



REGIONAL OFFICES

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Editor/161 Spring Street, N.W./Atlanta, Georgia 30303/Telephone (404) 523-2593
DALLAS R. T. McCartney, Editor/103 Baptist Building/Dallas, Texas 75201/Telephone (214) RI 1-1996
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Editor/200 Maryland Ave., N.E./Washington, D.C. 20002/Telephone (202) 544-4226

May 4, 1966

**SBC Missions Giving
Continues Upward Climb**

NASHVILLE (BP)--Contributions to world missions through the Southern Baptist Convention continued an upward surge during April, bringing total SBC world missions gifts for 1966 to the \$22.1 million mark.

During the first four months of the year, Southern Baptists gave \$7,757,220 to missions causes through the denomination's Cooperative Program unified budget plan, and an additional \$14,431,151 to designated missions causes, mostly foreign missions.

So far during 1966, missions gifts have exceeded contributions for the same period last year by \$1.9 million--an increase of 9.38 per cent.

Missions giving trends were reflected in the monthly financial report prepared by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee here. It is the last such report prior to the annual meeting of the convention, May 24-27 in Detroit.

The \$7 3/4 million given to missions through the denomination's Cooperative Program budget during January through April is a \$386,357 increase over undersigned budget contributions for the same period during 1965. It is a percentage increase of 5.24%.

The \$14.4 million in designated gifts is an increase of \$1.5 million over designated contributions for the same period last year, and an 11.74 per cent increase.

For the month of April alone, budget contributions reached \$1,953,503, and designated gifts were \$1,969,219; bringing total missions gifts for the month to \$3,922,723.

Of the \$22.1 million received so far during 1966, more than \$17 million has gone to the SBC Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, to support Baptist work around the world.

The SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta, has received \$2.4 million to support its ministries in the United States, Panama, Cuba, and the San Blas Islands.

Twenty-one agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention received funds through the Cooperative Program unified budget plan. The SBC Executive Committee serves as the channeling agency in receiving and distributing the funds to the agencies.

Figures in the report reflect only amounts given to support SBC agencies and ministries, and do not include amounts given by Baptist congregations to support local missions programs, or state-wide Baptist work.

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Seminary Librarian,
L. R. Elliott, Dies

5-4-66

FORT WORTH (BP)--Leslie Robinson Elliott, librarian at Southwestern Theological Seminary for almost half a century, died May 2 in a local hospital. He would have been 80 years old on September 30.

Funeral services were conducted May 5 in Truett Auditorium on the seminary campus. Robert E. Naylor, seminary president, was in charge of the service.

He was assisted by Robert A. Baker, professor of church history at the seminary and Gene Thompson, associate pastor of Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth.

Elliott, a native of Rosetta, Ill. is a graduate of William Jewell College and received the master and doctor of theology degrees from Southwestern Seminary.

Prior to his college graduation in 1910 he served as pastor of churches in Kentucky, Missouri, California, Colorado and Texas.

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Baptist Press

Author of several books, Elliott held the title of professor of bibliography and director of library emeritus, at his death. He was assistant librarian at the seminary from 1919 to 1922 when he was appointed librarian and director of libraries, a position he held until retirement in August 1957.

Elliott is survived by his wife, the former Mary Ethelyn Shearer, whom he married in 1911.

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EDITORS NOTE the second paragraph is past tense.

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Detroit Tigers Games
Conflict with Convention

5-4-66

DETROIT (BP)--Baseball will be in full swing when the Southern Baptist Convention meets here, May 24-27.

The Detroit Tigers will play each night that the convention meets, and will host the Cleveland Indians in a double-header on the convention's opening night.

While Convention President Wayne Dehoney and Convention Sermon Preacher Ray Roberts are preaching in a double-header opening convention session, the Tigers will be playing the Indians in a "twi-night" (afternoon-evening) double header.

And each remaining night of the convention, the Tigers will tempt the Baptists away from the convention sessions at Cobo Hall.

Detroit plays Cleveland Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights, May 24-27; and the Tigers take on the California Angels Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 27-29.

When the Tigers take to the diamond, a Southern Baptist will probably be in the outfield. Don Demeter, in his second year with the Detroit club, is an active Southern Baptist, and attended Eber Memorial Baptist Church last year.

Detroit is the home of four professional teams in sports---the baseball Tigers, the football Lions, the basketball Pistons, and the hockey Red Wings.

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Alaska Crusade
Called "Best Ever"

5-4-66

ANCHORAGE (BP)--The 1966 simultaneous revival crusade was the best in the history of the Alaska Baptist Convention, according to William Hansen, executive secretary of the convention.

The 33 participating churches and missions reported about 150 additions through Friday of the second week.

John Havlik, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board evangelist who directed the two-week campaign, said the revivals for the first time attained significant results in churches and missions that minister to native Alaskans, both Indians and Eskimos.

"At the First Yukon Baptist Mission, where Harry Lee Thomas of the Statesville Avenue Baptist Church in Charlotte N.C., was evangelist, the wife of an Indian chief was converted, and her conversion resulted in conversion of six other natives" Havlik said.

At the East Third Avenue Baptist Church in Anchorage, a Mexican man, who earlier had driven the pastor and visiting evangelist Glenn Godsey out of his house, was saved during the second week of the revival. Godsey is pastor of the First Baptist Church in Plainview, Tex.

More than 40 professions of faith in Fairbanks' Tanana Baptist Association were reported by Don Aderhold, pastor of the Columbia Drive Baptist Church in Decatur, Ga., who directed the campaign in the Fairbanks Area.

Twenty-five ministers from 13 states preached during the campaign, including Fred B. Mosely, assistant executive secretary-treasurer of the Home Mission Board.

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Baptist Press

Kentucky Board Recommends
Baptist Education Support

BAGDAD, Ky. (BP)--The Executive Board of the Kentucky Baptist Convention voted here to increase convention support of Christian education by \$300,000 per year, leaving the door open for Baptist schools in Kentucky to seek federal loans.

The board did not consider a motion concerning federal grants to Baptist institutions, and technically did not give approval for federal loans.

Debate and discussion, however, lasted for nearly six hours, most of it centering on the church-state separation issue involved in use of federal aid by Baptist institutions.

The board finally voted to allow the six Baptist schools in Kentucky to borrow up to \$3½ million to finance capital needs, putting no restriction on how the loans should be financed.

Vote on the motion, a substitute for an earlier proposal that the loans come from private lending agencies, was 58 to 17 with 9 abstentions.

Harold Sanders, executive secretary of the convention, called the action "a definite shift in thinking towards the advisability of government loans as over against federal grants!"

Although the board did not specify where the schools should seek the loans, Sanders said some would probably seek federally-financed loans at about three per cent interest while other schools would seek privately-financed loans.

Sanders said that although there was some discussion and disagreement about whether the lower government interest rates on federal loans constituted a subsidy, most of the debate centered on the age-old question of whether the Baptist institutions should obtain any financial aid at all from the government.

The debate was prompted by a motion from the convention's Christian education committee which recommended that Kentucky Baptists provide an additional \$300,000 per year to Christian education, and that the convention to borrow up to \$3½ million from private sources to be repaid by the \$300 allocation each year.

Presenting the motion was Harold Wainscott, pastor of the Third Baptist church in Owensboro, Ky., and chairman of the Christian Education Committee.

Franklin Owen, pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church of Lexington, Ky., offered a substitute motion, which eventually was adopted, permitting the schools to seek their own financing for the loans.

In effect, the motion will not change any currently-existing policies of the convention. Sanders said that Georgetown College (Baptist) in Georgetown, Ky., had for many years financed building construction with federal loans.

The action of the board, if approved by a special session of the Kentucky Baptist Convention called Monday afternoon, June 27, would make about \$983,000 available each year to the six Baptist schools in the state through the convention's Cooperative Program budget.

In other action, the board voted to recommend a budget of \$3½ million for 1966-67, an increase of \$350,000 over the present budget.

The \$3½ million figure includes the \$300,000 special allocation to Christian education plus \$683,000 in regular budget allocations to Christian education.

Although the dollar amount to Southern Baptist Convention missions causes was increased by about \$10,000 to \$1,137,500 the percentage to SBC causes was reduced from 35.8 per cent currently to a proposed 32½ per cent.

If the convention chooses to reject the Christian education committee's proposal of allocating \$300,000 in additional support to the Baptist schools, a \$3.3 million alternate budget would be recommended to the special convention. The alternate budget recommendation would provide 35.8 per cent to SBC world missions causes.

The special convention slated June 27, will consider both the budget and the Christian Education recommendations.

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The convention was called in a special vote during the annual session last November in an effort to deal with a crisis in providing adequate financial support for Christian education.

At that time, the convention instructed the Christian Education committee to make a study of all possible avenues of support and make recommendations to the special convention.

Last August the convention ended all but the capital funds phase of a Christian Education Advance fund campaign to raise \$9 million for the Baptist schools. About \$3 million has been given in cash and pledges to date.

The \$3½ million in loans repaid by the \$300,000 convention budget allocations would be applied toward the \$9 million fund goal.

In other business action during its meeting at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly near Bagdad, Ky., the Executive Board voted to recommend that the convention hold a joint, integrated session with the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky, a Negro Baptist group, on Friday, Nov. 10, during the 1967 convention, and an integrated youth rally Friday night.

The board also established a committee for denominational cooperation, a joint committee composed of representatives from Negro Baptist conventions in Kentucky, to seek other avenues of working together.



May 4, 1966

**Negro Student Calls SBC
Church Fellowship Great**

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following personal testimony of what being a member of a Southern Baptist congregation was written by a Negro student at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater. A. Harold Fields, Jr., is an outstanding student at OSU and was recently elected a Senator representing the school of engineering on the student governing body. His pastor, Bill Sherman, says he is "one of our finest college students" in the church membership.

By A. Harold Fields Jr.

When the Apostle Paul wrote to the Ephesian saints, he said to them; "so then ye are no more strangers and sojourners, but ye are fellow citizens with the saints and of the household of God" (Eph. 2:19).

It has been a marvelous blessing for me to be a member of the University Heights Baptist Church in Stillwater, Okla., for the past two years. I have been made to feel like a fellow citizen.

University Heights has an active program to meet the needs of the college student. The student and adult membership work together to spread the Gospel, not only throughout the university community, but to the whole world as well.

During my stay here I have seen several students and adults go out from this church to all parts of the world as summer and full-time missionaries. Knowing these wonderful, God-led people has caused my spiritual life in this "household of faith" to grow and have more meaning.

The membership of this church is dedicated to the eternal truth that our human origin does not matter with God, for by the Holy Spirit we have been baptized into the body of Christ.

Our church is represented by every color and racial group in the world. The church seeks to minister to the needs of each individual and encourages participation in all the areas of the life of the church.

I have found membership at University Heights to be spiritually challenging. It has been my privilege to serve on the Student Cabinet, in the choir, as president of my Sunday School class, and as president of our Training Union.

After I got to know many of the members individually, and likewise, after they got to know me, I can say with assurance that God's people are the best on earth.

The many opportunities for Christian fellowship have done much to make us feel like a family, indeed, as the children of God.

From recent experiences we know that none of us at University Heights is ever harmed without all of us being harmed. If one weeps, we all weep. If one is happy, and rejoices, we all share the blessing.

I know with confidence that I am a part of University Heights.