ITEMS TO COLLECT

Each zippered backpack should include:

1) ITEMS OF NEW WARM CLOTHING including a winter cap, gloves, 2-3 socks, and scarf

2) METAL POP-TOP CANS OF FOOD *(3-4 cans)* such as ravioli, tuna, beef stew, vegetables, fruit

3) At least one or two NEW, AGE-APPROPRIATE TOYS Examples: small cars, balls, dolls, small stuffed animals, puzzles, jump rope, sidewalk chalk, Slinky, card games, Legos, other *(no toy weapons, please!)* For older youth category, substitute appropriate item for toy. *(See website for suggestions).* No pocketknives or other kind of blade please!!

4) HYGIENE ITEMS including toothbrush, soap, washcloth, brush /comb, full-sized shampoo toothpaste, deodorant *(please fit these items into a one-gallon Ziploc bag so they will not leak).*

5) FRESH, WRAPPED CANDY *(no chocolate please, as it may melt – and no peanut products please due to allergies)*

6) A CHILDREN'S or YOUTH BIBLE *(no particular version is required) This is the most important thing that goes into the pack! Please include!*

7) A COPY OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY *(downloadable and printable pdf found on website)*

For more information contact

BAPTISTS ON MISSION

Mark Abernathy
mabernathy@ncbaptist.org
919-459-5607

More information and specific details available on our ACO webpage at:
www.baptistsonmission.org/aco

2025 Appalachian Christmas Outreach

Appalachian Coalfields Ministry, sponsored by Baptists on Mission, seeks to meet the physical and spiritual needs of people living in the Appalachian Area. One of the greatest ministry needs in this area occurs at Christmastime. We are calling on churches statewide to respond to this need through Appalachian Christmas Outreach in 2025.

Shoes are also being collected this year along with the backpacks.

GOAL and COLLECTION DATE:

The statewide goal is to collect **24,000 backpacks** of items to be distributed to Appalachian children in areas of need in late November and December of 2025. The state-wide collection day for 2025 is **Saturday, November 1** from 9am to noon. Thirty plus collection sites will be set up across the state for churches to bring their backpacks to. Specific sites will be listed on the Baptists On Mission website in September. **We encourage churches to begin collecting and filling the packs early – and throughout the year.**

AGE GROUPING and LABELING.

Each backpack should be labeled boy or girl as well as the appropriate age. Age groupings are 4-7, 8-10; 11-14; and 15-17 Due to labels falling off in previous years, we use a ribbon system for labeling the backpacks. A **royal blue** (or similar) ribbon will indicate a **boy's backpack**. A **pink** ribbon will indicate a **girl's backpack**. In addition, a **yellow** ribbon will indicate that the backpack is for **ages 4-7**, a **green** ribbon for ages **8-10**, a **red** ribbon for ages **11-14**; and a white ribbon for ages **15-17**.

Please prepare each backpack as you would for your own child or grandchild, with new items, not used. Please include items from each category listed to the right. **Please do not neglect to put in a Bible!** This may be the only Christmas present this child receives, and will be a witness of Christ's love.

"Your participation will mean so much and may make an eternal difference in a child's life!"