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## **2019 GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- 1. *Relative to the listed Ministry Assignment, please describe accomplishments in the past year that create "value added" to the Cooperative Program dollars that IMB receives.***

**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.**

In time of increased global tensions, the IMB has seen meaningful advance in the Great Commission task in partnership with SBC churches, conventions and other Southern Baptist institutions. We have been blessed by an increase in the total number of IMB longterm and midterm missionaries serving among unreached people and places. This positive increase has been made possible by the faithfulness of brothers and sisters in SBC churches to pray, give, send, and go.

Opposition and tensions related to the missionary task in large parts of the world are requiring strategies to be adjusted. Both the development of Scripture resources for proclamation and the direct entry of our workers continue in spite of changing realities. Evangelism is a constant priority in both places where the Gospel takes root quickly and also in places that require persistent and repeated efforts to establish the Gospel in the hearts and lives of people. The IMB is grateful to the Lord that advances have been noted in both types of places.

Discipleship is integral in the entire missionary task but is best begun as churches are forming. We are also grateful for advances in new churches that have discipleship as a key characteristic. Advanced discipleship is key to training and developing local leaders who are essential for the sustained health, growth, and multiplication of churches. Reports from IMB workers and local partners indicate that updated foundations for training are being received as helpful and clarifying to the work of planting healthy multiplying churches by local leaders globally. Many of our local partners are excited by the energy that this training is producing, specifically in the leaders of churches. We are praying that renewed passion and focus will result in stronger, more vibrant churches, both those that are long established and new churches as well.

In the area of partnering in the Great Commission, there has been a great response from sister Baptist conventions who are desiring to join the process of sending missionaries. An increasing number of requests for consultations with these partners are being received as they develop capacity and partnerships in and among their churches for the purpose of sending missionaries.

Some have already begun to send. Three Baptist conventions who have been sending for some time have re-invited the IMB to partner with them for the advance of the Great Commission.

Our SBC missionaries are involved in demanding work around the world as we carry out the missionary task which is defined by six components: entry, evangelism, discipleship, formation of healthy multiplying churches, leadership development, and exit to Great Commission partnership. In order for the Gospel to cross political, cultural, linguistic, economic, and spiritual barriers we are privileged to partner together with SBC churches and sister SBC organizations to see the missionary task carried out among unreached peoples and places for the glory of God. This partnership begins and grows out of each SBC church that chooses to partner together in response to the Great Commission that our Lord has given us.

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

During 2018, IMB partnered with thousands of Southern Baptist churches, assisted in the development of mission strategies, provided training for pastors and mission leaders, and helped churches strengthen field partnerships to see disciples made and healthy churches established among unreached peoples and places for the glory of God.

In 2018, Southern Baptist churches sent 177 new career/long-term missionaries and 190 new mid-term missionaries (terms less than three years) through the IMB. Additional team associate missionaries were sent through our newly developed pathways: the Global Cities Initiative (GCI) and the Direct Funded Option (DFO). IMB sent 50 missionaries through these pathways to join missionary teams around the world.

IMB Training has redesigned and streamlined our missionary training so that Southern Baptist missionaries and volunteers can be equipped as excellently and efficiently as possible to enable them to get to the field as quickly as possible so they can fulfill their calling. We have also streamlined the processing of missionary applicants, removing all unnecessary time constraints and delays so they can stay focused on getting quickly to the field.

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

At the 2018 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Dallas, the IMB invited every Southern Baptist church to join their fellow churches in the convention in international missions under IMB's new 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.

In our promotion of the 2018 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® (LMCO), we reinforced how every dollar given by Southern Baptists supports the work of more than 3,600 International Mission Board personnel on the mission field. Through resource kits sent to thousands of pastors, we 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 December 2-9, 2018. The week of prayer focused on the faithfulness of churches of all sizes and ethnicities engaged in missions, as well as the work of teams engaged in the Americas, Sub-Saharan Africa, and many other places in the world. Southern Baptists celebrated with thankfulness the second-highest Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, with a total of \$158.9 million sacrificially given. In addition, during 2018, 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 Dallas, IMB distributed more than 8,000 people group-specific prayer cards, and messengers prayed for the lost during the IMB Sending Celebration. Since June, churches and state conventions have used those cards and other resources to pray for the unreached and unengaged people of the world.

In October 2018, IMB conducted the first "Every Church, Every Nation" Summit in Woodstock, Georgia. In never-before-seen numbers, more than 130 active IMB field personnel joined with leaders from several hundred partnering churches, associations, and state conventions to discuss more effective field partnership, strategy, and cooperation in fulfilling the Great Commission. IMB celebrated in sharing more than 500 requests for new ways to partnership via field-sourced projects oriented around praying, giving, and going.

IMB equips churches with essential tools for raising up faithful cross-cultural workers. This includes the foundational understanding for the biblical purpose of missions, effective discipleship, and mission team preparation for cross-cultural witness. This year IMB distributed more than 12,000 copies of a "Foundations" magazine detailing those fundamentals.

We launched new training tools, including a six-week training course for short-term missions, which has been made available for free to all Southern Baptist churches. Over the course of the year, IMB utilized numerous social platforms and events to promote these valuable, practical, current, and culturally-informed resources.

IMB developed a Partner Hub website to inform and equip advocates who mobilize SBC churches on behalf of the IMB. In its first iteration, many IMB trustees, missionary alumni, donors, associational mission strategists, and state convention leaders committed to leverage the platform to both increase and improve the engagement of our churches in praying, giving, and going.

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 groups. In 2018, 177 full-time, fully funded missionaries were sent — over 350 including midterm personnel — with many celebrated among thousands of Southern Baptist messengers at the June Sending Celebration conducted during the SBC annual meeting in Dallas.

IMB launched a new website detailing ways Southern Baptists can go to the nations, and the new sending/application process. The IMB website ([www.imb.org](http://www.imb.org)) is being refurbished to enhance user experience in exploring the options and processes to go through the IMB. This includes short-term trips, as well as roles for those being called to join teams in fully funded positions. Audiences

increasingly are becoming digital-first in their engagement with the IMB, and our on-ramp to the missionary pipeline must be bolstered to improve the user journey.

**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 comes alongside and partners with the IMB and its personnel to help implement mercy ministries responding to acute human needs resulting from man-made and natural disasters as well as addressing chronic, long-term needs from things such as hunger, poverty, and poor health. In 2018, the IMB, with the assistance of BGR, implemented 317 relief and development projects in 66 countries worldwide. A total of \$7.95 M was appropriated for these projects. Almost 1.2 M people were helped physically and spiritually through these projects. 184,051 people received access to clean drinking water during this year. 73,619 received some form of healthcare treatment either after a disaster or as a part of a long-term program. 163,265 received help with food needs mainly after disasters. 29,549 children received education and nutrition assistance so that they could attend school. 3,979 farmers and farm families were helped with either livestock or seed distribution. 373 microenterprise/small business were started. After or during disasters, BGR helped to distribute non-food items as well as 4,381 shelters (transitional), 7 blankets, 1,434 family cooking sets, and heating/cooking fuel assistance to 19,439 people. Human needs ministries and strategies continue to play an important role for 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.

- 2. Based on the listed Ministry Assignment, what opportunities or challenges do you see on the horizon from 2019 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.**

A major challenge faced in the world in which we live and work is an increasingly hostile environment to Christian witness and the presence of missionaries. Therefore, the IMB must be creative in how we access these unreached peoples and places in order to place field personnel in a position where they not only have access but are in a position to communicate a gospel witness in a language and manner that will challenge people to make a response. This requires us to channel much of our work through national partners who have access to the unreached populations.

In spite of the persecution of the local church and the many limitations on the placement of missionaries, opportunities abound as we are seeing a growing openness around the world to the gospel of Jesus Christ. World conflict and turmoil have left many populations in a position where many of the crutches of their world have been removed and they are now seeking meaning and purpose that transcends culture and tradition. Therefore, we have to be bold, yet wise, as we

encounter these populations with the gospel and provide follow up for discipleship, leadership development, and church planting.

The world refugee crisis continues to grow and become more challenging and complicated. Conflicts lead to much of these migrations, such as in several locations of northern Africa, but can also result from famine and economic deprivation. The allocation of missionary resources to this need has been a priority, along with the mobilization and equipping of national partners with access to these populations. An example is the training of refugees in the camps of a nearby country who can then travel back to their homeland to share the gospel and strengthen churches. Although missionaries are not able to live longterm (or sometimes even travel) inside the homeland, these partners are able to travel with and provide the witness and encouragement in these war torn areas.

As churches around the world mature, they are embracing their role in the Great Commission. The IMB has a unique opportunity to coach and mentor these partners as they engage the unreached and start multiplying churches. Of special note is the leveraging of our 173 years of experience to assist these partners in establishing their own missions sending avenues, and at times welcoming their missionaries on our teams to mentor and coach them in the missionary task. The investment in this generation of national partner missionaries will lead to an ever expanding missionary force from the majority world, a world with access to countries and peoples inaccessible to the missionary with a USA passport.

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

We now have more fully-funded open missionary positions than we have candidates in the missionary pipeline. We need to deepen our relationships with churches and other SBC entities to ensure that we are able to fill as many missionary slots as we can fund.

**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. In a growing number of churches, missions is an identity of the church led by its pastor, not simply an out-sourced activity to the IMB. This is a wonderful, biblically founded change; but it also means the IMB is one of many options 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 must 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.

To aid in these goals, a new Partner Relations Director was hired to bring an enhanced customer relationship management strategy to our Southern Baptist constituents (primarily churches) and to better utilize technology to improve the ways we serve churches. We added several positions to the Church Success Center in Richmond and on the Partner Relations and Ministry Advancement teams in strategic markets across the country to increase our "local" footprint as we seek more effective engagement and relationship-building. We are enlisting the help of our best advocates to leverage

their relationships and our Partner Hub platform for enhanced communication and service levels over the coming years.

SBC demographics mirror those of most major organizations, and, therefore, we see the IMB balancing its marketing and engagement strategy for both traditional audiences and those who are more tech-focused, including the growing consumption of news and information on mobile devices. Mobilization has ramped up its strategy to assess, develop, and deploy resources to mobilize the current and next generation of Southern Baptists. As we produce more bite-sized next steps to get involved, we will continuously evaluate our use of print, digital, and event channels for effectiveness in increased involvement in missions.

**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.**

Physical needs around the world will only increase in the coming year. At least 120 IMB teams will engage directly in physical ministries, disaster relief, and community development. Such ministries not only meet human physical need, but also provide significant opportunity for sharing the gospel. Such opportunities will continue to be realized in the days to come.