



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355
Wilmer C. Fields, Director
Dan Martin, News Editor
Norman Jameson, Feature Editor

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Jim Newton, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300
RICHMOND Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151
WASHINGTON Stan L. Haste, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

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Cooperative Program Giving 9.17% Ahead of July 1981

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Cooperative Program receipts from the 34 state Baptist Conventions to the national Southern Baptist Convention were more than \$8 million dollars last month, representing an increase of 9.17 percent over receipts from July 1981.

Designated giving, primarily to the Foreign and Home Mission Boards, was off one-third of one percent (.33 percent) from a year ago at almost \$2.8 million.

"Even in the face of difficult economic times Southern Baptists have continued to express their concern for world missions," Harold Bennett, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, said. "For the year-to-date (10 months into the SBC fiscal year), Cooperative Program receipts are up 13.98 percent with support coming from the newer state conventions as well as older, established conventions."

Bennett pointed out that Cooperative Program contributions from the states continue to outrun inflation. July receipts were \$8,066,921.

"Although designated giving was down slightly (less than \$10,000 out of a total of \$2.8 million) for the month it is good to note the Annie Armstrong Easter offering for home missions was approximately \$1 million more than for the same period in 1981," he said. For the year, designated gifts are 12.3 percent ahead of 1981.

Five state conventions are more than 20 percent ahead of their 1981 contributions to the national level lead by Alaska and West Virginia. The two conventions on opposite sides of the country are one-two in increased giving both to the Cooperative Program and in designated gifts. In the period Oct. 1981-July 1982 Alaska has upped its contribution to the Cooperative Program 42.37 percent and its designated contributions 35.38 percent. The West Virginia convention has increased 34.79 percent and 34.68 percent in those respective categories.

The other percentage increase leaders in Cooperative Program giving are: Utah-Idaho (25.85 percent), Kansas-Nebraska (25.33 percent), and Texas (21.18 percent). The other top conventions in designated giving increase are: Oklahoma (30.72 percent), New Mexico (29.19 percent) and Colorado (20.87 percent).

Texas (the largest convention in terms of membership) remains the leader in total gifts, both to the Cooperative Program (\$14,599,166) and designated (\$14,921,164). Other leading conventions in Cooperative Program giving are: Georgia (\$6,185,962), North Carolina (\$5,476,493), Florida (\$5,380,778) and Alabama (\$5,142,020). Other leaders in designated giving are: North Carolina (\$8,010,587), Georgia (\$5,940,194), South Carolina (\$5,259,720) and Tennessee (\$5,055,181).

For the fiscal year Southern Baptists have contributed \$77,807,808 to the Cooperative Program to underwrite missionary and educational programs at the national level and given another \$77,940,779 in designated gifts, the vast majority to mission causes.

Missouri Baptist College
Names Copley President

ST. LOUIS, Mo. (BP)--Patrick O. Copley has been elected the fourth president of Missouri Baptist College.

Copley, 48, is a native of Seneca, Mo. Since 1967 he has been dean and professor in the school of education and psychology at Southwest Missouri State University. Prior to that he was director of student teaching and assistant dean, school of education, for the University of Missouri at St. Louis, instructor in social studies at Phoenix College, Phoenix, Ariz., and part-time instructor at Grand Canyon College, Phoenix, Ariz.

Copley graduated from Benson Union High School in Benson, Ariz., received a BA in 1958 from Grand Canyon College and earned an MA in 1959 and an EdD in 1966 from Arizona State University, Tempe, Ariz.

He is a veteran of the United States Air Force, a member of University Heights Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo., an ordained deacon, member of the Board of Missouri Baptist Children's Home and member of the board of the Cerebral Palsy Center.

Copley has written extensively in the field of education.

He and his wife, Elizabeth, are the parents of three daughters: Chazell (Mrs. Dennis) Wilson of Grand Rapids, Mich.; Charlene Copley of Oklahoma City, Okla. and Patrice (Mrs. Jeffrey) Muggs of Fayetteville, Ark.

Missouri Baptist College, one of four colleges and universities of the Missouri Baptist Convention, is an accredited, four-year liberal arts college with an enrollment of approximately 500.

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Deaf Choir Signs While
Texas Group Sings At Fair

By Paula Casteel

Baptist Press
8/12/82

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--An hour late and soaking wet from a violent thundershower the senior high choir from First Baptist Church, Plainview, Texas, sang at the 1982 World's Fair to most unusual accompaniment.

The 35-member chorus was accompanied by Signs of the Spirit, a 10-member deaf choir from First Baptist Church, Knoxville. The two groups sang and signed at the Baptist Pavilion in the first concert of its kind at the fair.

The Texas choir traveled from Plainview to Memphis, Tenn., hoping to arrive in Knoxville in time to rehearse with Signs of the Spirit. But because of a six-hour delay when the bus broke down the singers did not arrive until the early morning hours on the day of the performance. They crammed in one 7 a.m. practice with Signs of the Spirit before heading to the fair in the midst of pouring rain.

The two choirs had never met but there was a common bond between them.

Ron Etheredge, director of the Plainview choir, came up with the idea of the combined performance after seeing his daughter and her husband perform with Signs of the Spirit in Knoxville. Rhonda and Robert Hickerson, who are deaf, became involved in the group and in First Baptist Church's deaf ministry after moving to Knoxville following graduation from Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy in nearby Seymour, Tenn.

Signs of the Spirit, organized three years ago, includes eight members who are deaf and cannot hear music. It took a lot of hard work for the two groups to combine efforts, said Gaynell Seale, director of Signs of the Spirit.

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"We worked from a tape of the (Plainview) choir to learn the rhythms and tempos," she explained. Ron and Kay Etheredge visited Knoxville in the spring to work out a lot of the problems, she added.

Since signing to music is a form of choreography, Signs of the Spirit had to watch Seale closely and follow her movements exactly. They also had to memorize the words and sign language for each song.

It took a month of weekly rehearsals to learn one song, Seale estimated.

The 35 members of the Plainview choir learned a lot from the experience since most of the choir members had no previous contact with the deaf, Etheredge said.

One exception was Craig Etheredge who joined his sister Ronda in a one-voice duet. Craig sang while Ronda signed beside him.

The two concerts at the Baptist Pavilion at the World's Fair were only a part of the Plainview choir's nine-day tour. While in Knoxville they also performed with Signs of the Spirit in several churches, a shopping mall and Lakeshore Mental Health Hospital.

The choir was one of 145 Baptist groups selected to perform at the Baptist Pavilion through October.

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(Paula Casteel is a journalism intern working in the communications office of Baptist Ministries for the 1982 World's Fair.)

Southwestern Seminary
Gets \$250,000 Challenge

Baptist Press
8/12/82

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--The Mabee Foundation of Tulsa, Okla., has awarded Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary a \$250,000 challenge grant toward construction of the seminary's A. Webb Roberts Library.

Mabee's challenge is to raise, in cash and pledges, the entire \$4.6 million construction cost by Dec. 31.

Through the seminary's Vision/85 capital needs campaign \$3,577,532 had been raised by June 30, leaving \$744,468 to raise by the end of the year to qualify for the grant.

The J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation, with headquarters in Tulsa, Okla., contributes millions of dollars each year to Christian and charitable organizations, schools and research. The foundation awarded Southwestern a similar \$250,000 grant in 1976 for construction of the Myra K. and J. Roy Slover Recreation and Aerobics Center.

The library, to be dedicated Oct. 19, has 100,000 square feet of floor space and nearly 600,000 volumes.

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South Carolina Seamen's Center
To Reach 48,000 Sailors Annually

Baptist Press
8/12/82

CHARLESTON, S.C.(BP)-- A new international seaman's center "will make waves that will wash up on shores you and I will never see," Ray Rust said.

Rust, executive secretary-treasurer of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, was referring to the possible impact of a 3,200-square foot center that is being built in Charleston by South Carolina Baptists.

When completed in 1983 the center is expected to expand significantly ministry to some 48,000 international seamen whose commercial ships dock annually in Charleston ports. The center will also enlarge the state convention ministry--sponsored jointly by the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, the South Carolina state convention's mission department and the Charleston Baptist Association--to seven days a week.

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About 65 Southern Baptists attended the groundbreaking ceremony (Aug. 3) at Portside Baptist Church in north Charleston which is adjacent to the center's location. The center is to be built by volunteer workers who belong to Southern Baptist churches in South Carolina.

N. Larry Bryson, director of the South Carolina convention's missions department who is coordinating construction, said South Carolina Baptists now minister to international seamen from 70 nations--27 of which allow no Southern Baptist missionaries inside their boundaries.

Oscar Romo, director of the language missions division of the SBC Home Mission Board, considers the center another example of Southern Baptists becoming more involved in "transglobal" missions. "The world isn't only in America," he explained. "It is coming to America. America is a mission field and the world is our doorstep."

The 40x80 foot center will be block construction and will include a small kitchen, a game room, restroom facilities for men and women and volleyball and basketball courts.

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Robertson Assumes Lead Role
For Seminary Extension Centers

Baptist Pr ss
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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Paul E. Robertson, a Louisiana pastor, has assumed responsibility for promoting and coordinating seminary extension centers across the country.

As director of extension center education within the Southern Baptist seminary extension department, Robertson will work with 400 centers operating in at least 40 states and some foreign countries. He also will encourage the establishment of a ministry education program in every Baptist association.

Robertson is a Th.D. graduate of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and has been pastor of Park Forest Baptist Church in Baton Rouge for the past four years. He previously held pastorates in Fayette and Columbia, Miss.

"Pastors and other ministers without seminary training are the persons we most want to reach through seminary extension," said Raymond M. Rigdon, executive director of the Seminary External Education Division, which includes the seminary extension department. The division and its work is jointly sponsored by the six Southern Baptist seminaries.

Robertson is a native of Mississippi. He and his wife, Judy, have two preschool children, Chad and Charise.

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RA Emblem Pointed
Olaniyan To Christ

By Larry Chrisman

Baptist Press
8/12/82

SUNSET, S.C. (BP)--When Samson Oladipo Olaniyan of Nigeria saw the Royal Ambassador emblem pressed on the shirts of several Royal Ambassador boys the mark left an indelible impression on his heart. In fact, the episode led to his accepting Christ five years later.

"I saw the boys with the RA shirts when I was 12 years old," recalled the 46-year-old Nigerian Baptist convention official. "The boys attended a Southern Baptist church just five miles from my home. From that time forward I was attracted to that little church and the RAs."

Olaniyan, or Samson as he likes to be called in the U.S., told the story of his conversion from a religion which stressed ancestry spirit worship to Christianity during an interview at Camp McCall RA facility near Pickens, S.C. Olaniyan served as camp missionary for four weeks.

"When I was born," he said, "I was set aside to be a priest in the Animist religion. But thanks to the RAs my life took a different direction."

That "different direction" brought Samson to the U.S. where he has spent three years furthering his education and visiting Baptist camps and state conventions. Besides South Carolina he also has visited facilities in Alabama, Oklahoma, California and Nevada.

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"I am visiting different camps and state conventions in order to observe how things are done in this country," he explained. "I plan to take the ideas I get here back to my country so that the work there can be advanced." In Nigeria Olaniyan is secretary in charge of Brotherhood, youth and boys work.

The Nigerian convention is headquartered in Ibadan and claims about 2,630 churches and 329,820 members. In 1981 the convention recorded 17,322 baptisms. Brotherhood work, including a ministry to youth and boys, is the newest part of the 68-year-old Nigerian convention's efforts.

The work began in 1977 with just Olaniyan and a secretary. Today he has 12 volunteers who coordinate the ministry in conferences similar to state Southern Baptist conventions.

Most of his time in the United States has been devoted to study at Oklahoma Baptist University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He earlier attended Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary, an arm of Southern Seminary.

His education in this country has been funded by the Foreign Mission Board. His visits to Brotherhood and RA officials in the state conventions, as well as his work at summer camps, have been sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission.

Olaniyan was particularly interested in knowing more about videotaping activities which took place at Camp McCall. He identified the use of audiovisual materials and the training of leaders to be two of the greatest needs in Nigeria. "I hope the ideas I have obtained here can be adapted to suit the needs in my country," he said.

Olaniyan's conversion occurred in 1955 during a revival in the Baptist church near his home in Oyo. (Oyo is the name of both a city and a state in Nigeria.) A member of the Yoruba tribe—one of the three largest in the west African country—Olaniyan had been earmarked to be a priest "to one of the gods of my father." At the age of two months Olaniyan received tribal markings on his face and stomach.

"Now I am still recognized as a priest by my family but I am a priest of a different kind," he pointed out.

The prominent scars will remain until he dies—but so will the impression of the RA emblem he saw as a boy.

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Stanfield Retires
From NOBTS Faculty

Baptist Press
8/12/82

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—V.L. Stanfield, professor of preaching at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary for 23 years, has retired after more than 45 years of preaching and teaching preaching.

He plans to continue short-term preaching/teaching assignments such as workshops, pulpit supply opportunities and interim pastorates. The Stanfields will settle in the Hattiesburg-Laurel, Miss. area.

Stanfield came to New Orleans in 1959 after 13 years at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He is the author of six books and numerous articles in encyclopedias, theological journals, religious magazines and denominational publications.

He graduated from Northeast Missouri State Teachers College with an A.B. degree and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary with masters and doctors degrees. He has done post-doctoral work at Northwestern University, Columbia University, Union Theological Seminary and Oxford University.

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