

BAPTIST PRESS
Albert McClellan, Director of Publications
Southern Baptist Convention
Executive Committee
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SOUTHERN BAPTIST MISSIONARY
ARRESTED BY CHINESE COMMUNISTS

RICHMOND, Va.--(BP)--Dr. William L. Wallace, Southern Baptist Missionary in Wuchow, China and head of the Stout Memorial Hospital, was arrested December 19, on charges of spying, according to Dr. M. Theron Rankin, Foreign Mission Board. He had not been released Christmas Day, when latest word was received.

Dr. Wallace's arrest leaves one missionary in Wuchow, Miss Everley Hayes. Wallace, who is unmarried, has been in China about 15 years and is greatly loved by the Chinese.

Sixteen missionaries now remain in China, Dr. Rankin said. Six of them are preparing to leave the country. The other ten have been asked by Dr. Baker James Cauthen, secretary for the Orient, who is now in Hong Kong, to reconsider their earlier decisions to stay.

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1950 SBC MISSION GIFTS
HIGHEST IN HISTORY

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--Southern Baptists gave more to Southern Convention causes in 1950 than ever before, according to Dr. Duke K. McCall, treasurer, Southern Baptist Convention and executive secretary of the Executive Committee. Total gifts came to \$10,614,719, or twelve per cent higher than the \$9,471,777 given in 1949 and three and one-half per cent higher than the \$10,259,995 given in 1946, highest previous year.

Designated gifts amounted to \$3,267,175 and were only four per cent above the 1949 figure of \$3,140,806. But Cooperative Program (the convention's undesignated mission funds) were up sixteen per cent to \$7,347,544 from \$6,330,971 in 1949.

The Cooperative Program fund was divided: ^{675,044} \$671,826 to Foreign Missions Advance, \$172,500 to the Convention's operating budget, \$4,000,000 to current needs and \$2,500,000 to capital needs.

The total \$10,614,719, which includes both the designated and Cooperative Program funds, was distributed as follows:

Foreign Mission Board	5,420,308.42
Home Mission Board	1,846,789.01
Relief & Annuity Board	966,186.20
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary	662,599.00
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary	595,246.92
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary	593,456.14
Southern Baptist Convention Budget Fund	172,500.00
American Baptist Theological Seminary	112,836.41
Radio Commission	107,344.57
Baptist Brotherhood	48,952.63
WMU (Training School & Designations)	43,821.63
Southern Baptist Hospital	32,344.58
Miscellaneous	12,333.64
TOTAL	10,614,719.15

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SURVEY SHOWS
GOOD COVERAGE

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--A recent survey showed that in a two-weeks period the Nashville Banner, evening paper, had carried 182 inches of Baptist material with four pictures. The Tennessean, morning paper, carried 83 inches, a total of 265 inches for the 14 day period.

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ILLINOIS SETS GOAL
FOR QUARTER MILLION

CARBONDALE, Ill.--(BP)--Illinois Baptists have adopted a 1951 Cooperative Program goal of \$255,000, according to Dr. Noel M. Taylor, executive secretary. Receipts in 1950 reached around \$250,000 or 20,000 more than the goal set for the year. Fiscal year for the Illinois Baptists runs with the calendar year.

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SAN FRANCISCO
SBC THEME SET

NEW ORLEANS, La.--(BP)--Theme for the 1951 Southern Baptist San Francisco Convention will be "The Whole Gospel for the Whole World." The statement, according to Dr. J. D. Grey, chairman, Committee on Order of Business, was an oft-expressed sentiment of the late Dr. George W. Truett. Emphases for the program scheduled to be released March first will be (1) doctrinal (2) missionary advance and (3) stewardship enlargement. The Convention will meet in San Francisco, June 20-24, 1951.

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REQUESTS LETTERS
FROM SOUTHERNERS

NEW YORK, N. Y.--(BP)--"There are a half million Southerners in New York City and half of those who belong to any church are Baptist," declared Rev. John Summerfield Wimbish, pastor New York's large Calvary Baptist Church, recently. "Most of them are unattached. New York is so big it takes them years to find a church home. Some of them never do. Calvary Baptist Church could help if only we knew their addresses."

Rev. Wimbish invites any persons in the South who have Baptist relatives in New York to write him, John Summerfield Wimbish, Calvary Baptist Church, 123 West 57th Street, New York 19, New York.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Duke K. McCall (Nashville, Tenn.) and Dr. W. A. Criswell (Dallas, Texas) have recently returned from a special mission to various existing and prospective Southern Baptist mission fields of the world. Following is one of Dr. McCall's reports from Kokura, Japan.

TALE OF THREE CITIES

By
Duke K. McCall
Executive Secretary
Southern Baptist Convention
Executive Committee

The atom bomb made two cities famous. The third city rejoices to be unknown. It is Kokura, Japan, where the second atom bomb was supposed to have been delivered.

That day in August, 1946, many a housewife in Kokura grumbled about the grey, cloudy skies because she could not hang out her washing. Above her a bombardier, Paul W. Tibbetts, Jr., saw the same cloud as a blanket of white and grumbled because he could not lay his atomic egg on the No. 1 target.

I have just talked to some of those housewives. They were lucky.

Down at Nagasaki the day was pretty. If the people had known they were the alternate target for Kokura, they would have prayed for a cloud. A grimy cloud made of Nashville smoke would have been a blessing that day.

Still Nagasaki was luckier than Hiroshima. Despite the propaganda reports, the second bomb was not as destructive as the first. People in Hiroshima never had to push their loaded bicycles up steep hills. They had thought that was a blessing, but they were wrong. A big hill borrowed from Nagasaki would have saved many from the atom bomb blast.

The first atom bomb pushed in the roof of the Chamber of Commerce Building directly below the explosion and knocked down the walls of all the rest of the town. That day the Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Virginia, appropriated \$10,000 for a church building in Hiroshima. America made Hiroshima the headlines in the news of the worst man-made disaster of the world. Other Americans prepared to send the city the best news God ever made.

I have just preached that good news of Jesus Christ there. In one service 189 survivors of "the bomb" wrote out their confession of faith in Jesus as the way of life. They arose and one at a time walked to the pulpit to give the preacher their cards.

I tried to keep my eyes from focusing on their ugly scars. Some of the women have arranged their hair to cover the side of their face which was toward the bomb blast. I looked instead for the tears and smiles in their eyes which gave evidence of a new experience in their hearts.

There is also a church at Kokura despite the fact that American churches have hardly noticed that city since the war. A bomb started it. It was a very small fire bomb.

Mr. Kasa, executive of the steel mill at Kokura which the second atom bomb was supposed to destroy, got embarrassed when I asked him about the church in his beautiful home. Early in 1945 an air raid frightened him and his family out in the rain to a bomb shelter. When the raid was over they stopped praying and returned to the house.

Dripping water sent Mr. Kasa to the attic to inspect his roof. There he found a smoldering fire bomb not yet exploded. Gingerly he carried it away from the house.

As he thought over his prayers and the unexploded bomb he said, "God saved my house so I will give it to him." When Christian missionaries returned to Japan after the war, they found a church in his house.

A dud fire bomb and a cloudy day that sent the second atom bomb on to Nagasaki are part of the history of the strong church at Kokura.

Three hundred years ago the 26 Christians in Nagasaki were crucified on bamboo crosses. Before that they were herded about the country for six months as a warning to other people against Christianity. The ears of some had been cut off. Others had been mutilated in various ways.

In the group were two boys about eleven and fourteen years old. The executioner offered the two boys their freedom if they would only step on a picture of Jesus Christ. The younger boy rushed forward not to step on the picture but to fall on his knees before his bamboo cross. He wept, "Jesus was crucified for us. I will be crucified for him."

(more)

The people of Nagasaki forgot that story. Only a few remembered it to point out to curious tourists the hill near the center of town on which the crosses were erected.

When the atom bomb landed on Nagasaki it fell just beyond that hill. Down the valley the homes and factories were turned to rubbish. The blast struck the hillside and bounced over the center of the city. Suddenly the story of the crucified Christians was being passed from lip to lip. It always ended, "The Christians saved our city."

Whatever you may think about that explanation, the faithful witness of an eleven-year-old Christian who died 300 years ago is winning converts to Christ in Japan today.

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NOTE TO EDITOR

Thursday, P. M.
1/11/51

Dear Editor:

A telephone call to Dr. M. Theron Rankin on Thursday afternoon revealed:

(1) No news on Hong Kong. Dr. Rankin had been trying to get a telephone call through to Baker James Cauthen since Wednesday. He hoped to get it completed Thursday night. He will call ~~me~~ Friday morning if the call is successful. There are fifteen Southern Baptist Convention missionaries and dependents in Hong Kong including two Cauthen children. It was Rankin's opinion that the government's request for evacuation was a blanket precaution. I will send you a BP on this item Friday if Rankin gets through.

(2) No further news from inside China or from the fringe countries. Cauthen has confirmed Wallace's arrest on charges of spying. He had not been released at the last word from Cauthen.

URGENT: Keep me abreast with Baptist developments in your state, as you will and can.

Sincerely yours,

ALBERT McCLELLAN

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DESIGNATED GIFTS
DECLINE IN 1950

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--Designated gifts to Southern Baptist Convention causes actually declined in 1950, it was revealed this week in a study made by Dr. Duke K. McCall, convention treasurer and secretary of the Executive Committee. Designated gifts declined in spite of a million dollar gain in undesignated giving.

Dr. McCall said, "For the first time in my experience designated receipts of the SBC Executive Committee declined in 1950 from the 1949 receipts. The designated gifts are simply channeled through the Executive Committee to the agency specified by the donor. While no effort is ever made to counteract gifts, it is recognized that designations indicate that the donor fears that the Cooperative Program is not adequately taking care of the agency in which he is specifically interested. Thus it is that a decline in designations, coupled with the largest increase in Cooperative Program receipts ever experienced, can only mean that Southern Baptists believe that the Cooperative Program is actually making adequate, proportionate provision for each agency.

"In 1949 and before," McCall observed, "the state conventions of Maryland and Virginia sent their designated gifts direct to the SBC agency. Not counting the 1950 designated receipts from these two states, the SBC Executive Committee handled in 1950 a total of \$3,138,675 as against 1949 designated receipts of \$3,140,806.

"The reduction of designated gifts between 1949 and 1950 is only \$2,131. But it is headed in the right direction when compared with the increase of Cooperative Program receipts during the same period in the amount of \$1,016,573."

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J. E. SKINNER
COMMEMORATED

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--Dr. J. E. Skinner, father of R. T. Skinner, editor, Western Recorder, was truly a great man, declared Dr. O. W. Taylor in a paper written commemorating the pioneer preacher who passed away in Murray, Ky., on December 6.

"The very first picture of Brother Skinner," writes Dr. Taylor, "in my list of memories is of him in a funeral service at which he spoke in a cemetery near my boyhood home. He spoke fluently and feelingly as he sought to comfort the parents who had lost their beautiful Christian daughter. I can still see the tears running down each cheek as he voiced his heart. J. E. Skinner's heart was always filled with deep and feeling sympathy for humanity.

"The latter part of September," Taylor continues, "as my wife and I were passing through Murray we stopped to visit Brother Skinner a while. There was an open Bible on the bed where he had been resting. An open Bible conceived as God's inspired and infallible word proclaimed to men was the keynote of his ministry. Age had taken its toll, but we found him remarkably active and energetic for his eighty-two years. He was cheerful and keenly interested in the affairs of the kingdom. Always in his ministry he was a deeply interested, informed, loyal and cooperative Baptist. And, as in other years, his fundamental and governing gaze was, to use Bunyan's expression, 'beyond the River that has no Bridge,' As we left we felt that a benediction rested upon us.

"And now, my friend has crossed that 'River that has no Bridge.' He was at home when I last saw him. Today he is at Home in the true and deep and heavenly sense, and there I expect to see him again."

Dr. Skinner's passing typifies the going of a whole generation of preachers who received their religious impressions in a childhood lived in the grim intense days of the reconstruction period following the War Between the States.

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DR. JOHN D. FREEMAN
TO TEACH IN FLORIDA

LAKELAND, Fla.--(BP)--Dr. John D. Freeman, former editor Kentucky's Western Recorder and state secretary for Tennessee Baptists, joins the Baptist Bible Institute faculty here to head a department in rural church work. Dr. Freeman will teach courses in rural life. He will also have time for writing books and conducting conferences on this vital subject.

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HOUSTON FIRST CHURCH WMU
GIVES \$15,500 TO LOTTIE MOON

HOUSTON, Tex.--(BP)--The WMU of First Baptist Church, Houston, raised more than \$15,500 for the Lottie Moon Christmas offering and cooperated with the church in a missionary conference that brought before the congregation eight missionaries and three other mission leaders. The program was built around the WMU week of prayer and embraced eight days, December 3-10. Mrs. J. J. Tinsley is president of the WMU and Dr. W. Boyd Hunt the pastor.

Director of the conference was Dr. Frank K. Means of the Foreign Mission Board. He was assisted by Mrs. Means and Fon Scofield, visual aids expert of the Board. The missionary speakers were Coleman Clarke, Japan; Finlay Graham, Lebanon; Dorine Hawkins, Brazil; Minnie Landrum, Brazil; Mrs. John Mein, Brazil; B. L. Nichols, China; and Mr. and Mrs. John Mills, Nigeria.

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BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD
PUBLISHES 55 MILLION PIECES

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--The Baptist Sunday School Board published nearly 55 million pieces of literature in 1950, according to a report from Noble Van Ness, production manager of the Board. Included were 43,668,750 periodicals, 8,405,000 tracts, 498,670 new books, 1,808,919 reprints of old books and 603,418 record books, giving a grand total of 54,984,757.

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FOURTH GENERATION
HOLCOMB BAPTIZED

PURVIS, Miss.--(BP)--Eight-year-old Henry Holcomb was baptized by his father, the Rev. Luther Holcomb, recently in the Lakewood Baptist Church here.

The father of the Lakewood pastor, Dr. T. L. Holcomb of Nashville, Tenn., stood outside the baptistry and read from the Bible.

For these two the event will refresh memories of similar baptisms years ago.

The elder Holcomb was baptized at 15 years by his father, W. B. Holcomb in a creek near Purvis, Miss.

In 1921, T. L. Holcomb, then pastor of the First Baptist Church at Sherman, baptized then 11-year-old Luther Holcomb.

T. L. Holcomb is now executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention Sunday School Board.

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611 RESIDENT PASTORS
REPORTED IN OKLAHOMA

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla.--(BP)--Oklahoma now has 1,112 churches with 879 conducting full-time services and 611 having pastors on the field, according to information released here this week by Porter Routh, secretary, Department of Survey, Statistics and Information of the Baptist Sunday School Board. Nine Hundred forty two of the churches have pastors. There are only 156 half-time and 71 quarter-time churches in the state. Only four churches reported no services.

Total membership for 1950 stands at 340,660 or 5.2 per cent higher than the 323,839 figure of 1949. There were 20,051 baptisms in 1950 as compared with 17,517 in 1949, a gain of 14.4 per cent.

Church indebtedness stands at \$3,394,130, thought to be mostly for buildings. Property valuation is up for 1950 to \$30,466,916 or twenty per cent higher than the \$25,356,302 level for 1949.

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TEXAS TO BUILD MILLION
DOLLAR HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

DALLAS, Tex.--(BP)--Construction of a new million dollar Baptist headquarters building is under way here. Located in downtown Dallas, close to the First Baptist Church, it will provide offices for three Baptist agencies, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, the Southern Baptist Relief and Annuity Board, and the Baptist Foundation of Texas.

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HISTORICAL MATERIALS
TO BE MOVED LATER

LOUISVILLE, Ky.--(BP)--Southern Baptist historical materials will remain in the seminary library at Louisville until the historical library is completed in the Baptist Sunday School Board's new nine story addition to its Ninth Street property in Nashville, according to an announcement by Dr. W. O. Carver, president of the Society.

Dr. Carver also said that Dr. Norman W. Cox, the new executive secretary of the Society, will begin work February 15, with offices in Nashville. The materials will be moved later under the direction of Dr. Cox and Dr. Carver.

Dr. H. I. Hester, Liberty, Mo., is the secretary-treasurer of the Society and will serve at least until the annual meeting of the Board of Directors in August.

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