



DR. SETH POLK, Chairman
DR. PAUL CHITWOOD, President

Introduction

On behalf of the International Mission Board, I want to thank you, Southern Baptists, for 174 years of working together to get the gospel to the nations. Thank you for providing for 3,700 IMB missionaries through your Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering gifts. As we enter the 175th anniversary of the birth of our Convention and its two mission boards, we do so with gratitude to God for all that Southern Baptists are doing to reach the world for Christ.

Your faithful financial support through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® and the Cooperative Program are the lifeline for Southern Baptist international missions. Southern Baptists gave \$157.3 million* to support international missionaries in 2018-2019, the third-highest Lottie Moon offering ever received. IMB also received \$99.3 million from the Cooperative Program for 2018-19. This is the third consecutive year that Cooperative Program giving topped \$99 million.

As a result of your gifts and your unwavering prayer support, Southern Baptists have been honored to be part of God at work on the international mission field. Because you gave, because you prayed, because you sent your beloved family, friends or church members:

- 562,865 people heard the gospel this past year, meaning 3,700 missionaries shared and trained and led and invested so that over half a million people could hear.
- 77,605 new believers and 52,586 baptisms means that those missionaries remained persistent in their praying and witnessing, planting seeds, and watering those seeds, until such a time as the Spirit of God gave an eternal harvest.
- 13,898 new churches planted is a number that represents thousands of Southern Baptists who have stepped into their calling and have given their lives to share the gospel, disciple new believers, and then do the all-consuming work of pulling those new believers together in such a way and for such a time that a church is birthed.
- 28,213 people receiving advanced theological training, a number that increased 48 percent over the prior year, means that men and women studied to show themselves approved, to such an extent that they have not only been entrusted with truth but have been found qualified to teach others, and teach others they have.

Has everyone heard? No, everyone has not yet heard. We know that 155,252 individuals among unreached peoples die daily without knowing Christ. We know that 25 percent of spoken languages do not have Scripture to share the gospel in their heart languages.

And if Southern Baptists from North America are the only ones sharing, the vision of Revelation 7:9 will never come to pass. But that vision will come to pass. One of the ways God will accomplish a great multitude from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages standing before His throne and before the Lamb, will be through those who go on to share what they have heard from us. Since 1845 Southern Baptists have been making disciples among the nations. And now, in an unprecedented season of the globalization of missions, those who Southern Baptists have reached are now taking the gospel to the nations themselves.

The gospel is being preached among the nations and we are privileged to be part of it! Southern Baptists, your IMB is still sending your missionaries. Every church, regardless of its size or resources, has a part to play in reaching every nation with the gospel. And the nations are waiting. Thank you for doing your part.

Paul Chitwood, Ph.D.
President, International Mission Board

Note: As state conventions closed out their fiscal years, it came to IMB's attention that additional Lottie Moon Christmas Funds given in 2018-19 would be forwarded to IMB, increasing the total LMCO gifts to \$157.3 million for the year, rather than the \$156.6 million originally reported on Oct. 3, 2019.