

COLORADO ***MISSIONS OFFERING***

IN HONOR OF NICY MURPHY



BETTER *Together*



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.



**COLORADO
BAPTISTS**

coloradobaptists.org/cmo

ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS

DAY 1

Ephesians 4:6 "There is one body and one Spirit- just as you were called to the one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

Faith in Christ was never meant to be lived alone. The New Testament church demonstrates more than camaraderie, rather an even deeper relationship between brothers and sisters in Christ all clinging to their mutual hope in the One - King Jesus. The faith family in Colorado exemplifies this when churches in the same region working together to advance the gospel and make the name of Jesus great.

Pray for these associational partnerships to:

- + remain unified around the Gospel and seeing the Good News go forth
- + serve the local church in an uplifting and helpful way
- + make wise decisions in how to best reach their local communities for Christ

God, you have called us to be a light to our neighbors near and far and have graciously given us the Church to encourage us and point us back to you. Father, would You bind the churches in the Colorado associations together? Unite them around a passion to see the Gospel spread in their local communities, neighboring mountainsides, and to the ends of the earth. Fill them with wisdom and discernment over how best to reach Coloradans and bring glory to your name! Ephesians 4:1-6

STATE MISSIONS

DAY 2

Hebrews 3:4 "For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God."

Every dollar, peso, and euro belongs to God on high. No matter who is currently spending or investing it, the earth and every bit of currency in it is the Lord's. In the Colorado Baptist corner of the world, this includes the state missions fund that provides opportunities for local churches to start something new in their communities or reach out in ways they haven't been able to before through things like block parties, fall festivals, and other, new ministries or special events. When churches give to the Colorado Missions Offering, it provides more opportunities to reach Colorado residents who haven't been impacted by the Gospel yet. This fund has been the beginning of a new work in the lives of so many!

Pray for:

- + local churches to come up with creative, new ways to engage their community with the Gospel and expand their reach
- + generous hearts among Colorado Baptists to fill this fund
- + hearts to remember the true Provider and look to Him to give generously and receive graciously with the intention of making God's name great

God we praise you for supplying our every need! Hebrews 3:4 reminds us that you are the author and maker of all things, and that includes this fund and the work it provides for. God, give wisdom on how to use this money best in order to bring glory and honor to you. Fill the minds of church leaders with engaging ways to reach their communities. Cast away scheduling conflicts or anything standing in the way of unbelievers' attending these events. Help church bodies feel so invested in their local ministries that they can't help but invite everyone they meet. Make your name known in every home and on every street corner in Colorado!

John 1:3 "All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made."

Every year, millions of visitors flock to our gorgeous state for recreation. Some of them come to escape the burdens of their normal lives; some come running from boredom to experience a thrill. The tourism industry also brings seasonal workers to destination towns. The true beauty of Colorado is not found in the creation itself, but in God who designed every inch of it. Churches in these areas thoughtfully work to reach the influx of new faces for Christ and show them the thrill of hope only He can offer.

Pray for:

- + visitors, workers, and residents, alike, to fall in love with the Creator instead of the creation
- + churches in tourist towns to engage their temporary populations with the Gospel in fresh ways

Father, you shaped every stone and sprouted every tree in the Colorado mountains. You spoke the sun into existence and know every angle of each snowflakes that falls to the ground. Even more, you know every hair on every head of the snowboarders, climbers, kayakers, and hikers who live, visit, and play in this state. Make your power known to them as they experience your handiwork and prepare their hearts to hear the Gospel. Flood their paths with your people and open doors for deep conversations about your goodness, your mercy, and our need for you. One day, every rock in the mountains will declare you are the Alpha and Omega, and every snow-dusted and sweaty knee will bow at your feet, but we beg for you to use us to help them do so in this day and age, Lord, and not after it is too late.

Psalms 24:1 "The Earth is the Lord's and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein."

In January, the Marshall Fire displaced over 1000 homes' worth of Colorado residents. Colorado Baptist Disaster Relief was able to serve almost 10 thousand meals to the evacuees, assist with cleanup, pass out Bibles, and pray over those who lost everything. Even more outstanding: 15 people placed their faith in Jesus through this ministry area. Without the financial and physical support of local churches, none of this work would be possible, and this work is a beautiful picture of how God loves to use His church to make His name known in every season and situation.

Pray that:

- + God would continue to draw those displaced by the Marshall Fire and other natural disasters to Himself
- + the Colorado Baptist Disaster Relief leadership would have wisdom in the allocation of resources and that funds would overflow in a way that makes providing help an easy "yes"
- + people around the state and nation would be moved by the CBDR's response to disasters and so would desire to know more about God as a result.

God, you direct the wind, the waves, the fire, and the snow. You hold pandemics and pile-ups in your hands. Lord, would you make yourself known in the midst of disasters. You are the God of all comfort; draw the displaced close to you and let them feel you holding them even in this moment. Thank you for allowing the Colorado Baptist Disaster Relief to be used for your glory! We praise you for salvation and ask that you use those 15 new brothers and sisters in Christ to make your name known in our state. Relieve any financial strain or burden so that CBDR can be supremely generous. Help this arm of ministry see your kingdom grow and bring glory to your name.

Matthew 4:19 "Come after me, and I will make you fishers for men."

Every year throughout the state, Colorado Baptists are able to host and fund camps for children, teens, and college students to reach the next generation with the Gospel. What an encouragement to see the youth of our state come to know that hope is found in Christ alone!

Please pray:

- + for the hearts of the young people attending these camps to be open and aware of their desperate need for the Gospel.
- + for wisdom among leadership on how to allocate resources and make choices about speakers, teaching topics, and locations of camps.
- + for the next great leaders of the Church and faith to rise up from these camps and go forth to make the name of God known all over the world.

Father would you expand your Kingdom through the Colorado camp ministries. Would students of all ages come from around the state to camps and meet you for the first time. Help them see that you alone are worthy of praise, and that you alone have a perfect plan for their lives. Would they go home and find a local church filled with disciple-makers ready to lead and love on them as they learn to walk in step with you. Would this next generation rise up and be known for their unwavering faith as a result of the Gospel being proclaimed at Colorado camps. Make many fishers of men from this arm of the Colorado Baptist ministry, oh God.

2 Timothy 2:15 "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the Word of Truth."

The Rocky Mountain Campus of Gateway Seminary plays a big role in providing seminary education for Baptists in Colorado. Each year, thanks to the generosity of Baptists and churches around the State, Gateway Seminary is able to award scholarships for students looking to expand their biblical and missional knowledge.

Pray for:

- + the current and future students of the Rocky Mountain Campus to grow deeply in their faith and their ability to teach and shepherd church bodies
- + for financial provision through the Colorado Baptists for students to afford and finish seminary

Lord, you call, equip, and use each of us for specific purposes to accomplish your will. As you call students to the Rocky Mountain Campus, we trust you will continue to deepen their understanding of your heart and your character so they will be able to shepherd your flock more deeply and healthily as they model 2 Timothy 2:15 to the world. Lord, pave the way for these students, financially, and open the hearts of our churches and associations to help fund scholarships that provide a way for more pastors to be equipped and grow in leadership.

Psalm 18:6 "In my distress I called to the LORD; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears."

Pastors, and their families, are the first ones to arrive and the last ones to leave. They mourn, rejoice, encourage, admonish, and so much more every day, all day, for dozens or hundreds of people. The past couple of years which were hard on everyone were especially difficult for pastors as they tried to follow rules, appease church members with differing opinions, and handle an extreme increase in mental and emotional health struggles among their congregations.

Pray for:

- + pastors to walk in step with the Spirit and for protection and wisdom as they navigate culture
- + strength, energy, and contentment in Christ to reign in the hearts and homes of pastoral families.
- + a community over competition mindset amongst Colorado pastors that breeds oneness and exalts Chris.

Father, you are our fortress and shield. You are the Jehovah Nacham—"the Lord is my comfort." You hold kings and rulers in your hand—and also pastors and their families. Father, please fill the cups of Colorado pastors and their families. Help them fully rest in you so that they may pour you out to others. Provide for their physical needs, but, even more, provide true friendships and sincere encouragement from their community. Help pastors to hand their burden over to you and trust your plans even when the road ahead seems hazy. Remind them that you are in control, so they have nothing to fret or worry over. We praise you for calling regular people into this ministry world and pray that they serve you all of their days.

Hebrews 12:1-2 "...and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Nine out of ten people in Colorado do not have a relationship with Jesus. There is one church for every 32,000 people, yet one dispensary for every 11,000 people. People around the state often label themselves as "spiritual" but are missing the ultimate truth about who God is and what He offers in eternal life. With a state so full of unbelievers and so empty of churches, church planting is vital to see the gospel go forth.

Pray for:

- + God to call leaders who are willing to humbly and bold plant churches in Colorado
- + wisdom and holiness to grow in the hearts and minds of those being mentored as future church planters
- + the members of the development program to fix their eyes on Jesus no matter what the world around them looks or feels like

Jesus, you are the author and perfecter of our faith. You are the chief cornerstone. You are the head of the church. Lord, as the head of the church, please call leaders to pastor new churches and carry the Great Commission in Colorado. Open doors financially, logistically, and relationally for these church leaders to plant flourishing churches and grow in wisdom, stature, and favor with God and man. Thank you for using the weak and sinful to accomplish your mission on earth; please bless the church planting initiative in Colorado so that we may see your name glorified to the ends of the earth!