

December 6, 1963

**SBC Needs \$2.3 Million  
Month To Meet Budget**

NASHVILLE (BP)--If the Southern Baptist Convention meets its 1963 Cooperative Program budget, it must receive \$2.3 million from state Baptist groups during December.

SBC Treasurer Porter Routh reported here November receipts of \$1,594,923 brought the 11-month total to \$17,426,734. The year's full SBC operating and capital needs budget is \$19,792,500.

The 1964 budget was reduced about half a million dollars from the 1963 amount.

The November report was below what was reported in November, 1962 and in October, 1963. The November, 1962 figure was \$1,607,777 while \$1,678,031, came in during October of this year.

Cooperative Program gifts for 11 months are running 2.63 per cent ahead of 1962.

Designations kept 9.74 per cent ahead of the same period a year ago. Receipts in November of \$151,875 swelled the year-to-date total to \$14,888,200.

The SBC Foreign Mission Board neared the \$20 million mark in funds received in 1963 through the Cooperative Program and designated gifts, including a special Christmas offering.

The Home Mission Board has now crossed the \$6 million mark from the two sources this year.

Funds received by the SBC treasurer are forwarded immediately to the SBC agencies--designations to the cause named and Cooperative Program funds shared among agencies according to a Convention-adopted scale.

Total church weekly collections and amounts used for operations and capital needs by the state conventions are not counted in the SBC figures.

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**Missouri Secretary  
Recovers At Home**

(12-6-1963)

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)--Earl O. Harding, executive secretary of the Missouri Baptist Convention stricken with a heart attack at Kennett, Mo., has been transferred from the Kennett hospital to Memorial Community Hospital in Jefferson City, site of convention headquarters.

Harding's condition was reported to have shown marked improvement and his doctors indicated he was making satisfactory progress. Complete rest for at least three months from his return to Jefferson City will be necessary. How long he will be in the hospital had not been determined by the doctors.

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Cuban Baptists Face  
Financial Adjustments

ATLANTA (BP)--Cuban Baptists face the prospect of continuing a strong mission work on the island without financial assistance from the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Difficulties of Cuban Baptists were reported to the mission agency here at its annual session in a communication from Herbert Caudill of Havana, superintendent of mission work in Cuba.

Caudill wrote this was his fourth year to report by mail instead of in person. He has hesitated to leave the island for fear he could not return.

"We are studying the matter of keeping our work going should it become impossible to receive funds," he wrote. "Perhaps a dozen churches can go to full self-support. Another 20 can care for 50 per cent of their expenses, but more than 50 will be limited in what they can do. The strong will help the weak.

"A similar situation was faced in Cuba about 35 years ago. At that time a few fields were closed, and though we have tried to do something they have remained closed. We want to make the supreme effort to keep all fields going. Our people are willing to make the necessary sacrifice."

Courts Redford of Atlanta, executive secretary of the mission agency, said Caudill's report was "encouraging on the whole" when all things were considered. "All of our work continues despite difficulties."

Caudill indicated changes had been made in evangelism methods, since they could not hold park and street services. Loud-speaker equipment can be used only in churches, and advertising is limited.

"So far I have been able to move about freely over the field. No one has asked me where I was going or what my business was," he wrote.

He said literature is a problem, since none can be received from the United States, and they are writing and printing their own. "An enormous task for a small group," he commented.

They have published their newspaper, "La Voz Bautista," 10 times during the year, but the radio services were stopped in March. A large number of Bibles, New Testaments, and gospels have been on the docks since January.

Property losses have been few, although "it is not the time to build or repair."

The church and house where the deported missionaries, Lucille Kerrigan and Ruby Miller, were working have been taken and are used for other purposes.

Caudill closed his report with a plea to Southern Baptists not to give up Cuba, but to continue to pray.

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Redford To Retire  
From Post In 1964

(12-6-63)

ATLANTA (BP)--Courts Redford of Atlanta, executive secretary of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention since 1952, announced his retirement effective Dec. 31, 1964.

The announcement, somewhat of a surprise because he had not indicated to anyone his plans, came as he read a warm, lengthy statement to the annual meeting here of the mission agency.

The statement recounted his 20 years with the Home Mission Board, both as executive secretary and earlier as an assistant to J. B. Lawrence, former executive secretary. He paid tribute to his staff, the missionaries and the board itself.

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During these 20 years the budget increased from \$593,606 to the present \$5,450,000; missionaries from 489 to 2209, and baptisms reported by missionaries and chaplains from 12,000 to 60,700.

Redford, 65 on Sept. 4, refused to press for added time beyond 1964, despite requests from members of the staff and the board. He indicated 1964 would end one phase of work and the beginning of another.

"It now appears that 1965-1969 may be the most important and most eventful years the world has known during the Christian era," he said.

"It is imperative that the Home Mission Board take its rightful place in this period of advance. To this end it is very important that this board have the strongest possible leadership to guide the home mission forces in this time of opportunity and challenge."

Although he had suffered a heart attack in August, he appeared almost fully recovered and stated health was not a factor in his retirement.

"I had planned to do this even before my heart attack," he said. It was evident that he was doing what he thought best for the mission work.

The board, which recognized Redford for his 20 years, accepted his retirement with regret and appointed a committee to name his successor at its August meeting at the Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly in North Carolina.

The committee was also instructed to plan "suitable recognition of Redford for his years of service."

Redford, a native of Missouri, was raised in Oklahoma and educated at Oklahoma Baptist University, Missouri University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He served as an assistant pastor at First Baptist Church, Shawnee, Okla., and as a professor of Bible and religious education at OBU. After his seminary education, he was stewardship and brotherhood secretary for Missouri Baptists, and served as interim executive secretary for the state convention.

In 1930 he began 13 years as president of Southwest Baptist College in Bolivar, Mo., and came from there to the Home Mission Board.

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Home Mission Board  
Budgets \$5-1/2 Million

(12-6-63)

ATLANTA (BP)--The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in annual session here budgeted \$5,450,000 to support 2,201 mission workers in the United States, Cuba and Panama.

The budget, largest ever adopted by the mission agency, exceeds last year's by \$425,000. The number of workers also increased by 127.

Courts Redford of Atlanta, executive secretary of the Home Mission Board, presented the budget. Redford suffered a heart attack during the mid-year meeting of the board, and had returned to full work only the week before this meeting.

Appearing much thinner but as strong and as vigorous as ever, Redford cited three special emphases which the new budget will make possible.

First, he said \$100,000 from the Annie Armstrong Offering, an annual spring emphasis promoted by Woman's Missionary Union, Convention auxiliary, will go to mission ministries in large cities.

"The growth of the city and the increasing problems in these congested areas provide an added challenge to Southern Baptists at this time," he added.

Second, he stressed a cooperative effort between the mission agency and the Brotherhood Commission, the Convention's layman organization.

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"It is hoped 1,500 laymen will pay their own way next July to California, Washington, and Oregon to conduct evangelistic meetings and to help churches enlist and utilize their members in the best possible way," he said.

Third, he announced the board will enlist 100 seminary students to conduct revivals in churches which have reported no baptisms in recent years. A special \$50,000 fund will make this possible.

The mission agency projects its work through the state mission organizations. The state Baptist conventions share in financing on a percentage basis and the state forces direct the work of most of the missionaries.

A major share of the budget went to the division of missions, \$4,065,000, for work in literacy missions, student summer missions, Woman's Missionary Union work in pioneer areas, associational administration services, church extension, language missions, metropolitan missions, Jewish work, juvenile rehabilitation, mission centers, pioneer missions, urban-rural missions, and work with National Baptists (Negroes).

Other divisions received the following amounts: evangelism, \$200,000; chaplaincy, \$100,000; education and promotion, \$210,000; general mission ministries, \$435,000; and administration, including personnel, and survey and special studies, \$380,000.

The board reelected C. G. Cole, an executive of Georgia Power Co. in Atlanta for his eighth year as president. Also reelected were W. A. Duncan, retired Baptist minister of Atlanta, vice-president; Charles R. Standridge, pastor, First Baptist Church, Tifton, Ga., Vice-president; Mrs. Sherwood L. Astin, Atlanta, recording secretary, and J. C. Daniel, recently retired pastor of Fortified Hills Baptist Church, Atlanta, assistant recording secretary.

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Dallas Agency Director  
Hears 'Chilling Sound'

(12-6-63)

DALLAS (BP)--The most chilling sound of the four days that followed the assassination of President John F. Kennedy here was not the crack of a gun nor the weeping of mourners, a Texas Baptist leader said.

Jimmy R. Allen, Dallas, director of the state Baptist Christian life commission, said it was "the cheer which came from the crowd across from City Hall when word came that Lee Harvey Oswald had been murdered."

He branded the demonstration against the man accused of killing President Kennedy as "hatred laid bare in all its ugliness."

Allen, who addressed people of 14 denominations during a union Thanksgiving Day service, exhorted Americans to reestablish freedom from hate "if we are to give thanks for our freedom and be free to free others."

The sermon was hailed as "full of faith and truth" by President Lyndon B. Johnson who read the account of it in the New York Times.

"We must have more preaching like that if the wounds of our nation are to be healed and its spirit restored," President Johnson said.

Allen said the recent world-shaking tragedy here could have happened anywhere, and the stigma cannot be laid at the feet of Dallas as if the collective will of the people had wished it.

"However, something far deeper and more disconcerting is the fact that so many in our nation were not surprised that it happened here. What has grown up in a city of great pride, achievement, orderliness and stability which would cause a Billy Graham or Adlai Stevenson to seriously attempt to dissuade any President of the United States from visiting for fear of violence to him?" Allen asked.

Allen said the expression of hate in violence is usually felt in a community only when a permissive atmosphere is created.

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"The disrespect for other persons and for democratic processes which has grown to alarming proportions in American communities encourages the venting of hatred both by young and old. Constant attacks on persons of other races through the medium of jokes downgrading them not only reflect unchristian prejudices but also encourage all kinds of hatred," he continued.

"In some quarters it is not only permitted but considered righteous to attack the Supreme Court on every opportunity. Politicians are ridiculed as corrupt to such a degree that many good men refuse to enter political activity because of public attitude.

"Seldom has the lack of relevance of our churches in contemporary society been so dramatically demonstrated as in these last few days," Allen said.

Hate cannot be prevented simply in remorse over a deed dastardly done, Allen said. The only genuine solution is repentance.

Calling on Americans to examine their direction and redirect themselves under God's guidance, the Christian life leader said there must be a revival of Christian behavior.

"The absence of hate is not necessarily the presence of love," he said, "But the presence of Christian love in any heart is the absence of hate."

Allen said responsibility for an atmosphere of hate goes to opinion makers which include--

--every preacher who studiously ignores the hatred in the hearts of his people while he talks eloquently of the dimensions of the temple in ancient Jerusalem...

--every citizen who tolerates the Jack Rubys of the community as they contribute to its moral decay because the tourist trade they draw increases profits... (Ruby is being held in the shooting of Oswald.)

--every editorial writer who slashed away at respect for leadership by appealing to the prejudices of his reader instead of appealing to the court of reason in a fair presentation of his political point of view...

--and every Christian who rejects his responsibility to think and act for Christ with a shrug of the shoulder and a muttered 'What's the use.'