

BRINGING CHURCHES TOGETHER TO IMPACT
LOSTNESS IN OUR COMMUNITIES & TO THE
ENDS OF THE EARTH

Forerunner

"Church Awaken"

Joel 2:12-14

TBA 161st Annual Meeting

Sunday, October 20 - 3:30pm
Brevard First Baptist Church



Annual Sermon by Dr. Jamie Work,
International Mission Board



Worship led by Kenny Lamm,
Worship Ministries Strategist,
Baptist State Convention of NC

Make plans now to attend the Annual Meeting, as 32 churches
join together for an informative meeting and an awesome evening of worship!
Associational & Denominational Reporting begins at 3:30pm, dinner served at 5:30pm
Worship & Annual Sermon at 6:15pm
All Pastors, Church Staff/Leaders, & Church Messengers are encouraged to attend.

Please update your email contact for the association.

The correct email address is

transylvaniabaptist@gmail.com.

We are having technical issues with the old tba@tbanc.org emails,
and may not receive your information. Thanks!



Transylvania Baptist Association

675 Hendersonville Highway, Pisgah Forest, NC 28768

828-877-3203 - transylvaniabaptist@gmail.com - transylvaniaaams@gmail.com - www.tbanc.org

Rev. Terry Stockman - Association Missions Strategist

James Felty - Moderator

Rev. Michael Childers - Vice Moderator

Angie McGee - Treasurer

Nancy Kilpatrick - Clerk

October 2024
Volume 34 Issue 10

TERRY'S THOUGHTS



The following is a word from one of the great preachers of the past, Vance Havner when defending the act of preaching and was published in a preaching periodical "The Standard" dated 1961: "We don't want sermons," say the program chairman of many religious meetings today, as well as many editors of religious periodicals, and leaders of youth meetings. Sermons are no longer a drawing card. They say, "Put on a picture, or have a celebrity in the pulpit to pack the house." Then maybe the preacher can give a Gospel message. But plain, old fashioned preaching cannot stand on its own, to hear some people tell it. It must have a crutch to get along.

My Bible does not say, 'How shall they hear without a brass band?' It says, 'How shall they hear without a preacher?' If preaching won't do God's work nothing else will. We have fallen upon all sorts of carnal devices to pack the house with the argument, the end justifies the means. It is an admission that we have failed to follow the New Testament pattern. God's method is to use a Spirit-filled church. Rather than pay the price of being Spirit-filled, we substitute false fire and worldly expedients.

It is not the duty of the preacher to fill the house; it is his business to fill the pulpit. The church members should fill the house by being there themselves and bringing others. Lacking a Spirit filled membership, fervent soul winning and a separated testimony, we are hard put to it to devise other means to secure the desired ends. Of course, the preacher may also be at fault in the state of his heart or the content of his message, and he may need to build a fire under the pulpit in order to warm up the church.

But preaching is still the appointed means, and although we are in a day when men will not endure doctrine but have 'ear-itch' instead of 'heartburn,' let us not forget that the command in that very connection is 'Preach the Word!' and let God manifests His Word and His will through preaching. Let us hope and pray that the people of God will grow weary of stones and seek bread. We do not better ourselves by aspersions cast on great preaching or by low-rating giants of the past generation; we could use a few today!"

Fortunately, we have such faithful preachers in our association and we all should be grateful these men do their best to faithfully preach His Word each week and serve us all with joy. Aren't you glad we are blessed to have faithful pastors within the TBA?! October is PASTOR APPRECIATION Month. Let us show our appreciation in an overwhelming fashion to our pastors during October. Let us show them how much we appreciate their faithfulness to preach His word and not the culture's word. Finally, let us show appreciation for him and his family as they, together, minister to each of us every day!

Terry

***P*REACH**

Preach the good news to all creation.

Mark 16:15

***A*PPROACH**

Approach God with freedom and confidence.

Ephesians 3:12

***S*UBMIT**

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Ephesians 5:21

***T*EACH**

Teach what agrees with sound doctrine.

Titus 2:1

***O*BEY**

Obey His commandments, abide in Him.

1 John 3:24

***R*ENEW**

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.

Isaiah 40:31

**Please pray for our churches
without pastors:
Boylston, Enon, Rocky Hill**

**Pastors Fellowship
Tuesday, October 1 - 6:30pm
Baptist Center Conference Room**

Things to Know About Your Pastor



- ♦ He loves God and you a lot. *(Be mindful.)*
- ♦ He is a painfully limited human being. *(Be realistic.)*
- ♦ He probably has a pretty low view of his “performance.” *(Be kind.)*
- ♦ He wishes he were a better preacher. *(Be awake.)*
- ♦ He really does want God’s best for you and your family. *(Be open-hearted.)*
- ♦ His work knows no time or locational boundaries. *(Be patient.)*
- ♦ He hears much more negative information than positive. *(Be encouraging.)*
- ♦ He has been called to a vocation in which few remain. *(Be praying.)*
- ♦ He has chosen a highly leadership-intensive call. *(Be lead-able.)*
- ♦ He needs help. *(Be available.)*
- ♦ His God-given vision is bigger than himself and the church. *(Be faith-filled.)*
- ♦ He wants to personally meet all the needs, but knows he can’t. *(Be understanding.)*
- ♦ He’s going to say some dumb things every now and then. *(Be forgiving.)*
- ♦ His family is patient with you, so be patient with them. *(Be conscientious.)*
- ♦ He is greatly encouraged by your faithfulness. *(Be there.)*
- ♦ He is passionate for God’s Word to be made practical to you. *(Be hungry.)*
- ♦ He longs for church to be your spiritual oasis. *(Be loving.)*
- ♦ He dreams for you and your family’s spiritual health. *(Be receptive.)*
- ♦ He needs to hear that you prayed for him. *(Be interceding.)*
- ♦ He’s just a regular guy. *(Be real.)*

Anonymous

Please pray for our churches and their pastors:

“And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake.”

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

Biltmore Brevard - Tyler Littrell
Blantyre - Ron Nelson
Blue Ridge - Allen Martin
Boylston
Brevard First - Jeff Maynard
Calvary - Andrew White
Carr’s Hill - Aaron Whitmire
Carson’s Creek - Eddie Dodson
Cathey’s Creek - Tony Lambert
Cedar Mountain - Willie Walters
Cherryfield - Randy Shuler
Church at Sapphire - Andrew McKinney
Cove Church - Brad Snipes
Dunn’s Rock - Todd Alewine
East Fork - Tommy Crocker
Enon
Faith - Kyle Reese

Grace - Michael Childers
Hope Church Brevard - Nathan Cravatt
La Primera Mission - Rick Plotts
Lake Toxaway - Harold Sitton
Little River - Marc Reynolds
Middle Fork - Chester Chappell
Morningside - Craig McKinney
Mt. Moriah - Wally McCall
New Hope - Lee Patrick
North Toxaway - Tommy Mullis
Oak Grove - Jeff Turner
Pisgah Forest - Jimmy Parker
Rocky Hill
Temple - Jayson Rogers
Turkey Creek - Shannon Owen
Zion - Nate Whited

Mountain State Fair Ministry

Thank you Calvary, Pisgah Forest, & Temple for sending hygiene kits, lemonade mix, and styrofoam cups for the fair workers.

The 2024 NC Mountain State Fair Ministry was a great success! Coordinator Norma Melton reports that over 35 church/association teams served throughout, providing 4 meals per day, approximately 50 patients were treated in the dental bus, and numerous other ministry opportunities were shared.



Association Financial Summary August 2024

	Current	Year-to-Date
Biltmore Brevard	\$ 0	\$ 2,500.00
Blantyre	\$ 125.00	\$ 1,000.00
Blue Ridge	\$ 75.00	\$ 600.00
Boylston	\$ 556.67	\$ 3,761.87
Brevard First	\$ 1,212.28	\$ 10,089.71
Calvary	\$ 0	\$ 4,188.45
Carr's Hill	\$ 250.00	\$ 2,000.00
Carson's Creek	\$ 150.00	\$ 1,200.00
Cathey's Creek	\$ 208.00	\$ 1,453.00
Cedar Mountain	\$ 366.00	\$ 2,562.00
Cherryfield	\$ 321.71	\$ 2,857.39
Church at Sapphire	\$ 0	\$ 0
Cove Church	\$ 50.00	\$ 125.00
Dunn's Rock	\$ 0	\$ 5,415.96
East Fork	\$ 0	\$ 900.00
Enon	\$ 0	\$ 2,400.00
Faith Missionary	\$ 0	\$ 0
Grace	\$ 384.98	\$ 2,838.39
Hope Church Brevard (See Off)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Lake Toxaway	\$ 0	\$ 693.18
La Primera Mission	\$ 0	\$ 0
Little River	\$ 1,035.50	\$ 3,106.50
Middle Fork	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,600.00
Morningside	\$ 150.50	\$ 1,646.22
Mt. Moriah-Calvert	\$ 0	\$ 0
New Hope	\$ 0	\$ 0
North Toxaway	\$ 200.00	\$ 850.00
Oak Grove	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,500.00
Pisgah Forest	\$ 909.73	\$ 5,744.96
Rocky Hill	\$ 400.00	\$ 3,200.00
Temple	\$ 131.25	\$ 1,050.00
Turkey Creek	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,900.00
Zion	\$ 0	\$ 1,407.08
Miscellaneous	\$ 1,605.00	\$ 3,750.00
Checking Interest	\$ 3.01	\$ 21.71
Total Receipts	\$ 9,144.63	\$ 70,361.42
Total Expenses	\$ 11,125.36	\$ 93,635.80

2024 Budget \$149,879.00
 Needed Monthly to Meet Budget \$12,490.00

FIELDS OF FAITH

Wednesday, October 16 - 5:30pm
 Rosman High Football Field
 Free Meal/Games/Worship

Church News

Brevard First Baptist - is seeking a teacher and assistant for the preschool. For more info please contact Joy Guffey at 828-883-9839 or email firstbaptistweeschool@gmail.com.

Enon - is seeking a pianist/music leader. For more info please call the church at 828-877-4418.

Pisgah Forest - is seeking a part-time music director. For more info please contact Gene Parker at 828-508-9142.

Rocky Hill - is seeking a worship leader. For more info please contact Clint Owings at 828-883-9707 or cbowings@me.com.

2024 Annual Congregation Profiles


Extensive changes to the ACP have been made by the Baptist State Convention. A much simpler form along with moving to a calendar year of reporting are being implemented, and reporting will now be completed in January.

- ◆ A training session for church clerks will be held Tuesday, December 17 at 1pm at the Baptist Center.
- ◆ The reporting year will be January 1st through December 31st of 2024, with Baptisms and Memorials for the period of September 1st through December 31st of 2023 included in the 2024 statistics.




Alumni Day 2024

October 1, 2024
10:00 AM



Rev. Jeff Smith
 Pastor of Central Station
 Cowboy Church
 Graduate of 2008



Dr. David Gallamore
 Pastor of Rock Springs
 Baptist Church
 Graduate of 1991

October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Weekly Prayer North Toxaway 7am Pastors Fellowship 6:30pm Sheila Alewine Birthday (Dunn's Rock)	2	3 Weekly Prayer Baptist Center 9am TBA Council Meeting 10am	4	5
6 Cooperative Program Sunday Rogers Anniversary (Temple)	7 Mary McCall Birthday (Mt. Moriah)	8 Weekly Prayer North Toxaway 7am	9	10 Weekly Prayer Baptist Center 9am	11	12
13	14 Cheryl Childers Birthday (Grace)	15 Weekly Prayer North Toxaway 7am Tammy Shuler Birthday (Cherryfield)	16 Fields of Faith Rosman Football Field 5:30pm	17 Weekly Prayer Baptist Center 9am	18 Marc Reynolds Birthday (Little River)	19
20 TBA 161st Annual Meeting 3:30pm Brevard First	21	22 Weekly Prayer North Toxaway 7am McKinney Anniversary (Sapphire)	23	24 Weekly Prayer Baptist Center 9am	25	26
27	28	29 Weekly Prayer North Toxaway 7am	30	31 Weekly Prayer Baptist Center 9am	<p><i>Coming in November:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baptist State Convention of NC Annual Meeting - November 4-5, Greensboro, NC <p><i>Coming in December:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week of Prayer for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering - December 1-8 Pastors Christmas Banquet - December 9, Zion ACP Training for Church Clerks December 17 	



2024 Appalachian Christmas Outreach

Appalachian Coalfields Ministry, sponsored by NC 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 2024.



New Sneakers in All Sizes are also being collected.



GOAL and COLLECTION DATE:

The statewide goal is to collect **22,000 backpacks** of items to be distributed to Appalachian children in areas of need in late November and December of 2024. The state-wide collection day for 2024 is **Saturday, November 2** 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.

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. No pocketknives! (*See website for suggestions*).
- 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



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

More information and specific details available on our ACO webpage at:

www.baptistsonmission.org/aco

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

Update from our Pennsylvania Partners

Fall is here! School has begun. Churches are gearing up for their fall Bible Studies, and holiday events. Pumpkin Spice is in the air and in our coffee. This is a time when church planters start new Community Groups, and find ways to interact with their community through outdoor activities before it gets cold.

- Grove Community Church celebrated their 1st year Anniversary, and baptized 2 that day, followed by a potluck lunch.
- Bhim is officially a Pennsylvania resident. He sold his home in NY while starting a church in South Park, Pittsburgh.
- Rt 6 Corridor was blessed with various mission teams such as the Transylvania Baptist Association, who prayer walked Troy and helped other churches in the area do events in the community.



Prayer Requests:

1. Planters and their families as they are out in their communities building relationships
2. A church planter for Elizabethtown, Hanover, Somerset, and Enola
3. Spanish, Nepali, Indian, and Arabic church planters
4. New Community Groups which will be started in September
5. Residency churches to train pastors / planters for the near future

Please Pray for These Church Planters:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Seth in Lancaster | • Bhim in South Park |
| • Britian in Emigsville | • Yogesh in Harrisburg |
| • Daniel in Troy | • Scott & Thea in Bellefonte |
| • Mason in Erie | • Blake in Squirrel Hill |
| • Cam in Corey | • Chapin in Selinsgrove |

Map courtesy
paroute6.com



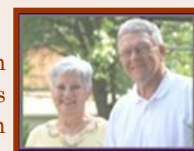
It has been a blessed summer of ministry in PA working with the Baptists on Mission partnerships with Baptist Resource Network of PA/SJ and Baptist Churches of New England. We are now back in Brevard for the next six months to work mainly with Appalachia and the Appalachian Christmas Outreach.

After our August TBA mission trip to prayerwalk, encourage, and minister in the Northern Tier of PA, we did follow up with churches in Tunkhannock, West Falls, St. Mary's as well as prayerwalked more towns in the area. We have made even more connections with pastors and church leaders. Even here at TBA's DuPont Park ministry, there were contacts made with people who live in Coudersport, PA, which is part of the Route 6 corridor.

Last weekend, BRN churches had a fantastic outreach of Serve Erie where they ministered to one of the poorest regions of the country. Erie is the most western area of Route 6. All of these events continue to point us to the lostness and the need for gospel witness in the Northern Tier of PA.

We are grateful for the partnership Transylvania has with this area and look forward to many more years of outreach there, making a difference for Jesus.

Dewey & Kathie Aiken
On Site Partnership Coordinators
NC Baptists on Mission



Used Biblical Literature - Testimonies from Around the World

From India: “The books I got from you are so useful and productive. Last year I got many books and this has changed my course of preaching, teaching, and living. How wonderful they have been to me.”

From South Africa: “We would like to express our gratitude and appreciation for the free materials we received for both our Women’s conference and the Pastors Retreat. On a personal note, one of the books I read was edifying and challenged me to embrace every trial that I have gone through as part of God’s refining process in my spiritual walk. I have also had positive feedback from the ladies who attended the conference, that they were blessed by the reading material and the cd’s they received. May God continue to bless those who share these materials with us for the extension of God’s kingdom.”

From Ghana: “Rev. Ebenezer Manu, of Faith Arena Ministry, reports that in December, they engaged in street, bus, and open air evangelism. They reached out to about 3,000 people, out of which 50 received Christ as Savior for the first time and 60 others rededicated their lives to Christ. Some have joined the church. They gave out about 3,000 booklets.”

From Troy, Illinois: “Troy Methodist Middle School students loved working at Love Packages during our mission trip last week. It was an amazing experience there - the sheer volume, the workload, the mission, was inspiring and memorable. During our devotions and debriefing, students brought up Love Packages on several occasions, including our wrap up. The lunchtime stories were engaging even for the middle school boys - great job! The Testimonies and stories lit a bit of a fire that eternal, life changing things are happening arounds the world through the gospel message. When our group traveled around Springfield on morning to pray for people, they were more confident, willing, and engaging because of the stories from Love Packages. I’ve actually never seen middle schoolers pray for so many people (in laundromats, capitol building, etc.). Thank you for your ministry! We’ve been telling everyone about it and hope to come again soon!”

From Zimbabwe: “Our literature distributor gave some materials to a Pastor Joseph. Pastor Joseph was in front of his home one day when a couple of little girls came by. He started talking to them and gave them a couple of Christian children’s books. They were so very glad to receive them. They took them home and their dad started reading the books to them at night before they went to sleep. A couple of weeks went by, and the dad came to pastor Joseph and said, ‘I don’t know anything about this Jesus, can I have some books for the and my wives?’ So, Pastor Joseph gave him several books from Love Packages. One month went by, and he came back, and Pastor Joseph led him to faith in Christ. Later he came again and said, ‘Pastor, I need you to fill up your car with literature and come with me.’ They ended up giving literature away to hundreds of people that were waiting for them. Again he came and said ‘You need to get a bigger vehicle and come with me - I have so many people who want to know about Christ.’ This time they filled a transit van full of Love Packages literature and away they went, and gave literature to thousands of people waiting to receive them. It turns out that the little girls’ dad was a leader of a cult and had never known about Christ, but when he received Christ, he wanted all of this followers to know Christ too. He has 40,000 followers. We have just received pictures and posted them on our Facebook page. These pictures show thousands of his followers receiving New Testaments from Love Packages. Please pray for all of them to receive Christ. This group is called the White Robe Group.”



Volunteers from Pisgah Forest loading another shipment of used Biblical literature for overseas evangelism.

**Please continue to bring your used literature to the Baptist Center for sorting and packaging - Sunday school materials, Bibles, hymnals, devotions, reference books, commentaries, etc.
For more information, please visit lovepackages.org.**

Three Ways to Improve Your Emotional & Spiritual Health

What do you do when you have reached the end of yourself? Your to-do list has more unchecked boxes than you know what to do with, conversions are low, you're lacking funds, and the pressures of starting a church [or leading one] are bearing down on you. Your plant is not where you'd like it to be, and you've reached the end of your own strength. When you walk into your office (if you have one) you look to your right and left for a listening ear, but all you have are more unanswered voicemails and text messages from people wanting something from you.

Pastors - and anyone serving in caregiving vocations - are the most susceptible to burnout. You often pour out your time, talents, and treasures to people, without pause. It's easy to forget that while you're meeting the needs of everyone else, you're included in that, too. It's easy to get lost in the crowd of our busyness. Here are three ways church planters can tend to their emotional and spiritual health.

1. Prioritize your walk with the Lord. We can subconsciously fill our schedules with doing things for God, and we forget to simply enjoy being with Him. After all, outreach events, sermon prep, and counseling your members won't happen through osmosis. These take time and intentionality. But church planting is spiritual work, and how are we to advance God's kingdom when our spirit is lacking nourishment?

If these tasks take up our time at the expense of our intimacy with Jesus, we are setting ourselves up to be a dry well attempting to offer people living water. We give to others to the degree we have received from the Lord, but it's hard to give to others what we don't possess ourselves. When we neglect our own spiritual health, we can slip into a performance-based mentality that assumes it's all up to us. We bear the weight of things we were never meant to take on, and we easily attach our acceptance from God to our performance for Him.

As you are working to advance God's kingdom and you're taking care of everyone, remember to take care of yourself.

God does not live you for what you are doing for Him. He does not love you only when you've reached a certain number of members or finally have a consistent Sunday service. He loves you for who you are - His child.

2. Incorporate regular rhythms of rest. Jesus worked very hard. He spent His three years of personal ministry generously pouring out His life for the sake of others, and He and His disciples felt the physical, emotional, and spiritual demands of life and ministry. In His humanity, He got tired and rested (Luke 8:23). After sending out the 72 disciples, He told them to "come away by yourselves to a remote place and rest for a while," (Mark 6:31). Jesus was inviting them into His rhythms of ministry: working hard and resting well in the Father's presence.

Take time to regularly slow down and check your emotional and spiritual gauges. We live in a fast-paced culture that whispers to us to keep running at an unsustainable pace, and sometimes, the church is no different. Establish weekly, monthly, quarterly, and annual times of rest where you can gauge how you're doing. What's going on in your heart? What's a consistent emotion you've been feeling? What's a sin you find yourself repenting of often? What has the Lord been teaching you or impressing on your heart? Make time to slow down, pray, and sleep.

3. Don't be afraid to ask for help. As you gauge how you're doing, process your thoughts with a trusted friend or counselor. Many leaders burn out because they do not have the courage to ask for help. The stigma of weakness and discounting of our feelings keeps us from the emotional health and stunts our effectiveness in ministry. If we lose touch with our own emotions and what it means to be human, we fail to give people what they need - a relational touch with a relational God who enters into our struggles.

Church planters [and pastors] may find themselves using their brain to figure out how to impact the world for Christ but are ineffective in using their brains to know what is going on inside of them. Make time to feel your feelings and tell the truth to the right people. We can't give what we don't have.



North American
Mission Board

Article courtesy North American Mission Board
www.namb.net

First Known Believer Baptized Among Embera People Group of Colombia

Wading into the rushing waters of the jungle river, Sarah looked at the bank filled with members of her Indigenous tribe. She was about to make a bold statement — one that not only transformed her life but could change eternity for the Embera people of Colombia. She nodded to International Mission Board missionary Travis Burkhalter to proceed.



“In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I baptize you,” the missionary said in Sarah’s language before lowering her into the river, raising her, and offering a hug.

It’s a daunting task, but . . . souls hang in the balance.

Sarah, the first known follower of Christ among her tribe, couldn’t stop smiling as she explained her decision with the community. This moment was years in the making. In fact, you began specifically praying for this three years ago. Travis and his wife, Beth, have served with the IMB in Central and South America since 2010. In those years, their Spanish language skills improved, and they conversed easily with most people in their city of Medellin, Colombia. Then, the couple felt a clear calling from the Lord to serve among Indigenous people groups. Three years ago, they asked you to pray for gospel access that led to gospel belief for those who fled violence in their home region to live in the city.

Access came through a ministry Beth established, the Embera Bead Project, to help the internally displaced Indigenous families living in poverty pay for rent, food, medical care, and other daily needs. The project sought to break a cycle of poverty by providing jewelry workshops where the Embera can make a fair wage and acquire new skills to increase their quality of life. While the Embera Bead Project provided access to the people, Travis and Beth knew the greatest problem was lostness, and the only solution was the gospel. They knew the greatest need was to have a relationship with Jesus Christ. They spent months sharing Bible stories with Indigenous people groups with no results.

They noticed a huge communication barrier. Most did not understand Spanish. They were culturally and linguistically unique despite having lived in Colombia their whole lives. Because of this, the stories from the Bible were completely unknown to most. “They had never heard the creation story, never heard of Adam and Eve,” Travis explained. “We are convinced they need to hear the [gospel] in their heart language to fully understand.” The Embera language is unwritten. Learning it was a task that took years. There were no resources to help the Burkhalts, other than the foundation set through their Spanish language schooling years ago. So, Travis developed his own lesson plans and trained a language helper from the Indigenous group who spoke a little Spanish. Every day, Travis traveled into the organized crime-controlled neighborhood where his friends lived and met in his car. It was the safest place in the community of drug addicts and violence.

The language acquisition was not pretty but it worked. Travis chose a theme, like family or work, recorded the conversation on his phone and wrote out pronunciation keys to study later. He memorized words, listened to hundreds of hours of recorded conversations, and practiced with people at the bead project.

“It’s a daunting task, but I’m extremely motivated because I know souls hang in the balance,” Travis admitted when he asked you to pray for his language skills almost two years ago. “As you are faithful to pray and give, I will be faithful to work hard and persevere until they all hear.” Travis and Beth committed to be steadfastly present among the people and places they are called to as they seek to fulfill their part in the Revelation 7:9 vision.

Sarah’s baptism in the jungle river isn’t the culmination of your prayers. It’s just the beginning.

As Travis learned, he slowly taught Sarah Bible stories. The more she learned, the more she understood the truth of what Jesus had done for her. Finally, she expressed her belief in Christ and desire to follow Him. Sarah’s baptism in the jungle river isn’t the culmination of your prayers. It’s just the beginning. Your prayers make a difference among the Embera people. You prayed for gospel access that led to gospel belief. Now, there is a native speaker, Sarah, who is being discipled. Pray as she shares among her own people, bringing more to a gospel belief that results in lives transformed. As you pray, also consider giving so more can hear the good news.

God has made our purpose clear. Together, we seek to take the gospel to every language. We give ourselves to this mission every day.

Article courtesy International Mission Board
Stories of Transformation
www.imb.org



YOUR OFFERING
BRINGS CHILDREN

Hope!

PLEASE GIVE.

 **ANNUAL OFFERING**
GOAL \$1.5 MILLION

 SHARING HOPE...CHANGING LIVES
Baptist Children's Homes
of NORTH CAROLINA



TRUETT
Conference Center & Camp

TREKS GUIDED TRIP

October 25-27, 2024

Only \$195 per person



TRUETT
Conference Center & Camp

FATHER & SON
Warrior Weekend

October 4-6



TRUETT
Conference Center & Camp

FORGED MAN CAMP

November 1-3



A Fall Senior GATHERING

Truett Conference Center & Camp!
Monday, October 14, 2024 - 10am - 2pm

North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM) will bring practical and spiritual solutions for everyday challenges. Come and hear more about:

- NCBAM's ONE HOPE Ministry which offers a spiritual response to social isolation and loneliness among aging adults.
- In "Engage While Aging," we'll learn what we can do to stay engaged and feel better mentally, spiritually, and physically as we age.
- Do you ever worry that someone will break into your home? Gain peace of mind from the presentation, "Home Invasion and Prevention."



BAPTISTS ON MISSION

- **Partnership Missions**
State, National, International
- **Medical Missions**
- **Mission Camps and Rebuild Centers**
- **Disaster Response**
- **Children and Student Mobilization**



North Carolina
MISSIONS
Offering



THE NORTH CAROLINA MISSIONS OFFERING:

- Shares the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Relieves suffering.
- Treats the sick.
- Helps plant new churches.
- Mobilizes volunteers for missions.
- Responds to various disasters.

North Carolina
MISSIONS
Offering



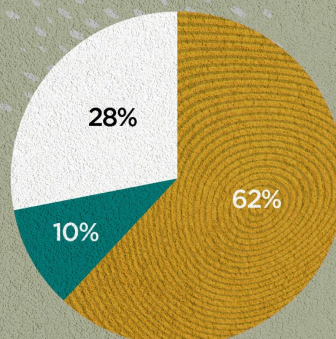
NCMISSIONSOFFERING.ORG

\$2.6 MILLION

2024 GOAL

NCMO SUPPORTS:

■ Baptists on Mission Ministries	\$1,601,600
■ Church Planting	\$738,400
■ Associational Missions	\$260,000



North Carolina
MISSIONS
Offering