

BRIGHT HOPE for DARK DAYS

2008 CMO: Planning Guide For Pastors, Church Staff and Mission Leaders

Date: September 2008
Theme: "Bright Hope for Dark Days"
Scripture: 1 Peter 2:9
Goal: \$500,000

The 2008 California Mission Offering (CMO) materials will focus on the theme "Bright Hope for Dark Days." The following are suggestions to help your church promote the ministries sponsored by California Southern Baptist Convention in the Golden State.

10 Steps to Successfully Promote the California Mission Offering

Step 1

Meet with the pastor and/or staff, minister of missions, mission leaders and other mission advocates (such as members of the church missions committee, Woman's Missionary Union, etc.) to select dates, times and place of your church's CMO and prayer emphasis.

This can be either a churchwide effort or a time for adults, youth, children and preschoolers to meet separately but at the same time.

Pray that your church members will be more aware of missions in California and that they would be challenged to pray and give to California missions and go and share with other Californians.

Step 2

Set the church's CMO goal. Use a process already in place, such as the church council, staff, missions committee, Woman's Missionary Union, etc.

Step 3

Develop a visual aid to keep track of the progress toward your congregation's goal. Here are some ideas: Display a large map of California or cut out a large outline shape of the state in black. Divide your church's offering goal and as gifts are received, place miniature cutouts of either a sun or candle on the map to demonstrate "Bright Hope for Dark Days."

Step 4

Order materials to promote the offering. The quickest way to receive materials is by ordering online at www.calmissions.com. Materials can be ordered using the order card included in the promotion packet mailed to churches. Posters, bulletin inserts and prayer guides are available in English, Chinese, Korean and Spanish. Offering envelopes also are available. All of these materials are provided without cost to churches.

Step 5

Read the CMO Planning Guide and choose the offering promotion ideas you will use. Go online (www.calmissions.com) to print learning sessions and distribute them to age-level leaders. The Website has additional resources you might use in promoting the offering such as clip art, video clips, quotes and prayer requests from missionaries. Browse through the site to evaluate if/how each resource might be used in promoting California missions to your congregation.

CMO
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Step 6

Enlist individuals to assist with the Adult/Churchwide Learning Session (found online). If your congregation doesn't conduct either an adult or a churchwide event, choose several of the ideas from the learning session to use during worship services and at other times to educate church members about California missions.

Step 7

Begin promoting the mission offering. Use a variety of avenues for promotion!

- Promote the offering in Sunday school classes, Bible study classes, small groups, discipleship classes, missions education settings, the church newsletter, the church bulletin, and during worship services and prayer meetings.
- Encourage individuals and families to set goals.
- Enlist persons to set up offering displays to emphasize the theme of "Bright Hope for Dark Days."
- Remind church members that 100 percent of their gifts to CMO support projects in our state to reach the more than 33 million unchurched residents.
- Distribute CMO offering envelopes in pew racks/chairs and in Bible study classes. Consider having your pastor or prominent missions leader write a letter to church members and include an envelope to encourage member participation. You might even consider including offering envelopes in bulletins or newsletters.
- Place CMO posters in high visibility areas.
- Distribute the CMO bulletin insert and prayer guide during your church's emphasis. These materials could be given out on the same Sunday or could be distributed on two succeeding Sundays. If the materials are handed out separately, it is suggested that the bulletin insert be distributed first, followed by the prayer guide. Call attention to the insert and prayer guide during the worship service(s) on the Sunday(s) they are used.
- The prayer guide can be used several ways. Encourage families to use them daily during family devotions or in individual quiet times. Make sure all church leaders receive a guide and ask them to focus on the prayer requests on the day they conduct any type of church meetings or events such as deacons meeting, committee meetings, staff meeting, fellowships, potluck dinners, etc.
- Plan to show CMO video segments from the DVD in worship services each Sunday, at prayer meetings, mission study sessions, Sunday school classes, mission organization classes, etc. There is a CMO music video and a four-segment series illustrating the "dark days" in which we live and the "bright hope" we have in Jesus Christ.
- Use the offering allocation information found online and on the back of the bulletin insert to demonstrate how your church's gifts will be used to minister and support California mission projects.

- Enlist laypersons and mission leaders to give their testimony about why they give to CMO.
- Have missions leaders visit every Sunday school department or class to encourage praying for and giving to CMO.
- Arrange for a California missionary, a CSBC Ministry Resource Center staff member, or the director of missions from your association to speak to your church about how CMO is used in California. A complete list of those mentioned above can be found online under the "CMO Month" tab. If you are unable to secure a speaker and need help, go to www.calmissions.com and click on the "Request a Missionary Speaker" button on the left side of the home page.

Step 8

Continue to publicize the California Mission Offering churchwide session (emphasize this session for all ages, especially if no age-level sessions are provided).

Step 9

Be sure to inform the congregation about total gifts to the offering and whether the goal is reached. Remember September is California Missions Month. The offering and prayer emphasis can be promoted on any Sunday or every Sunday during the month. Encourage members to give until the offering goal is reached.

Step 10

Evaluate your promotional efforts to determine how effective you were in creating awareness of California's mission needs and how those needs are met through CMO.

Offering Resources

(Those with an * can only be found online at www.calmissions.com.)

Posters

The CMO poster is an 11" x 25.5", full-color, vertical printed piece for display on bulletin boards or other prominent places in your church to promote California missions. There is space available for indicating your church's offering goal. The poster, available at no cost, is printed in English, Chinese, Korean and Spanish. To order posters use the order card in the CMO Resource Packet or go online (the fastest way to receive materials).

Bulletin Insert

For 2007, a bulletin insert has been developed to promote the theme, "Bright Hope for Dark Days." The insert is a 5.5" x 8.5", full-color piece that reinforces the need to start new churches throughout the state. The insert also includes allocations for 2008. This piece can be ordered online or by using the order card enclosed in the California Mission Offering Resource Packet.

Prayer Guide

This year's prayer guide, a full-color piece, contains current prayer requests about California Southern Baptist ministries supported by CMO. Encourage church members to use the guide every day as they focus on praying for successful mission projects in our state

that lead people to Jesus. The guide is undated so it can be used anytime during the month of September. Prayer guides can be ordered online or via mail.

Offering Envelopes

Envelopes have been especially designed for the California Mission Offering. By using the envelopes, church members will be able to easily identify how they can contribute to CMO. To order offering envelopes, use the order card in the CMO Resource Packet or visit the Website.

DVD

Each church received a copy of the 2008 California Mission Offering DVD, containing video segments of a full-length fictionalized short film depicting the dark days in which we live, yet revealing the hope we have in Jesus Christ. The short film is broken into four episodes for use throughout September. Also included is a music video that can be used to provide an overview of the offering and prayer emphasis. These short segments are ideal for use during Sunday worship services in September to educate church members about the offering and the need for ministry throughout the state.

*Clip Art

Clip art can be found online for use in church bulletins, newsletters and other promotional materials.

*Sermon Outline

A sermon outline is available online. The outline can be used by pastors, missions leaders, or anyone making a California Mission Offering presentation. A PowerPoint presentation for the sermon outline also is available.

*Learning Sessions

Learning sessions are provided online for preschoolers, children and adults/churchwide gatherings. Each session has California mission information, teaching suggestions and a typical time schedule for one-hour sessions. Games, California facts, mission stories and age-appropriate ideas are given. Go to www.calmissions.com to download this material.

*Quotes

The California Mission Offering is important to many individuals who minister throughout the state. Read their comments online as to why this avenue of giving is important in supporting California missions.

Prayer Requests

Prayer requests are included in the prayer guide. However, many state missionaries and CSBC Ministry Resource Center staff have submitted prayer requests which are posted on the CMO Website.

*CSBC Facts

A number of facts about CSBC will help you promote the diversity of churches affiliated with the Convention. These facts will underscore the need for providing "Bright Hope for Dark Days."

*Request a Speaker

State missionary speakers are a great way to educate congregations about California missions. California Southern Baptist missionaries, Ministry Resource Center staff and directors of missions are available to speak at your church during your CMO observance in September or anytime you have a mission emphasis at your church. Lists of possible speakers are on the CMO Website (www.calmissions.com). If you are unable to enlist a speaker, CSBC will be glad to help you – just click on the "Request a Missionary Speaker" on the home page.

*Mission Stories

Learn more about CSBC ministries by reading the mission stories online.

Language Materials

Posters, bulletin inserts and prayer guides are available in Spanish, Chinese and Korean. These pieces can be ordered either online or by using the order card enclosed in the California Mission Offering Resource Packet.

*About the Offering

Information concerning the history and purpose of the California Mission Offering is available online. Included is a biographical sketch of S.G. Posey, an early California Southern Baptist leader who inspired the offering.

Offering Allocations

Discover the wide variety of ministries supported by gifts to the California Mission Offering. Allocation information will be helpful in educating your church about the importance of CMO. Allocation information can be found either online or on the back of the bulletin insert.

*Prayer Requests

Other than the prayer guide developed specifically for the emphasis, state missionaries and CSBC Ministry Resource Center staff have submitted prayer requests which are posted on the CMO Website.



www.calmissions.com

The California Mission Offering is inspired by S.G. Posey, a CSBC missionary pioneer.