

**(BP)****BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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May 6, 1976

76-79

Lottie Moon Offering Tops  
 Goal; \$26 Million Given

RICHMOND (BP)--Southern Baptists' Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions topped \$26 million, exceeding its 1975 goal by over \$2 million and surpassing the previous year's total by almost \$3 million.

When the April tabulations were completed, closing the 1975 offering books, \$26,169,421 had been given. The 1975 goal, set by the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), was \$24 million.

The annual offering, given through Southern Baptist churches following the denomination's December Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions, is promoted and sponsored by WMU, auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

The 1975 total is a 12 percent increase over the 1974 offering which totaled \$23,234,094. It is the highest total ever recorded for the offering since its beginning in 1888 when \$3,315 was given.

The Lottie Moon Offering, along with the SBC's national Cooperative Program unified budget, accounts for the SBC Foreign Mission Board's total operating budget. Each of these efforts supplies about half of the resources for foreign missions.

Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, commented, "We praise God for his great blessing upon the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Offering, and we thank Woman's Missionary Union, pastors, the Brotherhood and all church members and organizations whose prayers, efforts, and love have made this offering possible."

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(BP) Photo to be mailed to Baptist state papers.

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Missionary Seriously  
 Injured In Accident

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 5/6/76

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP)--Southern Baptist missionary Hal B. Boone remains hospitalized here after receiving serious injuries in a car accident near Voi, Kenya, on May 3.

A son, Dan, was also in the car, but was not seriously injured.

Boone a physician, is under the care of Kenyan physicians for a crushed thoracic vertebra and some spinal damage. He is paralyzed from the waist down.

Three missionary doctors are consulting on the case. Treatment, but no surgery, is being recommended at this time.

Boone, who has worked with mobile clinics in Kenya, was expecting to transfer to Ghana soon. He was currently working in evangelism.

The son of a Baptist minister, he was born in Elm Mott, Tex., and grew up in several Texas towns. He and his wife, the former Patricia Held of Owensboro, Ky., have six children, five of whom are grown. One daughter, Cathy (Mrs. Dan) Schellenberg, is a missionary in Kenya.

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Missionary Receives  
Chilean Decoration

WASHINGTON (BP)--Southern Baptist Missionary Georgia Mae Ogburn was awarded the Bernardo O'Higgins Decoration by the Chilean government--the country's highest award to a foreigner--in ceremonies at the Chilean Embassy here.

The award is given exclusively to foreigners in recognition of contributions to the moral, educational, and spiritual life of the Chilean people, embassy officials said.

Manuel Trucco, Chilean ambassador to the United States, supervised the ceremonies attended by Chilean government dignitaries, Miss Ogburn's family and friends, representatives from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and local Baptist leaders.

A special medal and scroll were presented, accompanied by expressions of praise and gratitude for Miss Ogburn's contributions to Chile during her 35 years as a Southern Baptist missionary there.

Minister consul of the Chilean Embassy, Tomas Amenabar, cited Miss Ogburn's Christian contributions to the youth and women of Chile with whom she worked as a basis for the award.

In accepting the award, Miss Ogburn responded, "The merit attributed to me is of God who sent me to Chile in 1940."

She expressed appreciation to the ambassador and great admiration for the Chilean people with whom she has worked more than half her life. She said the most outstanding characteristic of Chileans is "their love of liberty and honorableness in their actions."

Arturo Fernandez, associate pastor of First Baptist Church, Santiago, prepared the documentation for Miss Ogburn's nomination for the O'Higgins Award. The documents were collected by the wife of the Chilean president and forwarded to the Government Council on Awards. The council voted unanimously to present the award to Miss Ogburn.

As a missionary, Miss Ogburn organized the Women's Bible Institute of Santiago and served as its director for eight years. This institute is now the Baptist Theological Women's Department of Santiago.

From 1948 to 1975, she served as secretary general of the Chilean Woman's Missionary Union, an organization for Baptist women. She is presently on furlough in Meridian, Miss., where she plans to retire in November.

Born in Selma, Ala., Miss Ogburn grew up in Meridian. She was graduated from Blue Mountain (Miss.) College with the bachelor of arts degree and from Woman's Missionary Union Training School (now merged with Southern Baptist Theological Seminary), Louisville, Ky., with the master of religious education degree.

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(BP) Photo will be mailed to Baptist state papers.

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Call for Major Advance  
In Missions, Stewardship

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5/6/76

RIDGECREST, N. C. (BP)--A cross section of denominational agency and church leaders here called for a nationwide campaign for Cooperative Program unified budget advance increased education and commitment to missions, and a recurring confrontation with the biblical teaching on stewardship among Southern Baptists.

Pro and con information on Southern Baptists' directions and commitment to missions for Jesus Christ were cited at the National Seminar on the Support of Missions, aimed at exploring ways of upgrading the denomination's missions efforts around the world.

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Some 260 persons representing many facets of Southern Baptist life attended the weeklong event, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission.

"Stewardship is a way of life--the Christian way of life," said Morris Ashcraft, professor of theology at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., in defining the seminar's purpose.

"The Christian steward gives all of life to Christ and seeks to honor God with all possessions held in trust . . . The present seminar has stated its task--to examine the truths discovered in two previous seminars . . . and how to apply these truths to methods that individual Christians, the church and the denomination can use."

The two previous seminars referred to by Ashcraft were held in 1971 and 1975 and emphasized stewardship and missions respectively. This year's emphasis combined information and reactions in both areas.

"It's the first time Southern Baptists have begun as a denomination to confront the biblical meaning of stewardship as more than 'giving money,' to include the total lifestyle," one participant noted.

Seven emphases pulled from 38 pages of reports, submitted by five theme assemblies, were summarized for the seminar by Cecil A. Ray, general secretary-treasurer for North Carolina Baptists. He cited a nationwide campaign for Cooperative Program advance, a recurring emphasis on the biblical meaning of stewardship, Christian lifestyle, priority planning with missions in its proper place, correlating a missions education philosophy, the urgency of involving people in missions, and renewed emphasis, training and thinking on prayer.

Participants "informally adopted" several long series of recommendations from the various theme assemblies, none of which are official, said a SBC Stewardship Commission spokesman. Information in the combined reports were to be refined to avoid overlap and will be distributed to "key leadership" around the denomination, the spokesman said.

The combined reports and recommendations were critical of Southern Baptists' for their general, apparent lack of knowledge about the denomination, its polity, missions in general, and the denomination's Cooperative Program unified budget, among other concepts and programs.

The reports call for widespread and greater emphasis in the seven areas to educate Southern Baptists, to inspire greater commitment to a Christian lifestyle that will include not only maximum, responsible giving of money but giving of self to the task of the church and denomination in missions.

Concern was expressed that while Southern Baptists have a tithe (generally considered a tenth of one's income) potential of \$7.5 billion, 15 percent of average income goes for luxury items, and about 80 percent of the 12.7 million-member denomination "gives little or nothing to the cause of Christ through the churches."

The seminar called for greater, integrated support and cooperation at all levels of the denomination and for promoting in every way possible, a Day of Commitment at the beginning of the 1977-79 SBC emphasis on Bold Mission, as a time of "deep commitment to God's missionary purpose." No such date has been set by the SBC as yet.

Greater and renewed emphasis on the role of the local church pastor and associational missionary in promoting and coordinating stewardship and missions thrusts--in funds and the total Christian lifestyle--was considered imperative.

Few, if any, areas were left untouched. Denominational members were called to consider the Christian lifestyle in handling their expense accounts. Agencies were admonished to be open about salaries of employees. Lay participation and greater local church member involvement in short-term missions projects were urged.

Seminaries, colleges and the various agencies having educational responsibilities among or with the churches were challenged to give greater stress in curriculum to the seven general emphases toward a greater thrust in missions and stewardship.

Information and communication were considered paramount, according to the reports, and one recommendation called for recognizing the worth of Baptist state papers as the most valuable instruments for disseminating information on such things as the Cooperative Program, missions advances and needs, and prayer requests.

Seminar participants noted a "decreasing percentage of income via the Cooperative Program in comparison with the increasing growth of major special offerings such as the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

Even so, Cooperative Program totals, although struggling to keep abreast of inflation, have continued to hit record highs in recent years and up to the present time.

One recommendation further suggested that the denomination might consider linking the Cooperative Program and special offering in a new way so that the weeks of prayer and study carry the education emphasis for both.

The suggestion was not to do away with the Cooperative Program or the special offerings but to handle the education and promotion in such a way as "to ensure proper growth in all areas," the commission spokesman noted.

Participants called for financing of long range plans for the next 25 years of SBC Bold Mission advance. The two denominational mission boards and a special Missions Challenge Committee will report at the SBC in Norfolk, in June, in response to convention instructions to project bold new plans for world missions.

Speakers challenged seminar participants and Southern Baptists in general.

" . . . Instead of having 35,000 Southern Baptist churches, (we) ought to be creeping over into the area of 70,000, maybe even 100,000 churches in the United States . . .," said E. Harmon Moore, executive secretary of Indiana Baptists.

R. Keith Parks, director of the mission support division for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, stressed: "I'm convinced you and I are standing at a time in history when there are people ready to respond to the gospel--more are winnable at this moment than has ever been true in the history of humanity."

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Baptist Press  
5/6/76

SBC Will Elect President,  
Hear Ford, Conduct Business

By Robert O'Brien

NORFOLK (BP)--In a year of presidential politics--USA-style and SBC-style--more than 16,000 Southern Baptists, meeting here June 15-17, will elect a new convention president and possibly hear the president of the United States.

Elected "messengers" to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting will also vote on a record-shattering \$55 million national Cooperative Program unified budget for 1976-77, survey the denomination's worldwide mission strategy for the last quarter of this century, and hear a report on the SBC Executive Committee.

A new president will assume the top elective position of the nation's largest Protestant body at the end of the jam-packed, three-day session. Jaroy Weber, pastor of Lubbock's 10,277-member First Baptist Church, who will preside at the SBC's 119th annual session, will step down after two one-year terms, the SBC's constitutional limit.

The tradition of presidential politics, SBC-style, dictates that candidates mount no overt campaigns for the office but emerge from nominations from the floor and a vote by messengers.

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That milieu, common for SBC elections (SBC presidents are customarily voted a second term unopposed), may seem strange to outside observers in a national election year in which candidates scramble, USA-style, for the country's presidency.

Incumbent President Gerald Ford, now scrambling for the nomination of the Republican Party, had tentatively agreed to address the SBC's Tuesday evening session, June 15--subject to change--long before the current challenge by Ronald Reagan put his nomination in question. A final decision on the president's appearance will be made two or three weeks before the speaking date, according to a White House spokesman.

The SBC's committee on order of business asked Mr. Ford to come as the President--not a candidate--to speak non-politically in observance of the nation's Bicentennial.

However, some have felt that the invitation was not wise in an election year. Illinois Baptist Editor Robert J. Hastings, in a widely-circulated mailgram, asked the committee to withdraw the invitation to Mr. Ford because publicity he would get in Norfolk would not be fair to former Georgia Gov. Jimmy Carter, an active Southern Baptist layman and front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination.

The committee declined, emphasizing Mr. Ford's role as a President, not a candidate, and Hastings said he would pursue it no further. At least four Southern Baptist editors, since Hastings' letter, have declared editorially that the invitation should stand and that Southern Baptists should hear the president.

Governor Carter, himself, in an interview with World Mission Journal, published by the SBC Brotherhood Commission of which he is a trustee, said, "I have had no adverse reaction to that (Mr. Ford's invitation). I don't feel excluded by not being invited this year. I spoke to the Southern Baptist Convention when it met in Dallas in 1974 and introduced Gerald Ford (then vice president) at a Brotherhood Commission-sponsored prayer breakfast."

The \$55 million budget--\$4 million more than 1975-76--includes a \$49 million basic operating budget for 20 SBC and SBC-related national agencies and committees and the SBC operating budget. It also includes a \$1,080,000 capital needs figure and \$4,920,000 in challenge operating funds. The challenge portion is broken into two phases of \$1 million and \$3.9 million.

Messengers will also vote on a \$909,000 1976-77 convention operating budget, which includes the cost of operating the annual SBC meeting, the SBC's contribution to the Baptist World Alliance and other items.

A 21-person missions challenge committee, mandated by Southern Baptists in 1974 to study the potential of the 12.7-million-member denomination's world wide missions advance during the last 25 years of the 20th Century, will deliver a 65-page report.

It will include 15 major recommendations, built around the first one urging a primary goal of taking the gospel of Jesus Christ to everyone in the world in the final quarter of the century. The recommendations will urge unprecedented inter-agency cooperation and a quantum financial leap by churches and state conventions to achieve objectives.

The SBC Home and Foreign Mission Boards, also asked by the SBC to study bold new plans for missions, will deliver lengthy reports, projecting missions growth, during the Norfolk meeting.

In another report, the Committee of Seven, which the SBC asked to study its Executive Committee at the Executive Committee's request will bring its recommendations.

The Committee of Seven, chaired by C.R. Daley, editor of Kentucky Baptist state news publication, Western Recorder, will recommend bylaw changes clarifying the Executive Committee status. It will also recommend that its findings and suggestions be referred to the Executive Committee for consideration and response to the 1977 SBC meeting in Kansas City.

Basically, the study commends the Executive Committee and suggests such things as broadening the base of selection of Executive Committee (EC) members and the scope and depth of pre and post election orientation of EC members, increasing involvement of EC members in the EC's decision-making process, improving communications and cooperation between the EC and agencies, involving all the EC members in studying agency budget requests, keeping the authority of the EC in "healthy tension" with the authority of convention-elected trustees of agencies, clarifying what the EC's status as the convention "ad interim" means and what authority it has to look into the affairs of an agency.

Besides resolutions, unpredictable in content, which could range from the charismatic movement to abortion, the messengers will hear agency reports, the president's address, the convention sermon and other inspirational messages and music, and conduct other business.

That business will include one item which would require changing Article VI of the SBC constitution to decrease the number of local members serving as trustees of SBC boards and agencies. The change would alter the number of trustees from "the city or vicinity of the state in which the board is located" from 18 to 12. It would also reduce the number of local members from any one church from 5 to 3.

That grew out of a motion at the 1973 SBC which would have had the effect of abolishing local boards altogether and seeking wider representation. Last year, an Executive Committee recommendation to the convention that the figures be reduced from 18 to 16 and 5 to 4 was referred back for further study.

Kenneth Barnett, a New Mexico pastor formerly of Oklahoma, who made the original motion, told an Executive Committee hearing he would support the latest proposal.

The 1976 recommendation would also lower membership requirements for representation on boards and agencies, allowing an additional member from each state with 250,000 Southern Baptists, instead of the current 500,000. Each state would also be allowed an additional representative for each additional 250,000, as the SBC constitution now stipulates.

Another suggested change, for commissions whose trustees are not determined by charter requirements, would reduce local members from 10 to 8 and representatives of the same church from 5 to 2.

Barnett's original motion grew out of a feeling that SBC boards and agencies need wider representation. The latest recommendation seeks to incorporate that feeling but not abolish local members because of the need of agencies to have members close by to assist with corporate work that a board made up only of distant members would find more difficult to accomplish.

Among other business, the SBC Sunday School Board will report that its trustees have reaffirmed the board's present method of allocating funds to state conventions for promotion of work.

Board trustees responded to a motion made at the SBC in Miami Beach last year by a North Carolina messenger "that the money being used by the Sunday School Board in its program of Cooperative Education and Promotion Work with state conventions be given to the Cooperative Program" unified budget of the Southern Baptist Convention rather than directly to state conventions.

But the board, which studied the historical position of the convention and surveyed state Baptist executive secretaries, forecast that state conventions would need "to withhold nearly \$2 million from the national level Cooperative Program in order to make up for this loss of money supplied by the Sunday School Board."

State officials unanimously agreed that the present system has not resulted in interference by the Sunday School Board or attempted domination by the agency, a board spokesman said. The trustee study indicated difficulties related to the motion, including problems with cooperative planning, programming, field services, and general correlation of work between the board and state conventions.

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Baptist Wins 'American  
Mother of the Year' Award

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5/6/76

WASHINGTON (BP)--A Baptist minister's wife from New Mexico--nominated by Catholic and Baptist churches in Questa, N.M.--was named American Mother of the Year in an awards ceremony at the Shoreham Hotel here.

Mrs. W.E. (Maxine) Grindstaff received the award, granted by the American Mother's Committee, from President Gerald Ford. She had qualified for consideration for the national award by winning New Mexico's Mother of the Year competition.

The nomination came from First Baptist Church, where her husband, a retired Southern Baptist leader, serves as pastor, and St. Anthony's Catholic Church.

Mrs. Grindstaff's husband was an executive with the Southern Baptist Convention's Stewardship Commission, Nashville, for nine years, has served as pastor of Baptist churches and, with Mrs. Grindstaff, served two years as a Southern Baptist missionary associate in Israel.

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The new mother of the year was cited for her work as a teacher and work in her own church and in civic and religious organizations. Among other things, she has assisted in the music program at St. Anthony Catholic Church, which co-nominated her for the award.

She was also commended for the influence she has had on three sons, Terry, a first lieutenant in the U.S. Coast Guard; Michael, a U.S. Army captain who will return to West Point as an instructor after completing a Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina; and Eddie, who works with an independent foundation in the Washington area which evaluates government programs designed to help minority groups. Eddie was a Peace Corps volunteer for three years in Columbia, South America, and a Peace Corps area director in Ecuador for three years.

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Record Budget, Salary  
Hike for Golden Gate

Baptist Press  
5/6/76

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Trustees of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary here adopted a record \$1,425,113 budget for 1976-77, increased basic salaries, named one new faculty member, promoted two staff persons, and announced plans to build more student housing.

A salary increase of about 12 percent was projected as the largest budget in the seminary's history was announced during the school's annual trustees' meeting. Golden Gate's 1975-76 budget was \$1,144,885. The budget increase is due largely to stronger support of Southern Baptist seminaries through the denomination's Cooperative Program unified budget, a seminary spokesman noted.

Staff promotions were approved for Eugene V. England to vice president for business affairs and Stanton H. Nash to vice president for development. England and Nash, long term administrators at the seminary, formerly served as business manager and as assistant to the president, respectively.

Naymond Keathley of West Palm Beach, Fla., was named as assistant professor of New Testament. Keathley, assistant professor of religion at Palm Beach Atlantic College since 1972, is a graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Tex., and earned the bachelor of divinity and doctor of philosophy degrees from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

In further action, seminary president Harold K. Graves announced plans for immediate construction of 24 more apartment units on the campus to meet the needs of the growing student body. An enrollment increase of 10 percent was reported for the past school year.

Trustees changed the name of the school's Los Angeles Center to the Southern California Center of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary and provided for a local advisory council to assist with the development of the Center.

Long Range Planning Committee Chairman E. Glen Paden made a report based on an extensive survey of students, alumni, faculty and denominational leaders in eleven western states. More than 1,000 questions were asked in the survey. Total questions answered by the respondents numbered 266,596. Trustees continued the committee for two more years.

In other business, trustees adopted an employee recognition program which will provide longevity pin awards for employees and action was taken to provide additional insurance and other benefits for retired employees. The seminary's committee to recommend appropriate retirement arrangements reported on plans concerning recognitions for President Graves who will retire in 1977 and the school's presidential search committee gave an interim report.

Trustee officers for the 1976-77 term are Charles A. Carter, chairman of the board, Bankers Trust Company, Jackson, Miss., chairman; E. Glen Paden, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Sacramento, vice chairman; Thomas A. Jackson, pastor of the McLean Baptist Church, McLean, Va., secretary; and Wayne Barnes, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Zachary, La., assistant secretary. Cecil Wood of Phoenix, Ariz., was elected to serve an unexpired term as trustee from Arizona.

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