



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 Orville Scott, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Gomer Lesch, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203, Telephone (615) 254-5461
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

April 12, 1973

World Baptists Number 33 Million;
 "Community" of 67 Million Estimated

WASHINGTON (BP)--Baptists of the world now number almost 33 million, and the Baptist "communities" of the world are estimated to number almost 67 million, the Baptist World Alliance announced following a country by country survey by Carl W. Tiller, associate secretary and statistician of the organization.

The church membership figure is an increase of nearly 1.4 million from last year's data. At that time the count was 31.4 million; the new figure is 32.8 million.

Church membership for Baptists is limited to persons who make their own affirmative request and commitment as Christian believers. Baptists data is therefore not usually comparable to statistics for some other church bodies, though it roughly resembles "communicant member" data of others, Tillers pointed out.

The Alliance, therefore, has gathered information on the total Baptist community from a number of its member church bodies, and has projected it, continent by continent, to arrive at the 66.9 million total of its world community.

The larger figure includes children in Sunday schools who have not become church members; it also includes some adults who attend church regularly but are not members. This practice is especially noted in some third-world countries, where applicants for membership undergo a long probation period before being accepted, and in some Socialist countries, where the step of becoming a church member is likely to be fraught with political disabilities, Tiller said.

In North America, the Baptist community is estimated to be twice the size of the church membership; in Central America and the Caribbean it is figured at 6.39 times the membership; and in Asia it is limited to 1.77 times the membership, Tiller said.

The Baptists of the world represent one of the most far-flung non-governmental enterprises, Tiller observed. Though their global numbers are exceeded by Roman Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, and Lutherans, the Baptist distribution is in more countries and areas than either of the latter two churches. The BWA figures show Baptists in 105 nations and 23 dependencies.

Most Baptists are in the United States, with a total of 24 million. Second largest number is in India--almost 732,000.

In sequence of size, the other countries with large numbers of Baptists are: the Soviet Union with 535,000; Brazil with 400,800; Burma with 275,008; the United Kingdom with 261,108; and Zaire with 225,100.

A summary, grouped by continental areas, is as follows:

	<u>church members</u>	<u>Baptist community</u>
Africa	652,198	1,206,566
Asia, except Middle East	1,134,476	2,008,023
Central America & Caribbean	234,579	1,498,961
Europe	1,141,214	2,533,495
Middle East	1,369	3,943
North America	29,013,168	58,026,336
Oceania	165,225	348,625
South America	462,169	1,247,856
	<u>32,804,398</u>	<u>66,873,805</u>

-more-

The figures apply both to churches which are affiliated with the Baptist World Alliance and those which are not.

There are 27,303,000 Baptists who are members of church bodies affiliated with the Baptist World Alliance and 5,501,398 Baptists outside the Baptist World Alliance.

-30-

Baptist Book Stores
Consolidate Film Centers

4/12/73

NASHVILLE (BP)--Baptist Film Centers, currently located in 11 Baptist Book Stores, will consolidate their operation the first of May into five film centers located in Atlanta, Louisville, Jackson, Miss.; Charlotte, N.C.; and Arlington, Tex.

"These five locations were selected because they are in geographic areas easily accessible to the largest numbers of Baptist Film Center customers," said W.O. Thomason, director of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Book Store Division.

"This consolidation decision is based on a 1971 survey which showed we can offer much better service this way," Thomason said.

Film rentals are expected to be processed as quick or quicker than before the consolidation, according to Thomason. The new centers will have sufficient films and equipment to handle the business this arrangement will bring them. A training seminar for film center operators and their managers will be offered to improve each center's service, he added.

"With this arrangement we will increase our film inventory while continuing to carry the same types of films," he continued. "We have reviewed our inventory and eliminated some of the least used materials while adding more popular selections."

Films can be ordered by mail, telephone, or a visit to the film center, Thomason said.

-30-

Record Smashing Crusade
Draws Latin Americans

4/12/73

HARLINGEN, Tex. (BP)--Southern Baptist evangelist Richard Hogue has completed an evangelistic Spireno crusade here which is believed to have set a Southern Baptist Convention record for converts in a one-week crusade, sponsored in the Harlingen City Auditorium by First Baptist Church of nearby Rio Hondo, Tex., resulted in 1,769 professions of faith and 1,979 total decisions.

At least 85 per cent of those responding were Latin American teenagers from the surrounding lower Rio Grande Valley area, populated mostly by non-evangelicals.

Hogue, 25, is the young evangelist who two years ago lead a 2 1/2 week Spireno (spiritual Revolution Now) crusade at First Baptist Church, Houston, which resulted in a record 4,200 professions of faith in Christ.

In Harlingen, as usual for a Spireno effort, Hogue spoke during the day in high school assemblies.

He appeared in 17 high school assemblies in the lower Rio Grande Valley area and spoke to about 10,000 students.

The evening crusade services also attracted a total of 10,000 in response to Hogue's hard-hitting, Jesus-oriented gospel messages. The largest single group of first time decisions came on a Friday night, when 147 young people responded.

"During the weeks to come, we hope to visit each convert personally," said Gene Horton, pastor of the 550-member First Baptist Church, Rio Hondo.

-more-

Horton, who said the church sent out up to 14 buses each night to transport people to the crusade, added that the church will "cooperate with other churches in an effort to reach the converts for Baptism."

"The success of the crusade," Horton said, "will depend on how local churches follow-up the converts."

-30-

Texas Education Commission
Offers to Help Professors

4/12/73

PLAINVIEW, Tex. (BP)--The Texas Baptist Christian Education Commission has taken action in its quarterly meeting here to assist faculty members of the University of Corpus Christi who may be jobless when the State of Texas assumes full control of the campus later this year.

The University of Corpus Christi, a Texas Baptist school for more than 20 years, has severed ties with the Baptist General Convention of Texas. The campus will be taken over by the Texas A&I University system and become a state upper level institution.

According to some reports, the Texas A&I System has offered so special assurances that the UCC faculty, including many long-time Baptist professors, will be given first opportunity for teaching positions.

The Texas Baptist Christian Education Commission, which provides liaison with nine Texas Baptist schools, asked commission secretary Woodson Armes of Dallas to contact University of Corpus Christi professors directly to offer continued assistance to those who wish to remain at a Baptist school.

Armes will circulate the names and resumes of any professors who need assistance in relocating.

-30-

Golden Gate Trustees Vote
To Set Up Los Angeles Center

4/12/73

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Trustees of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary here voted to develop a new Los Angeles Center of the seminary as "a giant step toward developing a strategy of theological training combined with the missions and evangelism thrust in the West."

At the same time Golden Gate Seminary President Harold Graves announced receipt of an anonymous gift of \$35,000 as the start of a fund to develop the satellite seminary center in Los Angeles. A goal of \$150,000 has been set for the initial phase of fund raising.

In other major actions, the trustees reinstated the master of church music degree offered by the seminary, adopted a record budget, approved several faculty promotions, adopted a new statement of academic freedom and tenure, and heard a report from the seminary Student Council.

In announcing the \$35,000 gift for the new center in Los Angeles, Graves said the donar told him the satellite seminary would be a "giant step" toward developing a strategy of theological training combined with missions and evangelism.

It is another expression of Golden Gate's desire to meet the need for training leadership for western churches, Graves said. Additional funds for the Los Angeles Center will be solicited from interested donars by trustees and seminary officers, he added.

In other action, the trustees gave full endorsement to reinstating the master of church music degree, which had been temporarily suspended awaiting a new curriculum structure. The first candidates for the degree will be admitted next fall.

-more-

John P. Johnson, head of the Division of Church Music, said there had been a vast shortage of workers in western churches in recent years, and that the new degree would seek to meet that need. Johnson added that the seminary plans to work out cooperative degree plans with California State University at San Francisco and other Bay area schools.

The record budget of \$962,745 for 1973-74 represents an increase of \$47,000 over the previous year's budget. The budget includes a four per cent cost of living increase for faculty members.

In other actions, the trustees promoted Clayton K. Harrop to professor of New Testament, advanced J. Kenneth Eakins from assistant professor to associate professor of Old Testament and archaeology with tenure; and granted tenure to G. Paul Hamm, librarian.

A joint faculty-trustee committee completed the updating of the document stating the Principles of Academic Freedom and Tenure outlining working relationships between the administration and faculty. It was unanimously approved by both faculty and trustees.

The Seminary Student Council, led by William H. Smith of Owensboro, Ky., presented a report giving the trustees a glimpse of their duties and their attitudes toward the seminary and its curriculum.

In an address to the board, trustee chairman H.J. Flanders of Waco, Tex., reviewed the progress during the past 10 years under the leadership of President Graves, and suggested four things required from trustees to accomplish the true destiny of the seminary.

Flanders, professor of religion at Baylor University, called for a master vision for tomorrow, responsible attention to present demands, an unrelenting sense of fraternity, and a continuous prayer for God's guidance.

Flanders asserted that no institution can survive solely on the funds that it gets from its sponsoring agency, and called on trustees to pledge themselves to accomplish the goals and visions of the founding fathers of the seminary.

Flanders was re-elected chairman of the trustees. Other officers elected were E. Glen Paden of Fairfield, Calif.; vice chairman; Charles A. Lassiter of Okemos, Mich., secretary; and Levi W. Price of Lomita, Calif., assistant secretary.

Sabbatic leaves were announced for Richard B. Cunningman, associate professor of philosophy and theology, and Harrop, professor of New Testament. A leave of two quarters was authorized for Miss Geil Davis, associate professor of elementary education.

-30-

27 New Missionaries, New Area
Secretary, Appointed by Board

4/12/73

MOBILE, Ala. (BP)--The appointment of 27 missionaries, election of a new area secretary, a report of record Lottie Moon Christmas Offering funds received for foreign missions, and a call to double the missionary force in South Vietnam were highlights of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board meeting here.

The board also employed 83 persons as missionary journeymen, elected their 12th missionary field representative, and expressed appreciation to Alabama Baptists for hosting the Mobile meeting.

More than 8,000 persons witnessed the evening appointment service at Mobile's Municipal Auditorium. In addition to the appointment and testimonies of missionaries, a missions message was delivered by Baker J. Cauthen, the board's executive secretary.

Following his message, 586 persons responded to a call to Christian commitment.

Appointed as missionaries were 11 couples and five women. They are Mr. and Mrs. Harry T. Bush Jr. of Tampa, Fla., to Indonesia; Mr. and Mrs. J.L. Victor Coleman of Fort Worth, formerly of Edmond, Okla., to Venezuela; Miss Lynn Davis of Houston, to East Africa; Miss Linda Garner of Dallas, to India; Mr. and Mrs. Russell A. Herrington of Louisville, formerly of Scottsboro, Ala., to Costa Rica.

-more-

Also, Mr. and Mrs. Steven P. Hicks of New Orleans, to Mexico; Mr. and Mrs. J. Edwin Horton of Fort Worth, formerly of Rocky Ford, Colo., to East Africa; Mrs. T.W. Hughes of Fort Worth, formerly of Norman, Okla., to West Africa; Mrs. W.J. Jennings of Louisville, formerly of Arlington, Va., to Brazil; Mr. and Mrs. R. Donald Mantooth of Knoxville, to Israel; Mr. and Mrs. Tommy H. Marlowe of Wesson, Miss., to French West Africa.

And Dr. Rebekah Naylor of Dallas, to India; Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Reeves of Kansas City, formerly of Cape Girardeau, Mo., to Trinidad; Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Sims of New Orleans, formerly of Mobile, to Ghana; Mr. and Mrs. R. Clifford Staton Jr. of Greensboro, N.C. to Ethiopia; and Mr. and Mrs. Albert C. Sutton Jr. of Fort Worth, formerly of Henderson, N.C., to Angola.

Elected as area secretary for the recently-created administrative area of Eastern and Southern Africa was Davis L. Saunders, presently on furlough from his assignment as field representative for the area. He will assume the new responsibilities effective June 1.

He and six other area secretaries will administer mission activities in 76 political or geographic entities.

Cauthen told the board that record receipts of \$18,391,411 have already been reported for the 1972 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions.

The goal for the annual offering sponsored each year by the Woman's Missionary Union in Southern Baptist churches was \$18 million. Total receipts for the offering will not be tabulated until the end of April.

The call to double the number of missionaries in South Vietnam came as a resolution from the board's committee on Southeast Asia.

The resolution adopted by the board emphasized spiritual and physical needs of the people, "limitless opportunities" for missionary endeavors, and the agency of capitalizing on existing peaceful conditions for the extension of Christian witness.

The 83 persons approved for employment as missionary journeymen will enter training at Meredith College in Raleigh, N.C., in June. Upon completion of a seven-week training program, those commissioned by the board July 27 will serve two years overseas in specific job assignments alongside career missionaries.

James F. Kirkendall, a missionary to Lebanon for 10 years, was named as the board's field representative for India, Iran and Bangladesh, effective July 1.

A native of Birch Tree, Mo., Kirkendall will provide a personal link between the board and about 25 career missionaries in his three assigned countries. He and his family will reside in Teheran, Iran.

Porter Routh, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, told a luncheon meeting that the Southern Baptist Convention had met in Mobile 100 years ago. H.A. Tupper, then corresponding secretary for the board, recorded that in 1873 there were 18 foreign missionaries on the field, Routh said. Receipts for the board totalled \$55,000, he added.

This would contrast with today's overseas force of about 2,500 missionaries and 1972 foreign missions receipts of almost \$38 million, Routh said.

Mobile was the first Alabama city to host such a meeting of the Foreign Mission Board. Usually meetings are held at the board's headquarters in Richmond, although they have been held at least once a year for the past four years in another location.

The change in sites is to allow Baptist people to participate more directly in the appointment of missionaries whom they support, according to Jesse Fletcher, director of the Board's Mission Support Division.

With the exception of the appointment service, all of the Mobile sessions were held at Dauphin Way Baptist Church, where board member Jaroy Weber is pastor.