



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Billy Keith, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lynn M. Davis, Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203, Telephone (615) 254-1631
RICHMOND Jesse C. Fletcher, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (703) 353-0151
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

August 4, 1971

**SBC Mission Gifts Jump
13.8 Per Cent in July**

NASHVILLE (BP)--Total mission gifts to Southern Baptist Convention causes during the month of July increased 13.8 per cent, with the highest rate of giving for any July in Southern Baptist history, SBC officials said here.

The big month of giving in July brought combined contributions through the denomination's Cooperative Program unified budget and to specific designated causes for the first seven months of 1971 to an increase of 6.47 per cent over 1970 contributions.

Total Cooperative Program and designated gifts for the year passed the \$40 million mark by the end of July. The total was \$40,074,153, compared to \$37,638,052 in 1970, an increase of \$2.4 million or 6.47 per cent.

Cooperative Program contributions for the year exceeded 1970 gifts by \$1 million, with \$17.7 million given through the unified budget during the seven-month period. It was an increase of an even six per cent.

Designated gifts were up \$1.4 million, or 6.85 per cent to a total of \$22.3 million.

For the month of July, Cooperative Program receipts increased 9.03 per cent for a record \$2,639,022 given during July. Though the amount is a record for any July during SBC history, it falls short of the record \$2.9 given last January.

An even greater increase was reported in designated giving for July. Designated contributions increased 43.11 per cent over designations for July of 1970. Designated gifts for the month totalled \$564,876, compared to \$394,719 in July, 1970.

John H. Williams, financial planning secretary for the SBC Executive Committee which prepared the monthly report, said he did not know why contributions increased beyond expectations during July, but that SBC officials were "very encouraged" over the report.

Williams said that the increases seemed to come generally in almost all states in the SBC, with decreases reported in only a few states.

James V. Lackey, executive director of the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission, speculated that some of the increases might be due to increased giving by children attending summer Vacation Bible Schools throughout the denomination, but Williams said he felt it was a little too early for most Bible school contributions to arrive in the national office.

Of the \$40 million given in total contributions for the year, \$26 million has been distributed to SBC foreign mission efforts through the denomination's Foreign Mission Board. About \$17 million of the \$26 million going to foreign missions was in designated gifts.

In addition, about \$8.5 million has gone to support the nation-wide efforts of the SBC Home Mission Board, including \$5.2 million of that amount in designated gifts.

Nineteen agencies and institutions of the Southern Baptist Convention receive financial support through the Cooperative Program unified budget.

Amounts included in the financial report do not reflect contributions to state and local Baptist mission programs, but only to national Southern Baptist Convention causes.

Oklahoma Pastor Named To SBC Stewardship Staff

NASHVILLE (BP)--Kenneth R. Mullins, pastor of Eastwood Baptist Church in Tulsa, Okla., for the past nine years, has been named consultant in endowment and capital giving service for the Southern Baptist Convention's Stewardship Commission here.

His appointment, effective Sept. 1, was announced by James V. Lackey, executive director of the SBC Stewardship Commission, and Ben Gill, director of the commission's endowment and capital giving service.

Mullins, who has been a part-time consultant for the commission for about three years, will have primary responsibilities in conducting capital fund raising campaigns for local Baptist churches through the "Together We Build" fund raising service, Gill said.

A native of Oklahoma, Mullins has been pastor of churches in Tulsa, Enid, Sayre, and Buffalo, Okla.; and pastor of Texas churches in Deer Creek, Joy and Fort Worth.

As a consultant for the SBC Stewardship Commission, he has assisted three Oklahoma churches and one Kansas church in fund drives.

He is a graduate of East Central State College, Ada, Okla., and attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

He has been vice president of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, moderator of the Tulsa Baptist Association and Northwest Baptist Association in Oklahoma, and a member of the Oklahoma convention Board of Directors. He was recently elected a member of the Southern Baptist Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary, Nashville.

-30-

Baptist Girls Win Honors In Miss Illinois Contest

AURORA, Ill. (BP)--An American Baptist who says she is "high on Jesus" and a Southern Baptist refugee from Cuba who hopes to do mission work with Spanish-Americans have won top honors in the recent Miss Illinois competition here.

Anita Pankratz, 21, of Chicago, was named Miss Illinois, and will represent her home state in the Miss America pageant in Atlantic City.

A member of Foster Avenue Baptist Church in Chicago (American Baptist), Miss Pankratz said she participated in a "Jesus demonstration" last spring which gave her "a real high.

"The greatest thing about being high on Jesus," she said in an interview with the Illinois Baptist, "is that you don't have to come down."

Named first runner-up in the Miss Illinois competition was Olga Alfonso, 19, who teaches a class of 13-year-old girls at the Second Baptist Church, Marion, Ill., and is a sophomore at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale.

A refugee from Cuba, she and her parents came to the U.S.A. in 1961 under the sponsorship of Twelfth Street Baptist Church, Paducah, Ky. They moved to Marion, Ill., in 1967.

Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Pedro Alfonso, were married by former Southern Baptist missionary to Cuba, Herbert Caudill. The Alfonsos were members of First Baptist Church in Havana.

An accountant in Cuba, Alfonso is now an accountant for Cox Hardware and Furniture in Marion, and Mrs. Alfonso teaches Spanish in the Marion High School.

During the competition here, both Baptist girls were asked to discuss their faith in God before the television audience.

-more-

"Anita and I both had a wonderful chance to tell what Christ really means to us," Miss Alfonso said.

After the competition was ended, Miss Alfonso stayed in Northern Illinois to help in a week-long Vacation Bible School at the First Spanish Baptist Church in Bensonville, near Chicago. The pastor, Anthonio Rodriguez, is also a native of Cuba.

Miss Alfonso has won several other beauty contests. She has been Miss Marion High School Queen, Miss Williamson County, and Miss Southern Illinois.

Before each contest, Miss Alfonso said she has "done a lot of praying." But she said she doesn't pray to win, only to do her best.

If Miss Pankratz is named Miss America, Miss Alfonso will automatically inherit the Miss Illinois title.

After college, Miss Alfonso hopes to attend a Baptist seminary, and then do Spanish-American mission work.

-30-

Shands Named To Financial Post At Southern Seminary

8/4/71

LOUISVILLE (BP)--O. Norman Shands of Kansas City, Mo., has been named co-ordinator of development services at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here by the school's trustees, effective Sept. 1.

He will be responsible for all current funds of the seminary, including student aid, alumni giving, parents' fund and general solicitation of funds for operating expenses, according to Duke K. McCall, the seminary's president.

In connection with the Shands appointment, the trustees have delegated the solicitation of all long-term endowment, wills and bequests to Southern Seminary Foundation directed by Paul G. Kirkland.

Shands, a former chairman of the seminary's board of trustees and former president of the school's national alumni association, has been pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Kansas City, and previously was pastor of First Baptist Church in Spartanburg, S. C., West End Baptist Church in Atlanta.

In addition, he was director of religious activities at Mercer University (Baptist), Macon, Ga., and has been a chaplain in the U. S. Navy, serving in the Pacific. He also served as president of Limestone College, Gaffney, S.C., 1952-53.

A native of Georgia, Shands was vice-president of the Georgia Baptist Convention and a trustee of Mercer University Macon, Ga. He has also served on the boards of the SBC Radio and Television Commission, the Kansas City Baptist Memorial Hospital, and the Missouri Baptist Convention.

He holds the bachelor of arts and an honorary doctor of divinity degree from Mercer and the master of theology degree from Southern Seminary.

-30-

Price Returns To Teaching Full-Time At SBC Seminary

8/4/71

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--John M. Price, dean of the School of Religious Education at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary here, has asked to be relieved of administrative duties as dean in order to return to full-time teaching duties.

Beginning with the fall term, Price will carry a regular teaching load in the seminary's department of psychology and counseling, according to President Grady C. Cothen.

Cothen explained that Price had been recently hospitalized, and the reduction of his administrative work load was at the suggestion of his physician.

"Dr. Price has served in a supervisory capacity at the seminary for more than 20 years," Cothen said. "He deserves every opportunity we can afford him to experience a complete recovery."

-30-