

On Mission

with Bellevue



SEEK THE WELFARE OF THE CITY | 2024

Bellevue Family,

For the past two years, we have had a rotating emphasis for Missions Week. In 2022 we highlighted Bellevue's ministry in the United States and focused on church-planting efforts across the U.S. In 2023 we challenged you to engage in the missionary task as we looked at global lostness and the need for more international missionaries.

This year we ask you to turn your eyes closer to home. Our deepest desire is that every Bellevue member will engage in God's great mission to reach the lost with the Good News of Jesus Christ; we want you to do this across the world and across your street. This year's Missions Week is designed to help you see how you can engage in the missionary task in Memphis.

If you look at the needs in our city, it is easy to be overwhelmed with how great they are. A few years ago we looked at the poverty, crime, and lostness of our city, and we asked, "Lord, where do you want us to begin?" We went to the Bible to find our answer. After looking at Scripture, we believe we must focus our efforts on three areas: **Cordova**, **compassion ministry**, and **church development**. Anchoring our ministry to those pillars helps us strategically take the Gospel to our neighbors, to the vulnerable, and across Memphis and the Mid-South.

In this magazine you will see our local missions strategy further explained, and you will also see a glimpse of the great need for Memphis to hear the Gospel. God has intentionally placed Bellevue on Appling Road in Cordova, Tennessee, to be a light in this community. He has sent **you** to this city to be Christ's witness here. As you consider how you will engage in missions locally in 2024, we challenge you to ask the same question we did—"Lord, where do you want me to begin?" We are here to encourage you and guide you as you step out in obedience.

Bellevue Missions



The Local Need

582

children committed to state custody in Shelby County in 2023¹

1,235

children remaining in state custody in Shelby County in 2023¹

23.9%

of children living in poverty in Shelby County¹

1,292

homeless people in Memphis (2022)²

288

new refugees in Shelby County (January to September 2023)³

2,650

refugees resettled in Memphis (2002 to 2019)⁴

36.6%

of Cordova residents are nonreligious, and 2.8% claim to follow non-Christian religions.⁵

What can we do? Bellevue has 5,752 adults actively involved.

You are the answer.

Sources: ¹tn.gov, ²cafth.org, ³tnrefugees.org, ⁴commercialappeal.com, ⁵dwellics.com

Local Missions Strategy

CORDOVA

"Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf; for in its welfare you will have welfare." Jeremiah 29:7

Every week our church gathers in Cordova, but there are thousands living in this city who drive past our building and never enter. What would happen if Bellevue closed its doors? Would Cordova notice any difference? In Jeremiah 29:7 God tells His people they are a *sent* people—sent by God into exile to seek the city's welfare. In the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20), we see again that God's people are a *sent* people—Jesus' disciples must go into the world to make disciples of all nations. God has sent Bellevue to Cordova to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We cannot neglect to take the Gospel to those right across our street.



COMPASSION

"The LORD of Armies says this: 'Make fair decisions. Show faithful love and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the resident alien or the poor, and do not plot evil in your hearts against one another.'" Zechariah 7:9-10 CSB

One way God's people should be distinct is in the way they treat vulnerable and suffering people. In the Old Testament, there were laws that protected widows, orphans, sojourners, and the poor. In the New Testament, Jesus affirms that when believers care for the hungry, the thirsty, the homeless, and those in prison, we show we are one of His followers (Matthew 25:31-46; Luke 10:25-37). This type of ministry is called "compassion ministry" because it requires one's heart to be moved to action by another person's suffering. When we were hopeless in our sin, Jesus had compassion on us. Shouldn't we show compassion to the vulnerable around us?

CHURCHES

"For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another." Romans 12:4-5

Since God gave believers the Holy Spirit during Pentecost, the local church has been God's primary way of spreading the Gospel. In Acts 13, the church at Antioch sent Paul and Barnabas to make disciples in other cities. More churches were formed, and those churches made more disciples. God has placed churches throughout Memphis and the Mid-South, and Bellevue seeks to partner with and encourage those churches so we can engage our city with the Gospel. The more healthy churches there are, the more Jesus is shared. Imagine—what if every church in Memphis worked together to make disciples? Memphis would be different.



How Do We Do This?

Bellevue strategically partners with organizations and churches across the city. We want to help you take your next step to love and serve Memphis—the place where God has sent you. Here are some ways you can be on mission with us:

Pathways bellevue.org/pathways

Serve Out Pathways are regularly occurring service opportunities that provide avenues for you to build relationships and share Jesus with people across Memphis.

- Bellevue Loves Memphis Workdays
- Jesus Loves Memphis Workday
- Mission Memphis
- School Supplies Giveaway

Partners bellevue.org/missions

Bellevue partners with organizations across Memphis that minister to and share the Gospel with diverse groups of people, from schoolchildren to women with crisis pregnancies.

- Bellevue Christmas Store
- Sharing Hope
- Christian Mobile Dental Clinic
- Prison Ministry

Ministry Opportunities bellevue.org/events

Through various ministry events, we seek to meet both physical and spiritual needs. From providing school supplies to cleaning ministry facilities, our priority is always to share Jesus.

Letter from Pastor

Dear Bellevue Family,

We have always been a church that loves Memphis. From our midtown origins to our call to move east as our city expanded, we have known that God placed us here for the purpose of sharing the love of Jesus with our city.



Every believer has been called to go and make disciples in his or her Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and even to the ends of the Earth (Acts 1:8). Memphis is our Jerusalem, and during Missions Week 2024, we will highlight ways you can share Jesus and make disciples right where you are.

Through ministries like Bellevue Loves Memphis, ARISE2Read, the Christian Mobile Dental Clinic, and Serve Out Pathways, there are numerous opportunities for you to step up and take the Gospel to our city. You've heard me say it before—may no person living in the shadow of Bellevue die and go to a Christless eternity because they never heard the Gospel.

God has entrusted us with the people of Memphis. How will you respond? May we love our city not only in word, but also in deed.

3 John 2,

Bro. Steve

SOUTHERN BAPTIST PARTNERSHIPS

Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) sbc.net

Bellevue partners with more than 47,000 other Southern Baptist churches to support missions around the world and mobilize thousands of missionaries each year.

North American Mission Board (NAMB) namb.net

NAMB equips churches to go to the lost and hurting in their communities and across the continent through compassion ministry, church planting, chaplaincy, and disaster relief.

International Mission Board (IMB) imb.org

The IMB partners with local churches to empower missionary teams who make disciples and multiply churches among unreached people groups around the world.

SEND OUT TRAINING bellevue.org/missions

Since 2020, Bellevue has created a pathway called Send Out Training. This course is designed to equip and send out those who sense a call to missions. If God is stirring this call in your heart, take the next step by filling out the interest form online.



Pray
bellevue.org/pray

One of the most powerful tools we can use to further God's kingdom is prayer. Just like Paul encouraged the first believers to pray for him on his missionary journeys, God exhorts us to pray fervently for those carrying the Good News to the lost, including those across Memphis and the Mid-South.

Give
bellevue.org/give

Did you know that your tithe makes a difference in Memphis? Each year Bellevue allocates approximately 1.7 million dollars from our general budget and special offerings to support missions, ministries, and missionaries serving in our city and across the world. Your faithfulness to give changes lives.

Go
bellevue.org/go

Engaging in missions looks different from person to person, and everyone should consider what step God is calling them to take. Opportunities range from short-term to long-term and can be local, national, or international. Seek the Lord's call for your life! Bellevue is here to equip you for life on mission.



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