EVERY MEMBER COMMITMENT 2026

Giving God

THE BEST OF OUR

Ofime, Ofalent, & Ofreasure

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Luke 12:34

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DEAR FELLOW BRIARWOOD MEMBER,

One dictionary defines stewardship as "the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care." In the New Testament, we are admonished to be "good" and "faithful" stewards. God is far more concerned with what we do with a resource that He's entrusted to us and far less concerned with how much or how little of a given resource we have. Do we squander the time He's given us? Do we hide a gift instead of developing or deploying it for His Kingdom?

The Stewardship Education Committee has chosen Giving God the Best of Our Time, Talent, and Treasure as the theme this year, and we pray you are experiencing increasing faithfulness in stewarding God's resources in your life. Is worshipping God with my time, talent, and treasure a priority? Or do I plan my day, deploy my skills, and spend my money and only then consider how I can use these resources for the glory of God? Too often, it's the latter. Instead, let's begin with the end in mind and bring to God the firstfruits (the best) of the time, talent, and treasure He has entrusted to us.

Briarwood is committed to Christian stewardship which has impacted the world for Christ. The Every Member Commitment (EMC) is the annual process by which each church member or family is given the opportunity to participate by making a commitment of his or her anticipated tithe for the upcoming year. The EMC supports the General Fund of the church which includes National and Urban Missions, Board Directed Ministries, program ministries such as Church Planting, as well as Briarwood's facility operating expenses. The EMC began in the early days of our church when members were canvassed by the officers regarding the next year's budget and their support. On Sunday afternoon, November 9, we will continue that tradition by canvassing the families that have not responded to the EMC.

God has been faithful to bless Briarwood with the opportunities and resources to reach the lost for Him. The EMC allows the church to proactively plan and steward resources to continue our vital ministries. We have been entrusted with the Gospel; let us be diligent to share it personally and to support the work of the Church in spreading the Good News of our Savior. Please join me as we seek to honor God with all that we are and all that we have.

The Stewardship Education Committee encourages you to attend the October 26 adult Sunday School EMC Convocation. Take time to read the enclosed information and stories from our ministries and be encouraged as the Lord multiplies your giving to reach the lost. We ask that you return the enclosed commitment card or submit your pledge online on or before Pledge Sunday, November 2. Should you have any questions regarding the EMC, please feel free to contact me or speak with any church officer.

For His glory, Marland Hayes Chairman, Stewardship Education Committee



What is the Every Member Commitment (EMC)?

EMC (Tithe)

The EMC occurs annually and funds the church's day-to-day ministries such as worship, community outreach, operations, meeting our members' spiritual needs, and equipping us to be salt and light in this world.

How do I submit my pledge?

- 1. Online Complete the online form at briarwood.org/emc
- 2. Mail Send your Pledge Card to the Church Accounting Office.
- In Person Bring your Pledge Card to the Church Accounting Office.
- **4. In Person** Bring your Pledge Card to a worship service on Commitment Sunday, November 2, 2025.

Offerings Above the Tithe

- **Faith Promise** The Faith Promise occurs annually and funds Briarwood's world missions' ministries.
- Capital Campaigns Capital Campaign resources fund new building programs, campus expansion, debt reduction, and other one-time needs.

On the following pages you'll find a brief description of some of the ministries your tithe supports, along with ministry impact stories illustrating the significance of your tithe in the lives of others from cradle to presence with the Lord.

NURSERY

The Briarwood Nursery provides a service to the parents of the Church by providing a safe and pleasant atmosphere in which to leave their children while pursuing spiritual growth and fellowship with other believers.

"The Briarwood Nursery has been an incredible blessing to our family. As a mom of young children, my days are filled to the brim meeting the needs of the little ones in our home. The Nursery has been a grace to me by allowing me to entrust their needs to others for a short time, knowing that my children are having fun and growing spiritually while being cared for by a loving and capable staff. The Nursery is more than just childcare; they are shepherding the hearts of the youngest members of our church family. I couldn't be more grateful." – Briarwood Member

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The Children's Ministry desires to partner with parents to lead children to a saving, growing relationship with Christ by presenting the Gospel, training children to worship, and equipping them to impact others for God's glory.

One of the truths that children hear throughout the Children's Ministry events is that they can be a missionary right where they are. One of the kindergarten students leading up to the GLOW Children's Missions Conference had been praying for a student in his class to come to church so that "he could learn more about Jesus so that Jesus could work in his heart." The child in the Children's Ministry said he knew that God would get the boy in his class to come to church if he kept praying, and that if he came to church and learned about Jesus it could help his friend make good choices and not get in trouble at school. The boy did come to GLOW all four nights and his whole family attended Sunday School the next Sunday. Praise the Lord for this child and his desire to be a missionary in his own classroom at school!





YOUTH MINISTRY

Briarwood Youth Group (BYG) has touched the lives of thousands of young people throughout the years through retreats, conferences, and mission trips. Through weekly meetings, discipleship groups, and special events, the Lord has blessed us to reach and disciple more and more students for Christ!

This year at Impact Weekend 2025 (BYG's annual, 3-day, in-town retreat), the speaker challenged the students to reflect on whether they had an authentic relationship with the Lord. During the last night, a student shared that she had been running from the Lord but was ready to surrender her life to Christ and be baptized. Another student confessed that he had been living a double life and, although he attended church, was falling into ongoing temptations and living in a way that was not glorifying the Lord. Praise the Lord that the Spirit convicted their hearts and that these students are now ready to leave the world behind them and enjoy an authentic relationship with Christ.



COLLEGE MINISTRY

The College Ministry is a community made up of two different groups: The first group consists of students who grew up at Briarwood but are away attending college. The College Director and Women's Coordinator seek to encourage these students in their walks with the Lord and connect with them when they return over the summer and holidays. The second group is made up of college students from local campuses who gather for worship at Briarwood on Sunday mornings during the school year. With these students, we seek to create a community that engages in Christian fellowship and impacts the campus and the world for Christ.

It has been an encouraging year in the college ministry marked by deepening community and students encountering Jesus's love for them in a new, more personal way. One of the most fruitful things this year has been discipleship groups, which are made up of two or three students and a leader studying the Word together, holding each other accountable, and pointing each other to Jesus.

GRADUATES AND CAREER (G&C)

The G&C community consists of singles in their 20s and 30s, and our focus this year has been "faithfulness on the frontlines." Each of us is called to serve the Lord in a specific "frontline," that is, the place where we spend most of our waking hours interacting with unbelievers and the world. Our aim has been threefold: to heighten our members' awareness that the Lord calls them to ministry exactly where they are, to equip them with resources and wisdom from older generations who have demonstrated faithfulness on *their* frontlines for many years, and to challenge them to go and be salt and light in their workplaces, their classrooms, and their homes.

This past year, the G&C community held its summer retreat at Callaway Resort & Gardens. The theme for the retreat was "Fools for Christ," and we focused on the Apostle Paul's "theology of the cross" from 1 Corinthians 1-4. We took a deep dive into how the Gospel of Jesus Christ affects how we interact with the culture of the world and the values that we choose to adopt and live out. Notably, there were several newcomers who joined the retreat, including a visitor who did not come from a Christian background. We are pleased to share that the retreat facilitated relationships with members and has encouraged those visitors to continue attending Briarwood!







YOUNG COUPLES MINISTRY

Briarwood Young Couples Ministry desires to see a multiplying movement of healthy, Christ-centered families that are growing in maturity and connecting in community. Praise the Lord that we are experiencing many young couples encouraged in Christ through this vibrant ministry.

When one of the young couples received news that their house was on fire, they rushed home to discover that most of their belongings were destroyed in the fire. They were devastated. That very night, their Sunday School community joined together and decided to help this couple purchase the items they needed by providing a love offering. They prayed for them and with them and sent encouraging texts and notes. This couple shared, "We truly have no words to express the incredible generosity and kindness y'all have shown us... Thank y'all for being the hands and feet of Jesus and showing us so much love. I am just really speechless and cannot even begin to express my thanks... We love y'all so incredibly much."

CONGREGATIONAL COMMUNITIES

Briarwood enjoys deep, meaningful relationships. Scripture places great importance on being connected to a biblical community, and the adult Sunday School classes serve as "Congregational Communities" that embody this value. These 31 vibrant groups provide a place where many members experience genuine fellowship and a sense of belonging.

Alongside excellent weekly teaching, members and visitors gather to pray, encourage one another, and serve together using their spiritual gifts. Class Shepherds are faithfully present and actively care for those with prayer requests or physical needs.

One new member shared that he and his wife had visited several churches while searching for a church home. Initially, they felt Briarwood might be too large but decided to attend. He said, "From our first Sunday, we felt welcomed and cared for. We were invited to join a Congregational Community. The next Sunday, we visited the class and were met with smiling faces and friendly interaction. We made the decision then to join Briarwood because we finally found a church that felt like home to us."

Since then, this couple has been very involved in their Congregational Community and in weekly worship services. These communities help make a large church feel small and personal. The goal is for every guest to experience the same love and care this couple felt, and for every member to find a place to connect and use their gifts in the life of Briarwood.



MEMBERSHIP

The Membership Ministry's goal is to glorify God by helping visitors and members connect to Christ and His Church here at Briarwood. We focus on providing a warm welcome to guests, helping new members connect into the church body, and partnering with seasoned members to provide continued support and guidance in various ministry endeavors. This is facilitated through Sunday School communities, various small group meetings, and connecting with other church ministries. We have had people from many different walks of life visit and join Briarwood as members this year.

One story really captures the heart of the Membership Ministry: A man who had not been in church since he was a teenager contacted Briarwood because he desired to speak with a pastor. He met with two pastors in the Membership office who shared the Gospel with him, and through that he came to know the Lord. From there, he began to visit Briarwood, attend Sunday School, went through the Membership Class, received baptism, and joined the church. He is being discipled by a pastor and is eager to get involved in ministry.

Praise the Lord for how He continues to draw people to Himself and blesses Briarwood with new members who are being transformed by the Gospel!

MIDWEEK

Briarwood MidWeek is a great time for God's people to gather around an excellent meal before heading to Bible studies, choir and orchestra rehearsal, seminary classes, evangelism training, children's programs, nursery, youth ministry, and a host of other activities. MidWeek is where the body of Christ enjoys sweet fellowship and participates in the rich study of God's Word.

Since January, the MidWeek Evangelism Team has gone out 19 times to meet strangers and share the good news of the Gospel of Jesus. It has been a blessing to share with 216 people with 30 having indicated a commitment through prayer to place their faith in and surrender to the Lord Jesus!

BIBLICAL COUNSELING

The Counseling Ministry connects the treasures of Christ to the troubles of life through biblical counseling. Scripture speaks with depth and hope to people's struggles: guilt and shame; fear and anxiety; anger, conflict, and addiction; loss, depression, and a host of other sufferings. The trained staff and lay counselors offer God's truth wrapped in God's love to members of Briarwood and the community in their time of need, thereby extending the reach of Briarwood's shepherding and evangelistic ministries. In a typical month, we provide counseling for 80+ individuals and/or couples within 130+ appointments. The demand exceeds their supply, so we are trusting God to expand the team still more.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP

The Music Ministry provides opportunities for all members, ages five and up, to find their voice in worship through graded choirs, youth choirs, the Chancel (adult) choir, orchestra, praise teams and bands.

"While praying and asking the Holy Spirit what He wanted for the Christmas program, I knew He wanted the Cross of Jesus Christ to be center stage—proclaiming all His Love and Hope for anyone who felt too dirty for Jesus and needed His cleansing. We prayed about showcasing the Cross, and the Lord brought it together harmoniously! I never have any idea what the Holy Spirit is doing in the audience at times like that; I'm in my own world with my back to whatever may be happening. All I care about is His Presence and our loving obedience in response. In the audience that evening was a young visitor who had gone through significant life trials and had been struggling with the thought, 'Does Jesus even care? Is He listening to my prayer?' This person wrote me and said, 'Pastor Haines, when the song, "Love Came to Me" was sung and the Ballet unfolded the cross, I literally gasped out all of my breath.' After hearing that person's story, I knew that he had responded to the power of the Holy Spirit and was reminded that Jesus Christ loved him, purchased him with His own Precious Blood, and would never leave or forsake him in his greatest hour of need. Had that been the only person in the room, the cross gave him and many others Hope in Christ which was the theme of the worship concert." – Worship Pastor, John Haines



PASTORAL CARE

The Pastoral Care Ministry's focus is to assist pastors, elders, and congregational communities in caring for church members, especially in times of sickness, infirmity, bereavement, or family crisis.

Pastor Jim Alexander serves alongside 30 volunteers on the Pastoral Care Team where we pray for church members, visit people in hospitals, do follow-up calls, provide communion to homebound members, do anointings, and lead worship services in area assisted living facilities. We shepherd through in-home visits and encourage those who are bereaved through GriefShare. Grace Ladies care for widows with regular contact and fellowship, and impact the city through a cohort of pastors from area churches meeting to share resources and encouragement. Our footprint extends beyond Birmingham. We blessed a family from Mississippi while their son was here dying from leukemia. Another out of state family, who has been joining the Sunday livestream, received regular calls, prayers and encouragement during an unexpected health crisis. Both families join with all who rejoice in God's blessings through Briarwood's Pastoral Care. *Soli Deo Gloria!*

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

The Mission Statement of Briarwood's Women's Ministry is "Equipping women to know God, and to glorify Him in the Home, Church, Community, and World."

Each summer, the Women's Ministry offers a drop-in Bible study, and this year, our focus was the book of Colossians. Seven different Briarwood women faithfully taught through the book, encouraging them to be women of prayer and gratitude, to recognize the preeminence of Christ, to live out their union with Him, and to serve both the Lord and their covenant family with joy and faithfulness. Each week, over 75 women gathered to open God's Word, encourage one another, and grow in fellowship—both with sisters from Briarwood and with quests from outside the church.





MEN'S MINISTRY

Building up Christlike men of character and conviction is one of the highest priorities at Briarwood. The Men's Ministry, "Men of the Covenant," is oriented around discipleship courses and enhanced by special events such as the Men's Masterclass, Men's Dinners, and Life on Life Discipleship. A distinctive feature of Men of the Covenant is its intergenerational approach—bringing together men from various ages and life stages to grow in Christlikeness and gain wisdom from those who are older and wiser.

Hebrews 10:24-25 says, "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

MERCY MINISTRY

The Mercy Ministry of Briarwood is committed to ministering to those in need. The Deacons, Mercy Pastor, and volunteers of the Mercy Ministry have opportunities to enter the lives of both members and non-members to walk with them through times of struggles and offer the mercy of God. The Mercy Ministry also dispenses the mercy of God through New Focus, Fostering Hope, and Adoption Connection Ministries.

Recently, a Briarwood member attended a meeting and struck up a conversation with a woman she had just met. During their discussion, the woman shared that she was struggling to pay her mortgage. The member invited her to attend Briarwood's New Focus class on Wednesday nights, so the woman accepted the invitation and joined the class. With the guidance of her New Focus coach, she learned how to budget her finances and was soon able to make her mortgage payments. A few weeks later, the coach began a conversation about the Gospel, and the woman expressed a great interest in understanding its meaning. After answering her questions concerning salvation in Jesus, the coach had the joy of leading her to Christ.

EVANGELISM

Evangelism has always been a primary focus at Briarwood, which is that's made evident by the commitment to the church mission statement: "...to reach Birmingham to reach the world for Christ." The goal is to provide tools like "Bridge to Life" so that each member can share their faith. Recently, one of the evangelism participants shared this story about a divine appointment: "Tonight, I had planned to come to our evangelism meeting, but I met a man from Manchester, England who is in Birmingham 2 weeks for work. He invited me to take a survey, so I asked him to also take our evangelism survey. We talked for a while in which I shared the 'Bridge to Life' and Ephesians 2:8-9 with him and asked if there was any reason why he should not invite Christ into his life right now, and he eagerly said there was no reason. So, he prayed after me and asked forgiveness for his sins and to surrender his life to Christ..."

COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Ministry of Briarwood includes Print, Internet and Electronic Media Ministries, with Audio/Video and Radio comprising the Electronic Media Ministry. At 88.5 FM, WLJR is the automated, 24-hour-a-day Christian radio station, affiliated with both the Moody Radio Network and American Family Radio.

"The most important thing the Communications Department does each week is facilitating Sunday worship. In addition to our full-time staff, we have the opportunity to work with our Sunday AV Team which consists of volunteers and part-time staff who help run live-stream cameras, worship slides, and help with Sunday School setups. One particular Sunday morning, I went to check on two high school age young men who were new to our team and were helping with our livestream cameras. Not only did I find them alert and focused on their work, but they had their Bibles open, were taking notes during the sermon, and were engaging in worship. It was a great reminder to me that our team does not just help facilitate on Sundays, we are actively participating and offering up our talents as an act of worship." – Landon McKee, Communications Director





CHURCH REVITALIZATION

Originally founded by Pastor Harry Reeder as Embers to a Flame, this teaching, mentoring, and resource ministry was rebranded in 2020 as Lampstand. Briarwood hosts the annual Lampstand Conference each January and partners with like-minded churches to guide them in pursuing church health. The conference offers three focused ministry tracks: Church Planting, Church Revitalization, and Church Acceleration. Lampstand recently participated in an international conference hosted by a church in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia! Future international conferences may take place in France, the United Kingdom, and Scotland.

"We were so impressed with the organization and the quality of everything that was done...Our group benefited greatly from this conference and can't wait to share what we have learned here and look forward to seeing what the Lord does in the future." – 2025 Lampstand Participant

JAIL MINISTRY

The Jail Ministry is a group of men and women who visit the county jails to minister to inmates. This may mean sharing the Gospel if the inmate is not a Christian, having a short Bible study with a few people, or answering questions about life and how God's Word speaks to various issues. The inmates tend to be very open to conversations of this kind.

"Psalm 119:67 says, 'Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word.' This verse has been literally fulfilled in the lives of several men at the Shelby County Jail. They entered jail two to three years ago, far from any connection to the Lord. Now they study God's Word daily and their lives have been transformed by it. One told me he could possibly have been released after a week but that was 35 months ago. He is glad that it did not happen. He said he would not have come to know Jesus if he had not been in jail. What a joy to share God's Word with these men each week." – Pastor Bobby Parks





CHURCH PLANTING

The vision of the Church Planting Team is to fulfill Briarwood's mission and vision in facilitating partnerships with church planting efforts that are committed to reformed means of grace ministry in culturally and geographically strategic locations that lack such presence.

An exciting event in the Church Planting ministry took place over the summer right here at Briarwood! Collaborating with the Florida Church Planting Network, the Church Planting Team recently led the launch of Briarwood's first daughter church since the 1990s, sending Teaching Elder, Stephen King, to plant a church in Tampa, Florida.

Additionally, Strong Tower Church and Pastor Alonzo Brown in Montgomery, Alabama are seeing the Lord at work through their dental clinic service ministry. Lorenzo frequented the clinic where multiple times he heard about the saving grace of God but refused the message. Recently, he attended Strong Tower and was baptized after finally deciding to follow Christ! His wife, who passed away 10 years ago, was a devout Christian. He said he wishes she could be here to see him live for the Lord!







NATIONAL MISSIONS

The commitment to mirror the Biblical model of Acts 1:8, "...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria...," is fulfilled through National Missions. The ministry has grown to encompass a "Life Team" which educates and promotes not just pro-life topics but end of life issues—known as a "womb to tomb" approach. Ministry partners include military chaplains, human trafficking recovery homes, Native American reservation ministries, Alabama congressional ministries, and college campuses.

One ministry partner conveyed that events which allow Christ-sharing, life changing messages to be shared among college students would not be possible without support from churches like Briarwood. Recently, eighty football players attended a camp retreat. They were challenged to make Christ the center of their lives. The following is how participants came to an understanding of salvation:

"I grew up hard. I didn't know what to really expect coming down this weekend, but when Sam shared about God being the only One that satisfies – it just clicked. Like I have been trying to fill this void in my life with all these other things, and Jesus was telling me, 'I am the only One that can satisfy you,' so I surrendered and gave my life to God." – Football Player, South Alabama

"At Mini Camp, I understood the grace of God for the first time. I came to the realization that salvation is a gift that I could never pay God back for. Over the weekend, I accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior, and I now desire to live fully for Him. God has changed my life forever – I know that I have everlasting life and that I will never be alone!" – Jordan, University of West Georgia

PRAYER MINISTRY

Briarwood is a Church that places high value on praying together without ceasing. Intercessory prayer to God is built into every area of our Church. This includes our worship services, Sunday School communities, small groups, Session and Diaconate meetings, and the many prayer groups throughout Briarwood. Our ministries have a prayer strategy incorporated in their plan.

A dear member was battling cancer and asked her friends in her congregational community to pray with her for wisdom, strength, and healing. After some cancer treatments, the time came for her to receive a scan. The scan showed no trace of the cancer. She shares that the Lord used the prayers of her church family to give her encouragement, strength of faith, and ultimate healing from the Lord. We praise the Lord for many answers to our prayers, like this one, as we pray for one another at Briarwood. "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." I Thess. 5:16–18

LOCAL MISSIONS MOBILIZATION MINISTRY

Reaching the nations for Christ starts right here in Birmingham. The Local Missions Team aims to support Birmingham-based ministries and missionaries by connecting them with Briarwood members and resources. One way we do this is through a biannual community service day called IMPACT Birmingham. "We're not lacking in opportunities to serve; we just need to get people connected to the opportunities," says Local Missions and Mobilization Pastor, Max Bunn. The primary goals of IMPACT Birmingham are to introduce members to the multitude of ministry needs right in the city, to engage them in those ministries, and to form relationships with these ministries which will bring mutual transformation.

Through IMPACT Birmingham, God called Nathan, a Briarwood member, to serve one of Briarwood's ministry partners—not just twice a year but every month! Nathan had helped with landscaping at Big Oak Ranch, and through the simple act of spreading mulch, God softened his heart toward the ministry that provides a safe Christian home to abused, neglected, and abandoned children. Together, Nathan and Pastor Max combined Nathan's love for pickleball with the ranch's need for activity and fellowship. They created a plan for a monthly pickleball class, serving the boys with fun fellowship and team bonding. "The impact goes both ways," says Nathan. Not only is he able to impact Big Oak Ranch by serving the ministry, but the ministry is impacting him greatly as he finds new meaning in stewarding his time and skills to enrich the lives of others.

SPECIAL CONNECTIONS

The vision of the Special Connections Ministry is to make the Gospel accessible to all, as the body of Christ shows equal concern for people with disabilities and their families. The ministry provides teaching and worship opportunities as well as care for children, youth, and adults with special needs. The ministry also provides other activities for people with disabilities throughout the year.

Each summer, Special Connections joyfully serves the Lord through VBS. With the help of many dedicated volunteers, we point the participants to Christ in meaningful and creative ways. This year, one powerful moment came through praise and dance, as a volunteer led the participants and staff in heartfelt worship. The joy was so contagious that a staff member from outside the room felt compelled to join in. One volunteer even shared that it was his favorite day of the entire year. Like every ministry at Briarwood, Special Connections touches not only those being served but also those who serve. We are already looking forward to the next VBS!





TRAILBLAZERS

Trailblazers is Briarwood's senior adult ministry reaching out to all adults age 60 and over. Our goal is to bring members together for times of encouragement, fun, fellowship, travel, and outreach.

Trailblazers enjoyed a fall trip to the Canadian Rockies and Glacier National Park, a Nashville Opryland Christmas trip in December, a spring trip to Savannah, and a summer trip to hear Alistair Begg speak at the Billy Graham Conference Center at The Cove. We enjoyed the musical talents of "Jay and the Elders" band at their Valentine's Dinner Dance in February and John Livingston at their Ice Cream Social in July. There are various Trailblazer breakfasts, fellowship gatherings, local outings, and informational meetings throughout the year. Our annual outreach event is a Christmas box packing party for Operation Christmas Child in November.

WALK THROUGH NATIVITY (WTN)

WTN is an inspiring portrayal of the story of Jesus Christ's birth and life, presented by the congregation over three nights each December. This is an exciting opportunity for the Briarwood family as over 700 volunteers join together using their gifts and talents to reach out to the community and share God's love and the good news of Jesus Christ.

This past December, over 10,000 people attended WTN. They heard the story of Christ through 12 scenes with audio narration, live actors, and live animals. One of the mothers who attended shared a story about her family from a couple years back. They were walking through the WTN with their children and after the last scene of the empty tomb, noticed their daughter was not with them. They looked back and saw her standing at the scene, as if frozen with her mouth wide open. They asked, "What's wrong? Are you okay?" She just stood, staring at the empty tomb saying, "I get it! I get it!" Her mother is convinced that the visual impact of each scene combined with the scripture audio at each scene was used by the Lord to lead their daughter to a saving faith in Jesus Christ that very night. The mom shared, "this is why my family loves the WTN and has made it a tradition to come every year since." Pray that many people who attended this impactful event will receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, and those who believe in Christ will be encouraged in their faith.





BIRMINGHAM THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY (BTS)

BTS is a Gospel-centered, confessional institution committed to making faithful theological education accessible to leaders everywhere. The seminary's mission is to equip leaders for Christ's church. BTS is dedicated to providing high-quality, affordable theological education in diverse environments. The institution's core values include academic rigor, biblical diversity, and a focus on serving the local church and community. BTS is committed to preparing students for transformative ministry through rigorous scholarship and spiritual vitality.

A key highlight this past year was the partnership with the Ezra Worship Initiative. This collaboration allows them to train musically gifted college students for bi-vocational or full-time worship leadership, providing students with rich theological instruction and hands-on experience. This unique program equips a new generation of leaders to serve with pastors and shepherd the church in biblical, congregational worship. Your prayers and support are instrumental as they continue to expand their reach and impact, all for the service of the local church and the advancement of God's kingdom.

CAMPUS OUTREACH BIRMINGHAM (COB)

Campus Outreach's mission is to build Christ-like laborers on the campus for the lost world for the Glory of God. They have seen over 20 conversions (including coaches!). Four of 25 seniors have committed to serve overseas in ministry after graduation. One exciting story is about sisters Emma and Maria. Emma, who is now headed to Cape Town, South Africa with Campus Outreach Serve, began praying for Maria's salvation during her own sophomore year. She invited others to join her in prayer and Maria eventually attended Summer Beach Project—where she came to faith! Maria is now a sophomore and a bold Gospel presence on campus. God is clearly answering prayers and transforming lives through community!





BRIARWOOD BALLET

Briarwood is dedicated to raising the next generation of artists to use their gifts for the glory of God. This year, students will be taught ballet in the context of the Gospel, and thousands of audience members will hear the Gospel in the context of dance.

When one student, Sarah, first came to Briarwood Ballet, we immediately recognized her Godgiven talent. However, it was years before we fully understood the depth of the challenges she faced. Sarah was one of five children in a home marked by severe instability and a seriously ill mother. Briarwood Ballet quickly became a safe haven for this gifted young dancer. Reflecting on her time at the Ballet, Sarah shared the following:

"My teachers recognized the gift in me, encouraged me, and gave me a sense of purpose. They helped me understand that I could use this gift for the glory of the God of the universe. They not only nurtured my artistic growth but also led me into the presence of the Living God. I remember being deeply moved before performances, as our instructors called us to lay our gifts before Him and worship through dance. We also had Bible study every week. Often, I came to ballet burdened by the chaos at home, but through those studies, I was reminded of God's love and His promise to walk with me and give me strength. He even uses trials to build resilience—and I've seen Him do that in my life."

CHRISTIAN MEDICAL MINISTRY OF ALABAMA (CMMA)

CMMA was established in 1982 to reach and disciple those in the healthcare professions, especially students in medicine, dentistry, physical therapy, occupational therapy, optometry, and physician assistants at UAB. We "care for those who care for others" so that they can survive the rigors of training, thrive spiritually and multiply to help reach the world for Christ. CMMA impacts 250 or more students and professionals each week.

QUEST (RECREATION)

With a host of Gospel-focused recreational ministries, Quest serves both the church and the wider community with ministries such as Camp Briarwood, Trail Life, Briarwood Soccer Club, American Heritage Girls, ladies fitness classes, cheer classes and camps, and pickleball. The ministry blends the joy of sport, adventure, and leadership development, with the continual focus of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ in every area of people's lives.

"The Lord has recently opened the door for American Heritage Girls, a Christian girls' scouting organization, to be a part of Briarwood's Quest ministry! My daughter and I have been incredibly blessed to be involved in this Christ-centered, character and leadership development program. We attend routine meetings during which our troop girls receive spiritual discipleship, opportunities to learn a wide variety of life skills, and build deep, long-lasting friendships. My daughter and her friends have enjoyed participating in fun, meaningful events as they are being molded into women of integrity through their service to God, family, community, and country." – Briarwood Member

BRIARWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Briarwood Christian School is in its 61st year of ministry, serving more than 1,600 students in Junior Kindergarten through 12th Grade and nearly 150 students in the Cub House Program (ages 1–3). Our mission is to provide a Christ-centered, transformational education that equips and inspires each student to glorify God by maximizing their God-given abilities. Our vision is to develop leaders who impact the world by glorifying Christ in every sphere of life.

Transformation is more than academic growth. It is the shaping of the whole person through a Christ-centered education. From the earliest years through graduation, students are challenged and encouraged each day to view all academic content through the lens of biblical truth, confident that Christ is Lord overall and reveals himself through all his creation. Students learn to glorify God by developing their God-given abilities in academics, athletics, and fine arts. This transformational journey unfolds as they shape not only the minds, but also the hearts and souls of students. With millions of student contact hours across all grade levels, the faculty and staff steward each moment to disciple, encourage, and help shape students into men and women who seek to glorify Christ in every area of life.





YOUNG BUSINESS LEADERS (YBL)

How do you live out and share your faith at work? The mission of YBL has been to reach men for Jesus in the marketplace, build their faith, and send them back to their families, communities, and the world for God's glory. YBL trains men to make disciples in the marketplace through small groups, one-on-one mentoring, and group outreach events.

Chandler is a 27-year-old entrepreneur who, at a friend's invitation, attended a YBL banquet. He did not know what to expect but was cut to the heart by the testimony of the speaker, Jeff Struecker. The entrepreneur joined a small group and is growing in his faith. He is being mentored and has become a strong young leader in the community. He says, "I am growing in my understanding of scripture. YBL has shown me it is possible to be a Christian who lives out his principles in business."

YBL 2ND HALF

YBL 2nd Half exists to equip, mobilize, and multiply disciples in the marketplace who are 50 and above. YBL 2nd Half is a focus within the larger YBL ministry with its own small groups and an emphasis on faithfulness, stewardship, and discipling the next generation.

Greg ran a successful business for years and this past year sold his business. He has joined a YBL 2nd Half small group and is serving as a mentor. He is embracing the changes in his life, finding joy with a band of brothers, and pouring into young men the wisdom he has learned through years as a top leader in business and follower of Jesus Christ.

WOMEN BUSINESS LEADERS (WBL)

WBL is a ministry for women in the workplace that seeks to share the hope we find in Christ and help women mature in their faith. We do this through small group Bible studies, mentoring relationships, and large group events that are spiritually enriching and Gospel-centered. God is doing His redeeming work in the lives of women. Jill shares the following:

"While I enjoyed learning about God, I still wasn't fully trusting Him. I was holding tightly to the desire to control my life. This spring, in my WBL small group as we studied the attributes of God, something shifted. Learning that God is omnipresent—that He knows my thoughts at all times—made me realize that I couldn't just put on a show of trust. He knew my heart, and I couldn't fake surrender. That's when everything 'clicked.' I realized I hadn't fully accepted what He was asking of me. My heart needed to change. Through WBL, I truly came to faith. I learned what it means to trust and surrender to the Lord – daily, not just in hard moments, but in every part of life. Knowing and walking with my Savior has been the greatest blessing, and WBL has been instrumental in helping me do so. I've found so much more peace and joy in every area of my life, and I'm excited to see how He continues to grow in me and through me as I walk alongside Him!" – Jill

These ministries benefit from your faithful tithe:

Administrative Services

Biblical Counseling

Birmingham Theological Seminary

Briarwood Ballet

Briarwood Christian School

Campus Outreach

Children's Ministries

Christian Education

Christian Medical Ministry

Church Planting

Church Revitalization

Church and State

College Ministry

Communications

Congregational Communities (Adult Sunday School)

Discipleship Groups

Evangelism

Fellows Ministry

Graduates and Career

In Perspective Radio

Local Missions and Mobilization

L.O.V.E. Ministry

Membership

Men of the Covenant

Mercy Ministry

MidWeek

Music Ministry for all ages

National Ministries (over 120 Ministry Partners)

Nursery

Pastoral Care

Prayer Ministry

Quest/Recreation Ministry

Shepherding

Special Connections

Trailblazers/Senior Adult Ministry

Vacation Bible School

WLJR-FM

Walk Through Nativity

Women of the Covenant

Young Business Leaders



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