Called into Fellowship

Your Budget Gifts to CBF Change Lives Every Day

God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 1:9

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Strong, healthy congregations are the cornerstone of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, forming the foundation of financial support needed to fulfill our God-given mission. Gifts from your church and other CBF partner churches comprise nearly 85 percent of CBF's revenue. That support to CBF—whether given directly to CBF Global or through your State or Regional Organization—comes in the form of gifts to CBF Ministries and Mission, which is undesignated funding for all of CBF's work, and also from the annual Offering for Global Missions.

Combined, these gifts from churches enable dozens of ministries that form healthy congregations, nurture Baptists of all ages and share the love of Christ through the long-term presence of Global Missions field personnel around the world.

As CBF seeks to equip leaders and congregations in this new season, we encourage our partner churches to renew their commitment to the calling of our Fellowship and to our impact together.

The mission Jesus has given us has never been more important and more urgent. Even as your church has given so generously, CBF has worked tirelessly to discover new and faithful ways of serving congregations, calling and preparing ministerial leaders, participating in Christ's mission around the world and offering a necessary public witness for love, justice and real reconciliation in the midst of this terribly polarized time. We are relentlessly seeking faithfulness, agility and efficiency so that the generous gifts from our partner churches are used in the most transformative ways.

Your church's gifts are desperately needed to meet the urgent needs of our times. Please consider adding or increasing support for CBF Ministries and Mission to your church budget. Our impact together has never been more vital.

The Urgency of Our Calling

Why financial support for CBF Ministries and Mission matters right now

At a time when...

... overwhelming ministry demands have led to isolation, exhaustion and uncertainty among clergy, CBF continues to **provide support, resources, retreats, peer groups and networking** opportunities for both senior pastors and associate ministers.

... more and more mission-sending bodies are focusing on short-term personnel and volunteer teams, CBF seeks **transformation in communities** in the United States and around the world through Global Missions field personnel serving long-term.

... racism and bigotry are on full display in our nation, CBF leads **work for racial justice** through the Emmanuel McCall Racial Justice and Leadership Initiative and the Pan-African Koinonia.

... new generations are hearing God's call to ministry and preparing for lives of faithful service, CBF provides scholarship opportunities to help **equip the future leaders** of your congregation as they also equip our Fellowship.

... debates continue in some religious communities about the role of women in ministry, CBF seeks to **encourage and empower women** in all stages and roles in church life through scholarships, mission experiences, ministerial transitions, curriculum resources for churches and a cohort of fellow ministers in their first call.

... congregations are concerned about their own future viability, CBF **provides resources, cohorts, guidance and investing solutions** for all areas of financial health to help church leaders navigate this season and to grow their members as people of generosity.

... families in 301 counties in the United States are living in persistent poverty, CBF **harnesses each community's own assets** to improve education, health and nutrition, housing and environment and social enterprise through our rural development coalition, Together for Hope.

... disaster strikes, causing damage and despair, CBF seeks **long-term recovery in under-served communities** in partnership with CBF state and regional organizations through Disaster Response.

... individuals and families face illness and grief or find themselves removed from their church home, CBF **provides comfort in a variety of specialized settings** through the work of more than 875 active endorsed chaplains and pastoral counselors.

... partner congregations have expressed a need for resources for both ministers and laity, CBF continues to offer print and digital resources, web-based conversations and numerous in-person gatherings for **learning and relationship building**.

What CBF Ministers are Saying...

DAVID BROOKS
Senior Minister, First Baptist Church Rome, Georgia

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is vital to my life. Every day, I grow as a follower of Jesus through the relationships and the resources of CBF. I've been formed by friends and fellow believers throughout the CBF family. I received my theological education at a CBF-supported divinity school. I've enjoyed the connections and support of CBF Peer Learning Groups. My spiritual life has grown through printed and online resources from CBF and CBF partners. And CBF has helped me to better care for and connect with my neighbors in the world, especially those who are the most neglected.

As my own life has been shaped by CBF to be more like Jesus, it has been a privilege and priority of mine to lead the churches which I have served as a pastor in their support of CBF. By giving generously to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, churches and individuals can tangibly partner with God to call and form disciples of Jesus, to be the presence of Jesus for others, and to praise God through our work and witness together.

BRITTANY STILLWELL
Minister with Students and Families, Second Baptist Church Little Rock, Arkansas

CBF has been a part of my life since I was a student, providing formative resources and opportunities for my home congregation while helping me to discern my own call to vocational ministry. It is a joy to watch this continue in my ministry with students and families at Second Baptist Church. Because of opportunities like Student.Church and Youth Mission Madness, resources like Spark and Form, and Global Missions, Advocacy in Action, and Disaster Response partnerships, students and families at 2BC are being transformed together and are experiencing the breadth and depth that is the Kingdom of God.

CBF remains a formative part of my life, even as it continues to form the lives of 2BC families. We give to CBF annually so that future generations may continue to emerge as bold and faithful leaders in our churches and our world.

JUAN L. GARCIA
CBF Moderator-Elect Pastor, Primera Iglesia Bautista, Newport News, Virginia

The Church has the mission to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all the world. We are to do that in a way that actually addresses the needs of people—in a way that is good news to the people receiving it—in a way that exalts and honors Jesus Christ. However, while one particular church can and should make some headway, it can't do it all. This is where a partnership with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is so important to me and to our church. We support CBF because it allows us to go further and farther in our God-given mission of sharing the Gospel of Christ. Being part of CBF's worldwide reach with the Gospel is part of our strategy to accomplish our mission.

MATT TENNANT
Senior Pastor, University Baptist Church Charlottesville, Virginia

University Baptist Church appreciates the space CBF gives us to be the people God has called us to be, to shine the light of Christ in the world, and to share God's grace and peace in our space and around the world. By joining with other

Fellowship churches, we are able to do more together than we could by ourselves.

When we hosted a CBF Virginia Youth Summit with 300 students, we were able to see how God is working through CBF to form young people. We have a personal connection with CBF field personnel, Scarlette Jasper, just as we did with Paula Settle for many years. These personal connections are what being a missional church means to us.

By putting CBF in our budget, we make being a Fellowship church part of who we are.

CHARLES HAMILTON
Pastor, New Morning Light Baptist Church, Conley, Georgia

New Morning Light Baptist Church gives to CBF because the Fellowship has personally contributed to my ministry by endorsing me as an Army chaplain and giving me opportunities to minister and have experiences that I would not have had otherwise. CBF provides opportunities for the church to impact local and global communities and connects us to others through service. Our church became a CBF congregation because we know we will be supporting and impacting field personnel across the world. We may not be able to go ourselves, but we can send financial support that will enable others to go out and minister to people on a global scale.

MARNIE FISHER-INGRAM
Associate Pastor for Youth and Their Families River Road Church, Baptist Richmond, Virginia

Since college CBF has been a part of my life through opportunities to serve with CBF partner organizations (like Passport), attend a partner seminary (Baptist Theological Seminary of Richmond) and minister with field personnel stateside and overseas. All of these opportunities and more have shaped and defined my call. I am grateful that early on CBF gave women a voice and a place of leadership. The vast body of the Fellowship has made my own journey in ministry one in which I have felt called, affirmed and challenged.

It is through my connections with Passport and BTSR that I have had the opportunities to network within the life of CBF. Whether it was serving on a committee, leadership with CBF Youth Ministry Network, serving with CBFVA leadership, planning a retreat, or being creative with my own CBF Peer Learning Group during the pandemic to plan events in our city for our students, I view the network of CBF as one of its greatest resources and gifts of my connection to CBF.

The congregation I serve, River Road Church, Baptist readily uses CBF literature, resources, and the diverseness of the body of believers within CBF to educate itself on the needs of the world. The congregation seeks to be one of action and solution as we share the Gospel message to all. We give to CBF so that we can continue to sustain ministries of healing, hope and justice in this world.

RALPH WEST
Senior Minister, Church Without Walls Houston, Texas

James, the brother of Jesus, told us, "Be doers of the word and not hearers only." In other words, it is insufficient merely to listen to the scriptures, we are called to do the work contained within them. Such is the case with CBF. This fellowship of churches is committed not only to hearing the message but also activating the ordinances of the Gospel. From year to year, one can scarcely see the grass growing beneath the feet of CBF for it is constantly trying to make things look more like God's description of reality. CBF takes seriously the Gospel's blueprint for the world. As believers in that blueprint, we are moved to be part of their constructive deeds and encourage others to take part as well.

What CBF Lay Leaders are Saying...

LORENE GARCIA
Lay Leader, Del Sol Church, Albuquerque, New Mexico

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has helped bring to life God's calling of my childhood. When God began whispering in my ear that it was time to stop waiting for a church but start building a new community of faith, CBF was there! Glen Foster began connecting me with people who were like-minded and excited about pursuing planting a church. The CBF not only helped us receive training but also supported our church financially while we were starting our church in Albuquerque, New Mexico. For everyone who wonders why they should give to the CBF, I can tell you, it's not just your money that God uses, it's the people that are mobilized where there is need. Our church is situated in the middle of an entire state with no other CBF church. It's easy for us to feel alone but through the financial giving of your local church, we know what it's like to be a part of the larger Christian community.

DEBBIE WATERS MCDANIEL
CBF Past Moderator
Lay Leader and Deacon, First Baptist Church, Huntsville, Alabama

Michael and I give to CBF to support innovative and traditional missions and ministries impacting lives across the world.

FBC Huntsville, a loving and diverse congregation, which not only includes support for field personnel in its missions budget but also includes CBF in the church budget. A percentage of our offerings support CBF ministries and personnel working to make Christ known in our communities and in our world. When FBC gives to CBF, we are doing more as we join others across the Fellowship in helping provide opportunities for new generations to discover their passions and giftedness in ministry; for women as they discover their places in God's work; and for field personnel to share Jesus in places we cannot go.

JASON CALLAHAN
Lay Leader
First Baptist Church, Memphis, Tennessee

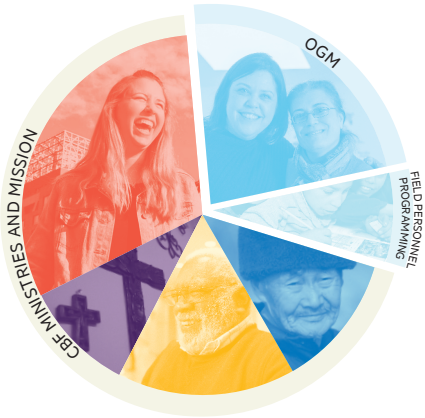
Our church gives to CBF to allow our impact to go far beyond the four walls of our church and the ministry we do in the local community. And the impact CBF has on Young Baptists, local churches and local and global missions goes far beyond the 1,400 partner churches that comprise our Fellowship. CBF has also been instrumental in helping connect our church with resources and individuals to assist during transition and when filling open ministerial positions.

INGRID GUO
Lay Leader
Valley Ranch Baptist Church, Coppell, Texas

At Valley Ranch Baptist Church, our mission statement is: "Inviting diverse and disconnected people to passionately follow Jesus together." We know we can't do this alone. We need partners. And CBF shares our same Baptist beliefs and is a great partner with us. Through CBF we connect with mission opportunities, which are not only local. Our church sponsors two global missions trips each year to other parts of the country and world. We support missionaries domestically and in Central America, Asia, Africa and Europe. Everyone needs to have a good network to share resources and each other's strengths. When we work together we are much stronger.

Your Budget Giving to CBF Changes Lives

2024 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET



31% MINISTRIES

- Helps congregations thrive through relationships with other churches and ministry opportunities in collaboration with CBF state and regional organizations
- Nurtures a growing community of young Baptist leaders through scholarships, internships and theological education
- Promotes racial equity and justice for all people
- Offers support, community and renewal for ministers across their vocational lives through opportunities such as Children's and Youth ministry networks
- Supports women in all stages and roles in church life
- Provides advocacy that helps underserved communities find their voice
- Helps make CBF a home for all by encouraging new church partnerships

11% BAPTIST IDENTITY

- Creates connections and community across the Fellowship through General Assembly and other experiences
- Offers valuable and critically needed resources for church ministers and laity, including missions education resources
- Produces *fellowship!* magazine, CBF website and internet resources
- Provides timely information on issues relevant to Baptist life
- Generates fundraising and support for ministries and mission

17% MANAGEMENT

- Provides systems and structures to support ministry including general office expense, technology, accounting and finance administration, audit and legal fees

20% OFFERING FOR GLOBAL MISSIONS (OGM)

- Helps share the love of Jesus throughout the world in the contexts of global poverty, global migration and the Global Church
- Sustains the long-term presence of CBF field personnel around the world
- Provides field personnel salaries, benefits, housing and education expenses for children

7% FIELD PERSONNEL PROGRAMMING

- Supports all costs for field personnel ministries and projects

14% GLOBAL MISSIONS

- Supports critical infrastructure for field personnel to carry out their work, to include planning, leadership, coordination, needs assessment, member care as well as recruitment of new field personnel
- Offers long-term recovery to communities following a natural disaster
- Develops unique and intimate relationships between congregations and CBF field personnel through the network of CBF Encourager Churches
- Provides students with life-changing missions internships
- Provides hope and healing for people living in persistent rural poverty through Together for Hope
- Offers endorsement for chaplains and pastoral counselors in a variety of ministry settings

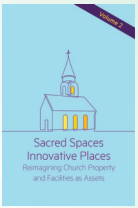
Percentages based on CBF Global's 2023-2024 fiscal year budget. The work of CBF Global Missions is funded by gifts to the Offering for Global Missions, which support presence costs; gifts in support of specific field personnel to support their ministry programming; and gifts to CBF Ministries and Mission, which supports other mission programs, such as Student. Go, Disaster Response and Member Care.

Other CBF Stewardship Resources

Find valuable resources to both help inform your congregation on giving to CBF and to also sustain the financial health and stewardship education of your church.

Visit *www.cbf.net/ChurchBudgetSupport* for

- A video explaining how gifts from churches are multiplied for God's Kingdom
- Digital download of the *Called Into Fellowship* booklet
- PowerPoint presentation on the impact of church gifts to CBF
- Digital download of a pie chart illustrating how gifts to CBF are used



Visit *www.cbf.net/church-finance-resources* for

- Stewardship curriculum for all ages
- Resources related to budgets
- An easy to use Church Financial Assessment
- Numerous resources related to legacy gifts and endowments
- ***Sacred Spaces, Innovative Places***, a new resource focused on creative uses of facilities and property
- A sample stewardship calendar
- A stewardship best practices document, developed in conversation with leading churches
- Monthly articles about numerous elements of church finances

Visit *www.cbf.net/cbf-foundation* for

- Information about Legacy Giving
- A free resource for making a will
- Free tools for receiving stock and QCD gifts
- Information about endowments
- An overview of the CBF Foundation