“Let’s Do It Again Sometime:” Pigging Out for Missions

Arbor Baptist Church, established in 1785 in the Sutherlin community outside of Danville, has been using a southern delicacy to help fund missions efforts.

Six years ago, Rev. Larry Davis, the church’s pastor, visited member Ken Daniel at his home, where he was offered some seasoned and fried homemade pork skins to eat. After enjoying them and their visit together, Rev. Davis told Mr. Daniel, “Let’s do it again sometime.”

That one statement led to a great idea, and Arbor Baptist Church has raised over $40,000 since then for missions! Approximately four times a year, over a dozen church members prepare and package pork rinds for the church’s missions to the community. They fry the pork, which is procured from an Illinois meat plant, and assemble the skins into bags for sale. The church pre-sells orders at $5 per bag. At their most recent event, they prepared 1,000 orders, with the proceeds split between two ministries: Helping Hands, a women’s group, and the Arbor Men’s Association.
“One hundred percent is given back to the community. Every penny goes outside the church,” said Rev. Davis. Helping Hands sends 150 cards to homebound people and also prepares “chemo bags” for female patients who are undergoing chemotherapy at Sentara Halifax Regional Hospital, where Rev. Davis is president of the auxiliary.

Each chemo bag is composed of a handbag stuffed with a pillow, blanket, lip balm, literature, pads, pens, snacks, etc. The bags are distributed to patients who are receiving chemotherapy at the hospital in order to bring comfort to them in stressful and painful situations.

Other ministries that have benefited from the sales are God’s Pit Crew in Danville, WMU school books, Good Samaritan Food Pantry, Save Them One by One, and other groups and individuals as God leads. Whenever the ministry funds are low, the church members just say “Let’s do it again sometime,” and they prepare another batch of pork rinds.

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