

Stewardship Moments-

Dr. B. Carlisle Driggers

Leading By Faith

The most prolific writer in the New Testament was the Apostle Paul. Many of the statements and conclusions he reached are so full of spiritual insight and unusual wisdom that they surely had to come from God.

One of those statements Paul made appears to have come as an afterthought, but it is among the most profound declarations he ever wrote. It is found in II Corinthians 5:7 and has been quoted repeatedly across the years by Christian believers. For many it has become a watchword and a certainty by which to live. With amazing simplicity, Paul wrote, "We walk by faith, not by sight."

Cooperative Program

"Let me say emphatically that I believe in the Cooperative Program because I believe in missions as called for by the Lord Jesus. For me, the Cooperative Program is synonymous with the Great Commission. There are times I get frustrated and even upset over some of our decisions and actions, but never at the point of our commitment to mission work. I do not know of any group anywhere in the world who does missions any better than Southern Baptists and that is mainly because of the Cooperative Program."

When the Cooperative Program was launched in 1925, Southern Baptists were, for sure, a small, regional group of people. We had few if any churches north of the Mason-Dixon line. Now there are Southern Baptist churches in every state and more being started with each passing week. At present, in our 40,000 plus churches are almost 16 million members which makes the Southern Baptist Convention the largest non-Catholic group in the nation.

We could not have grown in such a short time as we have without the Cooperative Program. It touches in one way or another everything we do. Just think about it. Because of the faithful giving of our people through the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists are able to provide support for family ministries, disaster relief, youth work, prayer retreats, seminary education, children's homes, colleges, Sunday School teacher training, music workshops, retirement benefits for ministers, starting new churches, associational missions, senior adult ministries and retirement homes, educational scholarships, state Baptist papers, marriage enrichment courses, strengthening struggling churches, Baptist Foundations, Vacation Bible School

workshops, nearly 10,000 missionaries across North America and around the world, single adult conferences, Brotherhood Builders, literacy missions, Bible distributions, seaman's ministries, student summer missions, food relief, emergency aid for displaced ministers, good-will centers, medical assistance, camps for boys and camps for girls, chaplains, restoration of houses for needy families, gift packets for prisoners, computer training for churches and associations, pastors and wives leadership conferences, evangelistic rallies and seminars, multi-family housing ministries, discipleship study materials, Baptist Student Unions, Christian advocacy on moral issues, pastoral counseling centers, work with migrants, deacon training, church architecture services, and on and on and on.

There is literally nothing I can think of in Southern Baptist life that is not related to or funded by the Cooperative Program. I thank God for it every day that the sun comes up.

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