

DRAFT STATUS CLARIFIED FOR
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STUDENTS

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NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--The draft status of seminary students preparing for Christian service as educational directors and directors of music has been cleared up, according to a letter from Dr. J. M. Dawson, executive director of the Baptist Joint Conference Committee on Public Affairs, Washington, D. C., received here by Dr. Duke K. McCall, executive secretary for the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

The law says that regular or duly ordained ministers of religion and students preparing for the ministry under the direction of recognized religious organizations and who are satisfactorily pursuing full-time courses of instruction in recognized theological schools shall be exempt from training and service. This also applies to certain college students who have pre-enrolled in a seminary.

The law also defines the term "regular minister of religion" as one who regularly preaches and teaches the principles of religion without having been formally ordained as a minister of religion, and who is recognized by his church as a regular minister.

Dr. Dawson, who interviewed the office of Selective Service on this point, said, "It was the ruling of General Lewis B. Hershey and his assistant that where a person is dedicated to religious work as a full-time vocation, receives his support from the religious organization and falls within the framework of the religious program of the organization, for the purposes of the Selective Service Act, he properly comes with definition as a 'regular minister of religion.'"

It is Dawson's opinion that the denomination has a responsibility to these young men. He says, "To make this crystal clear the denomination in some official manner should adopt a statement in harmony with the above to be given each person expected to be deferred so that he can make this plain to his local draft board."

Some precedents in Southern Baptist life have marked the way to an easy solution of the problem. "Fortunately for us," continues Dawson, "we have in many cases adopted the titles, 'Minister of Education' and 'Minister of Music,' so that our very terminology contributes to clarity in claiming this exemption."

Dawson proposes the adoption of a very brief certificate to be prepared for each person in training as director of religious education or director of music, properly endorsing the individual as engaged in this training within the framework of the denomination.

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FORT WORTH INVITES
1953 CONVENTION

FORT WORTH, Tex.--(BP)--Baptists in this city have officially invited the Southern Baptist Convention to meet with them in 1953. The invitation came from the Tarrant County Baptist Association and was announced by J. Woodrow Fuller, superintendent of missions. Mr. Homer Covey, president of the Worth Food Markets, is chairman of the committee issuing the invitation on behalf of the association.

The Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce has assured a minimum of 1200 hotel rooms. The Dallas Baptist Pastors' Conference has also voted to join in the invitation and to secure additional hotel rooms in that city.

The Convention will meet in the Will Rogers Coliseum that seats 11,000 and in the Will Rogers Auditorium that seats 3,000, both to be furnished rent-free to the Convention by the Baptists of the Tarrant County Baptist Association.

Southern Baptists have met twice before in Fort Worth. First in 1890, when Jonathan Haralson of Alabama was president, and again in 1934, when M. E. Dodd of Louisiana was president.

The invitation will be considered at the San Francisco meeting of the Convention, June 20-24, this year.

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TOTAL SBC GIFTS
UP FIFTEEN PER CENT

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--Baptists gave \$691,901 more to Southern Baptist Convention causes the first four months of 1951 than for the same period last year. This is an increase of 15.09 per cent. The announcement was made by Dr. Duke K. McCall, executive secretary and treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

Designated offerings account for \$548,895 of the increase. Designations are 24.99 per cent ahead of last year, \$2,744,845 in 1951 as compared with \$2,195,950 in 1950.

The Cooperative Program increased 5.98 per cent, to bring the total for the four months to \$2,532,918.

Total gifts for the period were \$5,277,764, with \$3,613,939 or 68.47 per cent going to foreign missions.

Five states show a decline in the amount given to the Southwide Cooperative Program for the same period last year. Three states show a decline in designated gifts. Two of the states declined at both points. Following is a description by states:

	Cooperative Program 1951	Cooperative Program 1950	Designated 1951	Designated 1950
Specials	534.58	1,877.27	6,780.23	4,537.22
Alabama	131,712.78	120,085.70	116,080.64	122,382.70
Arizona	7,579.87	2,188.75	5,540.87	5,169.40
Arkansas	74,119.82	88,162.31	70,922.62	63,428.92
California	4,557.60	4,705.54	9,781.17	11,323.09
Dist. of Columbia	6,448.61	10,277.45	4,408.19	7,007.61
Florida	113,384.08	126,188.59	87,556.44	76,328.91
Georgia	182,472.49	162,598.94	185,084.32	168,959.07
Illinois	43,240.74	35,968.49	23,447.22	21,847.75
Kansas	972.73	623.44	2,147.27	401.45
Kentucky	171,977.46	165,423.79	105,808.91	93,228.84
Louisiana	95,369.19	83,708.01	102,858.76	90,715.02
Maryland	20,542.82	18,825.82	86.50	119.53
Mississippi	125,290.48	104,840.50	108,928.90	85,686.69
Missouri	153,469.19	121,690.50	114,546.67	97,054.73
New Mexico	17,144.97	14,188.47	24,400.89	18,150.71
North Carolina	218,947.99	208,071.07	256,828.66	225,366.12
Oklahoma	128,427.82	117,007.93	121,013.40	107,376.78
Oregon	790.81	548.74	1,919.69	1,555.89
South Carolina	207,567.12	201,640.44	142,596.85	120,974.85
Tennessee	239,129.36	220,830.66	114,934.35	104,358.98
Texas	366,666.64	383,333.32	900,392.35	719,624.65
Virginia	222,571.48	197,126.46	238,780.88	50,351.86
Total	2,532,918.63	2,389,912.19	2,744,845.78	2,195,950.77