

The following story on Southern Baptist statistics can not be released until February 23, 1965. PLEASE OBSERVE RELEASE DATE.

Mission Gifts Pass \$100 Million Mark

NASHVILLE (BP)--Gifts to missions and benevolences across the Southern Baptist Convention passed \$100 million for the first time in statistical 1964, according to the denomination's statistician.

The statistician, Martin B. Bradley of Nashville, also reported total membership of cooperating churches in the SBC reached a record 10,601,515. Bradley is secretary of research and statistics for the SBC Sunday School Board.

For statistical reporting, the year 1964 covers the 12-month period ending Sept. 30, 1964. Statistics are based on reports from nearly 1200 district associations of churches from the 50 states. The statistics do not include Southern Baptist foreign mission totals.

The \$100,164,740 reported as contributed to missions and benevolences compares with \$96,077,109 reported a year earlier. The total membership for 1963 was 10,395,940, indicating a 1964 gain of 205,575.

The SBC apparently continues to be the leading non-Catholic denomination in membership in America. The Methodist Church, whose statistical year does not start and close at the same time as Southern Baptists' does, reported 10,304,184 as of May 31, 1964.

The Methodist Church figures were released five months before the February publication date for Southern Baptist statistics.

These 10.6 million Baptists are members of 33,388 churches. The number of churches increased from 33,126 the year before.

The number of converts baptized showed a 5.4 per cent gain over statistical 1963. The 374,418 converts baptized in 1964 are 19,093 more than in 1963.

Churches fall into seven classifications, as follows: open country, 15,073; village, 4,464; town, 3,643; small city (2,500 - 9,999 population), 3,269; large city (10,000 or more) "downtown," 902; large city "neighborhood," 3,469; and large city "suburban," 2,568. There are Southern Baptist churches in all states, including Alaska, Hawaii, and District of Columbia.

Total mission gifts and benevolences meant an increase of more than \$4 million over 1963 and reflect an average per member gift of \$9.45.

Total gifts or receipts for all purposes amounted to \$591,587,981, climbing \$35.5 million from the previous year's total. Average per member total contribution was \$55.80, which, like the per member mission gift, was a new high.

Most Southern Baptist churches reported Sunday schools, with the enrolment jumping approximately 68,000 to the record 7,678,822 figure. Vacation Bible school enrolment totaled 3,233,401.

Decreases were reported in three areas of work, with these enrolments being reported: Training Union (Sunday evening study group for all ages), 2,722,029; Men's Brotherhood and Royal Ambassadors (mission organization for boys) combined, 603,696; and Woman's Missionary Union, 1,509,484.

Brotherhood and Royal Ambassador combined membership dropped 4.9 per cent or by 30,955 from the 1963 enrolment of 634,651.

In the women's organizations, the decline was two-tenths of one per cent. The loss was 3,356 members from the 1963 enrolment of 1,512,840. Training Union lost 1 per cent, or 26,524 people. Its membership in 1963 stood at 2,748,553.

Enrolment in churches' music ministry (all ages) was reported as 923,871. The increase of 64,263 was 7.5 per cent, largest percentage gain anywhere.

Value of church property edged toward the \$3 billion mark, with a \$2,954,380,965 figure being reported, a gain of 7.4 per cent. Average property value of churches is \$88,500, with actual figures ranging from a few dollars for the one of least value to an amount of several million dollars for each of a number of large churches.

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Summary of 1964 Southern Baptist Convention Statistics

	<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>Numerical change</u>	<u>Per cent change</u>
Associations	1,185	1,172	13	1.1
Churches	33,388	33,126	262	.8
Baptisms	374,418	355,325	19,093	5.4
Additions by Letter	557,679	549,049	8,630	1.6
Total Membership	10,601,515	10,395,940	205,575	2.0
S. S. Enrolment	7,678,822	7,610,727	68,095	.9
V. B. S. Enrolment	3,233,401	3,176,307	57,094	1.8
T. U. Enrolment	2,722,029	2,748,553	-26,524	-1.0
W. M. U. Enrolment*	1,509,484	1,512,840	-3,356	-.2
Brotherhood and R. A. Enrol.	603,696	634,651	-30,955	-4.9
Music Ministry Enrolment	923,871	859,608	64,263	7.5
Value Church Property	\$2,954,380,965	\$2,751,429,716	\$202,951,249	7.4
Total Gifts	\$ 591,587,981	\$ 556,042,694	\$ 35,545,287	6.4
Total Mission Gifts	\$ 100,164,740	\$ 96,077,109	\$ 4,087,631	4.3
Pastor's Annual Salary	\$ 108,641,331	\$ 104,319,640	\$ 4,321,691	4.1

*Includes college and hospital Y. W. A.'s as well as statistics for churches.

Research and Statistics Department

Baptist Sunday School Board
February 23 (release date)

New Orleans Trustees
Vote 50-Year Program

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--A 50-year campus development program requiring expenditures of more than \$36 million has been approved by New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary trustees at their annual meeting here.

First phases of the growth plan are to be completed by 1970. They include a new library, a 120-unit high rise student apartment building of seven or more floors, recreational facilities, and general campus improvements at a cost of \$5,559,786.

Construction on the new \$600,000 library will begin this year. A fund-raising campaign has been in progress for this building since 1963.

The \$5,559,786 figure does not include money now being spent for rehabilitation on campus. More than \$3 million of this will be in self-liquidating property development through a seminary subsidiary, Providence Housing Corp., a seminary official said.

The other \$2.5 million includes anticipated Cooperative Program income during the five years and funds which are solicited for capital needs. It does not include the \$1.6 million the Southern Baptist Convention has allocated to help New Orleans Seminary recondition its campus.

A school of theology building here will be named for M. E. Dodd, one of the seminary's founders. Dodd, who died in 1953, was for many years pastor of First Baptist Church, Shreveport. The school of theology will later occupy the current library structure.

Trustees approved also a New Orleans Seminary Foundation to receive funds and property and to make investments for the seminary.

Aeolian Skinner was named as builder of a new organ to be installed in the seminary's Roland Q. Leavell Chapel. A previous bequest of \$73,769 from the late Daisy Deen Wright estate will apply to the organ purchase cost of over \$100,000.

Professors who received promotions were Harold L. Rutledge, from associate professor to professor of psychology and counseling; Genter L. Stephens, from associate professor to professor of voice; Miss Margaret Leverett, from assistant to associate professor of social work, and Mrs. W. H. (Mildred) Souther, from instructor to assistant professor of childhood religious education.

The 36-member trustee group reelected J. Thomas Gurney Sr., Orlando, Fla., attorney, as president of trustees.

A current total enrolment of 810 students was reported by Seminary President H. Leo Eddleman.

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Papago Indian Pastor
Heads Tribal Council

2-13-65

PHOENIX (BP)--Robert C. Mackett, a Papago Indian, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board missionary to his own people and pastor of the First Papago Indian Baptist Church at Sells, Ariz., has resigned the pastorate there. He is the first Papago Indian to serve as pastor of a Baptist church.

He has begun his new full-time duties as chairman of the Papago Tribal Council, governing body for the Papago Indian Reservation with a population of 5,000.

Mackett was converted by a former home missionary, Marvin Sorrells, at Sells. He served eight years as interpreter for Sorrells and other missionaries until he was called as pastor of the Papago Indian Church in January, 1962.

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Utah Calls Welsh
To Associate Post

SALT LAKE CITY (BP)--Darwin E. Welsh, a local pastor, has been elected associate executive secretary, secretary of missions, and stewardship secretary of the new Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention, which has offices here.

Welsh, who was to come to the position March 1, has been pastor of the city's First Southern Baptist Church since June, 1957.

Welsh's election was announced by Convention Executive Secretary Charles H. Ashcraft of Salt Lake City and Convention President C. Raymond Cearley of Mountain Home, Ida.

Welsh, 41, is a native of Iowa but grew up in Denton, Tex., and Dallas. He attended Howard Payne College (Baptist), Brownwood; North Texas State University, Denton, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

Called to the ministry in 1948 after serving over four years in the Air Force, Welsh was associate pastor of churches in Denton and Eldorado, Tex. He was pastor of two other Texas churches, near Coleman and at Trent, before going to a pioneer mission area church in Artesia, Colo., where he taught school as well as preached.

He was for seven years on the executive board of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, parent state convention of the new Utah-Idaho organization.

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Jews, Episcopalians Aid
Baptists After Fire

2-13-65

DALLAS (BP)--After a roaring fire engulfed the attic and roof of Royal Lane Baptist Church here, a Jewish synagogue and an Episcopal church offered the use of their facilities while the Baptist church is repaired.

The fire caused damages estimated at \$100,000 by Pastor James Flamming. The loss was fully covered by insurance, the pastor added.

Facilities of Congregation Tiferet Israel and St. Luke's Episcopal Church were almost immediately offered for the Baptist services.

Some Sunday school classes were scheduled at the Jewish synagogue, and the Wednesday night prayer services, choir rehearsal and weekly family dinner were slated at the Episcopal Church.

In addition, Sunday worship services were scheduled at the George B. Dealey Elementary School.

The fire apparently started near a heating system and spread through the attic of the church's main building and chapel.

One department area which doubled as a fellowship hall and the church auditorium were damaged beyond use. The roof caved in over the auditorium and fellowship hall.

Flamming said the church had already been cramped for space, and plans for additional buildings were in the hands of architects.

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Dallas Committees Set
For SBC Arrangements

2-13-65

DALLAS (BP)--A seven-member steering committee and chairmen of 10 committees have been selected to handle local arrangements and details for the Southern Baptist Convention's annual gathering here June 1-4.

General chairman in charge of local arrangements is W. D. Broadway, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Lancaster, a Dallas suburb.

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Six other Baptist leaders serve on the steering committee for the Dallas Baptist Association's arrangements getting ready for the Convention.

They are: R. L. Bacon, superintendent of missions for the Dallas Baptist Association, W. Lloyd Cloud, pastor, First Baptist Church, Richardson, Tex., Bruce McIver, pastor, Wilshire Baptist Church, Dallas; and R. A. Springer, treasurer, Dick McCartney, public relations director, and Cecil Goff, statistician--all of the Baptist General Convention of Texas office here.

Ten committees will assist in making the Convention arrangements. The committees and chairman are:

Information: Alf Skognes, pastor, Ridgecrest Baptist Church;

Registration: Kermit Whiteaker, minister of education, Wilshire Baptist Church;

Ushers: L. H. Tapscott, minister of education, Cliff Temple Baptist Church;

First Aid: Dr. John Bagwell, Baptist layman and physician;

Nursery: Dean Willis, church administrator, First Baptist Church, Dallas;

Transportation: Gene McCombs, pastor, First Baptist Church, Duncanville;

Post office: Bennie Bray, member, Gaston Avenue Baptist Church;

Publicity: R. T. McCartney and James Springfield, pastor Hampton Place Baptist Church, Dallas (co-chairmen);

Decorations: Mrs. E. P. Kratz, Dallas;

Hospitality: Mrs. Curtis Meadows, Dallas.

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Baylor Names Training
Site for Peace Corps

2-13-65

WACO, Tex. (BP)--Baylor University has been asked to begin preparations to establish a Peace Corps training program at the Baptist university this summer.

Baylor President Abner McCall said a contract has been negotiated setting up an advance project director to plan a 9-10 week summer program to train Peace Corps volunteers for urban community development in the Dominican Republic.

William G. Toland, associate professor of philosophy at Baylor, was named advance project director. David McHam, associate professor of journalism, will be his assistant.

Sargent Shriver, director of the Peace Corps, said he was delighted Baylor will be training Peace Corpsmen for the Dominican Republic. "During the recent revolution in the Dominican Republic, the Peace Corps was the only arm of the U. S. government that continued its work there," Shriver said.

After the advance project director has planned the training project, a second contract for the training program will be negotiated in April.

About 45 Peace Corps volunteers would be trained at Baylor this summer.

Teachers for the training program would come mostly from Baylor's Spanish, physical education, political science, history, home economics and psychology departments; and from schools of nursing, hospital administration and medicine.

Baylor has provided about 45 Peace Corps volunteers since the program was instituted in 1961. The Corps now has 10,000 volunteers in 45 countries.

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