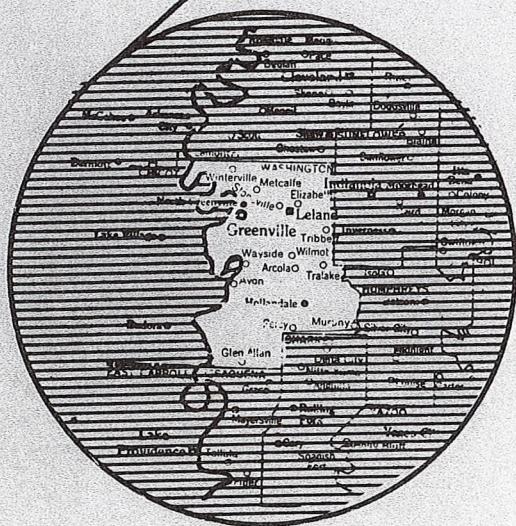


A SPECIAL STUDY OF

RECEIVED
JUN 1 1970
HISTORICAL COMMISSION, SRC



**WASHINGTON
COUNTY
BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION,
MISSISSIPPI**



DEPARTMENT OF SURVEY AND SPECIAL STUDIES HOME MISSION BOARD

A SPECIAL STUDY OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION OF
GREENVILLE, MISSISSIPPI

May, 1970

Jointly prepared by the
DEPARTMENT OF SURVEY AND SPECIAL STUDIES

Leonard G. Irwin, Secretary
William A. Powell, Associate
*Orrin D. Morris, Associate
Don F. Mabry, Associate
Tommy R. Coy, Associate

HOME MISSION BOARD OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

Arthur B. Rutledge, Executive Secretary
1350 Spring Street, N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

and

COOPERATIVE MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

Foy Rogers, Secretary
#Leon Emery, Associate
Therman Bryant, Associate
Jerry St. Johns, Associate

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD

W. Douglas Hudgins, Executive Secretary
P. O. Box 530
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

*Principal Author
#Special Assistant

18428

DARGAN-CARVER LIBRARY
S. B. C. HISTORICAL COMMISSION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A vast amount of material was gathered during the process of the study of the Washington County Baptist Association, hereafter designated by its initials, WCBA. 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.

The most significant field services were rendered by Rev. J. D. Lundy, the Superintendent of Associational Missions in the WCBA.

We are also indebted to Mr. Bob Farish of the Greenville Housing Board, Mr. Ron Hudson, the Greenville City Planner, and Mr. Joseph W. Yates, III, The South Delta Economic Development District Inc.

Invaluable assistance was rendered by the secretarial staff of the associational office and by the secretarial staff of both the Cooperative Missions Department in Mississippi and of the Department of Survey and Special Studies in Atlanta.

We are indebted to the public and private offices for their genuine contribution of materials including maps, reports, and numerous statistics from their private files. These offices are listed as sources in the bibliography.

Orrin D. Morris, Associate Secretary
Department of Survey and Special Studies
Home Mission Board, SBC

Leon G. Emery, Associate Secretary
Cooperative Missions Department
Mississippi Baptist Board

A SPECIAL STUDY OF
WASHINGTON COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

The following report is an attempt to analyze the past trends in the population, economy and WCBA churches and predict the possible conditions which will affect these churches during this decade. The purpose is to provide a source-book for planning by the WCBA. 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 trends in population growth or evangelistic outreach; however, these projections do indicate the direction we are headed if nothing occurs or is done to alter the trends.

BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

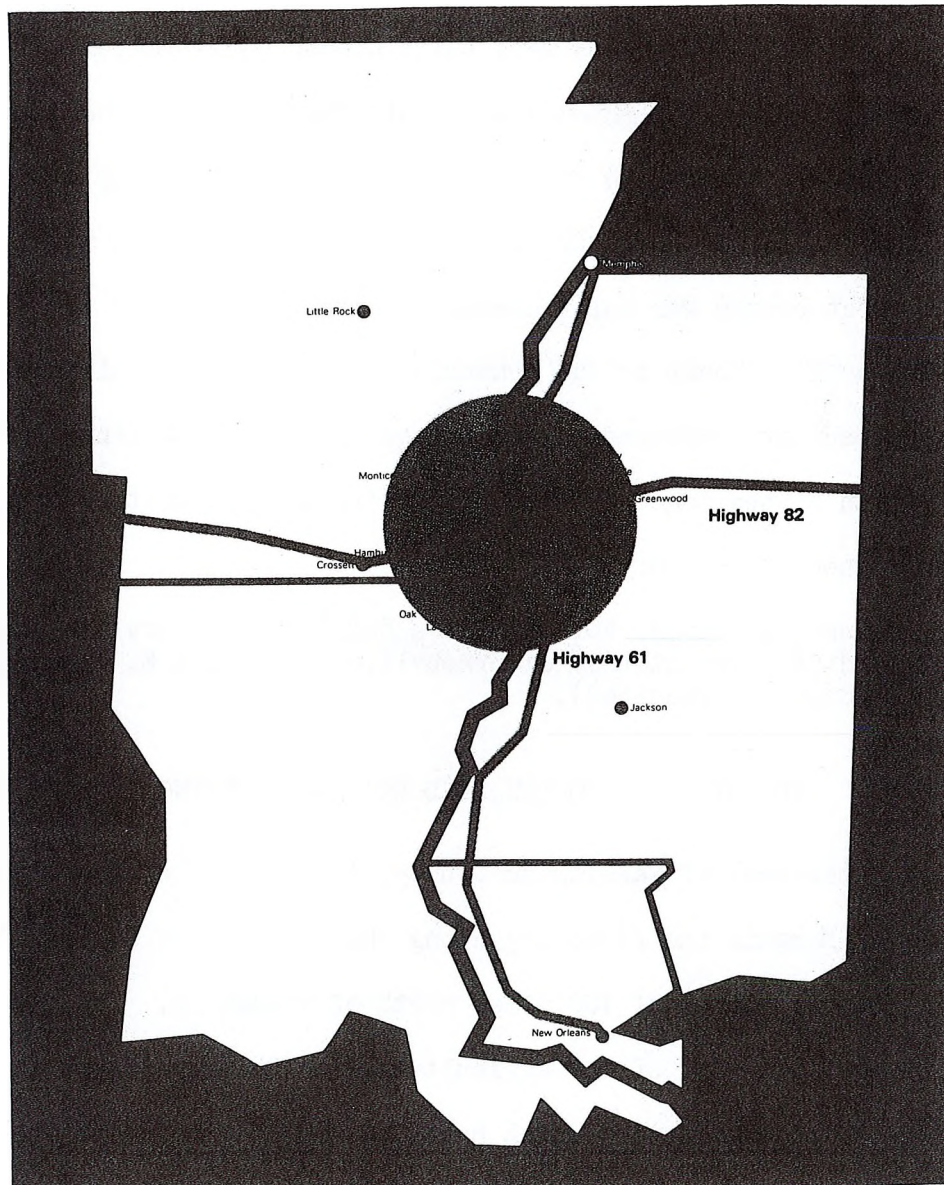
"In 1829 a band of young pioneers docked their boat at a bend on the eastern shore of the Mississippi River, 150 miles south of Memphis, and established a village called, at that time, Bachelor's Bend in honor of the marital status of its first inhabitants. On March 21, 1886, the settlement was incorporated as a town. The life of this small town, known as Greenville, was closely tied to the rich flat Delta

farmlands on the east and the wide, sometimes threatening river on the west.

"This city was named by its founders for General Nathaniel Green, beloved friend of George Washington, for whom the county was named. The place chosen was the highest point on the Mississippi River between the towns of Vicksburg and Memphis.

"Because the soil of the Mississippi Delta, formed by tons of topsoil from the North deposited here by the River for untold centuries, is the richest in the world, the agricultural efforts of the early townspeople of Greenville thrived. But yellow fever came year after year (beginning around 1877), to deplete the population, and the great river remained a constant enemy as it flooded the town regularly in the spring. Each flood washed away block after block of the struggling city. The first to affect the city was in 1890. In 1927 the levee, built over the years with the desperate hope of containing the mighty Mississippi, gave way beneath the flood water from the North and submerged the town of Greenville along with the entire area of the lower Mississippi Valley. The town was covered for a three-month period.

"Perhaps it was the determination of the people of Greenville not to surrender their town to the river that has brought this city of nearly 50,000 people into being today. Unwilling to give in to the river, and refusing to remain shackled to an exclusively agricultural economy, Greenville moved swiftly



SOURCE: "Mainstream USA," Greenville Chamber of Commerce, 1968.

Fig. 1.--Geographical location of Greenville, Mississippi.

into the 20th century during the years following the two World Wars.

"In 1931 the levees were built higher and stronger and the river was straightened with cut-offs to lessen the chance of flood. Greenville was left on a slackwater harbor with easy access to the river now located a safe distance away. A great bridge was built across the river in 1940 to tie Greenville closer to the communities in northern Louisiana and southern Arkansas. This bridge on Highway 82 links the United States together with a year-'round, all-weather trans-continental highway."

Source: Mainstream U.S.A. "Greenville's Heritage," Greenville Chamber of Commerce, 1968, and "A Brief History of Greenville" by Louise E. Crump, Greenville Chamber of Commerce, (undated).

THE PHYSICAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC SETTING

Greenville, the seat of Washington County, is situated on the highest elevated land between Memphis and Vicksburg along the Mississippi River. It is 150 miles south of Memphis and about 100 miles north of Vicksburg. Its river location places it on the western edge of the agriculture-rich Delta. Figure 1 displays the strategic geographical factors which have led the city to adopt the title "Mainstream U.S.A."

In square miles, Washington County is third only to Yazoo and Boliver counties in the Mississippi Delta. It contains 728 square miles, some of which is the most productive farmland in the South. The County tends to be a contrast between the agricultural rural, village, and small city and the large commercial-industrial center of Greenville. The main industry outside of Greenville is agriculture which revolves around cotton and soybean and the population centers, to a large degree, service the plantations. A drive through the rural towns and small cities introduces any visitor to the importance of the shops and sales lots which sell and service farm equipment; while a tour of Greenville reveals a surprising lack of this type of industry. Leland and Hollandale each have at least one industry which employs approximately 100 workers, see Table 1. The main industries of Greenville center around food processing, lumber, fabrics, metal and mineral products, marine goods and services, and barge-building.

Most of the recent attention of industrialists has been focused on the riverfront with expansion of the Greenville Port Terminal and the mini-carriers which will operate from there and the Greenville Harbor Industrial Park. The mini-carriers are specially built ocean-going vessels to travel from Mississippi River ports to world seaports. The Japanese-built ships have a keel shallow enough to travel the river even during low water season. They are fully automated and carry 3,100 tons for a distance of 4,500 miles. Present plans call for a fleet of 12 mini-carriers to operate from Greenville, their home port. The Greenville Harbor Industrial Park is a multi-phase project which will ultimately be an industrial complex of 945 acres. The first phase, 115 acres, is

TABLE 1^a

PLANTS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY
(Those with 100 or more employees)

Name	Employment
Greenville	
Chicago Mill and Lumber Company	350
Delta Metal Forming Division.	250
Greenville Mill Division.	800
Marine Welding and Repair Works	125
Mid-States Metal Products	450
Moeller Manufacturing Company, Inc.	100
Nicholson File Company (Atkins Saw)	550
U. S. Gypson Company	546
Brent Towing Company, Inc.	160
Hollandale	
Callins Industries, Inc.	100
Leland	
Dillingham Manufacturing Company	100
Stoneville	
Walker Farms Dairy.	104

^aChamber of Commerce, Greenville.

completed and fully developed and the second phase is to be ready for occupancy by 1973 with 280 acres.

A complete look at the Greenville industrial scene must include the Greenville Industrial Park which is primarily related to rail and motor-carrier transportation and the Greenville Airport Industrial Park which is designed to offer the convenience of sites to manufacturers which rely on direct taxi-strip access to airport services.

Industrial parks are also located in Leland and Hollandale for plants which do not rely heavily on the river or airways.

The economic picture of Greenville is much broader than the "exciting" industrial developments but includes a vast range of service-type institutions and professions. In the medical field there are two hospitals serving the wider region, two homes for the care of the aged, a cerebral palsy school and a mental health clinic. The medical professionals include surgeons, neurologists, psychiatrists, orthodontists, dermatologists, orthopedists, oral surgeons, urologists, gynecologists, allergists, eye, ear, nose, and throat specialists. In the field of business, law and government, there are at least 13 accounting firms, about 50 law offices, 10 engineering firms, 24 Federal offices and 10 state government offices in the area.

When cotton was king, banks were an important part in handling the financial matters inherent in both production and marketing. Today there are three large banks, two savings and loan companies, many other specialized financial institutions and a stock exchange office.

We have belabored these facts to underline the rather unique differences which exist in this delta county. Agriculture is the dominant industry throughout most of the Mississippi Delta and especially in Washington County outside of Greenville, but this city stands in a different relationship not only to the South but

to the world through its port which includes a U. S. Customs office.

The final area for consideration in this section of the report is the social factors. This topic is not related to what we know of as "society" but with those factors related to housing, income, education and types of employment. When the 1970 Federal Census has been analyzed and published, much of this type data will be available and should be referred to by the association's planning committee. At this point in time we can refer only to the general knowledge that there exists severe poverty among all races and some deplorable housing conditions still stand convicting all of us of neglect. Two important programs are available or are being studied to offer relief; that is, Farmer's Home Administration loans for rural area moderate income houses and low-rent housing development (221 D3 rent subsidy) for the cities. Appendix Table 14 displays the trends in income, population, total personal income and employment figures for both the county and Greenville.

POPULATION FORECAST

The data discussed in the section on economy prepares us to look for population increases, at least in and near to Greenville. In 1960 the population of Washington County was reported at 78,638 and in 1967 it was estimated to have slightly decreased to 78,140 according to Ellen Bryant of the Mississippi State University. Table 2 shows these data for the County by race.

TABLE 2
POPULATION OF WASHINGTON COUNTY 1950-1967 BY RACE

Date	White	Non-White	Total
1950	23,436	47,068	70,504
1960	35,239	43,399	78,638
1967	35,530	42,610	78,140

Table 3 displays the change in the total population for the various municipalities over the 17 year period.

TABLE 3
POPULATION OF THE MUNICIPALITIES IN WASHINGTON COUNTY
1950-1967^a

Year	Municipalities			
	Arcola	Greenville	Hollandale	Leland
1950	413	29,936	2,346	4,736
1960	366	41,502	2,646	6,295
1965	400	47,000	3,150	6,800
1967	426	50,299	3,452	7,103

^aPopulation of Incorporated Municipalities and Counties, Delta Council, 1960-68.

According to a recent publication of the Mississippi Research and Development Center the population increase in Washington County will continue to center around Greenville, note Table 4.

TABLE 4
POPULATION PROJECTIONS FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY AND GREENVILLE CITY
1970 TO 1980

Year	Washington County		
	Inside Greenville	Outside Greenville	Total
1966	45,000	34,690	79,690
1970	53,000	31,453	84,453
1975	61,000	29,275	90,275
1980	69,000	26,537	95,537

Part of the increase of Greenville is expected to be accounted for through annexation as the City attempts to keep up with its natural sprawl. The agricultural

mechanization which has been evident for years in the Delta will continue to reduce the need for people to remain in the rural areas. If the population projections listed in Table 4 occur, population trends will have to change from that which is indicated in Table 3. The Federal Census this year should help resolve the discrepancies evident in this comparison.

The Southern Bell Telephone Company produces estimates concerning the number of households they can expect in their various exchanges so they can plan for adequate equipment to offer the needed services of a changing clientele. Table 5 shows their projections for the exchanges in Washington County.

TABLE 5
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY
JANUARY 1, 1970 TO JANUARY 1, 1976

Exchange	January 1			
	1970	1972	1974	1976
Arcola	443	443	443	443
Greenville	17,279	17,279	17,493	17,754
Hollandale	2,077	2,085	2,101	2,114
Leland	3,049	3,063	3,084	3,096

THE RELIGIOUS SETTING

In 1963 the white churches of Washington County cooperated in a religious survey in which extensive data were gathered. The survey revealed there were about 7,700 Southern Baptists, 3,300 Methodists, 3,000+ Catholics and 1,400 Presbyterians. Approximately 3,900 persons nine years of age and older were not members of any church while about 3,100 children under nine were not active (not attending at least once a month) in any church. The non-members represented about 14% of the "mature" population while the inactive children represented about 37% of the small children. These data indicate a below average rate of church affiliation in the County when compared to the State rates.

A Chamber of Commerce data sheet indicated there are 139 churches in the County which boast of 35,000 members or 44% of the population. These data give some idea about the large number of churches that were reported but they do not accurately reflect the Negro situation, about which there are very few facts. Generally, research has revealed church membership is higher among the Negroes than among the white population so a more accurate estimate would place church membership in the County at 55,800, or 70% of the total population.

Travel in the rural areas and the small cities can be used to locate the many churches that spot the country-side but the following list aids in noting the broad religious-mix of Greenville.

CHURCHES---There are 54 churches in the Greenville area representing almost every faith:

BAPTIST--Alexander Memorial Baptist, Antioch Missionary Baptist, Calvary Baptist, Ebenezer Baptist, Emmanuel Baptist, First Baptist Church, Glendale Baptist, Greenfield Baptist, Hinds Street Baptist, Hopewell Baptist, Jake's Chapel, Kindling Alter Church, Kindling Star MB Church, Mercy Seat MB Church, Mount Ararat MB Church, Mount Carmel, Mt. Sinai Baptist, New Hope Baptist, New Jerusalem Church, New Mt. Zion Baptist, New White Stone Baptist, Northside Baptist, Old Jerusalem Baptist, Parkview Baptist, Pilgrim Home Baptist, Pilgrim Rest, St. John Baptist, St. Paul MB Church, St. Peter's Baptist Church, Second Baptist, Shady Grove Baptist, Southside Baptist, Star of Bethlehem, Temple Baptist, Zion Baptist.

CATHOLIC--Our Lady of Lourdes Convent, Sacred Heart, St. Joseph's.

CHRISTIAN--First Christian.

CHURCH OF CHRIST--Church of Christ, Greenville Church of Christ.

CHURCH OF GOD--Church of God, Church of God, East.

EPISCOPAL--Church of The Redeemer, St. James Episcopal.

LATTER DAY SAINTS--Latter Day Saints Missionaries.

LUTHERAN--Faith Lutheran.

METHODIST--First Methodist, Grace Methodist, Rose Hill MB, Trinity Methodist.

NAZARENE--Church of Nazarene.

NON-DENOMINATIONAL--Church of the Open Door Gospel Assembly.

PRESBYTERIAN--First Presbyterian.

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST--Ephesus Seventh Day, Seventh Day Adventist.

SYNAGOGUES--Hebrew Union Temple.

Source: Greenville Chamber of Commerce.

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 Greenville. In the rural areas the "types" of people generally range between owner and tenants while in Greenville there are not only renters and owners, laborers and managers, but professionals, scholars, artisans, salesmen, specialists in various areas, natives of the State and many "outsiders" who were sent into the area to staff an organization, office or man a plant. This wide range is reflected in different life-styles of people. Some of these groups do not "congregate" together very well in the same church. These facts present a special challenge for every church in Greenville to realistically assess those "types" of people they do and do not reach. Each church is then faced with broadening their outreach and/or cooperating more earnestly with those churches which complement their outreach.

THE ASSOCIATION SETTING

In 1969 there were nineteen churches in the WCBA, thirteen of these are in the urban areas and six elsewhere in the County. In 1965 there were only eighteen and during that year Bogue was organized. It is grouped among the rural churches. Table 6 displays the change in church size over the last five years.

TABLE 6
AVERAGE RESIDENT MEMBERS PER CHURCH 1965 THROUGH 1969
BY URBAN AND RURAL AREAS

Year	Areas	
	Urban	Rural
1965	477	109
1966	518	87
1967	533	119
1968	526	107
1969	533	94

This table reflects a very erratic pattern which either indicates a highly mobile population, poor reporting of church data, or both. The observations about the population, especially related to the closing of the Greenville Airbase and other church data seems to lead us to the "both" explanation.

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 there were 52 percent of the resident members attending Sunday School in the urban churches in 1965 but it does compare the trend to 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 increases or the reverse if there are declines. If all things are equal we could assume participation would be the same if the churches had the same attraction to 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 both rural and urban churches have lessening participation rate though the rural churches may be showing a slight recovery since the 1967 reports.

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

Year	Area	
	Urban	Rural
1965	48.1	52.1
1966	44.8	58.0
1967	42.6	41.5
1968	42.4	43.8
1969	40.5	46.5

^aNumber of persons attending Sunday School per 100 resident members.

Another measure of the "effectiveness" of the churches to reach out is the analysis of the components of membership change: additions by baptism; transfer by church letter and the net losses by outmigration, death or joining another church. Rates per 100 resident members were computed to aid in comparing data from 1960 through 1969. These rates are calculated only for the total association because the urban and rural data display highly erratic patterns. Table 8 aids us in noting a downward trend in letters while baptisms can neither be predicted upward nor downward. The losses seem to be moving more to a stable membership.

TABLE 8
 RATES^a OF COMPONENTS OF MEMBERSHIP CHANGE
 1960 THROUGH 1969

Year	Rates		
	Baptisms	Letters	Losses ^b
1960	6.4	10.8	17.0
1961	5.6	11.2	16.4
1962	4.8	10.0	14.9
1963	5.2	9.3	12.7
1964	5.9	9.5	15.8
1965	6.8	9.0	14.4
1966	5.9	9.4	7.7
1967	7.7	9.2	11.6
1968	5.6	6.5	14.1
1969	6.1	7.2	13.1

^aNumber of persons added or lost during church year per 100 resident members at beginning of church year.

^bLosses are computed by subtracting the annual net change in members from the sum of the baptisms and letters.

These data become the basis for preparing membership projections to be discussed in the next section of the report.

The final trends we will observe in the analysis of church data are related to the financial receipts and mission gifts.

Table 9 shows the comparison of per capita church receipts and total mission gifts in 1965 through 1969. The accuracy of these data is questionable since an unusual fluctuation can be noted in the rural churches in 1968 and the city churches in 1969.

TABLE 9

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

Year	Areas		Total
	Urban	Rural	
1965	91.05	62.42	88.13
1966	87.58	78.67	86.94
1967	91.91	58.70	88.82
1968	106.63	127.41	108.41
1969	154.90	79.75	149.24

A more consistent pattern of giving can be noted for per capita gifts to all mission causes on Table 10. The per capita income to the churches by rural and urban church members differ at a two to three basis; that is, for each \$2.00 the rural churches receive per member the urban churches are taking in \$3.00. The comparison of mission dollars, however, is on a one to two basis with the rural member giving about half as much to mission causes as the urban member does through his church.

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
	Urban	Rural	
1965	22.43	10.40	21.46
1966	21.46	10.91	20.70
1967	21.70	8.52	20.47
1968	24.22	10.48	23.05
1969	28.43	13.38	27.29

All of the data from which the calculations used in this section were based can be found on Table 15 in Appendix II.

MEMBERSHIP PROJECTIONS

This final section of the report will build from the previous section by extending the trends in evangelistic outreach and membership mobility to estimate the number of members the WCBA will have in 1975. No projections can be made on the rural-urban basis because no measurable trend is evident; therefore what is said about the County must be conditioned by the assumption that one area will compensate for the other's 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	6.03	6.15	6.30
1975	6.15	6.75	7.50
Letter Rates			
1970	8.15	8.35	8.55
1975	5.15	6.35	7.55
Losses Rates			
1970	12.90	12.87	12.85
1975	11.90	11.72	11.60

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 rates for the high series in 1975 is 15.05 from which 11.60 is subtracted giving a net change rate of 3.45 or an annual net increase of 3.45% for that year. The low projection calls for a net loss of 0.60%. Table 12 displays the projected membership for the three series.

TABLE 12
PROJECTED MEMBERSHIP, 1970 THROUGH 1975

Year	Projection Series		
	Low	Medium	High
1970	7,700	7,725	7,751
1971	7,740	7,814	7,895
1972	7,735	7,884	8,049
1973	7,686	7,935	8,214
1974	7,594	7,967	8,390
1975	7,460	7,979	8,579

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 made 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 for 1970 and 1975.

TABLE 13

PROJECTED NUMBERS OF BAPTISMS, LETTERS, AND LOSSES FOR 1970 AND 1975

Year	Projection Series		
	Low	Medium	High
Persons Baptized			
1970	559	468	479
1975	469	549	654
Persons Received By Letter			
1970	620	636	651
1975	391	505	633
Persons Removed from Resident Roll (Losses)			
1970	998	998	998
1975	994	1,043	1,099

No efforts are made to project the participation ratio based on the Sunday School average weekly attendance because the downward swing has intensified in the last several years but was not the trend of the whole decade. What is the current trend may be only temporary. The reader is probably better equipped by personal knowledge of the local attitudes than this writer to "guess" what will occur. If the attendance rate falls to 35 per 100 resident members there will only be between 2,610 and 3,000 in Sunday School in 1975.

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 members' earning power and that they will usually give in proportion to their 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 Washington County has been traditionally geared to agriculture and somewhat to the River. The prospects are that the River-oriented activities will move toward a dominant position in the economy with corresponding increases in the "service" sector of the industrial scene. The first several sections of this report revealed two very important population facts related to the above statements: 1) population increases are expected in the Greenville urbanized area while elsewhere there will be a struggle to maintain the present population and especially in the rural areas to experience further losses; 2) Greenville is in the process of becoming a highly segmented society with a very broad range in life styles expressed by peoples of many cultural and regional backgrounds. As the port activities expand there will probably be a more noticeable presence of ethnic peoples. For many years the churches have supported work among a substantial group of Chinese residents of the area but new opportunities for ministries will probably be evident beginning by contacts with seamen and industrial workers (through Chaplains). These "project" type ministries are, however, only a small part of what must be envisioned since it is apparent that no one church is "reaching" all strata of society equally well. It is at this point that cooperative ministries through the association and community-wide organizations are essential for one church to fully "be the church" in the New Testament sense.

If participation rates continue to fall among the churches there will be a strong tendency to become preoccupied with efforts designed to assure institutional survival rather than the Biblical axiom that by giving we gain and by dying we live. A mature openness and compassion is needed toward the spiritual and physical needs of all men. Cooperative ventures which have characterized Southern Baptist relations with their National Baptist brethren for many years in Washington County must be maintained and strengthened despite recurrent tensions. Besides cooperation in

seminary extension classes one evident area is related to the work of Mr. Bob Farrish, an active Baptist layman whose professional responsibility is the physical renewal of housing in the run-down sections of Greenville. The Catholics of the area have already demonstrated a commendable faith in the future of Greenville by launching a large moderate rent housing project on the edge of a southside poverty area. This writer is quick to admit a new low-rent apartment may not "save a soul," nor it may not heal a sick person as Jesus did, but support of such projects may prevent some unnecessary illness and disease and will definitely speak louder of Christian compassion than saying "be ye warmed" (James 2:16 K.J.V.).

Finally, the continued geographical sprawl of Greenville should prompt a regular assessment of the need for starting new congregations. Several churches have relocated into suburban areas in recent years but these have gone with an established constituency, with social structures and leadership roles to a great extent set along the same patterns as they had in their previous locations. The need for several new congregations is not lessened by these moves because very little innovation in social-mix of the membership occurs except that that type of social structure is built from the very start.

TABLE 14
INCOME, POPULATION AND EMPLOYMENT 1960-1980^a

Income				
Year	Per Capita Income		Personal Income	
	Greenville	Total County	Greenville	Total County
1966	\$2,210	\$1,909	\$ 99,450,000	\$152,128,000
1970	3,190	2,800	169,070,000	236,486,400
1975	4,260	3,800	259,860,000	343,045,000
1980	5,390	4,900	371,910,000	468,131,300

Population and Employment				
Year	Population		Employment	
	Greenville	Total County	Greenville	Total County
1966	44,993	77,900	14,983	24,972
1970	52,750	84,453	17,566	27,025
1975	60,723	90,275	20,221	28,888
1980	68,850	95,537	22,929	30,572

^aNew Comprehensive Plan of Greenville, Mississippi.

TABLE 15
MISCELLANEOUS CHURCH DATA FOR WCBA, 1960-1969 BY RURAL AND URBAN AREAS

Area	Year									
	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Resident Members										
Rural	870	809	950	884	990	543	524	711	642	564
Urban	5,661	5,750	5,609	5,791	5,657	6,194	6,728	6,926	6,841	6,931
Total	6,531	6,559	6,559	6,675	6,647	6,737	7,252	7,637	7,483	7,495
Baptisms										
Rural	109	59	45	56	81	26	55	80	29	29
Urban	309	310	273	287	315	427	343	476	395	425
Total	418	369	318	343	396	453	398	556	424	454
Letters										
Rural	96	91	84	55	75	46	49	70	34	39
Urban	604	639	575	554	557	549	587	597	461	500
Total	700	730	659	609	632	595	636	667	495	539
Sunday School Enrolment										
Rural	676	623	692	667	791	539	586	541	517	456
Urban	6,015	5,955	5,919	5,810	5,863	5,948	6,058	5,938	5,968	5,798
Total	6,691	6,578	6,611	6,477	6,654	6,487	6,644	6,479	6,485	6,254

TABLE 15 --Continued

Area	Year									
	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Sunday School Average Attendance										
Rural	418	406	398	395	418	283	304	295	281	262
Urban	3,042	2,945	2,992	2,997	3,059	2,981	3,017	2,948	2,901	2,809
Total	3,460	3,351	3,390	3,392	3,477	3,264	3,321	3,243	3,182	3,071
Total Receipts										
Rural	42,666	37,561	51,080	54,588	52,232	33,897	41,228	41,736	81,801	44,979
Urban	455,186	477,001	487,692	481,139	550,559	563,978	589,292	636,602	729,503	1,073,612
Total	497,852	514,562	538,772	535,727	602,791	597,875	630,520	678,338	811,304	1,118,591
Total Mission Gifts										
Rural	4,341	3,429	5,369	5,625	6,252	5,652	5,721	6,059	6,729	7,549
Urban	82,924	81,933	100,496	116,928	126,619	138,969	144,403	150,336	165,757	197,056
Total	87,265	85,362	105,865	122,553	132,871	144,621	150,124	156,395	172,486	204,605

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bryant, Ellen, Mississippi County Population Estimates, Mississippi State University, 1969.

Delta Council, Population of Incorporated Municipalities and Counties, 1960-1968, 1969.

Greenville Chamber of Commerce, Mainstream USA, 1969.

_____ Port and Industrial Area, Mainstream USA, 1969

_____ Professional Services Directory, Mainstream USA, 1969.

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Cooperative Missions Department, unpublished data on the Washington County Religious Survey, Feb., 1963.

Mississippi Research and Development Center, New Comprehensive Plan of Greenville, Mississippi, Jackson, Mississippi, 1970.

Southern Bell Telephone Company, "Commercial Wire Center Forecasts, 1960-1991," 1969, (unpublished).

Washington County Baptist Association, Annual Minutes, Greenville, 1959-1960, 1964-1969.