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September 28, 1967

Survey Reveals Baptist  
 Students May Not Be Rebels

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By Jim Newton

NASHVILLE (BP)--A survey of Baptist students in ten colleges has revealed that the majority may not be the rebels some adult Baptists might have thought them to be.

When the survey was presented here to the Southern Baptist Convention Public Relations Advisory Committee, numerous denominational leaders commented in the hallways afterwards that they were amazed at some of the results.

More than half, 56.3 per cent, indicated they would seriously consider a church vocation if they felt a definite call or some reason.

More than 81 per cent endorsed a statement saying they believed that "the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is the record of God's revelation of Himself to man."

About one-third said they felt specific Southern Baptist Convention agencies were doing a "good" job, while less than 10 per cent felt they were doing a "poor" job.

The survey, analyzed in a 116-page book, was conducted by the research and statistics department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board at the request of the SBC Public Relations Advisory Committee, the SBC Education Commission, and the Sunday School Board's program of vocational guidance.

It sought to determine Baptist student opinions toward the denomination, discover factors in their choice of a college, and determine attitudes of the students toward church vocations.

Ten colleges and universities in Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and North Carolina were surveyed, including four Baptist colleges. There were 1,106 usable responses to the survey.

The survey was designed as a comparative study of the attitudes of students in Baptist and non-Baptist schools in different regions in the south, said Tom Morris, project analyst for the study and staff member of the Sunday School Board research and statistics department.

Morris said he felt the opinions expressed by the students were fairly representative of student attitudes throughout the SBC, and that students respond favorably when they are not asked "loaded questions," when compared to other studies.

Distinctive geographic patterns were verified, especially in the theological questions, with more conservative attitudes, and attitudes more favorable toward the denomination expressed in order by the students in the colleges in the Far-South, the Southwest, the Mid-South, and the East South.

On theological questions, the responses from the non-Baptist schools within a geographical area were generally more similar than those from all Baptist schools or for all non-Baptist schools, the summary of the survey stated.

Although 81.3 per cent agreed with the statement (mentioned earlier) that the Bible was written by men divinely inspired, another 56.4 per cent did not fully agree with the statement that the Bible "has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter."

Nearly 77 per cent agreed that "the criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ.

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Nearly 70 per cent agreed that "It reveals the principles by which God judges us; and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and religious opinions should be tried."

In the field of vocational choice, 80.7 per cent stated that they wanted to feel they are directly helping other people in the work that they do.

A religious vocation was picked third (28.7 per cent) to education (49 per cent) and business (33.3 per cent) in the list of vocational areas which could satisfy the student's personal ambitions. Only 11.6 per cent, however, indicated they anticipated some religious vocation.

A total of 59.1 per cent said they felt Baptist colleges were either extremely vital or somewhat vital to the denomination, while 25.9 per cent felt the colleges were not too vital or not vital at all.

On the matter of church attendance, 47.6 per cent of the students said they often do something on Sunday evening instead of going to church; and 54.4 per cent said they did not go to Sunday School as much as they did in high school.

Students attending Baptist colleges said the distinctive factors in picking a Baptist school were the smallness of the student body, the faculty-to-student ratio, and the influence of the pastor.

Students at non-Baptist colleges indicated that the distinctive factors that influenced their decision were expenses, buildings and facilities, the courses offered, and the influence of high school teachers and counselors.

Colleges and universities polled in the study were William Carey College (Baptist) Hattiesburg, Miss.; the University of Southern Mississippi, also in Hattiesburg; Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee; University of Oklahoma, Norman; and Oklahoma City University; Campbell College in Buies Creek, N.C.; University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, N.C.; and Duke University, Durham, N.C.

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Two BWA Observers Named  
For Vatican Lay Congress

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WASHINGTON (BP)--Two Baptist World Alliance Executive Committee members have been named to serve as observer-consultants at the forthcoming Third Congress of the Lay Apostolate of the Roman Catholic Church.

The Congress will meet Nov. 11-18, at the Vatican City in Rome.

It is believed to be the first time that the Baptist World Alliance has named representatives to attend a meeting at the Vatican.

Alliance representatives will be Claus Meister, a layman and professor of languages at Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland; and C. Ronald Goulding, associate secretary of the Baptist World Alliance with offices in London.

They were asked to represent the Alliance by Josef Nordenhaug, general secretary of the Alliance with offices here.

The two men will attend the sessions in Rome and "report back to the general secretary of the Alliance any information which may be of help in understanding the religious world scene of today," Nordenhaug said.

The Alliance general secretary also announced appointment of Goulding and Rudolf Thaut of Hamburg, Germany, to represent the Alliance at the 450th anniversary celebration of the Reformation at Wittenburg, East Germany, Oct. 28-Nov. 5.

This celebration, marking the anniversary of the date Martin Luther nailed his famed 95 theses on the door of Castle Church in Wittenburg, is sponsored by the Lutheran Church.

Thaut is president of the Baptist Theological School at Hamburg and is former general secretary of the union of Baptist churches in Germany. He also is a member of the Baptist World Alliance Executive Committee.

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Nordenhaug made the appointments to both meetings in keeping with authorization given him by the Alliance Executive Committee meeting in Nashville to name such representatives as he thinks wise to meetings of other denominational groups.

An inquiry from the Vatican asking if the Alliance would consider an invitation to send observers to Vatican Council II was discussed by the Executive Committee at its meeting in Oslo Norway in 1962, but the committee decided not to encourage an invitation.

"We have, however, consistently sought to keep fully informed on religious affairs of all faith," Nordenhaug said.

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Louisiana Board Adopts  
Budget, Asks Beulah Help

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ALEXANDRIA, La. (BP)--The Executive Board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention here voted to recommend adoption of \$3½ million budget for 1968, and sent out an appeal for Louisiana Baptist churches to aid the victims of Hurricane Beulah in Texas.

The board asked that donations be sent to the state convention headquarters here to be forwarded to the Baptist General Convention of Texas in Dallas.

It also appealed for the churches and Baptist associations of Louisiana to gather food, clothing, bedding, and other needed supplies to be trucked directly to the flood stricken areas in Texas.

It was pointed out that Texas Baptists had come to the aid of Louisiana Baptists when Hurricane Audrey hit the Louisiana coast in 1957.

In other action, the board elected Charles M. Lowry, former minister of education for Baptist churches in Baton Rouge and Shreveport, as secretary of the convention's Training Union department.

The \$3,510,000 budget for 1968 will be recommended for final approval to the state convention when it meets in November.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Following is an insert to add following graph 6 of story mailed 9/27/67 headlined "Floodwaters Rage Into Valley Churches, Homes". Thanks.

--Baptist Press

add, after graph 6, Hurricane Beulah story:

The Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board sent \$15,000 of its disaster relief fund to the hurricane victims, at the request of Texas Baptists. It is likely that more funds will be sent after the Texas investigation team has had an opportunity to assess the extent of damage.

The Louisiana Baptist Convention Executive Board, meanwhile, voted to make an appeal to the Louisiana Baptist churches to send funds food, clothing, bedding, and other supplies to the hurricane victims.

(pickup, graph 7 of story as sent)

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