

Report to California Baptists

California Southern Baptist Convention 2014



The Cooperative Program: Mission Support Since 1925

There are countless great moments in Southern Baptist history. But when Greg Holmes, director of missions for Mendo-Lake Baptist Association, recently brought an old poster to the Convention offices, it highlighted one of Southern Baptists' greatest moments: the birth of the Cooperative Program.

The poster was discovered in the attic of Chapel of the Redwoods, Comptche, in Mendocino County, and is believed to have belonged to the mother of Charlotte Coolidge, wife of longtime CSBC pastor, Dick Coolidge. Charlotte's mother had the poster because of her involvement in Woman's Missionary Union.

Members of the Comptche congregation gave the poster to Holmes, who hung it in his office for several years before donating the historic document to the CSBC Ministry Resource Center.

In 1925 Southern Baptists adopted the Cooperative Program as a unified means of financially supporting the missions mandate of the Great Commission. Almost 90 years later CP remains the most effective, efficient, comprehensive and strategic means of giving every person in the world the opportunity to hear the gospel.

Today CP is impacting our world in great ways by:

- providing reliable support for nearly 10,000 North American and International missionaries
- strengthening future pastors and missionaries through educational opportunities at six seminaries
- broadcasting truth, morality and religious liberty through the Ethics & Religious Liberties Commission

– supporting California Southern Baptist Convention ministries of evangelism, church starting, leadership development and missions.



Fermín A. Whittaker, CSBC executive director, said he was “humbled by the meager beginnings of CP” the poster celebrates, informing Southern Baptists they were supporting “544 American missionaries working on fifteen foreign fields.”

The poster shows a ship with the headline: “Shipload (of) Southern Baptist Missionaries Sailing for Orient.”

The poster also celebrates the Cooperative Program

“embracing Christian education, ministerial relief, foreign missions, state missions, home missions, orphanages and hospitals.”

The poster emphasizes the “spirit” of the Cooperative Program by touting that “Every member contributing every week to every cause according to his ability, through his local church, will insure the success of this Program.”

Today as in 1925, Whittaker said, “The Cooperative Program is one of God’s great gifts to Southern Baptists.”

Learn more about how you can be part of the CP family and create a life-changing, eternal history of reaching the world in California.



Advancing the Kingdom Through Electronic Media

Darren Grubel joined the CSBC staff as media project manager in March to expand what was already being accomplished in the area of video, to better tell the story of California Southern Baptists.



Grubel, who has experience in various forms of media production, once served as the creative director and production manager for Clovis Hills Community Church in Clovis, one of CSBC’s larger congregations.

He also has experience with other churches. Beginning his media career in sound, Grubel worked in the recording industry as an audio engineer before moving into ministry.

“One of the ways we are using Darren’s skills is to bolster the CSBC website and the digital edition of the *California Southern Baptist*,” according to Terry Barone, leader of the CSBC communications group.

Grubel is responsible for producing digital media for the California Mission Offering. He also provides collateral for the CSBC annual meeting. He will produce theme interpretation videos and is the primary architect for all media to support the Tuesday evening celebration feature.

“Darren brings great technical skill to the job, but also brings an enormous amount of creativity,” Barone said. “He is a wonderful addition to the CSBC team.”

Grubel said, “I love stories of how God is moving. I love my job because I get to be a link between life-change stories and people who desperately need to hear the hope Christ offers.

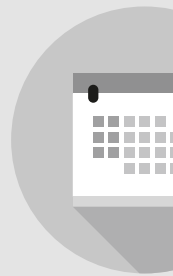
“I hope that when people see any of my videos, they are first encouraged by what God has done and are then inspired to take a step to share Christ’s love with someone in their community. There are exciting things happening in our churches and our state Convention,” Grubel said.

Take a look at some of Darren’s work at www.csbc.com/videos.



Don't miss these important dates...

SENT Conference	November 7-8	Sacramento
Ignition Student Conference	December 29-31	Ontario
SENT Conference	January 30-31	El Monte
OneNight OneReason Rally	February 23	Tracy
OneNight OneReason Rally	February 24	Clovis
OneNight OneReason Rally	February 25	Walnut
OneNight OneReason Rally	February 26	San Diego
Pastors' Retreat	April 13-15	Jenness Park
Ministers' Wives Retreat	May 15-17	Jenness Park
CSBC 75th Anniversary	October 27-28	Bakersfield



Highlights Reported for 2014 CSBC Ministries

Church starting efforts were strong in 2013, with 103 new congregations started or newly affiliated with the Convention. Forty were language, 51 Anglo/multi-ethnic and 12 African-American. As of September 1, new church starting efforts for 2014 total 71.

Ministry Evangelism throughout California resulted in 11,520 professions of faith through hunger ministries, Feeding Those Who Feed Us and other efforts. At least 804 baptisms were reported by the 504 churches and 12,905 volunteers associated with these ministries.

The two-day On Target Evangelism Conference in Torrance drew 350 people from 135 churches and featured speakers Miles McPherson, Steve Gains, David Nasser, Alex McFarland and Paul Borden.

Ignition, the state student conference, drew 1,450 students and their leaders from 107 congregations. Nearly 140 made professions of faith in Christ, and other spiritual decisions.

Jenness Park Christian Camp hosted 9,521 campers in the past year, resulting in many changed lives, including 314 professions of faith. Fifty-nine pastors took advantage of free nights for restoration and rest, and more than 500 volunteers provided countless hours of ministry to the camp. Jenness Park also went "green" by beginning to use non-disposable dishware and linens, financed by Care2Connect donations.

Two conferences were held for smaller membership and rural congregations. Nearly 300 people from 108 churches representing 19 associations were present for workshops, worship and inspiration.

Dozens of California women participated in Tapestry, a multi-ethnic, multi-language event at Pismo Beach. Workshops and worship were held in multiple languages, and a large number of ministry projects were conducted during the two-day event.

California Disaster Relief deployed to 21 areas in California, out of state and across the globe. More than 20 structures were worked on in Ormoc, Philippines, where 75 volunteers gave 13,100 hours of ministry during a six-month period. Some 117 people accepted Christ as a result of the response. Disaster Relief also conducted 10 training events across the state to prepare volunteers for ministry.

Two new evangelistic Block Party Trailers were provided this year thanks to California Mission Offering gifts. To date 22 units have been given to 19 associations. It is estimated that over the lifetime of these trailers more than 4 million people will receive ministry in the name of Christ.

The California SENT Missions Conference was launched in Fresno, drawing 200 people to 34 workshops and inspiration. Participants were challenged to be prepared to engage in direct missions.

STRAM Camp was held in two locations this summer with a total of 290 campers. The mission camps yielded 21 professions of faith and many other spiritual decisions.

The New America Singers (CSBC's student choir) sang for more than 27,000 in Hong Kong and Thailand. They also were engaged in ministry and mission projects, which resulted in 1,650 decisions for Christ.

The 2014 Ministers' Wives Retreat at Jenness Park drew nearly 100 women from 16 associations. Sandra Williams spoke to the theme "Being Refined." The 2015 retreat is scheduled for May 15-17.

California Women's Ministries and Missions sponsored five human exploitation awareness workshops, providing resources for churches to start ministries for this growing problem in California.

Strategic Giving assisted 30 churches with legal issues and helped with more than 40 estate plans for California Baptist families. Through estate plans and gifts, more than \$5 million was raised in the first eight months of 2014. Since 2010 Strategic Giving has helped earmark more than \$21 million for California missions.

The *California Southern Baptist* E-dition celebrated its first anniversary in 2014. More than 100 individual subscribers receive the digital edition of the newspaper while more than 25 churches subscribe for their members through the church plan.

Five CSBC churches ministered during the Rose Bowl Parade, sharing Christ with more than 500 people.

Two music workshops were conducted early in the year, with 254 worship team members and leaders from 73 churches participating.

Vacation Bible School workshops, in both English and Spanish, trained 377 leaders to prepare churches to conduct effective and successful VBS events.

Chosen Generation, a conference for youth on mission, was held in Fresno, drawing more than 100 students and leaders to missions-focused workshop, ministry projects and worship.

The Church Financial Guidebook, which helps churches with financial practices, was translated into Spanish this year. In addition there were 22 webinars training leaders in a variety of stewardship subjects. Thirty congregations received direct training and support for stewardship.

The Healthy Church Group trained 31 new church consultants in the five-step process of church assessment and recommendations. Consultations assist congregations to become and remain spiritually healthy and evangelistically fruitful.



By the Numbers

Congregations: **2,229**

Anglo: **838**

African-American: **451**

Chinese: **71**

Filipino: **81**

Hispanic: **345**

Korean: **195**

Multi-ethnic: **96**

Other ethnic: **152**

Cooperating Congregations: **1,206**

Baptisms in 2013: **13,575**
9th of 42 state conventions

Cooperative Program Gifts
in 2013: **\$6,756,078.50**

California Mission Offering Gifts
in 2013: **\$433,341.87**

CP Gifts for World Missions
in 2013: **33%**

CSBC Staff and Missionaries: **68**
MRC – **37**

Field Missionaries – **15**
Jenness Park – **16**

Baptist Associations: **29**

Agencies: **3**
CSBC

California Baptist Foundation
California Baptist University

CSBC churches preach the gospel in
77 languages, reaching more than
60 ethnic groups

Of the **37+** million people living in
California, some estimate
33 million still need Jesus!

To learn about the services and ministries of CSBC please look through the CSBC website. Begin your search for help and resources at www.csbc.com.