

October 14, 1949

## SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD GETS RECORD NUMBER OF ORDERS

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—(BP)—More orders for church literature were received in September by the Baptist Sunday School Board than in any September in the history of the Board, according to Dr. T. L. Holcomb, executive secretary.

"There were 33,920 cash orders during September this year, as compared with 32,496 orders during the same month last year," Dr. Holcomb said. "In addition, there were several thousand charge orders."

"The Sunday School Board counts it a high honor and a sacred privilege to provide Christian literature for Southern Baptists," Dr. Holcomb added. "Our Board accepts the Bible as the inspired Word of God, and we do our best to make every sentence true to the Bible and helpful in every phase of Christian living."

A number of Sunday School Board publications are ordered by churches outside the Southern Baptist Convention territory.

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## RELIEF COMMITTEE REQUESTS THAT GIFTS BE DESIGNATED

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—(BP)—Baptists who contribute grain, cotton, rice, and other farm products to CROP for relief distribution overseas should designate their gifts to Baptists, according to Dr. R. Paul Caudill, chairman of the Relief Committee of the Baptist World Alliance. The gifts will be turned over to Baptist consignees named by the Relief Committee.

The designated gifts from CROP will be handled in Europe under the direction of Dr. W. O. Lewis, Dr. J. D. Franks, Dr. George Sadler, Dr. Edwin Bell and Rev. Fred Schatz, working under the direction of the Relief Committee. The plan was worked out last summer during Dr. Caudill's tour of the destitute areas of Europe.

The Relief Committee hopes to close its program in the occupied zone of Germany by July, 1950. In the meanwhile, gifts designated through CROP will bring relief to thousands of suffering Baptists in Europe.

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DENOMINATIONAL SCHOOLS MUST COMPARE WITH  
THOSE SUPPORTED BY STATE, SAYS DR. HILL

ABILENE, Tex.—(BP)—Denominational schools must continue to receive voluntary and independent financial support in order to serve the nation, Dr. John L. Hill, former editor of Broadman Press said recently at the dedicatory exercises of Sandefer Memorial building at Hardin-Simmons.

The Sandefer structure is a \$430,000 administration and library building constructed in memory of J. D. Sandefer, for 31 years president of the school.

President D. H. Wiggins of Texas Tech, speaking at the cornerstone laying of the building, said that the building was a symbol for those who believe that freedom is more important than security.

"The struggle for freedom as contrasted with security, is a continuous one," President Wiggins stated.

"Denominational schools must equal state education in subject matter, faculty, building, endowment, activities, and scientific investigation, but they also must put Christ in the center of that education," Dr. Hill stated. "No Baptist boy must apologize for the training he received in a denominational school," he told his audience.

"Some students in state-supported institutions never heard of Christ," the editor said. "The only life that counts is one that is Christ-centered."

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SBC ANNUALS ARE MAILED PASTORS

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—(BP)—The 1949 Southern Baptist Convention Annual has been mailed to every active pastor, ordained state or associational worker, and every Baptist school in the Southern Baptist Convention, according to Dr. Duke K. McCall, executive secretary of the Convention's Executive Committee. By Convention action the Annuals are "made available without charge to all active pastors and denominational agents." They are not for sale, but under certain circumstances may be purchased for \$1.50 a copy.

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**SOUTHERN BAPTISTS ARE INCLUDED  
IN HARPER'S BEST SERMON VOLUME**

NEW YORK—(BP)—Three Southern Baptists are represented in the 1949-50 edition of Best Sermons, published by Harper and Brothers. They are Dr. Duke K. McCall, executive secretary, SBC Executive Committee; Dr. C. Penrose St. Amant, professor of history and theology, New Orleans Seminary; and Dr. Edward Hughes Pruden, pastor, First Baptist Church, Washington, D. C.

Selected along with 49 others from 6,585 sermons submitted to the editors, they represent, according to Chief Editor G. Paul Butler, "the best sermonic efforts of the great preachers of our day." He also says, "All sermons have been selected for their homiletic value and their spiritual message for our time. Inclusion of any sermon in the volume does not mean that the author of that sermon approves or agrees with the contents of the other sermons or with any sermon in that volume."

Dr. McCall writes on "The First Day of the Week," a sermon asking proper reverence for the Lord's Day. He says:

"Thank God, however, there are those who celebrate the Resurrection every Sunday with worship which prepares the mind, and heart, and will to walk the high road of the resurrected life throughout the week. The purpose of the Resurrection of Christ was not to make possible an annual pilgrimage to an empty tomb but to provide fellowship with a living Saviour every step of every day. Something tremendous ought to happen to each of us as we worship this Easter Sunday and on every other Sunday. It will, if we can recover the day from our pagan expectations and habits."

Dr. St. Amant's sermon is "Christian Faith Confronts the Modern Mind." He shows that for every perverse pagan or agnostic idea there is a superior Christian idea. One of his paragraphs reads:

"Let us go on in our thought to say that the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith are the grace of God and the reality of sin. The grace of God, manifested supremely in Jesus Christ, which provides power, wisdom, and forgiveness for man, and the reality of sin, a rebellion of spiritual dimensions that defies the customary psychological explanations: this constitutes the basic intellectual structure of the Christian faith. St. Paul has succinctly defined the spiritual disease which infests man down at the very roots of his being: 'They changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man.' This self-deification; this claim that 'my culture,' 'my class,' or 'my anything else' is ultimate and final is the essence of sin."

Dr. Pruden preaches on "United Nations and Divided Churches." He argues that the world cannot expect unity in peace when the denominations are out of fellowship with each other. He closes his sermon:

"When Jesus offered his prayer for the unity of Christians which is recorded in the seventeenth chapter of John's Gospel, he indicated that the whole triumph of his cause depended upon the answer to that prayer, for having prayed, 'that they may all be one,' he added, 'that the world may believe that Thou didst send me.' If we honestly desire that Christ shall be taken seriously throughout the world, we must acquire the grace and wisdom sufficient for the task of recognizing and translating into action the unity we already possess."