



together

WE PRAY. WE GIVE. WE GO.

PRAYER GATHERING

A GUIDED EXPERIENCE FOR YOUR CONGREGATION
(45-60 MINUTES)

*Celebrating 125 years of prayer and giving
for Tennessee missions.*

“...striving together as one for the faith of the gospel.” Philippians 1:27b

STEP 1: GATHER & OPEN IN WORSHIP (5 minutes)

[SINGING]

Suggested opening hymn: “To God Be the Glory” or “Here I Am to Worship.” Choose a song your congregation knows well to help prepare everyone’s heart for prayer.

Facilitator (Welcome the Group Warmly):

“Welcome, everyone. Thank you so much for being here tonight. For over a century, churches across our state have set aside a special season to pray for and give generously to state missions. Tonight, we get to join that long, faithful legacy. Let’s begin by lifting our voices together in worship.”

STEP 2: THE STORY THAT STARTED IT ALL (4 minutes)

Facilitator (Read or paraphrase in your own words):

“Back in 1901, Mildred Golden was serving as our Tennessee WMU Corresponding Secretary. As she looked around our state, she saw overwhelming spiritual and physical need, and she knew she had to do something. She led Tennessee Baptists to become the first state to have a focused season of prayer and giving to state missions. That very first offering in 1902 brought in \$800.

Mildred wrote: ‘My prayer? That every home in Tennessee may become a Christian home! My part? To have a share, however small, in a work so blessed of God, so pleasing in His sight.’

Tonight, 125 years later, we are still answering that prayer together.”

STEP 3: SCRIPTURE READING & REFLECTION (5 minutes)

Facilitator:

Invite a volunteer to come forward and read Luke 14:23 aloud. Pause briefly for reflection before continuing.

Scripture Reading:

“Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full.”
Luke 14:23

Facilitator (Brief Reflection - 1 minute):

“When you hear Jesus say ‘compel them to come in’ who comes to mind in your own neighborhood or workplace? Right now, there are more people in Tennessee who don’t know Christ than ever before. Our population is growing rapidly, yet in dozens of counties, there is only one church for every 10,000 residents - or even fewer. Jesus didn’t tell us to wait for our neighbors to come to us; He told us to go out and invite them in.

That is exactly what the Golden Offering supports. Your gifts to the Golden Offering do so much. They help us plant new churches, train next-generation leaders, show up with disaster relief when crises hit, and meet real, physical needs right here in our communities.”

Optional: Play a brief song of response (one verse and chorus) to transition into prayer.

STEP 4: BREAK INTO SMALL GROUPS (20 minutes)

Tip: Print or write each group's topic on a card using the guides below. Assign one topic per group. If available, play quiet instrumental music softly in the background during prayer.

Facilitator (Give These Instructions to the Room):

Instructions: “We’re going to break into small groups of three or four. Each group will receive a card with a specific prayer focus. We’ll spend about 10 minutes praying together in our groups. Afterward, we’ll all gather back together, and one person from each group can share a quick highlight of what you prayed for. Go ahead and find a comfortable spot, take your card, and begin whenever your group is ready.”

Reporting Back: After 10 minutes, give a gentle signal and say: “Let’s take about two more minutes to wrap up our prayers.” Then bring everyone back together and say, “As we gather back, let’s hear just a quick, one-sentence highlight from each group. What is one specific need or hope your group felt led to pray for?”

PRAYER FOCUS CARDS

Group A - Spiritual Awakening

Pray for God to bring fresh spiritual life to our churches. Ask for a deep hunger for God’s Word to spread across Tennessee - not just in our sanctuaries, but in living rooms, jails, college dorms, and recovery homes. Pray that the Holy Spirit would move so clearly in our congregations that our neighbors will notice and want to know more.

Group B - Caring for the Vulnerable

Pray for the more than 8,000 children currently in Tennessee’s foster care system, remembering that God knows each of them by name. Ask God to encourage families in our own church to consider foster care and adoption. Pray also for the women visiting pregnancy resource centers this week, that they would find genuine grace, support, and the truth of Christ.

Group C - Church Planting and Revitalization

Pray for new, growing churches in Brownsville, Gallaway, and Stanton. These young congregations are still finding their footing, led by church planters who stepped out in faith. Pray especially for the BlueOval City impact zone in West Tennessee, where thousand of workers are arriving from all over the world and new churches are being launched to reach them.

Group D - Healing Brokenness

Pray for incarcerated men and women who are hearing the gospel through faithful Tennessee Baptist volunteers. Pray for leaders like Fred Owenby, who has led a team to the Anderson County Detention Facility every single week for sixteen years. Ask God to promote more churches to start recovery, restorative justice, and healing ministries.

Group E - Reaching the Nations

Pray for international students and refugees who have moved to Tennessee - in our neighborhoods, universities, and local communities. Pray for the Hispanic church leaders being trained through the Golden Offering to lead Vacation Bible Schools in Spanish, sharing Christ with families in apartment complexes and backyards. Pray also for BCM campus missionaries as they walk alongside college students discovering Jesus for the first time.

Group F - Responding During Crisis

Pray for families rebuilding their lives after Winter Storm Fern and the Hickman County plant explosion. Pray for Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers who have given weeks and months of their lives to serve. Ask God to renew the strength of those who are weary, and to inspire a new generation of volunteers to step up in our churches.

STEP 5: REPORT BACK & CORPORATE PRAYER (10 minutes)

Facilitator:

Bring everyone back together. Invite one person from each group to share a single sentence summarizing what their group focused on. This helps the entire congregation see the incredible scope of what was just lifted up in prayer.

After all groups have shared, lead a brief closing prayer to bring it all together.

Suggested Closing Prayer Line:

“Lord, what began with Mildred Golden’s simple prayer in 1901 continues through us tonight. We ask that you use every prayer spoken in this room to move mightily across Tennessee. Amen.”

STEP 6: THE CALL: PRAY. GIVE. GO. (4 minutes)

Facilitator (Read or Paraphrase):

“The Golden Offering isn’t just a budget category. It’s how we actually put our faith into action across Tennessee.” It’s how we send disaster relief teams when storms hit, open prison doors for the gospel, plant churches in communities without one, and fund language ministries to reach new families.

Our statewide goal for 2026-2027 is \$3,000,000. Every single dollar given goes directly to the ministries we just prayed for. Plus, 15 percent of what we give stays right here in our local association to support ministries in our own backyard. When we give, we are directly investing in our neighbors.

We invite you to pray about how God might have you give this year. You can find prayer guides and giving details at the welcome table.”

Encourage everyone to take a prayer guide home to use to pray each day during the Week of Prayer, September 13-20, 2026, or whatever dates your church has chosen.

STEP 7: CLOSE IN SONG & BENEDICTION (3 minutes)

Lead the group to sing a familiar, uplifting worship song. Invite the congregation to stand and move directly from the song into the benediction.

Benediction:

“Go out from here praying for Tennessee, for the lost, for the vulnerable, and for the church. Give generously to the Golden Offering and go wherever God opens doors. Let’s do this together. Amen.”

“My prayer? That every home in Tennessee may become a Christian home! My part? To have a share, however small, in a work so blessed of God, so pleasing in His sight.”

Mildred Golden



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