

2010 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 know that only God is powerful enough to transform the lives of those living in sin and without hope that is found in eternal salvation. They know each person's life can be transformed by the same power that raised Jesus from the grave and offered eternal life to those who would follow Him. These people are our North American missionaries who are living with urgency and sharing the powerful message of God which transforms lives from sinful man to redeemed believer. And they use a variety of methods in a variety of settings to accomplish their task.

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 the United States, Canada and their territories.

The North American Mission Board, in partnership with Acts 1:8 partners such as state Baptist conventions, associations, and churches, has commissioned more than 5,300 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. Every dollar is making a difference on the North American mission field.

Receipts to the 2010 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® will fund mission endeavors as follows:

Missionary Support

71% (49,700,000)

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% (\$11,900,000)

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

Rental of facilities

Materials

Promotional expenses

Evangelism Support

12% (\$8,400,000)

Includes projects that support missionaries' work, such as:

Scripture distribution

Sports evangelism

Special evangelism events

Media campaigns

Total: \$70,000,000

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 planting missionaries are starting healthy, reproducing churches with an evangelistic passion. Each year, more than 1,500 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 share God's transforming power. 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 share Christ 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 are committed to serving two or more years and serve at least 20 hours per week. MSC personnel serve in many of the same roles as career or limited-term missionaries. At the conclusion of their term of service, MSC personnel are given the option to continue. While MSC personnel receive no salary or benefits from NAMB and secure funding from personal sources or raise funds for support, they do benefit from Annie Armstrong Easter Offering funds for training and orientation.

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.