

January 6, 1969

PROBLEMS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE
(Sixty-first in a series)

COMMITTED CRITICS

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Many aspects of Southern Baptist life are being reexamined and reevaluated. This re-examination can be healthy. New directions for our work may be established. Creative energies may be released.

The preceding will be true to the degree that the ones who are doing the reexamining are committed to the truth of God and also to our denomination as it serves the purposes of God in the world.

It is possible for one to be critic and not be committed. His criticism may be valid, but his spirit, in most cases, will defeat his purpose. Most of those who are committed to the denomination will refuse to accept his criticism.

There are critics of some aspects of the work of our denomination who are thoroughly committed to the well-being of the denomination. Some of those individuals insist that they are critical because they are committed. They contend that if one is genuinely committed to the work of Southern Baptists he will be critical of any aspect of that work that needs to be changed, improved, or strengthened.

It will be tragic for our churches and our denomination if we refuse to listen to our critics, particularly to those who are committed to the work of Southern Baptists.

It is possible that mistakes are being made in the work of our denomination that will not be corrected because no one calls attention to them. Some people may not speak up because they are afraid of the reactions to what they say.

Some way we must maintain or recover in so far as it has been lost the spirit and atmosphere that will make it possible for us to differ and yet respect one another and maintain fellowship with one another. If we are to have a healthy denomination Baptists must be able to differ in love.

On the other hand, those who see things that need to be corrected should have the courage to speak out. Let such ones be sure, however, that they speak with a sincere desire to help. In other words, it is doubtful if any of us have the right to speak unless we are committed.

Also, if and when we feel compelled to speak let us do it in humility, recognizing that we share some of the responsibility for the conditions we are criticizing. We should never stand aloof from our denomination. Rather, we should identify ourselves with it.

If we identify with our denomination as we should, we will not be vindictive in what we say. We will never get any personal satisfaction out of criticizing our denomination or any agency or institution of our denomination. It will be somewhat comparable to criticizing a member of our family.

It should be our desire that our denomination and its institutions and agencies would be better instruments to serve the purposes of God among men. Our prior loyalty to the work of Christ may mean that we must criticize certain phases of our denomination. But what is best for the kingdom of God ultimately will also be best for the denomination.

Criticism from one who is committed to the work of the Lord as represented by our denomination will always be constructive. It may open wounds but there will be healing for those wounds in its spirit.



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SBC Ends Year \$722,530
Short of Budget Needs

NASHVILLE (BP)--Cooperative Program contributions during the month of December dropped 16 per cent, causing the Southern Baptist Convention to end the year 1968 short of its budget goal of \$26.7 million by \$722,530, an end-of-the-year financial summary here indicated.

The shortage prevented the convention, for the first time since 1962, from distributing all of the allocated funds for capital needs (building construction), but the SBC met and surpassed operating fund needs for the year.

Total world missions contributions, including both the Cooperative Program unified budget and special offerings to specific designated causes, totaled \$47,330,356, an increase of 4.91 per cent or \$2,216,258 over 1967 total world missions gifts.

Cooperative Program gifts were \$25,977,469. Although this was \$722,530 short of the \$26.7 million goal, it was \$807,665 more than was given through the Cooperative Program in 1967, an increase of 3.21 per cent.

"The 3.21 per cent increase in Cooperative Program giving for Southern Baptist Convention causes in 1968 will bring gratitude to the heart of each missionary at home and abroad," said Porter W. Routh of Nashville, executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee which distributes the funds to the SBC agencies. "It will also encourage faculty and students alike in the seminaries."

Routh explained that by convention action, the \$722,530 shortage in capital needs for six SBC agencies would be given priority in 1969 along with the 1969 operating allocations.

It amounts to adding \$722,530 to the 1969 operating budget, making a revised 1969 goal of \$28,083,549. Previously, the 1969 budget goal was \$27,361,019. The procedure for handling such situations was approved by the convention when the budget was adopted.

Routh further explained that the Cooperative Program gifts in 1968 did not make possible any "advance funds," that is, funds in excess of the budget goal which would go to home and foreign missions.

In years prior to 1968, the convention usually set its budget goal lower than anticipated receipts, with all in excess of the budget (the "advance section") going to foreign and home missions. This procedure was changed in 1968.

Instead, the convention set its budget goal at the maximum increase anticipated--with the expectation that there would be little or no advance funds, enabling more to go to the SBC seminaries which made a strong plea for more funds, SBC officials said.

The anticipated 4½ per cent increase was considerably more than the 3.21 per cent increase actually received, pointed out John H. Williams, financial planning secretary for the SBC Executive Committee.

Williams said the main reason for the failure to meet the goal was a bad month in December, with 18 of the 30 states in the SBC reporting decreases in giving. Some of the states were the larger conventions.

With total Cooperative Program gifts of \$1,928,841 in December, it marked the only month of 1968 when less than \$2 million was received for SBC Cooperative Program causes.

Routh expressed hope that world missions concern and contributions will increase in 1969 in proportion to the needs.

"There will have to be a significant increase in 1969 if the convention is able to pay anything on the 1969 capital funds allocation," said Routh. "It would take an unusual increase to make possible any advance funds in 1969."

The six SBC agencies in the capital needs section for 1968 received an average of 67 per cent of their capital needs, Williams reported. The six agencies are the SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth; Southern Baptist Hospitals, New Orleans and Jacksonville, Fla.; the American Seminary Commission, Nashville; and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington, D. C.

Nineteen agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention received operating funds through the Cooperative Program unified budget plan. Only six received capital funds.

The SBC Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, received the biggest portion of the total world missions gifts, both in Cooperative Program allocations and designated gifts. During 1968, foreign missions received \$29,217,748.

The SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta, received \$10,338,331, and the six seminaries owned and operated by the SBC received a total of \$4,890,322.

Designated gifts for the year to all SBC causes totaled \$21,352,887, an increase of \$1,408,593 over 1967 designations, or 7.06 per cent.

The end-of-the-year report includes only funds contributed to Southern Baptist Convention causes, and does not reflect funds given to local and state Baptist missions.

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Noted Baptist Historian
Killed In Auto Accident

(1-6-69)

OREGON CITY, Ore. (BP)--Kenneth Scott Latourette, noted Baptist historian and retired professor at Yale University, died of injuries received here when he was hit by an automobile while crossing the street at night.

Latourette, 84, was considered the "dean" of church historians in the United States. An American Baptist, his life and far-reaching contributions were praised by the secretary of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission, Davis C. Woolley of Nashville, on learning of his death.

"Dr. Latourette stood tall in the field of church history and missions," Woolley said, "It is remarkable how far reaching his ministry has been. I once asked him how many books he had written, and in all modesty, he replied, 'Oh, I don't know. I quit counting many years ago.'"

Retired since 1953, Latourette was Emeritus Sterling Professor of Missions and Oriental History at Yale University, having taught there since 1921. He was also professor of missions and chairman of the religion department during this time.

Latourette was visiting friends and relatives in his hometown here during the Christmas holidays when the accident occurred.

Two Southern Baptist colleges were among the many which had awarded him honorary degrees--Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo. He had three earned degrees from Yale, and a total of 14 honorary degrees.

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Florida Church Names
Father, Son Co-Pastors

(1-6-69)

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)--The First Baptist Church here, in an unusual move, has called the son of its current pastor to serve with his father as co-pastor.

Both father and son bear the same name--Homer G. Lindsay (Sr. and Jr.).

The father has been pastor of the 3,500-member church for the past 28 years. In announcing the call of his son as co-pastor, Lindsay, 65, said that Homer G. Lindsay Jr. would "equally share the leadership and burden with his father."

Lindsay, Jr., 41, has been pastor of the Northwest Baptist Church, Miami, for the past 16 years. Three years ago, the church led the Southern Baptist Convention in the number of baptisms for the year. He has been pastor of the congregation since it was constituted as a church.

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The younger Lindsay was a member of the Jacksonville church from the time his father became pastor when he was 13 years of age, until going to William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., and later to Stetson University, DeLand, Fla.

Both father and son are graduates of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

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SBC Contributes \$83,682
To Crusade Central Office

SAO PAULO, Brazil (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention contributed \$83,682 out of a total of \$90,340 received by the Crusade of the Americas central office here during 1968.

The total contributions, indicating amounts from each of the 42 Baptist conventions in 33 countries participating in the hemisphere-wide evangelistic effort, were released here by Henry Earl Peacock, general coordinator of the Crusade of the Americas and a Southern Baptist missionary in Brazil.

Sixteen of the 42 conventions did not contribute financially to the Crusade of the Americas during 1968, the report indicated.

The Southern Baptist Convention contributed 90.6 per cent of the total. Brazil was next in total contributions with \$1,326 and the Evangelical Baptist Convention of Argentina was third with \$1,142. All the remaining contributions were less than \$1,000.

Eight Baptist conventions in North America were included in the report. Contributions listed were: General Association of General Baptists, \$500; North American Baptist General Conference, \$830; Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society, \$80; and SBC, \$83,682.

North American Baptist Conventions listed on the report with no contributions were: Baptist General Conference, National Baptist Convention of America; National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.; and Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. The American Baptist Convention was not included on the list since it is not a participating national Baptist body.

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