

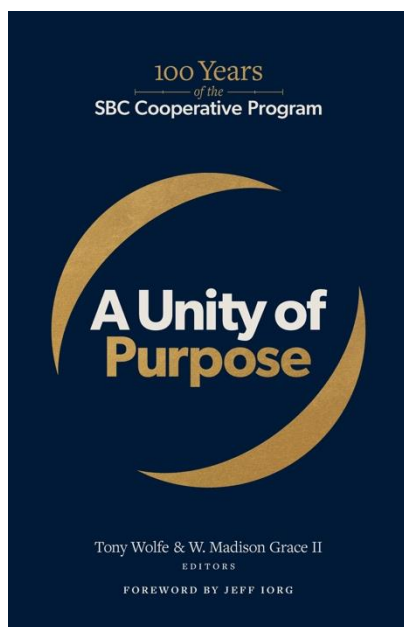


"A Unity of Purpose: 100 Years of the SBC Cooperative Program"
Edited by Tony Wolfe and W. Madison Grace
Publication Date: May 27, 2025

"A Unity of Purpose" Celebrates 100 Years of the Cooperative Program

NASHVILLE, Tenn., April 30, 2025—"[A Unity of Purpose](#)," a new book commemorating the centennial anniversary of the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program, releases next month from [B&H Publishing Group](#).

The Cooperative Program is the largest voluntary Great Commission funding mechanism in history. The book explores how Southern Baptists have collectively given over \$20 billion to fund local, national and international missions, educate pastors and church leaders and present a unified voice in the public square.



"The centennial anniversary of the Cooperative Program gives Southern Baptists a chance to thank God for His faithfulness and recommit ourselves to our cooperative mission," said Jeff Iorg, president of the SBC Executive Committee. "For 100 years, Southern Baptists have sacrificed and persevered as God has blessed our willingness to work together for Great Commission purposes. As we look toward the future, we must humble ourselves, seek the Lord's guidance and lean in for another century of cooperation."

Tony Wolfe, executive director-treasurer of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, and W. Madison Grace II, dean of the School of Theology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, curated this volume to reflect on the impact over the past century and cast a vision for the future.

"The CP is a unifying force for Great Commission advance—a conduit for voluntary, cooperative, and sacrificial investment from the churches to the nations," Wolfe and Grace write in "A Unity of Purpose."

The book, released May 27, features a collection of Southern Baptist voices to offer a theological, historical and missional celebration of the Cooperative Program's past successes and future opportunities.

Please direct interview requests to Jill Waggoner, Lifeway publicist, at jill.waggoner@lifeway.com or 615.330.6821. More high-resolution images, media assets and excerpts are available. Discussion around other content ideas is also welcome.



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Contributors include Bart Barber, Paul Chitwood, Melanie Clinton, James K. Dew Jr., Daniel Dickard, Jason G. Duesing, Mike Ebert, Leo Endel, Kevin Ezell, RaShan Frost, Taffey Hall, Adam Harwood, Richard Land, Brent Leatherwood, Scott McConnell, Julie Nall McGowan, Pete Ramirez and Chris Schaffer.

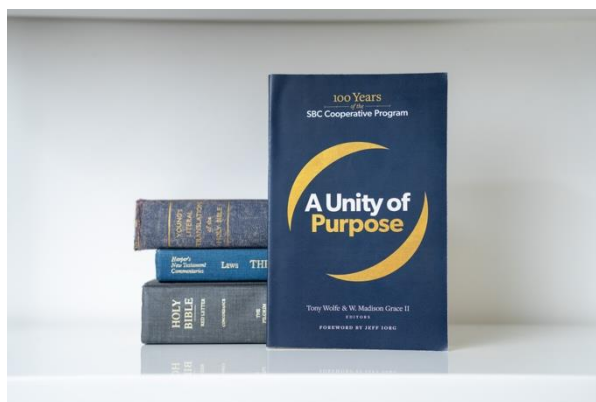
"The opportunity before us in our generation is great," said Wolfe. "Now is the time to celebrate the CP and educate our people on the what, why, and how of our shared mission."

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Potential Interview Questions

1. How and why did this book project come about?
2. What was the heart behind the creation of the Cooperative Program 100 years ago? What were people saying then?
3. How has the Cooperative Program impacted the world?
4. What do you think people don't understand about the Cooperative Program?
5. Why is this book called "A Unity of Purpose"?
6. How have you benefited personally from the Cooperative Program?
7. How have you seen God's grace to Southern Baptists through the writing and editing of this book?
8. What was surprising to you when you began working with the submissions from your other authors?
9. Why is a 100-year-old funding mechanism still important today?
10. What do you think are the main challenges facing the future of the CP?



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About the Editors



Tony Wolfe, executive director-treasurer, South Carolina Baptist Convention. For 26 years, Tony has served Southern Baptist churches in South Carolina, Texas and Louisiana as a denominational leader, pastor, worship leader, Christian educator and pastoral counselor. He holds a Ph.D. (Evangelism and Church Growth) from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, a D.Ed.Min. (Leadership) from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, a Th.M. (theology) from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, an M.A.R. (Pastoral Counseling) from Liberty

Baptist Theological Seminary and a B.M. (Music Education) from Lamar University. Tony and his wife Vanessa were married in April of 2001, and have two sons and one daughter-in law.

W. Madison Grace II, provost and VP for academic administration, dean of the School of Theology and professor of theology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Madison was born in Yazoo City, Mississippi, and grew up in south Florida. While in college he felt called into full-time, vocational ministry and now holds a B.A. (Christian Studies) from Mississippi College, along with an M.Div. (Biblical Languages) and a PhD (Systematic Theology) from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Madison has served in a variety of ministry positions at churches in Mississippi and Texas in children, youth, educational and pastoral training ministries. Madison is the proud husband of Shareen, and the father of three wonderful boys.



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