

September 30, 1958

**Foundation Forwards
Check To SEC Treasury**

NASHVILLE--(BP)--The Southern Baptist Foundation here recently forwarded a check for \$44,602 to the treasury of the Southern Baptist Convention to be shared according to the Cooperative Program distribution scale among Convention agencies.

The direct bequest, largest this year to the SBC Cooperative Program, was from the estate of an unidentified Baptist woman. It represented one-tenth of the value of her estate.

J. W. Storer of Nashville, executive secretary of the Foundation, said that "something more than a year ago, I was called by a lawyer from a distant city then engaged in preparing the will of a client, a Baptist woman.

"Since the attorney was of another denomination, he was not familiar with the Southern Baptist Foundation, but his client wished to include Southern Baptist causes in her will. She had directed him to name the Southern Baptist Foundation as the trustee to receive and distribute that portion of her will.

"Shortly thereafter, the woman who made the will died, and final distribution of the estate was made. On Sept. 15, a check for \$44,602 payable to the Southern Baptist Foundation was received."

The Cooperative Program is the basic means of support for Southern Baptist boards, commissions, and institutions. Cooperative Program funds by the very nature of the program are not designated for any specific Baptist activity, but are divided among all objectives on a percentage scale approved by the annual sessions of the Southern Baptist Convention.

-30-

**Churches To Describe
Forward Program Results**

NASHVILLE--(BP)--What results did churches have in their budget campaigns this fall using the Forward Program of Church Finance of Southern Baptists?

Queries will be sent in mid-November to churches which ordered Forward Program materials. The churches will be asked to describe the results of the Forward Program in their budget campaign.

-30-

September 30, 1958

The Finger of God in Seeking Leaders

By

Charles H. Rankin
Southern Baptist Missionary
La Junta, Colo.

It was one of those mornings when Samuel the prophet would have preferred a cold or some other confinement to keep him home. As he had breakfast, God spoke the orders for the day, "Hurry this morning, Samuel. We are going to anoint a king for Israel."

"But, Lord, Israel has a king. You know Saul will kill me if he hears about this. He's been on the war path a good deal these days, and I don't want his fury turned on me."

After reassurance from the Lord, Samuel's apprehension vanished. Clutching his horn of oil, the bold prophet set out on a historic mission. The bristle and stir in his step was similar to that of a modern secretary of state, valise tucked under arm, hurrying off to another hemisphere. But in the mission of Samuel the seer there was a prophetic purpose.

Samuel was pleased and marveled at such manhood in Jesse's older sons, all aspirant kings, as they passed in review before the prophet. Any one of these could have been Samuel's choice. Yet God kept saying, "The Lord hath not chosen this." Not until David, last and least, was presented did God say, ". . . Arise, anoint him: for this is he" (I Samuel 16:12).

When the Lord's finger points, this is a silent signal to follow the direction in which it leads. In the midst of the clamor and complexity on the contemporary scene, there is the distinct danger of losing sight of the awesome awareness that we are to depend upon God to call forth leaders. We must lean wholly on his Spirit, none on externals and excellencies of men. Recommendations from one who wants to push another out front cannot stand stronger than the stern voice of the Spirit.

There is a degree of commendation one can give, it seems, without disregarding the office of the Holy Spirit or running ahead of God. We are to look after one another in fraternal love; this is natural and normal. The author has given to churches and individuals the names of available men but never without making it clear that it is a matter of prayer and deep searching for them as they let the Spirit guide.

There is a place for human instrumentality in human relations. There is also a place where it ends; and that is in God's domain of discretion and decision. We are prone to invade, and sometimes usurp, the Spirit's office of selecting and setting apart whom he chooses. God has never relinquished or relegated his work of calling leaders.

Such dependence upon God is urged in seeking a man for pastor, for an institution, or for any denominational post. Depending more on ourselves and less on God makes us, not more stalwart, but starved and spiritually impoverished.

When Acting President J. Wash Watts of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary called upon the alumni for unparalleled prayer for a man to be raised up to head that school, we were reminded of the searching, searing message of the fearless prophets of old. It must be God's choice, God's man. There will be many upon whom we will look with favor as a fitting choice. But there will be only one to whom God's finger will point and come to rest. This will be the man.

As prospective men pass before us, how often we look with discerning and discriminating faculty upon the fine features which may be only external. There is the tendency abroad to weigh these more heavily than we ought.

We must let the Spirit of Jehovah make the choice. When we have the full and final assurance that "This is he," then we can also be assured that whom God has anointed he will strengthen, sustain, and crown with wisdom.

Once the finger of God has come to rest, he does not withhold it; but God continues to point in the direction his anointed is to walk and the direction in which we are to walk with out Spirit-appointed leader.

Because God's finger only points and does not push, it is entirely our choice as to the direction we will take.

TEXT OF PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, 1958

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Our fathers trusted in God, and they were not confounded. Believing that all men are "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights," they conquered the wilderness, built homes, charted the course of free institutions, and defended their liberties against forces which threatened from within and from without.

In our time, buffeted by unprecedented changes and challenged by an aggressive denial of Divine Providence, we have continuing need of the wisdom and strength that come from God, and we shall always find our highest satisfaction in a steadfast purpose to know and to do His will.

In this spirit, the Congress, by a joint resolution approved April 17, 1952 (66 Stat. 64), has provided "That the President shall set aside and proclaim a suitable day each year, other than a Sunday, as a National Day of Prayer, on which the people of the United States may turn to God in prayer and meditation at churches, in groups, and as individuals."

It is a privilege to carry out this resolution, and I accordingly set aside Wednesday, the first day of October 1958, as a National Day of Prayer; and I call upon my fellow Americans and all who may be visitors in our country, each according to his own faith, to join in prayer for our Nation and for all mankind, and especially:

First, that we may be humbly mindful that this Nation, under God, arrived at its present position by the toil and sacrifice of many citizens who subordinated personal interests to the common welfare and passed on to us a heritage with which we are singularly blessed;

Second, that we may have Divine guidance in our efforts to lead our children in the paths of truth and to provide a healthy environment in which they may grow in body, mind, and spirit;

Third, that we may ever exercise a compassionate concern for human suffering, whether at home or in distant lands, and that we may strive to alleviate hunger, eradicate disease, and advance the well-being of our neighbors;

Fourth, that we may be saved from blinding pride and from any act hurtful to the concord of free nations joined in building a just and durable peace under the guiding hand of Almighty God;

And, finally, that we may have courage to move forward in the unconquerable spirit of a free people, strong in faith, having a will to endure the burdens which have been given us to carry in our day, and to work toward goals of human betterment which may be attained only beyond our span of years.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States of America to be affixed.

DONE at the City of Washington this first day of August in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and fifty-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and eighty-third.

[SEAL]

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

By the President:

JOHN FOSTER DULLES,
Secretary of State.

September 30, 1958

Baptist Press

CUTLINES:

NEW QUARTERS FOR MANHATTAN BAPTISTS---Manhattan Baptist Church, the church in New York City affiliated with Southern Baptists, has a new meeting place. It is renting space in the New York Center, property of the Seventh Day Adventists. Membership of the new church, of which Paul S. James is pastor, is 210. Among the church's leaders in picture from left are Norvell Jones, formerly of Florida and Texas, Sunday school superintendent; Ellis Snipes, chairman of deacons; Herbert Maher, formerly of Savannah, Ga., general Sunday school secretary and member of deacons, and Earl Hollis, formerly of Kansas City, Mo., chief usher. Within a few days after this picture was taken, Deacon Chairman Snipes---a charter member---was transferred to Jacksonville, Fla., by the company for which he works. Heavy turnover of church leadership, pointed up in case of Deacon Snipes, is a major problem for Manhattan Church.---Baptist Press Photo.

#

September 30, 1958

Baptist Press

CUTLINES:

\$44,602 BEQUEST---J. W. Storer, left, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Foundation, Nashville, presents a check for \$44,602 to Porter Routh, treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention. The money, a direct bequest to the 1958 Cooperative Program budget of the Convention, was left by an unidentified Baptist woman whose attorney forwarded the money to Storer.---Baptist Press Photo

#