

2021 MISSOURI MISSIONS OFFERING

PRAYER GUIDE



RHEUBIN L. SOUTH
MISSOURI MISSIONS OFFERING

**“THEY GAVE THEMSELVES FIRST TO THE
LORD AND THEN TO US BY GOD’S WILL”**

2 Corinthians 8:5 CSB



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR STATE MISSIONS:
SEPTEMBER 12-19



“THEY GAVE THEMSELVES FIRST TO THE LORD AND THEN TO US BY GOD’S WILL”

2 Corinthians 8:5 CSB

Your gifts through the Missouri Missions Offering (MMO) help transform lives and communities with the gospel.

In his second letter to the Corinthians, Paul praises the churches of Macedonia for begging to be included in a collection for suffering saints in Jerusalem. And he appeals to believers in Corinth to follow through on their commitment to do the same. Concerning the Macedonians, Paul writes, “They gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us by God’s will” (2 Cor. 8:5).

What a privilege Missouri Baptists have to contribute to God’s work of grace in the hearts of people across our state.

As you focus on supporting two dozen ministries and missions projects across our state, use this prayer guide in your daily devotions, or with your church or Bible study group, during the eight days of prayer for Missouri Missions. These eight stories represent countless more people who benefit from your prayers and sacrificial giving. And it’s all because you gave yourself first to the Lord.



DAY 1

A Heart for Rape Survivors

Sexual Assault Care Packages

Missouri Baptist University students like Lindsey Peters have a heart for survivors of sexual assaults. Students are helping lead a ministry that prepares backpacks of clothing and basic toiletry items for rape survivors who arrive for care at St. Louis-area emergency rooms.

Many rape survivors have their clothing taken into evidence at the ER for criminal investigation. The MBU-provided backpacks include sweatpants and tee-shirts so survivors don't go home in hospital gowns.

The care packages also include stuffed animals in the backpacks, intended to comfort survivors. Peters says it is "a simple act of kindness that helps those in overwhelming situations feel they have a friend."

Pray for:

- Survivors of sexual assaults in St. Louis
- MBU students on mission for Christ



DAY 2

A Call to Healthcare Ministry

New Biblically Informed LPN Program

Imagine a high school student pursuing God's call to become a licensed practical nurse (LPN). Or a bi-vocational church planter, or his wife, seeking the same specialized training. How can Missouri Baptists help meet the need for a biblically informed LPN program in our state?

The answer is: through a new partnership with Baptist Homes and Hannibal-LaGrange University. These two MBC-affiliated institutions have launched an LPN program at the Baptist Homes' Chillicothe campus.

The program aims to prepare Missouri Baptists from all walks of life who sense God's call to serve in this capacity. MMO funds help students with scholarships and childcare grants.

Pray for:

- A new generation of biblically informed LPNs
- The successful launch of the BH-HLGU partnership



DAY 3

Caring for the Abused and Neglected

Missouri Baptist Children's Home

Missouri faces a foster-care crisis. No one knows this better than Ramona Conrad-Cooper, who leads children and family ministries at the Missouri Baptist Children's Home (MBCH). According to her, more than 16,400 children are in the state's foster-care system. Many of these young people are abused or neglected.

MBCH is a major provider of Christian foster families through a variety of recruitment, training, and case-management programs. Foster families must secure and maintain state certification, at an annual cost of \$1,150. MMO helped support more than 100 foster homes last year, and the need for foster families and financial support continues to be great.

Pray for:

- God to call out Christian foster families in Missouri
- Abused and neglected children across our state



DAY 4

Making Much of Christ in Big Sky Country

Partnership Missions: Montana

Steve Fowler is on a mission to make much of Christ in Montana. The Southern Baptist church planter knows first-hand that the work can be as challenging as the fierce winters and rugged landscape of Big Sky Country.

That's one reason Fowler is cheering the new partnership between Missouri Baptists and the Montana Southern Baptist Convention. Missouri Baptist churches are forging relationships with churches in Montana, sending mission teams to aid in church planting, and offering help and support to pastors and their wives.

MMO funds recently helped Life Point Church in Ozark, Mo., sponsor a church-planter retreat in Montana. Dozens of churches across the Show-Me state are beginning to engage in this new venture.

Pray for:

- Montana Baptist pastors, church planters, and their families
- MBC congregations to partner with Montana Baptists



DAY 5

Sharing Christ on Campus

Youth Evangelism Conference

Evan, a high school student at Second Baptist Church in Springfield, had been praying for a classmate but wasn't sure how to approach him with the gospel. Then, Evan attended a Youth Evangelism Conference at his church and felt compelled to share Christ with his friend.

Each year, the MBC sponsors a Youth Evangelism Conference, helping students gain the confidence and conversational tools to witness wherever Christ places them on campus. Between 300-400 attended the most recent conference – some in person and some through live-streaming.

Evan's friend, a Latter-day Saint, heard the true gospel of Jesus Christ. And now, Evan keeps praying, trusting the Holy Spirit to draw his friend to faith in Jesus.

Pray for:

- Boldness for students to share their faith in Christ
- This year's Youth Evangelism Conference



- Hell is a literal place (and state) whereby punishment for the wicked is everlasting and is punitive, not redemptive; the nature of hell is literal as expressed in Scripture.

DAY 6

“Freedom on the Inside”

HLGU Prison Ministry

Rodrick Sweet has a heart for prison inmates – so much so that he moved from Texas to Missouri to oversee a new ministry at the Jefferson City Correctional Center. Hannibal-LaGrange University’s “Freedom on the Inside” enables men in the correctional center to earn bachelor’s degrees in Christian Studies. So far, 18 men have begun their degree pursuit.

As inmates graduate, they are able to assist chaplains as “field missionaries” throughout the Missouri prison system.

Sweet asks Missouri Baptists to “Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily” (Heb. 13:3).

Pray for:

- Men currently enrolled in “Freedom on the Inside”
- Rodrick Sweet as he leads this ministry



DAY 7

Into the Storm

Mo. Baptist Disaster Relief

When Hurricane Laura rocked DeRidder, La., last year, fallen tree limbs draped “Edna’s” metal-roof home. The 90-year-old widow lived by herself and could not convince area tree-service companies or volunteer organizations to help, due to the steepness of her roof.

That’s when a Missouri Baptist Disaster Relief (DR) team from Bethel Baptist Association appeared on the scene. Equipped with a man-lift and chainsaws, volunteers safely removed the debris and gave Edna back her peace of mind – along with a testimony of the love of Christ.

Gaylon Moss, the MBC’s DR director, says, “Disasters create opportunities for a DR team to interact face-to-face with storm survivors. As a result, they offer help, hope, and healing through Jesus Christ.”

Pray for:

- The labors of 2,300 Missouri DR volunteers
- Survivors of disasters to trust in Christ



DAY 8

The Marshallese Miracle

Ethnic Church Planting

Missouri Baptist church planter Joshua Manning is helping start churches among 15 language groups in the small southwest Missouri town of Noel. Many of the 1,800 residents are immigrants who come to Noel to work in a chicken-processing plant.

Among these are natives of the Marshall Islands in the South Pacific. They form an ethnic group with a unique dialect – and a lack of Bibles in their language. With 20 new believers ready to be baptized and discipled, the need for Marshallese Bibles was urgent.

But thanks to some thorough investigative work and MMO funding, Manning and the MBC's Rick Hedger were able to locate rare copies of these Bibles. It's being called "the Marshallese miracle."

Pray for:

- New believers in ethnic churches in Noel
- Ethnic church planters across Missouri