



Argentina Vision Tour

God Sized Goal

FAITHFULNESS
TO THE NATIONS
in Fancy Gap, Virginia

For three weeks every year, **Sky View Missionary Baptist Church** sets its sights on a God-sized goal—one that, according to conventional wisdom, no church in Fancy Gap, Virginia, should be able to meet. But with a heart for missions and a clear focus on global outreach, Pastor Wendell Horton and the people of Sky View give above and beyond to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

It wasn't always this way. When Pastor Wendell became pastor of his home church in 1995, Cooperative Program giving was \$4,129, and giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering was just \$100. So, what led to the dramatic growth in missions giving—\$76,457 to the Cooperative Program and \$63,414 to Lottie Moon in 2024? And what drives the church to push for even greater contributions in 2025?

Pastor Wendell and Associate Pastor Gary Horton say the transformation began when God called an International Mission Board (IMB) missionary out of their community. While the church and its pastor had always had a passion for missions, it was through the efforts of that missionary's mother, a member of Sky View, that the church developed a deeper passion for supporting missionaries. What was once an offering primarily focused on the Women's Missionary Union

(WMU) and women's ministry soon became a central priority for the entire church.

When asked what has fueled the growth in missions giving over the past 30 years, the pastors shared, "Every week, we share something to celebrate through Southern Baptist work around the globe. And we know that if you're giving to the Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon, it doesn't matter the size of your church; you are a part of all of it."

Pastor Gary adds that partnering with the SBCV has been instrumental in taking the church's missions giving and involvement to the next level. Through the SBCV, Sky View has led over 25 mission trips to Puerto Rico, served with Southern Cross in Thailand, worked with refugees in Greece, and most recently, started a new partnership in Argentina. "Missions education and opportunities through the SBCV have helped us get more involved in God's global mission," Pastor Gary said. Pastor Wendell agrees, noting, "There is no way to put a value on our partnership with the SBCV."



Mission trip to San Juan, Puerto Rico. (IMB photo)

Several factors have contributed to Sky View's success in missions giving and leadership. Longevity in pastoral ministry plays a significant role, as does intentional vision and leadership that consistently prioritizes missions. When faced with the challenges of ministry or church growth, Pastor Wendell always sets a clear vision. "If we are going to build, we are going to raise our Cooperative Program giving. We don't want to take on any initiatives that will cause us to fall behind in missions."

When the pastors have a vision for the nations, when the congregation

develops a heart for the nations, and when a partnership with the SBCV provides the "why" and the "how" for engaging with the nations, the possibilities become limitless. No matter the size or location of the church, the impact can be significant. Both pastors agree, "Missions is why we are Southern Baptist. This is who we are." We pray, give, go, and send to reach the nations. ■

GROWING Missions Giving

1. **GIVE** the congregation something to celebrate from what God is doing through the IMB and SBCV every week.
2. **ADOPT** a missionary and/or an unreached, unengaged people group.
3. **PUT** the mission first!



For more information on how your church can grow your missions giving, contact missions@sbcv.org



A man washes his face outside in a refugee camp in Lesvos, Greece. The majority of the refugees are from Syria and Afghanistan. (IMB photo)