



GOTM HIGHLIGHTS & TALKING POINTS

2020-21 THEME: "See & Tell Tennessee"

STATEWIDE GOTM GOAL: \$1,800,000

SUGGESTED DATE FOR THE WEEK OF PRAYER: September 13-20, 2020

SCRIPTURE: "Return home and tell how much God has done for you." Luke 8:39a

Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions Highlights and Talking Points are provided to assist you as you prepare to share with your church about state missions and the Golden Offering. Whether you are preaching, teaching, or sharing with large or small groups, there is material here for you to pick from to help you put your notes together.

Through this year's state missions theme "See & Tell Tennessee", Tennessee Baptists are being encouraged to:

- See Tennessee's mission field from Memphis to Mountain City.
- See others as Jesus sees them. **Mark 12:31**
- Show His love and compassion as you meet needs. **Galatians 6:9-10**
- Tell the story to win Tennessee. **Romans 10:13-15**
- Prepare and seek to share your story of what God has done in your life. **Luke 8:39**

The following information includes:

- Promotional Resources - list of the 2020-21 GOTM promotional videos and materials
- What is GOTM? - basic information and history about the state missions offering
- Make it Personal - ideas to make the Golden Offering more personal to your congregation or group
- Outline - a basic outline for sharing about state missions and the Golden Offering

For more information and ideas, be sure to review the promotional resources.



Thank you, Tennessee Baptists, for prayerfully and financially supporting Missions and ministry through the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions.





PROMOTIONAL RESOURCES

Printed materials available to order from Tennessee WMU:

- **"See & Tell Tennessee" Poster**
- **Offering Envelopes**
- **Prayer Guide for 2020-21 Tennessee Missions Emphasis**
- **Cooperative Giving Brochure**

Videos and resources available at GOTMresources.org or on a DVD or flash drive from Tennessee WMU

- **Videos**

1. GOTM Overview (2:13)
2. GOTM Message from Randy Davis (2:31)
3. Thank You Tennessee Baptists! (1:12)
4. See & Tell Tennessee (2:37)
5. Help in Hurting Times: Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief (3:59)
6. Making a Difference on Campus: Baptist Collegiate Ministries (3:17)
7. Missions in Memphis: Student Missions Development (2:20)
8. From Disciple to Missionary: Baptist Collegiate Ministries (3:26)
9. Children's Videos
 - *What is the Golden Offering (:59)
 - *Golden Strong (1:29)

- **Print Files**

1. Planning & Promotion Guide
2. GOTM Highlights & Talking Points
3. Prayer Guide for 2020-21 Tennessee Missions Emphasis
4. What is GOTM? flyer
5. Any Way You Slice It, Tennessee is a Mission Field flyer
6. Golden Skit
7. Mrs. Golden Monologue
8. One Annual Missions Offering

- **Printable and Digital Promotion Graphics**

WHAT IS THE GOLDEN OFFERING FOR TENNESSEE MISSIONS?

- The state missions offering provides invaluable financial support for ministries to help reach Tennesseans for Christ.
- The Golden Offering is collected all year with a special emphasis on giving and praying for state missions during the month of September.

Thank you, Tennessee Baptists, for prayerfully and financially supporting Missions and ministry through the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions.



(continued)

- The Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions works in conjunction with the Cooperative Program to effectively meet needs and support ministries in Tennessee.
- The Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions is:
 - meeting human needs through Compassion Ministries
 - Disaster Relief volunteers helping restore communities after a natural disaster
 - Baptist Collegiate Ministries sharing the hope of Jesus on Tennessee college campuses
 - church planting across Tennessee where there is no gospel witness
 - a child coming to Christ through camp
 - English being taught to someone from another country and sharing Jesus with them in the process
 - and so much more!
- Brief history
 - In 1902, Dr. W.C. and Mildred Golden challenged Tennessee Baptists to pray for and give to missions within the state and initiated the offering.
 - Mrs. Golden served as Tennessee WMU Corresponding Secretary from 1898-1902. Dr. Golden served as State Missions Secretary.
 - First offering was \$800.
 - The offering was named after Dr. W.C. and Mildred Golden in 1943.

MAKE IT PERSONAL.

- Use the Any Way You Slice It, Tennessee is a Mission Field flyer to share information that highlights why Tennessee is a mission field.
- Testimonies from people in your church who have participated in, or benefitted from, a ministry supported by the Golden Offering. Examples:
 - Someone who attended Impact Camp, Journey Camp, All Nations Camp or Special Friends Camp.
 - Someone who serves as a Disaster Relief volunteer or who was ministered to by a Disaster Relief volunteer.
 - Someone who volunteers through Compassion Ministries, Baptist Collegiate Ministries, Literacy Missions or other GOTM funded ministry.
 - Someone who received a WMU Scholarship.
- Associational Ministries - 10% of whatever a church gives through GOTM for the year will be returned to the association with whom the church is affiliated. There are no restrictions on how the association spends the money, but it is requested that they apply it to ministries that support people being saved, baptized, and disciplined. Check with your associational Director of Missions to see how these funds are being used in your association.
- GOTM 2019-20 Harvest Field Reports - visit GoldenOffering.org to view Harvest Field Reports that show how Golden Offering funds were used last year in your area of Tennessee.



USE THIS BASIC OUTLINE TO BUILD YOUR PREACHING/SPEAKING/TEACHING OUTLINE: "RETURN HOME & TELL" - LUKE 8:26-39

Introduction:

Any way you slice it, Tennessee is a mission field. Tennessee is only the 36th largest state in the country by area, but it is the 20th most densely populated. The population of our state has grown from just under 3.6 million in 1960 to 6.9 million in 2020. An estimated 4 million Tennesseans are unchurched or spiritually lost, and every hour three Tennesseans die without Christ. On any given weekend, half of Tennessee's population does not attend worship in any church.

Tennessee is home to more than 850,000 immigrants or refugees and to individuals from approximately 143 people groups. Tennessee suffers from a high poverty rate (15%), high divorce rate (10th of all states), and prescription drug abuse (third in the country). Every day 30 innocent children are aborted in Tennessee. Every day one Tennessean over the age of 45 commits suicide. Every three days a Tennessean between the ages of 10-22 commits suicide.

We live in a mission field with many people hurting, longing to know someone cares. How will we reach this mission field with the gospel of Jesus Christ? Perhaps the best model is found in the example of an unlikely witness- the Gadarene Demoniac. Upon meeting Jesus, he was instructed, "Return home and tell how much God has done for you."

As we review his story, let us think how we might practice his strategy of "return home and tell."

I. The Unlikely Witness

A. He was hopelessly lost. (vv. 27-29)

We do not know his name, but we know his life was a mess. He was demon-possessed, naked, and could not be bound by chains.

B. He was gloriously changed. (vv. 30-35)

Jesus delivered him from the demons and changed his life. The next time we see the man he is found sitting at the feet of Jesus, fully clothed, and in his right mind. He was a living testimony to the power and grace of Jesus. He would never be the same.

C. He was immediately commissioned. (vv. 38-39)

He begged Jesus to let him go with him, but Jesus had another plan for his life. He told the man to return home and tell what God had done for him. This unlikely witness did as Jesus instructed. He returned and told everyone. The news spread throughout the whole region (Mark 5:20). He had a story to tell, a Savior to introduce, and a salvation to be experienced.



Transition:

This unlikely witness took his own experience/his testimony and proceeded to change his world. Family, friends, and neighbors heard the good news of what Jesus had done for him. They heard and were amazed (Mark 5:20).

In this mission field we call Tennessee, could it be that God is calling us to return home and tell what He has done for us? The Great Commission starts at home. The Great Commandment calls us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. Oswald J. Smith said, "The light that shines the farthest will shine the brightest at home." Missions begin at home.

So how might we best shine the light at home, in our neighborhoods, and communities? Drawing upon the books *The Art of Neighboring* (Pathak & Runyan), *The Simplest Way to Change our World* (Willis & Clements), and *The Gospel Comes with a House Key* (Butterfield), consider the following seven suggestions for reaching our neighbors.

II. Seven Suggestions for Reaching your Neighbors.

1. Truly care about your neighbors.

Your neighbor is not a project. He is not a goal to be achieved. Your neighbor is a person of infinite worth, made in the image of God. Know the difference between ulterior and ultimate motives. Do not love your neighbor to try to convert them. Love your neighbor because you have been converted. (See *The Art of Neighboring*, pages 101-103 for more).

2. Listen more than you speak.

Learn the names of your neighbors. Hear their stories. Put down your cell phone and listen. To get a head start on learning the names of your neighbors, enroll in blesseveryhome.com. **Begin praying by name for your neighbors.**

3. Live an exemplary life.

Be a good neighbor. Follow the guidelines of your HOA. Do not give anyone a reason to question the genuineness of your faith.

4. Do good deeds.

Jesus instructed his disciples, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16, NKJV) Paul encouraged the Galatians, "Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all..." (Galatians 6:9-10A, NKJV) Think of ways to serve your neighbor. Take their garbage can to the street, mow their lawn, provide a meal, watch their children. The ideas are endless. Be a servant and do good deeds.



5. Build margin into your life.

Make yourself available. Be accessible. Do not be so overly scheduled that you leave no time for developing relationships with your neighbors.

6. Be visible.

Too many of us pull into our garages, close the garage door, and barely see our neighbors. Get outside your house. Take a walk in your neighborhood. Stop and talk to people you see. Use your front yard. Put a smile on your face, say hello, and see what God might do through you.

7. Take the first step.

Say hello to a neighbor. Introduce yourself. Take a plate of homemade goodies next door. Invite someone to a barbecue. Have the neighbors over for the big game.

As you get to know your neighbor, make your relationship with Christ known early on. Talk about your church. Pray over meals. Speak about how your prayers have been answered. Ask about how you can pray for them. Invite them to your church or an event that might interest them at your church. Ask about their church background. Become a friend that they can trust.

Conclusion:

Recent studies have shown Americans to be unhappy and lonely. Only 14 percent of Americans say they are very happy (Time, 6/16/2020). Almost 50 percent of Americans report that they sometimes or always feel alone or left out (Cigna Study, 2018). In such a time as this, we can “return home and tell what great things God has done for us.”

Who will tell your family member, your friends, your neighbor if you do not? Who will reach this mission field of Tennessee if we do not?

Let us join in praying, giving, and telling so that this mission field of Tennessee can know about the one who can change the life of even the most unlikely.

