

July 10, 1950

127 Ninth Avenue, North

Nashville, Tennessee

**MORE THAN HALF OF SOUTHWESTERN CHURCHES
GIVE LESS THAN TEN PER CENT TO MISSIONS**

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--An analysis of the 7,110 Southern Baptist churches in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas, revealed that over half give less than ten per cent of their total gifts to missions. Only one out of 100 churches give more than 50 per cent. The survey was made by Porter Routh, secretary of the Department of Survey, Statistics and Information. A complete breakdown of the study is as follows:

Churches and State	Nothing or Less Than		10 -20%		20 -30%		30 - 40%		40 - 50%		More Than 50 %	
	10 %											
Tex. (3,145)	1,693	49.1%	1,134	32.9%	436	12.7%	113	3.3%	29	0.8%	40	1.2%
La. (1,019)	552	54.2%	340	33.4%	84	8.2%	24	2.3%	14	1.4%	5	0.5%
Miss. (1,627)	920	56.6%	435	26.7%	169	10.4%	67	4.1%	25	1.5%	11	0.7%
Ark. (1,019)	523	51.3%	296	29.0%	127	12.5%	36	3.5%	20	2.0%	17	1.7%
Total (7,110)	3,688	51.9%	2,205	31.0%	816	11.5%	240	3.4%	88	1.2%	73	1.0%

---30---

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GIFTS

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--With half the year gone, Southern Baptist Cooperative Program funds stand \$383,645.04 or 12.16 per cent above the six-month mark of 1949. SBC designations are ahead only \$45,065.28 or 1.67 per cent. Total contributions are ahead \$428,710.97 or 7.33 per cent.

The picture is as follows:

	<u>Cooperative Program</u>	<u>Designated</u>	<u>Total</u>
1950 to date	3,537,726.65	2,738,884.08	6,276,610.73
1949 to date	<u>3,154,081.01</u>	<u>2,693,818.80</u>	<u>5,847,899.81</u>
	383,645.04	45,065.28	428,710.92

This information was released this week by Dr. Duke K. McCall, executive secretary-treasurer of the Executive Committee.

The following table shows that two states are behind 1949 contributions to the Cooperative Program and twelve states behind in designations:

(more)

SBC CHURCH IN PHILIPPINES

RICHMOND, Virginia--(BP)--Southern Baptists have a new church in the Philippines, their first. It is a Chinese congregation located at Baguio. Dr. Winston Crawley is pastor.

---30---

BAPTISMAL WINDOW IN RICHMOND CHURCH

RICHMOND, Virginia--(BP)--The baptistry of the First Church, Richmond, is conventionally located just above and behind the pulpit in view of the entire congregation. It is one of the few baptistries in the Southern Baptist Convention emphasizing the baptismal mode of immersion by using stained glass and back lighting.

Prepared by Payne Spiers Studio of Paterson, New Jersey, the work shows John the Baptist as he baptised Jesus in the Jordan river. A booklet describing the scene says:

"Baptists through the years have practiced only 'believers baptism.' We baptise only those who have accepted Christ as Savior and Lord. On confession of their faith in Him they are 'buried with Christ in baptism and rise to walk with Him in newness of life.' We are part of a great world fellowship of those who have found in this beautiful ordinance a symbol of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. It is to us a token of our entrance into the fellowship of the church and our oneness with those who through the years have thus borne witness of their faith."

The Baptismal scene is one of a series of 16 stained glass windows portraying the life of Jesus. Ten of the windows are in two parts, the upper part showing some event in the life of Jesus and the lower part showing the relationship of that event to modern life. For instance, the Nativity of Christ picturing the coming of the wise men to the infant Jesus has as its counterpart, children and young people placing flowers, toys and books into the hands of Jesus. The dedication of Jesus in the temple has as its counterpart, a scene of two families going into a church.

Dr. Theodore F. Adams is pastor of the church. He personally supervised the designing of most of the windows.

---30---