



WHBC

# MISSIONS MAGAZINE

## SOUTHEAST ASIA

WHBC Southeast Asia team has returned from their trip reporting God has been doing mighty things there.

## COLLEGE STUDENTS ON MISSION

West Heights College Students are not letting anything stop them from making disciples among the nations.

2025 VOL. 1

# BEHIND THE SCENES



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Mission Team Articles by Alaina Weeks, Casey Russell, Misty Vineyard, and Logan Sweet

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to those that have supported missions at West Heights in 2024.

Interested in writing for us?

Contact our church office at [crussell@westheightsbaptist.org](mailto:crussell@westheightsbaptist.org) for more information about becoming a WHBC Missions Media Writer.

# Featured

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## **MISSION TEAM SUPPORT**

Interested in financially supporting a team? Check out listings for needs of mission trips p.4

## **FEATURED ARTICLE BANAH**

Writer Emma Ritchie takes a look at the inner workings of Bannah Pregnancy Center and some needs of the center p.5

## **SOUTHEAST ASIA MISSION TEAM**

Read first hand account of team member Misty Vineyard as she tells of their adventures of ministry in the 10/40 window p.17

# OCC 2024

## PACKING SHOEBOXES



### 2024 Shoebox Report:

Pontotoc County:

8502 boxes

West Heights Baptist:

2240 boxes



# SUPPORT A MISSION TEAM



## Guatemala Mission Team 2025

2025 WHBC members going on trip:  
Shawn Moore, A.J. Tutor, Alexis Tutor, Casey Russell, Landon Russell,  
Ethan Stubblefield, Rocky Tzib

March 9-16, 2025

Trip Cost: \$1700.00 per person

This team is currently fundraising and in need of financial support.

There are 7 West Heights members going on this trip. Please consider contributing to their trip cost.

(When giving, please let the church office know that it is for the Guatemala Mission Team.)



# Banah

## BANAH

By Emma Ritchie

Banah Pregnancy Testing Center (PTC) sits in the building right across from our church. We often pass by on our way to church, but many people do not know just how much this service affects the lives of others. Banah is a completely free clinic that helps with anything related to pregnancy. This involves offering education about pregnancy and abortion to patients and their families, support for mothers in the forms of diapers, wipes, newborn clothes and other essentials for baby and mother, and Bible studies for both women who are expecting and women who have already had abortions.

Banah says its goal is to make abortions unnecessary, and what a goal that is! The phrase “make abortion unnecessary” highlights the unfortunate reality that many women feel abortion IS necessary. For many women facing an unplanned pregnancy, abortion seems like their only choice. The reality of God’s healing power being the only way to truly fix their situation is foreign to these young women. That is why Banah is such a necessary service.

Banah is distinctly and unshakably gospel based. Banah volunteers understand that life begins at conception, and they advocate to stop the unfair ending of those lives. However, they also believe that no woman chose to have an abortion unless she truly feels there is no other option for her. At the core, these women and their families do not know or understand the word of God. Banah helps with this by offering Bible studies led by godly women to the patient, her partner, and her family. They also offer Bible studies to women who have already had abortions or aided in the abortion process in some way. These studies are led by women who have had abortions and know that pain and loss.



*The heartbeat changes minds.*

Because of the overturning of Roe V. Wade, abortion procedures are illegal in the state of Mississippi. However, the abortion pill is legal and widely used. This is where the free ultrasound that Banah provides comes in. By offering a free ultrasound and allowing mothers to see their unborn child, Banah is saving lives. This is because many times, when women get the ultrasound, they can suddenly see the life they hold. Suddenly this “lump of cells” the world tells them has no value is assigned a form. Along with the ultrasound, women can hear the heartbeat for the first time. They see a real child that has been created and has potential for a life. Director Angie Treadaway says, “the heartbeat changes mind.” This, in fact, changes everything.

## YOU CAN HELP

So how do we help? “We” as a church help quite a lot. West Heights lets Banah use the building they reside in, lets them use the church as a drop-off location, and gives monetarily to the service. So rather than ask “What can we do as a church?” the more important question is “What can I do as an individual?” The answer is long, and it does not stop with a one-time offering.

- **Donating money.**

Nothing can be accomplished without funding and Banah is no different. Banah does not charge for any of their services, so they run on donations by us. They use these donations for medical supplies, organizational costs, and memorial stones for women who have had abortions.

- **Donating materials.**

They are always accepting donations of baby essentials. They usually get donations of diapers and wipes, but they need more than that. They need clothes and toiletries for the babies as well as clothes and toiletries for the mother. Bibles that are easy to read, especially for a teenager or someone who may not have finished school, are also needed.

- **Donating your time.**

Just ask them what they need, and they will tell you! They need help with general maintenance such as watering the outdoor plants or painting the doors. They need Godly women who have experience with abortions and pregnancy to lead Bible studies. They need someone with experience running a social media page who can help them with their outreach. Banah also is in desperate prayer for an accountant who feels called to offer their services at a lower or discounted price.

- **You can help by your constant fervent prayer for God’s blessings and the continued ability to meet the needs of “the least of these.”**

# GO THEREFORE

# MATTHEW

18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,



# ALL NATIONS



28:18-20

20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”



# NO ORDINARY TRIP

by Casey Russell

## WYOMING, 2024

In July of 2024, a team of 8 West Heights members traveled to Rock Springs, Wyoming to help share the gospel at the High School Finals Rodeo. The team did amazing, working tirelessly to share the good news of Jesus Christ with hundreds, maybe even thousands of people that were at the rodeo. This trip was extra special for me, as this was really the first mission trip for my son Landon and I to go on together. Lauren and I have continued to pray, through the years, that God would use



David Hamilton, LaDonna Hutchinson, Chris Hutchinson, Mark Stegall, Susan Brown, Casey Russell, Landon Russell, Christy Mahan

our children in ministry (vocationally or otherwise). There is always pride in a Christian parent's heart when their children are faithful to Jesus, and even more so, when they are faithful to share their faith with those around them.

This trip compounded my joy by allowing us to be totally focused on the mission at hand together, working side by side in the booth, as well as any conversations we had in the community. It is one thing to experience joy telling your



Mark Stegall sharing the gospel with a couple visiting the rodeo booth.

children about your faith in Jesus, but let me tell you, it takes things to another level to be able to be faithful laborers for the gospel together with your children. These are the days that I want to remember when they are grown and moved out. Even as I type these words, I continue to pray that Landon and I, as well as all my children, will always be able to be co-laborers of the gospel as long as the Lord sees fit to leave us here on planet Earth. In preparing to write this article, I asked Landon what were some of his favorite memories of the trip.

He said meeting new people was the first thing. This team did indeed meet new people. He not only met new people at the rodeo, but within our team as well. One such person was Chris Hutchinson. They were quite the pair. I chuckle as I think about them together on the trip. Our team met people from all over the United States, and even the world.

I was able to pray with a man from Nashville, Tn. His wife was fighting cancer and I could tell he was fighting to mask the sorrow and worry. A tear comes to my eye now as I reflect on that moment of



Christy Mahan, Landon Russell, Casey Russell



Susan Brown, David Hamilton, Mark Stegall

looking up from praying and seeing his buddy embracing him and his eyes filled with tears. Not all fruitful kingdom work is engaging lost souls. It was quite clear that this man was a devout Christian, but the pain is still very real. I remember Susan Brown's new friend that she prayed all week "to see again at some point." Soon after, she saw that girl several times. Susan was able to share with her more and more about this Jesus that she loves so much.

Landon said his other favorite memory was being able to work alongside the team as they led people to Jesus.

This was pretty amazing because he and I were able to lead two teenagers from Washington state to faith in Christ. That moment had a profound impact on both Landon and me. That was my first time to lead someone to Christ within this particular context of sharing the gospel at an evangelism tent (Jackson state fair, Vegas-National Finals Rodeo, or High School Rodeo). I think that will be something we remember for many years to come.

As parents, we go through different seasons of life; never easy, never quite clear, yet always worth any pain or

discouragement you feel in the moment. Parenting is like evangelism in that way; never easy, never quite clear, yet always worth any pain or discouragement you feel in the moment. Jesus said “in this life you will have trouble but take heart because I have overcome the world. You better believe I have quoted this verse so many times over the years, in ministry, evangelism, parenting, and everything else that comprises the life of a disciple of Jesus.

I am tremendously proud of this team that went to Wyoming. They vowed to go and be obedient to Jesus Christ, no matter what challenges the trip presented, and you must know: they were obedient. To God be the glory.

Team Members:

David Hamilton  
Landon Russell  
Susan Brown  
LaDonna Hutchinson  
Chris Hutchinson  
Christy Mahan  
Casey Russell  
Mark Stegall

## Peru 2024

*Shawn Moore, Austin Cook, Nathan Fly*



*Shawn Moore, Austin Cook, and Nathan Fly packing water filters in Peru.*



*Austin Cook and Nathan Fly helping serve a group of Peruvians.*

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# MORE PERU 2024

Check out more pictures from Peru 2024 Trip.  
Team members: Shawn Moore, Austin Cooke,  
and Nathan Fly





Water filter developed by Shawn Moore for Peruvian natives.

# SERVANT

IN LOVING MEMORY OF



## RANDY MILLER

THE MISSIONS TRAILER TEAM WANTS TO HONOR THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF RANDY MILLER. RANDY WAS A SELF-LESS, SERVANT LEADER THAT HELPED LEAD SEVERAL PROJECTS FOR THE MISSION TRAILER.

# LEADER

# WHBC MISSIONS HOUSE

Get a sneak peak at what all has been going on in the newly aquired "Missions House."



Operation Christmas Child



CHILDREN'S CLOTHES CLOSET



THE REFUGE

THESE MINISTRIES ARE SETTING UP SHOP IN THE MISSIONS HOUSE (Old Cristo Building).



## From Small Town Pontotoc to Southeast Asia: A Mother's Mission



I've grown up and lived in Pontotoc my entire life, where faith is woven into the fabric of our daily lives. Churches are on every street corner, and people talk about Jesus as naturally as they talk about football or sweet tea. As a mom raising my kids in our small town, I've always been thankful they are surrounded by reminders of God's love. But stepping off the plane in Southeast Asia, I felt like I'd entered another world.

The air was heavy – not just with humidity, but with a kind of spiritual weight I can't quite put into words. Temples everywhere, burning incense, sacrifices lying on the ground, and faces that seemed weary and searching. It was clear that for many of the people here, the name of Jesus was completely foreign.

Leaving my kids and my husband to go to the other side of the world was one of the hardest decisions I've ever made.





I questioned myself constantly: Am I doing the right thing? Will my kids understand why I'm going? What if something happens to me while I'm there? But deep down, I knew God was calling me to go. I kept thinking, My children hear about Jesus every day. What about those who've never even heard His name?

The trip itself was hard; physically, emotionally, and even spiritually, but it was also filled with moments that I'll never forget. Sharing my faith with people who had never heard about Jesus was both humbling and overwhelming. I'll always remember being able to share The Gospel with a girl named Diana. She was young and spoke a little English, she listened so intently and you could tell the Holy Spirit was working within her.



She asked for a follow up meeting and was open to learning more. Another moment I will not forget is being able to pray over a man named Wayan. He was sick and not really interested in listening to us, but something changed when we asked if we could pray over him. After the prayer, he said he could feel the presence of God and that he felt peace and healing in his hands.

We met a woman in a local park who was there selling water. We were able to share Jesus with her and she professed to believe! Over the course of our time in Southeast Asia, we were able to share with over twenty-five people, and each of them had the opportunity to hear the name of Jesus.

Coming home was bittersweet. I missed my family terribly, but part of my heart stayed behind in Southeast Asia. I came back home with a fresh perspective. The spiritual abundance we have here isn't something to take for granted – it's something to share. And while I'm back to "normal" life in our little town, I'm also more intentional about teaching my kids what it means to live on mission for Jesus, wherever we are.

This trip reminded me that I don't have to be anyone special to make a difference. I'm just a mom, trusting God to use me—and to show my kids that His love truly knows no borders.

*"After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands. And they were shouting with a great roar, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne and to the Lamb!"*

*Revelation 7: 9-10*

#### **WHBC Team Members**

Jeremy Mask, Kassi Mask,  
Misty Vineyard, Ashley Moore

# Bodock Festival



# Christmas Parade



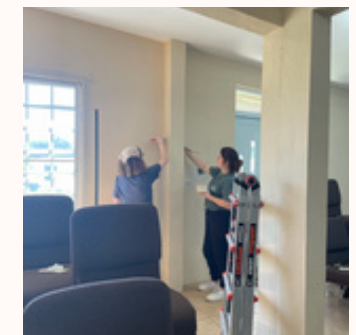
# Puerto Rico Christmas Trip



**Alaina Weeks**

One of my favorite moments was our Thanksgiving service with the local church! It was so evident that the church body has such a genuine heart of worship and value of their church community. It was a blessing to worship alongside them!

God showed me the importance of using your time and resources to serve in your community. Despite the amount or method of serving, it can open doors that only God can establish. I saw this when we were able to invite people in the community to have dinner at the missionary's home. With something as simple as a meal, God provided many opportunities for conversations to build relationships and encourage others in their faith.





# Where is God calling you T2 TO GO?

115 volts

Check out local, domestic, and international  
opportunities at

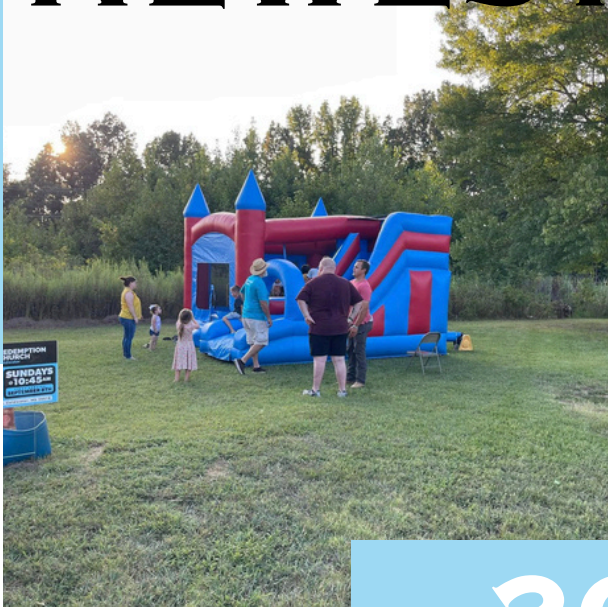
[www.westheightsbaptist.org/missions](http://www.westheightsbaptist.org/missions)



# MISSISSIPPI'S

# NEWEST CHURCH

REDEMPTION CHURCH COLDWATER



2024

www.redemptioncoldwater.com



Redemption Church Coldwater is a brand new Mississippi Baptist Church located in Coldwater, MS. Their mission is Proclaiming Christ, Cultivating Community, and Making Disciples. Check out their website above if you are interested in more information.

# 2025



## MS Baptist Disaster Relief Regional Training

*Registration begins at 7:30 AM*

*Classes begin at 8:00 AM and conclude by 5:00 PM*

*Lunch is provided.*

REGION 1 / April 12, 2025

Hillview Baptist Church  
23919 Hwy. 430 South  
Greenwood, Mississippi

REGION 2 / March 22, 2025

Friendship Baptist Church  
85 Friendship Road  
Ecru, MS

REGION 3 / March 8, 2025

Park Place Baptist Church  
5701 US-80  
Pearl, MS

REGION 4 / February 22, 2025

First Baptist Church/Meridian  
701 26th Avenue  
Meridian, MS

REGION 5 / February 8, 2025

First Baptist Church/Wiggins  
219 2nd St N  
Wiggins, MS



All participants will complete Introduction to SBC Disaster Relief Ministry (required of all MSBDR Volunteers) and one specialty track: Basic Chainsaw, Feeding, Intro to Chaplaincy, Cleanup/Recovery/Support (Flood Recovery/Blue Tarp/Shower/Laundry).

*Cost is \$25.00 for new or renewing volunteers and \$15.00 for additional credential area volunteers.*



*MS Baptist Disaster Relief (MSBDR) is a ministry that provides help, hope, and healing to those affected by disaster and crisis situations. MSBDR is supported by the churches affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board through their gifts to the Cooperative Program, Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering, and designated gifts to Disaster Relief*

# SUMMER OF SERVICE: MISSIONS IN INDIA

By Logan Sweet

Whenever someone goes on a mission trip to a different country, there are those who ask “what is it like doing missions there?” I had the wonderful opportunity to serve in India for 8 weeks this past summer with the Blue Mountain College Baptist Student Union Summer Missions program. I will share my experience with you by telling you two stories about my summer.



The first story is about a challenge that I had to face in India. It was around week four of our trip, and the excitement of being there was wearing off. Our summer was both engaging with Indian people and seeing some of the country, yet at this point, there was nothing more to see. Our days were fully submerged in the task of building relationships and sharing the gospel. That makes for long days in a place like India. I was struggling spiritually to find motivation to share anymore. I did not want to be there anymore and just wanted to be home. However, I knew God had called me to do this, and I knew that giving up was not an option. During that time, I was reading through the book of Job and seeing how Job walked through hardship. His faith in God never changed. That was encouraging to me. I sought the Lord through prayer and reading His word, and I asked the Lord to give me motivation to continue. It was around the end of week five that I was all in for it. I knew the Lord had answered my prayer and I was actively seeking to share.



The second story is a “God” story. My team and I were in week six of this trip. On a Thursday, a national partner and I were going out to share the gospel. We went out to lunch first, then we headed around the city to seek out people to share the gospel. We tried a couple of parks at first, and we were able to share with a couple of Muslims. We shared the gospel with them and invited them to church. We got their contact information and headed on. We then went down to a river close to where we were staying, and unfortunately, we were not able to get into any gospel conversations there. So, we moved on to a mall. I do not know why, but I was a bit hesitant at first because I did not want to get caught by the police there. After pulling up to the mall and going inside, I said a quick prayer of faith for confidence and boldness.



We saw a guy running a virtual cricket stand. His name is Aryan. Cricket is a game similar to baseball, and this game was on a screen like a video game. I played a round of virtual cricket. Afterwards, I asked to sit down with Aryan to get to know him a little more. I asked him about his spiritual beliefs, and he told me that he was Hindu/Christian. He had said he was on the verge of leaving Christianity and becoming a Hindu. I shared my testimony and the gospel with him, and I invited him to church. He was not able to come that following Sunday because he was sick. That last full week was busy for our team so I could not follow up with him. Our team and I had gone to Bhopal. I told my national partner to do whatever he could to get him to church the following Sunday. He did go to church, and we got a text that evening that someone gave their life to the Lord. It was Aryan! I was so full of joy that my small step of obedience turned into a glorious way to end the summer. India was certainly a summer to remember as I saw God work in some specific and mighty ways.





FAITH • FATHERHOOD • FORGIVENESS

## OBJECTIVE

To “heal” the deep, anger filled soul wound that an abandoned boy suffers from and carries with him; thereby stopping the cycle of destruction and abandonment.

## THE NEED

**50%** of this of this country’s children - over 25 million kids under 18 - are growing up in homes without their fathers. They live in every community and within reach of every Church.

Given this knowledge, our Heavenly Father will not tolerate inaction. We are called to help the fatherless, and now we can. And, we must.

## THANK YOU

It all starts with an intentional commitment into the life of a fatherless boy by a godly man.



# From the **FIELD**

## **MASEN** A FIELD BUDDY'S STORY

**ELEVEN-YEAR-OLD MASEN** had never met his father, who abandoned him for a life of crime that ultimately led to prison. The wound of abandonment that Masen carried was not visible on the outside, but it gnawed at him on the inside—producing anger and resentment and convincing him that he was not worthy of a father’s love.

Masen was enrolled in *Fathers in the Field* through a local church. Masen’s grandmother noticed the *Fathers in the Field* enrollment ad in the newspaper and she called indicating that he needs help and we should call his mother to get Masen enrolled.

Masen and his Mentor Father started planning for their end of year turkey hunt. Masen was introduced to the concept of forgiving his father in month 6 of the 10-month Journey Curriculum. He emphatically and angrily wrote in big, hate-filled letters, that he will NEVER FORGIVE his father.

Over the next couple of months while sharing time together and exploring God’s creation, Masen asked his Mentor Father and his Sunday school teacher many questions about this concept; such as, would you forgive your father if he abandoned you? Did Jesus really die for me on the ‘cross’? How could God let His Son die on the Cross? Do I really need to be forgiven? Am I a sinner? Many wonderful conversations happened and unfolded in natural and normal settings, like driving to Sunday school and eating lunch under a tree while looking for elk in the Wind River mountains.

One Sunday morning, when his Mentor Father picked him up to take him to Sunday school, Masen boldly and confidently told his Mentor Father that last night he prayed to his Heavenly Father to forgive him and that he accepted His Son, Jesus as his Savior...And, by the way... I forgave my earthly father too. And, I want to be Baptized! To say the least, his Mentor Father was blown away and filled with awesome joy.

They hugged and had such a wonderful drive to Church that day. One month later, Masen was Baptized in witness of his church family, his mother, grandmother, his grandfather, his great grandfather and great grandmother and yes, his Mentor Father.

### **WHAT A CELEBRATION! PRAISE THE LORD.**

However...God’s special redemptive plan is not over... Within two weeks of his telling his Mentor Father of being saved in Christ... Masen received the unthinkable. He received a letter from his father in prison wanting to see him. (God’s plan is perfect... that letter would have been torn apart before God softened Masen’s heart.)

Masen asked his Mentor Father... what would you do?... and the Mentor Father asked what do you think you should do? Masen thought for a little while and responded... I should go see him and tell him that I forgive him. And, tell him, that I have been forgiven too. Plus, I should tell him about Jesus. Maybe we can spend forever in Heaven together.

What a powerful testimony of God’s mercy and love for His children. Masen’s wound can finally heal, no longer festering. He has broken the bonds of anger and hatred—and through God’s grace, prayerfully the cycle of destruction. He is now whole in Christ.

### **THE FATHERLESS ARE THE CLOSEST TO GOD’S HEART...!!!!!!**

**fathersinthefield.com**

*Fathers in the Field* is a 501c3 charitable organization



Please contact me about joining our church’s *Fathers in the Field* effort.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_



2024 MISSISSIPPI STATE FAIR EVANGELISM TEAM

Mark Shelton, Tammy Shelton, Mark Stegall, David Hamilton, Emma Ritchie, Josh Ritchie,  
Paislee Russell, LaDonna Hutchinson, Christy Mahan, Casey Russell



SHARING CHRIST WITH  
ALL THAT WILL LISTEN

Christy Mahan prays with a  
couple at MS State Fair.



## WHBC MISSIONS MEDIA

Love God, Serve People

29 Jesus answered, "The most important is Listen, Israel! The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. 31 The second is, Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other command greater than these."

Mark 12:29-31



[www.westheights.com/missions](http://www.westheights.com/missions)