

Report to California Baptists

California Southern Baptist Convention 2016



CMO emphasizes personal witnessing for members in 2016

Evangelism is a key component of the 2016 California Mission Offering, providing tools and resources to help churches train members to effectively share the gospel with confidence.

CMO has always emphasized a “three-pronged approach” of encouraging church members to pray for, give to and be on mission by going/sharing their faith.

With this year’s theme, churches have the opportunity to train members how to successfully make a simple gospel presentation with materials based on John 3:16, written by CSBC evangelism director Randy McWhorter.

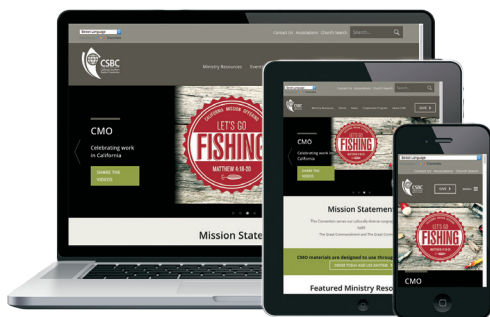
“The materials were produced to make it easy for pastors or church leaders to have a special evangelism emphasis on a Sunday



morning, to preach a sermon about CMO and the importance of reaching people for Christ.”

Though the California Mission Offering is emphasized in September, California missions can be emphasized and the offering can be observed anytime during the year.

CSBC launches new website for resources / information



In March, CSBC launched a new organizational website with an updated look, adding flexibility and ease to find CSBC resources and information.

Terry Barone, CSBC communications group

leader, said, “The previous website was built on technology from at least a decade ago, which was outdated and inflexible in today’s Web design. The look and feel of the new site is a dramatic change for the Convention.”

Highlights of the new site include a modern look with a subtle color palette, larger typography, images to illustrate resources, events and other subject matter, a translation feature offering dozens of languages and options to connect with CSBC through social media – facebook, twitter and vimeo. Barone noted the site also is “responsive” for display across a multitude of sizes/platforms.

Check out the site at www.csbc.com.

2016 CSBC ministry highlights

California Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Ministries sent teams to Arkansas, the island of Saipan, and throughout California to Placer, Los Angeles, Kern, San Diego, Lake and San Bernardino Counties. Deployments and trainings included mud-out, ash-out, chainsaw operations, chaplaincy, rebuild and mass feeding. Volunteer days totaled 425 and the number of meals prepared exceeded 1,300.

The 2015 Ignition Student Conference held in Sacramento featured the theme, “Focused.” More than 1,500 students and leaders representing 57 CSBC churches attended the three-day event. Nearly 60 made decisions to confess Jesus as Lord, eight rededicated their faith in Christ and four made other spiritual decisions. 2016 Ignition will be at the Ontario Convention Center December 28-30.

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Whittaker announces March 2017 retirement

The CSBC Executive Board elected a committee in May to search for a new executive director after Fermín A. Whittaker announced his March 1, 2017 retirement. Whittaker will have served the Convention more than 22 years, the longest-tenured chief executive in CSBC’s 76-year history.



Dr. Whittaker

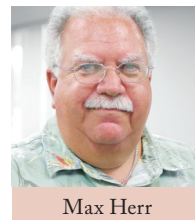
The search committee of eight, chaired by Montia Setzler, pastor of Magnolia Church in Riverside, has held listening sessions across the state and is well into the process of finding the man God is calling to serve as the next CSBC executive director.

The committee is open to comments and recommendations of people to consider for the post. Send information to CSBCSearchTeam@gmail.com.

Setzler asks California Baptists to pray for the committee and their task.

Herr and Bivins tapped for restructured posts

In an effort to better meet the needs of CSBC churches, two vacant staff positions



Max Herr

were restructured to create two new ministries. Max Herr was called to serve as the Human Resource and Church Compliance Specialist, assisting congregations

with personnel matters, benefits (including GuideStone Financial Resources), church bylaws and regulatory matters pertaining to government requirements.

Mike Bivins joined the CSBC team as the Volunteer Mobilization Specialist, including Disaster Relief ministries. Besides leading DR efforts, Bivins is tasked to assist churches in finding ways to mobilize their members into mission opportunities throughout the world.



Mike Bivins

The **Healthy Church Group** partnered with six associations to help train congregations to reach more people for Christ. Elevate CSBC is a three-fold process 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). Elevate Summits were held in Turlock, Redding, San Jose, Hayward, Alhambra and Hesperia. Approximately 650 church leaders attended representing 135 CSBC congregations from 20 associations. Six pastor clusters formed with 84 congregations involved. In 2017 Elevate Summits are scheduled for San Francisco, Fresno, Riverside and San Diego.

The **Office of Strategic Giving** conducted four planned giving seminars, completed 34 estate plans for families, secured \$1.8 million in deferred gifts and assisted 23 churches with legal issues. Since 2016 more than \$30 million has been raised for Christian causes including local churches, CSBC ministries, California Baptist University, Gateway Seminary and more.

In 2015 the **Church Starting Group** registered 95 new congregations, including 36 language, 49 Anglo/multi-ethnic and 10 African-American. So far 38 new congregations have been started in 2016 and are awaiting affiliation. More than 60 church planters currently are active in California, supported by the ministries of 10 church planter catalysts.

More than 635 **Vacation Bible School** workers were trained at multiple clinics throughout the state, conducted in both English and Spanish.

Two **music/worship workshops** were held in 2016, drawing 553 worship team members and leaders – representing 95 congregations – to develop their worship and music skills.

Tapestry, a multi-ethnic/multi-language/multi-generational event for women was held in Visalia, focusing on opportunities for women to do local missions. They distributed 100 “blessing bags” to women at a local group home.

The **New America Singers** (state Baptist student choir) traveled to Hong Kong and the Philippines for their 2016 tour. The 25 students sang and shared the message of Jesus and His love with more than 30,000 people in schools, churches, civic clubs and street fairs. In Hong Kong 450 older students and adults made a decision to accept Christ as Savior and in the Philippines some 4,120 turned in decision cards.

Throughout California **Ministry Evangelism efforts** and migrant ministries (Feeding Those Who Feed Us) yielded great results: 422,641 meals served; 428,426 individuals served; 11,911 Bibles/tracts distributed; 3,464 salvation decisions; nearly 5,400 volunteers from 222 churches involved.

Results for **Feeding Those Who Feed Us** include 48 locations; 137 churches; 4,027 new clothes given away; 2,067 backpacks distributed; 1,988 professions of faith. In 15 years of ministry Feeding Those Who Feed Us has recorded 18,073 salvation decisions!

Jenness Park served 10,218 campers with 284 making professions of faith. CentriKid, CentriFuge and District Camps brought 2,824 campers to JP over the summer. Four weeks of CentriFuge resulted in 101 students accepting Christ as Savior. Since 2000 nearly 7,000 campers have come to know Jesus as their Lord at Jenness Park. The JP500 capital campaign has contributed to the renovation of five camper cabins and two camper restrooms. JP’s success is due in part to the 293 volunteers who helped throughout the year.

Literacy missions was re-launched in 2016 to provide training for CSBC churches desiring to provide English as a Second Language, youth and children tutoring, and adult reading and writing classes as avenues to share the gospel.

Across the state four retreats were provided for **ministers’ wives**. More than 530 women participated in the events sponsored by CSBC, Alianza and Inland Empire Baptist Association.

The annual **Middle-Eastern Conference** was held at Azusa Pacific University over the July 4 weekend. More than 1,000 participants gathered, one of the largest Arabic-speaking Christian meetings in the nation.

The **Church Starting Group** provided a number of scholarships to college and seminary students who are preparing for full-time Christian service – 81 were dispersed this calendar year. Some scholarships were awarded to students attending Equip Biblical Institute and Contextualized Leadership Development training.

Children’s and Youth Bible Drill drew 164 students, while the **Youth Speaker’s Tournament** had 23 participants in 2016.

New Pastor Orientation involved 37 new pastors and their wives, including four new church planters. The two-day event helps new pastors connect to the ministries of California Baptists and provides an awareness of the resources available to assist churches to fulfill their mission in their community.



By the Numbers

- Congregations: 2,233
- Anglo: 823
- African-American: 453
- Chinese: 76
- Filipino: 81
- Hispanic: 340
- Korean: 196
- Multi-ethnic: 117
- Other ethnic: 147
- Cooperating Congregations: 1,188
- Baptisms in 2015: 12,151
9th of 42 state conventions
- Cooperative Program Gifts in 2015: \$6,622,667
- California Mission Offering Gifts in 2015: \$430,330
- CP Gifts for World Missions in 2015: 34%
- CSBC Staff and Missionaries: 53
MRC – 35
Jenness Park – 16
Field Missionaries – 2
- NAMB Church Planting Catalysts – 10
- 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!

“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!