



EVENT IDEAS FOR Celebrating the 125th Anniversary OF THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR STATE MISSIONS AND THE GOLDEN OFFERING FOR TENNESSEE MISSIONS

In 2026-2027, Tennessee Baptists will celebrate the 125th anniversary of the season of prayer and state offering for Tennessee missions.

In 1901, Mildred Golden (Mrs. W. C.), Tennessee WMU Corresponding Secretary, proposed a special season of prayer and an offering for Tennessee missions so churches would focus on state needs as they did foreign and home missions. Her husband, Dr. W. C. Golden, State Missions Secretary, helped prepare and distribute materials from their home. The first offering totaled \$800. In 1942, the offering was renamed the Golden State Missions Offering (GSMO) in honor of the Goldenes. In 2002, on the centennial, the name was changed to the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions (GOTM) to clarify the purpose while honoring the Goldenes' legacy.

Your church or association can use the following ideas to celebrate the 2026-2027 Golden Offering year: September 1, 2026 - August 31, 2027.

For more information about the Week of Prayer for State Missions and the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions, visit GOLDENOFFERING.ORG.

Share other event ideas and photos from your celebrations with Tennessee WMU at wmu@tnbaptist.org.

CELEBRATION IDEAS

BIRTHDAY PARTY

- Decor: Streamers, balloons, party hats, noise makers, themed plates/cups.
- Option: Encourage everyone to wear early 1900's attire.
- Food: Cake and ice cream.
- Activities: Party games (pin the candles on the cake; GOTM/Golden trivia; children's coloring sheets).
- Giving: Guests bring gifts - provide donation banks at least one month in advance for GOTM; collect cards/notes for Tennessee state ministries.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT (CARNIVAL-STYLE)

- Booths: Missions groups decorate booths showcasing ministries.
- Food: Cotton candy, popcorn, lemonade, corn dogs, ice cream.
- Games: Prize wheel (with question prompts), cornhold, cake walk, balloon darts (balloons contain state missions prayer requests), ring toss (soft drink bottles labeled with places of service).
- Takeaways: TN-themed treats (Little Debbie cakes, MoonPies, Bush Beans, etc).

GOLDENOFFERING.ORG



TBM *Tennessee Baptist*
MISSION BOARD

FAMILY PICNIC

- Timing: Sunday afternoon in September is recommended.
- Food: Hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, chips, TN-themed food or treats.
- Info Stations: Fact sheets on GOTM-supported ministries; children's coloring sheets.
- Extras: Invite ministry representatives to speak; card-making station for encouragement notes.

MISSIONS FAIR

- Participants: Invite GOTM-supported ministry leaders to host tables/booths.
- Refreshments: TN Treats (Moon Pies, Little Debbie, Mars bars, Sundrop).
- Engagement: Trivia, balloon-dart prayer requests, spinning wheel with ministry leader names/addresses for card-writing, children's coloring/activity sheets.
- Prayer: Break into groups for corporate prayer; prepare a one-sheet prayer guide compiling prayer needs.

FARMER'S MISSION MARKET (ASSOCIATION-FOCUSED)

- Format: Marketplace stalls highlighting ministries supported by the association's 15% returned GOTM funds.
- Participants: Children on Mission, RAs, GAs, or ministry representatives present information or host displays.
- Programming: Skits or puppet shows about the Golden (2-3 performances).
- Giving: Bake sale proceeds go to GOTM; donation boxes placed throughout.
- Giveaways: GOTM-themed swag bags, ministry "produce" (informational takeaways), prayer cards, bookmarks.
- Ambiance: Upbeat fair music (live or recorded).