

February 24, 1948

FOREIGN MISSIONS RECEIVE MORE THAN HALF OF DENOMINATION'S 1947 RECEIPTS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. --(BP)-- Foreign missions received 51.52 per cent of all money contributed to Southern Baptist Convention causes in 1947.

An auditors' report, just completed and covering 1947 operations of the Convention's Executive Committee, revealed that a total of \$7,356,226.65 was received during the year for distribution to causes sponsored by the Convention.

A sum of \$3,789,741.09, or 51.52 per cent of the total, went to the Foreign Mission Board at Richmond for mission work overseas.

Home missions received the second largest portion -- 20.14 per cent. This sum, totalling \$1,431,680.07, was sent to the Home Mission Board at Atlanta for mission work in the 20-state territory of the Convention, Cuba, and Panama.

The auditors revealed that less than two-thirds of one per cent of the contributions is used for the promotional and operating expenses of the Convention and its machinery: Ninety-nine and 37/100ths per cent of the total was channeled directly to the Convention's mission, educational, and benevolent work.

Texas Baptists led other state groups in amounts contributed during the year, having sent \$983,349.20 to the Executive Committee offices. North Carolina, a historic Baptist state, was second with \$879,539.04 contributed.

Of the total received during the year, \$5,217,762.39 was for the denomination's Cooperative Program and \$2,138,464.26 was designated to special objects.

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OKLAHOMA LAYMEN GIVE BUILDING TO UNIVERSITY

SHAWNEE, Okla. --(BP)-- Oklahoma Baptist laymen have dedicated a half-million dollar dormitory on the campus of Oklahoma Baptist University and declared this, their gift to the school, "just a beginning" rather than an end in itself.

"Even in this moment of triumph," declared Ex-Gov. Robert S. Kerr in dedicating the building, "we realize that only a beginning has been made."

He spoke for 1,000 laymen assembled for their annual midwinter state convention on the campus. And hardly before he was through speaking, another \$60,000 had been paid or pledged for further expansion.

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NEWTON DECLINES TO
CONSIDER THIRD TERM

RELEASE MARCH 4

ATLANTA, Ga. --(BP)-- Dr. Louie D. Newton has declared himself as unwilling to accept the presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention for a third term. His present term of office will expire at the meeting in Memphis, May 19-23.

"In keeping with the precedent of my three immediate predecessors, Drs. Scarborough, Hamilton, and Neff, I will not allow my name to go before the Convention for a third term as president," Dr. Newton said.

"May I take this occasion to urge upon all our people their unceasing prayers for the Memphis Convention. Christ is the answer."

Dr. Newton was elected to the presidency at Miami in 1946 and was re-elected at St. Louis in 1947.

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DR. NEWTON PROTESTS COURT SENTENCE
REQUIRING CHURCH ATTENDANCE

ATLANTA, Ga. --(BP)-- Declaring that "the state must never undertake to force men to go to church," Dr. Louie D. Newton has protested a recent sentence of the Dekalb City Court that four young men be required to attend Sunday school and church every Sunday during a two-year probationary period.

Dr. Newton, pastor of Druid Hills Baptist Church and president of the Southern Baptist Convention, made the protest in a Sunday morning sermon at the Atlanta church and said he also had protested directly to the court.

"There must be no coercion in religion, either from civil or ecclesiastical authorities, if we are to preserve inviolate the cherished principle of religious liberty and its inevitable corollary, separation of church and state," Dr. Newton told his congregation.

He referred to the court's sentence as "contrary to the clear teaching of the Bible that religion is a matter of persuasion and not of coercion.

"I am saying publicly what I have already said directly to the court," Dr. Newton declared, "that while I have the highest appreciation of the intent of the court to accomplish a good end in requiring these young men to attend Sunday school and church, I believe the end would have been more nearly achieved had the court urged such religious attitude instead of ordering it; for it occurs to me that the moment the state begins to coerce in matters of religion, it thereby begins to pull down the wall that separates church and state, and, furthermore, runs the risk of creating contempt for religion rather than an humble sense of one's need for God."

MISSIONARIES IN ORIENT
FACE GRAVE DIFFICULTIES

RICHMOND, Va. --(BP)-- "With world conditions as they are, we are compelled to accept that fact that the work of Christian world missions cannot be maintained without our being willing to incur grave risks of life as well as of property."

So read a "blood, sweat, and tears" statement adopted by the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention after a study of extremely perilous mission conditions in China.

The Board had just read a letter from Dr. Baker James Cauthen of Shanghai, regional mission secretary for the Orient, in which he said: "With economic insecurity, civil war abounding and multiplied problems of a war-ravished country trying to feel its way into new life, we are in the midst of a work where we are sustained only by a consciousness that it is God's work.

"We realistically face the fact," Dr. Cauthen continued, "that we must project a program of missions under just these conditions or not project any work at all. God chose His servants to come to this land knowing that these were the conditions we will have to face."

The Board's resolution took cognizance "of the perils facing many of our missionaries in China" and reaffirmed "our confidence in the judgement and devotion of our missionaries. Conditions make it necessary that in some cases missionaries evacuate their stations. In other cases missionaries have decided that they should remain in their places of work.

"The Foreign Mission Board gives its full support alike to all decisions as they are made by the missionaries under changing conditions. With world conditions as they are, we are compelled to accept the fact that the work of Christian world missions cannot be maintained without our being willing to incur grave risks of life as well as of property."

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O.B.U. ADDS DEPARTMENT

SHAWNEE, Okla. --(BP)-- The Board of Directors of Oklahoma Baptist University has voted to add a new department -- hospital service management -- alongside the university's unique programs in photography, radio, social service, and religious journalism.

Dr. Robert E. Beddoe, formerly administrator of the Stout Memorial Hospital in Wuchow, China, was recommended as head of the new department.

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