

October 1, 1949

127 Ninth Avenue, North

Nashville, Tennessee

## 2863 NEW CHURCHES ORGANIZED IN SBC TERRITORY SINCE 1940

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--A total of 2863 Southern Baptist churches have been organized since 1940, according to Porter Routh, secretary of the Department of Survey, Statistics, and Information of the Baptist Sunday School Board. Of these, 933 are located in the city, 295 in the towns, 462 in villages, and 1173 in the open country.

In the city, nearly two-thirds of the 933 new churches have fewer than 200 members, but several have more than 1000 members. Of the total 933, all have Sunday school organizations, 78.3 per cent have Training Unions, 78.2 per cent have W.M.U. work, and 52.6 per cent have Brotherhoods.

In the towns (501-2500 population), 72.5 per cent of new churches have Training Unions, 63.1 per cent have W.M.U. work, and 20 per cent have Brotherhoods.

In the villages (populated centers with fewer than 500 population), 49.6 per cent of the new churches have Training Unions, 42.9 per cent have W.M.U. organizations, and only 9.9 per cent have Brotherhoods.

Only 6.5 per cent of the open country churches organized since 1940 have Brotherhood organizations; 25.7 per cent have W.M.U. work, and 37.7 per cent have Training Unions. Of the young open country churches, 507 have full-time services, 425 half-time, 229 quarter-time, and 20 have services three times a month.

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## SOUTHERN BAPTISTS GIVE \$7,080,852 TO MISSIONS FIRST EIGHT MONTHS 1949

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--August Cooperative Program receipts totaled \$477,832.51 and designations totaled \$90,303.47, giving a grand total of \$568,135.98, according to Dr. Duke K. McCall, executive secretary-treasurer of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Cooperative Program receipts are \$271,112.39 higher than last year at the close of business. Designations are \$294,996.58 higher. So far this year Southern Baptists have given a total of \$7,080,852 to their mission and benevolent causes. All Cooperative Program funds contributed the last four and one-half months of the year will be used for capital improvements of missions and other properties.

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The Baptist Hour of the Southern Baptist Convention went on a year-round basis October 2 over 132 ABC stations.

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District of Columbia Baptists have been in an evangelistic campaign. President Truman wrote Pastor E. H. Pruden of First Baptist Church, "Many times during the past decade the conviction has come to me with increasing force that a revival of the spirit of old-fashioned religion is what the world most needs."

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The sixth Texas Baptist hospital, built at a cost of \$1,250,000, was opened in September at Beaumont.

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The Woman's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention has set a goal of \$1,600,000 for the December Lottie Moon Christmas offering for foreign missions.

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Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, is planning a new auditorium to seat 3,000. The cost is about \$900,000. Robert G. Lee is the pastor.

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One hundred and sixty-five Southern Baptist churches will celebrate their centennial in 1950.

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Mrs. Sarah A. Tweed, North Carolina, recently died at the age of 107. She was a member of the Little Pine Creek Baptist Church for 90 years.

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The entire Bible is being written by hand at the Chicago Railroad Fair. Each person visiting is asked to write one verse. The Old Testament has already been completed.

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Students in 174 Catholic colleges have raised \$200,000 during the past year for world relief.