



What Young SBCV Church Planters Are Saying about the Cooperative Program

Compiled by Mark Custalow,
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Strategist, Southeast Region

It is important to take note of the perspective of young leaders. Many times, their thoughts and observations are refreshing, shedding new light on the traditions and practices established by the generations that preceded them. You will find on these two pages Cooperative Program (CP) insights from several SBCV church planters, all of whom are 35 or under.



Noah La Coursiere (26)
Church Planter
Apprentice
Essential Church,
Virginia Beach
essentialchurch.tv

I am eternally grateful to the SBC Cooperative Program and its supporters for their generosity in financially enabling me to be a missionary in my city. Because of their generosity, I have been able to focus on my mission for Christ without worry.



Nathan Knight (35)
Church Planter
Restoration Church,
Washington, DC
restorationchurchdc.com

The Cooperative Program as a mechanism is a wonderful and effective tool to bring the Gospel to bear upon the world. In light of this, I am a hearty supporter of the Cooperative Program, having benefited from it both now as a church planter and in seminary, in addition to numerous other times by extension.

However, the mechanism is only as strong as the people and places it supports. In my view, the mechanism is very effective when used appropriately.

In our local churches, we must guard against creating a mindset that support for the CP or partnership with para-church ministries like state conventions and NAMB relieves us of planting churches. In short, I fear many churches have "contracted out" their inherited privilege to raise men up, train them, assess them, and send them out to plant churches.

Having said all of this, I am hopeful, and Restoration Church plans to "stick it out" largely because of how much we have benefited from the Cooperative Program and also because of the great men and women on whose shoulders we stand.



Jim Hewitt (34)
Church Planter
Foundations Community
Church, Chesapeake
foundationscommunitychurch.org

The Cooperative Program is one of the main reasons I decided I wanted to serve as an SBC pastor. I believe that combining resources to accomplish the task of the Great Commission is imperative to achieve the most impact globally. I like the idea of supporting individual missionaries as a church or individual sees fit; but I love the idea of being able to give to an organization that makes our contribution work on a global scale. I love the fact that our missionaries sent out know that their funding is secure because of the gifts given through the CP. We, even as small as we are, are making a difference for Jesus across the world.



Jeremiah Sluss (30)
Church Planter
Grace Fellowship Baptist
Church, Haysi
gracefellowshipbaptistchurch.org

Five years ago, I did not know anything about the Cooperative Program; yet I am blessed to know about it now, and I don't know what Grace Fellowship Baptist would have been able to do without it. Having this salary has allowed me to be here full-time to focus on the community for the first year of the church plant. I have challenged our church to increase our giving 1% to the CP each year until we reach 25%.



Matthew Murphy (33)
Church Planter
All Nations Metro
Church, Roanoke
allnationsmetrochurch.com

I know that, for us, giving to the Cooperative Program is automatic. We see it as a way to be a part of a global impact with the Gospel, the benefits far outweighing the costs. The Cooperative Program offers us and other church plants valuable support and help that otherwise would not be available. We think that God is still using the Cooperative Program.



RESOURCE

■ **Website:**
www.sbcv.org/multiplying
www.sbcv.org/cp
www.cpmisions.net

■ **SBCV Contact:**
Call 888-234-7716 for details from your regional missionary.

■ **Consider:**
How can you take these insights and make them a part of your church's mindset?

