



-- BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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March 21, 1979

79-46

One Fourth of SBC Churches
Baptized 1 or Less in 1978

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--While 14 Southern Baptist churches baptized 300 or more persons in 1978, another 8,999--or 25.7 percent of the reporting churches--baptized one or less.

Meanwhile, 15,237 churches (43.5 percent), baptized 2 to 9,973 (28.5 percent) baptized 10 to 49 and 613 (1.8 percent) baptized 50 to 99.

Southern Baptist churches baptized 336,050 persons last year. That figure represents a drop of 9,640 over 1977's baptisms, which, in turn, was 38,806 lower than 1976 figures. Statistics are based on 34,989 reporting churches out of 35,404.

The 25.7 percent with one or less baptisms is made up of 6,191 churches (3,188 with 100 or more members), which baptized none, and 2,808 (2,046 with 100 or more members), which baptized only one.

On the upper end of the baptism spectrum, only 167 churches (less than one half of one percent) baptized 100 or more, according to statistics on the SBC's Uniform Church Letter, but statistics also show that 21,525 (61.5 percent) have 299 or fewer members.

Statistics also reveal that 66 churches out of 183 with 3,000 or more members had 100 or more baptisms in 1978.

First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla., the SBC's second largest congregation, with 12,217 members, led the denomination in baptisms, with 1,012. In fact, seven of the SBC's 10 largest congregations appear in the 14 churches with 300 or more baptisms. The 10 largest congregations range from 7,572 to 20,045 in size.

The Oklahoma church is followed by First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla. (the SBC's eighth largest), with 915 baptisms; North Phoenix (Ariz.) Church (ninth largest), 716; San Jacinto Church, Amarillo, Texas, 662; Bellevue Church, Memphis, Tenn. (fifth largest), 496; Eastwood Church, Tulsa, Okla., 476; First Church, Houston, Texas (third largest), 456; First Church, Dallas (the largest), 436; Crescent City Church, Metairie, La., 332; First Church, Orlando, Fla., 331; Dauphin Way Church, Mobile, Ala. (10th largest), 329; Broadway Church, Memphis, Tenn., 311; Northwest Church, Miami, Fla., 308; and Allendale Church, Austin, Texas, 305.

Twenty other churches baptized 200 to 299. They include First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas (the SBC's sixth largest), where SBC President Jimmy R. Allen serves as pastor, with 225 baptisms, and First Baptist Church, Amarillo, Texas (seventh largest), with 203 baptisms.

Other breakdowns include 23 churches, with 150 to 199 baptisms; 22 churches, with 125 to 149 baptisms; and 88 churches, with 100 to 124 baptisms. The latter category includes the SBC's fourth largest church, First Baptist Church, Lubbock, Texas, with 122 baptisms.

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION
ANNUAL MEETING

Civic Center Music Hall
Houston, Texas

June 10-11, 1979

THEME: "Go Quickly and Tell"

Sunday Afternoon, June 10, 3:00

Bold Mission Thrust Rally

Concert: Singing Men of Southeast Texas with orchestra accompaniment, Thad Roberts, Jr.,
South Main Baptist Church, Houston, TX, director

Theme Interpretation: Go Quickly...Now

Prayer Calendar: Mrs. James Putman, home missionary, Conroe, TX
W. C. Ruchti, Jr., foreign missionary, Rome, Italy

Flag Processional

Commitment to Praying for Missionaries

Hymns: "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord"; "The Church's One Foundation"

Message: William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer, Home Mission Board, Atlanta, GA

Missions Cluster: Directed by Louis R. Cobbs, secretary for missionary personnel,
Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, VA, and Donald W. Rhymes, director, department
of missionary personnel, Home Mission Board, Atlanta, GA

"My Church...My Call"

Mrs. Audley Hamrick, home missionary, Cubero, NM; Claudio Iglesias, home
missionary, Albuquerque, NM; M. Giles Fort Jr., foreign missionary physician,
Zimbabwe/Rhodesia; Wana Ann Fort, foreign missionary physician, Zimbabwe/Rhodesia;
David Fort, physician, foreign missions volunteer, Dallas, TX; Helen Ruchti (Mrs. W.
C. Jr.), foreign missionary, Rome, Italy

Hymn: "O Zion, Haste"

Message: Baker James Cauthen, executive director, Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, VA

Prayer Time

Sunday Evening, June 10, 5:30

Dinner for Women in Church Related Vocations at Sheraton-Houston Hotel
(Ticket sales in advance from Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, 600 N. 20th St.,
Birmingham, AL 35203)

Monday Morning, June 11, 9:30

Theme Interpretation: Go Quickly...Now

Prayer Calendar: Ernest Myers, executive director-treasurer, Nevada Area Baptist Convention,
Reno, NV

Monday Morning, June 11, 9:30 (continued)

Hymn: "The Woman's Hymn"

Address: Baptist Women Year in the Church, Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory, Danville, VA, president, Woman's Missionary Union, SBC

Missions Cluster: Directed by Bobbie Sorrill, director, education division, Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, AL

Churches Reaching Out in My State and Around the World: State Executive Secretaries

Hymns: "Come, Christians, Join to Sing"; "Set My Soul Afire"

Recognition of Local Committee

Introduction of Acteens National Advisory Panel

Election of Officers

Special Music

Message: Cooperative Relationships, Porter W. Routh, executive secretary-treasurer, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville, TN

Benediction

Monday Afternoon, June 11, 1:45

Concert: Bell Choir, Westbury Baptist Church, Houston, TX, Hart Morris, director

Theme Interpretation: Go Quickly ... Now

Prayer Calendar: Betty Comer (Mrs. Jack), home missionary, Atoka, OK; J. Marvin Leech, foreign missionary, Indonesia

Hymn: "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

Message: Charles W. Bryan, secretary for Middle America and the Caribbean, Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, VA

Missions Cluster: Directed by Eula Mae Henderson, Texas Woman's Missionary Union, executive director, Dallas, TX; and Mrs. Huis Coy Egge, president, Texas Woman's Missionary Union, Corsicana, TX

The Joys and Crises of Missionary Life; Mrs. Archie Dunaway, foreign missionary, Zimbabwe/Rhodesia; Hal Boone, former missionary physician, Houston, TX; Loraine Shores, home missionary, director, Mighty River Handcrafts, Rio Grande Mission Thrust, Zapata, TX; Jo Ann Goatcher, home missionary physician, Rio Grande Mission Thrust, Van Horn, TX

Hymns: "Just As I Am, Thine Own to Be"; "Take My Life, and Let It Be"

Special Music

Message: Mildred McWhorter, home missionary, Houston, TX

Benediction

Monday Evening, June 11, 7:00

Theme Interpretation: Go Quickly...Now

Prayer Calendar: Quinn Pugh, New York

Hymn: "We Are Called To Be God's People"

Report of WMU Executive Director: Carolyn Weatherford, Birmingham, AL

Missions Cluster: Directed by Catherine Allen, assistant to executive director, Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, AL

Pastors and Woman's Missionary Union Working Together Through the Church: Victor Kaneubbe, missionary pastor, Phoenix, AZ; Harry Varnadoe, pastor, Palatka, FL, Frank Pollard, pastor, Jackson, MS; Mrs. John Christy, Vermillion, SD; Bob Sena, pastor, Dallas, TX

Hymn: "Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak"

Testimony: Gene Watterson, pastor, Shelby, NC

Special Music

Message: Filled with Joy...Run to Tell, Jimmy Allen, president, Southern Baptist Convention, San Antonio, TX

Benediction

WMU Officers

President--Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory, Danville, VA

Vice Presidents--WMU State Presidents

Recording Secretary--Mrs. William Ellis, Shelbyville, KY

Executive Director--Miss Carolyn Weatherford, Birmingham, AL

WMU Meeting FeaturesBold Mission Thrust

HOUSTON, Texas (BP)--A battery of missionaries and state and national Southern Baptist leaders will address themselves to the needs of the denomination's Bold Mission Thrust at the annual meeting of the Woman's Missionary Union, June 10-11, in Houston's Civic Center Music Hall.

The WMU meeting is one of several meetings preceding the 122nd annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 12-14, in The Summit and the Astrodome.

The four sessions for the WMU meeting, which begins at 3 p.m., Sunday, June 11, with a Bold Mission Thrust Rally, will deal with the theme "Go Quickly and Tell."

Major addresses will be delivered by Baker J. Cauthen, executive director of the Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.; William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer of the Home Mission Board, Atlanta; Porter W. Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the Executive Committee, Nashville, Tenn.; Charles W. Bryan, the Foreign Mission Board's secretary for Middle America and the Caribbean; Mildred McWhorter, a home missionary in Houston; Jimmy R. Allen of San Antonio, Texas, SBC president; Carolyn Weatherford, national WMU executive director, Birmingham, Ala.; and Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory of Danville, Va., national WMU president.

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WMU will officially honor Cauthen and Routh, longtime supporters of the organization, who will retire from their posts within the year.

The Bold Mission Thrust Rally, to which more than 250 churches in the Houston may send representatives without disrupting regular Sunday Services, will feature Cauthen and Tanner; Mrs. Audley Hamrick, home missionary in Cubero, N.M.; Claudio Iglesias, home missionary in Albuquerque, N.M.; Giles M. and Wana Ann Fort, both foreign missionary physicians in Zimbabwe/Rhodesia; W. C. and Helen Ruchti, foreign missionaries to Rome, Italy; and David Fort, a physician in Dallas, Texas, and foreign missions volunteer. The rally will open with a gigantic processional of international flags and some 200 missionaries.

Mrs. James Putman, home missionary in Conroe, Texas, and other missionaries will participate in the dramatically-staged theme interpretation and time of prayer.

Interviews conducted by Don Rhymes, Home Mission Board missionary personnel officer, and by Louis Cobbs, Foreign Mission Board missionary personnel secretary, will show how churches produce persons called by God into missions.

At 5:30 on Sunday evening, WMU will sponsor a dinner at the Sheraton-Houston Hotel for women in or considering a church-related vocation. Tickets must be purchased in advance of the annual meeting dates from WMU national headquarters in Birmingham, Ala.

Monday morning's session at 9:30 will feature missions in the state Baptist conventions, leading off with Ernest Myers of Reno, Nev., executive director of the newly-formed Nevada Area Baptist Convention. Other state convention executives will be interviewed, and Routh and Mrs. Gregory will speak.

The 1:45 session on Monday afternoon includes election of officers and features missions in Texas, presented by Mrs. Huis Coy Egge, president of Texas WMU, and by Eula Mae Henderson, executive director of Texas WMU.

Among the missionaries to be interviewed will be Mrs. Archie Dunaway, widow of the missionary slain in Zimbabwe/Rhodesia, and Hal Boone, missionary physician whose career in Kenya was cut short by an automobile accident. They will tell "The Joys and Crises of Missionary Life."

Monday evening's session at 7:00 will honor pastors, with recognition to all those in the audience. Persons featured in the program are Harry Varnadoe, pastor of Francis Baptist Church in Palatka, Fla., whose 150 active members raised \$16,000 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions recently; Victor Kaneubbe, a home missionary pastor from Phoenix, Ariz.; Mrs. John Christy, pastor's wife in Vermillion, S. D., where WMU was the first program organized in a new church and aided in building the church; Bob Sena, pastor of First Mexican Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas; Frank Pollard, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss., whose missions weekends led by the WMU director have resulted in a Christmas offering exceeding \$80,000; Gene Watterson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Shelby, N. C., who will tell how WMU has aided his church in sponsoring an unusually large number of volunteers in missions.

SBC President Jimmy Allen, pastor of the First Baptist Church of San Antonio, Texas, which has an active WMU, will close the program.

Mrs. Gregory, WMU president, and Mrs. William Ellis of Shelbyville, N. C., WMU recording secretary, are in their fourth annual terms. Dan Sampson, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Pasadena, Texas, will direct music for the meeting.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: The story above refers to Zimbabwe/Rhodesia. It is the name given what was formerly Rhodesia in a new constitution accepted January 30 by the white minority electorate of the country. Rhodesia is the name given the country as a British colony and Zimbabwe is taken from an ancient African ruin in the country.

Church Advocate Role
Needed for Senior Adults

By Linda Lawson

3/21/79

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Churches need to assume a more active role as advocates for senior adults four panelists declared at a Sunday School Board seminar on effective ministry with senior adults.

John Halbert, former director of the Pulaski County (Ark.) Council on Aging; David Sapp, director of organization for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission; Sidney Smith Jr., consultant in the Sunday School Board's ethnic liaison unit; and Gary Hauk, senior adult ministry consultant in the board's family ministry department, agreed that churches need to plead the cause of senior adults to government, the Christian community and other institutions.

The complex network of government, social and religious agencies offering nutritional, housing, health care, legal and other kinds of aid to senior adults necessitates the advocate role, the panelists said.

Hauk said advocacy is needed both inside and outside the church. For example, he said a church planning to build a high-rise for senior adults should be led to examine whether its motive is to develop a genuine ministry or to build a box and put senior adults in it.

Hauk called for an end to "turf wars" among churches with identical senior adult ministries, competing for the same people.

Sapp said the most effective advocacy inside the church is to "look for needs not being met anywhere else."

While Christians and churches need to be the conscience of the community, a more activist role also is called for in dealing with issues such as senior adult housing and health care, Smith said.

"The church needs to be organized into a ministry entity if it's going to have any influence on what happens to people," he said. "We're talking about clout."

Smith suggested a church could form a council for the purpose of speaking out on senior adult issues or form coalitions with other Christian and secular groups having similar positions on an issue.

Progress in leading Christians to speak out is likely to be slow, warned Halbert, now manpower development supervisor in the Sunday School Board's personnel department. "For a pastor to encourage people to be advocates will anger some people," he said.

"The church can be the headlight rather than the tail light," said Smith. "When we do that society will follow."

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Court Rules For Bishops
In NLRB/Union Dispute

By Stan Hastey

Baptist Press
3/21/79

WASHINGTON (BP)--A sharply divided Supreme Court ruled that the National Labor Relations Board may not force administrators of parochial school systems to permit their lay teachers to unionize.

In a 5-4 opinion delivered by Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, the high court avoided addressing directly the constitutional issue raised by the Roman Catholic Bishops of Chicago and Fort Wayne-South Bend, Ind., that NLRB jurisdiction over union activities in parochial schools violates the No Establishment of Religion clause of the First Amendment.

Instead, the court declared that "there would be a significant risk of infringement of the religion clauses of the First Amendment if the National Labor Relations Act conferred jurisdiction over church-operated schools."

The majority also suggested that Congress will need to pass additional legislation if it wishes such schools to be covered by the act. Implicit in the suggestion is the prospect of new litigation if Congress responds by including church-related schools.

Burger, joined by Justices Potter Stewart, Lewis F. Powell Jr., William H. Rehnquist and John Paul Stevens, did cite several lengthy sections of a decision rendered earlier by the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals rejecting the NLRB's claims to jurisdiction on First Amendment constitutional grounds.

That court held that "the real difficulty is found in the chilling aspect that the requirement of bargaining will impose on the exercise of the bishops' control of the religious mission of the schools."

Both the Free Exercise and No Establishment clauses of the First Amendment foreclosed the NLRB's jurisdiction, the lower court ruled.

The NLRB had argued in a written legal brief and in oral arguments last October that it has jurisdiction over all schools that are not "completely religious." For jurisdictional purposes, the federal agency has contrasted such schools with those which are "merely religiously associated."

Burger's opinion made much of the fact that while the National Labor Relations Act has been law since 1935, the NLRB did not exercise jurisdiction over church-operated schools until 1974, when amendments to the law were passed to include non-profit private hospitals which had previously been specifically excluded.

The closest Burger came in the 17-page opinion to addressing the constitutional questions was to point out that in recent decisions involving aid to nonpublic schools "we have recognized the critical and unique role of the teacher in fulfilling the mission of a church-operated school."

That role, he went on, "has been the predicate for our conclusions that governmental aid channeled through teachers creates an impermissible risk of excessive governmental entanglement in the affairs of the church-operated schools."

"The church-teacher relationship in a church-operated school," the chief justice continued, "differs from the employment relationship in a public or other non-religious school. We see no escape from conflicts flowing from the board's exercise of jurisdiction over teachers in church-operated schools and the consequent serious First Amendment questions that would follow."

Justice William J. Brennan Jr. dissented from the majority holding, declaring that the majority's construction of the National Labor Relations Act is "plainly wrong" and "seemingly invented by the court for the purpose of deciding this case."

Speaking for fellow justices Byron R. White, Thurgood Marshall and Harry A. Blackmun, Brennan said any employer who engages in an activity covered by the Constitution's commerce clause is covered by the act "regardless of the nature of his activity."

Brennan criticized the majority for avoiding the underlying First Amendment questions by deciding the case on jurisdictional grounds. "While the resolution of the constitutional question is not without difficulty," he said, "it is irresponsible to avoid it by a cavalier exercise in statutory interpretation which succeeds only in defying congressional intent."

The controversy between the bishops and the NLRB arose during 1974 and 1975 when lay teachers at two Chicago diocesan high schools and five similar schools in Fort Wayne-South Bend sought to organize teachers' unions by filing representation petitions with the NLRB.

Diocesan school administrators objected to the federal agency's assertion of jurisdiction in complaints filed with the NLRB. After these were denied, the bishops appealed directly to the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

Among religious groups siding with the bishops through friend-of-the-court briefs at the Supreme Court were the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, the Center for Law and Religious Freedom of the Christian Legal Society, and the United States Catholic Conference.

Factory Switches Product
From Furniture to Baptists

KIGALI, Rwanda (BP)--When a furniture factory in downtown Kigali, Rwanda, became Baptist property, Southern Baptist Missionary Raymond V. Lindholm put some of its machinery back into use.

But instead of making furniture to sell, he made benches for the Kigali Baptist Church which would begin meeting there.

When renovation is complete, the factory in the heart of Rwanda's capital city, will also serve as headquarters for the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in Rwanda, according to Lauralee (Mrs. Raymond V.) Lindholm, missionary press representative for Rwanda.

The factory was purchased with \$100,000 in funds from the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Operating funds and missionary salaries for the center will come from Southern Baptists' Cooperative Program gifts.

The building will accommodate a recreation room, meeting rooms, storage, craft teaching and anything else missionaries want, in addition to the church and offices, says Mrs. Lindholm.

Already they have begun English classes and have used the new church to accommodate a crowd of almost 400 for the showing of a free film.

"They weren't a typical church group. Many were from surrounding bars... but many listened and have kept coming back each week," she says.

The Baptist congregation was started in 1977 by the pastor, Eleazar Ziherembere of the Union of Baptist Churches of Rwanda and Southern Baptist Missionary Earl R. Martin. The group met in Ziherembere's home on the outskirts of Kigali while attempting to secure land for a building.

Later, the group held its services in an adjacent home, purchased with the factory as a missionary residence, until it was ready for church services. Lindholm cleared the factory and erected walls, while the congregation laid sand and brick floor. Also included in the purchase was adjacent land for future expansion.

Southern Baptists began work in the country in 1977 at the invitation of the Baptist Union of Rwanda and the Danish Baptists, who opened work there more than 30 years ago.

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers by Richmond Bureau of Baptist Press.

C O R R E C T I O N

In line 1 of graph 2 of baptism story on page one of today's mailing change the phrase: baptized 2 to 9,973 (28.5 to read as follows: baptized 2 to 9; and 9,973 (28.5

Thanks,
Baptist Press