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August 2006

## Biblical Stewardship & Cooperative Program

an e-newsletter of the Missouri Baptist Convention

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### Your Story

#### Dear Missions Partners,

Welcome to another issue of the CP Connection. The Cooperative Program/Biblical Stewardship Team is striving to meet the needs of our churches and our church members. As Fall approaches, everyone is busy with sending the kids back to school and getting back into a normal routine after a full summer schedule. Even though we are all busy, let us not get too busy to come together as Southern Baptists. In the next few months we have many activities we encourage you to participate in: On Mission Celebrations, Associational Meetings, the Rheubin L. South Missouri Missions Offering, Cooperative Program Month... and many other worthwhile events. Please check out our Calendar of Events on the MBC website or call our offices to get involved today!

#### Connections

##### *Letter from DOM, Bill Smathers*

*Bill Smathers is the DOM of three Missouri Baptist associations—the Macon, North Central and North Missouri Baptist Associations. The following letter, written by Bill prior to the 2006 annual meeting of the SBC, demonstrates his passion for Cooperative Program missions. Some of the most passionate supporters of the CP are our DOMs... and I really appreciate their support. Bill's letter brings up a couple of questions that I would like for all of you to help me answer. The questions are these: Is the CP really the "wildly successful" mission endeavor" that Bill describes? What are some real ways*

[Click here to send us your mission story, comment, question or concern. We would love to hear from you!](#)

## Ministry Assistants



**Becky Wolfe**



**Cathie Kirkweg**

**Join our mailing list!**

*that we can strengthen Southern/Missouri Baptist support of the CP? I would like for you read Bill's letter with those questions in mind and then respond to this newsletter with some ideas of your own. By the way, Bill Smathers, THANK YOU for your passionate of Cooperative Program missions!!*

**Dear Editor,**  
**Frankly, I am shocked, amazed, dumbfounded, upset, saddened, and angered by the recommendations coming out of the SBC Executive Committee, whose purported purpose is to "...strengthen the Cooperative Program." How will removing the convention-wide target goal for churches of 10% Cooperative Program giving come close to "strengthening the Cooperative Program?" Good Grief! I thought that if you aim at nothing you always hit it. Could, instead, this be a political ploy which would allow men whose churches give 1% or less to the CP to be elected/hired for high SBC or state convention office positions? Could this be an admission that our efforts to challenge young pastors to buy into the concept of the CP has been less than successful? Could this be the beginning of the end of the whole idea of the Cooperative Program, at least in the minds of our SBC leadership? Does our SBC leadership have a greater plan, a better plan, a more successful plan for us than the wildly successful mission endeavor that we call the Cooperative Program? I haven't heard about this new plan yet... nor am I likely to hear about it because I don't think such a plan exists. I am not a Southern Baptist by heritage, by tradition, by lineage, or by indoctrination... I am a Southern Baptist primarily because the Cooperative Program is the greatest mission-giving, mission-sending plan devised since the First Century. I believe that we as Southern Baptists would be foolish and ill-advised to support this recommendation from the SBC Executive Committee that will not and can not achieve its stated purpose of "...strengthening the Cooperative Program." Why suggest that churches could do less when they ought to be doing more?**

**Bill Smathers  
 Director of Missions  
 Kirksville Baptist Division**

## Biblical Stewardship

*Auto Advice from Howard Dayton*



I would like to share an article written by Howard Dayton, CEO of Crown Financial Ministries. I found this article enlightening and very useful:

Who doesn't need a car? In the United States, unless you live in a large city with good public transportation, you'll probably need a car for getting about.

And who doesn't like a new car? But what is the best car to drive?

[View the entire article here..](#)

## Cooperative Program

*Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is*



grew up the second boy in a family of five children. The first three of us were boys, each of us just one year apart. When we were young boys, we were like a lot of boys. We played together, fought together and challenged one another in all sorts of ways. **"Put your money where your mouth is"**

is a phrase I heard and said a lot when I was a kid. One of us would brag about something we thought we could do better than the other two, and in almost every case, someone else would say, "Oh, yeah? **Put your money where your mouth is!**" And now I'm saying it again. **"Put your money where your mouth is."**

[Click Here to read the rest of the article..](#)

## Promotions

**The Cooperative Program helps support these**

**UPCOMING MBC EVENTS**

**UPCOMING MBC EVENTS****Disaster Relief**

*August 18-19, 2006* • Regional Disaster Relief Training at Miner Baptist Church, Sikeston MO

*September 15-16, 2006* • Regional Disaster Relief Training at Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, Liberty MO

**Sunday School/Discipleship**

Regional Sunday School Training  
*beginning August 8, 2006*

**Partnership Missions**

*September 11-20, 2006* • Romania Mission Trip  
Team Leader: Mike Quinn, Pastor of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Hartsburg MO

**Worship**

*September 15-16, 2006* • Worship Leadership Conference at Concord Baptist Church, Jefferson City MO

It is my prayer that you will stay connected to missions and ministry through the **CP Connection**. Watch for it to come every month with missions facts and stories. And, please send me your own missions story. I want to print it so that all of us can celebrate with you. THANKS for joining us in missions and ministry and for staying connected to CP missions.

**From Missouri to the ends of the earth,**



Dr. David Tolliver  
Associate Executive Director

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## Did You Know?

With the help of CP Funds, six Southern Baptist seminaries (Southern, Southeastern, Midwestern, Southwestern, Golden Gate, and New Orleans) educate in excess of 15,500 pastors, missionaries, and future church leaders each year.

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