



SKIT FOR GOLDEN OFFERING FOR TENNESSEE MISSIONS

Some parts of this skit will need to be adjusted to adapt to your church. Characters enter wearing period attire (1900 turn-of-the-century clothing).

(Dr. W.C. and Mildred Golden enter from the doors at the back of the church and begin to walk down the aisle toward the front, talking and seemingly unaware of the people seated in the church.)

W.C.: Mildred did you notice when this church was built? It is evident by the sign on the doors that after ____ years, it is still a missions-minded church. They are still observing the season of prayer for state missions that you and I helped start here in Tennessee. Do you remember those days when I was the pastor of Nashville Third Baptist Church in 1898?

MILDRED: Yes, my Dear, I remember those days. We traveled around Tennessee together because you were serving as the Executive Secretary of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Then, later, I was serving as the Corresponding Secretary for Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union and we met a lot of people and saw many needs in every part of the state. I remember thinking that the Southern Baptist Convention encouraged giving to support missionaries in foreign countries and home missionaries, too, but there was no special offering for state missionaries. There were many unmet needs because of the lack of resources.

W.C.: One of the ways we promoted state missions was through the newspaper that I published called the *Earnest Worker*. I told stories about what God was doing in Tennessee. I was always interested in missions. Ah... those were good years. By the way, that's about the time I met you, Mildred Bennett, when you were teaching school in East Nashville. You were gifted, well-educated, and beautiful, too!

MILDRED: You were pretty special yourself! When you were elected Executive Secretary of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in 1902, I was so proud of you!

W.C.: I really enjoyed serving Tennessee Baptists in that position. It gave me a chance to encourage pastors and to assist churches in Tennessee.

MILDRED: It wasn't long after that when I was elected to a state leadership position in Woman's Missionary Union. The women across Tennessee were always eager to help when they knew about the needs. When I suggested that WMU begin observing a season of Prayer and Privilege and taking a special offering, above the tithe, for state missions, women all over the state started promoting state missions in their churches. They prayed for state missionaries and they gave to state missions. Do you remember that Tennessee was the first state convention to have a state missions offering?.

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





W.C.: I do remember that. Who would have thought the two of us were trailblazers? It was hard work though. Do you recall how much effort it took to research, write, print, and mail all the missions study materials called Prayer and Privilege to the churches? You and I worked on it together at our dining room table for the first ten years. We had so little to work with that we had to be frugal. I guess I was practically miserly because I would measure each piece of string that we used to tie the packages together. I wanted to be a good steward of every resource that Tennessee Baptists gave us. I knew that if I wasted any resource, it would be a loss to a missionary who could use it.

MILDRED: I know, Dear. You never wasted anything. That first year that we promoted the state missions offering, we raised \$800. Did you see how much the goal for the state missions offering is this year? Tennessee Baptists are trying to raise \$_____ to support many ministries across the state. The goal for this church is more than we raised that very first year! Can you imagine?

W.C.: It's almost beyond my imagination to see how the state missions offering has grown. Isn't it great? After all these years, it sure is good to see that (your church name) is still observing the Week of Prayer for State Missions and promoting the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions. The poster on display said their church goal is \$_____. I believe that they will raise more than that, don't you?

MILDRED: I certainly hope so. I do know that the needs are great across Tennessee. You know, when WMU named the state missions offering in our honor, I felt so humbled. I never expected that they would do such a thing, but I am so glad that it has continued to grow over all these years. This church certainly seems to be continuing the long legacy of supporting state missions. I guess we can move on to another church that needs to be encouraged to give to support state missions and missionaries through the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions. This really is a "Golden" opportunity to see lives changed in our own state for God's glory!



The Golden's

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

