



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2365
W. C. Fields, Director
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Billy Keith, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lynn M. Davis, Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203, Telephone (615) 254-1631
RICHMOND Jesse C. Fletcher, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (703) 353-0151
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

DECEMBER 10, 1970

**SBC Statistical Projections
Show Membership 11.6 Million**

NASHVILLE (BP)--Statistical projections based on an early profile analysis indicate that membership in Southern Baptist Convention churches will be 11.6 million, Southern Baptist leaders were told here.

The projections also indicated a probable increase in baptisms, total receipts, mission expenditures and church music enrollment.

If the unofficial projections are correct, membership in Southern Baptist churches had increased by 143,620 over the 1969 total church membership.

Total mission gifts were projected to be \$137,221,065, an increase of \$3,996,730.

The estimate disclosed a probable increase in number of baptisms from 368,225 to 369,072. This would be an increase of 847 baptisms.

Probable decreases were projected in Sunday School, Training Union, Brotherhood, and Woman's Missionary Union enrollments.

"The 25,055 churches involved in this estimate are not completely representative of all Southern Baptist churches," said Martin Bradley, secretary, research and statistics department, Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. "Some church size categories and state conventions are over represented due in part to the sequence of associational meetings," said Bradley.

"However, allowance is made for this in the statistical process of projection. Projections made in a similar way last year proved to be very accurate," Bradley said.

The total Training Union ongoing and cumulative enrollment was projected to be 2,492,534, compared to 2,640,396 in 1969, a decrease of 147,862.

Sunday School enrollment was projected as 7,295,669 in 1970, a decrease of 122,398.

Woman's Missionary Union enrollments were projected as 1,200,190 in 1970, a decrease of 91,031.

Brotherhood, the men's and boys' mission education organization, was projected to decrease by 8,176 with a total enrollment of 422,163 for 1970.

Music ministry continued upward with an estimated total enrollment of 1,072,056, an increase of 9,562.

Total receipts were estimated to be \$886,528,174, an increase of more than \$43 million.

Final statistics based on church letters from more than 34,000 SBC churches will be released by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's research and statistics department in February.

The preliminary statistical projections were released here during sessions of planning meetings with leaders from 32 Baptist state conventions.

Philanthropist Thanks Dallas
Baptist College With \$375,000

DALLAS (BP)--O. L. Nelms, a Dallas multi-millionaire, always remembers to say "thank you."

"His most recent "thank you" is a \$375,000 gift to Dallas Baptist College, the largest non-capital gift to the college in its 73-year history in both Decatur, Tex., and Dallas.

The homespun tycoon is reknown across Texas for his ubiquitous billboard signs dotting the landscapes. The signs: "Thanks to all of you for helping O. L. Nelms make another million dollars."

Nelms disclosed the donation to the Baptist school during an unusual social event in the cafeteria of the Baylor University Medical Center, another Baptist institution here.

He invited about 200 of his friends to celebrate his successful operation to remove a malignancy from his liver, and to congratulate the Baylor hospital team for saving his life.

The colorful millionaire has long been known for his eccentric ways of thanking people. For several years, he has sent cash gifts to high school seniors who wrote him personal letters.

Several of his philanthropies were hushed up, and went unsung.

But Nelms admitted here, "I've never thanked anyone for praying for me, and now I'm a believer."

Nelms admitted that his close brush with death was a factor in his decision to invite his friends for the gigantic recuperation party and also the gift to Dallas Baptist College.

The actual value of the gift may eventually be higher than \$375,000 since it hinges on the sale value of 125 acres of land south of Dallas. F. O. Wilemon, long-time business partner and personal friend, joined Nelms in giving the land.

"This man likes for people to be happy," Wilemon said. "That's why we are here tonight. He is rejoicing and wants us to rejoice with him."

Charles P. Pitts, Dallas Baptist College president, said the gift helped pave the way for accreditation of the college, a decision which was announced only one week earlier by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in Atlanta.

Pitts indicated that the large operating fund windfall was "an answer to prayer and will allow the college to continue its dreams for an outstanding innovative audiovisual education program."

-30-

Baptists Plan Christmas
Airdrop For Remote Sites

12/10/70

WEATHERFORD, Tex. (BP)--Christmas may come by air this year to people in a number of isolated Mexican and Texas communities along the Rio Grande River.

Instead of a sleigh pulled by reindeer, however, Santa will be flying an airplane along with other volunteer pilots.

Behind the "Spirit of Christmas" airdrop are Southern Baptists from more than 80 churches in eight Texas counties.

Men in pickup trucks will carry the gifts--food, clothing and medical supplies, plus Christmas stockings with candy, toys and fruit--to airstrips near the Mexican border.

From there, Wings for Christ and other pilots will fly the goods to remote villages which are inaccessible or difficult to reach by normal land traffic," said Cal Hollis of Weatherford, Tex., one of two Southern Airways employees coordinating the aerial Christmas drop. The other is Marvin Harvey of Mineral Wells, Tex.

-more-

Plans call for spreading Christmas cheer to towns and communities along an 800-mile stretch of the Rio Grande River, from El Paso To Laredo, Tex., Hollis said.

"The number of people helped will depend largely on how many planes are available," said Hollis. "Every day, more churches are volunteering to provide supplies."

With the other gifts will go copies of Good News For Modern Man and Spanish-language tracts.

"Some dentists in Fort Worth are furnishing dental and oral hygiene kits. The list of people contributing to the Christmas airdrop is numerous, said Elmin Howell of Dallas, coordinator for Texas Baptists' Rio Grande River ministry.

Howell said the project is being coordinated through Texas Baptists' area missionaries along the river.

Hollis said the genius for the Christmas effort came largely from Baptists across the state who had served previously as short-term volunteer missionaries along the river.

"Many people from upstate churches, both youth and adults, have spent their vacations conducting Bible schools, drilling and equipping water wells and otherwise helping poverty-stricken people to help themselves," Hollis said.

"We're trying to get as many people participating in the Christmas effort as possible," he said. "We feel it will serve as an icebreaker, and they will go back later to do more."

Howell said that in the past three years, the Texas Baptist convention has invested nearly \$800,000 of Cooperative Program funds in the river ministry.

Among other continuing efforts are four mobile medical units staffed by volunteer doctors, dentists, and nurses to aid people of two nations from El Paso to Brownsville.

-30-

Man Who Aided Journeyman
Influenced To Seek Christ

12/10/70

by Orville Scott

DALLAS (BP)--Circumstances in the case of a critically-injured missionary journeyman brought to Baylor Hospital here from Africa have contributed to a young technician's committing his life to Christ as savior.

The hospital chaplain sees the incident as just one of a chain of miracles that have occurred since Larry Hughes of Tulsa, Okla., fractured three vertebrae and dislocated his spinal column in a swimming accident in Malawi, Nov. 21.

To the new Christian, Jim Howard, "it's just miraculous that he (Hughes) even made it."

It did not seem possible to Howard, an inhalation therapist, that anyone as critically injured as the missionary journeyman could survive a 50-mile trip by Land Rover, a 38-hour flight, an eight-hour layover in London, while dodging fog on two sides of the Atlantic.

Howard's personal commitment began the night the missionary journeyman finally arrived in the Baylor University Medical Center's intensive care unit, fighting for his life with the help of two Dutch doctors and a young missionary journeyman nurse.

Earlier that night, Howard had dated a Baptist girl who explained to him "how the Lord runs her life.

"As I left her house and started home, I felt a compulsion to return to the hospital. It was as if something were pushing me. After all, I was off duty," Howard recalled.

As he entered the hospital, two attendants met Howard and told him he was needed operate the volume respirator.

-more-

Howard was inspired by the attitudes of the journeyman strubbling for life and the missionary nurse, Mrs. Vicki Hickey, who had been brought into the case from Sanyanti Baptist Hospital, Rhodesia.

"All through the things they were doing to save his life, despite the pain, he always seemed to smile," Howard said. "The nurse was calm and happy and knew what she was doing."

The inhalation therapist was impressed to learn that the Hickeys had left what he considered "big money" as medical personnel in Illinois to serve in Africa for a fraction of their original salaries.

"All the time I was wondering, 'How did I get here?'" Howard said.

Afterward, Howard said his spiritual condition weighted on his mind so much that he decided to talk with Mark Baker, one of the hospital's chaplains.

Baker listened as Howard explained that he couldn't recall any experiences he'd had with Christ. Then the chaplain asked, "Have you asked God into your life?"

Howard did ask Christ into his life, and he said, "It seemed someone had taken a 5,000-pound weight off my shoulders. I felt great, and I still do."

Howard said that "right now I'm a very immature Christian, but I have decided to go back and get my degree as an inhalation therapist. Then I want to go overseas with a church group and broaden by potential as a Christian."

Ironically, the paths of Hughes and Howard would never have crossed if the crew of the jet plane hadn't been forced to change their flight plans.

They were carrying the injured missionary to Baptist Memorial Hospital in Houston, but word came that a fog was covering the Texas Gulf Coast. They landed at Dallas instead, and Hughes entered Baylor hospital.

To Mrs. Paul Hughes, keeping a vigil near her stricken son, the decision by Howard was answered prayer.

"It's been my prayer that someone would come to know the Lord Jesus Christ through this," she said.

-30-

Ione Gray Will Direct
European Press Service

12/10/70

RICHMOND (BP)--Ione Gray, international writer and editor for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, will become interim director of the European Baptist Press Service for 18 months, beginning in June 1971. She will be stationed in Ruschlikon, a suburb of Zurich, Switzerland.

The SBC Foreign Mission Board approved the European assignment for Miss Gray during its December meeting. She may be asked during her stay in Ruschlikon to make trips outside the European continent in connection with her current international responsibilities, which she expects to resume in Richmond in December, 1972.

The European Baptist Press Service is a function of the European Baptist Federation, with offices at the Baptist Theological Seminary, Ruschlikon. The news service is designed primarily for European religious and secular publications, but is sent to numerous United States publications as well.

Theo Sommerkamp, former assistant director of Baptist Press, news service of the Southern Baptist Convention, has directed European Baptist Press Service for the past five years. Sommerkamp, a missionary associate appointed by the SBC Foreign Mission Board, plans to return to the United States in the summer, 1971. John Allen Moore, a Southern Baptist missionary, was the first director of European Baptist Press Service.

Miss Gray has been with the SBC Foreign Mission Board for 20 years, first as associate editor of its monthly magazine and as press representative, then as director of press relations for 10 years, and as international writer and editor for the past 15 months.

She has just returned from a trip to the Middle East which included East Pakistan, India, Yemen, Lebanon, Gaza and Israel. She spent the past summer writing in four of the large capitals of the far east.

A native of Arkansas, Miss Gray was assistant editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine in Little Rock, and editorial assistant of publications for the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville, before coming to Richmond.

-30-

Christian Life Commission
Commends Sex Education Kit

12/10/70

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, in its annual meeting here, commended its staff and the SBC Sunday School Board for producing a sex education resource packet just off the press, and elected a Knoxville Tenn., pastor as its chairman.

The commission named Charles A. Trentham, pastor of First Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn., as chairman; Lloyd Crawford, president of Sterling Industries, Denver, as vice chairman; and Posey Belcher, pastor of First Baptist Church in Barnwell, S.C., as secretary.

The sex education kit, entitled, "Christian Sex Education: A Resource Packet," was produced jointly by the commission staff and the family ministry program in the church training department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board here.

The resource packet will be available to Southern Baptist churches which desire it through Baptist Book Stores, for \$2.50 after Jan. 1, 1971. The kit includes 21 different resource guides and study materials designed to help Southern Baptist churches and individuals to provide sex education in the home and church.

The kit was prepared at the request of the commission last year in an effort to implement action by the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans which adopted a resolution asking the commission "to take the lead in encouraging all agencies and curriculum planners for our convention to give increasing attention to basic and special resource materials on family life and sex education for Southern Baptist families and churches."

"We commend this packet to Southern Baptists with the hope that it will be helpful in communicating a Christian view of sexuality," a resolution adopted by the commission here said.

In another major action, the commission voted to distribute, if financially possible, a similar resource packet on alcohol-drug education for use by pastors and church leaders in the SBC.

The commission also voted to insert six different resource papers in Home Mission magazine, which goes to SBC pastors and lay leaders, if the necessary \$14,200 is available to finance the distribution.

The resource papers to be inserted in the missions magazine cover the topics of problems relating to the aging, drugs, pollution, sex education, the generation gap, and law, order and justice.

After considerable discussion, the commission also voted to authorize preparation of manuscripts for a fourth set of pamphlets in its "Issues and Answers" series.

Possible subjects were listed as: health care, national defense, leisure, prison reform, student unrest, inflation, consumer protection, housing, public education, modern medicine and life control, court reform, and "such other subjects as may be suggested."

-more-

An effort to delete the subject of "national defense" from the list was defeated by a vote of 10-5, after some argued that no pamphlet could adequately define the Christian position on national defense, and others countered that it was impossible to guess what the manuscript might or might not say. The pamphlets would not be prepared until 1972.

In other actions, the commission adopted a 1971 budget of \$235,000, an increase of \$8,100 over the 1970 budget, and voted to hold a national seminar in St. Louis during March of 1972 on the general theme of the local church and applied Christianity.

The commission also voted to hold four regional conferences in 1971 on the same general theme. Two such conferences would be in the spring and two in the fall. Suggested meeting places for the two-day regional seminars were listed as Baptist assemblies in Cedarmore, Ky., Windemere, Mo.; Ridgecrest, N.C.; and at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.

The commission also voted to ratify Melvin Hawthorne's representation of the agency as a non-governmental observer at the United National, a position the commission has sponsored for several years. Hawthorne is a staff member and interim pastor at Manhattan Baptist Church, New York, which meets just across the street from the United Nations.

-30-

Lutheran Elected Executive Of Interdenominational Key '73

ST. LOUIS (BP)--Representatives attending a board meeting for "Key'73," an interdenominational coalition of churches and religious groups including Southern Baptists, have chosen a Lutheran evangelism leader as executive director.

Theodore Raedeke, evangelism secretary for the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, was elected during a three-day meeting of Key '73's central committee, which includes representatives from 30 denominations and 40 paraecclesiastical organizations which have pledged cooperation in the venture.

Raedeke will coordinate the activities preceding a major evangelistic thrust in 1973 by the participating Key '73 denominations and other organizations.

During the meeting here, Raedeke said that the joint evangelistic thrust is late, "We feel that a coordinated, concerted focus on evangelism is long overdue. A climate for evangelism has been established, because people are becoming more and more concerned. They realize something should, and must be done," he said.

Key '73 began in 1967 following an editorial in Christianity Today by then editor Carl F. Henry called for "a greater framework of cooperation as evangelicals seek to witness to the world of the sovereignty of Christ and confront the world with the gospel."

Later in the year, 42 churchmen met in Arlington, Va., at a place called "Key Bridge" to explore the possibilities of a cooperative evangelical thrust for world evangelism. The name "Key '73" was taken from the series of meetings there called Key Bridge I, II and III.

Since that time, Key '73 has become incorporated, formulated by-laws, enlarged its scope to influence Canada, created task forces and elected an executive.

Kenneth L. Chafin, director of the division of evangelism for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, is a member of the 15-man committee.

The association has set as its main objective "to confront every person in North America more fully and more forcefully with the gospel of Jesus Christ." It also hopes to develop new resources for effective evangelism for consideration, adoption, or rejection by participating churches. Denominations will be able to tap the evangelistic "supermarket" for ideas to employ in their thrust, but each local church or group may choose or reject whatever they desire," Raedeke said.

-30-



BAPTIST PRESS

460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

RECEIVED
DEC 11 1970
HISTORICAL COMMISSION, SBC

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