

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

Date: September 2010

Theme: "Reaching the World in California:
The Great Commission Begins Here"

Scripture: Acts 1:8b (NIV)

Goal: \$450,000

The 2010 California Mission Offering (CMO) materials focus on the theme "Reaching the World in California: The Great Commission Begins Here." The following are suggestions to help your church promote the prayer and giving emphasis in the churches of California Southern Baptist Convention.

offering goal into smaller segments and as gifts are received, place portions of the globe on the state of California. When the world is complete, the church goal will have been met. This will let church members know they are part of "Reaching the World in California" and that "The Great Commission Begins Here."

10 Actions to Successfully Promote the California Mission Offering

Action 1

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

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

Action 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.

Action 3

Develop a visual aid to keep track of the progress toward your congregation's goal. Here are some ideas:

- Divide the offering goal into equal amounts, but not more than 10. Based on the number of segments you've set, cut a large map of California into the same number of segments. As gifts are received, assemble the map according to the amounts already determined.
- Use a bulletin board or primary spot in a high-traffic area on which to place a large map or cutout of California. Also have a picture of the globe (round in shape) that can be placed over the map/cutout of California. Divide your church's

- Display this year's theme "Reaching the World in California: The Great Commission Begins Here" at the top of a bulletin board in a primary spot or a high-traffic area. Divide your church's offering goal into 21 segments (i.e., a \$2,100 offering goal would break down to segments of \$100). As gifts are received, fill in words of this year's scripture reference: "And you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8b NIV). When the goal is achieved, the verse will be complete.

Action 4

Order materials to promote the offering. The quickest way is to order online at www.calmissions.com. Materials also can be ordered using the order form 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 (English only). Another item available this year is a key-chain-tag as a reminder to pray for and give to the offering. All materials are provided without cost.

Action 5

Read the CMO Planning Guide and choose offering promotion ideas to use. Go online (www.calmissions.com) to print learning sessions and distribute them to age-level leaders. The Website has additional resources for 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 in your congregation.

Action 6

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

Action 7

Begin promoting the mission offering using a variety of means!

- Promote the offering in Sunday school classes, Bible studies, small groups, discipleship classes, missions education settings, the church newsletter, church bulletin and during worship services and prayer meetings.
- Encourage individuals and families to set a CMO offering goal.
- Enlist members to set up offering displays to emphasize the theme "Reaching the World in California: The Great Commission Begins Here."
- Don't forget to 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. If you have an envelope service, consider having the CMO envelope included. You might even consider including offering envelopes in your weekly church bulletins or a newsletter.
- Place CMO posters in high-visibility areas promoting the statewide and church goals.
- 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 successive Sundays. If the materials are handed out separately, it is suggested that the bulletin insert be handed out first, followed by the Prayer Guide. Call attention to them during the worship service(s) on the Sunday(s) they are distributed.
- 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 gatherings such as deacons' meeting, committee meetings, staff meeting, fellowships, potluck dinners, Bible studies, etc.
- Plan to show CMO video from the DVD in worship services each Sunday, at prayer meetings, mission study sessions, Sunday school classes, mission organization gatherings, etc. The video is about two minutes in length and demonstrates the need for "Reaching the World in California: The Great Commission Begins Here."
- Order enough key-chain-tags for everyone in your church. The best way to distribute the key-chain-tags is to do a reverse offering. Fill the offering plates with the key-chain-tags and pass the plates as you would for an

offering allowing those present to take a tag if they wish. Recommend to members that they place the tag on their key chain to remind them to pray for California missions and the offering. If members don't want to place the tag on their key chain, encourage them to carry the tag in their pocket, wallet or coin purse as they would change. Encourage members to use the tag as a reminder to pray for California missions, but also to prayerfully consider what God would have them give through the offering to fulfill the Great Commission here in California.

- 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 as to why they pray for and give to CMO.
- Have mission 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 the above can be found online (www.calmissions.com/missionaries). 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.

Action 8

Continue to publicize the California Mission Offering Adult Churchwide Learning Session (emphasize that this is for all ages, especially if no age-level sessions are provided).

Action 9

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

Action 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.

CMO Offering Resources

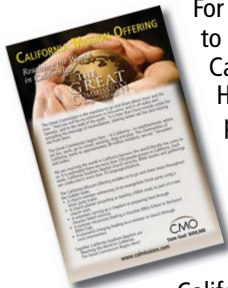
(Those with an * are only available online at www.calmissions.com)

Posters

The CMO poster is a 33" x 21.5", full-color, horizontal printed piece for display on bulletin boards or other prominent places in your church to promote California missions, with space available for indicating your church's offering goal. Also included is a smaller poster measuring 10.75" x 16.5" which can be cut from the larger poster. Posters, available at no cost, are printed in English, Chinese, Korean and Spanish. To order, use the order card in the CMO Resource Packet or go online (the fastest way to receive materials).



Bulletin Insert



For 2010, a bulletin insert has been developed to promote the theme, "Reaching the World in California: The Great Commission Begins Here." The insert is a 5.5" x 8.5", full-color piece that reinforces the need to provide a variety of evangelism and ministry projects throughout the state. The insert also includes CMO budget allocations for 2010.

This piece can be ordered online or by using the order card enclosed in the California Mission Offering Resource Packet.

Bulletin inserts, available at no cost, are printed in English, Chinese, Korean and Spanish.

Prayer Guide

This year's Prayer Guide contains prayer requests from 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 that lead people to Jesus. The guide is undated so it can be used anytime during the year to pray for California missions. Prayer Guides can be ordered online or via mail. They are printed in English, Chinese, Korean and Spanish and are available at no cost.



Key-chain Tag

For 2010 key-chain tags are available to churches for distribution to its members. The 1.5-inch in diameter, round tag is printed in color to promote the California Mission Offering and its emphases of pray, go/share and give. The tag can easily be inserted on a key ring or carried in a pocket, wallet or coin purse as a reminder during your church's CMO emphasis. The tags are available in lots of 25 and can either be ordered online or by using the order card mailed in the CMO Resource Packet.



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 www.calmissions.com.



DVD

Each church received a copy of the 2010 California Mission Offering DVD featuring a video segment that demonstrates the need for reaching California for Christ. "Reaching the World in California: The Great Commission Begins Here" is the title of the 1:45 video clip ideal for use during Sunday worship services in September to educate church members about the offering and the need for ministry throughout California. The video clip is available in English, Mandarin, Korean and Spanish. Also on the DVD are files for use in promoting the offering. They include clip-art, the Planning Guide, age-level mission action guides (learning sessions); sermon helps with PowerPoint presentations and a single CMO PowerPoint slide for promoting the offering and your church goal.



Clip-Art



Clip-art can be found online for use in church bulletins, newsletters and other promotional materials; it's also available on the DVD.

Language Materials

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

Sermon Helps

Sermon helps are available for use by pastors, mission leaders or others making a California Mission Offering presentation. For 2010, Randy McWhorter, leader of the CSBC healthy church group, and Pete Ramirez, pastor of White Road Baptist Church in San Jose, have provided the sermon aids. Each also has prepared a PowerPoint slide show to use with the sermon. All of these resources are on the CMO Website and the DVD.



Learning Sessions

Learning sessions, also called Mission Action Guides, are provided for preschoolers, children, youth and adults/churchwide gatherings. Each session has California mission information, teaching suggestions and a typical schedule for a study session. Games, California facts and age-appropriate ideas are provided. Go to www.calmissions.com to download these materials or look for them on the DVD.



*Quotes

The California Mission Offering is very important to many individuals who minister throughout the state. Quotes from many California Southern Baptist missionaries are posted and demonstrate why this avenue of giving is important in supporting California missions.

*Prayer Requests

Prayer requests are included in the prayer guide. Also, prayer requests from many CSBC missionaries are posted online.

*CSBC Facts

A number of facts about CSBC will help promote the diversity of churches affiliated with the Convention. These facts will underscore the need for "Reaching the World in California: The Great Commission Begins Here." Facts about California Southern Baptist ministries are only available online.

*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 missions 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 help you. Click on the "Request a Missionary Speaker" button on the home page.

*Mission Stories

Learn more about CSBC ministries by reading mission stories online. They will give readers a glimpse of not only reaching the world in our state, but how California Southern Baptists are involved in the Great Commission here at home.

*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 the offering; it can be found either online or on the back of the bulletin insert.

CMO Website

www.calmissions.com

What you'll find at www.calmissions.com:

- Theme interpretation information, CMO purpose and lists of CSBC missionaries
- Explanation of available promotional materials – posters, bulletin inserts, prayer guides, offering envelopes, DVD
- Planning guide, sermon helps, clip-art, age-level learning sessions and CMO quotes and prayer requests
- Stories about California missions
- Information about materials in Chinese, Korean and Spanish
- Historical information about the offering, CSBC facts and budget allocations

If you don't have access to the Internet, try these sources:

- Church office
- Association office
- Family member
- Church member or friend
- Public library
- Call CSBC at 559.229.9533

A gift to the California Mission Offering can provide

\$1	Paperback Gospel of John for witnessing to the unsaved
\$5	Nametags for guests to feel welcome at a new church launch
\$10	Pens to collect prospect information at a new church start outreach event
\$35	Clothing for a migrant child – jeans, two shirts and sneakers
\$50	Training for a volunteer or part-time student minister to help reach youth
\$100	Food for children attending a South Asian Vacation Bible School
\$250	Scholarship for marriage retreat for pastor or staff and their spouse
\$350	Tank of fuel for CSBC Mobile Medical Unit at a migrant center or evangelistic block party
\$500	Digital hymnal player to help in worship at a language church start
\$1,000	Video projector and screen for a new church start
\$1,500	Furnishings for a new church start to help teach preschoolers and children about Jesus
\$5,000	Seed money which yields an additional \$17,275 from the North American Mission Board for new church starts and evangelism projects
\$15,000	A fully-equipped block party trailer that over its life expectancy of seven years will be used to tell more than 100,000 people about Jesus



www.calmissions.com

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