



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

*Produced by the Southern Baptist Stewardship
Development Association in partnership with the
SBC Executive Committee, the International
Mission Board, North American Mission Board and
the 42 Baptist state conventions.*



Stewardship Development Association



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Carver Gladding



NORTH AFRICA MIDDLE EAST



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: January 3

Carver Gladding **NORTH AFRICA MIDDLE EAST**

Have you ever had a dream? Was it a dream that God gave you? That's the same question that Christian worker Carver Gladding* used to open his Bible storying workshop. It was a crash course in learning how to weave stories from the Bible into everyday life. During the workshop, one man timidly raised his voice and professed that he had dreamed of the very workshop he was now attending. Carver used his Bible storying skills to relate that man's experience with a God-given dream to the Bible story of Joseph. And it's because of the Cooperative Program that we're able to equip men like Carver to point people to Christ. We need to pray that Carver continues to speak truth that will impact the hearts of those around him.

**Name changed to protect identity.*



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Mark & Tami Lashey

 **DELAWARE**


COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: January 10

Mark & Tami Lashey **DELAWARE**

Mark Lashey had zero desire to live in Delaware. There was no sweet tea and, certainly, no biscuits. Children didn't say sir and ma'am. The truth is that the Northeast seemed cold.

But God gave Mark a burden for the people of his new community. He and his wife started a Bible study in their home called LifeHouse. Soon, it consisted of more than 100 people. And in a short time, that small Bible study was a full-fledged church with an average attendance of 650.

Mark and his wife were able to impact their community because they were faithful to God's calling and had the support of the Cooperative Program. Let's join in praying for the Lasheys as they continue their mission.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Daniel Choi



GOLDEN GATE BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: January 17

Daniel Choi

GOLDEN GATE BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Daniel Choi, a student at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, has a unique story. He's a second-generation Korean who grew up in Sydney, Australia. When Daniel was about to start college, his family moved to South Korea when his father accepted a pastorate. His experiences growing up in Sydney have forever shaped his life because so few ministers understand the needs of second-generation Koreans.

This is why Daniel chose to go into ministry — because God placed on his heart a desire to reach second-generation Koreans. It looks like many second-generation Koreans have given up on church. But God brought Daniel to Southern California where there is a large number of Korean churches.

It's because of your support through the Cooperative Program that people like Daniel are able to pursue God's calling for their life. Let's pray for Daniel as he continues to impact those around him for Christ.



"...the fields are white already to harvest!"
john 4:35



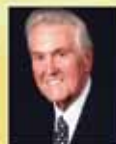
BOB
PITMAN



HERB
REAVIS



JIM
FUTRAL



JUNIOR
HILL



KARA
BLACKARD
(HOST CHURCH PASTOR)



PHIL
HOSKINS



SAMMY
GILBREATH



BOB
SMITH

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JIM FUTRAL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR-TREASURER
DON LUM, DIRECTOR, EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT



EVENT HIGHLIGHT: January 24

State Evangelism Conference
WHEELER GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH, CORINTH

2016 State Evangelism Conference
Wheeler Grove Baptist Church
Corinth, MS
January 31 – February 1, 2016
6:00 pm Jan. 31 – 7:30 pm Feb. 1

Pray for speakers and musicians as they prepare to lead. Pray for the attendees that they will be revived and encouraged as they continue the work of the Kingdom.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Chad & Sarah Hardy

 **NORTH AFRICA MIDDLE EAST**





MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: January 31

Chad & Sarah Hardy **NORTH AFRICA MIDDLE EAST**

What if a simple smile or kind phrase could change someone's life? IMB medical missionaries Chad and Sarah would tell you it's possible because they've witnessed it first hand.

Chad and Sarah were treating a woman named Anya* for tuberculosis when she emphatically stated that foreigners were so much nicer than Arabs. Sarah used this opportunity to carefully explain to Anya that they weren't nice because of their nationality but because Jesus lived within them. Anya decided to start reading the Bible on her own after that. And when she couldn't sleep one night, Anya wrote a poem. In that moment, she gave her life to Christ. To this day, Anya is the only believer in her family. But she is still living for God.

It's by giving through the Cooperative Program that our church is able to help support missionaries like Chad and Sarah. Let's pray for them as they continue to give medical care and share the Gospel. Let's also pray that God will use them to bring even more people — just like Anya — to salvation.

**Name changed to protect identity.*



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Barry & Amy Rager

 **INDIANAPOLIS**



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: February 7

Barry & Amy Rager
INDIANAPOLIS

When most people think of missionaries, their mind probably goes to those serving overseas. But sometimes, those missionaries, like Barry Rager, are in our own backyard. Following God's call, Barry moved to Indianapolis to start a church in a neighborhood that desperately needed Christ. The area that Barry now calls home is thought to be 95 percent non-Christian, with only one Southern Baptist church for every 19,965 people.

Every day, Barry and his family face the crime-filled streets of their neighborhood... all for the sake of bringing the Gospel to the lost. And although they frequently hear gunshots ring out, it doesn't change the fact that their neighbors are receptive to hearing about Jesus. So they press on speaking God's word as often as possible.

Our support through the Cooperative Program allows us to be a part of Barry's ministry in Indianapolis. So let's pray together that God will continue to guide Barry in his work for the Lord so that even more people can come to know Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.



ERLC HIGHLIGHT

Mike & Stephanie Goeke



SAN FRANCISCO, CA



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



ERLC HIGHLIGHT: February 14

Mike & Stephanie Goeke

ETHICS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTIES COMMISSION

Ever since childhood, pastor Mike Goeke felt like a slave to shame. His struggle with homosexuality placed him in inescapable bondage. And he faced ridicule and condemnation from his peers at Christian schools as he kept his battle secret. Confident that marriage was the key that would set him free, Mike married Stephanie. He soon discovered that marriage was not the solution he had longed for. After spiraling into depression, Mike left Stephanie. But Mike's father never gave up on him and gave him a book that introduced him to "a Jesus who was in the trenches" with him. Mike surrendered to a life of holiness and finally found the freedom he longed for through Jesus. By the grace of God, Mike and Stephanie reconciled their marriage and now have three children. Today, Mike is pastor of First Baptist Church in San Francisco. Because of our giving through the Cooperative Program, Mike is making an impact on the lives of many through the ERLC as he specifically helps married couples where one person struggles with same-sex attraction. He desires to help churches understand the gay community better by showing God's vision. He proclaims that the power of the Word sheds light and changes lives as his identity remains in Christ alone.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Andy Boles
 **FOREST, MS**


COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: February 21

Andy Boles
FOREST, MS

Embrace is a Mississippi church plant in Forest, MS that is attempting to reach the lost by 'loving, lifting, and helping the forgotten.' Embrace focuses on simple but specific ministry that reaches out to those who are poor, under-educated, those of multi-racial families and those trapped in addictions.


Embrace currently has around 100 regular attenders meeting in a weekly worship service. Over the past year and a half, Embrace has sent 45 men and women to faith based Christian drug and alcohol recovery centers. Currently, Embrace is supporting 10 in recovery.

Pray that God continues to reach lost souls through Embrace Church; pray for those graduating from drug recovery and growth as they start a new life; continued prayers for the finances of Embrace as they strive to become self-sustaining within five years; and pray for the process of moving to a much needed larger building.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

James Keath

 NORTH AFRICA MIDDLE EAST


COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: February 28

James Keath

NORTH AFRICA MIDDLE EAST

Here in the United States, we usually feel safe. But today we want to pray for James Keath,* one of our missionaries who serves in the North Africa and Middle East region. No, that's not his real name. We don't use his real name because it would put his life in danger.

Missionaries like James are heroes. Even though many live with violence and bloodshed happening around them, they continue to share the Gospel. And even in Iraq and Syria where we read almost daily of the worst kind of horrors, we know God has not forgotten the people there.

Our church's Cooperative Program giving supports the missionaries who serve across this region and dollar for dollar, we will do more for peace this way than any other way.

Today we pray that God will keep James and our other missionaries safe, as they offer life in places where death is all too common.

**Name changed to protect identity.*



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Ted Holmes

 **POLAND**


COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: March 6

Ted Holmes
POLAND

Today we're praying for our missionary Ted Holmes, who serves in Poland, in Eastern Europe.

He is working with teenagers there. Like most Europeans, teens in Poland want to learn English. So Ted goes to what are called Pinglish (for Polish and English) Camps that teach English but also include Bible study and worship.

In one recent camp, 70 teenagers attended. By the end of the week, many were asking spiritual questions and learning about Jesus Christ. Seventeen of the teens committed to follow Him.

Now Ted is helping those kids and others to grow in their faith and become more mature disciples. Of course our church supports Ted through our Cooperative Program giving. He is "our" missionary. Can we pray for him now?



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Tim & Joy Mitchell

 **PERU**


COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: March 13

Tim & Joy Mitchell
PERU

Today we want to pray for our missionaries Tim and Joy Mitchell.

Now listen up so you won't get confused. The Mitchells serve in Peru, which is a country in South America. But the people they are sharing the Gospel with are not the natives of Peru. They are working among the Nikkei (say KNEE-kay) people who have come from Japan to live in Peru, South America. There are about 100,000 of these immigrants from Japan; only about 100 of them are followers of Christ.

The Nikkei people love baseball, one of Japan's most popular sports. So Joy and Tim hold baseball clinics that help the people learn to play baseball better.

We're supporting Tim and Joy there in Peru through our Cooperative Program giving. So today let's pray that God will continue to grow their ministry so that more Nikkei people will hear the Gospel and find salvation.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Laura Reece





MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: March 20

Laura Reece
MALI

What would you do if you couldn't go home for more than a month? That's what happened to Laura Reece* when heavy rains descended, making it impossible for her to travel to her village. So she used her time in town to visit different churches and meet with other believers. During this time, Laura's eyes were opened to the spiritual warfare that was going on in the community.

Her friends shared that nonbelievers had buried things in the churchyards to put spells on the area, make evil things happen and fight against Jesus coming to their towns. We need to pray for Laura and other believers who are fighting against things we cannot even imagine. It's because of our giving through the Cooperative Program that missionaries like Laura are able to bring light to the darkness.

**Name changed to protect identity.*



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Eileen Swarr



EAST ASIA



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: March 27

Eileen Swarr
EAST ASIA

God uses everyday things to bring awareness to the Gospel — even a train ride and a rainbow. While EILEEN,* a Christian worker in East Asia, was on a 12-hour train ride, she struck up a conversation with the woman seated next to her. The woman wanted to practice English, and Eileen was happy to talk with her.

During their conversation, they noticed a rainbow peeking through the clouds. So Eileen asked the woman if she knew the history of the rainbow. And this allowed her the opportunity to share the story of Noah and God's promise. Eileen's new friend had never heard the Bible story until that moment. The woman lived close by and they remain friends to this day.

God can use anything and anyone to share the His Word. And although we're not physically with Eileen, our church had a part in the impact made on this woman's life through our support through the Cooperative Program. Let's pray that Eileen will continue to build relationships with those in East Asia for the purpose of leading people to salvation through Christ.

**Name changed to protect identity.*



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Brian & Becky Harrell



MOZAMBIQUE



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: April 3

Brian & Becky Harrell
MOZAMBIQUE

Nearly a year after receiving Christ, Adel* made one of the most difficult choices of her life — to abandon her past as a witchdoctor and tear down the hut where she practiced. Three days later, BRIAN and BECKY HARRELL, who are missionaries we support through the Cooperative Program, received a call in the middle of the night reporting spiritual attacks in the village. They prayed for Adel's family and for the people of the village as demonic attacks continued. Finally, one man renounced his witchcraft, destroyed amulets in his home and accepted Christ. The darkness is strong, but the light of Christ is stronger.

This is another great evidence that our giving through the Cooperative Program is helping to change lives. Let's pray today that the Harrell's will boldly speak the word of Christ so that even more will be saved.

**Name changed to protect identity.*

2016 CP DAY





EVENT HIGHLIGHT: April 10

CP Day

The Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified giving plan, was created in 1925 as an efficient budgeting method for giving within the denomination. Prior to that time, representatives of Southern Baptist agencies traveled across the denomination visiting individual churches to make appeals for contributions to their causes. While each cause was worthy of support, local churches were inundated by the constant barrage of requests. This method resulted in severe financial deficits, competition among entities, overlapping pledge campaigns and frequent emergency appeals, which greatly hampered the expanding ministry opportunities God was giving Southern Baptists. The creation of the Cooperative Program allowed for a more effective and efficient channel to support missions. When Southern Baptists made a viable commitment to cooperate on a method for Kingdom finance, it became the most radical decision of any major denomination. By giving cooperatively, all Southern Baptist churches support international missions, national needs, state mission causes, Christian higher education, church leader training, new church plants and so much more. They can do together what no one church can do alone. Cooperation among the people of God is absolutely essential if we are to fulfill the mandate of Christ of taking the gospel of God to a lost and dying world.

- Pray for our missionaries who rely on the Cooperative Program as their major source of funding.
- Commit yourself to understand the far reaching international, national and state wide impact of the Cooperative Program.
- Pray for renewed confidence and support of the Cooperative Program by our churches.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Steven & Tiffany Lee

 **WASHINGTON, DC**





MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: April 17

Steven & Tiffany Lee
WASHINGTON, DC

Kathryn is one of thousands who come to Washington, DC for an internship. While there, she stopped by a Starbucks...but not just for a coffee—for church. Kathryn wanted what they spoke of at Redeemer City Church and accepted Christ as her Savior! In a few weeks, the church plant outgrew Starbucks and moved to a local hotel, where Kathryn was baptized in the swimming pool as her church friends cheered her on.

Today, we need to pray for Steven Lee and his family as they plant Redeemer City Church to reach many more people just like Kathryn. The Lee's, who are from the DC area, are eager for partners to pray, send short-term mission teams, give financial support—or move here and join the team!



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Carl Neumann
 **GERMANY**


COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: April 24

Carl Neumann **GERMANY**

Carl Neumann leads a house church of only 10 people, but those people are making a difference in their city by starting new Bible study groups among the lost. Carl is excited about Thilo,* who started a soccer team for disabled kids — the only such opportunity in the city for kids with disabilities. The team practices have attracted about 20 children, who are now interested in playing soccer.

“One of Thilo’s goals is, of course, to get to know the parents and introduce them to Jesus and the Gospel, hopefully leading to the start of another new Bible study,” Carl said.

We are already part of Carl’s ministry in Germany because our church gives through the Cooperative Program. Now let’s pray for him and his work and ask God to use Carl’s ministry to bring even more people to Christ.

**Name changed to protect identity.*



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Jay Shafto

 **SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**


COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: May 1

Jay Shafto
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

While living in Africa, IMB missionary Jay Shafto met a pastor who, according to Jay, “was not doing what he was supposed to be doing.” Jay spent a lot of time with the pastor, training and discipling him.

Over time, the pastor grew in his faith and has now started more than 10 churches and trained about 1,000 people, baptizing hundreds of them. “With the right leadership and person, God is ready to do amazing things,” Jay said.

It’s because of our support through the Cooperative Program that the training and discipleship of nationals who are doing amazing things for God is possible. Today, let’s pray that God will call more people to the ministry and that others will be saved.





MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: May 8

Baptist Children's Village **MOTHER'S DAY EMPHASIS**

Every year over 200 children's lives are impacted by the ministry of The Baptist Children's Village. Through our residential program, we care for children, ages 1-20, on seven campuses located throughout Mississippi. On those seven campuses, Houseparents serve as missionaries, caring for and loving hurting children who come from struggling families, and through the Department of Human Services. These missionaries, along with BCV Case Managers, work to help children and families accomplish goals on a S.A.F.E Track Plan of Care that focuses on Spiritual Growth, Academic Achievement, Family Values and Emotional Stability. The Baptist Children's Village also works with at risk families through our Dorcas In-Home Family Support Program. Through this non-residential program, Case Managers proactively work to mentor and guide families to move them to a healthier, more successful path where they are able to keep their family together, and avoid having children separated from their parents. Without any government funding, and with the help of Mississippi Baptists, The Baptist Children's Village has been providing quality Christian care for hurting children, without interruption, since 1897. Every investment in the life of a child at The Baptist Children's Village gives hope for generational change for families. Thank you for helping us share the hope of Christ to children and families all over Mississippi.

HOW YOU CAN PRAY

- Houseparents are called to love unconditionally and care for children on a daily basis. Pray that they will have good health and stamina, and that they will show the love of Christ to children of all ages in their care.
- Case Managers work with children and their families, and need discernment and wisdom to mentor and counsel well. Pray that they will know how to help the families and children they work with.
- Pray for the Executive Director and Board of Trustees that God will grant wisdom and knowledge as they make decisions for the ministry.
- Pray that daily needs will continue to be met by God's people.



MIDWESTERN HIGHLIGHT

Omar Segovia
 **KANSAS CITY, MO**





MIDWESTERN HIGHLIGHT: May 15

Omar Segovia
KANSAS CITY, MO

Born in Chile, raised in Canada and living in the U.S., Omar Segovia has developed a heart for proclaiming the Gospel to the nations. He's known since an early age that reaching the lost through missions, discipleship and evangelism is built into his DNA.

The 2012 Master of Divinity graduate from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri has been sharing his faith since age 9. He knew God called him to be a missionary at the age of 10. And multiple college mission trips further fueled his missionary drive. Then, Omar served two years overseas as a Southern Baptist missionary. He met his wife, Janna, while on the mission field. They now have five children. Omar says because of his seminary training and missions experience, he feels well-prepared for his current ministry as a Southern Baptist missionary planting churches in Missouri. He helps identify and train other missionaries who will plant churches. Our church helped train Omar, because through the Cooperative Program we support Midwestern Seminary. And we support his ministry now, because Omar is one of the thousands of North American missionaries we support through the Cooperative Program.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Dylan & Jessica Vilmek

 **SOUTH ASIA**





MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: May 22

Dylan & Jessica Vilmeek **SOUTH ASIA**

Here's a question for you. How would you teach the Bible to someone who cannot read? It would be hard, don't you think? This is the challenge that two of our missionaries in South Asia deal with every day. We'll call them Dylan and Jessica.*

Many people in South Asia can read poorly or, more often, not at all. So Dylan and Jessica tell them stories from the Bible. Of course they have to tell the stories in the local language that the people will understand. They have to translate carefully. Also, they don't just random stories—they start with stories about creation and the fall of man and gradually move to stories about the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Often hundreds of people gather to hear these amazing stories they have never heard before!

Every time Dylan and Jessica go into a village to tell stories from the Bible, our church is behind them. Our Cooperative Program giving makes it possible for them to be there and to serve.

**Name changed to protect identity.*



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Rose Shephard

 **SOUTH AFRICA**





MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: May 29

Rose Shephard **SOUTH AFRICA**

One hundred and fifty believers gathered in a small Baptist church in South Africa. In the midst of racially-motivated attacks that were tearing their city apart, they stood together to ask God to bring peace.

An elder called out the ethnic groups by name: white South African, Zulu, Xhosa, and a dozen more. Everyone stood — black and white, young and old, joining hands across the aisles and singing together, “We are one in the spirit.” “It was beautiful,” said IMB worker ROSE SHEPHARD.* “We saw beautiful unity within the body of Christ today.”

In a way our church was part of that meeting, because our church’s giving through the Cooperative Program enables Rose to be there in South Africa. Now let’s join together in prayer for Rose’s ministry and ask that God will continue to bring unity to South Africa.

**Name changed to protect identity.*



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Anthony Conner

 **MEXICO**



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: June 5

Anthony Conner
MEXICO

One morning, Southern Baptist missionary Anthony Conner grabbed a shovel to help Manolo — a man who belongs to the people group that Anthony and his family were trying to reach for Christ. Anthony took that opportunity to share the Gospel with Manolo. After about an hour, Anthony asked him, “Manolo, isn’t it time to give your life to Jesus?” Manolo said yes! And together, in the middle of the alfalfa patch, they knelt down and Manolo prayed to receive Christ.

Today, Manolo is the pastor and church planter in the village where Anthony and his wife, Melissa, work. God uses every interaction — even one in an alfalfa patch — for the sake of His Kingdom. Because one man had the courage to share the good news of God’s grace, an entire community has been impacted. And you were a big part of that because of our church’s giving through the Cooperative Program. Let’s pray that God will continue to foster the Conner’s ministry with boldness for the sake of Christ.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Daniel Yang
 **TORONTO**


COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: June 12

Daniel Yang
TORONTO

As one of North America's most culturally diverse cities, Toronto is a natural platform for influence. That's one of many reasons it's one of 32 cities designated by the North American Mission Board as "Send City." But first, there's the matter of planting more churches there — a mission that Daniel Yang has taken to heart. As a church planter and missionary, Daniel is all too familiar with the challenges that come with planting a church and reaching the lost. And it is because of these experiences that he's so appreciative of how Canadian and Southern Baptists do missions through the Cooperative Program.

The Cooperative Program allows Daniel to have a level of stability in terms of raising his family. But it's much more than that. He also likes the vision of the Cooperative Program because it allows all of us to be take part in something bigger.

Our support of the Cooperative Program helps missionaries just like Daniel reach the lost in North America. Let's join together in praying for Daniel's work in North America, and that God will continue to use him to bring light to a dark city.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Brandon Kiesling

 **SOUTHWESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**


COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: June 19

Brandon Kiesling

SOUTHWESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Brandon Kiesling has a past: He spent time in jail for drug-related crimes. But later he was transformed by the grace of God when he accepted Christ as his Savior.

Following his salvation experience, Brandon followed God's call to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, which is one of six Southern Baptist seminaries across the country our church supports through the Cooperative Program. Because of the Cooperative Program, these seminaries can charge students much less to attend. Brandon completed his Master of Divinity degree in 2013 and has continued working on a Doctor of Philosophy degree. While at Southwestern, Brandon has developed a passion for evangelism. He shares the Gospel personally where he lives in Fort Worth. He also leads other students to share. This is one of the school's outreach programs called "Going the Second Mile." Our church is having a part in Brandon's Christian ministry now, but we'll also have a small part in his lifetime of ministry, as he continues to use his training in decades ahead.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Jonathan & Wendy Celoria



ELLISVILLE, MS



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: June 26

Jonathan & Wendy Celoria
ELLISVILLE, MS

The Circle Church was started in February 2014 with a vision of reaching the one that is lost. Their mission is to make disciples of all nations by serving needs and sharing Christ in all of life. A ministry center was recently opened in Ellisville for the purpose of making connections and building relationships with people who are far from God. A free community meal is served every Tuesday evening and is part of a mission to at-risk children in the community. Their goal is to reach and train the “least of these” to be ambassadors for Christ in the communities where they live by grounding them in their identity in Christ.

Circle Church also has an active partnership with a network of churches in Shinyanga, Tanzania. Mission teams annually work alongside indigenous church leaders for the purpose of making disciples. Please pray for wisdom in reaching adults as well as children in the community. Pray for partners to come alongside the work being done both in Ellisville and in Shinyanga. The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Pray that God would send more workers into His harvest.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Joshua Murphree

 **PERU**


COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: July 3

Joshua Murphree
PERU

Have you ever noticed God often uses something you love as a ministry? That's what our missionary Joshua Murphree has learned. Joshua has always loved backpacking and camping. Now he is serving in Peru, way down on the west side of South America.

He is sharing the Gospel with the Northern Conchucos (say cone-SHOE-cuz) Quechua (say CATCH-ah-way), people who often live in high mountains who can only be reached by hiking across long, high miles. Many of the people cannot read, so Joshua tells them stories from the Bible. Our Cooperative Program giving helps him live and serve in Peru. Many of us would find it difficult or impossible to do what Joshua does, but we are thankful that God has equipped him not just to serve there, but to even enjoy it.

Today let's pray that God will keep him safe as he helps many come to faith in Christ.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Derek & Lindsay Allen



MIAMI, FLORIDA



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: July 10

Derek & Lindsay Allen
MIAMI, FL

God changes hearts in a flash. In one instant a person's reality is altered and everything moves in a new direction. When that instant occurred for Derek Allen, he moved his family to Miami, leaving behind everything they knew of life before to follow God's calling and plant a church.

Derek and his wife launched Christ Centered Church on Feb. 9 with 170 in attendance and two baptisms already on the books. Meeting on the north campus of Florida International University, the church is already impacting its community and beyond. Even in its infancy, Christ Centered Church has already hosted more than seven mission teams.

Our church helped launch this new church because we support thousands of North American missionaries like Derek and Lindsay through our church's Cooperative Program giving. Today let's pray for our missionaries there in Miami as they reach people for Christ!



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Charles

 **SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**


COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: July 17

Charles

SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Each January, students from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina, look forward to a special time where they get to share stories and testimonies from their time on the international mission field. This year, Charles* shared about his unique experience in a remote village in Africa with the International Mission Board. He spent much of his time camping in a village that has been historically resistant to the Gospel, because it is a predominantly Muslim area. But, because of the prayers and work of others before him, Charles was able to lead young men to faith in Christ. Now he is helping disciple them as they actively share the Gospel with others in the village. Three short years ago, sitting in classes and reading missionary stories of the church being birthed in new places, he thought, "I am going to be faithful, but I don't think I will ever be a part of anything this incredible." As he told his story, Charles's face beamed as he recounted, "I was able to be a part of seeing new Christians baptized. I never thought I would be a part of a story like this!" Our church's Cooperative Program giving helps support Southeastern and its great faculty and staff who both tell and show students like Charles how to minister.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Robert & Margaret Fortenberry

 **BOTSWANA**





MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: July 24

Robert & Margaret Fortenberry **BOTSWANA**

Robert and Margaret Fortenberry are leaving Botswana, their home in Southern Africa for almost 22 years. They have served there as church planting missionaries since 1994. They are among the many missionaries who have recently heard the Lord's voice redirecting them to American fields of service as part of the International Mission Board's VRI (Voluntary Retirement Incentive) offering. As you might expect, this is not an easy transition for them. They have a sense of peace about their return to America, but in many ways it is now a foreign country for them. They will have many adjustments to make.

Please pray for the believers Robert and Margaret are leaving behind in the Baptist churches of Botswana to carry the Gospel forward in their home country - and beyond. Pray for Robert and Margaret as they reunite with their family in America (one of the happy parts of their relocation) and as they look for new avenues for ministry and work. They have a real desire to share what they know of how to do ministry in Africa with others who will be doing similar work in the future. And pray for the many other missionaries like them who will be making similar changes this year.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Bob & Joy Benton

 **CENTRAL ASIA**





MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: July 31

Bob & Joy Benton **CENTRAL ASIA**

Bob and Joy Benton* are asking that we pray for Rose,* a believer who is undergoing persecution from her family because of her decision to follow Christ. Rose and her daughter Angel*, who was the Benton's child care worker, are the only Christians in the family.

When Rose's family found out that she intended to be baptized, they beat her, destroyed her Bibles and kept her from leaving the house by herself. The Bentons can only have limited contact with her now, but they were able to give her a Bible on a computer flash drive.

The Bentons have made a difference in Rose's life. They were able to be there to make that difference because our church supports them through the Cooperative Program. Today, let's pray that Bob and Joy will introduce many to Jesus Christ, despite the barriers and the dangers.

**Name changed to protect identity.*



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Eliza Korn

 **CENTRAL ASIA**


COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: August 7

Eliza Korn
CENTRAL ASIA

During a recent New Year's celebration, Eliza Korn* and her team were assigned a kind and gentle helper named Mehmet.* He did his best to explain certain traditions and activities and escorted them to a local restaurant for lunch. Traditionally, the eldest at the table offers a hastily mumbled "prayer" at the end of the meal. Instead, Mehmet asked Eliza to pray. She thanked the Lord for their time together and asked that Mehmet would come to believe in Him. Mehmet said that no one had ever prayed for him before.

That one, simple prayer had an impact on Mehmet. And it was made possible because our church supports Eliza through our Cooperative Program giving. Let's join together to pray for Eliza's ministry among Central Asians. And that Mehmet, and others, would come to know Christ.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Dominic & Solange Chaussé

 **MAGOG, QUEBEC**


COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: August 14

Dominic & Solange Chaussé **MAGOG, QUEBEC**

There are 53,000 people living within the city of Magog, and another 20,000 tourists. It's Quebec's premiere destination for the province's vacationers, but it's also a highly secularized area. Church planter Dominic Chaussé (say show-SAY) didn't go to the city to be on permanent holiday. Instead, he went to start a church and reach the lost.

Most in the city have little interest in church or God. But that doesn't stop Dominic from finding ways to minister to those around him. Even before the church, Axe21, officially launched, Dominic and his family tried to find ways to live their lives to positively represent Christ.

Our church's Cooperative Program giving helps support Dominic and his wife, our missionaries, as they make a difference for Christ there in Québec, Canada. The new church already has 18 baptized members and attendance is about 85. Today let's pray for this young missionary family and their children as they live and serve in the far north.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Timothy

 THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY


COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: August 21

Timothy **THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

Timothy* is a third-generation missionary and alumnus of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Several years after graduating from Southern, Timothy was appointed by the International Mission Board to a spiritually dry region of Africa where he was used to spark a genuine revival. By mobilizing new converts to share the Gospel, Timothy has established a discipleship model for the tens of thousands of Christians who have come to faith and started churches through his ministry. "The sanctifying empowerment of the Holy Spirit in every believer is an unstoppable force. It's more powerful than anything else," Timothy said. "We can expect that when we ask people to do something directly from the Word of God, that God himself will empower them to accomplish everything he has set out for them to do."

Our church helped Timothy train for missionary service at Southern, because our Cooperative Program giving supports the school, keeping student costs low. And our church has enabled Timothy, his wife and their four children, ages six to 17, to serve in Africa for almost 10 years.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Jeff & Kim Cruse



SOUTHEAST ASIA



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: August 28

Jeff Cruse **SOUTHEAST ASIA**

After teaching English classes in Southeast Asia, Jeff and Kim Cruse often invite students to their home. They build relationships with them and share the Gospel. One day, when one of their students was asked where he went to church, he answered “JKH.”

Those three letters stood for Jeff and Kim’s house. During one Bible study, the Cruses read Acts 2 and asked the students if this group meeting in their home resembled the early church. “Wow, we are a church!” said the students.

Today, a second church has been planted and the students are actively involved in missions. And it’s all because one couple followed God’s call. Just like the Cruses, we can impact those in Southeast Asia by our support through the Cooperative Program. Join us in praying that the Cruses continue to plant churches among students using tools like English classes.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Deaf Christians

 EAST ASIA


COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: September 4

Deaf Christians **EAST ASIA**

The deaf in East Asia face a difficult road in their search for Christ. Barriers crop up daily, causing problems for missionaries who are trying to share the Gospel with millions of deaf in this part of the world. Some deaf believe Christianity has hundreds of difficult rules, making it a boring and confusing way of life.

Many families also put a great deal of pressure on deaf adults to conform to the traditional religious practices to gain financial support. Accepting Christ means losing family, home and financial support.

The road is difficult — both for the deaf and the missionaries in East Asia. Our church can help, though, as we give through the Cooperative Program. Let's join together to pray for the missionaries in East Asia.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Jeff & Sara Phillips

 **VANCOUVER, B.C.**


COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: September 11

Jeff & Sara Phillips
VANCOUVER, B.C.

Today we want to pray for Jeff Phillips, our missionary who serves with his wife, Sara, in Vancouver, the largest city on the Pacific coast of Canada.

Jeff says he never imagined the impact he would have on Vancouver. He had served as a youth minister for more than 10 years, but never as lead pastor or church planter. Yet God used Jeff to start The Crossings Church.

We must understand that, because our church helps support Jeff and Sarah there in Vancouver through the Cooperative Program, both grownups and children are hearing the Gospel. Let's pray today that God will continue to bless Jeff's ministry and that many more will come to know Christ.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Bethany & David Anderson

 **SOUTHEAST ASIA**





MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: September 18

Bethany & David Anderson **SOUTHEAST ASIA**

David and Bethany Anderson* are two of our missionaries serving in Southeast Asia. That's not their real names, because they serve in a dangerous area. But it's not nearly as dangerous as it used to be. In fact, people who live around the Andersons used to be headhunters. For a boy to be considered a man, he was required to kill someone and take the head! Those customs stopped after missionaries came in the 1950s to teach the people God's better ways of living.

David and Bethany are still working with this tribe, whose numbers now include many Christians. But these days they are teaching the believers how to be missionaries to other tribal people.

Today let us pray for this missionary couple; we support them through our church's Cooperative Program giving. And let's give thanks that the Gospel has the power to literally move people from death to life!

**Name changed to protect identity.*



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Curtis & Rachel Davis

 **BILOXI, MS**


COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: September 25

Curtis & Rachel Davis **BILOXI, MS**

After serving 18+ years in a local church on the Coast, Curtis & Rachel, along with several other families from the area, started Bridge Community Church in 2013 with a heart for those who are far from God with no desire to come to (or back to) church. Although many great churches can be found along the Gulf Coast, one finds a large number of families disconnected from any church. Their vision is to live and work to see the community transformed through the love and power of Jesus Christ.

After a year and a half of meeting in several different hotels, Bridge Community Church moved into a permanent facility just a few minutes north of the heart of D'Iberville and Biloxi in the north Woolmarket area. While serving as the founding and lead pastor of the Bridge, Curtis also works with a local hospice agency while Rachel is a special education teacher. Curtis and Rachel have five children: Matthew, Levi, Annalise, Hattie, and Emily.

How you can pray:

- That they can equip and motivate the believers who make up the Bridge to become disciples who make disciples.
- Doors will open to engage in gospel-centered conversations with the many who are far from God in a region where everyone is "okay" where they are.
- That God would lead to people of peace in each of the communities so that a "missionary base" might be established in each community.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Lorna Bius
 **COLORADO**


COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: October 2

Lorna Bius
COLORADO

It's hard for someone to hear the Gospel when his stomach is growling with hunger. Meeting human needs has always been a part of sharing the Gospel.

That's the idea behind the ministry called LoveLoud that our missionary Lorna Bius has in Colorado. She shows missionaries and churches how to meet hunger and other needs of local people as part of their outreach ministry.

Our church's Cooperative Program helps support Lorna's missionary ministry in Colorado.

So we pray for her today. Lorna says Baptists know we must love our neighbors, but for some folks we have to love a bit louder before they hear us.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Seminary Students

 NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY


COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: October 9

Seminary Students

NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Since 1917, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has equipped leaders to answer God's call to ministry. The seminary's goal is to pass a strong commitment to evangelism onto the graduates and eventually the churches and ministries they serve. Nowhere is the commitment to evangelism more evident than in the ministry of the 194 students in the Caskey scholarship program. The students, who serve as bi-vocational ministers or in smaller membership churches, commit to weekly, intentional, Gospel witnessing. Last school year, these 194 students shared the Gospel more than 3,000 times and saw more than 400 people come to faith in Christ.

Without generous CP giving, the seminary's training task and evangelism efforts like this would be impossible. NOBTS president Chuck Kelley says, "The lifeblood of Southern Baptists at every level and in every ministry is the Cooperative Program, The genius of the Southern Baptist Convention is that we have learned that we can do things together that none of us could do individually."



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Martin Vargas

📍 **FLORIDA**



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: October 16

Martin Vargas **FLORIDA**

Pastor Martin Vargas believes in this message with his whole heart: “God knows; He changes lives; there is growth in the truth; and we are fulfilling the Great Commission.” And out of a calling from God, he founded Real Church, or Iglesia (say ee-GLAY-zee-ah) Real (say ray-AL). This church in South Florida shares the Gospel in Spanish, English and Portuguese. It also serves as a hub for new church plants.

Martin didn't know how they would afford the church building, but he knew God would provide. And sure enough, the funding for the building came from many different areas and through unsuspected individuals — because God can use anyone to advance His Kingdom.

And through our church's support of the Cooperative Program, God uses us to help fund church planters like Martin. Let's join together today to pray for Martin's ministry in South Florida and that more churches will be planted.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Billy & Sarah Fontenot

 **EAST ASIA**


COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: October 23

Billy & Sarah Fontenot **EAST ASIA**

Billy and Sarah Fontenot* draw attention in the East Asian city where they live and minister. It's not hard to draw a second glance when an American family with four children walk by. In their East Asian town, the Fontenots truly stand out. And every day gives them another chance to shine the light of Christ.

The Fontenots have made friends who have never seen a Christian family living according to the Bible's truths. People noticed the differences—and asked questions. That gave Billy and Sarah opportunities to tell them about Jesus Christ.

Those people are coming to Christ because our church's Cooperative Program giving helps Billy and Sarah and their children live and serve there in East Asia.

Today, let's pray that God will bless them as they continue to impact the lives of others.

**Name changed to protect identity.*

VOTE





EVENT HIGHLIGHT: October 30

American Election

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord," (Psalm 33:12)

The evidence of sin's grip on this world is everywhere. Much of the suffering on earth is because of godless leadership. Scripture gives Christians instructions to obey legitimate authority unless it contradicts the Lord's commands (Acts 5:27-29; Romans 13:1-7). As born-again believers, we ought to strive to choose leaders who will be led by the Lord (1 Samuel 12:13-25). Candidates or proposals that violate the Bible's commands for life, family, marriage, or faith should never be supported (Proverbs 14:34). Christians should vote as led through prayer and study of both God's Word and the realities of the choices on the ballot.

Samuel Adams, the Father of the American Revolution, said, "Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote ... he is executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society for which he is accountable to God and his country." Ronald Reagan, fortieth President of the United States said, "Freedom is a fragile thing and is never more than one generation away from extinction. It is not ours by inheritance; it must be fought for and defended constantly by each generation, for it comes only once to a people. Those who have known freedom and then lost it have never known it again." Finally, Peter Marshall, chaplain of the United States Senate, calling upon America to make a decision, said in a message delivered January 13, 1947, "America's future depends upon her accepting and demonstrating God's government." As Christians, we want to see good public policies created that reflect biblical values. However, in order to see these kinds of policies enacted, we have to elect principled leaders. And in order to see principled leaders elected, we as Christians must make our voice heard by voting. Decisions in America are not made by a majority of the people. Decisions are made by a majority of those who vote!

- Pray that all believers will do their civic duty by seriously seeking God and turning out to vote in strong numbers.
- Pray that all Americans eligible to vote would take their vote seriously.
- Pray that none would place economics or politics above God and biblical truths.
- Pray for believers to be much more concerned about the glory of God's Name and spread of Christ's Kingdom than economic, political and social comforts.
- Pray that God will give America leaders of integrity who govern in righteousness, wisdom and truth.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Jonathan & Shelby Land

 **SIoux FALLS, SD**



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: November 6

Jonathan Land **SIOUX FALLS, S.D.**

Jonathan Land is one of our North American missionaries starting a church in Sioux (Say SUE) Falls, South Dakota. And we want to pray for him and his family today. Sioux Falls is a city with about 250,000 people. We think of the Dakotas as cowboy country, but actually the big industry in town is finances. Most people work in offices. Jonathan and his wife moved into a modest house—one like the ads call "a fixer upper." But it was good enough to invite people to a Bible study.

Our church's Cooperative Program giving helped train Jonathan and helped move him and his family to South Dakota. They started Connection Church on Easter Sunday in 2014 and within three months more than 50 people were attending. Fifty may sound small, but for Southern Baptists in the Dakotas, that's a record.

We thank the Lord that this new church is growing and sharing the Gospel so that people there will come to faith in Christ. Let's pray that people from all over Sioux Falls will come to Connection Church!



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Layla Murphy
📍 SOUTHEAST ASIA





MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: November 13

Layla Murphy **SOUTHEAST ASIA**

Our missionary we want to pray for today is Layla Murphy. That's not her real name, because she serves in Southeast Asia where missionaries are not welcome. She is our missionary because we support her through our church's Cooperative Program giving. A while back Layla started a class to teach the Gospel to people from an unreached people group—people who had never heard of Jesus Christ. She prayed that 20 people would come the first day. Fifty came! She started teaching four times a week. More and more people came as word got out about the life-changing truths the missionary taught. The one class grew to eight. She encouraged those who completed the class to start teaching others. One local man started teaching a group on his own—and came to ask Layla what to do. The people kept meeting after the class was completed. She explained that he had accidentally started a new church!

Today let's rejoice that Layla's faithful ministry has multiplied. And let's join together in praying for her ministry as she brings the Gospel to those who have never heard it before!

**Name changed to protect identity.*



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Michael Johnson
 **MOXEE, WASHINGTON**


COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: November 20

Michael Johnson
MOXEE, WASHINGTON

Michael Johnson learned a million little things in the U.S. Army. But maybe the most important lessons he learned as a soldier had nothing to do with combat. He learned how to be a leader and how to look at everyday life as a mission field. And those lessons continue to serve him well as a church planter in Moxee, Washington, near Yakima.

God used Michael's time in the Army to re-awaken his desire for teaching the Bible. And so, The River Church was planted. Though the church has yet to officially launch, the church's core group has been meeting together at a local community center on Sundays. They've reached out together through a community block party.

Michael has seen firsthand how the Cooperative Program can aid new churches. And our church is able to help church planters just like Michael by our support through the Cooperative Program. We also need to pray that Michael's ministry will be blessed and continue to grow.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Muche & Diamone Ukegbu



MIAMI, FLORIDA



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: November 27

Muche & Diamone Ukegbu
MIAMI, FLORIDA

Muche Ukegbu (say MOOSH oo-KEG-boo) is one of our North American missionaries who has seen God accomplish very difficult things.

Muche and his wife, Diamone, started a new church with a team of 22 believers. That new church, which they call "The Brook," is located in a part of North Miami, Florida, where it is very difficult to share the Gospel and start churches.

Today we rejoice with them that they have succeeded, because our church partners with them through our Cooperative Program giving.

Let us pray for our faithful missionary couple serving there in North Miami. God has called us to reach all of North America for Him, and that means we must reach the hard places like North Miami.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Norm Starr

 **SOUTHEAST ASIA**


COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: December 4

Norm Starr **SOUTHEAST ASIA**

Today, we want to pray for one of our Southern Baptist missionaries we'll call Norm Starr.* We won't use his real name because this man serves in a Muslim area of Southeast Asia. Back in 2001 Norm gave out food and supplies to families who were refugees fleeing to escape a bad situation in the area. Our church was supporting him in that ministry through our Cooperative Program giving.

In 2013 Norm went back to that same area. One man who remembered Norm's help was the leader of a local Muslim mosque. The man invited Norm into the mosque. Norm went, of course, and did what Southern Baptist missionaries always do—shared the Gospel.

Today, we pray for Norm and we can be confident the Lord knows exactly who we're talking about. We are still supporting him through the Cooperative Program. Let's pray that God will keep Norm safe as he gets to know people well enough to tell them about Jesus Christ. We know that this is the only way people there or anywhere will have true peace.

**Name changed to protect identity.*



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Christian Worker

 **NORTH AFRICA MIDDLE EAST**



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: December 11

Christian Worker **NORTH AFRICA**

A Christian worker in North Africa reports that 1,000 Bibles were recently distributed to the pastors of many rural Orthodox churches around Ethiopia. Most of these isolated churches had never even had one Bible. Now these men can study, teach and preach from the Bible instead of other traditional Orthodox books.

Without these Bibles, many would not have the opportunity to hear first hand about the Good News of God's grace. And our church has been a part of this ministry by our giving through the Cooperative Program. Please pray that God will give these pastors, students and others who can read a great hunger to know God through His Son, Jesus, and His truths.

**Name changed to protect identity.*



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Mitch & Nellie Englehart



SOUTH ASIA



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: December 18

Mitch & Nellie Englehart **SOUTH ASIA**

We're going to pray for two of our missionaries who serve in a country in South Asia that is so dangerous we cannot use their real names, even here. We'll call them Mitch and Nellie.*

Mitch and Nellie have served there nine years and all this time they have been training and discipling church leaders to go out and start new churches. Just in the last five years, they have seen more than 1,200 new churches started and seen thousands of new believers baptized.

Our church has had a small part in every one of those churches and every one of those baptisms! That's because our church's Cooperative Program giving helps Mitch and Nellie serve there in South Asia. Our giving is helping change lives for eternity!

**Name changed to protect identity.*



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Billy & Vanessa Gorin

 **SOUTH ASIA**



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: December 25

Billy & Vanessa Gorin **SOUTH ASIA**

South Asia is one of those parts of the world that really seems like the end of the earth Acts 1:8 talks about. The region includes countries like Pakistan, India and Nepal. But that is where we have sent two of our missionaries we'll call Billy and Vanessa* to share the Gospel. They had to work hard to learn the language spoken where they are and to handle the other many parts of living in a land very different from the United States.

They spend their time working with new believers, discipling them in the Christian faith and also how to share the Gospel and start new churches. It's a 10-lesson course. A while back they went to visit two people who had been through the course several months before. The two new believers had started five new churches and had seen 50 people baptized. Our missionaries cannot do all the work of preaching and teaching. They have to train others like this who will share the Gospel, who will train others to share the Gospel and so on. Let's pray today that God will continue to bless Billy and Vanessa and the people they are giving their lives to reach, teach and disciple!

**Name changed to protect identity.*



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