

# Revenue shortfall will bring 600-800 missionaries home

## Ways You Can Help Returning Southern Baptist Missionaries

**Give God a blank check.** Pray and ask God, “Lord, we want to help retiring missionaries. Fill in the check to show us how.”

**Pray for the missionaries.** Pray that God would give them clarity—and then provide for them as they follow Him wherever He leads.

**Contact the International Mission Board’s transition team to learn more.** Several former missionaries and staff are ready to connect missionaries with churches, institutions, and people who want to assist. Contact the team at [transitionteam@imb.org](mailto:transitionteam@imb.org).

**Provide housing.** If you have empty parsonages, missionary houses, unrented apartments, or open vacation homes, make them available for some time for these missionaries.

**Give up a car.** Perhaps you have a seldom-used vehicle available. Or maybe you can even purchase one to donate so a returning missionary won’t need to buy an automobile.

**Provide ministry jobs.** If your church or institution is seeking someone to join your staff, remember that hundreds of veteran missionaries will be available within the next several months. Consider waiting a few months before making a decision to see if God might connect you with a returning missionary.

**Provide other jobs.** Many of our personnel have skills beyond ministry-related skills, and they bring talent, experience, and a Christian spirit. Their very presence in your company can make a difference.

**If your church has a counseling service, make that service available.** Most transitions are difficult. This one will include not only leaving people and countries that are dearly loved, but also returning to an American culture that is in itself overwhelming. Having the opportunity to talk to somebody might be important.

*Adapted from “12 Ways to Assist Returning Southern Baptist Missionaries” by Chuck Lawless*

<http://chucklawless.com/2015/09/12-ways-to-assist-returning-southern-baptist-missionaries/>

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## Ways You Can Help Ensure This Never Happens Again

**Give God a blank check.** Pray and ask God, “Lord, we want to instill a heart for the world in our church, our children, and our families. Show us what we should do now.”

**Volunteer to teach missions.** Children will not have the opportunity to learn about the Great Commission and what God is doing around the world unless we teach them. They will not learn the biblical basis of missions and the responsibility of every believer unless we are intentional.

**Start missions groups in your church.** Missions is for everyone of all ages. There is something everyone can do and learn. Everyone can pray and give. There are hands on opportunities locally and globally.

**Lead your church to increase the percentage given to the Cooperative Program.** Every church should tithe corporately for missions. We should practice as congregations what we teach for individuals.

**Give generously to missions offerings.** The Bible teaches the importance of both tithes and offerings. Missions offerings supplement the Cooperative Program making more ministries possible.

**Pray for missionaries.** Pray that God would call out missionaries from your church. Pray for missionaries on the field. Pray for God’s provision for all their needs.

**Provide missionary housing.** Support missions through direct ministry to missionary families. Having a missionary family participate in the activities of your church will make missions come alive for your congregation. If possible, provide a car to go with the missionary house.

**Adopt a missionary.** While we support all of our missionaries through the Cooperative Program and missions offerings, adopting a missionary for special care by your church will help your church feel connected to missions. Pray for this missionary, send care packages, and communicate regularly.

**Use Skype or other communication tools to talk with missionaries during worship services.** The internet allows for real time communication with missionaries. Have one share about their work in a service via Skype, etc.

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