



-- BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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February 3, 1981

81-18

January Cooperative Program Receipts Set All-Time Record

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Boosted in part by a \$1.3 million "13th" check from Texas, national Cooperative Program receipts for January were more than \$2 million greater than any single month in history.

The huge increase pushed January's undesignated giving to \$9,390,822, a 44.7 percent increase over January 1980 and \$2,281,478 more than the previous single month's record of \$7,109,343 set in February 1980.

Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, which disburses the funds, said he was "very gratified" at the increase. "This is really a confirmation of testimonies I've been hearing from across the entire convention, from pastors and state convention executive directors," he said. "Pastors have told me their church has increased its percentage through the Cooperative Program. So the states receive greater gifts and they have sent a larger portion to the Southern Baptist Convention.

"This type of financial support underlines the basic interest of all Southern Baptists, that they are deeply concerned about missions and evangelism."

The Baptist General Convention of Texas sends the same size monthly check for Cooperative Program receipts, then makes up any difference between what they've sent and actual receipts with a 13th check at the end of the year. Even considering the Texas check, the increase is large and general, said Tim Hedquist, Executive Committee director of financial planning.

R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, described the January report as "extremely encouraging." He said, "Hopefully, this may be an indication that Southern Baptists' commitment to Bold Mission Thrust is going to move us beyond giving that simply keeps pace with the inflation factor and allows us to enter into projects that will facilitate the spread of the gospel."

The January record pushes giving for the first four months of the fiscal year to \$27,657,937, up 19.8 percent over the same period last year. Government reports just released indicate the Consumer Price Index last year rose 12.4 percent.

"Such significant giving for mission endeavors will prove striking, and will make possible new and expanded opportunities," said William G. Tanner, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, "just as recent increases made possible our stronger emphasis on evangelism and missionary appointments."

Designated contributions increased 16 percent over January 1980, to \$8,055,365. For the year, designated gifts are up 26.6 percent, to \$11,534,705.

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Total gifts, both designated and undesignated, through the national Cooperative Program, are up 21.7 percent for the year to date, to \$39,192,642.

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Baylor Hard Rock
Goes Soft Touch

Baptist Press
2/3/81

WACO, Texas (BP)—Baylor will no longer pedal heavy metal through the airwaves over Waco.

Baylor University's administration has ordered student radio station KWBU to change its format from hard rock to favor "soft rock" because a Waco mother complained the lyrics were obscene.

Herbert Reynolds, executive vice president and president-elect of Baylor, gave no examples of the offensive music played by the station. He told the Dallas Times Herald, "But if there are a series of quite profane words or two or three minutes of someone groaning in ecstasy indicating an ongoing sexual experience, we wouldn't want that on."

The disc jockeys, who now must play more "sloppy Top 40 junk" say they screened out that kind of music anyway. They say the lyrics of soft rock songs are just as sexually suggestive.

KWBU is a 3,000-watt station that reaches all of Waco. Barry Rae, one of the station directors, said the station will not fight the administration's ruling. The student newspaper, The Lariat, received national attention last year for its editorial battle with President Abner McCall for threatening to punish any Baylor coed who posed for Playboy magazine's "Girls of the Southwest Conference" issue.

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Religious Education
Pioneer Retires

Baptist Press
2/3/81

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—Henry E. Love, one of the Southern Baptist pioneers in religious education, retired Feb. 1 amid ceremony as administrator of First Baptist Church, Memphis.

The ceremony a week before Love's 68th birthday included presentations of a plaque and cash gifts, a "Love roast" and a reception.

Stepping down after almost 11 years at First Baptist, Love also closed out a career spanning more than 40 years as a religious educator at First Baptist churches in Shreveport, New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Tulsa and Tampa.

President of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association in 1965-66, Love also headed the Oklahoma Baptist Religious Education Association and the Southwest Baptist Religious Education Association.

Love has been equally active on denominational boards and committees, currently serving as a trustee on the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Other service was as trustee of the Radio and Television Commission and as a member of the Southern Baptist committee on committees in 1969, committee on boards in 1966, and resolutions committee in 1977.

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A.B. Cash, Former HMB
Pioneer Missionary, Dies

ROME, Ga. (BP)--A.B. Cash, director of the pioneer missions department for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board for 15 years before his retirement in 1967, died Feb. 2 at the age of 80.

Cash directed the board's pioneer missions work during the period of Southern Baptists' greatest geographic expansion, from 1952-67.

During that period, Southern Baptists established about 3,000 new churches and entered all 50 states of the nation.

Before 1951 when the convention voted to give assistance to starting new Southern Baptist churches in any area of the nation, SBC churches were located primarily in 20 states of the traditional South. Cash was the first director of the department created by the Home Mission Board to help start new SBC churches in "pioneer" areas for the denomination.

Previously, he was director of the board's department of mountain missions, and was superintendent of city missions in Columbus, Ga. He was with the Home Mission Board 23 years.

He has been interim pastor of numerous Baptist churches since retirement.

He is survived by his wife, Cattie, son A.B. Cash Jr., and daughter Jacquelyn Cash.

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Wendell Belew
To Teach at Yale

Baptist Press
2/3/81

ATLANTA (BP)--Wendell Belew, director of the Missions Ministries Division for the SBC Home Mission Board, has been invited to teach at Yale University's divinity school during the spring semester of 1981.

Belew, who is the current president of the American Society of Missiology, is teaching a course on "churches on mission" at Yale.

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WMU Launches
Enlargement Plan

Baptist Press
2/3/81

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--With an intensive two-day workshop, the Woman's Missionary Union formally launched the enlargement campaign it approved last year.

Evelyn Blount, National Enlargement Plan director, said all 11,424 Southern Baptist churches that do not currently report WMU organizations will be consulted by Sept. 30, 1983 and encouraged to begin them. From that number, the WMU anticipates 6,394 will begin WMU work, according to state goals.

"We have not embarked on this campaign just for the sake of increasing our numbers," said WMU Executive Director Carolyn Weatherford. "We are doing it because there's a critical need for missions education in our churches."

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Blount said, "We hope to work with these churches to begin missions education through WMU organizations."

The National Enlargement Plan, which will be funded jointly by state and national WMU, will involve approximately 150 lay women nationwide.

These women, known as the STARTEAM, will make one-to-one contact with pastors and key women in churches not reporting WMU. They will come to Alabama in March for a week-long training session.

The WMU executive board voted to shorten the terms of the national president and recording secretary from six years to five.

In other business, the board voted to raise the national goal of the 1982 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions from \$19.5 million to \$22 million.

According to Weatherford, this decision was based on "the good response from the 1980 offering," which netted \$16,479,032. Last year marked the first time in four years that the national offering goal was met. The 1981 goal is \$17.25 million.

Additional business included the recognition of the national WMU president, recording secretary, and five state WMU presidents whose terms of office will expire this year.

They are: Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory, Virginia, national president; Mrs. William Ellis, Kentucky, recording secretary; Mrs. Donald Murphy, Missouri; Mrs. J. Frank Gilreath Jr., North Carolina; Mrs. D.C. Bomar, South Carolina; Mrs. Glen McClain, Oklahoma; and Mrs. Glenn Field, Northern Plains Convention.

The board also recognized William G. Tanner, president and chief financial officer of the Home Mission Board, and R. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, for their "inspiration, leadership and friendship" in working with WMU to support missions.

Marti Solomon, national Acteens consultant, announced the members of the fifth Acteens National Advisory Panel. Selections are based on scholastic achievement, school and church activities, and accomplishments in Studact, the individual achievement plan for Acteens.

Panelists are: Pamela Link, Jefferson City, Mo.; Michele Cherry, Washington, N.C.; Janet Sheryl Harris, Cary, N.C.; Rebecca Hughes, Green River, Wyo.; Marsha Herrod, Eupora, Miss.; and Allison Leigh Griffin, Pensacola, Fla.

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Cunningham New
ABS Field Secretary

Baptist Press
2/3/81

NEW YORK (BP)--J. Edward Cunningham has been appointed a field executive secretary in the national distribution department of the American Bible Society.

Cunningham, a Southern Baptist clergyman, will be based in Atlanta, Ga., and will train, recruit and supervise national distribution field staff throughout the country. He has been with the American Bible Society since 1967.

He previously was pastor in Kentucky and had served for 11 years as director of mountain missions, a combined assignment of the rural-urban missions department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

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Cooperative Effort Quickly Raises Roof

ATLANTA (BP)--On an overcast Saturday morning, 120 men from six churches gathered on a vacant lot at First Baptist Church of Fairview, a suburb of Atlanta, facing a huge task: to build the church's second interim building before sunset.

Ten hours later, the 40-foot by 90-foot structure was standing.

Church members had little doubt it could be done because a year earlier, South Metro Baptist Association had erected the first unit of the church, also within one day.

Fairview Baptist evolved out of a 1978 survey and home Bible study led by Carlton Burnett. The Bible study quickly outgrew homes and about six months later, the group bought property. In October 1979, they sent out their first call for help in raising a building.

The church received a preconstructed roof, a gift from a neighboring church, that "was exactly double the size of the proposed building," said Bob Yeager, Fairview's building committee chairman. So the men built the church to fit the roof.

Financial support came from co-sponsoring Rock Baptist Church in Rex, Ga., in addition to individual contributions. Burnett described it as "the finest experience of cooperation among neighboring churches I've ever seen. The furnishings—chairs, carpet, furnaces and even an organ—were given to us by local churches."

Located in the fastest growing community in Henry County, Fairview proved drawing people wasn't the problem—space was. In less than a year, the church expanded from 15 members to 126, and outgrew its facilities. It is the only Southern Baptist church in a 10-mile radius.

Fairview decided to use the "barn-raising" method for their second building, and again turned to fellow Baptists for help. First Baptist Church of Stockbridge, Ga., co-sponsor of Fairview, added \$20,000 for materials to Fairview's own \$5,000 building fund, allowing the church to build its second debt-free building.

The spirit of cooperation continued. A local bridge company furnished a crane to lift gables to the roof; men with hammers materialized; pre-teen-age boys were on hand to hold boards in place and occasionally drive a nail. At noon, women from the association's churches supplied a hearty meal for workers.

Construction finished about 5 p.m., leaving enough daylight for the weary workers to hold a prayer and praise service in their new building.

The new sanctuary seats 300 people. Already Burnett comments, "we hope to fill it soon. People are just beginning to build in this area, and we're going to be here to greet them."

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Adapted from MissionsUSA magazine.

(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press.