



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355
Wilmer C. Fields, Director
Dan Martin, News Editor
Norman Jameson, Feature Editor

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
MEMPHIS Roy Jennings, Chief, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104, Telephone (901) 272-2461
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300
RICHMOND Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151
WASHINGTON Stan L. Hestey, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

December 3, 1980

80-192

Smith, Jewish Leaders Schedule Discussions

DEL CITY, Okla. (BP)--Bailey Smith, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, will fly to New York City Dec. 18 for a meeting with representatives of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Smith wrote to Nathan Perlmutter, national director of the ADL, asking for a meeting to "foster understanding" after controversy erupted over his published remarks concerning the Jews.

The pastor, who expressed "deep regret for the hurt that may have come by remarks credited to me," at first suggested Dallas as the meeting site, but Perlmutter asked Smith to come to either New York City or Chicago.

Smith told Baptist Press he is willing to "go wherever necessary. This meeting is very important to me."

Smith set off controversy when, on separate occasions, he said God does not hear the prayer of a Jew, and then said Jews have "funny looking noses."

Perlmutter said: "The man has written us a nice letter." He told Smith he welcomes the "suggested meeting toward the end of better understanding," and said he is "confident that no matter our differences and no matter your past statements and our responses to them, the amplitude of reason in the Judeo-Christian heritage will guide us to understanding."

Perlmutter also suggested each bring several "associates" because a "modestly broadened interchange would be useful."

Smith said he plans to take Bill Bryan, the church administrator at First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, and perhaps another person or two, possibly Glenn Igleheart, director of the Department of Interfaith Witness at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, assigned responsibility for establishing and maintaining relationships with Jewish people.

Smith added he looks forward to a "warm meeting," saying it is "absolutely necessary. People can take a few quotes out of context and create an image (of me) that simply is not true."

-30-

Missionary Kid Kicks
Way Into Record Book

Baptist Press
12/3/80

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Alan Duncan, Southern Baptist missionary kid from Kenya, earned his third straight team scoring title and two career kicking records in his final game as the place kicker for the University of Tennessee football team.

-more-

Duncan, who holds seven kicking records, kicked six of seven extra points and a 50-yard field goal against Vanderbilt to run his scoring total to 52 in a year in which the sputtering Volunteer offense gave him only 13 field goal opportunities.

His first four extra points in a 51-13 victory over Vanderbilt gave him a career Tennessee record of 66 in a row. He finished the day hitting six of seven and securing a career school record of 96.7 percent accuracy on 87 of 90 extra point attempts.

Duncan finished with 8 of 13 field goal attempts in 1980, giving him 31 of 45 for his career, two short of Rick Townsend's school record of 33. His 180 career points placed him fifth on Tennessee's all-time scoring list.

"Alan could have had Townsend's career field goal record, but we either scored touchdowns or didn't get close enough for him to have a chance to kick," Assistant Sports Information Director Bud Ford said of the Volunteers, who suffered through a 5-6 season. "There were three games in which Alan didn't get any field goal attempts at all."

Other records held by Duncan, who has drawn serious attention from pro scouts, include the school and Southeastern Conference records for most field goals in a game (five) and most points scored in a game (17), both against Kentucky in 1978; and the school mark for most field goals in a season (13 of 17 in 1978). He is also tied with other Tennessee players for most extra points in a game (seven) and highest extra point percentage for a season (100 percent in 1979, when he scored on 33 of 33 attempts).

-30-

Banner Year Projected
For Southern Baptists

By Jim Lowry

Baptist Press
12/3/80

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A record increase in baptisms and projected gains in all nine key church program areas point to 1980 as a year of success for the Southern Baptist Convention.

The increases mark turnarounds in ongoing enrollment for church training, Sunday School and Woman's Missionary Union, all of which have been experiencing enrollment declines.

Some 429,580 baptisms are predicted for 1980, an increase of 60,842, or 16.5 percent, over the 1978 total of 368,738. The predicted number of baptisms puts the total back over 400,000 for the first time since 1975 and for only the 10th time in the 135-year history of the nation's largest protestant denomination.

The projections are based on statistics compiled by the research services department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. The data is taken from the Uniform Church Letter, submitted by nearly every one of the approximately 35,800 congregations affiliated with the SBC.

While the projections—based on 72 percent of the Uniform Church Letters—are approximate, Martin Bradley, head of the research services department, said in all likelihood they will be very close to the final tabulations, expected to be released in February of 1981.

Southern Baptist churches are projected to increase spending for missions by more than \$44 million, or 12.4 percent, making the estimated 1980 total \$400,377,556.

-more-

Total receipts in the Southern Baptist Convention are projected to increase by more than a quarter of a billion dollars. The 11.9 percent projected increase will bring the total giving figure to \$2,486,509,936.

The 1980 projected increase for church membership is 1.7 percent, representing a gain of 227,444. This will bring total membership in the Southern Baptist Convention to slightly more than 13.6 million persons.

After a small gain last year, the ongoing enrollment for Brotherhood is projected to increase by 4.0 percent, or 18,773, to a 1980 total of more than 488,000. This increase is the largest since 1971 for the Memphis-based agency.

James H. Smith, executive director of the Brotherhood Commission, said he attributes the increase in Brotherhood enrollment "in large part to the leadership of state Brotherhood directors and to the renewed interest of pastors in involving their men and boys in missions."

Church music enrollment is projected to show an increase for the 15th consecutive year in 1980 to a new high of more than 1.5 million. The increase of 4.1 percent represents 60,097 persons.

LeRoy McClard, supervisor of the growth program design section in the Sunday School Board's church music department, attributes the gain "to the dedicated work of state music secretaries in reporting enrollment and in helping to establish music work in the newly developing areas." McClard is a member of the interim management team in the department.

Ongoing WMU enrollment is projected to increase by 15,215, or 1.4 percent, marking the first increase for the auxiliary of the SBC since 1976 and the largest numerical gain since 1975. The estimated increase will bring the total WMU enrollment to 1.1 million.

"WMU leaders have been deeply concerned about the decline in membership, and have worked hard to turn the tide," said Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the WMU, Birmingham, Ala. "Specifically, importance has been placed on involving more people in missions, pastors' support has been stronger, better reporting has been encouraged and more ethnic women are involved in missions. We are encouraged and excited about the increase."

The anticipated gain of 1.3 percent in Sunday School enrollment comes on the heels of three straight years of losses for the largest program of the denomination. This increase represents more than 95,000 persons and puts the Sunday morning program back above the 7.4 million mark.

Sunday School department head Harry M. Piland expressed a sense of gratitude and encouragement in what he perceives to be a clear change of direction. "This provides a running start to the attainment of the Sunday School goal of 8.5 million enrolled in Sunday School by 1985. I honestly believe our churches are doing the basics so necessary to reach and win people to Christ and help them grow and mature."

The anticipated gain of 2.3 percent in church training enrollment—an increase of 40,297—marks the program's highest numerical increase since 1961, and brings participation to 1.79 million.

Roy Edgemon, secretary of the board's church training department, said, "I am thankful to God that church training is experiencing significant growth following a 1.3 percent decrease in 1979. Equipping Centers, Ephesians 4 Conferences and the dedication of state church training leaders and pastors all contributed to the increase."

ESTIMATED 1980 SBC STATISTICS

	<u>1979 Total</u>	<u>Estimated 1979-80 % Change</u>	<u>1980 Total</u>	<u>1979-80 Numerical Change</u>
Baptisms	368,738	16.5	429,580	60,842
Church Membership	13,379,073	1.7	13,606,517	227,444
Ongoing Sunday School enrollment	7,317,960	1.3	7,413,093	95,133
Ongoing Church Training enrollment	1,752,026	2.3	1,792,323	40,297
Ongoing Church Music enrollment	1,465,774	4.1	1,525,871	60,097
Ongoing WMU enrollment	1,086,785	1.4	1,102,000	15,215
Ongoing Brotherhood enrollment	469,315	4.0	488,088	18,773
Mission Expenditures	\$ 356,207,790	12.4	\$400,377,556	\$44,169,766
Total Receipts	\$2,222,082,159	11.9	\$2,486,509,936	\$264,427,777

-30-

'Redneck' Volunteer Loves New Yorkers

By Marv Knox

Baptist Press
12/3/80

BRONX, N.Y. (BP)—Bronx Baptists think Ray Boggs is a redneck, and they love him.

He looks more like a stand-in for Hee Haw's Junior Samples than a volunteer missionary. He's comfortable in overalls and Hush Puppies; sentences drip off his tongue in a drawl thick as molasses. His rotundity evidences countless breakfasts of grits and sausage. And the sun has indeed painted the back of his neck a crinkly, ruddy hue.

But appearances aside, Boggs and his wife, Frances, spent two weeks each month for 10 months as Mission Service Corps volunteers in the predominantly-black south Bronx borough of New York City. He put a lifetime of contracting experience into aged church buildings and crumbling storefront worship houses. She helped children in Wake Eden Christian Academy. They both spread Christian love to all they contacted.

"We felt the Bronx was where God wanted us," says Boggs, explaining why the couple made the trip from their Okeechobee, Fla., home—1,274 miles one-way—very month from January through October. They didn't stay in the Bronx full time because he had administrative duties at Dunklin Memorial Camp, a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center in Florida.

-more-

"People said we were crazy for wanting to work in the Bronx," he r members. "They told us about violence, racial tension, muggings, rape and all those things.

"But we knew that God had something for us. We prayed about this ministry and got a feeling of peace. Since then, we've never had a minute of fear."

That's fortunate for the Bronx, confirms Sam Simpson, pastor of Bronx Baptist Church.

Simpson recites a litany of tasks Boggs has done—"carpentry, roofing, window and door repair, insulation, weather stripping; and when the Fire Department said we had to meet certain requirements, we looked to him." But Simpson is the first to admit Boggs helped the Bronx more by being a good Christian than by being a good carpenter.

"Ray practices sweat evangelism," Simpson says. "He doesn't just talk about Jesus; he does it while he's pushing a paintbrush or swinging a hammer."

"One day he was helping remodel a church when a young woman who had been an alcoholic since age nine came by," the pastor relates. "Ray stopped his work and listened to her problems. Then they read Scripture and prayed for nearly two hours. And right there—in the middle of paint cans and drop cloths—he led her to know Jesus Christ."

For Boggs, such an encounter seems only natural. "Many people are really seeking and wanting to change, but they've got no hope," he explains. "It's our responsibility to encourage and train them. If we do, they'll be willing and wanting to move on out" and become Christians.

But even folks who have not yet accepted Christ have a better feeling toward Christians, and Southern Baptists in particular, thanks to the ministry of Ray Boggs, Simpson says.

"People here don't see him as just a white man; they see him for what he is—a Christian who loves, them," Simpson explains. "Ray is one of the most precious ambassadors the Southern Baptist Convention has."

Unfortunately for the Bronx, Boggs is moving his ministry hundreds of miles away. No longer constrained by work in Florida, he and Mrs. Boggs plan to move to Montana to help their son, Rich, staff a home for handicapped and retarded men.

Although he will labor half a continent away from the Bronx, Boggs maintains his thoughts and prayers will remain with his New York friends.

"I will always pray for the Bronx," he says. "And I will pray that people will continue to build bridges and establish relationships that will help folks see there are Christians who love and care for the Bronx."