

May 7, 1958

April Gifts Up \$1300
Over Same Month, 1957

NASHVILLE--(BP)-- contributed a total of \$ to work of the Southern Baptist Convention in April, with the total from all states reaching the SBC's treasurer amounting to \$1,861,750.

The state's monthly contributions included \$ through the Cooperative Program and \$ through specially-designated funds. The state ranked for the month in total contributions.

The Southern Baptist Convention total included \$1,164,167 through the Cooperative Program, undesignated offerings which support the Convention's missionary, educational, and other agency work. Another \$697,583 was in offerings designated for special objectives by donors.

Figures released by SBC Treasurer Porter Routh, Nashville, include only what comes to the Convention proper. They do not include funds used for local church support or for agency work in the individual states.

The April, 1958 total was \$1300 greater than the total reported in April, 1957. The past month's total was about \$470,000 below March, 1958 totals, principally due to the fact that the March total included a large amount from the seasonal Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions.

Nearly half the states reporting sent in less total funds during April, 1958 than for the same month a year before. Total receipts last month were less from Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, District of Columbia, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas. (No report was received from New Mexico.)

For the four months of the year total SBC receipts are \$11,925,518, up 10.06 per cent over a year ago. Cooperative Program receipts are up 7.43 per cent for the same comparative period, to \$5,098,906, while designations have increased 12.11 per cent and are \$6,826,611.

For the year to date, only one state's total is less than for the first four months of 1957---District of Columbia. Cooperative Program receipts are less in five other states, but their total receipts are greater than for last year.

An \$850,000 distribution to the Foreign Mission Board was the largest of the month to any agency of the Convention. The Home Mission Board received \$525,000 including \$350,000 in designated gifts, reflecting the Annie Armstrong Offering to Home Missions.

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Survey Report Creates
Interest At Convention

HOUSTON--(BP)--Southern Baptist Conventioneers coming to Houston for their 1958 session, and meetings of related organizations, are probably more interested in a recent survey of the Convention than in any other single item of business.

The Thursday afternoon session of the Convention (May 22) has been set aside for the report of the Convention's Committee to Study Total Southern Baptist Program (more commonly known as the Survey Committee).

This committee, appointed at Kansas City in 1956, has had the assistance of professional counsel from a management consultant firm--Booz, Allen & Hamilton of Chicago.

The committee's recommendations are for two new Convention agencies, a Church Loan Board and a Stewardship Commission. Adjustments and changes in the workings

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of other existing agencies are also embodied in the recommendations.

The report has been available for study by Southern Baptists since about Mar. 1. Editorial reaction in the 25 Baptist state newspapers has varied, but a most frequent suggestion of Baptist editors has been for the Convention to hear the report this year, discuss it, then wait another year before voting on it.

Another item of special interest in the program is a report by Convention President Brooks Hays, Arkansas Congressman, who recently returned from a week's visit with Baptists in Moscow.

A special program on the "present world crisis," to be held at the concluding session of the Convention on Friday night (May 23), is another of major interest.

President Hays is eligible for re-election to a second term, and in past years the Convention has customarily re-elected its presidents. However, two vice-president positions will be filled by election.

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Record Attendance
Expected At Houston

HOUSTON--(BP)--A record attendance is expected at the 101st session of the Southern Baptist Convention opening in the Coliseum here May 20. A series of related meetings will precede the Convention's opening.

Indications are that the total number of registered messengers and non-registered visitors will be from 15,000 to 20,000. The record for registered messengers, set here by the 1953 session, is almost certain to be surpassed.

The registered messengers attending the 1953 session were 12,976. They are expected to be well over the 13,000 figure this year.

Registered messengers, who come with credentials from the 31,000 churches affiliated with the Convention, make up about two-thirds of total attendance.

Visitors generally include persons from churches which have exceeded their maximum number of messenger representatives allowed, as well as large numbers of local residents wanting to be present for various parts of the program.

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Texas Mother Of Year
Has Missionary Daughter

DALLAS--(BP)--Mrs. J. B. Henley, 61-year-old Lamesa, Tex., school teacher who has reared four children, sent three of them to college, and taught a Sunday school class for 46 years, is the 1958 Texas Baptist mother of the year.

One of her daughters is a Southern Baptist missionary to West Africa, a son is a Fort Worth Star-Telegram sports writer, another daughter is a housewife, and her oldest son is a telegraph company engineer in El Paso, Tex.

"In my junior high school classroom" said Mrs. Henley, "I teach Christianity by practical examples. Although the Bible isn't taught, Christian habits can be taught and healthy attitudes developed. You don't have to teach children Scripture verses to teach them the meaning of God's Word," she said.

The mother of the year project is sponsored by the Baptist Standard, state denominational paper, and the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

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THEO SOMMERKAMP, editorial assistant
May 7, 1958

127 Ninth Avenue, North — Nashville, Tennessee

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Baptist Press

GIVING AN INVITATION---Southern Baptist Missionary Ted O. Badger is pictured as he invites passers-by to services of the First Baptist Church of Cavite City, in the Philippine Islands. He's also issuing an invitation to Royal Ambassadors in the States to attend the Second Conventionwide RA Congress in Fort Worth, Aug. 12-14. Badger will be one of several missionaries on the program.