



News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

-- FEATURES

produced by Baptist Press

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October 27, 1981

81-166

Texas CP Contributions
Lead State Conventions

By Norman Jameson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Texas Baptists contributed more than twice as much money to missions through the national Cooperative Program last year as the next highest contributing state convention, Georgia.

A year-end analysis of receipts to the SBC Executive Committee from state Baptist conventions Oct. 1, 1980 through Sept. 30, 1981 shows total undesignated gifts to be \$81,685,873, up 13.83 percent from the previous fiscal year.

Texas contributions totaled \$14,259,616, or 17 percent of the total national Cooperative Program receipts. Texas, with 2.2 million members, has 16 percent of SBC membership and 11 percent of the churches and is the largest state Baptist convention.

If the Texas Baptist Convention were a Baptist denomination itself, it would be the fourth largest in the world, behind the SBC, the National Baptist Convention of America and the National Baptist Convention USA Inc.

Texas' contributions were up \$1,920,304, the largest dollar increase among conventions. Its percentage increase was 15.56 percent, 14th among the 34 conventions.

The Baptist Convention of Georgia was the second largest contributor with \$6,814,663. North Carolina was third with \$6,051,123 and Florida fourth with \$5,448,116.

Florida's dollar increase of \$829,262 was second only to Texas. Nevada boosted its contributions by the greatest percentage, 59.18, putting its dollar contribution at \$35,329.

Other percentage increase leaders were Arizona, 27 percent; Kansas-Nebraska, 23.18; Illinois, 21.08; Hawaii, 21.06; Alaska, 20.42 and Colorado 19.86. Dollar contributions of the seven percentage increase leaders total \$2.4 million, indicating church contributions to smaller or newer conventions can more greatly effect percentages than do contributions in more established conventions with bigger budgets.

Other top 10 dollar givers were Alabama, fifth, \$5,312,067; Oklahoma, \$5,255,617; Tennessee, \$5,035,033; South Carolina, \$4,631,989; Mississippi, \$3,982,075; and Louisiana, \$3,896,523.

Oklahoma's receipts were boosted by a promise from Southern Baptist Convention President Bailey Smith who vowed after his election to triple the Cooperative Program contributions of his church, First Southern Baptist of Del City.

Through September, the first nine months of its fiscal year, First Southern had contributed \$112,740, up from \$31,654 for the same period the previous year, a 256 percent increase. First Southern now is second only to Tulsa's First Baptist Church, which gave \$122,727 in the same period, in Oklahoma Cooperative Program giving.

"When I went to Kenya on a mission trip and saw the great work our missionaries do, I

was doubly convinced our Southern Baptist mission program was used of God and it was important for us to get behind it and undergird it," Smith said. His church plans to become the No. 1 Cooperative Program contributor in Oklahoma.

Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee which disburses the funds, said: "It is an exciting thing to be part of Bold Mission Thrust, Southern Baptists' plan to present the gospel to everyone in the world by the year 2000.

"In my conversations with state executive directors, they've indicated they believe the increase in Cooperative Program receipts is due to concern church members feel for reaching this world with the gospel. I join with them in feeling that Bold Mission Thrust is making a deep impact on church life."

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board received the largest single portion of the Cooperative Program receipts with \$37,901,757 or 46.4 percent.

The Home Mission Board received \$15,974,200 or 19.6 percent. The six Southern Baptist seminaries, through a complex formula they agree upon, shared \$19,344,822, or 23.7 percent.

So the two mission boards and six seminaries receive 89.7 percent of the national Cooperative Program offering.

Other dispersals include: Radio-Television Commission, \$4,195,361 or 5.1 percent; convention operating expense, \$975,000 or 1.2 percent; Brotherhood Commission, \$898,717, or 1.1 percent; Christian Life Commission, \$480,851 or .59 percent; Annuity Board, \$350,000 or .43 percent; Education Commission, \$332,016 or .41 percent; Stewardship Commission, \$314,844 or .39 percent; Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, \$291,945 or .36 percent; Historical Commission, \$260,000 or .32 percent; Southern Baptist Foundation, \$194,630 or .24 percent and American Baptist Seminary, \$171,730 or .21 percent.

The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and the Woman's Missionary Union, an auxiliary, receive no Cooperative Program funds.

Receipts from other state conventions were, in order, Kentucky, 11th with \$3,745,281; Virginia, \$3,714,666; Missouri, \$3,541,862; Arkansas, \$3,030,615; Illinois, \$1,309,841; California, \$927,968; Ohio, \$757,892; Maryland, \$726,376; New Mexico, \$502,842; North-west, \$367,633.

Also, Arizona, \$364,159; Indiana, \$344,815; Colorado, \$279,910; Kan.-Neb., \$241,832; Michigan, \$203,443; D.C., \$88,243; Alaska, \$83,721; Penn.-S. Jersey, \$81,535; Northern Plains, \$77,164; Hawaii, \$68,352; West Virginia, \$63,712; New York, \$55,693; Utah-Idaho, \$44,474; Nevada, \$35,329; Specials, \$341,693.

Other percentage increases were, in order, Michigan, 18.4; Florida, 18; Oklahoma, 16.6; Virginia, 16.4; Louisiana, 16.1; New Mexico, 15.7; Texas, 15.6; Northwest, 14.6; Arkansas, 14.5; Kentucky, 14.4; Missouri, 13.6; Georgia, 13.3; Ohio, 13.2; Mississippi, 13.1; South Carolina, 11.8; Tennessee, 11.7; Maryland, 11.1; North Carolina, 10.6; D.C., 11.1; Penn.-S. Jersey, 8.3; Northern Plains, 7.1; Alabama, 5.7; Indiana, 5.5; California, 4.9; New York, 3.8.

Three conventions decreased their percentage. They are, Utah-Idaho, down 2.25 percent; West Virginia, 2.26 and Puerto Rico, 100.

Haney Resigns
At Brotherhood

By Dan Martin

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--David P. Haney, director of the Baptist Men's department at the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, has resigned to become a church renewal and management consultant.

The resignation, effective Dec. 31, was accepted by trustees of the agency during an executive session at their semi-annual meeting.

Jack Knox, a moving company executive from Germantown, Tenn., and chairman of trustees, said: "We appreciate the eight years that David (Haney) has given to the Brotherhood Commission, and he leaves with our prayers for continued success in his ministry."

Knox, however, declined to discuss details of the resignation, saying only that "we have parted company on good terms. I am disappointed people are trying to read a lot of things into this."

Haney is one of three executives of the Memphis-based commission named April 9 in a federal court lawsuit, filed by a female secretary of the commission, that alleges sexual harassment and defamation of reputation.

The suit is pending in federal district court in Memphis. It also names the Brotherhood Commission, the Southern Baptist Convention, James H. Smith, commission executive director, and Norman Godfrey, associate executive director.

The suit, which seeks \$3 million in damages, alleges Haney declined to promote the plaintiff, Barbara Minor, to division level secretary in the summer of 1980, after she refused to respond to what she described as a request for sexual favors on behalf of a friend.

Knox told Baptist Press the commission's attorney, Ernest Kelley, was present during the executive session and directed any questions about the discussion to Kelley.

"I am not free to discuss anything about this," Knox said.

Knox also was asked if the resignation relates to a reorganization voted during the trustees' meeting, in which the Baptist Men's program was changed from a division to a department.

In that meeting, trustees "reduced" the organizational structure from four divisions to three service areas, and placed the Baptist Men's program into the Brotherhood program services area, to be headed by Godfrey.

"The reorganization was to streamline the organization and make it more effective," Knox said. "It had nothing to do with any personality...absolutely nothing to do with any personality."

Haney, who said he will direct a national church renewal and church management consulting service with offices in Memphis, declined to discuss the lawsuit, and said the reorganization "didn't have anything to do with it."

He commented he had wanted to open a consulting service "for some time."

Haney, a native of Ohio, became director of the department of lay ministries of the commission March 1, 1974, leaving Heritage Baptist Church in Annapolis, Md., to join the agency. He is a former pastor of churches in Kentucky and Ohio.

-30-

Thanksgiving: Smiths Review
A Year of Trauma, Changes

By Gail Rothwell

Baptist Press
10/27/81

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--When Ann and Charles Smith say, "Whether I live or die let it be all for the glory of God," they say it with conviction born of experiences which began a year ago.

Six days before Thanksgiving 1980 the Smiths survived the Las Vegas MGM Grand Hotel fire that killed 83 persons. They were in Las Vegas to talk with church leaders about starting singles work there. Mrs. Smith is a consultant in single adult ministry at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

They were apart when the fire was discovered and remained separated during their individual efforts to escape the smoke and flames. Mrs. Smith suffered a compound leg fracture when she dropped to a balcony below. Smith was uninjured and they were reunited at Sunrise Hospital seven hours after their ordeal began.

As the Smiths look back over the past year, several impressions stand out.

"The physical and emotional aspects have affected me more than I expected," said Ann. "I feel like I have been trying to lead a normal life in abnormal circumstances."

Also, Ann's injury gave her a new sensitivity to handicapped persons. "During the past year there have been times when I was totally dependent on Charles for everything," she said. "During part of that time I lost all motivation."

Charles said isolation has been his most overwhelming feeling: "Isolation comes because it is very difficult to go through an experience of this kind, care for your wife and maintain a helpful relationship with clients. It is hard for anyone to understand what you've been through. There's no way to adequately verbalize those feelings."

The Smiths agree that the fire has caused them to reflect upon the meaning of their lives.

"The experience made me aware that I'm probably needier now than at any other point in my life," Charles said. "I'm at a stage where I need to be given to."

Ann said the tragedy has made her more aware of what a self-oriented and self-centered world she lives in and how transient life really is.

"One of the greatest truths I've discovered this year is that we Christians need to develop a new sensitivity to others," she said. "We need to be able to exhibit real love, without placing undue expectations on each other."

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When traveling, Ann and Charles now take added precautions. They have a policy never to stay above the third floor of any hotel. They always familiarize themselves with the location of fire exits and the hotel's fire system.

The Smiths believe the trauma of the MGM Hotel has helped them to grow closer to God and each other and has given them a new appreciation for life.

"I know God is working for my good in everything," Ann said. "If I'm committed to him, there will be no experience which can come to me which I cannot use to grow."

-30-

(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Sunday School Board bureau of Baptist Press.

Argentines Name Street
For Pioneer Missionary

Baptist Press
10/27/81

CIPOLLETTI, Argentina (BP)--The Argentine city of Cipolletti has named a street to honor the memory of long-time Southern Baptist missionary Georgia A. Bowdler.

Bowdler, who died in 1972, probably would have been delighted because he traveled by horse and sulky through the town and for hundreds of miles around for years before the area had paved streets and cars.

A pioneer missionary evangelist in central Argentina, Bowdler spent two decades (1934-55) starting churches in the Rio Negro Province, including First Baptist Church in Cipolletti, the small city he used as a home base. Appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in 1919, he directed two Baptist schools in Buenos Aires before moving to Cipolletti. He retired in 1956.

More than 500 people attended the street-naming ceremony, including missionary Bruce A. Romoser and members of the 12 churches of the Rio Negro-Neuquen Baptist Association.

Cipolletti secretary of government Nestor Malianni, in reading the city ordinance authorizing the naming, said, "...this municipality considers it a pleasure to honor this pastor, who very unselfishly gave of himself to spread the word of the gospel...."

Bowdler's widow, Ruth N. Bowdler, lives in Richmond, Va., and could not attend the ceremony. Their four children include George A. Bowdler Jr., former Southern Baptist missionary to Guatemala, and William G. Bowdler, who was assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs during President Carter's administration.

-30-