



| **MISSIONS
MOBILIZATION**
OPPORTUNITIES



CHAD MCCORD
DIRECTOR
MISSIONS MOBILIZATION
MCB

Missions Mobilization exists to assist our Mississippi churches to be on mission across our state, across our nation, and around the world by connecting our churches with resources and mission opportunities.

As Dr. Paul Chitwood of the IMB has said, “the greatest problem in the world today is lostness.” Missions Mobilization is here to help our Mississippi churches be part of the solution to this great problem. We want to send well-equipped volunteers on mission to serve our frontline missionaries to take the gospel to the lost, make disciples, plant churches, and see God’s Kingdom advance.

The question is not, “Is God calling our church to go on a mission trip?” In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus told us to go. Where will you and your church go to help bring the Gospel to those who so desperately need it?

Missions Mobilization is here to help you and your church. Please contact Chad McCord or Cassie Munn if we can help you in any way.



UNITED STATES



CLARKSTON, GA



ENGAGING INTERNATIONALS IN THE U.S.

What does it look like for your church to engage in ministry with Internationals, without getting on a plane? That opportunity awaits you less than a full day's drive away, in Clarkston, GA. Sometimes called "Ellis Island South", this small town on the edge of Atlanta has been a receiving area for refugees for decades. Time magazine has called it the most diverse square mile in America, with 60 languages spoken in a 1.4 square mile area.

As one of the primary areas that receive and assimilate refugees into American life, Clarkston has residents from an estimated 50 countries and 100 ethnic groups. Every refugee has a story to tell, that too often includes war, violence, danger, and unimaginable hardship. Clarkston is a place they come to try to build a new life in a safe, but foreign country. In Clarkston, 60-70% of the population is foreign-born.

The Clarkston International Bible Church (SBC) has 7 language congregations meeting within its facilities. There are ongoing ministries throughout the week, seeking to help refugees adjust to their new country, find jobs, learn skills, language, and to share the love of Christ with them.

NAMB has a SEND Relief ministry center through which churches can be involved with refugees in Clarkston. Through the ministry center and CIBC there are opportunities to build relationships with those arriving in the US by spending time with them, helping with block parties and community events, sharing a meal in the homes of refugees, and becoming a partner in the ongoing ministry there. Share the love and compassion of Christ in ways that will lead to sharing the gospel with people from many nations.

For more information and videos about this ministry location, check out this link:

<https://www.sendrelief.org/projects/atlanta-ministry-center>



DAKOTAS



North and South Dakota are part of a dual state convention, consisting of less than 90 churches in the 2 states. There is one Dakota Baptist Convention (DBC) church for every 19,647 people in the Dakotas. Dr. Fred MacDonald, executive director for the Dakotas, shares that they are praying for partners to join them as they partner together to spread the gospel to every person in every community across the Dakotas.

The Dakotas are in need of relationships that might include Mission Teams from Mississippi churches, Prayer Partners, and Partners who would walk alongside them in fellowship to see how they might help one another. There are a number of Mississippi families who have relocated to the Dakotas to plant churches and lead in church development.

Missions Mobilization began partnering with the DBC in 2023 by having their leaders here in MS for connection meetings, and then taking MS pastors/leaders to North

Dakota on a vision journey to discover both what and where some of the key needs and opportunities are.

Places in the Dakotas like Belcourt, Brandon, Bismarck, Bowman, Casselton, Dickinson, Fargo, Grand Forks, Hazen, Jamestown, Standing Rock, Sioux Falls, Tea, Fort Pierre...are in need of a Great Commission-focused church. Would you pray about exploring a relationship to come alongside a church or church plant in the Dakotas? Your church might mean the difference that is needed so that many would hear the Gospel on these northern plains states.

You can learn more @ www.dakotabaptist.com and www.sendnetworkdakotas.com





KNOXVILLE, TN



For a decade a relationship has grown between Mississippi churches and the Knoxville area. The desire in working with Knox Baptist Association is to develop church-to-church relationships that lead to ministry strategies. There are opportunities for churches to help with VBS, Backyard Bible Clubs, block parties, sports camps, door to door fliers and goodie bags, several building maintenance and construction needs, and community ministry. There are two community ministry centers where teams can come alongside and help with ongoing weekly ministries during the week. In addition, there are also community engagement opportunities including an English language camp for internationals, demographic research and cultural discovery tours. Local leadership can assist with involvement in these ministries.

SPIRITUALLY LOST

There is one aspect of Knox County that might be considered a Bible-Minded area. But, there is another Knox County that hides in plain view and is often unseen:

200,000 spiritually lost people, 19% actively attend church, 25% live in poverty, and 120 different ethnicities.

WAYS YOU CAN CONNECT AND SERVE

- Consider establishing a partner relationship with a Knox County Church – Urban and Rural settings where churches need ministry partners.
- Camp BaYoCa (Knox Association's Youth and Children Camp Ministry) which has opportunities to serve in some of its ministries as well as having its own needs for work at its facilities through restoration and maintenance.
- Ministry centers in Knoxville that work with churches to minister to Inner-city needs, including food distribution, clothing, tutoring, and other types of ministry.

Contact information:

Bonita Wilson, Director of Community Engagement
Knox County Association of Baptists
865.693.9097, bwilson@kcab.org



MAINE



The Southern Baptists churches from across the entire state of Maine, 26 in all, come together to cooperate as the Maine Baptist Association (MeBA). Mississippi Baptists have been connecting in Maine for years in a variety of ways. In 2022 we began working toward a more intentional connection, as leaders from MeBA came to Mississippi for a series of connection meetings to share how our churches might partner together with churches in Maine. In April 2023 Missions Mobilization led a vision journey of MS pastors/leaders to Maine to connect with pastors and churches there in order to learn about the needs and opportunities.

SOME MAINE FACTS:

- Population 1.36 million
- 1 MeBA church per 52,308 people
- 3,500 miles of coastline
- Easternmost point in the U.S.
- Most rural state in the U.S.
- Oldest median age in U.S. (45.0 years)

- 21% identify as Catholics
- Located in least evangelical part of the country

SOME OF THE GREATEST PARTNERSHIP NEEDS SHARED BY CHURCHES IN MAINE:

ENCOURAGEMENT for pastors and family.

RELATIONSHIP with pastor and church.

WILLINGNESS to meet needs of church and community.

SOME NEEDS/CHALLENGES FOR MEBA CHURCHES INVOLVE DISTANCE BETWEEN CHURCHES

...connection between pastors

...ministry among churches

...group learning possibilities

...fellowship among pastors' wives

Contact information:

Mike Nerney, Director, Maine Baptist Association

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NEW YORK



PARTNERING TOGETHER

For over a decade, Mississippians have been involved in work in New York State, particularly in the cities of Buffalo and Rochester, and in other parts of the state as well. Teams from MS have made great contributions to strengthen churches and to be a part of new church starts. We continue to be in relationship with the Frontier Association of churches (Buffalo), and Finger Lakes Association (Rochester).

WAYS TO CONNECT AND SERVE

Some current general needs in the Buffalo area include: Teams to help with church planting and church revitalization efforts, evangelistic outreach, VBS/Backyard Bible clubs, sports camps, and construction. These churches vary, with some located in the Buffalo area, but others being located in smaller towns that resemble much of Mississippi. The nations have come to this part of NY as well, where there are Congolese and Nepali churches.

Rochester, NY, is known as one of the most secular minded communities in the US. In the Rochester area some Mississippi churches are engaging with a church plant, True North. This new fellowship also serves as the location for a Russian speaking church plant that is strongly connected to Mississippi churches. There are over 25,000 Russian speakers in the area. In addition, Rochester area churches have other needs including building repairs and sports camps.





ST. LOUIS, MO



“GATEWAY CITY”

For generations, the “Gateway City” was known as America’s gateway to the West. The skyline of St. Louis is defined by the Gateway Arch. St. Louis is also known to many as the home of the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team. The soul of the city, however, is much more complex. This Midwestern region along the Mississippi River exhibits signs of urban decay resulting from suburbia sprawl as well as a growing population of international residents.

Home to over 2.7 million people within 79 neighborhoods in the metro area, St. Louis has only one SBC church per every 7,886 people. 50% of the people are unaffiliated with any religious body, while only 17% are affiliated with an evangelical church. St. Louis Southern Baptists hope a church planting boom in the Gateway City will transform St. Louis in a new and fresh way. There is opportunity to help in starting new churches to reach a unique and diverse city.

Though Catholicism has strong roots here, those who affiliate with Christianity of any kind are in the minority. St. Louis needs the hope of Christ; St. Louis needs the Church; St. Louis needs you.

HOW CAN MY CHURCH GET INVOLVED?

A healthy partnership will seek to look at the connection as a relationship for the long term which is aimed at more than sending dollars, but joining together in serving a community as true long term partners. There are a variety of church needs when considering connecting with St. Louis area churches:

- Camps of various types
- Facility improvements
- Block parties
- Prayer walking, spiritual surveys
- Community needs ministry
- Financial partnerships



Is your church looking for the very first step or a nearby opportunity to take to serve outside your community? Are you serving internationally, and perhaps elsewhere in the US, but not in the state of Mississippi? Missions in Mississippi offers some opportunities to serve right here in the Magnolia state, meeting needs and sharing the Gospel with those who need to hear it nearer to our home.

Some of the needs and types of ministry that have been done in recent years include:

- Repairs and light construction needs
- VBS and Backyard Bible clubs
- Sports ministry with children
- Community ministry and block parties
- Multi-unit housing ministry
- Partnering to assist other local community ministries
- Port ministry at Seafarers Centers in Pascagoula or Gulfport

Missions Mobilization plans each year for several one-day vision journeys to some of the Missions in Mississippi locations which have included:

- Meridian/Lauderdale Association
- Gulf Coast Baptist Association
- Various Delta Locations
- Seafarers Center on the Coast
- Jackson County Association

Contact Missions Mobilization for information about current opportunities.



INTER- NATIONAL



AUSTRALIA



TEACHING SCRIPTURE IN SCHOOLS

What a great opportunity we have in Sydney, Australia, to go and teach scripture in public schools! Today, less than 2% of the people attend an evangelical church, whereas 50 years ago the number was 40%. Because the government has recognized a moral decline in the population, they are allowing and even encouraging evangelical volunteers to teach the Bible in the public schools, elementary age through high school.

Missions Mobilization is partnering with Life Church in Sydney to send workers to teach scripture lessons in public schools. The need is to teach either for six months or for one year, ideally from late January through the first of December (10 month time frame) or July through to December. These time frames correspond to the commitment needed to complete a full school semester. Because of the type of visa needed for this opportunity, the optimal age for workers considered are those under 30 years of age.

However, adults beyond this age have also served.

Bible teachers are expected to teach multiple classes every week while building relationships and helping students connect with local church ministries. They will also be involved in ongoing Life Church ministries with youth and children.

Missions Mobilization provides for airline travel to and from Australia and insurance. Life Church in Sydney provides housing and some meals. Each participant must verify they have the necessary funds available to cover their daily personal expenses for some meals, personal items, and some transportation costs.





JAPAN



A PLURALISTIC SOCIETY

More than 99% of Japanese people do not know the Lord, making the Japanese the second largest unreached people group in the world. Most have never had a chance to even hear about Christ. Almost all are chained to tradition and fear of what others will think of them. Finding people who have never heard is not difficult, but having enough laborers who will come and share the Gospel is a challenge.

Japan is a pluralistic society, which means that many different ideas are accepted by everyone at the same time, even if they seem to contradict. This contributes to a classic case of multi-religion, where Shintoism coexists with Buddhist god-shelves, along with Confucianism, with each claiming the attention that is appropriate to its domain.

“Having a relationship with god” is something that is very difficult for most Japanese to grasp intellectually. Simply stated, the Japanese do not believe in a personal deity, or

a god who is personal and knowable. What this means in practical terms is that doing evangelism in Japan means introducing an entirely new (or, “foreign”) concept of who or what God is.

HOW CAN MY CHURCH GET INVOLVED?

Teams come to be involved in a variety of ministries (not an exhaustive list):

- Praying down the strongholds that keep Japanese in disbelief!
- English ministries with Japanese who are interested in speaking English with a native speaker.
- Sports – park evangelism, basketball, Frisbees, balloon sculpting, & face painting.
- Music – musicians with instruments on the streets, performing to gather a crowd and meet new people to share the gospel.
- College teams that would like to just go on college campuses and hang out to make friends and share the gospel.



MALAYSIA



HOME BUILDING PROJECT

Missions Mobilization has an ongoing relationship with an area where teams go to provide housing in situations where families, typically farming or fishing families, have lost their homes due to fires or natural disasters. Each year, volunteer construction teams have gone to work alongside local families in the building of their new homes, which are simple one room apartments with a concrete floor, block walls and a roof. These buildings are called “longhouses”, because the structural shape is a long rectangle shape consisting of a row of these one room apartments. These families would not have the financial resources or the necessary skills to build their homes without assistance. More importantly than building structures, these Mississippi teams are building relationships, which open the door for the Gospel to be shared in their town.

Mississippi churches have been collecting Vacation Bible School Missions offerings to purchase supplies needed to

build longhouses in these towns. Contact us to request a copy of the videos and fliers available to help in promoting this work in your VBS. Through the generosity of Mississippi Baptist children and their churches, and the sweat labor of our dedicated volunteers, these families now have a safe and decent place to live.

Over the years, the longhouse construction projects have made a significant impact on these small towns. Our teams are building relationships to open doors to share the gospel first and foremost, as they work to build and provide housing. **Through 2022, there have been 483 longhouse units completed, and 800+ people have prayed to receive Christ.**

To receive information about how your church and VBS might participate in a special designated offering to help with supplies for building a longhouse, call us. 100% of your gift will go to purchase building materials. To receive information about how to serve on a construction team in Malaysia, contact us.



POLAND



HISTORIC CITIES...AND LOST

Krakow is the ancient capital of Poland with nearly a million inhabitants. It is a beautiful city and was largely untouched by the destruction of World War II. Often considered the ancient center of Catholicism in the country, it is a proud, historic cultural center for the country and is terribly lost. Warsaw is the current capital and is the largest city in Poland. Although mostly destroyed during the war, it has been rebuilt and is an impressive city today.

In Krakow, five small Baptist churches with a combined membership of about 250 members and an evangelical community of less than a thousand seek to be salt and light in the city. Warsaw has even fewer Baptist churches per capita than Krakow.

SEEKING PARTNERS

The Polish/American church planting team is seeking evangelistic, faith-filled partners to join the strategy to

reach the city. They are restarting work in Krakow and the Lord is opening doors. Most teams come and do 3-4 of the strategic approaches like:

- Teaching English in college or high school classes
- Student campus outreach events
- Engaging students in one-on-one English practice and spiritual conversations
- Organizing a coffee house outreach program
- Leading sports clinics or tournaments (3 on 3 basketball, baseball clinics, etc.)
- Light renovation (i.e. painting a church fellowship hall)
- Service project (i.e. clean park or playground construction)
- Prayer walking
- Encouraging the existing Baptist churches through training and service opportunities
- Conducting surveys in public parks
- Leading a Children's Day Camp or Backyard Bible Club
- Orphanage Ministry
- Children's outreach in a park



PORTUGAL



A HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN RELIGION

A beautiful country with a long and rich history, where 99% of the population have no affiliation with an evangelical church. In this country of 11 million people, there are crosses, churches, traditions and a history of Christian religion, but few know the living Christ through personal faith.

In 2016 Missions Mobilization connected with workers in Portugal, and a number of churches and student teams are continuing to go and work in both Porto and Lisbon, helping the IMB teams there with their ongoing ministry strategies. Our workers in Lisbon, the capital and largest city in the south, as well as Porto, the old capital and northern urban hub, are asking for churches to pray and consider coming to work together with them to reach the people of Portugal.

Portuguese people are very relationship oriented, and many of the ministry opportunities there focus on helping our workers and other believers there to meet and connect,

in order to start a Bible discovery group or to invite them to another connection opportunity.

There are ministry opportunities that include student work, English, sports ministry, Thanksgiving ministry teams, Easter teams, church planting and revitalization, media ministry development, as well as other opportunities that will continue to develop as needs are discovered. Could your church be one of those needed to go and build relationships, planting seeds and connecting with those in Portugal who need to hear how to have a relationship with Christ?





SOUTHEAST ASIA



RESTRICTED ACCESS

Since this is a restricted country, gaining access to the peoples there can be difficult. One way of engaging is to establish home stays in villages among unreached people groups. The first steps are to have teams stay in villages, generally preferring small groups of 4-7 people. The primary goals for the teams are to prayer walk, build relationships, look for persons of peace, learn about world view, build goodwill and share biblical truth/stories.

English Lessons are another way teams have helped local workers build relationships is the gospel can be shared. A center for teaching has been established and visiting teams can help in this effort. Prayer walking everywhere is a huge part of the strategy for engaging this country.

For home stays, a tourist company will make all of your in-country arrangements AND provide you with a tourist guide. You will spend some nights in a hotel and other

nights in a village home so that you can sow the Gospel. The city the team will be based out of is a beautiful city of mixed architecture and Buddhist temples, fantastic shopping, and is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Currently, home stays are focused among three people groups, two of which have no access to the gospel and, at this time, no believers. This opportunity is physically demanding. The home stays are, by American standards, quite rustic. Sleeping arrangements are with sleeping bags and mats on the floor. All of the villages do have electricity. Lodging in the city will be in a guesthouse with AC, hot showers and other amenities.

While there are a number of reasons these people groups remain unreached – such as a Buddhist and/or animistic culture and a communist government – one of the primary reasons is that God's people are not going to the difficult lengths to engage these groups with the gospel.



SOUTHERN EUROPE



FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

Missions Mobilization in 2017 began a connection with IMB workers in the former Yugoslavia in Southern Europe to see how we might come alongside and help them in sharing Christ. We specifically connected with workers in the countries of Macedonia, Serbia, and Montenegro.

MACEDONIA: Team Macedonia is engaging the capital city of Skopje and is working to plant multiple new churches. These workers are seeking churches that might work with them long term and help to build relationships. Opportunities exist to partner together in evangelistic outreaches and community outreach events including ESL, Business Leadership, and working with the special needs community. There are also needs for pastoral and leadership training across the country.

SERBIA: Come partner in a work that God is doing among young people in Eastern Europe. In Belgrade, a city of 2 mil-

lion people, there are 150,000 University students and the possibilities are endless. You can help build relationships with students, families and others through helping with English classes, sports ministry opportunities, one-on-one relationships, outreach events like karaoke night, cooking classes, weekly broad gospel sowing activities, and business/leadership seminars. You will have the chance to help in house church plants and be a part of a team reaching out to an area that is less than .5% evangelical.

MONTENEGRO: Join our small “business as mission” team in Montenegro, a small, beautiful mountainous country on the Adriatic coast, directly across the sea from the heel of Italy. We’re looking for people with skills in business management, marketing, graphic design, or web design/programming. Share the gospel abroad in an integrated everyday business context – much like you may already be doing at home. We are looking for smaller teams with specific skill sets.



THAILAND



BUILDING ON GOOD RELATIONSHIPS

Mississippi has had good relationships in Thailand for some time in a number of settings that are open for ministry. Here are some of the ministry opportunities a church could be involved in:

One possible ministry during the school year is to partner with a worker who is reaching out to a major university campus. This worker greatly needs partners to come alongside and help in their work. The work would include prayer walking on campus, going into classrooms to help with English and establish relationships, evening English class led by the local worker, and witnessing conversations with students on campus.

In another area of Thailand there is a church that uses English in a number of settings to reach out to young people in schools as well as on the college level. There are exciting discipling opportunities with young adults. This church

has some young adults that are first generation believers from unreached people groups that might be the key to reaching their people.

In Bangkok there are outreach opportunities with some of our workers who are from Mississippi, investing their lives there by training local church leaders and members to reach out and witness in their communities. This team is building good relationships with partners in churches across the city. Prayer walking is also a focus for the work almost everywhere in Thailand.

There is also opportunity to have impact through a weekly English school that works with many young people who come to classes during the week. The focus is on building relationships with them in order to engage in gospel conversations. This team will help you to know how to prepare in order to engage in English in this setting.



UGANDA



AT FIRST GLANCE

Uganda has a population of around 47 million people, a beautiful tropical country where the people are very polite, kind and hospitable. However, there is another side not seen at first glance when visiting. There is great darkness, and the people are in bondage to forms of religion that do not hold true to the message of the gospel. The country is very religious, but mainly determined by the family into which you are born. Most people do not have a personal relationship with Christ.

Very encouraging is the fact that most people will at least take the time to listen to a gospel presentation. In Uganda you are free to share the gospel with anyone, anytime, anywhere. About 25% of the country's population is Muslim. However, most are nominal, not knowing a great deal about their religion except that they are born into it.

The primary need is for partners to come and help with

evangelism efforts of reaching the lost, and then training Ugandans in evangelism, preaching and in basic biblical discipleship, using tools that are then passed on to other believers. The goal is for those who are trained to engage in training others.

Training is important, however, in addition, there are opportunities to use VBS ministry and sports ministry to share the gospel. There are also opportunities to share the gospel by meeting physical needs through medical, dental, orphan and widows needs.





UNITED KINGDOM



OLYMPIC BEGINNINGS

During the 2012 London Olympics, Mississippi Baptists began a relationship in the UK with the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches. What began in 2012 to provide volunteers to help revitalize struggling churches in Britain has continued to develop to connect Mississippi teams and churches in church to church relationships in the UK.

This relationship has over time included churches in England, Scotland and Wales, empowering Mississippi congregations working with UK churches to develop strategies for ministry together. Teams (usually about 6-12 members) have been involved with a number of community outreach events, depending on the local needs. Most efforts take place in the summer, and last about one week. Mississippi teams provide for their transportation and in most cases the local church in the UK provides lodging and food for the team.

Missions Mobilization continues to facilitate connecting Mississippi pastors and churches with UK pastors. This happens as churches in Mississippi express a desire to develop a relationship with a UK church, then are paired with a UK church before traveling to meet them.

There are also IMB personnel in the London area that Mississippi churches are connecting with to explore ways to partner and get the gospel to the lost and plant churches. Some of these personnel are involved with street evangelism and ministry. Others are involved with reaching students on a number of campuses. All of them are involved in local church plants.



HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?



Contact Mississippi Missions Mobilization for more information.
Chad McCord, director. Cassie Munn, ministry assistant.



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