

## 2009 California Mission Offering Adult/Churchwide Learning Session

# Love with Action

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Each year California Southern Baptist churches are provided with a variety of resources to encourage them to participate in the California Mission Offering. One of those resources is a suggested plan to involve adults in learning about the offering and how important it is to mission work in our state.

As you begin to plan how your church will promote the California Mission Offering, consider setting aside an hour to focus on the work in which Southern Baptists are involved in California. Set a date and time on the church calendar, and include preschoolers, children and youth; use the materials provided for each age group online. Many churches use Sunday or Wednesday evening to feature what California missionaries are doing and how members can participate in reaching the state goal of \$450,000.

Following are some suggestions that can be adapted and customized for your specific church setting. Allocating an hour is the best time frame as it allows for several different types of activities.

**Theme:** Love with Action

**Scripture:** "Dear children, let us not love with words or tongues, but with actions and in truth" (1 John 3:18 NIV).

### **Suggestions for Learning Session:**

(choose several to fit the time you have)

1. Divide participants into two teams. View some or all of the video segments and choose questions pertaining to the video clips. Give teams cutout heart shapes for the first correct answer. The team with the most hearts wins a bag of candy (candy hearts?)
2. Choose three of the video interviews you like best and enlist three persons to portray the missionaries. Ask them to prepare and present the information from the interviews posted online ([www.calmissions.com/dvdvideo](http://www.calmissions.com/dvdvideo)) or on the DVD included in the CMO packet mailed to each church.
3. Use the questions provided and conduct interviews of the "missionaries" rather than have them role-play.
4. Cut a large heart out of red poster-board and divide it into five sections. Attach information about the offering allocations to the back of each of the four sections. Write the allocation on the front of the hearts. Ask individuals to read the brief description and then attach the heart piece to a wall. The completed heart will remind those attending your event that reaching the \$450,000 goal is critical to continuing to establish, strengthen and expand mission efforts in California.
  - Healthy Church Evangelism Projects — \$108,000 (24% of goal)  
Block party trailers, God's Plan for Sharing activities, summer missionaries and migrant mission projects will benefit from this part of the offering.
  - Church Starting — \$167,000 (37% of goal)  
This portion will help start new churches among ethnic, cultural and language groups in California.
  - Disaster Relief/Mission Action — \$53,500 (12% of goal)  
Disaster Relief efforts, translation of mission materials, and missions education projects are included in this allocation.
  - Associational Mission Projects — \$63,000 (14% of goal)  
California associations choose how they spend the gifts they receive from the mission offering. The funds are used for local mission endeavors such as children's camps, student evangelism, block parties and much more.
  - Mission Support — \$58,500 (13% of goal)  
This allocation assists CSBC Church and Pastoral Care to help pastors, church staff members and churches in conflict; provides scholarships for bachelor of applied theology students at California Baptist University; and helps promote the offering.
5. Prior to your meeting date, choose a ministry project that can be completed with everyone's participation during your scheduled time. This should be some type of local ministry: sacking groceries, packing hunger boxes, making cards for a convalescent home, assembling Blessing Bags (plastic Ziploc bags containing small, non-perishable food items such as crackers & peanut butter, applesauce, beef jerky sticks, witnessing tract), making sandwiches for distribution

at an inner-city feeding ministry, making children's activity books for a local hospital, packaging requested items for medical mission trip in your church or association (aspirin, bandages, etc.), putting children's activity bags together for a domestic violence shelter.

6. You may choose to enlist and train those present to participate in a hands-on ministry project at another time that involves more personal contact. For example: yard work for an elderly couple, painting a mission church building, distributing invitations to a fall festival for children, singing at a retirement center, sacking food at a food distribution center, enlisting doctors and nurses to provide a health clinic, hosting a booth at a community fair or other type of event and distributing bottled water, holding a block party in your church parking lot, sorting clothing at a women's shelter; do something at a Christian Women's Job Corps site. All of these demonstrate "Love With Action."

### Your session should contain two distinct parts:

**LOVE** – Show the need for and demonstrate how California Southern Baptists love.

**WITH ACTION** – Cut out feet to represent "action." Mount them on the floor of your meeting room and up and down walls. Plan a ministry project of some type to illustrate that we must show our love through actions.

### Closing

Pull out meaningful comments from the missionary interviews and use them in your closing comments about the importance of the California Mission Offering. Remind those participating that this offering is very important to the ongoing ministries and church starting endeavors of California Southern Baptists.

Choose several prayer requests from the CMO Prayer Guide. Write the request on a heart and ask attendees to read them. On feet cutouts write an action or ministry that can help answer the request or fill a need. Number the heart and foot in pairs and after the request is read, ask the person holding the "answer" to read the matching action. Close with a time of prayer for ministries in California, CSBC missionaries, and that churches reach their goals.

### Resources

- Go online to [www.calmissions.com](http://www.calmissions.com) for interviews, missionaries' comments.
- Go online to order Bulletin Inserts/Prayer Guides, posters and offering envelopes.
- Use the DVD provided in your church's CMO promotional packet or order one online.
- Use the back of the Bulletin Insert for offering allocations and facts about ministries in California. Other facts also can be found on the CMO Website.

### Questions (and Answers) based on DVD interviews

1. Dr. Whittaker gave the population of California and how many languages are spoken here. What were those numbers? (38 million / 200 languages)
2. What is the theme of this year's California Mission Offering? (Love With Action)
3. Where does missionary Debbie Wohler serve (Lake Tahoe) and what does she do? (outreach ministries for six ski areas and ministries to children and their families)
4. Sal Fernandez lives in Sacramento. What is his ministry? (church starting strategist for Hispanics)
5. Can you remember our missionary who works to reach Koreans for Christ in California? (Song Sik Kim)
6. Name two areas where a lot of Koreans live (San Jose, Los Angeles, Orange County)
7. Which is the correct number of people in California who lack basic reading skills? 500,000? 1.5 million? or 6 million? (6 million)
8. What does Monta Jo Erikson do to help people learn to read? (coordinates literacy ministries and teaches literacy classes)
9. CMO funds help Ken Dean work with churches to help alleviate hunger. Is this really a need in California? (just in Los Angeles, 500,000 don't have enough food for their families)
10. How many Chinese live in California? (1 million)
11. Andrew Chan, missionary to the Chinese, reports there are 150, 32 or 70 Chinese churches. (70)
12. Name two mission projects Randy Bennett, director of missions for Kern County Association, talked about in the video clip. (Feeding Those Who Feed Us for migrant workers, children's camp)
13. What percentage of California's population is unchurched? 87%? 53%? or 41%? (87%)
14. What does GPS stand for? (God's Plan for Sharing)
15. Who coordinates CSBC's Disaster Relief efforts and what type of things do disaster volunteers do? (Don Hargis is the coordinator. Volunteers do mud-out of homes, debris removal, mass feeding, water purification, construction)



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