



INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of the entire International Mission Board I want to personally thank Southern Baptist churches, Southern Baptist church members, and Southern Baptist pastors for the way you have partnered together with us to get the gospel to people who have never heard it before.

Many of you know that the last year we have walked through a variety of challenges at the IMB as we have faced financial realities that have caused us to reduce the total number of our personnel. We have walked through painful days. But to see God's provision through churches and through this whole Southern Baptist Convention ecosystem has been nothing short of amazing to watch. To see the way that you have cared for missionaries who have made transitions, to the way you have redeployed them into your churches and your communities for the spread of the gospel here in North America. For all the encouragement and support you have given to them as they have made transitions and then as you all have given sacrificially and generously to Cooperative Program, to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering. It's nothing short of breathtaking to see well over \$250 million dollars all given from churches with the express purpose of getting the gospel to people who have never heard it.

I want Southern Baptists to know it's happening. Even amidst some of the challenges we have walked through in order to get to a healthier place financially and a sustainable position for the future; amidst it all God has been working around the world through your praying and through your giving and through your going and through your sending. Every single day God is using Southern Baptist church members who have been sent to the nations to lead people to Christ, to make disciples, to plant churches, to train pastors, to train missionaries.

One of my highlights from this last year is spending time with many of our national partners from around the world. We gathered them together for an internationalization conference where brothers and sisters from South America, Eastern Europe, East Asia, and other places where we have ministered and worked for years for the spread of the gospel and to now see leaders raised up and taking ownership in the mission was so encouraging. We spent a few days meeting with these leaders for the purpose of seeing how we can best work together with them to get the gospel to those who still haven't heard.

Much of this is happening because you Southern Baptists are faithful to give. And we want to prove responsible in every way with the resources you provide. That is part of the reason we have taken some of the steps we have taken over these past days and it's been challenging in many ways, but my heart while it's been heavy on so many levels, is overwhelmed with hope when I think about the possibilities that lie ahead for 40,000 churches working together to penetrate a world where still 2.8 billion people have little to no access to the gospel.

So I praise God for you Southern Baptists. For the way you are giving. For the way you are supporting. For the way you are sending. And I want to call you Southern Baptists to give all the more in the days to come and to sacrifice and to send. I pray to God that He would create a missional awakening in our churches. That He would wake us up to see His great glory and that churches would be praying with zeal for the glory of God among the nations. That churches in the days ahead would give with even greater sacrifice for the glory of God among the nations. That churches big and small would play their part in sending to the nations. I was talking with a church the other day

who thought they have about 30 people. They don't even have a building yet but they already have a couple and a family that they are sending out as missionaries to Southeast Asia. I praise God for this pastor who has prioritized sending out missionaries to the unreached even more than having a building.

So regardless of size, that 40,000 Southern Baptist churches would just continue to lock arms together with a laser sharp focus on getting the gospel to those who have never heard it. I hope this ministry report is a reflection of that. A reflection of the people who have come to Christ and the churches that have been planted and the leaders that have been trained as a result of your giving and your praying and your going and I hope that this ministry report is also a picture of what lies ahead as we move into the future and that we pray together that these numbers of people who have come to Christ and churches that have been planted and leaders that have been trained would only multiply in the days to come as we continue to pray and give and go for the glory of our God.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Platt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Platt".

David Platt, President

International Mission Board