for kids and leaders to connect with God. Your support is making an eternal impact. As I reflect on our time at Central Hills, my heart is full of gratitude. This camp is more than a place for fun; it's a place where lives are changed and faith is deepened. I am already looking forward to returning this summer. If you haven't experienced Central Hills, I encourage you to visit and see the incredible work God is doing there.

— **Alyssa Taylor, Children's Minister, First Baptist Church, Florence**



## MISSISSIPPIANS ON MISSION AT CAMPS AND ON CAMPUSES COLLEGIATE AND UNIVERSITY OUTREACH

Christmas in the Delta is a mission initiative formed by our Baptist Student Union directors in the Mississippi Delta Region. In December 2024, our student teams served alongside over 40 mission partners and 15 Mississippi Baptist churches. Projects included: tornado relief, widow care, church support, community block parties, Christmas presents for local families, and much more.

Your support of the Margaret Lackey State Missions offering helped mobilize over 350 BSU student missionaries to help rebuild tornado-damaged houses, serve in prison ministry, invest in the local Mississippi Delta churches, and share the Gospel door-to-door in nine different counties. Christmas in the Delta also affords the next generation of the church a glimpse of what it looks like to live ON MISSION in our own state. We look forward to these students returning to their campuses with a greater urgency of making Christ known on our college campuses.

Thank you for your support of the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering. You have helped mobilize college students through our Baptist Student Union ministries and churches to Know Christ and To Make Him Known in Mississippi and abroad.

**— Jonah Bankston, Baptist Student Union Director, Mississippi University for Women**

# COLLEGIATE AND UNIVERSITY OUTREACH





PORT  
MINIS



PORT  
MINISTRY TO  
INTERNATIONALS



# MISSISSIPPIANS ON MISSION 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 local shopping and to our centers and offer crew members Christian hospitality, internet service, and refreshments.

So far in 2024, we have encountered more than 2,000 crew members from 15 different nations and have made more than 200 ship visits. We have provided at least 1,800 Gospel gifts that included the Gospel presentation in each crew member's heart language.

It brings us great joy to hear responses from the ships. Some of the messages have included: "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 seamen and women from around the world.

# MISSISSIPPIANS ON MISSION IN AND BEYOND MISSISSIPPI

## CROSS-CULTURAL EVANGELISM

The life of a pastor and his family has many celebrations but also a lot of challenges. At times, it seems even more so when that pastor is bi-vocational and bilingual. The Annual Hispanic Pastors' and Wives' Retreat is a wonderful time of encouragement. In the spring of each year, this retreat gives time for the family to get away, reflect, and study. There is Bible study for the couples as well as reflection time as the pastors meet together and the wives meet together. Volunteers provide activities and Bible study for the children.

Rocky Tzib, Hispanic Ministry Consultant for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and host of the retreat, remarked on the opportunities for pastors scattered across the state to get to know one another better. "When they are at work in the church, they are very isolated," said Tzib. "But with these events, it has been a blessing for them to grow closer and discuss the similar challenges they face.

"Often what happens is that a pastor tries to do everything, and they end up getting burned out. So I am focusing on training the church to be disciples who are supportive of their leaders so that they can work full-time, and looking for key leaders who can mentor and encourage our young ministers the way Paul guided Timothy."

As the Hispanic population grows in Mississippi so does the need for strong Hispanic Churches. Your investment in cross-cultural ministry through the Margaret Lackey State Offering is helping to strengthen our Hispanic pastors and their wives as they reach their people with the Gospel.

CULTURAL



**CROSS-CULTURAL  
EVANGELISM**



# SHORT-TERM MISSION SERVANTS



## MISSISSIPPIANS ON MISSION IN AND BEYOND MISSISSIPPI **SHORT-TERM MISSION SERVANTS**

This past year, God led members of Wade Baptist Church to serve alongside IMB and Send Relief missionaries in Southeast Asia, Japan, and Chanku Waste Ranch in South Dakota. In partnership with IMB missionaries in Southeast Asia our team was able to make inroads with a hospital by teaching occupational therapy techniques to local medical professionals. This partnership continues through Zoom conference calls and correspondence, along with other short-term missionaries carrying on this much needed ministry.

Through our church's membership with the Jackson County Baptist Association, we stewarded a 56-member team comprised of nine churches to conduct a Kid's Camp and construction initiative alongside the staff of Send Relief's Chanku Waste Ranch. The week of camp was spent praying over and sharing Jesus with more than 100 kids through Bible study, recreation, arts & crafts, hot meals, and individual mentoring.

Seven members of our church traveled to Japan, to serve with IMB's Saturate Osaka missionaries. While there, we served in campus ministry, English/Japanese language exchange, worship, and Bible study. We also led a D-Now and childcare event for their team's M-kids during the their strategic planning retreat. The trip resulted in a partnership between our church and Suita Bible Gospel Church.

Wade Baptist is grateful for the giving of churches across Mississippi to the Margaret Lackey State Offering that assists our volunteers and our ongoing relationship with MBCB's Missions Mobilization department.

**— Mike Fix, volunteer Mission Director & Short-term Missionary, Wade Baptist Church**



**MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD**

Shawn Parker, Executive Director-Treasurer

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