

PRAYERPOINTS

SOUTHERN BAPTISTS: A PRAYING PEOPLE IMPACTING A LOST WORLD

What's required to advance the gospel?

THE BEST PLACE to find the answer to this question is to look in the book of Acts where Luke recorded the amazing growth of the gospel in the first century. The story of the call of Saul and Barnabas to take the message of salvation in Jesus beyond Antioch contains every required component.

The simple story is told in the first four verses of chapter 13. Here it is:

In the church that was at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius the Cyrenian, Manaen, a close friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work I have called them to." Then after they had fasted, prayed and laid hands on them, they sent them off. Being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they came down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus (HCSB).

The three components required to advance the gospel are spiritual resources, human resources and financial resources. If a single one of these is missing the move forward ceases.

The spiritual resources and activity are so obvious they are difficult to miss. In this prayer and fasting season the Holy Spirit actually speaks. Luke doesn't tell us how the Holy Spirit spoke or to whom He spoke, but all five of these church leaders heard Him speak.

The spread of the gospel is a human story. These men heard and responded in obedience to what God said. They spent additional time fasting and praying after receiving the call to go.

Finally, even though two of the five departed on the first recorded missionary journey, we can be sure the three remaining in Antioch felt connected to the effort. Subtly contained in verse four is the third necessary component — financial resources. There was no way for them to sail from Seleucia to Cyprus without paying the fare. It's no different today.

Missionaries need salaries to sustain them

on the field, funds to pay for transportation, local currency to buy food, money to print/distribute Bibles or record Bible stories for oral cultures — what comes to your mind?

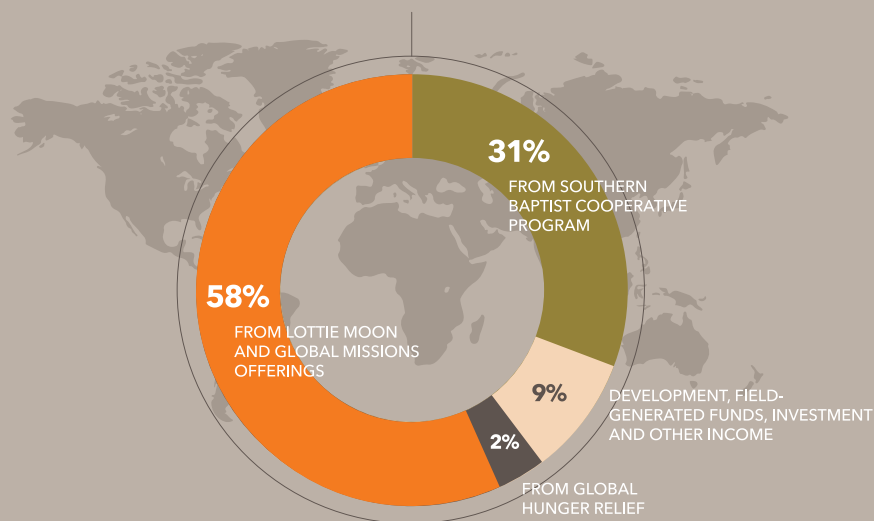
Jesus left us with just three commands: **1) love God with all of our being, 2) love others as ourselves and 3) make disciples.** Can we truly claim to be His followers if we're not pursuing these three directives with everything within us and all of the resources He's given us — including financial resources?

This month's prayer requests include the opportunity to steward financial resources to advance the gospel. Will you pray and give?

HOW WE FUND MISSIONS

TOTAL BUDGET

*Based on the 2015 budget



Almost 85% of IMB's total income sends and supports missionaries

100%

of your gifts through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering sends and supports missionaries

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!
(Psalm 96:3, ESV)

1 CUBAN MISSIONARIES SENT TO THE WORLD. The Cuban government, at government expense, is sending skilled workers to countries that are closed to Westerners. Some of these workers are Cuban Baptists who want to be trained to evangelize, disciple and plant churches. Pray for God to use these Cubans to spread His truth.

2 STUDENT MINISTRY AMONG EUROPEANS. Students in Europe must be led to Christ, discipled and trained to multiply believers who can be used as "living stones" in building His church. Pray for these young adults to commit themselves to making disciples who make disciples.
goconnexion.com

3 SYRIAN CRISIS RESPONSE. Syrian refugees receive care and discover God's love in Christ because Southern Baptists help provide shelter, food and water. This opens their hearts to address spiritual needs and prepares them to truly hear the gospel. Pray that these traumatized people will receive the good news.

SYRIAN CRISIS RESPONSE



4 KURDISH EVANGELISM, DISCIPLESHIP AND CHURCH PLANTING. The internet is now being used to share Christ with the Kurmanji-speaking Kurds. By visiting a website in their Kurmanji language, the Kurds can request more information about following Jesus. Pray for those who visit the site to be drawn to want to know more.

5 GOSPEL PLANTING IN EAST ASIA. "Broad sowing" in East Asia means using print, audio and video to share God's truth with the masses. It's used because some "seed" will fall on "good soil," preparing people for divine appointments that God may use to usher them into His kingdom. Pray for the teams that are developing these tools.

6 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA AIDS ORPHANS. The AIDS epidemic in Africa has orphaned 15 million children since the beginning of the crisis. In response, IMB has established a fund to buy food and medications, pay school fees and purchase clothing and school uniforms. Just \$200 will meet one orphan's needs for an entire year.

7 CARRY FORWARD SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. The truth is entering the hearts of people groups in South Asia who have never had access to God's Word through the use of oral strategies. These Bible stories can be completed and in use in as little as 24 to 27 months. Praise God for honoring His Word.

8 CHINESE SIGN LANGUAGE SCRIPTURE STORYONE. Pray for 10 Deaf nationals who are translating and recording Bible stories in Chinese Sign Language for mass distribution. God is using these stories to lead Deaf Chinese to faith in Jesus,

grow in discipleship and train leaders to plant churches for the Deaf.

9 THEOLOGICAL TRAINING MATERIALS. Just \$30 of theological training material will allow one of 1,000 Thai and Lao pastors to complete a two-year theological education course. They travel to the seminars monthly for up to five days to complete 10 courses. These leaders are starting churches and training others. Pray for these efforts to expand

10 PARTNERSHIPS FOR GLOBAL SENDING. The IMB is working with multiple great commission groups to equip South American missionaries to go to countries closed to western religious workers to engage unreached people groups in remote areas or in mega cities. Pray that they will benefit from our training and that God's Word will flourish.

11 NATIONAL CROSS-CULTURAL MISSION SENDING PROJECT. Eastern Europeans who have received the gospel from missionaries for decades are now ready to be cross-cultural missionaries. They can go where Westerners are not welcome and Christian workers not wanted. Pray for their training and success.

12 IVENTURES. How do we engage unreached peoples in wealthy Middle Eastern contexts? We must launch authentic, sustainable businesses to facilitate effective witness. Pray for a multiplying witness through the marketplace in the Middle East.

13 THE WELLNESS CENTER. Where can 20-year-old Aika, who was kidnapped to be a bride, suffered two miscarriages and beaten until unconscious go to receive compassionate care in this Central Asian country? She can go to the local Wellness Center. Pray women who visit there find the Savior.

14 SCRIPTURE PLANTING-BRIDGING TRANSLATION. "Scripture Planting" in East Asia is about enlisting people to translate and make Bible stories a part of their culture, helping them choose to follow Jesus and allowing the Holy Spirit to create a hunger in them for the written Word. Pray that God's Word will go forth in a mighty way.

15 ONE BLANKET. In Sub-Saharan Africa, one blanket costs about \$15. With one blanket, believers can invest in one child, allowing them to witness to one family in one village, which may lead to one church. Ask God to use this project to open doors in countless villages where there is no church.

16 TREE OF LIFE LMCO 2011 REQUEST. In the five years, God has used the Tree of Life strategy to establish several thousand house churches among more than 150 people groups in several countries. Pray that this church-planting strategy continues to flourish among more unreached people groups.

17 STORYONE SIGN LANGUAGE SCRIPTURE TRANSLATION. Some of the Deaf nationals selected to assist in the crafting of Bible stories to reach their own people group with the gospel are not themselves believers. God has used this process to lead some of them to Jesus. Praise God for the power of his Word to transform.

18 A LIGHT FOR HO CHI MINH CITY. "I've never seen a Bible!" That was the excited response from a young man in Vietnam as a New Testament was placed in his hands. God is using New Testaments and

evangelistic materials distributed in Ho Chi Minh City to draw Vietnamese to Jesus. Pray for God's harvest.

19 MOBILIZING LATIN MISSIONARIES THROUGH TRAINING. God is calling Latin missionaries who are willing to be trained and equipped to go where others cannot. Drawing from 150-plus years of organizational missions experience, IMB personnel can train them so more unreached people groups can hear the gospel. Pray for these efforts.

20 PRINTING UDMURT BIBLES. The Udmurts, a people group of around 500,000, have only 6,000 copies of the Bible in their language. At least 3,000 more copies are needed for the discipleship of those who have responded to the gospel. Pray that God's Word will become available in abundance.

21 ADVANCED LEVEL SECURITY TRAINING. Personnel who serve in dangerous places must be provided with in-depth training in order to thrive and bear fruit in high

STORYONE SIGN LANGUAGE SCRIPTURE TRANSLATION



risk environments. Security training teaches them to make the most of opportunities while exercising the proper wisdom in difficult contexts. Pray for these crucial training efforts.

22 CENTRAL ASIA AFFINITY OUTREACH AND EVANGELISM. Around \$700 provides a month of basic literacy education for Deaf students. The classes also offer the opportunity to share the gospel with students — many have never heard it. Pray that these classes will lead to a church-planting movement in Central Asia.

23 EAST ASIA NATIONAL MISSIONARY TRAINING AND DEPLOYMENT. Imagine training 25,000 East Asians to go to places Westerners cannot go to share Jesus with entire people groups who have never heard the gospel. God has human resources ready for deployment. Pray for their training.

24 NEW LIFE STORYTOGETHER BIBLE. Christian leaders in seven Central African countries are begging for training in a story method that they believe will result

PRINTING UDMURT BIBLES



in great advancement of the gospel. Just \$35 will provide this training for one of them. Pray for a rapid spread of the gospel.

25 REACH SOUTH ASIAN MUSLIMS WITH GUTENBERG2 FILM PROJECT.

God is using a series of biblical films about strategically selected Old Testament characters and the movie, *The Savior*, to redeem the hearts of Muslims. Give thanks and pray for the continued growth of this project.

26 AMAZON BASIN JUNGLE TRIPS.

Many of the planet’s most isolated people groups live in the Amazon Basin along rivers or in the interior of the jungle in order to avoid contact with outsiders. Pray that workers will find them, build trusting relationships and share Jesus with them before it is too late.

27 REBIRTH EASTERN UKRAINE.

Eastern Ukrainians, jobless because of war, are returning to their damaged homes with no way to pay workers or buy supplies for needed repairs. Believers will work alongside these homeowners, providing a Christian witness as they spend time with them. Pray for their needs and their salvation.

28 GUTENBERG II FOR THE PEOPLES OF THE HORN OF AFRICA. Most Muslims have never heard of God’s redemptive story beginning in Genesis, unfolding in the Old Testament and ultimately revealed in the story of Jesus. Pray that God will use videos of selected Old Testament stories and the film, *The Savior*, to save many.

29 DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING FOR ORAL PEOPLES. How does one share the gospel with a man from a Muslim culture who cannot read or write? By using well-selected

biblical stories in his “heart” language. It’s working in many places. Pray for this strategy, known as StoryTogether, to explode around the world.

30 FINISHING THE TASK AMONG THE UUPGS IN EAST ASIA.

East Asian Christians are ready to be trained and deployed to reach 251 people groups in East Asia with the gospel. These people groups each have a unique language and culture, and national believers are ready to learn how to do cross-cultural missions. Pray as they train and go.

REBIRTH EASTERN UKRAINE



*Name changed

PrayerPoints is available as an email newsletter!

To subscribe, or to switch your print subscription to electronic, please email or call the IMB Contact Center at imb@imb.org or (800) 999-3113, option 3.

TO LEARN MORE about any of the projects mentioned in this edition of *PrayerPoints*, please visit netcommunity.imb.org to search a list of all projects using the titles of these prayer requests.

Subscribe to *PrayerPoints* (free) at (800) 999-3113, option 3.
 Discover online requests at imb.org/pray.
 Listen to audio prayer requests at (800) 395-7729.
 The IMB Pray app is available for iOS and Android.



IMB connecting® is a registered trademark of IMB.