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Total Giving for 1956
Reaches Record Figure

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--A record \$20,942,547 was given in 1956 to support work of the Southern Baptist Convention, Treasurer Porter Routh announced here.

This does not include donations used for local church expenses and for operations carried out by state Baptist conventions.

The year's total includes a record \$13,210,279 given through the undesignated channel -- the Cooperative Program. This was the first year in Southern Baptist Convention history that more than a million dollars came in through the Cooperative Program every month.

The total also takes in \$7,732,267 given in designated gifts by donors who specified exactly how they wanted the money used. Money given through the Cooperative Program is shared by Convention agencies on a percentage basis approved annually by the Convention session.

The record total was \$2,702,092 (14.81 per cent) greater than the total for 1955, according to Routh. The Cooperative Program total was \$1,561,438 (13.40 per cent) higher than that for 1955 and the designated offerings increased \$1,140,653 (17.30 per cent) over the previous year.

About 60 per cent of total receipts -- \$12,076,816 -- went to support operations of the denomination's Foreign Mission Board with over 1100 missionaries in more than 35 countries.

The next largest disbursement was to the Home Mission Board -- \$3,758,281. The Relief and Annuity Board which provides relief and retirement funds to denominational workers received \$893,954.

The denomination's five seminaries shared about \$3,300,000 with the largest amount going to Southeastern Baptist Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C. Southeastern, which received \$838,743, is purchasing the former Wake Forest College campus.

The Convention's operating and capital needs budget of \$10 million was reached in October. The remainder of the budget, through Dec. 31, is known as the Advance portion and all Cooperative Program receipts are divided only between the two mission boards. Foreign missions gets 75 per cent.

The operating and capital needs section of the 1957 budget is \$11 million and the recommended budget goal for 1958 -- including both operating, capital needs, and the Advance portion -- is \$16½ million.

sent \$ for December including \$
 through the Cooperative Program and \$ through special designations. This
 placed the state among those in the Convention.

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Bryant Chosen As BWA
 Publications Director

WASHINGTON--(BP)--C. E. Bryant, director of public relations at Baylor University, Waco, Tex., will become director of publications for the Baptist World Alliance here Feb. 1.

Arnold T. Ohrn, general secretary of the Alliance, said Bryant will work with Ohrn and Robert S. Denny, associate general secretary, in publication of the periodical, Baptist World, each month.

The Baptist World, which provides information concerning activities among 21 million Baptists in 96 countries, will be "enlarged and strengthened," Ohrn said.

The Alliance plans to establish a news and feature service "to supply denominational publications everywhere with news of Baptists" in the world, he said. It will also have a news outlet to the secular press.

Bryant, who attended Baylor, Ouachita College, and Southern Baptist Seminary, was editor of the Arkansas Baptist from 1943-47. Then he served as director of publications for the Southern Baptist Executive Committee. He joined Baylor in 1949.

Bryant is a former president of Southern Baptist Press Association, which is an organization of editors and other journalists in the Southern Baptist Convention. He is current president of the Texas Baptist Public Relations Association.

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Edmunds New President
 Of College Association

PHILADELPHIA--(BP)--J. Ollie Edmunds, president of Stetson University, De Land, Fla., has been elected president of the Association of American Colleges.

He is the first Southern Baptist to be elected to that office. Edmunds succeeds Arthur G. Coons, president of Occidental College, Los Angeles, Calif.

Edmunds has been president of Stetson, Florida Baptists' four-year college, since 1948.

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Add closing paragraph to Jan. 2, 1957, article entitled "Quotes from Student Mission Congress;"

The four-day Congress was sponsored by the student department of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

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Possible Church Sites
Object of SBC Survey

ATLANTA--(BP)--Southern Baptists will survey the entire United States this year to determine the number of churchless communities.

The denomination's Long Range Rural Church Committee, meeting in Atlanta, endorsed the survey plan. This survey is expected to implement and propel two current Southern Baptist emphases, the 25-year long range rural church program and the campaign to establish 30,000 new preaching stations by 1964.

The survey will be an effort to decide upon the number of potential church sites. A more comprehensive 1958 follow-up survey will determine exact locations for new churches and potentialities of established churches.

Leaders anticipate that the survey will be completed this summer. The survey will be made with state superintendents of missions and associational mission workers using government statistics, maps, Convention statistics, etc.

Other action taken by the committee included the re-election of Chester Quarles, executive secretary for Mississippi Baptists, as chairman.

The committee discussed program plans for the next Convention-wide Rural Church Conference, to be held in Memphis, Tenn., Feb. 24-27, 1958.

J. T. Gillespie, director of the Home Mission Board rural church program, was elected chairman of a committee to propose goals for the next five-year period of the long range program, 1959-64. Others appointed to this committee were: Garland Hendricks, Wake Forest, N. C.; Searcy Garrison, Atlanta; J. P. Edmunds, Nashville, Tenn.; and Sam Scantlan, Oklahoma City.

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Mercer Student Center
Construction Begun

MACON, Ga.--(BP)--Mercer University has broken ground for its new student center that will cost about \$750,000.

President George B. Connell pointed out that the student body is contributing \$32,000 toward construction. Alumni have given or pledged \$220,000 and additional funds came from the joint Mercer-Wesleyan College campaign in the Macon area.

The student center, a two-storied building of contemporary design, will house a cafeteria, bookstore, recreation space, and offices for student organizations.

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229 Are Registered For
Brotherhood Conference

OKLAHOMA CITY--(BP)--Up to the present time, 229 men have registered for the National Conference of Southern Baptist Men to be held here Sept. 18-20.

Analysis of the advance report by states shows that Texas leads in the number of registrants with 95 men. Next is Tennessee with 26, and Alabama with 23.

More than 8,000 men are expected at the conference, sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission.

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22-Year-Old Mission
Check Found In Files

NASHVILLE--(BP)--The proceeds of a 22-year-old check to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions reached the Southern Baptist Convention treasurer's office here the other day.

The \$65 check was forwarded by the Baptist General Convention of Arizona.

The money was originally drawn up in a check Apr. 21, 1934, to be used in China by a missionary, Miss Floy Hawkins. For some unexplained reason the check was never mailed.

Miss Hawkins assumed the check had been lost on a ship or airplane en route to the mission field. She has since returned from the mission field and teaches school in Phoenix.

The check was discovered by a college student helping the Arizona convention move its old records into the new Baptist Building in Phoenix. The Phoenix bank on which the check was written said it was still good.

Miss Hawkins cashed the original check, then contributed the entire sum to the Lottie Moon Offering. The offering is named in honor of Miss Lottie Moon, a pioneer Southern Baptist missionary to China.

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BP folks & facts

.....Four Furman University trustees retired Dec. 31 after having served on the board a total of more than 80 years. They are R. B. Pitts, Camden industrialist; Julian H. Scarborough, Furman official and former banker; Miss Lois Cody, Greenville civic leader; and George H. Moore, Greenwood Baptist minister.

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