

JOHN 14:12-14: "GREATER WORKS...ANYTHING IN MY NAME"

unlimited



2015 DIXIE JACKSON ARKANSAS MISSIONS OFFERING
PLANNING GUIDE FOR MISSIONS LEADERS, PASTORS & CHURCH STAFF

unlimited



REACHING BEYOND OURSELVES

"I assure you: The one who believes in Me will also do the works that I do. And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in My name, I will do it so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it."

John 14:12-14 HCSB

The works of Jesus are so familiar to us. We ponder the stories, imagining ourselves in first-century Israel, watching in wonder as Jesus performs miracle after miracle. We know Jesus' power was unlimited.

We consider the apostles' experiences as they built the church following Jesus' resurrection. Filled with the unlimited power of the Holy Spirit, they, too, accomplished amazing things. Remembering their lives, we see that these few verses in John 14 truly capture their post-ascension ministry.

But what about us?

We often forget that Jesus had us in mind, too, when He said, "The one who believes in Me

will also do the works that I do." We only see our human limitations, and we allow them to paralyze us.

Yes, on our own we are limited. We cannot accomplish the incredible task Christ set before us: the task of reaching our towns, our state, our country, and the world with His truth. We have too many fears. We are too weak. We fail at every turn. We lack resources. We lack unbounded love.

But what would happen if we were to reach beyond ourselves and take hold of the power the Holy Spirit readily makes available to us? Many Arkansas Baptists are choosing to do just that, and their stories are as beautiful as those of the disciples. Lives are being changed and lost souls are finding their home in Jesus.

Come explore these amazing modern-day stories of Christians following in the disciples' footsteps. See how the power of Jesus removes all limitations. Consider how you, too, can choose to reach beyond yourself and serve in the Spirit's unlimited power.

PLANNING YOUR CHURCH'S PARTICIPATION

- Pray now and throughout the process.
- Read the Planning Guide and other materials available at absc.org/dixiejackson. Decide which ideas to use in your church.
- Reserve appropriate dates on your church calendar for the Week of Prayer, age-level studies, missions projects, and other activities.
- Enlist volunteers to help with publicity, age-level studies, and missions activities.
- Enlist people to give missions testimonies. Ask your pastor to preach a missional sermon. Invite a guest speaker to promote Arkansas missions and the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering (see info at right).
- Set a goal for your church's offering.
- Order prayer guides and offering envelopes. Decide how you will distribute these materials.



Age-level missions studies

for adults, youth, children, and preschool can be printed from the website at: absc.org/dixiejackson

If you cannot print materials from the Internet, we will be glad to send you printed copies.

Call the Missions Team at 800-838-2272, ext. 5137 or 501-376-4791, ext. 5137.

Requests for Arkansas missions speakers

can be made by contacting:

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Toll-free 800-838-2272

Local 501-376-4791, ext. 5159 or 5138

Contents

- 3 Planning Your Church's Participation
- 4 2015 Spotlight Ministries
- 8 Engaging Your Church
- 9 Ministry Ideas
- 10 Theme Interpretation
- 11 Display Ideas
- 11 Social Media
- 12 What Your Offering Provides



2015

spotlight ministries



INTERNATIONALS COMING TO ARKANSAS

Many Arkansans have been called to move around the world to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But the world is also coming to Arkansas. An international, multi-cultural presence can clearly be seen in the fact that 10 language groups each have an organized church presence in our state.

Some of the internationals who live in Arkansas never enter a church, though, regardless of language. If they are to be reached with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we must go to them.

Ministry like this requires a great deal of reaching beyond ourselves, investing in others through God's unlimited power. Friendship International equips Arkansas Baptists to minister to internationals through classes and personal relationships. While teaching English, cooking, exercise, citizenship, and other practical subjects, these local missionaries share the Gospel. As relationships grow, some families accept the invitation to attend church—something they never would have considered without the loving investment of a believer. There's no greater joy than that which comes from seeing these families come to salvation.

The international presence is also evident on our college campuses, as can be seen in Jun Geng and Bo Zheng's story.

Just eight days after marrying Bo, Jun left China to pursue graduate work at UALR, leaving Bo to await her own student visa.

Jun arrived in Arkansas to find an unfurnished apartment. But God's unlimited resources include people like Bit Stevens, a woman with a great heart for international students. Bit knew just where to find everything Jun needed to settle in to his new home.

Jun wanted to learn English and the American culture and was curious about the incredible kindness of Bit and other Christians he had met. So he responded to invitations to Conversation Club and Bible study and listened attentively as they spoke of God. He finally experienced the unlimited power of God for himself when he prayed for his wife's long-delayed student visa. Almost immediately, Bo's visa was granted, allowing her to join her husband in Arkansas.

Upon Bo's arrival, she noticed Bit's smile and the hospitality and friendliness of everyone with whom she came in contact. Like Jun, Bo attended Conversation Club and Bible study to improve her English. And like Jun, Bo began to see the beautiful way God's unlimited power shines through those who surrender to Him.

Many challenges lay ahead of Jun and Bo, including the death of a dear friend and complications during their son's birth. But, looking back, they see how God used each challenge to draw them closer to Himself.

It all began with Arkansas Baptists who were willing to **reach beyond themselves** to tap into the amazing and **unlimited power** of Jesus Christ to reach internationals.

connecting the dots

The ministries on the following pages are just three examples of how the gifts you give to the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions offering will impact lives across the state and around the world. When you give, you're not giving to a fund, you're giving to missions, to changed lives, to God's limitless glory.



MENTORING THE CALLED—KALEO

Emily Frederick grew up in church and was saved at age 11 during VBS. But it wasn't until her high school years that she became active in service. Encouraged by a ministry mentor, Emily learned to push past her tendency to simply be a follower, choosing instead to say "yes" to leadership.

As a pastor's son, Clark Whitney grew up with a front-row seat to ministry. But when his family moved from Texas to Searcy, Clark had the opportunity to go beyond watching his father minister and experience ministry firsthand.

Emily and Clark participated in KALEO, a mentorship-based ministry that helps young men and women safely explore whether or not they are called to full-time vocational ministry.

Each summer, KALEO partners young men and women with Arkansas churches that offer ministry experience. They also visit the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, where they're introduced to the many resources available to Arkansas Baptist churches.

KALEO perfectly represents Arkansas Baptists reaching beyond

themselves to tap into the unlimited resources available when we allow ourselves to be used by the Lord. Students benefit from the opportunity to serve churches, experience direct mentorship, learn leadership skills, and discover that God does have a specific ministry for each of them, whether through vocational or lay ministry.

Churches also benefit as they learn how to pour into young men and women. Through the mentor training that comes with being involved in KALEO, Arkansas Baptists can learn to recognize potential in youth they come in contact with every day.

The Dixie Jackson Arkansas State Missions Offering allows Arkansas Baptists to reach beyond themselves by supporting ministries like KALEO. But we can go even further by actively participating in this mentoring program. When we welcome young interns into our churches, we equip them to **reach beyond themselves** and explore God's purpose for their lives—with **unlimited power**.

DISCIPLESHIP IS JOB ONE—CWJC/CMJC

Jesus' parting command to go and make disciples was not limited to the handful of believers gathered on a hill in Israel. We, too, are a part of that command. Through organizations like the **Christian Women's Job Corps** and **Christian Men's Job Corps**, we can obey it in a unique way.

Founded in 1998, CWJC prepares women to succeed in life through training in basic academic and professional skills. Homeless women are equipped to secure jobs and find homes. Women recently released from prison find new hope. As the success of CWJC became evident, the first CMJC program was established for men seeking similar assistance.

But the true success of CWJC and CMJC programs lies in discipleship. When someone joins a CWJC or CMJC program, they are immediately connected with a mentor who evaluates their spiritual condition and begins one-on-one discipleship. Participants join Bible studies and are bathed in prayer.

Women like Brenda, a nominal Christian who had been homeless for 30 years, are taught how to truly live out their faith

while also securing desperately-needed medical and financial resources. Others, like Cinda, eventually become mentors themselves, knowing firsthand the impact the program can have on needy lives.

CWJC and CMJC are completely volunteer-based organizations. Every mentor gives precious time and energy to disciple the men and women who arrive hungry for change and growth.

That's where Arkansas Baptists come in. Churches can follow the lead of church planter Lee Kemp, involving members in the active work of CWJC and CMJC. Others can help by partnering with CWJC and CMJC programs to secure office space, equipment, furniture, and volunteer hours toward the goal of opening a site in every town in Arkansas.

The Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering allows Arkansas Baptists to support the efforts of CWJC and CMJC through our giving. But we can also minister to these hungry men and women by **reaching beyond ourselves** and tapping into the **unlimited power** of Christ.



Engaging Your Church

It's time to **promote** the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering! Each church has its own character and personality, so be creative and come up with ideas that will truly impact your congregation. If you need a springboard, here are some engagement ideas.

Suggestions for Traditional and Non-traditional Churches

- After using the provided small-group lessons, theme interpretation, and theme stories to introduce the theme, create prayer groups that meet during the week to pray through the prayer guide. Encourage prayer groups to also pray specifically for wisdom about local ministry involvement.
- Instead of limiting the offering emphasis to the Week of Prayer, expand it to a month.

Week 1: Present the theme interpretation in the first worship gathering of the month. Challenge members to evaluate how they would apply the passages represented in the skit. Use the provided lesson plan to teach age-appropriate small group lessons this week.

Week 2: Share the theme stories, using the DVD and/or planning guide. If there are any similar ministries in your area, introduce those to your congregation this week.

Week 3: Plan to observe the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering Week of Prayer during this week. Create prayer groups that will meet at least three times to focus prayer efforts on the requests mentioned in the Prayer Guide.

Week 4: Continue your prayer groups, either keeping the same groups or creating new ones. This time, let the prayer focus specifically on how your church and its members can be actively involved in the offering and in statewide missions.

- Show some creativity when selecting locations for Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering small group lessons. Choose a stark, empty room, or meet outside in a location where creativity is required for any measure of comfort. Use these settings to drive home the living conditions of homeless people who come through CWJC and CMJC and of newly-arrived international students.
- Evaluate your church's young men and women. Who shows a natural hunger to lead and minister? Who might step up to the call if given a nudge? During the offering emphasis, encourage some of these young men and women to share their testimony with the congregation, tying these into information about KALEO ministries.

Suggestions for Single-Offering Churches

Instead of focusing on specific offering promotion, spend time during the year promoting each individual ministry featured in this year's planning guide. Remind the congregation that, although some of the church's annual missions offering will support each of these ministries, there is also a need for hands-on involvement.

- Introduce Jun and Bo's story (page 5). Explore international ministry needs in your area. This is an especially good focus for the fall when new students are arriving.
- Educate your congregation on the ministry of KALEO. Prayerfully consider how your church could partner with KALEO Arkansas.
- Take a group from your church to tour the nearest established CMJC or CWJC facility. Explore specific prayer needs and commit to praying over them and over ways your church can help.

MINISTRY IDEAS

The sacrificial giving of Arkansas Baptists to the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering helps fund many statewide ministries each year. But giving alone doesn't meet the full need in our state. Action on the part of Arkansas Baptists is necessary to truly fulfill Jesus' command to go and make disciples.

Churches can encourage year-round involvement in active ministry to the local community, the regional association, and the state. Here are some suggestions:

- If no local **CWJC** or **CMJC** program exists, find out what it would take to start one in your area. Partner with sister churches or the local association to make this truly an area-wide effort.
- Organize a collection to gather furniture and other resources for a CWJC or CMJC program and/or participants.
- Organize volunteer rotations at a local food bank or homeless shelter.
- Is there an **international presence or deaf population** in your community? Find out if any ministry is reaching this subculture. If so, discover ways to get on board with that ministry. If not, contact the Arkansas Baptist State Convention offices to learn more about how to begin a local ministry.
- In addition to English, nine language groups are represented among Arkansas churches. Seek out one of these churches and find ways to partner with them in ministry to internationals through ESL training, practical skills classes, or other forms of assistance.

- Contact Metro Baptist Collegiate Ministries or another collegiate program ministering to internationals. Determine what needs exist among the international students, and initiate collections for necessities such as furniture, kitchen supplies, clothing, sheets, and towels.
- International students are often separated from their families while their adopted culture celebrates holidays. Consider ways to make American holidays special for these students through meal invitations, gifts, or help with travel expenses for a trip home.
- Learn about the holidays of other cultures, special days that are not widely celebrated in the United States. Find ways to help internationals celebrate those special days even while far from home and family.
- Visit kaleoarkansas.org to see how your church can request and mentor a summer missionary, how individual members of your church can become KALEO Arkansas coaches, or how you can help a young man or woman from your church pursue a ministry calling through KALEO Arkansas.
- Intentionally work to involve youth in the regular ministry of your church. Pair older youth with a children's Sunday school teacher so they can learn what's involved in teaching. Allow younger youth to help with various tasks around the church. Find ways to informally mentor your church's future leaders even before they're old enough for KALEO.
- Each summer, KALEO Arkansas interns visit the ABSC to see the resources available to Arkansas Baptists. You don't have to be a part of KALEO to make that same discovery. Take a group from your church and see for yourself!



THEME INTERPRETATION

Two Friends are talking. A narrator stands off to the side.

Friend 1: Jesus is gone! What will we do now?

Friend 2: We could never teach like He did!

Narrator: When Jesus had finished this sermon, the crowds were astonished at His teaching, because He was teaching them like one who had authority, and not like their scribes. (Matthew 7:28-29 HCSB)

Friend 1: Or perform miracles like the day He fed so many people from just a handful of food.

Narrator: Then Jesus took the loaves, and after giving thanks, He distributed them to those who were seated—so also with the fish, as much as they wanted. (John 6:11)

Friend 2: I was most amazed by His love for people we usually ignored or hated.

Narrator: While He was reclining at the table in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came as guests to eat with Jesus and His disciples. (Matthew 9:10)

Friend 1: He even touched a leper!

Narrator: Right away a man with a serious skin disease came up and knelt before Him, saying, “Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.” Reaching out His hand He touched him, saying, “I am willing; be made clean.” Immediately his disease was healed. (Matthew 8:2-3)

Friend 2: Now He’s gone.

Friend 1: Wait...what did He say right before His death?

Narrator: I assure you: The one who believes in Me will also do the works that I do. And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in My name, I will do it so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. John 14:12-14 HCSB

Friend 2: Does that mean we can do what He did?

Friend 1: And teach like He taught?

Narrator: Our future leaders need to be trained. Who can you mentor?

Friend 2: We can meet physical and spiritual needs, just as Jesus did for the 5000.

Narrator: Internationals come with physical and spiritual needs. Will you help?

Narrator: CMJC and CWJC could make a huge difference in your town. Are you willing to help?

Friends 1 & 2: Our impact is unlimited when we reach beyond ourselves in Jesus’ strength!

“GREATER WORKS... ANYTHING IN MY NAME”

DISPLAY IDEAS

Mapping out a Strategy

Create an “Our Church’s Missions” map.

Using color-coded push pins, flags, or stickers, note ministries in your area that reach out to internationals or use discipleship like the CWJC and CMJC programs. Use another color to mark where needs exist that aren’t being met. Finally, use a third color to mark where your church could participate in ministries or meet their needs. Include a commitment sheet for members to declare their willingness to become involved in these ministries.

Furnishing the Funds

Design an apartment layout on a poster. Create pieces of furniture that can be placed in each room, labeling each piece of furniture with a percentage or dollar amount. Each time that percentage or amount of your Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering is reached, add the piece to your apartment. Continue until your goal has been reached. For extra fun, create bonus flower boxes to go around the apartment to celebrate if you exceed your goal!

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media can be a tremendous blessing for churches and organizations that want to share ministry opportunities and updates. Here are some ways you can use social media to promote the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering and encourage churchwide involvement in state missions efforts.

Follow and Promote

Use these resources to keep up with statewide missions activities and updates:

- “Like” the Dixie Jackson page on Facebook for general missions and offering updates.
- Follow Fort Smith Christian Men’s Job Corps, Fort Smith Christian Women’s Job Corps, and Christian Women’s Job Corps of NW Arkansas on Facebook to see these programs in action.
- Learn more about KALEO Arkansas through updates on its Facebook page.

Share updates before and immediately after the state offering emphasis to show church members what their sacrificial offering is accomplishing. Continue sharing throughout the year to raise awareness and encourage involvement in these ministries.

Share and Coordinate

Social media provide an excellent platform for coordinating and sharing church missions emphases.

- Private groups through platforms such as Facebook and GroupMe allow for easy facilitation of prayer groups, brainstorming sessions, or missions event planning.
- Use Pinterest to collect ideas for missions projects, share resources and ideas, or share relevant blog posts and updates.
- Is your church participating in either a local or regional missions event? Is a CWJC/CMJC branch opening in your area? Has an international ministry event been held locally? Post pictures on Instagram and Twitter to share your experiences with other Arkansas Baptists. Use #DJ2015 to mark your activity as an ABSC missions event.

#DJ2015



What Your Offering Provides

- \$1** provides dental supplies to help in dental clinics.
- \$5** provides a Spanish Bible to our unreached Hispanic population.
- \$20** provides church plants the ability to have and maintain a simple website for a month.
- \$35** provides a case of Bibles for a Disaster Relief unit to share with impacted homeowners.
- \$45** provides gallon of paint for church plants to use when they move in to a new space.
- \$50** provides a case of Bibles for the One-Day Missions Trips.
- \$95** provides a kit of supplies for children's/nursery ministry to begin in their first year.
- \$100** provides Block Party Grants to Impact Lost Communities.
- \$215** provides a water trough/tub, which our church plants can have on-site to use for baptisms.
- \$400** provides a projector for our missions and church plants to use during their worship services.
- \$500** provides funds for deployment of a Disaster Relief unit in-state.
- \$800** provides funds for deployment of a Disaster Relief unit out-of-state.
- \$2,000** provides a trash pump to clean up a flooded home during a Disaster Relief mud-out response.
- \$5,000** provides dental equipment needed to provide free dental clinics.

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