

A photograph of a man in a black shirt baptizing a person in the ocean. The man is on the left, leaning over the person being baptized. The person being baptized is in the water, with their head above water. The water is splashing around them. The background is a bright blue sky and ocean.

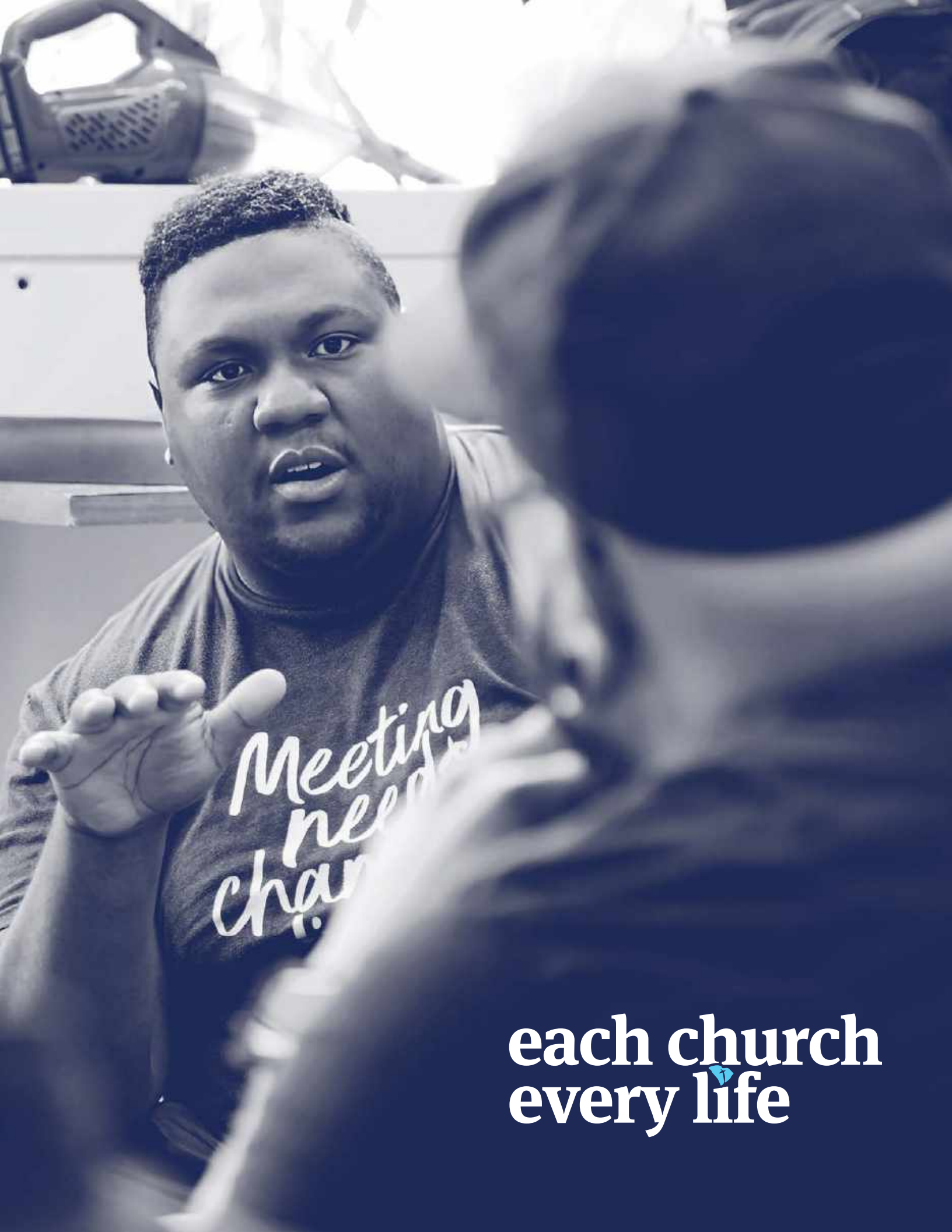
Advance Stories

2024 Ministry Plan



**SOUTH CAROLINA
BAPTIST CONVENTION**





each church
every life





SCBaptists Cooperating as One Family

“South Carolina Baptists are one family, on one mission, through one cooperative effort.”

Our goal is that through the pages of this Ministry Plan, you might catch a small glimpse of how your church’s investments are being multiplied through the ministries and partnerships of the South Carolina Baptist Convention. Admittedly, the success stories are too many to tell, the impact of every dollar is too deep to calculate, and the joy of our cooperation is too great to capture. Nevertheless, we invite you in with excited anticipation. We invite you not just into a report document or a proposed budget but into a movement. South Carolina Baptists are one family, on one mission, through one cooperative effort. What God is doing in and through your cooperation today is inspiring and refreshing. As a cooperating church, this story is your story. This ministry is your ministry. This joy is your joy. As you thumb through the following pages, may the Holy Spirit open your eyes and awaken your heart to the incalculable value of our Great Commission cooperation today and tomorrow.



Dr. Tony Wolfe
Executive Director-Treasurer
South Carolina Baptist Convention

Top: A Camp McCall staffer leads recreation.

Left: Ladies gather for a women’s ministry breakout session at IMPACT.

Right: SCBaptist leaders gather in prayer around Dr. Tony Wolfe.





The Heartbeat of Advance



SCBaptists believe EVERY LIFE counts and EACH CHURCH can advance. South Carolina Baptists are a family of churches cooperating to advance the Great Commission together.

*We value the potential of every life;
therefore, we don't give up on people.*

*We value the strength of collaboration;
therefore, we connect, share, and listen.*

*We value the energy of innovation;
therefore, we try new ideas.*

*We value the lever of leadership;
therefore, we network with leaders of leaders.*



Strong, advancing churches serve their community, share hope with the lost, send missionaries to the world, and start new churches. Our strategy to help each church become a strong, advancing church is to steward moments, generate maps, and summit mountains. We create environments to steward “moments” when God calls leaders to move. We help leaders develop plans to “map” out their journey. We network leaders to climb their “mountain” by providing support in the climb and courage in the valley.

Advance Stories

We love to tell the story of Gospel advance because we believe that every life counts and that each church can advance. In the following pages, you'll see the celebration of Advance Stories. Advance Stories are God's stories of life transformation, encounters with God, and celebrations of what He is doing in the life of an individual, ministry, church, or association.

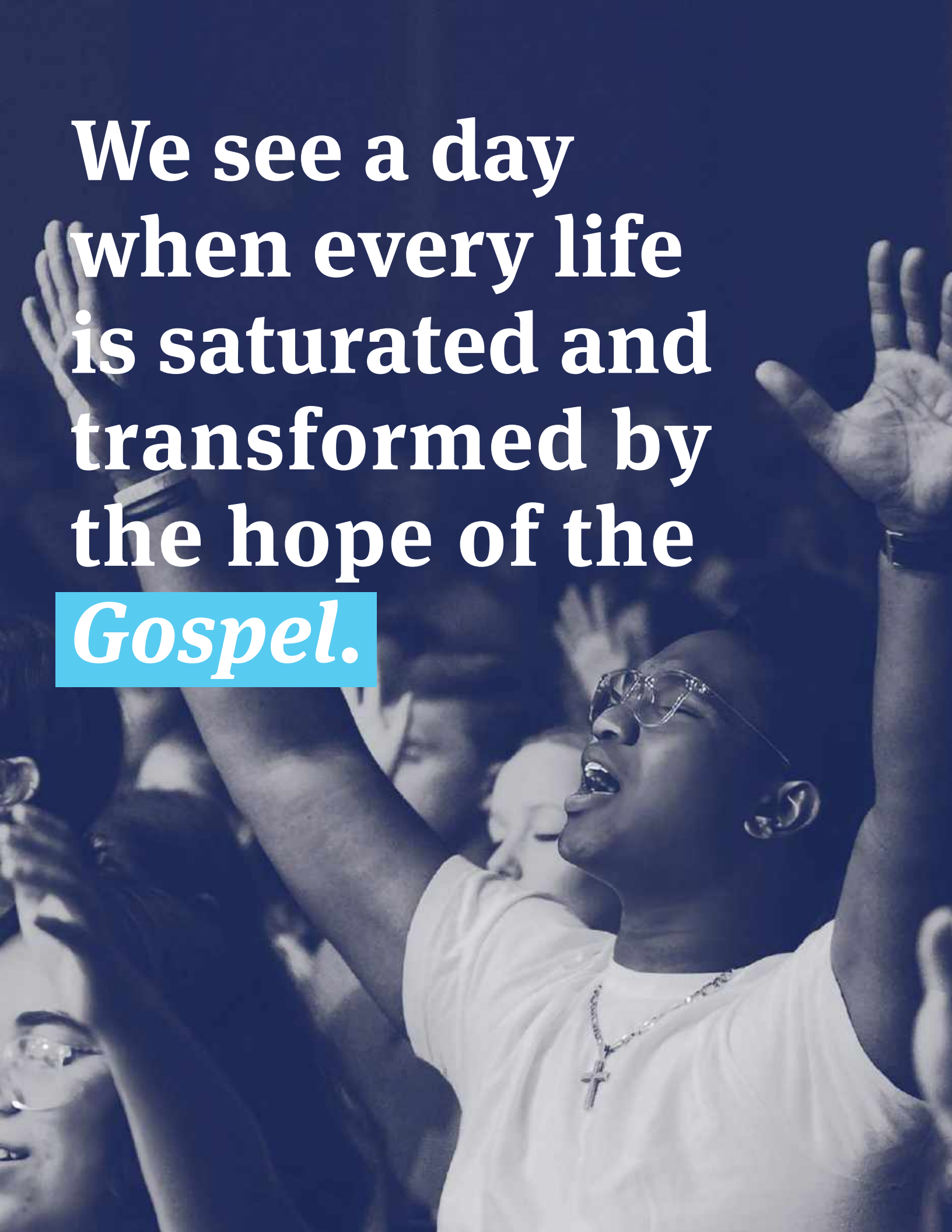
Top Left: SCBaptists enjoy fellowship at annual IMPACT conference.

Top Right: Student rides zip line at Camp McCall.

Bottom Left: Pastor Alex Sands prays during mission trip to Angola.

Bottom Right: Disaster Relief partners with SC State Guard for training exercise.



A black and white photograph of a crowd of people, likely in a church, with their hands raised in the air. The image has a blue tint. The text is overlaid on the upper left portion of the image.

We see a day
when every life
is saturated and
transformed by
the hope of the
Gospel.



Funding the Mission

“Through the Cooperative Program, churches pool their resources to accomplish more together than they can alone.”

Since 1925, the Cooperative Program has been a driving force behind the work of South Carolina Baptists in fulfilling the Great Commission. The Cooperative Program is a unified funding plan that allows churches to work together to support mission

work, evangelism, education, disaster relief, and other vital ministries.

Cooperating Together

Through the Cooperative Program, churches pool their resources to accomplish more together than they can alone. By working cooperatively, churches are able to support more missionaries and church plants and train more pastors and leaders, which helps to spread the Gospel to more people in more places.

This collaborative approach maximizes efficiency and impact, enabling congregations of all sizes to participate in a work that would be difficult for any one church to accomplish on their own. In short, the Cooperative Program promotes unity, streamlines financial stewardship, and strengthens our ability to complete the mission together.

SCBaptist leaders greet each other at annual IMPACT conference.

2024 Cooperative Program Investment



Our State 54.50% 14,442,500

South Carolina Baptist State Missions*	31.67%	8,392,550
Anderson University	5.21%	1,380,650
Charleston Southern University	4.77%	1,264,050
North Greenville University	4.13%	1,094,450
Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries	3.20%	848,000
South Carolina Baptist Ministries of Aging	3.16%	837,400
South Carolina Woman's Missionary Union	1.75%	463,750
Baptist Courier	0.61%	161,650
Baptist Foundation of South Carolina	0%	—

Our Nation 20.34% 5,390,100

North American Mission Board - CP Allocation %	9.34%	2,475,100
Theological Seminaries - CP Allocation %	9.07%	2,403,550
Executive Committee & SBC Operating - CP Allocation %	1.23%	325,950
Ethics & Religious Liberty Committee - CP Allocation %	0.70%	185,500

Our World 25.16% 6,667,400

International Mission Board (IMB) - CP Allocation %	20.66%	5,474,900
IMB - Additional Investment from SCBaptist	4.50%	1,192,500

Grand Total** 100% 26,500,000

*Annual Cooperative Program (CP) contributions account for 58% of the total budgeted operating revenue for SCBaptist State Missions. Additional revenues are received from the Janie Chapman and other designated offerings, camp and conference fees, and investments.

**Total SCBaptist Great Commission investment including Cooperative Program, Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, Janie Chapman State Offering, and other gifts and fees totals \$47.3 million.



Great Commission Giving

An advancing Great Commission church is a strong church that serves communities, shares hope with neighbors, sends missionaries around the world, and starts new churches.

Our total Great Commission investment through the Cooperative Program, special mission offerings, and direct giving can be categorized into these five areas. The primary investment is sending missionaries, with a large portion of that investment being in the International Mission Board, which fully funds 3,500 missionaries around the world.

We invest in serving communities through Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries, Ministry of the Aging, and connecting

churches with schools to serve. Our premier strategies to share hope are through our Baptist Collegiate Ministries and church evangelism efforts.

We invest in starting churches in SC with and through the North American Mission Board. Finally, church leaders are strengthened through education and cohorts. Our investment in three universities, six seminaries, and ongoing training helps to strengthen church leaders of today and tomorrow.

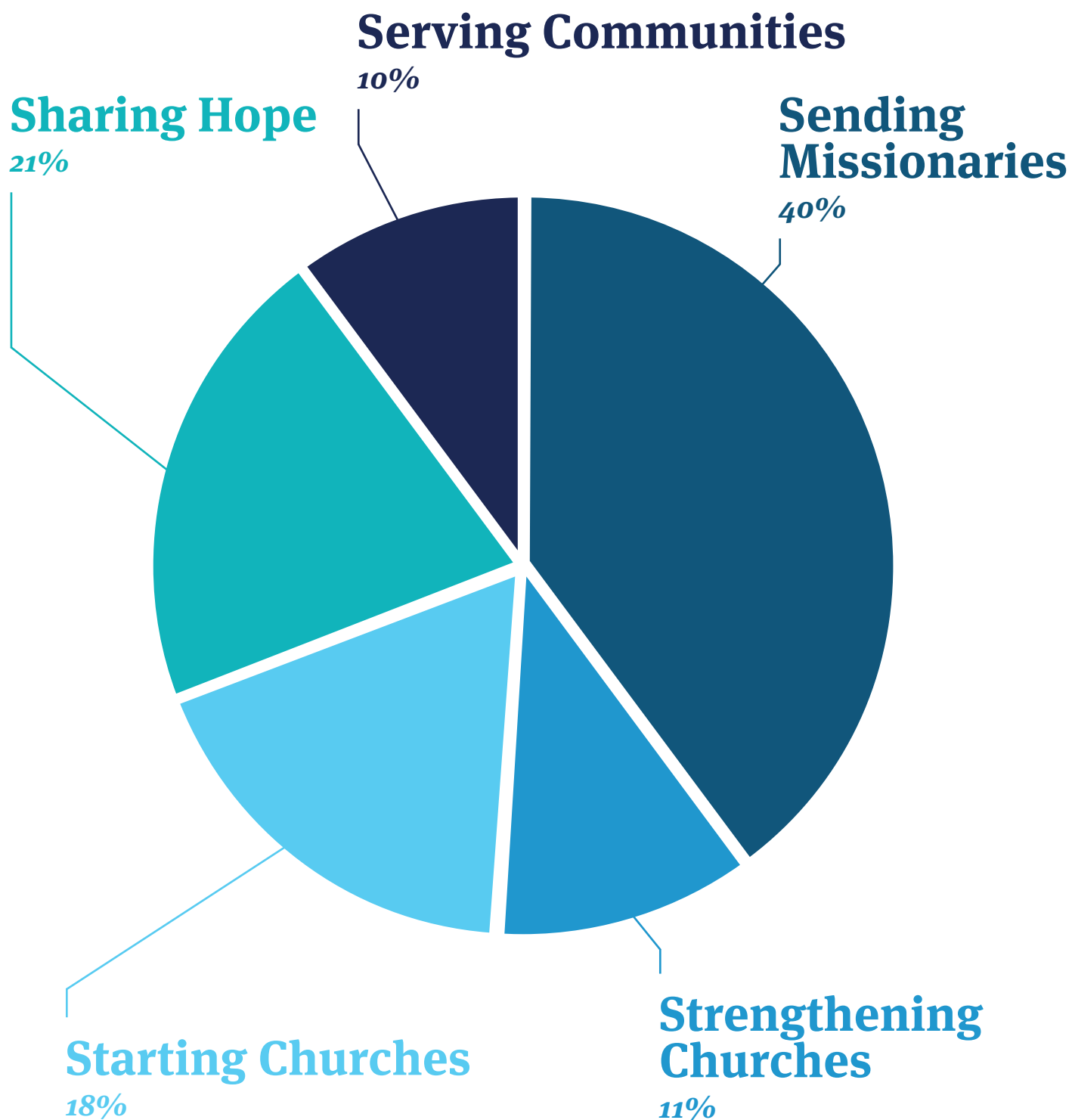
Left: SCBaptist President Albert Allen shares at Camp La Vida.

Top Right: SCBaptists pray together.

Bottom Right: Trinity Baptist Church members greet one another before worship.

2024 Total Great Commission Giving*

\$47.3 Million



*The total projected giving of SCBaptist churches for Cooperative Program, investment income, special offerings, designated gifts, and fees is \$47.3 million.

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Read the full version of each Advance Story at schbaptist.org/stories or by following the QR codes on each page.

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To ensure the safety and continued success of missionary personnel working in sensitive areas, we employ the use of aliases for these individuals. As you read through the Ministry Plan, note that some names have been changed for security purposes.

Portions of the Ministry Plan were developed in collaboration with generative artificial intelligence.



CLASSROOMS
COUNTRY GOLF
RESTROOMS

DIRECTORY

ALL BREAKOUT SESSIONS CAN BE
ACCESSED BY THE DOUBLE STAIRCASE.

Both Sessions

- W201
- W203
- W204
- W206
- W210
- Marshall Bialock
- Charlie Swain
- JD Mangrum
- Stephen Cutchins
- Chad Stillwell & Steve Turner
- Adam Spurlock



Strengthening Churches

We believe in the power of unity and growth within our family of churches. Our journey is guided by a vision that sees strong churches as the bedrock of our mission, enabling us to radiate the message of the Gospel throughout South Carolina.

With unwavering dedication, we diligently equip EACH CHURCH to cultivate vibrant disciple-making cultures within their walls. The threads of generations intertwine as we connect all ages to Christ, His Word, and His Church. We navigate life-stage discipleship needs, forging deeper connections and fostering growth.

We help church leaders through training, development, and resources. We aim to be a place of connection, support, and encouragement, where we breathe life into our churches and celebrate each milestone. As we strengthen our churches, we lay the foundation for Great Commission advance.



Pastoring an Island Without a Bridge

Founded in 1881 by former slaves, First Union African Baptist Church is a testament to unity and heritage. Daufuskie Island, only accessible by boat, is a diverse blend of longtime residents, native Gullah descendants, and wealthy newcomers. “I have always had a love for this church because my sixth generation of family has attended this church,” church member Sallie Robinson said.

Building Bridges

“We’re cut off from the mainland, but as a pastor, metaphorically speaking, I’m also on an island without a bridge,” Pastor Aaron Crosby said. With no formal training in pastoral leadership, Crosby recognized his limitations and consulted with a local Associational Missionary who encouraged him to participate in the NextStep process for leadership development.

Following the Holy Spirit’s leading, the church voted to cooperate with the South Carolina Baptist Convention in December 2022. Now, thanks to NextStep and the Janie Chapman Offering, “a bridge is built that connects me to the mainland. No longer am I on my own,” Crosby said.

Top: First Union African Baptist Church is located on Daufuskie Island.

Left: Pastor Aaron Crosby meets with community members.

Right: Believers bow their heads in prayer at First Union African Baptist Church.







Launching Seminary Education

Church at The Mill's School of Ministry helps develop future leaders for local church service by giving them a jumpstart toward their seminary education. Residents of the program can earn credits for any of the Baptist theological seminaries across the U.S.

Led by Dr. D.J. Horton and his senior team of pastors, the program offers an immersive experience covering evangelism, preaching, worship, missions, counseling, and more. Residents study within the church and participate in staff meetings, gaining practical insights into leadership challenges.

Residents devote 22-24 hours weekly to ministry work and receive 6-8 hours of mentoring and group study in pastoral leadership, worship, and more. In collaboration with seminaries nationwide, residents can earn up to 21 transfer credit hours toward their seminary education.

***Left:** School of Ministry students spend time training under Church at The Mill pastoral staff.*

***Top and Bottom:** School of Ministry students spend time studying.*

Shaped by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

“This institution... shaped me and my life more than I could possibly imagine.”

Reflecting on his time at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Josh Powell, pastor of Taylors First Baptist Church, said, “This institution and the people of this institution have shaped me and my life more than I could possibly imagine.” Powell was elected President of the South Carolina Baptist Convention in 2020 and currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for SBTS.

Powell acknowledges the remarkable achievement of Dr. Albert Mohler, who has served as the seminary’s president since 1993. “I know God gets all the glory, but in His good kindness, the vision of Dr. Mohler and Mrs. Mohler have led this institution to be what it is today,” Powell said.

Powell enrolled at SBTS as a student in 2000 after being called to ministry around 1995. In almost 30 years of ministry, when faced with challenges, Powell has turned to the foundation laid during his time at SBTS, drawing strength from the teachings and insights he gained from his professors and peers.



Powell presents SBTS President Albert Mohler with this year’s Alumnus of the Year Award.





CSU Graduate's Path to Missions

“Seeing God as worth my life played a huge role in putting my yes on the table.”

“In college, I wrestled with our culture’s ideas about chasing security and comfort,” Mariah Gonzalez said. “The Lord taught me to think of Him as my life, not just my top priority.”

Gonzalez, an SC native, said her call to ministry began in high school. “I didn’t know exactly what missions looked like, but I knew I loved the local church.” She minored in Christian Studies at Charleston Southern University and graduated in May 2023.

On the Mission Field

“CSU equipped me in a lot of ways to study the Bible and gave me the tools to do that well,” she said. After a professor encouraged her to go to

Utah with GenSend, a North American Mission Board program, Gonzalez spent a summer there working with Redemption Church. That fall, she was accepted into Palmetto Collective, an SCBaptist program that equips students to be missional leaders. “Seeing God as worth my life played a huge role in putting my yes on the table,” she said. Gonzalez is now a missionary in Utah, serving alongside Redemption Church and GenSend.



Gonzalez works in Utah with GenSend.

You are able to silence the lies
That I once believed



Finding Saving Faith at Anderson University

Emily Frisch's journey with the Baptist Collegiate Ministry at Anderson University transformed her nominal faith into a deep relationship with Jesus. Before joining BCM at AU, she only attended church on holidays, but hearing others talk about Jesus sparked her curiosity. "People would talk to me about Jesus, and I wanted to have what they had," she said.

Discovering Jesus

Through BCM, she witnessed God's hand at work in the lives of others, asked questions, and prayed for understanding that ultimately led to saving faith in Jesus. Due to Frisch's Catholic background, she was nervous about pursuing baptism. After seeking guidance, she felt called to move forward in obedience and was baptized at BCM's Fall Retreat that same day. "I came into college lost and left with

a relationship with the one and only Savior," she said. After graduating from AU with a nursing degree, her faith now influences her nursing career, and she aims to show the love of Jesus to her patients daily.



Frisch celebrates her graduation from AU.



From Prison to Doctorate in Ministry at NGU

For Cary Sanders, the path to a Doctorate in Christian Ministry began in a prison cell. Arrested 17 times by the age of 17, he seemed destined for a bleak future. After a violent incident, he found himself incarcerated and facing a lengthy sentence in prison.

In desperation, Sanders prayed for guidance and discovered solace in the words of the Bible, committing his life to God. He also became involved in JUMPSTART, a faith-based prisoner re-entry program. JUMPSTART not only offered spiritual guidance but also practical support, including job placement and housing assistance.

A Second Chance

Against all odds, Sanders applied to North Greenville University, despite having a lifetime trespassing ban from the institution. Rather than focusing on his past,

they saw the transformation he had undergone and welcomed him with open arms, even giving him a job in the I.T. department. Sanders completed his bachelor's at NGU and later returned to earn his Doctor of Ministry in 2022. NGU "is a place where men and women are being equipped to be transformational difference makers for our Lord," Sanders said. Today, Sanders is the Chief Executive Officer of JUMPSTART SC.

Left: Sanders walks outside of the prison he once was incarcerated in.

Top: Sanders now serves as the Chief Executive Director of JUMPSTART.

Bottom: Sanders is awarded his Doctorate of Ministry from North Greenville University.

Nurturing the Passion for Worship Leadership

Recent high school graduate Natalie Cannon found her calling in worship leadership through the transformative uWorship Weekend hosted by the South Carolina Baptist Convention. "It was an amazing opportunity for me to grow as a worship leader and gather with students all over the state to lead worship together," Cannon said.

For over 40 years, uWorship Weekend, a Baptist AllState event, has provided a time for students in middle school through college to join together for music, community, and worship. There are also breakout sessions for students to learn more specific skills and be equipped to lead in worship.

For Natalie, this weekend led her to pursue a worship leadership internship with Mill City Church in West Columbia, SC, where she was challenged to grow in her walk with the Lord and in her calling as a worship leader. She will pursue a worship leadership degree at North Greenville University this fall.



Cannon leads worship at Mill City Church.





Revitalization Partnership in North Charleston

“These are exciting days, and I am confident God is honoring our work with Gethsemane.”

Gethsemane Baptist Church in Summerville, SC, had been experiencing declining attendance and Gospel influence for quite some time when the pastor of Gethsemane reached out to Tommy Meador, pastor of Northwood Baptist Church, seeking assistance.

The result of their conversations formed a partnership between a healthy church and an at-risk church as a viable pathway for church revitalization. A formal agreement was approved by the members of Gethsemane, with a unanimous vote in favor of the partnership. “These are exciting days, and I am confident God is honoring our work with Gethsemane,” Meador said. A few months later, the church called Jay Glasgow, former student minister at Northwood, as their new pastor.

Fostering Growth

Since then, the church has hosted outreach events, focused on nurturing the next generation through children’s ministries, formed discipleship groups, and more. Their Sunday service has experienced substantial growth, more than doubling typical attendance.

In addition, eight individuals have been baptized to date, a clear sign of the transforming power of God’s grace and the positive momentum within the church. While the story of the partnership between Northwood Baptist Church and Gethsemane Baptist Church is still unfolding, the initial results are evidence of the Lord’s blessing of the partnership.

Gethsemane and Northwood partner to host an outreach event.



Churches Revitalized Through Collaboration

The Lexington Baptist Association (LBA) has faithfully aided many churches on their journey toward revitalization. Two examples of recent revitalizations are Faith Baptist and Ridge Baptist.

Faith Baptist Church in Swansea, SC, encountered uncertainty following their pastor's departure. Turning to the LBA and their Executive Director of Missions, Johnny Rumbough, they found support, not just in expertise, but in a collaborative approach. The congregation's enthusiastic acceptance of revitalization recommendations showcased their resilience and faith in God's plan for the church.

Similarly, Ridge Baptist Church, now The Ridge, faced a leadership transition as their pastor, Bobby Eubanks, retired. Although located in Summerville, SC, Eubanks called on Rumbough and the LBA's expertise to help facilitate a smooth revitalization process, ensuring a seamless shift to their newly called pastor, Eric Grissino.

"Ridge Church became the ninth church to go through a revitalization process and the only church that I've led outside of my own Lexington Baptist Association," Rumbough said. Stories like these and many more showcase the potential for growth and renewal when local associations and churches work hand in hand to breathe new life into faith communities.



A member from The Ridge talks with Pastor Eric Grissino.



Finding Rest at Ministers' Wives Retreat

"During the fall of 2022, I found myself weary after a busy season of ministry," Carrie Geimer said. After praying for an opportunity to rest, a friend reached out to her about attending the Ministers' Wives Retreat hosted by the SCBaptist Convention.

For the past 15 years of her marriage, Carrie has served alongside her husband, Ian, currently pastor at Kingstree Baptist Church. Each time the Lord called her husband to a new ministry, they had to rebuild community and relationships.

Equipping Ministers' Wives

For Carrie, retreats like these are vital to the health of a church and, more specifically, the health of church leadership. "We must ask

as a Convention how we can support ministers' wives to help equip them on their journey of emotional and spiritual health," Carrie said. "This retreat was life-giving for me."

A few months later, she traveled to Los Angeles, CA, to help lead a retreat for church planters' wives in partnership with Send LA. Carrie attributes her desire to serve other ministers' wives to the connection and support she first received at the SCBaptist Ministers' Wives Retreat.



Geimer, pictured front right, serves at the Church Planters' Wives Retreat in LA.





A Legacy of Generosity

For over 70 years, the Baptist Foundation of South Carolina has dedicated itself to helping God's people fund the Great Commission. "Our passion is to see individuals and churches become faithful stewards of God's resources," Nathan McCarthy, President and CEO of the Baptist Foundation of SC, said.

One example of a faithful steward was Roy McCall Jr., an SC native who hailed from a lineage of heartfelt givers. In 1967, McCall's father gave his timber to the Foundation, an act that today funds ministry needs at

the three Baptist universities, Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries, and Bethea Retirement Community. McCall continued this tradition of generosity, culminating in legacy gifts of over \$2.5 million to both Connie Maxwell and Bethea after his death in 2022.

Serving Individuals and Churches

McCall's story is not an isolated incident but rather part of a broader narrative of generosity nurtured by the Foundation. Through its diverse initiatives, such as helping churches

manage their resources effectively and aiding individuals in connecting to Kingdom work through giving, the Foundation's overarching purpose is clear—to empower God's people to grow as stewards, ultimately fueling Great Commission ministries locally and globally.



Roy McCall Jr. is awarded the Dr. Lonnie H. Shull Jr. Legacy Award in 2021.






Serving Communities

Just as a family cares for its own, we fervently embrace the call to extend our reach beyond our church walls. Through our diverse ministries, we help our congregations to identify and address the needs of our neighborhoods as they seek to display love in action.

In the hallways of our schools and within the hearts of students and educators, our churches foster an environment of nurturing care, shaping lives for generations to come. When disaster strikes, SCBaptists are at the forefront, answering the call as one family. We care for vulnerable children, seeking to be a light for Christ. We stand as a force against the ache of empty stomachs, meeting tangible needs for those in our community and beyond our borders. We remember those behind bars, sharing the hope of Christ even in the darkest of places.

As we navigate the landscapes of our communities, we not only witness but participate in God's love for EVERY LIFE, caring for the broken and bringing hope to the hurting.







Extending Support to Refugees

“When refugees come here, they want to be self-sufficient. They want to take care of their own families.”

Open Arms Refugee Ministry is dedicated to welcoming and assisting refugees in their journey to self-sufficiency. Founded by Tim and Jody Cross, former International Mission Board missionaries in Europe, Open Arms Refugee Ministry relocated to Greenville, SC, in 2016. The ministry mobilizes churches and believers to help refugees resettle in SC.

Through their work, Open Arms Refugee Ministry has witnessed countless refugees successfully integrate into their new homes. Yusef, an individual aided by the ministry, escaped from the Taliban in Afghanistan and found hope in Open Arms.

Encouraging Self-Sufficiency

The ministry also helps refugees overcome challenges in finding work.

“When refugees come here, they want to be self-sufficient. They want to take care of their own families. And so my goal was to help Yusef to be able to do that,” Tim said. Through Open Arms, Yusef was able to resume his craft as a master furniture builder to support his family.

Open Arms Refugee Ministry exemplifies Christ’s love for humanity by embracing refugees and helping them thrive in their new communities, supported by the generosity and commitment of Janie Chapman funds and SCBaptist churches.



Top: Yusef, an Afghan refugee, works with Tim Cross on his carpentry skills.

Bottom: Tim and Jody Cross, pictured center, with their family.





A Blessed Adoption Journey

“It is an honor that God would choose us to be their parents.”

The L Family's journey toward adoption was not an easy one. They initially became foster parents to provide temporary homes for children in need. However, when two boys came into their lives and needed a permanent home, the L family felt called to say yes to loving, protecting, and caring for them forever. “It is an honor that God would choose us to be their parents,” they said.

The L Family is one of four families in the process of adopting that are recipients of the Adoption Grant. “The SCBaptist Convention has consistently said that we believe every life counts,” Jon Jamison, Serve Team Leader, said.

This grant provides \$3,000 to local churches on behalf of families adopting children out of the SC foster care system. These funds help relieve the financial burden as families seek to care for vulnerable children.

“What better way do we have to demonstrate God's love for the vulnerable than by welcoming them into our families?” Jamison said.



A child holds onto his father.

Life Transformation After Disaster

In the aftermath of Hurricane Ian in Florida, many SCBaptist Disaster Relief teams served in the town of Arcadia to assist those affected by the disaster.

Among the jobs assigned to one team was the home of 78-year-old Kenneth Christian. His yard was scattered with fallen trees, one that had barely missed coming down on the front of his house and others in the side yard. As the team talked with Christian, they discovered that he had attended church as a child and sporadically as an adult, but he admitted that he was not a believer.

However, since the storm passed through, the impact of this close

call consumed his thoughts, leaving him pondering how easily the fallen trees could have cost him his life. Seeing an opportunity to share the Gospel, the team engaged Christian in a conversation about faith. To their joy, Christian expressed his desire to become a follower of Jesus. The team left Christian with a Bible, several Gospel tracts, and a new relationship with Jesus.



Disaster Relief volunteer fells a tree.





Freedom from Addiction at Connie Maxwell

*“I ran away from God.
I know that He didn’t
leave me, but I definitely
left Him.”*

As a young woman, Erin Gillifan found herself alone and living on the streets, battling addiction and despair. “I ran away from God. I know that He didn’t leave me, but I definitely ran from Him,” she said.

Seeking Support

When Gillifan became pregnant with twins, she sought sobriety and chose

to keep her boys. Despite this, after having her twins while at a women’s facility, she relapsed and had to put her boys in foster care. With the help of a year-long recovery program, Gillifan regained custody of her twins. She reached out to Connie Maxwell Children’s Ministries about their Family Care program, which equips single mothers and supports them on their way to family stability.

At Connie Maxwell, Gillifan found support and guidance from a loving community that helped her navigate

the challenges of parenthood and rebuild her life. “I still go through struggles, but with the support of Connie Maxwell, I feel free of the mental bondage I’ve had my whole life,” she said.



Gillifan holds her twin boys.



Finding Connection and Care at Bethea

After her husband's passing, Mrs. Laura moved multiple times, seeking connection. Mrs. Laura and her late husband, Gordon, lived in Moncks Corner, where she managed a restaurant. In 2013, she found that connection she sought at Bethea, a retirement community by the SCBaptist Ministries of Aging in Darlington, SC, and moved into a patio home in 2014.

Transitioning with Care

Health concerns led her, along with her dog, Queen Anne, to the Concierge Living wing in 2021—a bridge between independence and assistance. This move allowed her to enjoy family-style dining, off-campus activities, and social visits, all while benefiting from medication reminders and personal care.

Because her finances have dwindled over the years, Mrs. Laura now receives charitable care assistance. Mrs. Laura's appreciation for Bethea, the compassionate Concierge Living team, and the financial assistance is evident. She said she never wanted to return to independent living. The generous giving of SCBaptists have made it possible for Mrs. Laura and many others to continue thriving within the Bethea family.



Mrs. Laura holds her dog, Queen Anne.





Reaching and Loving Community

Reconcile Community Church in Greenville, SC, is deeply committed to reaching and loving its community. “The heart to plant Reconcile came from a burden to see a Gospel-centered church in a poverty-impacted community,” Pastor Will Broadus said. After officially launching in 2016, Reconcile received funding through the SCBaptist Convention and the Greenville Baptist Association. Additionally, they received monthly funding from the Janie Chapman State Missions Offering for three years.

Community Outreach

After looking for ways to engage more of their community, the church initiated a Bible study at Carolina High School, partnering with FCA to address misconceptions about the Gospel and emphasize the centrality of Christ and grace. The church later baptized two students they met through Carolina High FCA.

After a tragic and fatal shooting at a local middle school in 2022, the school contacted Broadus to hold a prayer vigil for the grieving

community. “We just want to be a consistent, loving presence in the community when tragedy or difficulty arises,” Broadus said. In remembrance of the difficult day, the church provided lunch to teachers to remind them they were supported and cared for even a year later.



Believer raises his hand in worship at Reconcile Community Church.

Heart4Schools Mentors Make a Difference

Nancy Kalutz, a member of First Baptist Camden, has been working with Heart4Schools through her church since her retirement in 2017. Heart4Schools desires to connect every school in South Carolina with a church that loves and serves them well.

First Baptist Camden has partnered with a continuous learning center, an alternative school in their community, for over six years. With Kalutz's experience as a teacher in the district, she was well aware of the students' needs and the staff's challenges.

After restrictions became more difficult to navigate due to COVID-19, Kalutz's goal was simply to get back to meeting with students one-on-one

through a mentoring program. "If you're going to be a mentor, you're making a real commitment to a student," she said. Despite some setbacks, there are around 15 dedicated mentors who have built strong relationships with the students.



First Baptist Camden member helps a student with a school assignment.





Supporting International Teachers

“Supporting international teachers, especially teachers whose native language is not English, is really important.”

Heart4Schools is a network of SCBaptist churches dedicated to supporting students and teachers across SC. Recently, they partnered with Richland Schools to welcome international teachers with an opening luncheon.

After the luncheon, Collins Cheruyot, a Kenya native and math teacher at Westwood High School, approached a Heart4Schools representative and said, “I am coming to your church on Sunday.” On his first Sunday in America, Cheruyot visited Spring Valley Baptist Church, where he has since become part of the church family.

Meeting Teachers’ Needs

“Supporting international teachers, especially teachers whose native language is not English, is really

important,” Cheruyot said. He is grateful to SCBaptists for their role in ensuring that teachers like himself have a soft landing in an unfamiliar country. Through their commitment to supporting international teachers and creating a welcoming environment, Heart4Schools contributes to the success of the SC educational system.

“The Janie Champman funds are vital in enabling Heart4Schools’ work,” Angela McNeal, Community Ministry Strategist at SCBaptist, said. The generosity of SCBaptists allows them to provide resources and training to churches and associations seeking guidance on connecting with schools effectively.

Top: Cheruyot, a Kenya native, teaches at Westwood High School.

Bottom: International teachers receive welcome baskets full of household necessities.









Sharing Hope

Four out of five people in South Carolina are not regularly engaged in any Gospel-centered church. We know that these 4.3 million people matter to God. The mission ahead is clear, and it is both a privilege and a calling that rests upon us all as followers of Christ.

As SCBaptists, we believe in the power of praying, caring, and sharing. Through prayer, we name and uplift our neighbors far from God. Through caring, we extend our hands beyond our church walls, partnering with schools and universities across South Carolina. And in the spirit of sharing, we each become a vessel of the Gospel, taking the name of Christ to EVERY LIFE, those nearby and those across the globe.

We help churches share hope found only in the Gospel. From large evangelistic gatherings to small-group environments to relational evangelism with friends, we are resolute in our commitment to make disciples who, in turn, make disciples. Because of our faith, we see a day where EVERY LIFE is saturated and transformed by the hope of the Gospel.



The Life-Changing Impact of SummerSalt

“SummerSalt really keeps the Gospel as the main focus.”

SummerSalt is a high-energy summer youth camp that aims to captivate the next generation with the Gospel. “SummerSalt really keeps the Gospel as the main focus,” David Bennett, pastor at Lake Murray Baptist Church, said. This year, 3,284 students attended the camp, held at Charleston Southern University.

The theme for this year’s camp was “Most Wanted,” which emphasized how each camper is wanted by the God of the universe, demonstrated through Christ’s sacrifice for their sins. Students participated in Bible study groups, personal devotion time, and nightly worship services centering around this theme.

“With everything that goes on and how busy life can get, having this week devoted entirely to the Lord really helps me get back on track,”

one camper said. SummerSalt’s impact is evident in the 397 life-changing decisions made, including decisions toward salvation, repentance, and calls to ministry.



Left: Campers gather together before the nightly worship service.

Right: During free time, campers grab a volleyball for a quick match.



Transforming Lives Through Gospel Sharing

“If one person could come to Jesus, it’d be completely worth it.”

Outside of Bible studies and evening worship, campers at SummerSalt get to attend Personal Interest Classes (PICs). PICs cater to campers’ interests, providing equipping in various aspects of faith, personal growth, and practical life skills.

Staffer Carson Dyar taught a PIC centered around Three Circles, a method to share the Gospel, in which he taught campers how to share the method and then had campers share it with one friend and one stranger in the class.

An Answer to Prayer

As Dyar wrapped up class one afternoon, two campers lingered behind. The two girls shared that during the class, one of them had led the other to accept Christ while sharing the Three Circles with her. Dyar was amazed by the immediate work of learning the method, sharing it, and seeing it take hold.

Before camp, Dyar knew the summer would be exhausting, but he prayed that at least one person would come to know Jesus. “If one person could come to Jesus, it’d be completely worth it. And it happened in my PIC of all places,” Dyar said.



Dyar leads worship at SummerSalt.



Encountering God at Benedict College BCM

“I’ve gotten way closer to God than I’ve ever been in my life through BCM.”

Benedict College is home to the state’s newest Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM). BCM is a partnership between local churches, associations, and SCBaptist churches to evangelize, disciple, and send college and university students out on mission. SCBaptists are praying and working to begin BCM groups on all historically Black colleges and universities across South Carolina.

Strengthening Faith

BCMs are missionary endeavors of SCBaptists to take the Gospel directly to students on their college campuses. These groups help believers grow and learn to share their faith. They also help believers deepen their faith through Bible study, worship, and serving on mission both locally and across the globe.

“I’ve gotten way closer to God than I’ve ever been in my life through BCM,” Diamond Bowe, a Benedict College student, said. The ministry offers

students a space to ask questions, encounter God, and learn to live on mission on their campus.

BCMs serve as the missionary arm of local churches, helping churches to go onto campus with the Gospel. Through BCM, local churches can work together to connect students with Jesus Christ and the local church. The sacrificial giving of SCBaptists ensures the continued presence of BCM at Benedict College, allowing students to have an opportunity to hear the Gospel, grow as a believer, live on mission, and find a local church.



Top: Benedict students sit under teaching at BCM.

Bottom: Students find community at Benedict BCM.







Finding Life at Coastal Carolina

“That’s when my heart opened up, and I realized I could come just as I am to Jesus.”

Maura O’Hare chose to attend Coastal Carolina University partly for its social atmosphere. “To think about who I was a year ago is crazy because I never would have thought I’d go to Jesus in my time of need,” she said. Her transformation started with a simple care package handed out by a fellow student, an on-campus initiative by Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) to connect with and support students during finals week.

Finding Community

After being surprised by the kindness she found upon

attending BCM, O’Hare joined a small group. She was invited to CONVERGE, a weekend to challenge and equip college students to passionately and sacrificially follow Jesus. “That’s when my heart opened up, and I realized I could come just as I am to Jesus,” she said.

Since returning home to New Jersey for the summer, O’Hare’s life change has influenced her sister, who recently accepted Christ as well. “My life has completely turned around since CONVERGE,” O’Hare said. She was recently baptized, led a Vacation Bible School class, and will help lead BCM on Coastal’s campus this fall.

O’Hare and friends attend CONVERGE in Myrtle Beach.



Making Jesus Known at ONE Night

Church leaders from Rock Hill, Lancaster, Fort Mill, Chester, Clover, and York came together to make Jesus known among 6th to 12th graders and held a ONE Night event.

Gracey, a young girl with a difficult home life, began attending student ministry gatherings earlier in the year. Despite her challenging circumstances, her small group leaders welcomed her, ensuring she felt included and valued from the very beginning.

Walking in Faith

To the youth pastor's surprise, Gracey registered for ONE Night. When the invitation to the Gospel was given, Gracey raised her hand in response to accept Christ. Over the next few weeks, her leaders walked alongside

her through conversations about baptism, discipleship, and next steps in her faith journey.

Gracey's story was just one among many that were celebrated by the participating churches during ONE Night. Over the past few years, ONE Night has reached 9,040 students with 560 students responding to the Gospel.



Students gather in prayer at ONE Night.

Evangelistic Outreach Through VBS

Lifeway Christian Resources is on a mission to help church leaders in their evangelistic endeavors through Vacation Bible School programs. One participant explains, “VBS is a crucial Gospel opportunity for churches,” helping children discover the message of Christ in an engaging and interactive way.

Equipping Church Leaders

The VBS Expo is SCBaptist’s premier VBS training event, utilizing Lifeway’s support to equip church leaders. Attendees participating in VBS Expo gain insights into crafting safe, enjoyable, and Gospel-centered environments for children. Lifeway offers a wealth of resources, including diverse curricula, promotional materials, training guides, and more, to ensure every VBS experience is positively transformative.

For every leader trained at the VBS Expo, statistics show an estimated 1.1 salvations. The ripple effect is significant, extending to families and encouraging Gospel conversations to continue at home. “These strategic breakouts that are on using VBS as a catalyst for family discipleship is huge,” Justin Garrett, Worship Pastor at Central Baptist Church Gaffney, said. Through VBS, SCBaptists reach communities with the life-changing message of Christ.



VBS Expo equips church leaders through hands-on training.





Discovering God's Love at KidSalt

This summer, KidSalt, an overnight camp focused on sharing the Gospel with third, fourth, and fifth graders, centered around the theme "The CHASE: God's Ultimate Pursuit." Campers learned that even before we place our faith in Christ, God pursues us. Through a week filled with worship, Bible study, and activities, campers discovered how to live a life of new purpose and passionately pursue a relationship with God.

One heartwarming moment was when a camper decided to give his life to

Jesus, with his father, a chaperone on the trip, present to witness this spiritual milestone. In total, 990 campers attended KidSalt, and 73 decisions were made, including first-time salvations, repentance, and baptism or steps of obedience.

A Lasting Impact

KidSalt's impact extends far beyond the camp's duration. One chaperone shared how her daughter used scriptures she had learned at KidSalt to encourage a teacher at her school.

The campers also engaged in a missions project where they packed 3,000 welcome bags for college students in partnership with Baptist Collegiate Ministries to pass out on campuses across SC this fall.



KidSalt campers hang out at the reflection pond during free time.



Churches Partner for Crusade

Churches and leaders within the Pickens Twelve Mile Baptist Association came together to host the Tri-County Crusade in Liberty, SC, where 115 individuals accepted Christ. Although dreamed of years in advance, COVID-19 halted the event until 2022. SCBaptist sent \$10,000 in partnership with the Associations office and the Share Team to support the outreach event.

A Joint Effort

Leading up to the event, a diverse team of churches joined the efforts.

Training sessions were conducted for counselors, and an outreach team went door-to-door, distributing over 2,000 invitations. The prayer team, led by Rick Hayes, Associational Mission Strategist at Pickens-Twelve Mile Baptist Association, sent out regular prayer reports, calling for divine intervention and guidance.

As testimonies poured in following the event, it was evident that the crusade was a resounding triumph. "The power of God was truly in the midst of every service and event

we had. Our team found a greater vision than we truly expected," Bobby Stewart, pastor of Keowee Baptist Church, said. In addition to the 115 salvations, over 185 commitments were made, and countless seeds were planted.



Community members fill the stands at the Tri-County Crusade.



The Courier Embraces a New Chapter

“We desperately need biblically-based, serious, Gospel-promoting resources as individual believers and as churches.”

“I am thrilled to see the new direction in our Baptist Courier monthly magazine,” Travis Kerns, Associational Mission Strategist at Three Rivers Baptist Association, said.

Established in 1869 and adopted as the official newspaper of the South Carolina Baptist Convention in 1920, The Baptist Courier tells the story of how SCBaptists are working together toward the Great Commission and serves as a tool for assisting church members along their journeys of faith.

In February 2023, The Courier board called Jeff Robinson as editor and

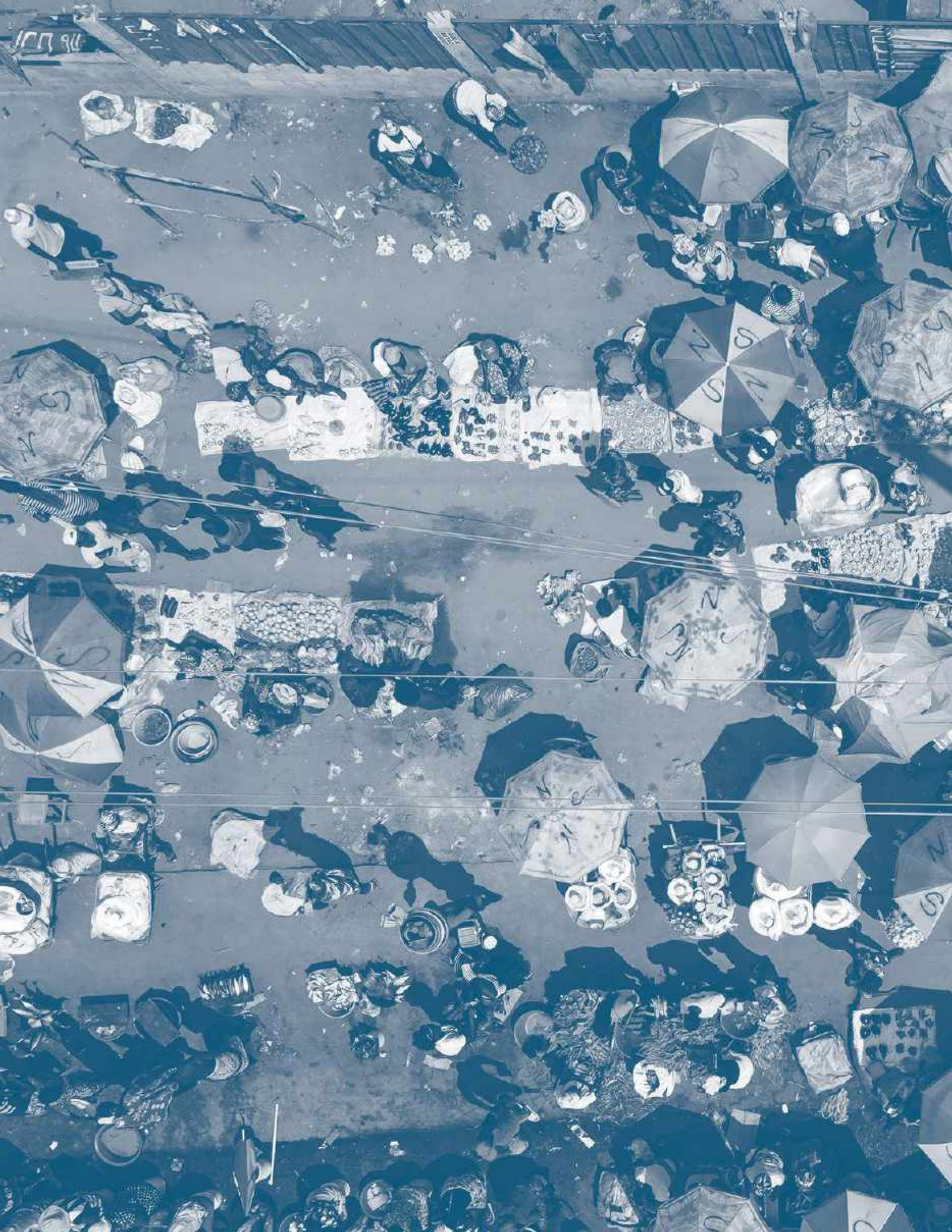
president. “By God’s grace, we will continue the good work that has begun here for His glory,” Robinson said. He emphasized that the strategy of The Courier would be to inform, instruct, edify, and glorify God.

“We desperately need biblically-based, serious, Gospel-promoting resources as individual believers and as churches, and the new Baptist Courier assuredly fills the need,” Kerns said.



The Baptist Courier reports news of interest to SCBaptists.





An aerial photograph of a large crowd of people gathered outdoors. Many individuals are holding open umbrellas, suggesting a rainy or sunny day. The scene is dense with people, and the umbrellas create a pattern of light and dark shapes. The overall tone is blue, matching the background of the text.

Sending Missionaries

Within humanity's 8 billion souls, a staggering 3.4 billion have little or no access to the Gospel. As SCBaptists, we are united by a singular purpose: to spread the light of the Gospel to every corner of the world. We call for churches to become beacons of hope in their neighborhoods, states, and continents alike.

As we go, we invest in the development of leaders and volunteers, providing them with the tools and knowledge needed to be effective ambassadors of the Gospel. By forging strategic partnerships, we amplify our Kingdom impact, knowing that we can do more together than any of us can do alone.

Following God's leading, we develop future missionaries and provide pathways for them to live life on mission locally and globally. We know what it will take for EVERY LIFE to be saturated and transformed by the hope of the Gospel. Let us heed the call and say, "Here am I. Send me!"



African American Pastors Cast Vision in Africa

“God is at work in Africa, and let’s be a part of it.”

Recently, a group of SCBaptist pastors embarked on a vision trip to two major cities in sub-Saharan Africa: Luanda, Angola, and Lusaka, Zambia. As planning began for the trip, the pastors assigned to Angola realized they would be in the country the same week as a missions conference hosted by the Angola Baptist Association of Churches.

Encouraging and Training

“The Lord placed dates on our calendar that just happened to coincide with their needs,” Michael Pigg, Director of African American Engagement, said. The SC pastors were able to fill in roles as conference preachers and teachers and help with the equipping of children’s and youth ministry workers.

“It’s my prayer that our stories will prick the hearts of SCBaptists to come and share the Gospel of Christ,” Pigg said. A few issues local ministries face are lack of financial support, developing leaders, and discipleship training. “God is doing a new thing here,” Andre Rogers, pastor of Concord Fellowship Baptist Church, said. “God is at work in Africa, and let’s be a part of it.”

SCBaptist pastors walk to the Baptist Theological Seminary of Luanda, Angola.





The Urgent Mission in the Asia-Pacific Rim

“God hasn’t given up on these people, and we shouldn’t either.”

The Asia-Pacific Rim represents nearly 30% of the world’s total population, but only 4.2% are followers of Jesus. That means 43,454 men, women, and children die every day without Christ. Jarod Davis, Globalization Strategist for the International Mission Board’s Asian Pacific Rim Affinity said, “We have an urgency and a task to engage all of them.”

IMB. “Everywhere you look, you see people looking for hope and fulfillment and never finding it,” Union County Director of Missions Bryan Pittman said.

“We must support these missionaries,” Rob Merritt, Missions Pastor of Mt. Airy Baptist Church, said. Whether by praying, giving, going, or sending, Merritt emphasized that there are opportunities for everyone to support the efforts in Thailand. “God hasn’t given up on these people, and we shouldn’t either,” Merritt said.

Partnering in Thailand

Last fall, SCBaptists sent a team of pastors on a vision trip to Thailand through their partnership with the

Thai Buddhists pour water on statues of Buddha.







Living on Mission in Los Angeles



“I knew no matter where I ended up living, I could carry the Gospel with me.”

Sara Pepper’s journey to full-time ministry in Los Angeles began with Palmetto Collective’s encouragement to live a life on mission. “I knew, no matter where I ended up living, I could carry the Gospel with me,” Pepper said.

Desiring to live on mission, Sara felt a calling to move to a city where she could strategically impact lives for the Kingdom. “God opened up the doors for me to end up in Los Angeles,” Pepper said.

Finding Community in a Church Plant

Palmetto Collective (PC) leaders pointed her to The Abiding Church, a North American Mission Board

church plant in LA, where she found members intentionally sharing the Gospel and living a life dedicated to Jesus.

“I’m so grateful for how God used PC to connect me to The Abiding Church and encourage me to make the move to LA,” Pepper said. She emphasized that the encouragement, teaching, and community found through PC changed her life.



Left: Pepper serves at a women’s ministry event.

Right: Pepper attends The Abiding Church.

Bottom: The Abiding Church gathers for worship.

Serving Ukrainian Refugees in Hartsville

Deborah and Frank Guest were among the first SCBaptists to answer the call to serve Ukrainian refugees with Send Relief on the Romanian border. "The hardest ones for me to see fleeing Ukraine were the elderly and the children," Deborah said.

Returning Home

Witnessing the struggles of those fleeing the war in Ukraine, they returned to Lakeview Baptist Church in Hartsville, SC, determined to help.

"God placed a desire long ago for us to go to other areas of the world to help others learn about Him," Deborah, Director of Missions, Ladies, and Preschool at Lakeview, said. "The change this time is that He then brought those exact people to our doorstep."

With the assistance of a community outreach program, Carolinas for Ukraine, the Lakeview Mission Ministry, and the South Carolina

Baptist Convention, three homes were provided for Ukrainian families who had resettled in the Hartsville area. The Guests' commitment extended beyond short-term trips as they built lasting friendships and shared their faith with the refugees.



Left: Frank and Deborah Guest serve Ukrainian refugees on the Romanian border.
Right: Deborah teaches children in a Romanian church.



*Left: River Springs partners with refugee ministries in their area.
Right: A group from River Springs serves on a mission trip in New York.*

Inspiring Congregation Towards Missions

“It’s been encouraging to see our folks... have a heart for cross-cultural ministry here in the Midlands.”

River Springs Church, led by Pastor Nathan Stam, has demonstrated a strong commitment to global missions by sending and supporting their former pastor, Harley Walker, and his family as International Mission Board missionaries in Athens, Greece, in 2021. The decision came after Walker attended a mission trip to the area with the SCBaptist Send Team to serve in a refugee camp.

Impacting the Church Community

Sending the Walker family out from the church has sparked a passion for cross-cultural missions among the congregation, leading others to explore

their call to global ministry. “It’s been encouraging to see our folks who have participated in cross-cultural mission experiences come back to Irmo and have a heart for cross-cultural ministry here in the Midlands,” Stam said.

Under Stam’s leadership, the church began giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and created monthly prayer feeds for missions. The church actively maintains a connection with the Walker family through care packages, video messages, prayer support, and sending teams to Athens to encourage their work.



Leading the Nation in Mobilizing College Students

“SCBaptists are sacrificially investing to reach, disciple, and mobilize college students.”

South Carolina Baptists have achieved recognition as the leading state convention for sending college student summer missionaries across North America through the North American Mission Board’s GenSend program. GenSend mobilizes college students and young adults for mission work across North America. SC students learned to live on mission as they served church plants in cities such as Denver, Los Angeles, Salt Lake City, and New York City.

SCBaptist’s Collegiate Team received congratulations from Steve Turner, Senior Director of Next Gen Mobilization for NAMB. SC led the nation by mobilizing 56 students as GenSend missionaries this year. Baptist Collegiate Ministry groups from across SC, Charleston Southern

University, Crosspoint Church in Clemson, and Northwood Baptist in North Charleston led the way in deploying SC students this year. Chad Stillwell, Share Team Leader, said “SCBaptists are sacrificially investing to reach, disciple, and mobilize college students. By God’s grace, we are seeing real movement.”



Students from Francis Marion BCM serve women in New Orleans with GenSend.



Students on Mission at Summit

On the last remaining days of 2022, 73 mission-minded high school students from 33 SCBaptist churches were equipped to share their faith with their friends, their schools, and the world. Summit, a four-day training experience for student leaders across SC, invited SCBaptist churches to send students to share Jesus boldly and expose them to the urgency of the Great Commission.

Trainings led by 38 Palmetto Collective students pointed to the peak of the weekend: Mission Carowinds. On New Year's Eve, students were deployed at Carowinds for the lines rather than for the rides. Using the training they

received, students were to share Christ with everyone they engaged.

Katie, a student who attends Church at Cane Bay, said that up until Summit, she had never shared the Gospel before. She said sharing her faith at Summit made her excited to tell everyone about Jesus.

While at Carowinds, students had 109 full Gospel conversations, 100 partial Gospel shares, and attempted another 194 conversations, totaling 403 conversations initiated by students in one single day.



Left: College students stand at the ready to welcome Summit participants.

Right: A participant arrives at Summit.

First Project 3000 Student Sent

The International Mission Board launched Project 3000, an initiative aimed at engaging 3,072 unengaged, unreached people groups through the deployment of 300 missionary explorers over the next five years.

June Estes, an SC native, is the first sent Project 3000 missionary. Recognizing the need for adequate preparation, June found a valuable resource in the Palmetto Collective. The Palmetto Collective is an SCBaptist program that equips college juniors and seniors for a lifetime of fruitful mission and ministry. “I was encouraged to stop asking, ‘Who will go’ and start asking, ‘Why wouldn’t I go?’” June said.

Bridging the Gap

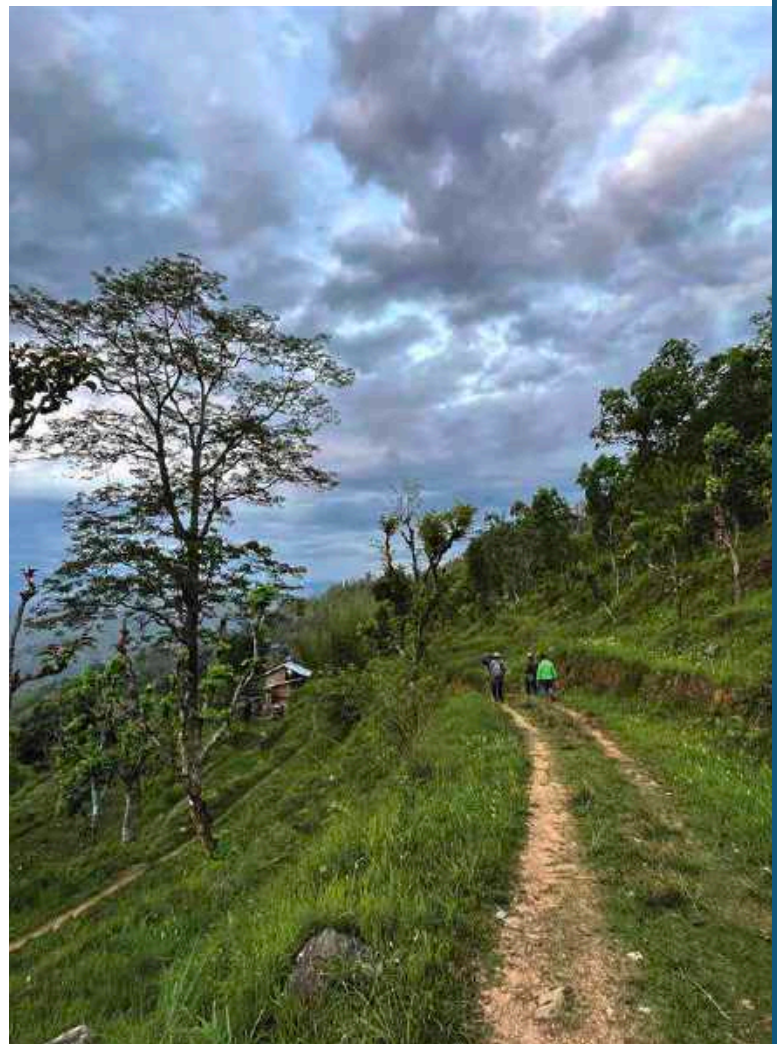
Her goal is to serve as a bridge between the unengaged people of South Asia and the Gospel in hopes that many others will follow in her footsteps. “It’s entirely possible that I will be the first Christian these people have ever encountered,” June said.

Top Left: June overlooks a town.

Top Right: June is the first Project 3000 missionary sent from SC.

Bottom Left and Bottom Right: June snaps photos of her travels in South Asia.





From Camp McCall to Mission Field

For Elliot Windsor, two of the most formative experiences in his calling to missions were working on staff at Camp McCall and being involved in Palmetto Collective. While a student at Anderson University, Windsor spent his summers working at Camp McCall, where they often say, “Camp is preparation for life.”

Equipped and Sent

Camp McCall taught him the value of every member of the body of Christ and the importance of servant leadership. “Camp is where I accepted Christ as a boy, where God called me overseas, and how I heard about Palmetto Collective,” Windsor said.

Palmetto Collective is an SCBaptist initiative that equips college juniors and seniors from campuses across

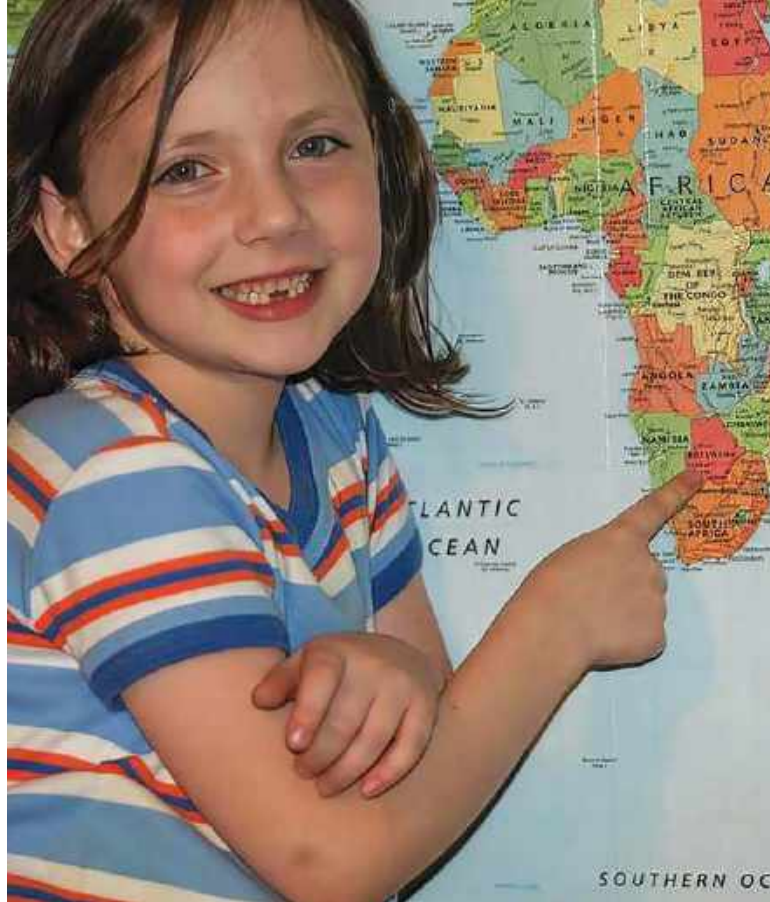
South Carolina to be missional leaders of the Gospel. For Windsor, the opportunity provided the resources and experiences he needed to learn, grow, and discern his calling.

Today, Windsor is an International Mission Board missionary serving in South Asia. “I’m incredibly grateful to God and the SCBaptist Convention for the life-changing role these groups played for me,” Windsor said.



A Camp McCall staffer demonstrates rock climbing to campers.





Cultivating a Missionary Heart at Camp La Vida

Kenna Boyle's love for Botswana began at eight years old with a research project where she learned about the people and the country's culture. "Somehow, I just knew God would have me there eventually," Boyle said.

Camp La Vida's Impact

Growing up, she attended Camp La Vida, a missions discipleship education camp owned and operated by South Carolina Woman's Missionary Union. There, she was exposed to missionaries and the urgency of the

Gospel. "I remember being thrilled to know that I could be a missionary right where I was," Boyle said.

She later worked on staff at Camp La Vida, where God continued to prepare her heart for foreign missions. Boyle pursued a music degree at Anderson University, desiring to use her degree for missions.

After serving on a mission trip to Botswana for two months with International Mission Board's Nehemiah Project affirmed her

calling, Boyle reached out about returning for two years as a Journeyman. She will be working with children and youth through various ministry opportunities. "God has been so faithful through the whole process," Boyle said.



Left: Boyle works with children in Botswana.

Right: At age eight, Boyle learns about Botswana for a school project.



Reaching the Unreached Locally and Globally



Northwood Baptist Church in North Charleston, SC, has established a remarkable commitment to missions, both locally and globally. Logan Catoe, Discipleship and Missions Pastor, said, “Our goal is for people to shift their mindset from understanding missions as something set up by the church to something that is always possible wherever you are.”

Reaching Their Community

Locally, Northwood recently partnered with Gethsemane Baptist Church in revitalization efforts,

sending out staff and families from the church to settle in at Gethsemane. Northwood also hosts community outreaches and is involved in local schools.

Northwood is also located near Charleston Southern University, but around six years ago, only one college student regularly attended services. Today, around 200 college students faithfully attend Northwood.

On a national level, Northwood supports a Charleston, SC, native who is planting a church near Boston,

MA, and globally, Northwood initiated a partnership with the International Mission Board in Japan, caring for missionaries and their families who are serving unreached people groups.

“Ultimately, we just want to be found faithful with what God has given us,” Catoe said. “And we desire to be around God’s throne one day with every tribe, tongue, and nation.”

Members from Northwood serve at Arborway Community Church near Boston, MA.

Pastors Partner in Pittsburgh

“We wanted to get a glimpse of the Kingdom work being done in Pittsburgh.”

A team from the Saluda Baptist Association recently embarked on a vision trip to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to establish partnerships. Nine leaders from five churches, led by John Watkins and Pam Creamer of the Saluda Baptist Association, met with church planters to understand the challenges and opportunities in the area.

Kyle Caudell, pastor of North Anderson Baptist Church, said trip members wanted to “get a glimpse of the Kingdom work being done in Pittsburgh and to establish long-term partnerships with a church in the city.” North Anderson connected with Brent Phillips of Reclamation Church, planning to plant in 2024, to explore a multi-year partnership.

After the trip, all five churches represented are pursuing partnerships with Pittsburgh churches and church plants. The pastors also learned about the prayer needs of planters, such as better access to schools. This trip was a valuable step towards establishing significant partnerships in Pittsburgh, promoting Kingdom work and collaboration between churches.



SOBaptist pastors pray over church planters in Pittsburgh.







Starting Churches

As SCBaptists, we know that every church was once a new church and that EACH CHURCH has a role to play in starting new churches. We start churches because we are called to be the hands and feet of Christ, extending His love to every corner of South Carolina. We are not merely observers but active participants in this Great Commission advance.

Church planting is a long-term call to love a people and a place, and we partner with leaders and churches across our state to equip them with the resources, encouragement, and community they need along the journey.

We plant churches because we understand that our mission is far from complete. At the heart of our endeavor, we aim to glorify God, expand His Kingdom, and cultivate vibrant, thriving faith communities. By starting churches, we sow seeds of faith that will bear fruit for generations to come.



Vibrant Church Plant in Spartanburg



In its third year as a church plant, ID Clifton sent out Taylor Little, their associate pastor, to plant ID Downtown, located in Spartanburg, SC. Although Little believed this was the Lord's plan, he still faced fear and uncertainties. "I really just had to lean into the Lord and just trust what He was doing," Little said.

The church quickly attracted a diverse and eager congregation. "God moving in our church has just been like a wave of a harvest," Little said.

Members were hungry for spiritual growth, discipleship, and a deeper understanding of God's Word.

Focus on Discipleship

A significant element of ID Downtown's outreach strategy is discipleship. This simple yet profound practice has helped members move from a place of uncertainty to a strong, faith-driven commitment to ministry. Taylor mentors a group of men, walking with them through life's challenges and encouraging them

in their faith. "It's created a replication process to continuously multiply for us," Little said. Through intentional relationships and Gospel-centered living, ID Downtown cultivates a thriving community of believers.

Top: A believer is baptized at ID Downtown's Launch Sunday.

Right: Church leaders and SCBaptist staff gather to pray for Pastor Taylor Little.







Reaching Vietnamese Believers in the Midlands

"I know that we are called by God to do His work, to proclaim the Good News to the Vietnamese."

Led by Pastor Charlie Nguyen, Good News Vietnamese Church, the first-ever evangelical Vietnamese Church in the Midlands, has grown in numbers and is making an impact on the Vietnamese community in the area.

Meeting Spiritual Needs

In 2019, the Columbia Metro Baptist Association (CMBA) first made contact with Nguyen to begin work on an evangelical Vietnamese church plant. However, COVID-19 and immigration challenges caused delays, putting the church plant on hold. The Vietnamese population in the Midlands was estimated to be around 6,000 at that time. As the Vietnamese community continues to grow, so does the need for a church that caters to their spiritual needs. Now, in August 2023, as a result

of the vision by the CMBA and supporting churches like North Trenholm Baptist and several others, Charlie and his wife, Tanja, are hosting over thirty individuals weekly in their living room. "I know that we are called by God to do His work, to proclaim the Good News to the Vietnamese," Nguyen said.

Since its initial meetings, the church has experienced remarkable growth. Moreover, Vietnamese families from across the state drive to Columbia to worship with them. Nguyen hopes to one day plant Vietnamese churches all across our state.



Top: Vietnamese Good News Church gathers in Nguyen's home.

Bottom: Nguyen baptizes new believers.

Planting Seeds of Hope in Rock Hill

“The impact of ministry is now reaching further, farther, faster.”

“God has people that are far from Him that need to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and our church cannot be everywhere all at once,” Patrick Roddey, Lead Pastor of Harmony Baptist Church, said. This realization led Harmony Baptist to send out Ben Winn, their associate pastor, and a core team to plant City Hope Church in Rock Hill, SC.

Identifying Needs

In the early stages of planting City Hope Church, Winn and his team asked, “Where is the brokenness we see in the city of Rock Hill?” As the church plant looked at the city’s needs, they quickly saw a growing homeless population and a need for school partnerships.

This stirring led to a weekly Bible study with a local men’s shelter, where

City Hope sought to understand more about homelessness and to show the men the love of Jesus. Since beginning this partnership, four men have come to know Christ, and three have been baptized. City Hope has also partnered with Cherry Park Elementary to care for their students and staff. “By sending and being willing to live with open hands, the impact of ministry is now reaching further, farther, faster,” Winn said.



*Left: Winn preaches at City Hope Church.
Right: Winn baptizes a new believer.*







Reaching Hispanic Communities

Edson Garcia's life took a new direction when members of Utica Baptist Church in Seneca, SC, visited his church in Mexico on mission trips. Utica recognized the need for a Hispanic church planter in their community and shared this vision with Garcia. Following God's call, Garcia and his family moved from Mexico to Seneca to establish La Roca Oconee to meet the spiritual needs of the Hispanic population.

Partnering Together

Utica stood by Garcia as a steadfast partner, supporting him both in prayer and financially. Members of Utica have also contributed through hands-on involvement, encouragement, and volunteering in La Roca's activities. "It's really a multilayered partnership that has been a source of great joy for both congregations," Ryan Goodroe, pastor of Utica Baptist Church, said.

Garcia's motivation is "to preach to those that haven't heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ so they can be saved." Through his efforts, two Bible studies grew into a church plant, and the impact of its ministry spread. In April, La Roca baptized five new believers. "What we thought of as a very localized work among Hispanics here in Oconee County has already gone well beyond that, reaching into two or three counties," Goodroe said.

Top: La Roca Oconee partners with local churches to host an outreach event.
Left and Right: Garcia preaches at La Roca Oconee.







From Charleston to Church Planting in LA



The decision to leave Journey Church was not an easy one for Will Browning. After planting Journey in 2007, Browning envisioned ministering there for decades to come. However, God had different plans.

God called Will and his wife, Tarah, to step into the unknown—leaving their familiar South Carolina roots to venture into the heart of Los Angeles, California. “God taught me that He is in the business of deploying disciples, and nobody is above being deployed, including the lead pastor,” Will said.

Will is now the Director of Send Network California with the North American Mission Board. “South Carolina Baptists believe in sending

their best, and here in Los Angeles, we have sent one of our best,” Lee Clamp, Assistant Executive Director-Treasurer, said.

“As we began to serve in Los Angeles, our main objective was the care of church-planting families,” Tarah said. Over the last two years, SCBaptists have sent teams to care for church planters’ wives in LA, providing an opportunity for the wives to receive care and be encouraged in their ministry.

Witnessing Movement in LA

Will and Tarah have already seen God moving in California. Just last year, there were 331 baptisms within Send LA, 24 churches planted, and

12 languages spoken across church plants.

“You may have heard that God is not moving here in this state, but I’m here to tell you that God is doing amazing things here,” Will said. Will and Tarah are thankful for the prayers and support of South Carolina Baptists. Because of this partnership, Will said, “You’re not just making an impact here in LA; you’re making an impact through all of North America.”

Top: Will, pictured second from left, partners with LA church planters and SCBaptist leaders.
Right: Tarah sings at a church planters’ wives event.





We help each
church advance the
Great Commission
together.







SCBaptists Cooperating as One Family

“What Christ has done in and through our cooperation... is to be celebrated, but the good work He has ahead of us is vast.”

Why do we cooperate? We cooperate because our message is urgent, our commission is great, and our time is short. We cooperate because we are “coworkers together with God.” We cooperate because “two are better than one, having a good reward for their labor... and a strand of three cords is not easily broken.” Isn’t it compelling that God has built the incalculable value of intentional togetherness into our Great Commission engagement? The stories and numbers in this Ministry Plan are direct results of your convictional cooperation. They illustrate that while each SCBaptist church is engaged in meaningful ministry, we can be and do even more when we work together. I pray you observed tangible demonstrations of the truth of the Scriptures as you read through

these pages. And I pray it whet your missional appetite for more and more. What Christ has done in and through our cooperation in the past is to be celebrated, but the good work He has ahead of us is vast. Let’s lean into the future with everything we’ve got. As we continue to pool our relationships and resources together, in greater measure ahead than ever before, may the Holy Spirit breathe fresh wind on our SCBaptist cooperation today and in the years ahead.

Dr. Tony Wolfe
Executive Director-Treasurer
South Carolina Baptist Convention

Campers gather for Bible study in their cabin at Camp La Vida.





one
family

**We help each
church advance the
Great Commission
*together.***

**each church
every life**

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