

A PRAYER FOR THOSE NEARBY

LEADER: Jesus did not stay where the crowds gathered. He moved — to the next town, the next need, the next person no one else was looking for.

PEOPLE: "We must go to the nearby towns and preach there too." — Mark 1:38 (CEV)

LEADER: Across Louisiana, in bayous and backroads, in prisons and neighborhoods forgotten by the world — there are people waiting.

PEOPLE: We believe God has not forgotten them.

LEADER: Louisiana Baptists are going. Through the Georgia Barnette State Missions Offering, churches are sending workers, sharing the gospel, and meeting needs in Jesus' name.

PEOPLE: We are part of what God is doing here — in our own state.

LEADER: There are men and women behind prison walls in Louisiana who have never heard that they are loved — not condemned, but pursued — by a God who crosses every barrier to reach them.

PEOPLE: Lord, let Your gospel go where walls would keep it out.

LEADER: There are children growing up in communities where no one has ever told them that Jesus knows their name and calls them His own.

PEOPLE: Send workers to the forgotten places. Let no child grow up without hearing Your voice.

LEADER: There are churches in small towns and struggling neighborhoods who cannot do this work alone. The Georgia Barnette Offering links their faithfulness to ours.

PEOPLE: What one church cannot do, Louisiana Baptists will do together.

LEADER: Giving to this offering is not only writing a check. It is saying yes to the same call Jesus answered — to go, to preach, to reach.

PEOPLE: Lord, use our gifts to take the gospel where we cannot go ourselves.

LEADER: Some will go in person. All can go through prayer and sacrifice. None of us are called to stay silent.

ALL TOGETHER: We must go. So we give, we pray, and we trust You to move. Send us, Lord — and send our gifts ahead of us. Amen.