

# 5 THE FIVE OBJECTIVES

*Celebrating a Decade of Ministry*

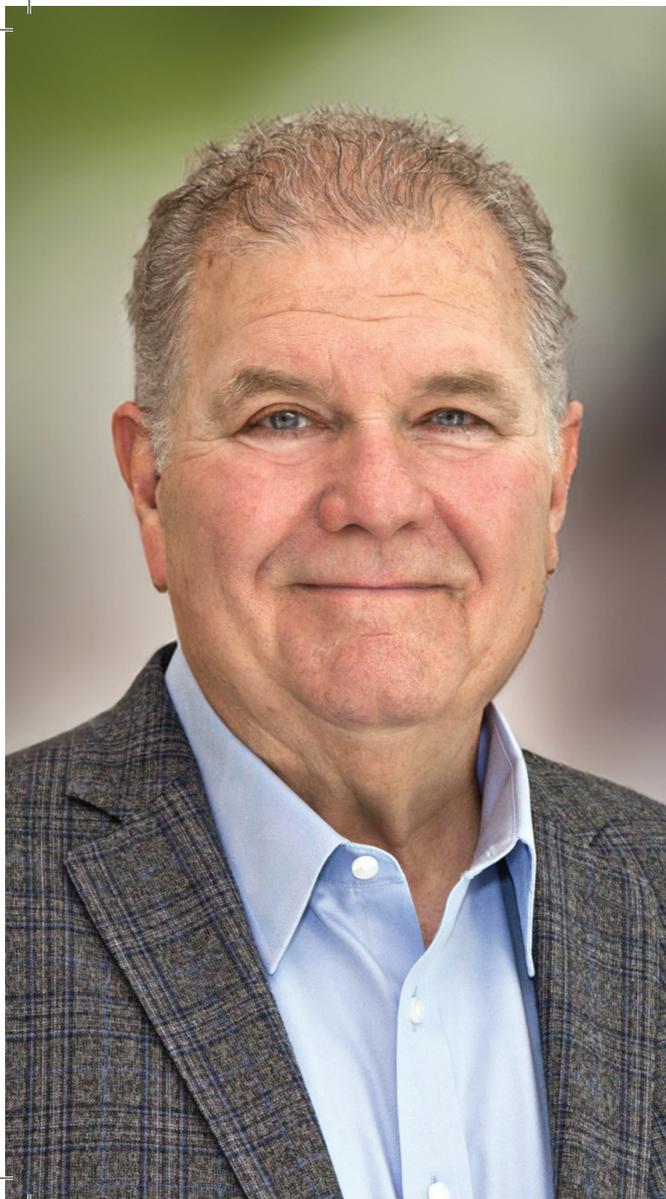






**5** THE  
**FIVE**  
**OBJECTIVES**

*Celebrating a Decade of Ministry*



Reflecting on Tennessee Baptists' Five Objectives, our hearts overflow with gratitude and awe. What started as a divine calling in 2014 has flourished into a powerful testament of faith, perseverance, and Christ's love. We celebrate the powerful work of God through our hands, which TBC churches have wholeheartedly embraced.

Paul's words in Philippians 1:6, "He who began a good work in you will complete it," have anchored us through trials and triumphs. We anticipated challenges, but with each one, God's faithfulness shone brightly, guiding and providing for us in unimaginable ways. Our mission has been filled with transformation stories. From Memphis to Mountain City, communities have been touched by the Gospel, lives renewed through service, evangelism, and missions, and hearts inspired with a passion for Jesus. Every goal and event we undertook is a testament to God's eternal purposes.

Unity and prayer taught us resilience. In uncertainty, shared goals gave us purpose, and prayer linked us to God's will, propelling us forward. Together, we've witnessed miracles, and for that, we glorify God.

Closing this chapter of Tennessee Baptist life, we eagerly anticipate the Acts 2:17 Initiatives. Concluding these Five Objectives marks a fresh start, reminding us that God's work is ongoing. What a remarkable adventure we're on together!

It is a joy to be with you on this journey!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy C. Davis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Randy Davis  
*President & Executive Director, TBMB*

In the spirit of perseverance and shared purpose, our journey through the Five Objectives in Tennessee has been a remarkable adventure.

From my early days as pastor of Indian Springs Baptist Church, I embraced the vision with excitement, not anticipating the invitation to lead this crucial initiative. As we rally towards what feels like the finish line, it's vital to remember that our mission doesn't end here; rather, it continues as a marathon for our churches and leaders. The key components—evangelizing, revitalizing, planting, giving, and going—remain at the forefront of our calling until Christ's return.

Throughout this decade-long journey, countless stories of collaboration have emerged: lives transformed, churches revitalized, and communities reached. We must ask ourselves, where do we stand in this race? Surrounded by witnesses and empowered by our Savior, we must take our place on the track.

With determination and unity, let's strive not only to finish but to win the race, pressing forward with the Good News of Jesus Christ, impacting the world with fervor and hope in our hearts.



Roc Collins  
*Strategic Objectives Director, TBMB*



# OBJECTIVE 1

*Seeing at least 50,000 Tennesseans annually saved, baptized, and set on the road to discipleship by 2024.*

2014  
23,217

2015  
22,134

2016  
20,124

2017  
20,545

2018  
19,066

2014-2023 Total Baptisms: 183,890

2019  
19,244

2020  
9,847

2021  
14,165

2022  
15,975

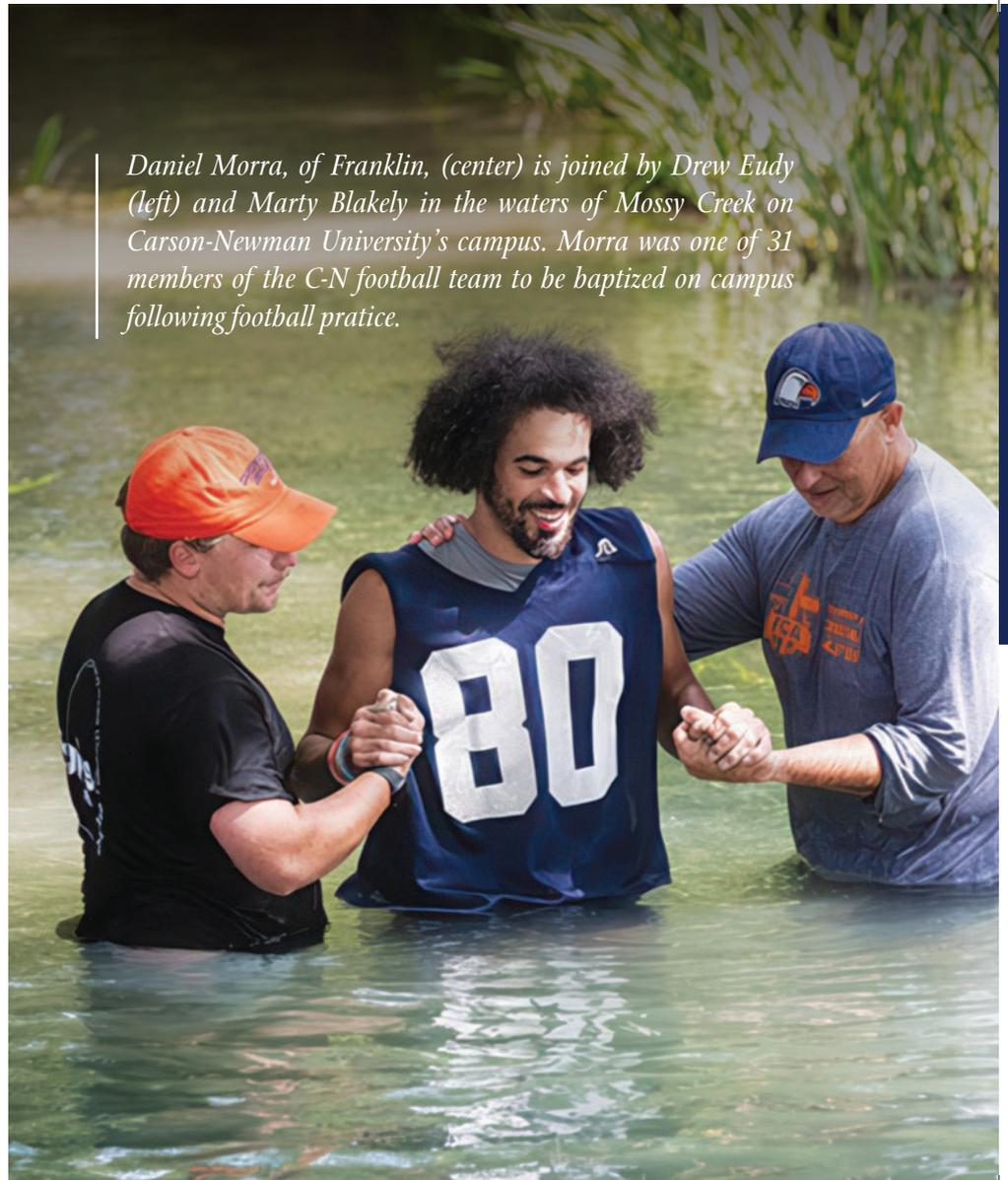
2023  
19,639

**A**t Carson-Newman University, 31 Eagles football team members were baptized in Mossy Creek, continuing a tradition that aligns with the university's mission. The event, witnessed by teammates, coaches, and the campus community, was led by local Christian leaders. This marks the largest group since the tradition began.

New head football coach Ashley Ingram emphasized the importance of spiritual growth alongside athletic achievement. He stated, "I told the guys today, that obviously, we want to win a lot of games, and we want to win championships, but we won the ultimate championship today."

The baptisms reflect the university's commitment to spiritual development, with previous similar events gaining significant social media attention.

*Daniel Morra, of Franklin, (center) is joined by Drew Eudy (left) and Marty Blakely in the waters of Mossy Creek on Carson-Newman University's campus. Morra was one of 31 members of the C-N football team to be baptized on campus following football practice.*



*Long Hollow senior pastor Robby Gallaty (left) assists Dylan, a former Satan worshiper who recently gave his life to Christ, in baptizing his friend Patricia, who had also worshiped Satan. — Photo courtesy of Jacob McKaig, Long Hollow Baptist Church*



Long Hollow Baptist Church experienced a remarkable wave of baptisms in early 2021, surpassing 1,000 by April 11. The church embraced spontaneous baptisms, allowing them to occur throughout services. Pastor Robby Gallaty attributes this movement to prayer and letting go of rigid structure.

“Every great movement of God begins with not moving,” Gallaty said, emphasizing the importance of stillness and listening to God. The church incorporates prayer services and remains open to divine interruptions.

The impact was significant, with 70-75 percent of baptisms representing first-time confessions of faith and 83 percent being adults. Some people traveled from other states to be baptized.

Gallaty believes this can happen anywhere: “I really believe that if all of us, as pastors, begin to press in and seek the Lord in prayer, calling out for God to move in our churches, that’s a prayer He’s going to answer.”

In a remarkable display of faith behind bars, 58 inmates at Sumner County Jail embraced a new beginning through baptism. This spiritual awakening, led by chaplain Danny Spano, marked the culmination of years of ministry from two neighboring churches.

“It was a beautiful thing, one of the highlights of my life,” Spano reflected.

The event united Long Hollow Church and First Baptist Hendersonville in a shared mission of transformation. From tear-filled responses to an Easter service to the unexpected surge of interest, this baptismal day became a powerful testament to hope and redemption within the jail’s walls.



*Danny Spano, pastor of member care and recovery at Long Hollow Church and Sumner County Jail Chaplain, baptized 58 inmates at the facility.*



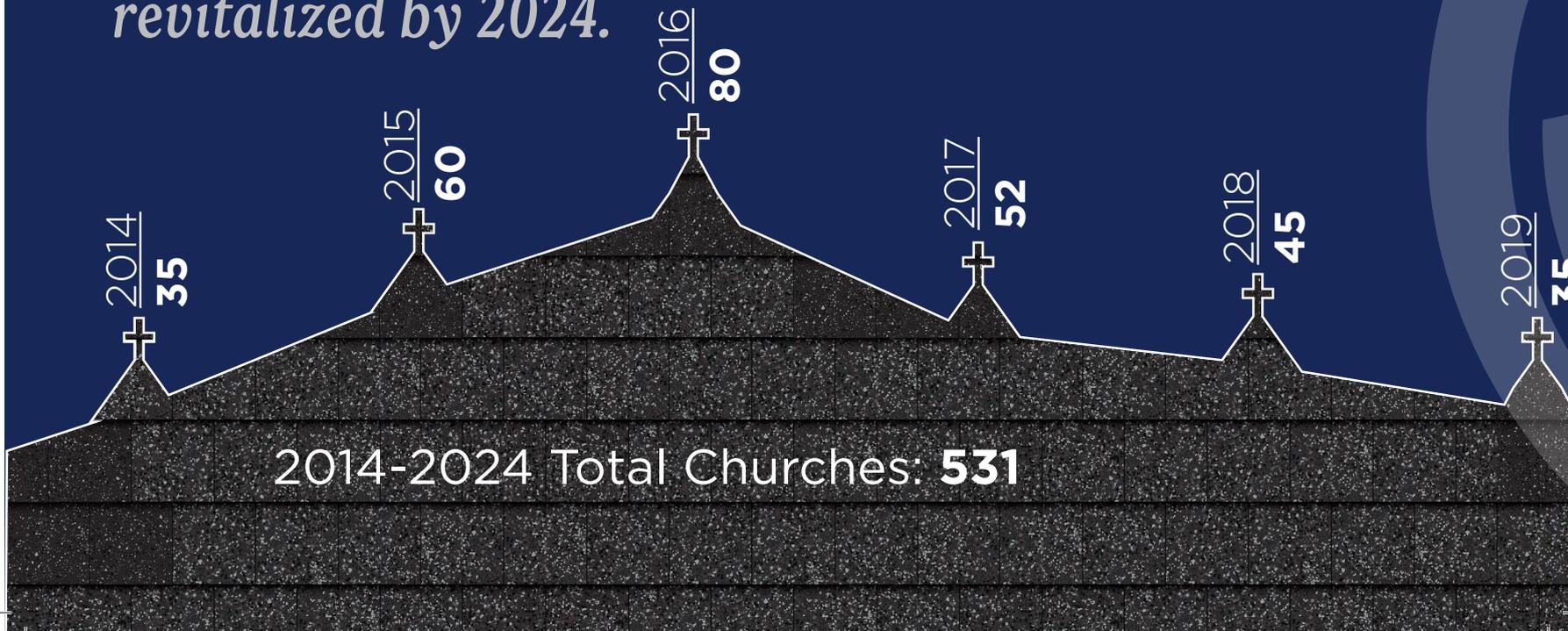
Wheelerton Baptist Church in Giles County, Tennessee is experiencing a spiritual revival, with baptisms surging from 6 in the past two years to 15 in the first half of this year, with 9 more scheduled. The church has embraced river baptisms in the Elk River as a tradition, which began in 2017. During a recent baptism event, four adults with no prior church connection came forward to be baptized.

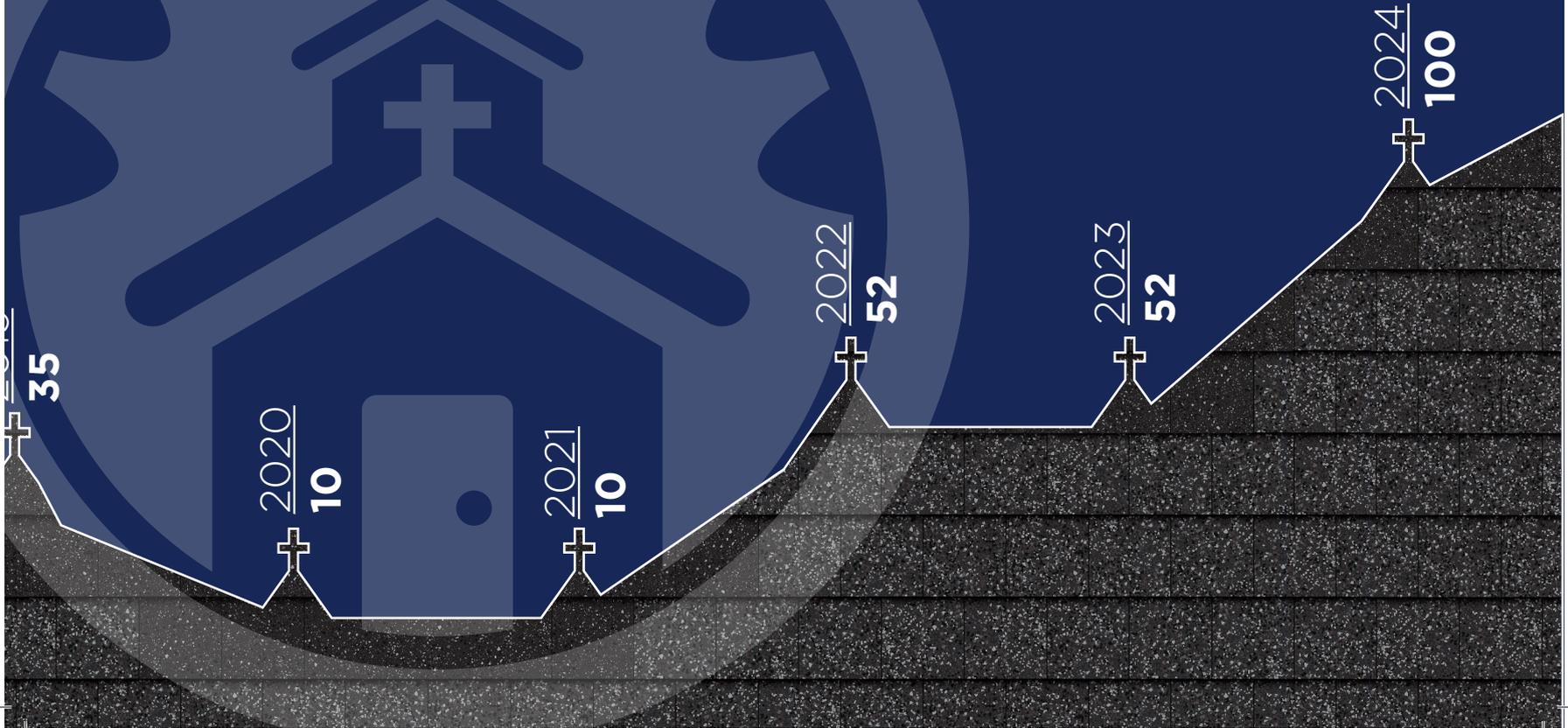
Pastor Paul Mason emphasizes the importance of evangelism, stating, “The purest priority of Christian faith is sharing our faith and reaching others.”

The church’s growth is attributed to community outreach efforts, including a successful Vacation Bible School that attracted 80 participants.

# OBJECTIVE (2)

*Having at least 500 Tennessee Baptist churches revitalized by 2024.*





35

2020  
10

2021  
10

2022  
52

2023  
52

2024  
100

**M**outh of Richland Baptist Church in Blaine, Tennessee, one of the state's oldest Baptist churches, has experienced a remarkable revival under the leadership of young pastors Nick Wright and Brad Bales. In 2018, the congregation had dwindled to fewer than 20 members, mostly elderly. Today, the church boasts a thriving community with 60 new members and 20 baptisms in just two years.

“The Lord just blessed us,” Wright reflected on their community outreach efforts.

*Even during the worldwide pandemic, Mouth of Richland Baptist Church in Blaine was able to baptize new believers. Pastor Nick Wright, left, and executive pastor Brad Bales, third from left, baptized new converts.*

The transformation wasn't just numerical. The pastors focused on spiritual growth, engaging younger families, and reestablishing the church's relevance in the community.

Deacon Bill Ramsey acknowledged the critical need for change: “We knew if we kept going in the same direction we would eventually have to close our doors.”

This revival story showcases how fresh leadership and a renewed focus on community engagement can breathe new life into struggling congregations.





A small country church in Iron City, Tennessee, averaging 40 attendees, has achieved the seemingly impossible by sponsoring a free youth camp for about 50 people annually since 2013. Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church, led by Pastor Dusty Malugen, has reached beyond its walls to impact the community.

“We thought we were too small, and then, how could we pay for it?” recalled church member Sherry Rich. “We just put our faith in God.”

The camp has resulted in over 80 salvation decisions and nearly 60 baptisms. Despite the costs, the church provides the camp at no charge to attendees.

“Even though we are a small church, God has blessed us,” said Kathryn Staggs, a camp volunteer. “No child or family has to pay a penny. There is nothing impossible with Him.”

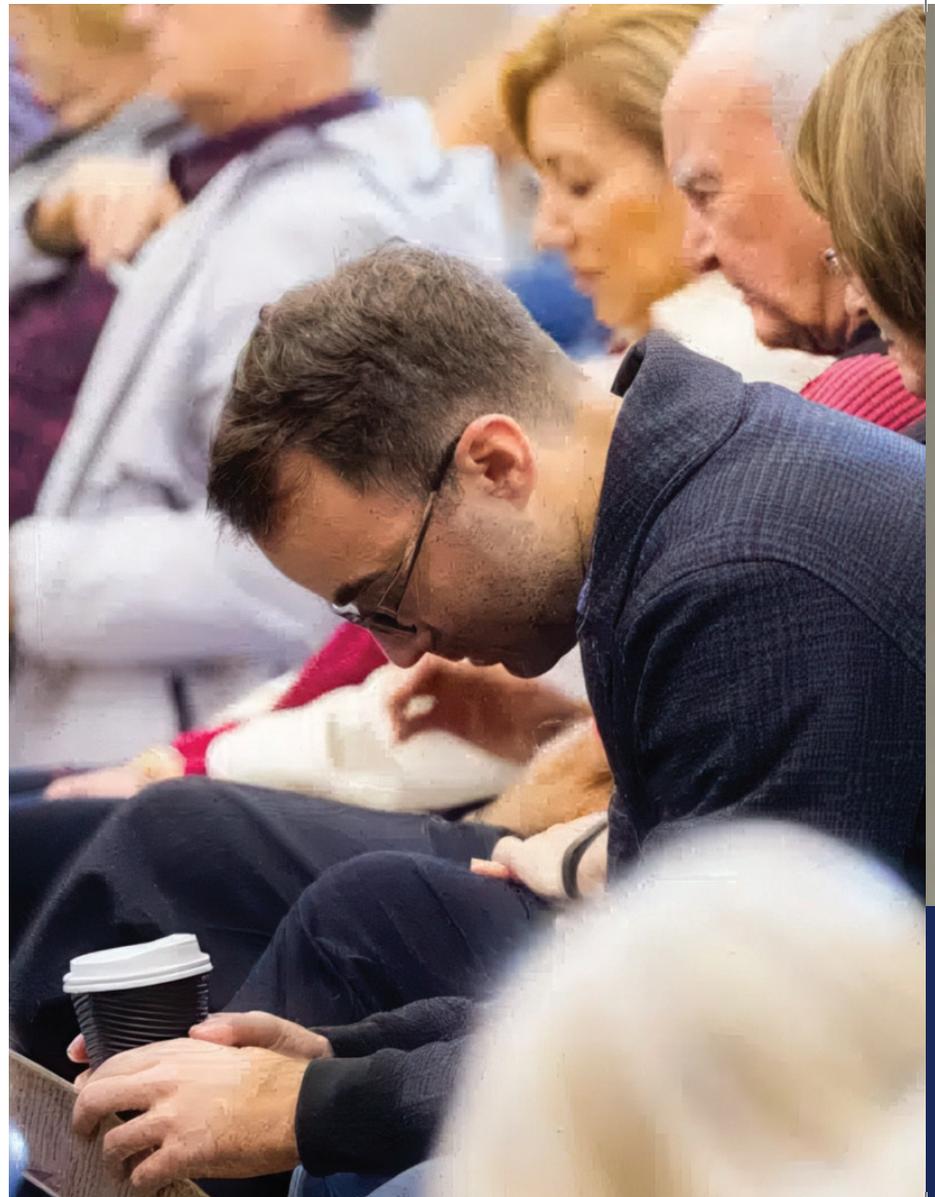
**L**ebanon Baptist Church in Talbott, Tennessee has experienced a remarkable turnaround under Pastor Charlie Brewer's leadership. After years of decline, the church embraced a revitalization plan, resulting in 10 baptisms in just nine months.

"It's just been a blessing to watch," Brewer said. "There's a great bunch of servants here. They love the Lord."

The church's renewed focus on community outreach included visiting 1,000 houses, distributing invitations, and starting a daily prayer ministry with local schools.

"We were missing our community," Brewer reflected. "We weren't reaching out... Making the gospel a priority is what we had to do."

A unified congregation, committed to evangelism, can reignite growth and impact those around them, making the church a relevant and necessary part of every community.





Pleasant View Baptist Church in Clarksville, Tennessee is experiencing revitalization under Pastor Jerry Jeter's leadership. Despite stable attendance numbers, the church has seen significant changes in its congregation's demographics and mission focus.

"We are a church on mission," Jeter said. "We are the body of Christ living out the mission He gave us."

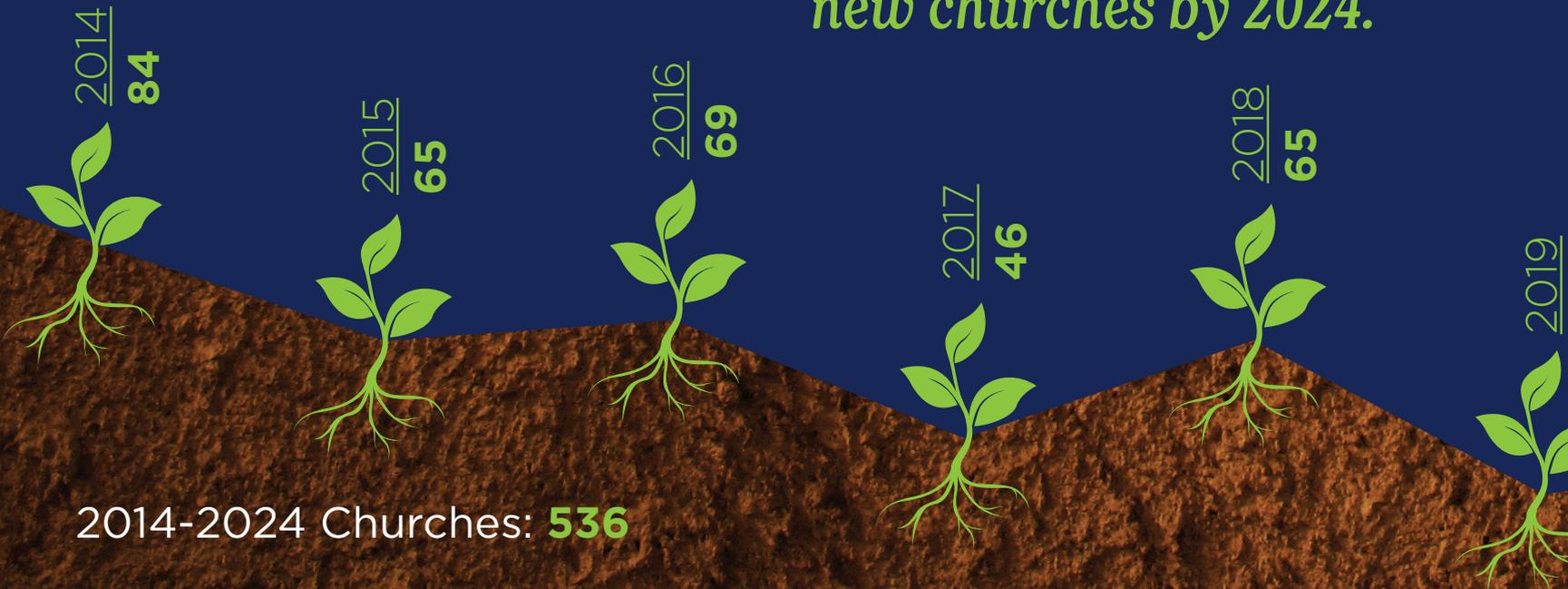
The church has increased its baptisms from an average of 11 to 24 per year. Missions involvement has grown, with members participating in trips and local outreach. New ministries have emerged, including pulpit supply and outreach to motorcyclists.

Rick Stevens, local director of missions, noted, "They have seen new people recognizing gifts and calling for ministry and they have been intentional about verbal witness."

*Churches across the state began seeing steps toward revitalization as they developed strategies and opportunities to re-engage their communities.*

# OBJECTIVE 3

*Planting and strategically engaging at least 1,000 new churches by 2024.*



2014-2024 Churches: **536**

2019  
**35**



2020  
**43**



2021  
**51**



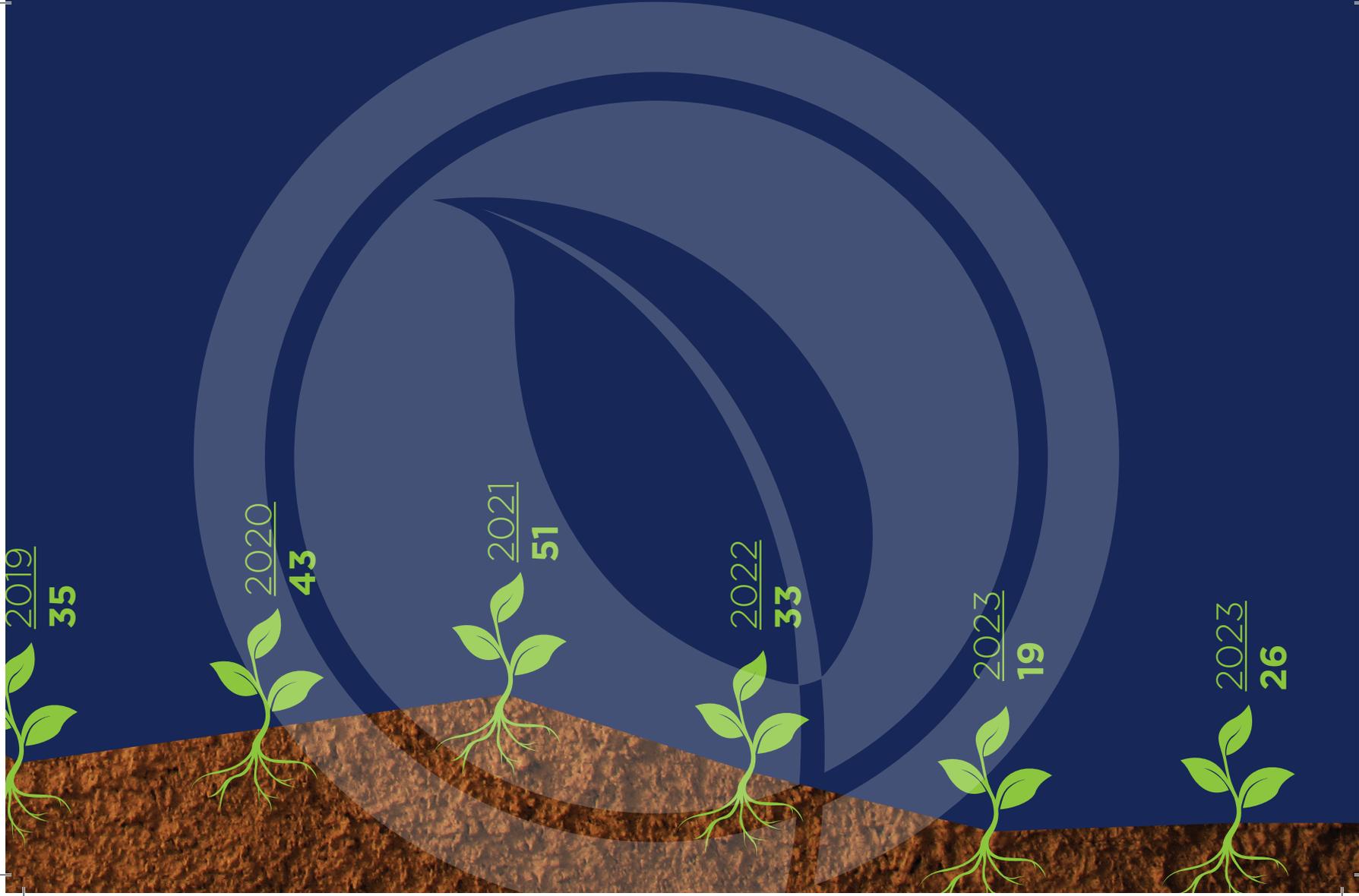
2022  
**33**



2023  
**19**



2023  
**26**



**B**lue Oval City, a massive Ford auto plant in Stanton, Tennessee, is spurring significant church planting efforts. The Tennessee Baptist Mission Board (TBMB) aims to plant 40 churches in the area over the next decade. Led by Lewis McMullen and Danny Sinquefield, the TBMB is conducting workshops, partnering with NAMB, and exploring potential church sites to prepare for the projected population growth of 92,000 within a 20-minute radius of Blue Oval City.

The TBMB is collaborating with local churches through the Blue Oval Coalition for outreach events and evangelism opportunities. Danny Sinquefield, Harvest Field One Team Leader for the TBMB, emphasizes the unity in these efforts:

“There is a growing spirit of unity and excitement among the churches in West Tennessee. Churches are meeting together to discuss ministry plans and how to minister to the workers and share the gospel in the RV parks where they live.”





A small country church in Iron City, Tennessee, averaging 40 attendees, has achieved the seemingly impossible. Steve Tiebout, founding pastor of The River Church in Cookeville, has led his congregation to birth or adopt 16 churches over 20 years. Despite initial plans to keep the church small by planting new churches regularly, The River grew to 1,200-1,400 attendees.

Tiebout emphasizes the need for new churches to reach newcomers, saying, “With all the people moving into Tennessee each year, churches who really want to reach people need to start new churches.”

Key advice for church planters includes building bridges with existing pastors, community involvement, and prioritizing prayer. Tiebout reflects, “We built The River on prayer. One of the first things we did was to pray and fast for seven days for everyone we knew, every lost person.”

The Tiebouts stress the importance of family involvement and enjoying the church planting journey.

First Baptist Church, Shelbyville, is launching an initiative to plant five ethnic churches in Bedford County over 15 years. Pastor Jeff Rasnick envisions using a church-owned building as an incubator for new congregations, focusing on the county's large Hispanic population. The church plans to start a new ethnic church every three years, aiming for each to become self-supporting within three years.

Rasnick emphasizes the importance of local missions: "We do missions all over the world, but if we are not willing to do missions across the street or in our own community, we won't be effective in anything we do."

The church unanimously approved this plan, demonstrating enthusiasm for local evangelism and church planting.

*By the end of the 10-year Five Objectives initiative, there was an increase in the number of churches that expressed interest in planting churches, especially among the more than 140 ethnic groups across Tennessee. First Baptist Church Shelbyville is one of those churches.*



# OBJECTIVE (4)

*Realizing an increase in annual local church giving through the Cooperative Program that reaches at least 10 percent by 2024*

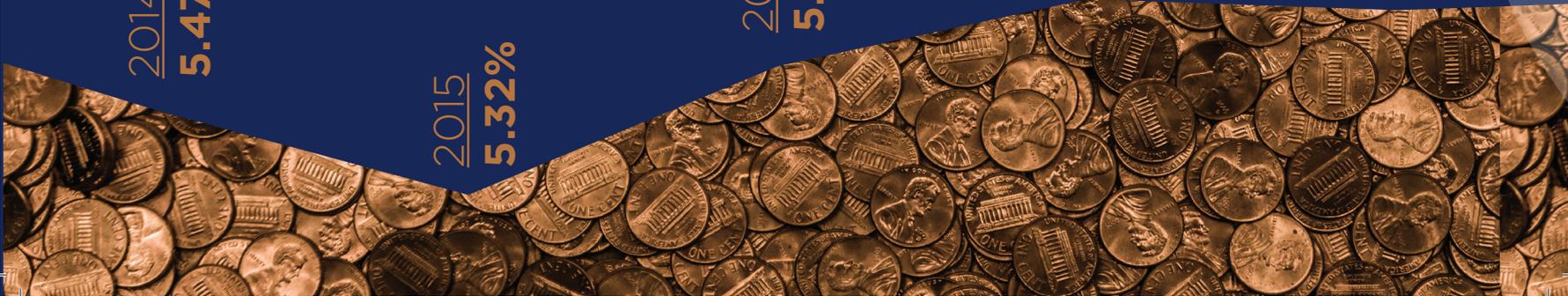
2014  
5.47%

2015  
5.32%

2016  
5.55%

2017  
5.67%

2018  
5.65%



2019  
**5.67%**

2020  
**5.67%**

2021  
**5.66%**

2022  
**5.54%**

2023  
**5.4%**

10-year total CP Giving  
by Tennessee Baptists:

**\$344,069,572**



First Baptist Church Hendersonville made history on August 11 by becoming the first Tennessee church to donate over \$1 million in a year through the Cooperative Program. This milestone coincided with Pastor Bruce Chesser's 15th anniversary. During Chesser's tenure, the church has given \$8,039,922 through CP, recorded 2,725 baptisms, and increased attendance by 1,079.

Dr. Chesser emphasized the significance of CP giving: "If you don't know what Cooperative Program means, that's how we support missions and evangelism and missionaries all across Tennessee and around the world. It's what supports thousands of missionaries and their families."

The church's record-breaking donation demonstrates its strong commitment to supporting Southern Baptist missions and ministries both locally and globally.

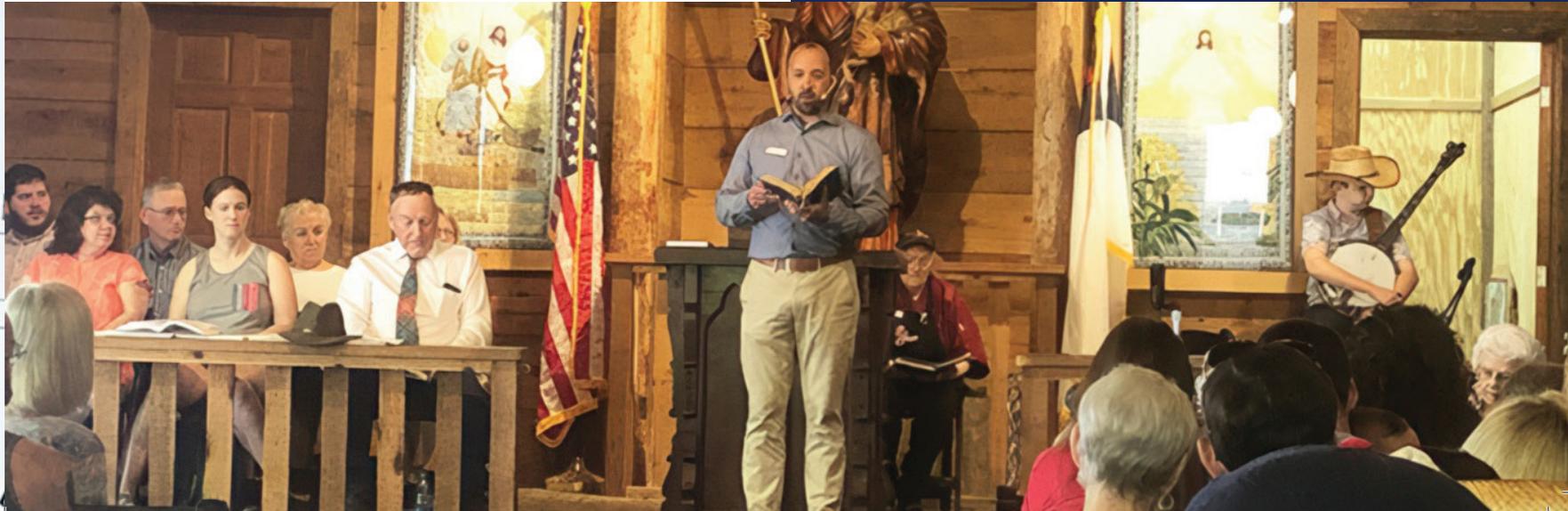


Joey Buck serves as the chaplain of Dollywood, providing ministry services to employees and guests at the popular Tennessee theme park. As a full-time employee, Buck leads weekly worship services at Robert F. Thomas Chapel, offers counseling, and conducts special Christmas services.

Buck's role combines traditional pastoral duties with unique opportunities for evangelism in a tourist-heavy environment. He greets hundreds of visitors each Sunday, forming brief but impactful connections. The park is one of only two in the country with an on-site chapel and the only one employing a full-time chaplain.

Buck credits his journey to Southern Baptist support: "It is because of the Cooperative Program and other ministries of our SBC churches that I found my way to this ministry," he said.

Despite the unconventional setting, Buck remains passionate about revealing God's presence to those who live, work, and play in the Great Smoky Mountains.



A devastating tornado struck Middle Tennessee on March 3, 2020, claiming 24 lives across four counties. In response, nearly 3,000 volunteers gathered in Putnam County alone to assist with debris removal and recovery efforts.

Randy C. Davis, president of the Tennessee Baptist Mission Board, encouraged Tennessee Baptists to “Pray for opportunities to present the gospel as we help people through some of the most difficult times they may have been through,” he said. “Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief is all about ministry to the hearts as well as to the hurts of people.”

Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief’s ability to serve those in need is made possible through Tennessee Baptists’ contributions to the Cooperative Program and the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions.

*Dave Charlton, left, BCM president at Tennessee Tech University and fellow Tech student Koti Medidhi move brush from a home in Cookeville that was damaged by the tornado on March 3.*



# OBJECTIVE 5

*Realizing an increase in annual giving for the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions that reaches at least \$3 million by 2024.*

2014  
**\$1,626,579**

2015  
**\$1,713,258**

2016  
**\$1,843,511**

2017  
**\$1,797,424**

2018  
**\$1,920,733**

2019

**\$1,726,219**

2020

**\$1,881,450**

2021

**\$2,227,363**

2022

**\$2,262,188**

2023

**\$3,128,219**

**104% - 10-year increase in GOTM giving**  
**\$20,126,944 - 10-year total giving through GOTM**



Forest Hills Baptist Church (Nashville) minister Chad Mize and Baptist collegiate minister Jonathan Chapman are dedicated to helping aspiring church leaders find ministry mentors. Working together, they aim to create a cycle where mentored students later mentor others, effectively addressing the declining pipeline of ministry leaders.

This process recently unfolded with Cole Rogers and Micah Stephens, demonstrating the “circle of ministry life.” Both were students at East Tennessee State University and involved in the Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM). Rogers, now BCM minister at Belmont, is from Forest

Hills and Stephens, now FHBC’s collegiate minister, both were a part of the ETSU BCM.

Chapman said evangelism, discipleship, the local church and BCM are connected through the financial generosity of Tennessee Baptists.

“As Tennessee Baptists give through the Cooperative Program and the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions,” Chapman said, “They make it possible for BCMs to disciple students and also to send them back out as leaders into the local churches here in Tennessee — and also around the world.”



*Leslie Strange, director of the Embrace Grace ministry at Judson Baptist Church, Nashville, leads a devotion for single mothers.*

**E**mbrace Grace provides crucial support to single women facing unplanned pregnancies by offering community, emotional support, and spiritual guidance to women who often feel isolated and overwhelmed.

The ministry at Judson Baptist Church in Nashville, led by Leslie Strange, exemplifies how local churches can create a safe space for women to connect, grow in their faith, and receive practical assistance.

Kiara Harris, a participant in the program, had considered abortion and even saved money for the procedure during her last pregnancy. However, she credits divine intervention for her change of heart: “What saved me was God. He works in so many mysterious ways. He stopped me from doing it (having the abortion) and led me to Leslie and Embrace Grace,” Harris said.

This ministry receives support from the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions, allowing it to reach more women across the state.

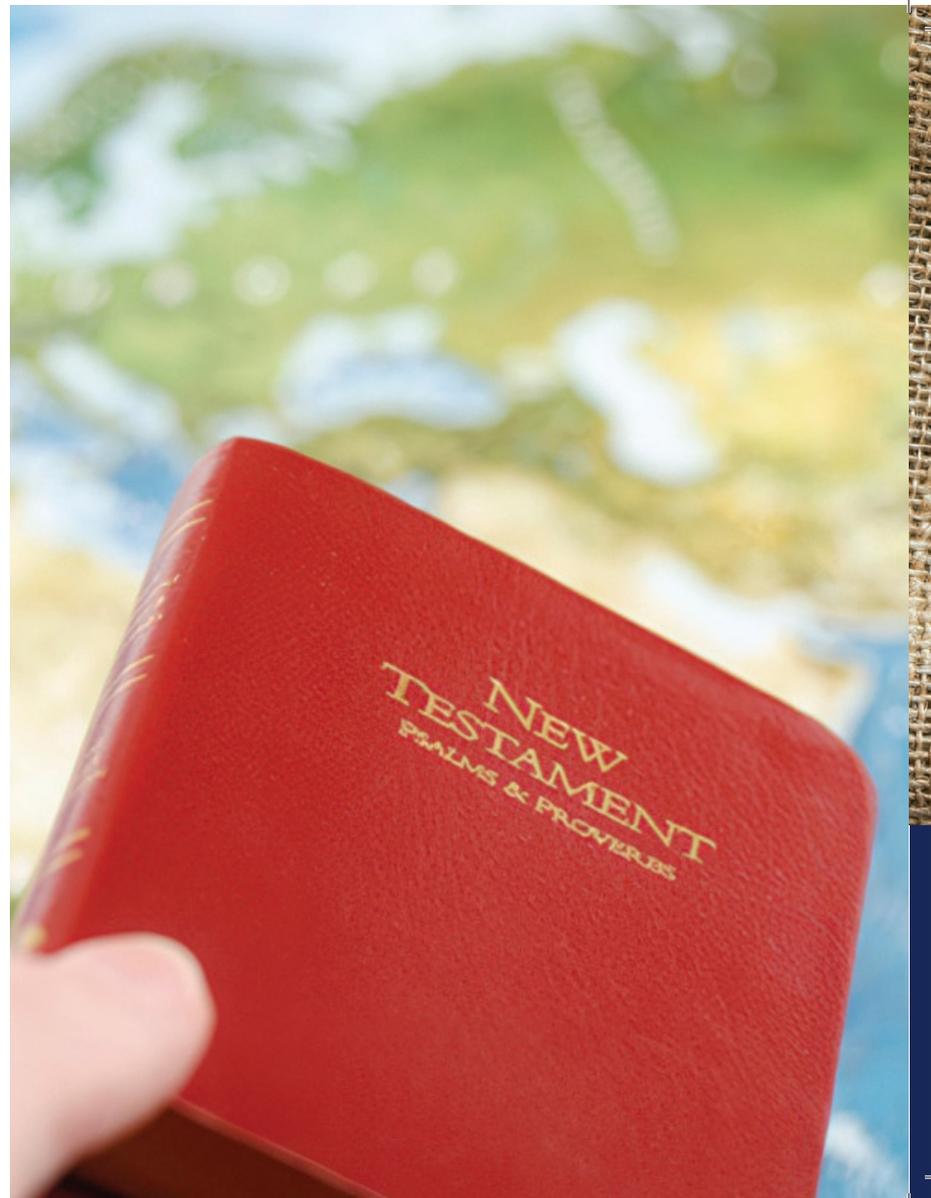
Beth Moore, TBMB compassion ministry specialist, underscores the importance of this support: “Because Tennessee Baptists give through the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions, we’re able to partner with churches that are serving single women across the state of Tennessee.”

**L**atif Salar, an Afghan and former Muslim, found Christ after encounters with Christians in India. He eventually made his way to the U.S. and in 2020, he planted the first Afghan church in Tennessee in Memphis.

Before coming to Memphis, Salar planted churches in India, Indonesia, and Australia, baptizing numerous converts from Iran and Afghanistan. His approach is modeled after the book of Acts, focusing on small group meetings and personal evangelism.

Salar's ministry also extends globally through broadcasts to Afghanistan via Facebook, YouTube, and satellite TV. He receives calls from people in Afghanistan, Iran, Tajikistan, and Europe, with many seeking Christ even though some callers risk Taliban persecution.

The Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions supports ethnic church plants like Salar's, enabling Tennessee Baptists to reach far corners of the Earth. Salar says, "Jesus is too real to me and to everyone who receives Christ. Why should I not share this?"





**RECOVERY**

**IS**

**POSSIBLE**

*The escalation of generous giving through the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions has enabled Tennessee Baptists to expand the reach of compassion ministry, church planting and support Baptist Collegiate Ministry across the state.*

**D**anniele Geer felt there was no way out. She was in jail, had tried every drug, had no home and “didn’t have nobody.” But through the work of Champion Recovery Christian Women’s Job Corp in Jasper, Geer is now holding down a job for the first time in 12 years and discovering the transformation only Jesus can bring.

Champion Recovery CWJC offers faith-based recovery support, focusing on sobriety, behavior modification, and evangelism. The program meets weekly, providing classes on recovery and life skills while connecting participants with local churches.

“As we change one woman’s life, we pray that will lead to changing a family, which leads to changing the community,” said Alyson Riley, executive director of Champion Recovery CWJC.

Support for this transformative ministry comes from the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions, enabling women like Geer to rebuild their lives through faith and community support.

**TMB** *Tennessee Baptist*  
**MISSION BOARD**

*Thank you Tennessee Baptists for your  
contribution to Kingdom work.*

