

Report to California Baptists

California Southern Baptist Convention 2017



Bill Agee tapped to lead California Southern Baptists; implements new structure

Bill Agee was elected the eighth executive director of the California Southern Baptist Convention Executive Board May 11.

At his election, Agee said CSBC ministry “is all about the churches. The churches are the ‘pointy end’ of the spear in the battle. The state convention should be the supply line.”

Agee said emphatically that his goal for CSBC as executive director is to “dominate resourcing the vision of our churches, and differentiate ourselves by planting strong, healthy churches and revitalizing existing churches.”

He admitted having more questions than answers. “I’m a question guy. I’ve got lot of questions and I believe if we ask the right questions, we’ll get the right answers. I want us to be about the churches as much as possible!”

Believing God prepared him for this ministry, Agee said, “I see in California great challenge and I want my last days in ministry being worthwhile to meet the challenge.”

Even though he doesn’t have all the answers, Agee said, “A good leader goes into a situation, assesses it, puts together a plan, staffs to the vision, implements, follows up, and does it all over again.”

In September, Agee recommended and the Executive Board approved its ministries

to churches to be organized into four ministry “initiative teams” to meet specialized, focused needs common to many CSBC congregations. The teams are designed to respond to church ministry needs with “relationship, resources, training, consultation, customization and the like.”

The initiative teams include church planting, church revitalization, small church and evangelism and missions. Two administrative teams – business services and communications – were not affected by the restructure.

Agee noted that based on its ministry assignments and CSBC’s strategic directives, each team will develop its own set of ministry resources to address congregational needs.

Two major changes from the current structure are the creation of the team for small churches, and elevating evangelism and combining it with missions.

With about 75 percent of CSBC, and SBC, churches having fewer than 100 members, Agee said creating a team to meet the needs of smaller membership churches is



Bill Agee

a “strategic” move he believes will help these churches in “almost every area of congregational life.”

Agee also said evangelism needed higher visibility for CSBC congregations since “reaching people for Jesus should be the primary focus of our churches.” The partnership of evangelism and missions to “go and tell” should be a driving force to reach California, the United States and the world, he said.

Bill Agee’s Service

- Church Planter – Mobridge Southern Baptist Church, Mobridge, SD
- Pastor – Bethel Baptist Church, Norman, OK
- Pastor – First Southern Baptist Church, Prescott Valley, AZ
- Director of Missions – Central Association of Southern Baptists, Phoenix
- Director of Associational Strategies – North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, GA
- Director of Church Planting – California Baptist Foundation, Fresno
- Minister of Church Planting and Revitalization – Woodstock Baptist Church, Woodstock, GA
- Executive Director – California Southern Baptist Convention

Vision Statement

CSBC will focus on resourcing the vision of local churches while differentiating itself in the areas of church revitalization and church planting.

New CSBC Initiatives Structure

Ministry Teams



Administrative Teams



Continued on back

CSBC Ministry Highlights

The 2016 Ignition Student Conference featured the theme, “unstoppable.” More than 1,350 students and leaders representing 101 CSBC churches attended, and 74 made decisions to confess Jesus as Lord; 88 rededicated their faith in Christ, along with other spiritual decisions.

350 women participated in a variety of Tapestry events this year, which bring a diverse community of women together for worship, fellowship, learning and engagement in ministry projects.

Strategic Giving ministries were active this year, raising more than \$2 million for missions through August 2017; hosting the 7th annual California Mission Tour; preparing 18 Christian estate plans for Southern Baptist families; assisting 32 churches with legal issues; and conducting nine wills and trusts seminars

The Healthy Church Group partnered with four associations to help train congregations to reach more people for Christ. The Elevate CSBC process is aimed at helping churches “elevate” the tangible indicators of church health (attendance, finances and baptisms). The process includes a Conference (Elevate Summit), Cluster (monthly peer group training) and Consultation (Elevate Assessment). Summits were held in Alhambra, Hesperia, San Francisco and Fresno, attended by some 650 church leaders representing 135 CSBC congregations. Six pastor clusters formed with 84 congregations involved.

Literacy Missions is gaining momentum as a ministry outreach in California. Three new ministries were recently launched and more volunteers are to be certified to teach ESL and other literacy mission classes.

State Vacation Bible School Clinics trained 595 leaders at multiple locations in English and Spanish.

Jeness Park has served 9,821 campers over the last 12 months with 411 making first-time professions of faith in Christ. Jeness Park has also met its mission to “Restore His Servants” by housing 73 families for a “pastoral getaway.” JP500 capital campaign contributions were used to equip four camper cabins with new toilets, showers and vanities. A valuable resource is the volunteer labor force that included 298 individuals this year.

Two music/worship workshops were held in 2017, drawing 531 worship team members and leaders – representing 81 congregations – to develop their worship and music skills.

Children’s Missions Day Explosions introduced children to missions and missionaries, and engaged them in mission projects. Two similar events, Youth on Mission, were held on the same day, in El Monte and Redwood City.

Campers on Mission conducted four projects in the past year, utilizing the skills of 50 people at JP and Camp Cazadero.

The New America Singers (state Baptist student choir) traveled to Hong Kong and Thailand for their 2017 tour. The 25 students sang and shared the message of Jesus and His love with more than 19,000 people in schools, churches, civic clubs and street fairs. In Hong Kong, Thailand and Camp Pendleton more than 860 made a decision to accept Christ as Savior.

Human resource assistance has been provided to churches and associations, including a variety of compliance matters related to state and federal regulations for non-profit organizations. Bylaws reviews, incorporating documents, budgets, insurance, child safety issues and many other technical and administrative needs are being resourced by CSBC.

Throughout California Ministry Evangelism efforts and migrant ministries yielded great results: 149,790 meals served; 195,089 individuals served; 8,246 Bibles/tracts distributed; 2,066 salvation decisions; 4,471 volunteers from 216 churches.

Feeding Those Who Feed Us registered 1,459 professions of faith as a result of their ministry at 49 locations engaging 124 CSBC congregations. Ministry accomplishments include 3,888 new sets of clothes given away and 1,555 backpacks distributed. In 16 years of ministry, FTWFU has recorded 19,532 salvation decisions!

Four retreats sponsored by CSBC, Alianza and Inland Empire Baptist Association provided for more than 530 ministers’ wives.

Disaster Relief ministries engaged more than 200 volunteers in 30 projects in California, logging about 5,000 volunteer hours. Volunteers trained during the year include 70 chaplains, 50 cleanup and recovery workers and 80 mass care and feeding volunteers.

During the July 4 weekend more than 1,000 participated in the annual Middle-Eastern Conference, one of the largest Arabic Christian meetings in the nation.

Children’s and Youth Bible Drill drew 110 students, while the Youth Speaker’s Tournament had 24 participants in 2017.



By the Numbers

Congregations: 2,340

Anglo: 855

African-American: 457

Chinese: 75

Filipino: 81

Hispanic: 375

Korean: 205

Multi-ethnic: 162

Other ethnic: 130

Cooperating Congregations: 1,138

Baptisms in 2016: 10,949
10th of 42 state conventions

Cooperative Program Gifts
in 2016: \$6,585,367

California Mission Offering Gifts
in 2016: \$366,812

CP Gifts for World Missions
in 2016: 34.5%

CSBC Staff and Missionaries: 46
MRC – 29

Jeness Park – 16

Field Missionaries – 1

NAMB Church Planting Catalysts – 11

Baptist Associations: 29

Agencies: 3
CSBC

California Baptist Foundation
California Baptist University

CSBC churches preach the gospel in
more than 70 languages, reaching more
than 60 ethnic groups

Of the 39+ million people living in
California, some estimate
33 million still need Jesus!

“CSBC ministry highlights” provides brief facts of the ministries accomplished in the past year by California Southern Baptist Convention staff and churches. These ministries are possible because of your gifts through the Cooperative Program and the California Mission Offering. Thank you!

To learn about the services and ministries of CSBC, please visit www.csbc.com!