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June 30, 1971

Final SBC Registration
Totals 13,716 Messengers

NASHVILLE (BP)--Final registration at the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis totalled 13,716, only 21 more registered messengers than attended the 1970 convention in Denver.

The number of registered messengers ranks the 1971 convention in St. Louis as the fifth best-attended in Southern Baptist Convention history.

Record attendance was at the 1969 convention in New Orleans, when 16,678 messengers registered. The 1965 convention in Dallas ranked second with 16,053 messengers, the 1968 convention in Houston was third with 15,071; and the 1967 convention in Miami Beach, with 14,794 messengers, ranked fourth.

The final count of 1971 convention messengers, including a breakdown by states, was tabulated by the Southern Baptist Historical Commission here which microfilmed each of th registration cards.

Of the 13,716 messengers, Missouri claimed the largest number, with 1,760. Second largest number of messengers, 1,260, came from Texas.

North Carolina ranked third with 1,010, and Tennessee was a close fourth with 1,008.

Rounding out the ten states with the largest registration were: (5) Alabama, 949; (6) South Carolina, 796; (7) Kentucky, 790; (8) Georgia, 776; (9) Illinois, 763; and (10) Mississippi, 759.

Registration from other states (listed alphabetically) was as follows:

Alaska, 6; Arizona, 51; Arkansas, 461; California, 176; Colorado, 55; Connecticut, 6; Delaware, 4; District of Columbia, 42; Florida, 512; Hawaii, 12; Indiana, 179; Kansas, 154; Louisiana, 409; Maryland, 122; Massachusetts, 4;

Michigan, 79; New Jersey, 20; New Mexico, 96; New York, 34; Northern Plains Convention, 28 (includes Montana, 7; North Dakota, 1; South Dakota, 11; Wyoming, 9;) Ohio, 210; Oklahoma, 530; Oregon-Washington, 36; Pennsylvania, 36; Rhode Island, 4; Utah-Idaho, 12; Virginia, 531; West Virginia, 30.

In addition, two messengers from the Panama Canal Zone and one for Puerto Rico registered. There were 15 registration cards that did not indicate a state.

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Baptist Pro Quarterback
Helps Prevent Plane Crash 6/30/71

LUBBOCK, Tex. (BP)--Terry Bradshaw, quarterback for the Pittsburgh Steelers professional football team, used his strength to force down an airplane's landing gear and save himself and fellow passengers from a possible crash landing here.

Bradshaw, a Baptist, and Debbie Patton, Miss Teenage America of 1970 were being flown in a private plane to Hereford, Tex., to speak in an evangelistic crusade called, "Encounter '71". Miss Patton, whom Bradshaw dates, is a Baptist from Odessa.

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When the plan 's engine start d sputtering ne r Lubbock, Pilot James Gentry, a Baptist layman from Hereford, barely had time to alert the Lubbock Municipal Airport for a p ssible crash landing when the radio went dead. Gentry was unable to lower the landing gear.

While Miss Patton and Mrs. Gentry prayed, Bradshaw wrestled the landing gear loose and manually lowered it into position.

Miss Patton said she had never been as scared in her life.

"I was a little nervous," Bradshaw said, "but the girls were doing the praying. I was just up there doing what the pilot told me to do."

The crusade,held in a high school football stadium in Hereford, resulted in 583 pr fessi ns of faith.

Bradshaw was also scheduled to speak to about 15,000 young people in Fort Worth at the Texas Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference, July 1-2. Last year, Miss Patton spoke to th Youth Evangelism Conference.

During last year's conference, 13,500 young people marched down Fort Worth's main street in a "Peace of Christ" parades and rally. This year, the youth will participate in a spiritual "blitz" of Fort Worth, singing and telling about Christ in the downtown area, the zoo, shopping centers and other public spots.

Every street in Fort Worth was assigned to a church group for witnessing, according to George Worrell of the Texas Baptist Evangelism Division, which sponsors the annual m ting. Worrell said that more than 200 churches had requested areas for their young people for the "blitz."

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