

BRIARWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

EMC

LEAD WITH
A GIVING HEART

2020

EVERY MEMBER COMMITMENT

WHAT IS THE EVERY MEMBER COMMITMENT (EMC)?

1) **EMC (Tithe)** — The EMC occurs annually and funds the church’s day-to-day ministries such as worship, community outreach, operations, meeting our members’ spiritual needs, and equipping us to be salt and light in this world.

2) **Faith Promise (Offering above the tithe)** — The Faith Promise occurs annually and funds Briarwood’s world missions ministries.

3) **Capital Campaigns (Offering above the tithe)** — Capital campaign resources fund new building programs, campus expansion, debt reduction, and other one-time needs.

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
Matthew 6:21

On the following pages you’ll find a brief description of some of the ministries your tithe supports, along with ministry impact stories illustrating the significance of your tithe in the lives of others.

THESE MINISTRIES BENEFIT FROM YOUR FAITHFUL TITHE:

- Administrative Services
- Birmingham Theological Seminary
- Briarwood Ballet
- Briarwood Christian School
- Briarwood MidWeek
- Campus Outreach
- Children’s Ministries
- Christian Counseling Ministry
- Christian Education
- Christian Medical Ministry
- Church Planting
- Church Revitalization
- Church and State
- College Ministry
- Communications
- Congregational Communities (*Adult Sunday School*)
- Discipleship Groups
- Evangelism
- Fellows Ministry
- Graduates and Career (G&C)
- In Perspective Radio
- L.O.V.E. Ministry
- Membership
- Men of the Covenant
- Mercy Ministry
- Mother’s Day Out
- Music Ministry for all ages
- National Ministries
(130 Ministry Partners)
- Nursery
- Pastoral Care
- Prayer Ministry
- Quest/Recreation Ministry
- Shepherding
- Special Connections
- Trailblazers/Senior Adult Ministry
- Urban Missions
- Vacation Bible School
- WLJR-FM
- Walk Through Nativity
- Women of the Covenant
- Young Business Leaders

BIRMINGHAM THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

BTS was established in 1972 to provide practical theological training for pastors and other church leaders, especially those unable to attend seminary full-time. During the seminary's 45-year history, more than 5,000 students have taken courses and BTS graduates serve in churches and ministries throughout Alabama and beyond. Through its distance education program and international relationships, BTS now has students (in Spanish and English) in over 130 countries.

MINISTRY IMPACT – This spring, BTS had the opportunity to host Dr. Carl Ellis teaching Personal Evangelism in conjunction with Campus Outreach. Over 60 CO staff and BTS students were challenged and equipped to share their faith in a variety of cultural contexts. For CO staff, this was right before Summer Beach Project where they would share the gospel with hundreds of people. BTS students represented leadership in over 10 partner churches, taking the lessons they learned back to their congregations for teaching and training in evangelism for their final projects. From this one class, hundreds of others have heard the gospel or been trained to share their faith!

BRIARWOOD BALLET

Since 1980, thousands of students have been taught to use dance for the praise and worship of our Savior at Briarwood Ballet. Our performing companies—Ballet Exaltation and Immanuel—perform locally, nationally and internationally. This year over 400 area students will receive dance training that is artistically excellent and biblically based. We also strive to share the gospel with each student while using productions as an opportunity to allegorically present God's truths.

MINISTRY IMPACT – “I grew up in a very broken home with much strife and instability. Briarwood Ballet quickly became a safe-haven for me. My teachers helped me discover God's gifts to me, nourished me, and encouraged me to use ballet—not for my glory—but for the God of the Universe! They also brought me into the presence of the Lord through prayer and Bible study. This is where I learned to stand on God's promises and endure trials while knowing I was loved and protected. Now I have the privilege of teaching ballet and loving these students and pointing them to Him.” – A former student and current instructor





BRIARWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

As a ministry of Briarwood Presbyterian Church, BCS is committed to providing a Christ-centered environment and education based on academic excellence through exemplary leaders who will challenge and inspire each student to know Christ and make Him known in every sphere of life.

MINISTRY IMPACT – Seeking to build in our students a more complete Christian world and life view that affects the head, the heart, and the hands, our Junior High students devoted time this year to serve in communities across Birmingham. Students were able to serve an Easter meal at The Foundry, package over 1,000 diapers for the Bundles of Hope ministry, organize clothes, clean, mow, and help prepare food boxes at Grace Klein Ministry. Local missions opportunities like these encourage our students to see the importance of leading with a giving heart while exposing them to areas throughout the city and, ultimately, better equipping them to reach Birmingham to reach the world for Christ.

BIBLICAL COUNSELING

The Briarwood Biblical Counseling ministry is a place of marital reconciliation, personal growth, and community development. We provide personal counseling for a variety of life issues (pre-marital counseling, marriage, depression, anxiety, addiction, self-injury, etc.) The center also trains lay counselors and mentors who assist and extend the reach of the pastoral staff. We contribute to the mission of Briarwood to reach Birmingham to reach the world for Christ through counseling, training, and assisting other churches in establishing biblical counseling ministries.

MINISTRY IMPACT – A husband was distraught and depressed. He could barely get out of bed each morning. He increasingly found it difficult to get to work on time. He lost interest even in things he had once enjoyed. His wife kept encouraging him, but her encouragement did little to change what her husband was feeling. They heard of the Briarwood Counseling Center and both of them came for counseling. After several counseling sessions, the husband began to emerge from the “stubborn darkness” that had so gripped his life. His wife and children sensed the difference in him, and he told his wife, “Thank you for not giving up on me and for making me go to the counseling center where I was able to see the hope and healing that God gives us through the Scriptures.”

CAMPUS OUTREACH

Briarwood Presbyterian Church established Campus Outreach in 1978 with two staff members on one campus. Today there are 710 Campus Outreach staff members serving 126 campuses in 11 countries. Our mission is to build Christ-like laborers on the campus for the lost world for the Glory of God.

MINISTRY IMPACT – Hamilton, one of our staff at the University of Alabama, leads Bible studies in fraternity houses. One student, Chris, who had virtually no church experience, trusted in Christ. Later Hamilton taught on Matthew 7. Chris pulled Hamilton aside to talk. He was scared. It hit him that his friends were on the “path of destruction.” He said “I don’t know anyone in my fraternity living this out... am I supposed to tell them?... I mean, someone has to tell them! I have to tell my friends! Their lives are built on the sand, and I want them to know the Rock of Salvation, Jesus!” Please pray that God would call more students like Chris and raise them up as future evangelists.

CHRISTIAN MEDICAL MINISTRY OF ALABAMA

CMMA was established in 1982 to reach and disciple those in the healthcare professions, especially students in medicine, dentistry, physical therapy, etc. We also work with professionals in each field. We “*care for those who care for others*” so that they can survive the rigors of training, thrive spiritually and multiply to help reach the world for Christ. CMMA impacts 250–350 students and professionals each week.

MINISTRY IMPACT – On the CMMA mission trip to Peru we had a patient who was so stressed she seemed to be having panic attacks. When we asked what it was that caused her so much worry, she tearfully told us what was happening. Instantly the doctor said, “That same thing happened to me and my family when I was eight years old.” The patient was wide-eyed in disbelief, yet smiling that someone was so caring and understanding and could relate to her pain. It opened my eyes to how much caring goes such a long way. – Bobby Parks, CMMA Director





THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The Children's Ministry at Briarwood desires to partner with parents to lead children to a saving, growing relationship with Christ by presenting the gospel, training children to worship, and equipping them to impact others for God's glory.

MINISTRY IMPACT – In the last Communicant's class, a 6th grade boy shared his testimony with our elders. They discerned that he still believed he could help save himself. But the questions he asked indicated that God was clearly working in his life. A few days later, we were able to follow up with him. He was anxious and fidgety as we shared God's Word, but he began to realize his need for Christ and he asked Jesus to be the Lord of his life! The restlessness was gone, which could only be the peace of God that was at work in his life.

CONGREGATIONAL COMMUNITIES

It is clear in Scripture that we are to place a high value on being connected to biblical community with other Christians in our church. At Briarwood, our adult Sunday School classes function as Congregational Communities. These 34 vibrant communities are where many of our members find a place to participate in the body of Christ with true fellowship with other Christians. In addition to excellent weekly teaching, our members join together to pray for one another, encourage one another, and use their gifts together in ministry.

MINISTRY IMPACT – One of the young men in our church has been mentored by a Shepherding Elder in his Sunday School Community. He has been very involved in a Young Couples Community and in a small group for a few years. They began to discuss spiritual leadership. They also discussed what is involved in serving as a deacon. Through these conversations, the Lord gave this young man a desire to serve as a deacon and he was elected to serve. It is exciting to see the Lord raise up the next generation of spiritual leaders in our church!

CHURCH REVITALIZATION

The Church Revitalization Ministry equips and encourages church leaders to build healthy churches that produce healthy disciples. At our national and international Embers to a Flame conferences, we teach ten biblical strategies leading to church health and the three-fold paradigm for church revitalization found in Rev. 2:5—REMEMBER, REPENT, AND RECOVER. Conferences are held annually and church leaders are urged to follow-up with our coaching ministry, Fanning the Flame. In addition, the Embers to a Flame ministry is now working alongside other evangelical denominations as they seek to establish church revitalization ministries.

MINISTRY IMPACT – The church revitalization ministry was blessed to host the annual Embers to a Flame Conference at Briarwood Presbyterian Church in January 2019. Pastors and church leaders from Russia, Thailand, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States, and multiple countries from Asia gathered together to study the attributes and characteristics foundational and essential for church health. This was a great time of fellowship and training for all those present as we met as one body in Christ.

THE COLLEGE MINISTRY

We are a community that is made up of two different groups. First, our students that grew up at Briarwood but are now away attending college. We seek to encourage these students from afar in their walks with the Lord and connect with them when they return over the summer and holidays. The second group is made up of college students from local campuses who gather for worship at Briarwood on Sunday mornings during the school year. We seek to create with these students a community that engages in Christian fellowship and impacts the campus and the world for Christ.

MINISTRY IMPACT – Last year, a student named Stewart from Birmingham Southern College began coming to Briarwood. Even though he was raised in a Christian home, he had fully embraced the fraternity party scene at college. Through the preaching of the gospel from the pulpit and involvement with the college ministry, Stewart came to faith in Christ and is being disciplined in the faith. This has led him to pursue a full-time call to ministry as a chaplain in the Army. Also, he served this past summer at Briarwood in the Children's Ministry as an intern. Please pray for Stewart as he desires to intentionally impact his fraternity for Christ this next school year.





COMMUNICATIONS

Briarwood Communications includes our Print, Internet and Electronic Media Ministries, with Audio/Video, Radio and Television comprising our Electronic Media Ministry. At 88.5 FM, WLJR is our automated, 24-hour-a-day Christian radio station, affiliated with both the Moody Radio Network and American Family Radio. The 10:55 a.m. Sunday service is broadcast on both radio and TV, made available on the website, app and in social media. Our website is located at briarwood.org and the Briarwood App is available at no charge in all the app stores as “BriarwoodPCA.”

MINISTRY IMPACT – A couple who were members of Briarwood for many years retired in another city, and are unable to attend their church there regularly for health reasons. They still have family attending Briarwood, and have told us how much they enjoy staying connected with Briarwood via our Sunday morning live stream. We also hear from people world-wide that listen to WLJR on the internet. Praise the Lord for technology that allows His Word to be heard throughout the world!

EVANGELISM

Evangelism has been a primary focus from Briarwood's beginning. Our Mission Statement challenges us to “...reach Birmingham to reach the world for Christ...” Providing tools to share your faith like Bridge Building, Evangelism Explosion and Bridge to Life are just some of the ways we bring this training to our membership.

MINISTRY IMPACT – This summer one of our evangelism teams shared with a graduate school student at UAB. The young lady believed in God but didn't have an assurance that if she died she would go to heaven. After sharing the Bridge to Life presentation with this young lady, she realized that God was offering her forgiveness of her sins and eternal life in heaven as a free gift. She joined the team in a prayer to receive Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior.

BRIARWOOD FELLOWS

The vision of the Briarwood Fellows is to develop future generations of leaders from the church to the world. We equip recent college graduates to influence their vocation, church, family and culture. Our Fellows invest nine months working in marketplace internships, in ministry within the church and city along with theological study in order to be thoroughly equipped to engage our culture with the gospel.

MINISTRY IMPACT – Five years ago, a young man named Noah Despinasse came to Birmingham to be a part of the Fellows ministry. During his time in the Fellows program, the Lord gave him a burden and passion to reach the community of Fairfield with the gospel. A recent local news report shared how Noah decided to move into Fairfield for the sake of ministry saying, “Once Noah and his wife Rachel moved to Fairfield, other couples followed.” Noah and Rachel still live and serve the Lord in Fairfield, and Noah is also the Urban Missions Director here at Briarwood.

GRADUATES AND CAREER

Graduates and Career (G&C) is a community for young single adults, early 20’s to mid 30’s. We are focused on growing in personal spiritual formation, servant leadership, and revealing Christ to the world around us. Our goal is to train and equip individuals to navigate the culture and relationships in ways that honor and glorify God.

MINISTRY IMPACT – “On my first G&C mission trip in 2013 to Bristol, England, I had a six-year-old girl in my group. It was her first year of Adventurers (the church’s summer children’s program), and she knew nothing about the Bible. The gospel was incorporated into every aspect of the week, and one morning, she told me that she had gone home the night before and prayed to receive Christ! Since then, she has continued to attend Bible clubs and Adventurers, and I keep up with her throughout the year. This summer was my sixth trip to Bristol and her last year of Adventurers! She is now thirteen and hopes to be a junior leader next year!” – Summer Schor





MEMBERSHIP

The Membership Ministry's goal is to glorify God by helping our visitors and members connect to Christ and His Church here at Briarwood. We focus on providing a warm welcome to our guests, connecting new members into the body through our Christ-centered assimilation objectives, and partnering with seasoned members in providing continued support and guidance in various ministry endeavors. This is facilitated through various small group meetings and partnering with other church ministries.

MINISTRY IMPACT – During one of our recent Pastor's Inquirers classes, we had a young mother attending who was not a Christian, but was eager to learn more about Briarwood. She came to the classes and quietly listened. At the end of the classes, she called the office to share that she wasn't sure she knew what a testimony was and whether or not she had one. After listening to Pastor Reeder share the Bridge to Life gospel presentation and the membership pastor share his testimony in the class, she stated that the gospel started making more sense to her and that she wanted to make a commitment to Christ. Upon this, the membership pastor got a chance to present the gospel to her again over the phone and she prayed to commit her life to Christ. Since joining the church, she is being discipled by a woman in our congregation and is growing in her faith.

MEN'S MINISTRY

We believe that Christ-like men of character and conviction is one of the highest priorities in the mission of Briarwood. Discipleship-oriented courses make up the nucleus of the Men's Ministry, enhanced by special events such as the Sportsman's Blast, Men's BBQ Dinner, and Men's Retreats.

MINISTRY IMPACT – This summer our men did a study titled, *Uncommon Manhood: A Study of The Life of David*. One gentleman said, "This study has been the best ever for me. I have memorized more scripture than I have in years and my group has been such an encouragement. Such a blessing to be with so many brothers on Wednesday morning."

MERCY MINISTRY

The Mercy Ministry of Briarwood is committed to ministering to those in need. The deacons and volunteers of the Mercy Ministry are able to engage in the lives of both members and non-members and to walk with them through times of struggles and offer them the mercy of God. The Mercy Ministry also dispenses the mercy of God through New Direction Ministry in Fairfield and Fostering Hope.

MINISTRY IMPACT – Over the past several years, the Mercy Ministry has had three ladies approach us with the same situation. All three ladies had children in the Foster Care program. The heart of each mother longed to get back their children. The ladies enrolled in our New Focus program and learned how to manage their money in a biblical way. They completed the course at different times, and one of the mothers came to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Each mom went through counseling, dealing with different issues concerning child raising. Through the giving of alms by our congregation, their bills were brought up to date. Letters were written on each ladies' behalf, and the judges closed all three cases. Their longing to have their children back was fulfilled!

MUSIC AND WORSHIP

The Music and Worship Ministry exists to equip Christians to worship, mainly through our Lord's Day morning and evening worship services. This enables God's people to more effectively fulfill the calling God has given us to make disciples (and ultimately worshipers) of all the nations. The Music Ministry provides opportunities for all members, ages five and up, to find their voice in worship through children's choir, youth choir, the adult choir, orchestra, and our praise teams and bands.

MINISTRY IMPACT – A young man came to audition for one of our ensembles. He had a fantastic voice. I could tell he believed every word of "Amazing Grace" as he sang in my office. When I asked him his testimony, he said, "I was at Briarwood a long time ago as a kid. I really never paid much attention to the preaching or worship. When I went to college, I left church completely and never went to church for a long time. For reasons I can't even remember, I visited Briarwood a few years ago. To this day I can't tell you anything about the worship service except that as Pastor Reeder preached, I was convicted of my sin and received Jesus Christ as my Savior right there in the pew. And now every time I sing, I'm so grateful to the Lord that I have a hard time holding back!" –John Haines





MOTHER'S DAY OUT

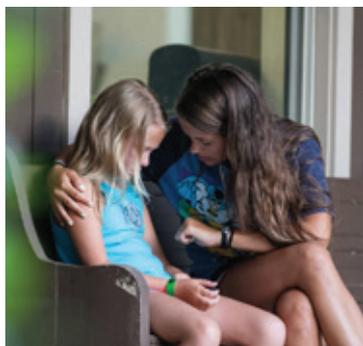
This fall, MDO began our 32nd year of loving children! We have a wonderful group of teachers who love, nurture and teach each child in our care. Our deepest desire is that these precious children hear about and experience the love of the Lord. We want each parent to feel fully confident that their child will be well cared-for and loved each and every day while they are at Mother's Day Out.

MINISTRY IMPACT – One of our precious little ones had been hearing about Jesus from her family, church and in her Mother's Day Out classes. She had been coming to Briarwood's MDO since she was a baby, and now she was in the 3-year-old class. One evening she was very excited to tell Mom and Dad that she had asked Jesus to come into her heart. As they talked, she told them that her teacher had shared the story of Jesus and His dying for their sins, and how she had prayed there in the classroom to receive Christ.

MIDWEEK

Briarwood MidWeek is a Wednesday night fellowship and discipleship opportunity for the entire family. The evening begins with a meal in the Fellowship Hall and is followed by a host of activities including: Bible studies, adult choir and orchestra rehearsal, seminary classes, evangelism training, children's programs, nursery, and youth ministry activities. For a full list of MidWeek opportunities, visit briarwood.org/midweek or the Briarwood App.

MINISTRY IMPACT – During MidWeek, evangelism ministry teams go from the church and share the gospel with people at UAB, Railroad Park, apartment complexes and other locations. This on-the-job training has made a real impact since January, as those involved have seen 34 people surrender their lives to Christ. Please consider being a part of this wonderful ministry.



NATIONAL MISSIONS

Briarwood's National Ministries currently partners with over 130 stateside ministries and workers committed to reaching the lost for Christ. National Ministries' focus includes church planting, ministry partnerships, and urban ministry. In church planting, we focus on non-gospel-saturated locations. Our national partnerships include ministries which take the gospel to prisons, college campuses, military bases, recovery programs, etc. Our urban ministry focuses primarily on the city of Fairfield, Alabama where Briarwood is currently investing in church planting and other holistic ministries.

MINISTRY IMPACT – AJ came to Foster Kids Camp in 2017. During the Birthday Party outreach, AJ received a skateboard. He refused to wear his helmet and therefore we would not allow him to ride in our gym. He became so angry that he clenched his fist and teeth, started crying, and his nose started bleeding. One of our volunteers, a deputy sheriff, stated that “if God doesn’t change this young man’s heart, he will kill somebody one day.” Later that week, AJ accepted Christ as his Savior! In 2018, AJ returned to Foster Kids Camp. The first thing he did was find that deputy and tell him he was a “New Kid!” You can tell from the smile on his face, he truly was a new kid in Christ. –Jeff and Ann Nelson, Ponderosa Bible Camp, CBM Ministries of North Alabama

NURSERY

The Briarwood Nursery provides a service to the parents of the church by providing a safe and pleasant atmosphere in which to leave their children while they pursue spiritual growth and fellowship with other believers. We are open during church on Sunday and Wednesday nights during MidWeek classes. We are also open to meet the needs of church members and Briarwood School, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to noon.

MINISTRY IMPACT – The Briarwood Nursery is truly a blessing beyond words. As a single foster parent, I expect the journey will be a challenging one with each placement. My goal is to expose the children to the Word of God during whatever time I may have with them. What I never expected was the outpouring of support and encouragement for both myself and my foster children that I have received and continue to receive from the Briarwood Nursery. The staff and volunteers love these children, share the Good News with them, and then exemplify it by living out the gospel in a sacrificial and selfless way.

PASTORAL CARE

The Pastoral Care Ministry serves as part of the Shepherding Team and assists elders, pastors and Congregational Communities in caring for members and friends of the church—especially in times of sickness, infirmity, disability, bereavement, or crisis. Through specially trained laymen and women, we also serve homebound members and widows.

MINISTRY IMPACT – As we emphasize “lifestyle of discipleship” at Briarwood, we know that discipleship includes shepherding others through all stages of life. Some in our church have family members who are affected by some form of dementia. When this happens, spouses and children often become caregivers who carry increasingly heavy loads of responsibility. This caregiving can become exhausting. For several years, the Pastoral Care Department has helped lead a “Dementia Caregivers Group” which meets monthly to provide caregivers with resources as they learn how to give care, as they face decisions about the direction of that care, and as they lean on others who understand the burden of that care. Such support is what discipleship is all about.

PRAYER MINISTRY

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God, in Christ Jesus for you.” 1 Thess. 5:16–18. The Prayer Ministry at Briarwood exists to “glorify God through providing opportunities and equipping Christians to pray in order to impact Birmingham to reach the world for Christ.”

MINISTRY IMPACT – Our Wednesday outreach team was visiting one of the nearby apartment complexes. The team members were praying for an opportunity to share Christ. The person they went to see was not at home, but one of the team was still praying for an opportunity. They saw in another apartment that there was a broken water main. Still praying for an opportunity, they were able to visit a young man in the apartment below, where the water was seeping in. He was very open to the presentation of the gospel and made a profession of faith. Even a broken water pipe can lead to a sharing opportunity when you pray!



SPECIAL CONNECTIONS

The Special Connections Ministry vision is for the gospel to be made accessible to all, as the body of Christ shows equal concern for people with disabilities and their families. The ministry provides teaching and worship opportunities as well as care for children, youth and adults with special needs. High school buddies accompany the children to inclusive Sunday School classes and Vacation Bible School. The ministry also provides respite care and numerous other activities throughout the year.

MINISTRY IMPACT – How wonderful it is to witness the Holy Spirit changing the hearts of those He calls to be His! One of our teens knows a lot about watches and clocks and has quite a collection. It can be difficult to get his attention away from looking at his watch during Sunday School. However, recently he has shown a great interest in worship music and musical instruments. It has been amazing to see this subtle change in him. Now he enjoys singing quietly in the worship service as well as the worship time during Sunday School.

QUEST (RECREATION)

Camp Briarwood is a summer camp ministry for grades 1–10. Founded in 1964, Camp Briarwood has served as a camp and leadership training ground for approximately 20,000 children and counselors. The Briarwood Soccer Club was established in 1981 to provide instruction on the game of soccer; but more importantly, to use the game to further the gospel of Christ. The club has grown to participation of over 1,000 players and coaches annually. TRAIL LIFE USA is a Christ-centered, outdoor, character-developing adventure program open to boys and young men aged 5–17. All the ministries of Quest exist to provide our youth God-honoring recreation.

MINISTRY IMPACT – “Camp Briarwood is a very special place to me because being with so many great people for the week reminds me that true relationships and friendships are rooted in Christ. Throughout the week of camp this summer I made some of the best memories and I will never forget them. My favorite part about Camp Briarwood is worship. It is such a special time to not only me but to all of the campers.” –Lucy, 7th grade Camper





TRAILBLAZERS

Trailblazers is a ministry to all adults over 60 here at Briarwood, many of whom God used to help build this church. Goals of the ministry include helping seniors grow spiritually, integrating them into the life of the church through service, providing educational seminars and fellowship luncheons, and using excursions to increase their awareness of the creative majesty of our great God.

MINISTRY IMPACT – One of our members, who was so touched by what she experienced at the Ark Encounter in Williamstown, KY, said, “Going to the Ark Encounter was a life-changing experience and brought the Bible to life. It led to a lot of conversations with other people when I returned home. I emphasized to them that the Bible is real and how awesome our God is, including incredible details of God’s care for us.”

WALK THROUGH NATIVITY

The Walk Through Nativity is an inspirational portrayal of the story of Jesus Christ’s birth and life presented by our congregation over 3 nights each December. This is an exciting opportunity for our Briarwood family, as more than 950 volunteers join together to reach out to our community and share God’s love and the good news of Jesus Christ. We are expecting over 7,000 people to come this year and hear the story of Christ through 14 scenes with audio narration, live actors, and live animals.

MINISTRY IMPACT – One of our members shared, “I brought a friend of mine to the Walk Through Nativity who was brought up in the Muslim faith. She told me that she had never heard that the coming of Christ was prophesied in the Bible hundreds of years before Jesus was born. Nor had she heard before this night that Jesus fulfilled all those prophecies. She intently listened to each scene and afterwards asked many questions about Christ and the Good News she heard. Please pray that she will receive Jesus as her Lord and Savior.”



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

The Women of the Covenant Mission Statement is “Equipping Women to know God, and to glorify Him in our Home, Church, Community, and World.” We seek to do this through Bible studies, small groups, retreats and special events designed for personal spiritual growth as well as opportunities to reach out to family, friends, and our community with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

MINISTRY IMPACT – Last summer the Women's Ministry encouraged the women in the church to read Rosario Butterfield's book, *The Gospel Comes with a House Key*, which encourages believers to think about authentic hospitality as an opportunity for the gospel. Two women in our church were challenged by this book and the 2018 Birmingham Conference on Theology and Life speaker, Becky Pippert, to consider how to reach out to their neighbors. As a result, these two women opened their home to their neighbors for an Investigative Bible Study. Over the course of 10 weeks they had the opportunity to share the gospel, study the Word, and form deeper relationships with their neighbors.

YOUNG BUSINESS LEADERS

Since 1981, the mission of YBL has been to reach men in the marketplace, build them in the faith and send them back to their families, communities, nation and world for God's glory. In 2014, we launched the same mission to women in the marketplace. On any day of the work week, men and women are seeking to worship God and live a life that reflects Him wherever they work, serve and lead. Our discipleship groups, outreach events and mentors build friendship, accountability and direction to live biblically every day.

MINISTRY IMPACT – Michael is a UAB graduate from the Ivory Coast. He responded at a YBL breakfast and was plugged into a small group. In the group, Michael realized his understanding of Christianity—doing good so God would bless you—was not the message at all. Michael became a Christian. He became engaged and did his pre-marital counseling through YBL; Rob Genin performed the wedding ceremony. Michael and his wife just had a baby boy. He works at a local bank and is committed to his new family, church, small group and community. It all began because a friend invited him to a breakfast.

YOUNG MARRIEDS

Believing that our young couples are the next generation of elders and leaders, the Young Couples Ministry exists to bring Glory to God by equipping young couples for the work of the ministry in order that they be rooted and built up in Christ, established in the faith, and growing towards maturity as a part of Christ's Church.

MINISTRY IMPACT – Over the past number of years, Briarwood's Young Couple's ministry has sought to implement a lifestyle of discipleship through the ministry of small groups. Utilizing the wisdom of various mentoring couples who have a vision for pouring into the next generation of Briarwood leaders, close to 200 young married men and women have become better equipped to walk in obedience to God for a lifetime. This past year, two of these young couples transitioned into overseas vocational ministry in Europe and South America, seeking to pour into others what has been poured into them.

YOUTH MINISTRY

The Youth Ministry has touched the lives of thousands of young people throughout the years through retreats, conferences and mission trips. Over the last several years, The Youth Barn has enhanced and facilitated even more ministry opportunities to our youth, both here in the church and in the community. Through weekly meetings, discipleship groups and special events, the Lord has blessed us to reach and disciple more and more students for Christ!

MINISTRY IMPACT – This summer, the Raiders ministry attended the Edge Conference at Covenant College and three of our junior high students prayed to receive Christ. In addition to our staff, we took several of our former junior high students as adult counselors. These former students were instrumental in helping these three students understand what it means to put their faith in Christ and to grow in Christ. Not only did these leaders grow in their own faith through the youth ministry at Briarwood, but now the Lord is using the youth ministry as an avenue for them to multiply themselves by making and growing new disciples of Christ!

