



UISBC eNews

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019

Focus on the Landscape... Across Utah and Idaho

It's hard to believe how fast 2019 has flown by! It seems just like a couple months ago we were greeting the New Year. It has been a year filled full of kingdom advance and challenges. As we head into the Christmas season and celebrate Jesus' birth, may we be mindful of those around us that have experienced the loss of loved ones this year. Take some extra time to encourage those around us who need their day brightened. Jesus brought us all hope in his birth.

We pray that you can also have some extra special time with family and friends this Christmas and New Year. It was great to have both of our boys home from college over Thanksgiving and we are looking forward to a couple of weeks together later this month. It was fun having extended family over for Thanksgiving Day.

Before Hunter flew out, we read the Christmas story in Luke as a family. As I read the part of the shepherds I thought about the times angels appear in the Bible. They tell those they have met to not be afraid. I'm sure my response would be the same as theirs. The shepherds got up to find the baby in the manger as the angel had declared to them. Don't let fear paralyze you this Christmas season but share the good news that Jesus was born. Invite a friend to attend a Christmas service at your church and invite them over to your home for some Christmas treats. Christmas is on most people's minds giving us the opportunity to share the love of Jesus with them.

Let's end 2019 singing and sharing about all that Jesus has done! Merry Christmas from the Lees!

UISBC Cooperative Program Giving Report

September/October 2019

Cooperative Program giving	
September	\$56,390.65
October	\$71,247.07
Cooperative Program budget	
	\$59,326.67
Over/Under CP budget	
September	-\$3,112.02
October	+\$11,744.40
State Missions Offering given	
September	\$4,688.88
October	\$10,433.47

January-October 2019

Cooperative Program giving	
	\$643,480.19
Cooperative Program budget	
	\$595,026.70
Over/Under CP budget	
	+\$48,453.49 (+8.1%)
State Missions Offering given	
	\$50,887.17
State Missions Offering 2019 Goal	
	\$95,000

U & I Praying Together

Pastorless Churches

- Sevier Valley Baptist Church, Richfield, David Payne, Interim
- First Baptist Church, Mt. Pleasant
- First Baptist Church, Grantsville
- Salt Lake Chinese Baptist Church
- Stites Baptist Church
- First Baptist Church, Roy
- First Baptist Church, Moab
- First Baptist Church, Centerfield, Emery Polelonema filling pulpit
- Central Valley Baptist Church, Cascade, Rod Moerer filling pulpit

Prayer & Praises

- Praise for a great Women's Conference, Pastors' Conference and Utah-Idaho SBC 55th Annual meeting at Calvary Baptist Church, Idaho Falls. Calvary were awesome hosts!
- Pray for our pastorless churches and their interim pastors.
- Prayers for the Jan Harding family as they grieve her home going in late October. Pray for Jim as his cancer has returned.
- Prayers for the Marshall family as Teaching Pastor, Robert Marshall, Risen Life Church, grieves the home going of his mom, Evelyn.
- Pray for Debbie Chidester, her mom Donna (former administrative assistant at the state convention) and family as they grieve the home going of Dennis over Thanksgiving weekend.

Utah-Idaho exceeding goals, planting churches

by Karen L. Willoughby

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho (BP) -- Fifty-six churches have been started in the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention (UISBC) over the last 5 1/2 years, messengers and guests were told at the Oct. 18 annual meeting of the two-state convention.

About 200 congregations speaking in one of at least 13 languages identify with the UISBC, executive director Rob Lee said. That's up from 48 churches when the two-state convention was organized in 1964, and includes 188 affiliated churches, church plants, pre-plant Bible studies and core teams developed by planters for Bible studies.

In other news, "We ended the 2018 budget year above budget for the third straight year," Lee said, adding that it was 5.3 percent over budget. Half of the overage was sent to the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee for distribution to various SBC entities.

Attendance, budget and reports illustrated the health of UISBC, which met at Calvary Baptist Church in Idaho Falls, where Matt McGukin is pastor. McGukin also was president during the annual meeting as well as of the pastors' conference that preceded it.

A total of 107 messengers from 46 churches -- 61 from Idaho and 46 from Utah -- and 38 guests participated in the annual meeting that had "Let There Be Light" as its theme, with 2 Corinthians 4:6 as its scriptural reference.

"We have the responsibility for reaching the people here," said Travis Best, chairman of the UISBC Executive Board, of the two states' nearly 5 million residents. "We're working on it. Since Vision 2020 started in 2014; we've baptized 2,600 people."

Globally, UISBC-affiliated churches have given more than \$22 million to missions through the Cooperative Program over the state convention's history, plus more to seasonal missions offerings, Ashley Clayton told messengers. Clayton is the SBC Executive Committee's vice president for the Cooperative Program and stewardship.

"For the first time ever, last year the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention sent more than \$200,000 to the SBC for distribution to the International Mission Board, North American Mission Board, seminaries and the ERLC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission," Clayton continued. "Your influence is spreading across the world."

Clayton brought greetings from Ronnie Floyd, president and CEO of the SBC's Executive Committee, who, Clayton said, has a passion for seeing people come into a personal relationship with Jesus.

Floyd identified "Five Keys" to transforming the culture in the SBC to further the goal of "reaching the world for Christ, whatever the cost, whatever the risk," Clayton said. "This worldwide mission thrust must be our priority." Those keys are:

- Living and breathing Gospel urgency
- Empowering all churches, generations, ethnicities and languages
- Telling and celebrating what God is doing
- Loving others like Jesus loves
- Prioritizing, elevating and accelerating generosity

In addition to good news, messengers also learned of hardship endured by pastors' families, including an adopted 6-year-old son's difficulties following a kidney transplant and an 18-month-old suffering from spina bifida. But speakers affirmed that such trials are negated by God's provision.

"You can suffer well," preached John Avant of Life Action Ministries at the Pastors' Conference that preceded the UISBC annual meeting. "Don't you ever think God isn't at work. ... When your load is heavy, remember: Jesus wants you with Him."

Business

Messengers approved a \$1,809,764 budget for 2020, up just \$732 from the 2019 budget. Cooperative Program giving is to increase by 1 percentage point to 30 percent, which was one of the goals set for 2020. The budget includes an anticipated \$740,081 from UISBC churches, of which \$222,024 is set for national CP

Annual meeting cont. on page 3

distribution. The two-state convention plans to continue sending 50 percent of over-budget giving to national and international CP causes.

Other income includes \$914,683 from the North American Mission Board, for church planting and evangelism; \$60,000 from LifeWay Christian Resources for church health and strengthening; and \$95,000 from the state convention's York-Dillman State Missions Offering.

New officers elected were president Bryan Catherman, pastor of Redeeming Life Church; first vice president Corey Hodges of The Point Church; second vice president Jared Jenkins, minister of discipleship and missions at Risen Life Church. All three minister in Salt Lake City. Roger Naylor, pastor of First Baptist Church of Bonners Ferry, Idaho, was elected recording secretary.

New president Bryan Catherman posted on social media, "Kent Burchyett led wonderful worship, and the four sermons from Second Corinthians preached by Rob Lee, Bobby Wood, Jared Jenkins and Matt McGukin were edifying, convicting and refreshing to my soul."

The first of two resolutions was in appreciation to McGukin and the members of Calvary Baptist Idaho Falls, who "made everything possible" at the annual meeting.

In the second, "We are resolved to speak out now on behalf of our unborn neighbors," announced Resolutions Committee chairman Paul Thompson, pastor of Eastside Baptist Church in Twin Falls, Idaho.

The resolution, with five "whereas" clauses -- including notice of 4,208 abortions in Utah and Idaho in 2017, according to official records -- also had five "resolved" clauses, including, "that we, the God-fearing messengers of the 2019 Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention, declare the human baby in the womb as precious, miraculous, valuable, and welcome neighbors in our communities, so help us God, for the glory of God."

Reports

The two-state convention's church plant network has changed its name to SEND Utah-Idaho for "greater visibility nationally," noted Lee in his executive director's report. Four churches were planted in Utah within the last year. Three more are nearing the plant stage in the Treasure Valley Baptist Association in Idaho, and one started last spring in Magic Valley Baptist Association in Idaho.

UISBC sent \$211,122.22 to the SBC Executive Committee for national and international missions and ministries, which was the first time the convention forwarded at least \$200,000 of offerings from its churches, Lee said.

Disaster Relief teams from Utah and Idaho were sent in December, January and March to help with the Camp Fire in Paradise, Calif. Two teams went to Oklahoma in March for help with the Arkansas River flooding.

"We come to this because we want to hear the stories of what God is doing here, there and everywhere," Anders Snyder, planter/pastor of Calvary Church in Nampa, Idaho, told Baptist Press. "That's fuel for us."

The UISBC's 2020 meeting is set for Oct. 30 at First Baptist Church of West Valley City, Utah.

Reprinted from Baptist Press (www.baptistpress.com).

Chinese government designates Lottie Moon's church as historical site

by Catherine Finch

The name, "Lottie Moon," is known by many in the Southern Baptist world. From the Woman's Missionary Union Lottie Moon Christmas Offering to movies, books and documentaries detailing her life of service, Lottie Moon is often hailed as a "missionary hero."

Lottie Moon's legacy will now be preserved beyond the Southern Baptist realm. Wulin Shenghui Church of Penglai in Shandong province, where Lottie Moon was a member during her time in Dengzhou, China, has been designated as a nationally protected historical and cultural site by The State Council of the People's Republic of China, the China Christian daily reported Nov.14.

Woman's Missionary Union Executive Director and Treasurer Sandy Wisdom-Martin is thankful for the continuing impact of Lottie Moon's legacy.

"We celebrate the decision to protect this location of historical significance. More than a century later, we still feel the impact of Lottie's legacy that helped shape our global missionary enterprise. Her sacrifice for the sake of the Gospel continues to inspire new generations to fulfill His Commission," she said.

Built in 1872 by Southern Baptist missionaries Tarleton and Martha Crawford the church is still in use to this day, with a current church membership of about 4,000. The church was closed to foreigners in the 1900s but reopened in 1988. WMU leaders from the United States were some of the first foreigners to visit Lottie Moon's church once it reopened. Within the walls of the European-styled church, WMU leaders discovered a monument dedicated to Lottie Moon by Chinese Christians in 1915.

IMB President Paul Chitwood reflected on the vital role Lottie Moon has played in Southern Baptist missions throughout the years: "Lottie Moon's love for the Chinese people meant that she gave her best to them -- and her best was the good news that she shared by her life and witness as a Southern Baptist missionary."

"The Wulin Shenghui Church of Penglai Shandong province was 'home base' for Lottie and we are thrilled to see this site preserved, not as a monument to a missionary, but as a spiritual marker to remind the world that the gospel is worthy of your life. God used Lottie Moon to change China, and also to change Southern Baptists, forever," Chitwood said.

"We're incredibly grateful for the legacy of her work in partnership with this local church, and the more than 4.5 billion dollars given in her honor by Southern Baptists in the past 120 years to advance the gospel toward the vision of people from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, worshipping our Lord," he said.

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is a registered trademark of Woman's Missionary Union.

To continue to support the work of IMB missionaries around the world, you can give now to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

Catherine Finch is a writer for IMB.

2018-19 giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® for International Missions totals \$156.6 million

By Ann Lovell

RICHMOND, Virginia—Southern Baptist church members gave \$156.6 million to support international missionaries in 2018-2019, the third-highest Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® for international missions ever received.

“Because you and your church gave through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, you are a part of reaching the unreached in every nation,” said IMB President Paul Chitwood. “When you make LMCO a priority in your church, by God’s grace, we see the numbers rise exponentially of those who meet Jesus for the first time, of those who follow our Lord in baptism, and of new churches planted.”

IMB closed the books for the 2018-19 offering Sept. 30, and the Lottie Moon offering exceeded by \$2.2 million the 174-year-old organization’s 2018-19 LMCO budgeted goal of \$154.4 million, Rodney Freeman, IMB’s treasurer and chief financial officer, reported. IMB also received \$99.3 million from the Southern Baptist Convention’s Cooperative Program for 2018-19. This is the



IMB worker Sally Pepper (left) visits with new mothers in the maternity ward of Kigoma Baptist Hospital in Tanzania. Through meeting the needs of these women, Sally has seen many get back on their feet and find faith in Jesus. Southern Baptists’ gifts through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering makes it possible for Sally to live and minister in Tanzania. (IMB Photo)

third consecutive year that Cooperative Program giving topped \$99 million.

Sandy Wisdom-Martin, executive director of national WMU, reflected on sacrificial giving to international missions efforts. She related a quote dated 100 years ago as printed in the December 1919 issue of *Home and Foreign Fields* from one of our Southern Baptist faithful: “I wish to seek by my life and by my money, as far as I can, to glorify God in the salvation of the lost and the construction of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, so

that God’s will may be done in all the earth.”

Wisdom-Martin said, “One hundred years later, that continues to be the testimony of Southern Baptists as evidenced by their generous gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. We rejoice at the opportunity to undertake greater things for the sake of the gospel.”

The Lottie Moon offering supports nearly 3,700 full-time missionaries, who are sharing the gospel in towns, villages and cities around the world. This year’s offering accounts for

nearly three-fourths of IMB’s overseas budget. The overseas budget provides both ministry funds and missionary support, including missionary salaries, housing, medical care, children’s education, field transportation and other expenses. The remainder of the overseas budget is funded through regular giving by churches to the Cooperative Program.

Your giving matters

Through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists directly support the

Giving cont. on page 5

BAPTIST GLOBAL RESPONSE PRESENTS CHRISTMAS GIFT CATALOG 2019

FEATURES COMPELLING STORIES, PRAYER GUIDES, AND 25 GIFT IDEAS

Baptist Global Response celebrates the holiday season with the release of its annual Christmas Gift Catalog, plus a bevy of additional free downloadable resources.

With multiple gift categories including animals, health care, and clean water, among others, the 2019 catalog also features moving stories of hope and healing from those who have benefited from the gifts around the world. Additionally, prayer guides throughout the book create an interactive way for families and individuals to remember those in need throughout the season.

Gifts are available for purchase at multiple price points. There are over 25 gift options, plus a gift guide to help thoughtful customers find meaningful gifts for every person on their Christmas list.

“The BGR gift catalog helps us get outside of ourselves this

Christmas and participate in the lives of the poor and needy all around the world,” says BGR CEO, Jeff Palmer. “That first Christmas, God sent His Son—the greatest gift of all—for a world in need. This Christmas, individuals, families, and churches can send love to others through the BGR gift catalog and express God’s love in a tangible way—clean water, food for the hungry, and hope that one day, they will experience the full and meaningful life that God intended them to enjoy.”

In addition to the catalog, BGR is also offering multiple companion resources. Among these are an 8-day advent devotional, bulletin inserts, church leaders guide, and more. Downloadable ornaments to give gift recipients are also available. You can view the catalog, order free copies, or download companion materials at gobgr.org/catalog.

work of IMB personnel such as:

Victor and Madeline Hawthorne* who started Story One, a new church for the Deaf in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Story One members are now sharing the gospel among the Deaf in Thailand and training Deaf Christian leaders in Nepal and Indonesia.

Eric Marshall* and Gary Vinson* in Central Asia, who are discipling a young man named Ali. The young man, considered the neighborhood bully by many in his community, requested a New Testament with hopes of filling the “hole in his heart.” and now meets regularly with Marshall and Vinson for Bible study.

Ross and Dena Frierson*, who serve in Wales and helped Tai,* a Southeast Asian human trafficking survivor, find salvation in Jesus Christ alone.

“In the slums and cities, in the jungles and on the plains, in the provinces and on the plateaus, your gifts make it possible for Southern Baptists to take the gospel to the areas where billions are waiting to be reached,” Chitwood said. “The Lord of the harvest has called us to the fields, and to the fields we must go. Thank you for making that obedience possible with your faithful LMCO gifts.”

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® is a registered trademark of Woman’s Missionary Union.

Ann Lovell is editorial/design manager for the International Mission Board.



IMB missionary Ingrid Woodbridge (second from right) meets with a group of Ukrainian women as part of a mentoring group she started. She and her husband, Russell, have planted themselves in Ukraine to train believers there to take the gospel to the world. Because Southern Baptists give through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, Ingrid is able to share the gospel in Ukraine. (IMB Photo)

LifeWay rolls out new strategies to better serve customers

By Aaron Wilson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. -- The year LifeWay Christian Resources was formed, Thomas Edison filed a patent for a motion picture device, the game of basketball was invented and Arthur Conan Doyle penned his first Sherlock Holmes novel.

That year was 1891, when LifeWay—then called the Sunday School Board—launched with the mission of creating Sunday School resources for churches.

While much has changed in the world over the past 128 years, LifeWay’s mission of resourcing the church has stayed constant. What has changed over the years for the not-for-profit organization is the way it distributes and supports its resources.

As LifeWay engages a changing marketplace in 2019, here are some ways the ministry is newly positioning itself to serve churches and individuals scattered across the globe.

Leveraging online relationships

One of the more notable changes LifeWay is currently experiencing is the closing of its chain of brick-and-mortar stores—a move facilitated by many shoppers migrating from traditional storefronts to

digital retail experiences.

Ben Mandrell, LifeWay’s president and CEO, says the organization is leveraging this digital shift by providing multiple avenues for churches and individuals to engage with LifeWay online.

“LifeWay’s reach and impact is not waning with the closure of brick-and-mortar stores,” Mandrell said. “In a typical month, traffic to LifeWay websites was more than four times larger than the normal monthly traffic to physical LifeWay Stores.”

This influx of online traffic has contributed in part to LifeWay’s year-over-year growth in its publishing and events ministry. Direct channels of sales, such as through the company’s flagship website, LifeWay.com, and Customer Service Center posted a 6.9% gain over the previous year.

“We’re excited about the trajectory of our resources and the ministry of LifeWay,” said Mandrell. “People continue to come to LifeWay for trustworthy content that deepens their walk with Jesus Christ and helps them disciple others.”

New brick-and-mortar options

Despite closing its chain of bookstores,

LifeWay is continuing to find ways of selling Bibles, books and Bible studies to people who want to touch and feel them first.

To bridge the gap of physical storefronts where customers can shop for LifeWay products, the organization recently announced an Authorized Dealership program that allows independent Christians bookstores to sell LifeWay-branded Bible studies.

Already, more than 400 independent Christian retailers in 45 states have become authorized LifeWay dealers. This move provides customers more touch points for LifeWay products than were previously available through LifeWay Stores alone.

“Before, we heard stories of people driving more than 100 miles to visit the closest LifeWay Christian Store,” said David Humphrey, manager of trade sales. “With the new Authorized Dealer program, we are essentially bringing LifeWay closer to them. As the program expands, we hope there will eventually be LifeWay-branded shelves within driving distance for everyone in the United States.”

But LifeWay is partnering with more than just independent bookstores. LifeWay also

Glorifying God or Dimming His Glory

Christians live in a difficult time. We are called to be light in a dark and darkening world. However, if we use human means and strategies, we will do more harm to His glory than good. In the west there are numerous churches dragging the name and glory of God through the mud, muck, and mire of public disgrace. In a sister state, two churches are currently in court cases between battling sides in congregations. How can this be?

First of all, they have not heeded God's word in 2 Corinthians 6:3: "We give offense in nothing that the ministry be not blamed." There are plenty of biblical steps before bringing our unsettled issues into public forums. There is Matthew 18:15-18, mediation, arbitration, and, yes, forgiveness. Some things aren't worth dimming God's glory. Years ago, we sold a car to a pastor. It wasn't much of a car nor was it much of a price. After he had missed the first two months payments, we chose to give him the car and not cause more stress for him and no damage to God's glory. Today he pastors the same church and has led it to be a multiplying, church planting center of English, Spanish, and bi-lingual churches.

Yes, we could have used the money. However, to force the issue would have been like Judas accepting the 30 pieces of silver in relation to the negative effect it would have on God's glory. Forgiveness set him and us up for holy victories. Our rights are only priority when they do not hinder God's glory. Jesus had the right to be equal with God, yet He emptied Himself and took on the form of a man...a slave man...bearing our sins in obedience to death on the cross (Philippians 2). We actually have one right and duty as Christians...to please and glorify the Father. That's how Jesus lived. Since we are to be like Him, its how we should live.

This choice requires Godly wisdom and fortitude...keeping His eyes on the joy before Him, Jesus endured the cross. James 1 teaches us that if we lack wisdom, let us ask in faith and God will give wisdom in abundance. If we don't ask and walk in faith, we are double minded and unstable in all our ways. Temporal rights are completely outweighed by the right to please and glorify God.

Be wise when disagreements arise. Weigh the cost to God's glory. Will the action magnify God's glory or diminish God's glory? Implement Matthew 18:15-18, mediation, and arbitration. The cases to which I alluded earlier are humans fighting humans by human means to glorify self or destroy others. They have nothing to do with bringing glory to God. If Christ would empty Himself, can we do less?

Jerry Martin, UISBC

Sharing Christ Missionary

Half of Pastors See Opioid Abuse in Their Own Congregations

By Aaron Earls

NASHVILLE, Tenn. -- Like most U.S. pastors, Robby Gallaty knows someone who has been affected by opioid abuse. But unlike most pastors, Gallaty has personally suffered through addiction.

Twenty years ago this month, Gallaty endured a near-fatal car accident. When he left the hospital, the club-bouncer-turned-church-leader took with him several prescriptions for painkillers.

"My descent into full-scale drug abuse was amazingly rapid," he writes in his new book, *Recovered: How an Accident, Alcohol, and Addiction Led Me to God*. "In November of 1999, before the accident, I was selling cars, training for the Ultimate Fighting Championship, and thinking about business opportunities. By early the next year, I was looking for faster and better drug connections."

After stealing \$15,000 from his parents to feed his addiction, Gallaty found himself at his lowest point—kicked out of his parents' home and told not to come back.

"It was the hardest three months of their lives, and they'll tell you that," he said. "But it was the best thing for me. I knew that I couldn't fix myself."

This led Gallaty, now pastor of Long Hollow Baptist Church in Hendersonville, Tenn., to what he calls a "radical, Paul-like conversion" on November 12, 2002.

Most pastors don't have the intimate knowledge of addiction Gallaty has, but most say they've seen it face to face through people connected to their church and even among members of their congregation.

Nashville-based LifeWay Research asked 1,000 Protestant pastors about their personal connections to the opioid epidemic and how their churches are looking to address the issue.

- Two-thirds of pastors (66%) say a family member of someone in their congregation has been personally affected by opioid abuse.
- More than half (55%) say they or someone in their congregation knows a local neighbor suffering through opioid abuse.
- For half of pastors (52%), someone directly in their church is dealing with an opioid addiction.
- Fewer than a quarter (23%) of pastors say they don't know anyone personally affected by it.

"The drug epidemic has infiltrated our churches and neighborhoods. It is not localized to a particular region or socio-economic class," said Gallaty. "Addiction is no respecter of persons."

Pastors of the smallest churches (fewer than 50 in attendance) are most likely to say they don't know anyone connected to their congregation or community affected by opioid abuse (31%).

"More than two-thirds of even the smallest churches have connections to people affected by opioid abuse," said Scott McConnell, executive director of LifeWay Research. "Opioid addiction can impact people who aren't a significant risk for other types of drugs."



sells select resources through established chains such as Walmart, Books-a-Million and Mardel Stores owned by Hobby Lobby.

While customers can expect to see familiar LifeWay products on new shelves around the country, they can also now access LifeWay's resources through popular digital retailers such as Amazon and Christian Book Distributors.

"These are important partnerships with LifeWay as we continue to expand our reach," said Earl Roberson, acting senior vice president and chief business officer. "From physical storefronts to various websites, our aim is to make our trusted, biblical resources as accessible as possible for our customers—wherever they might be located."

In addition to these distribution avenues, LifeWay will also continue to provide pop-up stores at conferences and events.

Improved service tools

To better assist customers, the organization is investing in additional personnel in its Customer Service Center.

"We're hiring additional customer service reps and have launched a new and enhanced chat function on LifeWay.com," said Janice Bell, director of customer service. "Many of our customers enjoy shopping online, and it's reassuring for them to have a real person just a call or click away who's ready and able to help."

Currently, more than two dozen customer service representatives are trained as resource experts for the new chat function

of LifeWay.com. This service allows customers to check the status of orders, get assistance navigating LifeWay.com and ask product information questions. Customers can also send files and screenshots directly to customer service representatives by way of virtual chat.

LifeWay also provides an online platform to assist churches in managing ongoing orders of curriculum, periodicals and church supplies such as Bibles, tithe and offering envelopes, bulletins and communion resources.

This platform makes it easy for churches to browse curriculum for the current cycle, store information for automatic, recurring orders and receive discounts up to 5% on early orders of physical, ongoing Bible study curriculum.

Churches interested in learning more about this program can call LifeWay's Customer Service Center at (800) 458-2772 or visit LifeWay.com/ChurchOrdering.

Church partners

While digital technology continues to make online ordering easy and convenient, LifeWay recognizes the need for church leaders to be able to speak face-to-face with church resource experts.

"Our church partners represent 36 states and Washington D.C. and exist to both hear from churches and partner with them in ministry by being experts on the many trustworthy resources LifeWay provides," said Fran Trascritti, director of church partnerships.

"Their primary job is to visit with churches across the country to develop an ear for what issues pastors and ministry leaders are facing on a daily basis."

To learn if a LifeWay church partner serves your area, contact Tamara Vavra, marketing coordinator for church partnerships, at tamara.vavra@lifeway.com.

A new day at LifeWay

Since assuming the role of 10th president of LifeWay Christian Resources this past June, Mandrell has repeatedly labeled this a "new day" in the history of the organization.

"The world is changing and so is LifeWay," Mandrell said. "We need to make bold and brave decisions about strategy in order to respond to the needs of our customers. There is no future for LifeWay unless we stay relevant to our customers."

But while Mandrell expects the organization's strategies to be fluid in an ever-changing marketplace, he insists the gospel message that anchors LifeWay's mission is unchanging.

"We want to celebrate the gospel of Jesus that has transformed our lives," Mandrell said.

"As long as we keep that the main thing and create resources where people in every part of the world can experience the life-changing power of the gospel, LifeWay will never be without work to do."

Aaron Wilson is a writer for LifeWay Christian Resources.

Church response

Despite most pastors having a personal experience with someone suffering from opioid abuse, Gallaty said many church leaders don't know where to start in responding to the opioid epidemic.

"Some pastors are at a loss to understand the issues surrounding personal struggles and don't have a plan of action to help those in need," he said.

Unfortunately, Gallaty said some pastors are dismissive of "those drug heads" from a certain area of their town, but he says that attitude is wrong for two reasons.

Being a college graduate with a full-time job and having a good home with hard-working parents means Gallaty didn't fit those stereotypes. "I never asked to be injured, nor did I intend to get addicted to pain medication," said the *Recovered* author. "Still, it happened to me, like it has to so many others."

Even more importantly, Gallaty said "those drug heads are sons and daughters of people in our congregations and communities. They are all made in the image of God and need to know that addiction, like any sin, can be broken through the healing power of the gospel."

According to the LifeWay Research study, most churches are trying to do something.

Around 4 in 5 pastors (82%) say their church currently serves people with opioid addiction by offering spiritual support including prayer or discipleship.

Close to half (46%) say they offer physical support including food, shelter or clothing, while slightly fewer (40%) offer a 12-step program or other support groups for substance abuse.

Around 1 in 8 pastors (13%) admit their church currently isn't doing any of those things for people with opioid addiction.

"When churches offer spiritual and physical help to those in their community,

they will meet people with many needs that go beyond those offerings," said McConnell. "Churches have a choice of whether they will address those more complex needs, connect the hurting with help elsewhere, or ignore the needs."

Larger churches—those with more resources and more personal connections to the crisis—are most likely to say they offer both spiritual and practical help for those with an opioid addiction.

Gallaty said one simple way churches can address the problem is by "educating our people on the dangers of addiction by talking about it publicly and preaching sermons about the topic. Pastors shouldn't shy away from it."

As people with addictions come to the attention of the church, however, Gallaty said congregations and leaders must be ready. "When people come to our churches as hospitals for healing, pastors should have a game plan to help them," he said.

FIRST-PERSON: Taking Every Thought Captive



by Robin Lee Covington

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (BP) -- Controlling my thoughts. Oh, how I've struggled through the years. Then God took me by the hand and taught me the importance of taking every thought captive. Honestly, I didn't believe I could do it. But I learned that in His strength, it was possible.

But it wasn't easy.

As a brand-new missionary, I basked in the glow of living out my dream of ministering overseas in Russia. I knew many faithful people were praying for me. Praying the prayer, "God bless and protect the missionaries."

Suddenly that glow shattered when two colleagues, a husband and wife, were murdered. Brutally and cruelly. I'll never forget the face of the young man who came to tell us that these precious servants had been found dead in their apartment.

My gut reaction was immediate. "God if this is what you sent me here for, I didn't sign up for this. I didn't come here to die!" And instantly, shame shattered my heart. I was appalled at my thoughts.

Goodness gracious, I had devoured missionary biographies as a youth. I'd forgotten that many of those stories spoke of hardship. Lottie Moon starved to death. William Carey's two wives both died in India, with his first wife suffering a complete mental breakdown. Jim Elliot died at the hands of the people he went to reach. Somehow, I'd skimmed over the stories of suffering and focused on the excitement. The excitement of how people's lives were changed as they came into a relationship with Jesus.

The truth was I didn't want to learn about the struggles.

God had another plan.

Within a few weeks, my family moved into the apartment where our colleagues had been murdered. And God taught me a lesson about taking every thought captive.

We moved into the furnished apartment. We walked the floors and sat on the furniture of our martyred colleagues. After we moved in, the local Russian police visited and said they couldn't protect us if we insisted on living there. But God gave our family an overwhelming peace about living in this apartment. We knew He put us in this home for a reason.

Most of the time, I didn't dwell on the murders.

Until nighttime.

Every night, I would sit down on my side of the bed and stare at the carpet under my feet. You see, I knew that spot was where the body of the murdered wife was discovered.

I'd lie down, and horrific images would flood my mind. Different scenarios of how this missionary woman struggled and fought her attacker replayed over and over in my thoughts. In my imagination, I felt her pain. Sleep evaded me. Sometimes I could barely breathe.

At the same time, my 9-year old daughter also struggled with her own fears. Learning a new language and culture, riding public transportation, missing America, all those things had already impacted my daughter's life.

As I searched for a way to help my daughter, God brought Philippians 4:8 to my mind.

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable -- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy -- think about

such things." (NIV)

My daughter and I began following the suggestions in this verse. Whenever frightening thoughts filled our minds, we would turn our focus to truth, the truth of God's Word. To lovely, excellent, and praiseworthy things. Most importantly, our hearts turned to God, our light in a dark world.

Finally, I once again slept peacefully. Scenes of violence no longer occupied my dreams. With God's help, I controlled my thoughts and dwelt on heavenly things.

Several months later, while stripping off wallpaper in my son's bedroom, I noticed tiny pink splatters on the wallpaper. I realized; it was blood. The blood of the murdered husband.

I know that contentment comes from a shift in attitude, not a change of circumstances. Oh, how I ached to change this circumstances. Yes, I would have preferred to live in a lovely, new apartment without bloodstains. But instead, God allowed me to walk where martyrs had walked. He used a painful circumstance to teach me a lesson about contentment and taking my thoughts captive.

Oh, the blessings God sent our way.

Out of that blood-stained apartment, many students came to know a Savior who shed His blood for their salvation.

And I learned the truth of Philippians 4:13: I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Even taking every thought captive.

Reprinted from Baptist Press (www.baptistpress.com), news service of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable -- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy -- think about such things." (NIV) Philippians 4:8

IMB, Billy Graham Center focus research, resources on rural churches stateside and abroad

By Julie McGowan

WHEATON, Ill.—The International Mission Board and the Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College's Rural Matters Institute have launched a five-year research project that aims to arm the rural church with resources needed to advance the gospel within and beyond the United States.

"The idea is to provide information that will benefit rural practitioners in the United States and around the world," said Dr. Jeffrey Clark, director of rural missiology and research for the IMB.

"This will involve research, writing, and training for rural practitioners. The goal is to provide information that will help rural practitioners be more effective in reaching their field for Christ."

John Brady, IMB's vice president of global engagement, signed the five-year memorandum of understanding with Dr. Ed Stetzer, executive director of the Billy Graham Center, and Dr. Josh Laxton, director of the Rural Matters Institute. RMI is an Institute of the Billy Graham Center that serves as a hub to bring together rural leaders, ministries, denominations, organizations, and advocates to resource and inspire those serving or praying about serving in rural ministry.

"Rural peoples are vital to the 21st century," Brady said. "They will continue to be producers of the food and other products that sustain life. Their spiritual health matters. We must seek effective avenues to reach rural peoples with the gospel and help them form healthy churches. This will change the spiritual health not only of our rural areas, but our cities as well."

Laxton said he couldn't be more excited about the partnership.

"Rural Matters Institute will partner and work with Jeff and the IMB on research that we believe will benefit and bless the pastor and church leader across the globe for greater gospel impact in rurality," he said.

"This joint work will benefit Southern Baptists as leading out in high-level, high-impact missiological, theological, and practical research to help craft the mission and vision for rural ministry in this generation and the next," he said.

'New Samaria'

"We often fail to realize that just because the percentage of urban dwellers is increasing, the overall rural population (at least outside of the U.S.) also continues to rise, as the global population exponentially rises," said Wilson Geisler, IMB's director of Global Research.

"I am also convinced that we should not overemphasize the urban at the expense of the rural. Both are extremely important for the spread of the gospel, as there will always be necessary and mutually beneficial connections between them," he said. "While there are often familial connections, there will always be transactional connections, as urban populations depend almost exclusively on rural products (produce, meat, etc.) for survival."

Laxton said that in recent months, he has been told that rural ministry is the "new Samaria," referencing Acts 1:8.

"It seems that no one wants to go and make such an area

Rural churches cont. on page 10

IMB values partnerships, Chitwood tells advocates

By Ann Lovell

RICHMOND, Va.—More than 155,000 people die daily without Christ. This is a harsh and unacceptable reality facing Southern Baptists, IMB President Paul Chitwood told a recent gathering of advocates near Richmond, Virginia. The lost — those living apart from a relationship with Christ — need people who will advocate on their behalf by praying, giving, going and sending.

The gathering, which included Baptist state executives, associational and WMU leaders, former missionaries, student leaders and representatives from other Baptist entities and churches across the United States, encouraged partnerships and networking for the sake of advocating for the lost around the world. IMB leaders shared the vision from Revelation 7:9 of "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."

The vision is "not one we crafted, but one placed in front of us through the revelation to John," Chitwood told the more than 250 gathered advocates.

"If we are to ever see the Great Commission completed toward the vision of a multitude from every tribe before the throne, then we must amplify our voices together," Chitwood said. "Using our voices, God can move professionals, students and retirees from the comfortably padded pews of U.S. churches into the presence of unreached people. Advocacy is how we unleash the body of Christ."

Michelle Chitwood, who shared the platform with her husband Paul during the opening session, compared advocacy for the lost to her role as a foster parent.

"When we were going through training to be a foster parent, our trainer told us a lot of people won't foster because it is hard," Michelle said. "The kids are traumatized, and they come with a whole lot of baggage. But being an advocate is when you stand in the gap, when you carry their hurt, when you carry the load they can't carry. You fight for them in court, and you fight for them in school."

Advocacy in missions is very similar, Michelle said. "Being an advocate for a missionary is one of the highest callings. It is living well."

"When we stand in the gap for our missionaries, we stand in the gap for a lost world," Chitwood agreed. "[Understanding my role as an advocate] changed my approach to everything. It changed my approach as an IMB trustee. It changed my approach to pastoring. It changed my approach to teaching seminary classes ... and it changed how I approached leading 2,400 churches" as executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

During the conference, IMB leaders presented different ways God has led IMB missionaries to engage the lost around the world and how believers in countries like the Philippines and South Korea are now sending their own missionaries.

Chitwood and other IMB leaders also emphasized the need for partnering churches to come alongside IMB personnel

Partnerships cont. on page 10



their home and, more importantly, their ministry,” he said. “And there is a great need to not only have leaders sent and plant their lives in forgotten places, but there is also great need to create a robust missiology for rurality. Therefore, our hope through this partnership is that God would use both the Billy Graham Center and the IMB to help spark and shape a flourishing future for rural ministry.”



In a village located outside of Phnom Penh, Cambodia, many people survive on income from growing a vegetable similar to watercress. A new research project will help encourage church planters seeking to serve in hard-to-reach places both in the United States and abroad. (IMB Photo)

but prime locations for opportunities.”

Clark, who joins the project from IMB’s Global Research Department, will work part time for IMB and part time for the Billy Graham Center for the duration of the project. He brings experience from the international mission field, the Montana Southern Baptist Convention, and the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists, along with church planter experience in Tennessee, Florida, and Michigan.

In a recent article, “[Redeeming Rural](#),” published by *Christianity Today*, Laxton contended that when strategic leaders and church-planting initiatives focus their resources on cities, those efforts create a vacuum of leadership, resources, and ministry-aid for rural areas.

As the project progresses, the data for the United States will be published on the [Rural Matters Institute](#) website. The project coordinators will continue to evaluate the most strategic outlet for disseminating the data for the

“It’s important for the church to reverse engineer such a negative mindset towards rural areas,” he said in the article. “Rural places do not need to be seen as places of inopportunity,

rest of the world.

Julie McGowan is associate vice president for communications & PR for the International Mission Board.

In Other News...

- ⇒ The **Annie Armstrong Easter Offering** hit an all-time high of \$62.2 million dollars this year. This is the third year in a row that the offering has set a new record. God’s provision through Southern Baptists is such a blessing. Utah-Idaho was one of 21 conventions to see an increase in giving to this offering.
- ⇒ Start making plans now to participate in **HARVEST BOISE**, May 1-3, 2020 at the Taco Bell Arena, BSU. Start praying now for the harvest that God is orchestrating. Praise God for the collaboration of more than 150 congregations across denominational lines. For more information go to boise.harvest.org.
- ⇒ Start inviting the youth of your church and community to attend **Ski and Share 2020**. The dates are March 6-8 in Burley, Idaho.

Partnerships cont...

to engage the unreached. IMB leaders encouraged church leaders and advocates to “lean on” the 175 years of field experience IMB offers as they seek to develop healthy partnerships around the world.

Daryl Cornett, Pastor of Aberdeen First Baptist Church of Aberdeen, North Carolina, tweeted during the gathering, “I’m encouraged greatly for the advance of the gospel through the IMB in the days ahead! A great heritage and an exciting future!”



Paul and Michelle Chitwood share the importance of advocating on behalf of a lost world with more than 250 people during a recent gathering of IMB advocates near Richmond, Virginia. (IMB photo by Nick Seitz)

as His mouthpiece, calling others to participate in fulfilling the vision of Revelation 7:9. God has equipped you to join Him in your praying, through your giving, your sending, and your going. You have a part to play in this task ... alongside everyone at your home church.

“Together we can do so much more than we could possibly do alone!” Chitwood said.

To learn more about becoming an IMB advocate, email info@imb.org.

“You have been given a voice, one designed to amplify the voice of Christ among the nations,” Chitwood told the group. “God has chosen to use you

Ann Lovell is editorial/design manager for the International Mission Board.

Cooperative Program Allocation Budget Receipts
Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee
September 2019

Cooperative Program Allocation Budget				
Contribution Sources	Current Month 2018-2019	Current Month 2017-2018	\$ Change from Prior Year	% Change from Prior Year
Alabama	1,368,413.54	1,835,900.29	(467,486.75)	(25.46)
Alaska	6,858.48	18,434.27	(11,575.79)	(62.79)
Arizona	94,094.20	91,247.21	2,846.99	3.12
Arkansas	873,012.28	755,405.74	117,606.54	15.57
California	183,288.85	169,589.94	13,698.91	8.08
Colorado	22,515.84	141,510.06	(118,994.22)	(84.09)
Dakota	5,505.82	10,215.59	(4,709.77)	(46.10)
D. C.*	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Florida	1,142,258.94	1,311,593.48	(169,334.54)	(12.91)
Georgia	1,418,007.04	1,011,636.08	406,370.96	40.17
Hawaii Pacific	16,282.12	16,869.17	(587.05)	(3.48)
Illinois	167,873.76	199,864.67	(31,990.91)	(16.01)
Indiana	48,223.98	80,270.46	(32,046.48)	(39.92)
Iowa	22,950.53	37,812.30	(14,861.77)	(39.30)
Kansas-Nebraska	57,648.62	57,440.69	207.93	0.36
Kentucky	864,733.78	1,060,604.36	(195,870.58)	(18.47)
Louisiana	556,841.29	560,379.87	(3,538.58)	(0.63)
Maryland-Delaware	114,299.66	134,947.97	(20,648.31)	(15.30)
Michigan	22,781.56	25,073.70	(2,292.14)	(9.14)
Minnesota-Wisconsin	22,032.38	28,109.58	(6,077.20)	(21.62)
Mississippi	983,381.25	981,787.98	1,593.27	0.16
Missouri	419,860.82	548,758.10	(128,897.28)	(23.49)
Montana	16,250.57	16,551.82	(301.25)	(1.82)
Nevada	42,690.94	46,683.46	(3,992.52)	(8.55)
New England	16,794.32	11,139.39	5,654.93	50.77
New Mexico	44,204.59	72,703.36	(28,498.77)	(39.20)
New York	0.00	39,525.89	(39,525.89)	(100.00)
North Carolina	908,941.50	1,066,568.39	(157,626.89)	(14.78)
Northwest	48,487.78	67,102.78	(18,615.00)	(27.74)
Ohio	74,515.31	149,209.08	(74,693.77)	(50.06)
Oklahoma	672,225.95	686,359.36	(14,133.41)	(2.06)
Pennsylvania-South Jersey	19,162.04	23,948.52	(4,786.48)	(19.99)
Puerto Rico	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
South Carolina	833,676.81	935,313.91	(101,637.10)	(10.87)
Tennessee	1,362,368.03	1,398,499.38	(36,131.35)	(2.58)
Texas - BGCT	749,243.50	816,561.79	(67,318.29)	(8.24)
Texas - SBTC	1,153,717.40	1,260,944.77	(107,227.37)	(8.50)
Utah - Idaho	15,282.50	15,314.94	(32.44)	(0.21)
Virginia - BGAV	24,949.04	48,946.97	(23,997.93)	(49.03)
Virginia - SBCV	370,563.52	319,001.22	51,562.30	16.16
West Virginia	35,857.60	44,675.94	(8,818.34)	(19.74)
Wyoming	8,605.14	11,667.03	(3,061.89)	(26.24)
Subtotal	<u>14,808,401.28</u>	<u>16,108,169.51</u>	<u>(1,299,768.23)</u>	<u>(8.07)</u>
Churches & Individuals	<u>451,222.64</u>	<u>384,190.71</u>	<u>67,031.93</u>	<u>17.45</u>
Grand Total:	<u>\$15,259,623.92</u>	<u>\$16,492,360.22</u>	<u>(\$1,232,736.30)</u>	<u>(7.47)</u>

*Final D.C. contribution received June, 2018

Designated Receipts
Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee
September 2019

Contribution Sources	Designated			
	Current Month 2018-2019	Current Month 2017-2018	\$ Change from Prior Year	% Change from Prior Year
Alabama	303,748.17	284,275.94	19,472.23	6.85
Alaska	3,475.69	2,939.86	535.83	18.23
Arizona	11,201.40	152,982.91	(141,781.51)	(92.68)
Arkansas	172,284.61	119,109.82	53,174.79	44.64
California	87,838.06	49,898.74	37,939.32	76.03
Colorado	15,117.13	68,262.62	(53,145.49)	(77.85)
Dakota	1,995.50	1,564.71	430.79	27.53
D. C. *	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Florida	235,958.89	288,320.79	(52,361.90)	(18.16)
Georgia	352,752.05	518,339.31	(165,587.26)	(31.95)
Hawaii Pacific	17,003.68	2,307.14	14,696.54	637.00
Illinois	25,714.96	33,601.55	(7,886.59)	(23.47)
Indiana	12,869.39	26,496.58	(13,627.19)	(51.43)
Iowa	4,052.40	6,675.34	(2,622.94)	(39.29)
Kansas-Nebraska	46,938.90	24,889.61	22,049.29	88.59
Kentucky	78,272.54	95,407.23	(17,134.69)	(17.96)
Louisiana	68,435.15	74,840.46	(6,405.31)	(8.56)
Maryland-Delaware	23,997.85	10,747.41	13,250.44	123.29
Michigan	4,136.95	9,035.50	(4,898.55)	(54.21)
Minnesota-Wisconsin	3,562.97	11,612.97	(8,050.00)	(69.32)
Mississippi	133,523.95	180,976.35	(47,452.40)	(26.22)
Missouri	134,152.96	206,519.24	(72,366.28)	(35.04)
Montana	2,373.46	2,710.00	(336.54)	(12.42)
Nevada	17,789.80	7,217.11	10,572.69	146.49
New England	5,073.31	1,486.73	3,586.58	241.24
New Mexico	58,632.53	108,534.23	(49,901.70)	(45.98)
New York	0.00	7,762.86	(7,762.86)	(100.00)
North Carolina	509,589.51	521,711.42	(12,121.91)	(2.32)
Northwest	16,111.30	13,649.82	2,461.48	18.03
Ohio	12,636.77	18,457.53	(5,820.76)	(31.54)
Oklahoma	84,620.24	81,533.89	3,086.35	3.79
Pennsylvania-South Jersey	4,041.55	7,592.78	(3,551.23)	(46.77)
Puerto Rico	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
South Carolina	223,580.53	202,549.83	21,030.70	10.38
Tennessee	454,013.63	292,896.61	161,117.02	55.01
Texas - BGCT	306,427.01	349,315.73	(42,888.72)	(12.28)
Texas - SBTC	159,143.92	173,088.76	(13,944.84)	(8.06)
Utah - Idaho	2,943.68	874.00	2,069.68	236.81
Virginia - BGAV	59,336.69	35,937.80	23,398.89	65.11
Virginia - SBCV	45,283.81	51,363.24	(6,079.43)	(11.84)
West Virginia	3,657.04	4,722.84	(1,065.80)	(22.57)
Wyoming	880.45	3,918.36	(3,037.91)	(77.53)
Subtotal	<u>3,703,168.43</u>	<u>4,054,127.62</u>	<u>(350,959.19)</u>	<u>(8.66)</u>
Churches & Individuals	<u>670,027.98</u>	<u>730,959.07</u>	<u>(60,931.09)</u>	<u>(8.34)</u>
Grand Total:	<u><u>\$4,373,196.41</u></u>	<u><u>\$4,785,086.69</u></u>	<u><u>(\$411,890.28)</u></u>	<u><u>(8.61)</u></u>

*Final D.C. contribution received June, 2018

Comparative Receipts
Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee
October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019

Contribution Sources	Cooperative Program Allocation Budget			Designated		
	Year to Date 2018-2019	Year to Date 2017-2018	% Change from Prior Year	Year to Date 2018-2019	Year to Date 2017-2018	% Change from Prior Year
Alabama	18,816,518.25	18,683,982.81	0.71	18,434,557.20	18,586,335.10	(0.82)
Alaska	156,171.87	228,297.14	(31.59)	209,785.91	210,873.78	(0.52)
Arizona	1,155,914.62	1,063,805.05	8.66	1,364,036.89	1,402,057.55	(2.71)
Arkansas	9,486,645.50	9,383,279.39	1.10	7,385,448.99	7,492,866.41	(1.43)
California	2,239,288.88	2,227,479.36	0.53	2,526,818.27	2,812,854.70	(10.17)
Colorado	650,544.64	648,149.86	0.37	647,398.94	721,230.07	(10.24)
Dakota	94,597.73	149,933.51	(36.91)	140,103.38	143,394.58	(2.30)
D. C.*	0.00	13,031.60	(100.00)	0.00	12,186.53	(100.00)
Florida	14,966,809.35	14,952,415.80	0.10	8,169,982.42	8,241,803.31	(0.87)
Georgia	16,174,800.63	16,211,061.66	(0.22)	15,993,052.65	17,411,058.51	(8.14)
Hawaii Pacific	244,988.73	351,405.29	(30.28)	308,747.53	496,079.07	(37.76)
Illinois	2,312,997.00	2,345,274.34	(1.38)	2,121,966.07	2,114,171.50	0.37
Indiana	812,509.12	958,710.90	(15.25)	895,442.58	885,163.77	1.16
Iowa	321,257.46	401,225.97	(19.93)	249,309.53	275,045.75	(9.36)
Kansas-Nebraska	803,808.84	794,774.57	1.14	946,846.81	926,715.85	2.17
Kentucky	9,865,588.33	10,534,508.91	(6.35)	7,639,988.76	7,685,865.17	(0.60)
Louisiana	6,838,064.26	7,030,905.47	(2.74)	6,042,051.79	5,860,052.10	3.11
Maryland-Delaware	1,686,659.23	1,619,255.90	4.16	1,388,151.08	1,399,251.02	(0.79)
Michigan	343,796.32	287,044.42	19.77	341,150.48	305,482.30	11.68
Minnesota-Wisconsin	233,099.31	226,268.70	3.02	232,837.64	262,116.33	(11.17)
Mississippi	12,318,599.09	11,743,071.57	4.90	12,542,869.64	12,211,562.51	2.71
Missouri	5,864,070.86	6,029,006.38	(2.74)	6,386,245.54	6,488,059.34	(1.57)
Montana	197,539.62	188,197.63	4.96	208,227.77	212,513.88	(2.02)
Nevada	623,419.52	589,193.56	5.81	251,960.73	236,618.51	6.48
New England	210,399.46	183,064.22	14.93	227,383.28	248,417.36	(8.47)
New Mexico	806,553.88	839,666.71	(3.94)	1,189,638.08	1,211,252.69	(1.78)
New York	223,748.00	246,980.91	(9.41)	362,663.68	340,918.32	6.38
North Carolina	11,621,226.37	11,884,483.61	(2.22)	19,698,458.86	20,151,258.54	(2.25)
Northwest	650,991.29	769,654.85	(15.42)	796,703.77	816,286.89	(2.40)
Ohio	2,079,821.24	2,116,798.35	(1.75)	1,506,294.31	1,400,727.90	7.54
Oklahoma	9,934,323.79	9,994,685.62	(0.60)	7,067,462.53	6,802,767.50	3.89
Pennsylvania-South Jersey	339,515.96	298,857.36	13.60	310,906.75	299,711.73	3.74
Puerto Rico	7,090.62	2,443.85	190.14	17,225.42	6,662.05	158.56
South Carolina	11,018,556.00	11,134,104.62	(1.04)	12,222,603.76	12,020,849.77	1.68
Tennessee	16,002,260.00	15,736,037.53	1.69	15,582,522.78	15,781,398.38	(1.26)
Texas - BGCT	10,208,418.63	10,168,205.48	0.40	12,962,267.56	13,546,620.78	(4.31)
Texas - SBTC	15,369,706.04	15,177,229.98	1.27	12,154,318.46	12,891,843.72	(5.72)
Utah - Idaho	211,675.57	200,645.96	5.50	300,025.35	301,150.64	(0.37)
Virginia - BGAV	823,067.69	812,792.56	1.26	3,104,173.60	3,402,596.02	(8.77)
Virginia - SBCV	4,620,757.74	4,405,521.14	4.89	4,875,535.81	4,812,606.96	1.31
West Virginia	522,680.36	515,174.92	1.46	493,448.04	526,418.98	(6.26)
Wyoming	108,920.78	111,360.76	(2.19)	120,704.25	123,304.65	(2.11)
Subtotal	<u>190,967,402.58</u>	<u>191,257,988.22</u>	<u>(0.15)</u>	<u>187,419,316.89</u>	<u>191,078,150.52</u>	<u>(1.91)</u>
Churches & Individuals	<u>5,764,300.86</u>	<u>5,786,839.92</u>	<u>(0.39)</u>	<u>4,276,236.86</u>	<u>3,707,384.62</u>	<u>15.34</u>
Grand Total:	<u><u>\$196,731,703.44</u></u>	<u><u>\$197,044,828.14</u></u>	<u><u>(0.16)</u></u>	<u><u>\$191,695,553.75</u></u>	<u><u>\$194,785,535.14</u></u>	<u><u>(1.59)</u></u>

*Final D.C. contribution received June, 2018

Designated Receipts
Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee
October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019

Contribution Sources	Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®		Annie Armstrong Easter Offering®		Other Designated	
	Year To Date		Year To Date		Year to Date	
	2018-2019	2017-2018	2018-2019	2017-2018	2018-2019	2017-2018
Alabama	10,905,665.91	11,982,063.84	6,879,029.05	5,952,924.62	649,862.24	651,346.64
Alaska	134,387.87	132,339.57	72,824.54	73,978.06	2,573.50	4,556.15
Arizona	937,222.84	918,670.15	416,406.29	467,451.15	10,407.76	15,936.25
Arkansas	5,014,200.97	5,222,078.04	1,985,923.52	1,986,684.83	385,324.50	284,103.54
California	1,780,487.56	2,041,253.91	720,629.39	743,304.51	25,701.32	28,296.28
Colorado	440,356.82	517,177.00	196,445.07	189,798.37	10,597.05	14,254.70
Dakota	94,180.03	96,277.70	45,923.35	46,537.08	0.00	579.80
D. C.*	0.00	8,287.53	0.00	2,009.00	0.00	1,890.00
Florida	5,237,619.22	5,238,503.20	2,392,281.81	2,440,643.95	540,081.39	562,656.16
Georgia	10,050,348.33	10,522,824.89	4,792,357.35	5,581,624.90	1,150,346.97	1,306,608.72
Hawaii Pacific	156,671.47	176,655.51	141,749.33	54,563.21	10,326.73	264,860.35
Illinois	1,330,808.31	1,269,585.00	716,708.10	755,504.99	74,449.66	89,081.51
Indiana	560,913.90	526,304.50	316,051.16	321,779.22	18,477.52	37,080.05
Iowa	155,729.69	198,984.36	91,281.69	71,066.77	2,298.15	4,994.62
Kansas-Nebraska	601,257.30	607,673.12	316,107.27	301,590.06	29,482.24	17,452.67
Kentucky	5,178,665.46	5,002,640.42	2,245,883.59	2,357,777.49	215,439.71	325,447.26
Louisiana	4,144,500.79	4,091,707.76	1,802,632.32	1,688,353.54	94,918.68	79,990.80
Maryland-Delaware	857,141.94	900,127.57	474,787.45	457,747.16	56,221.69	41,376.29
Michigan	193,324.22	183,078.76	136,179.87	123,611.09	11,646.39	(1,207.55)
Minnesota-Wisconsin	137,288.38	172,807.00	89,706.83	84,518.41	5,842.43	4,790.92
Mississippi	8,570,411.21	8,486,283.11	3,864,047.85	3,601,065.19	108,410.58	124,214.21
Missouri	4,022,364.01	4,008,985.00	2,164,169.96	2,246,534.19	199,711.57	232,540.15
Montana	130,565.38	144,733.52	74,575.17	60,617.34	3,087.22	7,163.02
Nevada	150,851.71	139,325.47	96,402.15	57,618.66	4,706.87	39,674.38
New England	141,781.07	155,231.09	82,007.55	88,810.60	3,594.66	4,375.67
New Mexico	956,734.47	919,366.40	212,077.19	271,705.99	20,826.42	20,180.30
New York	214,244.20	211,661.13	133,943.56	108,027.65	14,475.92	21,229.54
North Carolina	13,117,877.10	13,662,920.49	6,311,108.21	6,177,511.59	269,473.55	310,826.46
Northwest	507,146.34	517,649.85	264,625.38	276,323.09	24,932.05	22,313.95
Ohio	910,954.12	883,414.76	539,760.75	440,864.46	55,579.44	76,448.68
Oklahoma	5,145,926.54	4,977,442.13	1,817,580.62	1,725,361.82	103,955.37	99,963.55
Pennsylvania-South Jersey	185,000.70	176,672.37	116,786.88	108,517.82	9,119.17	14,521.54
Puerto Rico	11,478.28	6,662.05	5,747.14	0.00	0.00	0.00
South Carolina	8,298,321.84	8,077,980.09	3,620,654.55	3,616,133.96	303,627.37	326,735.72
Tennessee	10,389,108.76	10,316,196.31	4,495,672.33	4,733,410.80	697,741.69	731,791.27
Texas - BGCT	8,999,362.76	9,558,236.85	3,451,486.48	3,527,019.92	511,418.32	461,364.01
Texas - SBTC	9,133,695.10	9,619,190.77	2,877,919.51	3,003,777.48	142,703.85	268,875.47
Utah - Idaho	167,042.90	171,083.37	127,047.61	121,700.27	5,934.84	8,367.00
Virginia - BGAV	2,049,791.30	2,212,045.31	1,002,828.08	1,121,038.67	51,554.22	69,512.04
Virginia - SBCV	3,818,403.17	3,492,017.04	971,405.38	1,197,357.80	85,727.26	123,232.12
West Virginia	275,105.54	319,075.17	204,223.38	195,388.87	14,119.12	11,954.94
Wyoming	75,957.33	74,346.14	41,311.46	43,298.08	3,435.46	5,660.43
Subtotal	<u>125,182,894.84</u>	<u>127,939,558.25</u>	<u>56,308,289.17</u>	<u>56,423,552.66</u>	<u>5,928,132.88</u>	<u>6,715,039.61</u>
Churches & Individuals	<u>1,169,472.59</u>	<u>710,991.87</u>	<u>618,885.02</u>	<u>244,665.75</u>	<u>2,487,879.25</u>	<u>2,751,727.00</u>
Grand Total:	<u>\$126,352,367.43</u>	<u>\$128,650,550.12</u>	<u>56,927,174.19</u>	<u>\$56,668,218.41</u>	<u>\$8,416,012.13</u>	<u>\$9,466,766.61</u>

*Final D.C. contribution received June, 2018

**Accumulative Distribution
Cooperative Program Allocation Budget/Designated Receipts
Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee
as of September 30, 2019**

	Current Month			Year to Date		
	CP Allocation Budget	Designated	Total	CP Allocation Budget	Designated	Total
International Mission Board	\$7,774,054.32	\$2,386,414.31	\$10,160,468.63	\$99,254,129.66	\$131,992,333.65	\$231,246,463.31
North American Mission Board	3,477,668.28	\$1,919,951.71	5,397,619.99	\$44,835,155.20	\$58,704,929.29	103,540,084.49
Total World Mission Ministries	11,251,722.60	4,306,366.02	15,558,088.62	144,089,284.86	190,697,262.94	334,786,547.80
Gateway Seminary	307,682.32	\$1,245.75	308,928.07	\$3,966,733.77	\$12,010.45	3,978,744.22
Midwestern Seminary	493,167.05	\$1,589.57	494,756.62	\$6,358,059.34	\$16,935.51	6,374,994.85
New Orleans Seminary	554,174.65	\$1,852.56	556,027.21	\$7,144,587.65	\$17,299.41	7,161,887.06
Southeastern Seminary	594,481.60	\$4,515.37	598,996.97	\$7,664,237.19	\$34,883.55	7,699,120.74
Southern Seminary	802,892.12	\$5,260.48	808,152.60	\$10,351,128.85	\$37,632.61	10,388,761.46
Southwestern Seminary	592,511.85	\$8,586.54	601,098.39	\$7,638,842.58	\$46,866.66	7,685,709.24
Historical Library and Archives	36,623.10	\$44.78	36,667.88	\$472,156.08	\$634.36	472,790.44
	0.00					
Total Theological Education Ministries	3,381,532.69	23,095.05	3,404,627.74	43,595,745.46	166,262.55	43,762,008.01
Ethics & Religious Liberty Comm	251,783.80	\$2,295.85	254,079.65	\$3,246,073.13	\$12,805.85	3,258,878.98
GuideStone Financial Resources	0.00	\$4,648.41	4,648.41	\$0.00	\$37,758.42	37,758.42
Executive Committee and SBC Operating	374,584.83	\$36,791.08	411,375.91	\$5,800,599.99	\$781,463.99	6,582,063.98
Miscellaneous	0.00	\$0.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00
Total Other Ministries	626,368.63	43,735.34	670,103.97	9,046,673.12	832,028.26	9,878,701.38
Grand Totals	\$15,259,623.92	\$4,373,196.41	\$19,632,820.33	\$196,731,703.44	\$191,695,553.75	\$388,427,257.19