

September 11, 1960

One Of Every Seven
Chaplains Baptist

ATLANTA, Ga.--(BP)--Fifteen per cent of the Protestant chaplains serving in state and federal institutions are Southern Baptists. This figure was revealed by Alfred Carpenter of Atlanta, Ga., in a progress report on institutional and industrial chaplaincy of the Southern Baptist Chaplains Commission.

This proportion is approximately the same as the proportion of Southern Baptist military chaplains, says Carpenter, who directs the commission and serves as director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's chaplaincy division.

"Interest in this phase of chaplaincy, both on the part of institutions and ministers, is on the increase," he said.

Reporting on Southern Baptist military chaplains, Carpenter said they reached their goal for starting new services during the first six months of 1960. The chaplains are aiming for 500 new services started at home and abroad during the entire year; 225 were started from January to July.

There are 426 Southern Baptist chaplains on active duty in the military and 660 in the reserves.

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Baptism Goals Revised,
Two Million Sought

ATLANTA, Ga.--(BP)--New baptism goals totaling more than two million in the next four years were announced by C. E. Autrey of Dallas, director of the division of evangelism for the Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board.

Autrey, in Atlanta for a meeting of the mission board, said the new figures constitute a revision of goals announced last year. The revision came after reports indicated that baptisms this year would fall below last year's peak of 429,063.

The new goals were formed through meetings of the secretaries of evangelism of the state conventions after consideration of such factors as the number of teachers and officers, building growth, and ability of the churches.

"We feel that these goals are realistic and well within reach, if Southern Baptists respond to the challenge," Autrey said. The previous goals were more than a million higher than these.

The breakdown by years indicate the following: 1961--476,000; 1962--500,000; 1963--530,000; and 1964--600,000.

Autrey said he based his estimation that this year's results would be under last year's on reports from the states during the first six months, all of which were under last year.

The decrease was attributed to the fact that 1959 was a year of evangelistic emphasis by the Convention, when 1,000 of the 1,100 associations were involved in simultaneous crusades. This year only about 300 associations have conducted crusades.

"A study of our rate of baptisms in the past indicates that every year following a Convention-wide effort there has been a decrease in baptisms," Autrey stated, "and this year will be no exception."

He urged a renewed emphasis upon personal soul-winning. "Revivalism cannot do the job," he warned. "It is not through revivals but through personal soul-winning that we are going to reach any appreciable number of lost people. If we can add the New Testament emphasis of personal evangelism to our revival emphasis we can reach our goals."

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Autrey commended a new plan of the Sunday School Board of the Convention to enlist every teacher and officer in personal soul-winning, and then through them to enlist all of the members of the church. He said that the plan will receive first emphasis next year but will not be in full play until 1962.

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Will Mission Boards
Get Good 1960 Bonus?

(9-11-60)

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Will Southern Baptists provide a good Thanksgiving and Christmas bonus to their home and foreign missions activities?

Evidence is that giving must pick up very noticeably during the rest of the calendar year 1960 for a bonus to be good. Baptists will have to reverse a trend that has been demonstrated for over three years.

Each year, the Convention meets the operating and capital needs of its 20 agencies, then enters what has been called the advance section of the Cooperative Program. It is referred to as an advance because this bonus means just that to the work of the missionaries.

Since the Convention's fiscal year coincides with the calendar year, the advance stage has been entered sometimes in October, but more recently in November. Thus most of November, and all of December--associated with Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday seasons--are bonus months for S B C's missionary enterprises at home and abroad.

A study of Convention receipts shows that Cooperative Program giving has increased each year, but that the per centage of increase has been steadily falling for at least three years. 1960 is following the downward pattern so far.

Failure of Southern Baptists to increase the momentum of Cooperative Program gifts could be a "serious handicap" to the effort to establish 30,000 new churches and missions during the seven-year span ending 1964, according to Courts Redford, Atlanta, executive secretary of the Home Mission Board.

The Home Mission Board and Foreign Mission Board benefit exclusively during the advance period, with home missions getting 25 per cent and foreign missions 75 per cent.

Baker J. Cauthen, Richmond, Va., executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, forecast disappointment on mission fields in nearly 50 countries if the advance showing is poor.

Advance funds mean new buildings on foreign mission fields, and mean restoration of budget requests which previously were turned down for lack of money in the regular operating and capital needs budget.

Taking a look into 1961, Redford said, "It would be a calamity to the work of Southern Baptists should the Home Mission Board find it necessary to retrench and revise downward--cut co-operative budgets in pioneer areas and in the cities on the eve of our 1962 emphasis on church extension.

"We are absolutely dependent on the advance section to provide a substantial portion of the funds anticipated for this program of advance."

In 1958, eight-month totals revealed a 9.48 per cent gain over 1957. The 1959 gain over 1958 was 8.08 per cent; in 1960, the gain is a mere 2 per cent.

The Foreign Mission Board's 75 per cent share of the advance "bonus" came to \$2,445,226 in 1957. It declined to \$1,922,932 in 1958, and dropped still more to only \$1,575,912 in 1959.

The advance fourth to the Home Mission Board was \$815,075 for 1957; \$640,977 for 1958, and \$525,304 for 1959.

The boards' share of the operating and capital needs budget (that which must be met before the advance) rose each year, of course, along with most of the agencies. All agencies share in the pre-advance funds.

The mission leaders expressed concern over the declining per centage of annual increase in Cooperative Program giving, which forces the drop in advance funds.

"It looks as if the amount to be received by the Foreign Mission Board will be smaller than at any time in the last several years," Cauthen said, referring to 1961 projections.