



together

WE PRAY. WE GIVE. WE GO.

2026-2027

GOTM DISPLAY IDEAS

Why a Visual Display Matters

Picture your church lobby on a Sunday morning. In those few minutes before the service starts, people are catching up, glancing at the bulletin board, or grabbing a cup of coffee. That brief window of time is a wide-open door to share what God is doing across Tennessee.

An inviting foyer display does what a quick pulpit announcement or bulletin blurb can't: it gives people a reason to pause, interact, and take a story home with them. It takes a name - the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions (GOTM) - and connect it to real faces, voices, and ministries.

This is where the connection happens. Many in our congregations don't realize that their gifts plant churches in fast-growing West Tennessee towns, send volunteers into county jails, and equip Hispanic leaders to share the gospel in their own neighborhoods. A display brings these vital ministries right into the room where your church family already gathers.

There's also something beautiful about taking extra care. When we put effort into creating something warm and attractive - not just a photocopied flyer taped to a glass door, but a thoughtful, welcoming space - it signals that the message matters. People naturally give their attention to things that have clearly received attention.

These three display ideas are designed to do three simple things: catch someone's eye, connect with their heart, and make it easy to take a next step - whether that's grabbing a brochure, writing a quick prayer, or just remembering that Tennessee is, and always has been, our mission field.

DISPLAY IDEA 1: The Penny Jar Map

THEME: 125 YEARS ACROSS TENNESSEE

- **The Setup:** Place a large, clear glass jar or vase on a wooden crate or a stack of books to add some height. Fill it to the brim with pennies, and add a clean, simple label to the front: "125 years of giving. One penny at a time."
- **The Map:** Lay a large, printed map of Tennessee flat on the table around the jar. Use golden pushpins or small gold star stickers to mark the spots where GOTM is at work - disaster relief sites, campus ministries, church plants, and compassion centers. Nearby, set a small, folded card that reads: "Every pin is a story. Every gift is a person."
- **The Literature:** Fan out copies of the Week of Prayer brochure in front of the jar. To add a personal touch, place a small, framed card nearby with the classic quote from Mildred Golden: "My Prayer? That every home in Tennessee may become a Christian home."
- **Why It Works:** The map turns Tennessee from an abstract concept into a real, physical mission field. The pennies add a tactile element that practically begs people to stop and touch.

- **Make It Interactive:** Place a small bowl of pennies next to the jar with a card that invites people to participate: “Take a penny. Pray for Tennessee this week. Bring it back next Sunday.”



DISPLAY IDEA 2: The Timeline Lanterns

THEME: A LEGACY OF FAITHFULNESS

- **The Setup:** Gather three to five battery-powered glass lanterns of different heights and cluster them in the center of your table. Inside each lantern, place a small scroll of paper tied with twine. Print a milestone year and a quick snapshot of GOTM history on each scroll:
 - 1902: First offering raises \$800
 - 1943: Named in honor of the Golden
 - 1992: Offering tops \$1 million
 - 2022: Offering surpasses \$2 million for the first time
 - 2025: A record \$2,888,182 given
- **The Details:** Add a few simple touches around the base - like smooth river stones, cotton stems, or autumn leaves - to give the table a warm, seasonal look.
- **The Message:** Set up a simple wooden or cardstock sign that reads: “The light has been burning for 125 years.” Below it, add: “Together: We Pray. We Give. We Go.”
- **The Literature:** Stack your brochures neatly in a small wicker basket or wooden tray off to the side so the table stays clean and focused.
- **Why It Works:** Lanterns bring a warm, welcoming feel to the table. The scrolls spark curiosity, encouraging people to step closer and read about how God has worked through GOTM over the years.
- **Make It Interactive:** Add a small card near the brochures: “Week of Prayer: September 13-20, 2026. Will you help keep the light burning?”



DISPLAY IDEA 3: The “Send” Board

THEME: PRAY. GIVE. GO. - TENNESSEE IS OUR MISSION FIELD

- **The Setup:** Set a framed corkboard (about 16x20) upright on a sturdy tabletop easel. Cover the cork with burlap or brown kraft paper for a warm, textured background. Pin a simple printed outline of Tennessee right in the center.
- **The Stories:** Around the map, pin index-sized cards featuring quick, real-life ministry stories and prayer needs. Highlight things like: the BCM student who is now pastoring, the revitalized church in Mason, the 16-year jail ministry in Anderson County, our Hispanic VBS leaders, new church plants near BlueOval City, or the Winter Storm Fern relief efforts.

- **The Details:** Place two small potted plants or simple greenery on either side of the easel. Keep the rest of the table clear, except for a basket of blank cards, pens, and a neat stack of brochures.
- **The Message:** Place a small tent card in front of the basket: "Tennessee is our mission field. It always has been. Write a prayer for our state and pin it to the board."
- **Why It Works:** This setup gets your congregation involved. By the end of the week, the board will be covered in handwritten prayers, showing a beautiful, visible commitment to missions. It focuses on real stories rather than just numbers.
- **Make It Interactive:** Take a photo of the fully covered prayer board at the end of the week and share it in your church newsletter or on social media to celebrate how your congregation prayed together.



A Quick Tip for All Three:

Keep it simple!

The most effective displays are uncluttered. Resist the temptation to crowd the table with extra papers or signs. The goal is to catch someone's eye, give them one clear story to connect with, and send them home with a brochure and a prayer guide. On a foyer table, less is always more.