

COLORADO MISSIONS OFFERING

IN HONOR OF NICY MURPHY

EVERYONE
Everywhere

Use this prayer guide to learn how Jesus is continuing to make Himself known in Colorado because of your gifts to the Colorado Missions Offering in Honor of Nicy Murphy. The Colorado Missions Offering is allocated by percentage into the seven ministry categories covered in this prayer guide.

EVERYONE, Everywhere

AND THE MASTER SAID TO THE SERVANT,

“Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled.”

LUKE 14:23

Every life matters to God, so Colorado Baptists partner together to reach every segment of this state with the Gospel. The Colorado Missions Offering in Honor of Nicy Murphy is one mechanism of that cooperation. Every gift to the CMO stays in Colorado and is used to meet needs in our state.

PRAY. GIVE. GO.

Day 1

CHURCH PLANTING

In April 2022, Dennis McDaniel and his family moved to Colorado to plant Calvary Las Animas in Las Animas. Since the day they arrived, the McDaniel's have considered Las Animas home and Kentucky and Indiana as “where we came from.” Las Animas is home to slightly more than 2,000 people, eight marijuana businesses, six alcohol businesses, two residential treatment facilities housing 300 people, and a prison with 1500 people. The treatment facilities are what drew Dennis to Las Animas and for more than a year, he has led a weekly Bible study in one of these facilities. McDaniel said, “These are people who are coming out of addiction, they're coming out of homelessness, and they know that they are broken.

The problem is, a lot of times, they don't know where to turn to get unbroken. We have seen a number of folks out there who have made professions in Christ.” The McDaniel's live in the parsonage of Calvary La Junta, their sending church, requiring a half-hour drive one-way to get “home” where they serve.

Pray for the McDaniel Family and other church planters in Colorado to find affordable housing so they can live where God has called them to serve.

Day 2

COLORADO MISSIONS

Like many churches since COVID-19, attendance and participation at Pikes Peak Baptist Church in Colorado Springs, fell but now both are steadily growing. “I really believe that God blesses the church that will prioritize the Great Commission and not just give lip service to it. We are serving the Lord Jesus Christ when we [serve the community],” said Pastor Mark Hensley. “Once you do that, you always want to do that.”

Located in a rough area of the city, the congregation sees their community as precious people to whom they are called to share the Gospel. They meet felt needs around them through a food pantry, a clothes closet, weekly community meals, and hot meal delivery to the homeless who hang out in Dorchester Park. They have provided coats and school backpacks to needy children. Hensley appreciates the partnership with Colorado Baptists. He said, “When we've needed help from Colorado Baptists for backpacks, for coats, for food, they have never turned their backs.”

Pray for ministries of Pikes Peak Park Baptist Church to open doors for the Gospel. Ask God to lead Colorado Baptist churches to seek ways to meet their communities' physical and spiritual needs.

Day 3

ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS

Pastor Dave Herre, Calvary Derby Hill in Loveland, heard from Zack Thurman, lead pastor of Overland Church in Fort Collins about Overland's dedicated cry room. The cry room was designed especially for young families who weren't attending worship because they didn't want their children to disrupt the services. Herre said, "We realized we also had a need for a room update because of some young moms who visited. We did not have a suitable or welcoming cry room." More than 2400 homes in Loveland are led by single mothers. The congregation decided to make Calvary Derby Hill a welcoming place for moms. They planned and saved to update their cry room, but they couldn't do it alone so Herre asked Longs Peak Association for help. The association and state convention provided some funds to help. This project was a cooperative effort of three Southern Baptist entities.

Regional Coordinator John Howeth said, "That's the purpose. They built [the cry room] so they could reach single moms and young families." Associations are vital partners with local churches to reach Colorado communities.

Pray for associations to help local churches love their communities well while utilizing practical resources they have.

Day 4

PASTORAL CARE AND TRAINING

Josh and Jill McCarty have "always valued our network" of church planters and churches in Colorado. McCarty planted River City Church, Grand Junction, and serves as their covocational pastor. The couple feel connected to Colorado Baptists. Last year when Jill was diagnosed with colon cancer, they realized how deep their connection runs.

Josh asked Frank Cornelius, Colorado Baptists' Church Planting Catalyst and Jeff Bachman, the regional coordinator for the Grand Valley Association for prayer. It was Bachman who made the McCarty's aware of pastoral care available through the Colorado Missions Offering.

While difficult to accept, the financial gift helped in two ways. Josh said, "One, it reminded Jill and me of the people who care and love us and were looking for practical ways to help. The other is the practical side. It was pretty immediate relief of stress. The fact that they cared was like a breath of fresh air."

Through Jill's surgery, subsequent treatment, and recovery, the McCarty's remain grateful for the gifts of Colorado Baptists. More than that, they are thankful for the prayers for them.

Pray for the physical, mental, and spiritual health of Colorado pastors and church planters.

Day 5

DISASTER RELIEF

The December 30, 2021 Marshall Fire decimated Superior and Louisville killing two people. Jerry Percell, a Colorado Baptist Disaster Relief volunteer, lived in Louisville for 30 years before relocating to nearby Erie. He responded to the Marshall Fire. "Many of our friends, people we knew, some of our kids' teachers, lost their homes, so [Disaster Relief] got a lot more personal to me," he said. While responding to the Marshall Fire, God gave Percell a personal message in 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 which states:

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."

"Disaster Relief," Percell said, "is transferring the comfort of God to those hurting. People in those situations are just devastated. They don't know what the next step is. We can come in with a team, maybe half a dozen or even more people, and bring some energy and just start cleaning things up. That gets them started on the road to hope. We can show the love of Jesus and share the Good News."

Pray for volunteers to rely on God's strength as they help the hurting. Pray for Disaster Relief volunteers to share Jesus with words and deeds.

Day 6

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CAMPUS OF GATEWAY SEMINARY

In 1996, the Rocky Mountain Campus (RMC) of Gateway Seminary began providing seminary education tailored to the Colorado context. Knowing the critical nature of that education, Colorado Baptists support the RMC through the Colorado Missions Offering.

Shane Cannon, pastor of Mesa Christian Fellowship, Pueblo, earned a Masters degree at the RMC. "So many of the professors were pastors or professional counselors, but they were doing their ministry work in Colorado. I was learning from people who ministered in our state and in our context."

Cannon's seminary experience led to an additional ministry. "I felt called to get my doctorate so I could be teaching some of the classes for Gateway and maybe even offer some satellite classes for some of our more rural churches and pastors," Cannon said. He is grateful for CMO gifts which reduced tuition costs and made pursuing God's call feasible. Cannon earned a Doctorate of Ministry in 2022. He now has necessary credentials to explore with RMC possibilities for bringing seminary to rural contexts.

Pray for RMC students, present and future, to be trained well to serve the churches and ministries to which God has called them.

Day 7

SUMMER CAMP MINISTRIES

Elisha Vinson, youth pastor at Majestic Church, Pueblo West, takes about 60 youth to Summit Camp at Ponderosa. Every year multiple students from his youth group place their faith in Jesus for the first time. Many more rededicate their lives or are drawn to missions and Christian service. Vinson expects what he calls "normal questions" about faith and God during camp, but last year, the questions were different: My parents are divorcing. My grandparent is dying. What do I do? Ponderosa gives students a dedicated place to "learn to lean on His armor." It provides a quiet place

and a singular focus on God that helps students "open themselves to hear truth and what God wants them to be," Vinson said.

Ponderosa is known for Summit and PEAK Camps, but the facilities can be used for training, retreats, and conferences. Vinson's reasons for taking students to camp are applicable to adults, too. Getting away from busyness and responsibilities helps believers realize the path God has for them, learn to display their faith in bold ways, and learn to share the blessings God gives.

Ask God to use Ponderosa to bring children, students, and adults into His presence, so they can walk boldly with Him.

Day 8

RESORT AND LEISURE MINISTRY

In 2021, 84 million people visited Colorado and more than 1 million employees served them. God has called Jacklyn Turner, Eagle County Alpine Resort Ministries, and others serving resort settings to these millions. "[We] have the opportunity to reach people with the love of Jesus—from all over the world—whether they be seasonal employees or visitors. We want to say yes to every opportunity the Lord puts in front of us."

Opportunities abound. Easter Sunrise Service, for instance, had 500 attendees hearing the Gospel this year. Moments of God "gently drawing people back to Jesus," happen often, Jacklyn said. One resort employee said, "I grew up in the church, and my mom loves Jesus, so I'm happy to help you out." The team prayed and encouraged him. They see God drawing this worker to Himself.

Once Jacklyn shared a gondola ride with a couple and offered them a ride. The husband shared freely how he had grown up with faith in God, had stopped attending worship, and now missed his faith. Jacklyn shared her similar experience of God leading her back to Himself.

Pray for resort and leisure ministries to follow God's leading moment-by-moment.