



**SOUTH CAROLINA
BAPTIST CONVENTION**

2026 Ministry Plan



**each church
every life**

Cooperating for Gospel Advance

Through unified Cooperative Program giving and strategic Great Commission going, SCBaptist churches cooperate with one another each year joyfully and sacrificially to affect a comprehensive statewide mission and ministry strategy that reaches from our South Carolina neighborhoods to the nations. We are a people of both biblical clarity and Gospel charity, of both doctrinal conviction and missional convention. We are over a half-million strong, worshiping in around 2,000 cooperating churches and networking in 42 associations. We are beautifully diverse ethnically, linguistically, geographically, generationally, and more. But in Christ and through our voluntary Great Commission cooperation, we are one people with one common purpose. We pool our resources and relationships so that every life might be saturated and transformed by the hope of the Gospel.

The Ministry Plan booklet you now hold in your hands provides only a snapshot of the cooperative work your church is accomplishing through your State Convention. It records stories of past engagements and presents plans for future arrangements. Because you give, you are planting churches, sending missionaries, encouraging and resourcing pastors, relieving communities after

disaster and crisis, reaching college campuses, evangelizing in digital spaces, training future church leaders, caring for widows and orphans, and much more. I encourage you to keep this booklet in front of your people year-round. Leverage it as a resource guide for celebrating your cooperative efforts and for multiplying cooperative commitment. But let's not get ahead of ourselves. Take some time yourself, right now, to read through the following pages and to thank God for the good work to which he has called you and your church in this season. This work is your work. And it is our honor to facilitate that work through strategic statewide mission and ministry strategy. This is a great day to be an SCBaptist.



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



Advancing Together

SCBaptists believe every life counts and each church can advance in the efforts of accomplishing the Great Commission. Every life on our college campuses, every life new to our state, and every life in our rural countryside and urban centers desperately needs the hope of the Gospel. Each of our churches is uniquely positioned to bring them that hope. The success of our efforts is directly related to our cooperation together.

Our SCBaptist team exists to help each church advance the Great Commission together. We accomplish this through stewarding moments, creating maps, and climbing mountains together. We steward moments through conversations and collaboratives to help leaders identify the mountain God wants them to climb. Our team curates and creates resources to help map out a plan to get there. Ultimately, we connect leaders with leaders who will cooperate to climb these mountains. This advance helps us better mobilize missionaries and develop leaders.

SCBaptists mobilize missionaries. Over 50% of our universities have a BCM missionary mobilized to engage the next generation. Over 10 new church plants launch every year and receive coaching and funding for up to three years. We assist local associations of churches to engage on mission together regionally. We foster missionary partnerships around the world and work through

the North American Mission Board and the International Mission Board to connect churches to the mission field and raise up future fully funded missionaries. SCBaptist Disaster Relief mobilizes thousands of missionaries to help communities in times of need.

SCBaptists develop leaders. We have a team of missionaries focused on the health and personal development of both senior pastors and their staff. Our summers are full of camps at Camp McCall, SummerSalt, KidSalt, and Camp La Vida that foster spiritual formation among the next generation. Revitalization leaders are developed to walk churches through strategic change. Our Palmetto Collective develops future missional leaders before they graduate college and launch out as missionaries.

We are resolved in this one sacred effort of seeing every life saturated and transformed by the hope of the Gospel.



Dr. Lee Clamp
*Associate Executive Director-Treasurer
South Carolina Baptist Convention*



MOMENT



MAP



MOUNTAIN

The Vital Role of the Cooperative Program

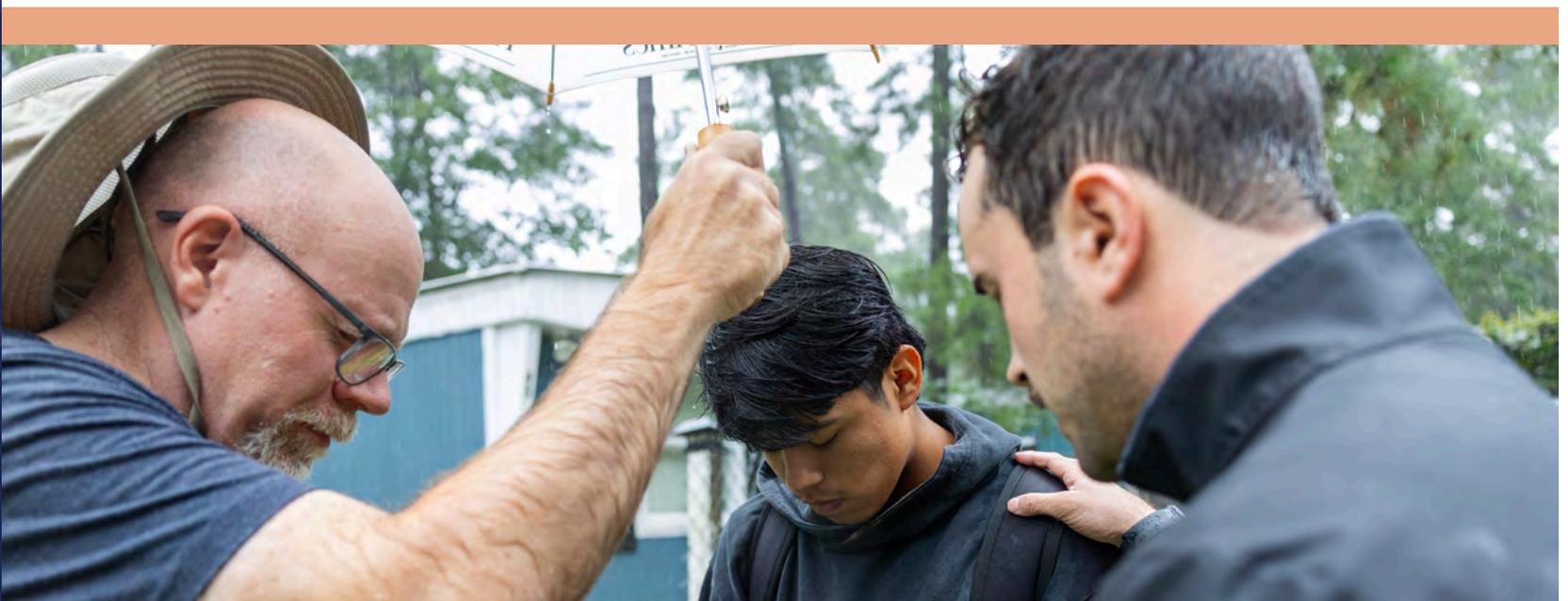
The Cooperative Program is the premier SCBaptist vehicle to fund the entire ecosystem of our shared Great Commission enterprise. It is a unified effort at a diversified strategy to raise up pastors and church leaders, mobilize missionaries, revitalize and plant churches, educate future generations with a biblical worldview, serve communities in crisis, and care for the vulnerable. Through the Cooperative Program, autonomous Baptist churches in our state choose to cooperate with other like-minded churches in the development and facilitation of a statewide mission strategy that reaches our neighbors and the nations with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Cooperative Program is vital for advancing the mission and ministry we share. Please consider reviewing your church's budget, asking whether its current Cooperative Program allocation is appropriately evident of your church's commitment to the Great Commission efforts to which you have committed in cooperation with your sister churches across the state and nation. Ten percent of undesignated receipts is the gold standard. Some SCBaptist churches give as much as 25% through the Cooperative Program, because they believe

in the work and count it their joy to be sacrificially generous. Whatever the percentage or dollar amount, churches giving joyfully and sacrificially through the Cooperative Program are financially fueling the most comprehensive and effective effort at biblical Great Commission advance in our generation.

SCBaptists are like the Macedonian and Corinthian churches who showed "zeal" and "eagerness" to pool their funds for mission work. We sow big seeds because we expect a big harvest; may God be pleased to make "every grace overflow" to us in our Great Commission cooperation so that we might "excel in every good work" in our generation (2 Corinthians 8-9). Use this resource book in your small group, Sunday School, pulpit, or hallways to share real stories of Gospel impact made possible through your church's Cooperative Program giving. And let's commit ourselves again to a great forward work through our Cooperative Program.

The Serve Tour, in partnership with Send Relief, brought together 80 churches to serve in Columbia.



2026 Cooperative Program Investment

Our State 14,170,000 54.50%

South Carolina Baptist Convention-Executive Board	8,364,200	32.17%
Anderson University	1,349,400	5.19%
Charleston Southern University	1,253,200	4.82%
North Greenville University	1,066,000	4.10%
Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries	832,000	3.20%
South Carolina Baptist Ministries of Aging	821,600	3.16%
Woman's Missionary Union	325,000	1.25%
Baptist Courier	158,600	0.61%
Baptist Foundation of South Carolina	0	0%

Our Nation 5,288,400 20.34%

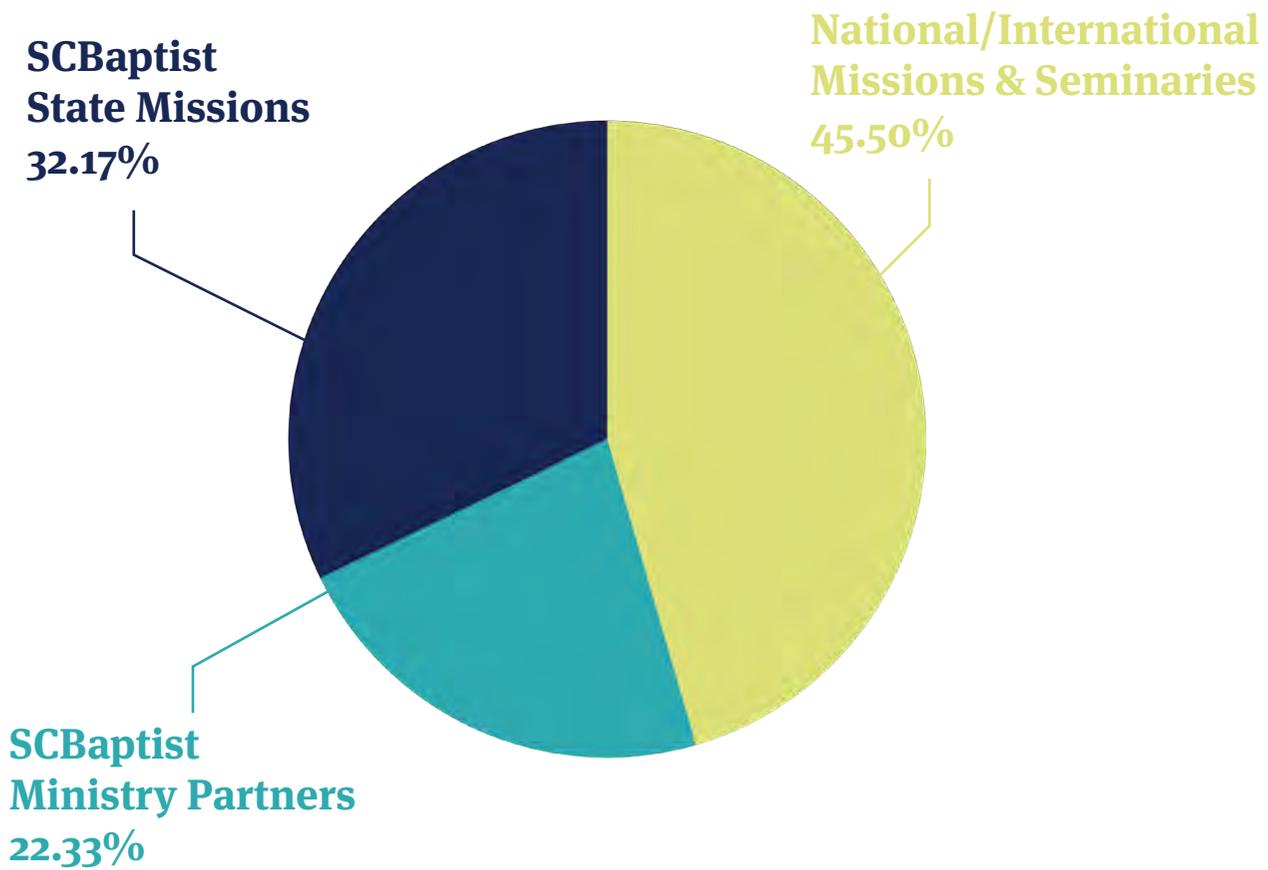
North American Mission Board	2,428,400	9.34%
Theological Seminaries	2,337,400	8.99%
Executive Committee & SBC Operating	319,800	1.23%
Ethics & Religious Liberty Committee	176,800	0.68%
Historical Library & Archives	26,000	0.10%

Our World 6,541,600 25.16%

International Mission Board	5,371,600	20.66%
(20.66% plus additional 4.5% direct from SCBaptist)	1,170,000	4.50%

Grand Total* 26,000,000 100.00%

**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 \$48.2 million.*



Funding the Mission

The Cooperative Program funding strategy attempts to deploy resources strategically through a unified approach to mobilize missionaries and educate church leaders. Budget percentages are determined each year by the South Carolina Baptist Convention of churches based on Great Commission priorities and financial needs.

The primary investment is mobilizing missionaries nationally and internationally, with a large portion of that investment being deployed through the International Mission Board (IMB). The IMB fully funds more than 3,500 missionaries around the world, including 289 South Carolina Sent Ones. The North American Mission Board plants churches in underreached areas throughout our continent. Six seminaries are supported to provide theological education for our future pastors and leaders.

SCBaptists fund state mission's efforts to plant churches in South Carolina, mobilize Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) missionaries on our college campuses and around the world, and help each church advance the Great Commission in their communities.

Our SCBaptist ministry partners receive funding and trustee support. SCBaptists serve vulnerable children and aging adults through Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries and South Carolina Baptist Ministries of Aging. SCBaptists provide education with a biblical worldview through three universities in our state: North Greenville University, Charleston Southern University, and Anderson University. Our investment serves to strengthen the church leaders of today for the challenges we will face tomorrow.

SCBaptist by the Numbers

We accomplished much more together in 2025. Cooperative missions giving accelerates Great Commission advance.

12,355

baptisms

30,323

college students engaged
by a Baptist Collegiate
Ministry

38,699

people were served by
Disaster Relief

7,383

campers attended an
SCBaptist camp

289

SCSent Ones serving with
the International Mission
Board with 31 newly
appointed

42

funded church plants

104

pastors in the Young
Pastors Network

253

pastors in leadership
cohorts

*Through the Cooperative giving of SCBaptist churches, we continued to advance the Great Commission together.
All the numbers in the 2026 Ministry Plan reflect data from Sept. 1, 2024, through Sept. 1, 2025.*



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Read or watch the full version of each Advance Story at scbaptist.org/ministryplan or by following the QR code below.



Sending Missionaries

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. Following God's leading, we develop and send future missionaries and provide pathways for them to live on mission locally and globally.

BY THE NUMBERS

289

SCSent Ones serving with the International Mission Board with 31 newly appointed

76

pastors and leaders mobilized on SCGO vision trips

34

Palmetto Collective graduates now serve full-time in church plants in North America or with the International Mission Board

817

college students mobilized on short-term mission through BCMGO and Palmetto Collective



Palmetto Collective Serving Refugees in Clarkston

SCBaptist's Palmetto Collective traveled to Clarkston, Georgia, with three main goals: to learn, to serve, and to share the Gospel. The Palmetto Collective program helps college students discover the most strategic place to live after graduation to advance the Great Commission.

Diversity in Clarkston

Clarkston is the most diverse square mile in America with 14,000 people representing 120 people groups—90 of whom are unreached and unengaged—100 languages, and over 60 countries, many of those being refugees.

Outreach at Clarkston International Bible Church

Samuel Rai, pastor of Clarkston International Bible Church (CIBC) and former refugee, says that the life of a refugee often feels 'hopeless.' CIBC says they are a "multi-ethnic, Spirit-filled church family where all people can come to know, experience, and serve Jesus Christ."

The church seeks to meet needs of refugees through English and citizenship classes, providing furniture, hosting children's camps, and more. CIBC

also partners with five church plants worshipping in Arabic, Nepali, Swahili, and Burmese.

Reaching the Nations

While going door to door in an apartment complex that CIBC serves, a Palmetto Collective student welcomed a couple who had arrived in America just days before. The couple connected with local missionaries who can help meet tangible needs, but also to share the hope of the Gospel.

One evening, the church spent two hours praying over individual apartments, the community, and countries represented in Clarkston. Palmetto Collective graduates have caught the vision. One serves as a Journeyman in Clarkston and another is volunteering at CIBC while attending graduate school in Atlanta.

51 students participated in the Palmetto Collective

Students spend time walking in the community for outreach.



2,458

boys and men were challenged to live on mission at Camp McCall

Launching Missionaries from Camp McCall

As a boy, Wesley G. watched a grainy video of a Camp McCall staffer serving on the mission field. That moment of seeing someone living out the Gospel lit a spark that would carry him across the ocean to do the same.

In 66 summers, Camp McCall has welcomed more than 148,000 boys and men, all being prepared to live on mission—whether in their hometowns or around the world. “We’re constantly bringing in missionaries, talking about missions, and encouraging them to live missionally,” said Phillip “Snoball” Jewel, Associate Director.

In the last seven years, Camp McCall sent 154 summer staff on 72 short-term trips. “It’s not enough to just learn about missions. We’re called to go and do missions,” said Matt “Spinner” Allen, Director.

On Mission in Europe

Two former staffers are serving as Journeymen with the International Mission Board in Europe.

Aiden B. first felt the call to missions at Camp McCall. He and his wife, Hannah, now serve with a church plant in Oslo, Norway, living intentionally in a post-Christian environment.

Wesley G.’s journey to the mission field also began with seeds planted through SCBaptist ministries, from Royal Ambassadors to four summers on camp staff to serving as Baptist Collegiate Ministries President at Anderson University. Currently, Wesley serves at universities in London. “The nations are coming to London. Reaching them in an open country is an amazing opportunity,” he said.

Cultivating a Missions Pipeline

These are just two of many stories of how SCBaptists, through Camp McCall, are raising up the next generation and sending them on mission.

Left: Wesley G. serves as a Journeyman in London with the IMB. Right: Hannah and Aiden B. serve as Journeymen in Oslo, Norway, with the IMB.

Columbia Metro Develops Association Mission Partnership in Spain

A Columbia Metro Baptist Association (CMBA) team traveled to Spain, partnering with SCBaptists, the International Mission Board (IMB) and Spanish pastors.

“Madrid may be the most important Spanish-speaking city in the world. Only 0.5% of Spaniards have a relationship with Jesus,” Jamie Rogers, Associational Missions Strategist at CMBA, said.

Despite the lack of evangelical churches in Spain, churches are taking steps of faith to reach the people in their communities. Isaac and Steve, pastors at Comunidad Moncloa in Madrid, are seeing the impact in their communities. Pastor Isaac acknowledged that generosity has allowed the church to flourish. “We pray that God continues to do his work so that we can reach new people,” Pastor Isaac said.

Connecting Abroad

Local believers are taking unique steps in sharing the Gospel. Josh Hill, the Emerging

Innovation Strategist and Coach of the IMB, has begun projects that reach those in digital communities, such as Discord, Twitch, and e-sports. “How do we connect these people [who live in digital spaces] to believers? We enter these spaces,” Hill said.

The Kershaw Baptist Association has joined with CMBA in this strategic partnership. Both associations encourage SCBaptists to consider missions in Spain. This includes giving to missions efforts as well as participating in a trip abroad with local churches.

“We can serve people everywhere by being willing to connect,” Travis Pruden, Missions Pastor of Alice Drive Baptist Church in Sumter, said. “All cultures have the same overall need: knowing Jesus.”

76 pastors and leaders mobilized on SCGO vision trips

A team of SCBaptists visit mission efforts in Spain.



Shepherding Leaders

The Shepherd Team exists to help and equip pastors and leaders to lead their churches in fulfilling the Great Commission. Through tailored support and resources, we come alongside pastors to ensure they are thriving in their roles. Strengthening pastoral leadership paves the way for healthier churches that will impact communities, states, and the world for the Gospel.

BY THE NUMBERS

253

pastors in leadership cohorts

104

pastors in the Young Pastors Network

28

churches have been through a revitalization process

146

pastors and wives were encouraged at the Restore retreat



Churches Partnering to Reach Their Community

On Good Friday, two churches in Bennettsville, South Carolina, gathered for a joint outdoor worship service—just one example of how a partnership between their pastors brings a community-wide Gospel presence.

Connecting Pastors Through a Cohort

The Pee Dee Baptist Association created the RE Cohort to connect pastors in a rural context for resourcing and encouragement. Ron Taylor, Associational Mission Strategist at Pee Dee Baptist Association, said, “The advantage is for them to be together and to learn from each other.”

Two first-time pastors formed a unique partnership out of the cohort. Thomas Memorial Baptist Church, pastored by Joshua Hilton, is about a mile down the road from Bennettsville Second Baptist Church, pastored by Jacob Orr.

A Growing Partnership in Bennettsville

With deep roots in Bennettsville, both pastors are burdened for its spiritual health. “People see this as a smaller, darker area, but I think through teaming up we can really make a difference in this area,” Hilton said. The two churches hold joint youth ministry services once a month with teaching and fellowship. Their efforts also include local outreach,

like a school partnership and community events. “We’re reaching so many more people because of this partnership,” Hilton said.

Though pastoring in a rural setting presents unique challenges, the cohort is a reminder for Orr and Hilton that they are not alone. “We’re doing everything we can to work together to bring light to our community,” Hilton said. Orr remains confident that the Lord will move in their town. “If God can start a revival, why not here? Why not Bennettsville? Why not South Carolina?”

253 pastors in leadership cohorts

Thomas Memorial and Bennettsville Second hold a joint worship service for Easter.



146

pastors and wives were encouraged at the Restore retreat

A Weekend of Renewal for Pastors and Their Wives

“When God called you, he called you to the front lines of a spiritual war.”

These words set the tone for Restore, an SCBaptist retreat for pastors and their wives. Held in Hilton Head, this event gave couples space to step away from daily demands and refocus on marriage and ministry.

Pastoring can take a toll on families. “Pastors first have to win at home before they can win at work,” Brian Saxon, Shepherd Team Leader, said. “If we don’t have it right at home, it doesn’t matter if we get it right at church.”

The retreat focused on spiritual and emotional health in marriage, leading families well, and doing ministry as a couple.

Encouragement and Renewal

For Mark and Katherine Sanders from First Baptist Gilbert, the retreat offered meaningful rest. “It’s a

great time getting away and slowing down,” said Mark. Katherine added, “It’s nice to be reminded that other people are in the same boat you are.”

Julie McGill from Springdale Baptist in West Columbia said, “We have come every year. It’s a great time to be renewed and encouraged as a couple.”

Stepping away isn’t always easy, but Saxon emphasized its importance. “This weekend hopefully allowed pastors to focus on their relationship with the Lord and their spouse.”

Mark Sanders summed it up: “The encouragement, worship, and connection with other pastors—it’s absolutely worthwhile.”

Left: Attendees focus on their relationship with the Lord and their spouse at Restore.

Right: Weekend highlights featured panel discussions on ministering together as a couple.



Calumet Baptist Finds New Life Through Revitalization Partnership

Calumet Baptist Church in Liberty, SC, had dwindled to fewer than 30 people by the spring of 2024. Years of decline had left the congregation uncertain about the future.

In response to this need, Piedmont Baptist Association's Chris Jordan reached out to Jamie Duncan, pastor of East Pickens Baptist Church, about forming a revitalization partnership.

Fostering Partnership

East Pickens committed to a fostering relationship to help the church become healthy and autonomous again. In year one, East Pickens sent a team to serve. Pastoral leadership came through a team effort. David Jackson, Replant Team Specialist at the North American Mission Board, served as transitional pastor for the first year. Chuck Bridges served alongside him with the understanding that he would assume leadership in year two.

Calumet is already seeing fruit. "They'd not had a baptism in over three years. We've had five baptisms since we've been there," Bridges shared. Seven

people have also joined the church. "Year one was just healing and bringing some stability back to the church," Bridges said. As the partnership enters year two, the focus shifts to leadership development.

For East Pickens and Calumet, this partnership reflects a broader Kingdom truth. "Revitalization is messy," Bridges admitted. "But we have to move at God's pace, not ours. And I'm thankful for what God is doing."

28 churches have been through a revitalization process

Calumet Baptist has seen five baptisms since beginning a fostering partnership.



Sharing Hope

Four out of five people in South Carolina are not regularly engaged in any Gospel-centered church. 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 committed to make disciples who, in turn, make disciples.

BY THE NUMBERS

12,355

baptisms

5,798

students heard the Gospel at a ONE Night event

492

students saved at ONE Night events

30,323

students engaged on college campuses by BCM

912

women's ministry leaders engaged

681,199

people viewed "The Jesus Change" videos across platforms

Catalyst Program Equipping the Next Generation for Ministry

“There’s a time coming when the next generation is going to be stepping up and leading our churches,” Ricky Wilson, Next Generation Strategist, said.

The Catalyst Program is one way that SCBaptists are training the next generation to lead well. The program is for college-aged students and young adults who sense a call to ministry and want hands-on experience, mentorship, and community. Since 2022, 74 Catalysts have been trained in ministry areas, including evangelism, creative, missions, church planting, collegiate ministry, children’s ministry, worship, youth ministry, and special needs ministry.

Hands-On Ministry Experience

For Preston Bishop, the Catalyst Program helped him discern his calling. Bishop served two semesters in the area of next-generation evangelism. Today, Bishop is the Youth and Young Adults Pastor at Jamestown Baptist Church in Conway, South Carolina.

Bishop said, “Catalyst was someone coming alongside of me, teaching me and developing me to do ministry.” He took part in hands-on experiences,

like ONE Nights, a collegiate retreat, and attending IMPACT and the annual meeting.

Raising Up Leaders

“The Catalyst Program launched me into where I am now,” he said. Ricky Wilson echoed this, emphasizing that former Catalysts are helping to address the shortage of trained pastors in the state. “It’s a great pipeline for us to help churches and develop people for Kingdom impact,” Wilson said.

As churches across South Carolina face a growing need for trained, passionate leaders, the Catalyst Program is helping meet that need—preparing students today to shepherd, disciple, and lead tomorrow.

22 college students served as Catalysts

Preston Bishop plays basketball with students at Jamestown Baptist.



Reaching the Nations in the Midlands through BCM

Every year, SCBaptist churches send teams around the world, but on any given Thursday at the University of South Carolina (USC), the nations are already gathered. Carolina Baptist Collegiate Ministry's (BCM) international lunch creates space for Gospel-centered conversations here at home.

One student from the Czech Republic shared that she is encountering the Bible for the first time. "I got to know a lot of different stories from the Bible, and it's starting to make sense. I didn't know much before I came here," she said.

Hosting International Lunch

Thousands of international students attend USC—many stepping foot in the U.S. for the first time. Carolina BCM saw a ministry opportunity. "We have students from all over the world: Bangladesh, Nigeria, Turkey, Norway, France, Zimbabwe, Brazil." Lindsay Venters, Assistant Campus Minister to International Students, said.

Carolina BCM also provides rides from the airport, the grocery store, helps organize short-term

housing, and even helps students navigate getting a driver's license or submitting visa paperwork.

Creating Inroads to the Gospel

This ministry is powered by the partnership of 27 local churches. Collegiate Minister Adam Venters said, "Churches fuel the ministry. BCM organizes it to make the most out of the resources we have."

International student ministry is about more than hospitality; it's a mission opportunity that's both local and global. When churches provide a meal, offer a ride, or share a conversation, they plant Gospel seeds in the lives of students from around the world. As Adam Venters put it, "You don't have to go to the nations when the nations come to you."

Left: BCM leaders host a weekly Bible study. Right: Students attend a weekly lunch on campus at USC.



ONE Night Events Seeing Life Transformation

Harvest events like ONE Night are a strategic effort to reach South Carolinians with the Gospel. Local churches partner to plan and host these mass evangelism events statewide. In 2024 alone, 5,798 students attended ONE Night events, with 492 decisions for salvation.

Ricky Wilson, Next Generation Evangelism Strategist, shared that from mechanical bulls to silent discos, the goal is to provide a fun and inviting atmosphere for students. At the heart of each event, though, is a clear Gospel presentation, ensuring that every student in attendance hears about the hope of Jesus Christ.

Beyond the event itself, ONE Night also equips students to reach their schools and communities. Last year, nearly 8,000 Gospel-sharing bracelets were distributed, and students used them to lead 35 peers to Christ. The impact has been evident in places like Fountain Inn, where a youth group at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church grew from 10 to 50 students after a ONE Night event, as students boldly invited their friends.

The Heart of Harvest Events

The success of ONE Night reflects a broader truth about evangelism—when the Gospel is boldly proclaimed, lives are transformed. This principle is at the heart of harvest events, which Tony Wolfe, SCBaptist Executive Director-Treasurer, emphasized as a biblical and historically effective means of reaching the lost.

Wolfe challenged churches to embrace harvest events as a vital part of evangelism today, emphasizing that it is a principle rooted in the early church's witness. He said, "If you want to see revival, do revival-like things."

492 students saved at ONE Night events

Students respond to the Gospel at ONE Night.



Caring for Church Planter Wives in Utah

A team of SCBaptist women hosted a retreat for 40 church planters' wives in Utah, providing a time of encouragement and support. Partnering with the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention, the retreat involved large and small group sessions, worship, and much-needed downtime.

Brushy Creek Baptist Church partners with Redemption Church North Davis. Seeing an opportunity to care for women, Angela James, Education and Women's Minister at Brushy Creek, gathered a team to lead the retreat, including Amanda Hodge of Locust Hill Baptist Church, where her husband is the lead pastor.

Finding Community and Support

As the women gathered, they found comfort in knowing they were not alone. "There was never a quiet moment," James said. "They were so starved for relationship." Many shared openly about personal burdens—winter depression, family challenges, church struggles—and were met with understanding and encouragement.

"It's not an easy place out here," Christy Galkin of Gospel Grace Church said. "This weekend has been amazing to renew ourselves in the Word and in fellowship with other ladies." Although the time was short, attendees emphasized that the encouragement continues on. "Your support is what keeps us on the field to reach the people of Utah," Elizabeth Williams of Redemption North Davis said.

For churches interested in forming partnerships like this, Hodge recommends starting with prayer and simply making a connection. "The harvest is plentiful in Utah. They need partners. I'm thankful for the South Carolina partnerships with Utah and Idaho."

912 women's ministry leaders engaged this year

Left: Attendees connect with other church planters' wives. Right: Small group sessions allow attendees to spend time studying Scripture.





SHARING HOPE

BCMGO Students Join Missionaries in Madagascar

For the first time, SCBaptist partnered with International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries in Madagascar, sending three students through BCMGO to serve alongside missionaries in one of the most spiritually rich yet challenging areas of the world. Through BCMGO, college-aged men and women across the state are equipped to engage in local, national, and international missions.

A Calling Rooted in Faithfulness

Nathan and Tessa Baker's ministry is centered around two key areas: oral storying and student ministry.

In an area where literacy is low, oral Bible storying is a powerful tool for spreading the Gospel. "We've seen that those most engaged in story groups grow the deepest in their faith," Nathan said. Groups meet to hear Bible stories, retell them, and discuss how they apply to their lives.

At six years old, one girl first heard the Gospel through these stories. Now, over a decade later, she's a young mother and a key leader in her local church, still sharing those same stories.

The BCMGO team participated in youth ministry efforts, serving through English clubs, university outreach, and leadership development. "Students are a key sector ready for change," Nathan said.

The Power of Partnership

SCBaptists have already made a meaningful impact on the Bakers. "People in South Carolina have made it clear that we're not forgotten," Nathan said.

Nathan and Tessa hope to continue partnering with churches. "We'd love to see more teams come. Whether it's through training leaders, offering ESL classes, or simply walking alongside local churches, every bit helps strengthen the body of Christ here," Nathan said.

817 college students mobilized on short-term mission through BCMGO and Palmetto Collective

BCMGO students serve alongside missionaries in Madagascar.



322

college students were saved at a Baptist Collegiate Ministry

From BCM Trips to Lives on Mission

Zoe and Maura both attended Coastal Carolina University in Conway, South Carolina. Today, both women have committed to full-time missional living in the United States. Despite this shared calling, their stories could not be more different.

Finding Meaning in College

"I grew up in church and was saved and baptized there," Zoe said, "but I didn't know what that meant until I got to college." The typical college lifestyle left her feeling "really unsatisfied" until she walked into the Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) at Coastal Carolina. "I feel like that's what truly changed my life with the Lord," Zoe said. "BCM is where I really felt like I found my satisfaction in the Lord."

BCM also opened the door to Zoe's first mission opportunities to New York City and Denver, where she sensed a call to ministry. "Looking back, that trip was the beginning of what the Lord was doing in my life."

Community in Christ

Growing up in a Catholic home, Maura arrived on campus like many students, seeking purpose and community. That search led her to BCM, where she met Zoe and others who welcomed her warmly. The BCM community also invited her to CONVERGE, an SCBaptist collegiate conference, where she gave her life to Christ.

Both women were shaped by SCBaptist ministries like BCM and Palmetto Collective, where they participated in international and domestic mission trips and took on leadership roles. Today, Zoe will soon step into full-time missions in North America, and Maura and her husband moved to Utah to live missionally and to serve alongside a church plant.

Both women point to BCM as a major turning point in their faith, propelling them to live on mission among the lost for the glory of God.

Zoe and Maura participate in international and domestic mission trips through BCM and Palmetto Collective.



SCBaptist's First Women's ONE Night Event

Sixteen churches and the Greenville Baptist Association partnered to launch SCBaptist's first Women's ONE Night event at Brushy Creek Baptist Church in Taylors. ONE Night is a "grassroots mass evangelism event designed to engage a specific audience with the hope of the Gospel."

ONE Night is often associated with high school and middle school students, but this event was tailored to women.

"There are so many women in South Carolina who don't know Jesus, and there are also so many women within the church who are building relationships with women who don't know Jesus," said Melanie Ratcliffe, Director of Relational Evangelism for SCBaptists. "I wanted to give them an opportunity to hear the Gospel."

Jordan Manley, member of Five Forks Baptist Church, said she enjoyed seeing multigenerational worship.

There were 652 women in attendance representing at least 75 different churches. The event was held in the Upstate, but Ratcliffe said she hopes to bring the event to other parts of South Carolina.

Catherine Renfrew, National Director of Women's Evangelism at the North American Mission Board, was the featured speaker. She encouraged the ladies to follow Jesus, whether it was to begin a relationship with him or continue to follow him.

In total, more than 178 women responded to the message and 10 women expressed they put their trust in Jesus for the first time.

652 women heard the Gospel at Women's ONE Night

Ten women responded to the Gospel for the first time at Women's ONE Night.



Strengthening Churches

We believe in the power of unity and growth within our family of churches. We diligently equip each church to cultivate vibrant disciple-making cultures within their walls. Strong churches are the bedrock of our mission, enabling us to share the message of the Gospel throughout South Carolina.

BY THE NUMBERS

7,383

campers attended an SCBaptist camp

284

campers called to ministry at an SCBaptist camp

258

campers were saved at an SCBaptist camp

246

staff leaders in leadership cohorts

337

churches received assistance with church administration



Reaching Families Impacted by Special Needs

When Erin Taylor was first approached by her pastor about starting a special needs ministry at Malvern Hill Baptist Church in Camden, South Carolina, she was hesitant. There were a couple of children in the church who had special needs, but Pastor Craig Thompson believed a more intentional effort could better serve those children and open doors for other families in the community.

Through their All Access Ministry, Taylor has helped guide the church toward creating a culture of inclusion and accessibility, shaped by the commitment to ensure that every person is safe, known, accepted, and loved. Today, the church offers inclusive settings such as a self-contained classroom for those needing a more structured environment, a sensory room, and a de-escalation space.

Making an Impact

Taylor recalls one family who were no longer attending a church because of the challenges associated with their child's special needs. At Malvern Hill, they found a place where their child

wasn't just tolerated but celebrated. For the first time in a long time, the parents were able to worship together and attend a Life Group. Most importantly, the father came to faith in Christ.

Leaders like Taylor are multiplying efforts to make church a place of belonging for all. As churches prayerfully consider their ministry, Taylor hopes they'll embrace this opportunity to say "yes" to establishing a Great Commission effort that ensures everyone is safe, known, and loved as image-bearers of God.

1.1 Million

people have disabilities in South Carolina and need the hope of the Gospel

All Access Ministry pairs students with volunteers.



A Life-Changing Moment at SummerSalt

Each summer, South Carolina Baptist camps serve as a powerful tool for evangelism and discipleship. Among the many stories from SummerSalt 2025, none stands out more than the story of Tye.

Tye, a student with Down syndrome, has been faithfully attending SummerSalt for several years. He participates fully in the experience, supported by a peer whose primary goal is to help Tye through the final day of camp—a day Tye has consistently found difficult. In previous years, Tye attempted to hide rather than leave.

Tye's Adoption

Tye's journey has not been without challenges. For over four years, he was part of South Carolina's foster care system. Despite difficult circumstances, God placed him with a foster family who introduced him to the Gospel, church, and camp. Tye thrived.

While he was at camp, his foster parents attended what they thought was a routine update. Instead, they received unexpected news: legal obstacles had cleared, and an adoption hearing was scheduled for the next day.

Tye had long expressed a desire to be adopted, but he was not eager to leave camp. The following day, Tye and his younger sister left their Bible study group and joined their youth minister in the camp's program office. There, via Zoom, the adoption hearing took place.

By the end of the call, it was official: Tye was forever a member of a wonderful and loving family. A new chapter began for him not in a courtroom, but in a place that had already played such a meaningful role in his story—summer camp.

Left: Tye, his sister, and their youth minister gather around a screen for the hearing. Right: Tye's adoption hearing takes place over Zoom in the camp program's office.

Internships Shaping the Next Generation of Leaders

Students expect a season of learning when they step into SCBaptist's summer internship. But for two interns, their time at Utica Baptist Church in Seneca, South Carolina, clarified their calling and taught them what it means to serve the local church.

Travis Brian is the worship pastor at Utica and is involved with the ministry internships there. "Our desire is to be a training ground for the next generation and to give hands-on experience," he said.

Growing in Discipleship Skills

Shelby Totherow was studying marketing when the internship at Utica began. She filled a social media role, but the internship led her to engage in discipleship with the high school girls, something she realized she had a passion for.

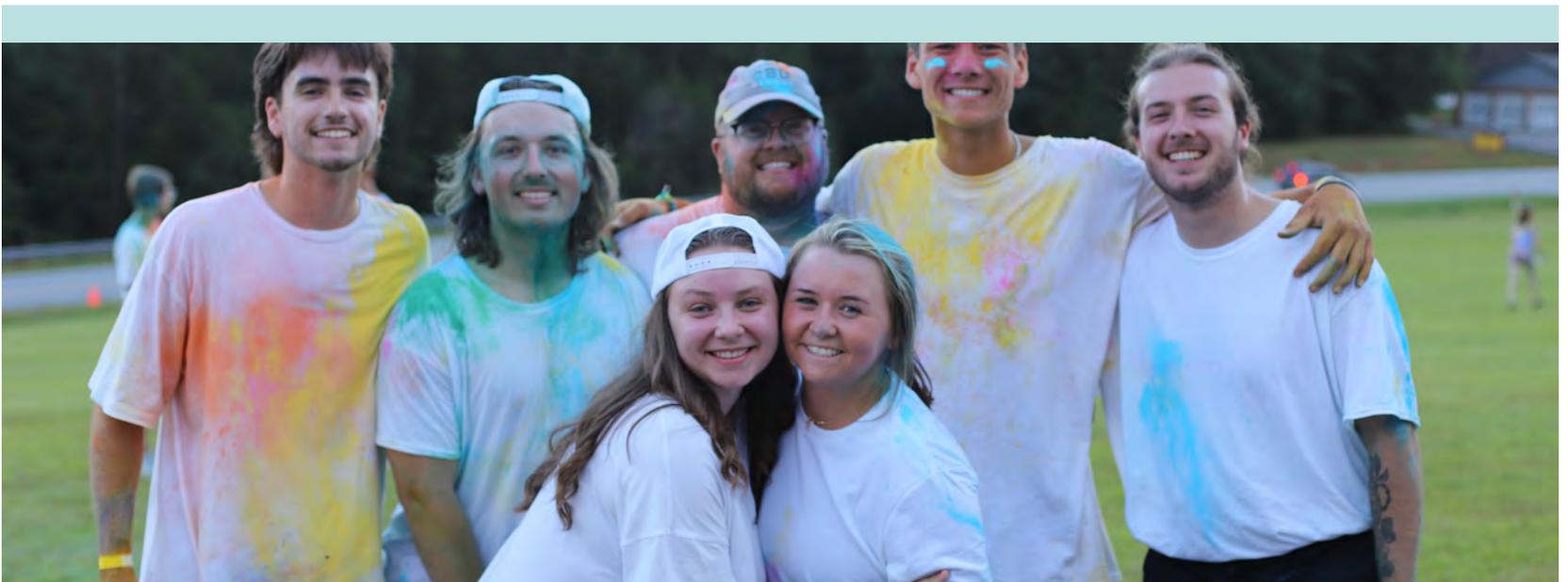
Looking back, Totherow sees how God used the internship to shape her. "The Lord has been showing me he is sovereign over our plans," Totherow said. "A fun summer working at the church was so much bigger than I imagined."

Confirming a Call to Ministry

Fellow intern Josh Self found confirmation of a growing call to worship ministry. Pursuing a degree in finance, he sensed the Lord calling him to ministry. "I knew that finance was not where my heart was, and I knew that ministry—in some capacity—was," Self said.

The internship gave Self more than technical skills; it gave him clarity and confidence. "I had a lot of doubts going into it," he said, "but the Lord showed me this is where my heart is, and this is where I need to be."

Utica Baptist interns serve at a summer event.



Serving Communities

Just as a family cares for its own, we 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.

BY THE NUMBERS

63,018

hours served through Disaster Relief

38,699

people served through Disaster Relief

54%

of South Carolina schools (652) have an SCBaptist church partner

17,625

inmates received a Christmas Prisoner Packet



Helping Families Say Yes to Adoption

“Four thousand kids are in foster care across our state,” Jon Jamison, SCBaptist Serve Team Leader, said. SCBaptist is stepping in to help families care for vulnerable children through an adoption grant for those adopting out of foster care. Nine families have received the grant already, and five more are in the process.

The grant, intended to reduce barriers and provide support, “is a way for SCBaptists to say we see you, support you, and want to offer assistance,” Jamison said.

The Call to Adopt

One family to receive the grant was the Samsons. Vijay and Latha Samson moved from India, eventually joining First Baptist Church Columbia. Their son, Mel, in college, the Samsons felt the Lord calling them to adoption. Tragedy unexpectedly struck when their son died. Amidst their grief, they decided to continue with their adoption journey.

Partnering with their church, the Samsons were trained through DSS and matched with Chelsea. “We could see the beautiful spirit in her,” Latha said.

“I don’t know how it all happened so beautifully, but today we are a family.”

They knew they were supported by their church family and that God had a plan for them. “God has instrumented us to do this,” Vijay said. Within six months of attending First Baptist Columbia, Chelsea wanted to be baptized.

Offering Support to Families

For families like the Samsons, “this grant has done a lot,” Latha said. “When we are worried, that burden of finance is off our plate.”

The Samsons recently welcomed another daughter into their home, Layla. For those considering adoption, Vijay offers a challenge: “Why not you?”

256 children in foster care in South Carolina need adoption

Latha and Vijay Sampson are recipients of SCBaptist’s adoption grant.



17,625

inmates received a Prisoner Packet

The Gospel at Work Behind Prison Walls

New Heights Baptist Church is located just five minutes from the Kirkland Correctional Institution, a maximum-security prison in Columbia, SC. “What a perfect opportunity to be involved in ministering to inmates,” Richard Flemming Jr., pastor of New Heights Baptist Church, said.

Across the state, SCBaptists are part of a growing effort to reach incarcerated individuals. The largest collaboration occurs at Christmas through Prisoner Packets. Last year, volunteers packed 17,625 Prisoner Packets that included hygiene items, writing utensils, candy, and a devotional booklet.

Consistency in Creating Inroads

Although Prisoner Packets are a seasonal ministry, SCBaptists are also regularly serving prisons in the state. Flemming joined a visit to Kirkland with hopes of launching a ministry from New Heights Baptist Church. During his visit, he sat in with JumpStart, an in-prison program designed to help those incarcerated live out God’s purpose. “I was greatly impressed by the hunger for God’s Word,” he said.

Although seasonal ministries are important, Flemming emphasized that effectiveness comes from consistency, and he hopes for New Heights to have a regular presence at Kirkland. Jon Jamison, Serve Team Leader at SCBaptist, echoed this idea, sharing that ongoing presence allows relationships to be built. “Ministering to the vulnerable not only serves them, but it also begins to change your church,” Jamison said.

For both Flemming and Jamison, there is an understanding that ministry today can shape the communities of tomorrow. Flemming emphasized that those in prison are image-bearers in need of the Gospel. “The ultimate goal is for them to finish their sentence, rejoin society, and be a witness for Jesus,” Flemming said.

Left: Volunteers pack Prisoner Packets for delivery to every inmate in the state. Right: Packets include items like hygiene products, candy, and a devotional booklet.

A Decade of Serving with Heart4School

The Heart4Schools partnership between Riverbluff Church and Oakbrook Elementary School in North Charleston, SC, began with one church member.

After learning about the need for literacy development in her area, she realized that Reading Buddies was a way to meet tangible needs. Other members faithfully joined in, meeting weekly to read with students who were identified as needing additional reading help.

The partnership continued to blossom, as Michell Witman, Director of Children's Ministry at Riverbluff, and her team continued to ask, "How can we help?" Witman said, "That whole first year was just about building trust."

Continued Partnership

Now ten years into their partnership, "we went from showing up and doing ministry to doing true soul care," Witman said. Riverbluff supports the school in many ways, from aiding with food insecurity and community food distributions to encouraging teachers through prayer partners and staff meals.

School Counselor Cari Lawson said, "The relationship with Riverbluff has been a game-changer. Riverbluff has given us the opportunity to get the resources that we need."

For Riverbluff, this ministry is just one way they are addressing lostness in their community. What began with one woman's obedience has grown into a decade-long testimony of living out the Gospel locally, showing what is possible when a church commits to loving a school like family.

54% of South Carolina schools (653) have an SCBaptist church partner

Lowcountry C.A.R.E.S. Ministries, a non-profit created by Riverbluff Church in 2002, provides a monthly food distribution to the community.



Starting Churches

Every church was once a new church, and each church has a role to play in starting new churches. We start churches because the local church is the body of Christ, extending the love of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every community in South Carolina. We are not merely observers but active participants in this Great Commission advance.

BY THE NUMBERS

42

funded church plants

238

baptisms at SCBaptist church plants

36

existing churches trained to plant

35

future church planters in progress



Churches Partner to Reach Greenville with the Gospel

Redeemer City Church was born out of Pastor Philip Smith's obedience to the Lord.

Smith and his core team began meeting in 2021 to develop a ministry plan. After considering various cities, Smith felt the Lord call him to Greenville. "It is a context that is over-churched and underreached. The number of healthy churches helps frame the spiritual need of the city," Smith said.

In a time of need, cooperation led to lasting fellowship. Praying for a meeting space in Greenville, Smith met Alex Sands of Kingdom Life Church in Simpsonville, SC. Sands, a former church planter, allowed Redeemer City to meet in Kingdom Life rent-free. This kindness permitted Redeemer City to build a solid foundation as a church body in the early days of the church plant. "We want to be a blessing to our city, and we were blessed, and now we can pass that along," Sands said.

A Lasting Partnership

The partnership between Redeemer City and Kingdom Life proved to be mutually beneficial.

After the COVID-19 pandemic, the addition of a vibrant, excited congregation encouraged the staff of Kingdom Life. Additionally, Redeemer City had a space for the first year and a half. "Our dream is to do the same thing that Kingdom Life did for us with another church plant," Smith said.

The churches have enjoyed a lasting partnership. During an ice storm in 2024, the churches supported each other. Both churches are training and discipling the next generation of church-planting pastors.

"We need more disciple-making, Kingdom-minded churches, which means we need more church plants. I am thankful for the help of SCBaptists in this process. We can do more together than we can do separate," Sands said.

42 funded church plants

Philip Smith prays over the congregation at Redeemer City Church.



36 existing churches trained to plant

Residency Program Sparks Church Planting in the Lowcountry

“We’re the least church-ed area in the state,” Brett Myers, pastor of First Baptist Church Hilton Head Island, said. To combat this concerning knowledge, the church started a church planting residency. After attending this program, Geoff Lawson launched Grace Bible Church in Bluffton, South Carolina.

Lawson shared that the residency prepared him to plant Grace Bible Church. “The process of that residency equipped me for a lot of things that I didn’t know,” he said.

After pursuing a law degree and working at a law firm, Lawson was encouraged to follow his calling into ministry after the passing of a mentor. “Life is too short not to be doing what God has called you to do,” he said.

Launching Grace Bible Church

Through Lawson’s partnership with First Baptist Hilton Head and the Savannah River Baptist Association, Grace Bible Church launched September 2024. “For 10 years, I prayed that God would send me to seminary, and he did. Since then, he trained me up, and then he put it on my heart to plant, and he’s doing it,” Lawson said.

They are already seeing the fruit of their labor. Four new believers came to faith and were baptized at Grace Bible Church. Seeking to expand outreach, the church has a recovery ministry and engages students on the University of South Carolina’s Beaufort campus. “Our hope is to grow our relationships with people in the community, reach the lost, and create disciples,” Lawson said.

Left: Geoff Lawson baptizes a student at Grace Bible. Right: Grace Bible Church meets for Sunday evening services.



North Augusta Church Planter Reaches Neighbors

On February 23, 2025, James Choi held the first worship service of Crossings Church in North Augusta. In 2024, Choi felt the call from the Lord to live more intentionally with his neighbors by church planting. Supported by SCBaptists, Choi began the process.

“In the last year, God stirred up the desire to church plant. I did a church planting residency in Georgia, and I felt like the best step was to plant in the Central Savannah River Area,” Choi said.

Welcoming Diversity

The Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) comprises around 20 counties in the Augusta area of both Georgia and South Carolina. An ethnically diverse region, the CSRA is home to families of different backgrounds. Choi, reflecting on his testimony, approached these demographics as an opportunity to put into action the lessons the Lord had taught him.

“I felt like that was how God uniquely made me, being a minority people group in my heritage, that I could reach other people that felt like me,” Choi said.

Choi advises planters to embrace their God-given qualities. Since most people have felt outcast at some point, Choi believes that potential church members will be drawn into a church that seeks community.

“It starts with representation. It’s a balance between being intentional while also being authentic. The future of church planting is an openness to receive people who have different visions and callings,” Choi said.

35 future church planters in progress

James Choi prays over newly baptized believers.



One Family

The Great Commission isn't the mission of one church or a single believer. It's a joint mission that we fund collectively through the Cooperative Program.

9,300+

students were enrolled in our three universities: North Greenville University, Anderson University, and Charleston Southern University

30,323

college students engaged by a Baptist Collegiate Ministry

289

SCSent Ones serving with the International Mission Board with 31 newly appointed

\$105 Million

given through the Baptist Foundation of South Carolina to Baptist ministries in South Carolina since 1950

**each church
every life**





34 Palmetto Collective graduates now serve full-time in church plants in North America or with the International Mission Board

GenSend's Launch Pad for a Life on Mission

Kate Saunders watched out the plane window in anticipation as she neared Salt Lake City. She had served there the summer of 2023 with GenSend, a North American Mission Board program that sends young adults to Gospel-hungry locations in partnership with church plants. Returning for spring break, she couldn't wait to see the people and place she had grown to love. "I've never felt this sense of homecoming before," she remembers. That feeling of belonging and evangelistic purpose led her to commit to Utah as her new home after graduating from Charleston Southern University in December 2024.

Her two summers with Redemption Church North Davis challenged her ideas of what it means to serve the local church and live on mission. "Even with fear of the unknown, you never doubt it's the right decision," she said.

On Mission in Utah

Jake Thompson also served with GenSend in Utah. "I'm an adventurer," he said. "I love to see

new places and have new experiences." GenSend's model encourages independence. "You're basically given a map, a Bible, and you're parachuted down into a place," Thompson explained.

Each week followed a rhythm: two-thirds ministry, one-third rest. Students hosted community outreach nights, had Gospel conversations, and served church plants. "Every day you're learning something new," Saunders said.

Living missionally in a heavily Latter-Day Saints context made the Gospel stand out. "They saw our sacrifice for each other," Thompson said. For Saunders, the calling is clear: "If you are a believer, you are a missionary."

Her advice for others is straightforward: "Do it. People need to know him, and no one's out there to do it."

Left and Right: GenSend students serve in Utah.

North Greenville University Teaches Missional Living

Born and raised in Miami, Florida, Victoria Azurdia's "understanding of the Gospel was very skewed," she said, "until I had the Gospel preached to me faithfully through a youth group."

Through that youth group, Azurdia accepted Christ and continued to grow in her faith, eventually desiring to attend a Christian university. She was struck by the fact that the only building on North Greenville University's (NGU) campus open 24 hours was the prayer chapel. "This campus really prioritizes faith, and I wanted to pursue that," she said.

Discipled and Sent

Now a senior majoring in political science, Azurdia said that she came into NGU as a "bare bones believer." New to the faith, NGU provided a place to be discipled and learn how to live missionally. With aspirations to become a lawyer, NGU "reinforced the idea that I can use my passion and my desire to go into law or policy for the sake of the Gospel by doing good work."

That same idea of missional living was strengthened by her time in SCBaptist's Palmetto Collective, where students are regularly asked where is the "most

strategic place to be for Jesus after graduation?" Azurdia emphasized how formative the experience has been for her in growing her understanding of missions and in forming a community of like-minded believers. Through a trip to Utah, she spent two months working alongside a church plant, which gave her a "passion for the LDS people and wanting the Gospel to reach them."

Now serving as an intern for the ERLC and preparing for her senior year, Azurdia carries with her a deepened faith, a passion for missions, and a calling to live strategically for the sake of the Gospel, wherever her path may lead.

9,300+

students were enrolled in our three universities: North Greenville University, Anderson University, and Charleston Southern University

Azurdia volunteers on campus encouraging students to pursue missions.





ONE FAMILY

BCMGO Summer Missionaries Serve at Connie Maxwell

“Serving at Connie Maxwell with BCMGO has been a huge blessing,” Tania Peterson and Sydney Mikkelson said.

BCMGO, a missions mobilization initiative, partners with churches and mission organizations to foster a culture of missions among the next generation of Christian leaders. This summer, 57 students were mobilized from campuses across South Carolina to Madagascar, France, London, North Africa, Thailand, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Utah, and South Carolina.

Located in Greenwood, SC, Connie Maxwell Children’s Ministries (CMCM) partners with BCMGO to accept two summer missionaries who build relationships and minister to the students in CMCM’s care.

A Transformational Summer

Throughout the summer, Peterson and Mikkelson worked alongside the church staff of Connie Maxwell Baptist Church and CMCM to participate in camps, retreats, day trips, and Vacation Bible School, swimming, horseback riding, ropes course, and more. “Even though some days were hard, we

saw that just being there and showing love made a big difference.”

Chad Stillwell, SCBaptist Share Team Leader, emphasized that this sending effort is only possible because of South Carolina Baptists who have taught the next generation about the priority of obeying Jesus. “These young men and women are on fire for Jesus and eager to share the life-changing hope found only in Jesus,” Stillwell said.

For Mikkelson and Peterson, the experience taught them about ministry in action. “We feel more confident in the ways God can use us,” they said. “This summer, we’ve seen how saying ‘yes’ to God doesn’t just bless others—it transforms us from the inside out.”

817

college students mobilized on short-term mission through BCMGO and Palmetto Collective

Students spend time at Connie Maxwell’s Equestrian Center.

Called, Confirmed, and Sent to Serve

Grace Bedenbaugh says her calling to student ministry began as a high school junior during her first year at Summit, SCBaptist's leadership experience for students. "I've continually wrestled with the weight of that calling, realizing it's something greater than myself."

A native of Gilbert, SC, Bedenbaugh served as a student ministry intern at Lake Murray Baptist Church. For her, middle and high school were very formative years. "I was discipled and mentored in a way that forever changed the trajectory of my life," she said. "Now I feel called to pour that same Christ-centered love into other students."

Her internship at Lake Murray provided hands-on experience in leadership and discipleship. "I've been stretched and continually reminded that ministry cannot be done in my own strength, but only through dependence on the Lord," she said.

Ministry in Practice

Now entering her sophomore year at Anderson University, Bedenbaugh's involvement in Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) has helped confirm her

calling further. "Through my involvement in BCM, one of my leaders invited me to serve at a DNOW weekend," she shared. "That experience was a powerful reminder and confirmation from the Lord that student ministry is where my heart truly belongs."

She emphasized that SCBaptist has played a large role in shaping her faith and helping her grow. "Through experiences like Summit, CONVERGE, and SummerSalt, I've been challenged to live on mission and encouraged to pursue a life fully surrendered to the Lord."

284 campers called to ministry at an SCBaptist camp

Bedenbaugh takes part in a skit during Lake Murray's Vacation Bible School.





From Camp La Vida to the Nations

“Camp La Vida opened my eyes to missions,” Grace McGuire said. McGuire grew up in a SCBaptist church in Irmo, SC, and attended Camp La Vida each summer growing up. “Every summer throughout elementary school, I would come here. And it’s funny because I’d always get so homesick,” she laughed.

But through missions education at Camp La Vida, a desire grew. Camp La Vida hosts over 1,200 girls of all ages each summer, where participants get to learn about real missionaries by meeting them and hearing about other cultures. “Hearing the stories that God was doing all around the world—it opened my eyes to mission work,” she said. “Every summer I would come back like, ‘Yeah, I want to do missions.’”

Following God’s Call

That calling resurfaced later in high school, when her family adopted her brother. He was living with medical missionaries while awaiting open-heart surgery. “They were using their medicine to help

kids in need and share the good news.” McGuire realized she could combine her desire to be a nurse with her calling to missions.

After college, she served as a missionary in North Africa. McGuire served medically in underserved communities and often shared the Gospel, but responses were challenging.

Still, she pressed on. “The Lord reminded me we’re called to plant the seeds,” she said. Now preparing for seminary, McGuire is eager to return long-term. “I want people to know the joy of the Lord and the life that is found in him,” she said.

23 campers called to mission service this summer at Camp La Vida

Left: Missionaries teach campers about missions at Camp La Vida. Right: Campers enjoy outdoor activities.

Partnering with Seed Financial to Advance the Kingdom

When Capstone Church in Fountain Inn began running three worship services each Sunday, they knew something had to give. The congregation was growing fast, but their space wasn't. That's when they called Seed Financial Services.

"We are grateful for the partnership with Seed Financial," said Chris Barrineau, Capstone's Executive Pastor. "Seed allowed us to start Phase 1 of our 'Advance the Kingdom' effort."

That first phase—funding sidewalks, green space, and parking—has already been paid off. Now, with a new loan, Capstone is beginning construction on a multi-purpose building designed to host both worship and recreation. Capstone believes the space won't just be a church, but a tool in the hands of believers.

Helping Churches Advance

Since its launch in 2022, Seed Financial Services, a subsidiary of the Baptist Foundation of South Carolina, has come alongside dozens of churches with a unique mission: provide financial tools with ministry at the heart.

Nathan McCarthy, President and CEO of the Baptist Foundation, says Seed Financial is built to be a ministry, not just a lender. "Our primary goal is to help churches ensure they are in a healthy financial position to manage a building program that is within their ability to pay down debt as expediently as possible," he said.

Whether it's site prep in Fountain Inn, a children's wing in Inman, or a permanent home in Chesnee, Seed Financial isn't just funding buildings—it's helping build spaces where the Gospel can take root and grow.

\$105 Million

has been given through the Foundation to Baptist ministries in South Carolina since 1950

View Church gathers to pray over their new worship center.





ONE FAMILY

Baptist Courier Providing Timeless Truth for Every Generation

Walk down the steps into the basement of The Baptist Courier and you'll find a Linotype printer and publications from the late 1800s and early 1900s. Within those pages you'll find ads for 20 cent apple trees and Bible commentaries for \$10. But most notably you'll find Scriptures, devotionals, and news regarding South Carolina Baptist churches.

While The Baptist Courier no longer uses a Linotype printer, they still serve SCBaptists and beyond by informing, instructing, and inspiring believers with faith-based news, Christian resources, and biblical teaching.

Practical Encouragement

Pastors across the state are grateful for the resources it brings to their churches. Former pastor, Dan Griffin said, "I consider the Courier a valuable resource for discipleship, teaching church members what it means to follow Christ in today's world."

The Baptist Courier also serves as a personal encouragement. Cheryl Stokes said, "I enjoy

reading stories about how God is working in daily lives."

Dwayne Evans, pastor of Asaville Baptist Church in Anderson echoed this. "I am so encouraged by the articles keeping me up to date with what God is doing through the SBC not only statewide, but all around the world," he said.

Jeff Robinson, President and Editor-in-Chief, said, "The Baptist Courier will continue to produce Christ-centered, biblically-faithful resources to encourage healthy churches, pastors, and followers of Jesus Christ."

23,500

homes receive the Baptist Courier in print

The Courier hosts "Courier Conversations" podcast.





each church
every life

Generation Timothy

I was six years old when God saved me. I know for some this will seem a young age, and I admit that it was. However, I still remember feeling the weight of my sin against God and the overwhelming relief that in Jesus, God would save me from it and secure for me eternal life with him. My pastor-Dad led me in a prayer of repentance and faith in Jesus that October evening in 1988, then he baptized me the following Sunday. When I reflect on that day, Jesus' own words cut through any thoughts of hesitation that threaten my assurance: "Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it," (Luke 18:17). Throughout my teenage years, when I doubted my salvation, the Holy Spirit would take me back to that very evening. Either God accomplished my salvation in his time and on his own merit, or he did not. I learned to rest in simple faith that he did.

That wasn't the only life-changing spiritual event that happened in my life that day. I did not technically acknowledge a call to vocational ministry until later in life, but it was on that same cool October evening that I have come to believe God called and appointed me to ministry. It sounds silly now, but I remember vividly how that calling came about. I had stepped on a shard of glass while romping barefoot through the country ditches, and it sliced my foot open at the bottom. I'm sure it wasn't as dramatic as what now lives in my memory. But as I hopped and limped across the fields and back to the house, the glass became a metaphor for how sin, through the devils' deception, had invaded my life and wounded me deeply, painfully. My only hope was to get back home to my father who could clean and bandage the wound and comfort me in his strong arms. I shared the little sermonette with my dad while he dressed the gash and soothed the pain. When I got to the end of my message, he

smiled affirmingly and said, "That'll preach."

You never know how God is working in the minds and hearts of young people, or older people for that matter. In the smallest of moments on the unlikeliest of days, his calling invades our thoughts and invites our lifelong obedience. A quick fishing trip becomes an opportunity for adventurous self-abandonment (Mark 1:16–18). A routine day at work becomes an invitation to lifelong mission (Mark 2:13–14). A quick brush in a busy crowd becomes the life-changing encounter you were not sure was possible (Mark 5:25–34). You get the picture. We who follow the risen Christ have learned not to despise the day of small things, because the foundation of something great is often laid imperceptibly to all but the Holy Spirit (Zechariah 4:6–10).

At any given moment, about 10% of cooperating SCBaptist churches are searching for a pastor. Let that sink in. The statistics are the same across the SBC. In the Palmetto State, this amounts to about 60,000 shepherdless SCBaptists (or, 540,000 South Carolinians living in communities where the church has no spiritual leader in their local Baptist church). Fewer and fewer students in Baptist universities and seminaries express a call to the pastorate. Today, more pastors are 65 or older than are 40 or younger. When it comes to the intergenerational reproduction of qualified, capable, and called pastors in our Baptist churches, what we have is a missing middle, a diminishing pipeline, and a congregational crisis. The state of candidacy for other ministry positions is similar. Qualified and capable men and women appointed and called by God for vocational ministry are simply not being equipped and positioned in keeping with the need for their service within our churches.

Here's what I believe: God has called and appointed more SCBaptists to vocational ministry than have answered that call in faith and obedience as of yet. He is working in the minds and hearts of children and youth right now to prepare them for and call them to the adventurous and fulfilling life of vocational ministry in their day. They may be your children or your children's children. Or you may have brushed shoulders with them in your age-graded ministries, at VBS and summer camps, or in the hallways of your Heart4Schools engagements. Some are likely candidates, but others are the last we might choose if the choosing were our prerogative. Even as you read this article right now, David is wrestling bears in the field, Jeremiah's bones are burning with mission-critical urgency, Josiah is ascending to a level of responsibility beyond his years, Mary is enduring hateful speech for simply trusting God, and Timothy is casually feasting on volumes of biblical truth while bouncing on the knees of Lois and Eunice.

I also believe God is working in the minds and hearts of SCBaptist adults right now, calling them to vocational ministry as well. They are deacons, Sunday School teachers, life group leaders, and greeters, but God has more for them. They are on your church's ministerial staff team, or volunteer leaders in its various ministry areas. Their current place of service is meaningful and vital to the health of the church. But for these, called out by God, the vocational leadership pipeline has become clogged by the debris of comfortable ministry service. Some of them were called and appointed by God long ago, but life got in the way; now they have comfortable jobs, busy homes, and established careers. But their hearts are burning within them, constantly suppressing the urgency of their calling and numbing its uneasiness with a variety of spiritually prescribed self-medication. Others are receiving that call from God for the first time late in life. Their calling is no less meaningful and no less urgent than those who have been running

from it for a long time. Today, Abram is negotiating Ur, Ruth is serving Naomi, Hezekiah is learning rhythms of faith under the oppressive godlessness of his father's disapproval, Paul is stumbling blind and hungry down to road to Damascus, and Luke is enjoying a comfortable living as a respected local physician. But God has more for them than this.

For the next five years, in addition to our normal ministry and mission assignments, your SCBaptist convention staff is devoting ourselves to the calling out, raising up, and sending out of pastors and church leaders, and we want you to join us. Look for timely initiatives, practical trainings, and helpful resources to come out as the months and years progress. Those of you who are pastors and ministers, look for that young person or that peer who is serving the Lord faithfully and on whom God's hand clearly rests. Take the initiative to say, "I see in you a heart for God and a devotion to his church, and I would like to help draw that out." They have been called by God. It's time they are called out by us.

In engaging the pastorless problem alone (besides other ministry staff positions), if every cooperating SCBaptist church called out and released just one pastor in the next 24 months, we would solve the pastorless problem on the East Coast.

See them. Encourage them. Disciple them. Call them up. And send them out. To this effort we are committing our time, energy, and prayers. Will you join us?



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

Cooperative Program: 100 Years and Beyond



2025 is the centennial anniversary of the Cooperative Program. Over \$20 billion has been given through this unified Southern Baptist missions-funding strategy since its inception—over \$1.3 billion of it flowing through the hearts and hands of SCBaptists. Hallelujah! But in every generation, the Great Commission success of SCBaptists, and Southern Baptists at large, is directly correspondent to the sacrificial generosity of our Baptist people through their Baptist churches. This shared mission will continue and enlarge only to the degree that SCBaptists in cooperating churches faithfully and sacrificially invest in it.

In 1925, just before the vote that would officially create the Cooperative Program, M.E. Dodd recognized the potential of a “unity of purpose and consecration” in their shared missions-funding proposal and called upon the Lord of the harvest for success: “May God help our people to see it.” Today, my prayer is the same. The harvest is plentiful, and the workers are few. We have been entrusted a Great Commission. We have made great commitments. We have before us a great opportunity. May God help our people to see it.

Dr. Tony Wolfe
Executive Director-Treasurer
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