

Together for Hope and the CBF of South Carolina Week of Prayer for State Missions

Together for Hope is deeply grateful to be held in the hearts of our South Carolina CBF partners and friends during this year's Week of Prayer for State Missions.

Birthered in the heart of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship mission and ministry nearly twenty-five years ago, Together for Hope is a network of individuals, congregations and organizations serving in solidarity with those who live in counties of persistent rural poverty.

Together for Hope seeks to help persons living in counties of persistent rural poverty to identify their local strengths (asset-based community development), and then work with those assets to strengthen the four Together for Hope "priorities of hope": Education, Housing and Environment, Health and Nutrition, and Social Enterprise.

Our work is divided into four geographical areas; Appalachia, home to sixty-three counties of persistent rural poverty, the Delta, where there are ninety-eight counties of persistent rural poverty, the Tribal Nations, Texas and Four Corners region, where there are ninety-five persistent rural poverty counties, and the Black Belt, home to eighty-two counties of persistent rural poverty, twelve of which are in South Carolina.

Together for Hope has gathered a constellation of over sixty coalition partners, congregations, ministries and mission organizations, including CBF of South Carolina; all working together in hope; believing, as Paul told the Corinthians, that our labor is not in vain; and working together for hope; trusting that the seeds of love we are slinging together will bear the beautiful fruit of new hope and strength, peace and relief in the lives of children of God living in difficult places and circumstances.

At Together for Hope, we are grateful, humbled and honored to be included in CBF of South Carolina's Week of Prayer for State Missions, and in the Beverly Greer Offering for State Missions. We want and need your prayers and support as all of us, together, seek to embody the love of God in the same places and spaces where Jesus would be serving if Jesus came to South Carolina.

And when we do embody that love in those ways, Jesus does come to South Carolina; and to Appalachia, and the Delta, the Blackbelt and every hard and hurting corner of the world; bringing help and hope to whoever needs it most, thanks to your gifts and prayers, empathy and solidarity, generosity and love.

For which all of us at Together for Hope say, with and for all of you, "Thanks be to God!"