



# BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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### Southern Baptists Begin Work in 89th Country

RICHMOND (BP)--Southern Baptists have begun work in their 89th country--Martinique, a small independent island-nation in the Caribbean.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Shehane, Southern Baptist missionaries to Guadeloup, another island-nation near Martinique, transferred to the new mission field in October.

Charles W. Bryan, the board's secretary for Middle America and the Caribbean, said Southern Baptists have been looking toward the opening of work in Martinique since 1961. At that time, an extensive survey of the Caribbean recommended that work be started on this large and prosperous island, a part of the French West Indies.

At one point, a missionary was appointed to that area, but he came to feel he was better suited to open up work in Guadeloupe, Bryan noted. A recent increase in personnel on Guadeloupe made it possible for the Shehanes to move to Martinique. Shehane, a pastor on Guadeloupe since 1974, made his own survey of Martinique and "felt the time had come to begin new work," Bryan said.

Chief industry of the mountainous island, which has 385 square miles and an approximate population of 350,000, is the exportation of sugar and tropical fruits. French is spoken by most, and the population is of mixed origin, including descendants of French Indochinese immigrants. Located in the east Caribbean as part of the Windward Islands, Martinique became part of the French republic in 1790 and gained overseas department status in 1946.

Bryan sees the next priority for Southern Baptist work in the Caribbean as French Guiana and Haiti. "We have a goal of having a Southern Baptist missionary in Haiti by 1979," he said.

Southern Baptists are serving in every geographical area of Middle America, and only four islands--Cuba, French Guiana, Haiti and Dutch Antilles--are not served by a Southern Baptist mission (organization of missionaries) in the Caribbean, Bryan said.

He described Southern Baptist growth in Middle America and the Caribbean as "unbelievable," noting that in the past 10 years people in the Caribbean have "become more aware of themselves and their role in the world, of the developing of nations in the world, and the third world powers. This affects our work," he said. "People are looking for a new way of life. The gospel, proclaimed by Baptists, gives them this opportunity."

Women Ordination Favored  
For Non-Pastoral Roles

By Judy Touchton

ATLANTA (BP)--Although most Southern Baptists disapprove of women in pastoral roles, a 1977 survey shows, a majority favor ordaining women for other areas of service.

Of the 389 Southern Baptists sampled by Home Mission Board research assistant Clay Price, three of every four would approve ordination of women for ministry in religious education, youth work and social ministries.

But by the same margin the survey shows Southern Baptists do not feel women can fulfill pastoral roles effectively and do not approve of women serving as ministers.

The survey included 83 pastors, 56 Woman's Missionary Union directors, 78 Sunday School teachers and 172 church members. About half the questionnaires were answered by males, half by females. Nearly all the respondents are married and in the 30 to 60 age bracket.

The survey also shows Southern Baptists to be about five years behind the general American population in attitudes about the role of women in society, as compared with 1970 and 1975 Harris surveys published in "Current Opinion."

Price's survey results closely match the 1970 survey results on four statements about the roles of women in society. The 1975 Harris survey showed a more open attitude toward women in other than traditional roles.

On another question nearly two-thirds of the respondents said attitudes toward women in the ministry will change significantly within the next 25 years.

Price said he undertook this project because the women's issue comes up so many different ways in Southern Baptist life, such as tensions about the ordination of women, the enrollment increase of women in theology schools and the upcoming national Consultation of women in Church Related Vocations, set for January 1978 in Nashville under the sponsorship of the Southern Baptist Convention's Inter-Agency Council (participation by invitation).

"These factors point up to the need for information on the attitudes of Southern Baptists toward women entering traditional male roles," Price said.

Price also was motivated by the Home Mission Board study about a year ago which found that only approximately 10 percent of the available missionary positions (counting couples as one position) are filled by women.

"If women are interested in becoming missionaries and, not a whole lot of women are in these jobs, what are the attitudes affecting women filling these roles?" Price wondered. "And what is the likelihood these attitudes will change?"

Several questions on the survey came directly from a similar survey of European Baptists' attitudes toward women. "There's a lot of difference in the responses," Price said. "Apparently in Europe women are more accepted in ministry roles than here."

The survey also included some original questions dealing with deacons and ordination. Price said one-third of the respondents were open to women serving as deacons.

A full report of the survey will be included in Price's master's thesis on the attitudes of Southern Baptists about women in the ministry.

**SBC Cooperative Program  
Enters 1977-78 Slowly**

NASHVILLE (BP)--After a strong finish at the close of the 1976-77 fiscal year, the Southern Baptist Convention's national Cooperative Program unified budget began the 1977-78 year slowly.

Undesignated Cooperative Program receipts for October, the first month in the new fiscal year, totaled \$4,345,905, only 2.96 percent ahead of \$4,221,121 contributed during the same month last year.

Total contributions, including another \$421,373 in designated contributions, amount to \$4,767,278--about one-half of a percent above last year's figure at the same point.

The 1977-78 Cooperative Program goal is \$63,400,000, or \$8,400,000 higher than the 1976-77 goal. That figure includes \$55,080,000 in basic operating and capital needs for the world missions program of SBC agencies and an additional \$8,320,000 in challenge funds for unmet world missions needs.

National Cooperative Program receipts, channeled through the office of Timothy Hedquist, director of financial planning and assistant to the executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee, amount to about one third of the funds received by state Baptist conventions. The amount received by state conventions is about one tenth of the contributions from more than 35,000 Southern Baptist churches across the U. S.

Southern Baptists have been challenged to double total Cooperative Program contributions (including both state and national levels) by 1982 and then double twice more by the end of the century to fulfill the denomination's Bold Mission Thrust goal to proclaim the message of Christ to the entire world by the year 2000.

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N. Y. Baptists Vote Georgia  
Connection, Oppose 'Soap'

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ALBANY, N. Y. (BP)--Registered "messengers" to the Baptist Convention of New York voted here to establish a "sister-state relationship" with Georgia Southern Baptists and passed a resolution on television violence and morality during their eighth annual meeting

In other action, the Southern Baptists from New York state, north New Jersey and a portion of Connecticut voted a \$1,152,373 budget for 1978 and elected Ron Madison, pastor of Terrill Road Baptist Church, Scotch Plains, N. J., as president.

In the "sister-state relationship" with the Baptist Convention of the State of Georgia, Georgia Baptists will channel resources to help in developing the New York convention, which began in 1969 and is one of the newer "pioneer" conventions where Southern Baptists have work. Searcy Garrison, executive secretary for Georgia Baptists, who was present for the meeting, will work with Jack Lowndes, executive director for New York Baptists, in implementing the proposal.

The television resolution called on the ABC-TV network to withdraw the controversial "Soap" series, which has drawn widespread condemnation, and asked other networks withdraw objectionable programs.

Another resolution, on conservation, urged members of churches to develop simple lifestyles and asked Congress to pass and enforce laws to conserve natural resources.

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Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Jimmy Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Tex., urged New York convention Baptists actively to search for volunteers for the SBC's new Mission Service Corps, which seeks to place 5,000 volunteers for one or two years service on home and foreign mission fields by 1982. He also challenged the convention to use such volunteers as part of the SBC's Bold Mission Thrust effort to proclaim the message of Christ to the entire world by the year 2000.

The budget, the convention's second \$1 million-plus budget, includes a goal of \$307,501 in Cooperative Program receipts from state convention churches, with 19 percent (up one percent from last year) of that going for worldwide causes of the SBC.

The 1978 convention is set for Nov. 2-4 in Rochester, N. Y.

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Homosexual Motion Creates  
Stir Among Miami Baptists

By Adon Taft

Baptist Press  
11/2/77

MIAMI (BP)--A report saying that homosexuals "will still be homosexuals...after experiencing the forgiveness of God and new life" set off fireworks at the annual meeting of the Miami Baptist Association here.

Registered "messengers" from 76 churches and 41 missions overwhelmingly voted to delete that portion of the report on Baptist work among singles prepared by Dale D. Burton, pastor of the Northeast Baptist Church. Only Burton voted to retain it.

Jimmy L. Brookins moved to omit that reference, noting there are homosexuals in the Stanton Memorial Northshore Baptist Church, where he is the pastor. "We know it, and they know it," he said. "We love them, but we cannot condone their lifestyle."

Another messenger questioned Burton's conclusion that homosexuals do not change after a conversion experience. "What can be learned in sin, can be unlearned in Christ," he said.

Burton, who agreed that homosexuality is learned, nevertheless held his ground. He did not condone homosexual activity, but said homosexuals must struggle to live a celibate life after becoming Christians. "They will be like everyone else, overcoming the lust of the flesh but without an acceptable means of satisfaction such as marriage," he said.

The association accepted six new churches into its membership, the largest number ever received by the organization in a single year. Five of the six congregations are made up predominantly of Hispanic or black people.

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