

(BP)**-- 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** Jim Newton, 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. Hasty, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

November 4, 1981

81-172

**Ohioans Use Meeting
To Launch New Churches**

WARREN, Ohio (BP)--Ohioans used their annual convention as the kickoff for the second year of a two-year campaign to establish 104 new congregations across the state.

The campaign--called "104 miracles"--calls for one new mission per week, on the average.

State Missions Director Arthur L. Walker reported nearly 35 new missions have been planted so far, and it seems certain the goal of 52 for the first year will be attained.

The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio met in Warren, near Youngstown, the first time in the 27-year history of the convention it had met in remote northeast Ohio, which has been one of the major parts of the state for pioneer missions.

Some 835 messengers and nonmessengers registered for the three-day meeting, the third highest registration ever.

Pastors and members of many new congregations led in prayer and gave testimonies to the convention.

The convention heard from a number of major Southern Baptist leaders: Bailey Smith of Del City, Okla., president; Jack Taylor, Fort Worth, Texas, former first vice president; and William G. Tanner, Atlanta, executive director of the Home Mission Board.

The convention was marked by lack of discussion or debate on business. Charles Betts, pastor of First Baptist Church, Vandalia, won a second term as president.

Resolutions endorsed increased Cooperative Program giving, but bypassed any denominational or public issues.

Progress reports were received on studies being made of student ministry, the state assembly and relocation of the Baptist headquarters in Columbus.

The convention president appointed a three-member committee to study the Ohio Baptist Messenger, convention journal. In doing so, he made no statement about the scope or purpose of the survey.

A Cooperative Program goal of \$2,342,003 was adopted for 1982, with 39 percent to be shared with the SBC. Ohio has been adding to its world mission giving by one-half percentage point per year, moving toward 50-50.

Tal D. Bonham, executive secretary, said the convention also is heading toward 50-50 in its financial agreements with the Home Mission Board.

The 1982 meeting will be held in Cincinnati on Oct. 25 - 27.

Drinking Still Banned Says 25-Year Survey

JEFFERSON CITY, Tenn. (BP)--Tennessee Baptist pastors are as ardently prohibitionist as they were 25 years ago, but they exhibit more relaxed attitudes towards integration and marrying divorced persons.

Those findings and a host of others were compiled by Herbert J. Miles, professor emeritus of sociology at Carson-Newman College, from surveys he conducted in 1955 and again in 1980.

While the respondents, 1,005 in 1955 and 1,063 in 1980, were exclusively Tennessee Baptist pastors, Miles feels the results apply to all states with cultures similar to Tennessee, which means most of the South.

In 1955 only 2.6 percent of the Tennessee Baptist pastors responding to the survey indicated it was ever permissible for a Christian to use alcohol as a beverage. In 1980, that percentage increased to 9.3, but more pastors would vote for prohibition in their county (82.6 percent) in 1980 than would have in 1955 (79.6 percent).

Some 89.2 percent of respondents now say they approve of integration of blacks and whites in public schools when only 38.9 percent indicated approval in 1955.

Other significant changes over the past 25 years include an increase in college graduates among the pastors (54.6 percent to 37.9 percent); increased seminary attendance (50.9 percent to 40.2 percent); more three-year degrees (38.1 percent to 22.6 percent); and more doctorates (18.1 percent to 3.5 percent).

Although the trend is clearly toward more education, still 23.7 percent of Tennessee Baptist pastors currently have a high school education or less.

In 1980 the percentage of pastors that held no revivals during the previous year increased over 1955--36.7 percent to 21.4 percent. Churches that held no revivals increased from 3.1 percent to 8.2 percent. "Thus, the evidence indicates a definite decline in revival evangelism," Miles said.

The average pastor in 1980 is 4.4 years older than pastors in 1955 (40.5 to 44.9). Current pastors have held fewer pastorates (4.2 to 5) and stay longer in a given pastorate (4.2 years to 3.7 years).

According to Miles, there has been a noticeable decline in pastoral membership in lodges (20.9 percent to 31.1 percent) and civic and community clubs (19.3 percent to 29.4 percent).

There have been large increases in the percentage of pastors who approve of capital punishment (82.9 percent to 59.2 percent); those who approve of a Baptist church receiving an immersed non-Baptist by letter into church membership (36.6 percent to 6.5 percent); and in the percentage of pastors who approve of a Baptist taking communion in non-Baptist churches (54.1 to 10.3).

One-third of pastors now approve of hunting, fishing or golfing on Sunday during non-church hours when only 4.9 percent approved in 1955. In both studies, as age increases the percentage of pastors approving declines and as education increases, approval increases.

Fewer 1980 pastors said they would never perform a wedding for divorced persons (34.6 percent to 53.4 percent).

Though three times as many pastors now approve of ordaining women as preachers, the percentage is still small, 9.3 percent to just 2.9 percent in 1955.

The survey also asked only 1980 pastors what they perceived as strengths and weaknesses in the Southern Baptist Convention.

The four strongest areas were seen as missionary emphasis, the Cooperative Program method of financing missions and education, emphasis on the Bible as the Word of God and evangelism.

Weaknesses were seen as liberalism in colleges and seminaries followed closely by liberalism in churches, too much bureaucracy and politics, unconcern for small churches and lack of doctrinal teaching and preaching.

Miles, 74, said he hopes to conduct the survey again in 10 years, and after that, he would "just have to see."

Tabulating results in 1955 took sociology students two semesters and one summer term. Using a computer in 1980, John Burton, Carson-Newman professor of physics, took a couple days.

-30-

Home Missionary Granted
Official Recognition At UN

Baptist Press
11/4/81

NEW YORK (BP)--Elias Golonka, Home Mission Board missionary to the United Nations, recently was awarded official U.N. recognition as minister-director of Christian ministries to the United Nations community, including permanent and unlimited access to all U.N. facilities, meetings and personnel.

Golonka, who was appointed by the HMB in 1974, extends a Southern Baptist witness to 6,500 U.N. workers, including ambassadors from 126 countries.

The U.N.'s recognition is "the breakthrough we have been earnestly praying for," Golonka said. During the past seven years, he has established many contacts at the U.N., but his work has been hampered by his lack of access to U.N. offices, he explained.

In addition to the official status accorded him, Golonka also received permission to incorporate the United Nations symbol in his ministry logo--"a rare privilege," according to the Polish-born missionary.

Since gaining entry to the U.N., Golonka has established scripture distribution points where Bibles in 95 languages are given to U.N. workers, including representatives of communist countries. He is organizing the United Nations Baptist Fellowship for all Baptists working at the U.N.

Recently, he lunched with a Soviet administrator, with whom he shared a Russian New Testament and answered questions about Christianity.

Golonka also ministers to U.N. family members, such as the elderly, Spanish-speaking mother of a Venezulean worker. Through New York City's Spanish-speaking churches, he arranged a companion for the woman. He has also placed a Brazilian secretary's cousin in English classes at Metropolitan New York Baptist Association.

-more-

"There is tremendous need for English classes," Golonka noted, adding that the location of his office 35 blocks from the U.N. makes it difficult to schedule activities with U.N. personnel.

"A Soviet diplomat told me he knew of 50 Russian wives who would come to English classes if we could hold them near the U.N.," Golonka said. "We could also sponsor Bible studies in 25 languages if we had closer office space."

The Home Mission Board and New York Convention are considering the possibility of providing him with an office on the high-rent East Side near the U.N., Golonka added.

A recent highlight of Golonka's ministry was an ambassadors dinner which drew 305 diplomats from 42 countries. The choir of First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas, performed, including members of the church's deaf choir, in honor of the International Year of the Disabled.

Golonka's status means "we have earned the respect and trust of U.N. officials who see a need for a spiritual dimension to their work here," Golonka said. He knows of no other religious group or denomination accorded his unique standing at present.

"This is a wide-open door for Southern Baptists," he stressed. "The United Nations is one of the most strategic mission fields in the world."

-30-

Builder Walks To Work:
In Nine African Nations

By Mary Jane Welch

Baptist Press
11/4/81

MONROVIA, Liberia (BP)--Every morning Jim Wilkins steps out his front door, catches a glimpse of the Atlantic Ocean and walks to work. Work is across the yard--the construction site for a new Baptist publications building in Monrovia, Liberia.

Wilkins is making history. He is the first Southern Baptist missionary builder assigned not to one country, but to the nine countries of West Africa where Southern Baptists have missionaries. In early 1981, he and his wife, Sue, left two grown sons and jobs they had held for years to take up the gypsy life--moving first to one West African nation and then another--wherever Jim's building skills are most needed.

Although Jim left a string of pastorates to take up his new trade as missionary builder, building wasn't new for him. He built roads in Korea with the combat engineers and while pastor of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Bucklin, Mo., he drove a bulldozer every summer to supplement his income.

"I felt this got me into homes on a different level from walking in in a suit as the minister of the community," he says.

Although Wilkins has been pleasantly surprised by the availability of building supplies in Liberia (almost no supplies were available in Ghana), he has had to make some adjustments.

"Building is building, but the way you get the job done is so much different," he says. "I'm more mechanized. I want to use a cement mixer rather than two or three men and a mortar board and shovels. And yet I've discovered that often my ways are faster, but not necessarily better." His cement mixer, for instance, is idle because it has no power source.

-more-

Wilkins brought a complete shop--carpentry, masonry and metal-working--with him. He's found his Liberian workers eager to learn better and faster building methods, but they know that a lot of the equipment they are learning to use will leave when he does.

One day when Wilkins told his carpenter to go get the power saw to cut a board, the man replied, "Oh, I don't want to forget how to use my handsaw."

Wilkins' workers once held jobs at Ricks' Institute, but a series of financial setbacks at the Baptist high school had left them sitting with no materials. By putting them on his payroll, he eased a financial strain for the school, while training its workers in new methods they can take back to the school when he moves on.

When Wilkins arrived in Liberia, the property for the publications center had to be purchased, the building designed, building permits secured, plans approved and property cleared. Crews were pouring footings and foundations by late September although the rainy season had slowed construction.

To keep construction moving, Wilkins designed a shelter of lumber and canvas under which workers can lay concrete blocks. Under the shelter, they were able to lay 250 blocks on a day when the rain never let up. With it, they finished a 350-foot wall to secure one side of the compound which includes the publications building, a hostel for missionary kids and several missionary homes.

Wilkins hopes to have the building blocked in by December or January. Then he'll load his trailer and travel over deeply rutted roads to northern Ghana. The Baptist Medical Center there needs a new pediatrics wing. He'll probably still live close enough to walk to work.

-30-

Adapted from World Mission Journal.

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