



ONE ANNUAL CHURCH MISSIONS OFFERING

Individual Baptist churches make their own decisions about promoting missions. Some Tennessee Baptist churches choose to promote one annual missions offering rather than the traditional separate special offerings throughout the year.

WHY GIVE TO MISSIONS?

Biblical holistic missions is based in Acts 1:8 "...you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth." Historically Southern Baptists have developed a very organized way to support missions to fulfill this Scripture reaching the local community (Jerusalem), the state of Tennessee (Judea), the continent of North America (Samaria), and international missions (the ends of the earth or uttermost). Each is essential in God's plan.

WHAT ABOUT ONE OFFERING?

Many churches have chosen to consolidate their missions giving. They may highlight missions giving year-round, or they set aside a season of missions emphasis and giving.

WHEN IS A GOOD TIME?

Missions leaders select a month or a week during the year when it is convenient to focus complete attention on what God is doing in the missions field, locally, and globally.

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN AN ANNUAL OFFERING?

Prayerfully deciding what to include in the annual missions offering is an important opportunity. Some churches share their annual missions offering among three areas: Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, and Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions. Others include Mother's Day Offering for the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, or Father's Day Offering for the Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes. Each church decides how resources are shared among these offerings.

HOW DO WE PROMOTE AND EDUCATE?

Pastors themselves tell us the church gives successfully when pastors take the lead in promoting. The overall vision of giving should be shared clearly and frequently with the congregation. The passion of WMU and other missions organizations must be harnessed in encouraging the congregation. Invite missionary speakers to share about their work in classes, fellowships, and worship settings. Utilize open church spaces for exhibits so that church members learn about missions locally and globally. Educated and engaged members are more eager to support missions through prayer and giving.

Thank you, Tennessee Baptists, for prayerfully and financially supporting Missions and ministry through the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions.





SHOULD WE HOLD SEASONS OF PRAYER?

Yes. The seasons of prayer focus attention on what Southern Baptists can accomplish cooperatively through sacrificial giving. These seasons increase awareness of mission needs, join hearts to support the needs of missionaries, and inspire cheerful giving and personal involvement.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF ONE OFFERING?

Churches who have made this change, while keeping a focus on prayer and promotion, tell us that they have seen an increase in overall giving. One offering may also simplify annual calendars, unclutter worship and programming, and clarify the church's focus on missions.

DOES THIS CHANGE TRADITIONAL BAPTIST GIVING?

Cooperating to support missions and ministries is central to Southern Baptist life. The Cooperative Program has existed since 1925 to provide continuous financial support for SBC entities, agencies, and seminaries, and continues as our foundational support for missions around the world. The Cooperative Program is ongoing and not typically included in an annual missions offering. Churches are encouraged to give at least 10% to the Cooperative Program and 3% to the local association from their undesignated offerings. Mission offerings are given above Cooperative Program giving.

IS THERE HELP FOR PROMOTION?

To automatically receive the promotion materials for the offerings and Weeks of Prayer for International Missions, North American Missions, and Tennessee Missions, complete the "Standing Order Form" at www.goldenoffering.org. Other help may be obtained by contacting Tennessee WMU at **1-800-558-2090** extension **7923**.

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