



NEWSLETTER

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A Simple Perspective...

Please see the letter below from Dr. Steve Horn with the Louisiana Baptist Convention. This is why we cooperate with each other to further God's Kingdom.

Occasionally I am asked, "What are the benefits of being part of the Louisiana Baptist Convention?" There are two distinct routes to get to the answer to this question. One way to answer this question is the customary way to think about benefit. The business world might refer to this as a return on investment (ROI). A church might be asking "What is the return on investment of my Cooperative Program dollars?" Your State Mission Services team is always asking this question. We want our cooperating churches to sense that they are getting something of value out of their CP dollars. We strive to hold quality trainings like ReGroup, ECON, YEC, and a whole host of other training events throughout the year. In addition, we want our churches to feel like they can call one of our strategists and get a quick answer when appropriate and full-scale consultation on other occasions. Moreover, we strive to have a great camp at Tall Timbers and camp programming that rivals any camp in the nation. In all these ways, we trust that our churches see the value of cooperation.

However, when I consider the question of benefits, this is not how I want our churches to primarily think. Instead, I desire our churches to be able to say the real benefit is to engage in the Great Commission. Cooperation with the Louisiana Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist Convention presents any church of any size and geography to fulfill the Great Commission. Until we see this as the benefit, we will always struggle to see our cooperation grow. The benefit then is not necessarily what we get, but what we get to do.

The list is long, but here's a start:

- An international missionary force of 3,500.
- Forty-two churches being planted in Louisiana alone.
- Six world-class Seminaries training the next generation of pastors and missionaries.
- Our own four-year college in Pineville.
- Other college students being evangelized and disciplined throughout Louisiana through our Baptist Collegiate Ministries.
- Gospel work to families in need through the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries.
- A news service in the Baptist Message.
- The Louisiana Baptist Foundation providing short term and long-term investment to help churches maximize every dollar.

Not one of our churches can do this alone, but every church can benefit from being part of all of this through our cooperation. What's the return on investment of this cooperation? Only Heaven will fully reveal our investment, but Revelation 7 :9-10 gives us a glimpse of our investment.

"After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands. 10 And they cried out in a loud voice: Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

This vision is worthy of greatest efforts and continued cooperation!

Bro., Robert Lawrence

ELBA's Mission

Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association is a networking group of like-minded, healthy churches fulfilling the Great Commission by transforming lives for God's Kingdom

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**Two are better than one, because
they have a good return for their
labor**

Ecclesiastes 4:9