

September 14, 1948

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GIFTS  
SET ALL TIME RECORD

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--1948 Cooperative Program receipts of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee here have exceeded \$4,000,000 -- meaning that disbursements to Convention agencies the remainder of 1948 will be used to supply desperately needed buildings and equipment.

Dr. Duke K. McCall, executive secretary, said that the point for the switching of percentage tables was reached September 9 with receipt of a check from Mississippi.

Action of the Southern Baptist Convention had provided that the Convention agencies would receive a designated percentage of Cooperative Program receipts up to \$4,000,000 for their current operating budgets; and that when receipts reached the \$4,000,000 figure, plus \$79,800 for the Convention Operating Budget, all additional receipts should be used to supply capital needs revealed in the extensive survey of the agencies made in 1945.

Capital need gifts through 1947 totalled \$3,772,000, applied against the overall goal of \$20,750,000. Dr. McCall estimates that during the remainder of 1948, an additional \$2,000,000 of capital needs funds will be provided the Foreign and Home Mission Boards, the Relief and Annuity Board, and the four seminaries.

Dr. McCall pointed out that Cooperative Program receipts in Executive Committee offices have exceeded a half-million dollars per month for six of the first eight months in 1948. Only three other times in all the history of the Convention have undesignated funds exceeded a half-million dollars in a single month.

"Charts comparing the Cooperative Program (undesignated) receipts with designated receipts indicate a very healthy trend on the part of Southern Baptist churches," Dr. McCall said. "With the exception of the special Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong mission offerings, Southern Baptists have apparently been willing to give their money without specially preferred designations to individual objects. They have supported the work of every agency of the denomination in proportion to its needs through the Cooperative Program.

"Explanation of the increased gifts through the Cooperative Program are to be found in the denomination's emphasis upon 'Every Baptist a Tither' and the half-and-half division of funds between the work of the local church and the Cooperative Program objects, emphasized in the slogan 'Fifty-Fifty by 1950.'"

CHURCH MEMBERS RAISE COTTON  
TO BOOST INCOME FOR GOD

PHILADELPHIA, Miss.--(BP)--"Farming for God" is a fact at Spring Creek Baptist Church near here.

Two years ago, Gene DeWeese, chairman of the deacons, presented 16½ acres of land to the church. Five acres were planted in cotton this year, and indications are that five bales will be harvested. Plans are being made to put the complete acreage in cultivation in 1949.

On appointed days large numbers of church members, including men, women, boys, and girls gather to chop and plow the cotton field. The people are so enthusiastic that on their last work day only 45 minutes were required to chop the five acres and only 60 minutes to plow it.

Rev. Ivor Clark, pastor, enthusiastically declares that the plan not only aids the church treasury but promotes fellowship among the members.

Sales of cotton and additional gifts last year -- one deacon promised to match cotton receipts with a cash gift -- provided \$1,140, used for purchase of pews for the church auditorium.

Receipts for the 1948 crop will be used for purchasing an additional piano and installation of a baptismal pool.

The income also will allow a pastor's salary sufficient to provide preaching every Sunday and a radio ministry through Station WHOC here.

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LEOMA, Tenn.--(BP)--Members of Gum Springs Baptist Church near here have gone to the cotton field to raise money for their new church building.

Faced with need for a new building and lacking necessary funds, the members had faced a dilemma. It was solved happily, however, when a member whose farm adjoins the church property offered the use of 10 acres of choice land.

Encouraged by Rev. Henry Yeager, pastor, the members have plowed, sowed, hoed and cultivated the 10 acres in cotton this year. The full membership will take to the fields Monday, September 20, for the harvest. They anticipate a bale to the acre.

Mr. Yeager said that the members will likewise roll up their sleeves and take saws and hammers in hand for the building of the new church structure.