



2019 Ministry Inquiries

Cooperative Program

1. With an understanding that SBC entities who receive Cooperative Program funding share an equal responsibility to promote and advance the Cooperative Program, please give a description of IMB'S efforts to promote the Cooperative Program.

The IMB has a multi-faceted approach to promoting the Cooperative Program (CP) that extends from Richmond, throughout North America, and to the ends of the earth in partnership with Southern Baptist churches to spread the gospel. God has used CP to shape and bring Southern Baptists together in supporting their one sacred effort for almost a century. May God grow even more churches in their understanding and appreciation of CP so the IMB may continue to cooperate to make the name of Jesus known among the nations.

Financial resources provided by Southern Baptists through CP provide more than 30 percent of the funding necessary for the IMB to partner with churches in taking the good news of the gospel to unreached peoples and places. Southern Baptists' IMB missionaries around the world are the primary representatives for promoting CP. The faithful, sacrificial giving of Southern Baptists to CP enables these missionaries to share the gospel, make disciples, and plant churches among unreached peoples and places for the glory of God. Through their personal relationships with Southern Baptist churches and partners, IMB missionaries help Southern Baptists understand the critical role of the CP in the Great Commission task as they communicate with churches through stateside assignment speaking engagements and regular updates from the field. Furthermore, through mission conferences, mobilization, training events, state convention annual meetings, and speaking opportunities in the local church, IMB staff and missionaries share regularly about the value of Southern Baptist churches cooperating and partnering together for the sake of global missions. As new church mobilizers join our team, their initial training includes CP promotion and appreciation as a part of their regular interactions and local pastors' conferences.

The IMB also promotes CP through partnerships with LifeWay Christian Resources, the North American Mission Board, the Woman's Missionary Union, Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, and the six Southern Baptist seminaries to highlight the importance and significance of the Cooperative Program. IMB senior leadership regularly notes the importance of the Cooperative Program and Southern Baptists' support in their speaking and teaching engagements.

On the web, IMB promotes CP through www.imb.org/cooperative-program/, which informs visitors on the purpose of the Cooperative Program and the process of how church giving

financially supports SBC entities. It serves as a fixed reference point amid conversations with pastors and donors. CP-giving stories are also shared on social media channels, which both reflect the need and Kingdom impact of CP giving. Many stories are also submitted to produce the 52 Sundays resources.

2. What are the expected outcomes of IMB's efforts in Cooperative Program promotion? At what point is education and promotion of the Cooperative Program presented in the onboarding and training of new IMB missionaries?

When it comes to cooperative mission efforts, IMB takes seriously the responsibility and stewardship entrusted by thousands of Southern Baptists. IMB utilizes the generosity of Southern Baptists through the CP to fulfill the mission entrusted the organization by the SBC — to partner with churches to empower limitless missionary teams who are evangelizing, discipling, planting, and multiplying healthy churches, and training leaders among unreached peoples and places for the glory of God. This is the work of the IMB, and this is happening every single day: Disciples are being made, churches are being planted, pastors are being trained, and missionaries are being sent from the nations to the nations.

Ultimately, God is glorified among entire people groups who, until now, had never heard the name of Jesus. Considering the billions of people who have yet to hear the gospel, Southern Baptists realize the best way to fulfill the Great Commission is through a cooperative effort in praying, giving, going and sending.

All career/apprentice missionaries with the IMB are required to have seminary training, and all Southern Baptist seminaries require a course on the Cooperative Program. For all missionaries who serve with the IMB, the Cooperative Program is constantly and consistently promoted throughout onboarding and training of new missionaries and during all of our training, including Stateside Assignment Conferences.

3. Please describe in detail the terminology you and your team at the IMB use to help churches, IMB personnel (long-term and short-term) and “Limitless” individuals navigate the SBC Business and Financial Plan, VI, section D, “In no case shall any Convention entity approach a church for inclusion in its church budget or appeal for financial contributions.” Please provide anecdotal examples of the training IMB uses to train personnel not to solicit direct support while promoting CP.

Fully-funded IMB missionaries are trained at their initial orientation that no funds may be solicited from churches for any purpose other than the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. This training is re-emphasized each time they are on Stateside assignment. When a church, or even an individual, insists to give directly to the work of a specific missionary, the missionary is taught to ask that the funds go to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, “in honor of” the missionary. (When that happens, the funds actually go to the LMCO fund, and do not impact the amount of money the missionary receives.) In the case of GC-2 missionaries, the MOU which the church signs with the IMB requires that the church promise that their CP and LMCO will not decrease, even though they are giving direct support to fund their GC-2 missionary.

4. Please articulate for Southern Baptists how the IMB perceives the role of the Cooperative Program in funding IMB missionaries. What value does IMB place upon its partnership with Southern Baptist churches through the Cooperative Program?

The Cooperative Program is absolutely essential to the funding of the work of IMB, including the funding of IMB missionaries. Yes, all of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goes directly to the funding of IMB missionaries, but it falls far short of what is needed to fund IMB missionaries. The Cooperative Program makes up the remainder needed to fund missionaries, as well as covering almost all of the remainder of funding needed for the operations of IMB. IMB sees its partnership with churches through the Cooperative Program as a major part of the very essence of what IMB is and does.

Ethnic Participation

5. Over the past 12 months, (2017 – 2018) has the IMB seen a change (increase or decrease) in the number of ethnic leaders across all IMB ministry platforms?

No, there has not been a change in the number of ethnic leaders. This weighs heavily on the heart of IMB leadership, for our desire is that IMB, including its leaders, reflect the constituency of the SBC.

6. How many non-Anglo mobilizers and missionary units are serving from ethnic Southern Baptist congregations, i.e. Hispanic, Asian, African American, etc.? Please explain.

This is a dynamic situation, especially in regard to missionaries. There are four mobilizers in this category, and our best estimate as of today is 357 missionaries in this category.

Mental Health Resource

7. In response to a Ronnie Floyd motion, June 2013, Houston, TX, requesting that the Executive Committee and SBC Entities assist churches with mental health ministries, the Executive Committee appointed an advisory group, Fall 2013, to determine ways in which Southern Baptist entities and SBC churches can best help those who are in need of mental health assistance. The final report of this advisory group was presented to the Office of the President, Executive Committee SBC, Fall 2014. In the 2015 and 2016 Ministry Report(s) the following question was asked of each SBC entity:

Please give a progress report on what IMB has implemented to assist Southern Baptist churches with training and equipping people with mental health challenges and how will IMB continue to seek ways to work in cooperation with SBC entities and others to address the severe challenges imposed by mental illness?

For the 2019 Ministry Report please provide the following:

If the IMB feels that reporting on this subject is within its purview, or falls within the scope of its ministry assignment(s), or has made any progress in the area of assisting churches with training and equipping people with mental health challenges, or has developed or identified resources to assist SBC churches in the area of mental health ministry, please provide a detailed progress report.

IMB does not see that mental health ministries in the United States is within our purview, or falls within the scope of our ministry assignments.

8. What specific efforts is IMB making to protect against sexual abuse?

IMB has extensive, clear, and consistently-administered policies to protect IMB personnel, children of IMB missionaries, and others from sexual abuse and sexual harassment. These policies also indicate appropriate response should sexual abuse occur. In addition, IMB's member care personnel provide ministry that might be needed in case sexual abuse should occur.

IMB Specific Ministry Inquiries

9. What has proven to be the most reliable metric indicating future accomplishments of, or challenges to, IMB across all of its ministry assignments? Why is that metric the one IMB believes is most important to watch relative to each ministry assignment? Please report on this metric for the previous year?

The most reliable and important metric is number of Gospel presentations. This reflects actions actually taken by our personnel and those with whom we are working closely, rather than reporting simply on what God might be doing with or without our involvement. Presenting the Gospel lies at the heart of the missionary task. The latest statistical report shows 1,155,144 gospel presentations.

10. How are Southern Baptists engaging Unreached Unengaged People Groups (UUPG's) across the world? Are UUPG's decreasing in number and what expectations does IMB have for further engagement?

The term "unengaged, unreached people group" (UUPG) remains relevant to IMB's work around the world. UUPGs are people groups where no one is implementing a church planting strategy. There can be no theology of missions or missiology which denies any people or place the proclamation of the Gospel. While the number of UUPGs globally is 3,185, they total a population of just under 227 million persons, about 3.1% of the world's population. While the population living in UUPGs has decreased from 9% to 3.1% over the past 10 years, the average size of the remaining UUPGs has also decreased. IMB teams cannot neglect the engagement of these peoples, but IMB must also enlist partners to send workers to engage these groups.

About 55.4% of the world’s population, about 4.1 billion persons, lives in people groups that are no longer unengaged but are considered unreached, and are in need of more workers to build teams and complete the missionary task of starting healthy, multiplying churches.

11. Please give a report for 2018 on areas of the world where the IMB has experienced success in partnering with local and indigenous churches, national Baptist conventions, for the purpose of planting new churches? Please provide a sense of the process being used to transfer responsibility to indigenous leaders, develop associations, and work with national conventions?

Today, IMB partners with over 140 Baptist conventions and unions around the world. In addition to these, IMB partners with local and indigenous churches in hard places where the work had led to church plants that cannot be named publicly. When the work matures, IMB missionaries seek to move the relationship into one of partnering to take the gospel to those who have never heard. In terms of the missionary task, we call this “exit to partnership.”

IMB teams and Southern Baptist church teams who engage people groups, urban centers and population segments, emphasize reproducibility from the very beginning. They are careful to avoid long-term dependencies by planting “indigenous” churches. As the imperishable seed of the gospel is sown, IMB teams and Southern Baptist church teams are careful to use methodologies and practices that help new believers grow and take responsibility for their life and church. For new believers, the very first step is identifying with Christ through baptism. From there, teams train baptized believers in all aspects of faith and practice. As churches are planted, leadership emerges from within, and teams train leaders in church planting, pastoral ministry, advanced theological education and other training opportunities. Church members are mentored and take part in worship and Bible study. As believers learn to follow Christ and churches are established, IMB teams and Southern Baptist church teams exit at the point where believers and churches are sustaining evangelism and church planting as well as engaging in the mandate of the Great Commission.

IMB moves intentionally in the missionary task by tracking the stage of the missionary task for every people and place engaged by an IMB team. The missionary task involves entering the unengaged, establishing believers and churches in the engaged through evangelism, discipleship, leadership training and healthy church formation, and entrusting those reached to follow the same pattern.

12. What is the total number of baptisms and Baptist churches planted as a direct result of Southern Baptist missionaries in 2016-2018?

Report Year*	Baptisms	New Churches Planted
2016	93,922	6,138
2017	45,256	4,550
2018	46,495	12,005

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Totals	185,673	22,693

Report Year* is the actual statistical data from the previous year. For example, report year 2018 is the actual report from the 2017 annual statistical report from the field.

13. Describe the different categories of missionaries sent by the IMB, and their source of funding. Are “limitless missionaries” a viable strategy for IMB? Regarding “limitless missionaries” and “pathways,” how will partially funded and non-funded missionaries relate to the IMB? Are they considered to be IMB missionaries? What is their formal relationship with the IMB? By whom are they supervised?

Personnel fully funded by IMB include career, apprentice, support, and journeyman missionaries. For a number of years, we have had a small number of GC-2 missionaries, who are primarily funded by a local church. These are considered IMB missionaries, and are supervised by IMB personnel, per a memorandum of understanding between the individual, the local church, and IMB. Other “pathways” that are new and developing include personnel who are self-funded (usually because they are employed by a business, or they are students, or they are retired.) These personnel have an ancillary working relationship with a team on the field, and are called “team associates” or in some cases “team supporters.” Their work with the IMB team is supervised by the IMB team leader. They are assessed by their local church as well as by IMB before they are accepted into such a role. This strategy is viable only to the extent that individual Southern Baptists and SBC churches choose to provide the resources necessary to keep self-funded missionaries on the field. The IMB views this strategy as a way of partnering with SBC churches that, for a host of potential reasons, choose to support individual missionaries in addition to their support of cooperative missions. The current total of self-funded missionaries is somewhat less than three percent of the IMB fully funded missionary force.

14. Baptist Global Response (BGR): What role does BGR play in accomplishing the IMB’s ministry assignment to “assist churches in fulfilling their international missions task by developing global strategies, including human needs based ministries...?”

Baptist Global Response comes alongside and partners with the IMB and its personnel to help implement mercy ministries responding to acute human needs resulting from man-made and natural disasters as well as addressing chronic, long-term needs from things such as hunger, poverty, and poor health. In 2018, the IMB, with the assistance of BGR, implemented 317 relief and development projects in 66 countries worldwide. A total of \$7.95 M was appropriated for these projects. Almost 1.2 M people were helped physically and spiritually through these projects, which also fueled the spread of the gospel in many contexts around the world where spiritual and physical needs coincide.