

2025 Annual Report



Our purpose

*Helping people take
their next step in Christ*

...in action

Believe . . . experience God

Belong . . . grow in community

Bless . . . others

Our Values

Follow Jesus

It all begins with God. Through Jesus, we can know Him personally. We are faithful to Him above all else.

Be Disciples

Believing that God has spoken to us in truth through His Word, the Bible, we grow in walking close to Jesus.

Invest in each other

God loves people. Because people matter to God, people matter to us.

Live generously

Everything we have is from God. Let us live generously in our service to Him and others.

Spread the Gospel.

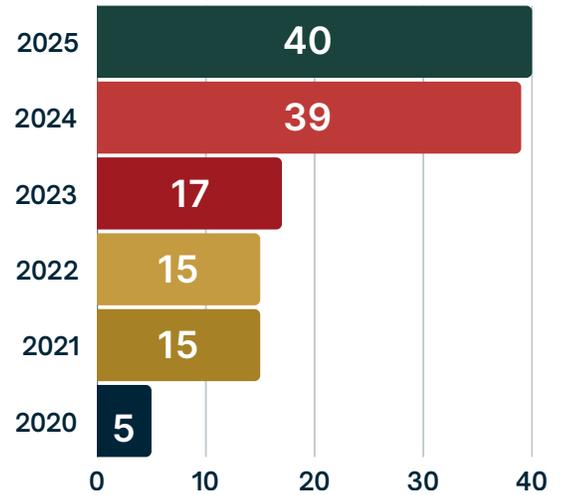
Because the Church exists for the world, we serve others before ourselves. We must share the Good News of Jesus with others.



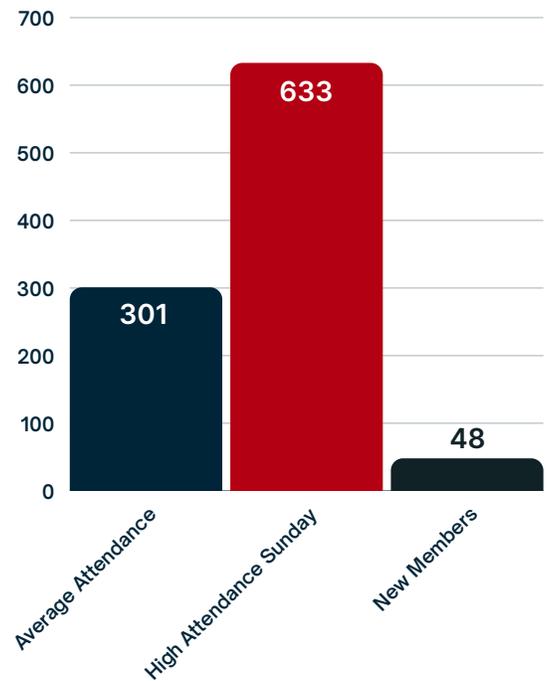
MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW



BAPTISMS



ATTENDANCE and NEW MEMBERS



79

people have taken the next step in Christ through baptism over the last two years

10

New people visited Mt Carmel each week

SPECIAL SERVICES

Vision Sunday	295
Super Sunday	314
Graduate Sunday	303
Easter Sunday	633
Mother's Day	366
Father's Day	298
Kids Christmas Sunday	365
Christmas Sunday	330
Christmas Eve	301

HIGHLIGHTS



48

NEW MEMBERS



122

GROUPS AVERAGE
ATTENDANCE



40

BAPTISMS



39

NEW COMMITMENTS



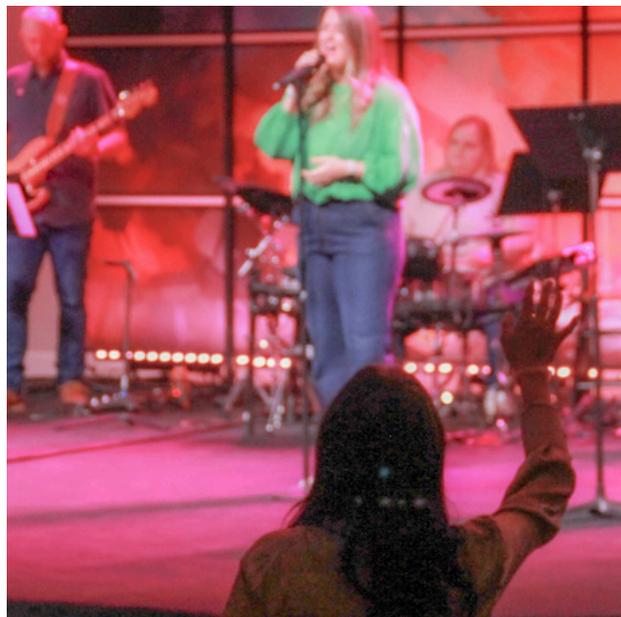
35

FIRST TIME GIVERS



\$933,855

TOTAL MISSIONAL
GIVING





This year, we accomplished over ****180 hours**** of children's ministry within our church building. We welcomed ****51 new families**** and ****72 dedicated volunteers**** made it all possible. ****15 children**** were baptized, and ****36 kids**** attended camp. We also celebrated the arrival of ****5 new babies**** and had our largest graduating class to date. Throughout the year, we enjoyed water balloon fights, memorized the books of the Bible, learned how to use a hammer, asked insightful questions, served Cheerios, forged new friendships, shared heartfelt moments, sang joyfully, and prayed **BOLD prayers**. What an AWESOME God we serve!



Mt Carmel Students

The Lord was kind to our student ministry this year as we experienced another year of substantial numerical and spiritual growth. This year we saw 18 students take next steps in baptism, we launched our student worship team, and sent our middle schoolers to camp and high schoolers on a mission trip.

Our middle school camp had 18 students attend and experience significant spiritual growth. Between serving at the Baptist Children's Home in Chattanooga to some fun outings and the worship in between.

Our high school mission trip to Milwaukee created a spark in the hearts of our high schoolers to be on mission more. They served in big ways to honor the Lord and spread the good news. From an urban garden to a community center, each day was full of new adventures.

We are especially thankful for a team of dedicated leaders who invest in the next generation each and every week.

LOOK WHAT GOD DID THIS YEAR

18

STUDENTS BAPTIZED



61

STUDENTS ATTENDED EACH WEDNESDAY



29

STUDENTS ATTENDED EACH SUNDAY

17

COMMITTED ADULT LEADERS

40

STUDENTS & ADULTS AT CAMP & MISSION TRIP



Belong

Our groups are about growing in Christ and faithfully walking together in everyday life. In 2025, we continued to see healthy growth across all groups, with Sunday adult participation averaging 96 and Wednesday gatherings averaging 25, affirming a deepening commitment to life together under the lordship of Christ.



This year, we took a unique and intentional approach to fellowship by gathering around the table as a means of strengthening relationships within the church. Shared meals—including a church wide fellowship on the final Wednesday of the school year, a monthly men's meal, and quarterly parents' breakfasts, along with Mother's and Father's Day breakfasts—created natural spaces for connection, encouragement, and intergenerational community.



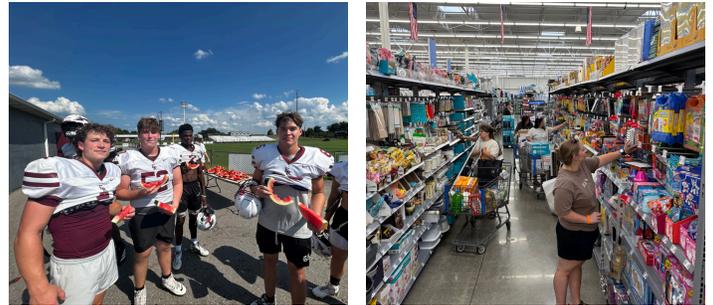
The Deacon Family Ministry continued to serve as a vital means of care for the families of Mt. Carmel, ensuring each household is personally known and supported through intentional deacon relationships. Our deacons help shepherd the church body through prayer, presence, and service, while also assisting with the ordinances entrusted to the church. In 2025, we rejoiced in ordaining three new deacons, strengthening this ministry of care and service.



Outreach



Trunk or Treat and the Community Easter Egg Hunt provided meaningful opportunities to serve and bless the Cross Plains community by offering safe, welcoming spaces for families to gather and celebrate. With a combined attendance of over 1,700 people from the community, these events allowed our church to extend Christlike hospitality, build relationships, and bear visible witness to the love of Christ beyond our walls.



Through the Back-to-School Big Give, our dedicated teachers' shopping day, we were able to tangibly support local schools by encouraging and equipping those who faithfully serve our students. Additionally, our partnership with FCA allowed us to come alongside local sports teams, investing in coaches and athletes with gospel-centered encouragement and support as we seek to serve the community and point others to Christ.



Missions

Local

Our local missions reflect a steady commitment to loving our neighbors in tangible and Christ-honoring ways. Through Angel Tree, we provided gifts for 37 children and food, presents, and McDonald's gift cards for 11 families, bringing hope and joy during the Christmas season.

Our Benevolence Team served both practical and spiritual needs by receiving \$4,665 in donations and assisting 17 families with \$5,259 in financial help and biblical counsel.

Stone Soup volunteers faithfully cared for shut-ins by delivering 1,360 meals over the past year, demonstrating consistent compassion and presence by 16 volunteers.

During Back to School Week, we supported local educators through the Big Give and teacher meals, contributing \$8,975 to encourage those who invest daily in our children.

Grace Notes extended encouragement beyond our walls as 22 volunteers sent over 603 handwritten cards filled with Scripture and prayer.

The Storehouse, volunteers from our church served weekly as over 22 households received food and assistance, all while hearing the good news of Jesus Christ.

Ministries Supported

Isaiah 117 House	My Father's House
Open Door Pregnancy	The Master's Table
Way Maker Place	Fellowship of Christian Athletes



Regional

Our broader mission partnerships allow us to care for the vulnerable, defend the oppressed, and extend the hope of Christ beyond our community. Through the Galilean Home, we support the care of approximately 30 children who have experienced abuse, neglect, or significant medical needs, offering them safety and Christ-centered love.

Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes provides stable, gospel-shaped care through residential homes, foster care, and family support, this year we helped furnish a brand new home on the Brentwood campus and our students served in Chattanooga during camp.

Open Door Pregnancy serves to help families find hope. We supported the furthering of reaching moms through funding life coaching for those in need.

Rescue 1 Nashville works to prevent trafficking, rescue victims, and walk with survivors toward restoration, reflecting God's heart for justice and freedom.

The student ministry also partnered with several organizations in Milwaukee serving at an urban garden, a center for ministry to the inner city, and more.

Through Meridzo Ministries in eastern Kentucky, resources are distributed to communities facing deep economic need as a tangible expression of God's provision. We also supported The Stables At Creekside Glen there dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus Christ through the recreational use of horses.

Siloam Health reaches refugees who have made Nashville home. We support this ministry in reaching all nations for the gospel by supporting 4 people this year to receive care.

Finally, our Disaster Response Team served in East Tennessee and North Carolina by providing meals to volunteers after devastating floods, supporting families and responders in moments of crisis.



Global

We continue to support missionaries Mike and Tami Sulja in Thailand with Whispering Willow providing empowering programs for the protection of women & children and aim to break the cycle of gender-based exploitation through comprehensive & collaborative support.

Emmanuel Haiti



Emmanuel Haiti Ministry 2025

In 2013, Mt. Carmel's mission in Jeremie, Haiti began with a simple goal: build an orphanage for 50 children. Over the past decade, through God's provision and the faithfulness of this church, that mission has grown into Emmanuel Haiti—a thriving ministry impacting all of southern Haiti.

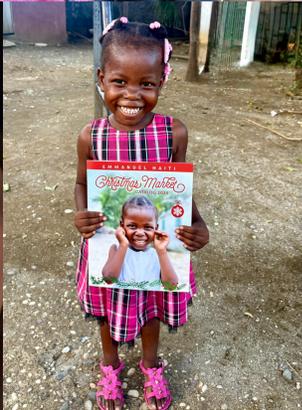
2025 Ministry Highlights

- **Family Home Transition:** All transition home boys and girls were moved into family homes, giving them a place to belong in the community. Their sponsors now provide for their food and education.
- **Graduation Milestone:** 9 students graduated from high school - a rare achievement in Haiti, where less than 5% of students finish school. Each graduate, along with 15 others who are aging out of school, received a business loan or moto-taxi to help launch their future.
- **New Emmanuel Two:** A beautiful new hillside home for boys aged 12+ was built, allowing older girls to remain at Emmanuel and giving these boys individual attention to prepare them for adulthood.
- **Skills & Sustainability:** Children are thriving in academics and participating in sewing, gardening, animal care, music, and baking programs.
- **Inspirational Faith:** In a nation burdened by gang violence, food insecurity, and rising costs, the Haitian people continue to be models of faith, peace, and joy - a powerful reminder of what it looks like to trust God fully, even in the hardest circumstances.



Emmanuel Haiti

Emmanuel
Haiti EST 2013





2025 Ministry Events & Milestones

- **First "Just Go Haiti" Trip** since 2022
- **Feed My Sheep Dinner & Auction** \$200,000 raised in July for food and a new church
- Began construction of Emmanuel's new church - the **Tabernacle** to seat 2,000+
- **350,000+ meals distributed**
- **2,500+** Students Fed Lunches Daily
- **4,500+** Patients Treated at Medical Clinic
- **5,500+** Weekly Church Attendance
- **3 new homes** built for Haitian families (total now 65)
- **7 churches** built in remote mountain regions (total now 35)
- Emmanuel's **Little Girls' Dormitory** expanded
- All new **Mattresses** for Emmanuel children
- **New Prison Ministry** launched in Jeremie
- **Emmanuel Church Convention** for 23 churches with **2,700 in attendance**
- Expansion of ESMI's **Chicken Business** with new incubator
- Successful **Christmas Catalog** - \$315,000 raised to fund ministries



2025 By the Numbers

- **72** Children at Emmanuel
- **20** Boys at Emmanuel 2
- **63** Family Home Boys & Girls
- **650** Students at Emmanuel School
- **150** Students on Scholarship (School for a Year)
- **20** Pastors Supported Monthly
- **20** Widow Homes in Widow Village
- **7** Students in Medical School in Cuba & Haiti
- **5** Students in Nursing School in Haiti
- **200** Solar Bibles Distributed

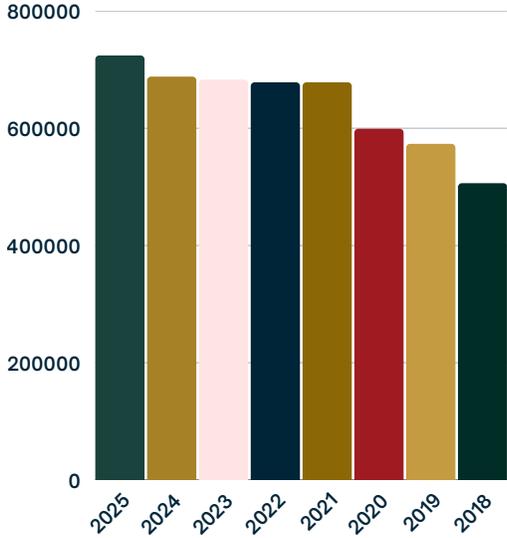
We are grateful to have a front-row seat to all that God is doing through Emmanuel Haiti. **Thank you, Mt. Carmel, for your prayers, your support, and your heart for this ministry.**



Financial Overview



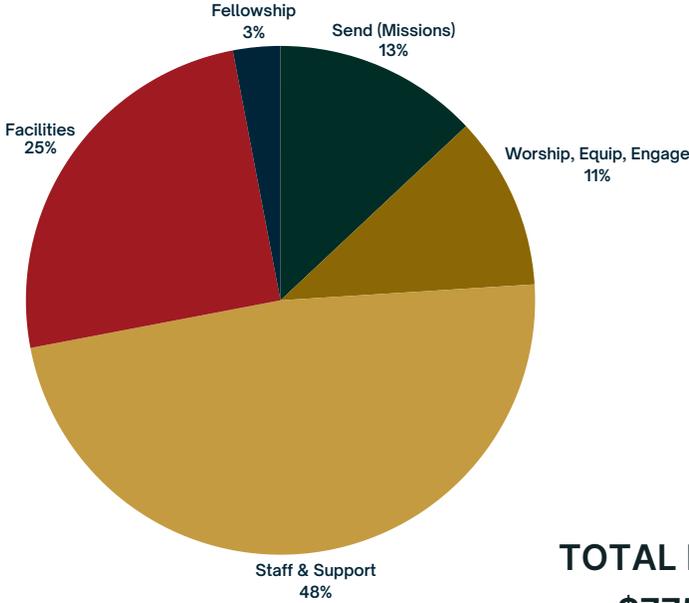
Annual Giving by Year



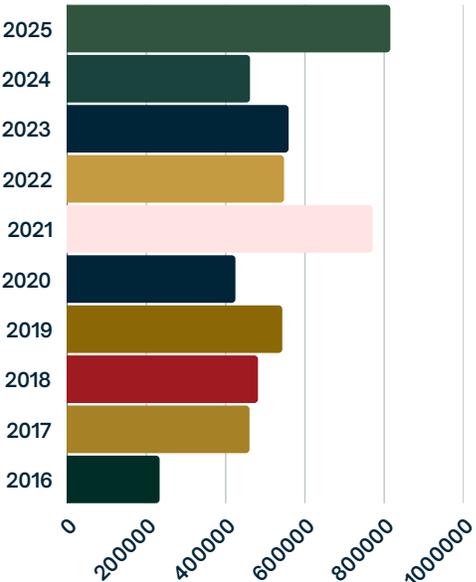
Number of Givers by Year



Expense Percentage



Gifts Received for Haiti



TOTAL REVENUE
\$775,633

Church Life



Dear Church Family,

As we look back on the year behind us, my heart is filled with gratitude for all God has done in and through our church. This past year has been a powerful reminder that the Lord is faithful, His work continues, and His people are committed to helping others take their next step in Christ. Because of your prayers, generosity, and willingness to serve, lives were changed, faith was strengthened, and hope was shared. We have seen God at work through worship, discipleship, outreach, and community—often in ways both visible and quietly faithful. Thank you for loving well, serving faithfully, and investing in what God is doing here.

As we move into 2026, we do so with clear focus and great expectation. Our key verse for this year comes from 1 Peter 2:5 (NIV): “You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” This verse beautifully captures our heart and direction for the year ahead. God is building something living and active among us, and every person matters in His work.

With that in mind, we are prayerfully pursuing three important goals in 2026. First, we desire to multiply leaders—men and women who are growing in Christ and stepping forward to serve, disciple others, and lead with humility and faith. Second, we are committed to raising the standard in volunteerism, recognizing that serving is not just filling a role, but an act of worship and a powerful way God uses His people to impact lives. Finally, we long to see our groups become fully alive—places where people are warmly welcomed, relationships are deepened, and spiritual growth is actively happening.

I am deeply thankful for the unity and faithfulness of our church family. In a world that often feels uncertain, this church remains anchored in truth, grace, and mission. Together, we will continue to pursue what matters most—making disciples, loving one another, and pointing people to Jesus.

As we look ahead, my prayer is that we will grow deeper in our walk with Christ, stronger in our relationships, and bolder in our witness. I believe the days ahead hold great opportunity as we continue to follow where the Lord leads with faith, courage, and obedience. Thank you for being part of this church family and for investing your time, talents, and resources in God’s work here. It is truly a joy and privilege to serve as your pastor.

With gratitude and hope for what’s ahead,



Pastor Russ



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Mt Carmel
BAPTIST CHURCH