

2013 MISSIONARY MOMENTS PRAYER GUIDE

With the **2013 Missionary Moments Prayer Guide**, you will have opportunity to get a glimpse into the lives and ministries of missionaries who serve Southern Baptists as either North American Mission Board (NAMB) or International Mission Board (IMB) servants of the Lord.

The power of prayer and gifts through the Cooperative Program, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®, and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® help sustain more than 10,000 missionaries as they take the good news of Jesus Christ to the lost worldwide.

Present Missionary Moments weekly during a worship service, in Sunday School class or small group, at the midweek prayer service, at missions meetings, or as sermon illustrations. Join thousands of Southern Baptists in prayer as we lift each featured servant to the Father.

Additional copies of **Missionary Moments** may be obtained from your state convention or purchased from the Cooperative Program office in Nashville, Tennessee (www.sbc.net/cp; click on **Missionary Moments**) or from the Stewardship Development Association (www.stewardshipdirect.com).



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

JUST IMAGINE

If **“Two are better than one...”** (Ecclesiastes 4:9, HCSB), how much better are almost 16 million? This is the current membership in 45,764 Southern Baptist churches across the United States. With a global population over 7 billion and a command to take the gospel to every nation, we must increase our cooperative efforts if we are going to fulfill Christ’s command.

The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known—at home, across the nation, and around the world.

JANUARY 2013

JANUARY 6, 2013

MORNING: SHARE YOUR STORY

(SSAP) Two young missionaries walked through the Angolan forest with their translator. They were working hard to fulfill God's plan for their lives, but they were questioning His purpose for them in this place. As **DUSTIN** and his teammate, **JONATHAN**, walked and talked with their translator they found themselves in a small, remote village. As it began to rain a man appeared and offered them shelter inside his house. Inside, Dustin and Jonathan were able to share the story of Nicodemus with the man and his friend. Both men accepted Christ on that rainy afternoon. God confirmed to these missionaries that their work is not in vain. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

EVENING: LEADING THROUGH DISASTER

(Kansas) One effective way to share the gospel with people is by showing Christ's love on a physical level after a disaster. As Southern Baptists, we are leaders in disaster relief aid, thanks to missionaries like **JOHN LUCAS**. As a North American missionary serving the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists, John is dedicated to meeting both physical and spiritual needs of disaster victims by coordinating feeding assistance and offering Christ-focused chaplaincy. He assists churches in starting and maintaining programs that help people in need. John and **PATTY** are thankful for your support of the Cooperative Program and ask that you pray for those who experience disasters this year.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: COLOSSIANS 3:23

The new year brings new opportunities for us to practice our faith through our giving. Our giving provides the resources for us to help reach the lost for Christ. Let's resolve to work to be able to grow in our giving this year for God's glory. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

JANUARY 13, 2013

MORNING: STARTING NEW CHURCHES

(Pennsylvania) Baptized in an inner-city church in Kansas City, North American missionary **DAVID PEARSON** has a heart for big cities and seeing new churches started in places where there aren't many Bible-teaching ones. As church planter and pastor of The Journey Church in West Chester, Pennsylvania, David is leading the church to become a multiplying church center to train more church planters. Thank you for showing your love for God and for people by giving through the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering which allows missionaries like David to multiply his works by finding and training more church planters.

EVENING: SHARING A MESSAGE OF HOPE

(Southeast Asia) Many of our Southern Baptist workers have a calling to minister to women trapped by prostitution and human trafficking. They are grateful to share in this ministry with national believers. One of these believers is **HASAN*** who

has been walking through a red-light district for 11 years, sharing her faith. Hasan says that many of the women have a desire for money that obscures Christ's calling. One prostitute accepted Christ but refuses to leave her lifestyle until she has saved enough money to move to her home village. Though few women in this district have accepted Christ and left the business, Hasan and other Christian workers continue to bring the message of hope. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known. (*Name changed.)

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: ROMANS 5:8

Our giving should be understood in light of God's giving to us. God's purpose for giving—to bring people to Himself—should also be our purpose for giving. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

JANUARY 20, 2013

MORNING: A DEVASTATING FAMINE

(NAME) More than half of Somalia's population—more than 3.7 million people, including 400,000 children—is at risk as Somalia continues in a devastating famine. The famine, coupled with military unrest and anarchy in parts of the country, has complicated the already volatile lives of Somalis. "It's a sort of disaster on a disaster," said **DREW CARSON,*** a Christian leader among the peoples of Northern Africa and the Middle East. Southern Baptists are actively involved in giving and going to minister during this time of crisis. May we continue to be obedient in our giving so that lives might be saved on earth, and for eternity. Pray for Somalia's population and others in need as we remember the value of life today as we observe the *Sanctity of Human Life Sunday*. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known. (*Name changed.)

EVENING: STRENGTHENING EXISTING CHURCHES

(Arizona) **JERRY MARTIN** is a church planting catalyst in the Valley Rim Southern Baptist Association in Mesa, Arizona. He and his wife, **BONNIE**, help strengthen existing churches in the areas of prayer, evangelism, leader development and congregational strengthening. Sixteen churches in the Valley Rim association are involved in church planting, but they need help. There is only one church for every 24,000 people in this area. They need 50 or more couples to begin ministry in the more than 30 multi-family housing communities. Pray that the Spanish-speaking churches will send planters into the largely Hispanic population. Your prayers for the Martins and your continued support of the Cooperative Program are needed to begin new churches in Arizona.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: DEUTERONOMY 14:22

Giving has always been an expectation of God for His people. Christian giving, however, is for a larger purpose than when the Israelites gave a tithe; we give to reach the lost for Christ. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

JANUARY 27, 2013

MORNING: PRAY FOR MISSIONARIES

(Minnesota) Missions has been on the heart of **STEVE MELVIN** since childhood when his family would spend time in prayer for missionaries around the globe. Steve felt the call to missions at summer camp as a child and is currently serving with pastors and church planting catalysts to plan and prepare for new churches in Minnesota and Wisconsin, where there is only

one church for every 72,300 people. Your commitment to fulfilling the Great Commission through the Cooperative Program makes it possible for Steve to recruit, develop, train and fund churches in these two states. During your prayer time, ask God to grow and develop strong, healthy congregations that will have a passion to reach people with the gospel message. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

EVENING: ENGAGING PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE CHURCH

(Europe) "I'm in a battle," missionary **HAROLD JOHNSON** says. "I need prayer 24/7." Czech Republic is one of the most secular countries in Europe, with 60 percent of its population claiming no religion at all. Most Czech people who have been exposed to church have heard about it in a negative context, he says. "We find that Czechs have less of a problem with Jesus than they do with the Church." So Harold and his national church partners find ways to engage people outside of the church. They have picnics, go on hikes and have cookouts. "We want to get into their culture instead of inviting them into ours," Harold says. Thank you for joining Harold in the work of bringing the Gospel to Europe. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: 2 CORINTHIANS 8:7

The Corinthians apparently wanted to excel in Christian living, but they had fallen short in the grace of giving. Paul challenged them to grow by including generous giving. Giving helps us grow in Christlikeness. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

FEBRUARY 2013

FEBRUARY 3, 2013

MORNING: WORSHIP IN A HALL CLOSET

(East Asia) A ministry team in East Asia lived on a college campus and met in a hallway storage room to worship together. The closet was covered in coal dust and housed old boxes. A single light bulb hung from the ceiling. The group was careful to sing quietly, because Christian witness by foreigners was not welcome. One Sunday, a team member's mother was visiting and attended the service. Tears rolled down her cheek. She said this worship service, in a hall closet, had been the most meaningful one in her life. Thank you, Southern Baptists, for giving so that more will worship our Lord—even in closets. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

EVENING: SHARE THE GOSPEL

(Texas) As a former pastor in Hispanic Baptist churches in Nevada and Texas, church planter **MARIO GONZALEZ** has a passion for starting churches in Texas and sharing the gospel with those coming from Juarez, Mexico, to escape violence. With more than 30,000 workers legally coming across the border each year, El Paso, Texas, has a unique opportunity to share the gospel with a ripple effect, as these workers can share the gospel with their people. By giving through the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering to fulfill the Great Commission, you are helping church planters like Mario spread the gospel worldwide.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: PHILIPPIANS 4:6-8

When we make requests of God in prayer, we are more conscious of God's giving and our dependence upon Him. Our faithful giving shows gratitude to God and verifies the sincerity of our prayer requests. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

FEBRUARY 10, 2013

MORNING: A PRAYER STATION

(Illinois) On a street corner in Wicker Park, an urban arts area of Chicago, Mark came across a prayer station set up by Mosaic Church. That initial encounter led Mark to attend the Southern Baptist congregation, where he then gave his life to Christ and was baptized in Lake Michigan. Church planting missionary **SCOTT VENABLE** is pastor of Mosaic Church. Because of your prayers and faithful giving to missions through the Cooperative Program and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, Scott and **ASHLEY** are leading Mosaic Church to do whatever it takes to reach unchurched people like Mark once was.

EVENING: WATER AND WATERMELON

(Central Asia) As the summer sun scorches Central Asia, believers in Jesus are finding that water and watermelon have been a good starting point for sharing Christ. "It is now watermelon season here, and the popular thing to do is to go on picnics," said **MARK,*** a Christian worker. Eating watermelon by the river is often an open door to conversation. On one picnic Mark shared the Gospel in depth with Lyle,* a friend who had never heard of Christ's atoning work on the cross. After sharing with him, Mark gave him a copy of the JESUS film. "Please pray for Lyle," Mark asks. "Please pray that more workers would go out

into the field and take the Good News to people who have never heard." The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known. (**Names changed.*)

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: 2 TIMOTHY 1:12

Commitment which leads to growth in Christlikeness instills an eternal hope. Keeping a commitment to grow in giving is a testimony that "I am not ashamed" of the one in "whom I have believed." The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

FEBRUARY 17, 2013

MORNING: "CONNEXIONS"

(Europe) **MARTHA MOORE**, missionary to Germany, is connecting college students to Christ. The program, appropriately named Connexions, is a reproducible college ministry. The Connexions staff started with Martha on one campus in 2000; today it has 14 staffers in four cities, largely made up of students who have come to faith through the program. Whether it's in her apartment, a local coffee shop or on the college campus, Martha is seeing God at work in the lives of young people searching for more than college education can offer. Because of your giving through the Cooperative Program, Martha is connecting with young people in Europe and beyond.

EVENING: REACH OUT TO NEGLECTED NEIGHBORS

(Colorado) LoveLoud ministries communicate the gospel in both word and deed. **LORNA BIUS** works with churches in 13 western states to help them discover creative ways to reach out to neglected neighbors, communities and children. Befriending refugees, helping local schools, providing food to families, offering free medical/dental clinics, are some examples of how LoveLoud helps churches turn "inside out," so what is on the inside can be more evident to those on the outside. Our commitment to missions through the Cooperative Program and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is helping Lorna identify church planting opportunities, network among existing churches and multiply compassion ministries to reach people with the gospel.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: JOHN 8:29

In doing what pleased the Father, Jesus knew that God was with Him. When we give to please God, we will find His presence confirmed in our lives. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

FEBRUARY 24, 2013

MORNING: CHANGING GOALS

(Nevada) **MELANIE LAWLER** was going to be a pediatric neurologist until God radically changed her life. Following brain surgery and a stroke, Melanie was ready to change her goals to God's plans, one day at a time. Through your commitment to supporting the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, Melanie is able to help more than 35 churches in Nevada show Christ's love to the community by helping them plan and execute special events and community ministries like food pantries and parades. Pray for Melanie so that she can fulfill God's plan in her life to help churches in Nevada find opportunities to share Christ in their community.

EVENING: MISSIONARIES GIVE BACK

(American Peoples) During one recent IMB meeting in Chile, missionaries from across the American peoples affinity gave nearly \$8,000 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. "It's always a special time for missionaries to give back to the organization that's given to them," says missionary **TERRY LASSITER**. "I think it just shows that our missionaries believe in what we're doing. They're the ones [who] see it first-hand." Thank you for joining your giving with that of the missionaries so that God's work continues around the world. When we give cooperatively as Southern Baptists, more can be done to fulfill the Great Commission. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: JAMES 1:22

It is true. Evidence that we have been instructed by God's Word is seen in the way we apply God's truths in our daily lives. One obvious truth in the Bible is that God's people give gratefully. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

MARCH 2013

MARCH 3, 2013

MORNING: SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS

(West Virginia) As a computer repairman with a God-sized hole to fill, **ACE SLIGAR** went on a mission to fill that hole, not knowing what to put in it. After meeting a Southern Baptist pastor and, consequently, Jesus on his journey, Ace longed to share God's glory with the world, planting one church at a time. Because of your commitment to fulfilling the Great Commission through the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, Ace serves as a church planter in an area of West Virginia where the average income is less than \$18,000 a year. In this poverty-stricken area, Ace and his wife, **DIANNE**, are able to share the love of Jesus through meeting physical and spiritual needs. Take time to pray for the missions and ministries supported through the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering this week.

EVENING: REACHING UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS

(South Asia) Southern Baptist worker **KYLE YARWOOD*** shares the story of his friend "K" in South Asia. "K is a school teacher who learned about church planting from one of our coworkers. He was able to start a house church, whose members are in turn planting new churches. Recently I was able to partner with K and other workers in training more than 400 people from [unengaged, unreached people groups] to go back and start reproducing networks of churches among their own people. It was such a blessing to see K leading with such wisdom and simplicity. I know that he will continue to influence the whole nation as he continues to follow the Lord." The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known. (*Name changed.)

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: MATTHEW 6:2-4

Our giving is for God, not for the applause of other people. Motive guides how much we give as surely as it guides how we give. How God feels about our giving should be our primary concern. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

MARCH 10, 2013

MORNING: PRAY FOR CHURCH PLANTERS

(Wisconsin) Director of missions and church planting strategist **MARK MILLMAN** originally got the fever for missions during a mission trip in Orlando, Florida. Mark realized that new churches often reach people faster and more effectively than existing churches and wanted to be part of that excitement. Your commitment to the Great Commission through the Cooperative Program makes it possible for Mark to work with church planters, providing them with prayer, partners and resources to help make them successful in reaching all types of people in Madison, Wisconsin. During your prayer time today, pray for Mark as he helps church planters share the Gospel and start new churches to reach the lost.

EVENING: GIFTED TO SERVE

(American Peoples) **STEVE** and **MARILEE FLOOK** are missionaries serving in Bolivia. With six children, they are committed to making their mission a family affair. They encourage and cultivate each child's interests and spiritual gifts to be used for kingdom growth. Musicians Stephen, Sarah and Hannah use their gifts in their local church in Santa Cruz. **SAMUEL** and **MARY MARARET** are making witnessing relationships through sports and community activities. Even 4-year-old Elizabeth is learning that God can use her by making friends at the neighborhood pool. Giving through the Cooperative Program makes it possible for the Flocks to raise their family while ministering in Bolivia.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: PSALM 100:1-3

Joy and service spring from gratitude; God has made us and claims us as His own. Let us be stewards of every opportunity to praise God through our giving. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

MARCH 17, 2013

MORNING: PRAYING FOR SOMEONE TO TELL HER THE TRUTH

(American Peoples) When missionary **KAREN WRIGHT** and volunteers brought some food to a house where they had been directed, they found a woman already praying for someone to tell her the Truth. Carmen,* the young Chilean woman, tearfully accepted the food and allowed the group to pray for her. Later Wright and others returned to share the Gospel with Carmen. When Karen mentioned praying to receive Christ, Carmen responded, "That's what I've been praying all week." Pray for Carmen, this new Christian who is married to an abusive man. Thank you for giving generously through the Cooperative Program so Karen's ministry can continue. (*Name changed.)

EVENING: ENCOURAGEMENT FOR CHURCH PLANTERS

(Florida) **AL FERNANDEZ** has known the Lord since he was a young child. He was called to plant English-speaking Hispanic churches (second generation) in Miami, Florida. Al and his wife, **NOEMI**, planted Jubilee Community Church, which eventually planted another church. Al currently serves with Urban Impact Ministries and is the lead church planting strategist for Florida. As Al and Noemi strive to plant 175 new churches in the next five years, they are encouraged by your prayers and commitment to missions through the Cooperative Program. Pray for God's guidance as he and others discuss a regional approach to church planting in Florida.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: HEBREWS 11:4

Abel gave because he had faith in God. Even his death signaled victory. He became an example of faith for the new Israel, the church. Our giving demonstrates our faith and presents an example of faith for others. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

MARCH 24, 2013

MORNING: REPRODUCING CONGREGATIONS

(Georgia) Even historic Virginia Highland in midtown Atlanta needs churches. North American missionaries **TIM** and **PAM WOLFE** planted 1027church to satisfy that need. Tim and the people of 1027 spread the love of Jesus through service

ministries. They spend countless hours and resources on "I Love My Neighbor" projects, such as food drives, Coffee on the Go, Boys' and Girls' Club events and sharing the gospel throughout the community. Tim works with Urban Atlanta Church Planting, whose mission is to intentionally plant healthy, reproducing congregations inside the perimeter of Atlanta. Your Cooperative Program dollars make it possible for Tim to reach people for Christ in Atlanta.

EVENING: HELPING IN THE FIELDS

(East Asia) Southern Baptist workers report that ethnic minority believers recently visited several villages in China to share Christ. At one village, they hoed potatoes alongside the villagers for three days, singing praise songs as they worked. In the evenings, the Christians shared the Gospel through drama, games and storytelling. The villagers, glad to have had help in the fields, were receptive and asked many questions. One woman accepted Christ and although others said they needed more time, Gospel seeds were sown and the soul of the village's first believer was secured for eternity. Thank you for giving through the Cooperative Program so that workers can encourage and train Chinese believers to evangelize their own people.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: ACTS 3:2-6

Imagine having the ability to help someone so dramatically. In reality we do have such ability. When we share the gospel of Christ and give so that others can devote more time to witnessing, people receive the new life which replaces spiritual death. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

MARCH 31, 2013

MORNING: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

(Europe) **DAN** and **LORI UPCHURCH**, IMB missionaries, teach church-planting theology and methodology at Kiev Theological Seminary in Ukraine. The Upchurches are working with **JOEL** and **MARY ELLEN RAGAINS** who started the ministry. In this four-year program, students not only learn about church-planting methods, but are required to be involved in church-planting themselves. The program is young, but already yielding fruit. Because of their varied national backgrounds, students who are trained at this seminary will have more access to neighboring countries than IMB personnel currently have. Thank you for supporting this strategy of sending new workers into hard-to-reach areas. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

EVENING: CHANGING LIVES

(Illinois) **CHET CANTRELL** and his wife, **MICHELLE**, work with at-risk children at the Christian Activities Center (CAC) in East St. Louis, Illinois. They offer homework help, a computer lab, camps, Bible study and more. They minister to at least 500 regular attenders every week and have helped more than 100 kids go to college. Many lives and destinies have been changed through the work of these missionaries, the staff and volunteers at CAC. This work would not be possible without the support of the Cooperative Program and other partners. Please pray for continued support and for the children and families in East St. Louis who so desperately need Jesus.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: 2 CORINTHIANS 8:9-11

Paul reminded the Corinthians that the resurrection of Jesus Christ should motivate Christians to give. Easter is about God's giving. Paul remembered the first Easter season when Jesus gave up His richness to become poor for our sakes. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

APRIL 2013

APRIL 7, 2013

MORNING: INFILTRATE THE COMMUNITY

(Indiana) Fishers is a suburb of Indianapolis, Indiana. It is here that church planter **TONY MANNING** and his wife, **KELLY**, started Hamilton Village Church. Tony has a heart for those who don't know Jesus in his quickly growing community. His face is well known as he goes door-to-door in the neighborhoods to pray for people. The philosophy of Hamilton Village is not about building structures, programs, or large events. They want to penetrate the community with Christ followers who are building relationships and sharing Jesus in those relationships. The Mannings are encouraged by your support of the Cooperative Program and asks you to pray that God will bring more workers and partners to Fishers.

EVENING: DISTRIBUTING MOSQUITO NETS

(SSAP) In a village in West Africa, a missionary has been distributing mosquito nets. He shares that a village chief was skeptical of the gifts, wondering if his people would have to believe in Jesus in order to receive the nets. The missionary explained, "While we cannot make anybody believe and follow Jesus, we will tell as many people as we can and hope that they choose to follow." The chief responded, "You are welcome to come and help us by giving the mosquito nets and share with everyone here about Jesus." Thank God for opening the way into new Muslim villages through the Southern Baptist mosquito net project. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: ROMANS 13:6-7

Our stewardship is revealed in all areas of our lives. Commitment to Christ leads us to pay our taxes and to support the ministries of our churches. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

APRIL 14, 2013

MORNING: ARTISTIC TALENTS CAN BE USEFUL

(Southeast Asia) **VICTOR*** and **SUSAN XINGH*** are IMB missionaries serving in Thailand, along with their three children. Originally from Laos, Victor was forced to flee his country as a boy due to the Vietnam War. Even then he was an artistic boy, drawing with charcoal from the fire in the refugee camp. When he became a Christian, God continued to build his artistic talents in design and photography. Today Victor works in video production, photography and graphic design to help spread the Gospel among his people in Southeast Asia. Because of your support through the Cooperative Program, Victor is living out his calling and using his gifts to creatively share the hope of eternity. (*Names changed.)

EVENING: SAND AND SURF CLUBS

(Maryland) **LYNN DAVIS** is the director of Central Atlantic Leisure Ministries (CALM) in Ocean City, Maryland. CALM serves the people and visitors who come to Ocean City. Lynn works with mission teams from all over the country to provide

evangelistic activities for people on the beaches and at the campgrounds. Sometimes the teams create huge and amazing sand sculptures that tell Bible stories. The gospel is explained to visitors as they look at the sculptures. Youth volunteers also conduct "Sand and Surf Clubs" for children. Your Cooperative Program dollars help Lynn Davis spread the gospel all over the U.S. as visitors take what they have learned about Christ back home with them.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: ACTS 2:44-45

A distinguishing characteristic of early Christians was their cooperative giving. Today, through the Cooperative Program, we join our giving to reach more lost persons for Christ.

APRIL 20, 2013

MORNING: BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

(Pennsylvania) **JOSEPH VELARDE** and his wife, **AMY**, love the Lehigh Valley. Lehigh Valley consists of the cities of Allentown, Bethlehem and Eatonton in eastern Pennsylvania. Lehigh Valley is considered one of the most unreached areas in the United States. It is there that the Velardes planted Riverbend Community Church. Church members view themselves as missionaries as they form relationships in an area where there is little evangelical presence. Thank you for showing your love for God and for people by faithfully supporting the Cooperative Program. Pray that God will send help, resources and partners to help this young church as it works to penetrate lostness in Pennsylvania.

EVENING: SAND AND SURF CLUBS

(NAME) The question is not what it seems. In the Horn of Africa, the familiar invitation, "Will you drink coffee?" really means, "Why don't we spend a little time together?" In the region that includes Ethiopia, Somalia, Eritrea, Djibouti and northern Kenya, sharing coffee is an important opportunity for Christian workers. Friends and family sit and chat about the events of the day or the latest news in the neighborhood. Sharing coffee or tea requires stopping and spending time entertaining friends with warm conversation. Often a believer can lead the conversation to Christ. Thank you for giving so that workers can share their lives with others in the Horn of Africa. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: I PETER 3:15

God expects us to be prepared at all times to give a witness about what Christ has done in our personal lives. Practicing Christian money management helps us give generously, a powerful witness to other Christians and to non-Christians alike. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

APRIL 28, 2013

MORNING: INTRODUCING ICE CREAM

(Europe) Approximately 200,000 Italians live in the United Kingdom (UK). Having been in London and other parts of the UK for centuries, they have made some notable contributions to society, such as introducing ice cream to the general public. There is no evidence of evangelistic work focusing on these Italians. Ask the Father to lead workers whose hearts will be burdened to share the Good News with the Italians living in the UK. It is common for Italians to make yearly trips to Italy to visit extended family. New believers could carry the Gospel message with them to Italy. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

EVENING: THE TIRED, LONELY AND SEARCHING

(Texas) Every year, the Texas Port Ministry ministers to more than 10,000 international seafarers from nearly 50 countries. Giving the hope of Christ and creature comforts, such as Bibles, phone cards, clothing and recreation, to those who are far from home and family is **BOBBY FULLER**'s passion. He is a North American missionary serving in Freeport, Texas. The world comes to Freeport and most of the time it is tired, lonely and searching. Your gifts through the Cooperative Program help Bobby meet the spiritual, physical and social needs of the seafarers, truck drivers and port workers in the Freeport Harbor community through the Texas Port Ministry.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: LUKE 24:46-48

To preach repentance and remission of sins to the entire world exceeds the ability of any one person. We must join forces to share Christ's love. We can reach the lost through the Cooperative Program as our church adds its mission giving to that of other churches.

MAY 2013

MAY 5, 2013

MORNING: SHARE THE GOSPEL

(Canada) Church planter **DAN COLLISON** serves in the most unchurched English-speaking environment in North America. His mission, along with wife **DENISE** and the Toronto Church Planting team, is to help start 250 churches in the Greater Toronto Area by 2020. Dan has one vision—to share the Gospel and see God’s Kingdom come to earth. With your dedication to fulfilling the Great Commission through the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, Dan and Denise are helping churches connect with a needy mission field, and helping church planters successfully start new congregations. Pray for lives to be changed and souls saved through their work.

EVENING: GOD’S STRENGTH REVEALED

(East Asia) A young believer in East Asia agreed to dinner with friends. At dinner she discovered one guest was a famous fortune-teller. He claimed to be able to discern each person’s blood type and from that, predict the future. The believer silently prayed, “Lord Jesus, I have your precious blood covering me. Please reveal your power and confuse this man.” As the evening progressed, he correctly named the blood type of each person. When he came to her, he guessed incorrectly, then became agitated and refused to speak the rest of the meal. She praised God for showing Himself strong. Thank God that through the work and gifts of Southern Baptists, God’s strength is being revealed to the nations. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: EXODUS 22:21

Israel was commanded to show sympathy to the needy strangers. When we give to God through the church, a part of what we give reaches out beyond our church to help others in need. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

MAY 12, 2013

MORNING: A UNIQUE ADVANTAGE

(Deaf) The work facing **PETER** and **LIV REED*** is daunting—750 Deaf people die without Christ every day around the world. Sixty percent of the world’s 36 million Deaf live in Asia. There are 7 million culturally Deaf in China alone. Peter and Liv are among a handful of workers trying to reach millions of Deaf Asians. Both are fluent in American Sign Language, but now they are learning Asian sign languages and training Deaf believers to reach their own communities. The Reeds encourage Deaf Christians in the U.S. to join them in the work—even on short-term trips. Those who are culturally Deaf have a unique advantage in reaching other Deaf communities around the world. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known. (*Names changed.)

EVENING: A BEACON OF HOPE

(Michigan) Serving as church planting consultant and director of missions in Michigan, **JIM MARCUS** is assisting and strengthening churches and pastors in his area and helping them start new churches. There are 1.5 million people in his 14-county territory, and Jim has his work cut out for him to be a beacon of hope in cities like Flint and Saginaw, which have high unemployment and crime. Through your commitment to fulfill the Great Commission by giving through the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, Jim is able to foster an environment of hope, seeing several new church starts in 2012.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: ACTS 9:36

Tabitha (Dorcas) is kindred to all mothers; she distinguished herself by her giving. She made coats and garments for widows in her village. As we give today, let us remember Christian mothers everywhere who reveal Christ through their giving. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

MAY 19, 2013

MORNING: CHURCHES STARTING CHURCHES

(Alaska) **DAVID GEORGE** is a North American Mission Board church planting catalyst and director of missions for Chugach Baptist Association in Anchorage, Alaska. Spanning an area larger than the state of Texas, David travels extensively in his association assisting and resourcing 49 churches. During the past five years, David has led the association to start seven new congregations, but more are still needed to reach the lost in such a large area. David is thankful for your support of the Cooperative Program and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and asks you join him in praying for God to raise up more indigenous leaders who will step out in faith and begin new ministries and churches.

EVENING: RELATIONSHIP EVANGELISM

(American Peoples) During the past year, 18 cell groups throughout Puebla, Mexico, have been meeting weekly to study the Bible. People in these groups have been working together to win their neighbors and family members to Christ, using relationship evangelism and community outreach. Through their involvement in Puebla's cell churches, participants have gained the sense that they are useful in God's Kingdom, according to **SHERRY BENNETT**, IMB missionary there. "They know that influencing neighbors and family members for Christ is as simple as inviting them over for coffee and conversation," she said. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: GENESIS 14:17-20

When we experience victory in our lives, the natural response is gratitude to God. Just as Abraham gave tithes to the priest Melchizedek out of gratitude for victory in battle, we give in gratitude. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

MAY 26, 2013

MORNING: BE A BLESSING TO OTHERS

(Central Asia) This walk wasn't like any other **JACOB*** had taken with Abbud.* "I was able to walk with him as he carried a Bible home, despite the consequences that he would face from his family," said Jacob, a Christian worker in Central Asia. "I don't face the same suffering as national believers where I live, but it is a blessing to encourage them through His Word and through time spent loving them." Jacob is thankful to Southern Baptists who give through the Cooperative Program. He now has the opportunity to share with others the truth of Christ and encourage the believers to stand strong in their faith. (*Names changed.)

EVENING: AN UNUSUAL CONVERSION

(California) While in elementary school, **LINDA BERGQUIST** dreamed of becoming a missionary to Africa. However, during her high school years, Linda embraced atheism. Converting from Atheism to Christianity when she was 28 years old, Linda went on her first mission trip to an Apache Reservation in Arizona. God used her to help start new work on an area of the Reservation where there were no Baptist churches. Your gifts through the Cooperative Program and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering help Linda, a church planting catalyst, start English-speaking churches in the San Francisco Bay Area, a region of 7.5 million people that is highly unchurched.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: MARK 12:41-44

On Memorial Day we remember our loved ones who have died in sacrifice for our country. Some people distinguish themselves by what they have done. Jesus singled out the widow to be remembered for her giving as often as this Scripture is read. As we give today, we remember the faithful giving of those before us. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

JUNE 2013

JUNE 2, 2013

MORNING: BURDENED HEARTS

(Louisiana) While attending New Orleans seminary, **MATT** and **ELAINE TIPTON** were surprised by the affection they gained for New Orleans. God used that time to prepare their hearts for long-term ministry there, even in the wake of tragedy. Matt and Elaine lost everything in Hurricane Katrina and moved home to Tennessee. But God continued to burden their hearts about New Orleans. Five years later, the Tiptons were back in New Orleans to plant Hope Church. Our commitment to give through both the Cooperative Program and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is helping Matt and Hope Church fulfill its desire to see many new churches planted in the New Orleans area and for the gospel to transform the city they love.

EVENING: STORIES FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

(SSAP) What do 90,000 people look like? Imagine the new Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas, nearly filled to capacity. That's how many Nama (pronounced NAH-mah) people are living without a Christian witness. Music, poetry and storytelling are important to the Nama, who have a tradition of passing down stories from generation to generation. Please pray that through your generous giving through the Cooperative Program, God will send people to share the life-changing story of Jesus and His love for all the Nama people to hear. Pray that some will come to know Jesus as Savior and then faithfully pass along His story to the rest of Namibia's Nama people.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: ROMANS 12:1

God's first goal for giving is that we give ourselves to Him. Reconciliation to God frees us to grow in the grace of giving. The percent of our income that we give may be used as one measure of growth in His grace. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

JUNE 9, 2013

MORNING: PREPARE THE BELIEVERS TO SHARE

(American Peoples) More and more, Peruvian believers are catching the missionary vision. And as more Peruvian Christians answer God's call to missions, **TOMMY** and **BETH LARNER** are helping prepare them for what they'll face on the field. The Larners, IMB missionaries in Peru, work with a Peruvian organization called Perú a Las Naciones (Peru to the Nations), which prepares national believers to serve on the international mission field. Your giving through the Cooperative Program is providing necessary training for Peruvian missionaries to be equipped to do their part in reaching the nations. Please be in prayer for the Larners and their work in Peru.

EVENING: GOSPEL ACCESS

(New York) New York City is often thought of as glamorous, modern and very influential. It is an international city, with close to 500 distinct people groups speaking more than 800 languages. For North American missionary, **LAMAR DUKE**, New York is a huge mission field. As the missions team leader for the Baptist Convention of New York, Lamar leads a team of 11 church

planting catalysts who are starting new churches to guarantee gospel access to 28 million people; 27 million of whom are not believers in Jesus Christ. Our commitment to fulfilling the Great Commission through the Cooperative Program is helping Lamar and his team start new churches within driving distance of each of the 28 million people in their region.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: 2 CORINTHIANS 8:9

Christ gave Himself for us. Many people have given their creativity, even their lives, that we might enjoy national and religious freedom. Giving through our church helps share the gospel which can free people from sin. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

JUNE 16, 2013

MORNING: GOSPEL RECEPTIVITY

(Missouri) **YOSHI UBUKATA** pastors a Japanese-speaking church, near St. Louis, Missouri, with his wife, **HYEYEON**, and their young daughters. Through the Japanese Southern Baptist church planting network and a sponsoring church, they are planting a new Japanese congregation in Orlando, Florida. They hope to start 120 Japanese Southern Baptist churches in North America. While in America, Japanese people are receptive to the gospel and many become believers. But 80 percent stop attending church after they return to Japan. The Ubukatas are thankful for your commitment to fulfilling the Great Commission through the Cooperative Program and ask that you pray that the Japanese people in the U.S. will be reached with the gospel and trained more effectively.

EVENING: PEOPLE IN BONDAGE

(Central Asia) **JANE,*** a Christ follower serving in Central Asia, got to take a vacation from her country recently, but she was unable to forget the plight of her people. She knew they were deep into Ramadan, a month of religious fasting for Muslims. It is hard on Jane to see the people living in such bondage. She continues to share her faith in Jesus Christ. "I have never been more aware just how deeply the lies of their religion encompass every single element of how they view the world," she said. "But the light of our Father in the midst of the darkness has been remarkable." The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known. (**Name changed.*)

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: PROVERBS 23:24

On this Father's Day let us who are fathers be good stewards of the responsibilities God has entrusted to us. One part of our stewardship is providing an example for our children in the way we use money and in the way we give our money. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

JUNE 23, 2013

MORNING: SHARING THE BURDENS

(South Asia) Workers **ADAM** and **TRINITY WEMS*** have a heart for the poor and focus their ministry toward lower-income communities. Adam helps destitute people coming off the streets receive medical care and rehabilitation. Trinity leads a women's group, giving women a safe place to share their burdens and hear the Gospel. With so many unengaged, unreached people groups in their region, they also dedicate time to training leadership and connecting congregations in the U.S. to the vast amount of work that needs to be accomplished in South Asia. As you give, pray for the work of Adam and Trinity, and ask God to send more workers into the dark areas. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known. (**Names changed.*)

EVENING: FACING DIFFICULTIES IN SHARING CHRIST

(North Carolina) Born in the Dominican Republic into a Catholic family, **ANTONIO SANTOS** was introduced to Christ at the age of 14. Years later, Antonio was invited to a church plant led by Southern Baptist missionaries and felt called into the ministry. He served the church in various roles and helped plant three churches in the Dominican Republic. Thanks in part to your gifts through the Cooperative Program, Antonio serves as church planting missionary in North Carolina. His goal is to help churches begin Hispanic works by providing resources, training and assistance in finding pastors. Join Antonio and his wife, **STEPHANIE**, in praying for more churches to respond to the great need to start Hispanic churches.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: EZRA 1:5-6

It has always been true of God's people: when in fellowship with God and ready to serve Him, they give willingly. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

JUNE 30, 2013

MORNING: HELP FOR THE HOMELESS

(Louisiana) Elsa was promised a chance to live the "American Dream" through an education program offered to young women in Indonesia. That dream turned into a nightmare as she became the victim of a human trafficking crime ring based in New Orleans. Elsa found a Christian friend and advocate in **KAY BENNETT**, missionary and director of Baptist Friendship House in New Orleans, a transitional housing program that offers ministries to homeless women and children who are often easy prey for human traffickers. As Kay is building relationships, meeting needs and reaching people like Elsa with the love of Christ, she is encouraged by your prayers and commitment to missions through the Cooperative Program and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

EVENING: SOFTEN THE HEARTS OF THE CHILDREN

(Europe) **KELSEY**, a Southern Baptist worker, is used to children mocking her about her faith in Jesus Christ. At the center where she works with Russian children in Estonia, they know she believes in God, loves Him and talks with Him. She teaches Bible stories through art and English lessons to the children, many of whom come from impoverished and broken families. "It grieves me that many of these young ones are already so hard-hearted and resistant to His Word," Kelsey says. Lately, she has had more opportunities to share with the children one-on-one. Kelsey asks for prayer that God will soften their hearts and that they will be open to His Word. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: ACTS 20:35

One accomplishment that comes through using our money is helping the helpless. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

JULY 2013

JULY 7, 2013

MORNING: THE GENEROSITY OF SOUTHERN BAPTISTS

(American Peoples) Missionary **HEBERT PALOMINO** remembers the historic day. Fifteen years ago, the first successful organ transplant was performed in the Baptist Medical Center in Asunción, Paraguay, where Hebert served as chaplain. He had the privilege of praying for the surgeon before and during the surgery. Eight hours later, the historic transplant was declared a success. "That [transplant] gave us, as a hospital, a great testimony before the community," Hebert says. Thank God for the historic work made possible through the generosity of Southern Baptists. Pray that we will be faithful in giving so the Lord's work will continue. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

EVENING: NO SPIRITUAL AFFILIATION

(Hawaii) Nearly 1.4 million people live in Hawaii and 70 to 80 percent of them have no spiritual affiliation. The population is said to be so culturally diverse, everyone there is a minority. Your partnership through the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering allow **MICHAEL (BONG)** and **CRISTINA ABAGON** the opportunity to serve the people of Hawaii, Samoa, Guam and Saipan through the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention. Bong is director of evangelism and oversees the "God's Plan for Sharing" (GPS) evangelistic outreach events. Pray these events will reap an abundant harvest of souls and that the people of the South Pacific will know Jesus as an intimate friend.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: GALATIANS 5:1

The Declaration of Independence asserted our national freedom. Freedom from the temptation to be selfish is won by choosing to be generous in giving. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

JULY 14, 2013

MORNING: "SEND NORTH AMERICA: MIAMI"

(Florida) **MIKE DAILY**'s first ministry was to the elderly who came to his hometown to receive cancer treatments. Now, Mike serves as the Director of Church and Community Ministries for the Florida Baptist Convention in Miami, Florida. Miami-Dade County is an international mission field because of the immigrants who come there from all over the world. Thanks in part to your giving through the Cooperative Program, Mike and his wife, **ANA**, minister through a free health-care clinic called the Good News Care Center. The clinic provides health care to thousands every year. Pray for the center and for the more than 300 churches as they prepare for the launching of the evangelistic church planting initiative called "Send North America: Miami."

EVENING: A TOOL TO TELL BIBLE STORIES

(South Asia) Henna is not specific to one class of women in South Asia—students or jobless, rich or poor. Most women enjoy having henna, a reddish-orange dye, temporarily tattooed in intricate patterns on their skin. Female IMB workers and student

volunteers in South Asia are using henna as a tool to tell Bible stories to women from all walks of society. As they draw henna designs on the women's hands, the workers tell them Bible stories that correlate with the patterns. Many of the women are excited to share the stories they hear at the henna group. Through the Cooperative Program, workers are finding new ways to spread God's stories.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: MALACHI 3:2-4

When God's people sin, giving is often reduced or eliminated. When we deliberately sin, we miss many of God's blessings. Robbing God of tithes and offerings is a sin (Malachi 3:8). The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

JULY 21, 2013

MORNING: FREEDOM IN CHRIST

(NAME) Food and religion are the topics most discussed where **JESSICA*** studies language in Northern Africa. "The ladies there and I discuss the many differences between Islam and Christianity, and they frequently try to bring me under condemnation for the freedoms I have in Christ," Jessica said. Freedom in Christ is a hard thing for her friends to grasp, she said. "It is hard enough for us who have grown up hearing about grace all our lives to fully appreciate what it means, but for people who have grown up living under religious law, it is very difficult to understand." May God's people continue to pray and give so that Jessica and others can demonstrate grace to a world in need. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

EVENING: FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE

(California) Epic Church is a new, thriving Southern Baptist church in downtown San Francisco, reaching people from more than 30 countries by sharing the reality of God's kingdom to everyone from all walks of life. As church planting missionaries, **BEN** and **SHAUNA PILGREEN** are seeing God work in the lives of people like Eric, an attorney and former atheist. After visiting frequently, Eric gave his life to Christ and is a growing disciple at Epic Church. The Pilgreens are thankful for your prayers and your commitment to missions through the Cooperative Program and ask that you pray for wisdom and strength as Epic Church expands into more neighborhoods to share the gospel.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: 2 PETER 3:17-18

Commitments to God are very important. Unless we consciously reaffirm them, we sometimes forget them. Let us reaffirm our commitments to grow in the "Grace of Giving." The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

JULY 28, 2013

MORNING: COMFORT TO THE SEAFARERS

(American Samoa) The Pago Pago Seafarers Center, which is located on the South Pacific island of American Samoa, offers help and friendship to fishermen from other Pacific islands, China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Indonesia, Peru and Panama. **JOELI SOVEA** and his wife, **TAITUPE**, are the directors of the center. They and their three children offer comforts to the seafarers, such as showers, toiletries, Internet, telephones, Bibles, a chapel and more. The Sovea family asks for prayers for the growth and development of Seafarers Christian Fellowship church, that they would be able to start Royal Ambassador and Girls in Action programs for the children, and for protection for their family and for the seafarers. The Cooperative Program

enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

EVENING: REHABILITATION CENTERS

(Europe) **ANDY LEININGER** works in cooperation with the Russian Baptist Union to establish leaders for new rehabilitation centers. The leaders are new believers who are either recovering addicts themselves or have a relative suffering from addiction. Andy has been training them to help other Russians recover from alcohol and substance abuse. In one year, Andy celebrated with 42 new believers from the rehabilitation centers. Your gifts through the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering enable Andy to incorporate a program called *Celebrate Recovery* into his training. Please pray for Andy and his national partners as they continue to minister to the peoples of Russia.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: LUKE 24:47

Common goals can often bring a group of people together. Reaching the lost is our common goal as Christians. Our united growth in giving is needed to help achieve this goal. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

AUGUST 2013

AUGUST 4, 2013

MORNING: STANDING FOR CHRIST

(East Asia) Southern Baptist workers share that a new believer in East Asia was asked to join the government party. She declined because she knew that she would have to raise her fist and vow that she had no spiritual belief. An official was furious at her response and questioned her decision. She told him that she was a Christian. He angrily told her that God does not exist and that her belief was foolish superstition. She told him that she knows God is real because He answers her prayers and lives in her heart. Please continue to pray and give so that more can know that God is real and hear the message of salvation. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

EVENING: THE IMPORTANCE OF DISCERNMENT

(New York) Central and Western New York is comprised of a variety of people groups with more than four million people living in Syracuse, Rochester and Buffalo. Church planting missionary **TIM BISSELL** knows without your prayers and support through the Cooperative Program and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, his work would be much more challenging. Tim's work includes recruiting, assessing, training and coaching men and teams that plant churches to reach more than 96 percent of people in the area who do not have a personal relationship with Christ. In your prayer time today, pray for God to give Tim wisdom and discernment as he works with potential church planters. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: 2 CORINTHIANS 8:12

Christian giving is always in proportion to one's income. That means our giving is measured by the percent of income we keep to spend on ourselves rather than the percent of income we give. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

AUGUST 11, 2013

MORNING: ADVANCING THE KINGDOM OF GOD

(Kansas) North American missionary, **MARTY MCCORD** serves as director of missions for the Southeast Kansas Baptist Association. Pulling from his own experience as pastor of rural churches in Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma, Marty and his wife, **KAREN**, are assisting 40 churches in nine counties to advance the Kingdom of God. Your prayers and your partnership in giving through the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering help Marty be actively involved in growing, strengthening and multiplying churches to reach nearly two-thirds of the population who are unchurched. As you pray, ask God to continue to give Marty strength, health and energy as he recovers from serious health issues.

EVENING: THE IMPORTANCE OF DISCERNMENT

(Central Asia) **CHARLES** and **HEATHER CARTER,*** workers in Central Asia, are very grateful for the financial support given by Southern Baptists. They know that God used that support to save their daughter's life. Melissa was 9 years old when she

battled a life-threatening case of meningitis. Treatment in their country failed to change Melissa's condition and she grew worse. Because of the Cooperative Program, the Carters were able to fly to Turkey for the operation that saved her life. Through a series of miracles, the family was provided for and Melissa experienced complete healing. Thank you for taking care of the Carters when they needed it the most. (*Names changed.)

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: I TIMOTHY 5:17-18

Giving to support those who have been called to a full-time Christian vocation is a biblical principle. Pastors and staff, denominational workers, evangelists and missionaries extend our ministries when we give. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

AUGUST 18, 2013

MORNING: TOUCHED THROUGH GENEROSITY

(American Peoples) **ALLISON ANDERSON*** was nervous as she stared at the turtle head on her plate. She had been invited to dinner by Beatriz,* a friend in the Amazon community where Allison served as a short-term IMB missionary. Even as Allison struggled to eat her meal, she was touched by the generosity of her hosts. "This family didn't have to invite me, the foreigner, to come to their special meal," Allison said. "In order to honor me, they wanted to give me their very best by giving me the one delicacy they had. What a humbling lesson!" Thank you for supporting our workers who are developing relationships which lead to Christ. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known. (*Name changed.)

EVENING: SHARE THE GOSPEL

(Hawaii) **STEVEN KANG** and his wife, **MONICA**, serve God in Hawaii. Steven is in charge of planting churches on the islands in the South Pacific, missions education, and the chaplaincy ministry of the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention. The convention serves the islands of Hawaii, American Samoa, Samoa (Western), Saipan, Guam and the Pacific Rim. Sixty percent of the population claims no religious affiliation. The remaining 40 percent have greatly varying beliefs, with Mormonism on the rise. They need more churches and church planters who are able to win people to the Lord. As we faithfully give to mission through the Cooperative Program, we are helping the Kangs share the gospel despite language and cultural differences.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: LUKE 12:20-31

Jesus told about a rich farmer who kept an abundant harvest for his own selfish use. Without a thought of giving thanks or giving to help others, he built larger barns. Giving helps free us from such selfishness. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

AUGUST 25, 2013

MORNING: FAITHFUL GIFTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

(South Carolina) As a former missionary kid, missions work is part of **TIM RICE's** DNA. He and his wife, **MAGGIE**, serve God through the South Carolina Baptist Convention (SCBC), where Tim is the director of missions mobilization. Thanks in part to our faithful gifts through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and the Cooperative Program, Tim is able to equip volunteers,

team leaders and supervisors of stateside missionaries. He also encourages churches to partner with schools, to reach out to multi-family housing communities, and to focus on ethnic groups not yet reached with the gospel. Pray that the internationals in the apartment complexes will seek Christ. Pray for partnerships as they create and resource Great Commission Networks.

EVENING: ANSWERED PRAYERS

(South Asia) IMB representative **JACK RHINE*** shares the following testimony: "After several trips with a taxi driver named Trivedi and some God-centered Hindi conversations, Trivedi opened up about his son who was very sick. 'I would like to come to your home and pray for your son,' I asked. I asked God to show His power by healing the child so that Trivedi might know that He is above all other gods. I prayed in broken Hindi. Trivedi called later to tell me that my prayers were answered. God has already been working in Trivedi's life." Thank you for your giving through the Cooperative Program that helps place IMB workers where people are ready to hear the Good News. (**Name changed.*)

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: PROVERBS 30:7-9

Managing well the material things which God provides takes maturity. Our goal should be to maintain balance between too little and too much. Maintaining balance frees us to grow in our giving, and giving helps maintain balance. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

SEPTEMBER 2013

SEPTEMBER 1, 2013

MORNING: WIPING AWAY TEARS FROM THEIR EYES

(American Peoples) After a tragic school shooting in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, IMB missionary **ERIC REESE** and national believers worked to provide comfort and hope to the grieving families and community. Reese and a ministry partner posted their messages for each family in a memorial area: "Southern Baptists in the United States are praying for the family." They included a paraphrased verse of Revelation 21:3-4: "God Himself will be with them. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes.'" Thank you for giving so that our missionaries can bring hope to the hopeless. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

EVENING: REACHING THE "STATISTICALLY INSIGNIFICANT"

(Nebraska) **RON** and **ALPHA GOOMBI** are Native American church planters in Nebraska. Ron serves as Native American church planting catalyst for the Kansas Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists. With the help of our prayers and financial support through the Cooperative Program, the Goombis have planted a church on the Omaha Indian Reservation, a Bible fellowship on the Winnebago Indian Reservation, and a home Bible fellowship for discipling Native American families in Omaha. God has given them a vision to reach the "statistically insignificant" Native American peoples with the gospel. Pray for the communities as they face the challenges of high unemployment, hunger, substance abuse and lack of healthy drinking water.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: 2 THESSALONIANS 3:11-12

A willingness to work and provide for oneself and family is a good testimony for the Lord. It also makes possible giving through our church to help share the gospel. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

SEPTEMBER 8, 2013

MORNING: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS AT POW WOVES

(Oklahoma) A full-blooded Creek Indian, **EDDIE LINDSEY** came to know Jesus at age 12, unlike 95 percent of all other Indians who are without a relationship with Jesus Christ. Today Eddie and his wife, **GRETCHEN**, are church planting missionaries who plant new churches among all people groups in Oklahoma, including cowboys and Native Americans, and have a tipi ministry to share the Gospel at large pow wows with more than 100,000 people. Through your generous giving through the Cooperative Program and commitment to the Great Commission, Eddie and his wife are spreading the Gospel in Oklahoma. Pray for the tipi ministry and for the 40,000 Native Americans living in and around Oklahoma County to be reached with the Good News.

EVENING: ANSWERED PRAYERS

(NAME) A worker in the Middle East shares this answer to prayer and result of the faithfulness of Southern Baptists: Muftuha*

heard the Gospel after seeing a vision of how she could receive healing. Since then, Muftuha has followed in baptism and returned to her village. She joyously reported that now her sister and father also believe, as well as several friends, and four others have joined her in baptism. Please pray for Muftuha and thank God that she has a reproducing faith and that her small church is growing. Ask that many others will follow Christ in her village and beyond. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known. (**Name changed.*)

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: ROMANS 14:12

Giving an account of our actions does not have to be dreaded. When we have followed Christ in our living and giving, accounting is a time for rejoicing. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

SEPTEMBER 15, 2013

MORNING: EVERY ENCOUNTER MATTERS

(Central Asia) Eleven years ago, IMB workers in Central Asia spent one day with an immigrant family, whom they never saw again. Recently, they heard that a national believer was ministering to a particular family. They spent many hours looking at the Quran together, while the believer used Scripture to point to the truth of Christ. The father repented and believed. Then he led his family—a wife and three sons—to believe the truth. This was the same family with whom the workers had met 11 years earlier. After their brief encounter and the witness of a national believer, the family came to Christ. Every encounter matters—every prayer is heard. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

EVENING: SHARING AT THE RACEWAYS

(Alabama) **JOYCELYN CARRELL** is the church and community ministries director for the Russell Baptist Association in Phenix City, Alabama, and serves as the director of the Baptist center there. The center teaches residents about Jesus through Bible studies and helps those who are at or below poverty level by giving them food, toiletries, cleaning items, paper products and school supplies. Also, Joycelyn works with Alabama Raceway Ministries to evangelize and pray with people at the super speedway near Talledaga. Joycelyn is thankful for your prayers and commitment to reach people through the Cooperative Program. Pray that the lost will know Christ and be willing to share Him with everyone they know.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: LUKE 16:10-12

The word steward in the Bible means “manager.” Everything we possess really belongs to God; we just manage it for Him. Think about it; God gave us freedom to give away what belongs to Him. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

SEPTEMBER 22, 2013

MORNING: SHARE THE GOOD NEWS WITH OTHERS

(Illinois) **ERIC AIDOO** is a North American Mission Board church planter and pastor of Calvary International Baptist Ministry near Chicago, Illinois. Your prayers and sacrificial gifts through the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter

Offering are making a difference in the lives many African immigrants. As an immigrant from West Africa, Eric understands their culture and concerns. Through his church, he works to facilitate spiritual growth and Christlikeness in the believers and reaches out to those who need to hear of God's love. Pray for Eric as he leads Calvary International Bible Ministry to continue to grow spiritually and share the gospel with immigrants in their area. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

EVENING: SHARING AT THE RACEWAYS

(South Asia) **JIM SIMS*** was a fireman in Alabama before the Lord redirected his path. "I had a great life, living the American dream, and then God said, 'I got another dream for you.' I just couldn't pursue the old dream anymore," he said. Jim and his wife, **MALLORY**, were scared about raising their children in areas hostile to Christians, but they have learned that God is in control and knows the best plan for their family. They also witness the difficult road that many must walk in order to follow Christ. Their friend "M" faces daily persecution but persists in serving Christ. The Simses have sacrificed their personal dreams so that men like "M" may be saved. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known. (**Names changed.*)

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: HEBREWS 10:23-25

Perhaps many of us would consider giving more seriously if we were sensitive to the nearness of the coming Day of the Lord. This Scripture instructs us to live and give for the benefit of others. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

SEPTEMBER 29, 2013

MORNING: OPPORTUNITIES MADE POSSIBLE

(Europe) **JOHN** and **PAM*** packed their bags and left Alabama to work among the immigrant population of Paris. "Since we're older, we knew we were going to have to work hard to learn the French language," Pam said. But the pace of language learning actually helped them with relationship building. "We began going to cultural centers and cafés to meet people and hear their opinions and beliefs firsthand, and by the time we had enough language ability to explain to them that we were Christians, they already liked us," John said with a laugh. Now the two spend their time having coffee with people from one particular people group and answering questions they have about the New Testament—an opportunity made possible to them through the generous gifts of Southern Baptists. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

EVENING: IMPACTING LOSTNESS

(Tennessee) Poverty in West Tennessee is at 20 percent—much higher than the national average. For the past 12 years, North American missionary **RANDY POOL** has been working with 21 counties in West Tennessee connecting churches to people in need and impacting lostness by touching poverty directly through ministry evangelism that has resulted in many new church plants. Randy and his wife, **CINDY**, are thankful for your commitment to fulfilling the Great Commission through the Cooperative Program and asks that you pray for churches to rise to the challenge of moving outside their walls and into the fields of ministry.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: ECCLESIASTES 5:10

Material things are a vital part of life, but not the most vital. Though we often measure our self-worth by what we possess, wealth itself cannot bring genuine meaning to life. Using wealth, such as giving to God through one's church, is how wealth adds meaning to life. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

OCTOBER 2013

OCTOBER 6, 2013

MORNING: RELATING TO OTHERS OPENLY

(Oregon) Texas native **RON ALLEN** has covered a lot of territory in his ministry—from Texas to Mexico to New York back to Texas to Oregon. He is a church planter and regional strategist with the Northwest Baptist Convention. “The needs are different in Oregon,” said Ron. “You have to relate to people openly and do a lot of evangelism. People here are not churchied.” Ron and his wife, **JEANETTE**, are thankful for your commitment to fulfilling the Great Commission through the Cooperative Program and ask that you pray for them as they reach out to southern Oregon.

EVENING: MAY OUR HEARTS BE JOINED WITH OTHERS

(SSAP) In Botswana, IMB missionaries **ANDY** and **LAURA PETTIGREW** minister to youth, namely college students. Recently these national students have “caught the vision” for missions. One student, named Michael, felt led to join a mission trip to Lesotho. In order to get the \$350 for the trip, he skipped dinner every night and saved that money. After five months of skipping dinner, Michael was the first student to turn in his money. During the trip, he was one of the most effective students in witnessing and ministering. May our hearts be joined with Michael’s, as we sacrifice so that others can know Christ. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: LUKE 15:21

After a change of heart, the prodigal son called his wasteful spending “sinning against heaven.” Ask God to help you be a good steward of what He has provided you for spending and giving. Today, through the Cooperative Program, we join our giving to reach more lost persons for Christ.

OCTOBER 13, 2013

MORNING: EXCITEMENT IN READING THE NEW TESTAMENT

(South Asia) Southern Baptist workers **DEVIN** and **CALLIE BALLEW’S*** apartment building is watched by a guard named Tagore. The Ballews learned that Tagore knew many things about Jesus. Even though he was born a Muslim, he has great respect for Jesus. When Devin gave Tagore a New Testament, he was so excited that he read all the Gospels in a couple of days. Devin discussed the Gospel and his testimony with him. Over the following days, Tagore read the rest of the New Testament. Just before Easter, Devin gave him a full Bible. The Ballews are praying that God’s Word will continue to penetrate Tagore’s heart. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

(*Names changed.)

EVENING: BEACONS OF LIGHT FOR OTHERS

(Alaska) Seven years ago, God led missionaries **MATT** and **TAMMY HOKE** to First Baptist Kotzebue in Alaska. Thanks in part to our support of missions through the Cooperative Program, the Hokes are seeing tremendous spiritual growth in their church. One ministry they support is installing AM radio transmitters in smaller Alaskan villages that allow Christian music and

Bible teachings to be broadcast. Pray for the Kendalls, a family that has started a radio ministry to small villages and churches in remote areas of Alaska. Also pray for Matt and Tammy, their three children, and the church family at First Baptist Kotzebue to be beacons of light to the community.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: LUKE 11:39-41

After we confess our sin, accept Christ as Savior and Lord, and begin to grow in Him, other things that come forth from our life can honor God, too. The way we give is shaped by our experience with Christ. Today, through the Cooperative Program, we join our giving to reach more lost persons for Christ.

OCTOBER 20, 2013

MORNING: BUILDING BRIDGES TO SHARE CHRIST

(Utah) **SHAYLA HURLBUT** is a LoveLoud missionary and the Women's Evangelism Consultant for the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention. She is actively involved in planning and speaking at women's events for the two-state area. Her husband **JEFF** is a church planter in Morgan, Utah, of which the population is approximately 90 percent Mormon. There is only one evangelical church in the entire county. Thanks in part to your support of missions through the Cooperative Program, Shayla and her husband, Jeff, are building bridges over which to share the true gospel. Pray for Shayla and Jeff as they develop relationships through youth events, athletics, and outreach projects.

EVENING: RESPONDING TO ENORMOUS NEEDS

(American Peoples) When IMB missionary **DELORES YORK** visited an orphanage near Port-au-Prince, Haiti, she discovered a pathetic situation: children with swollen bellies, skinny frames and discolored hair, signs of malnutrition and anemia. Baptist Global Response—a global relief and development organization—responded with emergency funds for food. When children received the food, they were “rejoicing like it was Christmas, not for toys or candy but (for) just plain food,” said York. As news of the need spread, U.S. churches began to respond immediately. Meanwhile, Baptist workers in Haiti are building and stocking a fish pond, chicken coops and pens for goats and pigs at the orphanage to provide children with ongoing sources of protein. Fruit trees have also been planted. Praise God for the cooperative spirit of Southern Baptists. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: NEHEMIAH 12:43-44

Nehemiah led the people to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem. The people responded to God's blessings and protection with worship. Among other things, they brought contributions, first fruits, and tithes to express their worship. Today, through the Cooperative Program, we join our giving to reach more lost persons for Christ.

OCTOBER 27, 2013

MORNING: HANDS-ON-HELP

(Europe) When Yura was 21, he led his church to buy and renovate a building, paying for half of it through gathering, hulling and cleaning walnuts. Yura's church, called “the station,” is in the village of Budzhak, Gagauzia, an autonomous region of Moldova. Southern Baptist representatives **CHRIS** and **NANCY RUSSELL** have lived in the area for many years, working with

the Gagauz people. They have been encouraged by God's call on Yura's life and are supporting him with their presence, hands-on help and coordination of volunteers. Chris has organized many volunteer teams to run children's programs, youth events, weeklong clinics for American football and weight-training programs. Thank you for your gifts through the Cooperative Program, which make this work possible.

EVENING: RE-ENGAGING THE UNREACHED CITIES

(Ohio) God began nudging the young Illinois college pastor to do something new. For a couple of months **ZACH WEIHRAUCH** wrestled with God over what that would be. He couldn't shake the belief that God was moving him toward church planting. Weihrauch is part of a new generation of pioneering Southern Baptist church planters who are re-engaging the major unreached cities of North America with the gospel through church planting. Your commitment of gifts through the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering has helped Zach and his wife **AMY** plant Gateway Heights Church in Cleveland, Ohio.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: COLOSSIANS 4:2

We need to be faithful in prayer, alert and grateful as we communicate with God. Approaching God in this spirit, we are more likely to be sensitive to our need and opportunity to give. Today, through the Cooperative Program, we join our giving to reach more lost persons for Christ.

NOVEMBER 2013

NOVEMBER 3, 2013

MORNING: A PATTERN FOR LIVING FAITH

(Maryland) **BOB MACKEY** became a Christian July 2, 1972, at Pleasant Valley Baptist Church in Groton, Connecticut. The RA pledge he learned that first year continues to be a pattern for living out his faith through missions. Today, Bob is a church planting catalyst in Baltimore, Maryland. where there is one Southern Baptist church for approximately every 37,000 people. Your gifts through the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering help Bob assist churches to reach their communities with the gospel. Pray for the Lord to raise up 70 church planters in the next 10 years for the Northeast region

EVENING: RECEIVING A BIBLE

(East Asia) It didn't take long. The taxi arrived at one of the city's most famous landmarks to drop off a passenger. The professional middle-aged man who emerged from the taxi saw that tourists were receiving free books and other materials. He soon discovered that the book was the Bible. He accepted one himself and began to converse with one of the Christian volunteers standing nearby. The man's heart was open and the volunteer led the man to faith in Christ. "Jesus is now in my heart," said the new believer as the volunteer workers marveled at God's working. Workers in East Asia are thankful to Southern Baptists who join them on the field and partner with them through praying and giving. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: LUKE 6:38

Jesus emphasized the giving nature of Christians. Of the many characteristics which distinguish the new life in Christ, giving is very visible. Giving is a testimony. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

NOVEMBER 10, 2013

MORNING: OUR GIFTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

(South Asia) **DONALD** and **HELEN MCKINNEY,*** who serve in a large city in India, share this testimony: "For our poor Hindu friends, living in blue tarp tents without water, bathrooms or electricity is normal. Many are hungry and drunken husbands are common. Yet God saved a poverty-stricken, Hindu construction worker named Vena* in our living room. Though often beaten by her husband, Vena comes several times a week for prayer and Bible stories. Because of the Cooperative Program, we are here. With your help, we can tell about the one true God and His salvation. Vena has many friends and family members who still need to know. Pray as we seek to tell them." (*Names changed.)

EVENING: THE LAUNCH OF A CHURCH IN THE MIDST OF NEEDS

(Washington) North American missionaries **KEITH** and **KRISTINE CARPENTER** moved to Seattle five years ago and helped launch Epic Life Church on Aurora Avenue. "Most people, if you ask them about Aurora, they'll say bars and strip clubs and

adult bookstores," said Keith. "There's just a lot of hurt along the street. We started talking with the homeless, knowing them by name—and people came in from those relationships." The congregation spans from the homeless to people with comfortable homes and incomes. Your prayers and gifts through the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering are making a difference in the lives of people on Aurora Avenue.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: 2 CORINTHIANS 9:11

Being thankful to God for all His blessings shapes our lives. Thankful people please God. Giving is the response of a thankful heart, and it produces thanksgiving from people who benefit from our giving. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

NOVEMBER 17, 2013

MORNING: REPRODUCING OURSELVES

(Wyoming) North American missionaries **ZACH** and **AMBER EDWARDS** have planted a new church in Cheyenne, Wyoming—Life Point Church. "We wanted to start a church for natives of Cheyenne, not just transplants." said Zach. "Our vision is to be a church that is intentionally involved in reproducing ourselves in new Christians and new churches." There are three primary experiences at Life Point Church: Life Groups, Life Worship and Life Multiplication. Thank you for showing your love by praying and giving through the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Pray for Zach and Amber and ask God to call more church planters to the West.

EVENING: GOD OPENED DOORS

(American Peoples) Hands On missionary **KRISTIN BOLT** attended a college photography class in Sao Paulo, Brazil, for three months and made about 45 new friends. One was Muslim, another Jewish and several didn't have any religious beliefs at all. God opened doors for Kristin to share the Gospel with each of them. Despite her initial fear, Kristin saw God's strength in new ways during her time in Brazil. "God is faithful," she said. "If we're obedient, that's all He wants. It does seem scary in the beginning, but all God needs is for you to say you're willing, and He can run with that." The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: COLOSSIANS 1:27B-28

Many things may raise our expectations, but eternal hope is found only in Jesus Christ. Those of us who have hope can give to share the gospel so other, too, can hope in Christ. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

NOVEMBER 24, 2013

MORNING: THE HOPE OF CHRIST

(Europe) More than 3 million Latin American immigrants are currently living in Spain. They come looking for a better life for themselves and their families. They face prejudice, isolation, loneliness and poor living conditions. As a result of the Spanish economic crisis, they've faced job loss, desperation, fear and hopelessness. IMB workers **GARY** and **JULIE CLIFTON** are working to bring them the hope of Christ. Latino people groups gather at local parks on the weekends for recreation and fellowship. Pray with Gary and Julie that God will reveal the best way to reach the masses that gather at the parks. The Cliftons are thankful for your faithful giving that provides them this unique opportunity to share the Gospel. The Cooperative

Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

EVENING:RESPONDING TO GOD'S CALL

(Connecticut) As a young adult, **TERRY DORSETT** often wondered who would be left after a short mission trip to continue to tell people about Jesus. Yielding to God's call to be the one who stayed behind, Terry became a church starter, focusing his efforts on young adults in New England. With your commitment to the Great Commission by giving through the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, Terry has been planting churches in New England since 1993. During your prayer time, ask God to help existing churches see the need to start new churches.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: AMOS 6:4-6

We spend our life's energy and money for many things—food, clothes, housing, transportation, recreation, gifts, etc. Often we are tempted to overspend for things of lesser importance. The most important thing for which we expend life and money is sharing the gospel. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

DECEMBER 2013

DECEMBER 1, 2013

MORNING: SHARING CHRIST IN THE SCHOOLS

(American Peoples) **MIKE BENNETT** sat in the parents' assembly, facing a battle he knew he might not win. Bennett, an IMB missionary in Caracas, Venezuela, had been hosting talks in local schools on values. Each talk included a Gospel presentation, and the mother sitting across from him wasn't happy about it. "My family is very devoted to the Virgin [Mary]," she said. She was suspicious of what Mike was teaching. Mike asked her to visit and hear an assembly. The next week she came and heard a lesson on self-esteem and our value in Christ. After the assembly the mother said, "That's exactly what our children needed to hear. You're welcome here any time you want to come." The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

EVENING: HANDS-ON MINISTRY

(Virginia) **MIKE HAYWOOD** worked in social services for the government when he realized that being free to minister to those in need and witness could produce better results, not only for this world but for eternity. Mike works with churches in Virginia to provide ministry opportunities such as sports camps for children, work camps for teens, rallies for senior adults and Sunday Schools for the mentally challenged. He also works within the church to provide mentoring and hands-on ministry for teens and young adults to be the hands and heart of Jesus. It is through your sacrificially giving through the Cooperative Program that makes Mike's work possible. Pray for Mike's ministry and thank God for his commitment serve.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: MATTHEW 25:1-12

These five foolish virgins did not use their resources to prepare for the Lord's coming. When it was too late they rushed out to buy oil. Our spending influences our giving and our relationship to Christ. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

DECEMBER 8, 2013

MORNING: RAISING A NEW GENERATION OF BELIEVERS

(South Asia) A woman from Sri Lanka was only 5 years old when her teacher told her class Jesus had died on the cross for their sins. She cried for a week. From that time on, Jesus Christ had her heart. Though her Buddhist mother continued to take her to the temple, she belonged to Jesus. She heard Him speak to her throughout her life, and she sought to listen and obey. Today she is the mother of three young men. She has sought diligently to teach them about the way, the truth and the life. Missionaries in South Asia are grateful to work beside Christians, like this woman, who are raising a new generation of believers. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

EVENING: BEYOND THE WALLS OF THE CHURCH

(Massachusetts) **STEPHEN MCDONALD** is a pastor at a church plant in Mill City, Massachusetts. In his ministry at the church

in Mill City, Stephen teaches a special Christianity Explored class for skeptics and those curious about Christianity in an attempt to reach out beyond the walls of the church to the community. It is through your dedication to the Great Commission through giving through the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering that churches such as Mill City exist and that Stephen has the privilege of shepherding those in Mill City. Pray today for Stephen's ministry at Mill City—that God would raise up disciples in their midst to be passionate about spreading the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: JOHN 3:16

The highest example of giving is God giving His Son. God gave that we might have eternal life. That others may also have eternal life is a motive for our giving. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

DECEMBER 15, 2013

MORNING: BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

(Montana) Often reaching the unreached in places like Missoula, Montana means thinking outside the church walls and breaking down barriers of traditional Sunday morning worship with activities and messages that resonate with the local culture. In planting a church in Montana, **MARK** and **SACHA HASENYAGER** held midweek evening services with free BBQ and contemporary services to appeal to those too busy with outdoor activities on Sunday to learn about Jesus for the first time. Your commitment to the Great Commission through the Cooperative Program makes Mark's ministry possible. Pray for continued success in leading these unchurched people to Jesus.

EVENING: BEYOND THE WALLS OF THE CHURCH

(NAME) In a mountainside village in the Horn of Africa, **MIKE** and **ABBEY NETLES*** were overwhelmed. "As we walked up the path, I was immediately struck as I observed the hundred or so children who were following us up the mountain, knowing they represented many more families who have not heard the message," Abbey said. "The mountain overlooks a large Muslim cemetery. There are so many thousands who never had a chance to hear the Good News." Only .03 percent of that people group has had the chance to hear the Gospel. You have joined the Nettles by giving through the Cooperative Program. Will you join them now through your prayers? *(*Names changed.)*

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: ROMANS 13:11-12

Has this been a year of growth that gives witness of what God is doing in us? For many it has. Growth in giving is a possibility within reach for most of us during the new year. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

DECEMBER 22, 2013

MORNING: REACHING THE UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS

(Europe) Decades of secular postmodernism in Europe mean the vast majority of people living there have never heard the Gospel message. Although taking this message to Europeans can be a daunting task, International Mission Board missionaries are seeing success. In 2010, because of the work of these missionaries, 150,000 Europeans heard the Gospel, nearly 7,000

accepted Christ as their Savior, 11,000 believers were baptized, 130 churches were started and work began among three unreached people groups. These successes are signs of the work God is doing in Europe; however millions of Europeans have yet to be reached with the Gospel, leaving much work in the years ahead. Pray that the work will grow in Europe. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

EVENING: SERVE CHURCH

(Ohio) Impacted heavily by urban sprawl, Euclid, Ohio, is diverse on many fronts—including racially and socio-economically. One lifelong Euclid resident told North American missionary **JOSH MCGUIRE** it used to be a place where “everyone had each other’s back” because “churches cared. But, churches don’t care anymore.” Josh and his wife, **JANA**, want to change that. You can summarize McGuire’s strategy to reach Euclid in one word that also happens to be part of the new church’s name—Serve Church. Your prayers and commitment to missions through the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering are helping the McGuires make Him Known and impact lostness in Ohio.

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: MATTHEW 2:11

These wise men traveled a long way to deliver their gifts in person. How fortunate we are to have a workable plan through which our gifts go directly to the need. Let us give with confidence that soon our gifts will become a blessing to those who need Christ. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

DECEMBER 29, 2013

MORNING: GOD IS CHANGING LIVES

(Canada) **NATE** and **DEEN-DEEN VEDOYA** are the lead church planters for City of Refuge Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Though born in Canada, Nate is Filipino and his exposure to different cultures has helped him cross cultures easily in Canada so he can share the gospel with a variety of people. Your commitment to sharing Christ’s love with others through the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering allows Nate and Deen-Deen the opportunity to see how God is changing lives. During your prayer time today, ask God to lead the Vedoyas to church planters with a vision for changing lives through planting churches.

EVENING: SERVE CHURCH

(East Asia) **MATTHEW KEPNER,*** serving in East Asia, shares this praise for a new evangelism initiative: “Local workers are being trained to challenge believers to prayerfully choose five friends or family members, pray for their salvation, perform one act of service for each one of them every month and share the Gospel—simply, lovingly and boldly. Believers are also being trained in a simple, reproducible discipleship method that they can use to follow-up with those who have accepted Christ. In the first four months of the new initiative, many who had never shared the Gospel before have started doing so, and more than 200 new believers have come into the Kingdom.” The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known. (*Name changed.)

BIBLE REFERENCE & STATEMENT: PROVERBS 3:10

The Scripture says that we can honor God with our material possessions and that we are to give God first place in our giving. As we face a new year, let’s resolve to obey that biblical truth. Let us honor God with our money and make giving to Him through our church a priority. The Cooperative Program enables us to partner with more than 45,000 churches to make Christ known.

***THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM,
WE CAN DO MORE TOGETHER THAN
WE CAN DO ALONE.***



***If you look at the SBC Cooperative Program (CP)
Web site (www.sbc.net), it explains:***

- Churches in your state work together through your state convention to support a wide array of ministries and missions including: evangelism efforts, children's homes, volunteer missions, missions education, new churches, colleges and universities, collegiate ministries, camps, and much more.
- Through the International Mission Board (www.imb.org), Southern Baptists support approximately 5,000 missionaries who are engaging 655 people groups, of populations greater than 100,000, around the world."
- More than 1,000 new churches were planted through Southern Baptists efforts in North America. Missions personnel serving through appointment or approval of the North American Mission Board (www.namb.net) total more than 2,600 units, with an additional 3,650 endorsed chaplains.. Working together, Southern Baptists saw 333,341 new believers baptized in 2011 in North America alone.
- Six Southern Baptist seminaries (Golden Gate, Midwestern, New Orleans, Southeastern, Southern, and Southwestern) educate more than 16,000 pastors, missionaries, and future church leaders each year.
- The Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission is dedicated to addressing social, moral, and ethical concerns, with particular attention to their impact on American families and their faith.

So, simply put, through the CP, we can do more together than we can do alone!

The Southern Baptist Stewardship Development Association (SDA) is a national organization of denomination leaders throughout the United States, the District of Columbia, and Canada. For more than 40 years, SDA has equipped churches to address biblical stewardship by investing in resource development and leader training in areas such as:

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