



## North American Mission Board 2017 Ministry Report THE PRESIDENT'S SUMMARY STATEMENT

The [North American Mission Board](#) (NAMB) wants to help every church take its next step in missions. And we want to see every believer living life on mission no matter where God has placed them.

It is a privilege to be part of the Southern Baptist family and we are grateful for the pastors who lead their churches to sacrificially give to the Cooperative Program, the [Annie Armstrong Easter Offering](#) and to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. We are committed to being the very best stewards possible with dollars we receive.

Pastors are NAMB's number one customer. We are here to serve them and help them succeed as they minister on the front lines. We serve pastors and churches in two primary ways: [Send Relief](#) and [Send Network](#).

We launched Send Relief at the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis in June 2016.

Just as Southern Baptist Disaster Relief has worked so well to match urgent needs with volunteers who can help, Send Relief is taking that approach to areas like adoption and foster care, hunger and poverty, mobile dental and medical clinics, human trafficking, refugee ministry and more.

We are working now to establish several Send Relief ministry hubs that will meet needs in specific regions and give Southern Baptists from all over North America opportunities to serve in long- or short-term settings.

Each year we will provide Southern Baptist churches with dozens of opportunities to meet needs and share Christ through Send Relief. (To learn more about Send Relief, view video [here.](#))

Through Send Network we help Southern Baptists plant new churches. This is a priority because in the last 100 years as the North American population has grown, the number of Southern Baptist churches in proportion to the population has dropped dramatically.

NAMB helps plant churches everywhere in North America, but we have a special focus outside the South where Southern Baptists are weakest and in [our cities](#) where more than 80 percent of North Americans live. Planting evangelistic churches is the best way to introduce people to Jesus and grow them strong in their faith.

Each year Southern Baptists lose about 900 churches. Planting evangelistic churches is the best way to introduce people to Jesus and grow a new church out of what once was a failing, dying church. Instead of losing hundreds of buildings each year, these churches now have a chance to continue to be places where the Gospel is proclaimed and lives are transformed. (View [this video](#) to learn more about church replanting).

Ethnic church planting is also a priority for us. We have Church Planting Catalysts that focus on Hispanic, Korean, Chinese and other Asian groups, Native American and African-American church planting. Others focus on planting churches for the deaf, for military communities and near college campuses.

Send Network helps discover new church planters and then develop them with the skills they need so they can be deployed to the North American mission field. At the same time, we are working to help Southern

Baptist churches take on a more active role in church planting. Some are ready to plant a church right now. We can help them find a place in need and connect them with a church planter. Some churches might not be ready to plant, but they can partner with other churches to provide what a new church needs like prayer, encouragement and assistance from short-term mission teams. Every church can play a part in church planting. No church is too small or financially constrained to be involved. (Visit [SendMe](#) on NAMB.net to learn more.)

Looking back, there is much to celebrate in what God did in 2016:

- We praise God for the more than 5,200 missionaries and more than 3,800 chaplains that NAMB has the privilege of supporting because of what Southern Baptists give. These missionaries and chaplains are serving in difficult places. Many have left behind everything that is familiar so they can tell people about Christ.
- Southern Baptists started 926 new churches in 2015, the most recent year for which data is available. These churches are already introducing people to Jesus and building people strong in their faith. They will continue to have an impact for years to come. In addition, there were 188 new church affiliations with the SBC.
- Existing church plants are reporting some exciting trends. Churches planted in 2011 have a 77 percent five-year survival rate. Church plants baptized one person for every 14 members, compared to one for every 52 members in established churches. Louisiana Baptists recently reported that their church plants have averaged 126 decisions for Christ each month since 2010. In Vermont, 83 percent of baptisms reported last year came from churches that were started since 2010; in the Baptist Convention of New England, which includes six states—it was 39 percent; and in Canada, 53 percent of baptisms came from churches planted in 2010 or later.
- Our [3 Circles Life Conversation Guide](#) is helping thousands of people point everyday conversations toward Christ. We have distributed two million of them in print and the app has been downloaded more than 50,000 times. [Engage 24 conferences](#) for pastors help them re-ignite the flames of evangelism in their churches.
- [Disaster Relief](#) responses included the historic flooding in Louisiana; West Virginia flooding; the water crisis in Flint, Michigan; wildfires in Canada and Gatlinburg, Tenn., and the Hurricane Matthew response.

NAMB works closely with Baptist conventions to assist their efforts in taking Christ to North America and annually invests more than \$43 million in these convention partners. This financial assistance serves to fund missionaries at 100% salary plus benefits and to support evangelistic church planting, evangelism and church revitalization efforts at 100% funding in all but one Convention in the non-south, which remains on a ratio funding system by choice.

With a challenge so great, we need the participation and resources of every Southern Baptist church. So please join me in praying for and advocating for these efforts. Thank you again for your leadership and for everything you are doing to help push back lostness in North America.

Serving Together,

Kevin Ezell  
President, North American Mission Board