



2020 Goals and Accomplishments

- 1. Relative to the listed Ministry Assignment, please describe accomplishments in the past year that create “value added” to the Cooperative Program dollars that IMB receives.**

Ministry Statement: 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 mission of establishing multiplying churches continues to drive our efforts around the world, and the Lord is blessing those efforts. Cooperative Program dollars have provisioned IMB personnel and their national partners to see over 50,000 baptisms and just under 14,000 new churches planted in the last year. Other critical markers that contribute to these results are the 2,500 translation projects that are getting the Word into the language of unreached peoples, and over 85,000 who received leadership training. There are ministries to refugees such as trauma healing, and relief efforts in cooperation with Baptist Global Response.

There is much to celebrate as we see baptisms and new churches established among each of the IMB’s nine designated affinities: East Asian Peoples, Southeast Asian Peoples, South Asian Peoples, Central Asian Peoples, European Peoples, North African and Middle Eastern Peoples, Sub-Saharan African Peoples, American Peoples, and Deaf Peoples.

IMB Annual Statistical Report Based on 2018 Data

Global summary reflecting work in calendar year 2018, reported in 2019

Evangelism

How many people heard a **gospel witness**? **562,865**

How many people had an **opportunity to respond** to Christ? **364,725**

How many who received a gospel witness do you believe are **seekers**? **87,536**

How many who heard a gospel witness became **new believers**? **77,605**

How many believers were **baptized**? **52,586**

Healthy Church Formation

How many **total groups** intending to become churches are meeting now? **23,812**

How many **new groups** were formed that intend to become churches? **14,987**

How many **new churches** were formed? **13,898**

How many 1st-, 2nd-, and 3rd-generation **churches** are **meeting now**? **53,848**
How many 1st-, 2nd-, and 3rd-generation **churches** have **ceased to meet**? **1,954**

Note: In some cases, churches cease to exist as people change locations or as members are absorbed into other congregations. In other cases, IMB personnel lose direct contact with the work and consequently have no interaction to be able to include them in the totals.

How many **baptized believers met** in groups or churches? **439,697**

Discipleship

How many people met in **on-going Bible studies**? **261,812**
How many people are being **personally mentored**? **34,495**

Leadership Development

How many men have received practical **pastoral training**? **18,428**
How many people received **training** to start **new churches**? **38,721**
How many individuals received **advanced theological education**? **28,213**
How many believers were trained in **other training opportunities**? **91,773**

The International Mission Board's Annual Statistical Report (ASR) contains the most accurate information for the stated reporting period available at the time of publication. Figures reported are for work related to IMB personnel and their close, indigenous baptistic partners only. Since 2009, the ASR no longer includes reports from partner conventions and unions. Major movements and baptistic church planting partners that are self-sustaining and require only occasional guidance and assistance from IMB personnel are removed from the statistics annually. This is a cause for celebration but can result in some statistics being different from earlier reporting periods.

After publication, the Board's Global Research Department continues to process both new and revised reports as field personnel continually strive to provide the most accurate picture of the Board's work and influence during the given reporting period. New or revised reports may be submitted for a variety of reasons, including typographical errors in the original report, newly received or corrected information, clarification of reporting categories, etc.

All analyses utilize the most current data for the reporting period available at that time, including any new and revised reports submitted since publication. Thus, subsequent ASRs will reflect corrected data and may differ from previously published reports. For current data regarding a given reporting period, including the latest revisions, contact the Global Research Information Center (GRIC@imb.org.)

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

In the last year, the Assessment, Deployment and Training Team of the IMB processed 159 mid-term and 111 long-term candidates for missionary service to the point of approval for deployment. The team trained 242 new adult missionaries and their 99 children in Field Personnel Orientation, and further trained 537 adult missionaries and their 432 children in Stateside

Assignment Conferences. They also conducted training in the components of the missionary task at three large field Affinity Group Meetings. The Training Development Team completed a thorough revision of the Apprenticeship training program for first-term missionaries, in cooperation with field affinity training teams, along with other training projects.

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

At the 2019 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Birmingham, the IMB challenged every Southern Baptist church to join their fellow churches in the convention in international missions under IMB's banner, "Every Church. Every Nation." IMB's promise to serve every Southern Baptist church is based on the fundamental belief that the mission to "go and make disciples" was given to the church. Every church can play a vital role in reaching every nation with the gospel through praying, giving, and going.

During the IMB-sponsored dinner in conjunction with the SBC annual meeting, IMB President Paul Chitwood challenged churches to continue in and increase their cooperative efforts to see the vision laid out in Revelation 7:9-10 — *"After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'"* (ESV).

Prior to the SBC annual meeting, Dr. Chitwood sent a letter to every pastor in the SBC reporting on his firsthand interactions with missionaries in Colombia and Uganda who are engaged in ministry to refugees in South America and Africa. He challenged pastors to lead their churches in supporting these ways God is using Southern Baptists to fulfill His purposes around the world.

In January 2019, the IMB held its sixth Missions College with the purpose of mobilizing Southern Baptist churches to go deeper in missions training. It is an annual mobilization and training event for Southern Baptist churches engaging in short-, mid-, and long-term missions with the IMB. Over 265 participated that included lead pastors, missions pastors/directors and lay leaders with the majority in partnership with field IMB missionaries. Dr. Chitwood challenged the participants to join forces with the IMB in sound biblical missiology in fulfilling the core missionary task. In the Americas alone, more than 350 churches are co-laboring with our field missionaries and national Baptist partners.

In October 2019, IMB conducted an advocate forum in Richmond, Va., with 257 attendees from 190 churches in 31 states, representing advocacy affinity areas of prayer, alumni, giving, state and associational leaders, student leaders, and mobilization. The attendees were challenged to lead the advocacy among their areas of influence to increase praying, giving and going to the nations. From this meeting of advocates: 137 committed to pray during the 175 days of prayer in conjunction with IMB's 175th anniversary in 2020; committed \$442,000 in giving, which represents seven missionary years on the field; attendees invited 12,608 people to join them in giving; 35 committed to go on a short-term trip to an unreached people group; eight felt led to go mid-term (2-3 years) in missions service; and three felt led to go long-term (3+ years) in missions service.

In the past fiscal year, IMB added two church mobilizers (for a total of seven full-time church mobilizers on the team), four full-time student mobilizers, and 24 part-time student mobilizers covering 13 states (five full time on the student team covering the convention). IMB's Mobilization Team also added a Hispanic mobilization role and is adding Asian and African American mobilizing positions.

IMB's Mobilization Team also added one Associational Missionary Network Associate for AMS/DOM relations east of the Mississippi River (for a total of three staff on the convention and network relations team) with another role to be added focused on areas west of the Mississippi River. A study published in 2018 by the SBCAL reported that the Association Leader (AMS/DOM) is recognized by the majority of leaders across the convention to be the closest denominational entity to the local church. IMB recognizes the significant efforts of associational leaders as they partner with church staff to see Southern Baptists reaching their communities and the nations with the gospel. Our desire in growing our convention and network relations team is to ultimately become a better partner to these key leaders in the mobilization task.

The IMB Partner Relations team recorded 5,778 engagements with SBC audiences during the last fiscal year and completed 668 "next steps" with Southern Baptist churches toward beginning new missions activities, specifically praying, giving, going, and sending. Partnership opportunities, including short-term mission trip requests, were highlighted via outbound promotion to U.S. churches, state conventions, local associations and other partnering agencies. These opportunities included 40 partnerships created in relation to the works of the Southeast Asian Peoples Affinity, East Asian Peoples Affinity, and Northern Africa and Middle Eastern Peoples diaspora, as well as 1,000 to 1,200 connections related to short-term unique opportunities. In 2019, the group also facilitated 769 student trips in international missions.

IMB continued engaging advocates through its Partner Hub website to inform and equip those advocates who mobilize Southern Baptist churches on behalf of the IMB. IMB trustees, missionary alumni, donors, associational mission strategists, and state convention leaders have committed to leverage the platform to both increase and improve the engagement of our churches in praying, giving, going and sending.

Throughout the year, the IMB hosted four Sending Celebrations honoring newly appointed missionaries. The celebrations, available by livestream, inspire Southern Baptist churches to be a part of sending new missionaries and to pray for the work God has prepared in advance for them among the unreached people and places. In 2019, 98 full-time, fully funded missionaries were appointed — in addition to 138 mid-term personnel sent — with many celebrated among thousands of Southern Baptist messengers at the June Sending Celebration conducted during the SBC annual meeting in Birmingham. A November 2019 Sending Celebration held in conjunction with the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma annual meeting drew a full house for the time of worship, prayer and celebration.

In 2019, Dr. Chitwood re-established a home office-based Global Communications Team which focuses primarily on telling the stories of how God is at work around the world and give Southern Baptists ongoing return-on-investment reports of how their praying, giving, going and sending is being used by God to change lives. The team consists of both Richmond-based and field-based media professionals.

In 2019 Cooperative Program promotion, IMB contributed stories of how God is at work on the mission field to the “52 Sundays” resource. In our promotion of the 2019 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® (LMCO), we reinforced how every dollar given by Southern Baptists supports the work of nearly 3,700 International Mission Board personnel on the mission field to reach the “multitudes” referenced in Rev. 7:9. The IMB sent 44,896 English-language LMCO resource kits to churches, as well as 4,291 language-specific kits. Of those language-specific kits, 3,277 were in Spanish, 769 in Korean, and 245 in Chinese. An additional 6,731 English-language kits and 29 language-specific kits were ordered through the IMB’s Church Success Center. The information in the kits collectively celebrated the number of people groups engaged, professions of faith, baptisms, and new churches planted over the past year. The IMB educated church members with an understanding of LMCO and equipped church leaders with the necessary resources to easily and effectively engage their churches in missions through faithful giving.

The Woman’s Missionary Union and IMB worked together to mobilize churches to pray for the nations during the annual Week of Prayer for International Missions December 1-8, 2019. The week of prayer focused on the ways God is at work around the world through Southern Baptists—such as missionaries in Mexico, Korea, Canada, Bulgaria, and Japan; through partnerships with believers in East Asia; and relief efforts in Colombia; as well as through a specific call to prayer by Dr. Chitwood. In addition, during 2019, IMB strengthened prayer resources by engaging thousands of pastors and church leaders in prayer for the nations. For example, at the SBC annual meeting in Birmingham, IMB distributed perpetual prayer calendars to motivate and educate Southern Baptists to pray for the unreached and unengaged people and places of the world. These calendars also were distributed at each of the State Convention meetings.

Ministry Statement: 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.

Baptist Global Response (BGR) partners with the IMB and its personnel to provide training, expertise, consultation and resources to implement human needs ministries. This includes responses to acute needs due to disaster events as well as long-term chronic needs from things such as poverty, hunger, and injustice.

In 2019, the IMB — with the assistance of BGR — is implementing 330 projects in 74 different countries with an appropriated amount of \$8 million. Over 1.4 million people are being impacted and 3,838 communities helped. This includes 321,702 people receiving clean water through 1,298 implemented community water systems and 12,715 water filters distributed.

Agriculturally, 926 families received seeds/seedlings for planting their home farms with over 1,700 animals distributed. More than 77,000 people received health care treatment of some degree while 2,825 were trained in improved job skills and another 4,441 in literacy. Over 18,000 children received some type of education assistance with 457 small micro-enterprise initiatives were undertaken.

Human needs ministries such as these described above continue to play an important, strategic role for the IMB in order to gain access to hard-to-reach peoples and places as well as fuel the

spread of the gospel in many contexts around the world where spiritual and physical needs coincide.

- 2. Based on the listed Ministry Assignment, what opportunities or challenges do you see on the horizon from 2020 and beyond that would necessitate changes, or new directions, in how you are accomplishing the above Ministry Assignment?***

Ministry Statement: 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.

Tremendous opportunities await as IMB personnel are partnering closely with indigenous baptistic associations and networks to equip and send missionaries through these long-time partners. As Baptists worldwide are moved by God to pray, give, and go to the multitudes, IMB envisions tremendous possibilities and potential for Baptist church planting and Kingdom growth.

Challenges also await as IMB strives to increase its long-term personnel count by an additional 500 before 2025. These additional missionaries will come from Southern Baptist churches and are needed to meet the challenges and growing opportunities to nurture church planting among all people groups outside of the United States and Canada. IMB is optimistic that cooperatively Baptists will be able to send personnel to meet the Baptist church planting challenges of the next decade.

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

In addition to continuing to assess, deploy, and train new missionaries, and providing ongoing training for existing missionaries, the 175th anniversary of the founding of the Southern Baptist Convention and the International Mission Board will provide better opportunities to develop training resources and deliver training in the year ahead. In keeping with the vision of our President, Dr. Paul Chitwood, the Training Development Team will devote much of its energy in the year ahead to engaging with Southern Baptist churches and entities to enable them to participate in global missions more effectively in partnership with the International Mission Board.

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

IMB's Mobilization Team will continue to focus on increased engagement with Southern Baptist pastors and churches. Research has shown us that missions is an identity of the church led by its pastor, not simply an out-sourced activity to the IMB. We are finding that for many churches today, the IMB is one of many options mission-minded churches consider in order to get involved in international missions. As the official international sending agency of the Southern Baptist Convention, the IMB wants Southern Baptist pastors to prefer the IMB as the primary organization to partner with in praying, giving, and going to the nations. To accomplish that, we are committed to

work harder than ever to build strong relationships, enhance service levels, and promote more field-to-church interaction with 46,000 Southern Baptist churches in the US.

IMB President Paul Chitwood has stated IMB's mobilization efforts must be a priority for the entire organization. Trustees will be voting on a new Mobilization Vice President who is fluent in Spanish and who brings a lifetime of experience with the IMB as well as global business experience — from growing up as a “missionary kid” in South America, to leading global work for a chemical division of a Fortune 500 petroleum company, to leading and growing IMB's work in the Americas Peoples Affinity from Montevideo, Uruguay, Santiago, Chile, and Lima, Peru. He also led the Marketplace Advance/Skybridge Community initiative of the IMB that was focused on awakening, equipping and sending out marketplace professionals to join in the missionary task as they go globally with their companies/professions.

The Mobilization Team has hired a new leader in African American mobilization and an Associational Missionary Network Associate for AMS/DOM relations west of the Mississippi River, and IMB plans to hire for an Asian mobilizing position, as well. Our desire in growing our convention and network relations team is to ultimately become a better partner to these key leaders in the mobilization task.

IMB has reinstated a Prayer Office to emphasize the vital nature of prayer in our mission. The team is being rebuilt with the primary task of educating and engaging Southern Baptists in praying for the unreached people and places and for those taking the gospel to them.

Research reveals that fewer than half the churches in the Southern Baptist Convention gave to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering in recent years. Dr. Chitwood is challenging every Southern Baptist church to give through the LMCO. IMB is investigating resources for increasing donor involvement in a manner that communicates the necessity of Southern Baptists selecting SBC giving channels over other ministry outlets competing for their attention and financial gifts.

Since 1845, Southern Baptists have been making disciples among the nations. The IMB is rebuilding its missionary force as the sending-arm for Southern Baptist missionaries. Every church, regardless of size or resources, has a role to play in reaching every nation — and the nations are waiting. IMB is undergirding its mobilization efforts to report to Southern Baptists how God is at work on the mission field, how they are a part of His work, and how they can expand their involvement in praying, giving, going, and sending to take the gospel to unreached people and places.

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 needs of people around the world will only increase and thus continue to grow the need for strategic engagement of human needs and lostness by the IMB. Today, approximately 20 to 25 percent of all IMB teams engage in some type of human needs ministry/project. As the IMB leads Southern Baptists in the push toward the remaining unreached and unengaged peoples of the world, they will encounter more and more physical challenges such as poverty, hunger, war, etc. Our ability to address human needs in a professional manner, keeping the context of gospel sharing, will continue to be a key strategy as we strive toward the end goal of our task.