

Volunteers In Mission: Caring Enough to Share

The role of servant was embodied and ordained by Christ, and those who follow him are called to live out a faith of caring and sharing in response to his sacrificial love.

For Baptists, one vital expression of that faith-based commitment to reach out comes through volunteerism. The Volunteers In Mission (VIM) program of National Ministries, American Baptist Churches USA coordinates a wide range of opportunities: individual volunteer missionary



appointments, summer service placements, group mission experiences, specialized service projects and disaster response.

At any given time, VIM needs all sorts of volunteers—summer day camp assistants, computer technicians, art and music teachers,

nurses, plumbers, carpenters, youth group ministry teams, drivers, painters and the list goes on—to fill the requests it receives from throughout the United States.

Opportunities for volunteer ministry sometimes meet the very immediate needs of those affected by high-profile catastrophes. Currently, National Ministries is coordinating volunteers serving in Habitat for Humanity-based home-building endeavors in Gautier, Miss., and Baton Rouge, La.

While requests from partnering bodies in need of help are plentiful, National Coordinator Victoria J. Goff believes Volunteers In Mission is called to be proactive. “My vision includes finding new ways to connect with new partners in mission,” she says, noting a particular focus on recruiting youth for appropriate match-ups that often prove to be enriching—even life-changing—experiences.

Additional information about VIM—including opportunities, current needs and specifics about group project work—is available at www.nationalministries.org/caring_ministries/vim/, by calling 800-222-3872 (ext. 2449 or ext. 2413), or by emailing Victoria.Goff@abc-usa.org.

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