

127 Ninth Avenue, North

Nashville, Tennessee

December 4, 1951

MISSION? TEN PER CENT GIVE NONE;  
ONLY 140 CHURCHES DIVIDE 50-50

NASHVILLE, Tenn. --(BP)-- Nearly 10 per cent of the churches co-operating with the Southern Baptist Convention gave nothing to missions in 1950 and only 140 churches -- one-half of one per cent -- spent as much for missions as for themselves. This information was released this week by the Division of Promotion of the Executive Committee, Dr. Merrill D. Moore, director.

The 140 churches giving half or more of their budgets for missions represent all four classifications of churches. Twenty-eight city churches, sixteen town churches, twenty in villages and seventy-six in the open country make up the one-half of one per cent.

The 10 per cent giving nothing -- 2,664 churches -- includes 224 city congregations, 119 town churches, 292 village groups and 2,029 open country churches.

The majority of the churches, including all classifications, give from 10 per cent to 20 per cent of their total budgets for missions. The next largest range is a smaller percentage with 22 per cent giving 5 to 9 per cent.

Less than 7 per cent of the 27,788 Southern Baptist churches gave more than 30 per cent to missions, including those giving 50 per cent.

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STEWARDSHIP AND MISSIONS DEPARTMENT  
SET UP IN NEW MEXICO BOARD MEETING

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. --(BP)-- The new department of stewardship and missions of the Baptist General Convention of New Mexico will be headed by Jeff Rutherford, now pastor at Espanola, as secretary. He will assume his new duties January 15.

The department was created by the executive board of the convention at its meeting in Albuquerque recently.

Rutherford was at the time of his election serving as president of the state executive board. He is a member of the committee on boards of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The new department will include work in co-operation with the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention as well as work sponsored by the state convention.

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CHURCHES HOLD OUT FOR BILL  
EXEMPTING TAX ON CHURCH MEALS

BOSTON, Mass. --(BP)-- The Massachusetts legislature will face again in 1952 a bill exempting churches from paying the 5 per cent state meal tax on meals served in their own halls, according to Religious News Service.

Rep. Thomas E. Key of Winthrop has filed the bill for consideration even though similar bills have been rejected in recent years. The proposal is also being presented to make the meal tax applicable to meals costing seventy cents instead of the \$1.00 present minimum.

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MEMBERS OF "WHIPPING CULT" ORDERED  
TO LEAVE BAPTIST FAMILY ALONE

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. --(BP)-- Five members of a "whipping cult" in Minneapolis have been enjoined by a temporary court injunction to keep "hands off" a Baptist family who charged them with molesting them with efforts to "convert" them.

The family requested court protection after members of the cult entered their home and attempted to take one member with them. "Fear of physical violence" was the basis of the request.

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INVITATION RECORD BROKEN  
AFTER 217 SERVICES

SPARTANBURG, S.C. --BP-- Southside Baptist Church in Spartanburg broke a record recently when no one responded to the invitation at a Wednesday night service. At least one response has been recorded for 217 successive services previous to this one. It also marked the first service without a response since the present pastor, Dr. John E. Huss, began his ministry a little more than twenty-two months ago. The period totaled 949 additions to the church.

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GOLDEN GATE CHOIR SCHEDULES  
SECOND "MESSIAH" PRESENTATION

BERKELEY, Calif. --(BP)-- The sixty-voice Golden Gate Seminary choir, directed by Wilbur F. Martin, professor of music, will give its second annual performance of Handel's "Messiah" this year. It is probably the only presentation of the "Messiah" to be given by a Southern Baptist group in the Western states, Martin says.

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BAPTIST HOUR  
DEFICIT CLEARED

ATLANTA, Ga. --(BP)-- The Baptist Hour, sponsored by the Radio Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, is in the clear, reports Dr. S.F. Lowe, director of the Commission.

The only deficit incurred by the Commission since its beginning in 1938, a \$40,000 fund from the Executive Committee this year, has been paid in full. At the same time the 30-minute transcribed evangelistic program continues to be carried over more than 270 stations each week.

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DR. HOLT AGAIN PRESIDES  
FOR SEMINARY TRUSTEES

FORT WORTH, Tex. --(BP)-- Dr. A.J. Holt, Waco, was re-elected president of the board of trustees for Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth in its annual meeting late in November. Dr. E.L. Carnett of Fort Worth was re-elected vice-president.

D.A. Thorton, Fort Worth, was elected secretary of the board. Mr. Thorton succeeds C.M. King, former secretary whom he also succeeded as business manager of the seminary earlier this year. Thorton was assistant business manager for many years.

The women's advisory board of the seminary named Mrs. R.L. Mathis, Dallas, chairman. She succeeds Mrs. B.A. Copass who has served as chairman for eighteen years.

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SECOND REVIVAL IN BRAZIL  
CITY NETS 740 DECISIONS

RECIFE, Brazil --(BP)-- The forty-seven Baptist churches in Recife, participating in their second simultaneous revival crusade recently, report a total of 740 conversions during the one week campaign.

An hour-long radio broadcast opened the series and more than 1,200 people crowded into the studio auditorium to hear Dr. Raphael Gioia Martins, a converted Catholic priest.

A mass meeting in a city park, with more than 15,000 present, is said to be probably the largest evangelical meeting ever held in South America.

A system of publicity using newspapers, radio, streamers, tracts, handbills, and visitation resulted in over-flow crowds nightly in the Baptist churches of the city.

The first crusade, with thirty-eight churches participating last year, reported 500 conversions and reconciliations.

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