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127 Ninth Avenue, North

Nashville, Tennessee

1952 SOUTHERN CONVENTION REPORT
SHOWS 23 PER CENT MISSION GAIN

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--Southern Baptist mission gifts reached an all time high in 1952 with a total offering to all mission causes of \$45,822,830. This is a 23 per cent increase over 1951, a gain of \$8,554,658.

The information was released today by J. P. Edmunds, Nashville, secretary of the Department of Survey, Statistics and Information for the denomination.

Total gifts to all causes were \$248,004,289, an increase of \$25,166,180 or 11.3 per cent over the 1951 figure of \$222,838,109. Per capita giving jumped from \$30.22 in 1951 to \$32.48 in 1952. Per capita giving to missions increased from \$5.05 in 1951 to \$6.00 in 1952.

Total church property valuation stood at \$890,697,339 for 1952, a gain of 17 per cent over the 1951 total of \$761,510,838.

Five hundred and seventy-six new churches were reported to bring the total to 28,865 for 1952, a 2 per cent gain over the total of 28,289 for 1951.

There was a gain of 3.5 per cent in church membership, or an increase of 260,995 from 7,373,498 in 1951 to 7,634,493 in 1952. A total of 354,384 people were baptized in 1952.

Sunday school enrolment for 1952 was 5,491,056, a gain of 4.5 per cent over 1951. Seven hundred new Sunday schools were reported to bring the 1952 total to 28,040. Sunday school leaders have launched plans to enrol a million more in Sunday school in 1954.

Gain in Training Union enrolment was 122,633 or 7.9 per cent to bring the total to 1,677,293. Gain in the number of Training Unions was 895 or 5.3 per cent to a total of 17,781.

Vacation Bible school enrolment stood at 2,059,163 in 1952.

The Woman's Missionary Union enrolment increased to 1,143,993 in 1952 from 1,087,427 in 1951, a gain of 56,566 or 5.2 per cent.

The Brotherhood, Southern Baptist men's organization, increased 15.6 per cent in enrolment, a gain of 28,899 to 214,486 in 1952 from 185,587 in 1951.

1952 SOUTHERN BAPTIST STATISTICS

	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	Percentage Gain Over 1951	Numerical Gain
Associations	992	1,001	.09	9
Churches	28,289	28,865	2.0	576
Open Country	14,531	14,502	-0.2	- 29
Village	4,905	4,934	0.6	29
Town	3,654	3,806	4.2	152
City	4,918	5,323	8.2	405
City Suburban	281	300	6.8	19
Membership	7,373,498	7,634,493	3.5	260,995
Baptisms	375,525	354,384	-5.6	-21,141
Number Sunday schools	27,340	28,040	2.6	700
Sunday School Enrolment	5,253,695	5,491,056	4.5	237,361
Number Training Unions	16,886	17,781	5.3	895
Training Union Enrolment	1,554,660	1,677,293	7.9	122,633
W.M.U. Enrolment	1,087,427	1,143,993	5.2	56,566
Brotherhood Enrolment	185,587	214,486	15.6	28,899
Church Property Valuation	\$761,510,838	\$890,697,339	17.0	\$129,186,501
Total Gifts	\$222,838,109	\$248,004,289	11.3	\$ 25,166,180
Mission Gifts	37,268,172	45,822,830	23.0	\$ 8,554,658
Per Capita Total Gifts	\$ 30.22	\$ 32.48		\$ 2.26
Per Capita Mission Gifts	\$ 5.05	\$ 6.00		\$.95
Vacation Bible School Enrolment	1,770,418	2,059,163		