



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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81-25

SBC Gains Confirmed
By Final Statistics

By Jim Lowry

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Final statistics confirm across-the-board gains projected in December for Southern Baptists in 1980 and some key programs show even bigger increases.

All nine of the projected key statistical areas had increases over the previous year, as predicted by the research services department of the Baptist Sunday School Board. This is the first time since 1961 all key program areas have increased.

Programs in which actual gains were higher than predicted are Sunday School, church training, church music, Brotherhood and mission expenditures. Smaller increases were registered in baptisms and church membership. Increases in Woman's Missionary Union enrollment and total receipts were slightly smaller than predicted.

Baptisms in the Southern Baptist Convention recorded an actual gain of 61,004, or 16.5 percent, to a total of 429,742. The percentage projection was on target, with the total off by only 162. This confirms the biggest percentage gain since 1945 and the largest numerical increase ever, representing the second highest baptism total in SBC history.

Membership in Southern Baptist churches gained 227,735, or 1.7 percent, making the total membership more than 13.6 million. Of that total, 3.8 million are listed as nonresident members. The projected membership total was under the actual total by 291.

The final report shows Sunday School enrollment up last year by 115,445, or 1.6 percent, which is more than 20,000 higher than the December projection. Ongoing enrollment for Sunday School, the largest SBC program, now stands at 7,433,405.

Brotherhood enrollment had the largest percentage gain of any program over last year, with an increase of 5.6 percent, or 26,351, the largest since 1971. Total enrollment for Brotherhood is now 495,666.

Enrollment for church training in the final report showed an increase of 43,593, or 2.5 percent, bringing the total to more than 1.79 million.

Church music enrollment gained 1,500 more than the projection, making the total more than 1.5 million. The actual gain for 1980 is 61,623, or 4.2 percent.

Enrollment in Woman's Missionary Union for 1980 was up by more than 13,000, or 1.2 percent, to a total of 1.1 million.

Mission expenditures, a category that includes anything outside local church operation given to mission causes, were up 12.7 percent, or more than \$45 million, to a total of \$401,499,506. The December figures projected a 12.4 percent gain, equal to last year's rise

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in the Consumer Price Index. Approximately 50 percent of mission expenditures was channeled through the Cooperative Program.

Total receipts for convention churches went up by 11.8 percent in 1980, bringing the total to \$2,483,645,551. The actual gain of more than \$261 million is slightly under the projected increase.

The number of churches in the Southern Baptist Convention increased 226, or 0.6 percent, bringing the number of churches in the convention to 35,831.

Estimated value of property and facilities owned by SBC churches went up by 12.1 percent to \$10.8 billion in 1980.

December projections from the research services department were based on statistics received from 25,936 churches. For the final report, 35,420 annual letters were processed to collect information relating to the SBC for the 1980 church year.

-30-

Summary of the 1980 Southern Baptist Convention Statistics:

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>Numerical Gain</u>	<u>Percentage Gain</u>
Churches	35,831	35,605	226	0.6
Total Membership	13,606,808	13,379,073	227,735	1.7
Baptisms	429,742	368,738	61,004	16.5
Sunday School Ongoing Enrollment	7,433,405	7,317,960	115,445	1.6
Church Training Ongoing Enrollment	1,795,619	1,752,026	43,593	2.5
Woman's Missionary Union Ongoing Enrollment	1,099,091	1,086,785	12,306	1.1
Brotherhood Ongoing Enrollment	495,666	469,315	26,351	5.6
Church Music Ongoing Enrollment	1,527,397	1,465,774	61,623	4.2
Total Receipts	\$2,483,645,551	\$2,222,082,159	\$261,563,392	11.8
Total Mission Expenditures	\$ 401,499,506	\$ 356,207,790	\$ 45,291,716	12.7

SBC Caucus Warns Against Government Intervention

WASHINGTON (BP)--Representatives of 13 Southern Baptist agencies have issued a statement calling for expanded efforts to "safeguard" religious liberty and its corollary, separation of church and state.

The statement came from a caucus of Southern Baptists attending a conference on government intervention which brought together representatives of more than 90 percent of America's adherents of organized religion.

The statement refers to growing government intervention in such areas as requiring "religious groups to register with and report to government officials if they engage in any efforts to influence legislation;" an Internal Revenue Service definition of "integrated auxiliaries" that "tends to define for the churches their relationship to those agencies integral to their religious missions;" and efforts by federal agencies "to be involved in the employment and program decisions of church-related agencies and institutions."

The statement further cites federal and state efforts to "regulate the accreditation of church-related schools and colleges;" federal and state efforts to collect unemployment compensation taxes from church-related agencies; and intelligence agency use of clergy and missionaries and the posting of intelligence agents as clergy and missionaries.

The Baptists, however, emphasized that they believe there is no "sinister plan by government" to take over the churches, while adding: "We must anticipate and accept legitimate government intervention where public monies or a compelling public interest are involved."

Speakers during the three-day meeting discussed a larger list of examples of government intervention but also warned against adopting too negative a stance against government.

In addition to the statement, the Baptist representatives discussed favorably the need and possibility for ongoing dialogue between staff members of agencies and institutions affected by government intervention.

The SBC caucus was convened by J. Howard Cobble, chairman of the SBC Executive Committee and pastor of First Baptist Church of Avondale Estates, near Atlanta, Ga.

-30-

Dunn: Baptists Ignorant
Of Church-State Heritage

By Stan Haste

Baptist Press
2/16/81

NEW YORK (BP)--Declaring that one of the reasons for widespread confusion among Baptists on current church-state controversies is "massive, unmitigated, pervasive, unyielding ignorance," the new chief of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs challenged Southern Baptist state executive directors and editors to help lead the way in reeducating their people in the Baptist doctrine of religious liberty.

James M. Dunn, executive director of the Washington, D.C. organization since Jan. 1, discussed four "pivotal issues" in the church-state arena at a meeting of the state executive directors and the Southern Baptist Press Association.

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He said numerous recent examples of Baptists' deserting their denomination's historic commitment to church-state separation point to the need for renewed emphasis on education and attention to current events.

Quoting Elton Trueblood's statement that "mediocrity is sin and heresy," Dunn said, "anti-intellectualism in American life has crept over into church life and multiplied." He went on to declare: "The leader who denies the social dimension of the gospel is putting a premium on ignorance, resting on an immoral nostalgia for things once learned and experienced, and modeling mediocrity."

Among the results of widespread Baptist ignorance of their church-state heritage, Dunn said, is that Baptists have been left "vulnerable to the ego-driven electronic churchmen who manipulate for money the basically uninformed and drifting members of our churches."

A second pivotal issues, according to the 48-year-old Dunn, is the place of religion in public education, especially debates over school prayer and tuition tax credits.

Saying the real issue in the raging battle over school prayer "is not to put prayer back in the schools" but "state-sanctioned prayer," Dunn said that "for the state to allow prayer implies that it has the power to disallow prayer." That assumption, he went on, is "offensive to my theology" and "offensive to common sense."

He also rejected the view that massive moral deterioration in the U.S. can be dated to the Supreme Court's 1962 and 1963 decisions outlawing state mandated and prescribed prayer in schools as "patent poppycock."

"The best thing government can do for religion," he concluded, "is leave it alone."

On tuition tax credits, a volatile political issue in the new Congress, Dunn said the scheme to allow taxpayers to claim tax credits when they choose to send their children to parochial schools is "wrong" because the credits are discriminatory, inflation, unconstitutional, undemocratic, divisive, unfair, dishonest and destructive of the public schools.

Government intrusion into religious affairs also came under attack as Dunn's third key church-state issue. He recited a litany of examples in recent years of a new trend in government efforts to regulate or control churches and their agencies and institutions.

Among them were congressional battles over the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) and last year's successful attempt to exempt missionaries and other overseas charitable workers from U.S. income taxation. Among other examples listed were lobby disclosure legislation, tax exemption and the churches, threatened investigation of religious "cults," church property disputes and charitable solicitation.

Specifically scored were efforts by some government regulatory agencies, including the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to force sectarian educational institutions to comply with anti-discrimination rules.

In spite of his long litany of church-state problems, Dunn said that perhaps the "most significant" church-state issue is the overarching role of government "in regulating the lives of its citizens."

He warned that the trend is likely to continue in the immediate future, despite the fact that President Reagan and many conservative members of Congress campaigned on a platform "to get the government off the backs of people."

Dunn cited the push for a number of constitutional amendments on personal and family matters as evidence that the new conservative trend may actually mean more government intrusion into private matters. Among them are proposed amendments banning abortions, mandating school prayer and requiring a balanced federal budget. Such efforts, Dunn said, "sound more like Calvin's Geneva than the United States of America."

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McClellan Stresses
Seminary Support

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2/16/81

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--The 13.6 million members of the Southern Baptist Convention and the denomination's six seminaries enjoy a "bond of confidence" which has endured troubled times and promises a healthy future.

Albert McClellan shared that assessment with faculty, staff and students in a Founder's Day message at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. McClellan, recently retired associate executive secretary and director of program planning of the SBC Executive Committee, is a visiting professor at the seminary.

He traced the development of Southern Baptists' support for their seminaries, particularly through the denomination's Cooperative Program. "The special partnership between our people and our seminaries is deeply rooted in Southern Baptist history and in the denominational structure," McClellan said. "This system is the envy of other denominations who are campaigning for the kind of constituency support enjoyed by Southern Baptists."

The tremendous growth of Southern Baptists, McClellan said, has created "an enormous institutional load," which has been shouldered by "enormous stewardship in our churches."

He said financial support of seminaries and other Southern Baptist institutions comes at a time when many other seminaries across the nation are "losing their people base" and are experiencing critical financial and recruitment problems.

McClellan challenged Southern Seminary faculty, staff and students to reinforce the seminary's "partnership" with Southern Baptists. "The seminaries," he reminded the audience, "are wholly and integrally involved in the mission of our churches. But this fact has not always been obvious to the people outside the seminaries."

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McCarty Joins Golden
Gate Seminary Faculty

Baptist Press
2/16/81

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Doran McCarty of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary has been named professor of ministry at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, effective in July.

At Midwestern, McCarty was professor of supervisory studies and director of continuing education.

McCarty has been pastor of several Southern Baptist churches in Missouri, Kentucky and Indiana, was director of the urban training cooperative for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and has served on the boards of the Missouri and Indiana Baptist Conventions.

He is a graduate of Southwest Baptist College, William Jewell College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary where he earned bachelor of divinity and doctor of philosophy degrees. He is the author of several books, including "Rightly Dividing the Word," "The Supervision of Ministry Students," and "The Supervision of Mission Personnel."

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Emeritus Missionary Takes
Prayer Responsibility

By Anita Bowden

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Long ago Catherine Walker determined that she would retire from overseas work at age 65.

She always figured she'd rest awhile and then maybe teach at one of the Southern Baptist seminaries or go back overseas as a volunteer. But only three months after retirement she has taken on a major responsibility at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board as the president's special assistant for intercessory prayer—a job held by Rogers Smith before he died Oct. 3, 1980.

"I want our missionaries to be able to express their prayer requests in specific language so they can recognize when the requests are answered and let us know," she says. "Instead of asking us to 'pray for our revival' they need to ask us to pray for a specified number of decisions or number to attend, or something like that."

"It's scary to get specific—or have any goal setting—because it's discouraging when you don't get there," she says. But she believes Southern Baptists are willing to pray if they know exactly what to pray for and they will be encouraged to pray more if they know their prayers are being answered.

Getting the prayer needs of foreign missionaries to Southern Baptists willing to pray will be her major emphasis. Prayer requests with long range goals can be presented through periodicals. Urgent or crisis requests will have to be communicated more quickly, perhaps through a prayer network including ham radio operators and religious radio stations.

"I'd like to see all Baptists form the habit of praying for missions daily," she says. Recently a woman told her that she had been praying for Miss Walker and a home missionary for a full year. Each year the woman chooses a different home and foreign missionary to pray for.

"That's a good method," says Miss Walker, who is open to other suggestions, too. "I really feel I'm learning a lot about prayer now. I know about obedience and sacrifice. But I never would hold up my prayer life as a model.

"But I'm not concerned with my capabilities. I've found God uses a person as he is. It's good to know that the Lord wants to use you. We need to be more aware of things to pray about, to pray for. And then do it anytime, wherever you are."

For the last 28 years Miss Walker has done most of her praying in Indonesia where she taught at the Indonesian Baptist Theological Seminary. After two years of language study, she became one of the three original seminary staff members in 1954 when Baptist work in Indonesia was less than three years old.

The seminary operated only on its Semarang campus for nearly 20 years as the student body grew from 12 to 125. By the early 1970s there were not enough full-time church positions to absorb the students graduating each year.

That's when Miss Walker and others realized the theological education at the seminary was too oriented toward large churches, based on American models. They began developing an expanded approach to seminary training and taking the seminary to the students through extension centers.

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Her major emphasis before retirement was on guiding the production of programmed instruction textbooks for theological education by extension.

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(BP) photo to be mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press.

Overseas Relief Giving
Rises 83 Percent in 1980

Baptist Press
2/16/81

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Southern Baptists gave 83 percent more for overseas hunger and relief in 1980 than in 1979, says John R. Cheyne, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board consultant for relief ministries.

Cheyne says the increase pushed 1980 giving to an all-time high of \$5,669,864 and will enable the Foreign Mission Board to plan more projects to deal with the underlying causes of world hunger.

Planning much of its long-range program on the basis of 1979 receipts of \$3,090,523, the board appropriated \$3,012,049 for 124 projects in 42 different countries in 1980, he said.

He also reported that \$545,750 in hunger and relief funds had been released for 18 projects in 10 countries since the board's December 1980 meeting. The largest sum, \$276,000, is providing a six-month feeding program and agricultural rehabilitation for victims of the Nov. 23 earthquake in southern Italy.

Another \$145,000 was released for five developmental projects in Bangladesh. Three will provide food through duck, goat and fish farming projects. One will create 200 shallow tube wells, providing pure drinking water for 140,000 people. The last is a silkworm production program to supplement the income of poor families in the country.

The silkworm and fish farming projects are connected by a cycle which multiplies their effectiveness. The fish ponds are built by mounding up a dirt levee around the hole for the pond. Cassava, a food staple in the area, is planted on the sides of the levee. Fish manure fertilizes the cassava and stimulates growth of the algae the fish feed on. People eat the cassava root and silkworms eat the leaves.

These programs not only meet human needs, says Cheyne, but they also complement the strategy of the local Baptist missionaries and harmonize with government help programs.

In addition to aid to Italy and Bangladesh, Cheyne reported another \$33,250 was released to continue repair and rehabilitation of hurricane damage on Jamaica and other funds were released for projects such as flood relief, vocational training of refugees and a demonstration agricultural project.

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Conference, TV Networks
Pondered by Trustees

Baptist Press
2/16/81

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Television evangelist Robert Schuller will be one of several major speakers at the National Conference on Broadcast Ministries April 27-29, co-sponsored by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

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Conference speakers were announced by Jimmy R. Allen, president of the Radio and Television Commission at the agency's February board meeting.

In addition to Schuller, other speakers include Anne P. Jones of Washington, D.C., a member of the Federal Communications Commission, and Harry Hollis of Nashville, Tenn., director of family and special moral concerns for the Christian Life Commission.

Trustees also acted on RTVC plans to establish a 100-station low-power television network. Allen told trustees applications for 100 stations have been filed with the FCC and asked the commission to approve purchase of a transponder when funds are available.

The transponder, to be purchased as soon as the \$5 million necessary for the first year of operation is secured, would send television signals via satellite to feed programming to the network, cable systems and to churches with satellite-receiving equipment.

Allen said the commission is in discussion with a number of sources concerning use of satellites, including Western Union, which will launch its Westar V satellite in September 1982.

In other action, trustees heard a progress report on the establishment of a Center for Communications Studies, elected new officers and learned of four television programs being developed by the commission.

The Center for Communications Studies, a joint venture of Southwestern Seminary and the commission, will be launched at the National Conference of Broadcast Ministries. The center will offer graduate degrees in religious communications.

Directors elected Tommy Joe Payne of Greenville, N.C., as chairman, succeeding Fred W. Isaacs of Cosby, Tenn. Other officers are John E. Hughes of Independence, Mo., first vice chairman; Stewart R. McChesney Jr., of Arvada, Colo., second vice chairman; George H. David of Urbana, Ill., secretary, and Ronald R. Doole of Topeka, Kan., assistant secretary.

Allen described four new programs under development. They are Sportsight, The Sunshine Factory, a direct preaching presentation and a news magazine program.

Filming was scheduled Feb. 17 for Sportsight, a pilot sports program hosted by evangelist Bill Glass. The pilot features Mean Joe Green of the Pittsburgh Steelers, Craig Morton, quarterback for the Denver Broncos, and Gary Bender, CBS sports announcer.

Production on "The Sunshine Factory," a half-hour children's show developed by Mike Meece, will be March 20-21, Allen said. "Leaders in children's programming who have viewed earlier tapings have passed the program's content with flying colors," he said.

No production dates have been set for the other two projects. The direct preaching program probably would feature a preacher and soloist from various churches around the nation, and the news magazine would be similar to the successful "PM Magazine" approach.

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CORRECTION: BP release 2/11/81, "Foreign Mission Board Hears Encouraging Financial Report": Sub out seventh graf as follows: He also reported that the Foreign Mission Board's proposed share of 1981-82 Cooperative Program dollars, to be recommended by the program and budget subcommittee of the SBC Executive Committee, is up "substantially." If the recommendation is approved at the Feb. 16-18 meeting of the Executive Committee, the board will receive 49 percent of the basic operating budget, up from 48.40 percent of the basic operating budget for 1980-81. The Foreign Mission Board is slated to receive 50 percent of the challenge portion of the budget, compared with 40 percent under the current budget.