



Mission Funding by Southern Baptist Churches

THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM AND ASSOCIATIONAL GIFTS

Churches are the primary source of money received to fund missions at home and around the world. Southern Baptist churches fund missions primarily through two main channels: The Cooperative Program and the Local Association.



Since 1925, the Cooperative Program has been the primary channel through which Southern Baptist churches have financed their mission ministries. A percentage of the undesignated tithes and offerings of church members are sent to the Cooperative Program and used to support international, North American and state missions. Each SBC church decides the percentage to be given. Churches commonly give from 5% to 10% to the Cooperative Program. Some give more. These Cooperative Program gifts are usually sent monthly through the state convention offices. A portion is kept for state missions and the balance is sent on to the national Southern Baptist Convention offices. In this manner, churches of all sizes participate cooperatively in the Lord's work. When the gifts of around 47,000 Southern Baptist churches are pooled together, under the Holy Spirit's leadership, much is done in the Kingdom of God.



Associations like the Southside Baptist Network are channels through which mission work is accomplished on a local level. Congregations of a certain geographic area covenant together to form an association of churches in which they work together to reach their area for Christ. For example, The Southside Baptist Network exists to assist churches in advancing the Gospel through Community Impact and Missions Partnerships, Church Planting and Church Strengthening, and Church Leadership Development. There are over 1,100 Southern Baptist associations in North America, with 91 associations in the state of Georgia. A member church agrees to send a percentage of their undesignated tithes and offerings to their association. Churches commonly send from 1-3% of their undesignated tithes and offerings to their local association. Messengers from their churches are elected to help determine the work that is to be undertaken and to approve the annual budget.

OTHER SPECIAL OFFERINGS

In addition to these two important avenues of giving, there are other opportunities to support SBC ministries. Each March, the **Annie Armstrong Easter Offering** is received and designated for North American missions and ministries of the SBC North American Mission Board. The **Mission Georgia Offering** is received and designated for missions and ministries within the state of Georgia each September. The **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering** is received and designated for missions and ministries of the International Missions Board each December. All three of these special offerings are sent through the Georgia Baptist Mission Board to each of the respective organizations. One hundred percent of what is collected through these special offerings goes to the mission field. All administrative costs are absorbed through the Cooperative Program.

EXAMPLE OF CONGREGATIONAL GIVING

For example, upon becoming a Southern Baptist Church, the congregation decides that it will contribute mission gifts in the following way:

- 7% of undesignated tithes and offerings to the Cooperative Program and
- 3% of undesignated tithes and offerings to Associational Missions

They receive and contribute it this way:

\$1050.00	Received in tithes and offerings on the first Sunday in January
\$ 980.00	on the second Sunday
\$1100.00	on the third Sunday
<u>\$ 870.00</u>	<u>on the fourth Sunday</u>
\$4000.00	TOTAL

They would send a check to the Georgia Baptist Mission Board during the first week in February in the amount of \$280 (7% of \$4000) and a check to the Southside Baptist Network in the amount of \$120.00 (3% of \$4000).

The checks are sent to the following addresses:



Georgia Baptist Mission Board
Convention Financial Services
PO Box 100068
Duluth, GA 30096-9368



Southside Baptist Network
2170 Jonesboro Road
McDonough, GA 30253

Coupons to use in sending your gifts can be obtained through each of the entities named above.