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March 2, 1967

SBC Cooperative Program
Gifts Continue 67 Climb

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NASHVILLE (BP)--Gifts to Southern Baptist Convention missions causes continued their apparent climb during the month of February, a record month in gifts to designated causes.

Southern Baptists gave more than \$6 million during the month of February to designated missions causes, most of it to foreign missions through the annual Lottie Moon Offering in Baptist churches. The previous record month of designated giving was \$5 million.

In addition, a total of \$1,996,190 was contributed through the denomination's Cooperative Program unified budget plan to support 20 SBC agencies and organizations.

The combined total topped the \$8 million mark for the month of February, bringing the combined total contributions for 1967 to \$13.9 million, up \$532,204 over last year's gifts.

The monthly financial report was prepared here by the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

During the first two months of the year, contributions through the Cooperative Program unified budget plan totaled \$3.9 million, an increase of \$327,942 over Cooperative Program receipts for January and February of 1966. It is an increase of 8.37 per cent.

Designated gifts totaled \$9.7 million for the two-month period, an increase of \$204,262 over 1966 designations.

Of the \$13.9 million total for the two months, \$11.7 million has been sent to the SBC Foreign Missions Board, including \$7 million for the month of February alone.

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Indiana House Defeats
School Bus Aid Measure

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INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (BP)--Indiana's House of Representatives defeated 50-41 a controversial bill which would require public school buses to transport parochial school pupils.

Previously, the Executive Board of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana had passed a resolution opposing the bus bill, as had the Indiana Council of Churches, and other religious groups.

The Knights of Columbus (Catholic men's order), however, had publicly promised to reprimand any legislator who voted against the measure.

A similar bill in the Indiana state Senate had been amended and did not return to the Senate floor for a vote.

A companion Senate bill was passed by the Senate, 36-3, but this bill vaguely provides funds for transporting "eligible" children to their schools, while the two other bills would have defined "eligible" pupils as including those attending private and parochial schools.

Observers here saw little chance of the bill coming up again in the one week remaining before the legislature was to have adjourned.

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Baker To Lecture
At Southeastern

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WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--Robert E. Baker, professor of church history at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, will deliver the Carver-Barnes Memorial lectures at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here, March 14-17.

Theme of the lectures will be "The Structure of the Southern Baptist Convention." A pastors' seminar will be held at Southeastern in conjunction with the lectures.

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Georgetown College
Begins Science Center

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GEORGETOWN, Ky. (BP)--A contract for a new \$1½ million sciences learning center at Georgetown College here has been awarded to a Lexington, Ky., construction firm by the executive board of the Baptist school's trustees.

The new center will house the college's departments of chemistry, biology, physics and mathematics in its 52,750 square foot design.

School officials hope the new science center will be ready for the fall term of 1968.

Contract for the construction was awarded to Hargett Construction Co., Lexington. Construction costs are estimated at \$1,564,680, with costs for developing the site bringing the total cost up to \$1,751,000.

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Meredith College Increases
Tuition, Room, Board Fees

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RALEIGH, N.C. (BP)--A \$300 increase per year in room, board and tuition fees has been authorized by the executive committee of the Meredith College (Baptist) board of trustees here.

The \$300 increase will bring the total charge per student for one term to \$1,800, the school's business manager said.

The increase in fees will be applied toward campus improvements including faculty salaries, remodeling and refurnishing dormitories and other campus buildings, and air conditioning of all present facilities, said Business Manager Joe Baker.

Some of the money will go back to the student in the form of student aid and scholarships, said Meredith President E. Bruce Heilman, who announced substantially increased scholarship and other financial aid within the next three years.

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