



P.O. Box 6767 (3806 Monument Avenue), Richmond, Virginia 23230

## ***2018 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.**

Financial resources provided by Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program (CP) provide more than 30% 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 the CP. The faithful, sacrificial giving of Southern Baptists to the 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, and training events, IMB staff and missionaries share regularly about the value of Southern Baptist churches cooperating and partnering together for the sake of global mission.

The IMB also promotes the CP through partnerships with LifeWay Christian Resources, the North American Mission Board, the Women'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.

In 2017, IMB President David Platt contributed to a convention-wide CP promotion campaign, NetCP. For the "thank you" phase of the campaign, targeting any church that participates in cooperative missions, Dr. Platt wrote a letter regarding how gifts impact international missions. For the "new church welcome" and "welcome" phase for churches new to giving to the CP, Dr. Platt wrote letters encouraging churches to continue their CP giving. For the "giving again" phase of the campaign, Dr. Platt wrote letters of appreciation for churches who have re-engaged in the vital SBC ecosystem sustained by CP gifts.

In summary, the IMB has a multi-faceted approach to promoting the CP that extends from Richmond throughout North America and to the ends of the earth as we partner with Southern Baptist churches to spread the gospel. The CP was being a vehicle God has used to shape and bring Southern Baptists together in supporting our sacred effort for almost a century. We pray that more churches will grow in their understanding and appreciation of the CP, so that in the next decades we may continue to cooperate to make the name of Jesus known among the nations.

**2. What are the expected outcomes of IMB's efforts in Cooperative Program promotion which would be suitable for use in a Baptist Press or SBC LIFE article about the value the**

**Cooperative Program brings to our SBC entities and our entity leaders' belief in and support of the CP.**

IMB takes seriously our responsibility and stewardship from the Southern Baptist Convention when it comes to our cooperative mission efforts. IMB's expected outcomes of Southern Baptists' collective giving is to fulfill the mission entrusted to 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 being glorified among people and entire people groups who until now had never heard the name of Jesus. And as we consider billions of people who have yet to hear the gospel, we as Southern Baptists realize the best way we can play our part in fulfilling the Great Commission is through cooperative effort in praying, giving, going and sending.

**3. 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 SBC churches through the Cooperative Program?**

As IMB President David Platt has stated during sermons and reports in the past year, the Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' vital lifeline to support their international missionaries. While praising God for Southern Baptists' faithful Cooperative Program giving, IMB leadership continues to encourage pastors to engage in the entire ecosystem of the Southern Baptist Convention – all of us working together – to see more churches and more resources coming together for the sake of God's global glory to the ends of the earth. There is no question that the IMB is able to do what it does as a result of every facet of the SBC – from local churches to associations to state conventions and all the entities – partnering with IMB.

## **Ethnic Participation**

**4. Please give a descriptive report of participation of ethnic churches and other ethnic leaders in the life and ministry of your entity. Over the past 12 months, (2016 - 2017) has the IMB seen a change (increase or decrease) in the number of ethnic leaders across all IMB ministry platforms?**

The IMB seeks to serve and assist all cooperating Southern Baptists. We continually seek to serve and assist our diverse constituency across the SBC. One example is IMB's relationship and partnership with the nearly 3,400 Hispanic American churches in the SBC. One area of continued growth is Hispanic churches' involvement in IMB work in countries of Southeast Asia. In August 2017, IMB missionary leaders hosted a gathering of 17 churches at Woodstock (GA) First Baptist Church to discuss partnership ministry in Asia. Of those 17 churches, 14 were Hispanic congregations.

Also, the team of Hispanic Baptist mission mobilizers are leading out in strategic mission involvement among UUPGs. The leader of the first short-term mission team to a strategic unreached unengaged people group in Asia is the pastor of a Hispanic church in Batesville, Miss., with about 20 members. As he has led out, several other churches – such as Champion Forest Baptist Church in Houston, Texas – have joined the efforts.

In addition to going, IMB leaders have partnered with Hispanic American churches who are setting challenging standards in mission giving. One Hispanic church, with about 22 adults

attending, recently gave \$7,600 to international missions. Another Hispanic church, with about 120 members, set an international mission offering goal of \$28,000.

The IMB is committed to partnering with and ministering alongside the almost 3,700 predominately African American churches in the SBC, with a desire to serve and assist in their mission engagement. IMB mobilization leaders continue to actively explore ways to increase African-American partnership and involvement with the IMB, including through the National African American Fellowship as well as involvement in the Black Church Leadership and Family Conference.

The IMB also seeks to serve and assist the more than 1,600 Asian American churches represented in the SBC. An IMB church strategist continues to be focused on mobilizing Asian churches across the U.S. Asians continue to represent a growing segment of our long-term personnel. Dr. Edgar Aponte, IMB's Vice President of Mobilization, recently met with an influential Asian Baptist church in the Los Angeles area. IMB is committed to continuing to develop and deepen partnership with Asian American churches.

The IMB board of trustees currently includes at least four trustees representing ethnic diversity from the state conventions in Georgia, Texas, Florida and New York. IMB leadership is cognizant of the opportunity for greater diversity in various levels in organizational leadership.

**5. How many non-Anglo mobilizers and missionary units are serving per people group (ethnicity) from ethnic SBC congregations, i.e. Hispanic, Asian, African American, etc.? Please explain.**

At the time of this report, the IMB missionary force includes people who have self-identified\* with the following ethnicities: African American - 17; Asian - 257; Hawaiian - 1; Hispanic - 62; Native American - 8; Two or more races - 38; Other (undefined) - 150. In total, 533 IMB missionaries have self-identified in these ethnicities. (\*According to the 2016 End-of-Year Data Cut. Others may exist who chose not to self-identify with these ethnicities. These statistics are not available at the people group level.)

## **Mental Health Resource**

**6. 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 Dr. Frank S. Page, 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 SBC 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 2018 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 believe that it is within our ministry assignment to train churches to minister effectively to people with mental illness, so we have not developed training for churches to address this need.

## **IMB Specific Ministry Inquiries**

**7. 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?**

Many numbers are important metrics in the IMB, from numbers of baptisms to churches started among unreached peoples. Yet as IMB missionaries work around the world, our ultimate aim is not only to reach unreached peoples with the gospel, but also to see those once unreached peoples then mobilized to reach other unreached peoples. In this way, our greatest measure of success is found not just in what we do directly, but in what happens indirectly through the peoples we reach, serve, train, and equip. Nothing short of this metric is sufficient if we truly want to see every people group the world reached with the gospel.

There are four metrics that help us determine if a people group is reached, and these are reported for all peoples and places engaged by IMB teams:

1. Is the people or place engaged by the IMB team engaging themselves?
2. Is the people or place engaged by the IMB team sustaining church planting themselves?
3. Is the people or place engaged by the IMB team engaging other peoples and places in their own country? (List)
4. Is the people or place engaged by the IMB team engaging other peoples and places outside of their own country? (List)

When national Baptists are emerging in peoples and places engaged by IMB teams and they can sustain church planting and engage others, they are no longer unreached, the team can exit, and a new kingdom partner has emerged.

**8. Is the term UUPG still a relevant term and does UUPGs represent a current strategy for advancing the gospel “to the uttermost?” How are Southern Baptists engaging Unreached Unengaged People Groups (UUPGs) across the world? Are UUPGs 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 3,172, only 3% of the world’s population lives in UUPGs. While the population living in UUPGs has decreased from 9% to 3% 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 cannot neglect enlisting partners near to the remaining UUPGs as well. In addition to the UUPGs, 55% of the world’s population lives in engaged UPGs. In other words, 4.2 billion people live in people groups that are still unreached and greatly in need of more teams. Finally, about 42% of the world’s population lives in people groups that are no longer unreached.

Our current strategy sends teams to engage the unengaged, establish believers and churches that are barely engaged, and enlists teams among peoples no longer unreached.

**9. Please give a report 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 140 Baptist conventions and unions around the world. In addition to these, IMB partners with local and indigenous churches in hard places where movements have led to thousands of church plants that cannot be named publicly. When movements occur, IMB teams commend them to the Lord and move on to new areas where the gospel has not been proclaimed.

IMB teams and Southern Baptist church teams who engage people groups, urban centers and population segments, think reproducible 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.

**10. How does the IMB determine which mission opportunities around the world will receive priority?**

The way IMB prioritizes high-leverage opportunities in the world is changing. Ten years ago, IMB focused on engaging UUPGs greater than 100,000 in population. Since 2005, the average size of a UUPG has gotten smaller as the largest UUPGs have been engaged. Today, the average size of a UUPG is about 60,000. IMB is committed to making disciples of all nations, so regardless of the size of a people group, teams must engage it with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

However, the number of churches in the world today is growing. Churches are working together with partners and networks, and many of these are local partners and networks working to reach the peoples of their own countries and cities. With this said, high-leverage opportunities make it possible to make disciples of all nations together in ways that isolated teams engaging UUPGs cannot. Teams can engage with indigenous networks and partnerships where churches are located in other countries, such as in cities, to work alongside of them, learn from them, and influence them so that a collective approach is made to engage every people and place where lostness is found. By working with local believers, IMB teams and Southern Baptist church teams can build partnerships that outlast individual teams and provide continuity for engaging and reaching people groups. To make this possible, appropriate pathways are necessary to mobilize teams for opportunities that can maximize

ongoing impact among peoples and places that do not yet have the capacity to evangelize themselves.

**11. Please report on progress in rebuilding the IMB mission force around the world. What is the IMB's strategy for funding career missionaries?**

The IMB continues to prioritize and send fully-funded career missionaries. The answers below provide more specific information about our efforts to continually be rebuilding the IMB mission force. With that said, the IMB is committed to continuing to train and send fully funded career missionaries as the priceless, precious, critical core of our missionary teams around the world. We will continue to prioritize the sending of fully-funded career missionaries on an annual basis.

**12. How many fully funded Career Missionary units will be on the field by the end of 2018?**

Based on current projections for both new personnel and forecasting anticipated attrition of current missionaries, we project that IMB will have over 3,700 missionaries on the field by the end of 2018.

**13. Describe the different categories of missionaries sent by the IMB, and their source of funding.**

Long-Term (Term of at least 3 years)

- Apprentice - This is our primary avenue of service for those wanting to serve three years or longer. They receive their funding through IMB.
- Career - For those who already have completed a three-year term of service and have fulfilled all requirements of the apprentice program, they are able to be appointed as career missionary personnel. They are fully funded by IMB.
- Support Roles - These are full-time positions hired by IMB in order to provide support to our other missionary personnel. Support personnel, although hired to perform their specific duties, still are regarded as missionaries. They receive their funding through IMB.
- Reappointees - If a person has already served a full term as an IMB missionary, but then had to return to the States for a time, they can be considered for reappointment. They are appointed to career status, which includes funding through IMB.

Mid-term (Term less than 3 years)

- Journeyman - These are mid-term personnel who receive their funding through IMB. They are ages 21-26 and college graduates.
- International Service Corps 2+2 - This avenue of service is for those who are enrolled in a seminary International Church Planting degree. They spend 2 or 3 years at the seminary and then 2 years on the mission field as part of their studies. They are fully funded by IMB.
- Macedonia - This is a hybrid category. It is a mid-term avenue of service but reserved for those who intend to serve long-term. This enables them to serve on the field while working on their education. They are expected to return to the seminary after the completion of their term overseas, finish their degree, and then return to the mission field as long-term personnel. They receive their funding through IMB.
- Masters - These are mid-term personnel who are IMB employees and receive partial support from IMB but then provide their own salary. This category is for people over age 50, and they serve full-time in the missionary task.
- Kairos - These are mid-term personnel who receive their funding through IMB. This category is for Hispanics, and there is no education requirement.

- Direct-Funded - These are mid-term personnel who are IMB employees, but they are funded through their church. They are engaged full time in the missionary task.
- Team Associates - This category of personnel can include self-funded church planters, professionals who work a secular job overseas, students who are studying overseas, and retirees. They all provide their own funding, but IMB provides other services to them. All of them contribute what time they have available to the work of an IMB team.
- Hands On - These are mid-term volunteers (age 18-29) who are partially funded by the IMB. They serve for either 6 or 12 months.

**14. 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?**

- Masters personnel and Direct-Funded personnel are IMB employees. They follow the normal supervisory chain.
- Team Associates sign an agreement (MOU) that they will work under the supervision of their team leader. They are considered members of the IMB team and they are viewed as IMB missionaries.
- Team Supporters are not IMB missionaries and they are not members of an IMB team. However, they offer any time they have available to assist the missionary team as they are able.

**15. What is the total number of baptisms and Baptist churches planted as a direct result of SBC missionaries in years 2014-2017?**

<u>Report Year*</u>	<u>Baptisms</u>	<u>New Baptist Churches</u>
2014	190,057	13,824
2015	54,762	3,842
2016	93,922	6,138
2017	45,256	4,550

*\*The Report Year is for the previous calendar year.*

The Southern Baptist Convention is a single convention that reports every Southern Baptist Church in the Annual Church Profile. There is little fluctuation in the Annual Church Profile. On the other hand, IMB reporting is based on a collection of more than a thousand reports submitted by IMB teams. When an IMB team reaches a stage where there is an indigenous movement underway, the IMB team celebrates what God has done and moves to a new unreached people group. When this happens, the team ceases to report on those people groups and urban centers no longer engaged.

**16. Please clarify the IMB process for counting new church plants, and give a status report on new church plants from 2012-2017.**

All new church plants are reported for the calendar year in which they are planted. Total churches include new Baptist churches planted in the calendar year, but do not include churches that do not continue to survive nor churches that are no longer reported because IMB withdrew from engaging peoples or places where churches were counted the previous year.

<u>Report Year</u>	<u>Total Churches</u>	<u>New Baptist Churches</u>	<u>Lost Baptist Churches</u>
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2012	199,162	24,073	3,231
2013	28,008	6,192	2,599
2014	38,989	13,824	4,838
2015	41,172	3,842	2,021
2016	42,704	6,138	3,815
2017	30,815	4,550	2,355

**17. 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...?” Please give a report on BGR efforts in the area of disaster relief, specifically in the Fall, 2017 hurricane disasters.**

BGR comes alongside the IMB and its personnel to help respond to acute human needs resulting from natural and man-made disasters as well as chronic, long-term needs from things such as hunger, poverty, poor health, etc. In 2017, BGR helped IMB and partners implement almost 300 projects worldwide. In the area of disaster response, BGR facilitated and led responses to the two devastating hurricanes in the Caribbean, numerous earthquakes (Mexico, Ecuador, Iran, etc.), people displaced due to war and armed conflict (Syria, Myanmar, etc.) as well as several dozen other smaller disaster events. In helping to address chronic needs, BGR assisted the IMB in bringing healthcare to over 200,000 people and clean water to almost 200,000 as well.