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Church's Lottie Moon Gifts
Jump from \$4,000 to \$40,000

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By Teresa Shields

DENVER, Colo. (BP)--Four years ago Applewood Baptist Church here gave \$4,000 to Southern Baptists' Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions--not bad for a church of about 300 attendance in Sunday School.

But this year their offering will likely reach \$40,000. The congregation is now twice as large, but the offering might be 10 times as large.

Members say the reason is the pastor, Luther Mann, has "world vision." They also say the church is "giving oriented" because it is "mission oriented."

With an annual budget of \$285,000, Applewood gives \$175,000 to missions. That amounts to over 60 percent of the budget. Life commitments to missions have also been made by several members who have caught Mann's "world vision."

"My life has been blessed by the ministry of Dr. Luther Mann," says Don E. Brake, Southern Baptist missionary to Paraguay. "He has continually led the people of Applewood to consider missions in their own life."

Virginia (Mrs. Carl W.) Bechtold, recently appointed Southern Baptist missionary associate assigned to Liberia adds, "Luther Mann, more than anyone else, has been responsible for bringing to the surface the awareness we have felt for a long time. He helped us realize there are many needs on the mission field and the talents we have been given can be used."

Mann says, "The year 1971 marked a real renewal in our church. People were filled by the Holy Spirit and came to the realization that God had better things for their lives than just being ordinary members of a church. They became excited about Christ being in control of their lives."

Mann was turned down three times by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board because of medical problems, but that didn't hinder his mission involvement. His "heart for missions" can be verified by the four couples from Applewood serving with the board as missionaries. Besides the Brakes and Bechtolds, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde D. Meador Jr. serve in Indonesia and Mr. and Mrs. Fred C. Ladd will serve in the Philippines as missionary associates.

Five church members are in contact with the board. Still another couple plans to go to the field with the Wycliffe translators. Others have made life commitments and are in school or other mission work.

The Bechtolds accompanied the pastor and several others from the church on a mission tour to Ecuador. The church has also had tours to Korea and Germany. Mann encourages tours and lay involvement on the mission field.

"Mission tours have made a good impact on our church," Mann states. "People come back having seen the field and the missionaries. They find out missionaries are real human beings. We've had several consider the mission field because of this. It's also helped our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering."

"We now have many people who give 30, 40 and 50 percent of their income to Christ's work. Businessmen have dedicated their businesses to Christ. They realize it's not their business, but God's. When people see it's not their money, but God's, miracles happen in giving."

And "miracles" in giving have happened at Applewood from the year the Baptist Woman's group first encouraged the men to set the goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, according to Mrs. Mann.

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"The first year we turned the goal-setting over to the men," she says, "we just stood with our mouths open. They set the goal at \$12,500. The year before, we gave \$4,000. But we learned that if God lays on our hearts the amount to give, he will provide it. We gave \$17,000 that year."

Mann says the emphasis has changed from "How much do you think we can give?", to "How much do you think God wants us to give?" Mann preaches that tithing (generally regarded as giving 10% of income) is only the foundation for giving. Beyond that people should pray and give as God leads. The church is the largest contributor to the Cooperative Program of Southern Baptists in Colorado.

Every active family in Applewood Baptist Church receives The Commission, foreign missions magazine, and the Rocky Mountain Baptist, the Colorado Baptist state paper, to "funnel missionary news into the congregation."

"There's a lot of missionary activity in our church of which I'm not aware," Mann explains. "Once the snowball gets moving and the church is mission-conscious and aware, people start looking around to see what they can do. We preach that if a need arises and a Christian sees that need, he or she should respond to it."

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Gifts Tagged for Aging,
Bible/Religion Chair

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By Baptist Press

A Greenville County, S. C. couple gave 118 acres of what was described as "choice property" worth approximately \$650,000 to the Greenville Baptist Association to establish a Baptist center for the aging.

And a gift of \$130,000 to establish the E. Lee Oliver Fagan Chair of Bible and Religion was received by Chowan College, a Baptist school in Murfreesboro, N. C. It is the largest single donation for endowment purposes in the college's history, according to Chowan President Bruce E. Whitaker.

The acreage to the Greenville Association is one of the largest ever presented to an association of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, according to the Baptist Courier, which announced the gift by Mr. and Mrs. Hoke Smith, a Baptist couple of the Roper Mountain-Pelham Road (S. C.) community.

An association task force committee, which includes Baptist Courier Editor John Roberts, is working on plans for the proposed center for the aging and is seeking a center director.

The Chowan College gift came from Baptist layman Lee Fagan of Stanardsville, Va., Fagan's mother, the late Mrs. E. Lee Oliver Fagan, for whom the new Bible and religion chair is named, was graduated from Chowan in 1893. Mrs. Fagan died in September 1966.

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Southeastern's Copelands
'Going Home' to Fukuoka

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WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)--When Luther and Louise Copeland arrive at Seinan Gakuin University in Fukuoka, Japan, it will be a homecoming in the truest sense of the word.

Copeland, 60, whose last 19 1/2 years were spent as professor of missions and world religions at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here, is "going back to Fukuoka," where he will again be chancellor of the university, one of the largest Baptist schools in the world.

The Baptist educator taught at Seinan Gakuin as a Southern Baptist missionary from 1948-56, and was chancellor three of those years. He and Mrs. Copeland have been reappointed as missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The university, however, will pay his salary, while the board will pay his wife's salary and fringe benefits.

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Mrs. Copeland, who plans to join her husband this summer, said she will probably teach in the Seinan Gakuin high school system.

In a recent assembly here honoring the Copelands, he told students and faculty, "When I went to look the job over, I had a very definite sense of homecoming. Except for my fumbling in the language it was almost as though I had never been away."

The feeling was only natural, friends said, since nearly all the department heads at the school in Fukuoka are friends or former students of Copeland. He even baptized four of them.

The Seinan Gakuin school has an enrolment of about 2,000 in its high schools and about 8,000 in the university and graduate school, according to Copeland. The institution is operated by the Japan Baptist Convention but maintains close relations with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

As chancellor, Copeland said he will attempt "to maintain and strengthen the school's Christian character. I am also concerned about developing individual initiative and creativity among the students and staff," he said, citing that the education system in Japan tends, in his opinion, to be rather "impersonal."

Copeland said he feels strongly that the Japanese, as much as possible, should bear the burden of leadership in the school and will move in this direction, to the point of turning the chancellor's post over to a Japanese when he leaves Seinan Gakuin. Another concern, he said, is to make more scholarship money available for needy students.

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers.

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Welsh Baptist Periodicals
Require \$23,000 Subsidy

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SWANSEA, Wales (BP)--Financial difficulties caused "mostly by inflation" prompted the Council of the Welsh Baptist Union to grant its publications a combined \$23,000 grant to make ends meet.

The Council resolved to assist the Union's weekly, "Seren Cymru," its quarterly, "Seren Gomer," and children's journal, "Antur." A newly formed subcommittee will conduct an in-depth study of the Union's publications, according to a report from European Baptist Press Service.

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Baptists Participate
In TV Bicentennial Series

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FORT WORTH (BP)--Two Bicentennial religious specials for television will be shown nationally by NBC on Jan. 18 and 25, respectively.

The first special, "Where We Came From," was prepared by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, Inc. and will be seen at 5 p.m., eastern time, Sunday, Jan. 18. It features conversations with prominent American Jews and their connections with traditional backgrounds and the values, actions and goals of modern American Jewish life.

The second special, "Faces of Hope," will be presented on the NBC network at 5 p.m., eastern time, on Sunday, Jan. 25, by Southern Baptists. The documentary about Yugoslavia studies the religious life in a communist state and looks at the role played by the Balkan countries in the spread of Christianity to Europe and the United States.

The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission is cooperating, on behalf of the Southern Baptist Convention, in promotion and audience response for an eight-part series of Bicentennial programs, along with three other religious organizations involved. Others participating, in cooperation with NBC, are the National Council of Churches, The Jewish Theological Seminary of America, and the United States Catholic Conference. The promotion campaign is aided by a grant from The Lilly Endowment.

Each of the organizations is responsible for two of the eight programs and worked independently with NBC in their production. They have joined forces to publicize the programs and distribute related educational materials, but are not providing funds for each other's productions, a commission spokesman said.

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