

**(BP)****BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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78-152

**10-Year Planning Yields  
Dramatic Growth Rate**

By Jennifer Hall

**RICHMOND, Va. (BP)**--In 10 years, work related to Southern Baptist missionaries in Middle America and the Caribbean has taken a dramatic step forward--in some cases attaining 1980 objectives two years early.

Missionary statistics have grown from 186 serving in 11 countries to 353 in 25 countries, according to Charles W. Bryan, area secretary for Middle America and the Caribbean for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The original goal was 350 missionaries in 25 countries of that area of the world by the end of 1980.

In the meantime, other statistics--including growth in churches, mission points, Sunday School enrollment and church membership--have doubled and even tripled.

Bryan attributes the surge of growth to a 1973 planning session with missionaries representing their areas. "We planned a workshop--looking for direction in discussing needs and priorities. Instead we had a spiritual experience. We came out feeling as if we'd been to a spiritual retreat and we were equipped to carry out our work by objectives and goals," Bryan stated. "That has continued to the present."

The message of "planning to grow," as Bryan termed it, also had bearing on growth on the field. "Deliberate plans and actions were made to encourage Baptist leaders and churches on the field to accept and practice New Testament stewardship," said Bryan.

That accounts for the 203 percent jump--tripling from 298 to 903--in self-supporting churches.

The top growth rates include Sunday School enrollment, up 169 percent from 35,518 to 94,902. Baptist churches related to the service of missionaries in the area more than doubled, increasing from 544 to 1,120, as did church membership from 52,730 to 109,802, and mission points from 507 to 1,223.

How does the future look for Middle America and the Caribbean?

"The next 10 years," said Bryan, "will produce more mature national leadership and the results will be dramatic both in terms of numerical and spiritual growth."

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Arkansas Baptists  
Assist Flood VictimsBaptist Press  
9/19/78

**LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP)**--Pulaski County Southern Baptists have joined an interdenominational and community agency committee to distribute relief items to flood victims.

Little Rock Flood Relief-United Way has received \$50,000 from the United Way of Pulaski County and \$10,000 from the Catholic Diocese of Little Rock, along with non-perishable items to distribute to victims of the flash flood that took at least eight lives and caused \$25 million damage, Sept. 13.

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**S. B. C. HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Charles Ashcraft, executive secretary of the Arkansas State Baptist Convention, urged Baptists to help in the flood relief. "Since one-fourth of all Arkansans are Baptist, it's likely that one-fourth of the flood victims are Baptist," he said, encouraging them to help all victims.

Several Baptist churches suffered heavy water damage. Others were utilized as shelters for victims. Highland Heights Baptist Church, Benton, held persons evacuated from a subdivision threatened by a dam authorities feared would break.

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Two Baptist Documentaries  
Scheduled for CBS and NBC

Baptist Press  
9/19/78

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Two Baptist documentaries will run on network television in October and November.

"Youth in Profile," a one-hour documentary about young people, who they are and what they think, will run on NBC at 5 p.m., EST, Nov. 5. It was produced by NBC in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

"A River to the Sea," a half-hour documentary produced by the Radio and Television Commission for release in its 1979 "Human Dimension" series will premier as a segment of CBS Television's long-running "Look Up and Live" series at 10:30 a.m., EST, Oct. 29.

The CBS series, which soon will be phased out, along with the long-running "Lamp Unto My Feet" series, to make way for a new format of religious programming on CBS, is in its 25th year.

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Tennessee Baptists  
Elect Tom Madden

Baptist Press  
9/19/78

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. (BP)--Tom J. Madden was elected unanimously by the 100-member executive board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention to succeed Ralph Norton as executive secretary-treasurer.

Madden, 59, director of convention ministries for the convention since 1976, will assume office, Jan. 1, 1979, succeeding Norton, who will retire Dec. 31 because of the convention's current mandatory retirement age of 65. Norton, who will be 65 in November, has served as the top executive for Tennessee Baptists since 1973.

Madden joined the Tennessee convention staff after a 22-year pastorate of First Baptist Church, Tullahoma, Tenn. He has also served as pastor of other churches in Tennessee, Oklahoma and Texas and taught Bible and served as Baptist Student Union director at Arlington (Tex.) State College, now the University of Texas at Arlington.

A native of Enid, Okla., Madden has served as president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and in a number of positions at local, associational, state and national Southern Baptist levels. He currently serves on the board of the Southern Baptist Foundation and the Southern Baptist Education Commission and previously served as a member of the denomination's Executive Committee and Christian Life Commission.

Madden is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, received a master of theology degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and did additional graduate work at Southwestern and at Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

He is married to the former Edna Parker, of Jackson, Miss., and has two children.

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(BP) Photo mailed to state Baptist papers.

\$12,000 Sent To Assist  
Quake Victims in Iran

TEHERAN, Iran (BP)--The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has sent \$12,000 in relief funds to aid victims of the severe Sept. 16 earthquake which left more than 15,000 Iranians dead and thousands of others injured or homeless.

James F. Kirkendall, field representative for India, Iran and Bangladesh, phoned the board's home office in Richmond, Va., to report that an Iranian representative was surveying the disaster area. On the basis of his recommendations, the Iranian missionaries will make decisions on use of the relief money in consultation with Iranian Baptist leaders.

The earthquake, which measured 7.7 on the Richter Scale, occurred in northeastern Iran. It was the strongest to hit any area of the earth this year.

Kirkendall, who lives in Teheran, said there was no effect on missionaries or their work, centered in three cities of northern and western Iran. But he said some tremors were felt in Esfahan, about 300 miles west of Tabas, the worst-hit city. Missionaries have some work in Esfahan.

James W. Cecil, associate consultant for laymen overseas, said in Richmond that the board has no plans at this time to send any volunteer personnel to the quake disaster scene. He said the Iranian government has made no requests for outside aid.

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World Hunger Gifts Increase  
After Convention Emphasis

Baptist Press  
9/19/78

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Southern Baptists' giving to world hunger more than doubled after the denomination's observance of World Hunger Day, Aug. 2.

During August, Southern Baptists gave \$117,785 to world hunger compared to last year's August total of \$46,865. This figure does not reflect the total increase, according to John R. Cheyne, associate to the consultant on hunger relief and disaster response for the SBC Foreign Mission Board, because some churches did not plan to observe World Hunger days until September or October.

A total of \$510,100 has been received for hunger so far in 1978. An additional \$90,000 has been received for general relief.

The primary purpose of World Hunger Day was to increase Southern Baptists' awareness of the problem, Cheyne said. "In making preparation for World Hunger Day this office was deluged with requests as churches became involved in researching the world hunger situation as never before," he added.

Many have written to say they don't want this to be a one-time effort, but want to make their response a continuing one, Cheyne said.

"One of the reasons for not wanting World Hunger Day to be an appeal for an offering is that with an offering people would be satisfied they had done what was expected of them," Cheyne said. "New awareness brings continuing, instead of one-time efforts.

For example, he noted, one church has committed its regular Sunday evening offering to world hunger.

A Convocation on World Hunger, the first to be held in the Southern Baptist Convention, is being planned for Nov. 20-22 at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center near Asheville, N.C. It is designed to stimulate awareness of the world hunger problem, to share information on hunger-related activities of SBC agencies and to provide opportunities for an exchange of ideas.

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Satellite Time Purchased  
For "At Home with the Bible"

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Two Southern Baptist agencies have joined forces to purchase weekly satellite time to distribute television programming through 350 cable systems covering all 50 states.

Beginning Sunday, Oct. 8, "At Home with the Bible" will air on 30 minutes of the one hour of time purchased by the Sunday School Board and the Radio and Television Commission. The second half hour will feature varied programs produced by the commission.

"At Home with the Bible," a weekly program jointly produced by the two agencies, includes Bible study, music and interviews. It will also begin airing in October on approximately 15 television and seven radio stations.

The decision to purchase the satellite time came after considerable research to learn which satellite transmissions are picked up by the largest number of cable systems and thus have the potential for reaching the most homes, said W. C. Woody, vice president of special projects at the Radio and Television Commission.

"This is the most inexpensive way to reach a potential 1.5 million homes," said Woody, adding that the actual viewing audience will be considerably smaller.

"At Home with the Bible" will air nationwide Sundays beginning at 9 a.m. EST on the Home Box Office channel.

"The Home Box Office channel is an intensely promoted channel," Woody said. He said any person who receives cable television in his home can find out if he will receive the satellite transmission by calling the cable manager and asking if they receive the Home Box Office channel.

In addition, "At Home with the Bible" will be shown on approximately 1,000 cable systems which have connections to the commercial stations on which time has been purchased.

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(BP) Photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by the Sunday School Board Bureau of Baptist Press.

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Mars Hill College  
Receives \$1,000,000

Baptist Press  
9/19/78

MARS HILL, N.C. (BP)--J. Wesley Grayson of Laguna Hills, Calif., has donated \$1,000,000 to Mars Hill (N.C.) College, the largest gift in the 122-year history of the Baptist college. Mars Hill President Fred Bentley said the money will be used to establish the Grayson Scholarship Endowment, out of which the college will offer \$4,000 scholarships to outstanding high school students who graduate in the upper 10 percent of their class.

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