

#410

1933

1937

The
**BAPTIST
HUNDRED
THOUSAND**
Club

*"We need all our people to help
pay all our debts."*

By J. E. DILLARD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
Nashville, Tennessee

DARGAN-CARVER LIBRARY
S. B. C. HISTORICAL COMMISSION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

The 1933 - 1937
BAPTIST HUNDRED THOUSAND
By *J. E. Dillard* **Club**

What It Is. The Baptist Hundred Thousand Club is the debt-paying plan of the Southern Baptist Convention. It was devised by Dr. Frank Tripp, pastor of the First Baptist Church of St. Joseph, Missouri. It was approved and adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention May, 1933.

The plan contemplates securing 100,000 memberships each paying one dollar a month. The receipts are paid upon the **principal** of the debts only.

The expense of promoting the Club from the beginning has been and still is borne by the Baptist Sunday School Board so that one hundred cents out of every dollar received is actually paid upon the debts.

What It Has Done. From the first the Baptist Hundred Thousand Club received the enthusiastic approval of all our agencies, all our creditors, and thousands of our church members. More than 36,000 persons have contributed through this Club.

The receipts of the Club have been as follows: In 1933, \$37,588.28; in 1934, \$160,565.96; in 1935, \$198,372.31; up to December 1, 1936, \$180,185.71. Total \$576,712.26.

And every dollar of it has been paid upon the principal of our debts! This is enough saved in interest to pay the salaries of forty-four foreign missionaries! (Aren't you glad you had a part and don't you want to do more?)

How the Money Is Divided. The receipts of the Baptist Hundred Thousand Club are divided according to the annual debt needs of the several agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention makes a careful study in December of the maturing debt needs of the agencies for the ensuing year. Then in consultation with the several agencies, determines the ratio of distribution of funds. The percentages vary slightly from year to year.

The percentages of distribution of Club funds for 1937 are as follows: Foreign Mission Board, 18; Home Mission Board, 29.5; Southern Seminary, 16; Southwestern Seminary, 18; Baptist Bible Institute, 10; Education Board, 5; American Seminary, .2; Southern Baptist Hospital, 1.3; National Memorial Church, 2.

Some Explanations. The Foreign Mission Board debt has been reduced to less than \$400,000.00 so that its relative debt needs are not as great as last year, hence the smaller per cent. The Home Mission Board has made substantial reduction in its debt, but its relative debt needs are greater, hence the larger percentage. The maturing debt needs of the Southwestern Seminary are larger than those of the other seminaries, hence the larger percentage. By "Education Board" is meant the obligations of the old Education Board which are now being liquidated by the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. The American Seminary is the Negro seminary located in Nashville. The Southern Baptist Hospital located in New Orleans is rapidly reducing its debt.

Some sixteen years ago the Northern and Southern Baptist Conventions subscribed \$175,000 each toward the erection of the great National Memorial Church in Washington, D. C. The Northern Convention has

paid its subscription but the Southern Baptist Convention still owes approximately \$60,000.00. The two per cent of the Hundred Thousand Club receipts represents our purpose and effort to pay this long over-due obligation.

The entire indebtedness of all our Southern Baptist Convention agencies (November 15, 1936) was \$4,130,044.50. **If we could get 100,000 paying memberships in the Baptist Hundred Thousand Club we could pay all our debts from this source alone in three and one-half years! WONT YOU HELP GET THEM?**

Types of Membership: In order to make it possible for every one to have a part in this glorious debt-paying effort several types of membership are offered: (1) The **Individual** membership of one dollar a month; (2) the **Multiple** membership for those who are able and willing to contribute more than one dollar a month; (3) a **Joint** membership where two persons (for example a man and his wife) contribute a dollar a month; (4) **Group** or **Circle** membership where several persons together contribute a dollar a month (for example, a Sunday school class or a B.T.U. or a R.A., or a G.A., or a circle in a missionary society.) (5) The **Luther Rice Memorial** membership where a person, or group, or church contributes \$100.00 cash as a memorial to that great, heroic, sacrificial, debt-paying Baptist who died a hundred years ago.

Every one can help pay the debts of his denomination if he wants to by becoming a member of the Baptist Hundred Thousand Club.

WHAT THEY SAY: A cross-section of Southern Baptist sentiment: **George W. Truett**, Pres. Baptist World Alliance: "My feeling is that if only the objectives of the Baptist Hundred Thousand Club may be clearly presented to our Baptist people in city, town, village and country place, that

the appeal to them for their practical co-operation will be both convincing and irresistible."

John R. Sampey, Pres. S.B.C.: "The plan is timely; it is practical; it is contagious; it will succeed if given reasonable support by the pastors."

M. E. Dodd, Ex-Pres. S.B.C.: "This movement has already been successful: (1) in creating a debt consciousness; (2) in creating a will to win in the payment of our debts; (3) and in the actual liquidation of our debts."

F. F. Brown, Ex-Pres. S.B.C.: "During January and February let us all give ourselves heartily to the Hundred Thousand Club."

C. E. Maddry, Secretary Foreign Mission Board: "The Hundred Thousand Club has been a great success . . . (it has paid) \$163,455.50 on the debt of the Foreign Mission Board . . . We are for the Hundred Thousand Club one hundred per cent."

J. B. Lawrence, Sec. H. M. Board: "We are for it 100%."

B. D. Gray, Former Sec. Home Mission Board: "Don't let the general promotion weaken the stress on the Hundred Thousand Club. Push that to the limit."

T. J. Watts, Sec. Relief and Annuity Board: "The Hundred Thousand Club is a master method . . . let us use it to the fullest extent."

J. T. Henderson, Sec. Baptist Brotherhood: "It is endorsed by all the heads of the south-wide agencies and has the commendation of leading business men."

L. R. Scarborough, Pres. Southwestern Seminary: "The Hundred Thousand Club is the only thing in sight to pay our debts, save our honor and relieve our debt slavery."

W. W. Hamilton, Pres. Baptist Bible Institute: "If the Hundred Thousand Club doubles its membership our debt will soon be paid."

Austin Crouch, Executive Committee, S.B.C.: "The purpose of the Baptist Hundred Thousand Club is to pay the debts of the S.B.C. and its agencies. This is both noble and important."

Miss Kathleen Mallory, Sec. W.M.U.: "We agreed to try to secure 25,000 paid-up-debt paying memberships this calendar year and the same during 1937."

F. M. Barnes, Alabama: "The Hundred Thousand Club has already saved our denomination from serious embarrassment."

B. L. Bridges, Arkansas: "The Hundred Thousand Club movement is an expression of the conscience of Southern Baptists . . . we must finish the task."

S. S. Bussell, Arizona: "This is the best, sanest, most systematic and workable plan for paying our debts."

C. M. Brittain, Florida: "We believe every pastor who presents this matter in its proper light and with spiritual fervor will find a ready response."

James W. Merritt, Georgia: "I hope the membership drive in January and February will be unusually successful."

E. W. Reeder, Illinois: "It will be a calamity if every Baptist who is able does not become a member of the Hundred Thousand Club."

F. J. Katz, Louisiana: "Every Baptist who would like to see our Southwide debts paid can have a part."

J. T. Watts, Maryland: "The plan of the Baptist Hundred Thousand Club is a good one for liquidating the debt of the Southern Baptist Convention causes."

E. Godbold, Missouri: "The Baptist Hundred Thousand Club movement has restored the credit of Southern Baptists."

R. B. Gunter, Mississippi: "Our attitude during this period (January and February) will serve as a test of our honesty."

H. C. Reavis, New Mexico: "There are thousands within our border who could enter this movement and doubtless would do so, if it were properly presented."

Andrew Potter, Oklahoma: "The Hundred Thousand Club has not only stimulated payment of Southern Baptist debts but state debts as well."

R. C. Campbell, Texas: "The Hundred Thousand Club is the brightest star of hope in the payment of the debts on our South-wide institutions."

Rufus W. Weaver, District of Columbia: "The Hundred Thousand Club is the only, the simplest, the surest, the most practical, the fairest, the easiest, and the most effective way of lifting from the Southern Baptist Convention the humiliating and almost crushing burden of debt."

John D. Freeman, Tennessee: "Tennessee has been in from the beginning. We are for the Hundred Thousand Club."

Louie D. Newton, Georgia: "I am fully convinced that the Baptist Hundred Thousand Club is workable wherever and whenever it is faithfully presented to our people."

Everett Gill, Jr., Louisiana: "I joined the B.H.T.C. at its inception and expect to remain a "paying member" until every debt on the causes and institutions of the S.B.C. has been paid in full."

Reader! What do you think? What will you do about it?

We need all our people to help pay all our debts.

The Baptist Hundred Thousand Club Membership Card

"Over and Above"

1. Please enrol me for the membership checked below:

Individual Membership, \$1.00 a month;

Multiple Membership, \$.....a month;

Joint Membership, 50 cents a month (each);

Group or Circle Membership. Name of Group or Circle.....

Luther Rice Memorial Membership (\$100 Cash)

2. This membership is for.....years beginning....., 193.....

3. Credit this membership to the organization checked below:

Church

W.M.U.

B.T.U.

Sunday school

Brotherhood

My name.....Address.....

Name of Church.....Association.....



Sign, detach and hand card to your Pastor or Treasurer who will report to
J. E. DILLARD, 161 EIGHTH AVE. N., NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE