



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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January 5, 1970

SBC World Mission Gifts Top \$50 Million, But Miss Budget

NASHVILLE (BP)--For the first time in history, Southern Baptists passed the \$50 million mark in gifts to world mission causes through the denomination's Cooperative Program and through designated offerings to SBC mission causes.

Despite the record gifts, the denomination fell short of its overall Cooperative Program budget goal by \$932,926.

Gifts through the Cooperative Program unified budget totalled \$27,925,302 for the year--enough to pay in full the 1970 SBC operating budget goal, the balance of \$650,000 due on 1969 capital needs, plus \$117,074 on 1970 capital needs. A total of \$28,858,119 would have been needed to meet the overall goal.

The 1970 total budget goal included \$27,158,119 for operating funds of the 19 SBC agencies receiving Cooperative Program funds; \$650,000 in capital needs to finance building programs approved for 1969 but not distributed that year; plus \$1,050,000 in 1970 capital needs.

Under a clause in the 1971 SBC Cooperative Program budget adopted by the convention in Denver last June, any 1970 capital needs funds not distributed in 1970 will automatically be added on to the 1971 goal as a second priority to 1971 operating budget distributions. Another clause indicated that if 1970 receipts did not meet expectations, the SBC Executive Committee might revise downward the 1971 budget goal.

In its September meeting, the Executive Committee voted to delay until its February, 1971, meeting consideration of whether or not to revise the 1971 budget distributions after SBC seminary presidents had urged a delay in any decision. The implication was that if receipts for 1970 were down, the budget goal for 1971 might have to be revised in February.

The final tally indicated that Cooperative Program contributions for 1970 increased 1.79 per cent over 1969 gifts--a dollar increase of \$491,862.

John Williams, financial planning secretary for the SBC Executive Committee, said that the increase was even less than expected because of a "bad December" in Cooperative Program giving.

During the month of December, Cooperative Program gifts were nearly six per cent less than December of 1969. During the last month of 1970, Cooperative Program contributions were \$2,041,985 compared to \$2,171,888 in December of 1969, a decrease of \$129,903.

Porter W. Routh, executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee, said that all Baptists should rejoice that the total mission gifts have gone over the \$50 million mark for the first time.

"The disturbing fact is," Routh continued, "that we finished 1970 still owing \$932,726 on 1970 capital funds approved by the convention."

Routh said that statistical projections indicate that if 1971 gifts increase at the same rate as 1970 contributions, the SBC "will complete 1971 with a \$2 million deficit in capital funds, a \$722,000 deficit in total operating funds, and even a \$191,000 deficit in the 7.32 per cent safety valve voted by the convention."

"A great new concern and surge in Cooperative Program gifts will be needed in 1971 to avoid these deficits and make possible continued growth in missions and education," Routh said.

While Cooperative Program gifts during 1971 increased nearly half-a-million dollars over 1969 contributions, gifts to designated causes during the year stayed at virtually the same level as 1969 designations--up only .03 per cent.

Designated gifts for 1970 were \$22,305,174 compared to \$22,297,719 in 1969, an increase of \$7,455.

Of the \$50 million in total gifts, more than \$41 million went to support Southern Baptist home and foreign mission efforts.

During 1970, the SBC Foreign Mission Board received a total of \$30.8 million, including \$14.1 million through the Cooperative Program \$16.7 million in designated offerings, most of it through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

The SBC Home Mission Board received \$10.8 million during the year, with almost equal amounts--\$5.4 million--coming from the Cooperative Program and designated offerings.

The total amount reflected in the report from the SBC Executive Committee included only funds given to support national and worldwide SBC mission causes, and did not include amounts given to local and state mission efforts by Southern Baptists.

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Home Mission Board Appoints
Three As Career Missionaries

1/5/71

ATLANTA (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board here approved the appointment of a married couple as missionaries, and upgraded an associate missionary of several years to career missionary status.

Mr. and Mrs. Alton Harpe were appointed directors of student work at the United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y. Fermin Whittaker, a pastor for six years, was promoted to career missionary.

The Harpes are student work veterans having served at the University of Miami for four years and Florida State University six years. Harpe, a native of Columbus, Ga., attended the University of Georgia, Columbus Branch, and graduated from Howard College (now Samford University) Birmingham, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Mrs. Harpe is a native of Phenix City, Ala. She was employed for several years by Southern Bell Telephone Company and has recently been Forward Program secretary at First Baptist Church, Tallahassee, Fla.

Whittaker is a native of Colon, Republic of Panama. In his seventh year as pastor of Primera Iglesia Bautista Del Sur (First Southern Baptist Church), Pico Rivera, Calif., he was previously lecturer in Spanish at the Toronto Baptist Seminary, Toronto, Canada and pastor of Churchill Baptist Church, Palgrave, Ontario.

A graduate of Toronto Baptist Seminary he also holds a bachelor of arts degree from California Baptist College, Riverside, Calif. Whittaker has been a missionary associate since 1969.

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January 5, 1970

Viet Cong Terror Provides
Opportunity For Ministry

DALAT, South Vietnam (BP)--A stunned and grieving father stood limply against a counter in his friend's small shop and received a few dollars of relief money from a Southern Baptist missionary.

Across the street another stood on the floor of what used to be his home and shop. He received the promise of a new electric sewing machine.

The homes of both were destroyed by Viet Cong less than a week before. The first man, Phan Huu Thuc, lost five of his six children in the blast which left only rubble of his house and damaged several nearby buildings, including the reading room maintained by Baptists. His injured wife was in a hospital.

The wife of the second, Thian Nhu Anh, was also in a hospital. Five persons were wounded by the mortar which destroyed his tailor shop and house.

An adult member of another family was killed and several additional persons were injured in the same foray.

This was the second recent attack on Trai Mat, village of 3,000 on the outskirts of Dalat, a resort city of 82,000 in the mountains of central South Vietnam.

When the second attack came on Trai Mat, Samuel F. Longbottom Jr., Southern Baptist missionary and evangelism adviser in the area, had about \$200 in relief money on hand, so he took part of it to the stricken father.

He was accompanied by Doan Xuan Huy, Dalat policeman and Baptist lay preacher, H. Earl Bengs, Jr., missionary studying the Vietnamese language (Southern Baptist missionaries to Vietnam study language in Dalat), and Walter A. Routh Jr., missionary in the Camranh Bay area.

The small English-speaking congregation in Dalat, made up mostly of Southern Baptist missionaries and their children, gave money for the sewing machine for Anh. He lost two machines in the explosion.

Missionary Longbottom is known to the people of Trai Mat, for he goes there often to preach on the street corner near the destroyed home. He helped Dalat Baptists open the reading room one block away.

The walls of the building in which the room is located are cracked from top to bottom. It is not likely that it can reopen in its present location.

That evening at a missionary fellowship in his home, Longbottom appeared tormented by the plight of the people of Trai Mat. The next day he went back to check on the injured.

There is no Christian church of any kind in Trai Mat. A large Cao Dai temple stands on a nearby hill. (Cao Dai, a curious blend of religion and politics, came out of orthodox Buddhism.)

The people of Trai Mat are not Christians, and they and others in the Dalat area are harder to reach with the gospel than the uprooted refugees of some areas of South Vietnam.

The contrast seemed obvious, however, between the kind-eyed missionaries who come with a little wad of money for necessities or to check on injured relatives or friends, and the Viet Cong--who destroy their homes, kill their babies, and kidnap their teenage boys for guerrilla warfare.

The relief money which Longbottom had as station chairman for the missionaries of Dalat was part of \$20,000 which Southern Baptists have made available since 1963 for the relief of suffering in South Vietnam. Most of the money has been used.

The small, isolated incident of relief at Trai Mat is part of the social work ministries of Vietnamese Baptists and Southern Baptist missionaries as they attempt, in the midst of a complex and devastating war, to express their Christian love for the bereaved, homeless, orphaned, maimed, displaced, and hungry people of South Vietnam.

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Vietnamese Baptists and missionaries want to develop a strategy for continuing Christian social ministries, but to do so they must have someone trained in social work to help them in the planning and execution of such a program.

The Vietnam Baptist Mission, the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries, has asked the Foreign Mission Board to appoint a social worker for career missionary service.

The need is so urgent that they are requesting the board to send such a specialist for one or two years to help the missionaries, in English while the career missionary is in language school.

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1600 Attend Largest Baptist
Youth Conference In Illinois

1/5/70

115

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (BP)--More than 1,600 teenagers and adult counselors attended the Youth Evangelism Conference here sponsored by Illinois Baptists, making it the largest youth meeting ever held by Baptists in the state.

James A. Ponder, evangelism secretary for the state convention who was director for the conference, said the attendance exceeded the convention's annual evangelism conference, which usually attracts the largest crowds in the convention.

The weekend meeting put strong emphasis on music and testimonies of youth, with several Christian folk musical presentations. One of the major musical groups participating was a trio from Louisiana College, Pineville, La., called "We Three Kings."

Major speaker was Ron Hutchcraft, director of Chicagoland Youth For Christ, who told the youth that the traditional methods and old cliches of evangelism would not work in youth evangelism today.

A former Miss Illinois, Suzanne Johnson of Wilmette, Ill., sang and spoke to the crowd. She had just returned from entertaining 50,000 servicemen in Vietnam, traveling to the battlefields with Oswald Hoffman, speaker for the Lutheran Hour.

It was the second youth evangelism conference held by Illinois Baptists. Attendance this year doubled from the previous year's 800 persons.

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Baptist-Jewish Dialogue
Featured On NBC Radio

1/5/70

112

FORT WORTH (BP)--Conversations between Baptist and Jewish leaders will be featured during the four January "Faith In Action" radio programs carried each Sunday by the National Broadcasting Co.

In the first of the Sunday NBC network programs, Joseph R. Estes of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's department of work with non-evangelicals and Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee discuss the Jewish-Baptist Scholars Conference held in Louisville last August.

The last three programs revolve around the final session of the conference, which related to "religion and social responsibility." They consist of excerpts from speeches made at the conference, as well as introductions and discussions by Estes and Rabbi Tanenbaum.

The series, a cooperative production of NBC and the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission here reflects progress made at the conference by representatives of the two religious groups, both with strong moral beliefs, toward agreement on areas in which they can work together.

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