

127 Ninth Avenue, North — Nashville, Tennessee

September 8, 1956

CONVENTION MAY REACH
ITS BUDGET IN OCTOBER

NASHVILLE--(BP)--If the present trend of giving continues, the Southern Baptist Convention probably will meet its 1956 Cooperative Program budget by mid-October.

Through August, Cooperative Program receipts for Convention use reached \$8,825,053, according to Treasurer Porter Routh here. The annual budget is \$10 million.

Cooperative Program giving to the SBC -- which doesn't include funds for state and local use -- for August again went over the million-dollar mark, totaling \$1,033,189.

Coupled with designated gifts of \$156,369 for the month, August receipts were \$1,189,559. Funds received to date this year through both means are \$16,044,878, more than \$2 million higher than receipts at the same time in 1955.

After the annual budget is met, all undesignated or Cooperative Program gifts are spent only by home mission and foreign mission boards.

gave \$ during August, of which \$ was through the Cooperative Program and \$ was designated. This placed the state in total monthly gifts.

The month's disbursements included almost \$500,000 to the Foreign Mission Board; \$148,000 to the Home Mission Board, and \$114,000 to the Relief and Annuity Board. Remaining disbursements were to seminaries and other boards and commissions of the Convention.

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PNEUMONIA SIDELINES
EDITOR B. H. DUNCAN

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. --(BP)--B. H. Duncan, editor of the weekly Arkansas Baptist here, was reported to be at his home recuperating from pneumonia.

The Baptist editor was recently discharged from the hospital after being treated for the illness.

Duncan's recent life testimony, "My Rendezvous with Death," has been widely read. In it, he describes how it feels to know you have a "killer" in your blood. The editor is suffering from the blood ailment, leukemia.

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CHILDREN'S HOME PUBLIC
RELATIONS MAN SELECTED

DALLAS, Tex.--(BP)--Walter R. Delamarter, executive director of Lubbock (Tex.) Community Planning Council, has been named public relations coordinator for the six children's homes owned and operated by the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Delamarter, who fills a newly-created position, will assume his new duties Oct. 1.

The six homes, caring for more than 1,000 dependent children over the state, have previously conducted their public relations activities on an individual basis. At their request, the BGCT Executive Board approved the hiring of a coordinator at its June meeting in Dallas.

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OREGON-WASHINGTON TO
VOTE ON CONSTITUTION

PORTLAND, Ore.--(BP)--Southern Baptists in the Oregon-Washington state convention will decide this fall whether to revise their convention's constitution.

Revisions, if passed, would change the method for nominating the state convention president; affect the term of office for some convention employees, and define more fully the business operations of the convention and areas of responsibility.

The state convention holds its annual session Oct. 24-26 at Klamath Falls, Or .

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PLAN STUDENT CENTER AT
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark.--(BP)--An architect has been asked to prepare plans for a \$60,000 Baptist student center at University of Arkansas here.

Arkansas Baptists have \$45,000 on hand for construction. Funds to complete the construction and to furnish the building are being sought.

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COMMITTEE ON SURVEY
CONTACTS SPECIALISTS

DALLAS, Tex.--(BP)--Several management consultant firms will be asked about methods for surveying work of the Southern Baptist Convention and what such a survey will cost.

The firms will be contacted by the special Convention Committee on Survey, appointed by the 1956 session at Kansas City.

The Committee on Survey is to study functions of SBC boards and agencies, their relationships to each other and their relationships to state organizations and Baptist churches.

Purpose of the survey will be to find "the most effective way of promoting the Kingdom (of God) through the Southern Baptist Convention."

The decision to contact professional firms came at the first meeting of the Committee on Survey in Dallas recently. Douglas M. Branch, of Rocky Mount, N. C., is committee chairman.

The Committee on Survey also appointed subcommittees to make studies in five areas, including the functions and relationships of the two SBC mission boards; the functions of those agencies located in Nashville, Tenn.; the problems involving theological education; the work of the Relief and Annuity Board, Radio and Television Commission, Southern Baptist Hospital Board and Brotherhood Commission, and relationships between denominational emphases and the 30,000 co-operating Baptist churches.

Branch, spokesman for the committee, had this to say about the policies of the committee as it begins its work:

"The survey committee has tried to interpret correctly the intent of the Convention as it is expressed in the action taken in its 1956 meeting.

"We as a committee conceive of our function as being that of a study group whose duty it is to learn all we can about the entire program of the Convention, and in the light of that study to try to determine what, if anything, can be done to make that program more effective.

"We purpose to make no recommendations which will upset any existing organization, program, or activity until and unless something better can be proposed.

"We have complete confidence in the motives and sincerity and integrity of all our denominational leaders. We will not, as a committee, make any action or make any recommendations designed to do other than enable Southern Baptists to do better what we are now doing well."

The committee has been authorized to spend up to \$25,000 during the year between the last Convention session in Kansas City and the 1957 session at Chicago. It is to report to the 1957 Convention.

WAGE 'WAR OF BELIEFS'
AMONG ORIENTAL YOUTH

HONG KONG--(BP)--A "war of beliefs" is being waged in the Orient for the minds of youth, according to Bob Denny, associate secretary for youth for the Baptist World Alliance.

"There is a big opportunity to win university students in many of these lands. We need some specialized missionaries to do it," he declared.

Youth from many Oriental countries met recently in Hong Kong for the Asian Baptist Youth Conference. They organized the Asia Baptist Youth Fellowship and elected a committee to promote a continuing organization.

The meeting was planned and carried through by Asian youth. Denny attended in his role as EWA youth worker.

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BP folks & facts

.....Gardner-Webb College trustees adopted a budget of \$345,034 for the fiscal year which began Aug. 1. The proposed budget for the Boiling Springs, N. C., college represents an increase of \$36,217 over last year's.

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.....Gordon H. Halbert resigned pastorate of Roseland Park Baptist Church, Picayune, Miss., to become pastor of Mission Hills Baptist Chapel, Tampa, Fla.

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.....Lewis M. Smith, Birmingham, Ala., president of Alabama Power Co. and a member of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, has received an honorary doctor of laws degree from Howard College.

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.....Frank E. Skilton, for more than 22 years director of public relations at Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain, Miss., resigned Sept. 1. His future plans are indefinite.

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.....L. R. Whiddon, pastor of the Baptist church in LaFayette, Ga., has accepted a call from Avondale Baptist Church, Chattanooga, Tenn.

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BAPTIST FEATURES

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SOUTHERN BAPTISTS MOVE ONWARD, UPWARD DURING WORLD MISSIONS YEAR

By Porter Routh
Executive Secretary, SBC Executive Committee

The Southern Baptist Committee on World Evangelization, headed by H. Guy Moore, of Fort Worth with Wade H. Bryant, Harold W. Seever, A. Warren Huyck, John W. Raley, Leon M. Latimer, and R. Paul Caudill as members, presented a broad outline of a plan in 1954 to the Promotion Conference of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In discussing the part of the individual church, the report stated: "The program for world evangelization rests solely upon the response of our local pastors and churches both in providing the needed personnel for missionary service and the financial resources to carry out an expanded program." The report continued: "We call, therefore, upon our churches to:

"1. Pray and work for a missionary spirit and zeal in our churches and the homes of our churches that will prepare our young people to hear and answer God's call for full-time Christian service. What would happen if each one of our 30,000 churches could send forth just one God-called missionary?

"2. To take seriously and personally the recommended program of the (SBC) Promotion Committee for increased support of the Cooperative Program, which is the continuous lifeline of total advance in the world mission of Christ carried on by Southern Baptists by:

- (1) Every church adopting a worthy church budget.
- (2) Every church budget including the Cooperative Program on a percentage basis.
- (3) Every church increasing its percentage to the Cooperative Program.
- (4) And that every church set as its ultimate goal at least 50 per cent of its total gifts to the worldwide cause of Christ.

"With every possible urgency we lay this matter on the hearts of our pastors and church members. The need for additional missionary personnel around the world is desperately urgent. Again and again the answer to the plea from our foreign mission fields for more help has been, 'We regret there is no one to send at this time!' It is equally urgent that our church rethink their financial program and provide more money to undergird and expand our total program. Until we do this, there is no need to attempt advance. How seriously do we take the Great Commission of our Lord? Are we really Mission-

ary Baptists?"

This promotion of World Missions Year is not another sales talk for state missions, or home missions, or foreign missions. Rather it is the expression of a concerned heart. It is a response to your own burden as you see the need for personal witness in your own community, and as you share the concern for our nation and for this world.

World missions must start in your own heart. It must go to the ends of the earth. You will join with hundreds and thousands of other pastors and other interested Christians in praying and working to this end.