



PART 4
of 6

Editor's Note:

At the 2009 Annual Homecoming, the SBCV unanimously approved the Vision 20/20 Report. It outlines a course of action for the next 10 years leading to the year 2020. This series of articles unpacks one by one the six major proposals of the report. For the entire report, refer to www.sbcv.org/aboutus/vision2020.

The SBCV Is a Sacrificial Missional Network

by Jeff Ginn, Executive Director

THE GOAL

The fourth goal of the Vision 20/20 Report is that the SBCV function as a sacrificial missional network in which ever greater resources are channeled to national and international mission causes through the Cooperative Program (CP). We intend to raise by 25% per year for the next decade the amount of money going to national and international mission efforts. Despite the fact that our state convention is already a leader nationally by following a 50/50 distribution plan, we will, per an annual review, increase the amount forwarded to the SBC. Early estimates indicate this will result in an additional \$1.2 million for national and international ministries by the year 2020. We have already begun this in 2010, giving 50.25% to the SBC each month.

THE CHALLENGE

There is a troubling trend at play in the Southern Baptist Convention. The percentage of giving to the CP per church is falling. Not so many years ago, it was typical for a church to give 10% of its undesignated receipts to this funding channel. Now the average stands at approximately 6%. This is heartbreaking because of all the good that is done through this cooperative effort. Here is a partial list of what CP giving does:

- Provides the lifeline for more than 5,000 missionaries serving around the globe through the International Mission Board
- Sustains the ministry of more than 5,000 missionaries serving in North America through the North American Mission Board
- Supports six great seminaries and provides de facto scholarships for thousands of ministers in training
- Enables Southern Baptists to have a strong voice for moral issues in our capital through the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission

How can the SBCV continue to increase its giving to SBC mission causes if the giving from our churches continues to decline? The only way this can happen is if our churches will step up in their sacrifices for the Kingdom. It is our earnest prayer that this trend of decline will be reversed in Virginia and throughout our national convention.

THE NEXT STEPS

What would be the next steps in seeing our network live out this sacrificial goal?

Look. Take a good, long look at your local church's budget. How much is being channeled through the CP to support our missionary endeavors? Does your church demonstrate by its own giving patterns the kind of generosity you hope to see in the lives of your members?

Ask. Ask the Lord of the harvest if He is satisfied with the level of sacrificial giving that is going to mission causes outside of your local fellowship.

Set. Set a goal to increase your CP giving that is in keeping with God's heart for the nations.

Work. Work with your finance committee/leadership with sufficient lead time to make the necessary changes.

Rejoice! Rejoice as you join God in His worldwide enterprise!