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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

REGIONAL OFFICES
ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Editor, 1350 Spring Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Billy Keith, Editor, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) RI 1-1996
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Editor, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

BUREAU
BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD Lynn M. Davis, Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203, Telephone (615) 254-1631

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WMU, Brotherhood Told
Of Boys 6-8 Transfer

NASHVILLE (BP)--A comprehensive interpretation plan for transferring the missions guidance of Baptist boys ages 6-8 from Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) to Brotherhood was unfolded here to missions leaders from 30 states.

The plan called for national, state, association, and church WMU and Brotherhood leaders to saturate Southern Baptists during the next 20 months with information about the transfer, scheduled for October, 1970 in Southern Baptist churches.

Where the transfer works well, churches will use men, and hopefully couples, to teach missions to boys ages 6-8 through the Royal Ambassador program, explained George W. Schroeder, executive secretary of the Brotherhood Commission.

Churches adopting the plan will use books and magazines prepared by the Brotherhood Commission to teach missions to boys in this age range, Schroeder added.

The boys 6-8 will become part of the Crusader Division of Royal Ambassadors which includes boys through 11. The Pioneer Division of Royal Ambassadors is for boys 12-17.

Both boys and girls ages 6-8 are now a part of the Sunbeams, an organization of the Woman's Missionary Union. Only the boys in this age group will transfer to the Royal Ambassador organization.

The transfer of the responsibility for providing missions experiences for boys is the second among Southern Baptists in the last 16 years.

In 1954, the WMU relinquished to Brotherhood the responsibility for missions instruction to boys 9-16. The 17-year-old boy was added to the Royal Ambassador program seven years later.

Since the transfer, the enrollment of Royal Ambassadors continued to grow steadily, now doubling the 1954 figure of slightly more than 100,000.

The extensive promotion plan was unveiled without a discordant note before more than 100 state WMU and Brotherhood workers attending the annual Southern Baptist Planning and Promotion Conference here.

Miss Alma Hunt, executive secretary of WMU in Birmingham, Ala., explained the transfer would permit churches to provide unbroken missionary education experiences for boys across a six-year division.

Under this plan, missions experiences for boys in Southern Baptist churches will begin under Brotherhood when a boy starts to school and continue throughout his life.

George Schroeder, executive secretary of the Brotherhood Commission, told about 50 Brotherhood leaders from throughout the nation that the transfer of boys ages 6-8 from Sunbeams to Royal Ambassadors was the most important news for Brotherhood in the 1970's, and that it gives Brotherhood an opportunity to teach missions to boys at a more teachable age.

In the Crusader Division boys will be known as "Lads" the first three years. In successive years, they will participate in advancement programs as Pages, Squires, and Knights.

Missions will be taught through chapter meetings, advancement plans, activities and relationships.

A feature of the missions instruction for boys 6-8 will be learning experiences with their parents at home, said Frank Lawton, Crusader field service specialist for the Brotherhood Commission.

Boys in the Crusader Division will have their own monthly magazine, Crusader. Their counselors will use Crusader Counselor, a quarterly. Parents will get their guidance through an insert in the boys' magazine.

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NASHVILLE (BP)--There have been more changes in home missions during the 1960's than any other decade in the history of the Southern Baptist Convention, an official of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board said here.

Fred Moseley, speaking to the state directors of missions attending the Southern Baptist Planning and Promotion Conference here, added however, that the basic emphases of the Home Mission Board have not changed.

Moseley identified the major thrusts of home missions as (1) evangelism, (2) starting new churches, and (3) ministering to persons of special need and circumstances.

In the decade of the 1960's, there have been some obvious shifts in home missions approaches, said Moseley, assistant executive secretary of the Home Mission Board. He cited these changes.

--About 75 per cent of the Home Mission Board staff has come in the 1960's.

--The budget of the Board (approximately $15 million) is three times what it was in 1959.

--About one-third more missionaries are now under appointment by the Board than in 1959.

--The staff of the Board is 2½ times that it was in 1959.

Both Moseley, Home Mission Board Executive Secretary Arthur Rutledge, and missions division associate director Loyd Corder agreed that evangelism is the heart of home missions and the primary purpose.

Rutledge cited two other objectives: (1) establishing a Christian society, and (2) establishing a strong home base for world-wide extension of the gospel.

"The urban centers of the United States shall receive the major thrust of the Home Mission Board," said Corder.

"The interest of the Board shall be in each person because of his intrinsic worth apart from incidental identification as to race, language, economics, nationality, or religion," he added.

"Communication and cooperation with other denominations shall be welcomed by the Home Mission Board where there is no sacrifice of principles or weakening of basic beliefs and practices," Corder said.

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Sunday School Sessions
Feature New Periodicals (12-13-68)

NASHVILLE (BP)--Discussion of new periodicals for Southern Baptist Sunday Schools in the 1970's dominated Sunday School sessions of the Southern Baptist Planning and Promotion Conference here.

The periodicals, all bearing new titles, will serve as vehicles for the curriculum area of the Bible teaching and training programs of a church.

Among the new materials is a weekly story paper for non-readers for use in the home by parents and church visitors. The story paper will relate to other preschool materials.

Other new periodicals include a leisure-time magazine and alternate units for college students in Sunday School and Training Union.

Supplementary helps, designed for all age groups, include leaflets, test booklets, and picture sets. All materials, including quarterlies and teacher supplemtns, are designed to support the new grouping-grading system churches will begin using in October, 1970.

Vacation Bible School materials for 1970 will follow the theme, "Learning How God Works." Included are administration materials, field service promotional materials and other interpretive pieces. The materials will have a life of one year.

Periodicals will carry more modern art and modern photography, Sunday School leaders said.

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Baptist Planners Seek
Coordination, Cooperation

By Roy Jennings

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptist planners took a major step here toward coordinating the activities of the 11-million-member denomination for the 1969-73 period.

As the final action of the first Southern Baptist Planning and Promotion Conference, the 1350 Baptist leaders endorsed enthusiastically a 16-point report giving guidelines for future cooperative planning by association, state convention and Southern Baptist Convention groups.

The five-day meeting drew representatives from almost 600 Baptist associations, 30 Baptist state conventions and 20 agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention.

One of the main purposes of the conference was to carry out a 47-year-old request of the Southern Baptist Convention to coordinate better the activities of the denomination.

In meetings at War Memorial Auditorium, Baptist Sunday School Board, the Southern Baptist Executive Committee building, and local hotels, the representatives made detailed plans for 1969-70 and long range plans for 1970-73.

The report summing up the conference, entitled "Praying, Planning and Promoting for the '70's," was prepared by the top 50 leaders of state Baptist conventions and agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention and associational representatives.

While citing the independent characteristics of Southern Baptists, minimizing theological differences, and emphasizing areas of agreement, the report called for continued long-range denominational planning on a cooperative basis during the next 10 years, with special attention to social action and evangelism.

The report commended the involvement of lay persons in missions through Brotherhood and Woman's Missionary Union, at the same time calling for more lay participation and strong support of the Crusade of the Americas in 1969.

In the area of evangelism, the report indentified targets of the Christian message as all persons, regardless of culture, race, or other differences. It mentioned particularly the need to minister to the spiritual and physical needs of people during the 1970's.

The Baptist leaders identified six other basic needs in addition to more action by lay people. They included acceptance of change, practical programs, unity in common beliefs, greater cooperation among Baptist groups, and more representative planning.

At the same time the leaders sought to caution planners at four points. They were to continue to work hard, recognize the value of teamwork but not as a substitute for individual enterprise, avoid coercing groups to accept planning ideas, and to recognize the current emphasis on social action as the moving hand of God while not obscuring the fact that God's mission is the redemption of man through Jesus Christ.

"We see no conflict between the Good Samaritan attitude toward the world and the basic proclamation of the gospel of Christ to lost men," the report said.

As to future planning, the leaders urged the use of all groups of Southern Baptists, including pastors, church staffs, seminaries, laymen, associational superintendents, state program leaders, and Southern Baptist Convention workers.

The planners agreed to put this process to work in developing the 1973-79 phase of the denomination's work, beginning with small group meetings in January, 1969, throughout the United States.

The report included a detailed procedure and process for long-range planning that urges cooperation and correlation of Baptists at every level.

The planning process calls for the Inter-Agency Council of the SBC to consult with Baptist people at every level, and on the basis of these consultations, formulate tentative suggested plans every three to five years on a continuing basis.

State convention executive secretaries and SBC agency executives are to discuss and revise these suggestions, with a review of their findings by the people attending the Southern Baptist Planning and Promotion Conference each December.

After the plans have further been studied by its program commiteee, the SBC Executive Committee would then adopt the long-range plans and recommend them for discussion and adoption by the convention.

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State conventions, needing flexibility, will consider and adapt the plans which seem most practical for them; associations would plan and promote in the light of their knowledge of SBC and state programs; and churches may adjust, adopt, and adapt the programs and implement them according to their own best judgment.

The planning process also provides for promotion through all possible channels, periodic evaluation, and continual development of future planning, evaluation, and implemention of current programs.

In facing the 1970's, the leaders reminded in their report that Christians will face increased external pressures from scientific, political, and social forces.

"Baptists must be ready to confront and be confronted with all that is new and different, and press forward in accomplishing their goals as they face the seventies."

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Respond To Youth Pleas
For Change, Geren Says (12-13-68)

NASHVILLE (BP)--The movement for student participation in colleges is a healthy thing and could ultimately result in "a renaissance in the universities instead of a revolution," a Baptist university president said here.

Paul Geren, president of Stetson University in DeLand, Fla., told the Southern Baptist Planning and Promotion Conference here that Baptists should respond to student pleas for change with honesty and responsibility.

Today's students were characterized by the Baptist university president as seeking honesty, relevance, and participation as pictured with the "in" phrases: "tell it like it is," "get with it," and "get a piece of the action."

He added that students do not like the vocabulary which uses the words "lost" and "saved," and yet they can sing and write poetry about the conditions older people have sought to describe by these words.

"Let's continue to confront young people with The Word (of God), but not allow ourselves to be trapped by the meaning of words," Geren said.

"I respond to the student generations concern for relevance," he added. "I feel the same concerr."

He explained that the word "relevance" is derived from a Latin verb meaning to lift up, and compared this to the words of Jesus Christ who said, "And I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me."

While Geren commended the trend toward more student participation in society, he added that the process involves much uninformed criticism on the part of students. "This is an age when everyone wants a piece of the action but not necessarily a piece of the responsibility," he said.

He commended the 1,350 Baptist leaders present for the week-long session, saying that "the kind of planning and promotion you have been doing this week represents a striving for competence which we need."

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460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

DAVIS C. WOOLLEY HQ
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
127 NINTH AVE. N.
NASHVILLE, TENN. 37203