

127 Ninth Avenue, North — Nashville, Tennessee

August 9, 1956

SBC COOPERATIVE PROGRAM PASS MILLION
DOLLAR MARK EIGHTH SUCCESSIVE MONTH

NASHVILLE--(BP)--For the eighth successive month the Southern Baptist Convention part of the Cooperative Program has passed a million dollars. The July report showed \$1,166,512 the highest monthly report in the 31 year history of the mission plan. The previous high was in April, 1956, when a total of \$1,157,504 was reported. Only sixteen times have monthly gifts gone over a million dollars, the first time in May 1954 when receipts climbed to \$1,100,584.

Since World War II progress of the Cooperative Program has been phenomenal. In July 1946, ten years ago, receipts were \$409,343 and in July 1951, five years ago, \$669,997.

The first seven months of 1956 show total Cooperative Program to the Southern Baptist Convention of \$7,791,864, which is more than the total received in 1950 and twice the total received in 1944. The 1956 seven month figure is \$902,577, or 13.10% ahead of the total reported for the same period 1955.

Designated funds, such as Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong offerings for missions, are also up with a total of \$7,063,454 received for the first seven months of 1956 as compared with \$5,961,683 for the same period of 1955, a gain of \$1,101,771, or 18.48%.

In commenting on these gains, Dr. Porter Routh, executive secretary of the Executive Committee and treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention said, "This gain which will make more advance possible in all areas of Southern Baptist life reflects a sense of stewardship on the part of states, churches, and individuals. We trust sincerely that it reflects God's blessings on the people called Southern Baptist, and that we might be worthy of that continued blessing."

The largest dollar gains in state contributions to the Southern Convention portion of the Cooperative Program were made by Texas with a gain of \$254,873; Georgia with \$100,416 and Louisiana with \$81,154. The most significant percentage gains in state contributions were made by Alaska, with a gain of 51.03%, and New Mexico with 34.98%.

Following is a complete listing of Cooperative Program funds for the first seven months showing dollar and percentage gains by states:

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SBC Cooperative Program Gifts
First Seven Months, 1956

	Cooperative Program 1956	Cooperative Program 1955	Gain or Loss 1955- 1956	Percent Gain or Loss 1955-1956
Specials	1,860.85	1,713.38	147.47	.09
Alabama	343,134.31	308,311.78	34,822.53	11.29
Alaska	3,089.57	2,045.65	1,043.92	51.03
Arizona	21,275.92	23,023.00	-1,747.08	-.08
Arkansas	260,119.30	244,534.47	15,584.83	.06
California	52,826.54	51,651.29	1,175.25	.02
Colorado	7,964.81	--	--	--
District of Columbia	21,193.24	23,099.80	-1,906.56	-.08
Florida	480,462.24	420,149.18	60,313.06	14.36
Georgia	624,904.53	524,488.25	100,416.28	19.15
Hawaii	2,141.65	932.73	1,208.92	29.61
Illinois	117,837.52	104,849.57	12,987.95	12.39
Kansas	10,468.77	8,618.35	1,850.42	21.48
Kentucky	350,000.00	317,296.15	32,703.85	10.31
Louisiana	380,085.27	298,930.94	81,154.33	27.15
Maryland	73,596.95	63,628.50	9,968.45	15.67
Mississippi	316,817.62	345,015.66	-28,198.04	-8.17
Missouri	372,893.98	349,462.32	23,431.66	6.71
New Mexico	63,865.24	47,315.61	16,549.63	34.98
North Carolina	612,983.15	558,223.49	54,759.66	9.81
Ohio	9,350.84	4,115.41	5,235.43	27.22
Oklahoma	490,764.18	423,301.36	67,462.82	15.94
Oregon-Washington	5,596.17	5,666.44	-70.27	-.01
South Carolina	637,562.64	601,308.30	36,254.34	6.03
Tennessee	594,048.01	520,205.23	73,842.78	14.19
Texas	1,435,625.00	1,180,751.50	254,873.50	21.59
Virginia	501,395.85	460,648.42	40,747.43	8.85
Totals	7,791,864.15	6,889,286.78	902,577.37	13.10

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HOME BOARD AIMS
FOR 2000 MISSIONARIES

RIDGECREST, N. C.--(BP)--2,000 missionaries by 1959. This was only one of several goals set by the Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board in its semiannual meeting at Ridgecrest on August 2. At present, according to Courts Redford, executive secretary of the Home Mission Board, there are 1,163 missionaries. The Board also set 1959 for a year of evangelistic emphasis to include a Convention-wide simultaneous revival.

It was also decided to strive for 1000 new churches annually in cooperation with the state boards and to increase, if possible, the building loan fund to five million dollars.

Recognizing the tremendous population gains, the Home Mission Board hopes to add an average of six new cities annually for the city mission program and to greatly step up the rural church program. The Annie Armstrong mission offering for 1956 is now \$1,584,929.77, considerably over the goal of \$1,500,000.

The next meeting of the Home Mission Board will be in Atlanta, Georgia, on November 27-28.

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