

North American Missions Emphasis PowerPoint Notes

North America is a vast mission field, not only geographically but also in its depth of lostness. In fact, it is estimated that three out of four people in North America do not have a personal relationship with Christ.* People need the gospel presented in ways they can understand. And they need churches to which they can relate. These people are our friends, coworkers, neighbors, and strangers. They are from every walk of life and every people group. They are in our communities and perhaps even in our own homes.

Joining in our task as Christians to fulfill the Great Commission is a group of people who live 24/7 with the eyes of their hearts open to the faces of need that surround them. These are our North American missionaries who are living with urgency and sowing down the gospel of Jesus Christ, using a variety of methods in a variety of settings.

Southern Baptists support the work of North American missions through their prayers, personal evangelism, volunteer efforts, and financial gifts through the Cooperative Program and to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering[®] for North American Missions.

While the Cooperative Program provides 36 percent of the North American Mission Board's budget, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering[®] provides 46 percent of NAMB's budget needed to reach unbelievers in North America.

The North American Mission Board, in partnership with Acts 1:8 partners such as state Baptist conventions, associations, and churches, has commissioned more than 5,500 missionaries to serve in the United States, Canada, and their territories. Giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering[®] ensures these missions personnel have the salaries, benefits, and supplies to sustain their ministries and impact as many people as possible with the good news of Jesus Christ.

100 percent of Annie Armstrong Easter Offering[®] gifts support our missionaries and their ministries. None is kept for administrative purposes such as the upkeep on the national headquarters building, paying NAMB staff salaries, or promotion material for the offering. Therefore, every dollar is making a difference on the North American mission field.

Receipts to the 2009 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering will fund mission endeavors as follows:

Missionary Support

70% (45,500,000)

Salaries (the majority of missionaries are jointly funded by state conventions and NAMB)

Health benefits

Missionary orientation

Ongoing missionary training expenses

Church Planting Support

17% (\$11,050,000)

Includes start-up funds for new churches, such as:

Rental of facilities

Materials

Promotional expenses

Evangelism Support

13% (\$8,450,000)

Includes projects that support missionaries' work, such as:

Scripture distribution

Sports evangelism

Special evangelism events

Media campaigns

Total: \$65,000,000

Most career missionaries are jointly funded, receiving full compensation and benefits from NAMB, their state convention, association, or a combination of those mission partners.

NAMB's church planning missionaries are starting healthy, reproducing churches with an evangelistic passion. Each year, more than 1,000 churches are started in rural towns and large cities and among all ethnic groups. In fact, the majority of church starts are ethnic church plants.

NAMB's evangelism ministries include a variety of opportunities for missionaries to sow the gospel. Resort ministries provide opportunities to share Christ with people with a wide variety of backgrounds. Resort missionaries meet people where they are, in their times of work and in times of play and share Christ with them. Collegiate evangelism missionaries not only sow the gospel on college campuses but also challenge Christian students to boldly witness and grow in their faith.

Through ministry evangelism, missionaries who are serving in inner city and in Baptist centers, as well as those who serve in other church and community settings are able to meet physical needs as they also share the hope found in Christ in the process.

Many missionaries assume a vocational missionary role for a specific period of time. Examples include the US/C2 program, a two-year service term for young adults; and church planters who receive funding for three to five years while a new church becomes established.

Mission Service Corps (MSC) missionaries receive support through training and placement services. MSC missionaries commit to working at least 20 hours a week for more than a year in their assigned ministry and are self-funded. MSC missionaries serve

in many of the same mission roles that career and limited-term missionaries do, but often in areas where salaries and benefits are not available.

Field ministry assistance is limited financial assistance provided through the AAEO that is available from NAMB and its state and Canadian convention partners for non-personnel uses such as evangelistic events and church planting start-up funds.

Living out the unique missionary call God has placed on their lives, our North American missionaries are serving Christ with a passionate and faithful heart to make Him known among all peoples in North America. They take seriously the need to be excellent stewards of the message and the resources used to share it. We impact and partner in their work through our continued prayers, giving and going in this urgent task God has called us to do. Our gifts make it possible for them to serve.

*Each decade the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies (ASARB) collects congregation and membership data from denominations and faith groups in the United States. NAMB's estimate of the lost population is based on the data collected by ASARB and published in *Religious Congregations & Membership in the United States, 2000*, published by Glenmary Research Center, Nashville, TN.