

**LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING**  
FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

**FREE RESOURCES**  
for leaders  
\*PASTORS  
\*MISSIONS LEADERS  
\*STUDENTS  
\*CHILDREN

↑ NEW SITE OVERVIEW

SUPPORTS THE WORK OF MISSIONARIES  
**100%**

**BECAUSE YOU GIVE**

- 1.4 million Gospel presentations
- 266,000 baptisms
- 24,000 churches started

see how it's done and more reasons to give

Jesus says in Matthew 22:37-39:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important command. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself” (HCSB).

These are exciting times all around the Greater Orlando Baptist Association and one of the wonderful opportunities we have as Southern Baptist is the chance to give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions! We challenge our 237 churches and missions to give towards this cause of international missions. This is a opportunity for us to commit together to one amazing effort to fulfill the Great Commission around the world. It is a wonderful reminder that these international missionaries, just like our home missionaries, grew up in our churches. These servants of the Lord were nurtured within our churches; their faith was formed within our churches, and sent into the world from our churches.

This annual mission offering is not merely about money; it is about our calling and our commitment. Will you share Jesus with the world this Christmas season? Supporting the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions is about one person telling another person about Jesus.

## **DID YOU KNOW THAT ONE HUNDRED PERCENT OF THE OFFERING GOES TO OUR MISSIONARIES!**

In 2013 Southern Baptists celebrated 125 years of annual giving to support international missionaries. More than 3.5 billion has been given to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, whose namesake inspired the first collection of gifts in 1888 so the world might know Christ. Then, as now, every penny you give to Lottie Moon supports missionaries as they share the Gospel overseas.

**The goal for the 2013 offering is \$175 million.**

### **What and when is the Week of Prayer?**

The Week of Prayer, Dec. 1-8, encourages churches to pray daily for the international missions work and missionaries the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering supports.



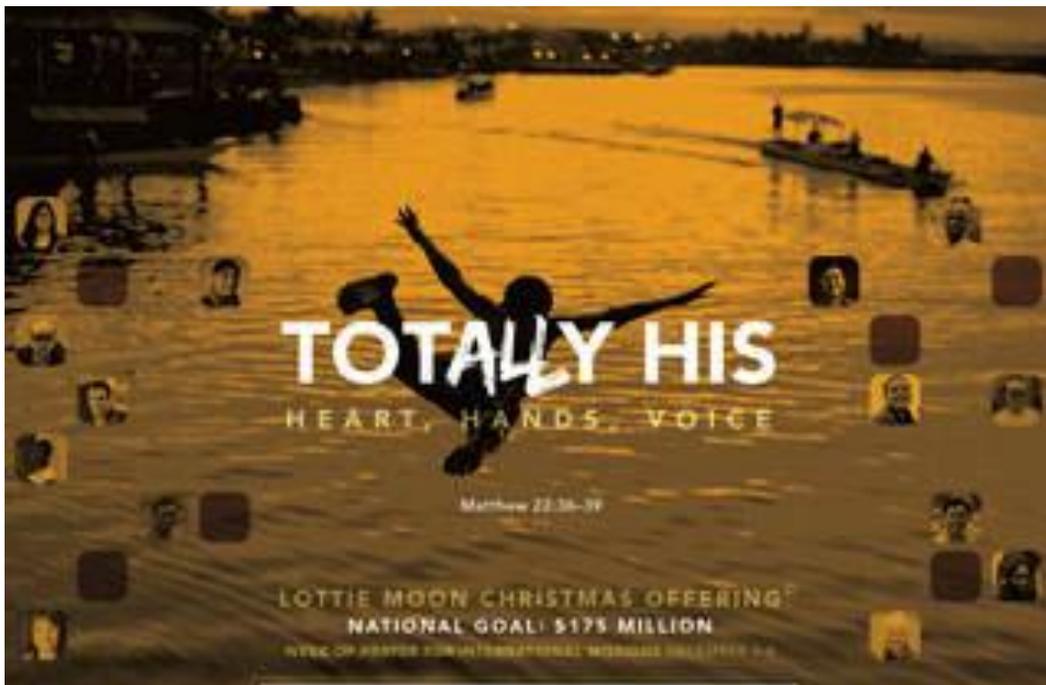
### **Who is featured during the Week of Prayer?**

During 2013 Week of Prayer, your church will discover what it means to be totally His — and totally His heart, hands and voice. During Dec. 1-8, learn about missionaries who connect churches to

people groups and churches serving as God's hands to reach them, workers reflecting His heart in dangerous or lonely places and believers crossing oceans to be His voice.

### **How do churches obtain Week of Prayer resources?**

Your Woman's Missionary Union state office distributes free Week of Prayer guides and posters. Besides English, the prayer guide and poster also are printed in Spanish, French, Korean, Chinese and Vietnamese.



The 2013 theme is "Totally His ... heart, hands, voice," based on Matthew 22:36-39. Totally committed to God, first to love Him, then love others. No less than all of our heart, soul and mind is what's required of us as believers in Christ. All believers, all of the church, all Southern Baptists — totally His.

### **What happens because you give?**

Southern Baptists' faithful giving undergirds the thousands of missionaries sent from our churches, through IMB, and all for a single, eternal purpose: making disciples in the name of Jesus. This is what it means for all of us, together, to be totally His.

Here are some numbers to celebrate! In a recent year, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and Cooperative Program enabled missionaries and their national partners to:

- present the Gospel to more than 1,400,000 individuals
- baptize more than 266,000 new believers
- start more than 24,000 churches
- engage 133 new people groups

More exciting news — some people groups are reaching their own and others!

- 141 people groups are engaging their own people inside their country
- 153 people groups are going to other peoples inside their country
- 41 people groups are going outside their country

(The figures above are taken from the 2012 Annual Statistical Report; data as of 12/31/11. Learn more at [public.imb.org/globalresearch](http://public.imb.org/globalresearch) .)

As followers of Christ, we must give our all so people can know the love of Jesus. That's what being totally His requires: pouring ourselves out completely to be His heart, hands and voice — individually, as a church, as Southern Baptists working cooperatively to reach all the nations. We are part of the task to fulfill the Great Commission. And although Southern Baptists have been praying, giving and going for more than 160 years, the task is far from finished.

Sowing generously Paul exhorts believers in 2 Corinthians 9:6:

“Remember this: The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously” (HCSB).



Today the mission field is ripe for the harvest, with more than 6,000 unreached people groups (UPGs) where evangelical Christians make up less than 2 percent of the total population. Join with other Southern Baptists in supporting missionaries to ensure that the harvest workers will not be few. Every follower of Jesus has a personal role in God's mission to make His name known among the nations.

### **Lottie Moon past and present**

This year marks 125 years of annual giving to support international missions. The 2013 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® goal is \$175 million, the same as in 2012 and 2011. In 2012, Southern Baptists gave \$149.3 million to the offering. It surpassed the previous year's offering of \$146.8 million by more than \$2.4 million and marked the third-highest amount given in the offering's history. Despite the difficult economy, we can rejoice in how God has blessed Southern Baptists' sacrificial giving. However, to make disciples of all peoples in fulfillment of the Great Commission, Southern Baptists must submit to being totally His, individually, as a church and as a convention.

Small gifts; big impact! Helping to reach a \$175 million goal can be daunting if you're struggling to make ends meet, but God smiles upon every gift given from a joyful heart, no matter the amount. Every penny given to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® is used to help support nearly 5,000 Southern Baptist missionaries and their ministries as they share the Gospel overseas. The offering makes up

54 percent of the IMB's income. Last year, your missionaries reported baptizing 266,451 new believers and starting 24,073 new churches. Thus, your gifts had an eternal impact on the lives of these new believers by helping to bring them to Christ.

### **What is the average cost to support an individual missionary?**

- \$51,000 a year (average)
- \$4,250 a month
- \$981 a week
- \$140 a day

Your church can use these figures to set goals for giving. Could your church, by faith, commit to supporting one missionary for a week, month or even a year? (Reported May 2013. Support includes housing, salary, children's education, medical expenses, retirement and more.) Giving levels based on Lottie Moon's life

- \$25 - \$49: Cartersville Challenge – Georgia town where Lottie Moon accepted her mission's call
- \$50 - \$74: Tengchow Challenge – Chinese town where Lottie Moon began evangelism
- \$75 - \$99: P'ingtu Challenge – Chinese town home to Lottie Moon's most successful evangelism
- \$100+: Manchuria Challenge – Ship on which Lottie Moon made her ultimate sacrifice, dying of starvation

### **Why should we give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering?**

"May I have a heart that refuses to give to the Lord a sacrifice that costs me nothing," said a missionary among Central Asian peoples.

No less than all our heart, soul and mind is what's required of us as believers. Missionaries commit their lives. Will we support them with our dollars? The world's population is now 7 billion, and more than half live among people groups still considered unreached, some having absolutely no Gospel sharing going on.

So no longer can this be your average give-a-few-bucks-on-Sunday-morning, pray-every-now-and-then kind of challenge. This is giving your everything, all you have — so that people can know the love of Jesus. That's what being totally His requires: pouring ourselves out completely to be His heart, hands and voice — individually, as a church, as Southern Baptists working cooperatively to reach all the nations.

Remember, every penny given to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goes directly to support missionaries and their ministries. It's an investment with eternal impact!

### **Ideas for setting your church's offering goal**

Pray! Ask for the Lord's guidance to help you set a goal that will challenge your church. That is the most important thing you can do. For practical handles, we've suggested some goal-setting options below:

**1. Choose your challenge** - Select one of four giving challenge levels highlighting the life of Lottie Moon. Dollar amounts are "per capita," based on your church's average Sunday morning worship attendance.

- \$25 to \$49 - Cartersville Challenge – Georgia town where Lottie Moon accepted missions call
- \$50 to \$74 - Tengchow Challenge – Chinese city where Lottie Moon began evangelism
- \$75 to \$99 - P'ingtu Challenge – Chinese city home to Lottie Moon's most successful ministry
- \$100 or greater - Manchuria Challenge – Ship on which Lottie Moon made her ultimate sacrifice, dying of starvation

**Help your church grow in missions giving**, just as Lottie grew in missions experience. Choose your Lottie Moon challenge as you set your goal!

**2. Consider an amount based on the average cost of supporting a missionary:**

- \$51,000 a year (average)
- \$4,250 a month
- \$981 a week
- \$140 a day

(Reported May 2013. Support includes housing, salary, children's education, medical expenses, retirement and more.)

### **What are the global needs?**

Nearly \$150 million has been given to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering during each of the past couple of years, supporting nearly 5,000 missionaries. Those missionaries reported more than 266,000 new believers baptized in a recent year. Each of those is a changed life, a life with hope, a life with new purpose.

But numbers also show how much more could be accomplished if more were given! More missionaries sent from our churches to partner with more nationals, more people groups engaging others — more lives for the kingdom.

### **We still face this challenge:**

Out of the world's 11,000-plus people groups, nearly 7,000 are considered yet unreached; they include more than half the world's population. More than 3,000 unreached people groups are unengaged, having no church-planting strategy at all.

Jesus tells us in Matthew 9:38 to:

"... pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest" (HCSB).

We must give ourselves completely to God by praying for every language, people, tribe and nation to hear and receive the Gospel. Thousands of people groups have never heard the Good News; God calls us to faithfully intercede for them. Would your church consider adopting a people group to pray for? Pray for our Southern Baptist missionaries, who are giving themselves completely to Christ by sharing Him in dark places. And pray about giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® to sustain those we've sent to be our hands touching a lost world.

**Christ tells us to be totally committed** — first to love Him, then to love others as much as we love ourselves. We are to give all of our heart, soul and mind to being Christ-like. The ultimate goal: that every man, woman and child on this earth can know His saving grace. Southern Baptist missionaries can't carry the Gospel to the ends of the earth without our full support. Through our giving, missionaries can concentrate their time and efforts on engaging the unreached with the Gospel. How much will you give to reach the ones who still do not know? Think about what you spend on Christmas gifts for family and friends. Then consider giving your biggest gift to God through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®. The 2013 goal is \$175 million. What role you will play?

**For more than 160 years**, Southern Baptists have given themselves wholly to God by leaving their comfort zones to go out into the world with the Gospel. But even today, billions of people remain lost. The church was given the Great Commission, and we must take responsibility for taking the Good News to the unreached people groups of the world. Would your church consider partnering with missionaries and sending members to touch lost people groups with God's love?

## Second Article



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR GOBA CHURCHES FOR HELPING WITH  
RENOVATE!

What an amazing event we just finished in the Association as we hosted the first annual **RENOVATE National Church Revitalization Conference**. We had 600 participants from all spiritual walks of faith gathered together for three intensive days of working on church revitalization and renewal. A great big thank you to ALOMA CHURCH for hosting us and for Pastor Wes Baldwin's like minded vision to help churches begin the journey towards revitalization and renewal. Thank

you to those churches, which provide leaders who spoke, led breakouts, worked behind the scenes, and came to learn how their churches might grow stronger and healthier. What a wonderful group of laity we had from our churches participate. Our churches within GOBA really stretched to do something so totally significant for the kingdom that people who attended from all different denominations were just so thankful that someone and some group would take the challenge and provide a yearly forum for learning how to revitalize churches. Mark your calendars for next year's conference right now. Begin promoting it to your church leaders. The dates for RENOVATE next year is: November 3-5 and we will be meeting at Aloma our host church for this event. Begin promoting this event by downloading the attached flyer and put it in a place around your church so others might prepare for this strategic event. If you would like to serve on next year's steering committee please contact Linda Goans at: [lgoans@goba.org](mailto:lgoans@goba.org).

Merry Christmas from Your Goba staff (insert)