



**COOPERATIVE
PROGRAM**



MISSOURI BAPTISTS

Transforming lives and
communities with the gospel



**7 Ways Your Tithes
and Offerings Go
Around the World –
and Come Back Home**

Learn more about the
Cooperative Program at
mobaptist.org/cp

When you give to your local church, an amazing thing happens: Your generosity radiates into your community, across North America, and around the world – and then comes back to you. You're a true influencer for the kingdom of God, and your local church is engaged in a divine mission to reach every person for Christ.

How is that possible? Because your church partners with nearly 1,800 other Missouri Baptist churches in a funding process called the Cooperative Program, or CP. Southern Baptists started CP in 1925 to carry out the Great Commission at the state, national, and international levels.

How does the Cooperative Program work? It begins with you – your tithes and offerings to your local church. Your church, in turn, shares a portion of its annual budget through CP, sending that portion to the Missouri Baptist Convention (MBC), where it is gathered with the CP giving of other MBC-affiliated churches.

The MBC invests 62 percent of all CP giving in Missouri missions and related causes, such as the Missouri Baptist Children's Home, The Baptist Home, and Christian higher education, and sends the rest to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

The SBC uses CP funds from Missouri and 40 other state conventions – more than 47,000 churches combined – to support nearly 9,000 full-time missionaries, six seminaries, church planting, disaster relief, and more.

None of this Great Commission work is possible without you and your local church. Through the Cooperative Program, you and your church are the hands and feet of Jesus across our state and around the world.

You may be thinking: *That's great, but how does the Cooperative Program benefit my church?*

1 CP enables your church to participate with other like-minded churches. Nearly 1,800 Missouri Baptist churches and 47,000 Southern Baptist churches work together for the sake of the gospel. Your church's messengers determine where and how CP funds are invested as they vote at the MBC and SBC Annual Meetings.

2 CP makes every church member a missionary. While God has not called most of us to full-time vocational missions, He instructs us to pray for and financially support those who are called in this way. You are a true partner in global missions.

3 CP equips your church to financially support state, national, and international missions. You're helping place nearly 9,000 full-time missionaries on the field around the world, plus several dozen in Missouri.

4 CP gives your church an efficient channel for missions. Your church's gifts are combined with the CP giving of thousands of other churches. Administrative costs to collect and distribute these funds are kept very low so that more of your gifts go exactly where you intend them to go.

5 CP ensures your church of an equitable share in a large program. No single church – no matter how large – is big enough to send out all the missionaries needed to fulfill the Great Commission. At the same time, no church is too small to make an impact. We need each other, and CP gives every church the opportunity to make a difference for Christ.

6 CP heightens your awareness of mission causes. You understand how your gifts promote evangelism, church planting, disaster relief, hunger ministry, foster care, rescue from human trafficking, Christian higher education, and much more. It even encourages many Missouri Baptists to engage in short-term mission trips where they see first-hand how their gifts help transform lives and communities with the gospel.

7 CP funds come back to your church. Your church receives a variety of free or low-cost resources: training and deployment in disaster relief; access to statewide evangelism and discipleship events; personal consultations with MBC missionaries tailored to your church's needs; help with transitional pastor needs, church revitalization, and much more. And that's not all. For pastors and eligible non-ministerial staff, the MBC provides complimentary life and disability insurance – even supplementary contributions to your pastor's GuideStone retirement plan.

It's truly amazing. Your gifts extend the reach of your local church to those in need in your community, across Missouri, throughout North America, and around the world. And the increase God provides comes back to you. Thank you for your faithful stewardship. As the apostle Paul wrote about the generous gifts of the churches in Macedonia: "they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us by God's will" (2 Cor. 8:5).