



*The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;
therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest
to send out laborers into His harvest.*

~ MATTHEW 9:37-38

Currently there are more than 500 churches in the Alabama Baptist Convention without a pastor. A large percentage of these churches are under 75 in regular attendance and need a bivocational pastor. While the demand for both fulltime and bivocational pastors continues to grow across the state, the number of people responding to a call to ministry has steadily decreased over the years. We now find ourselves in a growing crisis in our convention.

Jesus was the first to call out the called. He stated two facts in Matthew 9:37-38. First, there are few laborers to go out into the field of ministry. Second, we are commanded to pray for more laborers to be sent out. Today is a day set aside to focus on the words of Jesus in this passage.

Alabama Baptists should:

- Pray for the Lord to send more people into the harvest field of ministry.
- Pray for clarity, discernment and obedience for those who are wrestling with a call to pastoral ministry.
- Pray for Alabama Baptist churches that are currently without a pastor.
- Spiritually discern if YOU are being called into the ministry. If God is dealing with you, plan to speak with your pastor or one of your pastoral staff members.
- Pray for pastors to call out the called in their churches on this day.
- Pray that our churches will disciple and spiritually develop those whom God is calling.
- Pray for our Alabama Baptist colleges and SBC seminaries as they train people for ministry.

One of our most urgent tasks is to help equip those He has called to take up the mantle of leadership in our churches. Bivocational, covocational and fulltime pastors are needed throughout the state. Let us come alongside your church and foster those He has called.

For more information and resources, visit callingoutthecalled.org.

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