

September 6, 1963

No Summer Slump
Shown In Receipts

NASHVILLE (BP)--No late summer slump slowed Cooperative Program receipts at the Southern Baptist Convention treasurer's office here, which reported August monthly income of \$1,636,236.

This compared with July monthly receipts of \$1,575,123 and August, 1962 receipts from state Baptist offices of \$1,515,415, according to SBC Treasurer Porter Routh of Nashville.

Receipts for the year to date through the Cooperative Program have reached \$12,708,539 compared with \$12,340,372 at this stage a year ago--a 2.98 per cent gain.

Designated receipts during August, 1963 amounted to \$222,406. This compared with \$362,243 the preceding month and \$198,727 the preceding August.

Designated gifts are running 9.73 per cent ahead of the eight-month total in 1962. They now come to \$14,365,440.

So far in 1963, the SBC Foreign Mission Board has received \$17,216,782 through the Cooperative Program and special offerings and other designations.

The Home Mission Board has gotten \$5,153,243. No other agency has passed the \$1 million mark.

Designated gifts go only to the purposes stated by the giver.

Cooperative Program funds, shared by the states and the SBC, are distributed at both places according to a pattern voted by state and national conventions. They are distributed among a wide range of educational, missionary and benevolent objectives in the states, the nation and the world.

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Campaign Would Aid
2 Florida Schools

JACKSONVILLE (BP)--The Florida state board of missions has suggested a special campaign for funds to benefit Stetson University and Baptist Bible Institute.

It would raise \$160,000 a year over a three-year period for the Baptist-related university in DeLand. Baptist Bible Institute, Graceville, would get \$55,333 a year over the same period.

The campaign will be voted on by the annual Florida Baptist State Convention when it meets in November.

Stetson's part of the fund would help it meet the matching requirement of a \$1.5 million grant from Ford Foundation. The university must raise \$3 million to receive the Ford gift.

The three-year period during which the special campaign would take place dates back to June 1, 1963 and expires June 21, 1966.

Florida Baptists thus would, in conjunction with other funds already available to Stetson, provide \$1.5 million of the \$3 million Stetson must raise.

Other sources of Stetson income from the Florida Convention include \$300,000 a year through the Cooperative Program and \$40,000 a year in endowment funds.

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The state board of missions also approved a Cooperative Program 1964 goal of \$2.8 million, an increase of \$100,000 over the current budget. The percentage sent to the Southern Baptist Convention would rise from 41 per cent this year to 42 per cent next, as Florida moves yearly toward a 50-50 distribution.

This, too, is subject to convention adoption.

The board also recommended the convention buy another 55 acres at Lake Yale near Leesburg in central Florida. The convention already has 155 acres for which the board, at this same meeting, approved plans to start the first building in January.

Construction would be ready in time for a Girls' Auxiliary camp next summer.

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Editors: Although the following story has no direct connection with Southern Baptists, perhaps many of your readers would be interested because of the activities of the late J. Frank Norris as pastor of First Baptist Church, Fort Worth.

Fort Worth Church
Ousts Six Members

(9-6-63)

FORT WORTH (BP)--The First Baptist Church of Fort Worth, a Fundamentalist church (not Southern Baptist), ousted six members after a stormy feud developed when the six men demanded an audit of church financial records.

The expulsion came on an overwhelming standing vote by the congregation of about 1,000 persons during a Sunday night service.

Just three days earlier, the six men had filed a law suit against the church and its pastor--Homer Ritchie. A court order was issued stipulating that the church records and minutes could not be destroyed or secreted.

The restraining order also stated that the pastor could not remove the six plaintiffs from the church's membership.

Ritchie did not preside over the meeting when the six plaintiffs were ousted. He turned the pulpit over to his twin brother, Omer, who is associate, or co-pastor.

The six men expelled were J. D. Padgett, C. H. Arnsperger Sr., Homer C. Tucker, J. R. Carden, B. L. Kiser and R. L. Miller, all of Fort Worth.

They contended the church membership does not know anything about the church budget and expenditures including the church staff salaries, and there has not been an election of a finance committee in years.

Ritchie said, however, the church books are open to any member of the church at any time. He said the church budget is about \$200,000.

Co-pastor Omer Ritchie said the feud over the audit was triggered by pastor Homer's recent marriage after a divorce in 1959. The group who left the church said the divorce was for unscriptural reasons.

Mrs. Ritchie told the congregation at the time of the divorce the separation was all her fault--she had not been able to adjust to the role of a minister's wife. She and the minister had been married for 13 years and had two children.

Ritchie became pastor of the church in 1952 after the death of J. Frank Norris, who led the church in a dispute with the Southern Baptist Convention. The church is affiliated with the Baptist Bible Fellowship International.

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Delamarter Moves
To Seminary Post

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Walter Delamarter, executive director of the Edna Gladney Home and the Duncan Memorial Hospital, Fort Worth, has been named director of social work education for Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's school of religious education here.

Delamarter joined the staff of the Baptist General Convention of Texas as a domestic relations consultant in 1957, and later became interim secretary for the state convention's human welfare commission. In this position, he coordinated the work of eight hospitals, seven institutions for children and two homes for the aged.

He has directed the Edna Gladney Home, a licensed child-placing agency, and Duncan Memorial Hospital, a maternity home, since 1960.

He is also a past social service director of the Methodist Children's Home in Waco, Tex.

The new faculty member will teach social courses at the seminary, beginning in the second semester in January. He will also supervise the field instruction program and conduct workshops for social workers.

The new social work education program is an outgrowth of the merger of Carver School of Missions and Social Work with the seminary, completed this year. A master of religious education degree with a major in social work is now offered, or students may elect to study for a master of social work degree available through a joint program with Kent School of Social Work at the University of Louisville.

Delamarter received his master's degree in social work from the University of Illinois. While a student there, he worked in Urbana, the college community, at the Cunningham Children's Home for dependent and neglected children.

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Texas Dominates
Large Church List

(9-6-63)

By the Baptist Press

Texas churches continue to dominate the list of largest churches in membership in the Southern Baptist Convention.

First Baptist Church, Dallas, maintained an unchallenged grip on first place with 12,879 members, according to the latest statistics sent in by more than 1100 regional associations of churches.

A distant second, still holding to the leadership east of the Mississippi River that it has had for several years, is Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis. It has 8539 members.

Only one of the eight largest churches is outside Texas. Of the 19 with memberships above 5000, only nine are outside the Lone Star State.

Seventeen of the top 19 churches last year are still on the list, though some have swapped positions in the rating. The two newcomers are First Baptist Church, Fort Smith, Ark., in 17th place and First Baptist Church, Midland, Tex., in 18th.

Departed are Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth, which held 12th place a year ago, and Second Baptist Church, Houston, which held 18th spot.

The third, fourth and fifth largest churches continued in those spots--San Antonio First Baptist Church, with 7798 members; Lubbock, Tex., First Baptist Church, with 7763 members, and Amarillo, Tex., First Baptist Church, with 7210.

First Baptist Church, Beaumont, Tex., and Cliff Temple Baptist Church, Dallas, traded sixth and seventh places between 1962 and 1963. The Beaumont church now has 6853 members while 6723 belong to Cliff Temple.

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First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Tex., with 6708 and Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., with 6275 members continued in eighth and ninth places.

New to the top 10 in membership is First Baptist Church, Atlanta, with 6221 members. It was 17th a year ago.

The remaining nine churches of 5000 or more members include:

First Baptist Church, Tulsa, 6025 members; Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, 5924; First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, 5800.

South Main Baptist Church, Houston, 5693 members; Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky., 5509; Baton Rouge, La., First Baptist Church, 5470.

First Baptist Church, Fort Smith, 5089 members; Midland First Baptist Church, 5053, and Jackson, Miss., First Baptist Church, 5026.

Figures on church membership appear in a "Selected List of Churches" published each year in the fall number of "Quarterly Review." The department of research and statistics, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, compiles the information.

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Professors Elect
Page H. Kelley

(9-6-63)

WILLIAMSBURG, Ky. (BP)--Page H. Kelley of Louisville is the new president of the Association of Baptist Professors of Religion.

Kelley is associate professor of Old Testament interpretation at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He was elected during the association's annual meeting here, succeeding W. W. Stevens of Clinton, Miss.

The association asked the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention to be custodian of survey tests of Old Testament and New Testament knowledge given students entering SBC seminaries.

The commission will distribute the tests to the seminaries and will help compile the scores after they are graded at the seminaries, according to Rabun L. Brantley, Nashville, commission executive secretary.

The tests are given at five of the six SBC seminaries. The lone exception, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, may start using them in the near future, the association reported.

Tests permit, in some instances, students to be exempted from certain seminary courses because of the level of their Bible knowledge.

They also help other students see the need for taking seminary level courses on subjects covered to some extent by courses at college, it was pointed out.

A committee of the association, including teachers from Baptist colleges and from the seminaries, drafted the tests.

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