

SEND Relief Tour wraps Memphis event; heads to Meridian

MEMPHIS (BP and local reports) – Southern Baptists from across the United States painted a picture of what Meridian will be like on March 18-19 when more than 1,000 volunteers gathered in Memphis Feb. 25-26 to participate in a SEND Relief Serve Tour event.

SEND Relief is a joint ministry of Southern Baptists' International Mission Board in Richmond, Va., and North American Mission Board in Alpharetta, Ga.

Sixty-five churches supplied the 1,000-plus volunteers who united to serve the people of Memphis through dozens of projects. Volunteers came together to beautify schools, pack food boxes for local food banks, encourage first responders, and assist families with projects in and around their homes.

“When we are trying to minister to people, sometimes people cannot hear us because of the hurt that they are experiencing,” said Ross McGregor, project coordinator for Serve Tour Memphis and missions minister of Bellevue Church, Cordova, Tenn. “Their hurt is so loud, but we are trying to help minister to those hurts.”

Each Serve Tour stop is a cooperative effort between local churches, associations, state conventions, and SEND Relief. For the Meridian event, the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and Lauderdale Association in Marion are joint coordinators.

“It was a beautiful picture of Christian unity,” said Danny Sinquefield, a harvest field team leader with the Tennessee Baptist Mission Board (TBMB). “Our churches were working

together in a way that focused on Great Commission principles, and everybody was on the same page. The Gospel was shared, but opportunities were also created for future presentations of the Gospel.”

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Volunteers from as far away as Oklahoma, Ohio, and Florida traveled to participate. “We had folks from eight different states show up,” said Mitch Martin, leadership development strategist for Mid-South Baptist Association in Collierville, Tenn. “There were representatives from all of our churches in the Mid-South Baptist Association: urban churches, suburban churches, black churches, white churches.”

Jeremiah Herrian with Forgotten Ministries traveled from Enid, Okla., and participated in a mobile grill outreach to a local Memphis community. They led a project of cooking and distributing food to residents.

As a team, they were able to connect and share the Gospel through their conversations. “When you knock on the door and say you have a free hamburger, the question that is always asked is ‘Why are you doing that?’” Herrian said, “and I get to say, ‘Man let me tell you about my best friend Jesus.’”

The SEND Relief ministry center in Memphis served as a hub for the Serve Tour. Volunteers at the center packed more 125,000 meals that were used in and around Memphis or to support Southern Baptist Disaster Relief efforts.

“It was a great sight to see so many folks at our Memphis ministry center packing food boxes for so many in need,” said

Bryant Wright, president of Send Relief. “This was just one site of many around Memphis where churches were sharing the love of Jesus on our Memphis Serve Tour.”

A group provided landscaping work at Coleman Elementary School, located near the ministry center. Mary Abrams, who works at the ministry center, described the school and playground as needing attention. Along with the landscape work, volunteers placed mulch designed to make the playgrounds safer for children as they play.



The evening of Feb. 25 included a worship rally for the volunteers who sang together and heard a message delivered by Wright.

The Memphis stop was the second Serve Tour event, with six more stops planned for the remainder of 2022 across the United States. In addition to Meridian, SEND Relief Tour stops will include Anaheim, Ca., Baltimore, Md., Charleston, S.C., and Dayton, Ohio, and Jacksonville, Fla.

To learn more about the Serve Tour and register for Meridian and the other future events, visit ServeTour.org.

“It’s always good to get God’s people to take their eyes off themselves and start looking outwardly and serving in Jesus’s name,” said Martin.