

April 7, 1956

127 Ninth Avenue, North — Nashville, Tennessee

CONVENTION 1956 FUNDS
UP 12 PCT. OVER 1955

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Funds for use by Southern Baptist Convention boards, agencies, and institutions so far this year are running 12.29 per cent ahead of a like three-month period in 1955.

This is the statement of Porter Routh, treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention. His report covers both Cooperative Program and special, designated receipts for the period January-March.

The total for this period in 1956 is \$7,931,385, compared with \$7,063,450 a year ago. Due to Lottie Moon Christmas Offerings for foreign missions, which come in heaviest in the early months of the year, designated funds are running close to \$1½ million greater than Cooperative Program (undesignated) income.

The statement for the single month of March, 1956, shows receipts totaling \$1,786,106 ---\$1,082,602 through the Cooperative Program and \$703,504 by designations.

Figures do not include money retained by local churches for their own use nor that portion of Cooperative Program and designated funds kept for state Baptist convention uses.

The state convention in _____ sent to SBC uses \$ _____ in March. That sum includes \$ _____ in Cooperative Program money for Convention use and \$ _____ in funds designated for special purposes by givers.

The top 10 states in total funds forwarded to the treasurer's office in March, in order, are Texas, Tennessee, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Alabama, Missouri, and Kentucky.

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MADDRY, WIFE HONORED
ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HILLSBORO, N. C.--(BP)--Charles E. Maddry, retired executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, and Mrs. Maddry will be honored here Apr. 15 on their golden wedding anniversary.

It will also be Maddry's 80th birthday celebration.

The man who for a dozen years (1933-1945) led the Convention in its foreign missions program has been serving as pastor of First Baptist Church, Hillsboro, since 1951.

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CONVENTION CHOSE KANSAS
CITY IN 1905 AND 1923

KANSAS CITY, Mo.--(BP)--Twice, before 1956, the Southern Baptist Convention has held its annual session in Kansas City, Mo.

And, like the 1956 Convention, the previous Convention sessions of 1905 and 1923 provided discussion and plans for the Convention operation of seminaries to train religious workers.

The 1956 Convention will be asked to give conditional approval to a sixth seminary.

In the earlier Conventions here, Southern Baptists had only one seminary supported by the Convention at-large. That was Southern Baptist Seminary at Louisville, Ky.

The 1923 Convention received an offer of ownership and control of Southwestern Baptist Seminary in Fort Worth, Tex. At that time, the seminary was owned by the Baptist General Convention of Texas and was being supported by 11 state Baptist conventions.

Later, the Convention did assume ownership and control of Southwestern Seminary as the second Convention seminary.

In both the 1905 and 1923 Conventions, messengers gave attention to the needs for educating Negro Baptist workers. There was no Negro Baptist seminary. In 1923, a committee told the Convention that it was negotiating for property in Nashville on which to locate a Negro Baptist seminary.

Such a seminary is being operated now. American Baptist Seminary, as it is known, is jointly operated by the Southern Baptist Convention and by the National Baptist Convention, U. S. A., Inc., the largest Negro Baptist convention.

The growth of the Convention may be seen in the statistics reported in 1905, 1923, and 1956. The figures follow:

	1905	1923	1956
Number SBC Churches	19,847	27,919	30,377
Membership of SBC	1,794,740	3,366,211	8,474,741
Value Church Property	\$22,945,857	\$115,379,210	\$1,320,488,639

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C O R R E C T I O N

On page 2 of Baptist Press April 5, 1956, "Russian Baptists Send Their Easter Greetings," please make copy read in two places "feast" rather than "feat" as applied to Christ's resurrection. -- B. P.

A-T-T-E-N-T-I-O-N--E-D-I-T-O-R-S ! ! !

DO NOT PUBLISH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT BEFORE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 1956

AN APPEAL FOR A CHRISTIAN SPIRIT IN RACE RELATIONS

Southern Baptists and Negro Baptists constitute the largest Christian groups in the South. The consequences of failure to find a Christian solution to the problems of tension in race relations will rest more heavily upon these groups than others. In view of the many influences that are contributing to an emotional approach to these problems, it becomes urgently imperative that Christians consider them calmly and on the basis of Christian teachings.

In response to a request from the Advisory Council for Work with Negroes--a group of workers serving with various agencies in Southern Baptist life--we have been given the opportunity to express our personal convictions about this matter.

We are speaking as individuals, desiring to witness for Christ, and have no thought of speaking for Southern Baptists or for any church or agency affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

We appeal to our Baptist brethren, white and Negro, and to other Christian friends, to give careful consideration to the following statement of principles, setting forth, we believe, the truth of the Bible and offered in the spirit of good will and Christian love:

1. God created man in his own image. Therefore, every man possesses infinite worth and should be treated with respect as a person.
2. Christ died for all men. Therefore, the Christian view of man, every man, must reflect the spirit of the cross.
3. God is no respecter of persons. Therefore, prejudice against persons or mistreatment of persons on the grounds of race is contrary to the will of God.
4. Christ said, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Therefore, Christians are obligated to manifest active good will toward all people and to help them to achieve their fullest potentialities as persons.
5. Christian love, as exemplified by Christ, is the supreme law for all human relations. Therefore, Christians have the assurance that such love, conscientiously practiced, will resolve tensions and bring harmony and good will in race relations.
6. All true Christians are brothers in Christ and children of God. Therefore, they are obligated to cultivate prayerful concern for one another and to show confidence in one another.
7. Every person is accountable to God. Therefore, the right of individual opinion, tested by the teachings of Christ, and of freedom to express it, always in the spirit of Christian love, should be granted to all and respected by all.

We commit ourselves to seek new insights as to our Christian duty and to seek more grace in manifesting Christian love toward all men. We earnestly appeal to others to join with us in making this commitment and in the resolve to pray unceasingly that the Spirit of God will help us to create a fellowship that will be a witness for Christ to all peoples and all races around the world.

Signed:

Theodore F. Adams, pastor, First Baptist Church, Richmond, Va., and president, Baptist World Alliance.

Olin T. Binkley, professor of Christian sociology and ethics, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C.

Walter Pope Binns, president, William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo.

R. Paul Caudill, pastor, First Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.

Baker James Cauthen, executive secretary, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.

C. C. Warren, president, Southern Baptist Convention, Charlotte, N. C.

more

28 signers

R. Orin Cornett, executive secretary, Southern Baptist Education Commission, Nashville, Tenn.

H. Leo Eddleman, president, Georgetown College, Georgetown, Ky.

Harold K. Graves, president, Golden Gate Baptist Seminary, Berkeley, Calif.

J. D. Grey, pastor, First Baptist Church, New Orleans, La.

Ralph A. Herring, pastor, First Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, N. C.

H. H. Hobbs, pastor, First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Okla.

Miss Alma Hunt, executive secretary, Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary to SBC, Birmingham, Ala.

C. O. Johnson, pastor, Third Baptist Church, St. Louis, Mo.

Miss Emily K. Lansdell, president, Carver School of Missions and Social Work, Louisville, Ky.

Duke K. McCall, president, Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Roy O. McClain, pastor, First Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga.

A. C. Miller, executive secretary, Christian Life Commission of SBC, Nashville, Tenn.

H. Guy Moore, pastor, Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Tex.

Louie D. Newton, pastor, Druid Hills Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga.

W. R. Pettigrew, pastor, Walnut St. Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky.

Courts Redford, executive secretary, Home Mission Board of SBC, Atlanta, Ga.

Howard M. Reaves, pastor, First Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala.

Porter Routh, executive secretary, Southern Baptist Executive Committee, Nashville, Tenn.

George W. Schroeder, executive secretary, Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, Memphis, Tenn.

S. L. Stealey, president, Southeastern Baptist Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C.

W. R. White, president, Baylor University, Waco, Tex.

J. Howard Williams, president, Southwestern Baptist Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.

ATTENTION EDITORS!!!

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CONTACTS ILL MEMBER
VIA TWO-WAY INTERCOM

LOUISVILLE, Ky.--(BP)--Illness didn't prevent the oldest member of Victory Memorial Baptist Church here from taking part in the church's Easter Sunday worship service.

Pastor George H. Riggs extended a greeting to 93-year-old Mrs. Molly Reed over a two-way intercommunication system set up from the church to her home two blocks away. Mrs. Reed, in return, spoke a few words to the congregation.

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folks & facts.....

.....Membership of churches in Mississippi Baptist Convention now totals 430,134, compared with 421,917 a year ago. During the 12 months, the number of churches increased by 19 to the present 1734.

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.....R. L. Brantley, Jr., 23-year-old son of the vice-president of Mercer University, died Mar. 21 as result of an automobile accident at Lexington, Va. He was a student at Washington and Lee University. The senior Brantley is former president of Baptist-operated Virginia Intermont College, Bristol, Va.

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.....Charles M. Lowry, minister of music-education at Southside Baptist Church, Pine Bluff, Ark., has accepted a call to become associate secretary of the Sunday school department, Florida Baptist Convention, Jacksonville.

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.....Porter Routh, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, Nashville, will deliver the commencement address Apr. 23 at Clear Creek Mountain Preachers Bible School, Pineville, Ky.

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.....President and Mrs. George B. Connell, of Mercer University, Macon, Ga., have accepted an invitation to attend the second annual Presidents' Institute at Harvard University June 19-27. The institute for university administrators will have primary emphasis on the "decision-making function of the president."

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