



SHARING HOPE & TRUTH



GOTM HIGHLIGHTS & TALKING POINTS

2021-2022 THEME: SAME JESUS. SHARING HOPE & TRUTH

STATEWIDE GOTM GOAL: \$2,100,000

SUGGESTED DATE FOR THE WEEK OF PRAYER: September 12-19, 2021

**SCRIPTURE: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Hebrews 13:8 ESV
"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" John 14:6 ESV**

Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions Highlights and Talking Points are provided to assist you as you prepare to share with your church about state missions and the Golden Offering. Whether you are preaching, teaching, or sharing with large or small groups, there is material here for you to pick from to help you put your notes together.

Tennessee Baptists are being encouraged through this year's state missions theme "Same Jesus. Sharing Hope & Truth" to:

- Pray and fast for the spiritually lost in our state.
- Pray that the hearts of Tennesseans will be opened so they will know of the hope of His calling.
- Share the grace and truth of the Gospel.
- Try new ways to reach out, meet needs, and connect with those around you - be creative, God is limitless.
- Work together to reach OUR mission field - Tennessee.
- Give thanks for WC & Mildred Golden who began the week of prayer and offering for state missions 120 years ago.
- Give God the glory for what He has done and will do.

The following information includes:

- Promotional Resources - list of the 2021 -2022 GOTM promotional videos and materials
- What is GOTM?- basic information and history about the state missions offering
- Make it Personal - ideas to make the Golden Offering more personal to your congregation or group
- Outline - a basic outline for sharing about state missions and the Golden Offering.

For more information and ideas, be sure to review the promotional resources.



1

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PROMOTIONAL RESOURCES

Printed materials available to order from Tennessee WMU

- "Same Jesus. Sharing Hope & Truth" Poster
- Offering Envelopes
- Prayer Guide for 2021-2022 Tennessee Missions Emphasis
- Faces of State Missions Brochure - *NEW*
- Cooperative Giving Brochure

Videos and resources available at GoldenOffering.org or on a DVD or flash drive from Tennessee WMU:

• Videos:

1. GOTM Overview (2:26)
2. GOTM Message from Randy Davis (2:43)
3. Thank You, Tennessee Baptists! (1:01)
4. What is the Golden Offering? (1:55)
5. Same Jesus (1:20)
6. Don't Just Sit There, Do Something: Riverview Baptist Church, Knoxville (4:13)
7. Standing for Life: Birth Choice Clinic of Gibson County (2:41)
8. Finding Opportunity to Serve: Montgomery Village Baptist Center, Knoxville (4:00)
9. Jesus is Unchanging Music Video (4:38)
10. GOTM Kids's Video (1:53)

• Print Files:

1. Planning & Promotion Guide
2. What is GOTM? flyer
3. Any Way You Slice It, Tennessee is a Mission Field flyer
4. Worship Tools - Skits/Readings
5. One Annual Missions Offering

• Digital Graphics for Promotion

• Social Media Graphics for Promotion

WHAT IS THE GOLDEN OFFERING FOR TENNESSEE MISSIONS?

- The state missions offering provides invaluable financial support for ministries that help reach Tennesseans for Christ.
- The Golden Offering is collected all year with a special emphasis on giving and praying for state missions during the month of September.
- The Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions works in conjunction with the Cooperative Program to effectively meet the needs and support ministries in Tennessee.
- The Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions is:
 - meeting human needs through Compassion Ministries
 - Disaster Relief volunteers helping restore communities after a natural disaster
 - Baptist Collegiate Ministries sharing the hope of Jesus on Tennessee college campuses

2

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- church planting across Tennessee where there is no gospel witness
- a child coming to Christ through camp
- English being taught to someone from another country and sharing Jesus with them in the process and so much more!
- Brief history
 - In 1902, Dr. W.C. and Mildred Golden challenged Tennessee Baptists to pray for and give to missions within the state and initiated the offering.
 - Mrs. Golden served as Tennessee WMU Corresponding Secretary from 1898-1902. Dr. Golden served as State Missions Secretary.
 - The first offering was \$800.
 - The offering was named after Dr. W.C. and Mildred Golden in 1943.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

- Use the "Any Way You Slide It, Tennessee is a Mission Field" flyer to share information that highlights why Tennessee is a mission field.
- Testimonies from people in your church who have participated in or benefitted from a ministry supported by the Golden Offering.
- Examples:
 - Someone who attended YEC Student Camp, Journey Camp, ALL Nations Camp, or Special Friends Camp.
 - Someone who serves as a Disaster Relief volunteer or who was ministered to/by a Disaster Relief volunteer.
 - Someone who volunteers through Compassion Ministries, Baptist Collegiate Ministries, Literacy Missions, or another GOTM funded ministry.
 - Someone who received a Tennessee WMU Scholarship.
- Associational Ministries - 15% of whatever a church gives through GOTM will be returned to the association with whom the church is affiliated. There are no restrictions on how the association spends the money, but it is requested that they apply it to ministries that support people being saved, baptized, and disciplined. Check with your associational Director of Missions to see how these funds are being used in your association.

PREACHING/SPEAKING/TEACHING OUTLINE

Use this basic outline to build your preaching, speaking, or teaching notes.

The Same Call to Share Hope and Truth

One grand mystery of the gospel is that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He is still reaching out to the lost, the lonely, and the languishing world that has changed in so many ways. We are hyper-connected and yet spiritually disconnected. We have technologies today that were unimaginable 2000 years ago, but we still struggle with the transmission of the gospel. Amid all the changes, His strategy to reach the world is still the same. He still uses people to spread the good news. He uses us even though we are broken, flawed, and stumbling.



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What does it mean to have the same heart for the world as Jesus? For God to use us, we first must be wrecked! Our heart must enter into the same pain and yearning that Jesus had when He chose to leave the glory of His heavenly throne to rescue mankind. We must be wrecked by this mission. It's a strange dichotomy. To put the pieces together, we must be wrecked.

What should wreck us in this story? Let's look at three things:

1. We should be wrecked by the condition of our world.

We see a picture of one ordinary man who was wrecked. Nehemiah was a man in a place of authority and comfort when he heard about the state of his hometown. Let's read Nehemiah 1:2-4.

I questioned them (the messengers from Jerusalem) about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem. They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire." When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.
Nehemiah 1:2-4

Nehemiah received a snapshot in these two verses of the injustice Jerusalem experienced and it broke his heart. What breaks your heart?

Here are a few things about our state that should wreck us as a church:

- There are 350,000 unchurched college students.
- There are over four million people in our state that are spiritually lost.
- 15% of Tennesseans live below the poverty line.

If you really believe in Jesus, if you really believe that God is compassionate toward the helpless, and if you really believe that everyone spends eternity somewhere, your heart should be wrecked. We all have different hearts that are wrecked by different things. Some believers are wrecked by poverty. Others are wrecked by those who struggle with addiction, loneliness, and abandonment. God wants us to do something about what wrecks us. So, what injustice wrecks you? When we give through the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions, we have the opportunity to support different ministries and different missions. This is the power of cooperation. There is so much need in Tennessee that our approach must be multifaceted.

2. We should be wrecked by evil.

The second area of brokenness a believer should be experiencing in his heart is an awareness of the impact of evil. The scourge of evil is all around us. It is insidious in the fallen world. When we have the eyes of our Champion, we recognize evil that shows up on our journey. We can choose to hide from evil or we can make war against it. Another Old Testament picture of a wrecked heart is found in early in the story of David. As a young man, David was incensed by an ugly sneering giant screaming vulgarities at God's people and even at God Himself. David enters the scene almost coincidentally, but his reaction was so much different, that those around him who were cowering in fear.



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David asked the men standing near him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?" 1 Samuel 17:26

It angered David and out of that holy anger, God humbled an entire nation with a stone and a sling. Just like David, we aren't the most qualified and experienced warriors, but God honors a heart that doesn't melt under the futile threats of evil.

Idea: Share a time in your life when you were wrecked by the evil you faced.

One of the evils that breaks the heart of God is the injustice of abortion. Tennessee Baptists, through the Golden Offering, are giving hope and truth to future mothers and fathers.

Optional: Show the GOTM Promotional Video "Standing for Life: Birth Choice Clinic of Gibson County"

3. We should be wrecked by lifeless religion.

We see a picture of Jesus wrecked by rebellion near the end of his earthly ministry. Jesus wept over Jerusalem just like Nehemiah did centuries ago. But what wrecked Jesus was the rebellion of his own people. He had a deep desire to see God's people come to him and yet they refused.

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing." Matthew 23:37

Jesus saw his people that had drifted so far away from God that they were powerless, lifeless, and declining. We must also mourn the decline in our churches. Jesus has a heart to see His Bride, the Church, return to Him. One way Tennessee Baptists are making a difference, helping churches heal and grow, is through Church Revitalization. The Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions funds church revitalization by providing coaching, training, and resources for churches.

Conclusion:

As we consider a world controlled by the forces of injustice, evil and rebellion, we are challenged to do something. Don't leave today thinking that you can just casually walk through the ups and downs, and the highs and lows of life lived normally. God doesn't want you satisfied. Jesus, the King of Hearts, wants your heart broken for a world that is lost, broken, hopeless, and doomed. He wants us to step up and do something about it.

Ask yourself the following questions:

1. What makes your heart beat faster?
2. What makes your heart break?
3. What are you going to do about it?
4. What will the result be?
5. How will you give? How will you go?

Leave the "how" questions to God. Pray for "how" and He will direct you.

5

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