



BAPTIST PRESS

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May 6, 1971

Baptist VIEWpoll
Martin B. Bradley, Director

Baptist Poll Shows Difference On "Greatest Need of Convention"

by Ken Hayes

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptist pastors and Sunday School teachers differ slightly concerning what they perceive to be the denomination's most urgent need, the latest Baptist VIEWpoll surveying a representative panel of pastors and Sunday School teachers disclosed.

The largest portion of the Sunday School teachers (45.1 per cent) felt that "strong conventionwide leadership to bring us together in unity and harmony" is the most urgent need of the convention.

The biggest percentage of pastors (37.7 per cent), however, felt that "a stronger voice in convention affairs by churches is most urgent."

Results of the poll were released here shortly before the Southern Baptist Convention is scheduled to meet in St. Louis, June 1-3.

Compared to the 45.1 per cent of the Sunday School teachers who felt "leadership to bring us together in unity and harmony" is the greatest need, 34.5 per cent of the pastors picked this as one of four alternatives in the survey.

Compared to the 37.7 per cent of the pastors who said the greatest need was "a stronger voice in convention affairs by churches," 21.3 per cent of the teachers ranked this as number one.

Others on the panel (13.5 per cent of the pastors and 18.9 per cent of the teachers) feel that the convention's most urgent need is for "a stronger voice in convention affairs from laymen."

Some pastors (10.7 per cent) and Sunday School teachers (12.4 per cent) on the panel felt that "less concern over doctrinal and other differences among us" is the most urgent need.

This alternative was especially appealing to those pastors who consider themselves to be "more liberal than conservative" or "quite liberal" in religious orientation. A small portion of pastors (3.6 per cent) and teachers (2.3 per cent) did not respond to the question.

The information for the report was based on 91 per cent response from the Baptist VIEWpoll panel, composed of approximately 300 pastors and 300 Sunday School teachers selected to represent a cross section of persons holding those leadership positions in the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Lottie Moon Offering Sets Record;
Cauthen Thanks Southern Baptists

5/6/71

RICHMOND (BP)--The 1970 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions climbed to an all-time high of \$16,220,104.99 as the books at the board's office were closed, April 30.

Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary for the Southern Baptist agency, said the figure was \$922,546.36 beyond the 1969 total. Funds received after April 30 would be credited to the 1971 offering, he said.

Cauthen expressed gratitude to the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, denominational leaders, pastors and congregations for making the Week of Prayer and the offering "so significant in the task of world missions."

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Asked why he thought the offering had taken such a large jump, Cauthen replied, "It reflects Southern Baptist's deep determination to move forward in the wider dimensions of the world missions task and affirms again that Southern Baptists are essentially a missionary people."

Expressing appreciation for the current increase in Southern Baptist Cooperative Program funds, Cauthen said the record Lottie Moon Offering will strengthen the Cooperative Program by deepening Southern Baptists' awareness of world need.

That awareness will find a continuing outlet in the Cooperative Program throughout the year, he predicted.

The Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering will enable the Foreign Mission Board to move forward with its plans to appoint about 200 new missionaries during 1971, Cauthen said.

Noting that the board has already appropriated \$15,010.852 of the 1970 offering, he said that the remainder will be applied toward unmet requests amounting to over \$4 million from the 76 mission fields where Southern Baptist missionaries are working.

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Sherrick Named Interim
Brotherhood Executive

5/6/71

MEMPHIS (BP)--Richard L. Sherrick, retired supporting services director for the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission here, has been named interim executive secretary of the commission which coordinates Baptist work with laymen and boys.

Sherrick, who retired last December after ten years on the Brotherhood Commission staff, will serve until a five-man committee appointed by the commission can nominate a new executive secretary-treasurer to succeed George Schroeder who resigned recently because of illness.

The committee is comprised of Jerry Glisson, pastor of Leawood Baptist Church, Memphis; Solon Freeman, Memphis businessman; Glenn Rainey, appliance dealer in Jackson, Tenn.; Amos Ledbetter, pastor from Thomasville, Ala.; and John E. Moore Jr., businessman from Taylor, Tex.

Glisson is chairman of the commission's executive committee, and Freeman is chairman of the commission. The next meeting of the commission is scheduled Aug. 19-20 in Memphis.

Sherrick was a Memphis insurance executive before joining the commission staff in 1960. He is a deacon at McLean Baptist Church here.

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Pan American Union Laymen
Set July Meeting in Cali

5/6/71

CALI, Columbia (BP)--The second Congress of the Pan American Union of Baptist Men will be held here July 17-22, 1972, according to an announcement by the president of the organization, Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, Miss., U.S.A.

Cooper said he hoped as many as 750 persons from every country in the Western Hemisphere and islands of the Caribbean would be present.

The Pan American Union of Baptist Men was organized in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1968 during the Crusade of the Americas. Cooper said the second meeting in Cali would feature reports on the work of the union since its organization.

Program personnel for the meeting will include several world Baptist leaders who will come to the laymen's meeting enroute to sessions of the Executive Committee of the Baptist World Alliance, scheduled the following week in Jamaica.

Cooper is president of the Mississippi and Coastal Chemical Corp., and a former vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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