



2017 Ministry Inquiries

Cooperative Program

- 1. With an understanding that SBC entities which 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 people groups around the world. At the IMB, we see our missionaries who are scattered all over the world as our front line representatives for promoting the CP. The faithful and sacrificial giving of Southern Baptists to the CP enables these missionaries to share the gospel, make disciples, and plant churches among unreached peoples and in unreached places for the glory of God. Through their personal relationships with SBC churches and partners, IMB missionaries help Southern Baptists understand the critical role of the CP in the Great Commission task as they speak in churches on stateside assignments and share what God is doing in their regular updates from the field. Furthermore, through mission conferences, mobilization, and training events, IMB staff and missionaries share regularly about the value of SBC 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. In summary, the IMB has a multifaceted 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.

- 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.**

The desired outcomes of the IMB's efforts in Cooperative Program promotion is ultimately to see more churches and more resources coming together for the sake of God's global glory to the ends of the earth. We know that we as IMB cannot go at this mission alone, for we work in tandem with the entire SBC ecosystem of churches, associations, state conventions, and national entities to get the gospel to the nations. In a world where more than 2.8 billion people have little to no access to the gospel, our desire in CP promotion is that more Southern Baptists churches would understand that we can accomplish more together than we can alone. God in his grace has blessed Southern Baptists with an amazing tool in the CP for the accomplishment of the Great Commission. Therefore, we want to play our critical role in helping promote and raise awareness of how the CP fuels the global mission's efforts of the SBC. We are confident that as more churches understand the value of the CP, their giving and support of the CP will increase. This in turn will enable the IMB to partner with more SBC churches to empower limitless missionary teams who are making disciples and multiplying churches among unreached peoples and places for the glory of God.

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?

The IMB places great value on SBC churches and the Cooperative Program in funding IMB missionaries. The Cooperative Program is critical in order for Southern Baptists to send out thousands of well-trained missionaries to share the gospel and plant churches around the world. For this reason, the IMB gladly and aggressively promotes and highlights the value of the Cooperative program both in North America and around the world.

Ethnic Participation

4. Please give a progress report of ethnic participation within the IMB, including active involvement of ethnic churches and church leaders, across all levels and aspects of the IMB ministry—such things as board of trustees composition, senior administrative staff, other professional staff, support staff, missionaries under appointment, and ethnic church and church leader composition of any external advisory groups— demonstrating progress, if any, in ethnic participation over the past two decades (1996-2016), giving special attention to progress over the past five years (2011-2016).

IMB is seeking to serve and assist all cooperating Southern Baptists. If we, as a denomination, are going to do our part to fulfill the vision to see a multitude from every language, people, tribe, and nation knowing and worshipping our Lord Jesus Christ, it will take all of us working together. As such, IMB is working to position ourselves more and more to serve and assist our growing and diverse constituency across the SBC.

The IMB is thankful for a strengthening relationship and partnership with the 3,400+ Hispanic American churches in the SBC. Recently the IMB hired Dr. Edgar Aponte to serve as Vice-President for Mobilization. Dr. Aponte, originally from the Dominican Republic, brings years of experience mobilizing and equipping Hispanic American churches and will be a key member of the Senior Leadership team at the IMB. In addition to the hire of Dr. Aponte, the IMB has a strategist serving and assisting the SBC Hispanic constituency. This strategist and his team are multiplying its efforts by training mobilization associates as leaders in churches among the Hispanic constituency. Of continuing importance is our efforts to help train, equip, and send Hispanic missionaries to serve in places where Hispanic heritage is especially helpful in reaching the target populations. God is opening up an increasing number of pathways for Hispanic brothers and sisters to take the gospel to Muslim contexts, and we want maximize this God-given opportunity moving forward.

The IMB is committed to partnering with and ministering alongside the almost 3,800 predominately African American churches in the SBC. Our desire is to to serve and assist them in their mission engagement. Due to the VRI and HRO our total number of African-American mission force declined slightly, but we are actively exploring ways to increase African-American partnership and involvement with the IMB. This is a commitment from our leadership who has spent time with the National African American Fellowship as well as involvement in the Black Church Leadership and Family Conference.

The IMB is also serving and assisting the almost 2,000 Asian American churches represented in the SBC. An IMB church strategist continues to be focused on mobilizing Asian churches across the US. Asians continue to represent a growing segment of our long term personnel. Our leadership recently spent time speaking and dialoguing with Chinese Baptist churches and leaders in and around the Los Angeles area. IMB is committed to continuing to develop and deepen partnership with Asian American churches.

Currently, our Trustee board is predominantly made up primarily of White-Anglo brothers and sisters from across the SBC. Our Mission force, senior administrative staff, managerial staff, professional staff, and support staff also reflect this reality. With that

said, we are very excited about the recent hire of Dr. Aponte to lead the IMB's mobilization efforts and believe he will be vital to helping the IMB pursue greater diversity on various levels in the future.

- 5. How many non-Anglo mobilizers and missionary units are serving per people group (ethnicity) from 10,709 ethnic SBC congregations, i.e. Hispanic, Asian, African American, etc.? Please explain.**

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 thousands. IMB is working with partner churches to increase the number of missionaries sent from churches of various ethnicities. At the end of 2016 there were 256 Asian Americans, 16 African Americans, 61 Hispanic Americans, and 202 people from other ethnic backgrounds serving as IMB field personnel.

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 & 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 2015 and 2016 Ministry Reports, we feel that it is not 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.

For the 2017 Ministry Report please provide the following:

If 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.

For the 2017 Ministry Report, again, we feel that it is not within our ministry assignment to train churches to minister effectively to people with mental illness.

- 7. What resources or efforts has IMB developed or made available to SBC churches to assist with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in a country filled with many suffering the long term effects of war?**

Because we work in highly stressful environments, where our workers regularly experience crime, war, and natural disasters, we have member care workers who are trained to administer critical incident debriefings, which have been shown to reduce the effects of PTSD. Our member care workers also work long-term with our field personnel to mitigate the effects of ongoing stress from these and other factors.

IMB Specific Ministry Inquiries

- 8. What has proven to be the most reliable metric indicating future accomplishments of, or challenges to the 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?**

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. For various reasons, measuring this metric is challenging, for it is not always possible to track the growth of the church when it is multiplying far beyond us. Nevertheless, we remain resolutely focused on baptizing new believers and planting healthy churches, all with the goal of mobilizing those healthy churches to then baptize new believers and plant other healthy churches in such a way that more and more unreached people groups are reached with the gospel.

9. Are Southern Baptists making any significant headway to engage UUPGs across the world? Are UUPGs decreasing in number? What is the IMB's strategy to engage UUPGs?

Since June 2011, the number of UUPGs that has been engaged is 715. UUPGs come off the list when they become engaged by IMB teams and/or other evangelical partners. Of the 715, 193 have been engaged by IMB and/or Southern Baptist Churches. In addition to the 715 UUPGs that have been engaged, another 139 UUPGs have come off the list because they are no longer unreached.

At the end of 2015, there were 3,131 UUPGs in the world with a population of 206,879,015. While this is only 3% of the global population, large unreached segments remain in people groups with very few teams.

Global Research provides a semi-annual, UUPG report to IMB leadership. IMB field leadership uses this report to review their list of UUPGs (by affinity group) and determine by whom and when each UUPG will be engaged. As of January 2016, IMB plans to engage 1,333 UUPGs in the next three years through IMB teams, SBC teams, national Baptists partner teams, and/or other evangelical teams. A UUPG is engaged when at least one team is implementing a church planting strategy within it, and it is the goal of that team to see a movement that can sustain evangelism and church planting without requiring their ongoing presence.

10. Please give a status report on IMB's EMBRACE initiative and specific plans to resource the number of unreached and unengaged people groups.

The Embrace Initiative began in June 2011 with a goal of seeing every UUPG engaged. In June 2011, there were 3,684 UUPGs. Since June 2011, 715 UUPGs have been engaged, and 56 have been engaged by Southern Baptist Churches.

11. Which areas of the world has the IMB been most successful to partner with local and indigenous churches, and 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. Among the largest are the Nigerian Baptist Convention, Korean Baptist Convention, multiple

conventions in Brazil, two conventions in Cuba, and Ghana Baptist Convention. 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.

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.

12. How does IMB establish a priority in determining where the high leverage opportunities are around the world?

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 70,000. 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.

- 13. Following the recent “drawdown” of overseas missionaries, is IMB faced with repopulating some of the same areas of ministry, recently vacated by returning missionaries, with newly commissioned missionaries? What processes are being put into place now that the drawdown is complete to add missionaries to reach new areas without getting back into a financial crisis?**

Due to the Voluntary Retirement Incentive (VRI) and the Hand Raiser Opportunity (HRO) extended to IMB staff and missionaries in 2016 the IMB we are working to rebuild our mission force around the world. In terms of future deployment plans, we always work to evaluate the state of the church in a given context to determine how to best send and deploy mission teams. We want to see healthy churches established, leaders trained, and the church growing before we are comfortable exiting a particular location or work among a particular people group. In some cases, due to the VRI and HRO we still have work to do in specific areas around the world that necessitates sending new missionaries to build upon the work of previous laborers. In other cases, missionaries exited contexts where healthy churches had been established and were in many ways taking ownership of the mission and no longer in need of direct presence from the IMB in working towards the accomplishment of the Great Commission. Ultimately, the state of the church helps determine our deployment strategy.

As we look the future, we are excited to be streamlining current avenues and offering new pathways for limitless missionary teams to engage in work around the world. Along those lines, we are completely committed to continuing to send fully-funded and equipped IMB missionaries to serve as the priceless, precious, critical core of our mission efforts around the world. In addition to the fully-funded workers, we also plan to explore avenues to send partially-funded and self-funded workers to join these teams. In many ways, the IMB has been doing this for decades, but due to a variety of factors we believe that God is leading us to pursue this strategy more intentionally and aggressively in the days ahead.

- 14. Does the sale of IMB properties, around the world, continue to be a factor in funding the missionary force? If so, how is this different from the past financial model(s) which resulted in the recent drawdown of IMB’s missionary force?**

The 2017 Fiscal Resources Strategy Plan which was approved by the IMB trustees in November, 2016 reflected a balanced budget which included no proceeds from property sales. Our plan going forward is for annual operating budgets not to include any property sale proceeds.

We do anticipate that there will be additional property sales in the future. The proceeds from these sales will be used first to fill up any reserve shortfalls (e.g. contingency reserve) and then accumulate in a Global Capital Fund. If the Global Capital Fund grows to a level that exceeds anticipated needs, IMB leadership and trustees could authorize a transfer from Global Capital to Operating funds. The infrequency of this type of transfer would not support sustained increases in the missionary force, so any missionary sending utilizing these funds would need to be short term.

15. How many fully funded career missionary units will be on the field by the end of 2017?

We anticipate 2,752 fully funded career missionary units on the field by the end of 2017.

In addition to the 2,752 career missionary units, we also project that there will be around 392 fully funded professional support, 411 fully funded ISC, Journeyman, and Macedonian, 114 Global Connect and Masters. This would bring our total missions force to by the end of 2017 to around 3,669 missionary units.

16. In the discussion of “limitless missionaries” and “pathways”, how will partially funded and non-funded missionaries relate to the IMB? Are they considered to be IMB missionaries? How are they “tethered” to the IMB? What liabilities will IMB have toward these missionaries re: extraction, general liability, etc.? How will supervision take place to ensure the Gospel is being preached, and sound doctrine is taught? What are the requirements for partially-funded and non-funded missionaries (Bible College, Seminary, Doctrine, BF&M, accountability, etc.)?

In many ways, the IMB has been sending partially funded and self-funded workers for several decades. In other words, this is not a new approach for the IMB or for Southern Baptist missions efforts. However, any partially funded or self-funded worker will be required to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that will govern the expectations of both the individual and the IMB. This is vital for legal reasons, but also for practical reasons and serves to provide clear expectations for both parties. As with fully-funded IMB missionaries, partial or self-funded missionaries must adhere to the BF&M 2000. Partial and self-funded workers will be seconded to a IMB missionary team

and be under the direct leadership and supervision of an IMB missionary. Liabilities, supervision, and specific educational requirements will vary depending on the specific role, the location, and the duration of the assignment.

17. How does the IMB communicate with Southern Baptists and SBC churches?

IMB communicates with Southern Baptist and SBC churches through a variety of avenues. Most recently we have worked to improve our communication through an updated imb.org website. In an increasingly digital and mobile world we want to utilize our website and social media to improve our communication with the SBC. In addition to our website and social media, we also use direct mail (such as LMCO kits to every church), newsletters, events (Mission Intensive, SEND, SBC Annual Meeting, etc), missionary speakers in churches and at state conventions, Livestream of Sending Celebrations, and various networks to communicate with Southern Baptists and SBC churches.

18. What is the total number of baptisms and Baptist churches planted as a direct result of SBC missionaries in years 2014 – 2016?

Report Year*	Baptisms	New Baptist Churches
2014	190,057	13,824
2015	54,762	3,842
2016	93,922	6,138

*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.

19. With an understanding, since 2009, IMB only counts as new churches those new churches that continue to survive into the next report year, please give a status report on new church plants started in years 2012 through 2016?

Report Year	Total Churches	New Baptist Churches	Lost Baptist Churches
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

- 20. Baptist Global Response: What role does BGR play in accomplishing IMB’s ministry assignment to, “assist churches in fulfilling their international missions task by developing global strategies, including human needs based ministries...?” How many relief and development projects, and in how many countries did IMB implement relief and humanitarian ministries in 2016? Please explain and give examples.**

Baptist Global Response (BGR) helps the IMB to accomplish its ministry assignment by providing consultancy, training, equipping, and resources for its human needs (mercy ministry) strategies worldwide. BGR works complementary with the IMB, field personnel and churches to respond to global disasters, address chronic issue such as hunger, poverty, lack of health care and lack of water, in a way that helps people in need and encounter the love of Christ. Last year, BGR and their partners implemented 265 projects in 58 countries with a total of \$8,756,736.00 appropriated to those projects. BGR continued to respond to the global refugee crisis in Syria and surrounding countries providing food, water, shelter and medical care to almost 200,000 displaced people. In Nepal, BGR also provided 496 permanent homes in five communities as it wrapped up its earthquake response there. Responding to a massive drought and resulting hunger crisis in sub-Saharan Africa, BGR conducted food distribution in several countries (Lesotho, Madagascar, Nigeria, etc.) and provided precious plant back seed when the seasonal rains finally came.

- 21. Please provide total funding by source for BGR, and give a report of how funding is projected to occur in the coming years through all BGR initiatives, including Global Hunger Relief.**

Baptist Global Response:

Total Funding Source for BGR

- Human needs designated funds through IMB to BGR - \$3,993,380
- Gifts Directly to BGR, designated for specific disasters - \$2,137,570

- Gifts directly to BGR for non-disaster specific projects - \$1,401,880
- Gifts to BGR designated for SBC World Hunger Fund - \$263,530
- Undesignated gifts to BGR used for human needs projects - \$715,890
- IMB operating budget for for setup and administrative costs - \$700,000
- Training events and publications - \$5,417
- Miscellaneous - \$731
- “In kind” donated goods (2,688 Hospice kits at \$100 per kit) - \$268,800

22. Have the IMB and any of the six seminaries had discussion re: overseas theological education, international seminary, and pre seminary educational options for the future?

The missions faculties of the six Southern Baptist seminaries plus Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary meet annually with leadership from the IMB to discuss areas of common interest in the advance of the gospel globally, including theological education for national church leaders overseas and the theological training of IMB missionaries. These meetings, and the close relationships between the seminaries and the IMB that they have fostered, have led to numerous partnerships between the US seminaries and a variety of theological training initiatives overseas. This is an ongoing process that we believe is going very well.

23. Does IMB have a strategy in place for mega university cities in China?

East Asia is focused on engaging college and university students with gospel and church planting strategies in key university cities throughout the region. Some of these cities have in excess of one million students and they represent one of the largest population segments in these urban centers. East Asia has several different programs to facilitate students and teams to come and serve in these university cities, and they range from two weeks to as long as one year. Christmas-in-China (CIC) is a seasonal project (two weeks through Christmas and New Years’ holidays) with opportunities in several different locations inside and outside of China (e.g., Beijing, China or in Chinatown in New York City). Face-to-Face (F2F) is a summer project (eight weeks) with opportunities to serve alongside missionary teams in East Asia. International World Changers (IWC) is a summer project (two to four weeks) with opportunities to serve alongside missionary teams in East Asia. Hands-On Program is a semester to year-long intensive that enables a college/university student to serve for as little as one-semester up to one-year with missionary teams in East Asia. For more information about projects and opportunities to serve, see imb.org.