

**In this week's video:**

- Have a blessed Christmas!
- Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
- DBC office closed Dec. 21-Jan. 1
- January newsletter items needed
- ACP reports due by the end of the year

**Also:**

- Request Lottie Moon Resources
- IMB 2022 Advent Devotional
- CP Story: Patrick & Anne Stein\*

\*name changed for security purposes

# DK Happenings



with

**Jeff Musgrave**

## Christmas and Lottie

by Alysia McCord

At Christmas time, I'd like to take the opportunity to thank and affirm those pastors, leaders, and servants among us who are working to set goals for and give toward our yearly missions offering, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

First, I'd like to assure you that your giving does amazing things to keep a long-term presence in often difficult and precarious situations. The need for a long-term presence in areas where lostness is overwhelming cannot be understated. Short term missions have an important place in mission strategy. Giving and prayer cannot be dispensed. The presence of long-term missionaries, however, in parts of the world where 87% of the population of Buddhists, Hindus, and Muslims have **not even one Christian friend**,\* is invaluable.

Short term workers have great value, in sharing their skills, love, and lives with those around

them. To make real disciples however, according to the command of Jesus, it is exponentially more effective to have a committed disciple of Christ live out an incarnational witness among the people group where he or she has been called, for a committed length of time, if possible. He needs to at least attempt to learn the language, study the culture, and become a student of the ones he loves and wants to serve. He can then learn the true patterns of culture and understand what a genuine heart that seeks to be a real disciple in that culture looks like. As he grows in love and understanding of his host culture, and they grow in love and respect for him, those around him help him to see where God is working. He (or she) is then able to invest where God is working, to train real disciples, and share resources in ways that help, not hurt. To build this kind of trust and these kind of relationships takes time. The best short-term workers learn from these long-term servants, and as they work together, their work has better chances of going deeper, further, and wider.

And this support of the long-term worker as part of the strategy of evangelism and church planting is at the heart of the LMCO. The LMCO puts our missionaries where they need to be and supports them so they can remain there. It takes an average of two years to lay the foundation of proper language study. The LMCO helps missionaries learn the language and continue to grow in language beyond two years. Missionaries often face unique challenges in their areas of service, including lack of access to reliable medical care, educational needs for children, and upheavals that no one can predict. The LMCO resources help missionaries through these challenges. Also, importantly, the LMCO provides these resources so that these workers can share the gospel message, and one of the most beautiful messages of Christmas, that He has come—Emmanuel, God with us; He came.

And this message is what Lottie Moon told those she served in China, and her urgency to share it comes to us in her letters. If you have never heard it in her own words, [click here](#) how she called her generation to join her in serving on the field. She called men and women (ladies, please read in her letter how urgent her call to women is, and how important your voice is among the women of the world!). And because what she said is true, still we pray, still we send, and still, thank God, He calls some among us to go.

Therefore, thank you for your support of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering!

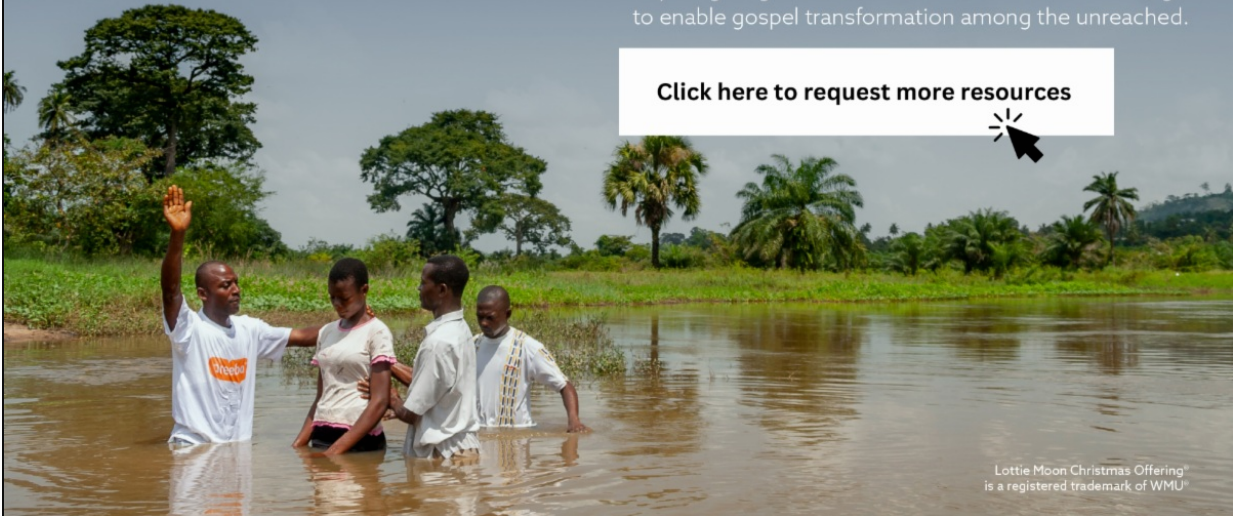
\* [https://joshuaproject.net/resources/articles/has\\_everyone\\_heard](https://joshuaproject.net/resources/articles/has_everyone_heard)



# 100%

of your gifts go to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® to enable gospel transformation among the unreached.

[Click here to request more resources](#)



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## **A message from Terry Sharp, IMB Director, Convention Relations & Diaspora Mobilization:**

Our family loves to celebrate the birth of our Savior. We sing Christmas carols, spend time together, decorate the house and attend our Christmas Eve service. On Christmas morning, we read the Christmas story and open presents.

Join me this year in remembering that the greatest present ever is the gift of Jesus.

The greatest problem in the world is lostness. The only solution to this problem is the gospel. Together, Southern Baptists send International Mission Board missionaries to be steadfastly present among people and places where Jesus is not named or known.

The good news of Jesus Christ is truly the one thing that can bring hope, peace, joy and love to the world.

It is a joy for us to provide these Advent devotions to you again this year. I am grateful to Bill Langley and Jamie Work for their hard work and pray this resource will bless you during the Advent season. May this also be a reminder and encouragement to each of us to go and share the good news across the street — and around the world.

Prepare for a season of hope, peace, joy and love. Download your [2022 Advent Devotional](#) from the International Mission Board.



**INTERNATIONAL  
MISSION BOARD**



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

STORIES



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December 18, 2022

PATRICK AND ANNE STEIN\*

North Africa



LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING\*

[imb.org/lotlie](http://imb.org/lotlie)

Medical needs throughout many North African towns are numerous and most people have very few opportunities to receive proper medical care. And so, when free medical clinics arrive, facilitated by missionaries Patrick and Anne Stein\*, word spreads quickly. Healthcare professionals at the clinics are ready to use their skills to provide for both physical and spiritual needs.

The Steins train several hundred people each year in Gospel-sharing strategies, and many are used alongside the medical clinics. They see countless relationships built, some that flourish to the point that local believers are asked to start prayer meetings, Bible studies, or even churches! This exposure to the Gospel is unprecedented in most countries where the growth of Christianity is strictly guarded.

**THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM** and **THE LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING** take the Gospel to the nations and the neighborhoods. Your financial support through these endeavors allows missionaries all over the world to share the good news of Jesus and bring the lost to eternal restoration.

**PRAY** for the Steins and their work in North Africa, as well as that God would use the conversations that happen in medical settings to not only bring physical healing, but also spiritual rebirth.

*\*Names changed for security*



FUELING THE GREAT COMMISSION | [sbc.net/cp](http://sbc.net/cp)

\*click image above to link to CP story with powerpoint image download

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