

September 23, 1949

127 Ninth Avenue, North Nashville, Tennessee

2863 NEW CHURCHES ORGANIZED IN SBC TERRITORY SINCE 1940

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—(BP)—A total of 2863 Southern Baptist churches have been organized since 1940, according to Porter Routh, secretary of the Department of Survey, Statistics, and Information of the Baptist Sunday School Board. Of these, 933 are located in the city, 295 in the town, 462 in villages, and 1173 in the open country.

In the city, nearly two-thirds of the 933 new churches have fewer than 200 members, but several have more than 1000 members. Of the total 933, all have Sunday school organizations, 78.3 per cent have Training Unions, 78.2 per cent have W.M.U. work, and 52.6 per cent have Brotherhoods.

In the towns (501-2500 population), 72.5 per cent of new churches have Training Unions, 63.1 per cent have W.M.U. work, and 20 per cent have Brotherhoods.

In the villages (populated centers with fewer than 500 population), 49.6 per cent of the new churches have Training Unions, 42.9 per cent have W.M.U. organizations, and only 9.9 per cent have Brotherhoods.

Only 6.5 per cent of the open country churches organized since 1940 have Brotherhood organizations; 25.7 per cent have W.M.U. work, and 37.7 per cent have Training Unions. Of the young open country churches, 507 have full-time services, 425 half-time, 229 quarter-time, and 20 have services three times a month.

Nearly all of the "baby" churches report pastors, baptisms, and gifts to missions. The peak for new churches organized was reached in 1947 with 463 new churches started. The 1948 reports are incomplete in that some churches do not report to the association the year they are admitted, but there were 288 churches organized in 1948 which reported to the associations.

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MEXICAN BAPTISTS WILL JOIN REVIVAL EFFORT

SAN ANTONIO, Tex.—(BP)—The Mexican Baptists of Texas will cooperate in the 1950 western evangelistic crusade with Rev. Lee Estrada, president of the Mexican Convention of Texas, as director. They will meet in conferences and fellowship meetings with Southern Baptists. Church membership of the convention stands at slightly above 10,000. Total Baptists now cooperating in the crusade stands at 11,001,981.

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