



Georgia  
Baptist

# NUMBERS ARE YOUR NEIGHBORS

Mission Georgia Prayer Guide



**Mission Georgia** is mobilizing Georgia Baptist churches to bring the hope of the gospel to individuals who are often farthest from it.

***Act justly.  
Love mercy.  
Walk humbly.***

**MICAH 6:8**

## Mission Georgia Day of Service:

God often leads His people to be part of the answer to prayers they have lifted up. All of the issues you are praying for with Mission Georgia are within reach of where you are sitting right now. How will you be a part of God's work in your community?

A Mission Georgia Day of Service is a way for you and others in your family, Bible study group, or church to respond to the needs for which you have been and will continue to pray. Here's how it works:

1. Prayerfully consider with your family, church or small group a day to serve in one of the areas of need mentioned in this prayer guide.
2. Once you have picked the need you want to serve, contact a ministry, organization or school that serves the need and ask if there are opportunities to serve or donate items during a one-day event.
3. Once you have gathered information, let others know how they can join you.
4. On the day of the event, capture pictures (with permission from those you are serving) and experiences of those who are serving with you. Be sure to share those with your church and tag #MissionGeorgia on social media. You can also email pictures and captions to [info@missiongeorgia.org](mailto:info@missiongeorgia.org)

## Foster Care & Adoption

### FACT:

So far in 2021, 13,815 children have been in Georgia's foster care system.

---

### MYTH:

Most children in foster care are babies. In reality, more than half of children in foster care are ages 6-18 years old.

---

### PRAY:

- Pray for foster parents to be encouraged as they serve children in their home who need more support through their foster care journey.
  - Pray for biological families who are in crisis to find stability and health so their children can be returned to them.
  - Pray for opportunities to serve foster families.
  - Pray for foster care ministry to grow in your community.
- 

### RESPOND:

Contact a foster care ministry in your area and ask about items needed for kids in their ministry. You can also provide a meal for a foster family.

## When you do the math on how churches can impact the foster care system in Georgia, it's astonishing.

In November 2019, Dallas White attended the Georgia Baptist Convention in Fayetteville. It was there he heard about the children and teens in foster care, many having been in state care their entire lives. He heard about the children having to sleep in hotels because there was nowhere else for them to go. He heard the need, saw the numbers, and felt a calling.

Dallas, pastor of The Grove Church in Acworth, has worked to make his church foster family friendly, as he puts it. He intentionally creates moments for the church that focus on foster care and providing support for foster families. While this ministry is in its beginning stages, the church has taken concrete steps by working with Waymark, which is a nonprofit foster care ministry, to participate in their events. They served at Waymark's summer camp and helped with a day of fishing and outdoor fun.

A foster care focus in a church isn't limited to being a foster family. Dallas is looking at incorporating respite care, meal trains, and collection sites to offer support to those in foster care or those who are foster families.

*"Hope delayed makes the heart sick, but desire fulfilled is a tree of life."* Proverbs 13:12, CSB

---

 **WATCH VIDEO:**

- [missiongeorgia.org/offering](https://missiongeorgia.org/offering)

## Human Trafficking

### FACT:

About 374 girls are commercially exploited for sex each month in Georgia.

---

### MYTH:

Most individuals who are trafficked are kidnapped from the street. In reality, the vast number of trafficking incidents begin with online activity or a familiar relationship.

---

### PRAY:

- Pray for God's nearness and love to be made known to individuals who are being trafficked.
  - Pray for children and teens to be wise and recognize exploitation online.
  - Pray for ministries in Georgia who are equipping churches to prevent exploitation and serve victims.
  - Pray for individuals in law enforcement and government agencies as they direct many efforts to combat human trafficking in Georgia.
- 

### RESPOND:

Call your local law enforcement and ask to speak with someone about the issue of human trafficking in your area. Ask them for information on local agencies and organizations who serve this need.

## Human trafficking happens all around us – even in the smallest of communities.

While stories of human trafficking often emerge in conversations around huge events like the Super Bowl and The Masters, Ginger Amerson takes the problem of human trafficking personally, focusing on rescuing victims in her own community of Augusta. Ten years ago, she and her husband Walt started a nonprofit called iCare to serve human trafficking victims and to provide prevention training. As members of West Acres Baptist Church, they found instrumental help in the initial launch of the organization within their own church body.

Ginger and the iCare team have found that leveraging their clients' stories form the basis for educating others on what this issue looks like in their community. Many know that Atlanta is one of the biggest hubs in the world for this \$150 billion industry; however, few recognize that this enterprise stretches its tentacles into smaller communities in equally devastating ways.

*“He redeems your life from the pit; he crowns you with faithful love and compassion.”* Psalms 103:4, CSB

---

 **WATCH VIDEO:**

- [missiongeorgia.org/offering](https://missiongeorgia.org/offering)

## Childhood Literacy

### FACT:

48 of every 100 children in public school are not reading at grade level in Georgia.

---

### MYTH:

You must be an educator to make a significant difference in a child's ability to read. In reality, you only need to know how to read and be willing to give 30 minutes a week to reading activities with a child to make a significant difference in their life.

---

### PRAY:

- Pray for children in your county to have more opportunities to read Bible stories.
  - Pray for your school system as it works to overcome the challenges the pandemic worsened in reading opportunities for students.
  - Pray for churches in your area to become stronger partners with local schools.
  - Pray for ways to personally connect with and serve school staff in your community.
  - Pray for more reading mentors in your area.
- 

### RESPOND:

Go to Read Georgia online ([missiongeorgia.org/readgeorgia](https://missiongeorgia.org/readgeorgia)) and download the Guide. Find out if your church has already signed up or speak with church leadership about getting involved.



## Learning to read is a critical step for children.

Statistics show that if a child doesn't know how to read by the fourth grade – and there is no intervention to change this – then they are 75% more likely to end up in prison or on welfare. This number is staggering. For people like Belinda Harris, knowing the need personally led to a lifetime of teaching children.

Belinda, a member of Grace Community Church in Lithonia shares that during her childhood years, there were no books in her home, so she read cereal boxes. She went on to teach and lead in the Fulton County school system for 30 years, with a focus on reading. Belinda also serves on the Georgia Baptist Literacy Missions team. She trains churches on how to reach children and youth through literacy ministries. A new tool Belinda is helping launch is Read Georgia. Read Georgia connects churches to children in schools who need reading mentors. This type of literacy ministry is significant because it lifts the scores of children as well as the spirits of their teachers and families as they see the lives of students improve.

*“When they read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement.” Acts 15:30, CSB*

---

 **WATCH VIDEO:**

- [missiongeorgia.org/offering](https://missiongeorgia.org/offering)

## Refugees and Internationals

### FACT:

1 million Georgians were born in another country.

---

### MYTH:

If you want to reach the nations with the gospel, you must go overseas. In reality, people from every nation are represented in Georgia. Many people from unreached people groups and nations that are closed to the gospel are open to Christian friends here in Georgia.

---

### PRAY:

- Pray for opportunities to build friendships with international neighbors, coworkers, and business owners.
  - Pray for children from other nations to have Christian friends at school and in their neighborhood.
  - Pray for refugees who feel lonely and helpless to hear the gospel in their language.
  - Pray for ESL (English as a Second Language) ministries in your community to be strengthened or established.
  - Pray for the Great Commission to be fulfilled in Georgia.
- 

### RESPOND:

Look up the International Student office at the nearest college or university and contact them. Ask about ways your family or church can serve international students or invite them to your home for holidays and fun events.

## Resourcefulness and creativity play a large role in reaching people with the gospel.

Oscar Coronado, a lay leader at Redland Baptist in Valdosta, leads ministry in South Georgia's Hispanic community. Oscar has a great vision to reach internationals and refugees holistically by providing supportive services.

Each Sunday he provides interpretation during Redland Baptist Church's worship services. In many Hispanic families, adults don't speak English and children don't speak Spanish. The weekly interpretation allows families to attend church together with the rest of the congregation.

Oscar has a heart to serve other people groups, and it's his desire to network and multiply ministry through churches to internationals in other communities. He started an English as a Second Language course, which many Georgia Baptist churches provide. The location where Oscar started his ESL class was unique because they met at an old Bank of America building in downtown Valdosta. Oscar's ministry demonstrates how a little resourcefulness and creativity can make a huge impact for the gospel.

*"The nations will put their hope in his name."*

Matthew 12:21, CSB

---

 **WATCH VIDEO:**

- [missiongeorgia.org/offering](http://missiongeorgia.org/offering)

## Pre and Post-Natal Care

### FACT:

75 of the 159 counties in Georgia have no practicing OB/GYN.

---

### MYTH:

Women have many pregnancy support resources available to them in Georgia. In reality, while Georgia has many avenues of support for women during and after pregnancy, expectant mothers are not always aware of them or able to utilize them. In addition, 55% of pregnancy related deaths occurred within 42 days postpartum.

---

### PRAY:

- Pray for every county in Georgia to have supportive services available for women during and after pregnancy.
  - Pray for expectant mothers to know the love of Christ personally.
  - Pray for pregnancy support ministries and churches to be strengthened to reach more expectant mothers in your community.
  - Pray for opportunities to serve expectant mothers.
- 

### RESPOND:

Bring gift bags to your local hospital, pregnancy care center or OBGYN with gifts for new mom's and notes of encouragement with contact information for your church (website or someone on staff).

## It seems impossible in a first-world country like the US that pregnancy is still incredibly dangerous.

Georgia is still ranked as one of the worst states for its maternal deaths before, during, and just after giving birth. In spite of Georgia's strong support of life in the womb, more services are needed which focus on the mother, during and after her pregnancy. Pastor Landon Dowden of Hebron Church in Dacula is compelled by God's heart for vulnerable moms-to-be, so he's taking action.

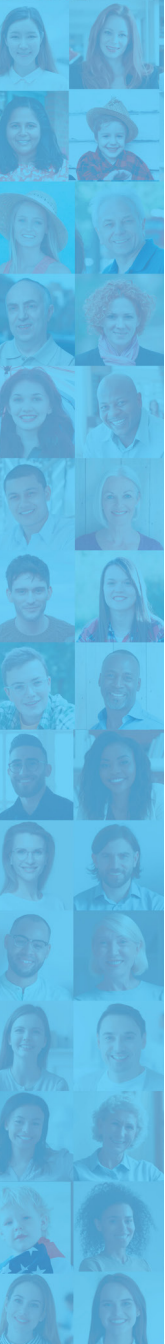
Landon is leading his church to begin a ministry for expectant mothers. This includes building a home where they can receive care that they otherwise might not have access to. The goal is to provide compassionate care to both the mother and the unborn child. Even in a time of huge financial crisis during the COVID pandemic, Hebron has remained faithful to this vision.

*“He protects his flock like a shepherd; he gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them in the fold of his garment. He gently leads those that are nursing.”* Isaiah 40:11, CSB

---

 **WATCH VIDEO:**

- [missiongeorgia.org/offering](https://missiongeorgia.org/offering)



***Indeed, if you fulfill the  
royal law prescribed in  
the Scripture, Love your  
neighbor as yourself,  
you are doing well.***

**JAMES 2:8**

Stay up-to-date on what  
is going on with us!

**f** @missiongeorgia68

**@** @mission.georgia

**t** @mission\_georgia



 **MISSION  
GEORGIA**

[missiongeorgia.org](http://missiongeorgia.org)