

127 Ninth Avenue, North

Nashville, Tennessee

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SOUTHERN BAPTIST MISSION GIFTS PASS
ELEVEN MILLION MARK THIS YEAR

NASHVILLE, Tenn. --(BP)-- Southern Baptists in twenty-two states have given \$11,319,964 to world missions during the first eleven months of 1951. The total represents a gain of \$1,447,558 or 14.66 per cent over last year's gifts for the same period.

The total includes all contributions for home and foreign missions, seminaries, and other denominational beneficent projects given through the Southern Baptist Convention executive committee in Nashville.

This year's total included \$3,959,890 in funds designated to definite objects, representing a gain of 23.87 per cent over last year. Regular undesignated funds were \$7,360,073 or \$684,355 -- 10.25 per cent -- over last year.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board received \$5,615,518 or nearly half of the \$11,319,964 total. The Home Mission Board received \$1,966,469.

The report was released in Nashville, Tennessee, this week by Porter Routh, treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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BAPTIST EDUCATORS MEET
IN FLORIDA CONFERENCE

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. --(BP)-- Sixty-two presidents and other staff members of Southern Baptist educational institutions attended a breakfast meeting of the Southern Association of Baptist Colleges and Schools recently in St. Petersburg.

Dr. Raymond F. McLain, New York City, spoke to the group on "What Is A Christian College." Dr. McLain is director of a self-study program being promoted among church-related colleges in the United States.

The study, which he discussed with the Baptist educators, is being sponsored by the Commission on Christian Higher Education of the American Association of Colleges, under a grant from the Lilly endowment.

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SOUTHERN BAPTIST WORK IN OHIO

J. Harold Stephens
Pastor, Inglewood Baptist Church
Nashville, Tennessee

Much of the Southern Baptist work in Ohio centers around Dayton. The White Water Association of Missionary Baptists, organized in 1940, has more than twenty churches. Five of these churches are located in Indiana. These Southern Baptist churches function as an arm of the Kentucky State Association, through which they have made contributions to mission work of a local, home and foreign nature. In their minutes they list the Baptist State Board of Missions in Kentucky for their denominational directory and include all of the causes supported by Kentucky Baptists through the Cooperative Program. Their constitution and articles of faith are entirely in line with Southern Baptists. Last year these churches in the White Water Association reported 545 baptisms and \$17,060 for missions. They have seventeen students for the ministry, six of whom were students at Carson Newman College last year, three at Georgetown College and four at Clear Creek in Kentucky.

The first Southern Baptist church organized in Dayton was the North Dayton Church of which the Rev. William McKinley Beasley is pastor. He is a Tennessean and was pastor of the Cumberland Homestead Baptist Church before moving to Dayton. Much encouragement was given to the organization of this church by the Rev. J.H. Roberson of Cookeville, Tennessee, who has assisted in more than one revival there. A big percentage of the members of this church are from the Upper Cumberland section of Tennessee. The church has grown until they now have a membership of 448. This church also has a mission, known as the Avondale Mission, with a Sunday school enrollment of sixty-three. The mission is pastored by the Rev. Alex Buckner of Monterey, Tennessee. This church had total receipts this last year of \$16,864.21.

Westwood Church of Dayton is older than the North Dayton Baptist Church and helped to sponsor the North Dayton church and is the largest Southern Baptist Church in Dayton, although it was not originally organized as a Southern Baptist church. Westwood Church is pastored by the Rev. John W. Kurtz. This church has recently bought a five-acre plot of ground in a rapidly growing residential section of Dayton and is engaged in building a half-million dollar church plant. They have more than 1,000 members.

Preliminary meetings have already been held with a view of organizing a state convention to be affiliated with Southern Baptists. They now have a total membership of approximately five thousand in this particular association and there are other Southern Baptist churches scattered over the state. Perhaps the larger cities of Ohio have as many southern people in them as northern people. Many of these southern people will rally quickly to a Southern Baptist program. There is a possibility that the work may be organized as an Ohio-Indiana State Convention to begin with and as the work grows a division could be made in the future.

Many of the members of the North Dayton Baptist Church lived in Dayton for a long time without being active in any of the Lord's work until this Southern Baptist church was organized.

A NEW YEAR'S GREETING TO SOUTHERN BAPTISTS
J.D. Grey, President
Southern Baptist Convention

"A LAND OF HILLS AND VALLEYS"

"But the land, whither ye go to possess it, is a land of hills and valleys, and drinketh water of the rain of heaven" (Deuteronomy 11:11).

Standing at the gate of the New Year, we view the land stretching out before us. Looking back, we say with gladness and gratitude, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." The achievements of our beloved Southern Baptist Convention should never make us arrogant, haughty and boastful. The strength and standing of our denomination imposes a greater obligation upon us. There is a certain spiritual "noblesse oblige" we must never forget. Let us remember, "Pride goeth before destruction and an haughty spirit before a fall." And so, as we enter 1952 let us, every one, bow in humility before God, confessing our sins and ascribing all the glory for our victories to Him.

The year before us is truly "a land of hills and valleys." The road is not smooth. God never promises it will be. But as we go down into our valleys we have the blessed assurance that He will go with us. We face the New Year with the faith of one who said, "I do not know what the future holds, but, thank God, I know Him who holds the future." The oft-quoted words of James Russell Lowell encourage us, "Behind the dim unknown, standeth God within the shadow, keeping watch above his own." But let us not view these as our exclusive valleys of sorrow. Others are in those valleys, too. We have the high privilege and regal responsibility of ministering to them in our Master's name. Like Christ, we must reach down in compassion to bless them. Their sorrows must be our sorrows, their griefs our griefs, and their heartaches our very own. May our people and our churches never lose their compassionate concern for the souls of men. The passionless denomination becomes a passing denomination!

Across the hills and valleys in this land of the New Year comes God's clarion call to conquest. "But the land, whither ye go to possess it," is God's marching order for us. Conquest has always, and must ever characterize God's people! No luxury of self-satisfaction, no "living at ease in Zion" must be indulged. Every church with its every member must join in the conflict. None dare to be like Ephraim who "turned back in the day of battle." No limited land, provincial and small, lies out before us beckoning us to conquest. The whole wide world is the field of combat. The battle line reaches twenty-five thousand miles around the earth. Action is seen on every front. A total mobilization of all our forces, including men and means, is called for by Christ our commander. Let every single one in our Southern Baptist

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more New Year's greeting...

host throw himself and his all into this conquest for Christ. We cannot, we must not, we dare not fail Him!

God grant that Southern Baptists, in all their churches, agencies and institutions, will have a glorious 1952. May we stay together in the fellowship of the gospel, keeping step with Christ our chief in spiritual conquest.