

(BP) -- FEATURES

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Baptist Youngsters Work
In Ghettos During Mission 70

by Robert O'Brien

ATLANTA (BP)--Herb Goree, a man with a mission, gazed toward the sewerage-filled stream in the ghetto neighborhood here.

"Why am I here?" he responded. "Blights like that--they're one reason I'm here," said the Negro community organizer for a neighborhood service center of Economic Opportunity Atlanta (EOA), local headquarters of the Office of Economic Opportunity.

The former building contractor jabbed his finger angrily at the stinking stream. "I saw my brother suffering and suddenly all the good things I had didn't mean that much anymore, that's why I'm here."

The tall, lean, intense man turned toward the house behind him and smiled at the enthusiastic young voices and vigorous slapping sounds of paint brushes.

"I guess you're right," he admitted. "Those kids and I do have something in common. We both care about the suffering of others. You know, if more groups like that really cared we could lick this ghetto problem."

The teenagers at work in the small house were part of more than 4,000 college students and young adults from 50 states and at least two foreign countries who descended on Atlanta, Dec. 28-31, for Mission 70, one of the most successful affairs ever conducted by Southern Baptists for young people.

During the week Mission 70 planners from Southern Baptist agencies confronted the youngsters with the role their faith must play in the 1970s. By week's end, sessions of the conference were drawing standing ovations from the crowd and many youngsters, who came to scoff at the "ineffective church," were leading the cheers.

In the midst of thought provoking presentations on human need in the 70s, the ghetto work projects generated mission action learning experience and balanced theory with deed.

Nearly 1,000 youngsters not only worked but paid \$2.00 a piece to help purchase supplies, and many ventured for the first time onto a frontier of human need.

Working in cooperation with EOA, the youngsters stepped from behind the shelter of middle class Christian communities and into the heart of interracial poverty and near poverty.

"Mission 70 and work in the ghetto has made me aware there are needs in more places than I ever realized," said Shirley Coble, a freshman at Penn Valley Junior College in Kansas City. "Jesus gave me the ability to work," said the future missions candidate. "Mission 70 opened my eyes to many opportunities."

Nineteen-year-old Linda Busby of the University of New Mexico sounded as if she had overheard Goree. "I've learned that total involvement means giving up some of the good things," she said.

In the ghetto, groups of youngsters painted the home of a blind man and four operation Head Start centers, cleaned up distressed areas of the city and conducted health surveys. The projects drew nationwide attention, including a seven-minute spot on Walter Cronkite's evening news program on the Columbia Broadcasting System.

While the kids worked, Mission 70 officials distributed about 1,000 leftover box lunches to ghetto children, out of school for the holidays and without access to the public school lunch program.

A large number of the excess lunches originally planned for conference participants, resulted from what one Mission 70 spokesman called "a spontaneous Christian hunger strike" when some of the youngsters learned of plans to distribute any leftover lunches in the ghetto.

EOA officials were so enthused by the students' zeal in the ghettos that they asked for students to help out on a continuing basis.

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Although Mission 70 has concluded with no prospect of continuing help, Mission 70 planners from the Southern Baptist Home and Foreign Mission Boards, the Sunday School Board, the Brotherhood Commission and the Woman's Missionary Union hope local Baptist youngsters can find ways to help.

"I'm trying to build people with self respect, and I need all the help I can get," Goree said.

The spirit of Mission 70 would inject Christ into that "people building."

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SBC Gifts Reach Operating Budget, Miss Capital Needs

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention ended 1969 with Cooperative Program unified budget contributions of \$27,433,440--surpassing the operating budget and paying all of the capital needs held over from 1968, but still about \$650,000 short of the 1969 capital needs.

The \$27.4 million did provide \$149,891 of the \$800,000 approved capital needs (building construction) allocation, but the amount was \$650,109 short of the funds required to meet the total 1969 SBC budget of \$28,083,549.

Though the amount was short of the total budget needs, Cooperative Program contributions for 1969 exceeded the 1968 gifts by \$1,455,970, or 5.6 per cent. Comparatively, during 1968 the percentage of increase over 1967 gifts was only 3.21 per cent.

Porter W. Routh, executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee, said here he felt the 5.6 per cent increase was significant, and noted "continued confidence in the Cooperative Program" by Baptists throughout the nation. Routh's office receives and channels the contributions to the 19 SBC agencies receiving the funds.

"We are grateful that increases in Cooperative Program funds from 25 of the 31 state conventions made it possible to report a 5.6 per cent increase over 1968," Routh said.

"We must have a six per cent increase in 1970 if we are to pay the operating funds voted for 1970, the \$650,109 due on 1969 capital funds, and the \$1,050,000 already voted by the SBC for capital funds for the agencies in 1970," Routh added.

"We join with all Baptists in praying that these greatly needed resources might be provided in this first year of the new decade," he said.

Under convention approved procedure, the \$650,000 in unmet 1969 capital needs will automatically be added on to the 1970 SBC operating budget of \$27,158,119 and the 1970 capital needs of more than \$1 million.

It was the second time in eight years that the convention did not receive enough to go over the total operating and capital needs goals. In 1968, for the first time since 1962, the SBC was \$722,530 short of capital needs, and that amount was added on to the 1969 budget goal.

In addition to the \$27.4 million in Cooperative Program contributions supporting 19 SBC agencies, Southern Baptists gave a total of \$22,297,719 to designated, specific Southern Baptist mission, educational and benevolent causes during 1969.

The \$27.4 million in Cooperative Program gifts and \$22.3 million in designated contribution provided a grand total of \$49,731,159 for world mission causes of the SBC.

The grand total \$49.7 million was an increase of \$2.4 million or 5.07 per cent over the grand total for 1968.

Designated giving did not increase as much as Cooperative Program gifts during 1969. While Cooperative Program gifts were up 5.07 per cent, designations rose 4.42 per cent (\$944,832 over 1968 designations).

Of the \$49.7 million total, \$30.6 million went to support Southern Baptist foreign mission efforts, and \$10.9 million went to home mission programs. Seven Southern Baptist affiliated seminaries received \$5.5 million.

Other SBC agencies and the total amounts received in 1969 include the Annuity (retirement) Board, \$126,292; Foundation, \$80,237; two hospitals, \$77,379; Brotherhood (laymen's) Commission, \$264,887; Christian Life Commission, \$172,038; Education Commission, \$125,111; Historical Commission, \$102,082; Radio-TV Commission, \$1.2 million; Stewardship Commission, \$83,172; and Public Affairs Committee, \$111,492.

The end of the year report from the SBC Executive Committee includes amounts given to national and world wide Southern Baptist mission efforts, and does not include state and local mission gifts by Baptists.

Missionary Kids Live In Third Culture, Fowler Says

RICHMOND, (BP)--The missionary child lives in a "third culture," one that is neither American nor national but unto himself, said Dr. Franklin T. Fowler, medical consultant for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board here.

The idea of the "third culture" of the missionary child was discussed at a recent consultation sponsored by the National Council of Churches which Fowler attended in Tuxedo Park, N.Y.

The four-part program, held over a three-day period, was entitled consultation on the Missionary Child and the Development of Human Resources. Among its 34 interdenominational participants were members of about 10 church-connected boards.

Some of the participants represented the personnel departments of various boards while some were houseparents at MK (missionary KID) hostels or schools. There were also some missionary mothers and executives of Foreign Mission boards.

Two professionals in the field of human behavior served as resource persons for the meeting. They were Richard Cox, a clinical psychologist from Chicago, and Ruth Useem, professor of sociology and education at the Michigan State University. They wrote papers which were circulated prior to the meeting.

Several recommendations were made by the group concerning the psycho-sociological well-being of the children of missionaries living in a foreign culture. The suggestions included:

Appointing a staff person on each board who would be directly responsible for family health, counseling and screening missionaries and their children; providing better information for older children on how to intelligently defend American culture; and offering retreats for missionary children entering college to help them overcome difficulties related to their initial period of adjustment to the American culture.

Fowler said that already Southern Baptists are doing a certain amount of screening of missionary children. "They are given medical examinations and are visited at home by a member of the board's personnel staff. Also, there is some work with children at orientation. For example, movies are shown of the country they are going to. We don't have retreats as yet, but we do invite them to conferences at Glorieta and Ridgecrest (Baptist Assemblies.)

Though the consultation adopted "recommendations," it was pointed out that the meeting had no power to make decisions for the autonomous mission groups represented at the meeting. Southern Baptists are not members of the National Council of Churches.

Consultants voiced dissatisfaction with boarding schools and recommended that they be consolidated or done away with completely. The MK hostel was considered "a lesser evil" by the consultants than the boarding school, Fowler said, but it was still recommended that the child stay with his family even through his teens.

Fowler said that top board officials and missionaries have increasingly voiced the opinion that schools of the host country should not be ignored, as in the past, as primary sources of education.



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