



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Baptist Membership Tops 10 3/4 Million

NASHVILLE (BP)---Membership in Southern Baptist Convention churches passed the 10 3/4 million mark during 1965, and end-of-the-year statistical summary prepared by the denomination's statistical service reported here.

Membership in the denomination's 33,797 churches increased to a record 10,772,712 during 1965, an increase of 1.6 per cent or 171,197.

The statistical summary was prepared by the research and statistics department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board here. Martin B. Bradley is head of the department.

Other new records set during the year include passing the \$600 million mark in annual total gifts, and the \$3 billion mark in total value of church property, according to Bradley.

Total gifts of Baptists through their churches increased in 1965 by 7.8 percent to a record of \$637,958,846.

The mission or benevolence portion of these gifts rose to \$106,743,944, an increase of 6.6 per cent over the 1964 total.

Average per member gifts also increased to record levels, with an average of \$59.22 annually in total contributions through the churches, and \$9.91 annually to missions and benevolence through the churches.

The statistical report listed Baptist church property value at \$3,080,663,120, a rise of over \$125 million compared to the 1964 figure. Property value per church slightly exceeds an average of \$91,000, with reported values ranging from a few dollars for small churches to several million dollars for a large number of churches.

Although total membership, giving, and property value figures were up, baptisms for the year and enrollments in church organizations were slightly down.

Baptisms during 1965 totaled 361,634, a decrease of 12,784 from the 374,418 baptisms (converts) in 1964.

Changes in processing the denomination's statistics resulted in adjusting downward the enrollment figures for church educational organizations, said Bradley.

For the first time, the 1965 convention statistics reflect only those figures actually reported by the churches, with no adjustments being made for incomplete reporting.

Enrollment figures for church organizations in previous years had been affected by estimates in cases of incomplete reporting, Bradley said. "This tended to inflate the total at the denominational processing and tabulating stage."

Educational ministry enrollments were as follows:

Sunday School, 7,659,638; a decrease of 11,527;

Training Union (Sunday evening study group for all ages), 2,610,187, a decrease of 111,842;

Brotherhood (men's missions organization) and Royal Ambassadors (boys' missions organization), 483,219, a decrease of 120,477;

Woman's Missionary Union (and missions organizations for children, girls and women), 1,469,739, a decrease of 39,745;

And music ministry programs (all ages), 872,186, a decrease of 51,685.

Bradley pointed out that comparison of the 1965 enrollment figures with 1964 totals

does not indicate a true change since different processes were used in tabulating the figures.

"The difference represents the combined effect of a sizable downward adjustment (due to revised procedure) in 1965, and an unknown 'real' change (increase or decrease)," Bradley added.

Vacation Bible School enrollment, not involved in the processing change, climbed to a record total of 3,394,953. There were 29,883 Bible schools reported, also a new record.

The statistical report also reflected an increase of 409 churches in the denomination to a record 33,797 total number of congregations.

The 409 increase includes a total of 228 "inactive" churches, a total not included until 1965. Bradley said that "inactive" refers to those churches still affiliated with the convention, but which have not submitted a report for three or more years. Previously these churches were not included in the statistical report.

The 33,797 churches are located in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, and are affiliated with 29 Baptist state conventions and 1,184 different associations.

The Southern Baptist Convention's statistical year does not coincide with the calendar year, but is defined as ending in September.

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DO NOT RELEASE BEFORE MARCH 2, 1966 PLEASE OBSERVE THIS.

Summary of 1965 Southern Baptist Convention Statistics

	<u>1965</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>Numerical Change</u>
Associations	1,184	1,183	1
Churches	33,797	33,388	409
Baptisms	361,634	374,418	-12,784
Additions by Letter	547,316	557,679	-10,363
Total Membership	10,772,712	10,601,515	171,197
Vacation Bible School Enrol.	3,394,953	3,233,401	161,552
Value Church Property	\$3,080,663,120	\$2,954,380,965	\$126,282,155
Total Gifts	\$637,958,846	\$591,587,981	\$46,370,865
Mission Gifts	\$106,743,944	\$100,164,740	\$6,579,204
Sunday School Enrol.	7,659,638**	7,671,165**	-11,527**
Training Union Enrol.	2,610,187**	2,722,029**	-111,842**
W.M.U. Enrol.*	1,469,739**	1,509,484**	-39,745**
Brotherhood and R.A. Enrol.	483,219**	603,696**	-120,477**
Music Ministry Enrol.	872,186**	923,871**	-51,685**

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

** The 1965 enrolment figure is not comparable to that for previous years. Enrolments for 1964 and preceding years were inflated to an unknown extent due to procedures used in processing incomplete reports of churches. The comparison of the 1965 figure with that of 1964 does not, therefore, indicate a true change. Rather, the difference in the two years' figures represents the combined effect of a sizable downward adjustment (due to revised procedure) in the 1965 figure and an unknown "real" change (increase or decrease).

Research and Statistics Department,
Baptist Sunday School Board,
March 2, (release date)

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Federal Aid Proposed For Foster Children

WASHINGTON (BP)--Federal financial assistance for children in foster homes and child care institutions would be provided under several pieces of legislation introduced in the United States Senate.

Sen. Harrison A. Williams Jr. (D., N. J.) introduced a bill which would provide a grant program to states for furnishing aid and services for children under foster care. Many persons in Baptist childrens homes would be eligible for such aid.

Earlier Sen. Joseph M. Montoya (D., N.M.) introduced legislation to provide per pupil aid to school districts which are educating children who are in child care insitutions.

Montoya's proposal would amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, which now provides per pupil grants to local school districts for children from low-income families.

He would include financial assistance for the education of "orphans and other children lacking parental support" who are in public and private institutions or in foster homes.

The New Mexico senator cited the Portales Municipal School District which "is responsible for the education of some 150 youngsters living in two facilities for orphaned and dependent children there." These youngsters should be included in payments under the education act, he said.

The Baptist Children's Home of the Baptist Convention of New Mexico is located at Portales.

Sen. Williams said that failure to make some federal provision for foster care programs places the burden "on state and local governments and voluntary organizations supported by charitable contributions."

His bill would provide grants similar to the federal aid now given to dependent children. It would include children in foster family homes and in child care institutions.

The federal share for children in foster family homes would equal 50 per cent of the amount provided by the state. This would include expenditures for insurance premiums for or the cost of medical or other type of remedial care.

The federal share as aid to children under foster care in child care institutions, public and nonprofit private, would equal 100 per cent of the total amount provided by the state.

In addition the bill would provide funds for services for the child's welfare and for the training of personnel for such services.

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Solon Raises Questions
About Housing For Aged

2-25-66

WASHINGTON (BP)--Churches may become "agents" of government if they become involved in the federal government's housing programs, according to a United States Congressman.

Rep. Richard L. Roudebush (R., Ind.), in remarks included in the Appendix of the Congressional Record, said that "few persons are fully aware of the extent the federal government is involving the churches of America in its housing programs."

He charged that such involvement raises serious church-state questions and "may insert our churches in federal programs as agents of the government."

To support his argument the congressman included an article from the Indianapolis News, which he said explored the role of churches in such programs in "a detailed manner."

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The article, written by Ross Hermann, states that complete separation of church and state is "giving way to public embrace in which government and churches cooperate on mutually approved social projects."

Hermann cited as an example a speech made by an official of the Federal Housing and Home Finance Administration at a conference on housing and urban development last fall.

The official was quoted as saying that a church group could form a nonprofit mortgagor corporation, go to a private lending institution for financing, have the loan insured by the Federal Housing Administration and then build the housing.

Poverty-level families would pay a maximum of 25 per cent of their income for rent in such housing, the article reported. "The difference between that payment and the regular rent would be made up to the church or other sponsoring organization by direct subsidies from the federal government."

An example of church-state housing was cited as the Martin Luther Tower in San Francisco. This is a 13-story apartment built by St. Mark's Lutheran Church in San Francisco "with government backing." The article said that when complete the tower would be "a self-contained community shepherded by Lutheran churchmen."

Other churches, it said, "could charge that the government has, within the confines of the Martin Luther enclave, established a religion." They could argue that the government "has given the favored churches in such programs a captive audience."

The article further charged that some churches are already "administrative arms" of government under a program of "long-term insured financing to build rental housing for the aged."

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Editors: Following is reaction to release of annual statistics (see page 1 and 2 of this mailing) on baptisms in the SBC from the director of the evangelism division of the SBC Home Mission Board.

Autrey Blames Baptism Drop On Weak Revivals

2-25-66

ATLANTA (EP)--Southern Baptist baptisms totaled only 361,634 last year, down 12,784 from the not-so-high 1964 figure.

The reaction to this should be a reshaping of strategy, according to C. E. Autrey of Atlanta, director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's division of evangelism.

He pinpoints four major factors in the 1965 decrease:

- 1) Lack of concern for the lost on the part of Southern Baptist churches.
- 2) Lack of knowledge on the part of pastors and church leaders in how to develop and maintain an evangelistic church.
- 3) The tendency to conduct brief routine revivals, even at times cut to weekends only.
- 4) The necessary convention-wide emphasis on program study and agency cooperation that has sapped momentum from grass-roots Gospel preaching.

"This report should call the attention of our leaders and pastors to the fact we're just not meeting our challenge," Autrey said. "I think much of the recent program study and research projects are necessary, but we've taken the emphasis off reaching the lost."

Autrey said the failure of Southern Baptists to pick up and go beyond 400,000 baptisms in the last few years could, at least in part, be rooted in the heavy stress on internal scrutiny.

He called for creative efforts in local revivals, emphasis on personal witnessing, and an awareness of the Holy Spirit to jolt new life into SBC churches in 1966.

He said he expects a 1966 campaign on personal witnessing to boost the baptism figure over 400,000 before the end of this year.

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"With the current emphasis on personal witnessing, I predict that in 1966 we will reach 400,000 baptisms," Autrey said. "I would predict more than that if we would bring our revivals out of the routine and show some concern for the lost."

The 1966 round of winter evangelistic conferences, which drew some 50,000 Baptist pastors and laymen, hammered away at the need for successful Baptist programs in academic communities, Autrey said.

"If students get involved, then they bring new life to our churches when they spread out across the land," he said. "And, if faculty and churches in academic communities get involved, more students get involved."

Most of all, Autrey said, Southern Baptists need to be creative, and to get away from the routine in revivals and personal witnessing.

"We must change our approach in evangelism whenever necessary, in the Old South as well as in pioneer sections of the country," he said. "We need to give more preparation and time to our revivals, and we need to make our members aware of the challenge and the opportunity to witness."

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SBC Must Plan Future
Or Die, Says McCall

Feb. 25, 1966

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention should map its plans in terms of decades rather than on an annual basis, or else face decline and even death, a Baptist seminary president said here.

"When you make short plans, you are telling yourself to die," said Duke K. McCall of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

"Any institution or organization today which makes short plans is ordering itself to die," McCall told the Southern Baptist Executive Committee meeting here.

"We ought to quit using the year as the unit of our planning and at least progress the decade," he said.

McCall, who served as executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee from 1946 to 1951 before becoming president of the denomination's oldest seminary, made the statements in an address to the Executive Committee almost exactly 20 years after becoming the denomination's top executive at the age of 32.

Earlier, a portrait of McCall had been unveiled and glowing tribute was given him by J. R. White of Montgomery, Ala., president of the seminary's board of trustees. The portrait will hang in the Southern Baptist Convention Building here near a portrait of Austin C. Crouch, the first executive secretary of the Executive Committee.

In his speech to the committee after the presentation, McCall told of trends in the denomination and the need for planning for the future.

"If you don't plan today for 25 million Southern Baptists by the year 2,000 you have decided that Southern Baptists are to shrink into insignificance as a proportion of the population of America," he declared.

He said that by the turn of the century, there ought to be at least 50,000 churches affiliated with the SBC.

McCall said that major factors that have worked on Southern Baptist life included the growth in number, wealth, and geographical extension of Baptists.

"Twenty years ago there were 5½ million Southern Baptists. The report just given to you shows 10 ¾ million members. We have just about doubled in size in 20 years.

"This growth has done something to our organization, something to the leadership of our convention which I want you to see," McCall said. "The Executive Committee has been at the very heart of the change."

He said that there has been a democratization of the leadership within the convention.

"Control and the decision-making process of the denomination are spread over a wider and more representative group of Baptist leaders today than ever before in the history of the denomination," he said.

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The former Executive Committee leader said that the committee now has more power than it did 20 years ago when he was its director, and that ten years from now the Executive Committee will have even more power.

But the flow of its power goes, not from the central organization down to the churches, but from the churches up to the Executive Committee.

"This flow of power from the churches is more thoroughly safe-guarded today than ever before in the history of the convention," he declared.

"If power flows from the churches to the committee, thank God and relax," he said. "But if it (power) flows from the central organization down to the churches, then get on your knees and pray God to send the hurricane."

"It is the direction of the flow of power that is important for your evaluation, not the amount of power," he said.

McCall also said that during the past 20 years there has been a great diversification culturally, educationally, economically, and theologically of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Twenty years ago, we were an almost homogeneous group of people. Most of our Southern Baptists were 'upper-lower-class' or 'lower-middle class' socially. We were essentially rural in our culture. Theologically we were so homogeneous that the only force that really bothered us was J. Frank Norris (a fundamentalist from Texas)."

"But my children are not country boys reared in the city. My children are city boys, culturally urban, with the sophistication and the academic approach of the city. We are no longer one homogeneous people."

Calling for broader plans to meet the challenge of increasing diversification, McCall urged clear thinking among Baptist leaders and constant guards against dispensing with "what you think is irrelevant and useless in the ordering of your decision-making process."

"The one thing that is obvious today is the need of longer range planning," he said.

He urged budget planning, not on the current annual basis, but in terms of decades.

Citing as an example how quickly knowledge is advancing, McCall said that about one-fourth of whatever Baptist ministers are thinking now will be obsolete in 1976. "Now I'm not talking about basic biblical revelation. I'm talking about all of the things that accumulate around your understanding of the significance, the meaning, the method of communication of that revelation.

"Human beings can...project their purposes down the corridor of the centuries if they wish. It is this unique capacity to transcend the present, to live one's life by reaching into the past and stretching one's purposes into the future to live, not at the mercy of the world but as a builder and designer of that world, that has been described as the distinction between human being and animal or the incredibly intelligent machines man has made."

He urged Southern Baptists to be "builders for eternity" and "stepping stones for the marching feet of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords."



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PROPOSED PROGRAM

Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference May 23-24, 1966

Exhibit Hall "C" -- Cobo Hall
Detroit, Michigan

OFFICERS

President: James E. Coggin, pastor, Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Tex.

Vice-President: Vander Warner, pastor, Grove Avenue Baptist Church, Richmond, Va.

Secretary: Milton DuPriest, pastor, Beach Street Baptist Church, Texarkana, Ark.

MUSICIANS

Music Director: Bill J. Pearson, minister of music, Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth

Organist: Miss Loeen Bushman, organist, Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Tex.

MONDAY MORNING, May 23

- 9:15 Song Service
9:25 Scripture & Invocation - Frank D. Minton, pastor, Evans Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth,
9:30 Welcome - Raymond E. Babb, pastor, Merriman Road Baptist Church, Garden City, Mich.
9:35 Response - D. C. Applegate, pastor, First Baptist Church, Starksville, Miss.
9:40 Forecast of Program Events - James E. Coggin, president
9:45 "Compelled to Preach the New Birth" - C. A. Roberts, pastor, First Baptist Church,
Tallahassee, Fla.
10:15 "The Recovery of Self-Discipline" - Jimmy R. Allen, secretary, Christian Life
Commission, Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas
10:45 Offering - Special Music
10:55 "A Saving Faith is a Persevering Faith" - Fred Swank, pastor, Sagamore Hill Baptist
Church, Fort Worth, Tex.
11:25 Special Music - Bette Stalnecker, Ripley, Tenn.
11:30 "Divinely Disturbed" - C. Wade Freeman, director, evangelism division, Baptist
General Convention of Texas, Dallas
12:00 Benediction - M. E. Cadenhead, pastor, Bethel Baptist Church, Roseville, Mich.

MONDAY AFTERNOON, May 23

- 1:30 Song Service
1:40 Scripture and Prayer - Gerald C. Coggin, Jr., II Tim. 3:10-17, student, New Orleans
Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, La.
1:45 "Where is Elijah's God?" - Ramsey Pollard, pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.
2:15 Special Music - David Ford, Waco, Tex.
2:20 "Shouts in the Night" - Porter Barrington, evangelist, Hollywood, Calif.
2:50 Offering - Special Music
3:00 "Our Source of Authority: The Bible" - Clark Pinnock, professor, New Orleans Baptist
Theological Seminary, New Orleans, La.
3:30 Special Music - Beverly Terrell, Dallas, Texas
3:45 "Worthy of Our Vocation" - H. H. Hobbs, pastor, First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City,
Oklahoma
4:15 Benediction - C. A. Noe, pastor, Reading Avenue Baptist Church, Texarkana, Tex.

MONDAY EVENING, MAY 23

- 7:15 Song Service
7:25 Scripture and Prayer - Hiram L. Harrison, assistant pastor, Travis Avenue Baptist
Church, Fort Worth, Tex.
7:30 "The Mop, The Broom and the Hoe" - Paul Harvey, news commentator, American Broadcasting
Company, Chicago, Ill.
8:00 Offering - Special Music
8:10 "Conformity or Commitment?" - Roy O. McClain, pastor, First Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga.
8:40 Special Music - Sue Blocker, Fort Worth, Tex.
8:50 "Is There Any Word From The Lord?" - Carl Bates, pastor, First Baptist Church,
Charlotte, N. C.
9:30 Benediction - Jerry L. Glisson, pastor, Leawood Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.

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TUESDAY MORNING, May 24

- 9:00 Song Service
9:10 Scripture and Prayer - David R. Grant, pastor, Broadmoor Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss.
9:15 "Preach the Preaching That I Bid Thee" - J. D. Grey, pastor, First Baptist Church, New Orleans, La.
9:45 Special Music - Jack Buice, Tucker, Ga.
9:50 "The New Testament Teaching Concerning Speaking in Tongues" - Charles Trentham, pastor, First Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn.
10:20 Offering - Special Music - Sue Blocker, Fort Worth, Tex.
10:30 "I Beheld Satan Fall" - Gerald Martin, pastor, Poplar Avenue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.
11:00 Special Music - JoAnn Shelton, Fort Worth, Tex.
11:15 "Preaching the Gospel Behind The Iron Curtain" - W. A. Criswell, pastor First Baptist Church, Dallas, Tex.
12:00 Benediction - Lewis Marler, pastor, Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Montgomery, Ala.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, May 24

- 1:30 Song Service
1:40 Scripture & Prayer - Robert Woody, pastor, Polytechnic Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Tex.
1:45 "Riding the Pulpit" - Jess Moody, pastor, First Baptist Church, West Palm Beach, Fla.
2:15 Offering - Special Music - Claude Rhea, Houston, Tex.
2:25 Election of Officers & Presentation of Past Presidents
2:45 "Blood on Our Hands" - Roy Fish, professor, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Fort Worth, Tex.
3:15 Special Music - Russell Newport, Springfield, Mo.
3:25 "By Love Compelled" - R. G. Lee, pastor emeritus, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.
4:15 Benediction - James E. Coggin, president