



Missional Motives for Giving Cheerfully to the State Missions Offering

Introduction: Have you heard someone in the congregation reply "Haven't we got those ladies paid off Yet"? They were referring to the pastor's plea for giving to Annie Armstrong (Easter offering (North American Missions) and Lottie Moon (Christmas offering for International Missions). As pastor, I heard that many times. My response remained the same "No" and thank God we never will have missions paid off. Now I want to share four motives for giving cheerfully to another beneficial and fantastic missions offering - the Indiana State Missions Offering (SMO). The state goal is \$75,000.00; and every dime given is essential for spreading the Gospel in our Judaea (state), Acts 1:8.

I. **Motive One:** Giving Cheerfully Exalts the Savior: VV:5-7:

- God loves a cheerful giver - V:7
- God rewards the cheerful giver - V:6

II. **Motive Two:** Giving Cheerfully Equips the Saints: VV:5, 8, 9:

- Teaches believers what God expects - V:5
- Teaches believers to edify the body - VV:8-9:
 - through the principle of giving: Lik. 6:38
 - through the purpose of going: Mt. 28:18-20

III. **Motive Three:** Giving Cheerfully Encourages the Under Shepherd: VV:10-11:

- The pastor is encouraged through sowing seed into a believer: V:10
- The pastor is encouraged through obedience of the believer: V:11

IV. **Motive Four:** Cheerful Giving Exposes the Darkness of Satan and Expands the Kingdom of God: VV:12-15:

- Question: Did you know that fifty percent of every dollar given through the State Missions Offering is returned to the local association?
- This is done to carry out "The Great Commission" in three areas:

- evangelizing the lost - V:13: You will receive the power from the Holy Spirit, and you will be witnesses (Acts 1:8a).
- Disciplining disciples: V:12 - Supplying the needs of the saints - He calls, He trains, He grows the believer (Eph. 4:11-14).
- Reproducing the Grace of God: VV:14-15
 - through church planting - V:14
 - through multiplication of God's indescribable gift - V:15

Paul tells of his thankfulness to the church for their generosity in giving to him as an evangelist, equipper, and church planter. We should give and be thankful for those who do the same!