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**Valentine Sees New Day  
On Social Issues In SBC**

NASHVILLE (BP)--A new day has dawned in the Southern Baptist Convention in applying Christianity to the burning social issues of our time, the executive secretary of the SBC Christian Life Commission said here.

In a "State of the Agency" report, Valentine told members of the commission in annual session that 1967 was a significant year in Southern Baptist history in acceptance of the ethical imperatives of the Gospel.

He noted that the approved convention theme for 1967, "A Church Fulfilling Its Mission Through Ministry" had come to life in the denomination as Southern Baptists, more than in any other previous year, had become concerned about ministering to the whole man and the total society.

Valentine cited several specific developments during 1967 in the 11-million member convention which, he said, indicated Southern Baptists were better applying the Gospel to social issues.

He observed that more Baptist churches had "cried for help" from the denomination's social action agency during 1967 than ever before.

Other Southern Baptist Convention agencies and Baptist state conventions have become more involved in dealing with Christian social concerns.

He cited specifically the SBC Home Mission Board and its monthly publication, Home Missions, for "breathing a breath of fresh air" into the denomination on social issues.

He also commended the SBC Brotherhood Commission and the SBC Women's Missionary Union for projecting during 1967 a coordinated program called "Mission Action" aimed at leading local Brotherhood and WMU groups to minister to social needs.

Valentine said that action by the SBC Executive Committee which proposed a \$45,000 increase in the budget for 1969 of the Christian Life Commission was another indication of the new day in applied Christianity in the SBC.

The proposed budget, which must be approved by the Convention in Houston next June, would provide funds for the Christian Life Commission to work with 10 Baptist state conventions in helping to establish state-wide programs of applied Christianity, and funds to work in coordinating on a national scale Baptist influence in alcohol and drug control.

Valentine said the substantial increase in recommended funds was not due to the work of the staff, but due mainly to the change in climate--the new day--in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Valentine warned, however, that unless the Christian Life Commission is allowed to continue to grow substantially, it will not be able to "maintain the cutting edge in the area of Christian social concerns. I fear that we may someday have a fragmented approach with 20 SBC agencies riding off in different directions," he added.

He told the commission that although much progress had been made in the convention in 1967, there remains much to be done. "Our overall prospects, however, are good," he concluded.

SBC Income Increases  
In February By 10.8%

NASHVILLE (BP)--An increase of 10.81 percent in Cooperative Program missions giving by Southern Baptists during the month of February has offset a slack month of missions support in January, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee reported.

The report, called "very encouraging" by Executive Committee officials, revealed an overall average increase for January and February of 5.62 percent in contributions through the SBC Cooperative Program unified budget which supports 20 SBC agencies.

In January, Cooperative Program missions contributions increased only 1.1 percent for the month compared to contributions for January of 1967.

Contributions in February, however, increased the total for the year by \$238,617 or 5.62 percent, bringing total Cooperative Program receipts for the year to \$4,484,228.

Cooperative Program contributions for the month of February alone totalled \$2.2 million, up 10.81 percent over the \$1.9 million contributed in February of 1967. The 10.81 percent increase was enough to bring the average increase for the year up to the 5.62 percent level.

John Williams, financial planning secretary for the SBC Executive Committee who prepared the report, said the report was "very encouraging."

Williams, however, added that it was difficult to make accurate projections on estimated annual income until reports for the first eight months have been compiled.

He added that over the past three years, receipts for January and February combined have amounted to 16.57 percent of the total receipts for the year. Using the \$4.4 million Cooperative Program gifts so far for 1968 and multiplying out by the 16.57 percentage, it would appear that total receipts for the year would exceed \$27 million, if the past pattern holds true.

In addition to the \$4.4 million in Cooperative Program unified budget contributions, an additional \$10 million has been contributed to specific Southern Baptist mission causes, primarily foreign missions, the report indicated.

This brings total missions gifts for the year to \$14½ million, an increase of \$552,925 over 1967 total contributions, or a percentage increase of 3.96 percent.

Designated contributions for the two-month period increased \$314,308 or 3.23 percent over the 1967 designated contributions of \$9.7 million.

Of the \$14½ million total, \$12.1 million has gone to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., and \$1 million has gone to the SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta.

The total amounts reported reflect contributions to support nation-wide Southern Baptist mission efforts, and do not include amounts given to support state and local missions.

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Seminary Prof Awarded  
Fellowship At Harvard

3/5/68

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--M. Pierce Matheney, Jr., professor of Old Testament interpretation and Hebrew at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here, has been awarded a full faculty fellowship by the American Association of Theological Schools to study at Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., next year.

Matheney will study with renowned Harvard professors, George Ernest Wright and Frank Cross, Jr. in his field of specialized study, prophetic writings. His post-doctoral studies will involve research and writing, looking toward a book project.

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Cuban Baptists May Enter  
Crusade of Americas Effort

WASHINGTON (BP)--Baptists in Cuba have indicated through the Baptist World Alliance here that they hope to participate in the Crusade of the Americas "so far as it is possible."

Rubens Lopes, pastor in Sao Paulo, Brazil, reported in The Baptist World, monthly publication of the Baptist World Alliance, that a Baptist missionary in Cuba had written asking for information concerning the Crusade of the Americas.

The letter went to Frank Patterson, director of the Baptist Publishing House in El Paso, Tex., requesting Spanish literature as part of the evangelistic effort. The name of the missionary was not revealed, but it was reported the missionary served in Eastern Cuba.

Southern Baptists have only two missionaries still in Cuba, both in prison and both who served in Western Cuba. Southern Baptist missionaries worked in Western Cuba while American Baptist missionaries worked in Eastern Cuba.

Herbert Caudill, suffering from an eye ailment, is under house arrest in Havana, and his son-in-law, David Fite, is on a prison farm quite some distance from Havana. Both were arrested in 1965, along with about 40 Baptist pastors in Western Cuba, on charges of illegal currency exchange.

The missionary from Eastern Cuba wrote to Patterson: "When I read in the Crusade of the Americas Bulletin that you (Patterson) were responsible for Spanish literature for the crusade, I wanted to ask for some of the material. Perhaps it will reach us, as some of what is sent does.

"In March," continued the letter, "we had a visit from Dr. Fred Bullen, secretary and treasurer of the Baptist Federation of Canada, who informed us about the crusade; and in so far as it is possible, we want to participate in the crusade."

Lopes also wrote in The Baptist World that during a breakfast meeting at the Baptist World Congress in 1965, a Baptist pastor from Cuba in exile in Miami, had predicted that somehow Cuba would be a part of the Crusade of the Americas.

"Bretheren, this crusade is a great cause and a marvelous challenge," the exiled Cuban Baptist pastor reportedly said, "Surely it is of God. Bretheren, I don't know how it will be done, but I believe by 1969 Cuba also will be in the Crusade of the Americas," he said.

Lopes wrote that tears came to the eyes of the Cuban pastor as he spoke, and a hushed silence prevailed as those present "could not help but remember the great Baptist work in Cuba, the sacrifices that had been made, and how that now not more than 90 miles off the coast line of Miami, two missionaries and several pastors were in prison for the sake of the gospel."

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SBC Seminary Collecting  
Books For Vietnam Seminary

3/5/68

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Students and faculty at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary here are donating books to the Saigon Baptist Seminary in Vietnam, a training center for Vietnamese ministers.

The movement at the Southern Baptist seminary here has already more than doubled the number of volumes in the small Vietnam seminary library.

Missionary Sam James of the newly--created Baptist institution in Vietnam said that there was less than 100 books in the library. In only a few weeks, more than 100 additional volumes have been collected by the seminary here.

Attention was called to the Saigon seminary's library needs by Chaplain L. H. Miller (Southern Baptist) serving at Ton Son Nhut Airbase in Saigon.

Chaplain Miller, who knows the value of books, recently had a prize-winning collection of Bibles at the Sacramento State Fair in California, but much of his personal library was destroyed when his chapel in Saigon was hit during a Viet Cong rocket attack at the Ton Son Nhut base.

The seminary in Saigon seeks to provide Vietnamese ministers with theological and biblical background in preparation for ministries to their own people.

Donated books for the seminary are being processed for shipment by the public relations office at Golden Gate Seminary here.

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