

GUEST OPINION: The Buck Stops With Us

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Editor's Note: April 25 is Cooperative Program Sunday across the Southern Baptist Convention.



Blythe

JESUS CHRIST said, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation" (Mark 16:15 NASB). The Lord Jesus charged His followers with the task of sharing the Good News about Christ with the communities, cities, countries, and continents of the world.

It is **CRITICAL** for every believer and every church to do their part in obedience to Christ and accept the responsibility to reach this generation with the Gospel. This includes giving to missions.

Every year, pastors along with church budget and finance teams have to make hard decisions when formulating the church budget for the upcoming church year. What is a church to do when money is tight? Where can they cut back and bring the budget in line with anticipated revenue? Sometimes the first place they consider reducing is the percentage given through the COOPERATIVE PROGRAM. This should be the last option and not the first option, because the COOPERATIVE PROGRAM is the unified plan through which cooperating churches give a

percentage of undesignated receipts in support of their respective state convention and Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) missions and ministries.

When considering reducing missions giving, think about the 3,619 missionaries the COOPERATIVE PROGRAM supports across the globe. Consider the 3,056 unengaged, unreached people groups in the world and the need to take the Gospel to them so they can hear the Good News of Jesus.

I hope you agree that we should be doing more and giving more in order to reach more.



Many mission enterprises are worthy of support but none are as **COMPREHENSIVE** as the COOPERATIVE PROGRAM. The worldwide impact of the COOPERATIVE PROGRAM is nothing short of astounding. Every day bad news floods television and radio, but imagine how bad things would be if there had been no COOPERATIVE PROGRAM.

On both the international and national scene, people are coming to faith in Christ, children who find themselves without a home are housed and fed, families are restored, and the sick are being cared for.

Ministry opportunities abound for students on Mississippi Baptist colleges and university campuses, as well as Southern Baptist seminaries across the country. Inmates in our own state are able to hear a Gospel witness and many are coming to faith in Christ.

Future pastors, missionaries, and church leaders are receiving Biblical and theological education and training at those colleges, universities, and seminaries. New churches have

risen across the landscape. Revitalization of churches is occurring, and the excitement of realizing they can reach their community fills believers with hope for the future.

Dying churches have risen like the phoenix from the ashes to emerge stronger than before, and once again they can feel the breath of the Spirit of God in their midst. The COOPERATIVE PROGRAM makes all these good things possible.

The simple fact that the sun never sets on the COOPERATIVE PROGRAM should cause every Southern Baptist to praise the LORD for revealing to our Baptist ancestors this strategy of fulfilling the Great Commission found in Matt. 28:18-20.

When U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt died in office in 1945, Vice-President Harry Truman became our nation's 33rd president. Truman kept a sign on his desk in the Oval Office that said, "The buck stops here." He understood the President of the United States has to make hard decisions and must accept ultimate responsibility for those decisions.

The COOPERATIVE PROGRAM remains the best way to stretch every church's missional buck to help fulfill the Great Commission found in Matt. 28:18-20. If we do not give and go to reach our generation, who will?

It is our time to shoulder the responsibility of taking the Gospel to the lost. Let us say, **THE BUCK STOPS HERE** and not **PASS THE BUCK!**

For more information on the Mississippi Cooperative Program and to download promotional resources, visit <https://www.mbc.org/what-is-cp/cp-resources/>. E-mail: lleavell@mbcb.org. Telephone: (601) 292-3347.

For more information on the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program, visit <https://www.sbc.net/missions/the-cooperative-program/>.

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TOP 25 GIFTS TO THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM BY REGION

AT LARGE		REGION 1		REGION 2	
CHURCH /ASSOCIATION	CP GIFTS	CHURCH /ASSOCIATION	CP GIFTS	CHURCH /ASSOCIATION	CP GIFTS
HARVEST CHURCH/AT LARGE	\$13,881.00	EMMANUEL CHURCH/NORTH CENTRAL	\$173,275.88	HARRISBURG CHURCH/LEE	\$437,300.00
THE WAY CHURCH/AT LARGE	\$12,920.24	NORTH GREENWOOD CHURCH/MID-DELTA	\$136,925.69	FAIRVIEW CHURCH/GOLDEN TRIANGLE	\$359,825.06
REDEMPTION CHURCH/AT LARGE	\$8,469.96	FIRST CHURCH CLEVELAND/MID-DELTA	\$129,048.92	FIRST CHURCH STARKVILLE/GOLDEN TRIANGLE	\$310,614.73
REDEEMER CHURCH/AT LARGE	\$6,400.00	FIRST CHURCH WINONA/MONTGOMERY	\$117,136.93	CALVARY CHURCH/LEE	\$289,092.06
MERCY HILL CHURCH/AT LARGE	\$5,897.62	FIRST CHURCH GREENVILLE/MID-DELTA	\$116,623.01	NORTH OXFORD CHURCH/COLLABORATIVE MN	\$243,326.17
CRISTO VIVE MISSION/AT LARGE	\$5,687.89	FIRST CHURCH GRENADA/NORTH CENTRAL	\$91,066.21	FIRST CHURCH BATESVILLE/PANOLA	\$226,056.37
BRIDGEWAY CHURCH/AT LARGE	\$3,000.00	OAKHURST CHURCH/NORTH DELTA	\$54,391.69	FIRST BAPTIST CORINTH/ALCORN	\$215,434.23
PRIMERA PANOLA MISSION BAUTISTA/AT LARGE	\$2,460.35	CARROLLTON CHURCH/CARROLL	\$52,503.83	LONGVIEW POINT CHURCH/X-TENDED MISSION	\$205,637.84
CONNECT CHURCH/AT LARGE	\$2,095.35	FRIENDSHIP CHURCH/NORTH CENTRAL	\$51,525.23	FIRST CHURCH OXFORD/COLLABORATIVE MN	\$202,683.67
IGLESIA INTERNACIONAL LAS AMERICAS/AT LARGE	\$1,950.53	VAIDEN CHURCH/CARROLL	\$49,909.36	DESOTO HILLS CHURCH/X-TENDED MISSION	\$197,123.71
METRO GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH/AT LARGE	\$1,850.00	FIRST CHURCH WATER VALLEY/YALOBUSHA	\$48,000.00	FIRST CHURCH COLUMBUS/GOLDEN TRIANGLE	\$179,348.78
CALVARY CHRISTIAN OAK FOREST/AT LARGE	\$1,804.51	FIRST CHURCH INDIANOLA/MID-DELTA	\$42,253.93	WEST HEIGHTS CHURCH/PONTOTOC	\$177,122.79
JESUS IS MY REFUGE CHURCH/AT LARGE	\$1,596.01	BETHSAIDA CHURCH/MONTGOMERY	\$32,423.37	FIRST CHURCH TUPELO/LEE	\$159,713.66
SOUL CITY CHURCH/AT LARGE	\$1,378.37	FIRST CHURCH BELZONI/HUMPHREYS	\$31,851.74	FIRST CHURCH AMORY/MONROE	\$158,996.72
THE GATHERING/AT LARGE	\$1,369.68	CORNERSTONE CHURCH/WASHINGTON	\$31,809.02	FIRST CHURCH NEW ALBANY/UNION CO	\$138,169.59
LEGACY CHURCH/AT LARGE	\$1,254.66	EASTSIDE CHURCH/HUMPHREYS	\$31,083.77	FIRST CHURCH SENATOBIA/X-TENDED MISSION	\$129,093.56
EVERGREEN KOREAN CHURCH/AT LARGE	\$1,200.00	FIRST CHURCH GREENWOOD/MID-DELTA	\$30,644.74	LABELLE HAVEN CHURCH/X-TENDED MISSION	\$123,137.08
CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH/AT LARGE	\$1,200.00	CLARKSDALE CHURCH/NORTH DELTA	\$29,034.68	MEADOWOOD CHURCH/MONROE	\$116,298.93
CROSSPOINTE COMMUNITY CHURCH/AT LARGE	\$1,000.00	KILMICHAEL CHURCH/MONTGOMERY	\$27,946.57	FIRST CHURCH PONTOTOC/PONTOTOC	\$114,999.96
CALVARY CHURCH/AT LARGE	\$1,000.00	IMMANUEL CHURCH/MID-DELTA	\$27,745.38	OAKLAND CHURCH/ALCORN	\$108,155.08
IGLESIA EL BUEN PASTOR/AT LARGE	\$885.00	ROUNDWAY CHURCH/MID-DELTA	\$22,027.40	FIRST CHURCH RIPLEY/BENTON-TIPPAH	\$107,784.77
IGLESIA BAPTISTE ROSELAND PARK/AT LARGE	\$884.05	FIRST CHURCH CHARLESTON/NORTH CENTRAL	\$21,408.79	WHEELER GROVE CHURCH/ALCORN	\$105,871.56
HATTIESBURG KOREAN CHURCH/AT LARGE	\$600.00	FIRST CHURCH LAMBERT/NORTH DELTA	\$20,769.65	HILLCREST CHURCH/UNION CO	\$98,534.10
PROVIDENCE CHURCH/AT LARGE	\$600.00	SKENE CHURCH/MID-DELTA	\$20,215.37	FIRST CHURCH WEST POINT/GOLDEN TRIANGLE	\$94,369.87
CROSSLIFE CHURCH/AT LARGE	\$542.71	EASTWOOD CHURCH/MID-DELTA	\$18,508.09	WEST JACKSON STREET CHURCH/LEE	\$77,400.00

REGION 3		REGION 4		REGION 5	
CHURCH /ASSOCIATION	CP GIFTS	CHURCH /ASSOCIATION	CP GIFTS	CHURCH /ASSOCIATION	CP GIFTS
FIRST CHURCH JACKSON/METRO	\$730,839.21	FIRST CHURCH KOSCIUSKO/ATTALA	\$163,960.13	FIRST CHURCH SUMMIT/PIKE	\$294,680.47
FIRST CHURCH MADISON/METRO	\$508,519.58	FIRST CHURCH MERIDIAN/LAUDERDALE	\$135,695.02	FIRST CHURCH LAUREL/JONES	\$278,318.20
MORRISON HEIGHTS CHURCH/METRO	\$393,136.04	POPULAR SPRINGS DRIVE CHURCH/LAUDERDALE	\$134,251.84	TEMPLE CHURCH/PINE BELT	\$200,000.04
BROADMOOR CHURCH/METRO	\$362,600.00	FIRST CHURCH PHILADELPHIA/NESHOMA	\$127,450.26	FIRST CHURCH COLUMBIA/MARION	\$185,330.53
FIRST CHURCH BRANDON/RANKIN	\$311,923.02	FIRST CHURCH COLLINSVILLE/LAUDERDALE	\$105,112.79	PETAL/HARVEY CHURCH/PINE BELT	\$172,613.00
FIRST CHURCH BROOKHAVEN/LINCOLN	\$239,427.80	FIRST CHURCH NEWTON/NEWTON	\$103,596.90	FIRST CHURCH PFKATLINE/PEARL RIVER	\$169,197.26
FIRST CHURCH CLINTON/METRO	\$235,296.23	CLARKE VENABLE CHURCH/NEWTON	\$96,531.86	CARTERSVILLE CHURCH/PINE BELT	\$145,643.06
BRANDON CHURCH/RANKIN	\$235,207.67	MIDWAY CHURCH/LAUDERDALE	\$88,200.12	FIRST CHURCH GULFPORT/GULF COAST	\$120,165.53
FIRST CHURCH FANNING/RANKIN	\$212,967.62	FIRST CHURCH QUITMAN/CLARKE	\$85,566.15	BUNKER HILL CHURCH/MARION	\$112,429.65
FIRST CHURCH NATCHEZ/ADAMS	\$157,629.02	NORTHCREST CHURCH/LAUDERDALE	\$84,410.25	FIRST CHURCH ELLISVILLE/JONES	\$99,325.72
PINELAKE CHURCH/RANKIN	\$150,000.00	FIRST CHURCH LOUISVILLE/WINSTON	\$80,751.01	FIRST CHURCH BILLOX/GULF COAST	\$95,642.87
HICKORY RIDGE CHURCH/RANKIN	\$145,144.31	HIGHLAND CHURCH/LAUDERDALE	\$76,827.86	FIRST CHURCH WAYNESBORO/WAYNE	\$89,913.96
FIRST CHURCH FLORA/METRO	\$135,317.10	FOREST CHURCH/SCOTT	\$71,059.42	FIRST CHURCH SUMRALL/LAMAR	\$84,799.40
FIRST CHURCH WICKSBURG/WARREN	\$133,243.58	HICKORY CHURCH/NEWTON	\$58,971.60	FIRST CHURCH LONG BEACH/GULF COAST	\$83,521.31
PARKWAY CHURCH/METRO	\$127,050.00	FIRST CHURCH UNION/NEWTON	\$55,250.94	MACEDONIA CHURCH/PINE BELT	\$78,697.00
FIRST CHURCH MAGEE/SIMPSON	\$118,943.25	RUSSELL CHURCH/LAUDERDALE	\$53,817.61	WOOLMARKET CHURCH/GULF COAST	\$77,382.05
FIRST CHURCH MENDENHALL/SIMPSON	\$104,005.99	FELLOWSHIP CHURCH/LAUDERDALE	\$52,836.57	WADE CHURCH/JACKSON	\$76,851.91
FIRST CHURCH RAYMOND/METRO	\$100,000.00	NEW HOPE CHURCH/LAUDERDALE	\$51,276.90	INDIAN SPRINGS CHURCH/JONES	\$76,388.24
FIRST CHURCH FLORENCE/RANKIN	\$91,666.74	ENTERPRISE CHURCH/CLARKE	\$50,504.96	FIRST CHURCH PASCAGOULA/JACKSON	\$76,373.40
MEADOW GROVE CHURCH/RANKIN	\$90,105.50	WILLIAMSVILLE CHURCH/ATTALA	\$47,288.93	FIRST CHURCH PETAL/PINE BELT	\$68,895.79
FIRST CHURCH RICHLAND/RANKIN	\$88,498.60	FIRST CHURCH LAKE/SCOTT	\$45,809.94	FIRST CHURCH WIGGINS/GULF COAST	\$67,090.00
COLONIAL HEIGHTS CHURCH/METRO	\$85,301.08	EAST PHILADELPHIA CHURCH/NESHOMA	\$38,011.49	WEST MCCOMB CHURCH/PIKE	\$66,656.57
BRIAR HILL CHURCH/RANKIN	\$81,417.00	FAITH CHURCH MERIDIAN/LAUDERDALE	\$33,767.07	ROSELAND PARK CHURCH/PEARL RIVER	\$65,793.38
MCLAURIN HEIGHTS CHURCH/RANKIN	\$78,632.90	NOXAPATER CHURCH/WINSTON	\$32,807.15	FIRST CHURCH LUCEDALE/GEORGE-GREENE	\$62,988.00
PARK PLACE CHURCH/RANKIN	\$78,264.35		\$32,753.51	JOURNEY CHURCH/JONES	\$62,617.10

Top 25 GiftsDownload