

Why We Go!

The Scriptural Basis for Missions

The story of the Scriptures is the story of God's heart for people. From cover to cover, the Scriptures contain everything we need to know for a life that seeks after Christ. We understand the 4 major themes throughout the Bible as creation, fall, redemption, and restoration.

- Creation: From the very beginning, we see that God desired a special relationship with only one thing He created: mankind. God created Adam and Eve to represent Him in creation by bestowing honor, dignity, and value that is unlike anything else in creation. The world was created for flourishing.
- Fall: Adam and Eve rejected God's reign over them. After being tempted by Satan to question God's goodness and God's greatness, Adam and Eve brought about sin into the world. We refer to this rebellious choice as "the fall." Their actions represent all of humanity. We, too, through our actions, attitudes, and motives, have declared ourselves to be God's enemies. The results of this rebellion include both a physical and spiritual death.
- Redemption: Thankfully, God has not left us in our rebellious state to fend for ourselves. God implemented a master plan for redeeming people out of sin and rescuing fallen sinners. Through the life, work, and person of Jesus Christ, God himself comes to renew the world and restore people back to himself. This is the grand metanarrative of Scripture.
- Restoration: God has promised to renew the entire world. While we live between the cross and full restoration, we see the work of the Kingdom of God all around us. Eventually, Scripture promises Christ will come again to judge all sin and evil and He will usher in complete righteousness and peace.

In the Gospels, Jesus commissions His followers to participate in the mission of His Kingdom. This mission is not reserved for a select few, the professional pastors, or the spiritually elite. This mission was originally entrusted to a handful of His followers and continues to be the torch that the church carries. While Jesus had an expansive ministry that included intentional conversations, healings, and supernatural miracles, His main goal was to announce that the Kingdom of God was at hand – Jesus’ purpose was to redeem peoples from all tribes, tongues, nations, and languages to himself.

- From the Gospels, four main Great Commission texts stand out: Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:46-47, John 10:16. These texts describe the purpose of all believers: to make disciples of all nations, which started with the disciples, and now is the core missionary task that we continue to participate in.
- The book of Acts records Jesus’ last words to His disciples in Acts 1:8 as both a commission and the promise of the Holy Spirit’s empowerment. Acts contains the missionary expansion of the church from Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth. As a result, the apostle Paul spent his life for the sake of the spread of the Gospel across the Roman empire. Acts 13-18 records several missionary journeys of Paul in which town after town heard the Gospel—some people responded, some towns included fierce opposition. Amazingly, Paul’s efforts led him to say these words in Romans 15:23-24 “...since I no longer have any room for work in these regions... I hope to go to Spain.” Paul’s strategy included sharing the Gospel, gathering/organizing these believers into churches, and raising up leaders who would then repeat this process over and over to plant churches all across the Roman Empire. Many of Paul’s letters show doctrinal truths, instruction, encouragement, and conviction to many of the churches that were planted.
- The book of Revelation gives us a glorious ending picture of God’s master plan in Revelation 7:9. John writes that he saw people from every nation, tribe, people, and language worshipping before Jesus’ throne in heaven.

Today, we labor to that end. We labor to show that the Kingdom of God has come into our own hearts, into our family, into our church, into our city, and into the nations of the world. We desire to fulfill the command of the Great Commission to make disciples of all peoples. Missions is not a ministry of the church that we “do.” Missions is why we exist. We labor on the long pattern of saints that have come before us. We work with the same goal that every nation, tribe, tongue, and language would worship Jesus.

Longview's Involvement

As a church, we are able to join in the worldwide mission of the Kingdom of God. Jesus' words in Acts 1:8 are filled with assurance and instruction. Jesus told them that the Holy Spirit would empower them for the witness of the Gospel. They were to take the Gospel to Jerusalem and then to the rest of the world – Judea, Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Our Core Convictions

At Longview, whether we are involved in our church, locally in our city, or around the world, we hold to these convictions:

- Our passion for God's glory to be known fuels our burden for all people
- Prayer is a vital component of all mission endeavors
- Great Commission fulfillment is the responsibility of the local church and every believer has a role to play
- Within a team context, all short term work is a critical component of long term strategy
- Longview's goal in cross-cultural ministry is the multiplication of disciples and churches through the training of indigenous believers, with a high emphasis on unreached people groups
- Theology matters when multiplying disciples and churches because what we believe dictates how we behave
- We will seek to engage spiritual, social, and economic needs within our community
- We will value and engage indigenous cultures and contextualize our approach without compromising the Gospel message
- We will seek to partner with, not compete with, like-minded churches and mission agencies in accomplishing God's mission
- Our focus includes a three-pronged strategy: (1) church planting, (2) mercy ministry, and (3) missionary support/church strengthening

Missions Strategy

Today, that same Holy Spirit empowers followers of Jesus for the witness of the Gospel. Our mandate points us to make disciples of all peoples as we Know (Christ, Community, Church), Grow (in maturity, in generosity, in ministry), and Go into our church, our city, and across cultures. We desire to GO through the multiplication of disciples and through church planting. We do this at home and abroad by applying these steps:

- Entry – engaging and entering areas with great Gospel need, where there are little to no relationships or access to the Gospel
- Evangelism – we engage people through the sharing of the Gospel using Scripture as our basis, relying on the Holy Spirit’s work in others’ hearts as they hear the good news
- Discipleship – we teach others what it means to follow Jesus in their daily lives
- Church formation – as believers come to salvation, are taught the Scriptures, we desire to see churches formed in the local setting
- Leadership multiplication – we seek to train indigenous leaders to take up the core missionary task in their contexts

Missions Affiliations

We ARE an autonomous church! The SBC has no denominational control or hierarchy, as there is in many other denominations. Each church is self-governed and determines its own affairs. We are also self-funded. The only contributions we receive come through the weekly faithful giving of church members.

Longview cannot be an island unto itself as it fulfills its mandate of making disciples of all people. Our kinship with and support of SBC entities provides us with strategic links to help reach our city, our state, our nation, and the world for Christ. We are affiliated with the following:

- Southern Baptist Convention – The SBC is a collection of 40,000+ churches that cooperate together in a worldwide effort of missions. For more information visit www.sbc.net
 - ◇ International Mission Board (IMB) – The IMB’s mission is to serve Southern Baptists in carrying out the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations. Working together with SBC churches, the IMB sends missionaries around the world to proclaim the Gospel. As of Jan 2021, the IMB has over 3,600 field personnel. For more information visit www.imb.org.

- ◊ North American Mission Board (NAMB) – NAMB is the umbrella through which SBC churches part of NAMB include Send Relief and Send Network. For more information visit www.namb.net.
- [Mississippi Baptist Convention](http://www.mbc.org) – The network of SBC churches that fellowship together with the goal of evangelizing our state. For more information visit www.mbc.org
- [X-tended Missions Network](http://www.xmn.cc) – A fellowship of 60 Baptist churches located in DeSoto and Tate Counties. The XMN exists to minister to all people, mature churches, mobilize individuals to fulfill the Great Commission, and multiplying churches through church planting. For more information visit www.xmn.cc

We can identify ourselves with other Christians around the world who are known for their commitment to the Bible as well as participation in mission efforts with the SBC. The SBC is the most diverse denomination in the world with over 40,000 churches that worship in dozens of different language.

We are a part of the largest missionary force in the world. Just like we believe in tithes and offerings of our income to the Lord, OUR church gives to missions! We take a portion of all the money that comes in to help other churches get started and to support missionaries around the world. We are part of what is known as the Cooperative Program. Every time you give on Sunday, you help support over 11,000 missionaries in 153 countries around the world. Your gifts help sponsor them. For more information on the Cooperative Program, visit <https://www.sbc.net/missions/the-cooperative-program>.

Longview Missions Offering

Here is the breakdown of Longview’s world missions offering:

- 50 % - Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (supports the IMB)
- 24 % - Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (supports the NAMB)
- 5 % Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering (supports the MS Baptist Convention)
- 3 % - Baptist Children’s Village (Farrow Manor campus)
- 2 % - Memphis Union Mission
- 1 % - Gideon’s International
- 15 % - Longview mission support to mobilize our church family on missions

GO: Into Our Church

Missions is far more than an emphasis on going to “other places.” More than anything, it is the lifestyle of every follower of Jesus, driven by worship, that focuses outwardly with a desire to live our mission wherever we are! Within our church there are multiple opportunities to serve. We encourage every member of Longview to pray through these ministries to see how God leads you to be involved.

Longview ministry opportunities include:

- **Preschool Ministry** – Longview Preschool Ministry exists to partner with parents to introduce their preschoolers to who God is and understand that God made them, God loves them, and Jesus wants to be their friend forever. our pre-school ministry seeks to serve children from birth to 5 years old. You can contact Jan McMurphy at jan@lhbc.me for more information.
- **Children’s Ministry** – Recognizing that parents are the primary disciple-makers of their children, Longview’s Children’s Ministry exists to partner with parents as they lead their children in an active faith walk with Jesus Christ by educating children in Biblical truth, providing guidance and support, and equipping them to share Christ with all people. Our children’s ministry seeks to serve families with children ages 1st grade-6th grade. There are opportunities to serve on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. For more information contact Lisa Clark at lclark@lhbc.me.
- **Special Needs Ministry** - Longview Special Needs Ministry, also known as “Four Friends”, exists to create a faith community within the special needs community by demonstrating the love of Christ in a safe and appropriate environment and equipping the church body to minister to and with special needs individuals and families so that all may experience knowing Christ, loving people, and reaching the world for Him together. For more information contact Lisa Wilson at lwilson@lhbc.me.
- **Student Ministry** – Longview Students exists to bring glory to God by encouraging students (7th grade-12th grade) to know Jesus, grow in spiritual maturity, and serve Him through cooperative efforts of family and the faith family. For more information, contact our Pastor to Students, Ryan Gardner at ryan@lhbc.me.

- **College & Young Adult Ministry** - Longview College/Young Adult Ministry exists to foster relationships among young adults (18-28 years old) in a way that prioritizes gospel growth, gospel advancement, & local church engagement. Community groups meet on Sundays at 9:30 am. Our weekly gathering, known as “The Well” meets on Thursdays at 6:30 pm. Contact Vlad Baraniuk for more information at vlad@lhbc.me.
- **Adult Ministry** – Longview’s Community Groups are where people connect in age-based groups. Community Groups meet on Sundays at 9:00 am. For more information to connect or to lead a Community Group, please reach out to James Walker jwalker@lhbc.me.
- **Senior Adult Ministry** – The senior adult ministry seeks to connect with senior adults who are both active as well as homebound. We have on-call opportunities to transport senior adults who cannot drive to doctor’s appointments or to the grocery store. Contact Blake Krumalis at blake@lhbc.me to volunteer to help.
- **Audio/Visual** – Longview’s audio/visual team seeks to ensure that our in-person and online worship services and special events run smoothly by operating sound, lighting, production software, and videography. If you would like to volunteer with this team, please contact Blake Krumalis at blake@lhbc.me
- **Choir/Worship Ministry** – contact our Worship Pastor, Blake Krumalis, for opportunities in our music ministry at blake@lhbc.me
- **Digital Ministry Volunteer** - Longview’s digital ministry uses web, social media, photography, videography and more to communicate to our community who Longview is, and that we are here with a life-changing message of eternal hope in Jesus. For more information, please contact Debbie Grear at dgrear@lhbc.me
- **Homebound Ministry** – We seek to stay connected with and minister to those that may be homebound. Our Sunday morning worship services are streamed online at www.LHBC.TV. We also deliver Wednesday night meals to those that are homebound. Contact Jackie Davis at (901) 490-1223 to assist with meal delivery.

- **Connection Ministry (Host Team Greeter)** – Longview Connection Ministry exists to create an environment where people connect with others, build relationships, and experience God’s love in order to make disciples of all people. The Connection Team consists of Host Team Greeters and Ushers who are intentionally helpful, accessible, and available to help make everyone who walks through our doors feel welcome and accepted by creating an excellent and friendly environment. For opportunities to serve in the Connection Ministry, contact Aimee Bradley at aimee@lhbc.me.
- **Kitchen Ministry** – Please contact Jill Brewer at jill@lhbc.me for volunteer opportunities.
- **Men’s Ministry** – The men’s ministry at Longview seeks to connect men of all ages with different events and discipleship opportunities throughout the year. For more information, please reach out to James Walker jwalker@lhbc.me.
- **Security** – Longview’s security team seeks to ensure that our facilities and events have adequate protection from theft, fire, vandalism, or other criminal activity. Volunteers are trained to deter, deescalate, and resolve any issues that may arise. For more information, contact Rusty Parsons rusty@lhbc.me.
- **Transportation Ministry** – Under the direction of the Director of Operations, Longview’s transportation team ensures that church vehicles are maintained in the safest, most cost efficient manner possible. Volunteers are often needed for trips that require multiple vans. A CDL license is not necessary, but is an added asset. For more information, contact Rusty Parsons rusty@lhbc.me.
- **Widow Ministry** – There are numerous opportunities to demonstrate Christ’s love to widows that are connected to Longview. We have opportunities to assist in occasional help around the house with light duties such as house cleaning, raking, yardwork, and other items. Contact the church office at (662) 895-1900 for volunteer opportunities.
- **Women’s Ministry** – The women’s ministry at Longview seeks to connect women of all ages. There are many events throughout the year that help women build relationships and grow together in Christ. For more information, email WMinistry@lhbc.me.

GO: Into Our City

We seek to share Christ within the community that God has placed us. Here are some brutal facts regarding DeSoto County MS:

- Population 178,975, divided into 62,890 households
- 12% of children live in poverty
- 83% identify as Christian, with 77% identifying as Protestant
- 2% of the population identifies as a non-Christian faith
- 14% of the population is unaffiliated with any religion

As a result, Longview seeks to engage and to share the Gospel through partnering with local organizations. Each ministry will have a contact listed, and you may also contact Vlad Baraniuk at vlad@lhbc.me for any further information or questions.

- **Baptist Children's Village** - The Baptist Children's Village is a Christ-centered ministry whose focus is to help children and their families fully understand and experience the healing ministry of Christ by meeting their daily needs and inspiring them to become Christian adults who are happy, healthy and mature. The Baptist Children's Village has been caring for Mississippi children since 1897 and have grown to a statewide ministry that includes seven residential campuses and a centrally located headquarters. The BCV provides quality care for about 200 children every year. Because the needs of children and their families have changed drastically since those early days, we continually evaluate this ministry to meet these ever-changing needs, always maintaining the primary focus to show Christ's love to children and families. The Baptist Children's Village is the official child care agency of The Mississippi Baptist Convention. For more information, visit www.baptistchildrensvillage.com.

Longview provides mission support to the residential campus located in Coldwater MS (Farrow Manor). For volunteer opportunities, you can contact either Vlad Baraniuk at vlad@lhbc.me or Farrow Manor Campus director Bill Tate at (662) 233-2155.

- **Benevolence Team** - Under the leadership of the Missions Ministry Team and the Missions Pastor, volunteers for the benevolence team seek to assist individuals with needs that may arise. For more information, contact Vlad Baraniuk at vlad@lhbc.me.

- **Calvary Rescue Mission** - Since April 1, 1967, Calvary Rescue Mission has been rebuilding the lives of homeless men in Memphis TN. Calvary Rescue Mission is a non-profit, independent, faith-based shelter for homeless men that serves two full meals daily, offers clothes, and provides nightly chapel services and discipleship programs. To get involved, reach out to Vlad Baraniuk at vlad@lhbc.me or visit <https://www.calvaryrescuemission.org>.
- **Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF)** - Creating opportunities to evangelize and disciple local children. Organizing Good News Bible Club meetings to kids. For more information contact Terri Tilmon at 901-647-1614.
- **Construction Mission Team** - Longview assists local churches with renovation projects, home repair for widows or single parents, and many other small construction jobs. Contact the church office for current projects at (662) 895-1900.
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Response Ministry** - In coordination with Southern Baptist Convention Send Relief ministry, Longview coordinates training for volunteers responding to disaster relief needs in our community. Volunteers are needed for debris removal, chainsaw work, tarping, emergency shelter, and emergency response cook teams. Most disaster areas now require certification before allowing volunteers entry into devastated areas. Contact our Disaster Relief Coordinator, Don Beach, to participate at (662) 895-6748.

Emergency Shelter – Longview’s gymnasium is recognized as an approved Red Cross emergency shelter which is able to provide shelter for disaster victims. Recent kitchen renovations have been donated and completed for use in this ministry.

- **Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)** - Longview has partnered alongside FCA for numerous years. FCA’s vision is to see the world transformed by Jesus Christ through the influence of coaches and athletes. FCA’s desire is to see every coach and athlete enter into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and His church. This is accomplished through making disciples by engaging, equipping, and empowering coaches and athletes to know and grow in Christ and lead others to do the same. Locally, Longview has been involved with the North Central MS FCA. For volunteer or donation opportunities, you may contact John Engstrom at (662) 816-8905 or visit www.northcentralmsfca.org.

- **Memphis Union Mission** - Memphis Union Mission ministers to the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of men who are homeless, may have addictions, or are in crisis. The ultimate objective for clients is for them to become mature disciples of Jesus Christ, achieve freedom from substance abuse, reunite with family and loved ones, and reemerge as self-sufficient members of our community. We currently have several church members volunteering and ministering at the mission each month. To get involved, please reach out to Lou Ann Dunger at (901) 825-8598.
- **OB Food Pantry** - The mission of the Olive Branch Food Pantry is to serve and seek the welfare of the city of Olive Branch by providing supplemental groceries to those who are in need of assistance and/or are facing a time of crisis. The heartbeat of this non-profit organization is to exemplify Christ in participating in the renewal process of our city by extending grace to those in need. If you'd like to get involved with this ministry, here are a couple of ways you can pitch in:
 - **Donate**: Funding of the Food Pantry comes from individuals, churches and organizations. The building, office space and other related expenses are possible through support of the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors, the City of Olive Branch, and the United Way of the Mid-South. Donations can be monetary or simply donating food directly to the pantry. Please consider investing in our city by donating to the Olive Branch Food Pantry.
 - **Serve**: Sign up and participate in staffing the pantry by volunteering to 1) unload donations, sort and stock during the week, 2) serve the clients on Tuesdays or Thursdays, or 3) get involved in our special events and fund raisers.

For more information regarding the food pantry, you can visit www.theobfoodpantry.com.

- **OB Thrift Store (Warrior Center USA Uptown Thrift Store)** - Warrior Center USA Thrift Store supports the work of the Warriors Center for Women in Olive Branch, MS. The Warriors Center for Women is a powerful recovery program for ladies that reaches out to women battling homelessness, substance abuse, and other life controlling problems through a faith-based program. You can visit the Olive Branch Uptown Thrift store located at: 7142 Pigeon Roost Rd, Olive Branch, MS 38654. For more information, visit <https://warriorscenter.org/locations/olive-branch/> or at (662)890-9600.

- **One by One Ministries** - The vision of One by One Ministries is that all moms accept God's love and parent well so that children may flourish. One by One Ministries offers hope, support, and parent education to moms through mentoring. This ministry equips volunteers from local churches to mentor expectant parents or parents with brand new babies. This ministries matches trained volunteers with expectant mothers who are asking for help. Mentors help families, especially moms, with parenting tips and life skills, share the Gospel, and connect families to church and community support networks. To learn more information or to volunteer as a mentor please contact Catherine Todd at (901) 496-2415 or visit www.onebyoneusa.org.
- **Precious in Pink** - The mission of Precious in Pink Ministries is to reflect the hope and love of Christ by providing a stable Christ-centered environment for women who desire to change their lives. Precious in Pink Ministries remains committed to provide an environment that models evangelical Christian values, mends emotional scars, restores self-esteem, and provides for each woman the full opportunity to reach her God-given potential. This ministry group provides weekly Bible studies for ladies incarcerated here in DeSoto County and assist them upon release in transitioning back into our community. Contact Ann Lunceford for additional information at (901) 849-3562.
- **Shawl Ministry** - The Shawl Ministry is made up of members of Longview Heights who meet together to make blankets, hats, and other items for our mission partners. The Shawl Ministry meets the second and last Tuesday of every month in the F Building. Contact Peggy Rhodes for more information at (662) 292-7757.

GO: Across Cultures

We have partnered with many ministries and church plants that serve across cultures in the United States and internationally. For opportunities to volunteer with any domestic or international partners, please contact Vlad at vlad@lhbc.me. Current partnerships include:

National Partnerships

- ◇ Restoration Church (Lebanon, IN) – Pastor Landon Anderson
- ◇ Hope Fellowship Church (Bismarck, ND) – Pastor Chris Wallace
- ◇ Mercy Gate Church (Rapid City, SD) – Pastor Kenneth Brock
- ◇ CrossLife Church (Johnson City, TN) – Pastor David Anglin
- ◇ Connection Church (Belle Fourche, SD) – Pastor Stephan Carson
- ◇ Camp of the Woods (Dinorwic, Canada)
- ◇ Eight Days of Hope
- ◇ Global Outreach
- ◇ World Wide Church Planters

International Partnerships

- ◇ Linda Gray (Ukraine)
- ◇ Jay & Courtney Nelson (Dominican Republic)
- ◇ Diana Cedeno (Ecuador)
- ◇ Levi & Lindsay (South Asia)
- ◇ Christine Lewis (Spain/N. Africa)
- ◇ Zoe Ministries (Kitale, Kenya)