

June 16, 1956

CONVENTION ASSETS AT  
RECORD \$131 MILLION

NASHVILLE--(BP)-- Assets of Southern Baptist Convention agencies increased more than \$20 million during the past year to a record total of \$131,241,242, according to Treasurer Porter Routh here.

During the same 12-month period, ending Dec. 31, 1955, liabilities increased only a little over \$3 million to \$7,417,644.

This financial statement, based on the annual audits of each of the more than 20 agencies, reflects the "good condition" of the Convention, Routh declared.

"Even with \$131 million in assets," Routh added, "the strength of the Southern Baptist Convention does not lie in the accumulation of property and reserve. Rather the strength of the Convention lies in the concern of Southern Baptists to find direction and power from the Holy Spirit, and to find motivation in world mission needs."

The only institution of the Convention showing an operating deficit for 1955 was the new Baptist Hospital in Jacksonville, Fla., Routh said. The hospital opened during the summer of 1955 and the deficit was attributed to its opening and the fact that it was in operation only four months before the audit was taken.

New Orleans Baptist Seminary, New Orleans, La., was the only institution which showed a decrease in assets. This, according to Routh, was due to the seminary's selling of its old campus property. The old campus was listed on seminary accounts at more value than the actual sale price.

The major factors which brought about the net increase of \$17 million in assets were listed by Routh as: (1) building up reserves by the Relief and Annuity Board; (2) assets of the Jacksonville Hospital (\$5 million) being turned over to the Convention by a local committee; (3) increased business of the Baptist Sunday School Board; (4) capital additions to the five Convention seminaries through the Cooperative Program.

The increase in liabilities occurred because the Home Mission Board borrowed \$1½ million which in turn it is loaning for church expansion in new areas, and because the hospital at Jacksonville has a \$1½ million self-liquidating loan.

Assets of the Convention's agencies have steadily risen in the last 25 years while liabilities have more or less remained constant. The first complete listing of assets and liabilities of all agencies was in the 1931 Convention annual--\$24,791,000 in assets and \$5,972,000 in liabilities.

ASSETS, LIABILITIES  
OF AGENCIES LISTED

NASHVILLE--(BP)-- Here is Treasurer Porter Routh's statement of the assets and liabilities of Southern Baptist Convention agencies, based on their annual audits through Dec. 31, 1955:

THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION			
ASSETS			
	1955	1954	Increase (Decrease)
Foreign Mission Board	13,500,909.50	12,628,851.41	.872,058.09
Home Mission Board	15,301,237.14	12,698,882.90	2,602,354.24
Relief and Annuity Board	40,688,476.02	33,979,116.80	6,709,359.22
Sunday School Board	18,925,956.56	16,071,415.42	2,854,541.14
Southern Hospital, N.O.	4,775,963.59	4,671,746.62	104,216.97
Southern Hospital, Jacksonville	5,198,809.25	-0-	5,198,809.25
Southwestern Seminary	8,782,357.46	8,107,462.73	674,894.73
Southeastern Seminary	2,455,173.85	2,146,432.47	308,741.38
American Seminary	745,539.15	682,817.62	62,721.53
Southern Seminary	12,015,901.69	11,542,877.28	473,024.41
Golden Gate Seminary	1,185,814.89	949,698.18	236,116.80
New Orleans Seminary	5,983,418.40	6,119,855.24	(136,436.84)
Southern Baptist Foundation	630,228.87	491,223.18	139,005.69
Christian Life Commission	1,902.18	1,696.14	206.04
Education Commission	5,802.60	3,876.43	1,926.17
Brotherhood Commission	130,675.46	97,883.98	32,791.48
Radio and TV Commission	305,839.72	274,484.49	31,355.23
Historical Commission	93,301.65	80,057.71	13,243.94
Executive Committee	<u>513,934.64</u>	<u>465,675.19</u>	48,259.45
Total Assets	131,241,242.62	111,014,053.79	
Total Increase in Assets	20,227,188.83		

(more)

THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION  
LIABILITIES

	1955	1954	Increase (Decrease)
Foreign Mission Board	7,957.78	14,170.01	(6,212.23)
Home Mission Board	1,816,279.97	504,945.87	1,311,334.10
Relief and Annuity Board	94,045.86	20,750.54	73,295.32
Sunday School Board	1,322,715.26	861,718.30	460,996.96
Southern Hospital, N. O.	1,157,649.75	1,231,342.27	(73,692.52)
Southern Hospital, Jacksonville	1,865,997.91	-0-	1,865,997.91
Southwestern Seminary	35,187.60	38,647.43	3,459.83
Southeastern Seminary	401,926.40	704,308.77	(302,382.37)
American Seminary	422.48	231.00	191.48
Southern Seminary	619,430.99	682,689.92	(63,258.93)
Golden Gate Seminary	4,186.19	2,964.82	1,221.37
New Orleans Seminary	39,820.31	172,100.36	(132,280.05)
Southern Baptist Foundation	162.68	-0-	162.68
Christian Life Commission	498.46	484.23	14.23
Education Commission	1,113.13	974.18	138.95
Brotherhood Commission	10,889.43	7,032.30	3,857.13
Radio and TV Commission	37,626.56	16,236.25	21,390.31
Historical Commission	221.60	2,197.58	(1,975.98 )
Executive Committee	<u>1,512.60</u>	<u>2,982.24</u>	(1,469.64)
Total Liabilities	7,417,644.96	4,263,776.07	
Increase in Liabilities	3,153,868.89		

**TENNESSEE CONVENTION  
SECRETARY TO RETIRE**

NASHVILLE--(BP)--C. W. Pope, executive secretary of Tennessee Baptist Convention, has announced his retirement effective Oct. 31. He will remain with the convention for two months after that as a consultant.

Pope, a native of Georgia and graduate of Mercer University, Macon, became state secretary for Tennessee Baptists in 1942, succeeding John D. Freeman.

After graduating from Mercer, Pope became pastor of Concord Baptist Church, Chattanooga, Tenn., and from there went to pastorate of First Baptist Church, Jefferson City, Tenn., and served from 1927 to 1942.

Carson-Newman College, Baptist college in Jefferson City, conferred an honorary doctor of divinity degree on Pope in 1931. Cumberland University, Lebanon, Tenn. (no longer operating) conferred an LL.D. degree in 1950.

During his period as executive secretary, Tennessee Baptists have acquired control of old Ward-Belmont College, a junior college for girls in Nashville, and converted it into a four-year, coeducational college. They acquired former Protestant Hospital, Nashville, which has become Mid-State Baptist Hospital, and built a new hospital, East Tennessee Baptist Hospital, Knoxville.

Membership of churches affiliated with the convention has increased from 427,000 to 678,000 and total gifts from \$687,000 to \$3,720,000.

Pope has a son, Hughlan, who is head of the division of science at Belmont College. His youngest daughter is Mrs. Robert Sanders, wife of pastor of First Baptist Church, Camden, Tenn.

What does he plan to do after retiring? He and Mrs. Pope will settle in Tennessee, but have not decided where. He said he will be available for occasional revival and pulpit supply work, but that his main ambition is to write a book in the field of psychology of religion.

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ADD TO 6-14-56 RELEASE: "Clinic to See Guide on Church Finance."

Church finance materials will not be available for general use in churches before the fall of 1957. Until that time, they are being used only in church finance clinics and workshops and in test projects in Mississippi, Arizona, and other states.

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COUNSELING CONFERENCE  
PROGRAM IS ARRANGED

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Aaron L. Rutledge, leader of counseling service and counseling training program, Merrill-Palmer School, Detroit, will be guest speaker for a Southern Baptist Conference on Counseling here Oct. 1-2.

Rutledge is a Southern Baptist himself and a graduate of Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville. He is among 17 persons who have parts on the conference program.

A. C. Miller, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, Nashville, said the conference will help meet a growing need in the denomination for a highly-specialized counseling ministry.

The Christian Life Commission is one of several sponsoring agencies. About 60 to 75 denominational leaders are expected to be present.

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ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION  
BUYS NEW CAMP LANDS

PINCKNEYVILLE, Ill.--(BP)--The Illinois Baptist State Association recently bought 40 acres adjoining its Lake Sallateeska Baptist State Campgrounds near here.

The new tract of land will be added to the campground area, bringing its size to 80 acres, according to State Executive Secretary Noel M. Taylor.

The state association owes about \$1900 on the new tract, which will be paid off within the next two years.

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MEMO TO EDITORS:

Add to list of members, committee on theological education, the name of James Bryant, state Baptist Foundation secretary, Richmond, Va.

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# BAPTIST FEATURES

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June 16, 1956

FIRST LADY OF THE WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION MRS. R. L. MATHIS  
By Jack Harwell

WACO, Tex.--(BP)--Meet the new president of the Woman's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention--Mrs. R. L. Mathis, of Waco.

Born Marie Wiley at Bellevue, Tex., she is one of two daughters of T. D. and Callie S. Wiley. She received her elementary and secondary school education in Wichita Falls, Tex.

At Southern Methodist University, Dallas, where she went to college, Mrs. Mathis majored in personnel management. She has since received an honorary doctor of laws degree, on the occasion of her addressing the graduating class of Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Tex., in August, 1955.

She set two "firsts" in her appearance at Hardin-Simmons: It was the first time the college had given an honorary degree to a woman and it was the first time a woman had served as commencement speaker.

She married Robert Lee Mathis, now dead, and they have a daughter, Mrs. Jane Coffey. Mrs. Mathis speaks with pride of her grandson, Danny.

It was at Henderson, Tex., where Mr. Mathis was in the oil business, that Mrs. Mathis accepted a place of service in her church as young people's leader and chairman of benevolence for the state Woman's Missionary Union. This was the start of her long record of devoted service to God and her denomination.

In 1938, she was elected young people's secretary of the Texas WMU and in 1945 became state executive secretary-treasurer. In 1947, Mrs. Mathis resigned to go to First Baptist Church, Dallas.

She was elected president of the Texas WMU in 1949 and served in that office until last year. She is now director of Baylor University's student union building here.

Because she was state president, Mrs. Mathis also held one of the several vice-presidencies of the WMU of the Southern Baptist Convention. The women attending the 1956 WMU session at Kansas City, Mo., elected her president to succeed Mrs. George R. Martin, of Norfolk, Va., who retired from the office.

The list of committees and boards which she has been a member of in Southern Baptist life is long--member of the Foreign Mission Board, chairman of Southwestern

Baptist Seminary advisory board, member of the executive board of Baptist General Convention of Texas, treasurer of North American Baptist Women's Union, member of Southern Baptist Executive Committee; and member of SBC committee on theological education.

Mrs. Mathis received another honor when she retired as young people's secretary in Texas. Baptist women in Texas designated a portion of Lottie Moon Christmas Offering funds for foreign missions to build the Marie Mathis Chapel on the campus of the Baptist orphans' home in Rome, Italy.

She has contributed articles to many Southern Baptist periodicals. She has toured various Convention missionary fields, bringing back with her inspiration and information to share with many Woman's Missionary societies.

The same Mrs. Mathis that can grace any position with dignity and preside with charm and poise, can also rough it at a Young Woman's Auxiliary camp. She is known, too, for her quick sense of humor and sympathetic heart.

127 Ninth Avenue, North — Nashville, Tennessee

June 16, 1956

.....J. Ivyloy Bishop, assistant professor of Bible and religion at Wayland College, Plainview, Tex., has been named director of religious activities at the Baptist college for 1956-57.

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.....144 students, the largest graduating class in the history of Campbell (Junior) College, Buies Creek, N. C., received final awards at the college's recent commencement.

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.....C. R. Clements, president of First National Bank, Killeen, Tex., has been elected chairman of trustees of Mary Hardin-Baylor College, Belton, Tex.

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