



# 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  
Craig Bird, 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** (Foreign) Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151  
**WASHINGTON** Stan L. Hasty, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

February 14, 1983

83-24

January Cooperative Program  
Gifts Set Record: \$9,541,431

By Craig Bird

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--January continues to bring out the best in Cooperative Program contributions as gifts to the national Southern Baptist Convention programs reached an all-time high of \$9,541,431 in the first month of 1983.

Earlier records had been set in January 1982 (\$9,425,905) and January 1981 (\$9,390,821), the only other times the \$9 million barrier has been broken.

Southern Baptists gave another \$12,120,648 to designated national causes during the month, \$11.75 million going to the Foreign Mission Board for the annual Lottie Moon Offering.

"It is exciting to watch how Southern Baptists continue to increase their financial support of Bold Mission Thrust (the SBC effort to present the message of Jesus Christ to everyone in the world by the year 2000) but two other facets make the January report even more exciting," said Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee.

"First, many of the state conventions have planned significant increases in the amounts they send to the Southern Baptist Convention programs and since many of them start their fiscal year in January that surge will not really begin to be felt until February.

"And when you realize the Southern Baptist Convention receives only about one-third of what the state conventions receive from the 36,000 churches in the convention and the state conventions receive less than 9 percent of what individual Southern Baptists give to the local churches you see that total giving for one month was in the range of \$300 million!"

Ironically, the percentage increase over the same month a year earlier (1.23) is the smallest increase since January 1982 (.37). Still, it was the 22nd consecutive month of increases.

January was the fourth month in the SBC fiscal year and the national Cooperative Program reflects an increase of 11.65 percent (\$3.5 million) over the first four months of the 1981-82 fiscal year. Five state conventions in the northern half of the United States are leading in percentage increases: Northern Plains (102.12), Kansas-Nebraska (64.76), New York (43.59), Michigan (43.35) and Nevada (31.39).

Actual dollar increase leaders are: Texas (\$878,120), Florida (\$440,004), Georgia (\$331,381), Oklahoma (\$287,094) and Alabama (\$263,565).

Since Oct. 1, 1982, the national SBC has received more than \$33.5 million for the national and worldwide mission and educational causes supported by the Cooperative Program and another \$16.3 million in designated gifts to the 20 national agencies of the SBC.

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HMB Receives Estate Funds;  
Approves 49 For Mission Posts

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ATLANTA (BP)--A Memphis businessman who served as a lay missions volunteer before his death bequeathed a \$317,393 estate to the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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C. Ray Couch, who died Sept. 9, 1980, donated the funds to assist young, struggling churches and missions in newer areas of the Southern Baptist Convention, HMB Vice President of Administration Bob Banks said. Before his death, Couch was a volunteer construction consultant for Michigan churches and had helped start several churches in Memphis.

The gift was accepted by the HMB executive committee at its February meeting.

The committee also elected Richard H. Harris as director of the mass evangelism department, succeeding Bobby Sunderland who became director of the direct evangelism division Jan. 1.

Harris, who had been as acting director since Sunderland's promotion, came to the HMB as associate director of mass evangelism in June 1981. He is a native of Kentucky, a graduate of Cumberland College and Eastern Kentucky University and earned M. Div. and D. Min. degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He is a former evangelism consultant for the Kentucky and Texas state conventions and was pastor of Kentucky and Texas churches. He and his wife, Nancy, have two children.

The executive committee approved 49 persons for assignments in 18 states and Puerto Rico, including seven missionaries, 12 missionary associates and 30 persons who will receive pastoral aid.

Carroll and Wilma Fowler of Onaway, Mich.; Ralph "R.A." Jr. and Bettye Guthrie of Flagstaff, Ariz.; Lora "L'Nola" Hall of Decatur, Ga., and David and Barbara Wigger of Liberty, Mo., were appointed missionaries. Named missionary associates were Jeffrey and Jean Franklin of Richmond, Va.; Ted and Mona Samples of Fort Washakie, Wyo.; Kenneth and Chiraphon Shipman of Dallas; Clarence and Janice Smith of Pioche, Nev.; Blaine and Kristine Barber of Memphis, Tenn., and Rickey and Jean Greene of New Orleans.

The Fowlers will to begin a new church at Onaway. Fowler, a graduate of Southern Baptist College, Arkansas State University and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, has been a minister since 1958 and was president of the 1982 Michigan Baptist Pastor's conference. She is a graduate of Arkansas State University and taught elementary school from 1963 to 1980.

The Guthries will stay in Arizona as director of associational missions Grand Canyon/Yavapai associations. He is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has been pastor in Texas and Arizona and presently serves as th Sunday School Director, Grand Canyon Baptist Associaton.

Hall is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary. She is Christian Social Ministries director for Stewart Baptist Center in Atlanta. The Wiggers will move to Iowa, where he will serve as director of associational missions in rural-urban missions. He is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary, William Jewell College and Hannibal-LaGrange College. She is a graduate of Blue Mountain College and Southwestern Seminary. Recently, he was a teacher in Jakarta, Indonesia and she a missionary in the same area.

The Franklins will remain in Virginia. She is a graduate of the University of Virginia and University of Louisville and is the director of the South Richmond Baptist Center. She has been a VISTA worker, psychology assistant, relief counselor for mentally retarded adults, counselor for federal prisoners and executive director of the ecumenical food assistance program in Louisville, Ky. He is a graduate of the University of Richmond and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and is the director of alumni and parents programs for the University of Richmond.

The Samples will remain in Wyoming, where he is a language missionary associate on the Wind River Reservation. He holds degrees from Colorado Baptist Junior College and Bismarck Junior College. She also holds a degree from Bismarck. They attend the University of Wyoming.

The Shipmans will stay in Texas and continue work in catalytic language missions. He graduated from Southwest Baptist College.

The Smiths will continue church extension work in Nevada. He is a graduate of Gardner Webb College and is pastor of the Berea Baptist Church in Pioche.

The Barbers will move to Petosky, Mich., as church planter apprentices. He is a graduate of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary and she a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University.

The Greenes will begin their church planter apprenticeship in Englewood, Fla. He is a graduate of Georgia Southern College and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Named to receive church pastoral aid were John Hines and Martha Jean Adams of Santurce, Puerto Rico; Jeffrey and Betty Jo "B.J." Anderson of Lamarie, Wyo.; Richard Gene and Vickie Derby of Horseshoe Bend, Idaho; Conrad and Sue Ann Dodd of Cornelius, Ore.; Russell and Virginia Fox of Gypsum, Colo.; Bevan and Joyce McWhirter of Bellingham, Wash.; Ralph and Jannie-Lee Mentzer of East Berlin, Penn.; David and Ann Rasmussen of Enderlin, N.D.; Lionel Dan and Miriam Sue Robinson of Ontario, Ore.; Hoyt and Donna Savage of Las Vegas, Nev., and H. Claude and Louise Simmons of Nisqually, Wash.

Timothy and Linda Sue Bender of Hayward, Calif., and R. Curtis and Gloria Reese of Poplar, Mont. will receive language pastoral aid.

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Centurymen Plan  
Fall Trip To China

By Greg Warner

Baptist Press  
2/14/83

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--The Centurymen, a choral group sponsored by the Radio and Television Commission (RTVC), will tour the People's Republic of China this fall and perform on Chinese radio and television.

The 100-voice male choir whose music is featured on Sounds of the Centurymen and other RTVC radio programs, was invited to mainland China by Shanghai Television. The group will sing in Shanghai, Beijing (Peking) and Canton.

The Centurymen also will be accompanied by television crews from NBC and the American Christian Television System. A one-hour television of the special on the trip is scheduled on NBC in November.

"The Chinese people have extended this invitation as part of their overall cultural exchange program to bring outstanding musicians to China," explained RTVC President Jimmy R. Allen. "They are interested in establishing relationships with the arts communities of this country and other countries."

Although dates for the trip have not been set, Allen said those and other details will be worked out when a survey team from the RTVC goes to China in May.

The Centurymen are expected to give concerts in all three cities on the tour. They have also been invited to perform on radio and television in Shanghai and will probably do the same in Beijing. "We will be singing the choral music of America including classical, folk and Afro-American music," Allen said.

Buryl Red, director of the Centurymen, will compose a special musical piece combining western choral style with traditional Chinese instrumental accompaniment. The work will be premiered on the China trip.

Under the banner of cultural exchange the trip will have both educational and preformatory purposes, Allen said. The group plans to visit music conservatories in Shanghai and Beijing "to share educational ideas, objectives and techniques."

"We will share by cultural exchange our friendship with the Chinese music community and explore the possibility of Chinese students coming to Baptist schools to study music," Allen said. A final concert in Hong Kong is scheduled as the group begins the trip home. As is customary with Centurymen tours, the members will pay their own way, estimated at \$3,000 per person.

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Allen said the idea for the trip came in 1981 when Ma Geshun, conductor of the Shanghai Philharmonic Society Chorus, came to the National Conference on Broadcast Ministries in Fort Worth on a tour of American institutes. Through contact with Ma, Allen opened discussions with the Center for United States-China Arts Exchange in New York City.

Later representatives of the Chinese music community visited the United States and the RTVC. Finally, on a December trip to Hong Kong to speak at Baptist schools, Allen met with communication and music officials in China. The formal invitation was issued by Shanghai Television Jan. 22.

The Centurymen were formed by the Radio and Television Commission in 1969. The members are all ministers of music at Southern Baptist churches and represents more than 30 states. The group has recorded nine albums and is heard weekly on 538 radio stations in the United States. They have appeared on previous NBC specials in 1969 and 1972.

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Mrs. McCall Gets  
Second Wife Status

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LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Marguerite McCall got promoted from first wife to second wife Feb. 14 and didn't even have to get married again.

When Duke McCall retired as president of Southern Seminary last year the couple decided to winter in West Palm Beach, Fla. Many of the new friends they made were on their second marriages after being widowed, a fact McCall soon noticed.

He also noticed, "the second wife gets a lot more attention than the first wife did--she is not taken for granted as much." So he surprised his wife with a new engagement ring and asked her if she would consent to be his second wife as well as his first.

"Husbands take so many things about our wives for granted when we've struggled together for so long," he said. "Starting Valentine's Day Marguerite gets all the privileges and attention of a second wife who didn't come along when things were so hard."

When McCall made the unique proposal he didn't know his wife would spend Valentine's Day in a Louisville hospital, "getting her heart regulated," but her illness made the gesture even more appropriate. "There wasn't any kind of ceremony," he said. "I just wanted to let her know how much I love her."

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Baptist Congressman Wants  
Immediate Nuclear Freeze

By Gerri Ratliff

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WASHINGTON (BP)--A Southern Baptist member of Congress has called for an immediate freeze on nuclear weapons by the United States and the Soviet Union, saying the arms race is the big issue confronting the U.S. Congress today.

Speaking at the D.C. Baptist Ministers Conference, Rep. Steny H. Hoyer, D-Md., said "if we are ever going to beat our guns into plowshares, we've got to start sometime, and it will never be that time if we continue to escalate."

On other issues, Hoyer said he supports government welfare programs and does not see a need for a constitutional school prayer amendment.

There is not a "Christian" answer to the arms race, he said. "I happen to be a proponent of the nuclear freeze, a freeze now.

"There are some in Congress, including the president of the United States, who believe a freeze is foolishness and exposes us to a second rank position to the Soviet Union. We'll all have to decide that issue collectively."

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Non of the joint chiefs of staff would trade overall military capability with the Soviet Union, he said. "They would all say, 'No sir, we are superior.'"

Government has a broader role than just protection of its citizens, he said. "Because I believe government is collectively us, I believe it has a positive role to make life better for all of us."

A church can deal with one destitute family, but the churches cannot support the millions of needy people in America today, he said. "My suggestion is that we deal with the problem collectively, through the government. There's an awful lot of people out there we ought to take care of."

Talks about a budget freeze have "become a game of nuance," he said. "We had a \$35 billion increase in the defense budget, so we had to cut someplace else to keep the freeze on ultimate dollars."

A number of programs are suffering actual cuts, including nutritional programs, he said.

Hoyer, who opposes a constitutional amendment returning to states and localities power to write and require prayer in public schools, said "the president of the United States said that God had been expelled from the schools of America. None of us has the power to expel God from any place."

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Day Writes  
Easter Cantata

By Charlene Shucker

Baptist Press  
2/14/83

ATLANTA (BP)--It took two years of riding trains, planes, and cars and rigorous concentration for Ken Day to complete the lyrics to "Recurrection, an Easter Cantata."

Day, director of the Home Mission Board communication division since 1979, even chanced the ire of rush-hour drivers as he worked on the 20-minute piece on his way to and from the office. "Truckers would honk when I had my thesaurus up on my steering wheel looking for the right word. I always kept a pad in my car. Anytime I thought of a phrase, sentence or even a word I would write it down," he said.

Roget's Thesaurus and a rhyming dictionary were Day's constant companions. "There were few flashes of inspiration," Day said of his first serious work. "Mostly it was a lot of digging and struggling, backing up and working literally hours on one phrase. I think it averages out to about three hours per line."

The centuries-old struggle to understanding the works of God, including the nativity, crucifixion and resurrection, was Day's impetus. "Each new examination of great events... hopefully adds to our commitment," he said.

"Resurrection" emerged as a much longer work than envisioned by the Truane music company. "I'd written an hour-long piece when the company wanted, at most, a 25-minute work," Day said. Fortunately, compromise produced a second cantata, "Let Healing Begin" available next year.

Day collaborated with well-known Baptist composer Buryl Red.

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