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to New Places

From Prison Cell  
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Sharing Hope After  
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# [ON MISSION]





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## [ON MISSION]

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# Faithful to Share

By Kevin Ezell, NAMB president

**S**o often we miss opportunities to share our faith because we worry that we won't say the right things. While we do need to know the basics, using eloquent words has never been a prerequisite to leading someone to Christ.

Many years ago, at a church I pastored, we used an evangelism tool called *FAITH*. It teaches believers to share the gospel by walking through an acrostic (see chart).

One of our church members, let's call her Carrie, told me, "Pastor, I am going to come to your evangelism class, but I am not going to share."

I said, "OK, just come to class."

Our weekly trainings continued and included times when the class went out to visit people and share their faith. Carrie approached me before class one evening and said, "I'm the only one who hasn't been going out to share my faith. I will go out with the group tonight, but only this once."

Carrie and her group were invited into a home and the couple agreed to hear the presentation.

"Carrie," the leader said, "would you like to start?"

Tentatively, at first, Carrie, began. "'F' is for Forgiveness," she said. Still nervous, but growing more enthusiastic, Carrie continued, "And 'A,'" she said, still stumbling a little, "'A' is available. It's available for all, but it's not automatic."

Then Carrie got so excited she went straight to "T"—"And 'T' is for turn. It means repent. Would you like to repent of your sins and ask Jesus into your heart?"



**F = FORGIVENESS**

We can't have eternal life in heaven without God's forgiveness.

**A = AVAILABLE**

Forgiveness is available for all but it's not automatic.

**I = IMPOSSIBLE**

It's impossible for God to allow sin into heaven.

**T = TURN**

Turn means repent.

**H = HEAVEN**

The couple said that was exactly what they wanted to do, and the leader led the couple in a prayer to receive Christ.

When the group made it back to the church and shared the story, everyone was clapping for Carrie. But then she said, "But you don't understand. I didn't spell FAITH, I spelled FAT!"

Every time I remember that story, it reminds me that it's not about the words. It doesn't matter if you spell FAITH or FAT. What matters is that you are faithful to share the good news. God does the work of salvation. **[OM]**

*Kevin Ezell is president of the North American Mission Board.*



Find resources to help your church share Christ at [NAMBevangelism.com](http://NAMBevangelism.com).





## SBC Impact

**T**otal baptisms in Southern Baptist-affiliated congregations increased by **26%** from 2022 to 2023.

Southern Baptist chaplains shared the gospel **95,627** times, resulting in **18,408** professions of faith and more than **1,600** baptisms in 2023.

Send Relief volunteers shared the gospel with more than **47,000** people in 2024.

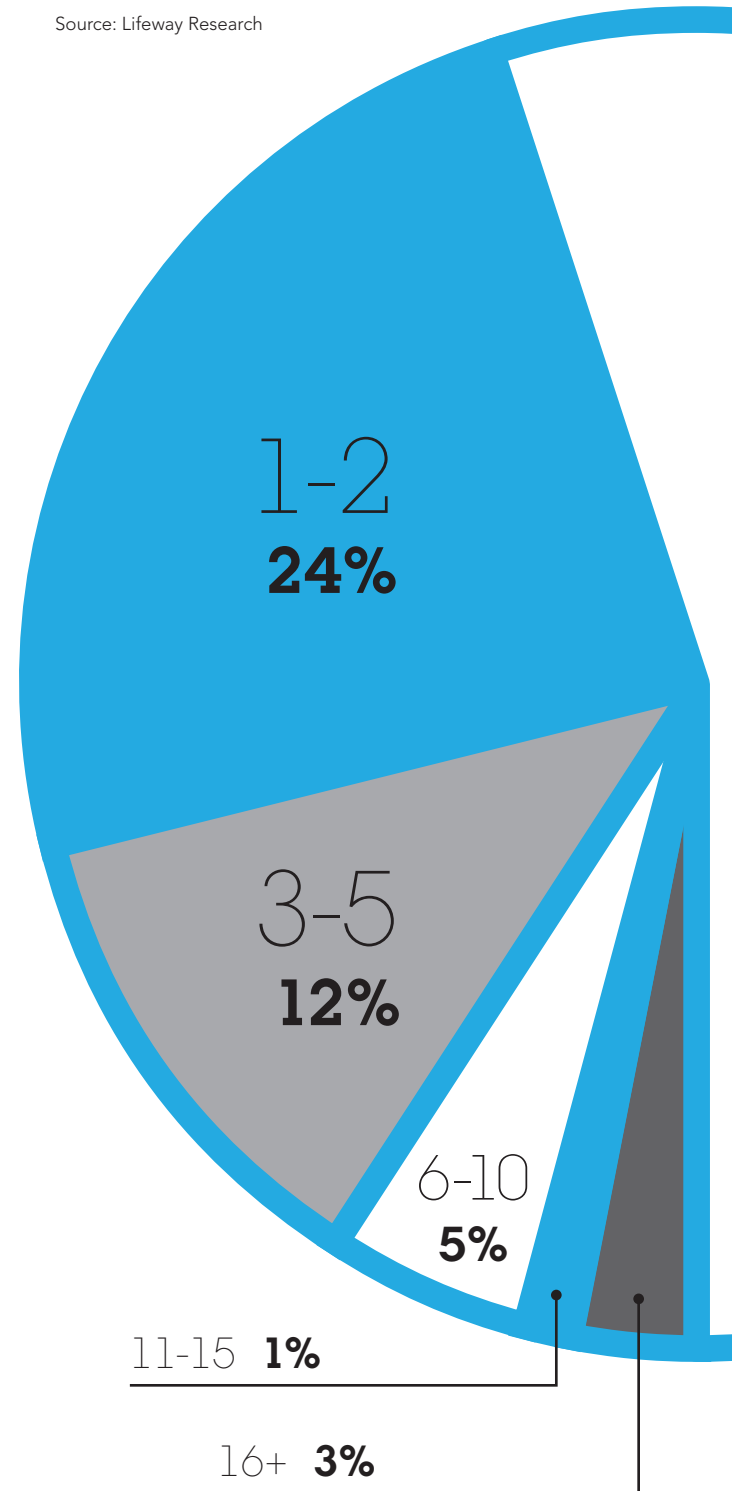
The NAMB Evangelism team trained more than **2,100** attendees and distributed more than **10,000** evangelism kits to local churches in 2024.

Sources: NAMB Research, Lifeway Research

# Measured

## Number of times a Protestant churchgoer shared the gospel in the past six months

Source: Lifeway Research



## Equipping members to share the gospel



**20%** of churches polled gave their members opportunities to serve.

**9%** of churches say they see baptisms as a priority.

Sources: Lifeway Research, Barna Research, NAMB Research





0 Times  
55%

## Heard

**“There’s an old adage that if we want other people to feel something, we have to bleed something. If we want to build an evangelistic fire in our church, it has got to start with us as the pastors.”**

Mark Lee, Pastor of VantagePoint Church, Eastvale, California

**“We must create a culture of evangelism in our ministries so that evangelism is not just something we do, but it becomes a part of who we are.”**

Catherine Renfro, National Director of Women’s Evangelism, NAMB

**“We believe what we really need to see and experience in our churches is a change in our DNA, so that the very heartbeat of our churches is marked by personal evangelism.”**

Tim Dowdy, Vice President of Evangelism, NAMB



# 4 Phases

## *to Build a Culture of Evangelism*

By Tim Dowdy

Most Christians are familiar with Matthew 28:18-20. They know the vital place evangelism should occupy in their lives. But the fact remains that most believers are not involved in personal evangelism.

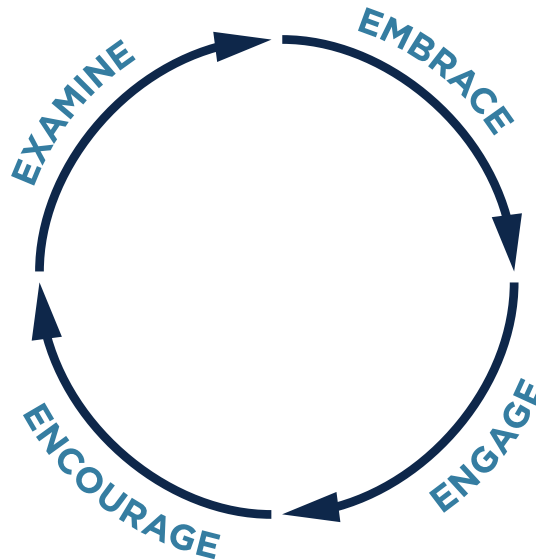
**A**s we consider what is required for a cultural change to take place so that evangelism happens when the body of Christ is both gathered and scattered, we must build a culture of evangelism in our churches. This requires a four-phased approach: Examine, Embrace, Engage, and Encourage.

### **1 Examine**

To know where we need to go in evangelism, we must first examine where we are. Taking an honest assessment of current spiritual health and well-being, as well as the level of evangelistic engagement in your church, helps you to know your reality and where to start.

### **2 Embrace**

Most believers know they should be evangelistic. They just don't



know how to practically do so. As you understand your community, you can develop a thorough plan to prepare your church for evangelistic engagement. Embracing the mission gets to the heart of developing a culture of evangelism.

### **3 Engage**

Evangelism is engaging others with the gospel! But believers need to

know the what and the how. Pray for evangelism opportunities, engage in gospel conversations, and follow up. Through these practical tools, evangelism becomes a normal part of a believer's life.

### **4 Encourage**

You know the saying that we replicate what we celebrate, so celebrate gospel conversations and those who come to saving faith in Jesus. Having an attitude of celebration and providing tangible ways to do that are critical for building an evangelistic culture in your church.

Lostness is real, but Jesus is mighty to save!

*Tim Dowdy serves as Vice President of Evangelism at NAMB.*



To learn more about creating a culture of evangelism in your church, check out our Evangelism Kits at [NAMBevangelism.com](http://NAMBevangelism.com).





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# The Other Side of the Bar



Church planting missionaries  
Tyler and Ashley Martin left their  
home in Texas to plant a church  
in Bar Nunn, Wyoming.





“I sit in church and look across to the bar side and remember all those times when I was lost, and I love it because it reminds me of what Jesus did for me.”

**n**othingness. When most people drive any direction out of Bar Nunn, Wyoming, that's what they see. “There are no stores, no houses,” says Tyler Martin. “If you have half a tank, you better fill up because there's not a gas station for a while.”

Bar Nunn, Wyoming, population 2,986, has zero stoplights, one convenience store, and not nearly the infrastructure that would, at first glance, seem to attract missionaries who have been called to reach as many people as possible with the gospel. And yet, several years ago, Tyler and Ashley Martin left their home in Texas and moved to Bar Nunn to plant a church. “We didn't even know where Wyoming was on a map,” Tyler says. “But when we told God we'd go anywhere, He made it clear this is where He wanted us to come. Ninety percent of the people in the state of Wyoming don't know the Lord as their Savior. Seeing how many communities here didn't have a church of any kind just broke our hearts.”

Tyler and Ashley's plant, Outfitter Church, started small but soon began holding regular Sunday services at The Hangar Bar and Grill in Bar Nunn. As a location for a new church, The Hangar was both extremely unconventional and unexpectedly perfect. “Yes, it's a bar. But it was the only meeting space in town,” Tyler says. “And it's unique because a wall of windows divides the space. So when we started, we were singing and praying and

preaching on one side while people on the other side of the building were watching from the bar. And we thought, ‘How perfect is that? We get to worship in front of a watching world.’”

## Two Sides of the Bar

Trent Fetherston, who had long been one of The Hangar's most frequent customers, was part of that watching world. Trent had a reputation—the kind of reputation a man will get in an everybody-knows-everybody kind of town like Bar Nunn. It's the reputation a man gets when he spends what seems like thousands of consecutive happy hours with a drink in his hand and a chip on his shoulder. “People here had a term for somebody who got really drunk,” Trent says. “They'd say they were ‘Trent-faced.’ So yeah, that's what I was known for—getting very drunk and getting in bar fights. As a matter of fact, you can name any bar around here, and I've been kicked out of it.”

One Sunday, Trent decided to walk over to the other side of The Hangar. “I didn't like myself,” he says. “That first Sunday, I heard Tyler preaching the



Trent Fetherston was known for having a chip on his shoulder. Then Tyler Martin introduced him to the gospel, and everything changed.





“If Tyler hadn’t answered God’s call to plant a church, I don’t know where I’d be. That’s why now I want to do the same thing and show other people that Jesus is real.”

gospel and it was crazy—I just couldn’t take the conviction. Then I went several more Sundays all in a row and heard the gospel every time. And then, finally, one night, I broke down and said, ‘Jesus, I’m so lost. I know I need You.’ That’s the moment I was born again and my life changed. Now everything is different. I sit in church and look across to the bar side and remember all those times when I was lost, and I love it because it reminds me of what Jesus did for me.”

Trent, one of more than 60 new believers who have been baptized at Outfitter Church, still has a reputation in Bar Nunn. But today, he’s known for better things. “Now when people see Trent,” Tyler says, “they know this is what it looks like to know and follow Christ.”

## Taking the Gospel to New Places

Outfitter is step number one in a boldly creative plan to take the gospel to tiny towns all over the state. “Wyoming is remarkably unchurched and unreached,” Tyler says. “Here, there are 203 cities and towns you can have as a mailing address. And over 60 of those don’t have a church of any kind.

And we realized when we started Outfitter in Bar Nunn that if we really want to see churches planted in all these other small towns, the planters are going to have to come from congregations right here in Wyoming. These places are so hard to get to and so expensive to do ministry in, that’s just the way it is. If we want to get the gospel to these places, it’s going to be up to local churches like ours.”

Tyler is training men in Outfitter Church to go to all those small, out-of-the-way places. Trent is one of those men. “If Tyler hadn’t answered God’s call to plant a church, I don’t know where I’d be,” Trent says. “That’s why now I want to do the same thing and show other people that Jesus is real.”

“We say, ‘our future church planters are getting drunk at the bar,’” Tyler says. “We’ve got to lead them to Christ, disciple them, and then let the Lord call them to ministry. That’s what happened with Trent and so many other men here. They have a growing passion and desire to preach and teach God’s word. And Lord willing, church planters will come from this group who’ll take the gospel to small towns all over Wyoming.” [\[OM\]](#)





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From  
Prison  
Cell To  
Pulpit





*When Troy Gause sat in the small, one-person suicide watch cell at Plaquemines Parish Detention Center, he never could have imagined one day being a pastor of a thriving church.*

By Tobin Perry

**W**hile the distance between Plaquemines Parish Detention Center and Cross Community Church in suburban New Orleans is only about 60 miles, it can seem like so much more.

For Gause, it took a U-turn to get there. That U-turn didn't just change his life; it defined the gospel work that became the hallmark of his ministry as a Louisiana pastor.

Although Gause wasn't suicidal when he entered that cell, the extended isolation and harsh conditions eventually wore him down. The trauma from the events leading to his imprisonment for drug possession had left him partially paralyzed, pushing him to his breaking point.

In that cell, Gause began a profound conversation with God that would forever change his life and the lives of lost people throughout greater New Orleans. Though saved as a teenager, he had



Troy Gause, third from left, received the annual Replanter of the Year award from the North American Mission Board. Gause replanted in New Orleans.



drifted far from his faith. Now, Gause cried out to the Lord, recounting everything he'd tried for fulfillment only to hear God say, "You haven't tried Me."

That's when Gause responded: "God, here You go. Take this broken life." And in that cell, he promised to never again turn away from God.

## Prisoner Becomes Pastor

Gause kept that promise. While working on a search and rescue team following Hurricane Katrina, he met a strong believer named Lawrence Jacques, who discipled him. A street evangelist, Jacques took Gause under his wing and introduced him to sharing Jesus on the streets of the Big Easy, where Gause met person after person who needed the U-turn he had found.

Over the next few years, Gause attended and graduated from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He started Church Without Walls, engaging people on the New Orleans streets and connecting them to local churches. With the encouragement of several mentors, Gause started Cross Culture Church in 2017.

"We started with just eight people in my living room," Gause said. "I didn't know how or where it would go, but I knew God had a plan, and I was ready to follow wherever He led."

## Pastor Becomes Replanter

Cross Culture Church grew but struggled to find a regular location to meet. In 2021, everything changed when a friend introduced Gause to the pastor of Ames Boulevard Baptist Church in Marrero, an aging congregation in need of lawn



“We started with just eight people in my living room. I didn’t know how or where it would go, but I knew God had a plan, and I was ready to follow wherever He led.”

care help. Gause began taking care of the lawn for free just to help the church out. As his friendship with the church’s pastor blossomed, the two eventually decided to merge their churches, providing a young core of people for Ames Boulevard and a building for Cross Culture.

“When the opportunity came to merge with Ames Boulevard, it was clear that God was opening a door,” Gause said. “We didn’t just combine two congregations—we created a new church family, one that reflects the diversity and love of our community.”

On April 30, 2023, the two congregations came together to form Cross Community Church at Ames, with Gause serving as the lead elder. From the outset, the replanted church embraced a rich diversity, uniting people of all ages and backgrounds—young and old, Black and white—who were serving Jesus together as one unified congregation.

Cross Community Church started a number of new ministries to reach their neighbors, including a mentoring ministry for young boys and new small groups. In about 16 months, the new church has grown from 40 to nearly 100.

One of those new families included Leon and Javon Every, a couple that had been together for more

than 35 years and had five children but had never married. Late last year, the couple were married at the church. Since becoming a part of the church, seven family members have been baptized and joined the church.

Ames Boulevard’s pastor baptized Terry Borque just after the church’s merger and she says Cross Community has made a big difference in her life. While in the hospital fighting sepsis earlier this year, Gause’s ministry helped encourage her. Borque had been a lifetime church attender but not in a congregation that faithfully taught scripture.

Lane Corley, the director of Send Network Louisiana, has been a longtime friend and supporter of Gause.

“I think there was something special about these two churches coming together—the Anglo and African American communities worshiping and serving together,” Corley said. “It had an immediate impact [on the surrounding community], creating the welcoming environment that Ames Boulevard had been seeking to foster. It was truly remarkable.” [\[OM\]](#)

*Tobin Perry writes for Baptist Press.*



Troy Gause received the annual Replanter of the Year award in 2024 from the North American Mission Board (NAMB). To find out more about Church Replanting work in North America, visit [namb.net/replant](http://namb.net/replant).



# Trends in Next Gen Evangelism

By Shane Pruitt and Paul Worcester

**1** Gen Z rarely associates negative emotions with faith-sharing.

Unlike Millennials, Gen Z is not concerned about feeling judged in conversations about faith. In fact, they understand and accept that not always seeing eye-to-eye with someone is part of life. Barna Research shows that over four in five refute, "If someone disagrees with you, it means they're judging you." Gen Z does not associate negative emotions with faith discussions and approaches conversations with a desire to listen and learn.

**2** Gen Z prefers in-person conversations to digital ones for faith conversations.

According to Alpha, more than half (58%) said they prefer faith conversations to happen in person rather than online. This may seem surprising at first glance due to how much time and energy this generation spends online, but it is in keeping with the general trend of a more relational evangelistic approach. It's easy to say



anything online and have your words disconnected from your actions. Gen Z has a strong belief in the connectivity of faith and actions. They don't want to be preached at or to preach at others; they want genuine relationships and understanding. In fact, four in five (82%) believe that faith conversations are most effective when there's already an established friendship.

### 3 Gen Z wants to know what the Bible says and how to apply it to their lives.

Per a study by the American Bible Society, 81% of Gen Z say they're curious about the Bible. More and more students are asking for their leaders to actually teach them the Bible. What does the Bible say about things going on in their daily life? Leaders cannot shy away from doctrine and theology. Application is a must. Sixty-four percent of Gen Z said they wished they read the Bible more. Students are no longer content being taught only Bible stories. They want to know how to live out what Scripture says and how to read the Bible for themselves. Bible teaching is not just about content delivery but also practical living.





## 4 Social media use continues to rise among Gen Z.

Most teens say they use the Internet at least daily. Nearly half of teens say they use the Internet “almost constantly.” Per a study by Pew Research, YouTube is the most widely used platform. TikTok, Snapchat, and Instagram remain popular. The majority of teens ages 13 to 17 say they use TikTok (63%), Snapchat (60%) and Instagram (59%).

*Shane Pruitt serves as National Next Gen Director and Paul Worcester serves as National Collegiate Director at NAMB.*



Reach the next generation with resources, training, and coaching at [GenSend.org](https://www.GenSend.org).



# EVANGELISM CAN SEEM DAUNTING.

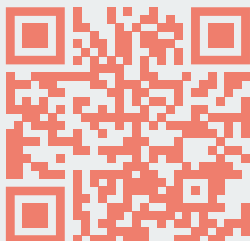
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# Pointing Others to Christ after Disasters

PHOTO CREDIT WILLIAM HAUN

Diane Traynor is not really a fan of hurricanes, but after their arrival she springs into action—ready to offer soothing words, a listening ear, and the hope of Christ.

By David Moore

**A**s a volunteer chaplain with Florida Baptist Disaster Relief (FBDR), Diane was in Perry and Steinhatchee, Florida, helping those who

had been impacted by Hurricane Helene, one of the deadliest hurricanes in the United States.

Typically, FBDR sends a chaplain with each of its cleanup and recovery teams as they go out to aid those impacted by a hurricane. While the cleanup and recovery teams get busy helping people with work in and around their homes and yards, a chaplain spends time with the homeowners—talking with them, listening to them, praying with them, and sharing the gospel.



Diane Traynor, a member of Murdock Baptist Church in Port Charlotte and a Florida Baptist Disaster Relief chaplain, wears her yellow disaster relief shirt, chaplain hat, and great big smile as she shares the hope of Christ with individuals in crisis.

And Traynor says her 48 years in the medical field, where she worked as a radiologic technologist, helps her as she meets and talks with people who have had traumatic experiences.

“I’m a patient-oriented person so when I engage with someone who is unfortunately traumatized in some way, I think I’m able to have the kind of empathy I had when I was doing patient care,” she said. “My ultimate goal is to always have Jesus Christ be known to them as their Savior. But sometimes you don’t have much time to really bring them to the gospel. That can be challenging.”

## Pointing People to Christ

One highlight of her time in Perry was talking with a young mother she met in a grocery store parking lot. The woman was with her husband and son in a car and drove up to get some to-go meals. Traynor sensed the woman was overwhelmed and asked if they could pull over to the side so they could continue talking.

Flooding had forced them from their home, and their autistic son was out of sorts because his daily routine had been disrupted. The woman said she



As a Florida Baptist Disaster Relief chaplain, Diane Traynor seeks opportunities to pray with individuals who receive free hot meals in a hurricane's aftermath.



was bipolar and felt she was at her lowest of lows. Stressed and worried about finances and taking care of her family, she was on the verge of tears.

"She had a hard time looking at me, but we talked, and we prayed for a long time. I looked up at her, and she actually had a smile on her face. I told her how beautiful her smile was and to keep looking forward. Just take one step at a time. I

said 'God is with you, and He will not forsake you. He will help you.'"

Traynor loves to help people like that, pointing them toward Christ and making a lasting impact in their lives with the gospel. [\[OM\]](#)

*This story originally appeared at [flbaptist.org](http://flbaptist.org).*





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# Regional Convention Evangelism Report

This report provides evangelism updates from Baptist conventions throughout North America. In Southern states, each convention has a full-time director of evangelism focused on resourcing churches. In regions outside the South, NAMB provides funding for an evangelism team member for conventions that want one.

## Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| Website<br><b>alsbom.org</b>                                     | Population<br><b>5,108,468</b>                  | Baptism-to-population ratio<br><b>1:420</b>           |
| Baptisms in 2023<br><b>12,159</b>                                | Number of congregations in 2023<br><b>3,177</b> | Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance<br><b>4.90</b> |
| Percentage of increase/decrease from previous year<br><b>26%</b> | Worship attendance<br><b>248,040</b>            |   |

## Alaska Baptist Resource Network

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| Website<br><b>alaskabrnr.com</b>                                 | Population<br><b>742,608</b>                  | Baptism-to-population ratio<br><b>1:2,237</b>         |
| Baptisms in 2023<br><b>332</b>                                   | Number of congregations in 2023<br><b>107</b> | Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance<br><b>5.82</b> |
| Percentage of increase/decrease from previous year<br><b>69%</b> | Worship attendance<br><b>5,700</b>            |   |

## Arizona Mission Network of Southern Baptists

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| Website<br><b>azmn.org</b>                                       | Population<br><b>7,431,344</b>                | Baptism-to-population ratio<br><b>1:3,793</b>         |
| Baptisms in 2023<br><b>1,959</b>                                 | Number of congregations in 2023<br><b>462</b> | Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance<br><b>4.91</b> |
| Percentage of increase/decrease from previous year<br><b>-2%</b> | Worship attendance<br><b>39,907</b>           |   |

## Arkansas Baptist State Convention

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| Website<br><b>absc.org</b>                                       | Population<br><b>3,067,732</b>                  | Baptism-to-population ratio<br><b>1:413</b>           |
| Baptisms in 2023<br><b>7,431</b>                                 | Number of congregations in 2023<br><b>1,452</b> | Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance<br><b>5.94</b> |
| Percentage of increase/decrease from previous year<br><b>19%</b> | Worship attendance<br><b>125,062</b>            |   |



## Baptist Churches of **New England**

Website  
**bcne.net**

Baptisms in 2023  
**2,066**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**16%**

Population  
**18,765,374**

Number of congregations in 2023  
**360**

Worship attendance  
**34,456**

Baptism-to-population ratio  
**1:9,083**

Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance  
**6.00**

## Baptist Convention of **Iowa**

Website  
**bciowa.org**

Baptisms in 2023  
**1,444**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**32%**

Population  
**3,207,004**

Number of congregations in 2023  
**119**

Worship attendance  
**23,899**

Baptism-to-population ratio  
**1:2,221**

Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance  
**6.04**

## Baptist Convention of **Maryland/Delaware**

Website  
**bcmd.org**

Baptisms in 2023  
**1,907**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**51%**

Population  
**7,212,143**

Number of congregations in 2023  
**489**

Worship attendance  
**30,149**

Baptism-to-population ratio  
**1:3,782**

Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance  
**6.33**

## Baptist Convention of **New Mexico**

Website  
**bcnm.com**

Baptisms in 2023  
**2,649**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**18%**

Population  
**2,114,371**

Number of congregations in 2023  
**327**

Worship attendance  
**31,079**

Baptism-to-population ratio  
**1:798**

Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance  
**8.52**

## Baptist Convention of **New York**

Website  
**bcnysbc.org**

Baptisms in 2023  
**1,762**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**60%**

Population  
**26,969,784**

Number of congregations in 2023  
**511**

Worship attendance  
**25,360**

Baptism-to-population ratio  
**1:15,306**

Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance  
**6.95**

## Baptist General Association of **Virginia**

Website  
**bgav.org**

Baptisms in 2023  
**2,200**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**12%**

Population  
**8,715,698**

Number of congregations in 2023  
**1,115**

Worship attendance  
**59,694**

Baptism-to-population ratio  
**1:3,962**

Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance  
**3.69**

\*Baptism-to-population ratio is based on combined baptisms of BGAV and SBCV for accuracy since some congregations are dually aligned.

## Baptist General Convention of **Oklahoma**

Website  
**oklahomabaptists.org**

Baptisms in 2023  
**10,142**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**23%**

Population  
**4,053,824**

Number of congregations in 2023  
**1,702**

Worship attendance  
**147,991**

Baptism-to-population ratio  
**1:400**

Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance  
**6.85**

## Baptist Resource Network of **Pennsylvania-South Jersey**

Website  
**brnunited.org**

Baptisms in 2023  
**1,602**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**61%**

Population  
**14,853,956**

Number of congregations in 2023  
**289**

Worship attendance  
**22,827**

Baptism-to-population ratio  
**1:9,272**

Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance  
**7.02**

## Baptist State Convention of **Michigan**

Website  
**bscm.org**

Baptisms in 2023  
**1,415**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**29%**

Population  
**10,037,261**

Number of congregations in 2023  
**278**

Worship attendance  
**20,447**

Baptism-to-population ratio  
**1:7,093**

Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance  
**6.92**

## Baptist State Convention of **North Carolina**

Website  
**ncbaptist.org**

Baptisms in 2023  
**14,967**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**33%**

Population  
**10,835,491**

Number of congregations in 2023  
**4,252**

Worship attendance  
**330,461**

Baptism-to-population ratio  
**1:724**

Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance  
**4.53**



## California Southern Baptist Convention

Website  
**csbc.com**

Baptisms in 2023  
**7,263**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**247%**

Population  
**38,965,193**

Number of congregations in 2023  
**2,384**

Worship attendance  
**105,888**

Baptism-to-population ratio  
**1:5,365**

Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance  
**6.86**

## Canadian National Baptist Convention

Website  
**cnbc.ca**

Baptisms in 2023  
**739**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**10%**

Population  
**40,513,781**

Number of congregations in 2023  
**428**

Worship attendance  
**22,453**

Baptism-to-population ratio  
**1:5,431**

Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance  
**3.29**

## Colorado Baptist General Convention

Website  
**coloradobaptists.org**

Baptisms in 2023  
**1,096**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**96%**

Population  
**5,877,610**

Number of congregations in 2023  
**355**

Worship attendance  
**22,195**

Baptism-to-population ratio  
**1:5,363**

Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance  
**4.94**

## Convention of Southern Baptist Churches of Puerto Rico

Website  
**cibspuertorico.org**

Baptisms in 2023  
**113**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**24%**

Population  
**3,205,691**

Number of congregations in 2023  
**52**

Worship attendance  
**2,325**

Baptism-to-population ratio  
**1:28,369**

Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance  
**4.86**

## Dakota Baptist Convention

Website  
**dakotabaptist.com**

Baptisms in 2023  
**237**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**27%**

Population  
**1,703,244**

Number of congregations in 2023  
**84**

Worship attendance  
**4,303**

Baptism-to-population ratio  
**1:7,187**

Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance  
**5.51**

## Florida Baptist Convention

Website  
**flbaptist.org**

Baptisms in 2023  
**28,987**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**32%**

Population  
**22,610,726**

Number of congregations in 2023  
**2,594**

Worship attendance  
**407,698**

Baptism-to-population ratio  
**1:780**

Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance  
**7.11**

## Georgia Baptist Mission Board

Website  
**gabaptist.org**

Baptisms in 2023  
**21,168**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**41%**

Population  
**11,029,227**

Number of congregations in 2023  
**3,369**

Worship attendance  
**351,539**

Baptism-to-population ratio  
**1:521**

Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance  
**6.02**

## Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention

Website  
**hpbaptist.net**

Baptisms in 2023  
**238**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**84%**

Population  
**1,435,138**

Number of congregations in 2023  
**116**

Worship attendance  
**5,714**

Baptism-to-population ratio  
**1:6,030**

Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance  
**4.17**

## Illinois Baptist State Association

Website  
**ibsa.org**

Baptisms in 2023  
**3,344**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**21%**

Population  
**12,549,689**

Number of congregations in 2023  
**869**

Worship attendance  
**58,402**

Baptism-to-population ratio  
**1:3,753**

Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance  
**5.73**

## Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists

Website  
**kncsb.org**

Baptisms in 2023  
**2,103**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**-8%**

Population  
**4,918,925**

Number of congregations in 2023  
**409**

Worship attendance  
**36,977**

Baptism-to-population ratio  
**1:2,339**

Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance  
**5.69**



## Kentucky Baptist Convention

Website  
**kybaptist.org**

Baptisms in 2023  
**10,770**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**30%**

Population  
**4,526,154**

Number of congregations in 2023  
**2,365**

Worship attendance  
**181,517**

Baptism-to-population ratio  
**1:420**

Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance  
**5.93**

## Louisiana Baptist Convention

Website  
**louisianabaptists.org**

Baptisms in 2023  
**8,331**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**25%**

Population  
**4,573,749**

Number of congregations in 2023  
**1,524**

Worship attendance  
**133,808**

Baptism-to-population ratio  
**1:549**

Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance  
**6.23**

## Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention

Website  
**mwbc.org**

Baptisms in 2023  
**879**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**24%**

Population  
**11,648,870**

Number of congregations in 2023  
**189**

Worship attendance  
**17,815**

Baptism-to-population ratio  
**1:13,252**

Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance  
**4.93**

## Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Website  
**mbcb.org**

Baptisms in 2023  
**8,458**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**10%**

Population  
**2,639,690**

Number of congregations in 2023  
**2,052**

Worship attendance  
**169,034**

Baptism-to-population ratio  
**1:348**

Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance  
**5.00**

## Missouri Baptist Convention

Website  
**mobaptist.org**

Baptisms in 2023  
**6,465**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**10%**

Population  
**6,196,156**

Number of congregations in 2023  
**1,757**

Worship attendance  
**135,633**

Baptism-to-population ratio  
**1:958**

Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance  
**4.77**

## Montana Southern Baptist Convention

Website  
**mtsbc.org**

Baptisms in 2023  
**630**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**-5%**

Population  
**1,132,812**

Number of congregations in 2023  
**118**

Worship attendance  
**9,530**

Baptism-to-population ratio  
**1:1,798**

Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance  
**6.61**

## Nevada Baptist Convention

Website  
**nevadabc.org**

Baptisms in 2023  
**1,017**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**30%**

Population  
**3,194,176**

Number of congregations in 2023  
**158**

Worship attendance  
**14,594**

Baptism-to-population ratio  
**1:3,141**

Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance  
**6.97**

## Northwest Baptist Convention

Website  
**nwbaptist.life**

Baptisms in 2023  
**1,115**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**-22%**

Population  
**12,046,238**

Number of congregations in 2023  
**477**

Worship attendance  
**27,481**

Baptism-to-population ratio  
**1:10,804**

Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance  
**4.06**

## South Carolina Baptist Convention

Website  
**scbaptist.org**

Baptisms in 2023  
**10,408**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**29%**

Population  
**5,373,555**

Number of congregations in 2023  
**1,988**

Worship attendance  
**220,275**

Baptism-to-population ratio  
**1:516**

Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance  
**4.73**

## Southern Baptist Convention of Virginia

Website  
**sbcv.org**

Baptisms in 2023  
**4,754**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**-9%**

Population  
**8,715,698**

Number of congregations in 2023  
**792**

Worship attendance  
**112,008**

Baptism-to-population ratio  
**1:1,833**

Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance  
**4.24**

\*Baptism-to-population ratio is based on combined baptisms of SBCV and BGAV for accuracy since some congregations are dually aligned



## Southern Baptists of **Texas** Convention

Website  
**sbtxas.com**

Baptisms in 2023  
**14,152**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**7%**

Population  
**30,503,301**

Number of congregations in 2023  
**2,724**

Worship attendance  
**271,955**

Baptism-to-population ratio  
**1:2,155**

Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance  
**5.20**

\*Baptism-to-population ratio is based on combined baptisms of SBTC and BGCT for accuracy since some congregations are dually aligned.

## State Convention of Baptists in **Indiana**

Website  
**sbi.org**

Baptisms in 2023  
**1,092**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**-10%**

Population  
**6,862,199**

Number of congregations in 2023  
**420**

Worship attendance  
**28,481**

Baptism-to-population ratio  
**1:6,284**

Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance  
**3.83**

## State Convention of Baptists in **Ohio**

Website  
**scbo.org**

Baptisms in 2023  
**3,377**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**48%**

Population  
**11,785,935**

Number of congregations in 2023  
**674**

Worship attendance  
**54,887**

Baptism-to-population ratio  
**1:3,490**

Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance  
**6.15**

## **Tennessee** Baptist Mission Board

Website  
**tnbaptist.org**

Baptisms in 2023  
**19,623**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**23%**

Population  
**7,126,489**

Number of congregations in 2023  
**3,070**

Worship attendance  
**311,862**

Baptism-to-population ratio  
**1:363**

Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance  
**6.29**

## **Texas** Baptists

Website  
**texasbaptists.org**

Baptisms in 2023  
**14,936**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**6%**

Population  
**30,503,301**

Number of congregations in 2023  
**5,059**

Worship attendance  
**336,432**

Baptism-to-population ratio  
**1:2,042**

Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance  
**4.44**

\*Baptism-to-population ratio is based on combined baptisms of SBTC and BGCT for accuracy since some congregations are dually aligned.

## Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention

Website  
**uisbc.org**

Baptisms in 2023  
**593**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**89%**

Population  
**5,382,460**

Number of congregations in 2023  
**160**

Worship attendance  
**9,422**

Baptism-to-population ratio  
**1:9,077**

Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance  
**6.29**

## West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists

Website  
**wvcsb.org**

Baptisms in 2023  
**592**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**23%**

Population  
**1,770,071**

Number of congregations in 2023  
**207**

Worship attendance  
**9,220**

Baptism-to-population ratio  
**1:2,990**

Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance  
**6.42**

## Wyoming Southern Baptist Mission Network

Website  
**wyomingsbc.org**

Baptisms in 2023  
**223**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**9%**

Population  
**584,057**

Number of congregations in 2023  
**97**

Worship attendance  
**4,185**

Baptism-to-population ratio  
**1:2,619**

Baptisms per 100 in worship attendance  
**5.33**

# Totals for SBC

Baptisms in 2023  
**226,919**

Percentage of increase/decrease  
from previous year  
**26%**

In-person weekly worship average  
attendance  
**4,050,668**

Baptisms per 100  
in worship attendance  
**5.62**

Sources: Annual Church Profile 2023, Lifeway Christian Resources and Annual Church Profile 2023, Canadian National Baptist Convention (CNBC).  
Compiled by North American Mission Board.



# Making Disciples Through Compassion Ministry

By Kimberley McGibbon

**A**t our Send Relief Center in Toronto, we talk a lot about Isaiah 61. Jesus quotes this passage in Luke 4 as He introduces His public ministry. He speaks about being sent to proclaim the good news and to bind up the brokenhearted. In essence, Jesus came to preach and to meet needs, to serve and to share.

As we serve in compassion ministries, we must do the same. Isaiah 61:3-4 says, "And they will be called righteous trees, planted by the LORD to glorify him. They will rebuild the ancient ruins; they will restore the former devastations." In other words, those we serve may become the ones who serve and through whom God will do an amazing restorative work.

Christ calls His followers to take the gospel and make disciples of all nations. So, as we care for the physical and emotional needs of vulnerable people through compassion ministries, our plan must care for their spiritual needs as well. We must see them as potential future disciples. Those we are called to care for could be the next missionaries or planters our church sends out.

One of the missionaries at our Send Relief Center is an example. She came to Canada as she fled violence directed at her family in their home

country. In Toronto, they lived near a park where a local church gave away bread each week. Through loaves of bread, she connected to the church. They loved her, served her, told her about Jesus, and then disciplined her. She is now a key disciple maker through her church and our ministry center. A loaf of bread led her to the Bread of life!



Serving the vulnerable is meeting needs, but it is much more than that. We must look beyond serving and meeting a need and focus on developing the next generation of disciples. [\[OM\]](#)

*Kimberley McGibbon serves as Ministry Director in Toronto for Send Relief.*



Find ways your church can serve in compassion ministries at [courses.sendrelief.org](https://courses.sendrelief.org)

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