



**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

December 15, 1971

**11.9 Million Members, Increase  
In Baptisms Projected in SBC**

NASHVILLE (BP)--Statistical projections based on an early profile analysis indicate that membership in Southern Baptist Convention churches will be 11,870,619, Southern Baptist leaders were told here.

If the unofficial projections are correct, church membership would have increased by 240,739 over the 1970 total church membership.

Probable increases also were projected in number of baptisms, ongoing church music enrollment, ongoing Brotherhood enrollment and mission expenditures.

The secretary of the research services department for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board here, Martin B. Bradley, urged some caution in the accuracy of the projections, saying "the churches involved in this estimate are not completely representative of all Southern Baptist churches. Some church size categories and state conventions are over-represented due in part to the sequence of associational meetings."

Final figures on the statistical report of Southern Baptist growth patterns for 1971 will be available in February, 1972.

The estimate disclosed a possible increase in baptisms of 43,821 from the 1970 total. The increase revealed 412,684 total baptisms in 1971 compared to 368,863 baptisms in 1970.

Ken Chafin, director of the Division of Evangelism, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, attributed the increase in baptisms to two factors: (1) a fresh moving of the spirit of God in America creating openness to the gospel; and (2) a major thrust at the grass roots level in training laymen to witness.

Mission expenditures totaled \$160,107,021 in the 1971 projection, nearly \$9.2 million more than the adjusted 1970 figure of \$150,916,223.

The 1970 total was adjusted to include local mission expenditures which were included for the first time in the 1971 total for mission expenditures.

Ongoing Brotherhood enrollment increased 7.39 per cent, according to the estimated projection.

The Brotherhood figure of 453,752 represented a 31,225 increase over the 1970 total of 422,527.

The increase in Brotherhood enrollment is believed to be largely a shift of boys six to nine years of age from "Sunbeams" to Brotherhood "Crusaders" as a result of the new grouping and grading plan. The "Sunbeam" program previously was sponsored by the Woman's Missionary Union.

"We have received encouraging reports on growth, but we are waiting for the full report in order to see how much of our growth resulted from the addition of Crusaders," said Glendon McCullough, executive secretary of the Brotherhood Commission.

Ongoing church music enrollment continued upward with an estimated total enrollment of 1,093,280, an increase of 69,705. The increase was 6.81 per cent over the 1970 adjusted total.

Since the 1971 figure for church music enrollment excludes handbell ringers, vocal ensembles and instrumental ensembles enrollment which were part of the 1970 total, the per cent change was calculated on an adjusted 1970 total.

Ongoing Woman's Missionary Union enrollment estimates project a decrease of 4.89 per cent. The loss of 58,671 has been attributed to the change resulting from the new grouping and grading plan.

The 1970 figure was 1,199,813, as compared to the projected 1971 figure of 1,141,142.

"WMU leaders were aware that the reports on the first year under the new grouping and grading plan would reflect the loss of six-to nine-year-old boys and girls," said Miss Alma Hunt, executive secretary, Woman's Missionary Union.

"Good reports from state conventions give us encouragement as we continue our task. The increase in mission expenditures would probably be a more accurate key to our work," she added.

Decreases were reported for ongoing Training Union and Sunday School enrollments.

Sunday School enrollment was projected as 7,132,973 in 1971, a decrease of 137,410 from the adjusted 1970 total.

The 1971 figure for Sunday School enrollment excludes fellowship Bible class enrollment, which was included in the 1970 totals.

Ongoing Training Union enrollment decreased 116,981, according to the projected estimate.

Ongoing Training Union enrollment was 2,111,236 in 1971, according to the projection, compared to a total of 2,228,217 in 1970.

The 1970 and 1971 figures for Training Union exclude those for new member orientation, church leader training and member training projects.

Totals for these three phases will be developed along with other final statistics.

"While the enrollment projections show a downward trend in Sunday School and Training Union, I see numerous indications that this is temporary," said Allen B. Comish, director, Church Services and Materials Division, Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

"Reports from the convention indicate that in the past six months many churches have shown marked growth. This will continue and will spread to other churches," Comish commented.

Total receipts were projected to increase 9.57 per cent, up \$85.3 million over the 1970 total figure.

Projected estimate of total receipts was \$977,644,809 during 1971, as compared with a total of \$892,255,918 in 1970.

The preliminary statistical projections were released here during sessions of state program secretaries meetings at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

-30-

Mission Board Discusses Dollar  
Value, Appoints 10 Missionaries

12/15/71

RICHMOND (BP)--The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board adjusted financial support for some of its overseas personnel affected by de facto devaluation of the dollar, and heard a call for prayer for missionaries in besieged Dacca, East Pakistan.

In their last meeting of the year, board members also appointed 10 new missionaries, heard a report indicating that the third highest number of missionary appointments in board history was recorded in 1971, and bid their executive secretary and his wife best wishes as they prepared to leave on a lengthy trip to Asia and Africa.

The twin forces of inflation and dollar devaluation continue to erode missionary funds, the board's Overseas Division director, Winston Crawley, told the trustees.

-more-

With the result of actual devaluation yet to be felt, the "floating dollar" has caused losses to date which on an annual basis total \$500,000, Crawley reported.

"Over one-third of our fields have already reported losses running from 2 to 4.5 per cent," he said. He added that the loss in Japan had reached 10 per cent.

Crawley brought a recommendation for adjustments for missionary support in 26 countries where dollar value has declined 2 per cent or more in recent months. The board, which supports missionaries in 76 countries, adopted the recommendation.

Inflation, running 4 to 5 per cent in the United States and even higher in some countries, compounds the dollar value loss, said Crawley.

He pointed out that, with the approximately one per cent expansion in the total missionary staff in the past year, the Foreign Mission Board's income must increase by at least \$2 million to provide the same purchasing power per missionary in the coming year. This is an estimated increase of more than 6 per cent, he said.

The wage freeze in effect in October, when the board adopted its 1972 budget, prevented action at that time to increase missionary support, Crawley continued. However, the budget provided for increased emergency compensation on many mission fields, pending government rulings to clear the way under Phase II of the Wage and Price Control Plan.

A contingency fund in the budget covers an increase in compensation for missionaries on furlough in the states.

"What the board is able to do in the strengthening of missionary compensation depends primarily on additional resources provided by Southern Baptists," Crawley said. It is anticipated that the board will gradually upgrade the level of support provided, he added.

Southern Baptist missionaries in East Pakistan had apparently chosen to remain in Dacca before other foreigners were evacuated Dec. 12, according to John D. Hughey, secretary for Europe and the Middle East.

Hughey has been in recent contact with the missionaries and a U. S. State Department spokesman.

"I admire the missionaries for the courage and devotion which have kept them at their posts," Hughey told the board members. "However, leaving would have meant no lack of courage and devotion, and it might have been prudent to go.

"Now we can only pray that God will protect them and use them for blessing to others at this time of great distress," Hughey said.

Eight couples are assigned to Pakistan, but not all are in the country. An additional couple assigned to East Pakistan has taken a temporary assignment in Taiwan because they could not obtain re-entry visas.

When full-scale war broke out between Indian and West Pakistani forces in East Pakistan recently, Southern Baptist missionaries then in Dacca were the James McKinleys, the Thomas Thurmans, the Troy Bennetts, Howard Teel and Dr. John Freeman.

Dr. Freeman, a physician assigned to Thailand, had gone to Dacca to offer his assistance during the crisis.

Only the Teels have re-entry visas. If the other missionaries leave East Pakistan, they probably will not be able to get back in, Hughey said.

During an evening service following the regular board meeting, four couples were appointed as career missionaries.

They are Mr. and Mrs. Douglas A. Bryant of Moreland, Ga., appointed to Ghana; Mr. and Mrs. Vance C. Kirkpatrick of Ringgold, La., East Africa; Mr. and Mrs. James D. Watson of Round Rock, Tex., Mexico; and Mr. and Mrs. Dickson K. Yagi of Louisville, to Japan.

Employed as missionary associates for a four-year term were Mr. and Mrs. Ray M. Douglas of Fresno, Calif. They are to work in the Dominican Republic.

There are indications that the current upswing in the number of new missionaries being appointed by the board will continue into next year, according to Jesse C. Fletcher, Mission Support Division Director.

Fletcher said that the number of volunteers and candidates in contact with the missionary personnel department is up significantly this year. Twice as many autobiographical life histories have been submitted, he said.

The department's regional representatives also report a resurgence of interest in overseas service among seminary students, Fletcher said.

This year's total of 226 appointees, while below 1969's record 261, is a sharp increase over the 182 appointments in 1970, Fletcher pointed out.

He added that the net gain in the missionary force in 1971 will be about 25, compared to 1970's gain of 11, the lowest in many years. Most missions merely held their own this year, he continued, due to the large number of countries to which missionaries were appointed.

The need for career missionaries continues to be critical, Fletcher said. In light of this, the number of short-term missionary associates being employed has been purposefully reduced since 1969.

The number of openings for associates has stabilized at 25 to 30 per year, he said.

Compared with other appointment years, this year's total of 226 is the third largest in board history, Fletcher noted, but in terms of career missionaries appointed it is about the 10th largest.

Details of a far-ranging trip to Asia and Africa were outlined by Baker J. Cauthen, the board's executive secretary. He and Mrs. Cauthen planned to leave the day after the board meeting, Dec. 15, for Hong Kong where he will speak at the installation of the new president of Hong Kong Baptist College, Daniel C. W. Tse.

The Cauthens also will visit missionaries and nationals in Saigon, Bangkok, Singapore, Bangalore, India, Kenya, Ethiopia, and East Africa.

He said plans to go to East Pakistan have been cancelled due to the war there. They will spend Christmas day in Singapore. The trip to Ethiopia will be the first time the board executive has visited missionaries in that country.

Cauthen will not be able to attend the inauguration of William R. Tolbert Jr., as president of the Republic of Liberia. The board will be represented at the inauguration of the former Baptist World Alliance President to the top government post in Liberia by H. Cornell Goerner, secretary for Africa, and his wife.

The Cauthens expect to return to Richmond early in January.

In other remarks, Cauthen expressed gratitude for the continued high level of contributions by Southern Baptists through the denomination's Cooperative Program. He also told board members that information about the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions "has been stimulating and inspiring."

He said the recent Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions "was reported everywhere to have been of great blessing and significance."



**BAPTIST PRESS**

460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

LYNN MAY HO  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
127 9TH AVE. NO.  
NASHVILLE TN 37203

RECEIVED  
DEC 18 1971  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION, SEC.