

December 15, 1963

Preliminary 1963 SBC
Statistics Reported

NASHVILLE (BP)--Preliminary estimates of 1963 Southern Baptist Convention statistics show slightly more than 10.3 million members of about 33,100 cooperating churches.

Martin B. Bradley, secretary of research and statistics for the SBC Sunday School Board here, reported the estimates to state Baptist leaders attending board-sponsored meetings in Nashville.

Figures from about 150 district associations of Baptist churches--there are over 1100 such associations in the U. S.--were not available at the time of the preliminary report. Other returns had not been edited.

Final, official statistics for the previous year are reported each February. Thus, 1963 statistics will be available in February, 1964.

Bradley's figures included a projection of the likely lower limit of each final figure and the likely higher limit. He qualified his preliminary information by saying:

"The projected estimates shown in the following report are prepared solely for the benefit of state and Southern Baptist Convention leaders as they look ahead to future programming."

The preliminary figures of membership and churches would mean a gain of more than 100,000 members and of around 300 churches, compared to final 1962 statistics.

The 1963 estimates also showed a probable decrease in baptisms of converts; they would be at least 20,000 fewer than 1962's final report.

Projections for church membership, and for Sunday school, music ministry and Brotherhood enrolments showed probable increases over 1962. Training Union and Royal Ambassador enrolment registered a probable decline, while Woman's Missionary Union could show either a small decrease or increase in the final figures.

Comparisons given are based on matching 1962 figures with the "projected low" statistics for 1963. Final comparisons released in February, 1964 may show differences.

Two state conventions, Colorado and Indiana, registered increases in baptisms in these preliminary reports.

State conventions which seem to show increases in Training Union enrolment, in contrast to the general downward trend are Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Ohio, Oklahoma and Oregon-Washington.

Alabama, Colorado, Indiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma and Oregon-Washington apparently have gained in Royal Ambassador enrolment.

Woman's Missionary enrolment gains will likely be shown in Alabama, Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio and Oklahoma.

When the final statistics are released in February, in conjunction with the meeting of the SBC Executive Committee, an interpretation and analysis of trends in the statistics will be given by Bradley.

Radio-TV's "The Beam"
Takes On New Look

FORT WORTH (BP)--"The Beam," monthly publication of the Southern Baptist Convention Radio and Television Commission here, took on a "new look" with the January issue.

Each month the magazine will use articles and features to carry out a particular theme, according to Editor James T. Johns of Fort Worth. The table of contents will be listed on the back cover to give the magazine a "Reader's Digest" type format.

Circulation of "The Beam" was reported to exceed 40,000 in 50 states and 53 foreign countries.

-30-

Vocational Aid Bill
Gets House Approval

(12-15-63)

WASHINGTON (BP)--The House of Representatives, in a 300-65 vote, has passed a three-part education bill and sent it to the Senate for approval.

The measure is a compromise between differing Senate and House versions passed earlier this year. The conference report on the bill would expand the current vocational education program by an additional \$1.6 billion over a four-year period.

A two-year extension of aid to federally impacted areas program is also included. It would authorize \$319.6 million in additional funds to aid schools crowded with children from federal installations.

In addition, the bill would extend for one year the student loans of the National Defense Education Act. It would increase the total amount available in loans, and would increase the amount available to students in any one college.

Senate approval, which is expected immediately, would make this the third education measure passed by Congress. Already it has passed a medical school aid bill and a college aid bill. Both of these make funds available to church institutions.

-30-