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November 27, 1972

Gifts Exceed Annie Armstrong
 Offering First Time Since 1966

ATLANTA (BP)--Thanksgiving was especially significant for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board here.

For the first time since 1966, contributions to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions exceeded the goal.

A report from Maryland, received the day before Thanksgiving, boosted the 1972 gifts through the special home missions offering to \$6,031,349.

Surpassing the \$6 million goal will aid the evangelistic television program, "Spring Street, USA," which the board expects to launch next February, as well as support for new areas of work.

"We are grateful for this outstanding offering which will pave the way for entering new fields of unusual opportunity in Christian social ministries, and in partial support for churches in younger areas of the convention," said Arthur B. Rutledge, executive secretary of the Home Mission Board.

"Our thanks go to Woman's Missionary Union, which sponsors and supports the offering," said Rutledge, "and to the Brotherhood Commission which provides helpful support, and certainly to pastors and devoted church members across the convention."

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Southwestern Trustees
 Re-elect Smith Chairman

11/27/72

FORT WORTH (BP)--The board of trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here re-elected officers, heard reports on building expansion plans and increased enrollments, added two new courses to the curriculum and granted tenure to one professor.

The 36-member board re-elected Ralph Smith, pastor of Hyde Park Baptist Church in Austin, Tex., as chairman. Re-elected as vice chairman was Dr. Louis Gibson, a medical doctor from Corsicana, Tex.; and as secretary, Wayne Evans, the seminary's business manager.

During reports to the board, trustees were told that construction is to begin in a few weeks on the new Goldia and Robert Naylor Children's Building.

Two new courses were added in the seminary's School of Religious Education, one dealing with church family financial planning, and another on the church's educational ministry with single adults.

In another report, the finance committee headed by J.T. Luther of Fort Worth listed total assets of the seminary at \$23.7 million.

Trustees voted to express appreciation and best wishes to Milton Ferguson, who resigned as professor of philosophy of religion to become president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. Trustees also granted tenure to Gerald E. Marsh, associate professor of pastoral ministry since 1969.

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President Robert E. Naylor reported the largest fall enrollment in the seminary's 64-year history, with 2,019 students registered this fall.

Trustees also authorized a committee to study the administrative structure of the seminary and asked for a new list of priorities on future building projects.

A dinner for faculty members and trustees honored former chairmen of trustees and foreign missionaries home on furlough. Former chairmen recognized were Naylor; James Coggin and Luther, both of Fort Worth; and W. M. Shamburger of Tyler, Tex. Special guests of honor were Mrs. William Fleming and Mrs. J. H. Steger, widows of former chairmen.

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SBC Annuity Board Extends
Credit to 20,000 Participants

11/27/72

DALLAS (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention's Annuity Board here will wish 20,000 participants in its retirement plans a "Happy New Year" by granting them a record 10 per cent "good experience credit."

"This means about 20,000 participants will have their retirement credits accumulated as of Jan. 1, 1973, increased by 10 per cent," said Darold H. Morgan, Annuity Board president.

"Good experience credit" refers to the board's "good experience" or income from investments of the retirement contributions it holds in trust, Morgan added.

"Good experience credit," like the so-called "13th check," became possible "because interest earnings of the board have exceeded those required actuarially by the different plans administered," Morgan said.

"Good experience credit" is added to the accounts of those still in active service. By contrast, the "13th check" is a bonus paid to retired ministers and other retired church workers who contributed to the board's retirement plans. It is called the "13th check" because it is paid in addition to the regular 12 monthly retirement benefits.

Morgan said this is the fourth straight year the board has been able to offer "good experience credit," and the percentage is five times greater than provided at any previous time.

The credit will be given to Southern Baptist Protection Plans A-10, A-11, A-25, Morgan indicated.

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