



# BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

**NATIONAL OFFICE**  
460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
Telephone (615) 244-2355  
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

February 22, 1971

SBC Membership Tops 11.6 Million;  
Organizations Report Decreases

RECEIVED  
FEB 23 1971  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION, SBC

NASHVILLE (BP)--Church membership in the Southern Baptist Convention increased to 11,629,880 during 1970, the denomination's research and statistics department reported here in a presentation before the SBC Executive Committee.

Although total church membership increased 140,267 over the 1969 membership totals, decreases were reported in Sunday School, Training Union, Brotherhood (layman's group), and Woman's Missionary Union organization enrollments.

The statistics were based on a total of 34,360 churches affiliated with the nation's largest Protestant-evangelical denomination. The number of churches was up 25 from the number reported last year.

For the first time, figures were reported for New York, a new state convention composed of churches formerly in the Maryland and Ohio state conventions.

The number of baptisms (conversions) reported by SBC churches was 368,863, up 638 from the 1969 figure. The peak year for baptisms was 1959, when 429,063 were reported, said Martin Bradley, secretary, research and statistics department.

Sunday School enrollment dropped by 127,620 to 7,290,447. This represents the sixth consecutive annual decrease after 21 years of steady increase, Bradley said. The all-time high in 1964 was 7,671,165.

The Brotherhood (men and boys' missions organization) reported an enrollment of 422,527 a decrease of 7,812.

Total Training Union ongoing and cumulative enrollment totalled 2,494,251, dropping by 154,137 from the 1969 figures.

Enrollment reported for Woman's Missionary Union (women and girls) was down 91,408 to a total of 1,199,813.

Church music enrollment increased by 13,993 reaching a new high of 1,076,487.

Giving by Southern Baptists continued upward. Total tithes, offerings, special gifts, and other receipts amounted to \$892,255,918, an increase of \$49,548,528 over the 1969 total.

Tithes, offerings and special gifts averaged \$73.70 per number.

Contributions to missions increased \$5,276,548 for a total of \$138,500,883.

Churches reported spending \$136,526,861 for their own construction programs and another \$3,603,850 on construction of local church-sponsored mission facilities.

Debt reported by churches rose to a new high of \$879,355,226, an increase of \$9.1 million.

Churches ordained 2,244 persons for the gospel ministry, an increase of 164 over the 1969 total.

Southern Seminary Names  
Catholic Nun As "Fellow"

LOUISVILLE (BP)--A Roman Catholic nun has been elected as one of 38 "Garrett Fellows" at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here by the seminary trustees' executive committee.

She is Sister Mary Catherine Vukmanic, a member of the staff of Ursuline College, a Catholic school two blocks from the seminary, who is in her last year of doctoral study at the Baptist seminary.

Sister Mary Catherine will have no teaching responsibilities but will be a "grader" and assistant to Dale Moody, the seminary's Joseph Emerson Brown professor of Christian theology, who in 1969 taught a course on baptism at the Pontificia Universita Gregoriana, in Rome, a school known as "the world's leading Catholic university."

Southern Seminary officials stated that she was not appointed as a "teaching fellow" and that no Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program funds are involved in her appointment.

Wesley M. Pattillo, executive assistant to the president of the seminary, said that she has not taught and will not be called upon to teach in the course at any time. The standing policy of the seminary requires that faculty members must substitute for each other in case of absence.

Garrett Fellows serve individual faculty members in grading term papers and tests, distributing duplicated materials prepared by the professor, and checking class attendance, Pattillo said.

They are designated "Garrett Fellows" in honor of the late L. F. Garrett of Memphis, Tenn., a Baptist layman whose estate in 1966 endowed the entire cost of the fellowship program.

The seminary's public relations office released the story in response to inquiries from the editors of Baptist state papers attending the Southern Baptist Press Association in Sarasota, Fla.

The seminary statement pointed out that the charter provides for education of students for "the Christian ministry" without reference to denomination, that 60 of the current 1,200 students at Southern Seminary are non-Baptists and are members of at least 10 different denominations; and that at least two Jewish rabbis have received doctor of theology degrees from the seminary, one in the 1920's.

The Seminary faculty has voted that Roman Catholic students ~~not~~ be counted in enrollment statistics which determine the seminary share of the Cooperative Program allocation to theological education, Pattillo said.

Although no Cooperative Program funds are used to pay for their services, all non-Baptists who work as Garrett Fellows must be approved individually by the trustees executive committee. Vote on the action was nine to three.

Pattillo added that the nun was serving in a position which is customary for graduate students to fill, that there has never been any attempt to hide her presence; her picture is carried in the seminary's current student directory, more than 100 years of precedence with regard to non-Baptist students makes her enrollment of no special significance; nor is she the first non-Baptist to serve as a Garrett fellow.

Ohio SPIRENO Crusade Results  
In 700 Professions of Faith

HAMILTON, OHIO (BP)--A "Spiritual Revolution Now (SPIRENO) crusade here resulted in more than 700 professions of faith despite some of the "worst weather of the worst winter in years," according to the crusade's chairman.

A total of 873 various types of Christian decisions were recorded in the crusade, sponsored by seven Southern Baptist churches, three American Baptist, one National Baptist, one Nazarene and one Church of Christ congregation.

Richard Hogue, 24-year-old evangelist from Houston and Oklahoma City, led the campaign, which was held just a few weeks after Hogue had preached in a SPIRENO effort sponsored by the First Baptist Church, Houston, which reportedly resulted in a total of 4,011 professions of faith during a three-month period.

Like the Houston campaign, the great majority of those making decisions in the Hamilton SPIRENO were teenagers.

"The crusade has all the marks of being the greatest spiritual event in the city's history," said C. Hoge Hockensmith, pastor of West Side Baptist Church of Hamilton.

Hockensmith said that the 1,300-seat First Baptist Church (American Baptist) was filled to capacity nightly, with hundreds sitting on the floor, wall to wall and standing in the aisles. Great numbers had to be turned away, Hockensmith said.

"Every service was uncontrollable celebration of the living Lord Jesus Christ," Hockensmith said. "Applause and holy laughter rang out time and again."

Hogue and the SPIRENO team appeared before assemblies in a number of schools, and were enthusiastically received, Hockensmith added.

"Nothing like this has happened in Ohio...since Finney, and it happened in spite of the worst weather of the worst winter in years," Hockensmith observed. "Schools had to close one day, because of the severe snow. "But," he added, "the Revolution went on."

-30-

Southeastern Seminary Names  
Pruden Visiting Lecturer

2/22/71

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--Edward Hughes Pruden, pastor emeritus of the First Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., has been appointed visiting lecturer for the spring semester at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Pruden currently is also serving as pastor-in-residence at Meredith College, Raleigh, N.C.

A native of Virginia, he is a graduate of the University of Richmond and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He received the doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

He was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Washington, D.C., for 33 years until retiring in 1969. He has been active in denominational affairs of both the American and Southern Baptist Convention. The Washington church is dually aligned with both conventions. He also has been president of the Washington Council of Churches and a member of the Executive Committee of the Baptist World Alliance.

-30-

Joe Ann Shelton Resigns  
Commissions For Concerts

2/22/71

FORT WORTH (BP)--Miss Joe Ann Shelton, director of program music for the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission here, has resigned her position to devote more time to personal concert appearances.

Her associate at the commission, Miss Loen Bushman, also has resigned in order to travel with Miss Shelton as her accompanist.

-more-

A widely known religious soloist, Miss Shelton has been featured on numerous radio and television programs produced by the commission, and has been director of the Baptist Hour choir. She has recorded several religious music albums.

A native of Durant, Okla., she is a graduate of North Texas State University, Denton, Tex., and has done graduate work at the University of Texas, Austin. She taught voice at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, for nine years.

In 1969, Miss Shelton organized The Centurymen, a 100-voice men's chorale composed of ministers of music from Southern Baptist churches in 22 states.

Miss Shelton joined the commission staff in 1955; Miss Bushman in 1958. Their headquarters will continue to be in Fort Worth.

-30-

State Student Directors  
Elect Webb New President

2/22/71

CHICAGO (BP)--The State Baptist Student Directors Association, an organization of statewide workers with Baptist students, elected Joe H. Webb, state director of the department of student work for the Florida Baptist Convention, as the organization's new president.

Webb succeeds Clyde Clayton, state student director for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, as president of the organization.

Most of the meeting, held here at the Center for Continuing Education of the University of Chicago, was devoted to discussion of Baptist work with students and a sharing of common problems faced by the state student work directors.

Outside speakers brought addresses on conversational prayer, coffeehouse ministries, youth culture, crisis centers and their role in counseling and suicide prevention, and youth evangelism.

Speakers included Rosalind Rinker, former missionary to China and author of books on conversational prayer; Robert Zapata, director of eight coffeehouse ministries in Chicago; Paul Little, director of evangelism for InterVarsity; and Jan Fawcett, a psychiatrist at University of Illinois' Institute of Mental Health.

Three professors at universities in the Chicago area also participated on the program-- Professor Gibson Winter and Dean of the Chapel Spence Parsons, both of the University of Chicago and its Divinity School; and Ross Snyder, professor at Chicago Theological Seminary, who spoke on trends in youth culture.

In addition to Webb, Bill Marshall, state secretary of the department of student work for the Missouri Baptist Convention, was elected secretary-treasurer of the organization.

-30-

Executive Secretaries Elect  
Patterson As New President

2/22/71

SARASOTA, Fla. (BP)--T. A. Patterson, executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, was elected president of the Association of Baptist State Executive Secretaries during annual session here.

Vice president elected by the state executive secretaries was Paul James, of the Baptist Convention of New York, and secretary-treasurer was James Smith of the Illinois Baptist State Association.

Most of the sessions were devoted to sharing of common problems among the executive secretaries of the 32 Baptist state conventions in the Southern Baptist Convention.

-30-



**BAPTIST PRESS**

*460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219*

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

RECEIVED  
FEB 23 1971

HISTORICAL COMMISSION, SBC