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**21 Churches Lead SBC
In Total Contributions**

NASHVILLE (BP)--Twenty-one churches in the Southern Baptist Convention received more than half-a-million dollars last year in contributions from their members.

A tabulation listing the denomination's leading churches in total giving was released here by the research and statistics department of the SBC Sunday School Board. The list also indicated the amounts each of the leading churches gave to missions.

Another tabulation listed SBC churches with more than \$3 million in church property value.

The 13,538-member First Baptist Church of Dallas led the convention in all three categories.

Reported as the largest church in the convention only a week earlier, the big Dallas church listed contributions totaling \$1,597,805 last year, missions gifts of \$588,669, and property valued at \$7,100,000.

Of the 21 churches with gifts exceeding \$500,000 last year, nine are in Texas, three each in Georgia and Louisiana, two in Alabama, and one each in South Carolina, Tennessee, Oklahoma, and Virginia.

A similar statistical report issued a year ago listed only 15 churches with contributions surpassing \$500,000. The number this year is believed to be a record.

In property valuation, seven churches in Texas reported property valued in excess of \$3 million, as did two in Louisiana, one each in Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

The five leading SBC churches in missions giving represented four states---Texas, Georgia Louisiana, and Alabama.

Ranked in order behind the Dallas church in missions giving were the Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, Atlanta, (2nd); Mid-City Baptist Church, New Orleans, (3rd); First Baptist Church, Amarillo, Tex., (4th); and Southside Baptist Church, Birmingham, (5th).

Top five churches in total gifts were (1) First Baptist, Dallas; (2) First Baptist, Amarillo, Tex.; (3) First Baptist, Tulsa, Okla.; (4) Park Cities Baptist, Dallas; and (5) Mid-City Baptist, New Orleans.

In property value, the five leading churches were: (1) First Baptist, Dallas; (2) Mid-City Baptist, New Orleans; (3) First Baptist, Shreveport, La.; (4) Park Cities Baptist, Dallas; and (5) First Baptist, Atlanta.

There was little change in the list of churches with more than \$3 million worth of church property in a comparison of the 1965 and the 1964 tabulations. The same 13 churches were on both lists, with only a few changes in amounts and rank.

There were numerous changes, however, in a comparison of the current tabulation of churches leading the SBC in total contributions with the list issued last year.

Of the top five churches this year, First Baptist Church of Tulsa, Okla., moved up to third from the 12th ranked position last year. Mid-City Baptist Church in New Orleans advanced from sixth to fifth this year, and Park Cities Church in Dallas dropped from third to fourth. The Dallas and Amarillo churches were ranked first and second both years.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Here is the tabulation, listing the churches in order by total receipts, and giving the amounts and rank for missions and property value. The "rank" listed under the missions gifts column is based only on the churches giving more than \$500,000 in total contributions, so there is a slight possibility that some churches which did not give more than \$500,000 might have given more to missions than the churches in this list. For this

reason, only the top 10 churches in missions giving are ranked. The last three churches on the complete tabulation were not listed on the chart showing churches with total gifts exceeding \$500,000, but were listed (as ranked) in the tabulation showing property value in excess of \$3 million. The entire tabulation is provided so that you may ferret out information about churches in your state or city.

--Baptist Press

CHURCH	TOTAL GIFTS (rank)	MISSIONS (rank)	PROPERTY VALUE (rank)
First Church, Dallas	\$1,597,805 (1)	\$588,669 (1)	\$7,100,000 (1)
First Church, Amarillo, Tex.	841,840 (2)	316,384 (4)	2,794,626 ---
First Church, Tulsa, Okla.	840,481 (3)	158,912 ---	2,996,670 ---
Park Cities, Dallas	829,777 (4)	311,230 (6)	4,201,588 (4)
Mid-City, New Orleans	809,203 (5)	316,393 (3)	5,000,000 (2)
South Main, Houston	708,744 (6)	255,198 (8)	3,404,202 (9)
Second Ponce de Leon, Atlanta	704,826 (7)	450,775 (2)	2,792,000 ---
First Church, Richmond, Va.	674,806 (8)	212,660 (10)	2,800,000 ---
First Church, Midland, Tex.	622,382 (9)	270,046 (7)	3,108,369 (11)
First Church, Shreveport, La.	614,540 (10)	101,652 ---	4,418,318 (3)
First Church, Lubbock, Tex.	597,650 (11)	168,450 ---	3,530,047 (6)
First Church, Wichita Falls, Tex.	579,114 (12)	106,242 ---	2,553,533 ---
Broadway, Fort Worth	567,292 (13)	166,785 ---	3,097,125 (12)
First Church, Atlanta	558,946 (14)	191,018 ---	4,200,000 (5)
Bellevue, Memphis	555,380 (15)	178,190 ---	3,450,000 (8)
Southside, Birmingham	548,394 (16)	311,583 (5)	1,759,371 ---
First Church, San Antonio, Tex.	527,976 (17)	86,733 ---	2,820,870 ---
First Church, Spartanburg, S.C.	513,365 (18)	68,193 ---	1,433,000 ---
First Church, New Orleans	507,983 (19)	100,123 ---	2,912,251 ---
First Church, Huntsville, Ala.	507,740 (20)	57,654 ---	2,266,280 ---
First Church, Decatur, Ga.	506,752 (21)	245,279 (9)	1,586,000 ---
Travis Avenue, Fort Worth	438,412 ---	59,603 ---	3,500,000 (7)
First Church, Columbia, S.C.	434,309 ---	118,632 ---	3,135,000 (10)
Myers Park, Charlotte, N.C.	430,514 ---	60,476 ---	3,078,507 (13)

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Weber Named Pastor
Of Alabama Church

8/16/66

MOBILE, Ala. (BP)--Jaroy Weber, pastor for five years of the First Baptist Church in Beaumont, Tex., has been named pastor of the Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., effective Sept. 4.

Weber, a member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, succeeds Harold Seever, pastor of the church for 16 years who resigned because of blindness. Seever is a former chairman of the SBC Executive Committee.

Weber, a native of Louisiana, will be moving from the sixth largest church (in total membership) in the Southern Baptist Convention to the ninth largest church. The Beaumont church has 7,267 members; the Mobile church has 6,051.

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Suit Dropped Against
Atlanta Stadium Liquor

ATLANTA (BP)--Efforts by a Baptist journalist and a Methodist layman to prevent mixed drink sales at the Atlanta Stadium have come to a close.

Plaintiffs in the suit decided against an appeal of the latest decision in the case which upheld the constitutionality of operating within the stadium a private club which sells mixed drinks.

In announcing their decision to drop the case, the plaintiffs said that the latest decision by Judge Emeritus Jesse M. Wood of Fulton County Superior Court overthrew every contention upon which they had based their case.

Judge Wood reversed a temporary injunction barring sale of liquor in the stadium's private club. The original restraining order preventing the sale of mixed drinks was issued last December by Judge Durwood Pye.

The ruling by Judge Wood said that the primary purpose of the Stadium Club is to sell season tickets to the Atlanta Braves and Atlanta Falcons ball games, thus substantiating claims of stadium officials that the club is a "necessary and desirable adjunct" to the operation of the stadium.

He also ruled that the stadium authority chartered to operate the sports facility did not violate its "discretionary power" in allowing liquor sales, nor in setting aside certain portions of the stadium for private use.

The Georgia General Assembly in January passed specific legislation favoring mixed drink sales in a private club at the stadium, and Atlanta city officials changed several local liquor ordinances after the suit was filed in December.

Plaintiffs in the case were Jack U. Harwell, associate editor of the Christian Index, state Baptist paper published here, and L. R. Schwall, a Methodist trucking executive from Hapeville, Ga. They issued the following joint statement announcing their decision not to appeal the case to a higher court:

"We are deeply distressed at Judge Wood's ruling, but so long as state laws read as they now read, we feel any further appeal would not be worthwhile.

"We fervently hope that the Christian people of Georgia will communicate with their representative in the state legislature and let their convictions be known on this issue, as well as other moral and spiritual issues facing our General Assembly in January."

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Rutledge Says Church Must
Be Active Between Sundays

8/16/66

RIDGECREST, N. C. (BP)--"Unless the church is active between Sundays, we may become merely caretakers of a heritage given to us by others," a leading Southern Baptist missions executive said here.

A. B. Rutledge, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta, was the major speaker for the annual Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union conference at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly.

Speaking to about 3,000 women, Rutledge said that churches must recapture their purpose, re-emphasize the role of the layman, and respond to the spiritual, moral and social needs at their very doors.

Dramatic theme interpretations accenting world peace closed the nightly worship services at the WMU Conference here. Theme for the meeting was, "O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee."

Both Southern Baptist home and foreign missionaries spoke throughout the week, and conferences were held accenting the various aspects of missions work. Aim of the week was to preapre the women to better promote interest in missions work in their home churches

The conference was directed by Miss Alma Hunt, executive secretary of the SBC Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Ala. It was the 11th in a series of 17 nationwide conferences to be held at Ridgecrest this summer.

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Refugee Center Asks
For Clothing Donations

MIAMI (BP)--The Baptist Refugee Relief Center here has issued an urgent appeal for clothing, one of the provisions that affords the center an opportunity with a Christian witness to many Cuban refugees.

Hubert O. Hurt, missionary to language groups in Florida, said the flow of refugees has stepped up to about 1,000 a week, double the figure reported earlier this year.

The clothing room, which is supplied by donations, has been drained by the increased pace, he said.

About 15 new families seek help from the center each week.

"Most of these refugees arrive with almost no personal possessions, so such emergency help means much to them and provides an entree for us to help them with their spiritual as well as material needs," Hurt said.

The center also has helped resettle more than 2,070 Cuban individuals, working through Baptist churches that volunteer to sponsor refugee families.

Donations (of any type clothing) should be sent to the center, 1452 N. W. 36 Street in Miami, Hurt said.