

One Hundred Seventy-Fourth Annual Report

3806 Monument Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23230

SETH POLK, Chairman
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 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% 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

* Note: As state conventions closed out their fiscal year, 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 October 3, 2019.

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
President, International Mission Board

Ministry Goals and Accomplishments

Ministry Statement: Assist churches by evangelizing persons, planting Baptist churches, and nurturing church planting movements among all people groups outside the United States and Canada; and, provide specialized, defined and agreed upon assistance to the North American Mission Board in assisting churches to reach unreached and underserved people groups within the United States and Canada.

The mission of establishing multiplying churches continues to drive our efforts around the world and the Lord is blessing those efforts. Cooperative Program dollars have provisioned IMB personnel and their national partners to see over 50,000 baptisms and just under 14,000 new churches planted in the last year. Other critical markers that contribute to these results are the 2,500 translation projects that are getting the Word into the language of unreached peoples, and over 85,000 who received leadership training. There are ministries to refugees such as trauma healing and relief efforts in cooperation with Baptist Global Response.

There is much to celebrate as we see baptisms and new churches established among each of the IMB's nine designated affinities: East Asian Peoples, Southeast Asian Peoples, South Asian Peoples, Central Asian Peoples, European Peoples, North African and Middle Eastern Peoples, Sub-Saharan African Peoples, American Peoples, and Deaf Peoples.

Annual Statistical Report Based on 2018 Data

Global summary reflecting work in calendar year 2018, reported in 2019

Evangelism

How many people heard a **gospel witness**? **562,865**

How many people had an **opportunity to respond** to Christ? **364,725**

How many who received a gospel witness do you believe are **seekers**? **87,536**

How many who heard a gospel witness became **new believers**? **77,605**

How many believers were **baptized**? **52,586**

Healthy Church Formation

How many **total groups** intending to become churches are meeting now? **23,812**

How many **new groups** were formed that intend to become churches? **14,987**

How many **new churches** were formed? **13,898**

How many 1st-, 2nd-, and 3rd-generation **churches** are **meeting now**? **53,848**

How many 1st-, 2nd-, and 3rd-generation **churches** have **ceased to meet**? **1,954**

Note: In some cases, churches cease to exist as people change locations or as members are absorbed into other congregations. In other cases, IMB personnel lose direct contact with the work and consequently have no interaction to be able to include them in the totals.

How many **baptized believers met** in groups or churches? **439,697**

Annual Statistical Report Based on 2018 Data *(continued)*

Discipleship

How many people met in **on-going Bible studies**? 261,812

How many people are being **personally mentored**? 34,495

Leadership Development

How many men have received practical **pastoral training**? 18,428

How many people received **training** to start **new churches**? 38,721

How many individuals received **advanced theological education**? 28,213

How many believers were trained in **other training opportunities**? 91,773

The International Mission Board's Annual Statistical Report (ASR) contains the most accurate information for the stated reporting period available at the time of publication. Figures reported are for work related to IMB personnel and their close, indigenous baptistic partners only. Since 2009, the ASR no longer includes reports from partner conventions and unions. Major movements and baptistic church planting partners that are self-sustaining and require only occasional guidance and assistance from IMB personnel are removed from the statistics annually. This is a cause for celebration but can result in some statistics being different from earlier reporting periods.

After publication, the Board's Global Research Department continues to process both new and revised reports as field personnel continually strive to provide the most accurate picture of the Board's work and influence during the given reporting period. New or revised reports may be submitted for a variety of reasons, including typographical errors in the original report, newly received or corrected information, clarification of reporting categories, etc.

All analyses utilize the most current data for the reporting period available at that time, including any new and revised reports submitted since publication. Thus, subsequent ASRs will reflect corrected data and may differ from previously published reports. For current data regarding a given reporting period, including the latest revisions, contact the Global Research Information Center (GRIC@imb.org).

Ministry Statement: Assist churches in sending and supporting Southern Baptist missionaries and volunteers by enlisting, equipping, and enabling them to fulfill their calling.

In the last year, the Assessment, Deployment, and Training Team of the IMB processed 159 mid-term and 111 long-term candidates for missionary service to the point of approval for deployment. The team trained 242 new adult missionaries and their 99 children in Field Personnel Orientation, and further trained 537 adult missionaries and their 432 children in Stateside Assignment Conferences. They also conducted training in the components of the missionary task at three large field Affinity Group Meetings. The Training Development Team completed a thorough revision of the Apprenticeship training program for first-term missionaries, in cooperation with field affinity training teams, along with other training projects.

Ministry Statement: Assist churches and partners to mobilize Southern Baptists to be involved in international missions through praying, giving, and going.

At the 2019 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Birmingham, the IMB challenged every Southern Baptist church to join their fellow churches in the Convention in international missions under IMB's banner, "Every Church. Every Nation." IMB's promise to serve every Southern Baptist church is based on the fundamental belief that the mission to "go and make disciples" was given to the church. Every church can play a vital role in reaching every nation with the gospel through praying, giving, and going.

During the IMB-sponsored dinner in conjunction with the SBC annual meeting, IMB President Paul Chitwood challenged churches to continue in and increase their cooperative efforts to see the vision laid out in Revelation 7:9-10 — "*After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing*

before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'" (ESV).

Prior to the SBC annual meeting, Dr. Chitwood sent a letter to every pastor in the SBC reporting on his firsthand interactions with missionaries in Colombia and Uganda who are engaged in ministry to refugees in South America and Africa, respectively. He challenged pastors to lead their churches in supporting these ways God is using Southern Baptists to fulfill His purposes around the world.

In January 2019, the IMB held its sixth Missions College with the purpose of mobilizing Southern Baptist churches to go deeper in missions training. It is an annual mobilization and training event for Southern Baptist churches engaging in short-, mid-, and long-term missions with the IMB. Over 265 participated that included lead pastors, missions pastors/directors, and lay leaders with the majority in partnership with field IMB missionaries. Dr. Chitwood challenged the participants to join forces with the IMB in sound biblical missiology in fulfilling the core missionary task. In the Americas alone, more than 350 churches are co-laboring with our field missionaries and national Baptist partners.

In October 2019, IMB conducted an advocate forum in Richmond, Virginia, with 257 attendees from 190 churches in 31 states, representing advocacy affinity areas of prayer, alumni, giving, state and associational leaders, student leaders, and mobilization. The attendees were challenged to lead the advocacy among their areas of influence to increase praying, giving, and going to the nations. From this meeting of advocates: 137 committed to pray during the 175 days of prayer in conjunction with IMB's 175th anniversary in 2020; committed \$442,000 in giving, which represents seven missionary years on the field; attendees invited 12,608 people to join them in giving; 35 committed to go on a short-term trip to an unreached people group; eight felt led to go mid-term (2-3 years) in missions service; and three felt led to go long-term (3+ years) in missions service.

In the past fiscal year, IMB added two church mobilizers (for a total of seven full-time church mobilizers on the team), four full-time student mobilizers, and 24 part-time student mobilizers covering 13 states (five full-time on the student team covering the Convention). IMB's Mobilization Team also added a Hispanic mobilization role and is adding Asian and African American mobilizing positions.

IMB's Mobilization Team also added one Associational Missionary Network Associate for AMS/DOM relations east of the Mississippi River (for a total of three staff on the Convention and Network Relations Team) with another role to be added focused on areas west of the Mississippi River. A study published in 2018 by the SBCAL reported that the Association Leader (AMS/DOM) is recognized by the majority of leaders across the Convention to be the closest denominational entity to the local church. IMB recognizes the significant efforts of associational leaders as they partner with church staff to see Southern Baptists reaching their communities and the nations with the gospel. Our desire in growing our Convention and Network Relations Team is to ultimately become a better partner to these key leaders in the mobilization task.

The IMB Partner Relations Team recorded 5,778 engagements with SBC audiences during the last fiscal year and completed 668 "next steps" with Southern Baptist churches toward beginning new missions activities, specifically praying, giving, going, and sending. Partnership opportunities, including short-term mission trip requests, were highlighted via outbound promotion to U.S. churches, state conventions, local associations, and other partnering agencies. These opportunities included 40 partnerships created in relation to the works of the

Southeast Asian Peoples Affinity, East Asian Peoples Affinity, and Northern Africa and Middle Eastern Peoples diaspora, as well as 1,000 to 1,200 connections related to short-term unique opportunities. In 2019, the group also facilitated 769 student trips in international missions.

IMB continued engaging advocates through its Partner Hub website to inform and equip those advocates who mobilize Southern Baptist churches on behalf of the IMB. IMB trustees, missionary alumni, donors, associational mission strategists, and state convention leaders have committed to leverage the platform to both increase and improve the engagement of our churches in praying, giving, going, and sending.

Throughout the year, the IMB hosted four Sending Celebrations honoring newly appointed missionaries. The celebrations, available by livestream, inspire Southern Baptist churches to be a part of sending new missionaries and to pray for the work God has prepared in advance for them among the unreached people and places. In 2019, 98 full-time, fully-funded missionaries were appointed — in addition to 138 mid-term personnel sent — with many celebrated among thousands of Southern Baptist messengers at the June Sending Celebration conducted during the SBC annual meeting in Birmingham. A November 2019 Sending Celebration held in conjunction with the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma annual meeting drew a full house for the time of worship, prayer, and celebration.

In 2019, Dr. Chitwood re-established a home office-based Global Communications Team which focuses primarily on telling the stories of how God is at work around the world and giving Southern Baptists ongoing return-on-investment reports of how their praying, giving, going, and sending is being used by God to change lives. The team consists of both Richmond-based and field-based media professionals.

In the 2019 Cooperative Program promotion, IMB contributed stories of how God is at work on the mission field to the “52 Sundays” resource. In our promotion of the 2019 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® (LMCO), we reinforced how every dollar given by Southern Baptists supports the work of nearly 3,700 International Mission Board personnel on the mission field to reach the “multitudes” referenced in Revelation 7:9. The IMB sent 44,896 English-language LMCO resource kits to churches, as well as 4,291 language-specific kits. Of those language-specific kits, 3,277 were in Spanish, 769 in Korean, and 245 in Chinese. An additional 6,731 English-language kits and 29 language-specific kits were ordered through the IMB’s Church Success Center. The information in the kits collectively celebrated the number of people groups engaged, professions of faith, baptisms, and new churches planted over the past year. The IMB educated church members with an understanding of LMCO and equipped church leaders with the necessary resources to easily and effectively engage their churches in missions through faithful giving.

The Woman’s Missionary Union and IMB worked together to mobilize churches to pray for the nations during the annual Week of Prayer for International Missions held December 1-8, 2019. The week of prayer focused on the ways God is at work around the world through Southern Baptists — such as missionaries in Mexico, Korea, Canada, Bulgaria, and Japan; through partnerships with believers in East Asia; and relief efforts in Colombia; as well as through a specific call to prayer by Dr. Chitwood. In addition, during 2019, IMB strengthened prayer resources by engaging thousands of pastors and church leaders in prayer for the nations. For example, at the SBC annual meeting in Birmingham, IMB distributed perpetual prayer calendars to motivate and educate Southern Baptists to pray for the unreached and unengaged people and places of the world. These calendars also were distributed at each of the state convention meetings.

Ministry Statement: Assist churches in fulfilling their international missions task by developing global strategies, including human needs-based ministries, and providing leadership, administrative support, and financial accountability for implementation of these strategies.

Baptist Global Response (BGR) partners with the IMB and its personnel to provide training, expertise, consultation, and resources to implement human needs ministries. This includes responses to acute needs due to disaster events as well as long-term chronic needs from things such as poverty, hunger, and injustice.

In 2019, the IMB — with the assistance of BGR — implemented 330 projects in 74 different countries with an appropriated amount of \$8 million. Over 1.4 million people were impacted and 3,838 communities helped. This includes 321,702 people receiving clean water through 1,298 implemented community water systems and 12,715 water filters distributed.

Agriculturally, 926 families received seeds/seedlings for planting their home farms with over 1,700 animals distributed. More than 77,000 people received health care treatment of some degree while 2,825 were trained in improved job skills and another 4,441 in literacy. Over 18,000 children received some type of education assistance while 457 small micro-enterprise initiatives were undertaken.

Human needs ministries such as those described above continue to play an important, strategic role for the IMB in order to gain access to hard-to-reach peoples and places as well as fuel the spread of the gospel in many contexts around the world where spiritual and physical needs coincide.

Based on the listed Ministry Assignment, what opportunities or challenges do you see on the horizon from 2020 and beyond that would necessitate changes, or new directions, in how you are accomplishing the above Ministry Assignment?

Ministry Statement: Assist churches by evangelizing persons, planting Baptist churches, and nurturing church planting movements among all people groups outside the United States and Canada; and, provide specialized, defined and agreed upon assistance to the North American Mission Board in assisting churches to reach unreached and underserved people groups within the United States and Canada.

Tremendous opportunities await as IMB personnel are partnering closely with indigenous baptistic associations and networks to equip and send missionaries through these long-time partners. As Baptists worldwide are moved by God to pray, give, and go to the multitudes, IMB envisions tremendous possibilities and potential for Baptist church planting and Kingdom growth.

Challenges also await as IMB strives to increase its long-term personnel count by an additional 500 before 2025. These additional missionaries will come from Southern Baptist churches and are needed to meet the challenges and growing opportunities to nurture church planting among all people groups outside of the United States and Canada. IMB is optimistic that cooperatively, Baptists will be able to send personnel to meet the Baptist church planting challenges of the next decade.

Ministry Statement: Assist churches in sending and supporting Southern Baptist missionaries and volunteers by enlisting, equipping, and enabling them to fulfill their calling.

In addition to continuing to assess, deploy, and train new missionaries, as well as provide ongoing training for existing missionaries, the 175th anniversary of the founding of the Southern

Baptist Convention and the International Mission Board will provide better opportunities to develop training resources and deliver training in the year ahead. In keeping with the vision of our President, Dr. Paul Chitwood, the Training Development Team will devote much of its energy in the year ahead to engaging with Southern Baptist churches and entities to enable them to participate in global missions more effectively in partnership with the International Mission Board.

Ministry Statement: Assist churches and partners to mobilize Southern Baptists to be involved in international missions through praying, giving, and going.

IMB's Mobilization Team will continue to focus on increased engagement with Southern Baptist pastors and churches. Research has shown us that missions is an identity of the church led by its pastor, not simply an out-sourced activity to the IMB. We are finding that, for many churches today, the IMB is one of many options that mission-minded churches consider in order to get involved in international missions. As the official international sending agency of the Southern Baptist Convention, the IMB wants Southern Baptist pastors to prefer the IMB as the primary organization to partner with in praying, giving, and going to the nations. To accomplish that, we are committed to work harder than ever to build strong relationships, enhance service levels, and promote more field-to-church interaction with 46,000 Southern Baptist churches in the US.

President Chitwood has stated IMB's mobilization efforts must be a priority for the entire organization. Trustees will be voting on a new Mobilization Vice President who is fluent in Spanish and who brings a lifetime of experience with the IMB as well as global business experience — from growing up as a “missionary kid” in South America, to leading global work for a chemical division of a Fortune 500 petroleum company, to leading and growing IMB's work in the Americas Peoples Affinity from Montevideo, Uruguay; Santiago, Chile; and Lima, Peru. He also led the Marketplace Advance/Skybridge Community initiative of the IMB that was focused on awakening, equipping, and sending out marketplace professionals to join in the missionary task as they go globally with their companies/professions.

The Mobilization Team has hired a new leader in African American mobilization and an Associational Missionary Network Associate for AMS/DOM relations west of the Mississippi River, and IMB plans to hire an Asian mobilizing position, as well. Our desire in growing our Convention and Network Relations Team is to ultimately become a better partner to these key leaders in the mobilization task.

IMB has reinstated a Prayer Office to emphasize the vital nature of prayer in our mission. The team is being rebuilt with the primary task of educating and engaging Southern Baptists in praying for unreached people and places and for those taking the gospel to them.

Research reveals that fewer than half of the churches in the Southern Baptist Convention gave to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering in recent years. Dr. Chitwood is challenging every Southern Baptist church to give through the LMCO. IMB is investigating resources for increasing donor involvement in a manner that communicates the necessity of Southern Baptists selecting SBC giving channels over other ministry outlets competing for their attention and financial gifts.

Since 1845, Southern Baptists have been making disciples among the nations. The IMB is rebuilding its missionary force as the sending-arm for Southern Baptist missionaries. Every church, regardless of size or resources, has a role to play in reaching every nation — and the nations are waiting. IMB is undergirding its mobilization efforts to report to Southern Baptists how God is at work on the mission field, how they are a part of His work, and how they can expand their involvement in praying, giving, going, and sending to take the gospel to unreached people and places.

Ministry Statement: Assist churches in fulfilling their international missions task by developing global strategies, including human needs-based ministries, and providing leadership, administrative support, and financial accountability for implementation of these strategies.

The needs of people around the world will only increase and thus continue to grow the need for strategic engagement of human needs and lostness by the IMB. Today, approximately 20 to 25 percent of all IMB teams engage in some type of human needs ministry/project. As the IMB leads Southern Baptists in the push toward the remaining unreached and unengaged peoples of the world, they will encounter more and more physical challenges such as poverty, hunger, war, etc. Our ability to address human needs in a professional manner, keeping the context of gospel sharing, will continue to be a key strategy as we strive toward the end goal of our task.

Matter Referred by the Convention

During the Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Birmingham, Alabama, June 11–12, 2019, the Convention referred the following item to the International Mission Board for consideration, action, and report.

1. SBC Referral: To request each SBC entity to provide an update on addressing abuse (Items 15 and 60, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-12, 2019, SBC Annual, p. 57, 63)

Motion: Phillip Bethancourt, Tennessee

“That the Southern Baptist Convention request each of the entities of the Southern Baptist Convention provide an update related to their efforts to address abuse and report back to the 2020 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Orlando, Florida, covering three subjects: what is their entity doing to foster effective abuse awareness, prevention, and care; what additional steps has their entity taken to address abuse since the 2018 SBC annual meeting in Dallas, Texas; and how is their entity partnering with the efforts of the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group to address abuse?”

Response: THAT the International Mission Board trustees and leaders, in response to the request that the IMB provide an update related to our efforts to address abuse, hereby reports:

1. The International Mission Board has added the role of a designated Prevention and Response Administrator whose primary responsibility is to oversee and manage prevention and response efforts for child abuse (physical and sexual), sexual harassment (including sexual assault), and domestic violence. This includes overseeing all aspects of training (development of material, delivery of training, and ensuring compliance) for field and staff employees, specific departments, volunteers, investigators, Third Culture Kids, partners, and others. At least twice annually, IMB senior leadership sends all field and home-office staff reminders a) of the IMB’s policy on abuse and harassment ¹; b) that IMB encourages anyone who has been a victim of abuse by its personnel to report it to authorities; c) and, in addition, that victims can contact IMB on a confidential hotline at (866) 292-0181 or email advocate@imb.org so that IMB can provide compassionate care to that victim and take appropriate steps to ensure the safety of others. In numerous outlets, including Baptist Press ² and IMB.org ³, the IMB has stated that it strongly encourages any church, entity, or other employer who is considering working or partnering with a former IMB personnel to contact IMB at references@imb.org to obtain a reference on that individual so that the IMB can do its part to help employers make wise and informed hiring decisions.

2. Following the 2018 SBC annual meeting in Dallas, Texas, (since Fall 2018), the International Mission Board has undergone a rigorous examination of IMB's handling of past allegations of abuse and sexual harassment and IMB's present policies and practices. In May 2019, IMB trustees heard a report from Gray Plant Mooty⁴ (the firm conducting the examination), and IMB President Paul Chitwood responded immediately⁵ with an apology to victims and a pledge for IMB to lead the SBC in abuse prevention and response. IMB trustees and senior leadership are committed to implementing all the recommendations from Gray Plant Mooty. IMB maintains publicly accessible web pages with its statement on abuse and harassment¹ as a resource for churches; and frequently asked questions³ about the external examination and related resource links.
3. The actions of the International Mission Board are consistent with the suggestions presented by the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group report. International Mission Board leaders are accessible for communication and collaboration with leaders of the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group.

Footnotes:

1. IMB Statement on Child Abuse and Sexual Harassment. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.imb.org/for-churches/abuse-harassment>
2. McGowan, J. (2019, May 22). IMB pledges to 'be a leader' in abuse prevention. Retrieved from <http://www.bpnews.net/52958/imb-pledges-to-be-a-leader-in-abuse-prevention>
3. IMB Staff (2019, May 22). Frequently Asked Questions about Examination Update. Retrieved from <https://www.imb.org/2019/05/22/faqs-examination-update>
4. Gray Plant Mooty. (2019, May 22). Examination Update. Retrieved from <https://www.imb.org/2019/05/22/examination-recommendations>
5. Chitwood, P. (2019, May 22). IMB Response to External Examination. Retrieved from <https://www.imb.org/2019/05/22/chitwood-response>