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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Evangelistic Efforts Result  
 In 662 Decisions in Brazil

By Roberta Hampton

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (BP)--Two intensive evangelistic efforts sponsored by the Brazilian Baptist Home Mission Board during December and January resulted in 662 decisions for Christ registered.

More than 140 young people, pastors and missionaries participated in Operation Transcaterinense I and Operation Transtotal III.

The Transtotal project was carried out for the third consecutive year. Workers covered more than 1,200 kilometers on the Trans-Amazon and Cuiaba-Santarem highways in Equatorial Brazil.

At the same time, the Transcaterinense (across the state of Santa Catarina) workers were concentrating in six cities in the state during this urban evangelistic effort. Transtotal was carried out in a rural setting.

During Transcaterinense I, about 80 young people divided into teams of 13 to 16. They worked with pastors for the state as supervisors in each city during the six weeks of the project.

Many responded to the teams' efforts in this difficult field for evangelism. Approximately 1,200 decisions were registered. Of these, 552 are considered conversion experiences and others a demonstration of real interest in knowing more about the gospel.

More than 5,200 homes were reached by the census, 690 home Bible studies and worship services conducted, 60 Vacation Bible Schools held and 68 radio programs produced, according to Southern Baptist Missionary Ronald N. Boswell, who coordinated the efforts.

Mrs. Iolanda Campos Soares and her daughter, Sandra, each received Christ as their Savior after an encounter with Transcaterinense participants in a Chapeco City bus. For several years, Mrs. Soares had a Bible as a part of an encyclopedia set but had never read it. After talking with the young people on the bus, she started reading the Bible and anxiously awaited their promised visit to her house.

"How can I find God?", Mrs. Soares asked a student from the Woman's Missionary Union Training School in Rio de Janeiro. The student was able to lead Mrs. Soares to a knowledge of God and acceptance of his son as her Savior. The following Sunday, mother and daughter were in Sunday School to learn more about how to serve and obey Christ.

The six cities which were the targets of Transcaterinense I now have at least one full-time Brazilian Baptist carrying on the work. The second and third phases of Operation Transcaterinense are scheduled for 1978 and 1979.

Transtotal III workers engaged in follow-up work along the Trans-Amazon Highway and in Humaita. They also participated in a penetration effort on the Cuiaba-Santarem Highway where 110 decisions were registered.

Another evangelistic effort similar to Transtotal and Transcaterinense is planned for the northeast state of Paraiba next December and January, according to Samuel Mitt, executive director of the Brazilian Home Mission Board.

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Roberta Hampton is a Southern Baptist Missionary stationed in Brazil.  
 (BP) Photos mailed to Baptist state papers.

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SBC Executive Committee  
Proposes \$63.4 million Budget

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Executive Committee voted here to recommend a \$63.4 million total national Cooperative Program unified budget for 1977-78, an 8.4 million increase over 1976-77.

The budget, which includes \$8,320,000 in "bold advance" funds above basic operating and capital needs of the Southern Baptist Convention agencies' worldwide missions efforts, will be voted on by messengers to the SBC annual meeting in Kansas City in June.

The basic operating budget of \$54 million would be divided as follows: Foreign Mission Board, \$26,000,000; Home Mission Board, \$10,252,965; Southwestern Seminary, \$3,427,050; Radio and Television Commission, \$2,750,000; Southern Seminary, \$2,616,704; New Orleans Seminary, \$1,938,163; Southeastern Seminary, \$1,856,910; Midwestern Seminary, \$1,169,124; Golden Gate Seminary \$1,120,584; SBC Operating Budget, \$536,000; Brotherhood Commission, \$522,500; Christian Life Commission, \$355,000; Education Commission, \$250,000; Annuity Board, \$250,000; Stewardship Commission, \$250,000; Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, \$220,000; Historical Commission, \$200,000; Southern Baptist Foundation, \$147,500; American Seminary, \$137,500.

Capital needs funds of \$1,080,000 would be divided among Southwestern Seminary, \$673,300; Southern Seminary, \$250,000; Golden Gate Seminary, \$100,000; and Radio and Television Commission, \$56,700. The Executive Committee voted to appoint a committee of six from its membership to make proposals by January, 1978, for a new capital needs program to begin with the Cooperative Program budget year of 1978-79. The original capital needs budget plan was approved by the Southern Baptist Convention in June of 1974. Capital needs are distributed after the basic operating budget is met and before any advance funds are allocated.

Whatever portion of the bold advance funds are received above the basic operating and capital needs budgets will be prorated among the agencies, as well as the SBC Operating Budget, which includes operating costs of the SBC Executive Committee, cost of the SBC annual meeting and other items, including contributions to the Baptist World Alliance (BWA). The committee approved the Executive Committee and the BWA sharing 15 percent of any bold advance funds for the SBC Operating Budget in 1977-78.