



GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Relative to the listed Ministry Assignment, please describe accomplishments in the past year that creates "value added" to the Cooperative Program dollars that IMB receives.

- I. Assist churches by evangelizing persons, planting Baptist churches, and nurturing church planting movements among all people groups outside the United States and Canada; and, provide specialized, defined and agreed upon assistance to the North American Mission Board in assisting churches to reach unreached and underserved people groups within the United States and Canada.

Significant progress continued during the last year in partnering with SBC churches to reach a lost world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. The challenge of unreached people groups (UPGs) remains great. The 2015 Annual Statistical Report of the International Mission Board reports that the number of unreached people groups in the world increased from 6,548 to 6,832 last year. The reason for the increase is the discovery of people groups previously unlisted as well as a new awareness of the spread of people groups in the world today. Both the discovery and spread of people groups create significant challenges for missionary teams, and IMB missionaries are rising to the challenge. Last year, the number of people groups engaged by IMB missionaries grew from 864 to 886. The combined population of the 886 people groups engaged by IMB missionaries is 4.6 billion, and it is the goal of missionary teams to see multiplication of disciples and churches throughout the people groups they engage. In addition to these 886 people groups, IMB missionaries engaged 236 urban centers of the world to implement church planting strategies among them.

To put all of this in historical perspective, the number of people groups engaged by Southern Baptist missionary teams grew to 173 people groups from just 64 people groups in 2009, the first year that these engagements were reported. Southern Baptist teams of professionals, students, retirees and more are engaging unreached people groups in hard places of the world while working closely with national Baptist partners and other evangelicals in nearly every country of the world.

Of the 886 people groups engaged by IMB missionaries last year, 742 (84%) of them are considered "unreached." These people groups are a tremendous challenge, and there is much opposition to the gospel in them. Still, IMB missionaries reported 54,762 baptisms last year, and this number includes only those people groups and urban centers where IMB continues to have direct work, influence, and involvement. Likewise, 3,842 new churches were formed as a direct result of our work, and 4,656 additional groups were started with the intention of soon becoming a church.

The growth that was seen last year was supported by abundant gospel sowing through IMB missionaries. Nearly two million people heard a gospel witness, and of these, 127,385 became new believers in the same year. 15,205 men received practical, pastoral training, and 5,337 participated in opportunities for advanced theological education. IMB missionaries trained 24,073 to start new churches, and 78,134 believers were involved in other training opportunities.

In addition to engaging people groups and establishing churches, IMB missionaries reported that leaders are emerging within people groups in such a way that they are continuing to develop churches through their own efforts, and some are engaging other people groups in their own countries and beyond. In the end, people groups we have reached are now able to reach their neighbors, and the church is multiplying.

- II. Assist churches in sending and supporting Southern Baptist missionaries and volunteers by enlisting, equipping, and enabling them to fulfill their calling.

During 2015, IMB partnered with over 3,000 churches as they developed their church's strategy and field partnerships to make disciples and multiply churches among unreached peoples and places for the glory of God. An additional 4,100 churches have relationships with IMB missionaries for prayer and other forms of support.

In 2015 Southern Baptist churches sent 136 new career/long term missionaries and 179 new short term missionaries in partnership with IMB. Additional missionaries were sent through GC2, Southern Baptist Direct and the Macedonia Project programs allowing multiple pathways for sending. This year, IMB launched a Global Cities Initiative pilot focused on partnering with churches to empower students, marketplace professionals and retirees to reach the unreached in five major global cities.

At the end of 2015, the total number of missionary personnel units serving before the Voluntary Retirement Incentive showed a total of 2,578 units on salary. After the Hand Raising Opportunity (HRO) is complete at the end of February (along with the impact of the (VRI), we will have a better estimate of the projected units on the field at the end of 2016.

IMB missionary personnel continue to reflect the geographic and church size diversity of the SBC with missionaries having been sent from all 50 states and churches in size from a few dozen to multiple thousands. IMB is working with partner churches to grow the number of missionaries sent from churches of various ethnicities. At the end of 2015 there were 263 Asian Americans, 19 African Americans and 62 Hispanic Americans serving as IMB field personnel.

- III. Assist churches and partners to mobilize Southern Baptists to be involved in international missions through praying, giving, and going.

Southern Baptist churches gave \$153 million to the 2014 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. This offering was the second largest in the history of the IMB. Gifts to LMCO were made by over 25,000 churches representing the geographic, size and ethnic diversity of the SBC. Many of these churches went far beyond giving, though, committing with us to pray for missionaries and their work around the world. Increasing numbers of churches are wanting to send missionaries, and the IMB is working diligently to refine systems and structures to better serve all the churches who are wanting to send.

IMB's new training office is developing multiple training and equipping opportunities for churches and their members to learn and apply both biblical and practical aspects of mission. These programs will continue to be introduced throughout 2016 and beyond.

- IV. Assist churches in fulfilling their international missions task by developing global strategies, including human needs based ministries, and providing leadership, administrative support, and financial accountability for implementation of these strategies.

Focus on the vision and commitment to the Great Commission task is at a high level as we transition in various ways across the IMB. Biblical training has been given increased attention as we seek to equip more churches to take ownership of the Great Commission. In terms of our global engagement strategy, greater accountability processes will be developed in 2016 as we seek to improve our work around the world. We want to continue to hold our personnel to a high standard as they serve Christ and steward the resources entrusted to them by the Southern Baptist Convention. In our administrative support services, we have consolidated and streamlined our processes in an effort to operate more efficiently across the IMB.

Human needs ministries this last year included 297 relief and development projects in 53 countries. People in more than 3,246 communities were helped through development projects, and another 1,113 communities were touched through disaster relief projects. Almost 1.4 million people were helped with basic life essentials using SBC World Hunger Funds and funds designated for Global Hunger Relief. Over 212,000 received food assistance, while more than 124,000 received help with needs for clean water. In addition, 127,478 people were provided with training in the areas of agriculture, health care, community development, literacy, and job skills.

Based on the listed Ministry Assignment, what opportunities or challenges do you see on the horizon from 2016 and beyond that would necessitate changes, or new directions, in how you are accomplishing the above Ministry Assignment?

- I. Assist churches by evangelizing persons, planting Baptist churches, and nurturing church planting movements among all people groups outside the United States and Canada; and, provide specialized, defined and agreed upon assistance to the North American Mission Board in assisting churches to reach unreached and underserved people groups within the United States and Canada.

The current world population is increasing exponentially, and so is the lost population of the world. More and more people are moving into cities, presenting unique challenges in an increasingly urban world. In addition to these realities, sustainable access among some of the world's most hard to reach people groups remains difficult. With these challenges before us, IMB continues to earnestly seek the Lord to develop new ways to effectively partner with churches to engage lostness around the world. We must grow in our efforts to train and equip churches, help provide more pathways for qualified and equipped Southern Baptists serve on missionary teams, and continually improve on how we communicate the reality of lostness around the world and consequently the ways in which God is working to draw people to himself. In an effort to most effectively partner with SBC churches, the IMB is working to continually refine, reevaluate, and review all of our processes and procedures to ensure that we are serving churches to the best of our ability and in ways that are most effective for the accomplishment of the Great Commission.

- II. Assist churches in sending and supporting Southern Baptist missionaries and volunteers by enlisting, equipping, and enabling them to fulfill their calling.

For several years now, the IMB has reduced the number of missionaries sent and serving around the world due to financial challenges. The challenges of a continual financial short fall came to head in 2015 and the IMB had to make the difficult decision to reduce the number of personnel serving in the home office in Richmond and on the mission field around the world. In light of this reality, the IMB is committed in the days ahead to pray fervently and work wisely to reverse this downward trend of missionaries sent and serving around the world. The need is too urgent, the opportunities too great, and the stakes too high for any of us to settle for status quo in regard to the Great Commission. Right now, billions of people are being born and living their entire lives without hearing a

clear gospel witness, millions of refugees around the world are risking (and many are losing) their lives in search for a better life, and countless others will join them in an eternal hell separated from God if they do not repent of their sin and trust in Christ for salvation. God has entrusted Southern Baptists with significant resources, a plethora of gifts and talents, and most importantly the good news of the gospel to join God in His mission to ransom a people from every nation, tribe, and tongue.

Therefore, we must explore new strategies, systems, and structures as the IMB and the SBC if we want to see more missionaries sent from Southern Baptist churches to engage lostness around the world. We are work to explore and and consider all the possible ways that this can best be done through the IMB alongside every entity in the SBC. In the end, serve a King who deserves our best and we cannot settle for anything less.

III. Assist churches and partners to mobilize Southern Baptists to be involved in international missions through praying, giving, and going.

As noted above, we must improve and grow in our communication with SBC churches as we seek to make them aware of the realities of the unreached as well inform and challenge them that they might join in the work that God is doing through the IMB around the world. One area of particular focus in the year ahead will be digital communication. Communication in digital forms is rapidly increasing and as that audience grows, we need to be positioned and prepared to communicate more affectively through various digital avenues and mediums. We have some of the greatest and most encouraging stories to share, and we need to work wisely to broaden our voice and audience. In addition to our communication efforts, we will also work hard to offer more direct training to churches and make them more aware of all the avenues and ways they can partner with the IMB to pray, give, and go serve among the nations.

IV. Assist churches in fulfilling their international missions task by developing global strategies, including human needs based ministries, and providing leadership, administrative support, and financial accountability for implementation of these strategies.

The world is changing at an amazing pace. We must continually revise and update our structure and ways of administration, in order to best serve a changing world. We must continue to discover the very best ways to effectively use limited resources. The need for effective human needs ministries that integrate proclamation of the gospel only increases

with every conflict, war, and natural disaster in the world. We must increase resources, and use those resources in consistently effective ways, both in reducing earthly suffering, and in bringing the words of truth in Christ to those who so desperately need to hear that they might be saved from eternal suffering.