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HOME MISSIONS

STATE MISSIONS

HOW
The
**BAPTIST
COOPERATIVE
PROGRAM
WORKS**

by
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ORPHANAGES

HOSPITALS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

FOREIGN MISSIONS

MINISTERIAL RELIEF

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
Nashville, Tennessee

HOW THE BAPTIST CO-OPERATIVE PROGRAM WORKS

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As the sun sends its beneficent rays to the ends of the earth, so the Baptist Co-operative Program, pictured on the front page, radiates the Gospel to the people around the world, ministering to them in every area of their needs through preaching, teaching, serving.

The last of the Old Testament prophets predicted that "the Sun of Righteousness would arise with healing in his wings" (Mal. 4: 2). Jesus himself announced, "I am the light of the world" (John 8: 12). He declared also to his disciples, "Ye are the light of the world" (Matt. 5: 14). It is as clear as the noon-day sun that the main business of Southern Baptists is to let their light so shine that the darkness of sin and ignorance all about them may be dispelled, that the truth as it is in Christ Jesus may be revealed through them, and that "humanity's hurt" may be healed.

In order to do this most effectively Southern Baptists have organized their forces, dividing the work among the seven different agencies shown in the picture of the sun on the front page, its beams of light penetrating the uttermost part of the earth. For many years Southern Baptists have used the plan of the Co-operative Program in fostering and promoting their agencies through which they have been doing the major part of their missionary, educational and benevolent work. Wherever this plan has been faithfully followed it has proven to be most satisfactory and effective.

What It Does

As the churches receive money for the Co-operative Program, the church treasurer forwards it to the State Secretary. He divides it between State and Southwide

causes, according to the ratio agreed upon by his State Convention or General Association, dividing the amount retained for State causes according to the ratio fixed by his State organization, and sending the amount for Southern Baptist Convention agencies to the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville, Tennessee. This is divided according to the ratio fixed each year by the Southern Baptist Convention, and distributed to the different agencies each week.

Thus all the agencies of both the State and Southern Baptist Conventions share regularly and equitably in all the undesignated funds given by the churches and are thereby enabled to carry on their work. This is unquestionably the fairest and the most economical plan yet devised for taking care of all our Baptist work. It enables each contributor, however small, to have some part in the whole program of his denomination and to minister through his offerings to people around the world in the name of Christ day and night.

Missionary Agencies

In the course of the years there have grown up among Southern Baptists the following general agencies through which they have been carrying out the three-fold ministry that Jesus committed to his followers:

Foreign Mission Board—Established 1845. Located in Richmond, Va., Charles E. Maddry, Executive Secretary. Its 437 missionaries are working in Africa, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Jugo-Slavia, Mexico, Palestine-Syria, Rumania, and Spain. Last year they reported 16,207 converts received by baptism into the fellowship of the 1,794 churches. Of these churches, 1,053 are self-sustaining. Total present membership, 214,975. We have in all these foreign fields 2,457 Sunday schools, with an enrolment of 107,005; 1,397 Women's Societies with a membership of 31,373; 1,493 Young People's Societies with a membership of 34,733; native contributions last year, \$394,439; total number of day schools, 331, with an enrolment of 26,170.

Total amount received for Foreign Missions last year, \$1,130,083, an increase of \$10,320 over the previous year. Total budget for 1939, \$801,363.69. The Foreign Mission debt in 1933 was \$1,100,000. It is now less than \$280,000.

Home Mission Board—Established 1845. Located in Atlanta, Ga., J. B. Lawrence, Executive Secretary. It has now 371 missionaries working in 756 mission stations. During the past year 41 new missionaries have been put in the field, 20 mission chapels have been acquired, and 64 new mission stations opened. During the ninety-four years of its existence the Home Board has employed individually and in co-operation with other mission agencies 44,000 missionaries, who have baptized 865,000 people and have organized 8,600 churches. The present Home Mission work is being done among the 200,000 Indians, 10,000,000 Negroes, multiplied thousands of foreigners and under-privileged in congested industrial sections, Jews, in Cuba and the Canal Zone.

The Board received from all sources the past year \$513,841.80. Paid on the principal of the debt in 1938, \$163,360.89, the largest amount since 1929. For six years the Board has operated on a strictly cash basis.

State Mission Boards—In each of the eighteen states and District of Columbia, included in the territory of the Southern Baptist Convention, there is a well organized and functioning State Mission Board that is seeking to take care of the religious destitution in its area by supplying an adequate teaching, preaching and healing program. Churches are aided in securing proper pastoral leadership, building facilities, trained Sunday school, B.T.U., W.M.U., and B.S.U. workers. These State Mission Boards have been tremendous factors in making our Southland the greatest Baptist stronghold in the world—24,936 churches, with a membership of 4,770,185, and nearly as many more Negro Baptists.

Educational Agencies

A vital part of the program of Jesus was teaching and training. Our Baptist forefathers, at great sacri-

fice, planted schools all over this country that they might have a trained leadership. In many instances these schools, after fulfilling their important mission, passed out of the picture. Southern Baptists still have around 67 schools in all, with 33,795 pupils in attendance last session. These schools have a combined property value of \$42,896,896, plus an aggregate endowment of \$27,425,027, a grand total of \$70,321,924. With the exception of Maryland, New Mexico, Southern Illinois, Arizona, and the District of Columbia, there are one or more Baptist schools in each state in our Convention territory, which, for the most part, are under the control of the State Conventions. The following theological seminaries are directed by trustees appointed by the Southern Baptist Convention and are supported by it:

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary—Founded 1859. Located in Louisville, Ky., John R. Sampey, President. Enrolment the past year, 446 men, the largest in its history. Over 8,000 have matriculated since the beginning. Its purpose is to train ministers and missionaries.

W.M.U. Training School—Founded 1904. Located in Louisville, Ky., Miss Carrie U. Littlejohn, Principal. Enrolment last year, 138. Purpose, to train lady missionaries and Christian workers.

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary—Founded 1908. Located at Seminary Hill, Texas, L. R. Scarborough, President. Total enrolment the past year, 782, including 657 in residence and 125 in correspondence. Purpose, to train ministers, missionaries, and Christian workers of both sexes.

Baptist Bible Institute—Founded 1918. Located in New Orleans, La., W. W. Hamilton, President. Enrolment the past session, 312. Since 1918, 4,756 have matriculated and 643 graduated. Purpose, to train ministers, missionaries and Christian workers of both sexes.

American Baptist Theological Seminary—Founded 1924. Located in Nashville, Tenn., J. M. Nabrit, President; E. P. Alldredge, Chairman of Seminary

Commission. Total enrolment the past session, 68, and 10 in the Women's Training School, near by, from twenty states and the Bahamas. This Seminary is for Negro preachers and is owned and operated jointly by the National Baptist Convention, Incorporated (Negro), and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Agencies of Benevolence

Relief and Annuity Board—Established 1918. Located in Dallas, Texas, Thomas J. Watts, Executive Secretary; C. H. Bolton, Associate. During these 21 years \$3,560,690.21 has been paid to its beneficiaries, more than half of this amount has gone in relief to ministers, their widows and orphans, and the rest in annuities. The relief benefits in 1938 were \$90,502, which was paid to 1,255 beneficiaries. Assets of the Board as of December 31, 1938, \$4,604,478.08.

Baptist Hospitals—The Southern Baptist Hospital, New Orleans, La., Louis J. Bristow, Superintendent, opened March, 1926. It paid all operating expenses during the past year, including \$51,624.41 for charity work, all bonds which matured and interest, and more than \$65,000 from current revenues was paid on new construction. During the year 12,769 patients were cared for.

Besides this hospital, which is owned and operated by the Southern Baptist Convention, there are 18 other Baptist hospitals in the territory of the Convention. In all these hospitals last year there were 84,054 patients, of whom 13,386 were charity patients, costing \$764,113.07. Value of hospital property, \$11,852,202.48.

Baptist Orphanages—In each of the eighteen states embraced in the Convention there is one or more orphanages except in Arizona and Maryland. There are two in Kentucky and one in the District of Columbia. Last year there were 4,413 cared for in these homes at an average expenditure of \$237.45 per child; total, \$1,047,866.85. Children turned down for lack of room, 1,466; children placed out in homes, 383; value of orphanage property, \$5,594,522.33.

Promotional Agencies

Baptist Sunday School Board—Founded 1891. Located in Nashville, Tenn., T. L. Holcomb, Executive Secretary-Treasurer; J. O. Williams, Business Manager. The total business receipts from all sources the past year, \$2,091,056.37, the largest in its history, an increase over the previous year of \$224,613.30. Of this amount, \$483,901.33 went back into the work of the denomination.

Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention—Organized May, 1888. Headquarters, Birmingham, Ala., Miss Kathleen Mallory, Executive Secretary. Present number of organizations, 38,597, with a membership of 715,402. Gifts for 1938, \$2,614,556.16. Tithers reported, 142,334. Aggregate gifts for 51 years, \$55,847,107.

Baptist Brotherhood of the South—Organized 1907. Headquarters, Memphis, Tenn., Lawson H. Cooke, General Secretary; Hugh Latimer, Associate. The slogan of this organization is, A MILLION MEN FOR CHRIST—enlisted in his service, loyal to his church, supporting every interest of the Kingdom.

Baptist Papers—Vital factors in promoting every cause included in our denominational program are our eighteen Baptist papers, one in each state. They are essential to the progress of our work and are worthy of the support of every loyal Baptist.

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention—Organized 1927. Located in Nashville, Tenn., Austin Crouch, Executive Secretary; James E. Dillard, Director of Promotion; Walter M. Gilmore, Publicity Director and Treasurer. From the beginning, the expenses of this organization have been paid by the Sunday School Board. Its purpose is to execute the various tasks committed to it by the Convention and to promote the interests of every agency of the Convention. The Committee received and distributed during the past calendar year for all purposes, \$1,616,876.84.

Division of Distributable Southwide Funds for 1939-1940

	<i>Per Cent</i>
Foreign Mission Board	50
Home Mission Board	23 1/3
Relief and Annuity Board	10 1/3
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary	4 1/5
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary	4 1/5
Baptist Bible Institute	4 1/5
W.M.U. Training School	8/15
American Baptist Theological Seminary	1
New Orleans Baptist Hospital	2 1/5
Total	
	100

Every Member Canvass

In order to enlist every member in every church throughout the Southern Baptist Convention in the wholehearted support of every object included in the Co-operative Program a simultaneous Every Member Canvass is recommended to be put on in every church during the period from November 5 to December 10, if at all practicable. Remember that thorough preparation, a thorough canvass and a thorough follow-up are absolutely essential elements of success.

Baptist Hundred Thousand Club

This is the plan adopted six years ago by the Southern Baptist Convention for paying the debts on all its agencies, then amounting to over \$6,000,000, by getting 100,000 to pay \$1 a month to be applied to the principal only. The aggregate debt of these agencies today is around \$3,100,000. You can help to take the brakes off the Co-operative Program by joining this Club and paying your dollar a month, "over and above."