



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2343
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 Orville Scott, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Gomer Lesch, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203, Telephone (615) 254-5461
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

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**Over \$19.6 Million Given
To Lottie Moon Offering**

RICHMOND (BP)--The 1972 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions topped its \$18 million goal by more than \$1 1/2 million when the books on the offering closed April 30, according to Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board officials here.

Total 1972 funds were \$19,664,972. Receipts were \$1,831,162, or 10.27 per cent, higher than the 1971 offering.

The Lottie Moon Offering is sponsored annually by the Woman's Missionary Union in Southern Baptist churches across the nation in connection with the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions. Monies received after April 30 are included in the following year's offering.

Southern Baptist foreign missions efforts are supported financially by two major means of contributions, with slightly more than half the support coming from the Lottie Moon special offering, and the other half coming from gifts through the denomination's Cooperative Program unified budget plan.

All but three state conventions recorded increases in their Lottie Moon offering totals for 1972 over the previous years.

Several state conventions reported dramatic increases. The State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, for example, recorded a dramatic increase of 123 per cent. A new convention, Pennsylvania and South Jersey, recorded a 44 per cent increase.

More than 70 per cent of the total 1972 offering came from eight Baptist state conventions, with Texas Baptists contributing nearly \$4 million. North Carolina Baptists gave over \$2 million. More than \$1 million was given in six states--South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Florida and Mississippi.

The board's executive secretary, Baker J. Cauthen, commenting on the record offering said, "The Foreign Mission Board and missionaries all over the world wish to express to Southern Baptists, and Woman's Missionary Union in particular, deep gratitude for the Lottie Moon offering which has reached such a glorious climax.

"In projecting mission work throughout the world," Cauthen continued, "planning depends primarily on gifts through the Cooperative Program. The Lottie Moon Offering makes possible going twice as far in meeting world need."

Cauthen also indicated that allocations of the increase in the mission offering would be made on a priority basis within the next few weeks. He pointed out that needs awaiting funds still outstripped available resources.

Upon learning the total 1972 offering, Cauthen immediately telephoned Miss Alma Hunt, executive secretary of the Woman's Missionary Union, to express appreciation to the WMU and others who helped in promotion of the offering.

Jesse C. Fletcher, director of the board's Mission Support Division, interpreted the 1972 offering as a "new lease on life" for overseas missions.

"With dollar devaluation and inflation cutting so deeply into the spending power of the missionary dollar," he said, "this outpouring of support through the Lottie Moon Offering gives a new lease on life for the foreign mission work of Southern Baptists."

Several times during 1972 the Foreign Mission Board made emergency appropriations, attempting to partially offset the effects of the dollar loss on missionary personnel.

The board's most recent attempt to meet the dollar squeeze came in March when it approved a \$151,450 adjustment of funds as emergency compensation in 31 countries.

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Big April Increase Boosts
Cooperative Program Gifts

5/3/73

NASHVILLE (BP)--A 21.1 per cent increase in contributions through the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program unified budget for the month of April boosted total receipts through the budget plan for the first seven months of the fiscal year to a record high.

For the first seven months of the year, Cooperative Program contributions have reached \$19.7 million, an increase of almost \$1.7 million, or 9.39 per cent. The 9.39 per cent average is well over the six per cent average needed to meet the SBC operating budget.

Compared to April of 1972, Cooperative Program receipts for April of 1973 increased by more than half a million dollars, and a percentage hike of 21.14 per cent, according to a report prepared by the SBC Executive Committee based here.

In April, 1973, Southern Baptists gave \$2.8 million through the Cooperative Program, compared to \$2.3 million in April, 1972.

John H. Williams, financial planning director for the Executive Committee which receives and distributed to the 19 SBC agencies supported by the Cooperative Program, attributed the big increase for April to the fact that in April of 1972, at least three large states failed to send in their Cooperative Program gifts by the deadline, but did do so for April, 1973. Three smaller states, however, failed to send in their funds for April, 1973.

Williams pointed out that when three or more of the 33 Baptist state conventions in the SBC fail to send in their Cooperative Program contributions by the end of the month when the books are closed, it can drastically affect the statistical tabulations on receipts for that month, and sometimes cause the next month's receipts to be inflated.

In addition to the \$2.8 million in Cooperative Program gifts received during April, Southern Baptists gave another \$2.8 million in April to designated specific mission causes during the month. Designated gifts were up \$394,741, or 16.27 per cent for April.

For the first seven months of the SBC fiscal year that started last October, designated contributions were up by \$2.3 million, or 12.02 per cent.

So far during the year, Southern Baptists have given more than \$22 million to designated, specific mission causes. Most of the \$22 million came in a record \$19.6 million contributed through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions. (See separate story.)

The combined world missions contributions, including both Cooperative Program and designated gifts reached \$41.8 million for the seven month period, an increase of more than \$4 million, or 10.76 per cent.

Contributions counted in the financial report do not include amounts given to support local and state Baptist mission causes, but only reflect gifts to national and world-wide SBC mission efforts.

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