



# BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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76-164

### SBC Ends Fiscal Year With \$86.3 Million

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention ended the 1975-76 fiscal year here September 30 with almost \$86.3 million in total receipts from churches--including over \$46.7 million for the SBC's national Cooperative Program unified budget.

The Cooperative Program figure, \$46,725,721, exceeds the basic operating and capital needs budgets for agencies administering the SBC's worldwide missions program by more than \$4.6 million. But it was \$4.2 million short of a "challenge" goal to meet unfunded mission needs.

The 1975-76 budget included a \$41 million basic operating budget, \$1,080,000 capital needs budget, and \$8,920,000 in challenge funds for a total of \$51 million. At the beginning of October, Southern Baptists began shooting for a 1976-77 budget of \$55 million, which includes \$49 million in basic operating needs, \$1,080,000 in capital needs, and \$4,920,000 in challenge funds.

The total receipts, \$86,286,334, included the Cooperative Program figure and an additional \$39,560,613 in funds designated to specific causes. The Cooperative Program figure is undesignated.

Overall percentages showed a 13.65 percent increase in the Cooperative Program amount over the \$41.1 million received by the end of the 1974-75 fiscal year, and a 12.42 percent increase in total contributions over the \$76.7 million received last year. Designated gifts alone showed an 11 percent increase over \$35.6 million received last year.

A rough breakdown of SBC giving in all 34,902 churches, indicates that the Cooperative Program figure of over \$46.7 million represents about one-third of the amount received from churches by 33 state conventions, covering all 50 states. That figure, in turn, represents between 8 and 9 percent of the amount actually given in the churches.

During September, the final month of the fiscal year, Cooperative Program receipts totaled \$3,647,284, a 15 percent increase over last September; designated contributions totaled \$570,991, a 15.74 percent increase over last September; and total gifts amounted to \$4,218,275, a 15.10 percent increase.

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'Swiss Cheese'  
Gets a Nibble

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MEMPHIS (BP)--When a Baptist professor of New Testament from Ruschlikon, Switzerland, Gunter Wagner, drove through this mid-South metropolis with his wife, Doris, recently, they were in a borrowed automobile equipped with a Citizen's Band radio.

Other CB'ers, out on the road, kept trying to get them to answer calls. "What's your 'handle?'" a female voice asked, expecting to hear some radio name.

Mrs. Wagner, accompanying her husband during his sabbatical leave as a research scholar at Harvard University, thought frantically and finally replied: "This is 'Swiss Cheese'" The caller's voice came in again, loud and clear: "Then who is that rat with you?" Welcome to the USA, Dr. Wagner.

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Cambodian Finds Christ  
In Thai Refugee Camp

By Irma Duke

RICHMOND (BP)--Savoeun Nuon loved to collect Christian pamphlets as a child in Cambodia even though he understood little of what he read.

Today he is a Christian, a member of the Derbyshire Baptist Church here, and loves to witness for Christ.

Many things have changed in Nuon's life in the year-and-a-half since he fled Cambodia--his home, his job and his relationship to the same God he read about as a child.

In Cambodia, Nuon was the chief of veterinary services at Pailin City. Because of his position, he said he and his family had no trouble leaving Cambodia. Their lives were not threatened at all.

Up until the time he left, he said, "It seemed to me I was sinking in a very big ocean, but thank goodness I felt I saw something floating nearby, coming to help me."

And his help came with Southern Baptist missionary Ronald C. Hill and Kuch Kong, a Cambodian pastor, whom he met in Klang Yai refugee camp in Thailand.

"I praise the Lord for the opportunity to know him (Kuch Kong) and Ron Hill, too." On the morning following their arrival at the camp, "Ron Hill came immediately to our needs," he explained. Hill brought them food and clothing and told them about Jesus Christ.

Kuch Kong arrived at the refugee camp at the same time Nuon and his family did and gave them a Bible. The refugees could not leave the camp, so they had much time they could spend in Bible study and singing.

Nuon, his wife and his sister-in-law, became believers in Christ there and were baptized in a nearby river. "I invited Christ into my wretched heart...I dare to say I am a newborn now," Nuon exclaimed.

Nuon and his family left the Thailand refugee camp in September, 1975, to go to Ft. Chaffee, Ark., where they awaited sponsorship. Nuon worked as an interpreter with Doug Kellum, former Southern Baptist missionary journeyman to Vietnam, who served as a caseworker at Ft. Chaffee. It was through him Nuon and his family found out about Richmond and the Derbyshire Baptist Church. They moved here in December, 1975.

Derbyshire Church found an apartment for Nuon, his wife, sister-in-law, cousin and two children. The church is still paying his rent, but he is taking care of all other living expenses.

Members of the church have helped them with English, budgeting, shopping and cooking. Mrs. Nuon said that grocery shopping has not been too hard because oriental foods are plentiful in Richmond and because they like American food, too. English has been a small problem, but Nuon is helping teach the rest of the family. "

I try to teach my family new words everyday," he said.

Nuon has had several jobs, but in September he will become a full-time biologist in the department of pharmacology at A.H. Robbins, where he will be able to use much of his training. He graduated from the College of Veterinary Medicine in Cambodia in 1969 and has done some post-graduate work in Holland, on dairy cattle husbandry.

Credit for his new job goes to God, Nuon said. "I will accept any kind of job. I believe God will lead my life.

"These days I'm very fond of the Bible," he said. "As I do not want to keep everything closed, I love to share God's message to everyone I meet."

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist papers

Irma Duke is a staff writer for the press office of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.