



## COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

# WELCOME CP AMBASSADOR!

Thank you for your willingness to be a Cooperative Program (CP) Ambassador! As a CP Ambassador, your role will be to help raise awareness and help tell the story of the great things your church is able to accomplish through cooperative ministry.

As a CP Ambassador, you are a CP champion and, just like in Paul's day, your part in accomplishing the Great Commission is critical!

### WHAT DOES A CP AMBASSADOR DO?

You will serve as an ambassador and communicator for cooperative generosity by:

- Educating church members on how the Gospel is being advanced by your church, through your state, and through the national convention;
- Telling the stories of the great things being accomplished by cooperative ministry;
- Inspiring and encouraging church members to become engaged in cooperative missions through generosity and prayer.

The average church member has very little understanding of what the Cooperative Program is and how it works. With your voice church members themselves will become CP champions. Imagine the impact that would make on your church's ministries.

### A CP AMBASSADOR SHOULD BE:

- Enthusiastic about the Great Commission and the Cooperative Program as a tool to share the gospel;
- Willing and able to coordinate with church staff and the finance committee;
- Prayer-focused and mission-minded.

### THE BIBLICAL FOUNDATION FOR A CP AMBASSADOR:

The idea for the CP Ambassador comes straight out of the Bible. From the very start of the church, Christians have been compelled by the greatest mission known to man: Acts 1: 8 is a clear directive. Paul the Apostle was one of the first missionaries. He was a missionary in chains, unable to travel and yet organizing a mission effort that would shake the world. Along the way, there were strategic partners. One such ambassador was Epaphroditus. Paul referred to him as "my brother and fellow worker" (Phil. 2:25). Epaphroditus served as an envoy of resources to accelerate the advance of The Great Commission.



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### GET INFORMED

The Cooperative Program is the financial fuel for reaching every person in every town, every city, every state, and every nation with the Gospel of Jesus Christ!



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## *Reaching the World*



### **Church Members**

Church members give back to God a percentage of their income. This is traditionally called a tithe and represents 10 percent of what God has provided.



### **Local Churches**

Churches receive tithes and offerings from church members and commit a percentage of undesignated receipts for missions and ministries beyond the church walls.



### **State Missions and Ministries**

Messengers from local congregations vote to retain a specific percentage for state missions and ministries and forward the balance to the SBC. State missions and ministries can include evangelism, church planting, children's homes, Christian higher education, compassion ministries, disaster relief, church health, age group ministries, and missions education.



### **Southern Baptist Missions and Ministries**

The SBC compiles the gifts forwarded from state conventions for missions and ministries across the United States and around the world. Southern Baptist missions and ministries include North American and international missions, theological education, ethics and religious liberty, and general operating expenses.

*The Financial Fuel for Reaching Every Person  
in Every Town, Every City, Every State, and Every Nation.*



As proven, we can do more together than we could ever do alone. CP helps each church to have a global vision to reach their neighbors, their nation, and the world. When people see how much impact they can have through the CP, they are inspired to do more.



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### BASIC STEPS TO GET STARTED

1. Work closely with your pastor.
2. Pray daily for the ministries of your church and missions.
3. Be a resource to your church's leadership.

### GET EQUIPPED!

Download the **CP Digital Church Kit** at [sbc.net/cp](https://sbc.net/cp).

#### INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD:

Check out some of the stories of IMB missionaries at [imb.org/video-gallery](https://imb.org/video-gallery) and [imb.org/photo-library/home](https://imb.org/photo-library/home). These are great resources to share how CP brings the Gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth through videos, images, and stories.

#### NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD:

NAMB also has a library of resources. This library of videos, infographics and stories can all be shared. [namb.net/resources](https://namb.net/resources)

#### STATE AND LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS:

Search for additional resources on your local association and state convention websites. [sbc.net/resources/directories/state-and-local-associations/](https://sbc.net/resources/directories/state-and-local-associations/)



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### PLAN A CP AWARENESS EVENT

The Cooperative Program is so important and as we said, most people are not aware of what it is or how it works. In collaboration with your pastor, develop an easy, inspiring experience that fits into the overall ministry of your church. Here are some options to consider. Pick one or two and your church will broaden their understanding and celebrate your church's reach.

1. **CP Sunday:** Check the *SBC Calendar of Activities* (the national SBC approved calendar) [sbc.net/calendar](http://sbc.net/calendar) for CP Sunday.

CP Sunday would be a day that the entire SBC is celebrating the things God has done through the Cooperative Program. If the date on the calendar doesn't work for your church, then choose another date that fits within the life of your church. We encourage churches to set aside this one Sunday each year when CP would be featured in your worship service with a guest speaker, a CP insert or handout, and a video before or during the offering. As a part of our cooperation, we also share resources. You can choose the resources that work best for you. You can also determine how best to celebrate CP Sunday. Below is a list of ideas to consider as you customize your CP promotion. Keep in mind that you can't do everything in one worship service, but choosing a couple of these ideas will definitely help you make the Sunday meaningful.

#### Here are a few ideas for your CP event:

- Invite a CP special guest!
- Recruit a church member to share a 3-minute CP testimony.
- Add a CP video to worship.
- Utilize "CP In Action" visuals and stories. [sbc.net/cp](http://sbc.net/cp)
- Use a bulletin insert provided by your state mission board or convention.
- Generate awareness on social media.
- Create a CP display at your church's next missions celebration.
- Share posts from your state convention or mission boards on your church's social media platforms.



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2. **CP Quarterly Celebration:** Your church may decide to hold a quarterly celebration of the CP. Once per quarter you could feature a CP highlight and a brief celebration of all that your church has accomplished by giving through the Cooperative Program.

**Note:** *These presentations can be a brief feature during worship, and we believe these resources will make these moments super compelling. Some churches may even choose to host a CP celebration on 5th Sundays.*

3. **Celebrate CP Month in October:** October is a great time to educate and celebrate CP! Create a customized strategy for CP awareness as you roll into fall. Many churches are approving budgets for the coming year and so this also helps cast a vision for global impact through allocating budget funds into the Cooperative Program. Perhaps your church leaders will decide to consider increasing the amount allocated to the CP. Many churches find that when the church members understand how CP funds our missionaries, they see an increase in stewardship enthusiasm.

4. **Other Ongoing Promotion:** Your church may decide you would like to keep the Cooperative Program awareness going all year long. Even if you have a CP celebration, you may want to incorporate CP education into the weekly life of your church.

### **Here are a few ideas for ongoing CP promotion.**

- Use the CP explainer videos in new member classes.
- Show CP videos during or before worship.
- Invite an IMB missionary to speak in a mid-week service or to small groups in your church.
- Continue giving updates on what's happening in Southern Baptist missions.
- Celebrate the amount of money given through CP and take the opportunity to recast the vision.
- Share graphics and videos on social media platforms.
- Pray before your offering. The prayer before the offering has always been a holy time. Giving isn't an addition to worship. It is worship! Therefore, it's important to be intentional. Intentional prayer for missionaries is important, and this is a good time for that intentional prayer. As we pray for a mission or a missionary, we are also reminding church members that the church's vision isn't just for your town. It's so much bigger!
- Give update letters on individual family giving. It is a good time to say "Thank you for giving to the Great Commission." When your church sends out giving record updates, include some CP awareness in the same note.





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- A missions banquet is a great annual event for your church to host. Talk with your state convention regarding the possibility of inviting a state or international missionary to present and take advantage of the multimedia resources as you develop the event.
- Utilize your church's newsletter to share a word about the Cooperative Program as well as a link to online giving. The newsletter is also a great place to utilize the free resource: *CP In Action* ([sbc.net/cp](https://sbc.net/cp)).



November 26, 2023

### **Itamar Elizalde**

Puerto Rico

*Pray that God will soften the hearts of the people Itamar serves so they will be more responsive to the good news about Jesus.*

Since 2015, Puerto Rico has been in dire economic crisis. Hurricanes Maria and Irma made the situation even worse, killing thousands and leaving many residents without power for months.

Itamar Elizalde serves as the on-the-ground coordinator for volunteer teams that come to Puerto Rico to help with construction projects. As she helps volunteer teams serve the people of Puerto Rico, she gets many opportunities to tell people about Jesus.

When the North American Mission Board opened an emergency food bank in Puerto Rico during the pandemic, Itamar got a call from Rosa, a woman who desperately needed food. Itamar connected Rosa to a nearby church planter who provided her with food and invited her to church. That Sunday she accepted Christ as her Savior and began being discipled.



*The Cooperative Program (CP) helps Itamar and many others provide for the physical and spiritual needs of the people in Puerto Rico while opening the door for Gospel conversations.*

For additional resources, scan the code or visit [sbc.net/cpstories](https://sbc.net/cpstories)