

FAST FACTS ABOUT THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

Updated 10/9/17

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) is a fellowship of over 47,000 Baptist churches scattered across the United States and its territories. These congregations, comprised of numerous racial, ethnic, language, and socioeconomic people groups, are called "cooperating churches." They have organized themselves to accomplish a specific set of missions and ministry initiatives, all for the purpose of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people everywhere.

Cooperating churches	47,272
Total membership in the SBC network of churches	15,216,978
Weekly worship attendance in the SBC network	5,200,716
Total baptisms (reported by Southern Baptist churches)	280,773
Cooperating state conventions	42
Cooperating local associations	1,136

from 2016 Annual Church Profile report

MISSION BOARD REPORTS

The International Mission Board (IMB) and North American Mission Board (NAMB) assist churches in evangelizing, discipling, and planting reproducing churches in our nation and around the world in fulfillment of the Great Commission.

Overseas missionaries <i>reported by IMB, 12/31/17</i>	3,562
Unengaged Unreached People Groups <i>from IMB Global Research, PeopleGroups.org, 7/5/17</i>	3,261
Domestic missionaries <i>reported by NAMB in the 2017 Book of Reports</i>	5,262
New churches planted <i>reported by NAMB in the 2017 Book of Reports</i>	732
Existing churches joining with the SBC <i>reported by NAMB in the 2017 Book of Reports</i>	232

SEMINARY STUDENTS TRAINED

The Convention operates six seminaries and a Seminary Extension program to train its ministers and Christian workers.

Gateway Seminary of the Southern Baptist Convention	2,073
Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary	1,964
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary	3,890
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary	3,579
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary	5,373
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary	4,276
TOTAL	21,155
Seminary Extension Division, Nashville	620

from 2015–2016 academic year as reported in the 2017 Book of Reports

MISSION:DIGNITY

Mission:Dignity, a ministry of GuideStone Financial Resources, provides financial assistance to retired ministers, denominational workers, their spouses, and widows.

Individuals or couples receiving financial assistance	1,787
Distributed in 2016	\$7,115,135

from GuideStone Financial Resources ministry report in 2017 Book of Reports

RACIAL/ETHNIC DIVERSITY

Dominant Ethnic Composition	Churches	Congregations*	Dominant Ethnic Composition	Churches	Congregations*
Anglo churches	39,009	40,597	Haitian churches	313	503
African American churches	3,120	3,747	Chinese churches	191	245
Hispanic churches	2,023	3,429	Filipino churches	136	192
Korean churches	713	872	Multi-ethnic churches	182	288
Native American churches	397	440	21+ other ethnic and language groups	691	1,131

*Includes churches and church-type missions
provided by NAMB Center for Missional Research from 2015 Annual Church Profile data

REGULAR CHURCH GIVING

Total reported undesignated receipts given in SBC churches <i>updated as of June 2017</i>	\$9,216,198,700.00
Total Cooperative Program dollars given by SBC churches <i>updated as of April 2017</i>	\$475,212,293.00
Cooperative Program Allocation Budget gifts received for SBC causes <i>updated as of October 2017</i>	\$197,146,731.08
Average percentage of undesignated receipts churches gave through the Cooperative Program in 2016 <i>reported by SBC Executive Committee, 2015–16 fiscal year</i>	5.16 percent

DESIGNATED INDIVIDUAL GIVING

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions—100% goes to support overseas missionaries <i>updated by IMB as of June 2017</i>	\$152,982,560.94
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions—100% goes to support North American missionaries <i>updated by NAMB as of October 2017</i>	\$59,648,377.00
Global Hunger Relief—100% goes to fight hunger in North America and around the world <i>amount received through the SBC Executive Committee, 2015–2016 fiscal year; does not include direct gifts to IMB and NAMB for GHR</i>	\$3,274,822.00



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' unified plan of giving through which cooperating Southern Baptist churches give a percentage of their undesignated receipts in support of their respective state convention and the Southern Baptist Convention missions and ministries.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH STATE CONVENTIONS

DISASTER RELIEF

The North American Mission Board and state convention partners organize Southern Baptists' response to disasters. They contribute manpower, ministry, and financial help during floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, fires, earthquakes, and urban disasters.

Volunteer days	109,743
Ministry contacts	35,181
Chaplaincy contacts	31,592
Gospel presentations	3,581
Professions of faith	549
Bibles distributed	6,748
Meals served	1,910,985

from NAMB ministry report in 2017 Book of Reports

CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

The Baptist Coalition for Children and Families represents twenty-two ministries established by state Baptist conventions to serve at-risk children and their families through residential care, counseling, foster care enlistment, and adoption assistance.

Number of children in residential care	8,843
Number of others served	2,619,506
Spiritual decisions reported	1,128

from 2016 Statistical Data for Baptist Child Care Agencies

BAPTIST COLLEGIATE MINISTRIES

LifeWay Christian Resources and state conventions collaborate to make disciples on college campuses across the nation through Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM).

Number of Baptist Collegiate Ministries	860
Total number of students involved	86,706
Total number of reported salvations through BCM	10,632

from National Collegiate Ministries 2015–16 Annual Statistics