

# (BP)---FEATURES

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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produced by Baptist Press

January 9, 1968

Project 500 Keys  
On New England City

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JAN 11 1968

HISTORICAL COMMISSION, SBC

By Dallas Lee  
For The Baptist Press

The old New England city of Worcester, Mass., was one of the first locations designated for Project 500 priority by the Southern Baptist Convention.

Work already is underway with a congregation of about 35 New Englanders, and the opportunities for a diverse ministry are enough to make a missionary's head spin--even the head that tops the six-foot-six frame of Bob Tremaine, pastor-director of Worcester Baptist Chapel.

Head-spinning opportunity, of course, is one major criteria for Project 500, the two-year effort to establish 500 new Southern Baptist churches and missions in particularly strategic locations.

Worcester also meets another major prerequisite as a Project 500 location: from this location a strong church is in position to influence a greater area than just its field, and to establish new missions work through "satellite" home fellowships and Bible studies.

The city has a population of 185,000--including three colleges--and is the hub of a county of more than 600,000 people and 78 separate communities.

In the downtown area of the old city, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board last fall purchased an old church building and appointed former New Mexico pastor Bob Tremaine to direct a county-wide ministry.

The five-story apartment buildings adjacent to the chapel are reserved by the local housing authority for families with six children or more.

With no recreation areas nearby, children hang out on the parking lot of the old church building. Often they will wander into evening services just to see what's going on.

Tremaine, who at six-foot-six, 250-pounds must look like a smiling giant to the children, only has to walk down the alley to draw an interested crowd of youngsters.

He plans to subdivide the parking lot into basketball courts (not only a real need in the neighborhood, but his first love). When a Christian social ministries staff member arrives this spring he hopes to transform the basement of the 78-year-old building into a Baptist Center with weekday activities.

A high-rise apartment for the elderly, housing about 500 senior citizens, is across the street from the chapel and a similar structure is being planned for the area. Between the children and the oldsters are college students hitchhiking on almost every corner in search of something to do.

An interesting sidelight to this Project 500 location is the fact that the church is being started in the inner city. Hopefully, Project 500 will help Southern Baptists learn how to start churches in diverse circumstances.

Aside from the local opportunities for the Worcester Baptist Chapel, Tremaine also will be seeking to establish home fellowships in the homes of his people. The result, hopefully, will be a strong base church with satellite weekday Bible study groups, some of which eventually will lead into new missions.

This technique is one that will be pushed in all Project 500 locations, since it gives a new congregation the opportunity to broaden its ministry and influence without increasing its financial burdens.

The Worcester Chapel congregation itself grew out of a home fellowship established by the nearby Northboro Baptist Church.

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One of the major contributions of Project 500 to the continuing effort to start new churches and missions (the 500 are to be above and beyond normal growth) will be that the priority in money and personnel means the best-trained missionaries can be assigned to locations where work has not even yet begun.

The 1968 and 1969 SBC Annie Armstrong Home Missions Offering goals include \$1 million and \$1½ million, respectively, designated specifically for pastoral aid in Project 500.

Such assistance for the missionary pastors, however, is contingent upon the goals being reached. The \$1 million for 1968, for example, represents the last \$1 million of the \$5.5 million offering goal. As far short as Baptists fall on the offering will be how far short they will fall on Project 500 objectives.



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January 9, 1968

Baptist Editors Pick  
Education as Top Story

By the Baptist Press

Problems relating to Baptist higher education and attempts to grapple with this issue was voted the top Southern Baptist story of 1967 by editors of 29 Baptist state papers.

At the top of the list in Baptist efforts to deal with the problems of education in 1967 was the conclusion of the Baptist Education Study Task (BEST), a two-year nationwide depth study of the issues and problems affecting Baptist higher education.

The BEST study offered no final solution on the problem of federal aid to Baptist schools, but emphasized the freedom of the trustees of each institution to make this decision; and emphasized establishing stated purposes of Christian higher education programs.

Nine of the 29 editors picked education problems and BEST as the number one Baptist story of the year. Another story regarding Baptist higher education was ranked the third most significant by the Baptist editors.

The top ten Southern Baptist stories of the year, as picked by the Baptist editors and listed on the ballot of the poll conducted by Baptist Press, news service of the SBC, were as follows:

1. Education problems, and the Baptist Education Study Task. 182 points.
2. Baptists in Fairbanks, Alaska, suffer from flood; more than 100 Baptist laymen rally to aid in the cleanup and reconstruction job. 135 points.
3. Baptists in two states reconsider school ties: Maryland Baptist College may be dissolved; Kentucky Southern ties dissolved, and merger with University of Louisville called off. New Baptist school in West Palm Beach, Fla., delayed until Billy Graham decides whether to build school on that site. 122 points.
4. Speeches at Southern Baptist Convention and related meetings in Miami Beach emphasize shift towards social action, ministry to human needs. 117 points.
5. Vietnam war issue concerns Baptists. Resolutions at SBC, many state conventions urge "just and honorable peace" in Vietnam. Two editors urge Congress to settle issue, r pull out troops. 106 points.
6. Southern Baptists make progress in race relations: first Negro foreign missionary appointed; Kentucky convention urges dual alignment with Negro convention; Nashville Baptists hold inter-racial rally to pray for end to race riots. 97 points.
7. Baptist Participation urged in ecumenical evangelism; Dialogue Cape Kennedy, Key Bridge meetings involve Baptists. 72 points.
8. SBC Home Mission Board changes plans to lead evangelistic crusade in South Africa over race restrictions; individual pastors, evangelists carry out crusade anyway. 65 points.
9. SBC in Miami rejects "reapportionment" proposal to limit representation of small state conventions on SBC boards. 64 points.
10. Baptists express concern in War on Poverty: Billy Graham says he's been converted on poverty war; Hubert Humphrey urges Baptist meeting in Washington to support poverty effort; three Baptist officials named to top War on Poverty posts during year (Bill Crook, VISTA director; Ralph Phelps, Atlanta OEO director; Ross Coggins, VISTA Atlanta administrator). 54 points.

The editors each picked the ten top stories of the year, and points were scored on the basis of their ranking. The ballot was prepared by the Baptist Press staff in Nashville and included a list of 25 stories from which to pick.

Other top stories according to ranking by the editors included: (11) North Carolina Baptist Association sets baptism rule, alien immersion issue raised in Arkansas and New Mexico; (12) Atlanta Bible project seeks to distribute 1 million copies of New Testament; (13) Two special studies conducted on urban crisis--seminar on urban studies in Washington and survey of 114 downtown Baptist churches; (14) Plans projected for Baptist work in the 1970's; (15) War in Middle East affects Baptist missions work on both sides.

(16) State convention, SBC agency leadership changes: new SBC Foundation head, four new state executive secretaries, three new editors; (17) tie: New (30th) state convention formed in Wyoming, Montana, North and South Dakota; and (17) New grading system proposed for SBC churches in 1970; (18) SBC approaches 11 million members; enrollments, baptisms decrease; (19) New religious liberty law passed in Spain; and (20) Detroit riots erupt blocks away from state Baptist offices, Michigan convention aids victims.

Several editors added stories they felt were significant to the ballot, but none earned enough points to rank in the top 20.

Other stories which received votes were: Monday holidays bill proposal dies in Congress; study of church vocations says prospects encouraging, first Baptist World Alliance observers named for Vatican Lay Congress; new Social Security law makes minister participation mandatory; father of David Fite (imprisoned missionary to Cuba) and doctor visit Cuba, plea for Castro to release Fite and Caudill; relationships with other Baptist groups in America; continued Baptist expansion in pioneer areas; continued expansion of work of SBC Home and Foreign Mission Board; Crusade of the Americas stories; Baptists still divided over federal aid question--North Carolina and Virginia look with favor, South Carolina rejects federal grants.



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