

Creative Ways to Participate in the Willis J. Ray State Mission Offering

Perhaps the boy ran home that day because he wanted to be the first to share how his gift was multiplied. Jesus had used his small lunch of five barley loaves and two small fish to feed 5,000 men, plus the women and children.

Can you imagine his excitement as he told the story? Seeing how God is at work in Arizona and recognizing those new opportunities can be equally exciting.

Use these 21 ideas to challenge, encourage and equip your church. Seek the Lord for other ways to involve your church family. Watch as their faith is multiplied.

Education

- Use the DVD with the video clips from Steve Bass sharing about the Willis J. Ray State Mission Offering. Consider using it in Sunday worship, prayer meeting or mission groups.
- During worship services, recognize Arizona Southern Baptist Disaster relief workers. Ask a volunteer to give a brief testimony.
- Invite one of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention facilitators to speak at your church during the month.
- Celebrate your church's part in church planting by sharing about those new congregations you have helped.
- Invite a Christian Challenge collegiate minister to share during a worship service.
- Help your church understand the impact of Christian Challenge Collegiate Ministries by asking a current or former college student to share his experiences with this ministry.
- Make the prayer guides available for your church family. Use the posters to help your congregation understand the need to share the gospel in Arizona.
- Use the clip art, available from www.azsobaptist.org, for bulletins or other publications.
- Use the Willis J. Ray State Mission Offering word search for children during mission groups or Sunday School classes. A downloadable copy can be found at www.azsobaptist.org.

Giving

- Prayerfully set a church goal. Use the DVD, the virtual prayerwalk, prayer guides, and other materials to communicate the needs and opportunities.
- Encourage families to set their own goal. Allow them to give over several weeks, if necessary, to reach that amount.
- Encourage the entire church to participate. Challenge preschoolers and children to bring pennies.

Prayer

- Host a prayerwalk at your church for state missions. Using the prayer guides, make four prayer spots. You may want to add additional decorations, such as a United States map marking the locations that the ASBC Disaster Relief Team has served (Arizona, Louisiana, Texas, Utah, Nevada, and California), college banners for Christian Challenge ministries and supplies that a new church would need (Bibles, Sunday School curriculum, offering envelopes, etc.).
- Use the State Mission Offering Virtual Prayerwalk during a worship or prayer service. Available on the ASBC website, www.azsobaptist.org, the virtual prayer walk includes requests from church planting, disaster relief, Christian Challenge Collegiate Ministries, and ministers in crisis.
- If your church is near one of the state universities or community colleges, plan to prayerwalk the campus.

- During worship, publicly pray for your pastors and their families. Consider having members gather around them.
- Make centerpiece prayer cards for your church's September fellowship meals. Summarize one State Mission Offering prayer request per card. If no meals are planned, put a card near refreshments offered on Sunday mornings.
- Ask each Sunday School class to pray for at least one request each week of September. Include your preschoolers and children!
- Promote individual intercession. Encourage families to use the prayer guide at home, possibly at meal time. Prayer changes our hearts.
- Have older preschoolers and children, during mission group or Sunday School time, make their own prayer reminder card or poster.
- Select one of the offering's four ministry areas and continue to intercede throughout the year.