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**World Baptist Growth Over
3 Million in Five Years**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (BP)--The world population of Baptist church members grew 10.7 per cent, a total of 3,176,954 additions between 1968 and 1973, according to a statistical review made at Baptist World Alliance headquarters here.

Five years ago, the number of baptized, communicant members was listed as 29,627,444. At the start of this year, the membership figure was 32,804,398.

North America has led the growth, up 2,600,092 since 1968 to 29,013,168.

Europe alone declined in Baptist membership, dropping 16,218 in five years, down to 1,141,214.

The seven nations where Baptists number more than 200,000 are the same now as five years ago, but ranking within the group has changed.

The USA remains in first place with 28,674,903 Baptists. India has forged upwards from third place to second because of a five-year growth from 545,000 to 731,661.

The Soviet Union dropped to third place in Baptist population, losing 10,000 members since 1968, dropping to 535,000 members.

Growth in Brazil (283,860 to 400,800) and in Burma (222,984 to 275,008) in the five years moved them past the United Kingdom which declined in Baptist membership from 283,860 to 261,106.

Zaire likewise lost from 228,059 to 225,100 and dropped from sixth to seventh place during the same period.

More than 20 nations and dependencies are on the 1973 list which were not on the 1968 list, often the result of missionary activity sponsored by bodies related to the Baptist World Alliance.

These may not all represent the "infinite" growth, which the mathematics indicate, said Carl W. Tiller, staff member who compiled the recent statistics. They may only indicate an omission, in error, from the earlier data.

The country in this group having the largest numbers is Chad, with 15,000, an area served by a mission without BWA affiliation, Tiller said.

The most spectacular growth of Baptists in places which are on both the 1968 and 1973 lists occurred in: Uganda, from 120 to 8,337; Rwanda, from 2,389 to 17,515; Costa Rica, from 947 to 4,698; Indonesia, from 4,886 to 24,041; Malawi, from 3,263 to 14,818; Ethiopia, from 140 to 942.

A large change was also recorded for the Dominican Republic, but is accounted for by the earlier erroneous omission of a church of the Haitian Baptists on the Dominican side of the border.

Highlights of the survey by continent are:

North America: the largest increase 1968-73 was in the United States, 2,568,904.

Europe: major increases were in Sweden, 15,272, and Romania, 10,000. There were also increases in Southern Europe. Large decreases are shown for the United Kingdom, the Soviet

Union, and Hungary. Decreases also took place in many countries in the northern part of the continent.

Africa: thirty-four of 39 countries showed increases during the five-year period. The largest increase was in Nigeria, 37,485. In 14 of the nations and one dependency, the number of Baptists more than doubled.

Asia: large increases in India and Burma offset a decrease caused by dropping mainland China, earlier estimated at 123,000. It has been omitted in 1973 on the premise that the churches there, if still existing, are underground, and no reliable data are therefore available. South Korea, Singapore, and South Vietnam more than doubled their Baptist population.

Middle America: the largest increase was in the Bahamas, 22,345, a nation where the Baptists now outnumber the adherents of all other Christian persuasions. Costa Rica's new figure is more than five times the old. Honduras more than doubled its Baptists. Cuba and Trinidad slipped downwards.

Middle East: this geographical grouping, Baptists' smallest, showed a net gain in each of the six nations listed.

Oceania: all seven jurisdictions having Baptists showed increases over the five-year period, Indonesia and Guam showing the greatest percentage growth. However, there are some island groups without Baptists.

South America: Brazil's spectacular increase of 145,800 led this continent. Every country showed some increase, however. Bolivia, Guyana, and Peru all reported increases of over 100 per cent for the five-year period.

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Caldwell Joins
Sunday School Board

8/7/73

NASHVILLE (BP)--William Gerald Caldwell has joined the church training department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board as an adult consultant.

Caldwell came to the Sunday School Board from Graceville, Fla., where he has served the last four years as a professor at the Baptist Bible Institute.

Earlier he served as minister of education at Cliff Temple Baptist Church, Dallas, from 1966-1969, and held a similar post at Hunter Street Baptist Church, Birmingham, from 1963-1966.

A native of Atlanta, Ga., Caldwell is a graduate of Samford University, Birmingham, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

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Southern Baptist Gifts
Continue To Climb

NASHVILLE (BP)--Gifts to world missions through the Cooperative Program unified budget of the Southern Baptist Convention continued to move upward through July, increasing by \$1.7 million over the same period last year.

With two months remaining in the denomination's fiscal year, SBC officials here are optimistic about reaching the 1972-73 budget goal of \$33,087,882. A 6.09 per cent increase in contributions would be required, they said.

Gifts of Baptist church members through the SBC Cooperative Program through July totaled \$28,069,069.77, an increase of 6.5 per cent over the same period last year. This is an increase of \$1,712,714.74.

John H. Williams, SBC finance planning director, pointed out that the totals for July did not include checks from the Baptist state conventions in Illinois, Florida, Utah-Idaho, and West Virginia. Their checks arrived too late to be counted in the July totals.

Williams expressed confidence in the churches surpassing the \$31,826,184 operating budget for the 19 SBC national agencies, and reaching most, possibly all, of the \$1,261,698 capital needs goal, if current trends continue.

Achieving these goals would leave \$262,500 remaining on a five-year \$5 million capital needs program launched by the denomination in 1969. That amount will be a part of the 1973-74 SBC budget, Williams said.

In addition to the \$28 million in Cooperative Program budget contributions, Southern Baptists likewise gave an equal amount, \$28.2 million, to designated specific mission causes, mostly USA and overseas missions, during the first ten months of the fiscal year.

Designated giving for the period was up \$2,938,162.52 or 11.62 per cent over the same period of the previous budget year, the report indicated.

Combined world missions contributions, including both designations and gifts through the Cooperative Program for the ten-month period totaled \$56,288,855.64, up \$4,637,978.38 or 9.01 per cent over the previous year through July.

For the month of July alone, Cooperative Program contributions were down slightly from July, 1972. Gifts totaled \$2,689,627.89, down \$35,641.80 or 1.31 per cent from July of last year.

July designations, however, were up 23.79 per cent over the same month the previous year, an increase of \$126,733.18 and bringing the 31-day total to \$659,404.93.

Designations and Cooperative Program gifts in July were up 2.8 per cent of \$91,091.38 to a total of \$3,349,032.82.

Figures reported in the monthly tabulations from the SBC Executive Committee here reflect only amounts given to national and world causes of the Southern Baptist Convention and do not include larger amounts given to state and local Baptist mission enterprises.