



# BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Statistical Projections  
Show Banner Year for SBC

Hold For Release Until  
Monday, Dec. 8, 1975

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptist Convention churches experienced another banner year in 1975, according to statistical projections indicating nearly \$1.5 billion in total receipts, more than 79,000 additional members in Sunday School, and the third highest number of baptisms in SBC history.

The preliminary estimates, compiled through reports received from 26,066 out of more than 34,700 Southern Baptist churches, indicate increases in total receipts, Sunday School enrolment, baptisms, church membership, mission expenditures, church music enrolment, Woman's Missionary Union enrolment and Brotherhood enrolment.

The only predicted decrease is in Training Union enrolment. However, the decrease is not as great as it has been the past few years and may indicate a turn-around in enrolment for the organization, Sunday School Board officials said.

The figures, compiled by the SBC Sunday School Board's research services department, should be close to the final official reports to be released in February, 1976, according to Martin B. Bradley, department manager.

At the time the projections were computed, about 8,700 churches had not reported, Bradley said.

Projected baptisms show an increase of two percent for a total of 418,692, the third highest number in SBC history. This marks the fifth consecutive year in which baptisms have exceeded 400,000. The convention has exceeded that mark only nine times in its 130 year history: three times in the 1950's, once in the 1960's, and five times in the last five years.

It's projected that church membership has continued to increase to a total of 12,716,095 members--a 1.6 percent increase, reflecting a gain of 200,253.

Total financial receipts continued to increase in 1975, according to church reports. Projections indicate a 10 percent gain, resulting in a total of \$1,477,296,756. This would be an increase of more than \$134 million over last year's figure.

Mission expenditures are expected to increase nine percent, gaining nearly \$20 million for a total of \$239,134,043.

Sunday School enrolment is expected to add 79,099 members in 1975 for a total of 7,269,928. This projected figure includes the highest number of "new" Sunday School members since 1961. In 1972, Sunday School experienced its first gain in seven years and has continued to increase since that time.

According to projections, church music enrolment climbed by 45,642 members in 1975 for a 3.5 percent increase and total of 1,349,710. This marks the 10th straight year that church music enrolment has shown a gain. Church music has gained over 477,000 members in that 10-year period for a yearly average of 47,700.

As reported by SBC churches, Training Union enrolment appears to be slowing its decreasing enrolment trend. The 1975 ongoing enrolment projections, which do not include new member, leader training, or short term member training registration, showed a 1.4 percent decrease compared to 2.3 percent decrease last year and a 4.6 percent loss in 1973. Training Union enrolment decreased by 26,670 members in 1975. The projected ongoing enrolment in Training Union is 1,878,316.

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WMU enrolment is expected to increase for the second straight year following 10 years of decrease. The statistics indicate that WMU gained 13,382 members--1.2 percent--for a total of 1,128,531.

Brotherhood enrolment is expected to increase 3.4 percent. A gain of 15,664 Brotherhood members is projected for a total enrolment of 476,377.

The preliminary figures were reached by computing the actual reports of 26,066 churches and then projecting, through statistical means, the expected reports from the remaining 8,700 churches, said Bradley.

Weighting factors were added to give an acceptable degree of accuracy to these projected figures for planning and decision-making purposes in the denomination, he concluded.

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BWA Approves Funds for USSR  
Bibles, Evangelism Timetable

Baptist Press  
12/4/75

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)--The Baptist World Alliance (BWA) Executive Committee outlined a five-year timetable for its new division of evangelism and education, and approved funds for shipment of 3,000 Bibles to the USSR, during a meeting here on the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary campus.

C. Ronald Goulding, BWA associate secretary in London, said the division of evangelism and education will serve as a center for inspiration, cooperation, and resources for Baptists of 141 countries. Goulding will move to the BWA headquarters in Washington, D. C., in 1976 to direct the division, which will need \$45,000 a year to operate.

The committee approved a transfer of the BWA European office from London to some city in Germany in October 1976 when Gerhard Claas of West Germany replaces Goulding as BWA associate secretary in Europe.

Goulding reported that the Department of Religious Affairs of the USSR has granted permission for importation of 3,000 German-language Bibles in cooperation with the United Bible Societies from Brussels, Belgium, to Estonia, USSR. The BWA Relief Committee voted to give \$3,000 toward the cost of the Bibles.

The committee also voted to fund half the cost, or \$90,000, of replacing a Baptist church building in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia. The committee agreed to apply BWA relief funds to, and appeal for new contributions for, necessary renovation of a Baptist church in Chelm Lubelski, Poland; a roof for a church in Budapest, Hungary; an evangelism bus for the Polish Baptist Union; and Christmas parcels for pastors in countries with poverty level ministerial salaries.

"New persons for a new world through Jesus Christ" is the proposed theme of the first five years of the new evangelism and education division. The 1977-78 emphasis will be "A people renewed through Bible study," and "A people renewed for witness and service" will be the 1978-79 follow-up. The 1979-80 emphasis ("Into all the world: a church renewed for mission; people renewed for evangelism") will climax with the 14th Baptist World Congress in July 1980 at Toronto, Canada.

The Wake Forest meeting was the fourth time the BWA Executive Committee (formerly Administrative Subcommittee) has met outside the BWA headquarters city of Washington to introduce the leaders and work of the Alliance to more areas of the country. About 350 North Carolinians attended a BWA rally at the First Baptist Church of Raleigh, hosted by the General Baptist State Convention and the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Goulding and Claas briefed BWA leaders on European Baptist work. The European Baptist Federation will meet in "socialist" countries for the first time in 1976 when its Executive meets March 24-28 at Moscow, USSR, and when its Council meets September 17-20 at Budapest.

Baptists of Germany, Canada, Australia, and Jamaica, and most of the BWA representatives from the USA, experienced their first "Pig Picking" when Southeastern Seminary President W. Randall Lolley hosted an outdoor pork roast at his campus home.

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CBS President to Address  
Abe Lincoln Awards Banquet

FORT WORTH (BP)--Arthur R. Taylor of New York, president of CBS, will be the featured speaker at the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission's seventh annual Abe Lincoln Awards to distinguished broadcasters.

The awards ceremony will be part of a dinner and musical performance at Tarrant County Convention Center, February 12, 1976. This year's event will observe a Bicentennial theme.

Taylor was elected president and a director of CBS in 1972. Under his leadership the network proposed and adopted the family viewing concept for prime time television.

The family viewing concept provides that stations and networks subscribing to the television code of the National Association of Broadcasters will refrain from broadcasting shows "inappropriate for viewing by general family audiences" during the first two evening prime time hours. Occasional exceptions with warning advisory announcements are permitted.

"We at CBS knew when we proposed family viewing that, as an innovative step in a complex area, it would present us with difficulties and challenges and it has," Taylor said.

"Nevertheless, we believe that family viewing has already made a major contribution to the public welfare."

Paul M. Stevens, commission president, who established the Abe Lincoln Awards in 1970, said, "We feel Mr. Taylor's recognition that television entertainment has major responsibilities affecting millions of people makes him an outstanding choice for speaker."

The Abe Lincoln Awards were created to encourage broadcasters by giving them deserved recognition for the positive role they already play in their contributions to the quality of life in America, both as individual citizens and as representatives of the industry, according to commission officials.

In 1974, Frank Stanton, former CBS president, called the Abe Lincoln Awards "a serious recognition of excellence that is bound to increase and focus attention on doing a better job."

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(BP) Photo will be mailed to state Baptist papers.

Ann Criswell Jackson--  
She Sings a New Song

By Nancy Carter

LOUISVILLE (BP)--W.A. Criswell's daughter says she does not have the faith of her famous minister father.

Shocked? Don't be. Ann Criswell Jackson, a concert vocalist whose father is pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas, the world's largest Southern Baptist church, has her own personal faith in Jesus Christ.

That faith came about after years of bitterness, hate and alienation from the church, but not from her parents, she said.

Her resultant belief and life in Christ gave the "San Francisco-New York-Dallas operatic trained gospel singer" something to sing about, she noted during an interview at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

She explained the irony of someone steeped in Christian teachings and upbringing, hitting that "bottom rung" before finding God as a young adult.

"...Most of my life I was what I was because of who my parents were, but that's no longer true," she said. One experience that contributed to her eventual depression and disillusionment with Christianity resulted from a divorce from her first husband, when she was 20 years old.

"At that time it wasn't the most kosher thing to divorce. And there were people who knifed me good. Some people didn't even want me to sing religious songs. And that's when I decided, 'All right, if you don't want me, I don't want you.'"

Mrs. Jackson gave herself completely to her singing career, until she "encountered Jesus Christ" in San Francisco. But during those years of rejecting Christianity, she recalled, it never occurred to her to reject her parents as well. "I just never thought of it that way," she said.

Her relationship to Jesus Christ had to come on a one-to-one basis...I had totally left the church at that time," until San Francisco. "I couldn't have cared less, and I had stayed that way for about eight years...I realized that if I kept on the way I was going, I would literally destroy myself...I just said, 'Help.'"

"And God responded, although it took time. I had done a whole lot of damage to myself, and I had a whole lot of hate...I'm just now to the place where I can be completely relaxed with the whole thing," she added.

Having Criswell a former Southern Baptist Convention president, as a father has been a help and a hindrance, she noted.

"It has been advantageous in that I'm not a total unknown since I have his name. But it's a disadvantage because some people are jealous of that name and what he's done. Strangely enough, a lot of them are preachers.

"He has quite a few definite views about things, and a lot of people disagree with him. So it's been a disadvantage in that sense."

Mrs. Jackson said she was never around her father much because of his constant day-night schedule as a denominational leader and pastor. She is feeling closer to him these days. At Southern Seminary, she gave a concert and sang during a week of services for which he was guest speaker.

"Since I've started singing with him, I'm the closest I've ever been to him. People ask me, 'Don't you feel resentful that you didn't have a father?' It never occurred to me. If God calls you, there are some sacrifices you've got to make.

"There are some pastors who have told me, 'I couldn't give up my family.' Well, he (Criswell) didn't give up his family. Just because he's not there bodily to eat eggs in the morning and steak at dinner doesn't mean he gave us up," she stressed.

Now married to a Dallas surgeon, Ken Jackson, who is also a concert pianist, Mrs. Jackson feels she has gained acceptance of herself and her music. She and Jackson met when he accompanied her in a program over five years ago.

"Music means everything to me," she said. "I'm not a housewife and am not particularly domestic. I asked the Lord, 'If you ever have me to remarry, please make it someone who loves my music.' And he (Jackson) does," she beamed.