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**A STUDY OF THE EDUCATIONAL  
ATTAINMENT OF SOUTHERN  
BAPTIST PASTORS, 1983**

By

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## INTRODUCTION

This study is an expanded replication of a Home Mission Board study of the educational attainment of Southern Baptist pastors conducted in 1973 by Don Mabry and Paul Stuart. As in the earlier report, the current study was jointly sponsored by the Education Commission and the Home Mission Board.

With the consultation of Dr. Arthur Walker of the Education Commission, the 1973 questionnaire was expanded to include information on pastor's age, congregation size and bivocational status. Approximately one-half of all Southern Baptist associations participated in the study, providing educational data on 17,220 Southern Baptist pastors.

The major findings and implications of the study are given at the beginning of the report on pages 11-13. This summary takes the key points of the study and applies them to the total Southern Baptist Convention.

The main body of the report begins on page 15 and is divided into nine sections: 1) a brief description of participating associations, 2) general characteristics of the pastors, 3) highest educational attainment in 1983 and 1973, 4) educational attainment by state convention, 5) educational attainment by age of pastor, 6) educational attainment by size and location of church, 7) educational attainment by vocational status, 8) educational attainment by age of state convention and 9) education received at Southern Baptist colleges and seminaries. The supporting tables and graphs follow the written analysis.

Several Research Division personnel were instrumental in producing the report. Special recognition goes to Vicki Mitchell, research assistant/graphics, and Betty Wilson, text editor operator. June Brumeloe edited the report and Rosanne Patton coordinated the actual production. These are the people who bring sanity to the religious researcher!

**MAJOR FINDINGS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT  
OF SOUTHERN BAPTIST PASTORS, 1983**

The following observations and implications are based on educational data supplied by 628 Baptist associations, representing 17,220 SBC pastors. Supplemental data was provided by the 1981 and 1982 Uniform Church Letters, which included questions on the educational attainment of pastors. Detailed data and analysis are provided in the report, "A Study of the Educational Attainment of Southern Baptist Pastors, 1983," produced by the Research Division of the Home Mission Board.

1. Compared to the general population, Southern Baptist pastors are a very highly educated group of individuals. About one-half of all SBC pastors have some seminary education beyond the college level and 43 percent hold a seminary degree.

The 1980 Census indicated that only 21 percent of white adult males in the United States have four or more years of college education; 64 percent of SBC pastors have completed college. Approximately one-third of white adult males did not graduate from high school; only three percent of SBC pastors did not complete their high school education.

From an educational standpoint pastors are well-equipped as leaders in the Southern Baptist Convention. While educational attainment does not necessarily reflect the ability of a pastor to be an effective leader, higher education does expose a pastor to concepts, resources and training important to good leadership.

2. Even with high educational levels there is still a need for educational training among Southern Baptist pastors. The other side of the picture is that about one-half of all SBC pastors do not have any formal seminary education. Perhaps as many as 9,000 pastors do not have any educational training beyond high school or Bible/trade school. This fact alone speaks to the potential benefit of continuing education and seminary extension opportunities for pastors.
3. The educational experiences of Southern Baptist pastors varies widely according to state convention. The percentage of pastors with at least some seminary training ranges from a low of 34 percent in Tennessee to a high of 100 percent in Hawaii. In six conventions at least 70 percent of the pastors have some seminary education; besides Hawaii, these include Minnesota-Wisconsin, Alaska, Virginia, Northwest and Colorado. In seven states approximately 60 percent of the pastors have no seminary education; besides Tennessee, these states include Illinois, Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Georgia and Oklahoma.

Southern Baptist planning for educational opportunities should consider the overall educational level of state conventions. Seminary extension

opportunities could be stressed in conventions with a high percentage of non-seminary trained pastors. Continuing education should be considered for Georgia, Illinois, Indiana and Tennessee, where 30 percent or more of the pastors have a high school education or less. 8.

4. Educational attainment is correlated with the age of the pastor. Each generation of pastors is more highly educated than its preceding generation. The percentage of pastors with some seminary education ranges from 57 percent for pastors 30 to 39 years old to 32 percent for pastors 70 or older.

Even though younger pastors are more highly educated, the need for seminary training is evident among all age groups. For example, four of every ten pastors ages 30 to 39 have no seminary education. Certainly, educational opportunities should be emphasized for older age cohorts, but the benefits of seminary extension for younger pastors may draw higher dividends over the course of a lifetime. 9.

5. Educational attainment is correlated with size of the church. Not surprisingly, larger churches are more likely to have seminary-trained pastors. Eighty-five percent of pastors in churches with 1,000 or more members are seminary graduates compared to 25 percent for pastors in churches with less than 200 members. Approximately 18,000 SBC pastors do not have seminary degrees; about one-half of these are in churches with less than 200 members and another one-fourth are in churches with 200 to 299 members.

The median-sized church in the Southern Baptist Convention has 239 members--approximately one-half of the 36,000 SBC churches have fewer than 239 members. These small churches represent one of the key target groups for continuing educational opportunities, particularly since their institutional context is different from large churches (i.e., limited leadership, financial resources and organizational structure).

6. Churches in open country and village settings represent another target group for educational training. While more than one-half of all Southern Baptist churches are located in these rural areas, only 30 percent of the pastors have seminary degrees. Approximately 60 percent of pastors in all other geographical areas have degrees.

In earlier years seminary training may have been viewed with suspicion by rural churches. However, the movement of population from metropolitan areas to rural counties calls for pastoral leadership that is experienced and capable of dealing with change.

7. The final target group for educational training is bivocational pastors. Eighty percent of the 9,000 Southern Baptist pastors with employment apart from the church have no seminary experience; 50 percent have no college training. Since the majority of these pastors are in small churches, there is considerable overlap with target groups mentioned above. The challenge for Southern Baptist leadership is to provide training opportunities compatible with the bivocational pastor's limited schedule.

- 8. The majority of Southern Baptist pastors with college and seminary training have been educated in Southern Baptist schools. Fifty percent of college-trained pastors and 87 percent of seminary-trained pastors attended Southern Baptist schools. These pastors have perhaps the greatest exposure to denominational structure and polity.

At least 20 percent of seminary-educated pastors in Alaska, Florida, Maryland, Michigan and New York did not attend Southern Baptist seminaries. Continuing educational opportunities for these states may need to include Southern Baptist distinctives as a means of strengthening denominational support.

- 9. Unless special efforts are made to provide and promote continuing educational opportunities, the 1990s will find 40 to 45 percent of Southern Baptist pastors without seminary training. In 1973, 53 percent of Southern Baptist pastors had no seminary education; by 1983 this percentage dropped only four points to 49 percent. While the trend is toward higher levels of education, the direction is only slightly upward. An intentional and well-planned emphasis on educational experience could greatly impact the trend and provide Southern Baptists with the best leadership possible.

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**A STUDY OF THE EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF  
SOUTHERN BAPTIST PASTORS, 1983**

In the summer of 1983 a survey of the educational attainment of Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) pastors was sent to 918 associational directors of missions.<sup>a</sup> Since some directors serve multiple associations, the total number of associations receiving questionnaires was 1,209. Questionnaires were returned from 628 associations representing 51.9 percent of all Baptist associations.

Table 1 shows the percentage of associations responding to the survey by state convention. Four state conventions had very high participation rates: Kansas-Nebraska (75%), New Mexico (73%), Ohio (75%) and West Virginia (100%). Only five state conventions had less than 40 percent of associations responding: Colorado (36%), Kentucky (33%), Louisiana (23%), Minnesota-Wisconsin (20%) and Northern Plains (20%).

Table 2 reports the number of pastors included in the study by state conventions. The 628 associations provided data on 17,220 SBC pastors. This number represents 52.9 percent of the 32,580 SBC churches with pastors in 1982.

Six state conventions had at least three-fourths of their pastors included in the study: Kansas-Nebraska (79%), New Mexico (90%), Northwest (77%), Ohio (95%), Pennsylvania-South Jersey (74%) and West Virginia. Associational directors of missions in West Virginia reported data for mission pastors; thus their total participants exceeded the number of pastors in organized churches.

States with the smallest percentages of pastors in the study were: Kentucky (33%), Louisiana (29%) and Minnesota-Wisconsin (19%).

General Characteristics of SBC Pastors

Figure 1 shows the distribution of SBC pastors in the study by the size of their congregations. The majority of pastors were in churches with less than 300 members: 36 percent were pastors of churches with less than 200 members and 24 percent were pastors of churches with 200 to 299 members.

The median-sized church had 257 members. This number is slightly higher than the SBC median of 239, thus smaller churches were underrepresented in the study.

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<sup>a</sup>Copies of the questionnaire and letters that accompanied it appear in the Appendix, pages 61 through 64.

The median age of participating pastors was 45 years. Figure 2 details their age distribution. Three-fourths were between ages 30 and 59 with approximately equal distributions for those ages 30 to 39, 40 to 49 and 50 to 59. Nine percent were 20 to 29 years old and 14 percent were 60 or older. Page 60 in the Appendix provides a cross-tabulation by age and church size.

Twenty-nine percent of pastors included in the study were bivocationally employed. This percentage is in line with the 1983 Uniform Church Letters, which indicated 28 percent of all SBC pastors had employment apart from the church. Table 3 reports the number and percentage of bivocational and non-bivocational pastors by state convention. At least 40 percent of pastors in Alabama, Indiana, Minnesota-Wisconsin and Tennessee were bivocationally employed.

Table 4 compares bivocational and non-bivocational pastors by pastor's age and church size. As in other studies, bivocational pastors tend to be older: 45 percent were 50 or older compared to 37 percent for nonbivocational pastors. Almost 70 percent of bivocational pastors were in churches with less than 200 members.

The general characteristics of participating pastors as described above appear to be representative of SBC pastors as a whole. In the analysis that follows, it is assumed that the data present an accurate picture of the educational attainment of Southern Baptist pastors. However, some cross-tabulations may be subject to sample bias.

#### Highest Educational Attainment 1983 and 1973

The major purpose of this study is to determine the highest educational level attained by Southern Baptist pastors. Associational directors of missions identified the educational level of pastors in their associations as one of the following ten categories:

- 1) Attended but had not completed grammar school
- 2) Completed grammar school
- 3) Attended but had not completed high school
- 4) Completed high school
- 5) Attended but had not completed Bible or trade school
- 6) Completed Bible or trade school
- 7) Attended but had not completed college
- 8) Completed college
- 9) Attended but had not completed seminary or graduate school
- 10) Completed seminary or graduate school

Figure 3 provides an overall picture of educational levels in 1983. Clearly, the largest group (43.2%) were pastors who had completed seminary. Another 7.6 percent attended but had not completed seminary. Based on this study, approximately one-half of all SBC pastors have at least some seminary training as part of their formal education.

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Twenty-two percent of pastors had not attended seminary but did have at least some college training: 13.5 percent had completed a college degree and an additional 8.3 percent had attended college.

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The remaining 27 percent, or about one of every four pastors, had no college or seminary as part of their formal education. This finding does not question the abilities of these pastors to function effectively in their churches. However, it does suggest a strong need for continuing education and seminary extension work among Southern Baptist pastors.

Most pastors with no college or seminary had at least completed high school: 14.9 percent had high school diplomas, 3.2 percent had gone on to Bible or trade school and 6.2 percent had completed Bible or trade school.

Pastors with the least amount of formal education included 0.2 percent who had attended grammar school, 1.1 percent who had completed grammar school and 1.8 percent who had attended but not completed high school. If the sum of these three percentages is applied to the total number of current SBC pastors, there are only about 1,000 pastors out of 33,000 who did not complete high school as part of their formal educational training.

Figure 4 compares the findings of the 1973 Mabry/Stuart study to the 1983 study. In general, the educational level of SBC pastors rose slightly since 1973. This rise is reflected in three categories on figure 4: (1) pastors with less than a high school education has declined sharply since 1973, (2) pastors were more likely to have completed college in 1983 than in 1973 and (3) a higher percentage of pastors had completed their seminary training.

It is difficult to predict future educational levels; however, if the trend of the past decade continues into the next decade, 40 to 45 percent of all SBC pastors will not have any formal seminary training. In 1973, 53 percent had no seminary education; this percentage dropped only to 49 percent in 1983. Unless the need for seminary training is emphasized and opportunities provided, four of every ten SBC pastors will not have any seminary education in the 1990s.

#### Educational Attainment by State Convention

Table 5 indicates the percentage of pastors in each educational category by state convention. States with the highest percentages of pastors with seminary degrees were Alaska (81%), Hawaii (95%), Maryland (63%), Minnesota-Wisconsin (68%) and Virginia (69%). States with the lowest percentages were: Alabama (35%), Arkansas (33%), Illinois (31%), Kentucky (34%), Oklahoma (31%) and Tennessee (29%). Figure 5 displays state conventions by the percentage of pastors who had completed seminary.

Because all pastors were not included in the study, it is important to know if these percentages are truly representative of pastors in each state convention. One question asked on the 1982 Uniform Church Letter (UCL) was whether the pastor had a seminary degree. In all but three conventions the percentages reported on the UCL were within 10 percentage points of the findings in

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the 1983 survey. Seventeen conventions were within 5 percentage points of the survey. The key variants in the 1983 survey were Alaska, which was over represented by pastors with seminary degrees, and Arizona and New York, both under-represented. Page 59 in Appendix compares the survey percentages to the 1982 UCL percentages.

According to table 5, there were four state conventions in which 30 percent or more of the pastors had a high school education or less. These were Georgia, Illinois, Indiana and Tennessee. Educational opportunities for these states in particular should be explored.

Tables 6 and 7 rank the state conventions by percentage of pastors with and without seminary, respectively. Table 6 shows 20 state conventions had a higher than average percentage of pastors with at least some seminary (i.e., the percentage of pastors who had completed seminary plus the percentage of pastors who have attended but not completed seminary). Besides Virginia, several older state conventions stand out: Louisiana (67% with at least some seminary), Texas (64%), Florida (62%), South Carolina (60%) and Mississippi (55%). With the exceptions of Ohio, West Virginia, Arizona and Indiana, newer state conventions reported a better than average percentage of pastors with at least some seminary.

Table 6 also indicates the percentage of pastors with at least some seminary in 1973. Overall, the SBC average improved from 47 percent in 1973 to 51 percent in 1983. Caution should be exercised in examining changes for state conventions since the group of pastors participating in either study may have been a biased sample. For example, the educational level for Louisiana pastors appears to have risen dramatically from 40 percent with some seminary in 1973 to 67 percent in 1983. However, because the number of participating pastors was small for both studies, the 1973 group may have been biased toward pastors without seminary while the 1983 group was slightly biased toward pastors with seminary.

Table 7 inverts table 6 to rank the states by the highest percentage of pastors with no seminary education. In fourteen state conventions at least one-half of the pastors had not attended seminary. Although Tennessee (66% of pastors with no seminary), Illinois (63%) and Alabama (60%) top the list, it appears that the educational levels of pastors in these states rose slightly since 1973. Again, use caution in comparing the 1973 and 1983 percentages.

Educational Attainment by Age of Pastor

Table 8 reports the highest educational attainment according to the age of the pastors. As anticipated, older pastors were more likely to have ended their formal education at high school while younger pastors were more likely to have gone on to college and seminary.

Figures 6 and 7 graphically describe the relationship of age to education. In figure 6 about one-tenth of pastors ages 20 to 39 did not have any formal education beyond high school. Two of every ten pastors ages 40 to 59 had no

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post-secondary education. For older pastors the number not going beyond high school was three in ten for pastors 60 to 69 and four in ten for pastors 70 or older.

Figure 7 reports the percentage of pastors with seminary degrees by age of pastor. Only about one-fourth of pastors 70 or older had degrees while almost one-half of pastors 30 to 39 had degrees. Pastors 20 to 29 years old showed only 40 percent with seminary degrees because many of this group would have still been attending seminary. In fact, when all pastors who had at least some seminary were grouped together, 55 percent of those ages 20 to 29 had some seminary training.

Pastors ages 30 to 39 had the highest educational levels and their profile is shown on figure 8. Fifty-seven percent of this group had at least some seminary training. However, even with this high percentage of seminary training, about four in ten still did not have any formal seminary education. Of this 43 percent without seminary, one percent had a grammar school education, eleven percent had reached high school, nine percent went on to Bible or trade school and twenty-two percent went on to college.

In contrast, figure 9 gives a profile of pastors ages 60 to 69. In this group 42 percent had at least some seminary. Of the 58 percent without seminary, two percent had a grammar school education, 26 percent had reached high school, 10 percent went on to Bible or trade school and 20 percent went on to college.

#### Educational Attainment by Size and Location of Church

Another expected finding was that pastors in larger churches would tend to have more education than pastors in smaller churches. Table 9 and figure 10 show a pronounced relationship between church size and pastor's educational level. Eighty-five percent of pastors in churches with 1,000 or more members held seminary degrees in 1983. This percentage drops to 69 percent for pastors in churches with 500 to 999 members, 56 percent for pastors in churches with 40 to 499 members, 48 percent for pastors in churches with 300 to 399 members, 36 percent for pastors in churches with 200 to 299 members and 25 percent for pastors in churches with less than 200 members.

Figure 11 is based on the 1982 UCL and indicates the number of pastors with and without seminary degrees by church size. According to the 1982 UCL, 18,233 pastors of 33,435 did not have seminary degrees. About 7,700 pastors without degrees were in churches with less than 150 members; another 6,000 were in churches with 150 to 299 members. Thus, three-fourths of all pastors without seminary degrees were in churches with less than 300 members.

Figures 12 and 13 examine educational level by location of the church. Churches in open country and village locations were much less likely to have a seminary trained pastor than churches in more populated areas. Only about one-third of pastors in these rural churches had seminary degrees. Pastors of downtown churches in medium-sized cities were the most likely group to have

seminary degrees--76 percent of this group had completed seminary. Approximately 70 percent of pastors in large cities held degrees as did 60 percent of pastors in all other locations.

Figure 13 indicates the number of pastors with and without seminary degrees by church location. Almost 40 percent of all Southern Baptist pastors were in open country churches. Approximately 9,000 of pastors in these churches did not have seminary degrees and this number represents one-half of the 18,000 pastors without degrees.

The last two tables in this section examine education attainment by pastor's age and church size. Table 10 gives the percentages of pastors with seminary degrees. In general the younger the pastor and the larger the church, the higher the percentage of pastors with degrees. Pastors ages 20 to 29 in large churches were an exception since many were still attending seminary.

Table 11 shows the percentages of pastors with no seminary training by pastor's age and church size. This table indicates a need for seminary extension opportunities for pastors of all ages, particularly those in churches with less than 500 members.

#### Educational Attainment by Vocational Status

Figure 14 shows the marked difference in educational attainment for bivocational and non-bivocational pastors. Fifty-four percent of the non-bivocational pastors held seminary degrees in 1983 compared to 15 percent of the bivocational pastors. The highest educational level for one of every three bivocational pastors was completion of high school.

Findings from figure 14 indicate that vocational status is another important consideration in planning continuing educational opportunities for pastors. The 1983 UCL reported 9,026 SBC pastors with employment apart from the church. Based on percentages from figure 14, there may be as many as 7,000 bivocational pastors with no seminary training.

#### Educational Attainment by Age of State Convention

Table 12 and figure 15 compare the educational levels of pastors in the older, established state conventions to those in newer conventions. The major difference in the two groups is that pastors in the newer state conventions are more likely to have completed seminary than those in older states. One explanation for this difference could be that the group of participating pastors in the newer conventions was biased toward pastors with seminary degrees. This is a plausible explanation since this group represents only 12 percent of the total number of pastors in the study.

Another possible explanation relates to the influence of pastors receiving Church Pastoral Aid (CPA). Virtually all pastors receiving CPA funds from the Home Mission Board have seminary degrees. In the newer state conventions one of every five churches has a pastor on CPA compared to one of every one

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rox- hundred churches in older conventions. Therefore policies regarding CPA funds  
it of may actually lead to higher educational levels for pastors in the newer state  
conventions.

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Southern Baptist Colleges and Seminaries

The final table in the report indicates for state conventions the percentage  
of pastors who attended Southern Baptist colleges and seminaries. Table 13  
shows that approximately one-half of all pastors with at least some college  
education attended a Southern Baptist college. States with the highest  
percentages of pastors attending SBC colleges were Arizona (66%), Arkansas  
(64%), Indiana (68%) and Mississippi (66%). States with the lowest  
percentages of pastors attending SBC colleges were Florida (31%), Louisiana  
(31%) and Pennsylvania-South Jersey (21%).

pas- Table 13 also indicates that 87 percent of all pastors with at least some  
sion seminary education attended a Southern Baptist seminary. States with the  
with highest percentages of pastors attending SBC seminaries were Hawaii (100%),  
Indiana (98%) and Louisiana (97%). States with the lowest percentages were  
Alaska (79%), Florida (69%), Maryland (80%), Michigan (80%) and New York  
(73%).

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TABLE 1

ASSOCIATIONS PARTICIPATING IN THE STUDY OF  
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF SBC  
PASTORS, 1983

State	Number of Associations	Associations Responding	Percentage Return
Alabama	75	41	54.7%
Alaska	4	2	50.0
Arizona	14	9	64.3
Arkansas	42	21	50.0
California	33	18	54.5
Colorado	11	4	36.4
Florida	48	26	54.2
Georgia	92	40	43.5
Hawaii	6	3	50.0
Illinois	34	20	58.8
Indiana	15	7	46.7
Kan-Neb	12	9	75.0
Kentucky	80	26	32.5
Louisiana	48	11	22.9
Maryland	16	8	50.0
Michigan	14	7	50.0
Minn-Wisc	5	1	20.0
Mississippi	75	46	61.3
Missouri	78	47	60.3
Nevada	5	2	40.0
New Mexico	15	11	73.3
New York	9	6	66.7
North Carolina	80	40	50.0
Northern Plains	20	4	20.0
Northwest	22	12	54.5
Ohio	20	15	75.0
Oklahoma	41	25	61.0
Penn-S Jersey	8	4	50.0
South Carolina	44	23	52.3
Tennessee	68	39	57.4
Texas	114	66	57.9
Utah-Idaho	9	5	55.6
Virginia	43	21	48.8
West Virginia	9	9	100.0
Total SBC	1209	628	51.9

Source: Research Division, Home Mission Board, 1983.

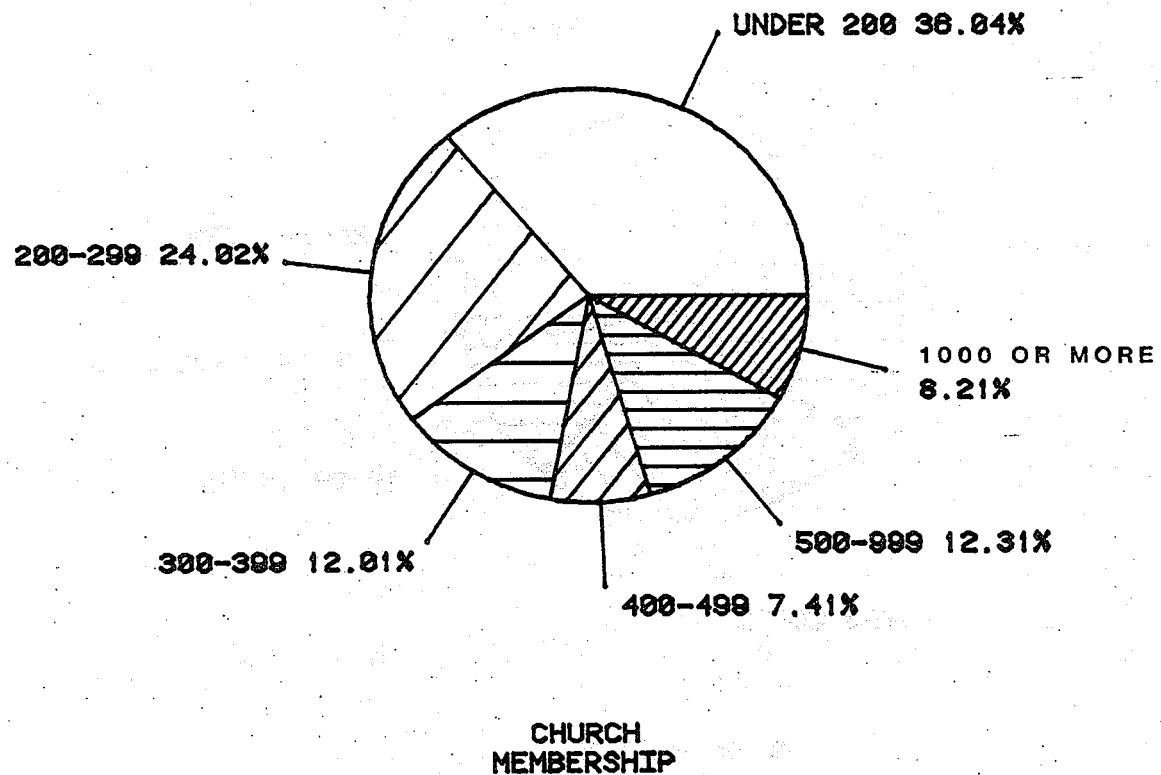
TABLE 2

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF PASTORS REPRESENTED  
IN THE STUDY OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT  
OF SBC PASTORS, 1983

State	Number Of Churches With Pastors	Pastors in Study	
		Number	Percentage
Alabama	2,749	1,432	52.1%
Alaska	38	16	42.1
Arizona	208	130	62.5
Arkansas	1,150	584	50.8
California	891	556	62.4
Colorado	156	58	37.2
Florida	1,447	779	53.8
Georgia	2,700	1,243	46.0
Hawaii	35	21	60.0
Illinois	813	464	57.1
Indiana	256	107	41.8
Kan-Neb	204	161	78.9
Kentucky	1,988	664	33.4
Louisiana	1,190	340	28.6
Maryland	281	136	48.4
Michigan	179	103	57.5
Minn-Wisc	64	12	18.9
Mississippi	1,723	1,193	69.2
Missouri	1,677	1,062	63.3
Nevada	51	20	39.2
New Mexico	228	205	89.9
New York	136	69	50.7
North Carolina	3,097	1,523	49.2
Northern Plains	155	76	49.0
Northwest	261	201	77.0
Ohio	435	412	94.7
Oklahoma	1,271	738	58.1
Penn-S Jersey	90	67	74.4
South Carolina	1,560	911	58.4
Tennessee	2,481	1,328	53.5
Texas	3,624	1,833	50.6
Utah-Idaho	76	52	68.4
Virginia	1,295	626	48.3
West Virginia	71	98	138.0
Total SBC	32,580	17,220	52.9

Source: Research Division, Home Mission Board, 1983.

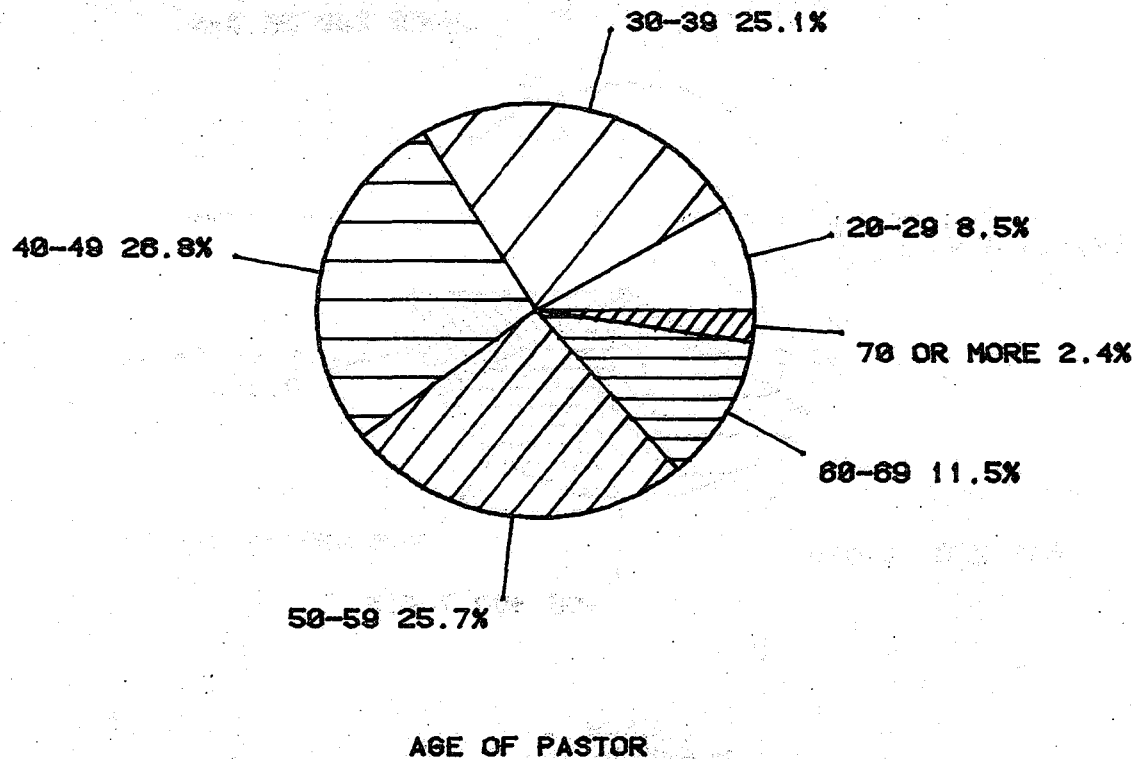
DISTRIBUTION OF SBC PASTORS BY  
SIZE OF CONGREGATION



Source: Research Division, HMB

Fig. 1--Distribution of SBC Pastors by Size of Church Membership.

### AGE DISTRIBUTION OF SBC PASTORS



Source: Research Division, HMB

Fig. 2--Age Distribution of SBC Pastors.

TABLE 3

SBC PASTORS IN EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT STUDY BY  
EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND STATE CONVENTION, 1983

State	Total Pastors In Study	Full-Time Pastors		Bivocational Pastors	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Alabama	1,432	791	55.2%	641	44.8%
Alaska	16	16	100.0	0	0.0
Arizona	130	100	76.9	30	23.1
Arkansas	584	364	62.3	220	37.7
California	556	448	80.6	108	19.4
Colorado	58	56	96.6	2	3.4
Florida	779	619	79.5	160	20.5
Georgia	1,243	831	66.9	412	33.1
Hawaii	21	21	100.0	0	0.0
Illinois	464	293	63.1	171	36.9
Indiana	107	61	57.0	46	43.0
Kan-Neb	161	122	75.8	39	24.2
Kentucky	664	454	68.4	210	31.6
Louisiana	340	283	83.2	57	16.8
Maryland	136	108	79.4	28	20.6
Michigan	103	75	72.8	28	27.2
Minn-Wisc	12	7	58.3	5	41.7
Mississippi	1,193	841	70.5	352	29.5
Missouri	1,062	683	64.3	379	35.7
Nevada	20	19	95.0	1	5.0
New Mexico	205	153	74.6	52	25.4
New York	69	61	88.4	8	11.6
North Carolina	1,523	1,231	80.8	292	19.2
Northern Plains	76	53	69.7	23	30.3
Northwest	201	165	82.1	36	17.9
Ohio	412	278	67.5	134	32.5
Oklahoma	738	518	70.2	220	29.8
Penn-S Jersey	67	59	88.1	8	11.9
South Carolina	911	770	84.5	141	15.5
Tennessee	1,328	770	58.0	558	42.0
Texas	1,833	1,365	74.5	468	25.5
Utah-Idaho	52	28	53.8	24	46.2
Virginia	626	559	89.3	67	10.7
West Virginia	98	81	82.7	17	17.3
Total SBC	17,220	12,283	71.3%	4,937	28.7%

Source: Research Division, Home Mission Board, 1983.

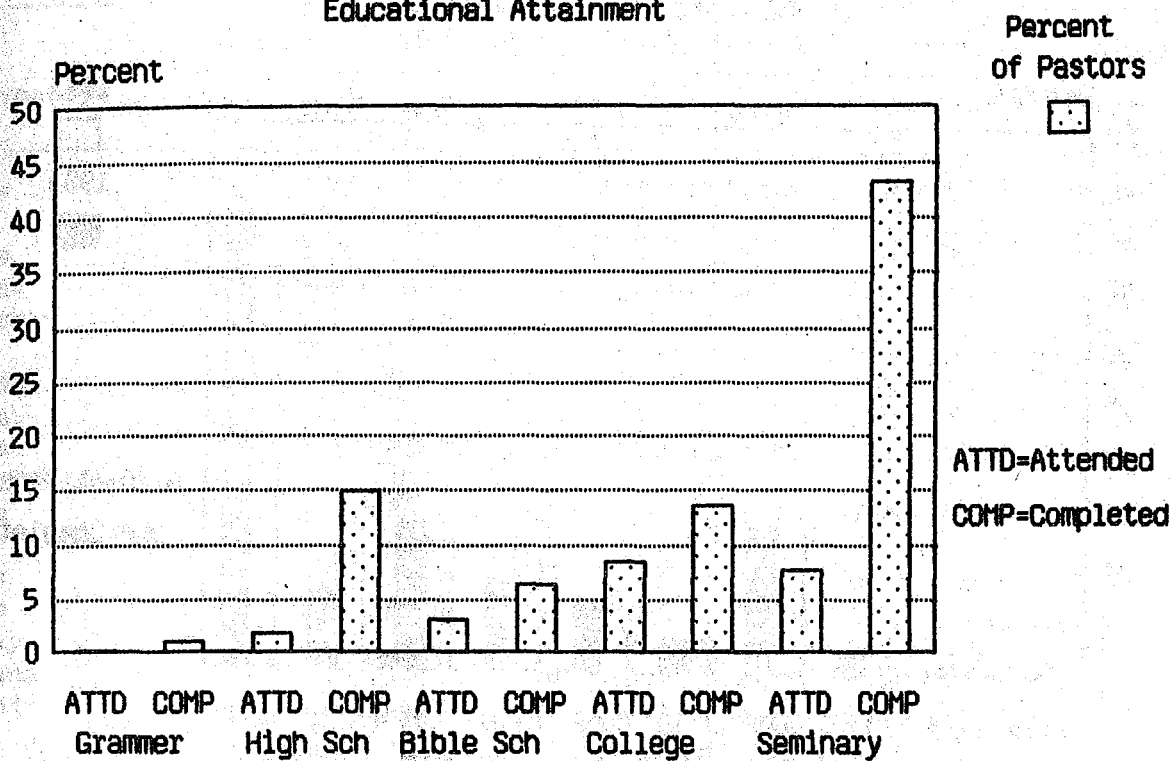
TABLE 4.

VOCATIONAL STATUS OF SBC PASTORS BY AGE  
OF PASTOR AND CHURCH SIZE, 1983

Age of Pastor	Bivocational Pastors	Nonbivocational Pastors
20 to 29	7.9%	8.8%
30 to 39	20.5	26.9
40 to 49	26.8	26.9
50 to 59	28.6	24.5
60 to 69	13.4	10.7
70 or more	2.8	2.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Church Size</b>		
Under 200	68.6%	22.9%
200 to 299	24.1	24.0
300 to 399	4.9	14.9
400 to 499	1.1	9.9
500 to 999	1.1	16.9
1000 or more	0.2	11.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Research Division, Home Mission Board, 1984.

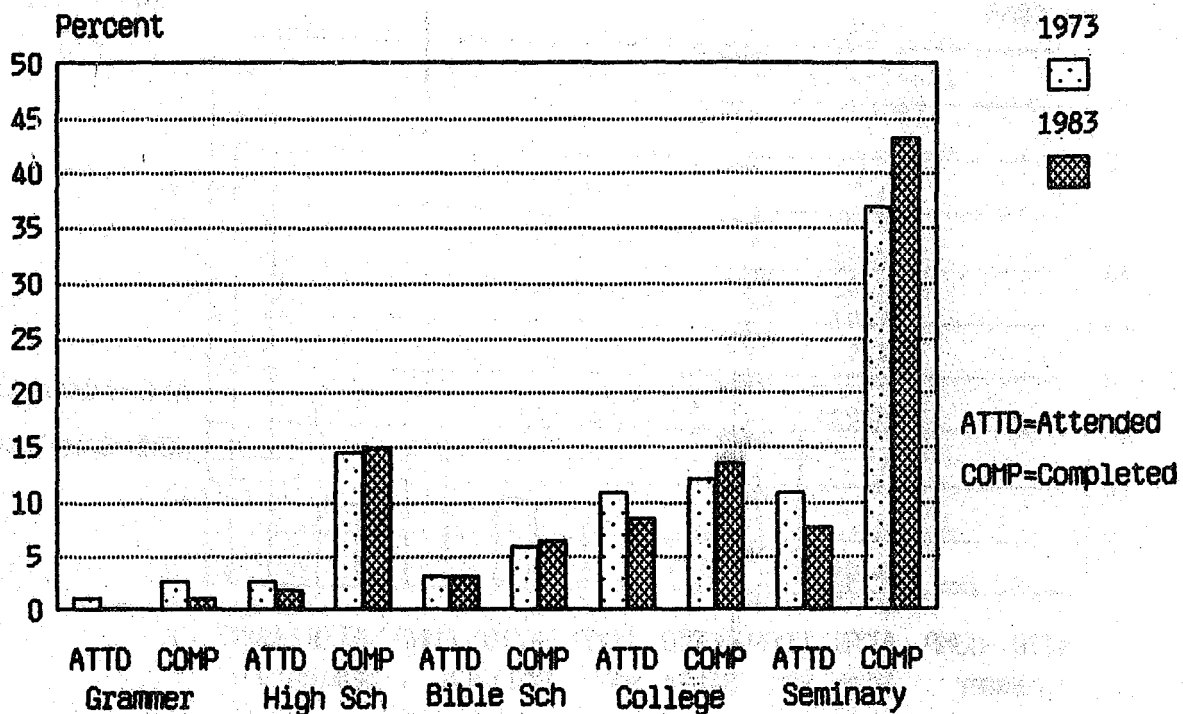
Percent of SBC Pastors by Highest Educational Attainment



Source: Research Division, Home Mission Board

Fig. 3--Distribution of SBC Pastors by Highest Educational Level Attained.

### Highest Educational Attainment of SBC Pastors, 1973 and 1983



Source: Research Division, Home Mission Board

Fig. 4--Distribution of SBC Pastors by Highest Educational Level Attained, 1973 and 1983.

TABLE 5

PERCENTAGE OF SBC PASTORS BY HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL  
ATTAINMENT BY STATE CONVENTION, 1983

State Convention	Grammar		High School		Bible School		College		Seminary	
	Attd <sup>a</sup>	Comp <sup>b</sup>	Attd <sup>a</sup>	Comp <sup>b</sup>	Attd <sup>a</sup>	Comp <sup>b</sup>	Attd <sup>a</sup>	Comp <sup>b</sup>	Attd <sup>a</sup>	Comp <sup>b</sup>
Alabama	0.1%	0.4%	3.9%	20.2%	6.8%	8.6%	9.8%	10.3%	5.2%	34.7%
Alaska	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	12.5	6.3	81.3
Arizona	0.9	2.7	. .	16.2	4.5	3.6	4.5	22.5	6.3	38.7
Arkansas	. .	2.5	1.1	19.0	1.3	4.0	12.1	19.7	7.2	33.1
California	. .	0.2	1.6	7.5	2.2	2.7	12.6	11.9	10.6	50.5
Colorado	. .	. .	. .	7.0	. .	1.8	1.8	19.3	12.3	57.9
Florida	0.1	. .	1.3	6.8	3.7	10.8	5.8	10.0	5.4	56.1
Georgia	0.5	0.8	3.3	25.4	3.6	6.8	4.9	13.7	4.0	37.1
Hawaii	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	4.8	95.2
Illinois	0.2	1.1	1.8	29.3	6.6	3.2	7.9	12.7	6.1	31.1
Indiana	. .	1.9	3.7	24.3	1.9	9.3	0.9	16.8	4.7	36.4
Kan-Neb	. .	0.6	0.6	7.6	0.6	3.8	5.1	13.4	12.7	55.4
Kentucky	0.3	2.5	2.0	14.1	7.4	9.1	9.0	12.6	9.0	34.0
Louisiana	. .	. .	0.3	5.4	0.6	1.3	8.0	17.5	11.8	55.1
Maryland	. .	. .	0.7	6.6	5.1	8.8	2.2	11.8	2.2	62.5
Michigan	1.0	3.1	1.0	12.2	3.1	9.2	8.2	11.2	15.3	35.7
Minn-Wisc	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	8.3	25.0	66.7
Mississippi	0.2	0.3	2.0	13.3	0.5	2.0	11.6	15.7	9.5	45.1
Missouri	. .	0.5	1.5	19.4	1.8	2.0	10.7	17.2	9.6	37.3
Nevada	. .	. .	. .	5.3	. .	5.3	10.5	15.8	5.3	57.9
New Mexico	0.5	1.5	1.0	14.0	2.5	3.5	13.5	19.0	7.0	37.5
New York	. .	. .	. .	4.3	1.4	26.1	5.8	8.7	4.3	49.3
North Carolina	0.1	3.8	2.0	11.8	2.4	15.7	3.6	11.5	5.6	43.4
Northern Plains	. .	. .	1.4	4.1	. .	4.1	13.5	12.2	5.4	59.5
Northwest	. .	0.5	. .	8.0	1.0	7.5	6.5	5.5	14.5	56.5
Ohio	. .	0.2	1.0	15.0	8.4	14.3	3.9	9.8	3.2	44.2
Oklahoma	0.3	2.5	1.5	19.0	2.0	3.1	12.8	17.6	10.3	31.0
Penn-S Jersey	. .	. .	. .	6.0	7.5	3.0	11.9	6.0	6.0	59.7
South Carolina	0.1	. .	0.9	6.1	4.7	6.9	9.2	12.1	6.4	53.5
Tennessee	0.5	2.1	3.3	28.7	4.6	3.5	8.8	14.4	5.0	29.2
Texas	0.1	0.5	0.6	6.8	0.9	2.4	9.7	15.3	12.6	51.0
Utah-Idaho	. .	1.9	. .	5.8	1.9	17.3	3.8	17.3	. .	51.9
Virginia	0.2	. .	0.5	6.5	1.7	6.6	3.2	6.8	6.0	68.5
West Virginia	. .	1.0	1.0	6.3	11.5	10.4	8.3	14.6	5.2	41.7
Total SBC	0.2%	1.1%	1.8%	14.9%	3.2%	6.2%	8.3%	13.5%	7.6%	43.2%

Source: Research Division, Home Mission Board, 1983.

<sup>a</sup>Attended but not completed.

<sup>b</sup>Completed.



TABLE 6

RANKING OF STATE CONVENTIONS BY PERCENTAGE OF  
PASTORS WITH AT LEAST SOME SEMINARY  
EDUCATION, 1983

1983 Rank	State Convention	Percentage of Pastors With Some Seminary		1973 Rank
		1983	1973	
1	Hawaii	100.0%	n.a.	n.a.
2	Minn-Wisc	91.7	n.a.	n.a.
3	Alaska	87.6	n.a.	n.a.
4	Virginia	74.5	65.9%	5
5	Northwest	71.0	61.7	10
6	Colorado	70.2	71.5	2
7	Kan-Neb	68.1	52.8	16
8	Louisiana	66.9	39.5	25
9	Penn-S Jersey	65.7	89.4	1
10	Northern Plains	64.9	68.9	4
11	Maryland	64.7	69.2	3
12	Texas	63.6	60.3	11
13	Nevada	63.2	n.a.	n.a.
14	Florida	61.5	50.6	17
15	California	61.1	64.0	6
16	South Carolina	59.9	56.9	14
17	Mississippi	54.6	62.5	7
18	New York	53.6	62.5	8
19	Utah-Idaho	51.9	55.6	15
20	Michigan	51.0	46.5	20
	SBC Average	50.8	47.0	n.a.
21	North Carolina	49.0	48.4	19
22	Ohio	47.4	46.3	21
23	Missouri	46.9	41.6	24
24	West Virginia	46.9	59.7	12
25	Arizona	45.0	57.8	13
26	New Mexico	44.5	62.0	9
27	Kentucky	43.0	30.4	28
28	Oklahoma	41.3	44.7	22
29	Indiana	41.1	49.9	18
30	Georgia	41.1	36.8	26
31	Arkansas	40.3	42.8	23
32	Alabama	39.9	30.0	29
33	Illinois	37.2	29.9	30
34	Tennessee	34.2	32.0	27

Source: Research Division, Home Mission Board, 1983.

TABLE 7  
 RANKING OF STATE CONVENTIONS BY PERCENTAGE  
 OF PASTORS WITH NO SEMINARY  
 EDUCATION, 1983

1983 Rank	State Convention	Percentage of Pastors With No Seminary		1973 Rank
		1983	1973	
1	Tennessee	65.8%	68.0%	4
2	Illinois	62.8	70.1	1
3	Alabama	60.1	70.0	2
4	Arkansas	59.7	57.2	8
5	Indiana	58.9	50.1	13
6	Georgia	58.9	63.2	5
7	Oklahoma	58.7	55.3	9
8	Kentucky	57.0	69.6	3
9	New Mexico	55.5	38.0	22
10	Arizona	55.0	42.2	18
11	West Virginia	53.1	40.3	19
12	Missouri	53.1	58.4	7
13	Ohio	52.6	53.7	10
14	North Carolina	51.0	51.6	12
	SBC Average	49.2	53.0	n.a.
15	Michigan	49.0	53.5	11
16	Utah-Idaho	48.1	44.4	16
17	New York	46.4	37.5	23
18	Mississippi	45.4	37.5	24
19	South Carolina	40.1	43.1	17
20	California	38.9	36.0	25
21	Florida	38.5	49.4	14
22	Nevada	36.8	n.a.	n.a.
23	Texas	36.4	39.7	20
24	Maryland	35.3	30.8	28
25	Northern Plains	35.1	31.1	27
26	Penn-S Jersey	34.3	10.6	30
27	Louisiana	33.1	60.5	6
28	Kan-Neb	31.9	47.2	15
29	Colorado	29.8	28.5	29
30	Northwest	29.0	38.3	21
31	Virginia	25.5	34.1	26
32	Alaska	12.4	n.a.	n.a.
33	Minn-Wisc	8.3	n.a.	n.a.
34	Hawaii	0.0	n.a.	n.a.

Source: Research Division, Home Mission Board, 1983.

TABLE 8

PERCENTAGE OF SBC PASTORS BY HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL  
ATTAINMENT BY AGE OF PASTOR, 1983

Age of Pastor	Grammar		High School		Bible School		College		Seminary	
	Att <sup>a</sup>	Comp <sup>b</sup>	Att <sup>a</sup>	Comp <sup>b</sup>	Att <sup>a</sup>	Comp <sup>b</sup>	Att <sup>a</sup>	Comp <sup>b</sup>	Att <sup>a</sup>	Comp <sup>b</sup>
20 to 29	0.3%	0.5%	0.5%	8.1%	2.3%	2.3%	14.5%	16.9%	15.3%	39.5%
30 to 39	. .	0.6	0.6	10.6	3.1	5.8	8.0	13.9	8.9	48.6
40 to 49	0.1	1.0	1.1	15.6	3.0	7.1	7.8	13.8	6.4	44.0
50 to 59	0.2	1.4	2.4	16.6	3.5	7.4	7.6	12.1	6.0	42.7
60 to 69	0.5	1.9	4.3	21.7	4.3	6.0	7.0	12.5	5.4	36.4
70 or more	0.5	3.7	7.9	27.0	4.2	5.5	8.1	11.5	5.5	26.0

Source: Research Division, Home Mission Board, 1983.

<sup>a</sup>Attended but not completed.

<sup>b</sup>Completed.

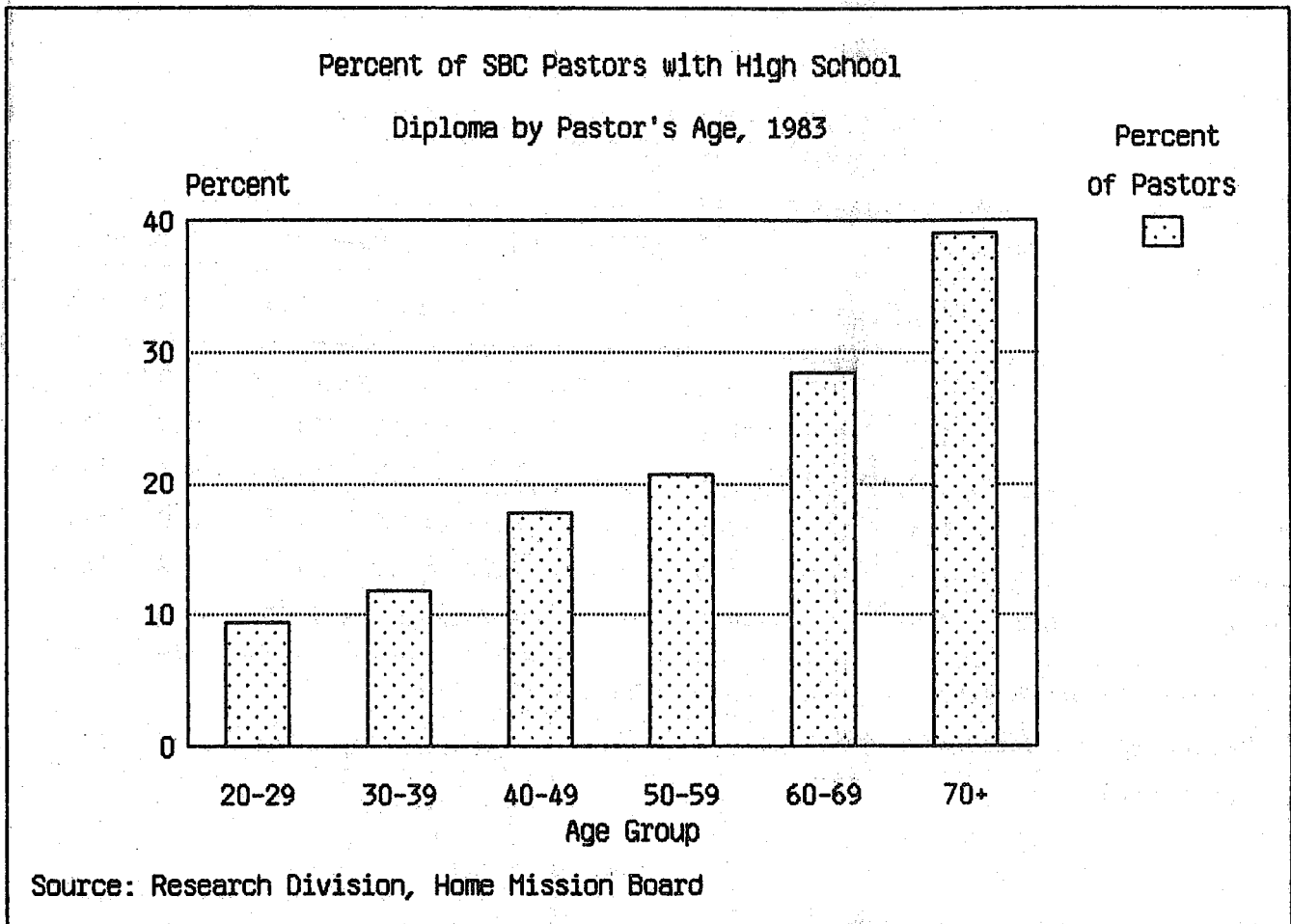


Fig. 6--Percentage of SBC Pastors Whose Highest Educational Attainment was Completion of High School or Less by Age of Pastor.

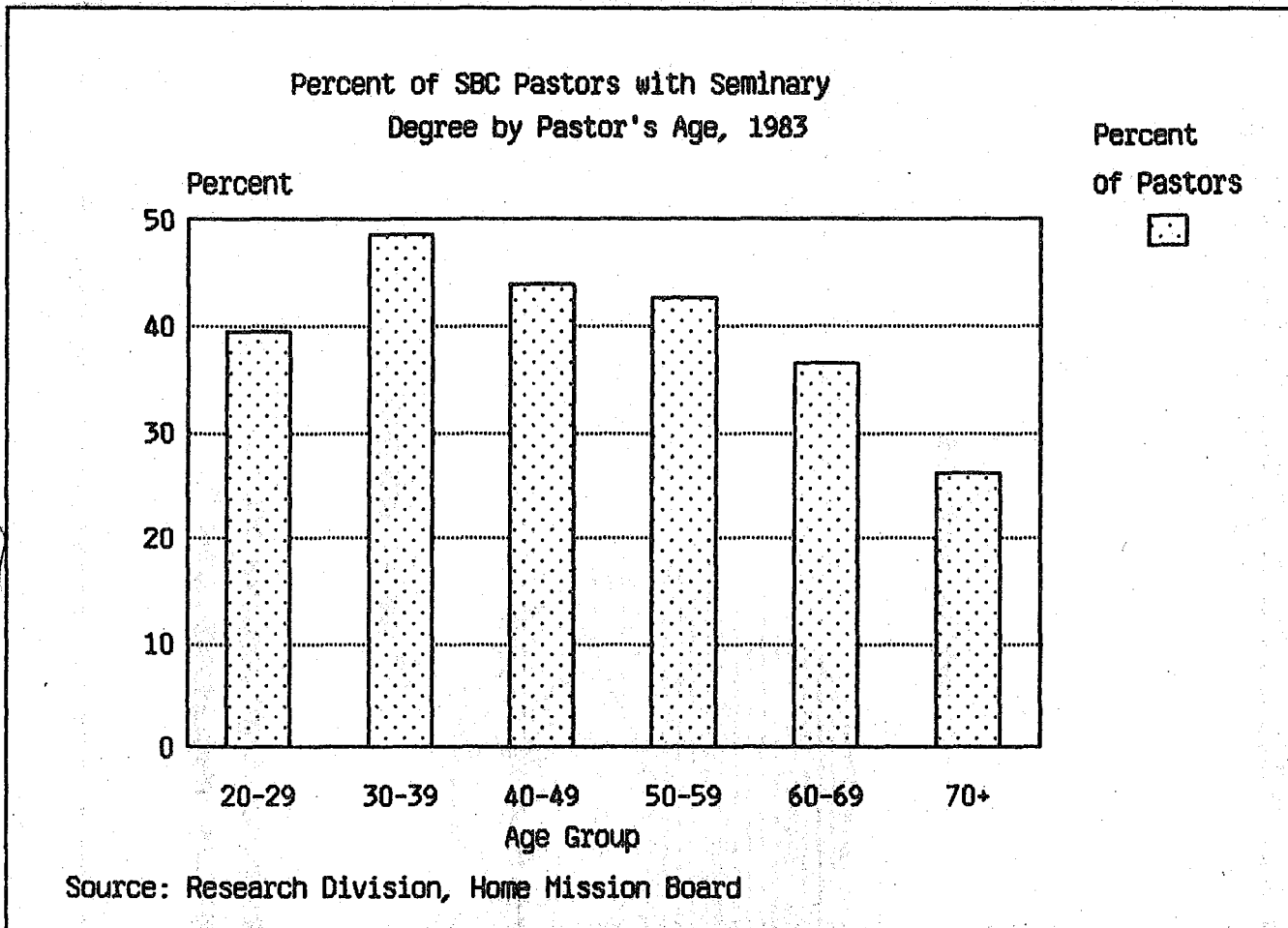
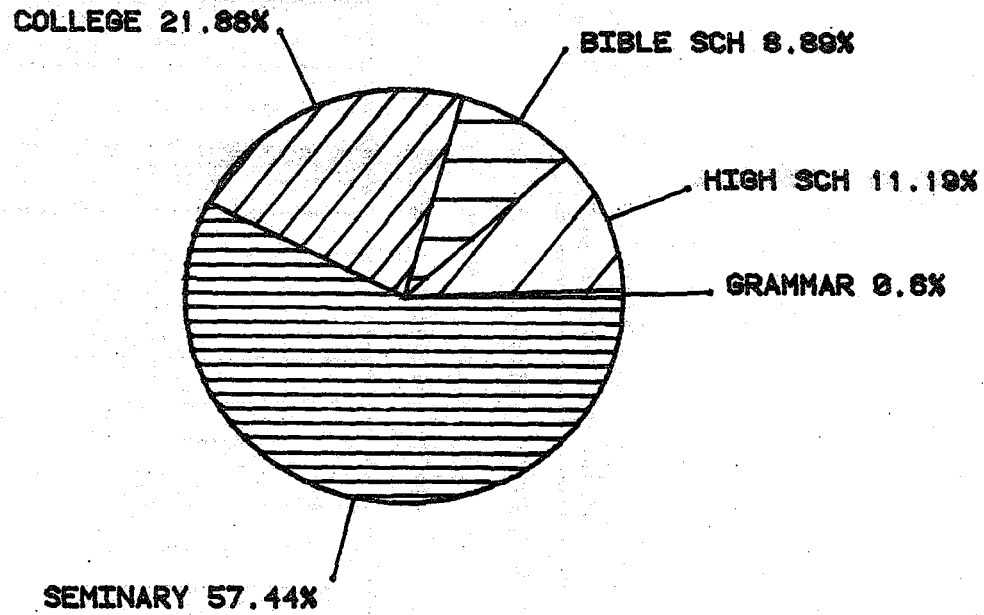


Fig. 7--Percentage of SBC Pastors Whose Highest Educational Attainment was Completion of Seminary by Age of Pastor.

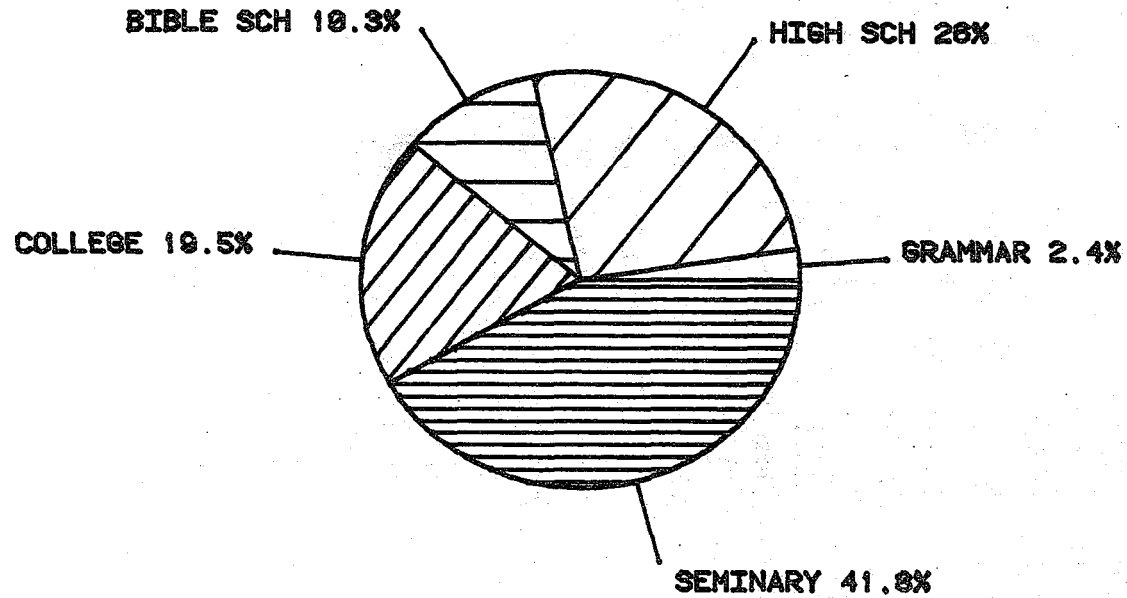
HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF  
SBC PASTORS AGED 30 TO 39, 1983



Source: Research Division, HMB

Fig. 8--Highest Educational Attainment of SBC Pastors Ages 30-39.

HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF  
SBC PASTORS AGED 60 TO 69, 1983



Source: Research Division, HMB.

Fig. 9--Highest Educational Attainment of SBC Pastors Ages 60-69.

TABLE 9

PERCENTAGE OF SBC PASTORS BY HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL  
ATTAINMENT BY SIZE OF CONGREGATION, 1983

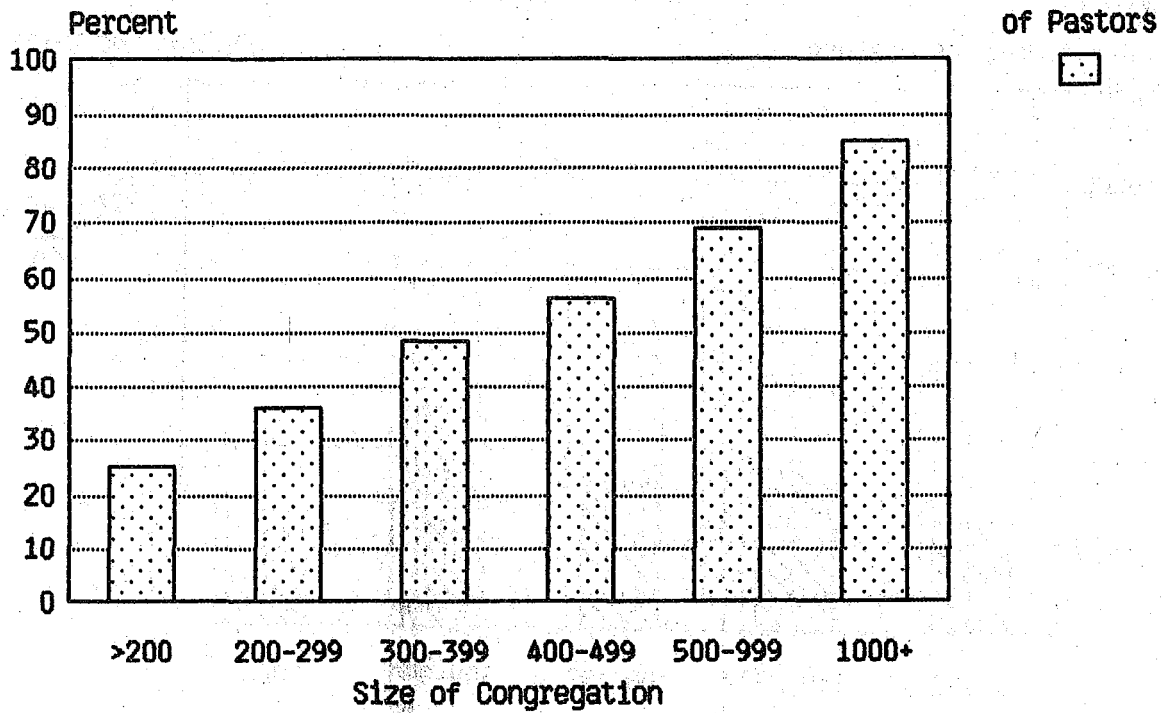
Total Church Members	Grammar		High School		Bible School		College		Seminary	
	Attd <sup>a</sup>	Comp <sup>b</sup>	Attd <sup>a</sup>	Comp <sup>b</sup>	Attd <sup>a</sup>	Comp <sup>b</sup>	Attd <sup>a</sup>	Comp <sup>b</sup>	Attd <sup>a</sup>	Comp <sup>b</sup>
Under 200	0.3%	1.7%	3.4%	25.1%	5.0%	6.8%	11.0%	13.8%	7.8%	25.2%
200 to 299	0.2	1.4	1.5	15.5	3.9	8.1	9.7	15.1	8.5	35.9
300 to 399	0.1	0.6	1.0	10.1	2.2	7.4	7.6	15.1	7.7	48.3
400 to 499	0.1	0.4	0.6	5.9	2.1	6.4	6.3	14.3	7.9	56.0
500 to 999	. .	0.4	0.2	3.1	0.7	3.6	3.8	11.5	7.7	68.9
1000 or more	. .	0.1	. .	1.4	0.1	0.9	2.0	7.1	3.4	84.9

Source: Research Division, Home Mission Board, 1983.

<sup>a</sup>Attended but not completed.

<sup>b</sup>Completed.

Percent of SBC Pastors with Seminary Degree  
by Size of Congregation, 1983



Source: Research Division, Home Mission Board

Fig. 10--Percentage of SBC Pastors with Seminary Degrees By Size of Church.

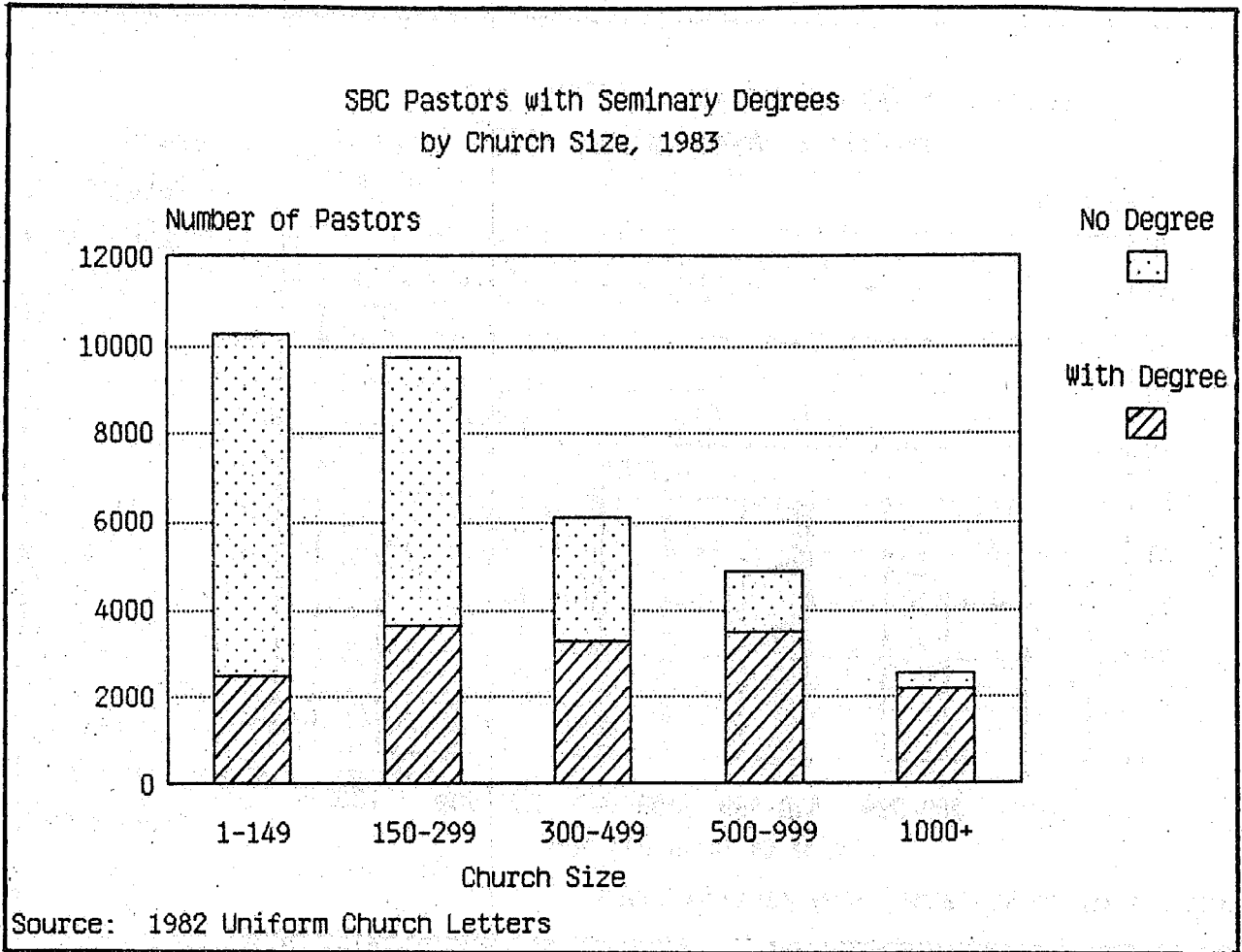
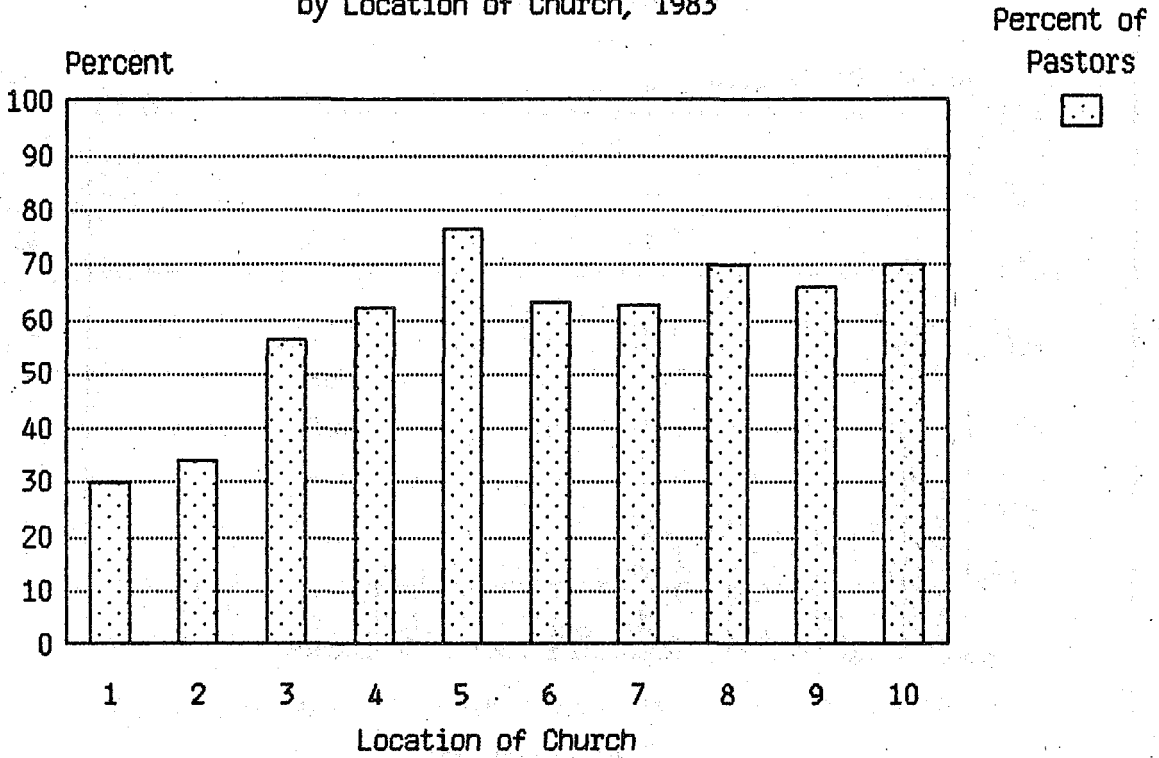


Fig. 11--Number of SBC Pastors With and Without Seminary Degrees by Size of Church.

Percent of SBC Pastors with Seminary Degrees  
by Location of Church, 1983



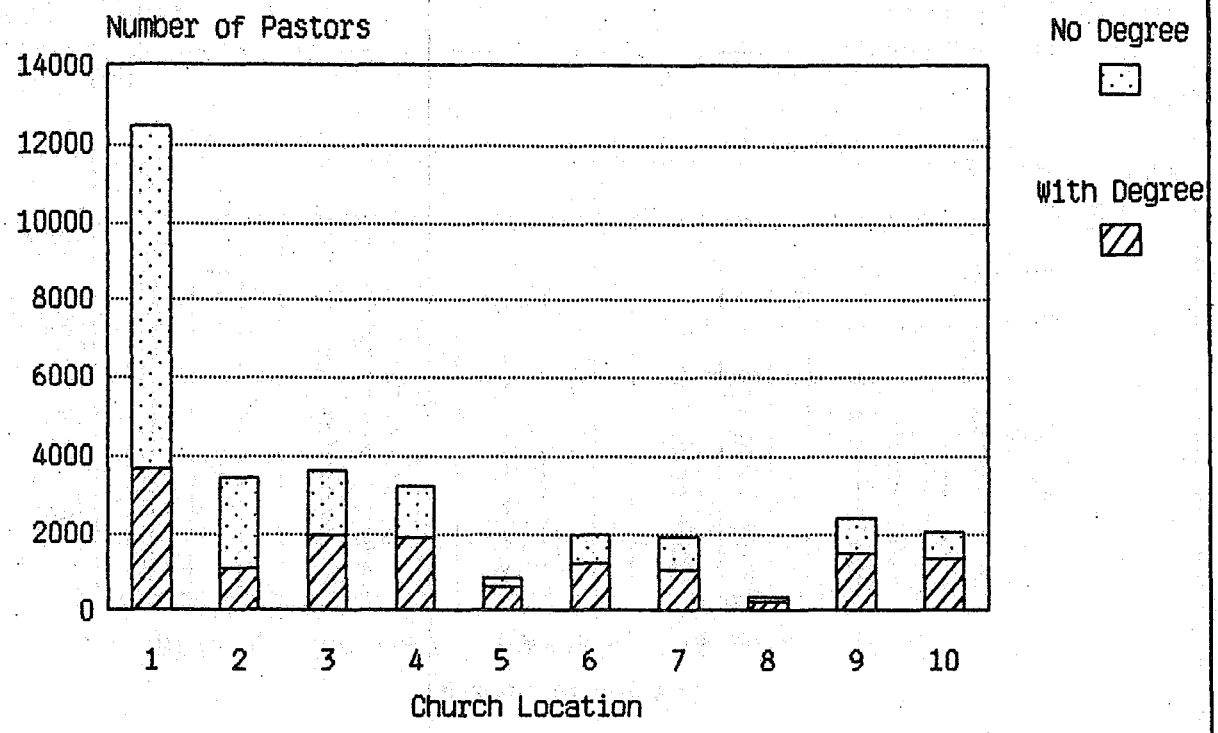
Legend for Graph:

- 1 = Open Country
  - 2 = Village (Under 500)
  - 3 = Town (500-2,499)
  - 4 = Small City (2,500-9,999)
  - 5 = Downtown
  - 6 = Neighborhood
  - 7 = Suburb
  - 8 = Downtown
  - 9 = Neighborhood
  - 10 = Suburb
- } City (10,000-49,999)
- } Large City (50,000+)

Source: 1982 Uniform Church Letters

Fig. 12--Percentage of SBC Pastors with Seminary Degrees by Location of Church.

SBC Pastors with Seminary Degrees  
by Church Location, 1983



Legend for Graph:

- 1 = Open Country
  - 2 = Village (Under 500)
  - 3 = Town (500-2,499)
  - 4 = Small City (2,500-9,999)
  - 5 = Downtown
  - 6 = Neighborhood
  - 7 = Suburb
  - 8 = Downtown
  - 9 = Neighborhood
  - 10 = Suburb
- City (10,000-49,999)  
 Large City (50,000+)

Source: 1982 Uniform Church Letters

Fig. 13--Number of SBC Pastors With and Without Seminary Degrees by Location of Church.

TABLE 10

PERCENTAGE OF SBC PASTORS WITH SEMINARY  
DEGREE BY AGE OF PASTOR AND SIZE OF  
CONGREGATION, 1983

Total Membership of Church	Age Group						Total All Ages
	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70 or More	
Under 200	28.9%	28.7%	22.0%	24.0%	23.9%	23.7%	25.2%
200 to 299	44.9	42.6	32.6	31.7	29.5	28.7	35.9
300 to 399	60.7	57.4	41.5	43.0	48.9	36.0	48.3
400 to 499	54.6	62.8	55.2	52.0	50.0	0.0	56.0
500 to 999	58.3	71.9	71.1	67.8	61.5	33.3	68.9
1,000 or more	72.2	88.2	84.2	84.9	84.6	66.7	84.9
Total All Churches	39.5	48.6	44.0	42.7	36.4	26.0	43.2

Source: Research Division, Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Georgia.

TABLE 11

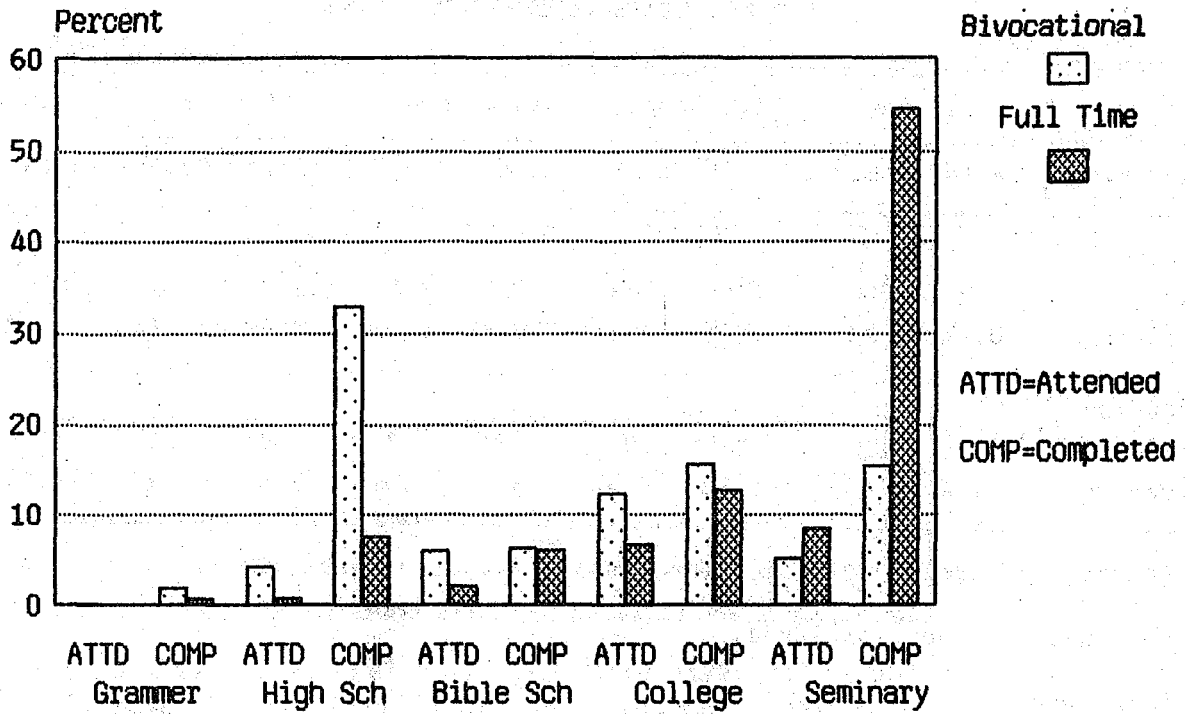
PERCENTAGE OF PASTORS WITH NO SEMINARY TRAINING  
BY PASTOR'S AGE AND CHURCH SIZE, 1983<sup>a</sup>

Church Size	Age Group						Total All Ages
	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70 and Over	
Under 200	55.5%	62.0%	71.4%	70.9%	71.2%	70.2%	67.1%
200 to 299	41.3	47.3	60.6	61.1	63.3	67.1	55.5
300 to 399	22.2	33.3	52.0	49.8	47.9	64.0	44.0
400 to 499	30.7	31.3	36.8	39.5	41.0	100.0	35.9
500 to 999	21.7	18.7	22.6	25.6	31.6	58.3	23.5
1,000 or more	27.8	7.7	11.8	12.6	13.0	16.7	11.6
Total All Churches	45.1	42.5	49.6	51.1	58.3	68.2	49.2

Source: Research Division, Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Georgia.

<sup>a</sup>See page 60 in the Appendix for number of pastors per cell.

Highest Educational Attainment of SBC Pastors by Vocational Status, 1983



Source: Research Division, Home Mission Board

Fig. 14--Distribution of SBC Pastors by Highest Educational Level Attained by Vocational Status of Pastors.

TABLE 12

SBC PASTORS BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT BY OLD  
AND NEW STATE CONVENTIONS, 1983

State Conventions	Grammar		High School		Bible School		College		Seminary	
	Attd <sup>a</sup>	Comp <sup>b</sup>	Attd <sup>a</sup>	Comp <sup>b</sup>	Attd <sup>a</sup>	Comp <sup>b</sup>	Attd <sup>a</sup>	Comp <sup>b</sup>	Attd <sup>a</sup>	Comp <sup>b</sup>
Old States <sup>c</sup>										
Number	29	172	275	2,269	465	876	1,230	2,009	1,087	6,150
Percentage	0.2%	1.2%	1.9%	15.6%	3.2%	6.0%	8.4%	13.8%	7.5%	42.2%
New States <sup>c</sup>										
Number	1	11	21	192	72	157	150	225	169	1,000
Percentage	0.1%	0.6%	1.1%	9.6%	3.6%	7.9%	7.5%	11.3%	8.5%	50.1%

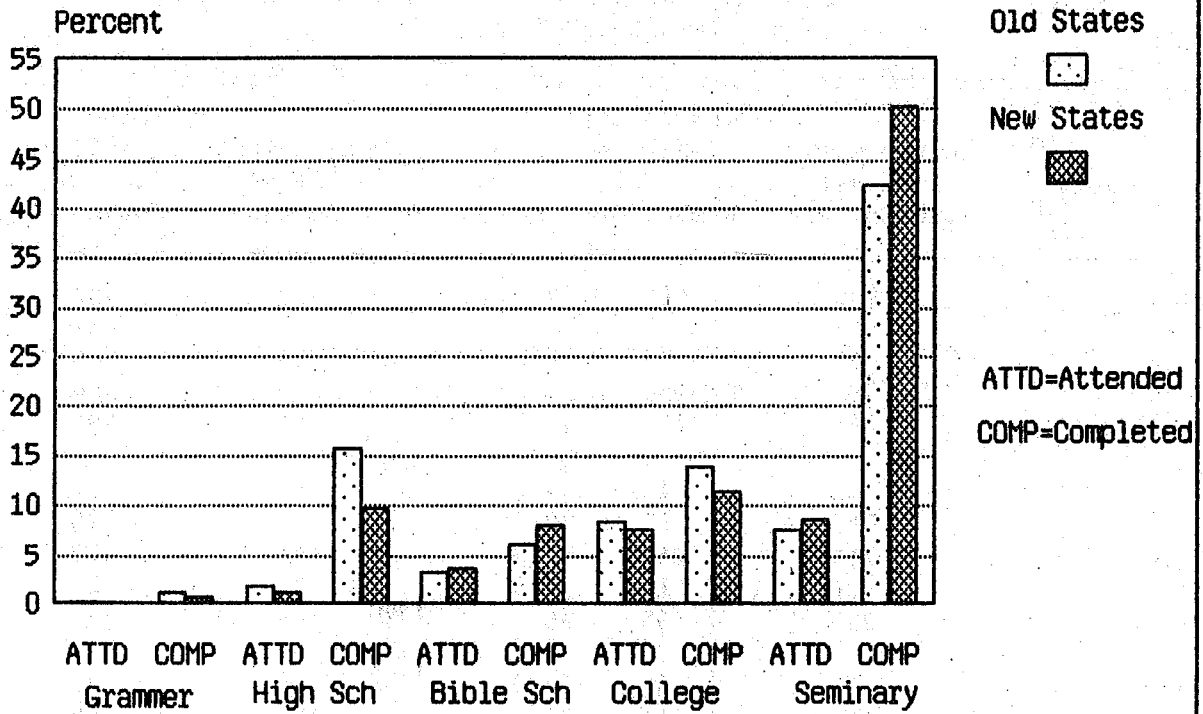
Source: Research Division, Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Georgia.

<sup>a</sup>Attended but not completed.

<sup>b</sup>Completed.

<sup>c</sup>See page 55 in the Appendix for list of states.

### Highest Educational Attainment of Pastors in New and Old State Conventions



Source: Research Division, Home Mission Board

Fig. 15--Distribution of SBC Pastors by Highest Educational Level Attained by Age of State Convention.

TABLE 13

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF SBC PASTORS WHO ATTENDED  
SOUTHERN BAPTIST COLLEGES AND SEMINARIES  
BY STATE CONVENTIONS, 1983

State Conventions	Number with At Least Some College	Number Attending SBC College		Number With At Least Some Seminary	Number Attending SBC Seminary	
		Number	Percentage		Number	Percentage
Alabama	825	415	50.3%	549	503	91.6%
Alaska	16	9	56.2	14	11	78.6
Arizona	80	53	66.2	50	44	88.0
Arkansas	399	256	64.2	223	184	82.5
California	468	213	45.5	334	282	84.4
Colorado	52	18	34.6	40	36	90.0
Florida	587	181	30.8	467	323	69.2
Georgia	713	258	36.2	491	417	84.9
Hawaii	21	11	52.4	21	21	100.0
Illinois	255	93	36.5	164	137	83.5
Indiana	63	43	68.3	44	43	97.7
Kan-Neb	136	44	32.4	107	98	91.6
Kentucky	416	206	49.5	277	254	91.7
Louisiana	290	89	30.7	210	204	97.1
Maryland	107	49	45.8	88	70	79.5
Michigan	69	26	37.7	50	40	80.0
Minn-Wisc	12	6	50.0	11	10	90.9
Mississippi	962	639	66.4	642	538	83.8
Missouri	769	421	54.7	482	410	85.1
Nevada	17	9	52.9	12	10	83.3
New Mexico	154	51	33.1	89	78	87.6
New York	47	21	44.7	37	27	73.0
North Carolina	898	449	50.0	686	605	88.2
Northern Plains	67	37	55.2	48	43	89.6
Northwest	166	83	50.0	142	130	91.5
Ohio	249	124	49.8	193	178	92.2
Oklahoma	510	193	37.8	294	243	82.7
Penn-S Jersey	56	12	21.4	44	39	88.6
South Carolina	706	410	58.1	521	445	85.4
Tennessee	743	388	52.2	443	403	91.0

TABLE 13--Continued

State Conventions	Number with At Least Some College	Number Attending SBC College		Number With At Least Some Seminary	Number Attending SBC Seminary	
		Number	Percentage		Number	Percentage
Texas	1,566	902	57.6%	1,124	1,014	90.2%
Utah-Idaho	38	19	50.0	27	22	81.5
Virginia	496	243	49.0	437	378	86.5
West Virginia	67	27	40.3	45	39	86.7
TOTAL SBC	12,020	5,998	49.9	8,406	7,279	86.6

Source: Research Division, Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Georgia.

**APPENDIX**

STATE CONVENTIONS ORGANIZED BEFORE 1940

Alabama	Mississippi
Arizona	Missouri
Arkansas	New Mexico
Florida	North Carolina
Georgia	Oklahoma
Illinois	South Carolina
Kentucky	Tennessee
Louisiana	Texas
Maryland	Virginia

STATE CONVENTIONS ORGANIZED AFTER 1940

Alaska	Nevada
California	New York
Colorado	Northern Plains
Hawaii	Northwest
Indiana	Ohio
Kansas-Nebraska	Pennsylvania-South Jersey
Michigan	Utah-Idaho
Minnesota-Wisconsin	West Virginia

TABLE 14  
 NUMBER OF PASTORS IN STUDY BY PASTOR'S  
 AGE AND CHURCH SIZE

Church Size	Age Group						Total All Ages
	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70 and Over	
Under 200	736	1,364	1,331	1,467	920	281	6,099
200 to 299	408	1,124	1,051	976	434	76	4,069
300 to 399	136	562	609	501	197	26	2,031
400 to 499	79	370	393	327	81	3	1,253
500 to 999	64	543	644	640	181	12	2,084
1,000 or more	19	280	517	444	126	6	1,392
Total All Churches	1,442	4,243	4,545	4,345	1,939	404	16,928 <sup>a</sup>

Source: Research Division, Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Georgia.

<sup>a</sup>The remaining 292 (1.7 percent of total sample) pastors had missing values for age and/or church size.

TABLE 15

NUMBER OF SBC PASTORS BY HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL  
ATTAINMENT BY STATE CONVENTION, 1983

State Convention	Grammar		High School		Bible School		College		Seminary		Total
	Attd <sup>a</sup>	Comp <sup>b</sup>	Attd <sup>a</sup>	Comp <sup>b</sup>	Attd <sup>a</sup>	Comp <sup>b</sup>	Attd <sup>a</sup>	Comp <sup>b</sup>	Attd <sup>a</sup>	Comp <sup>b</sup>	
Alabama	1	6	53	278	93	118	135	141	72	477	1,374
Alaska	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	2	1	13	16
Arizona	1	3		18	5	4	5	25	7	43	111
Arkansas	. .	14	6	105	7	22	67	109	40	183	553
California	. .	1	9	41	12	15	69	65	58	276	546
Colorado	. .	. .	. .	4	. .	1	1	11	7	33	57
Florida	1		10	52	28	82	44	76	41	426	760
Georgia	6	10	39	303	43	81	58	164	48	443	1,195
Hawaii	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	1	20	21
Illinois	1	5	8	129	29	14	35	56	27	137	441
Indiana	. .	2	4	26	2	10	1	18	5	39	107
Kan-Neb	. .	1	1	12	1	6	8	21	20	87	157
Kentucky	2	16	13	91	48	59	58	81	58	219	645
Louisiana	. .	. .	1	17	2	4	25	55	37	173	314
Maryland	. .	. .	1	9	7	12	3	16	3	85	136
Michigan	1	3	1	12	3	9	8	11	15	35	98
Minn-Wisc	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	1	3	8	12
Mississippi	2	3	23	156	6	23	136	184	112	530	1,175
Missouri	. .	5	15	199	18	21	110	177	99	383	1,027
Nevada	. .	. .	. .	1	. .	1	2	3	1	11	19

TABLE 15--Continued

State Convention	Grammar		High School		Bible School		College		Seminary		Total
	Attd <sup>a</sup>	Comp <sup>b</sup>	Attd <sup>a</sup>	Comp <sup>b</sup>	Attd <sup>a</sup>	Comp <sup>b</sup>	Attd <sup>a</sup>	Comp <sup>b</sup>	Attd <sup>a</sup>	Comp <sup>b</sup>	
New Mexico	1	3	2	28	5	7	27	38	14	75	200
New York	..	..	..	3	1	18	4	6	3	34	69
North Carolina	2	53	28	166	34	220	51	161	78	608	1,401
Northern Plains	..	..	1	3		3	10	9	4	44	74
Northwest	..	1	..	16	2	15	13	11	29	113	200
Ohio	..	1	4	61	34	58	16	40	13	180	407
Oklahoma	2	18	11	135	14	22	91	125	73	221	712
Penn-S Jersey	..	..	..	4	5	2	8	4	4	40	67
South Carolina	1	..	8	53	41	60	80	105	56	465	869
Tennessee	6	27	43	371	59	45	114	186	65	378	1,294
Texas	2	9	11	121	16	43	172	270	222	902	1,768
Utah-Idaho	..	1	..	3	1	9	2	9	..	27	52
Virginia	1	..	3	38	10	39	19	40	35	402	587
West Virginia	..	1	1	6	11	10	8	14	5	40	96
Total SBC	30	183	296	2,461	537	1,033	1,380	2,234	1,256	7,150	16,560

Source: Research Division, Home Mission Board, 1983.

<sup>a</sup>Attended but not completed.

<sup>b</sup>Completed.

TABLE 16  
 PERCENTAGE OF SBC PASTORS WITH SEMINARY DEGREES

State Convention	1983 Study	1982 UCL	Difference
Alabama	34.7%	34.2%	0.5%
Alaska	81.3	53.1	28.2
Arizona	38.7	51.6	-12.9
Arkansas	33.1	37.8	-4.7
California	50.5	54.3	-3.8
Colorado	57.9	64.2	-6.3
Florida	56.1	56.3	-0.2
Georgia	37.1	41.5	-4.4
Hawaii	95.2	94.6	0.6
Illinois	31.1	32.1	-1.0
Indiana	36.4	44.0	-7.6
Kan-Neb	55.4	51.2	4.2
Kentucky	34.0	34.8	-0.8
Louisiana	55.1	46.3	8.8
Maryland	62.5	69.8	-7.3
Michigan	35.7	42.5	-6.8
Minn-Wisc	66.7	n.a.	n.a.
Mississippi	45.1	45.6	-0.5
Missouri	37.3	36.4	0.9
Nevada	57.9	66.7	-8.8
New Mexico	37.5	47.5	-10.0
New York	49.3	69.8	-20.5
North Carolina	43.4	50.0	-6.6
Northern Plains	59.5	52.0	7.5
Northwest	56.5	53.8	2.7
Ohio	44.2	45.6	-1.4
Oklahoma	31.0	37.8	-6.8
Penn-S Jersey	59.7	67.1	-7.4
South Carolina	53.5	59.8	-6.3
Tennessee	29.2	30.0	-0.8
Texas	51.0	53.2	-2.2
Utah-Idaho	51.9	54.8	-2.9
Virginia	68.5	71.0	-2.5
West Virginia	41.7	48.7	-7.0
Total SBC	43.2%	45.5%	-2.3%

Source: Research Division, Home Mission Board.

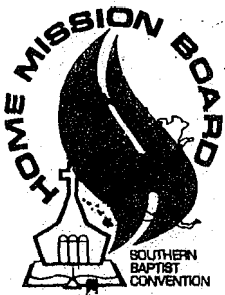
TABLE 17  
 NUMBER OF PASTORS IN STUDY BY PASTOR'S  
 AGE AND CHURCH SIZE

Church Size	Age Group						Total All Ages
	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70 and Over	
Under 200	736	1,364	1,331	1,467	920	281	6,099
200 to 299	408	1,124	1,051	976	434	76	4,069
300 to 399	136	562	609	501	197	26	2,031
400 to 499	79	370	393	327	81	3	1,253
500 to 999	64	543	644	640	181	12	2,084
1,000 or more	19	280	517	444	126	6	1,392
<b>Total All Churches</b>	<b>1,442</b>	<b>4,243</b>	<b>4,545</b>	<b>4,345</b>	<b>1,939</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>16,928<sup>a</sup></b>

Source: Research Division, Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Georgia.

<sup>a</sup>The remaining 292 (1.7 percent of total sample) pastors had missing values for age and/or church size.





May 18, 1983

Dear Co-Worker:

A decade ago the Home Mission Board and the Education Commission conducted a major study on the educational attainment of Southern Baptist pastors. The information, gathered from directors of missions, proved invaluable in designing programs for continuing education and in developing seminars and conferences to augment the education process. Because education is a significant leadership factor, we sense a need to update the 1973 study.

The questionnaire which accompanies this letter has been designed to enhance our knowledge about pastors and their educational status. We would appreciate your assistance in gathering this information. Please study the form and then fill in the information on all the currently active pastors in your association, using as many copies of the form as necessary.

Use one line for each pastor in your association—it is not necessary to identify the pastors by name or by church. In Part 1, indicate each pastor's age group and church size by writing in the appropriate number from the legend on the questionnaire. Next, indicate whether the pastor is bivocational. In Part 2, check only the highest educational attainment of each pastor. In Part 3, please indicate if the pastor attended a Southern Baptist college and seminary.

We recognize the many constraints on your time and we are grateful for your assistance with this important project. Thank you for the contribution you make to Southern Baptist life.

Sincerely,

William G. Tanner  
President  
Home Mission Board, SBC

Arthur L. Walker, Jr.  
Executive Director-Treasurer  
Education Commission, SBC



July 22, 1983

Dear Directors of Missions:

Recently the Home Mission Board sent you a form to help us study the educational attainment of Southern Baptist Convention pastors. This survey will provide a current update of a study originally conducted in 1973. Already 408 associations have responded to the survey.

I am enclosing another copy of the form and ask that you consider participating in the study (if you have sent in the survey since this second letter was mailed, you can disregard this appeal--sorry for any inconvenience). We know from Uniform Church Letter data that less than half of all SBC pastors have seminary degrees. However we have no information on college attendance, educational level by age, Southern Baptist educational background or educational level of bivocational pastors.

You can help the Home Mission Board and the Education Commission in their planning by completing the survey. Use one line for each pastor in your association--it is not necessary to identify the pastors by name or by church. In Part 1, indicate each pastor's age group and church size by writing in the appropriate number from the legend on the questionnaire. Next, indicate whether the pastor is bivocational. In Part 2, check only the highest educational attainment of each pastor. In Part 3, please indicate if the pastor attended a Southern Baptist college and seminary.

Thank you very much for your help.

Sincerely,

Clay Price  
Missions Researcher

CP:rb