

July 10, 1956

Nashville, Tennessee----The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention has under consideration a new five-year program of capital needs which would be a part of its Cooperative Program. The present capital needs program, ending in 1958, has furnished funds for hospitals and schools on foreign mission fields as well as for extension of Christian work within the United States.

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Nashville, Tennessee----Evan A. Reiff, president of Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas, has been elected chairman of the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Maracaibo, Venezuela----Southern Baptists' first South American church especially for English-speaking people has been organized here. Named Faith Baptist Church, it has 20 charter members and 40 enrolled in Sunday school. It will call a pastor in the near future. There are 35,000 American citizens now living in Venezuela, of whom about 15,000 were members of the Southern Baptist churches in the United States.

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Richmond, Virginia----More than 93 cents of every dollar received last year by the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention went directly to mission fields. Executive Secretary Baker James Cauthen said \$10,017,383 of the total Board receipts of \$10,736,271 went to foreign fields for missionary salaries, expenses on the fields, maintaining schools and hospitals, and for buying property. Less than three cents of the dollar went for administrative expense.

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Nashville, Tennessee----Frank A. Hooper, judge of the United States District Court in Atlanta, Georgia, has been re-elected chairman of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. The Executive Committee is the Convention "ad interim," or between its yearly sessions.

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Rocky Mount, North Carolina----Douglas M. Branch, pastor of First Baptist Church, Rocky Mount, is chairman of a committee of 23 persons who will study work of Southern Baptist Convention agencies. The committee will receive up to \$25,000 from Convention funds for a year-long study to find "the most effective way of promoting the Kingdom (of God) through the Southern Baptist Convention."

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Macon, Georgia----George B. Connell, president of Mercer University, Baptist four-year college in Macon, has been elected president of the Southern Association of Baptist Colleges and Schools. The association is composed of administrators of Southern Baptist colleges and universities.

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Nashville, Tennessee----Assets of the Southern Baptist Convention increased more than \$20 million during the year 1955 to a record total of \$131,241,242, according to Convention Treasurer Porter Routh. During the same 12 months, liabilities increased only \$3 million to \$7,417,644. "The strength of the Convention," Routh declared, "lies not in the accumulation of property and reserve, but rather in the concern of Southern Baptists to find direction and power from the Holy Spirit to meet world mission needs."

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Nashville, Tennessee----C. W. Pope, executive secretary of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, which has offices in Nashville, has announced his retirement effective Oct. 31. He has been state executive secretary since 1942.

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Tokyo, Japan----The Japan Baptist Convention has 140 Sunday schools with an enrolment of about 12,000. There are 9119 members of Baptist churches.