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October 4, 1957

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Southern Baptists' total gifts to Convention-wide work through the Cooperative Program and designated offerings are running 8.74 per cent ahead of last year's total gifts, according to Porter Routh, Nashville, treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Total gifts for the first nine months of the year were \$18,704,468 compared with \$17,200,326 in 1956. Cooperative Program gifts were up \$673,591 (6.84 per cent) to \$10,526,727 and designated offerings were up \$830,550 (11.3 per cent) to \$8,177,741.

With the exception of four states--California, District of Columbia, North Carolina, and Oklahoma--gifts through both categories were ahead of last year. In these four states, designated gifts were up but Cooperative Program gifts were lagging. In California and North Carolina, total gifts were running behind 1956.

reported total gifts to date this year of \$  
which included \$ through the Cooperative Program and \$  
through designations. At the same time in 1956, total gifts in the state  
were \$ , with Cooperative Program offerings amounting to \$  
and designations to \$

Comparing September, 1957, with September, 1956, Cooperative Program gifts were up slightly this year--both surpassing the million-dollar mark. Designations for the month dropped slightly but total gifts for the past month were greater than for a year ago.

During September, 1957, forwarded a total of \$  
to the Southern Baptist Convention of which \$ was through Cooperative  
Program and \$ through designations. This placed the state  
among those cooperating with the SBC.

Figures do not include funds kept for local church activities or state missions.