



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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April 5, 1974

Cooperative Program Ahead of Last Year

NASHVILLE (BP)--Contributions through Southern Baptists' Cooperative Program of unified giving through March are running more than 12 per cent ahead of contributions at this point in the 1972-73 fiscal year.

Southern Baptists have contributed \$18,950,333 in undesignated giving through the Cooperative Program for 1973-74, compared to \$16,897,675 last year, according to figures released by John H. Williams, director of financial planning and assistant to the treasurer of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. That is an increase of 12.15 per cent.

Designated giving for the year to date, Williams said, totals \$21,631,776, or some 12.57 per cent ahead of \$19,217,044 given at this point last year.

Total giving, designated and undesignated, through March, is 12.37 percent ahead of last year. So far this year, Southern Baptists have given \$40,582,109, as compared to \$36,114,719 last year.

Although overall contributions increased, giving in March, 1974, showed a decline over giving in March, 1973, in all categories.

Williams reported \$2,653,209 in undesignated Cooperative Program giving this March, \$3,921,903 in designated giving and \$6,575,113 in total giving. All these totals ran from 3.33 per cent to 3.92 per cent below comparative figures last March.

Williams said March, 1974, showed a decline because two state conventions sent their Cooperative Program checks too late to be included in the totals.

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Baptist Layman 'Peace Makin' Marshall of Dodge'

DODGE CITY, Kans. (BP)--A Southern Baptist layman here may do what legendary Marshall Wyatt Earp couldn't--bring peace to Dodge City as marshall of the famous town. If he does, he'll do it with a Bible instead of a gun.

John Copeland, an active Southern Baptist layman, was elected by the Dodge City Council in the town made famous by such legendary notables as Wyatt Earp, Bat Masterson and television's Matt Dillon.

The marshall's main duty now is to honor visiting dignitaries by making them "deputy marshalls." No real law enforcement is involved, but the position remains a prestigious one, nevertheless, city spokesmen say.

In his acceptance speech Copeland said, "All the other marshalls tried to bring peace to Dodge at the end of a gun barrel. But I will never wear a gun--even for decoration or just to fit the role. "Some say this will ruin the Marshall's image, but I will try to bring peace to Dodge City in the name of Jesus Christ, the only source of lasting peace."

Copeland, who serves as director of Brotherhood (mission organization of men and boys) for the local Southern Baptist association, was elected marshall because the Dodge City Council felt he was known for his active involvement in community affairs as a "fine, Christian gentleman."

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Marshall Copeland is a cattle buyer and hosts a popular weekly radio show in Dodge City called, "Coffee with the Parson."

The show consists of religious music, which he says "helps the folks wake up" for Sunday School and church, "horsing around," a devotional and exhortations to go to one of the areas' 37 churches.

The marshall's job will never be the same in Dodge City.

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Chaplains Honor
Two Southern Baptists

4/4/74

SAN FRANCISCO (BP)--Two Southern Baptists were presented distinguished service award here at the annual meeting of the College of Chaplains of the American Protestant Hospital Association (APHA).

The awards went to Wayne E. Oates, professor of psychology of religion at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and Charles D. Phillips of Chicago, executive director of APHA.

William C. Mays of Baptist Hospital in Nashville, Tenn., was elected president of the Association of Southern Baptist Hospital Chaplains, also in session in San Francisco. Other officers are Walter C. Jackson, Kentucky Baptist Hospital, Louisville, president-elect James E. Lockhart, Missouri Baptist Hospital, St. Louis, vice president; and Charles Burroughs, Lakeland General Hospital, Lakeland, Fla., secretary-treasurer.

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Baptist Book Store Cash
Register Catches on Fire

4/4/74

NASHVILLE (BP)--"Lady, your cash register is on fire!" exclaimed a customer at the Nashville Baptist Book Store.

"I could smell something," said Bunny Carter, the sales person using the register at the time, "but I thought I would finish with this customer and then see what was wrong. But when I looked, smoke was rolling out of the back of the register. Those kids just worked it too hard!"

Mrs. Carter was referring to some of the 20,000 teenagers in Nashville to attend the recent Tennessee Youth Evangelism Conference. Many of them were in the store when the cash register caught on fire. "It seemed like there were hundreds of teenagers in the store," said Mrs. Carter.

"We opened the store an hour earlier than usual and closed 30 minutes later than usual in order to accommodate the young people," said James Yarborough, manager of the store. "We also had Richard Hogue, a young evangelist who spoke at the meeting, in the store to autograph his books."

Mrs. Carter immediately unplugged the smoking cash register. There was no damage.

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HMB Chaplaincy Director
Named Clergyman of Year

4/4/74

ATLANTA (BP)--Rear Adm. James W. Kelly, (USN-Ret.), director of the division of chaplaincy of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, has been named "Clergyman of the Year" by Religious Heritage of America.

A national, interfaith religious and educational organization, Religious Heritage of America is dedicated to preserving and celebrating America's religious heritage.

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The organization honors Americans who "by practical application of their religious principles in their daily lives have made a significant impact on national and community life."

Kelly, former chief of chaplains of the U.S. Navy, will be honored at a national awards program at the Washington Hilton Hotel on June 20.

Others receiving awards include Walter Hoving, chairman of Tiffany and Co., and Mrs. Claire Collins Harvey, president of Church Women United, who were named churchman and churchwoman of the year, respectively, and Kenneth Wells, president emeritus of the Freedom's Foundation, who will receive the distinguished patriot award. Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Cash, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Harvey and Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum will receive special awards.

Additional awards to business and professional leaders and the organization's faith and freedom awards will be announced later.

Kelly joined the Home Mission Board staff in 1971 after retiring as the Navy's chief of chaplains. He is a native of Carthage, Ark., and is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

He was pastor of First Baptist Church, Malvern, Ark., when he entered the naval chaplaincy as a lieutenant in 1942. He was promoted to rear admiral in 1963 and named chief of chaplains in 1965.

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Bible Course in India
Enrolls 3,000 Monthly

4/4/74

BANGALORE, India (BP)--This month, if it's "typical," about 3,000 people in India will begin the initial study "Who is Jesus" in the Bible Way Correspondence School, a program aimed at informing people about Jesus Christ.

Some 36,000 new Bible students are anticipated in 1974, according to Mrs. Richard H. Hellinger, Southern Baptist missionary press representative. But Mrs. Hellinger doesn't feel her responsibility for the new students ends with mailing a booklet and tract.

Regional "seekers conferences" to continue contact with students enrolled in the course are being organized by missionaries for individual villages and areas of the country. About 200 students attended the first of these conferences held recently in Bangalore.

When at least 100 students live in the same village or area the missionaries go there for a conference, Mrs. Hellinger reports. Before the conference, missionaries send out postcards to the students. In some cases, an initial visit is made to an area and personal contacts are arranged with as many students as possible.

The meetings are "tailor-made" for the individual village or area. If the students are mostly young people, the conference can be geared to their needs. If the students are adults, the conferences are designed to meet adult needs.

During the conferences, Mrs. Hellinger said, missionaries talk with those who are interested in accepting Jesus Christ and encourage establishment of prayer and Bible study groups from among the students.

Letters continue to pour into the Bible Way Correspondence School, all wanting to know more about Jesus, and over 100 decisions are being recorded monthly.

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CORRECTION

In Baptist Press story mailed April 1, 1974, entitled Baptists Ordain Woman in Ecumenical Service, in graph seven, beginning, "Ms. Forehand, a native of Burnet, Tex. . . ." please change the second and third lines of that graph to read: "rejected by the leadership of her home church in Texas, of a church in Alabama where she had been a member and of one in Kentucky where she had been a staff member.

NOTE TO EDITORS: Baptist Press is working on a wrapup of the Baptist angle of the tornado damage in seven states. Hopefully, if all reports can be compiled, we will mail the story tomorrow, April 5.