

**Report of the Kentucky Great Commission Task Force
to the Messengers of the Kentucky Baptist Convention
Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky.
Nov. 16, 2010**

Last year Kentucky Baptist Convention President John Mark Toby appointed a Great Commission Task Force. The 17 Task Force members appointed were:

- Hershael York, pastor, Buck Run Baptist Church, Frankfort, chair.
- Paul Badgett, pastor, First Baptist Church, Pikeville.
- Charles Barnes, member, Hurstbourne Baptist Church, Louisville.
- Joy Bolton, executive director, Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union.
- Jeff Crabtree, director of missions, Warren Baptist Association.
- Rusty Ellison, pastor, Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville.
- Greg Faulls, pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Owensboro.
- Chad Fugitt, pastor, First Baptist Church, Monticello.
- John Hale, deacon, First Baptist Church, Mount Vernon
- Bill Henard, pastor, Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington.
- James Jones, pastor, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Campbellsville.
- Bill Mackey, executive director, Kentucky Baptist Convention.
- Don Mathis, president, Kentucky Baptist Convention.
- Jessica Milburn, member, Union Baptist Church.
- Sam Rainer, pastor, First Baptist Church, Murray.
- Kevin Smith, pastor, Watson Memorial Baptist Church, Louisville.
- Dan Summerlin, pastor, Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah.

Over the course of the past 8 months, the Task Force has met in prayer, deliberation, and commitment. Every member of the Great Commission Task Force agrees that this has been a significant spiritual milestone in our lives as we have seen God work among us and bring us to a unanimous consensus about our recommendations.

In order to reach our conclusions and recommendations, we first reached a consensus about our foundational guiding principles. These include the following:

Principles we believe

We believe that Jesus Christ is worthy of all our praise, honor, worship, and resources.

We believe that Jesus Christ is the only way of salvation, and that explicit faith in Christ as Lord and Savior is necessary for all morally accountable persons to have eternal life.

We believe that faith in Christ comes only through the proclamation of the gospel applied by the Holy Spirit.

We believe that Jesus has commanded us to preach the gospel to every person on earth.

We believe that churches should evangelize the lost, baptize and disciple the saved, plant churches, and reach our nation and the world through commissioning missionaries, participating in missions personally, and giving a significant portion of income and resources to missions, especially through the vehicle of the Cooperative Program.

We believe in the value of Christian education as a means of equipping Christians to serve the Lord through cultural engagement, church membership and participation, and missionary service.

We believe that a new generation of Kentucky Baptists is not willing to settle for business as usual and that the Cooperative Program will diminish and perhaps die if we do not present a bold, sweeping vision for the future and a refocus of our energies.

We believe that we must devote a significantly larger portion of our resources to reach the 1.7 billion people of the last frontier who have never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We believe that to be a faithful steward of all that God has blessed us with, that each Kentucky Baptist should be challenged to provide a legacy gift for the Cooperative Program and Kingdom causes. We believe that churches, assisted by the Kentucky Baptist Foundation and Mission Board, must lead in training and developing this stewardship vision for all Kentucky Baptists.

We believe that renewed vision and ministry will only result from renewed love for Christ and repentance for our selfishness as evidenced by our decline in witnessing, proclaiming the gospel, personal sacrifice, giving, and going.

We believe that our Kentucky Baptist churches must reverse the decline in Cooperative Program giving, even while we engage the lost, go on mission, and plant churches.

We believe that reaching our nation and the nations for Christ will require a continued paradigm shift for Kentucky Baptists. First, our churches must become more outwardly focused than inwardly. Second, the Kentucky Baptist Convention needs to shift to a paradigm based more on outreach, evangelism, and missions and less on advising particular church ministries. To do this would require the KBC over time to become more of a facilitator of shared advice, counsel, and experience among churches, pastors, and laity rather than a provider of those services. We recognize that certain ministries (disaster relief, ministry to pastors in transition, etc.) are more effective when done by the state convention so we affirm the continued significance and need for the KBC. In fact, we believe that this shift will result in a greater connection between the ministry of the KBC and the churches. We furthermore believe that the local associations are going to become key partners in renewed emphasis on shared ministry, missions, and connections.

To that end and after intense study, interviews, deliberation and prayer, we propose that Kentucky Baptists:

Proposal No. 1

Initiate a 3-year emphasis called “More for Christ,” an intentional time of repentance, renewal, and redirection for the future. Kentucky Baptists responded to the “Find It Here” campaign in record numbers and with great enthusiasm and excitement. Our prayer is that we might respond in the same way to a call to personal and corporate commitment to Christ and to the Great Commission.

More for Christ means:

More of myself.

- Personal surrender.

- Personal witness.
- Personal sacrifice.

More of my family.

More for the lost.

More for the needs.

More for the nations.

We propose that messengers request the KBC Mission Board, staff, agencies and institutions to seek ways that we can implement this theme in every part of Kentucky Baptist life and that it become a clarion call to our churches and individuals.

Explanation: We recognize that we desperately need a recommitment of our lives, our churches, our families, and our resources. Our prayer is that these recommendations will result in a great movement of the Holy Spirit among Kentucky Baptists. We pray that “More for Christ” will be the theme for what Kentucky Baptists do and give for the future. We pray that such an emphasis will be used of God to remind us and motivate us to strategize, mobilize, and give toward that end.

Proposal No. 2

Instruct our Mission Board to move to a reallocation of Cooperative Program funds that results in 50% of our annual Cooperative Program receipts (after shared administrative expenses) being given to the Southern Baptist Convention and 50% to KBC within the next 7 years. Beginning with the 2011-12 fiscal year, the Mission Board shall implement the attached GCTF-KY CP Percentage Distribution Plan to achieve this goal (see chart below).

Explanation: To illustrate the differences in this change over the next 7 years and estimating approximately 4% of the KBC budget as shared expenses and 3% growth in CP funds, the division of Cooperative Program receipts after those shared expenses would be:

1st year (2011-12): KBC 53.28%, SBC 46.72%

7th year (2017-18): KBC 50%, SBC 50%

The basis for this change in the first year would include a 6% across the board reduction in the KBC budget; eliminating the KBC’s contribution to annuitants by \$400,000; reducing contribution to the colleges an additional 7% (which means that the colleges still receive slightly more than they did prior to Georgetown’s departure from the KBC budget); a Mission Board staff reduction of 12%; a total Mission Board budget reduction of 9.85%; an additional WMU reduction of 3.85%, meaning a total of 9.85%.

In years 2-7 the Mission Board would make further adjustments of \$600,000 to achieve incrementally the goal of a 50%-50% allocation between SBC and KBC causes after shared expenses.

Proposal No. 3

Set a goal to increase overall CP receipts from Kentucky Baptist churches and individuals at least 3% per year for the next seven years. This growth would be

equivalent to each church increasing CP giving by at least 0.25% of undesignated receipts each year for 7 years.

Explanation: It would be wrong simply to reallocate Cooperative Program receipts and ask KBC ministries to sacrifice and cut back without also asking more from ourselves. As a tenet of faith, we believe that God has already given His people all the resources we need to do what He has commanded. We cannot deny that in the past 15 years Cooperative Program giving from Kentucky Baptist churches has declined from approximately 10% of undesignated receipts to less than 7%. We simply must reverse that trend and ask our churches and individuals to respond graciously, generously, and sacrificially.

If Kentucky Baptists respond and if we could reverse that trend by growing our receipts by 3% per year for the next 7 years, the results for missions would be staggering. Using the new seven-year reallocation with a 3% growth, the increase for SBC causes would be \$23,786,274 meaning that over \$11.8 million more would go to the IMB and put missionaries on the field.

This is attainable in several ways. If every church in the KBC increased their Cooperative Program giving by just 0.25% of their undesignated receipts every year for the next seven years, we could do it. If small churches that usually give a fixed amount rather than a percentage would up that amount, we could do it. If large churches that have tended to decrease CP giving in order to support their own programs, buildings, and missions would understand the global importance of the CP and reverse that trend, we could do it.

While designating missions dollars to the IMB or some other agency or effort may seem attractive, only the CP supports missions in North America and around the world, helps train pastors and missionaries through our seminaries, and speaks on moral and social issues through the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission. While we encourage multiple mission efforts, we believe in the wisdom and strategic genius of the Cooperative Program which, after all, was born here in Kentucky.

Proposal No. 4

Authorize the Great Commission Task Force to remain constituted for the next seven years, monitoring progress and implementation and reporting to the Convention and/or Mission Board each year, making any further recommendations as necessary. Each year the KBC president may appoint members to maintain between 10 and 15 on the Task Force.

Explanation: This work is significant enough that a single entity needs to work closely with the Executive Director and relate to all parts of the KBC to see how we are doing and make reports on our progress. We also believe that continuity is essential, especially after as extensive a study of all KBC entities as this Task Force has conducted. For that reason we ask that the current members remain on the Task Force and new ones be added only as natural attrition occurs.

Addendum

GCTF – KY CP Percentage Distribution Plan

Fiscal Year (2010-11):	KBC: 62%	SBC: 38%
First Year (2011-12):		
• CP Percentages:	KBC: 51.15%	SBC: 44.85%
	Shared: 4%	
% of CP after Shared Expenses:	KBC: 53.28%	SBC: 46.72%

Basis for Change: 2010-11 Budget = Base Year. Shared Expenses 4% or \$940,000; Reduction in KBC Budget 6%; Annuity Reduction \$400,000; College Reduction 7% in addition to 6% KBC Budget, Total = 12.58%; Mission Board Staff Reduction 12%; Mission Board Total Budget Reduction of 9.85%, totaling \$750,671; including \$237,000 of the Cooperative Agreements absorbed by the Mission Board; WMU Reduction 3.85% in addition to 6% of KBC Budget; Total = 9.85%; and 3% Growth in CP divided KBC 33.1%/SBC 66.9% in years 1 through 7.

Seventh Year (2017-18):		
• CP Percentages:	KBC: 48%	SBC: 48%
	Shared: 4%	

% of CP after Shared Expenses: KBC: 50% SBC: 50%

Basis for Change in Years 2 through 7: Mission Board absorbs in years 2 through 7 Cooperative Agreements Totaling \$600,000 by Mission Board Additional Staff Reductions Totaling \$600,000; \$180,000 in NAMB Cooperative Agreements to be terminated; Total Mission Board Funding would be Reduced \$1,350,691 or 17.72% the 7 year.