

# Opportunities

through empty tomb®, inc.



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A Two-Month Report of the Works through empty tomb®, inc.

April-May 2026

## The New Reality Requires Courage: “Do not be afraid ...” (Matt. 28:5)

We like movies.

But somehow, we missed the 1996 film, *Ghosts of Mississippi*, directed by the late Rob Reiner. So we just saw it for the first time recently. The story is about the third trial of the man eventually convicted of the murder of civil rights champion Medgar Evers.

The photos shown with the film’s opening credits are painful. They show how unfair and unjust were the conditions faced by Black people, and why a civil rights movement was so needed. The movie demonstrates the amount of courage it took to do what was right.

Then, about a week later, we read that John Perkins, courageous Christian involved in calling Christians to live up to their name, including regarding racial justice, died at age 95.

We were privileged to know John Perkins and his wife, Vera Mae. It began in the 1970s. We were praying fervently for a pickup truck that could be used in the early days of the empty tomb Furniture Work. Miraculous things happened in those days, and we were offered three!

We chose the Allison’s Piety Knob Stock Farm 1956 Ford pickup (like in the movie *Hud* — thank you, Van Allison!). We thanked the other two folks offering the trucks.

Meanwhile, Hank and Jeannette Voss were helping us with empty tomb’s *Fresh Fruit USA* national networking newsletter. We designed it to help groups like empty tomb — groups across the U.S. that were trying to mobilize the church — to communicate with each other.

One of the groups involved was Voice of Calvary Ministries in Mendenhall, Mississippi. Voice of Calvary was founded by John and Vera Mae after they moved back to Mississippi from California. They had left after John’s brother was murdered by a mob. When they became Christians in California, John felt a call to go back to Mississippi and Vera Mae came with him.

At this point, Voice of Calvary had had a devastating flood. One of the replacements they really needed was a pickup truck. So we asked the second donor if we could give the truck to Voice of Calvary. When he said yes, we called with the offer, which was accepted. Roger and Ann Shanholtzer, then working at His Place, arranged for our return train tickets through their organization’s network. And we were off!

We stayed in the Perkins’ house, hosted warmly by the family. When we toured their buildings, we were really impressed with how bright and organized everything was.

No joke, we were so impressed that, when we got off the return train, we went straight to Logos Bookstore and bought some bright, positive posters. These were to replace the donated posters displayed in the empty tomb meeting room: The “Listen, Christian” series on Matt. 25,

with painful photographs for each of the “I was hungry ...” “I was thirsty ...” “I was sick ...” etc. Those posters had an important purpose. But the folks who were coming to empty tomb were the hungry and thirsty and sick and did not need depressing photos but something to cheer them up! And we soon found some beige paint to cover the dark blue paint on the walls.

Years later, when John Perkins had speaking engagements at Urbana, we hosted him twice.

The first time, he came to lunch in the two rooms which we called home at the first empty tomb location at 1314 W. University, U. When the food was served, he apologized that he could not eat much of it. He had been severely beaten after his return to Mississippi, and had a good portion of his stomach removed during the follow-up efforts to save his life. He went on to explain that, as he was being beaten, he suddenly understood how much damage that hating does to someone, such as the men beating him. And he said he felt an overwhelming love — God’s love — for those very men. Reconciliation became a big part of his ministry.

The second time we hosted him and his coworker Dolphus Weary at our apartment in Bradley Park. John Perkins had been a main speaker at the Urbana Conference that year, and Dolphus Weary had led a workshop. They had to be out of their hotel at a certain time but their plane did not leave until later, so they called us to see if they could come visit us until time for the flight. Of course we said sure. And here’s where we learned about “the nod.”

We went to pick them up, and as we walked from the parking lot to our apartment, people were on the grounds. John Perkins walked along and people were speaking to him, people who had totally ignored us. As we entered the apartment, the question was, “Wow! How come people were greeting you and we’ve lived here for months and they’ve never spoken to us?!” He laughed and said, “I just gave them the nod. That’s something people do to acknowledge each other.” And do you know, when we started doing that, people nodded back and sometimes spoke! (“The Nod” was even the title of an episode of the TV series *Black-ish*.)

We have long known that it takes courage to follow where Jesus leads. When we moved to the first empty tomb house, on the north side of University Avenue, there were people who would not cross that street into “the North End.”

On the other hand, there was the older lady who did food deliveries through her church. If the delivery was at a housing project, she would call the police and tell them what she was doing. She asked if they could patrol at the time she planned to make the delivery. And they did.

Interestingly, the first words spoken in Matthew after Jesus’ resurrection are from the angel to the women (28:5): “Do not be afraid.”

We know Christians can be very courageous. On page 3, Debbie Smith, Helping Coordinator, talks about why she loves her job. One reason is the volunteers from churches who step out in faith to help others in Jesus’ name. The statistics table on page 3 describes what happened as a result in just two recent months.

We also want to see the same kind of courage displayed on a broader level. With one child under age five dying each 21 seconds from *treatable causes*, especially in 40 countries, we think the church has a role to play. See page 2 for more detailed info about these countries. We want to see Christians step out with courage to help these mothers and children, too.

Our idea is empty tomb’s Mission Match®. We need a leader in each of 30 churches, anywhere in the U.S., to get a movement going. It takes courage to try to mobilize congregations that are already busy, or perhaps are convinced they are too weak to take on a new project.

We asked Google AI how to do this task. Guess what! The answer was empty tomb’s Mission Match!! (See enclosure)

We can help with needed information, to answer questions that might come up. But we do not have the relationships in the 30 congregations. That’s where we need your help.

Christian networks are already working in medical clinics in the 40 countries. What do they need to help the mothers receive the treatments their children need? An incubator? A portable sonogram? Medical workers, or facilities, or supplies/equipment?

This effort is not designed to replace current mission efforts, but to add to them. The church has great potential to do so much more in this age of affluence. We need your help to get the effort going.

Praise God that there were people who saw what needed to be done for civil rights in the U.S., and were not afraid to do it.

Praise God that there are Christians locally who heed the call to reach out in Jesus’ name with food, and furniture, and clothes, and money to help meet immediate needs of our local neighbors.

What could the world look like if we Christians also were not afraid to do what is right and help, in Jesus’ name, the mothers and children in these 40 countries?

We invite you to “Do not be afraid” and help us in this Resurrection possibility, too!

— John and Sylvia Ronsvalle

You can read John Perkins’ obituary at <https://www.christianitytoday.com/2026/03/died-john-perkins-evangelicals-racial-reconciliation-mississippi/>.



John Perkins

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# Love Your Neighbors As Yourselves: Leviticus 19:18; Jesus: Matthew 22:39, Mark 12:31, Luke 10:27-28

Some of you may remember Marcia Gruschow. She started as a volunteer in the mid-1970s here at empty tomb. She retired in 2008 as Coordinator, moving with husband, Elwood, to Chicago to be close to their two sons.



Elwood and Marcia on a 2025 trip out West

What you may not know are the dramatic circumstances of Marcia's birth.

On February 4, 1951, Marcia's mother was sitting in the church in Wyoming where Marcia's father was preaching. Suddenly, her mom went into premature labor. A frantic one-hour drive through a blizzard followed in order to reach Riverton Memorial Hospital.

Her mom had eclampsia, a life-threatening condition. Marcia was born two months early, at 2.5 pounds.

As the hospital staff worked intensely to save Marcia's mother's life, newborn Marcia was placed in the just-received incubator, a new technology for the hospital. Marcia was its first occupant.

Marcia's mom recovered. And the incubator likely saved Marcia's life.

Those of us who know all that God has done through Marcia's gifts and caring in order to share Jesus' love, including through empty tomb, thank God for Marcia's safe delivery!

Today, medical clinics in many countries do not have the technology that Riverton Memorial Hospital in Wyoming received back in 1951.

That's a key reason that empty tomb's Mission Match® is focused on helping medical clinics in 40 countries. (If you want to know why these 40 countries, information is on the 40 Countries page at [missionmatch.org](http://missionmatch.org).)

When a mother in these countries goes into labor, there may be no roads, paved or otherwise, to travel to a hospital. And if something goes wrong, both the mother and child are in severe danger. That's why, of the under-five child deaths, 48% occur within the first 28 days.

Clinics also lack some of the treatments that could save the lives of toddlers who survive the birth process.

Jesus said that loving God and loving our neighbors as ourselves are the greatest commandments.

Yet children are still dying for lack of basic medical treatments.

World leaders set a target reduction goal of 25 deaths per thousand live births. In the table at right, next to each country's name, you can see the estimated number of deaths that occurred in 2023 because that country was not on track to meet that reduction goal by 2030. Notice that progress is possible: two countries that were behind the needed progress rate in 2015 had caught up by 2023.

But is 25 per thousand deaths enough of a goal? Would we be satisfied here in the U.S. for our children or grandchildren, or those of our local neighbors, to be dying at that rate? In fact, the U.S. rate was 6 deaths under age five for every thousand live births in 2023.

As we prepared this newsletter, we asked ourselves, how many deaths are occurring in these 40 countries because the death rate is not at the same level as in the U.S.? The results of that wondering appear in the second table column.

We're not asking you to feel sad or guilty about these circumstances. We're asking you to do something about them. Will you be a leader in your own church, to find a project in a Christian medical clinic in one of the 40 countries? You can then use the Mission Match matching contribution as an incentive for people in your congregation to raise the money to meet a need the clinic has. You can find out more information at [missionmatch.org](http://missionmatch.org).

You will be helping children and mothers who need help in Jesus' name. And you will also be showing what we as the body of Christ can do together so other churches might follow the same path.

These children are precious in Jesus' sight. Let's show them that we really do believe that's true!

Country	Number of Under-5 Deaths from Treatable Causes in 2023:	
	Because Reduction Rate Toward 25/1,000 Live Births Not Met	If Reduction Goal Had Been as Low as U.S.: 6/1,000 Live Births
Afghanistan	27,220	72,321
Angola	30,378	77,938
Benin	18,611	33,231
Burkina Faso	26,478	50,714
Burundi	4,897	19,306
Cameroon	27,291	57,358
Central African Republic	11,442	18,696
Chad	47,612	74,307
Comoros	134	850
Côte d'Ivoire	28,826	60,090
Democratic Republic of the Congo	144,163	280,849
Djibouti	307	880
Equatorial Guinea	1,854	3,662
Gabon	-	1,636
Gambia	729	3,455
Ghana	2,115	27,649
Guinea	26,478	42,158
Guinea-Bissau	1,709	3,652
Haiti	5,105	12,473
India	-	506,000
Lao People's Democratic Republic	476	5,077
Lesotho	1,178	2,695
Liberia	5,469	11,014
Mali	45,668	78,462
Mauritania	376	5,053
Mozambique	28,004	68,645
Myanmar	5,398	29,615
Niger	76,351	113,739
Nigeria	475,570	724,114
Pakistan	154,190	355,931
Papua New Guinea	1,825	8,500
Sierra Leone	13,223	22,468
Somalia	49,136	74,442
South Sudan	18,560	29,121
Sudan	24,866	73,040
Swaziland: Eswatini	187	867
Togo	6,413	15,241
Turkmenistan	1,052	5,100
Zambia	4,187	26,000
Zimbabwe	4,490	19,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,321,968</b>	<b>3,015,348</b>

The numbers for Togo, Turkmenistan, and Total in the first number column are revised from the print edition. 4/14/2026

## The Body of Christ In Action

We thank God for the many caring Christian individuals who volunteer at empty tomb. Following are Christian groups and churches that individual and group volunteers represent through the works at empty tomb February 1 – March 31, 2026. Thanks to all.

**Clothing Work:** CU Church, C.; First United Methodist Church, C.; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, C.; Grace Lutheran Church, C.; The Lord's Church - Champaign-Urbana, U.; Mattis Ave. Free Methodist Church, C.; New Life Church of Faith, U.; Twin City Bible Church, U.; and, The Vineyard, U.

**Food Work:** Apostolic Christian Church, C.; The Church of the Living God, C.; Copper Creek Church, C.; Dublin Street Church of Christ, U.; Emmanuel Memorial Episcopal Church, C.; Faith Community Church, U.;

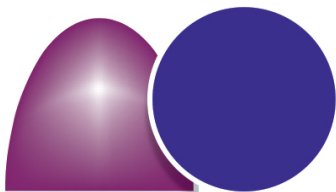
Faith United Methodist Church, C.; First Baptist Church of Champaign at Savoy; First Mennonite Church, U.; First United Methodist Church, C.; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, C.; Grace Lutheran Church, C.; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Flatville; Mattis Avenue Free Methodist Church, C.; New Covenant Fellowship, C.; Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church, C.; St. Matthew Lutheran Church, U.; Salem Baptist Church, C.; Trinity Lutheran Church, U.; and, Wesley United Methodist Church, U.

**Furniture Work:** Chinese Christian Church, C.; Emmanuel Memorial Episcopal Church, C.; First United Methodist Church, C.; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, C.; Mattis Avenue Free Methodist Church, C.; Sangamon Valley Church, Mahomet; St. John's Catholic Church, C.; St. Patrick Catholic Church, U.; St. Philomena

Catholic Church, Monticello; Trinity Lutheran Church, U.; and, Twin City Bible Church, U.

**Office/Other:** Apostolic Christian Church, C.; Christian Bible Church, Cissna Park; CU Church, C.; Emmanuel Memorial Episcopal Church, C.; First Presbyterian Church, C.; First Presbyterian Church, U.; First United Methodist Church, C.; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, C.; Grace Lutheran Church, C.; Mattis Avenue Free Methodist Church, C.; St. Patrick Catholic Church, U.; and, Windsor Road Christian Church, C.

Please contact Sylvia Ronsvalle, Exec VP, at [info@emptytomb.org](mailto:info@emptytomb.org) if we neglected to include your church or student group who made a group effort to assist others in Jesus' name through empty tomb, inc. We will plan both to thank you and include you in the next issue!



The empty tomb Opportunities Newsletter is published bimonthly to report on the opportunities developed by empty tomb®, inc. for service to others through Christ's Body, the Church.

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# Why I Love My Job

By Debbie L. Smith  
Helping Coordinator



I love my job because empty tomb serves the community. empty tomb is like one big ministry with several ministries within.

I love the feeling of fulfillment and the satisfaction of knowing that someone has been served and a need has been met. In John 13:1-17, Jesus served his disciples by washing their feet. Surely, we can do something as well.

empty tomb is contacted concerning many needs. Some needs include, assistance with bills, medical needs, hotel stays, food, furniture, cribs, diapers, layettes, gas and bus tokens.

The Lord desires us to be willing servants by helping in times of need; therefore, humility and obedience can be emphasized and discretion exercised.

Servanthood is essential and significant. I love the servanthood at empty tomb where amazing volunteers come to serve every week. Jesus loves cheerful and willing servants.

I am so grateful to be blessed by the presence of this peaceful village of helping hands. Matthew 5:9 says,

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.”

The volunteers assist in various capacities assuring things continue to move forward. The volunteers are a great example of servanthood and an intricate part of what happens from day to day. Mark 9:35 says “And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, ‘If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all.’”

I love that prayer is always decent and in order at empty tomb. When the phone rings, one never knows the situation on the other end. There have been times when the privilege of prayer was needed due to the consideration of suicide, eviction, homelessness, which has led to sleeping on the floor, life-saving medication needed, power/water disconnections, and no food. Prayer has led to hope in seemingly hopeless situations.

Being involved in meeting the needs of others is why I love my job. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve.

## News from the Front Lines

### A Record Number of Diapers in One Morning

The previous record for helping parents with diapers for their children was 47 sets distributed one morning.

However, on a recent morning, a new record was set. Volunteer Mark Kugler and Helping Coordinator Debbie Smith were kept running while they shared sets of diapers for 66 children whose (mostly) mothers filled the foyer throughout that Thursday morning. Diapers can be requested once a month.

Size 6 diapers are particularly popular.

### Church Volunteers Feed the Hungry

empty tomb receives referrals from agencies for people in need of food. Helping Coordinator Debbie is able to call church volunteers who provide a week’s worth of groceries. Here are some of the people helped recently.

The referred woman had surgery and was told she could not be on her feet to cook. The woman was in need of microwavable foods.

The referred family had a power outage and food spoiled.

The children had been living with another relative. Now, when they were home for spring break, the referred mom needed help with food.

### Furniture Crews Meet People’s Needs

The goal is to share at least 40 items each month with people on the waiting lists for items of furniture. During March 2026, the Furniture Crews blew past the goal by delivering 55 items!

People are asked to call on Tuesday afternoons, starting at 2 PM to see if there is an opening on the waiting list for a particular piece of furniture. However, between 1 and 2 PM on Tuesdays, the phone is busy explaining that the list won’t be updated until 2 PM.

Furniture requests are taken for basic items, including tables with chairs, chests of drawers and dressers, couches (but we’re not able to handle sleeper sofas), and beds (twin, double, and queen).

Note: empty tomb is no longer able to pick up king beds. We found that the home may not be big enough for the king bed to fit or the person may live on an upper story in a building with only a narrow staircase (yes, these have happened). Given the number of times king beds could not be successfully delivered, it was clear that empty tomb would specialize in twin, double, and queen beds.

### Spring and Summer Clothes

On a recent Saturday, Clothing Staff Person Angie Cooper was asked what she would like to tell empty tomb donors about the Clothing Room.

Angie’s response was that people don’t have to worry about the clothes being put to use. Sometimes, she said, people dropping off items will say that their goal is to have what they are donating help someone else. Angie said, “Tell them not to worry. As soon as we put it out, it’s gone!”

Angie thinks that’s partly because anyone can afford what is shared through empty tomb, since everything is free in Jesus’ name.

Right now, the Clothing Room has shifted to spring and summer clothes. Sometimes, people donate a large bag and when asked will say “Oh, there’s only a few winter items in there.” Then the sorters find most of it is winter. The problem is that empty tomb really doesn’t have room to store off-season clothes. So spring and summer clothes are most welcome now.

### Helping Referral, Senior, and Medical Funds

A referred woman with four children was facing eviction. She was just starting a new job but the first paycheck would not arrive in time to cover the back rent. Two organizations were providing money. empty tomb was able to cover the remaining portion to keep the family in their home.

A referred man just out of jail needed assistance to cover one month’s rent until he received the first paycheck from his job.

A referred man was laid off because of the company’s production schedule. He became seriously ill and sought medical attention. He then received a bill for over \$1,000. He applied for assistance programs but was not eligible. Usually keeping up with his bills, he was concerned his credit would get ruined while he figured out his job situation. empty tomb was able to clear up the medical bill.

See page 4 for Helping Appointments news.

### Statistics for February 1, 2026 — March 31, 2026

Christian Health Services	
New cribs shared	7
Layettees shared	7
Number who received Medical Fund Assistance	14
Medical Fund Assistance	\$9,224
# children for whom parents received diapers	225

<b>Clothing</b> Visitors to the Clothing Room (including onetime, occasional, and regular visitors) Bags/boxes sorted, estimated Volunteer hours <b>Free Food</b> Deliveries coordinated through empty tomb Number of people in households receiving deliveries Number of times 1-pound bag of beans shared Number of times bags (make 3 qts) of powdered milk shared	2,101  1,847 248  96 257 36 60
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<b>Furniture</b> Items delivered Items shared through Display Room Volunteer hours <b>Helping</b> Times assistance given Helping Fund shared Number of Seniors helped through Senior Fund Senior Fund shared Office and Other Volunteer hours Total Volunteer hours	80 4 165  77 \$14,277 6 \$1,666 252 665
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The following information is shared by empty tomb, inc., with our friends outside of Illinois, as we have been advised to do.

UNIFORM DISCLOSURE STATEMENT: empty tomb, inc. (“empty tomb”) is a §501(c)(3) organization, gifts to which are deductible as charitable contributions for Federal income tax purposes.

California: empty tomb’s audited financial statement is available upon request to empty tomb. 100 percent of your gift may be deducted under Federal and State income tax laws. Florida: A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL FREE WITHIN THE STATE, 1-800-435-7352, OR AT WWW.800HELPFLA.COM. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. empty tomb’s registration number is CH30798. Georgia: Upon request, empty tomb will provide a full and fair description of this and its other programs, and a financial statement or summary. Maryland: A copy of empty tomb’s current financial statement is available on request to empty tomb, inc., P.O. Box 2404, Champaign, Illinois 61825-2404; (217) 356-9519. For the cost of copies and postage, registration documents, and other information are available from the

Maryland Secretary of State. Minnesota: 100 percent of your gift may be deducted as a charitable contribution under Federal and state income tax laws. Mississippi: The official registration and financial information of empty tomb may be obtained from the Mississippi Secretary of State’s office by calling 1-888-236-6167. Registration by the Secretary of State does not imply endorsement. Virginia: A financial statement is available from the State Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services upon request. Washington: The registration statement required by the Charitable Solicitation Act is on file with the Secretary of State. Additional information can be obtained by calling 1-800-332-4483. West Virginia: West Virginia residents may obtain a summary of the registration and financial documents from the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Charleston, West Virginia 24305. Registration does not imply endorsement.

## Prayer Requests from Helping Appointments: You Are Invited to Pray!

The amount provided through a Helping Appointment was raised in 2026 to \$35 from \$30. Ten Helping Appointments are scheduled each week (with two provided by First Presbyterian Church, U. — thank you!).

The assistance can be with help toward a bill, bus tokens, or gas for the person's vehicle. A person is eligible for a Helping Appointment not more than once in 90 days.

With the price of gasoline going up so high, providing \$35 in gas has been a popular request recently. One woman said that she had to drive to Chicago to pick up her son from the hospital. Another woman said she was just beginning a new job, but meanwhile had to drive her children to school.

The staff person or volunteer who meets with each person asks what that person would like to pray about. Some people do not want prayer, and that's okay. Others have specific needs.

Perhaps you would like to join in prayers for these recently named needs.

- A woman came in for help with her water bill and asked for prayer that she would get her health back and be able to get around better than she is right now.
- A woman came in for help with gas for her car and asked for prayer concerning her nephew.
- A woman came in for help with gas for her car and asked for prayer for a surgery that is going to be scheduled on her shoulder.
- A man came in for help with gas for his car and asked for prayer concerning his mother who was having her ninety-third birthday that day.
- A woman came in for help with gas for her car and asked for prayer for her mental health and well being.
- A woman came in for help with gas for her car and asked for prayer that she would pass three upcoming tests and be able to get her degree.

## This Thank-You Is for You, Too!

Here at empty tomb, over time, we interact with many different people at difficult points in their lives. Often, that is the only interaction we may have with them.

So it is very nice when someone takes the trouble to check back with us later.

That happened in early March. Receptionist Margie Heintz took a telephone call and wrote us the following message.

*"[This person] called this morning to get some info and she also wanted to thank empty tomb.*

*"She said, 'Thank you so much for all you have done for me.' She signed a lease today and is moving in. A month ago she had called from a hotel and was in a very bad place in life. She is so thankful!*

*"I told her I would pass this on to you."*

And now we pass this message on to you, adding our thanks to hers for the way you help show Jesus' love to our local neighbors through the works of empty tomb!

## Share Your Gift for Lawn Care!

If you enjoy the out-of-doors and lawn care, have we got an opportunity for you!

Our great team of volunteers can use additional folks interested in joining the schedule once a month, or serving as a substitute in the regular schedule.

empty tomb has a Cub Cadet riding lawn mower, as well as a push power mower available.

The buildings are a blessing and serve people in many ways. They are also a responsibility. Keeping the grounds in good shape is one more way to declare our belief that "Jesus loves you and so do we!"

If you are interested, email [info@emptytomb.org](mailto:info@emptytomb.org), with the Subject: Lawn Care.



## Backpacks in August!

Students you know might be thinking about approaching finals. The idea of summer is only vaguely on the horizon.

But we know churches make plans for their schedules well in advance. So we're thinking about backpacks this August.

If your church would like to donate backpacks, packs of school supplies, or Adventure Bibles, please let us know. We limit the number of referrals we can accept for backpacks based on the number we plan to have.

If interested, email: [info@emptytomb.org](mailto:info@emptytomb.org), Subject: Backpacks.



## It's Not Too Early to Think of Christmas

Linda Taylor, who coordinates the Christmas Family Baskets, has already received some items to be set aside for the coming holiday.

She suggested that we mention in this newsletter that if you would like to donate items for the baskets, such as personal hygiene items, scarves, hats or gloves that you might find on sale, they will be most welcome.

Cindy Henigan also is already sorting through donated toys for the coming year. New and lightly used toys are always welcome.

Be sure when you drop them off to mention that the items are offered for the Christmas Distribution.

It's great that we can celebrate Jesus' birth all year long, including in this practical way!

### General Fund Status through the March 31, 2026, Payment Cycle

Undesignated donations available after paying March 16-31, 2026, bills, food and helping assistance, set-asides, and salaries	\$219.82
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A positive amount indicates that more than enough was available to cover the payment cycle amount needed and this positive balance will be applied to the next payment cycle.

A negative amount reflects the amount that was needed from the Running Start Fund to fully cover the March 16-31, 2026, payment cycle.\*

### No-Late Bills Reserve Fund Status as of March 31, 2026

Amount Below the No-Late-Bills Reserve Fund Goal Amount**	\$0.00
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Funds were available to meet January 1 – March 31, 2026, salary obligations on time 6 times out of a possible 6 times this calendar year 2026.

Funds were available to meet January 1 – March 31, 2025, salary obligations on time 6 times out of a possible 6 times last calendar year 2025.

\*The Running Start Fund balance of \$10,000 was set aside from a January 2026 donation for "one month ahead" in 2026. The Running Start Fund balance was \$8,380.00 as of the March 16-31, 2026, payment cycle.

\*\* Since the NLBRF goal amount of \$80,000 was reached at least once in 2026, the NLBRF is available as needed to even out cashflow in 2026.

NOTE: The NLBRF can grow throughout the year as a result of designated donations and interest earned, both of which could, in theory, bring the balance above the goal amount. The NLBRF can also grow from end-of-year undesignated donations, up to the goal amount. If deemed appropriate, in addition to funding current operating expenses, undesignated donations can also be internally transferred to the NLBRF, up to the goal amount.

Christine Horger, Bookkeeper

Joy Bonczek, Assistant Treasurer

Thank you for helping to make the Works of *empty tomb, inc.* possible.



how publicize matching funds available for churches for stopping global child deaths

AI Mode All Short videos News Images Forums Shopping More Tools

AI Overview

To publicize matching funds for child-survival projects to churches, leverage digital outreach, direct email campaigns, and partnership with denominational leaders. Key strategies include highlighting the "both/and" impact—that this supports, rather than replaces, existing missions—and using compelling, image-driven stories of saved lives. Mission Match +3

Key Strategies for Publicizing Matching Funds

- Digital & Social Media Outreach: Utilize targeted social media ads and posts to share educational resources and images that demonstrate the impact of the funds.
Email Campaigns: Send direct emails to church leaders, focusing on building urgency, sharing success stories, and expressing gratitude for partnerships.
Leverage Existing Networks: Connect with denomination leaders or regional offices to distribute information to multiple churches at once.
Highlight the "Both/And" Approach: Emphasize that these funds allow churches to increase their impact without choosing between existing projects.
Educational Materials: Provide clear, in-kind, and ready-to-use promotional materials that churches can easily share with their congregations.
Focus on Impact: Share specific, tangible examples of how the funds will stop global child deaths (e.g., medical supplies, clean water, or nutrition programs). Samaritan's Purse +5

Dive deeper in AI Mode

Both/And - Mission Match

Something needs to be said. When we talk about helping, in Jesus' name, to reduce the...

Mission Match



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