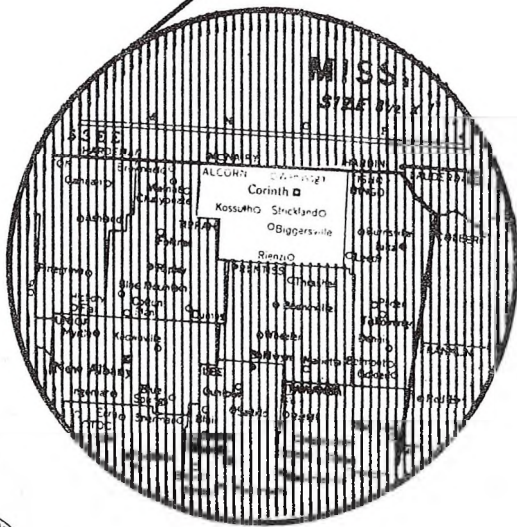


# A SPECIAL STUDY OF

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSISSIPPI



## ALCORN COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, MISSISSIPPI



DEPARTMENT OF SURVEY AND SPECIAL STUDIES HOME MISSION BOARD S.B.C.

A SPECIAL STUDY OF THE ALCORN COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION OF  
CORINTH, MISSISSIPPI  
May, 1970

Jointly prepared by the  
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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A vast amount of material was gathered during the process of the study of the Alcorn County Baptist Association, hereafter designated by its initials, ACBA. It is unnecessary to mention every source of material and include all references; however, we are compelled to single out several persons because of their outstanding contribution, individually or by the organization they represent. We are especially indebted to Mr. Charles Smith of the Mississippi State Employment Service in Corinth, Mr. Lew Miller, chairman of the Corinth Planning Commission, and Mr. Ray T. Sternett, executive secretary of the Corinth Chamber of Commerce.

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A SPECIAL STUDY OF  
ALCORN COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

The following report is an attempt to analyze the past trends in the population, economy, and ACBA churches and predict the possible conditions which will affect these churches during this decade. The purpose of this report is to provide a sourcebook for planning by the ACBA. Since the primary focus is on the Association, churches interested in long range planning may receive indirect assistance by referring to the numerous professional sources quoted in this report and by copying the methods of analysis of church data. None of the projections regarding church outreach or organizations are presented as goals; they should be received only as mechanically produced extensions of past trends. Many factors can alter these trends in population growth or evangelistic outreach; however, these projections do indicate the direction in which the Association is headed if nothing occurs or is done to alter the trends.

BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

"In 1884, the Mobile and Ohio Railroad crossed the Memphis and Charleston Railroad just below the Tennessee State Line and a little settlement sprang up known as 'Cross City' and soon after this community was named 'Corinth' for the ancient city of Corinth, Greece. Little did its citizens realize that in less than ten years they were to be embroiled in one of the most bitter battles ever fought on American soils - the Battle of Shiloh and Corinth - 1861-1864.

"In 1870 Alcorn County was formed out of old Tishomingo County and Corinth became its county seat.

"In 1934, work was begun on Pickwick Dam which formed Pickwick Lake. This not only gave the area huge recreational facilities, but TVA electric power as well. From this small beginning Corinth has grown into an industrial and recreational area. In recent years many fine new industrial plants have located in the Corinth area, providing jobs for its citizens as well as bringing many new families to the City."

Source: Chamber of Commerce

#### THE PHYSICAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC SETTING

Corinth, the seat of Alcorn County is located three miles south of the Tennessee State Line; 23 miles west of the Alabama State Line; 88 miles east-southeast of Memphis, Tennessee; 54 miles south of Jackson, Tennessee; 118 miles west of Huntsville, Alabama; 186 miles northwest of Birmingham, Alabama; and 250 miles north of Jackson, Mississippi. As mentioned in the historical background the beginnings of the City were related to the intersection of two major railroad trunk-lines. Presently three railroads intersect in the City; Gulf Mobile and Ohio, Southern, and Illinois Central. Two federal highways intersect at the City also; U.S. 45 running north and south, and U.S. 72 running east and west. Figure 1 displays the strategic geographical factors which have caused Corinth to be regarded as a transportation center near the point where the three states meet.

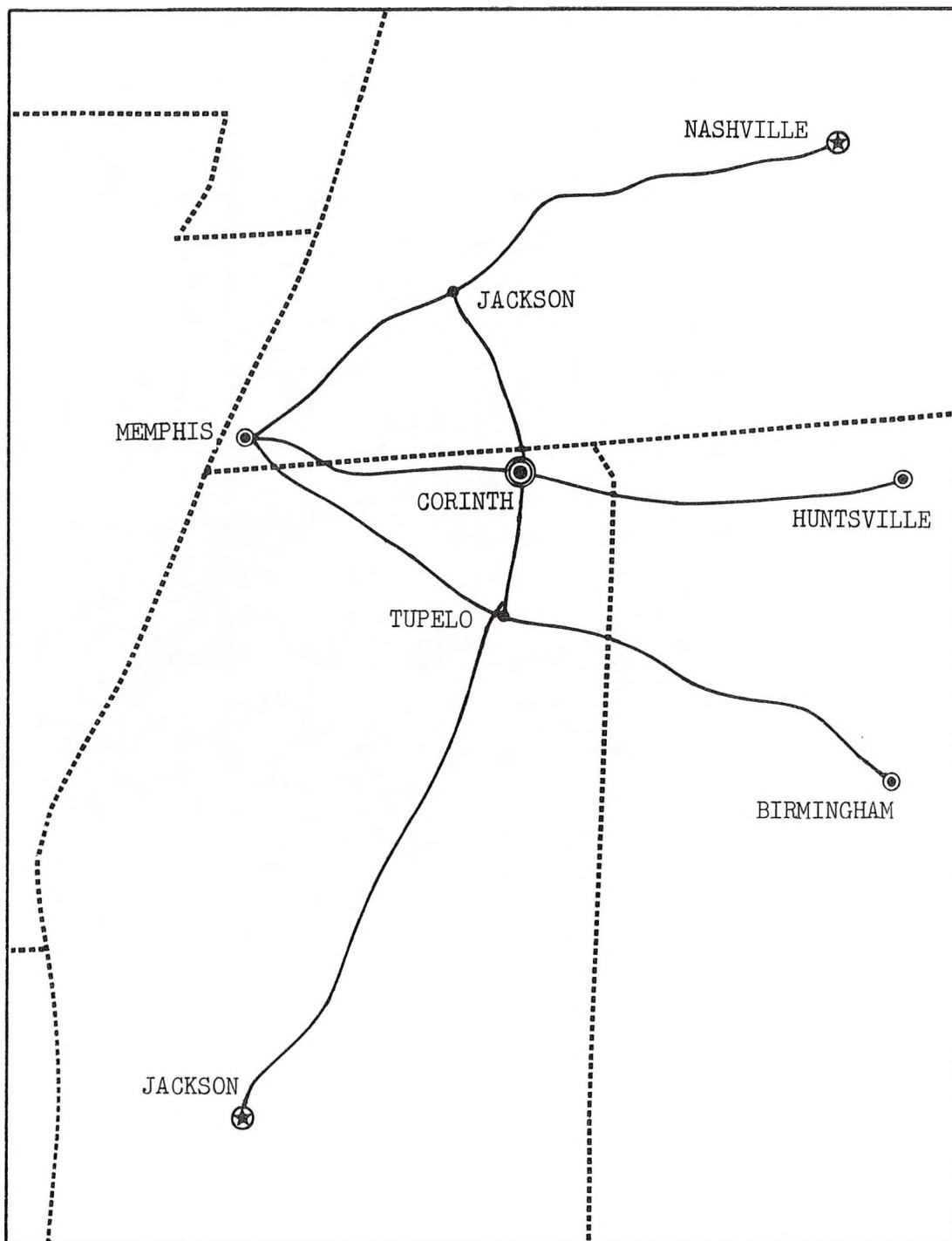
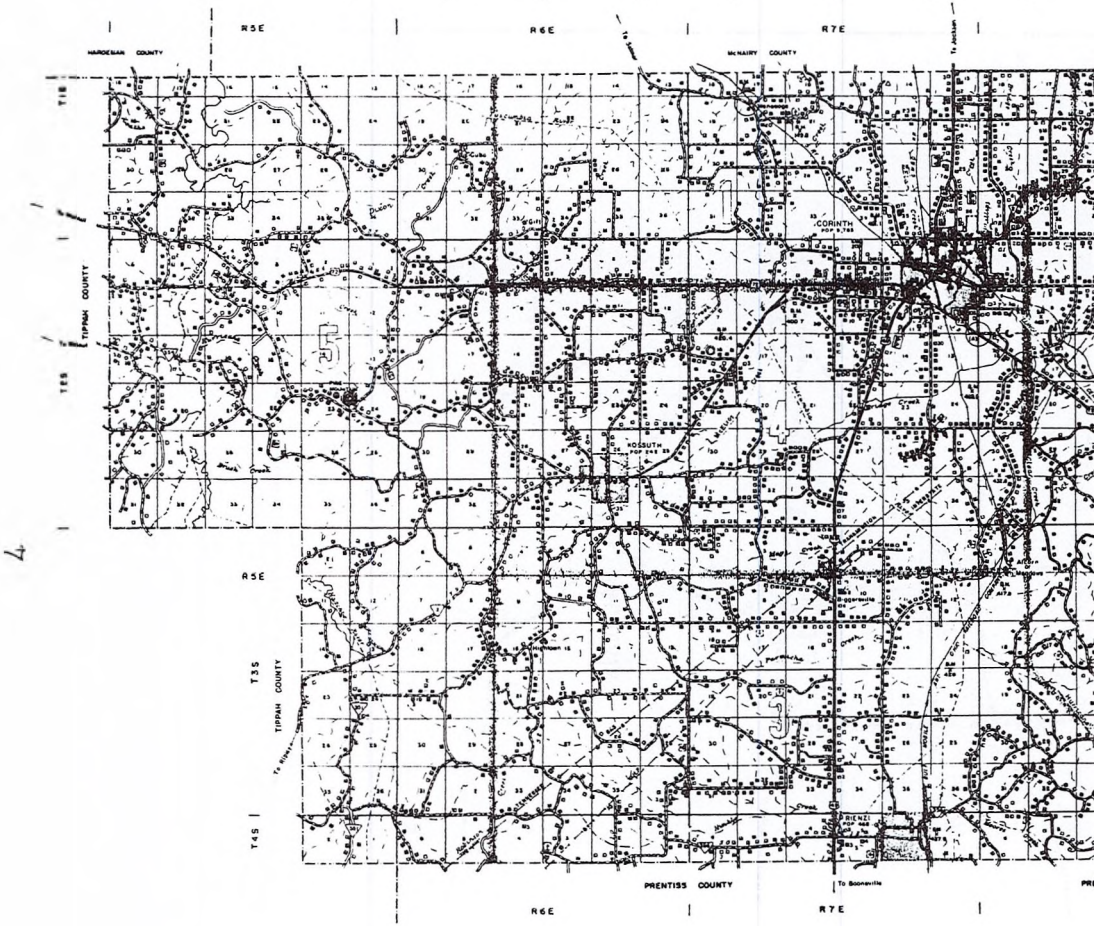
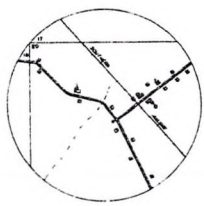


Fig. 1.--Geographical Location of Corinth, Mississippi

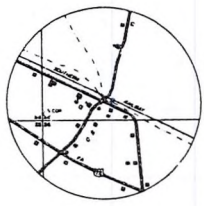
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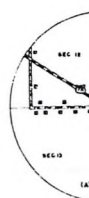
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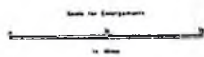
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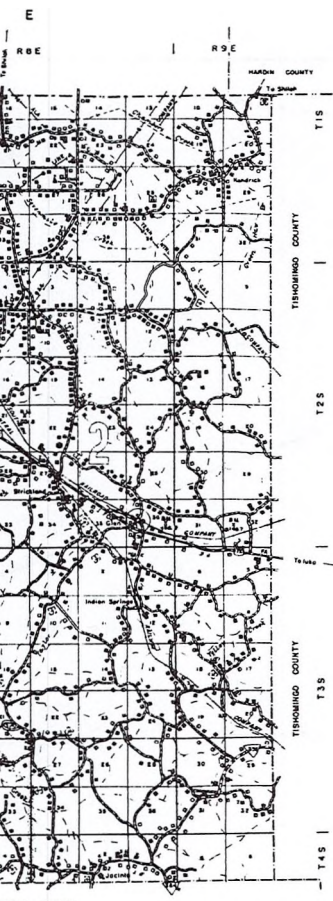


Madison Sec. 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30



Madison Sec. 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40





### LEGEND

PRIMITIVE ROAD .....	BUSINESS AND FILLING STATION .....	
UNIMPROVED ROAD .....	INDICATOR OF INDUSTRIAL PLANT .....	
DRAINED AND DRAINAGE .....	FILLING STATION .....	
SUB SURFACED ROAD .....	PLANNING STATION .....	
GRAVEL OR STONE ROAD .....	SCHOOLHOUSE .....	
GRAVEL OR STONE ROAD - NOT GRAVEL OR DRAINED .....	COURT .....	
GRAVEL OR DRAINED .....	CHURCH WITH CEMETERY ADJACENT .....	
GRAVEL OR STONE (GRAVEL) SURFACING .....	POST OFFICE .....	
ATUNAMOUS ROAD-ON TYPE .....	SEASONAL INDUSTRIES .....	
HIGH TYPE BITUMINOUS .....	SMALL FARM .....	
BRIDGE OF BLDG .....	SOFT GROUND OR COUNTRY CLUB .....	
COMBINATION TYPE ROAD .....	DRIVE IN THEATRE .....	
RAVINE ROAD .....	DRIVE IN DRIVEWAY COURSE SPECIFIC .....	
4 LANE UNIMPROVED HIGHWAY .....	HOSPITAL .....	
DIVIDED HIGHWAY .....	OCCUPATION OR LOOKOUT TOWER .....	
FEDERAL-AID PRIMARY .....	BUSINESS AND POST OFFICE .....	
FEDERAL-AID SECONDARY .....	SARIAL, STATIONARY .....	
INTERSTATE SYSTEM .....	OL OF GAS WELLS .....	
VILLAGE BETWEEN POINTS .....	OL OF GAS FIELD .....	
BRIDGE - GENERAL, SOFT ROAD .....	GROUP OF STORAGE TANKS .....	
DRIVE BRIDGE .....	GRAIN ELEVATOR .....	
RAVINE .....	TURPENTINE STILL .....	
CLOVER LEAF .....	GRAVEL PIT .....	
U.S. NUMBERED .....	ASSESSMENT MARK OR MALL .....	
STATE HIGHWAY CONTROL .....	HISTORIC SITE .....	
END OF STATE HIGHWAY CONTROL .....	DRILLING AND POST OFFICE .....	
MILITARY AIRPORT .....	DRILLING BUSINESS AND POST OFFICE .....	
AIRPORT COMPLETE FACILITIES .....	BARBERS .....	
AIRFIELD LIMITED FACILITIES .....	SCALES .....	
LANDING AREA OR STRIP .....	WAREHOUSE .....	
INCLUDING PRIVATE AIR FIELDS .....	POWER PLANT .....	
AIRPORT LIGHT BEACON .....	POWER SUBSTATION .....	
RAILROAD STATION .....	BOOSTER STATION .....	
RAILROAD CROSSING .....	RAIL STATION (FORM OF INTERLOCK) .....	
RAILROAD ABOVE .....	RAIL LINE GAS .....	
RAILROAD BELOW .....	TRANSMISSION LINE .....	
RAILROAD TUNNEL .....	UNDERGROUND TELEPHONE CABLE .....	
RAILROAD TUNNEL .....	PORT ARMY CAMP OR MILITARY POST .....	
RAILROAD TUNNEL .....	BENCH MARK WITH ELEVATION .....	
RAILROAD TUNNEL .....	DOCK PIER OR LANDING .....	
RAILROAD TUNNEL .....	HEAD OF NAVIGATION .....	
RAILROAD TUNNEL .....	UNDRAINED SWAMP .....	
RAILROAD TUNNEL .....	LAKE OR RESERVOIR WITH DAM .....	
RAILROAD TUNNEL .....	WATER OF SWAMP LANDS .....	
RAILROAD TUNNEL .....	LEVEE OR DIKE .....	
RAILROAD TUNNEL .....	LEVEE OF DIRT WITH ROAD .....	
RAILROAD TUNNEL .....	ROADS WITH FULL CONTROL OF ACCESS .....	
RAILROAD TUNNEL .....	ROADS WITH PARTIAL CONTROL OF ACCESS .....	

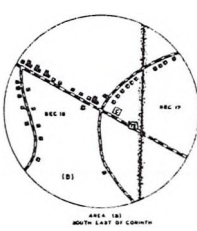


## GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP ALCORN COUNTY MISSISSIPPI

PREPARED BY THE  
MISSISSIPPI STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT  
TRAFFIC AND PLANNING DIVISION

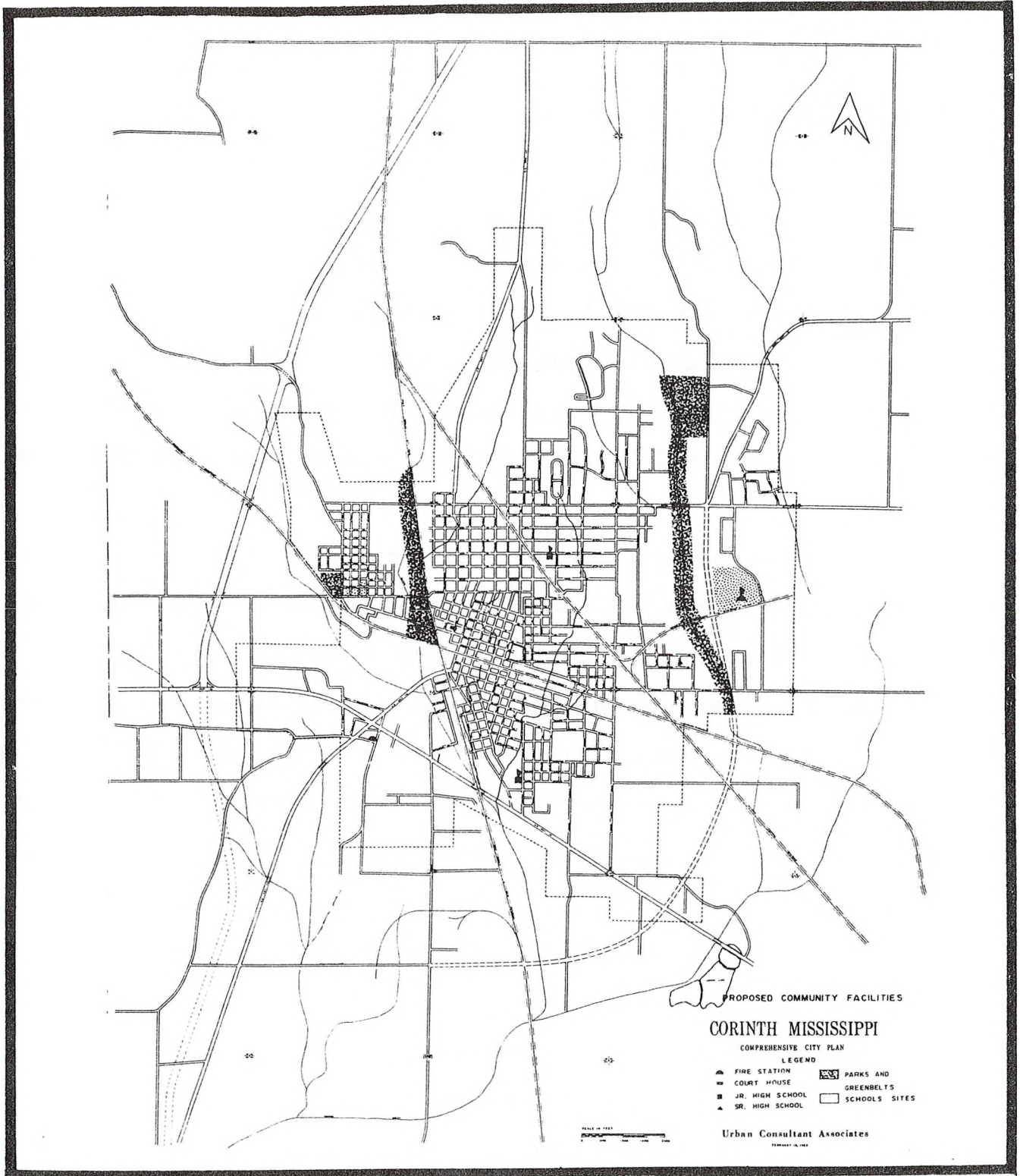
IN COOPERATION WITH THE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS

DATA OBTAINED FROM  
TRAFFIC AND PLANNING SURVEY  
AND  
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS



1957

PLATE II



Several physical features within the County act as major geographical areas which restrict the major residential growth to the northeast quadrant of the City. To the south there are two principle barriers; the Industrial Park and the Flood Plain associated with Bridge Creek. To the west, and running practically the entire length of the County is the Flood Plain associated with the Tuscomb River and its numerous tributaries. Note the location of these physical barriers on the Mississippi State Highway Department map of Alcorn County, Plate 1.

On Plate 2, taken from the Comprehensive Plan by the Urban Consultant Associates of Birmingham, the proposed major thoroughfares and community facilities can be observed. The completion of the four-lane bypass and the southeastern loop which will connect the Industrial Park with Shiloh Road are of particular significance.

Because of the hilly terrain and certain geological features, Alcorn County is classified as part of the Appalachian Mountain Region. The highest point in the State is located in Tishomingo County, to the east.

Because of the strategic transportation factors, especially the railroads, Corinth has become a manufacturing center for the area. Table 1 summarizes the growth in the labor force from 1965 through 1969 according to the Mississippi State Employment Service, Corinth office. Manufacturing employment rose the most, from 3,600 to nearly 5,200.

The present Industrial Park is practically filled and planners are suggesting another park be located north of the City along the G., M. & O. Railroad.

The economic growth of the area has special social implications which relate to church planning. Many of the new jobs created during the past decade have employed females, and it is estimated that at the present time they constitute about 35% of the workers. The principle employers are Century Electric, International Telegraph and Telephone, and Wurlitzer. All three of these new industries rely heavily upon female labor in the assembly of small electric motors (Century

Electronic), wiring of electronic assembly boards for ITT and the manual assembly of electronics components for Wurlitzer. A very significant number of the female

TABLE 1  
LABOR FORCE SUMMARY FOR ALCORN COUNTY, 1965 AND 1969 AVERAGES<sup>a</sup>

Labor Force	Year	
	1965 <sup>b</sup>	1969
Total Civilian Labor Force . . . . .	10,750	12,910
(Percent unemployed) . . . . .	(4.9%)	(5.0%)
Employed . . . . .	10,250	12,270
Nonagricultural, Wage & Salaried . . . . .	7,200	9,320
Manufacturing - Total . . . . .	3,600	5,190
Food & Kindred . . . . .	190	150
Apparel . . . . .	1,170	1,340
Lumber and Wood . . . . .	110	170
Printing and Publishing . . . . .	70	90
Other Manufacturing . . . . .	2,060	3,350
Nonmanufacturing - Total . . . . .	3,500	4,220
Construction . . . . .	300	320
Transportation & Public Utilities . . . . .	400	400
Wholesale & Retail Trade . . . . .	1,140	1,380
Finance Insurance & Real Estate . . . . .	160	220
Service & Miscellaneous . . . . .	.	780
Government <sup>c</sup> . . . . .	1,100	1,130
Other nonagricultural <sup>d</sup> . . . . .	1,600	1,700
Agricultural . . . . .	1,500	1,250

<sup>a</sup>"Manpower News", Mississippi State Employment Service, Corinth, Mississippi

<sup>b</sup>Approximations.

<sup>c</sup>Includes Government operated hospital and public schools.

<sup>d</sup>Includes self-employed, unpaid family workers and domestics.

employees can be seen entering and leaving the City at peak traffic hours in car pools. The license plates illustrate the long journeys many face into Tennessee, Alabama, and the neighboring counties within Mississippi. This phenomenon also suggests that every employable woman within Alcorn County is probably working if she wishes to since the local industries, including a large number of textile mills, have a very strong pull for female labor. On the other end of the labor

spectrum we are not to assume there is a scarcity of jobs for males, but one thing is probably sure--there is a "scarcity" of non-working mothers. These factors generally have an impact on the family relations, particularly in terms of child-rearing and in turn on the weekday involvement of women in volunteer organizations in the church and community.

The types of jobs that become available in the future as a result of the location of new plants and the expansion of existing industries should be observed in the light of the social impact they will have on the community as well as the economic impact they cause.

#### POPULATION FORECAST

The data discussed in the section under economy prepares us to look for population increases. In 1960 the total population for the County was 25,282, of which 21,949 were white. In 1965 the population was estimated to have increased 2,300. These data can be studied on Table 2.

TABLE 2

#### POPULATION OF ALCORN COUNTY, 1960-1965 BY RACE<sup>a</sup>

Year	White	Non-White	Total
1960 . . . . .	21,949	3,333	25,282
1965 . . . . .	24,159	3,421	27,580

<sup>a</sup>Ellen Bryant, Mississippi State University.

The regional decrease in agricultural employment is also reflected in Alcorn County in two significant ways: first, the internal shift or intra-regional migration of unskilled people to Corinth; and second, the regional out-migration of the younger, more productive persons in search of employment opportunities not available in the Corinth region. Table 3 illustrates the population shift to Corinth and the definite decline in the areas outside of Corinth.

TABLE 3  
POPULATION OF CORINTH AND RURAL AREAS IN ALCORN COUNTY  
1940-1969<sup>a</sup>

Year	Corinth	Outside Corinth	Total
1940 . . . . .	7,818	19,151	26,969
1950 . . . . .	9,785	17,373	27,158
1960 . . . . .	11,453	13,829	25,282
1969 . . . . .	14,320	12,980	27,300

<sup>a</sup>Ellen Bryant, Mississippi State University.

According to the new Comprehensive Plan, the population is expected to increase during the next decade by about 4,500 in Corinth and 2,100 in the rest of the County. See Table 4.

TABLE 4  
POPULATION PROJECTIONS FOR ALCORN COUNTY BY  
URBAN AND RURAL AREAS<sup>a</sup>

Year	Alcorn County		
	Corinth	Outside Corinth	Total
1970 . . . . .	14,640	12,960	27,600
1980 . . . . .	19,230	15,070	34,300
1990 . . . . .	24,670	14,130	38,800

<sup>a</sup>Comprehensive Plan of Corinth, Mississippi, 1969.

Two recent factors involving special federal assistance may spur the rural growth. The first is the Farmer's Home Administration Loans for rural area moderate income houses and the other is the creation of Water Associations similar to Rural Electrification Association of decades past.

Southern Bell Telephone Company produces estimates concerning the number of households it can expect in its various exchanges so that it can plan for adequate equipment to offer the needed services of the changing clientele. Table 5 shows its projections for the Corinth Exchange which basically covers Alcorn

County except for the Rienzi area which is serviced by an independent company. The actual count for 1968 was above the estimated number anticipated for the first of 1970. Therefore new projections will probably be forthcoming once 1970 census data can verify the validity of the discrepancies.

TABLE 5  
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THE  
CORINTH TELEPHONE EXCHANGE<sup>a</sup>

9/27/68 . . . . .	7,298 <sup>a</sup>
1/1/70 . . . . .	7,200
1/1/76 . . . . .	8,018
1/1/81 . . . . .	8,935

<sup>a</sup>Southern Bell Telephone Company, Commercial Wire Center Forecast.

<sup>b</sup>Actual count.

#### THE RELIGIOUS SETTING

In 1962 both Negro and white churches of all denominations cooperated in a religious census of Alcorn County. The coverage was estimated at representing 94.8% of the homes. Data were gathered on 21,749 people out of an estimated 25,400 in 1962. The survey revealed there were approximately 5,000 Southern Baptists, 2,500 Methodists, 1,500 Church of Christ, 600 Presbyterians, and approximately 100 Roman Catholics in the County. Approximately 5,000 persons were interviewed who were nine years of age and older that were not members of any church and nearly 2,000 children under nine were not active in any church (not attending at least once a month). The non-members represented about 27% of the "mature" population while the inactive children represented about 52% of all the small children covered in the canvass. These data indicate a below average rate of church affiliation and church attendance for the County when compared to the state of Mississippi.

Travel in the rural areas and the small towns can be used to locate the many churches that spot the countryside but the following list aids in noting the broad religious-mix of Corinth.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD--First Assembly of God.

BAPTIST--First Baptist, Tate Street Baptist, West Corinth Baptist, East Corinth Baptist, South Corinth Baptist, North Corinth Baptist, Calvary Baptist, Oakland Baptist, Pinecrest Missionary Baptist, Grace Bible Baptist.

CHRISTIAN--Waldron Street Christian, Salem Christian, Harper Road Christian.

CHURCH OF CHRIST--Foote Street, Central, North Side, East Corinth, West Corinth.

EPISCOPAL--St Paul Episcopal.

METHODIST--First Methodist, Trinity Methodist, Gaines Chapel Methodist, Box Chapel Methodist.

LUTHERAN-- Prince of Peace Lutheran.

PRESBYTERIAN--Fillmore Street, First Presbyterian, Speedway Presbyterian.

PENTECOSTAL--First Pentecostal, Calvary Pentecostal.

ROMAN CATHOLIC--St. James Catholic.

WEST CORINTH TABERNACLE.

The religious-mix referred to above and illustrated in the list, is an expression of the wide range of socio-economic classes of persons in the City. In the rural areas there are primarily one or two "types" of people ranging from farmers to commuters while in the City there are not only a few renters and many owners, but there are laborers and managers, professionals, salesmen, specialists in various areas, natives of Mississippi and many "outsiders" who were transferred into the area to staff an organization, an office or man a plant. This wide range of "types" of people reflect in different life-styles, some of which do not "congregate" together very well in the same church. These facts present a special challenge for every church in Corinth to realistically assess the membership of their congregation and those "types" of people they do not reach. Each church is then confronted with either broadening their outreach and/or cooperating more earnestly with those churches which complement their outreach.

## THE ASSOCIATIONAL SETTING

In 1969 there were 29 churches in the ACBA, 17 of these in rural areas, 4 in the villages and towns while 8 were classified as city churches. In 1965 there were only 16 churches reporting data in the rural areas. In 1968, Kendrick began reporting their data. The same number reported throughout the rest of the County over the five year period. Table 6 displays the change in church size over the last five years. The rural churches have shown some "ups and downs" while the village and town churches have shown a slight decline and the city churches a rather substantial increase except for a slight reversal in 1969.

TABLE 6

AVERAGE RESIDENT MEMBERS PER CHURCH, 1965 THROUGH 1969  
BY URBAN AND RURAL AREAS

Year	Area		
	City	Village & Town	Rural
1965 . . . . .	304	105	126
1966 . . . . .	319	107	130
1967 . . . . .	324	105	136
1968 . . . . .	335	100	124
1969 . . . . .	328	99	128

These data somewhat confirm that which was said earlier concerning the rural to urban shift.

Sunday School average weekly attendance is perhaps the best indicator of the general trend of participation of the constituency in the church. Table 7 displays the number of persons attending Sunday School per 100 resident members. This does not mean that there were 57% of the resident members attending Sunday School in the city churches in 1965 but it does compare the trend in number of resident members. We would expect the rate (attenders per 100 members) to remain the same; that is, the total attendance should rise if the membership in-

creases, or the reverse if there are declines. If all things are equal we could assume participation would be the same if the churches held the same attraction for the population. If the churches were more attractive there would be a higher rate shown over time, while a lower rate would imply a lesser attraction. Table 7 indicates a lowering participation rate for the city churches in 1965 to 1966 but in all other areas and years there is a fairly consistent "sameness."

TABLE 7  
 SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE RATE, 1965 THROUGH 1969  
 BY RURAL AND URBAN AREAS

Year	Areas		
	City	Village & Town	Rural
1965 . . . . .	57	47	47
1966 . . . . .	51	48	46
1967 . . . . .	49	47	46
1968 . . . . .	50	48	50
1969 . . . . .	50	46	49

Another measure of "effectiveness" of the churches in reaching out is the analysis of the components of membership change: additions by baptism; transfer by church letter; and the net losses by out-migration, death, or joining another church.

Rates per 100 resident members were computed to aid in the comparative analysis of data from 1960 through 1969. These rates are calculated only for the total Association, because the urban and rural data display inconsistent patterns because of the small number of churches in each category. Table 8 aids us in noting downward trends in both baptisms and letters, while a very erratic pattern is noted for the losses. These data become the basis for preparing membership projections to be discussed in the next section of the report.

TABLE 8  
 RATES<sup>a</sup> OF COMPONENTS OF MEMBERSHIP CHANGE 1960 THROUGH 1969

Year	Rates		
	Baptisms	Letters	Losses
1960 . . . . .	2.6	4.3	4.8
1961 . . . . .	6.2	6.1	9.3
1962 . . . . .	5.2	6.9	10.7
1963 . . . . .	4.6	4.6	7.3
1964 . . . . .	3.7	4.3	10.1
1965 . . . . .	3.0	4.9	6.0
1966 . . . . .	4.9	4.6	5.6
1967 . . . . .	3.7	5.5	6.7
1968 . . . . .	3.8	4.2	8.1
1969 . . . . .	3.7	4.8	8.3

The final trends we will observe in the analysis of church data are the financial receipts and mission gifts. Table 9 shows the comparison of per capita church receipts by church location from 1965 through 1969. The rather irregular pattern may be inaccuracy of reporting or unusual financial successes one year with poor records the next.

TABLE 9  
 PER CAPITA TOTAL CHURCH RECEIPTS REPORTED BY THE CHURCHES,  
 1965 THROUGH 1969 FOR URBAN AND RURAL AREAS

Year	Area			Total
	City	Village & Town	Rural	
1965 . . . . .	98.69	63.50	32.05	69.65
1966 . . . . .	90.84	50.03	31.92	63.18
1967 . . . . .	91.28	52.70	35.56	64.79
1968 . . . . .	100.16	59.06	47.00	75.39
1969 . . . . .	97.59	77.10	55.55	78.42

A more consistent pattern of giving can be noted for per capita gifts to all mission causes in the village and town and rural areas, while the city churches report a greater fluxuation. Note Table 10.

TABLE 10

PER CAPITA TOTAL GIFTS TO ALL MISSION CAUSES REPORTED BY THE CHURCHES,  
1965 THROUGH 1969 FOR URBAN AND RURAL AREAS

Year	Areas			Total
	City	Village & Town	Rural	
1965 . . . . .	14.79	7.39	2.79	9.17
1966 . . . . .	16.27	7.43	3.26	10.18
1967 . . . . .	14.21	7.39	3.44	9.14
1968 . . . . .	14.87	8.40	3.82	10.29
1969 . . . . .	16.43	8.34	5.89	11.40

A comparison of the per capita income to the churches between rural and city members differ at a one to two basis; that is, for each dollar the rural churches receive per member, the urban churches are taking in two dollars. The comparison of mission dollars, however, is on a one-to-three basis with the rural member giving one-third as much to mission causes as the city member does through his church.

All the data from which the calculations used in this section were based can be found on Table 14 in the Appendix.

#### MEMBERSHIP PROJECTIONS

This final section of the report will build from the previous section by extending the trends in evangelistic outreach in membership mobility to estimate the number of members the ACBA will have in 1975. No projections can be made on the rural-urban basis because of the small sample and inconsistent patterns; therefore, what is said about the County must be conditioned by the assumption that one area will compensate for the other inaccuracies and in the long run provide a general County-wide picture.

The membership projections are made by mechanically defining and extending the trends in baptisms, letters, and losses. This is accomplished by using the rates as defined for Table 8. Table 11 shows the three rates used in constructing the high, medium, and low membership projections on Table 12.

TABLE 11

## PROJECTED RATES OF THE COMPONENTS OF MEMBERSHIP CHANGE, 1970 AND 1975

Year	Projection Series		
	Low	Medium	High
Baptism Rates			
1970 . . . . .	3.4	3.6	3.7
1975 . . . . .	2.1	2.9	3.7
Letter Rates			
1970 . . . . .	4.5	4.8	4.9
1975 . . . . .	3.3	4.5	5.2
Losses Rates			
1970 . . . . .	8.4	8.3	8.2
1975 . . . . .	8.8	8.3	7.7

The more favorable baptism and letter rates are the higher rates, while the opposite is true for losses. The lower the losses, the more members remain in that church. Note that by adding the baptism and letter rates and subtracting the losses rate you can estimate the percentage change in members for that year. To illustrate, the combined addition rate for the high series in 1975 is 8.9 from which 7.7 is subtracted, giving a net change rate of 2.2 or an equal net increase of 2.2 percent for that year. The low projection calls for a net loss of 3.3%. Table 12 displays the projected membership for the three series.

TABLE 12  
PROJECTED MEMBERSHIP, 1970 THROUGH 1975

Year	Projection Series		
	Low	Medium	High
1970 . . . . .	5,197	5,218	5,233
1971 . . . . .	5,146	5,209	5,256
1972 . . . . .	5,064	5,188	5,282
1973 . . . . .	4,951	5,155	5,312
1974 . . . . .	4,810	5,111	5,346
1975 . . . . .	4,642	5,055	5,384

The 1970 projections do not differ much among the three series but with each new year the range widens. This is caused by the irregularity of data reporting during the past decade which makes accurate predictability of trends very low.

Table 13 is the final table in this section, and gives the range in absolute numbers of baptisms, letters, and losses estimated for 1970 and 1975.

TABLE 13  
PROJECTED NUMBER OF BAPTISMS, LETTERS AND LOSSES FOR 1970 AND 1975

Year	Projection Series		
	Low	Medium	High
Persons Baptized			
1970 . . . . .	176	185	194
1975 . . . . .	83	141	198
Persons Received By Letter			
1970 . . . . .	236	248	256
1975 . . . . .	146	225	281
Persons Removed From Resident Roll (Losses)			
1970 . . . . .	431	431	431
1975 . . . . .	397	422	442

Note that the most dramatic change anticipated is the one concerning the number of persons baptized, while moderate declines could occur in terms of number of persons received by letter. The number of persons removed from the resident membership rolls (the losses) is expected to remain at a fairly high level.

No efforts are made to project the participation ratio based on the Sunday School average weekly attendance, because there has been some downward swing though in this County there has been a general leveling. If the attendance rate stays around 49 per 100 resident members there would be between 2,275 and 2,640 persons attending Sunday School compared to the 2,563 reported for 1969. The reader is probably better equipped than this writer in his personal knowledge of the local attitudes and could make a better "guess" as to what will occur.

The financial data are even less predictable, since the lesser active members drift to inactivity and the inner core persevere longer. There is no way to even "guess" about the church income except to rehearse the certainty that the national and local economic trends will affect the member's earning power and that he will usually give in proportion to his ability and motivation. In fact, financial data are the most deceptive of the "success" or "effectiveness" of a church, because many extraneous factors affect the total dollar figures that are reported.

#### CONCLUSION

The economy of Alcorn County has been traditionally geared to agriculture and somewhat to the railroads. The prospects are that the transportation-oriented activities will more and more dominate the economy, and very likely many of the new jobs will continue to utilize a female labor force. The first several sections of this report reveal two very important population facts related to the above statements:

- 1) population increases are expected in the Corinth urbanized area, while elsewhere there will probably be a struggle to maintain the present population;
- 2) Corinth is

in the process of becoming a rather segmented society with a broadening range in life-styles expressed by peoples of many cultural and regional backgrounds. As commuters get tired of traveling great distances, they will seek residence closer to their work. Because of the nature of the present work, however, there will probably continue to be an outmigration of the newly formed households and thus a continued loss of young adults and small children.

For many years the churches have cooperated in specialized ministries and cooperative ventures, with little regard for racial distinction. Such cooperative ventures which have characterized Southern Baptist relations with their National Baptist brethren for many years in Mississippi must be maintained and strengthened despite recurrent tensions.

A new area of specialized ministry may be related to cooperative efforts with Tishomingo Baptists in ministering to a large number of tourists using Pickwick Lake. Closely related to the lake is the Yellow Creek Port facility which is being proposed in Tishomingo County, 18 miles from Corinth. The new port, which is a part of the Tennessee-Tombigby Project, is estimated to be a 15 million dollar facility.

TABLE 14

## MISCELLANEOUS CHURCH DATA FOR ACBA, 1960-1969 BY RURAL AND URBAN AREAS

Area	Year									
	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Resident Members										
Rural . . . . .	2,133	2,141	2,215	2,158	1,998	2,021	2,077	2,175	2,105	2,178
Village & Town. .	388	393	367	371	384	419	429	421	402	397
City. . . . .	2,073	2,199	2,213	2,343	2,395	2,429	2,552	2,592	2,678	2,625
Total . . . . .	4,594	4,733	4,795	4,872	4,777	4,869	5,058	5,188	5,185	5,200
Baptisms										
Rural . . . . .	53	141	92	80	57	45	101	81	110	78
Village & Town. .	16	22	18	16	20	8	24	7	9	12
City. . . . .	49	120	134	123	103	91	114	101	79	103
Total . . . . .	118	283	244	219	180	144	239	189	198	193
Letters										
Rural . . . . .	39	76	66	33	28	36	45	56	42	89
Village & Town. .	27	25	17	19	12	11	19	13	14	9
City. . . . .	127	180	242	168	168	187	159	211	164	153
Total . . . . .	193	281	325	220	208	234	223	280	220	251
Sunday School Enrolment										
Rural . . . . .	1,644	1,656	1,677	1,561	1,529	1,451	1,495	1,514	1,615	1,540
Village & Town. .	433	385	407	383	341	323	415	341	369	326
City. . . . .	2,124	2,269	2,335	2,406	2,420	2,414	2,341	2,331	2,243	2,271
Total . . . . .	4,201	4,310	4,419	4,350	4,290	4,188	4,251	4,186	4,227	4,137

TABLE 14 --Continued

Area	Year									
	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Sunday School Average Attendance										
Rural . . . . .	1,116	1,149	1,141	977	971	954	962	999	1,051	1,068
Village & Town. . .	222	220	219	218	219	195	204	199	191	182
City. . . . .	1,266	1,331	1,385	1,378	1,463	1,392	1,292	1,272	1,332	1,313
Total . . . . .	2,604	2,700	2,745	2,573	2,653	2,541	2,458	2,470	2,574	2,563
Total Receipts										
Rural . . . . .	42,934	45,514	43,422	43,228	47,750	64,786	66,305	77,363	98,955	121,004
Village & Town. . .	16,626	14,946	16,533	17,527	19,419	26,609	21,464	22,187	23,743	30,609
City. . . . .	154,881	162,203	180,936	173,794	221,365	239,734	231,843	236,606	268,242	256,194
Total . . . . .	214,441	222,663	240,891	234,549	288,534	331,129	319,612	336,156	390,940	407,807
Total Mission Gifts										
Rural . . . . .	5,381	4,478	4,495	3,981	5,427	5,639	6,791	7,486	10,153	12,843
Village & Town. . .	1,956	2,052	2,229	2,803	2,614	3,099	3,189	3,113	3,377	3,313
City. . . . .	30,860	27,396	30,827	34,060	33,745	35,938	41,541	36,850	39,824	43,154
Total . . . . .	38,197	33,926	37,551	40,844	41,786	44,676	51,521	47,449	53,354	59,310

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