

WE MUST DO THE WORKS OF HIM WHO SENT ME WHILE IT IS DAY. NIGHT IS COMING WHEN NO ONE CAN WORK. —JOHN 9:4



WHILE IT IS STILL **LIGHT**



**DIXIE JACKSON
ARKANSAS
MISSIONS OFFERING
PLANNING GUIDE
2022**



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**A MESSAGE FROM
ABSC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DR. J.D. "SONNY" TUCKER**

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As I reflect on the incredible ministry that takes place every day in our state, I am reminded that it is because of the generosity of Arkansas Baptists! Even in the midst of a hot, dry summer you have shared the Living Water to a world that is thirsty. Because of your prayers and generous giving through the annual Dixie

Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering, churches are being planted, college students are being discipled, and people in crisis are being ministered to in these difficult days.

As we consider this year's theme verse, "We must do the works of Him who sent Me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work" (John 9:4), let's turn our thoughts to the importance of continuing to pray for those on the front lines of ministry. But let's also ask ourselves what God would have each of us to do to shine the Light of Jesus in a dark world.

During the second week in September, you will have the opportunity to pray each day for specific ministries. We would ask you to sign up on our website (absc.org/dj) for daily reminders. If another week is more conducive to your church's calendar, we would simply ask that you lead your congregation to pray for and learn about these ministries for a specific time.

In the pages of this Planning Guide and on the accompanying DVD you will read and hear about the ways Arkansas Baptists are doing the work "while it is day." Will you please take time to familiarize yourself with these and the other resources available here and at absc.org/dj to share with your church family?

I want to encourage you to make use of the prayer guide, the lesson plans, and especially the videos to shine the light on these opportunities for ministry.

Thank for your faithfulness to pray, to give, and to go so that others may know the love of Jesus. Arkansas Baptists are the most generous folks in the world!

WE MUST DO THE
WORKS OF HIM
WHO SENT ME
WHILE IT IS DAY.
NIGHT IS COMING
WHEN NO ONE
CAN WORK.
—JOHN 9:4

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ohn 9 introduces us to an amazing encounter. As Jesus and His disciples are walking along, they pass by a man blind from birth. Noticing him, the disciples use the man's blindness as an opportunity to pose a question to Jesus.

"Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" (John 9:2)

We can easily imagine Jesus smiling at the question, knowing the teaching opportunity He's about to have.

Jesus begins by answering the immediate question: "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him." (John 9:3)

IS THERE ANYTHING GREATER THAN SEEING THE WORKS OF GOD

DISPLAYED? This statement is so important, because Jesus is about to get to the real point of the lesson, explaining those works of God and how we are involved in them.

"As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." (John 9:4-5)

The works of God are about to be displayed, but the emphasis here is not on the actual miracle Jesus is getting ready to perform. It is, instead, on the statement that "we must do the works of him who sent me."

It's easy to miss this emphasis as we get distracted by the rather unique healing that follows, not to mention the reaction of the Pharisees to it all.

But we cannot lose sight of the works of the Father. We especially

cannot lose sight of the fact that it is not Jesus alone who is supposed to accomplish these works. It is His followers as well. That includes us!

But there's more.

"As long as it is day..."

"Night is coming..."

CAN YOU FEEL THE URGENCY? Do you recognize the powerful reality being presented in these words of Jesus?

We, right along with Jesus, must be take action and do the works of the Father while there is still time. That time is fleeting. Night is coming. But, for now, it is still day.

John emphasizes this reality by going beyond the simple story of the blind man's healing and showing us what happens to him next. This man immediately declares his belief that Jesus is a prophet sent by God, worthy to be followed and obeyed. He believes this so strongly that he stands up to the Pharisees, even to the point of being put out of the synagogue.

How can we do any less?

There are needs all around us in our communities, our cities, and our state. Hurting women need hope. Communities without a Gospel witness need churches. Lonely people need relationships and the love of Jesus. People in areas in crisis need physical and spiritual help and comfort.

WE ARE THE ONES WHO MUST DO THE WORKS OF THE FATHER BEFORE NIGHT COMES. Do you feel the urgency? Are you ready to respond?

On the following pages, you will find examples of ways Arkansas Baptists are already doing the works of the Father. But it's not just work for them. It's work for you, too! This Planning Guide, combined with the included DVD and online resources found at absc.org/dj, will guide you through discovering how you, too, can be an active part of the works of the Father while it is still day.

STEVE AND JOANNA LASITER TOOK IDEAS AND RESOURCES THEY GAINED THROUGH THE STATEWIDE ONE DAY ACTS 1:8 MISSIONS EXPERIENCE AND BROUGHT THEM TO LIGHT IN THEIR COMMUNITY.



DJ
HIGHLIGHT

COMMUNITY MISSIONS
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MISSIONS
OFFERING

Each year in September, churches around the state promote Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions. A week of prayer is observed, stories are shared, and the annual offering is taken.

This is such an important time of learning, praying, and giving. But the best thing about Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions is that it never has to stop with just one week in September. Nor does it stop with a prayer guide and an annual offering. Instead, every Arkansas Baptist

can be an active part of Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions throughout the year!

STEVE AND JOANNA LASITER first discovered this joy of involvement in 2012 when they learned about the annual One Day Acts 1:8 Missions Experience.

This powerful one-day missions trip enables Arkansans to join forces in a single location, spreading the love of Christ with a community through a wide range of mission activities.

PRAYER WALKING GROUPS CANVAS THE AREA while evangelism teams knock on doors or chat with people out in their yards. Block parties, fishing derbies, and other fun activities draw in children and families. Other teams head to laundromats with bags full of quarters to cover the cost of a load of laundry for customers and strike up conversations while waiting for the clothes to wash and dry.

And the list goes on. The Lasiters quickly discovered that this was an opportunity for their whole family to serve together, sharing the love of Christ as a team.

But then they discovered that they could bring One Day home to Conway with One Day:Serve Local. Equipped with ideas and resources provided through the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, the Lasiters helped spearhead a local event patterned after the statewide One Day event.

MANY ARKANSAS BAPTISTS want to be a part of spreading the light of Christ in their communities, but they just don't know where to start. Participating in One Day, whether in the annual statewide event or in a Serve Local event, provides a sense of direction and gives whole families a taste of the joy of doing the works of the Father while it is still day and there is still time.



TORVAC AMOS
FOUND A WHOLE
COMMUNITY OF
PEOPLE LIVING IN THE
SHADOWS, RIGHT
IN OUR OWN STATE,
AND HE PLANTED
A CHURCH THAT
BROUGHT THEM THE
GOSPEL LIGHT.



DJ
HIGHLIGHT

**CHURCH
PLANTING**
FUNDED BY
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s Southern Baptists, we understand the need for church planting efforts in various parts of the United States and around the world. But it can be harder to grasp why church planting is necessary within our own state.

After all, we live in the Bible Belt where we already have a wealth of churches. Is there truly a need for more?

WHEN WE HEAR CHURCH PLANTERS LIKE TORVAC AMOS share their stories, it becomes clear just how real the need is. After sensing the call to minister in the Central Arkansas area, Pastor Amos began researching the demographics. He discovered a community of around 17,000 African Americans that had been largely unreached with the Gospel message.

Pastor Amos had served in traditional ministry for years, but God opened his eyes to needs that stretched beyond the existing established churches. Fortunately, he was not alone.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN SHERWOOD also recognized the need for additional churches in their community and had begun setting aside resources to contribute to church planting efforts. The pieces were in place for a partnership to begin, allowing First Baptist and Pastor Amos to join forces and launch Fresh Start Community Church.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN HOT SPRINGS has seen the need as well. Their vision included church plants in Sheridan, Little Rock, and right in their own city of Hot Springs, all established to meet the needs of people often rejected by the rest of society.

It can be hard to believe that even here in Arkansas where churches exist everywhere, there are entire communities lacking a Gospel witness. But it's a reality all across our state.

God is opening the eyes of Arkansas Baptists just like you and me, helping us to see whole communities where people are living in shadows.

NIGHT IS COMING when there will be no chance for them to see the light at all. When we come together to give and to serve through Dixie Jackson State Missions, we can carry that light into these communities where it is so desperately needed.





BEN COULTER HAS DISCOVERED A WAY TO BRING LIGHT TO UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS WITHOUT EVEN LEAVING OUR STATE. HOW? GOD IS BRINGING THE NATIONS TO OUR ARKANSAS SCHOOLS.



UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS
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any Arkansas Baptists don't realize just how far their impact can reach. But the truth is that Dixie Jackson missions efforts have a worldwide impact, reaching even into places where Christian

missionaries are not allowed to go.

How is this possible? God has brought the nations to Arkansas!

PEOPLE FROM NEARLY 150 DIFFERENT PEOPLE GROUPS FROM AROUND THE WORLD are currently making their home in Arkansas. Some are here for only a few months at a time, taking advantage of short-term student exchange programs in high schools and universities or participating in temporary job assignments. Others are more long-term, choosing Arkansas schools for their education or finding permanent jobs here.

An even more powerful reality is that over 80 of the people groups represented are unreached. No Gospel witness has been able to penetrate these people groups in their home countries. Instead, God has brought them to our home, enabling Arkansas Baptists to engage with them right here in our own cities.

Magnolia, Arkansas, a city with a population of just over 11,000 people, is a perfect example of this reality. Over 41 people groups are represented on campus at Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia.

BEN COULTER, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Magnolia, recognizes the urgency of ministering to the nations God has brought to his doorstep. Reaching these nations is as simple as forming

relationships with students and professors. Many of them are lonely and hungry for friendships. They need rides, English lessons, or help navigating the differences of our culture.

WE CAN DO THE SAME IN OUR OWN COMMUNITIES. We can build relationships, sharing the love of Christ with internationals while they are here. Then when they leave, they will be able to carry that love and light back with them to their home countries, even countries completely closed to missions work.

While it is still light, we can reach the world simply by befriending internationals right here in our own towns.



KINLEY LARMOYEUX IS HELPING TO LIGHT THE WORLD BY REACHING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP THAT INVOLVES LOCAL CHURCHES AND THE GENEROUS SPIRIT OF ARKANSAS BAPTISTS.



Just as Ben Coulter discovered a connection to the nations through students and professors on campus at SAU in Magnolia, other universities all over the state welcome new international students every year. Thanks to the support of Dixie Jackson, there is already an avenue in place for Arkansas Baptists to be a part of ministry to these students.

That avenue is Baptist Collegiate Ministry or BCM. On the campus of Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, for example, God has spurred students involved in the BCM to actively minister to their fellow students from around the world.

KINLEY LARMOYEUX, BCM'S STUDENT VICE PRESIDENT over international ministry, exemplifies this ministry by coordinating a monthly dinner, weekly Bible studies, and more. These events connect her fellow Christian students to the many internationals who are hungering for friendship and community in this strange new country far from home. But the ministry doesn't all rest on the shoulders of the students. Tyler Hoffpauir, ASU's campus minister, knows that partnership with local churches provides the key to successful BCM work.

Aaron Flake, college pastor at Word Baptist Church in Jonesboro agrees. He sees this connection as the perfect opportunity for the local church to reach the world. By giving to Dixie Jackson, Word Church joins together with churches around the state to fund collegiate ministry at our many universities.

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ARKANSAS BAPTISTS doesn't end with funding, though. It's important for church members like you and me to actively

engage, using the BCM as an avenue to build relationships with international students.

This doesn't require elaborate activity. Simply visiting while sharing a meal, offering a ride, or providing a place to stay during the holidays can make an eternal impact on the life of an international student.

This partnership not only maximizes funding, it also maximizes efforts as the churches and collegiate ministries work together to share the Gospel.

COLLEGIATE MINISTRY IS A VERY TANGIBLE REFLECTION OF THE URGENCY before us. College students are only on campus for a short time. An international student's stay may be even briefer. Night may fall for them very soon if they return to their home countries without knowing the truth of the Gospel.

But we can impact them while it is still light. There is still time! Night is coming, though, so we must act now, spreading the love of Christ to these students and reaching the world through them.



GREG HUTCHISON IS PART OF THE “YELLOW SHIRT FAMILY” THAT BRINGS LIGHT AND HOPE TO HURTING PEOPLE THROUGH ARKANSAS BAPTIST DISASTER RELIEF EFFORTS FUNDED BY DIXIE JACKSON.



DISASTER RELIEF
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hen disaster strikes, victims very quickly discover that the yellow shirts of Baptist Disaster Relief crews symbolize real help and true comfort.

But many Arkansas Baptists have no idea what it means to be a part of Disaster Relief.

GREG HUTCHISON FIRST LEARNED ABOUT ARKANSAS BAPTIST DISASTER RELIEF during a Dixie Jackson presentation at his church. Greg had been in Oklahoma City on April 19, 1995, when the Federal Building bombing occurred, and he hungered for an opportunity to help minister in the middle of that tragedy. But he didn't have an avenue to do so at the time.

He quickly learned that Disaster Relief would provide that avenue for future disasters and crises, so he signed up for training and became certified. He never imagined that his first call would be to travel to New York City in September of 2001 after an even larger terrorist attack.

Disaster Relief crews keep themselves prepared to respond to a disaster at a moment's notice. Crews are well-trained and fully equipped to work in restricted areas. They meet a wide range of needs, including spiritual comfort, damage assessment, meal provision, space for laundry or showers, and a wide range of clean-up and repair tasks.

But Arkansas Baptist Disaster Relief relies heavily on three things.

PRAYER IS THE FIRST AND GREATEST NEED. Before Arkansas Baptists can

pray, they have to know about Disaster Relief! As awareness grows, so does prayer support.

Prayer then moves the hearts of Arkansas Baptists to give. The funding provided through the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering is critical for keeping supplies stocked and tools and trailers in excellent condition. This enables Disaster Relief crews to mobilize quickly without having to take the time to complete inventories or work through maintenance.

But there would be no crews without volunteers to man them. As churches become actively involved in sharing information about Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions opportunities such as Disaster Relief, Arkansas Baptists like Greg Hutchison can become aware and recognize that opportunities for ministry abound! When Arkansas Baptists step up and take action, lives are profoundly changed.

TRAGIC DISASTERS, whether caused by man or by nature, provide stark reminders that life is fleeting, and night is coming. Stories like Greg's remind us that God has already given us the tools we need to spread the love and truth of Christ to this hurting world while it is still light.



ROBIN CALDWELL
SHINES A MESSAGE
OF LIGHT INTO THE
DARKNESS AND
DESPERATION OF
YOUNG WOMEN'S
LIVES THROUGH
PREGNANCY
CARE CENTERS IN
ARKANSAS.



**PREGNANCY
CARE CENTERS**
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any women in our state feel like night has already come. Their lives are filled with darkness and desperation, and they have no hope for light.

As Christians, we have the opportunity to show these

desperate women that the Light of the world is still very present and active, and He loves them dearly.

ROBIN CALDWELL, DIRECTOR OF HOPE PLACE PREGNANCY CARE CENTER

in Newport, knows firsthand just how powerful this message of light can be in the darkness of a young woman's life. The simple act of offering a shoulder to cry on, a life skills or parenting class, or a weekly support group can bring unimaginable light into a dark life.

Help centers such as Hope Place focus first and foremost on ministering to young women in crisis pregnancy situations. They joyfully celebrate every woman who chooses life over abortion.

BUT THEY ALSO STRONGLY RECOGNIZE THAT BEING PRO-LIFE isn't just about preventing abortion. It's about shining light into the lives of women processing through rehab, re-entering society after serving prison sentences, and struggling through so many other desperate situations.

It is urgent that we reach these women with that light.

Fortunately, as Arkansas Baptists, we have a fantastic avenue for accomplishing this work. And none of us has to do it alone! As we partner through Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions, we also share the avenue through which anyone can be involved in one of the 43 pregnancy care centers operating throughout the state of Arkansas.

THANKS TO DIXIE JACKSON, these centers have prayer support from around the state as Arkansas Baptist churches join to show care. They have funding through generous giving to the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering. And they have volunteers as Arkansas Baptists hear about the needs and rise to give of their time and energy.

But the needs are great, and the time is growing short. We are all called to the works of the Father as long as it is still day, and treasuring life is a work of such great importance.

Night is coming when the darkness of these women's lives will become permanent. But there is still time to shine the light of life into their desperate hearts through praying, giving, and actively engaging in the lives of women.



ONLINE DJ GIVING

ONLINE GIVING OPTION AT [ABSC.ORG/GIVEDJ](https://absc.org/givedj)

In back-to-back years marked with unique hardships, Arkansas Baptists stood strong and united, continuing to give to state missions through the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering. State missions continued to advance with church plants reaching people with the Gospel, Baptist Collegiate Ministries connecting with students in new ways, Disaster Relief responding to natural disasters, and community missions serving local!

The challenges of these COVID years introduced many changes to what is now "normal." As a result, we are excited to continue offering a new online resource for the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering that accepts gifts online! Designed for individual church members, this tool allows anyone to give to state missions through the Dixie Jackson offering and connects the giving records to local churches. If your church needs an online giving option for this year's Dixie Jackson offering, visit absc.org/givedj.

Online gifts with identifying church information will be included on annual church giving statements provided at the end of the year. We hope this easy-to-use tool will provide even more flexibility as your church plans for 2022! It's important to note this tool is designed for individuals to give. Churches still need to send their gifts by mailing a check to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention office as in the past.

MINISTRY IMPACT

COMMUNITY
MISSIONS

347

Total professions of faith, including 112 salvations at the One Day Acts 1:8 Missions Experience.

CHURCH
PLANTING

252

Total professions of faith, including 134 baptisms at 24 Dixie-Jackson funded church plants.

UNREACHED
PEOPLE
GROUPS

140

People groups represent-ed in Arkansas, including more than 70 that are considered unreached. The Church Planting Team is evangelistically engaging 10 priority unreached people groups.

BAPTIST
COLLEGIATE
MINISTRY

7,390

Students contacted through the BCM, plus 719 Gospel presentations—all during the first month of college.

DISASTER
RELIEF

1,349

Total volunteers deployed, making 1,372 contacts and resulting in 43 professions of faith.

PREGNANCY
CARE
CENTERS

3,497

Gospel presentations resulting in 185 professions of faith. Also, 467 babies were saved from abortion!

WHILE IT
IS STILL
LIGHT



DIXIE JACKSON
ARKANSAS
MISSIONS
OFFERING
2022

[ABSC.ORG/DJ](https://absc.org/dj)

WHAT YOUR DJ OFFERING PROVIDES

- \$5** provides three baby bottles for a baby.
- \$6** provides a meal for a disaster survivor.
- \$8** provides a Bible for disaster survivors.
- \$10** pays for one day of Internet and phone services at a Pregnancy Care Center.
- \$10** provides biblical curriculum for prison inmates in faith-based programs.
- \$15** provides an Arabic-English New Testament for outreach to Muslims in Arkansas.
- \$15** provides training for a chaplain with Critical Incident Stress Management response skills.
- \$20** provides a Chinese-English Bible for Discovery Bible studies among Chinese in Arkansas.
- \$30** provides books/supplies for a young lady to complete an abortion recovery program.
- \$40** provides a language specific Bible for church planting efforts among South Asians in Arkansas.
- \$90** provides PPE for one Disaster Relief flood recovery volunteer.
- \$450** provides a snow-cone machine for a block party ministry trailer.
- \$575** provides a popcorn machine for a block party ministry trailer.
- \$650** provides 1,000 hotdogs for block parties.
- \$775** provides resource books for international student ministry.
- \$1,700** provides a bounce house for a block party ministry trailer.

Arkansas
BAPTISTS

ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION
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