

October 20, 1960

Huge Unchurched Group  
Found In Miami Survey

MIAMI--(BP)--More than three-quarters of a million people in the "gold coast" area of Florida, including greater Miami, are not affiliated with local churches and synagogues.

This information was revealed in what was possibly the largest house-to-house religious survey ever undertaken. Of 1,358,191 individuals canvassed, 872,393 were found to be unchurched and unaffiliated with local churches.

"This is the highest percentage of population of any area we have surveyed not affiliated with local churches and synagogues," said Billy Hargrove of Atlanta, secretary of the department of survey and special studies of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Hargrove directed the survey which used methods and materials developed by his department. Over four hundred churches and synagogues placed 25,652 workers on the field to gather the information.

Surveyors also faced the largest number of refusals for information in any of Hargrove's surveys, as 17.4 per cent in Miami and 9.8 per cent in the fringe areas either shut doors or would not open them for the canvassers.

"Less than two per cent have refused in most other areas," Hargrove announced. However, all figures included a projection of these refusals on a percentage basis, which, according to Hargrove, would tend to brighten the picture.

The survey was only 75 per cent complete, as workers were to spend another week cleaning up. Enough information was gathered to indicate trends by which surveyors could predict the number of unaffiliated and unchurched.

A breakdown of the figures showed that 434,621 or 32 per cent are unchurched and 437,772 or 47 per cent of church members are unaffiliated.

"This 47 per cent of unaffiliated church members is nearly double that found in most large cities we have surveyed," Hargrove said.

Other interesting facts revealed in the survey include the following:

- 1) There are 24 per cent of the people in greater Miami who are retired. (In the fringe areas families reported only 2.2 members of the household.)
- 2) There are 24 per cent of the women of Miami employed.
- 3) Many areas showed very few prospects under 16 years of age for the churches.
- 4) The largest group of unchurched are 55 years and over. This indicated the churches must develop better programs to care for adults, especially the older groups, according to Hargrove.

Each church and synagogue participating received a compilation of prospects, with addresses and church preference, in their respective area.

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Meet Superintendent  
Deacon, Nursery Rymer

(10-21-60)

NASHVILLE--(BP)--The Baptist Press special correspondent on interesting names and titles reports these findings.

There's been a Superintendent Deacon in Roanoke, Va. G. A. Deacon recently retired as Sunday School superintendent of Grandin Baptist Church.

Then there's the nursery Rymer. Mrs. Roy Rymer is superintendent of nursery four department in Cleveland, Tenn., First Baptist Church. -30-

Citrus Grower Offers  
Florida Baptists Land

CLEARWATER, Fla.--(BP)--W. C. Overcash, retired citrus grower here, has offered Florida Baptist Convention 80 acres of land near Clearwater for a college or assembly site.

The state convention in its annual session in November was expected to vote on accepting the offer.

The land, estimated to be worth \$300,000, is at one of the highest and driest points in the state.

Baptists in the Clearwater area may recommend the establishment of a denominational college on the property.

The newspaper report of the offer was that Overcash first wished to give the tract to the Pinellas County School Board but the board ignored his offer.

Leaders from Baptist churches in the city then contacted him about the land. Announcement of the offer came from O. E. Burton, pastor of Clearwater's Calvary Baptist Church.

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Baptist Hospital Sets  
'First' In Heart Work

(10-21-60)

BATON ROUGE, La.--(BP)--The transistor pacemaker, a new medical marvel, is expected to bring longer life and happier days to two patients undergoing surgery at a Baptist hospital here.

H. H. Shaffer, 84, and T. C. Collins, 69, apparently are the first Louisiana patients to undergo surgery for permanent installation of the heart aids.

The two Baton Rouge residents suffered slowed-down heart beats which impaired normal living. After Shaffer's operation, his heart beat came back to what doctors considered normal after beating at only about half the normal rate.

Transistor pacemakers control the heart rate and strength of its beat. They are powered by single small batteries which are replaced every three weeks to be sure they do not run down.

The General News, hospital employee magazine, reported success of the unique operations. Baton Rouge General Hospital belongs to Louisiana Baptist Convention.

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Ouachita Non-Partisan  
In Political Scramble

(10-21-60)

ARKADELPHIA, Ark.--(BP)--Trustees of Ouachita Baptist College here have adopted a resolution declaring that Ouachita's political position is non-partisan.

In doing so, the board took note of Ouachita students who recently carried a banner at a Democratic political rally implying that Ouachita Baptist College supported the Kennedy-Johnson ticket.

The board officially adopted as institutional policy a statement issued by College President Ralph A. Phelps, Jr., following the Texarkana appearance of students carrying a pro-Kennedy banner.

Phelps at that time declared, "Ouachita Baptist College does not endorse anyone for President. We have enough to do in educating a record enrollment without getting into the political arena."

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Fort Yukon Baptizes  
First In Five Years

FORT YUKON, Alaska--(BP)--The Fort Yukon Indian Baptist Mission in this northern Alaskan town reported its first baptisms in five years. But the feat was accomplished only when the preachers finished a baptistry and filled it by hand.

The mission took part in the recent simultaneous crusade of all Alaska (Southern) Baptist churches. Attendance totaled 770 with the highest attendance at a single service of 19.

There were 10 professions of faith, seven presenting themselves for baptism.

But the baptistry had not been completed. Evangelist John L. Mormon of Birmingham, Ala., and area missionary Ben Hill solved this problem by securing a plastic lining. Then they hauled water from the river to fill the baptistry.

Using buckets, the water was placed in the baptistry on Friday, that it might reach room temperature by Sunday when five were baptized.

The church has had conversions before this time, but ~~those~~ these were the first persons baptized.

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350 Additions Reported  
From Alaska Crusade

(10-21-60)

ANCHORAGE, Alaska--(BP)--Alaska's Southern Baptist churches added more people to their churches during a recent crusade than in 11 previous simultaneous evangelistic endeavors.

"Nearly 350 additions by baptism and letter have been reported and several of the churches have not turned in the results of their meetings," said Vernon Yearby of Dallas, Tex., who directed the two week crusade..

Yearby, associate in the evangelism division of the denomination's Home Mission Board, said more than 410 people made rededications.

Thirty-six Southern Baptist pastors and 10 singers were sent by their churches to participate in the crusade which included all Southern Baptist churches and missions in Alaska, ranging in size from a handful to more than 1000 members.

The revivals, held from Ketchikan in the south to Kotzebue in the far north, and from the eastern part of the state to the west, drew a total attendance of more than 30,000.

The second largest religious body in Alaska, Southern Baptists have 35 churches and missions in the state.

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C O R R E C T I O N

(10-21-60)

In story dated Oct. 19, report of the text of the Colorado resolution, pls make the following correction to line 3, pgh 5. It should read:

Has repeatedly announced that he is for the principles of religious freedom and separation of church and state, has yet as a . . . completing paragraph.

Inserting words "the principles of religious freedom and" before "separation of church and state".

Thank you,  
Baptist Press, Nashville

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Baptist Leader's Son  
Nears 70-Year Member

NASHVILLE--(BP)--The son of an illustrious Southern Baptist Convention leader has begun his 70th year as a member of First Baptist Church here.

Howard E. Frost, 84, who observed the special anniversary of his membership, is the son of James Marion Frost, one of the founders and first executive secretary of the Convention's Sunday School Board.

Howard Frost joined the local church in October, 1891, the year the Sunday School Board was organized. He was himself a member of the Sunday School Board for 38 years.

At First Baptist Church, Howard Frost ushered in one aisle at worship services for 40 years.

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Key Messages Concerning  
Church-State Available

(10-21-60)

NASHVILLE--Key addresses on Baptist beliefs about separation of church and state are on sale here.

They were delivered during the 1960 assembly season to Christian life conferences at Ridgecrest, N. C., and at Glorieta, N. M. The conferences, on the theme, "Christianity and Political Action," were sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Foy Valentine, Nashville, executive secretary of the commission, said they are available at commission offices here. Those who registered for either of the conferences will receive the paper-bound booklet of speeches free. For others, the charge is \$1.

Among the topics of the addresses are "Early Baptists and Political Action," "A Look at Today's Political Scene," "Baptists and Political Action Today," "Our Troubled Baptist Conscience in Separation of Church and State," "Should a Roman Catholic be Elected to Public Office?", "The Communist Challenge to Christians," and "Responsible Christian Citizenship."

The speakers included J. M. Dawson of Waco, Tex., retired director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs; C. Emanuel Carlson, Washington, present director of the committee; Brooks Hays, Knoxville, Tenn., former Congressman and former S B C president; Daniel R. Grant, professor of political science at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, and Glenn L. Archer, Washington, director of Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State (POAU).

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