

# DO WE DO THAT?

by Robert Simms

## Cast

**BROTHER BILL**..... Pastor of the Lovington Baptist Church  
**LOUISE** ..... A woman considering joining Lovington  
**CATHY**..... Member of Lovington, about age 35  
**BOB**.....Member of Lovington

*(BROTHER BILL stands at the front doors of the Lovington Baptist Church as members leave after the morning service. BILL is a knowledgeable but humble pastor who is patient with all kinds of people.*

*LOUISE is a fussy, somewhat know-it-all type of person. She has been church shopping, and insists on comparing all the other churches to Lovington. As LOUISE and other persons exit, they stop to speak to the pastor. No props are needed. Members may come from the choir loft or may simply be lined up behind LOUISE, who is the first to exit.)*



**BROTHER BILL:** *(Greeting LOUISE as she comes out the door)* Well, Louise, it's nice to see you again. I enjoyed my visit this week in your home.

**LOUISE:** I did too. But I didn't decide to join here just yet. First, I need to know what our church does about missions. Oh, listen to me, talking about *our* church, and I'm not a member yet.

**BROTHER BILL:** Well, maybe this isn't the time for a long discussion, but what do you need to know?

**LOUISE:** Three weeks ago I went to another church—different denomination. A missionary to Africa spoke in the service and gave the most wonderful presentation. They support him. You know, the needs of people over there are so great...

**BROTHER BILL:** Yes, I know...

**LOUISE:** I want to be a member of a church that supports a missionary in Africa. Do we do that?

**BROTHER BILL:** Actually, yes. Several hundred.

**LOUISE:** *(Gasping)* Several hun...!

**CATHY:** Hello, Brother Bill *(to LOUISE)* excuse me for interrupting—Pastor, I just wanted to tell you that my parents got back safely. They appreciate so much everything that Lovington Baptist Church did for them.

**BROTHER BILL:** Tell them we'll see them next time, and we'll be praying for them. (*Cathy exits. To LOUISE*) Cathy's parents are two of those several hundred. They are missionaries to Nigeria. They were on stateside assignment until just after Christmas, and they lived in our missionary home.

**LOUISE:** Oh, we do that?

**BROTHER BILL:** Yes, we do. We support the International Mission Board. We have about fifty-five hundred missionaries in 140 other countries.

**LOUISE:** (*Looks shocked, but recovers quickly. LOUISE is not one to be "one-upped".*) Well, two weeks ago I went to another church—it wasn't a Baptist church, either, and I read in their bulletin that they give money to five missionary families in this state. I think that's important, too. Do we do that?

**BROTHER BILL:** Five families, huh?

**LOUISE:** (*Nodding impressively*) Yes, indeed. Five!

**BROTHER BILL:** (*Trying to be humble*) Well, yes, we have a few. I think the last count was 95.

**LOUISE:** We do *that*?

**BROTHER BILL:** Yes. (*To BOB, waiting behind LOUISE.*) Hey, Bob.

**BOB:** Hi, pastor. (*To LOUISE*) 'Scuse me, ma'am. (*To BROTHER BILL*) A very meaningful message today.

**BROTHER BILL:** Did you enjoy your trip?

**BOB:** It was great! We have a lot to tell. And about 500 pictures!

**BROTHER BILL:** We're all looking forward to it. (*Bob leaves*) Bob has just gotten back from a trip.

**LOUISE:** (*Smiling, as if dismissing the matter of Bob*) Well, that's nice. I was going to ask you about missionaries in this country. The church I attended *last* week had a display, and they had pictures of twenty-five missionaries in other states who they support. They give some every week to them. Do we do that?

**BROTHER BILL:** Uh, yes. Bob—the fellow who just left?—wasn't on vacation. He went with a team from our church on a volunteer mission to another state. The North American Mission Board was involved in that.

**LOUISE:** But I'm talking about full-time people, not just volunteers.

**BROTHER BILL:** Oh, we have full-time missionaries, too.

**LOUISE:** I suppose you're going to tell me we have hundreds.

**BROTHER BILL:** No. Our North American Mission Board has a little more than five thousand missionaries (*LOUISE's mouth drops open*)—full time—spread out over the North American continent.

**LOUISE:** We do that? I didn't realize this was that big a church!

**BROTHER BILL:** We don't do it alone, Louise. We participate in the Cooperative Program.

**LOUISE:** The what?

**BROTHER BILL:** It's what you just heard about—many times over. You give to the church. We give to the Missouri Baptist Convention. They share with the Southern Baptist Convention. Together we support more than ten thousand missionaries worldwide, seminaries and colleges, children's homes, relief ministries...

**LOUISE:** We do *that*?

**BROTHER BILL:** Yes, we do that. Now, does that answer your concerns?

**LOUISE:** *(Still a bit dazed)* Uh, yes, I suppose it does. *(Recovering)* There's just one more thing. You know, I've been thinking about a few things I'm really concerned about. I wonder if you could answer another question or two...

*(BROTHER BILL has turned toward the audience just after LOUISE recovered and began again.. He shrugs his shoulders, gestures with hands spread out, as if to say, 'What can I do?' The actors freeze momentarily as LOUISE is in mid-sentence.)*

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