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Inter-Racial Baptist Work Survey Reported

NASHVILLE--(BP)--About one out of four Southern Baptist churches is co-operating with a Negro Baptist church in some activity, according to a report given here.

The report was based on a survey conducted jointly by the Home Mission Board and by the department of research and statistics of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Activities included Vacation Bible School aid, providing educational scholarships, pulpit exchanges, simultaneous revivals, erection or repair of Negro church buildings, planning or conferring with Negro pastors, exchange of youth and music programs, sending Negro boys and girls to summer camp, and others.

Survey forms were mailed by the Home Mission Board to more than 25,200 pastors in the Southern Baptist Convention. About 6500 responded. Of these, 1764 had engaged in some activity during the last two years.

About one-fifth of the churches had co-operated with Negro Baptist churches in helping the Negro churches conduct vacation Bible schools. 1,356 pastors said their churches had at one time given financial assistance to Negro vacation Bible schools, although only 624 did so during 1958.

Another area of greatest inter-racial co-operation among Baptists was in conferences between white and Negro ministers. The survey showed that 882 Southern Baptist ministers had planned or conferred with Negro Baptist preachers during 1957 and 1958.

"There is a definite positive association between co-operation and opportunity for co-operation (as measured by the number of Negro churches nearby)," Martin Bradley of Nashville, statistician for the research and statistics department, said.

The questionnaire asked the pastors to indicate if there were any Negro Baptist churches within 15 miles of their Southern Baptist churches, and if so, how many. This was used to determine whether there was an opportunity for co-operation, Bradley said.

The number of churches with an opportunity for co-operation, based on the 15-mile figure, was not yet tabulated. Bradley said that an analysis of co-operation in relation to opportunity for co-operation would be made in the future.

The report was made to the Advisory Council on Work with National Baptists at its meeting here. Leaders from state Baptist and Southern Baptist agencies working in co-operation with Negro Baptists attended the council meeting.

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Conferences To Plan Step By Step Program

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Step by step procedures for Christian citizens to follow in dealing with moral issues in their communities will be developed at Christian Life Conferences in Ridgecrest, N. C., this summer.

A. C. Miller, Nashville, executive secretary of the sponsoring Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, said dates for the meetings are Aug. 20-26.

"The participants will work out actual steps to be taken concerning four

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issues common to all communities---traffic in salacious literature, crime and juvenile delinquency, alcoholism, and race relations," he said.

"We are in the process of securing leading, recognized men in each of these fields. The procedures we hope to develop will guide Christian citizens as individuals as well as in groups," according to Miller.

"The work done in the workshops will help us produce a booklet for distribution, to guide groups in community action on moral issues," Miller said.

"Purpose of these conferences is to bring the testimony of Christian citizens into play in the whole community on these moral questions."

Conferences on the four subject areas will meet separately, but participants will assemble as a group later each day to share their findings and take part in discussion.

The Christian Life Commission will also sponsor one of four Bible classes at the Baptist assembly during that week. Its subject: "The Bible and Social Frontiers."

Reservations for the week of conferences should be made through the management of Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly, Miller said. About 300 persons took part in the conferences last year.

The Christian Life Commission will hold its annual business meeting in connection with the conference at Ridgecrest. The Commission meeting starts on Aug. 19 and will last two or three days.

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Nashville Contractor
Foundation President

NASHVILLE--(BP)--A Nashville contractor, Stirton Oman, has been elected president of the directors of Southern Baptist Foundation here. The Foundation is an agency of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Walton N. Smith, Clarksville, Tenn., realtor was elected vice-president, and Noble C. Caudill, Nashville, vice-president of a national shoe manufacturing company, is recording secretary of the directors.

They were elected at the annual meeting of the directors here in February. Oman succeeds Jack C. Massey of Nashville. J. W. Storer is executive secretary of the Foundation which has offices here.

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