

### From TEXAS REGIONAL OFFICE

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June 18, 1965

Dallas Registration  
Final Set At 16,053

NASHVILLE (BP)--Officials of the Southern Baptist Convention announced here a recheck of registration at the 1965 session in Dallas and reported a final total of 16,053 messengers - a record.

Texas Baptists, who come close to leading all states in numbers attending a convention even when it meets outside the Lone Star State, provided over one-third of the messengers who registered at Dallas.

The Texas count was 5448 messengers. No count was available by cities within states, but Dallas Baptists made up a large portion of the Texas headcount.

The previous Southern Baptist Convention record messenger registration was in 1960 when it met in Miami Beach, Fla. The total there was 13,612. This was Southern Baptists' first convention in Dallas since 1894, when 772 messengers were counted.

The last previous convention to meet in Texas was in Houston in 1958, when 11,966 messengers registered.

Following Texas in the state breakdown with most messengers on hand in Dallas was neighboring Oklahoma with 1137.

Other state totals, with states listed alphabetically, were:

Alabama, 933; Alaska, 5; Arizona, 129; Arkansas, 534; California, 404; Colorado, 195; District of Columbia, 42; Florida, 451; Georgia, 647.

Hawaii, 9; Illinois, 226; Indiana, 53; Kansas, 130; Kentucky, 505; Louisiana, 967; Maryland, 128; Michigan, 37, Mississippi, 877.

Missouri, 595; New Mexico, 226; North Carolina, 564; Ohio, 127; Oregon and Washington (combined), 63; South Carolina, 515.

Tennessee, 770; Utah and Idaho (combined), 20; Virginia, 293; West Virginia, 6; foreign countries, 16; miscellaneous, 1.

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Mrs. Amanda Hawkins Dies

6-18-65

ATLANTA (BP)--Mrs. Amanda Hawkins of Roswell, Ga., mother of Aubrey L. Hawkins of Atlanta, secretary of the department of student work for Georgia Baptists, died June 15 following an extended illness.

Funeral services will be held Thursday, 2:00 p. m. at First Baptist Church, Roswell. Roswell Funeral Home has the arrangements.

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Georgia Commission  
Backs Grant Study

ATLANTA (BP)--The Education Commission of the Georgia Baptist Convention has agreed to recommend to the convention that it study proposals for use of federal grants by convention-owned educational institutions.

Action of the committee was taken at a meeting called to consider requests from Mercer University, Macon and Norman College, Norman Park, two of six convention-owned colleges.

The schools requested that the convention "consider the wisdom of Baptist colleges receiving federal grants for educational purposes."

The Education Commission, which acts as an advisory body to the convention in this area, authorized the following statement:

"1. While Baptist colleges are facing serious problems, these problems are not so critical as to conclude at the present that any of the six Georgia Baptist colleges should be discontinued or released for operation as a private institution.

"2. Efforts are being made to continue through the Cooperative Program the convention's support of the colleges through a capital improvements and endowment program, as well as with appropriations for operating expenses.

"3. In response to the request of the Georgia Baptist Convention at its 1964 session, the boards of trustees of the several Georgia Baptist colleges are making a responsible study of their faculties and programs, and reports concerning their findings will be presented to the convention in November.

"4. In response to the request of the boards of trustees of Mercer University and Norman College, the Education Commission is prepared to recommend that the Georgia Baptist Convention consider the request of these institutions to receive federal grants for educational purposes, and that individual Baptists make a careful and prayerful study of the question in light of prevailing circumstances as well as historic precedent.

"5. The attention of Georgia Baptists is called to the fact that gifts through the Cooperative Program are shared in equitable proportion with Georgia Baptist colleges, and that increased gifts are necessary to assist these institutions in solving their financial problems."

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Maryland School Calls  
Conwell A. Anderson

6-18-65

WALKERSVILLE, MD. (BP)--The new Maryland Baptist College will have Conwell A. Anderson, 39, of Marion, Ala., as its first president.

Anderson will move to the junior college site here Aug. 15 from Alabama, where he has been president of Judson College, a senior college for women operated by the Alabama Baptist State Convention.

Judson has an enrolment of 375.

John R. Cummins, who has led as director of development for the emerging college since April, 1964, will continue in that capacity.

Anderson is a former Swedish Baptist who has been a Southern Baptist since 1948. He attended Bethel Junior College, St. Paul, Minn. He studied history and political science at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, and earned bachelor's, master's and doctor's degrees there.

Anderson, who grew up in Sister Bay, Wis., was dean of Mary Hardin-Baylor College (Baptist), Belton, Tex., from 1954 to 1960. He went from this Texas Baptist College to the presidency of Judson.

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The new Maryland Baptist College is in the stage of development. It has a campus and a campaign in Maryland Baptist churches to raise \$3 million is going on.

The college hopes to open during 1967.

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Educators Assail  
Traditional Ideas

6-18-65

By Theo Sommerkamp

NASHVILLE (BP)--Traditional Baptist ideas on taking federal aid to higher education, on convention control of Baptist colleges and on selection of Baptists as trustees for these colleges were assailed here by educators inside and outside the denomination.

Harold W. Tribble, president of Wake Forest College (Baptist), Winston-Salem, N. C., started the discussion when he told other Baptist College officials:

"Baptists need to adjust their thinking to the fact that education is a major part of our national life and that when we (Baptists) render service to the government, so it is right and proper to accept compensation from the government for that service."

In his 50-minute address to the Southern Association of Baptist Colleges and Schools, Tribble had this to say about control of colleges by state Baptist conventions:

"You can not operate an educational institution on the basis of directives issued in a convention which meets annually just for three days. If the convention exercises veto authority over the trustees, you have an impossible situation in operating educational institutions."

Francis W. Bonner, vice-president of academic affairs at Furman University (Baptist), Greenville, S. C., later seconded Tribble's position that Baptist colleges should be able to accept federal aid.

Declared Bonner: "Few Baptists appear to understand that a college which refuses to accept federal funds is creating for itself a difficult future. It makes academic excellence nearly impossible."

The Furman vice-president described it as a "false assumption that financial assistance brings federal control and interference." He said there is a "proper, businesslike understanding" of how federal money is to be spent.

Tribble had earlier played down the spectre of federal control as a factor to consider in taking federal financial aid.

Vice-president Bonner went on to criticize the state Baptist conventions, which operate the Baptist colleges, for being reluctant "to trust the trustees" they have elected. He said an institution subject to majority vote each year on the convention floor "can never achieve a position in the first rank."

His assigned topic to speak on was "Can Southern Baptists Operate A First-Rate College?"

An educational consultant and former president of a college related to another Protestant denomination told the association still later that he "does not agree that all trustees of Baptist institutions should be Baptists.

"Distinguished people of other faiths ought to be on your boards," declared Theodore A. Distler of Lancaster, Pa., former president of the Association of American Colleges.

"No major denomination places any restriction as you Baptists do" on limiting trustees to people within the sponsoring denomination. "I think you are dead wrong," Distler said.

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Although there was no opposing viewpoint voiced openly at the annual meeting of the Southern Association of Baptists Colleges and Schools, there was some disagreement as well as agreement with the position of Tribble, Bonner and Distler as their fellow educators huddled for chats in the hallways or walked to and from their motels.

The Southern Association of Baptist Colleges and Schools brings together the presidents, vice-presidents, deans and other administrators of 73 Baptist institutions including Bible schools, junior and senior colleges and seminaries.

Both Tribble and Bonner spoke out of experience with their sponsoring state conventions in recent years on the points they criticized.

Wake Forest College last year spearheaded a drive in the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina to win permission to accept federal grants and to allow a limited number of non-Baptists and people from outside North Carolina to serve as trustees.

The move would have affected all seven Baptist colleges in the state. It lost decisively on both counts during the three-day 1964 convention in Greensboro.

Furman began admitting Negro students this year despite a non-binding popularity vote in the South Carolina Baptist Convention session last fall opposing integration. Furman also recently took a grant of \$611,698 under the Federal Higher Education Facilities Act to help complete its science building.

Another Baptist educator commented during discussion of Bonner's speech about "lack of communication between the college and its constituency over the aims of the Baptist colleges."

Bonner also deplored the ruse to establish new Baptist colleges "while old and venerable Baptist colleges lack sufficient financial support."

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Denomination Plans  
To Appraise Education

6-18-65

NASHVILLE (BP)--In 1966 and 1967, the denomination will appraise the future role of Southern Baptists in Christian higher education, it was reported here to Baptist educators.

Albert McClellan, Nashville, program planning secretary for the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, said the purpose of the two-year study is "to bring about a new understanding in our Southern Baptist people of the academic role of Southern Baptist Colleges."

The two-year effort will be known as BEST--Baptist Education Study Task.

McClellan, chairman of the steering committee for the study, told Baptist educators in their annual session here the study will include 24 regional seminars and a national study conference each of the two years. He predicted the cost of the study at \$200,000.

Among the problems facing Baptist colleges, according to McClellan, are competition from the growing number of public junior colleges, insufficient funds to support the denominational colleges, and difficulty of church-related colleges to meet high standards for accreditation.

The Baptist Education Study Task will cover nine basic study areas, said McClellan. They are the Biblical basis for Christian higher education, its history, the philosophy of Christian higher education, religious scope, academic scope, the Christian college teacher, financing Christian higher education, academic freedom, and relationships between colleges and the denomination.

Study papers will be written on these nine areas, he said. One basic area also will be assigned for study at each of the 24 regional seminars. The progress report was made to the Southern Association of Baptist Colleges and Schools.

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McClellan also announced the first national study conference will be held in Nashville next June 13-16. It should draw from 325 to 500 people including college administrators, faculty members, trustees and students; pastors, laymen, Southern Baptist Convention agency executives, and state Baptist convention executives and editors.

After another national study conference in 1967, the findings committee will draft a report to be ready in September of that year.

McClellan said the study may produce films and books for public use on various aspects of Christian higher education.

He said the \$200,000 cost includes the travel expenses of participants in the regional and national study conferences, which the participants will pay for themselves.

In addition, several Southern Baptist Convention agencies will undertake surveys and other projects connected with the study, and the agencies will supply the manpower and project expenses out of their own budget. This amount is included in the overall cost of the two-year study.

The Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program budget for 1966 includes \$25,000 to help launch the study, McClellan pointed out. An effort also is being made to secure financial support from a national foundation interested in advancing higher education.

Porter Routh, Nashville, executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee, said the study will be undertaken "with the clear understanding of our polity." He pointed the Southern Baptist Convention, a national body, does not operate any colleges. They are operated by state Baptist conventions.

Seminaries will not be included in the study.

The Southern Association of Baptist Colleges and Schools voted unanimously to ask "that the Baptist Education Study Task forces include representatives of the Foreign Mission Board in order to study all of the involvements, other than seminary, of Southern Baptists in higher education, including any schools in foreign countries connected in any way with the foreign mission board."

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Colorado Board Okays  
\$497,593 1966 Budget

6-18-65

DENVER (BP)--The executive board of the Colorado Baptist General Convention has given preliminary approval to the 1966 convention budget totaling \$497,593. This figure represents an increase of \$60,145 over the 1965 budget.

The Colorado Cooperative Program goal will be \$262,306, of which 16 percent will go to world missions through the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program. This is the same percentage carried in the 1965 budget.

Other action by the board included approval and adoption of a special study committee's report for reorganization of the executive board.

Under the adopted plan the board shall be organized into five regular committees--executive committee, operating committee, program committee, finance committee and committee on committees.

The Colorado convention serves a six-state area.

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New Department  
Begun In Maryland

LUTHERVILLE, Md. (BP)--A new department of student work and church music will be established here by the state mission board of the Baptist Convention of Maryland.

At present, student work is combined with Training Union under the direction of Sam A. High. Church music is combined with Brotherhood work under the leadership of John E. Saunders.

Roy D. Gresham, Lutherville, executive secretary of Maryland Baptist work, said both High and Saunders will be relieved of their extra responsibility when the new department is established.

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Carson-Newman Wins  
National Championship

6-18-65

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. (BP)--Sweeping through the tournament without a loss, Carson-Newman College, of Jefferson City, Tenn., won the (NAIA) National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics baseball championship here by defeating Omaha University for the second time, 3 to 2.

This was the first appearance in the tournament for the Eagles. The Baptist college team wrapped up the crown when Clyde Wright won his 10th game of the season without a loss. Wright, who struck out 15 and gave only two hits, was named the most valuable player of the tournament.

The southpaw also tied a tourney record for strikeouts with a total of 37. The record was set by Ray Washburn, now a pitching star for the St. Louis Cardinals, in 1960.

The victory in the ninth annual tournament brought the Carson-Newman season record to 33 wins and only 3 losses.

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Church Work Required  
For Baylor Ministers

6-18-65

WACO, Tex. (BP)--Baylor University Department of Religion will begin a program of in-service training for all ministerial students at the university in September.

The program will add one semester of supervised service in churches in the Baylor area to the requirements for graduation for all ministerial students at the university.

The new program was proposed and will be supervised by J. W. Ousley, professor of religion and director of the university's service center for churches for the past four years.

Under the new plan Ousley will become professor of pastoral training. He will teach and supervise the in-service training program and continue as director of the service center which places students in church positions throughout the Central Texas area.

In addition to the in-service training, each student receiving ministerial aid will be required to take a course on "The Church and Its Ministries."

Only students receiving ministerial aid will be required to participate in the in-service program. However, it will be open to all students preparing for church-related vocations.

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Baylor had 236 students preparing for the ministry in the 1964-65 school year. The new plan will apply to all ministerial students entering Baylor as freshmen or transfer students in September.

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Ray Roberts Asked  
To Preach In Detroit

6-18-65

By The Baptist Press

Ray E. Roberts, Columbus, executive secretary, State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, has been named to preach the convention sermon when Southern Baptists hold their 1966 convention in Detroit.

Roberts, whose state adjoins the host state of Michigan, has led in the growth of Southern Baptist Convention churches and missions in the Great Lakes States.

A former pastor in North Carolina and Kentucky, Roberts came to Ohio in 1952 as a pioneer missionary for Southern Baptists. The Ohio convention was formed in 1954, and elected Roberts as executive secretary.

The announcement of Roberts' preaching the sermon was made by Leslie S. Wright, Birmingham, president of Howard College (Baptist), and chairman of the SBC Committee on Order of Business which plans the convention agenda each year.

E. Warren Rust, pastor, Tower Grove Baptist Church, St. Louis, was named alternate. He will deliver the convention sermon if Roberts is unable to. (BP)

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Harold Fisher Named  
Blue Mountain Prexy

6-18-65

BLUE MOUNTAIN, Miss. (BP)--E. Harold Fisher of Jackson, Miss., has been elected president of Blue Mountain College (Baptist) here, to assume duties on July 1.

Fisher comes to the senior women's college from the Mississippi State Department of Education, where he has been assistant director of the division of instruction.

He holds the bachelor of arts and master of education degrees from the University of Mississippi, Oxford. Fisher has completed academic requirements for the doctor's degree at the Teachers College of Columbia University, New York City.

His doctorate will be in supervision and curriculum improvement.

As a University of Mississippi student, Fisher was president of the campus Baptist Student Union for two years, and vice-president of the statewide Baptist Student Union.

He is a native of Vaiden, Miss. Mrs. Fisher, the former Martha Huggins of Oxford, Miss., graduated from Blue Mountain College in 1952. She is now president of a group of Blue Mountain College alumnae in Central Mississippi.

The new Blue Mountain College president and his wife were members of the Colonial Heights Baptist Church while living in Jackson. They have two daughters, 8 and 3 years old, and a 4-year-old son.

Fisher succeeds the late Wilfred C. Tyler as president of Blue Mountain College. Tyler died in April after a brief illness.

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Evangelism Division  
Completes Atlanta Move

ATLANTA (BP)--Offices of the Division of evangelism of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board have been relocated here from Dallas.

The division now occupies facilities in the Lawrence-Garrison Building at 161 Spring Street N. W. in Atlanta, present home for all staff members of the mission agency.

The Home Mission Board decided in December to move the division, which has been in Dallas since 1946, and gave staff members until the middle of June to complete their moving.

"For the first time since 1946 all departments and divisions of the board are housed under one roof," said Arthur B. Rutledge of Atlanta, executive secretary of the mission agency.

"This is an opportune time for such a development. The present efforts to improve the correlation of the agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention will find all divisions in a setting which will enable them to reinforce one another and all convention programs in more meaningful ways than ever before," he added.

C. E. Autrey directs the division, and moving to Atlanta with him were his associate directors Eual Lawson, Jack Stanton, and John Havlik.

Because he retires at the end of this year, C. Y. Dossey of Dallas did not move his home to Atlanta, but he will have his office in the Lawrence-Garrison Building here.

Rutledge said additional staff personnel for the division of evangelism are to be elected, one vacancy to be filled soon and another associate to be added in 1966.

He said the staff, operating on a \$200,000 budget, is relatively small by design, and majors upon the development and promotion of plans for personal and mass evangelism for Southern Baptist churches in cooperation with the state conventions and other convention agencies.

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3 Education  
Groups Elect

6-18-65

NASHVILLE (BP)--Three groups of Southern Baptist educators elected officers at their annual meetings here.

The Education Commission, official agency of the Southern Baptist Convention, reelected John A. Fincher, dean, Howard College (Baptist), Birmingham, as chairman. Also re-elected were Vice-Chairman Coleman Raley, Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, and Recording Secretary Hayward Highfill, a pastor in Clinton, Tenn.

The Southern Association of Baptist Colleges and Schools elected Robert L. Mills as president. Mills is president of Georgetown College (Baptist), Georgetown, Ky. Vice-president is Howard E. Spell, dean, Mississippi College (Baptist), Clinton, Miss. H. I. Hester, though retiring as vice-president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., will continue as secretary-treasurer of the association.

The Deans of Baptist Colleges picked Spell of Mississippi College as their chairman; Garland Taylor of Mercer University, Macon, Ga., as their vice-chairman, and Eugene Keebler of the University of Corpus Christi (Tex.) as their secretary-treasurer.

The Education Commission, the association and the group of deans will hold their 1966 meeting in Nashville in connection with a national study conference being led by the commission. They will hold regular business sessions but the study conference on Christian higher education will constitute their program.

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88-Year-Old Man Named  
Father of the Year

SEAGOVILLE, Tex. (BP)--A man once known as the "mule doctor" of south Dallas County has been named Texas Baptist Father of the Year for 1965. He is Burlington James Davidson of Seagoville,

The Father of the Year Award is sponsored by the Baptist Standard, Texas Baptist weekly, and the Public Relations Department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Davidson said he was called the "mule doctor" because neighbors would bring their animals to him for cures.

Today he might be called the "plant doctor" because of the fruit trees and other plants which dot his property. Included are pear trees which produce apples (through grafting), a pink yucca, an olive tree and a peonie plant "which has been in the Davidson family since it was brought from Scotland 204 years ago."

Davidson, 88, was born in Morgan County, Tennessee. His Union soldier father and mother brought him to Texas in 1881 and he "finished 63 crops in Dallas County."

He married Minnie McKee in 1901. Members of the Davidson family, which include six children, 13 grandchildren and six great grandchildren, are in positions to "aggravate the devil a heap," the Father of the Year says.

Two sons are professors at Baylor University. Floyd is professor of biology and John is professor of religion. Allie is pastor of First Baptist Church, White Plains, N. Y. Roland is a businessman in Wichita Falls. "Even our daughters," Alta Davidson Wehrung, Denton, Tex., and Ruth Davidson Wilson, Beaumont, Tex., "are married to Baptist deacons," Davidson stated. One grandson, John Davidson, sings on national television, and another is a Peace Corps physician in Africa.

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Jacksonville Official  
Changes Hospital Job

6-18-65

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)--Lawrence R. Payne, administrator of Baptist Memorial Hospital here since a year before it opened in 1955, has been named to the newly created position of director of development and expansion for the hospital.

The announcement of the appointment, effective almost immediately, was made by T. Sloane Guy Jr. of New Orleans, executive director of Southern Baptist Hospitals an agency of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The SBC agency maintains hospitals in Jacksonville and New Orleans.

Assistant administrator George A. Mathews of Jacksonville was named acting administrator of the local hospital.

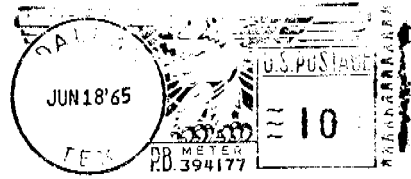
According to Guy, Payne will be "full-time director with responsibility for overall development and expansion of Baptist Memorial Hospital." Guy called the appointment "a major step forward" in the long range development of the hospital.

The long range plan is to convert the hospital into a major medical center with a phased expansion program, the official said.

"We of the Southern Baptist Hospital Board see this appointment as the high-light of a long and fruitful career in hospital administration for Mr. Payne," Guy said. "He began his career 33 years ago, when he became associated with Baylor University Hospital in Dallas."

According to Hardy M. Harrell, Jacksonville, chairman of the local hospital administrative board, Payne "has long been carrying the double burden of administration of the hospital and planning for the long range development program. Now he has moved into a new area as the hospital approaches its greatest period of expansion."

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# BAPTIST PRESS

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NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION  
WATCH FOR THE (BP) CREDIT LINE

Church Project Aids  
Sick, Needy Hondurans

By Paul White  
For The Baptist Press

LA LIMA, Honduras (BP)--Two Indian infants, fat and tanned, yelped with excitement as their parents dunked them again and again in the pig trough. It was bath time.

Their parents looked haggard. The man wore no shirt. The woman was bare-foot. Their home was one room in a faded gray shanty stretched along a back street in La Lima's market section.

It was Sunday, and the men were away from their jobs at the fruit mills and orchards. Fruit vendors and flies were everywhere.

The cantinas rang with a Latin version of American music. Teenagers sipped beer and Cokes, and wiggled to the ear-splitting music.

Youngsters stood outside the cantinas playing chase, throwing sticks.

This is semi-rural Honduras where the drinking water is highly dangerous, where sanitation is virtually non-existent, and where diseases that Americans put aside years ago still run rampant, killing many--especially the children.

To this came a Baptist-led group spreading over the highly-populated western region of Honduras to administer sorely-needed drugs and vaccines.

The unprecedented medical project to inoculate a half-million Hondurans is called "Amigos de Honduras," sponsored by the River Oaks Baptist Church of Houston, Tex.

More than 100 carefully-trained Christian young people, doctors, and a few ministers are spread among some 20 villages off the main roads of Honduras.

They administer drugs against poliomyelitis, tuberculosis, typhoid, whooping cough, tetanus, and oral drugs against intestinal germs.

No sermons are preached, except in the daily lives of the Christian young people as they talk to, and minister to the Honduran people. No churches or missions are being established. No doctrine is being promulgated.

The volunteers--about half of them Baptist, the rest Presbyterian, Episcopal, Methodist, and Roman Catholic--live among the villagers they work to aid.

They seek to heal and help the Hondurans, to show them a better way of life, to inoculate them against diseases that kill and maim.

But their task to relieve death and misery by inoculation faces serious threats of under financing, lack of drug delivery from the U. S., and unpaved roads which work to destroy vital transportation.

In La Lima, the project headquarters town, one man carries the burden of the ten-week project's administration.

Guy Bevil Jr., minister of youth at the sponsoring River Oaks Baptist Church in Houston, leads the project. It was his brainchild; now it is his burden.

Boyish in appearance but serious in action, Bevil has almost forgotten the criticism and pessimism spoken by many, including Baptists, of his Honduras project. Bevil calls it expedient person-to-person aid, and "a mark of true Christianity."

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Bevil makes a daily trip with one of the supply vehicles into the project area. The ten-hour trip covers hundreds of miles over sand, slick, or washboard roads.

On one such trip, Bevil and a group carried containers of Salk polio vaccine to La Entrada in temperatures from 100 to 70, valley to mountaintop.

The old jeep ran hot most of the way that day. It stalled four times. Two students and a stowaway newsman pushed more than they rode.

Their most valuable auto accessory in Honduras is the horn. Some natives say that horns probably save more lives than medicines.

All the roads are winding, narrow, and are travelled by trucks whose Honduran drivers hurry along too fast to beat the afternoon rains. Tropical cloudbursts come within 20 minutes of 4:00 o'clock every day.

The only safe relief from the heat is a bottled soft drink. Water is not purified.

On one remote road, Bevil and the group saw a small gas station with only the name "Esso" out front. But inside there was a sign with the self-satisfied tiger, and you can guess what the caption said in Spanish.

Honduras is a paradox. It is the home of the rich and the poor, and a growing in-between class. Its soil is so fertile that when the peasant farmer chops down a tree, cuts off the top and drives it inverted into the ground again as a fence post, it springs back to life and becomes a tree again.

But the nation's problems remain overwhelming.

Honduras needs economic and social development, Villeda Morales, the former president of Honduras said about the new government which overthrew his regime in 1963.

The new administration, led by Gen. Lopez Arellano, knows this as does the United States. So does the Baptist-led American group.

They all agree that Honduras needs new roads, new schools, more health and sanitation programs, and political stability.

Honduras is 44,000 miles of mountain and green valley occupied by 2.2 million Spanish, Indians, Negro and white people living together in almost primitive conditions. About 69 per cent are rural villagers with ancient modes of work and life.

The literacy rate here is about 65 per cent. Health standards are low. Administrative skills are scarce. There are only about 200 miles of paved roads in the country.

Economic conditions began to show general improvement last year. The gross national product of \$462 million in 1964 was an increase of 6.4 per cent over the previous year; but an Honduran economic expert said that the real figure, adjusted for price increases, was only a little over 4 per cent.

The new Honduran government places health at the top of its list of immediate needs.

This was testified to by a Southern Baptist missionary to Honduras, Hoyt Roberts, who said that in the Gua Yara Valley area, more than 16,000 peasants live without any medical aid whatsoever.

Rivoberto Alvarado, a health minister, says almost half the children born here die before they reach 12 years. Some 70 per cent of deaths are preventable, he says.

Like a woman in childbirth, Honduras labors today to deliver itself as a strong, healthy society.

And a group of Christians led by Baptists sought this summer to help Honduras deliver "its child" without disease.