

**REELFOOT RURAL MINISTRIES INC.**  
**Robert Craig, Executive Director**

The mission statement of Reelfoot Rural Ministries (RRM) defines how the organization seeks to live out the command of Jesus Christ to love our neighbor. The mission statement is as follows: “Following Christ in building relationships, we provide resources and offer hope to our Reelfoot Lake neighbors.” The daily work of Reelfoot Rural Ministries is succinctly defined in this brief purpose statement: “Restoring Hope, One Relationship at a Time.” This is how the staff and volunteers at RRM seek to offer Christ to a hurting world. The RRM “neighborhood” includes counties in northwest Tennessee and southwest Kentucky around Reelfoot Lake and beyond.

Over the past year, service to our neighbors has expanded in several areas. The RRM Dental Clinic has served clients on an average of six days per month. Demand for affordable dental services continues to grow. We are actively seeking additional funding to expand the clinic days of operation and possibly a satellite location. The RRM Dental Clinic constantly maintains a two month wait list. The need for household financial assistance continues to be a large part of our work. Requests for assistance with groceries rent, mortgage, utilities, and household emergencies constantly overwhelm the resources available each month. With the rising costs of living, households have more frequent shortfalls with family necessities. RRM cannot assist with every need, but we rejoice in the blessings we do have to share. During the season of Advent and into Christmas, Reelfoot Rural Ministries, once again, offered hope to families through the RRM Christmas Toy Store. In 2022, more than 270 families were able to select several new gifts for each of their children. The result was 620 children experiencing a joyful Christmas morning with new gifts to open that otherwise would not have been available. Reelfoot Rural Ministries continues to be heavily involved in disaster recovery efforts assisting survivors of the deadly December 10, 2021, tornadoes. Reelfoot Rural Ministries is serving the disaster impacted communities in Lake, Obion, Gibson, and Weakley Counties in Tennessee as well as Hickman County in Kentucky with financial assistance, construction oversight, and volunteer coordination.

Reelfoot Rural Ministries has exciting ministry efforts planned for the coming year. The RRM board is prayerfully visioning for how to best fill the void of affordable housing in the service area. The first of those homes will begin this summer! A disaster ministry warehouse at the Reelfoot Rural Ministries site in Obion County, Tennessee is being sponsored by generous donors from the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church. The building has been delivered and the construction is scheduled to begin in April 2023. This will serve as a collection and distribution point for recovery supplies as well as meeting space for disaster recovery work between survivors and disaster case managers. Reelfoot Rural Ministries will continue to house and engage volunteer repair teams during the spring and summer for home accessibility modifications and long-term disaster recovery projects.

Obedience to God’s call continues to adjust the way we serve at Reelfoot Rural Ministries; however, our supporters and clients can rest assured that RRM will continue the work of “Restoring Hope, One Relationship at a Time” on behalf of Christ and the church.