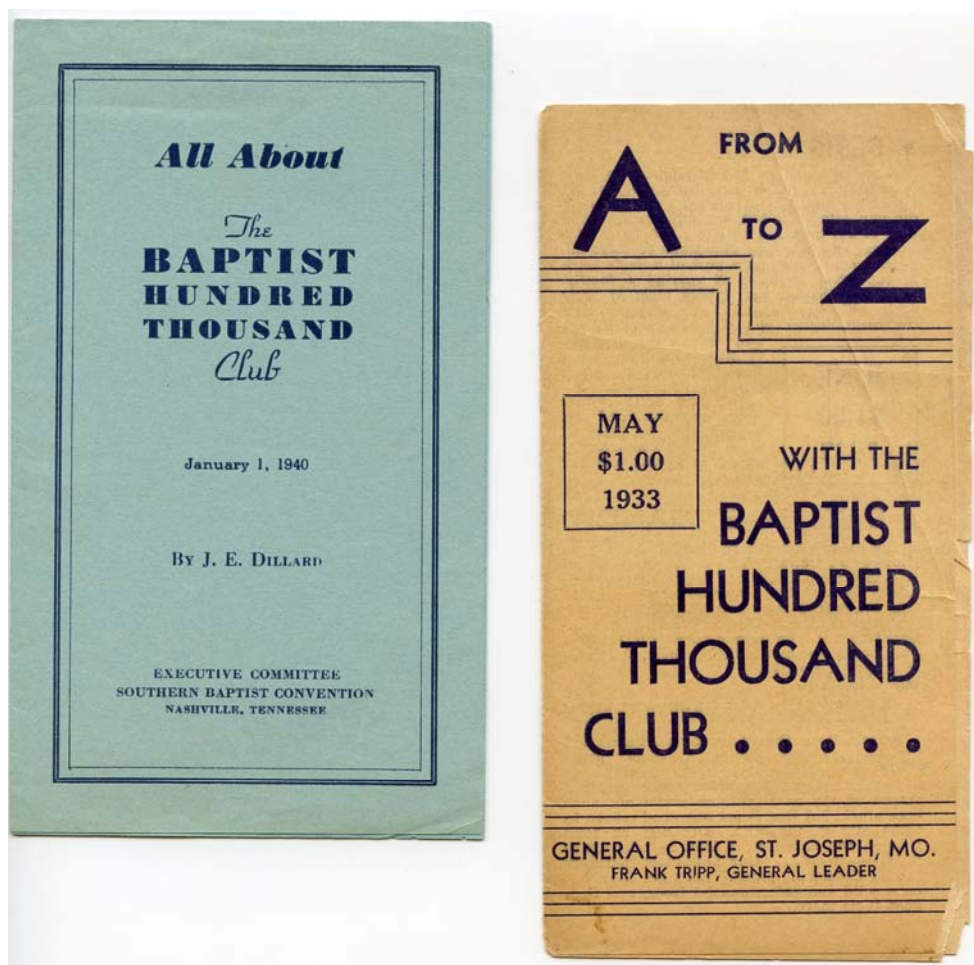


SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
HUNDRED THOUSAND CLUB
COLLECTION

AR 116



Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

July, 2012

Southern Baptist Convention Hundred Thousand Club Collection

AR 116

Summary

Main Entry: Southern Baptist Convention. Hundred Thousand Club

Date Span: 1933 – 1943

Abstract: The Hundred Thousand Club was a plan of the Southern Baptist Convention, used from 1933 to 1943, to raise funds to pay the debts of the convention. The Hundred Thousand Club Collection includes two notebooks of clippings, correspondence, documents, and promotional material, from 1933 to 1943, on the fund-raising campaign of the Southern Baptists to pay the debts of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Size: .5 linear ft.

Collection #: AR 116

Historical Sketch

The Southern Baptist Convention faced financial depression in the 1920s, and each year brought increased debt. The convention was forced to borrow money with high interest rates, but it was unable to take care of its debt. Creditors threatened, and morale among Southern Baptists fell. The Executive Committee of the SBC met in April, 1933, to discuss many suggested plans of action. The plan adopted, the Hundred Thousand Club, was the original idea of Frank Tripp, pastor of the First Baptist Church in St. Joseph, Mo.

Tripp's idea was for 100,000 Southern Baptists to give one dollar per month, above their regular contributions to their churches, to be used exclusively for debt payment. Tripp's plan for the Club called for equal treatment of all creditors and for all funds received through the Club to be applied exclusively to the principal of debts. The objectives of the plan were: liquidity of present debt of SBC; members to pay one dollar per month over regular payments to their churches; club should have a General Leader; each state should have a leader; a leader for each association; and a leader for each church. Tripp was elected General Leader, and his church gave him a leave of absence with salary to head the Club. The Sunday School Board paid the operating expenses of the Club, allowing every dollar received to go toward the principal of all debts.

By 1934, pledges were \$360,000, with approximately 30,000 members. All the money received through the Club went to agencies of the SBC according to percentages determined by the Executive Committee in ratio to the debt needs of the serving agencies.

At the 1935 Convention, the Plan was enlarged to cover state debts, with the exception of Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Frank Tripp resigned as General Leader after three years. The Executive Committee elected James E. Dillard, president of the Executive Committee and pastor in Birmingham, Alabama, to be Director of Promotion, starting on 8/1/1936, to promote the Cooperative Program and the Baptist Hundred Thousand Club.

Dillard proposed that the Southern Baptists be debt free by 1943, and the Foreign Mission Board was debt free for the first time in 40 years by that date. By the end of 1943, all convention agencies and institutions were out of debt, with nearly \$39,000 balance in the Club account.

Although the objective of 100,000 members in the Club was not met, the Hundred Thousand Club was one of the most successful movements of the Southern Baptists, encouraging Baptists to pay their debts. The Southern Baptist agencies were encouraged, also, saving hundreds of thousands of dollars in interest. The Executive Committee extended its gratitude to Frank Tripp, for helping to save Baptist mission causes through the Club movement, and to James Dillard, for his hard work on the “debt free in ’43” campaign.

Scope and Content Note

The Hundred Thousand Club Collection includes two notebooks of clippings, correspondence, documents, and promotional material, from 1933 to 1943, on the fund-raising campaign of the Southern Baptists to pay the debts of the Southern Baptist Convention. Also included are copies of the *Baptist Program*, the publication of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, produced during this period. The collection also includes scattered copies of *News briefs*, a newsletter of the campaign. Samples of general correspondence and other promotional items that were mailed to state directors are a part of this collection. The collection is arranged in alphabetical order and contains .5 linear ft. (approximately 520 items) of material.

Arrangement

Arranged in alphabetical order by folder title

Provenance

Unknown

Preferred Citation

Southern Baptist Convention. Hundred Thousand Club. Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee

Access Restrictions

None

Subject Terms

Trip, Frank

Dillard, James Edgar, 1879 – 1953
Southern Baptist Convention – Finance
Church finance
Cooperative Program
Hundred Thousand Club

Related Materials

John H. Buchanan Papers, AR 101. Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives.

Southern Baptist Convention. Executive Committee. Account book of receipts, 1917-1947. MF 907. Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives.

Container List

Box 1

- 1.1 Articles – Frank Tripp
- 1.2 *Baptist Program*, 1933 – 1942 (scattered issues)
- 1.3 Clippings, 1933 – 1934
- 1.4 Clippings, 1934 – 1936
- 1.5 Mallory, Kathleen – “A second mile,” pamphlet
- 1.6 *News briefs*, 1934 – 1936
- 1.7 Posters
- 1.8 Roll call of states and associations, 1934
- 1.9 “Rainbow of Promise,” Pageant
- 1.10 Samples of promotional material – Baptist Hundred Thousand Club, 1933 – 1936