

# Report to California Baptists

California Southern Baptist Convention 2019



## Bill Agee challenges CSBC churches to “Step Up” in 2020

With California Southern Baptist Convention leading the Southern Baptist Convention in a number of ways, the CSBC executive director is challenging churches to “Step Up” to continue reaching the more than 35 million people in California who have no relationship with Jesus.

CSBC leads the SBC in increased baptisms, church planting and revitalization efforts, and Bill Agee, CSBC executive director, is challenging pastors and churches to Step Up and continue “the excellent work and ministry our churches already have exhibited.”

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Bill Agee

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According to statistics from the 2019 Annual Church Profile, CSBC led the SBC in increased baptisms in 2018 over 2017. Figures reveal that CSBC churches reported 12,212 baptisms for 2018, an increase of 2,653, or 27.75 percent.

Agee said CSBC also is leading the SBC in the number of church plants, reporting 70 in 2018. Of those, 40 were planted to meet the needs of language groups.

Additionally, Agee noted CSBC leads the nation in the number of churches in a revitalization process, with more than 100 congregations engaged in “Count the Cost,” with a consultant having a monthly conversation as to where the church stands and how it can move forward.

For 2020, he is calling on churches to Step Up and increase their efforts by 20 percent in four areas – evangelism/baptisms, church planting, missions going and missions giving.

California Southern Baptists believe in evangelism and Agee is asking CSBC churches to increase their baptisms by 20 percent.

“We did it in 2018, I believe we can do it again,” he said.

To celebrate baptisms, May 31, Pentecost Sunday, has been designated as a day for every church to baptize at least one person.

Agee also called for an increase in church planting support. Churches can be a prayer partner, give financial support, provide space or people, or be a mentor pastor to a church planter.

Related to mission going, Agee said, “All across the globe, there are opportunities for mission, but the world has come to California! Let’s start here.”

He added mission giving also is important. “That’s why I’m asking churches to increase their gifts to the California Mission Offering by 20 percent. Those gifts are integral to our ministries.”

Throughout the summer Agee conducted listening sessions across the state with about 75 pastors taking the challenge to lead their churches to Step Up in 2020.



## STEP UP! CHALLENGE

- 20% increase in baptisms
- Engage in church planting efforts
- 20% more members going on mission
- 20% increase in missions giving (CMO)

*More on back*



## Evangelism and Missions Initiatives Team

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The Evangelism and Missions team continues to help and encourage churches to reach people for Jesus and be on mission in their communities. Outreach events, especially around holidays, and Vacation Bible School are great evangelistic opportunities.

In 2019, nearly 175 churches received financial assistance for evangelism projects, including RISE Church in Sanger. In 2018, they had an Easter outreach event that attracted 300 guests. Through their “Eggstravaganza” on Palm Sunday in 2019, they registered more than 600 guests. RISE is intentionally working to connect with guests and assimilate them into the congregation.



## Church Planting Initiatives Team

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CSBC church planting efforts lead the SBC. In 2018, 70 church plants, 11 percent of those reported by the North American Mission Board, were started in California. Through August 2019, 49 churches have been planted.

Here’s how one church plant is making a difference for immigrants: while spending time in a refugee camp in Southeast Asia, Soekrit had “just lost hope.” But on immigrating to the United States and settling in San Diego, his hope was restored when CSBC church planter Silas Lian introduced him to Jesus. The former Buddhist monk now wants to share what he experienced with “family and friends.”



## Church Revitalization Initiatives Team

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The Church Revitalization team reports more than 100 churches in Count the Cost testifying to increased results in many areas of church life. Through August 2019, 527 salvations and 216 baptisms have been reported.

Here’s the story of one church involved in the process: when Andy Springer became pastor of Heartwood Church in Rohnert Park, he had a congregation of eight. Springer began Count the Cost, a CSBC revitalization process, and is seeing the church transformed. A year later, there are 60 regular attenders. “Count the Cost has made a world of difference for Christ in our church in reaching the community,” Springer said.



## Small Church Initiatives Team

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Smaller membership churches – those with fewer than 100 – comprise almost 80 percent of CSBC congregations. That holds true nationwide for all Protestant churches, according to LifeWay Research. Small churches experience the same challenges as all churches – aging membership, decaying buildings and spiritual apathy. However, they can be effective in reaching the lost and making disciples.

The team is building relationships with pastors and their wives through “smallTALK Tours” across the state. They have engaged CBU’s Center for the Study of Human Behavior to conduct an online survey of small churches.



## By the Numbers

Congregations: **2,378**

Anglo: **808**

African-American: **450**

Chinese: **76**

Filipino: **82**

Hispanic: **391**

Korean: **217**

Multi-ethnic: **176**

Other ethnic: **178**

2018 Cooperating  
Congregations: **1,204**

Baptisms in 2018: **12,212**

Cooperative Program Gifts  
in 2018: **\$6,439,111**

California Mission Offering Gifts  
in 2018: **\$427,831**

CP Gifts for World Missions  
in 2018: **35%**

CSBC Staff and Missionaries: **48**  
CSBC – **34**

Jenness Park – **14**

NAMB Church Planting Catalysts: **10**

Baptist Associations: **29**

Agencies: **3**  
CSBC

The Baptist Foundation of California  
California Baptist University

CSBC churches preach the gospel in  
more than **70** languages, reaching more  
than **60** ethnic groups

Of the **40+** million people living in  
California, some estimate at least  
**35 million** still need Jesus!

To learn about the services and  
ministries of CSBC,  
please visit [www.csbc.com](http://www.csbc.com).