

September 7, 1972

**SBC President Urges Support  
Of State Mission Offerings**

YAZOO CITY, Miss.--The president of the Southern Baptist Convention here has issued a challenge for Southern Baptists to give unprecedented support this fall to state mission offerings in Baptist state conventions across the nation.

"The challenge of home missions and the glamor of foreign missions often cause us to neglect the necessity of state missions," said Owen Cooper, president of the SBC and industrialist who heads two fertilizer corporations here.

Cooper, president of the Mississippi and Coastal Chemical Corps., pointed out that most of the 33 state conventions affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention promote state mission offerings among their churches during September.

"As we approach the season for our state mission offerings, the efforts of the Women's Missionary Union could be combined with that of the men's organizations to strengthen a church-wide effort that will result in every Southern Baptist congregation having a meaningful part in the state mission offering for their convention," he said.

He urged laymen and all church members to find out the amount of the goal for the state in which they live, lead their church to assume a worthy part of that goal, and "join with others in an offering that will bring glory to God and joy to your heart."

Cooper pointed out that many unsung heroes of the faith serve effectively in state missions often without recognition or much support.

He cited one such Baptist pastor who was serving a growing church of 700 members in a large southern city who felt God was leading him to a thickly populated area in the northeast. He took a \$300 per month cut in salary, not including additional reduction since the Southern church furnished a parsonage and the northeast church did not.

But God is blessing his new work, Cooper said. Sunday School attendance has quadrupled in the last year. The church sponsors six missions, enrolled 217 in Vacation Bible School with 21 decisions, has a goal of 300 in Sunday School for next year, 400 for 1974 and 500 in 1975.

It is this kind of spirit of missions that should serve as an encouragement to all Southern Baptists as they see the need for support of state missions across the denomination, Cooper said

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NOTE TO EDITORS: You may wish to add a paragraph following paragraph 5 of the story, indicating the amount of the goal for the state mission offering in your state. Because of the promotional nature of the story, it is not being sent through Baptist Press, the news service of the SBC. But we hope you will find it useful.

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