



**BAPTIST PRESS**  
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April 12, 1971

Mission Agencies Plan  
Lay Evangelism Emphasis

ATLANTA (BP)--The Home and Foreign Mission Boards of the Southern Baptist Convention plan a global sharing of new materials and strategy for lay training in evangelism.

The announcement of an agreement between the agencies came from Kenneth L. Chafin, director of the Division of Evangelism for the SBC Home Mission Board.

"Our recent lay evangelism schools in Atlanta, the first phase of a national ministry in this area, met with a success beyond our expectations," he said. "Missionaries overseas indicated unusual interest, so we offered whatever assistance possible to the Foreign Mission Board."

This offer includes missionary training in the schools tuition free, as well as offering to cooperate on plans for training of personnel within national missions.

Baker James Cauthen, executive secretary of the SBC Foreign Mission Board, "welcomes the announcement that the Division of Evangelism of the Home Mission Board is projecting lay evangelism leadership training.

"We appreciate your invitation to missionaries of our board to share in these schools," Cauthen said. "We are confident that many will be interested. Numbers of missionaries Cauthen added that now project similar efforts on their fields and should profit immensely from your experience. We are grateful for this new thrust in personal evangelism."

The lay evangelism schools, part of a national strategy by the Evangelism Division, were held in 46 churches in Atlanta in recent months. Trained in the schools were 1,780 laity and 383 leadership personnel from throughout the nation.

Previous to the schools, the evangelism leaders developed materials and strategy for the national lay evangelism emphasis. The Atlanta schools tested the materials and trained the leaders who in turn will conduct other schools within their states.

The next step will be schools slated in Chicago in April and in Los Angeles and Houston in May. From these key cities will come a leadership manual for laymen to train other laymen and a manual on how to prepare for a lay evangelism school in churches or associations and how to have lasting results, Chafin said.

He added that state evangelism leaders are designing a strategy for each state, building in "whatever variations they feel are needed and using the resources of the Division of Evangelism as desired."

Chafin also predicted a college and high school spinoff from the strategy and materials.

The training, according to Chafin, is "Bible centered and church centered, helping the layman in his own spiritual growth and providing him with witnessing opportunities while in training."

One large Atlanta church within six weeks after laymen in the congregation had been trained reported half as many professions of faith as they had baptized during all of the previous year, Chafin said.

Materials for the schools, developed by the Division of Evangelism and produced by the Baptist Sunday School Board under the Name WIN (Witness-Involvement-Now) products.

Included in the materials are tracts, letters to new converts, growth leaflets, and booklets. The strategy includes more than leading someone to make an initial decision, Chafin said. For example, the booklets stress the Lordship of Christ, one's devotional life, Christian living, as well as one's witness, he said.

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Seminary Student Takes  
20 Years To Earn Degree

4/12/71

FORT WORTH (BP)--It takes some people longer than others to complete work at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here, but Kendra Yeakey Morris may set an all-time record.

She began classes at Southwestern in 1953 and expects to earn a master of religious education degree in 1973--20 years later.

It's not that Kendra is a slow learner.

On the contrary, her grades are quite good, according to seminary officials.

And she started as one of the seminary's youngest students.

Nearly 20 years ago, while her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Yeakey, were working on religious education degrees, Kendra was enrolled in the seminary's kindergarden. She was six years old then.

For about 15 years, she was a seminary drop-out, while her parents served churches in Louisiana, Missouri, Tennessee, Texas and New Mexico.

After graduating from Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Kendra returned to Southwestern with her husband, James Morris, to study in the seminary's School of Religious Education, like her parents.

If she doesn't set an all-time record, Kendra and her husband might start the cycle all over again.

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English Church Life Said  
Undergoing Major Changes

4/12/71

LONDON (BP)--Baptist church life in England will undergo major changes in the coming decade, it was reported following the council meeting of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland.

All churches in the union, which includes principally congregations in England but some in Wales and Scotland as well, will be asked "to consider closer contact with neighboring Baptist churches, according to a report in European Baptist Press Service.

The council acted on a document entitled, "Ministry Tomorrow," which recommended groupings of churches, or amalgamations, "where these are appropriate." The document said such groupings would allow stronger churches to help weaker ones, and would provide better ministerial oversight.

Before the report had been made public, some Baptists had expressed fear the recommendations might endanger the status of local churches, European Baptist Press Service reported.

To allay their fears, the union council reaffirmed its commitment to the principle of the liberty of the local church, said the Baptist Times, London-based weekly newspaper.

The council approved in principle the idea of a two-tier ministry with full-time and supplementary ministers serving in group or team ministries.

Union General Secretary David S. Russell emphasized lay preachers will continue to be needed even after the bi-level plan of ministry takes effect. He said he hopes some lay preachers would prepare through study to become supplementary ministers.

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The council also discussed the question of the future of Baptist churches which have united with churches of other denominations, mainly Presbyterian and Congregational.

The report indicated that such united churches will lose their autonomy as Baptist churches and may well jeopardize their standing with the Baptist Union by belonging to the new proposed United Reformed Church.

The council turned the question over to its church advisory committee and asked what might happen if united churches were granted associate membership in the Baptist Union, and a similar bond with the United Reformed Church.

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M.A. Huggins, North Carolina  
Baptist Retired Leader, Dies

4/12/71

RALEIGH, N.C. (BP)--Former Baptist State Convention of North Carolina Executive Secretary M. A. Huggins died here April 11, at the age of 80.

Funeral services for Huggins, who served the convention as its chief executive from 1932 to 1959, were scheduled at First Baptist Church, Raleigh, 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 13.

Officiating at the services were John M. Lewis, pastor of the church, and W. Perry Crouch, current executive secretary-treasurer of the North Carolina Convention.

Before becoming executive secretary in 1932, Huggins was head of the education department at Meredith College (Baptist) for women in Raleigh. A layman, he previously had been superintendent of schools for several public school districts in North Carolina and had taught at Union University, Jackson, Tenn.

He also had been secretary of Education for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Huggins was a graduate of Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N.C.; the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C.; and did graduate work at the University of Paris and Columbia University, New York.

Survivors include his wife, two sisters and one brother.

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Irish Baptists Plan  
New Traveling Church

4/ 12/71

BRANNOCKSTOWN, Ireland (BP)--Several Baptist individuals in the Irish Republic are planning to put a churchmobile, or traveling church unit, on the road.

Robert F. Dunlop, Baptist minister here, would travel with the unit, the first of its kind here, according to a report in European Baptist Press Service.

The churchmobile would be built according to specifications set down by the sponsors, an unidentified group of persons who are financing the project through personal gifts and private donations from outsiders.

They expect to need about \$4,800 at the outset.

The traveling church unit would be used mainly for a Bible teaching ministry among groups of isolated Protestants scattered throughout the predominantly Roman Catholic Irish Republic. Dunlop said it could also be used for evangelism.

The unit should be riding the highways by the end of the summer of 1971, and would seat about 35 persons. The churchmobile would be outfitted for normal Baptist-type worship services, and would probably travel a fixed itinerary once a month.

The churchmobile's operation would not be sponsored by any national or regional religious organization, or any particular local congregation. It would rely for its operating funds on private donations, according to Dunlop.

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