

**GULFPORT BAPTISTS CHECK RESULTS
AND ENLIST AS PERMANENT TITHERS**

GULFPORT, Miss. --(BP)-- The Southern Baptist three-months' tithing appeal last October, November and December paid rich dividends at the First Baptist Church here, and Pastor Joe T. Odle is confident that 1947's "Prove Me" tithers are permanent tithers for all of 1948.

Pastor Odle has an enormous supply of facts to back up his glowing report. Here it is, in his own words:

"The average budget offering for the six months preceding the campaign was \$541.53 per Sunday. The average for the three months of the campaign was \$948.31 per Sunday.

"The church had voted that all funds above an average of \$500 per Sunday received during the campaign would be divided 50 per cent for the Cooperative Program and 50 per cent for the church building funds. The result was that whereas the church had given a total of \$600 to the Cooperative Program in the three months preceding October 1, it gave during the campaign a total of \$3,464.56 -- an increase of almost 600 per cent.

"At the same time hundreds of dollars were given to other mission objects. The Lottie Moon offering totalled more than \$700, and on December 21 a cash love offering of almost \$16,000 was made for the building fund."

Pastor Odle's report reveals that though no Every Member Canvass was made during the fall because of the building fund campaign, January's receipts are holding to the same high level started in October because of continued tithing on the part of the people.

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85 DENOMINATIONS IN KENTUCKY

LEXINGTON, Ky. --(BP)-- Forty-nine per cent of the people in Kentucky are members of churches, according to a survey released by the Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station. It added that 25 per cent of the population are members of Sunday Schools.

Dr. Harold F. Kaufman, rural sociologist who wrote the report, estimated the church membership at 1,400,000 in 7,600 churches. Eighty five religious bodies were represented by one or more churches in the state, with 20 of them accounting for 85 per cent of the membership. The two largest groups, Southern Baptist and Catholic, account for half the membership.

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C. E. Bryant
Baptist Press
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ALABAMA BAPTISTS AND METHODISTS STAGE
JOINT CAMPAIGN FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. --(BP)-- Baptists and Methodists are working together in Alabama for Christian education.

Leaders of the two major denominations in the state have launched a joint campaign to raise \$2,500,000 for Howard College, a Baptist institution, and Birmingham-Southern College, a Methodist institution. Both schools are located in Birmingham, and both will share equally in the campaign's proceeds.

The campaign was launched in a giant rally in the Birmingham City Auditorium Saturday night, January 17, with Bishop Arthur Moore of the Methodist Church and Dr. Duke K. McCall, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention

Executive Committee as speakers. The rally was broadcast by every Birmingham radio station and by a statewide network.

Pledges were taken at the rally, with a total of \$440,000 either pledged or paid in cash at the program's conclusion.

Birmingham has accepted a quota of \$1,000,000 for the campaign, and another \$1,000,000 will be sought outside the city. The General Education Board and other Foundations are expected to give the final \$500,000.

Dr. A. H. Reid, executive secretary of Alabama Baptist work, explained the joint nature of the campaign as compliance to the request of certain big givers who desire to contribute to both colleges and would not favor a campaign for one without the other. Both institutions are so much a part of Birmingham, he said, it would be impossible to conduct separate campaigns in that city. The Alabama Baptist Convention and both Methodist conferences in the state have approved the joint drive.

While Baptists and Methodists will use their own organizations in making the appeal to churches within their group, teams contacting corporations and other prospective big givers will be composed for a Baptist and a Methodist.

Money designated for one or the other college will be accepted, but it is explained that monies in the large gifts will be so juggled that each college will gain equally in the final tabulation.

Because of the cooperation of the two groups, representing jointly so large a part of Alabama's population, newspapers, radios and other publicity media have opened their space almost unreservedly to the campaign.

C. E. Bryant
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Nashville, Tennessee

BAPTISTS WILL TAKE WORLD ALLIANCE
OFFERING ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

ST. LOUIS, Mo.--(BP)--Dr. C. Oscar Johnson, president of the Baptist World Alliance, has announced that Baptist churches throughout the world will observe "Baptist World Alliance Sunday" on February 1.

Dr. Johnson, who is pastor of the large Third Baptist Church here and also first vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention, said that the special observance will be characterized by study and prayer for the world-wide Baptist fellowship. The world Baptist membership exceeds 15,000,000.

Southern Baptists will take a special offering on that day, he explained, the proceeds to be divided 50 per cent for relief of Baptists in stricken countries and 50 per cent for the current operation budget of the alliance. A goal of \$30,000 to \$50,000 has been suggested.

Dr. Johnson said that Canadian Baptists and Northern Baptists will make a similar special offering a little later in the spring.

"I would like, as your friend and president," Dr. Johnson wrote to American Baptists, "to call upon everyone to make a special gift out of the generosity of your hearts because of the great and wonderful blessings God has poured out upon us in contrast with the terrible devastation that obtains among our brethren in so many parts of the world.

"We cannot go ourselves, but through the Alliance we can render personal service. This can be done only as we pray for and pay for such service."

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TRUTH DECLARED "UNPOPULAR"

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--A. C. Dunkleberger, editor of the Nashville Banner declared in an address to David Lipscomb College students that "man can make the best of any career by taking God and Christ along with him."

The editor asserted that "truth is the most unpopular thing in the world today," and cited that "Christ was not crucified for any crime in the catalog but for telling the truth."

Although the stability of social, political and economic forces is doubtful, the institution established by Christ has a "future fixed beyond the possibility of change or defeat." Dunkleberger continued.

"Those who sit at the peace tables have made the mistake of ignoring the only formula for the attainment of peace. So they seek in vain."

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