



BAPTIST PRESS

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October 3, 1973

SBC Cooperative Program
Gifts Rise to Record Total

No

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention's unified Cooperative Program budget ended the 1972-73 fiscal year \$745,050 above operating and capital needs, pushing receipts from SBC churches to the highest total in convention history.

Gifts in September totaled \$2,929,817 (19.59 per cent above the same month last year) to increase the 12-month Cooperative Program total to \$33,832,932.

That figure represents an 8.48 per cent increase over last year, the highest percentage of increase from one year to the next in a decade, according to John H. Williams, finance planning director and assistant to the treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee.

"We are grateful to God that the \$745,050 will help meet some of the erosion of inflation suffered by SBC agencies during the year," said Porter Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the Executive Committee.

Routh said the increase in Cooperative Program giving makes possible the first "advance funds" (receipts above both operating and capital needs) since 1967 "and reflects an increase in the percentage from the states for SBC causes, as well as increased participation by churches on the part of church members."

By action of the Executive Committee, the additional Cooperative Program funds have been distributed to the 19 SBC agencies on the basis they received the regularly budgeted 1972-73 Cooperative Program receipts.

For example, the Foreign and Home Mission Boards, which received \$382,062 and \$136,344 respectively, will be able to strengthen missionary and evangelistic outreach, Williams said. The additional funds to the Foreign Mission Board, he said, will help "overcome the inroads of dollar devaluation abroad."

Williams said the 8.48 increase "will help shore up the diminishing buying power of the dollar during this inflationary spiral."

Southern Baptists gave an additional \$29,079,065 in designated gifts during the fiscal year ending September 30, including contributions to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions.

Designated giving increased 12.54 per cent over last year's total of \$25,839,254.

Combined world missions contributions, including both designations and Cooperative Program gifts for 1972-73, totaled \$62,911,997--a 10.32 per cent increase of \$5,885,396 over last year's total of \$57,026,600.

For September alone, both Cooperative Program receipts and designated giving showed large increases over the same month last year. Besides the 19.59 increase in Cooperative Program gifts, designated giving soared 78.45 per cent from \$251,748 in September, 1972, to \$449,241 in September, 1973.

Total gifts for September were \$677,450.61--a 25.08 per cent increase over September of last year.

Manager Named For Baptist
Book Store in Savannah

BS573

NASHVILLE (BP)--Joseph M. Harley, accounting section supervisor, accounting and control department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board here, has been named manager of the Savannah (Ga.) Baptist Book Store.

Effective Oct. 15, Harley will replace Joe D. Roberts, who became manager of the Lubbock (Tex.) book store in August.

A native of Savannah, Harley received the bachelor of business administration degree from the University of Georgia, Athens.

Prior to joining the board in 1969, he was employed by American Cyanamid Company, Savannah, as an accounting supervisor. Earlier, he worked in the accounting department for the U.S. Steel Corporation in Port Wentworth, Ga.

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BP PHOTO mailed to state Baptist paper editors.

Searchers Rescue Baptist
Pastor From Ravine

NO

10/3/73

VICKSBURG, MISS. (BP)--A missing Clinton, Miss. pastor has been found alive in a deep ravine near here and hospitalized.

Charles Gentry, pastor of Morrison Heights Baptist Church, had been the object of a search party of 450 people, including helicopters, when he failed to return home after a trip to the Vicksburg area to look for Civil War relics.

He reportedly suffered from exposure and told his son he felt as though he had had a slight stroke.

Gentry has been moved from a Vicksburg hospital to the Baptist Hospital in Jackson where his condition has reportedly stabilized and begun to improve.

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CORRECTION

In Baptist Press story mailed 10/1/73, headlined FMB Reviews Request For More Missionaries, change graph 16 to read "Financial pressures resulting from dollar devaluation and inflation are reflected in decreased. . ." Thanks.

--Baptist Press