

**A SURVEY OF SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH-TYPE MISSION STARTS IN THE  
NORTH CENTRAL STATES OF ILLINOIS, INDIANA, IOWA, MICHIGAN,  
MINNESOTA, OHIO AND WISCONSIN, 1977-1982**

By

Phillip B. Jones

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

Orrin D. Morris, Director

Phillip B. Jones, Associate Director

Clay L. Price, Missions Researcher

Jack L. Washington, Services Researcher

**HOME MISSION BOARD OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION**

William G. Tanner, President

1350 Spring Street, NW

Atlanta, GA 30367

April 1983

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Introduction

This report contains the analysis of a descriptive study of Southern Baptist church-type missions started in the years 1977 through most of 1982 in the North Central states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. The study was initiated by the North Central States Steering Committee. The following was used as a definition of a church-type mission: "a church-type mission is a fellowship of believers who gather regularly for worship and Biblical study with the intention of constituting as a church. The activities of the church-type mission may be held in homes, schools, mission buildings, commercial buildings, et cetera."

The methodology included developing a questionnaire to be completed for each church-type mission started during the designated time period regardless of whether it had remained in existence, had organized into a church or had disbanded. The questionnaire was developed by the Home Mission Board based on previous studies with input from Missions and Evangelism personnel. The survey instrument was then shared with the North Central States Steering Committee for further refinement. A copy of the final questionnaire is included in Appendix A.

Copies of the questionnaire were bulk mailed to each of the state conventions/fellowships in the North Central states. The state conventions/fellowships then forwarded questionnaires to each associational director of missions. The director of missions completed the questionnaires, returned them to the state conventions/fellowships, and the state conventions/fellowships bulk mailed the completed questionnaires to the Research Division of the Home Mission Board. The completed questionnaires comprise the basis for this report.

The questionnaire was designed to be completed by associational directors of missions. The assumption was that a director of missions would be knowledgeable enough about each mission situation to complete the questionnaire or would be able to locate some other person in the association who could provide the necessary information. In either case, note that a secondary rather than primary source of information is being utilized. A word of caution: the information being elicited is a director of missions' or someone else's perception about a mission and may or may not accurately reflect the true situation.

The state conventions/fellowships returned 507 questionnaires to the Home Mission Board. One of the questionnaires was a duplicate and three were blank other than for identification, therefore they were omitted from the study. Thus, there were 503 usable questionnaires that were keyed and resulting data were computerized. To the extent that state conventions/fellowships and

associations located all missions organized from January 1977 through about October 1982, this information represents the population of church-type missions started and not sample data.

The value of this study is that it provides information on how church-type missions get started and the problems encountered. Some information is also available concerning the life cycle of a church-type mission during the early years of formation. Conclusions can be drawn for the North Central area only and not the entire Southern Baptist Convention. However, this study does offer value in terms of developing the methodology that can be refined and used in other state conventions/fellowships.

### Church-type Mission Starts

Table 1 lists the number of church-type mission questionnaires returned by state conventions/fellowships. If most all church-type missions started from 1977 through 1982 have been surveyed, then over a third of the church-type missions started were in Ohio. This is almost double the number church-type mission starts in any of the other participating state conventions/fellowships.

In order to compare the rate of church-type mission starts, the number of churches reported by state convention/fellowship for 1979 was used as an approximate typical size for the time period under consideration. The Minnesota/Wisconsin Southern Baptist Fellowship had the highest rate during almost six years of the study--64 church-type missions started per 100 churches. Following was the Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship with a rate of 58 missions per 100 churches; the Baptist State Convention of Michigan, 54; State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, 40; State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, 29; and the Illinois Baptist State Association, 8.

Table 2 lists the number of church-type mission starts by year. The best single year for church-type mission starts was 1977; 97 out of the 503 were organized in that year. The years 1978 and 1981 were close behind each with 94 church-type mission starts. The year 1979 represented the fewest number started--65 church-type mission starts, which was less than the 76 reported for the first 9 months of 1982.

### Current Status of Missions

Table 3 shows the current status of the 503 church-type missions started during the time period under consideration. Of those, 50.7 percent are still a mission, 23.5 percent have disbanded, 22.9 percent have organized into a church and 1.0 percent merged with another church or mission. Ten churches or 2.0 percent of the churches, specified an "other" current status (See Appendix B). Six of these are no longer in fellowship with the Southern Baptist Convention. Of the remainder, one church-type mission was organized into a church and then reverted to mission status. The other three have either reverted to Bible Study fellowships or are not presently meeting. Combining those disbanded, merged and "other," just over a fourth of church-type missions started within the first six years are already lost.

Table 1

CHURCH-TYPE MISSIONS STARTED BY STATE  
CONVENTION OR FELLOWSHIP, 1977-1982

| State Convention<br>or Fellowship | Number           | Percent      |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Illinois                          | 72               | 14.3%        |
| Indiana                           | 78 <sup>a</sup>  | 15.5         |
| Iowa                              | 32               | 6.4          |
| Michigan                          | 99 <sup>b</sup>  | 19.7         |
| Minnesota-Wisconsin               | 41               | 8.2          |
| Ohio                              | 181 <sup>c</sup> | 36.0         |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>503</b>       | <b>100.0</b> |

Note: This study includes church-type missions started January 1977 through about October 1982.

<sup>a</sup>Two additional questionnaires were unusable.

<sup>b</sup>One additional questionnaire was unusable.

<sup>c</sup>One additional questionnaire was unusable.

Table 2

YEAR CHURCH-TYPE MISSIONS STARTED

| Year          | Number     | Percent      |
|---------------|------------|--------------|
| 1977          | 97         | 19.3%        |
| 1978          | 94         | 18.7         |
| 1979          | 65         | 12.9         |
| 1980          | 75         | 14.9         |
| 1981          | 94         | 18.7         |
| 1982          | 76         | 15.1         |
| Not Indicated | 2          | 0.4          |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>503</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

Table 3

## WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE MISSION?

| Response                                 | Number     | Percent      |
|--|------------|--------------|
| Still a mission                          | 255        | 50.7%        |
| Disbanded                                | 118        | 23.5         |
| Organized into a church                  | 115        | 22.9         |
| Merged with another church<br>or mission | 5          | 1.0          |
| Other <sup>a</sup>                       | 10         | 2.0          |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>503</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

<sup>a</sup>See Appendix B.

There were 118 church-type missions that disbanded during the time frame of the study. A comparison of date of organization to the date for disbanding indicates that the first three years of existence of the church-type mission are the most crucial. Of those church-type missions started in the earlier years of the study and disbanded, 80.0 to 90.0 percent disbanded in the first three years of existence. A more precise study with a longer time span will be needed to verify whether or not this phenomenon concerning the life cycle of a church-type mission is universally true.

A similar examination was made of those 115 church-type missions organized into churches during the time frame of the survey. No conclusions can be drawn about the length of time necessary for church-type missions to constitute as churches. Again a longitudinal study with a greater time frame is required.

#### Racial/Ethnic/Language Categories

Table 4 gives the racial/ethnic/language breakdown of church-type missions started. Of the 503 missions started, the overwhelming majority, 82.1 percent, were primarily Anglo congregations. The second largest group of missions was primarily Black congregations--5.0 percent. Hispanic congregations, the third largest group, comprised 4.2 percent of the mission starts. Twelve Korean congregations make up the fourth largest category--2.4 percent of church-type missions started. Each of the other categories listed on table 4 comprises close to 1.0 percent or less. Appendix C details the "other" classification.

#### Characteristics of New Church-type Missions

An effort was made to determine the circumstances in which church-type missions are initiated. One question specifically asked, "How did this mission get its start?" A list of potential responses was included in the questionnaire with instructions for the director of missions to check all that apply. Thus, the responses for this question are not mutually exclusive. Table 5 lists the responses to this question. Over half, 57.3 percent, of the missions got their start as a preaching point. The second largest response was that the mission started as a Bible study--43.9 percent. It was indicated that 37.4 percent of the missions started as Sunday Schools and 34.0 percent, as home fellowships. Only 6.6 percent were classified as having started as the result of a church split and 6.6 percent as being started by an independent group that petitioned the church or the associational group for sponsorship. Only 4.4 percent of the church-type missions started as language departments.

A second question asked, "Where did the mission originally meet?" Table 6 lists the responses to this question. The largest single response was "an individual's home"; just less than a third, 30.2 percent, responded in this manner. Another 26.6 percent were started in school buildings or other public buildings. It was indicated that 17.1 percent of the church-type missions originally met in a church building. Less than one in ten originally met in a storefront. The response "other" was indicated for 13.3 percent of the

Table 4

## IS (WAS) THIS MISSION PRIMARILY. . .

| Category           | Number     | Percent      |
|--------------------|------------|--------------|
| Anglo              | 413        | 82.1%        |
| Black              | 25         | 5.0          |
| Hispanic           | 21         | 4.2          |
| Korean             | 12         | 2.4          |
| Laotian            | 6          | 1.2          |
| Chinese            | 3          | 0.6          |
| Vietnamese         | 3          | 0.6          |
| European           | 2          | 0.4          |
| Deaf               | 2          | 0.4          |
| American Indian    | 1          | 0.2          |
| Middle Eastern     | 0          | 0.0          |
| Caribbean          | 0          | 0.0          |
| Other <sup>a</sup> | 9          | 1.8          |
| Not Indicated      | 6          | 1.2          |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>503</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

<sup>a</sup>See Appendix C.

Table 5

## HOW DID THIS MISSION GET ITS START?

| Response   | Number | Percent |
|--|--------|---------|
| As a preaching point   | 288    | 57.3%   |
| As a Bible Study   | 221    | 43.9    |
| As a Sunday School   | 188    | 37.4    |
| As a Home Fellowship   | 171    | 34.0    |
| As a result of a church split  | 33     | 6.6     |
| As an independent group which asked a church or<br>the association for a sponsor | 33     | 6.6     |
| As a language department   | 22     | 4.4     |

Note: Based on multiple responses from 503 church-type missions.

Table 6

## WHERE DID THE MISSION ORIGINALLY MEET?

| Response   | Number     | Percent      |
|--|------------|--------------|
| An individual's home                                   | 152        | 30.2%        |
| Other public buildings                                 | 79         | 15.7         |
| In a church building other<br>than a sponsoring church | 58         | 11.5         |
| School building  | 55         | 10.9         |
| Store front  | 49         | 9.7          |
| In a sponsoring church's building                      | 28         | 5.6          |
| YMCA/YWCA  | 5          | 1.0          |
| Other <sup>a</sup>                                     | 67         | 13.3         |
| Not Indicated  | 10         | 2.0          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>503</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

<sup>a</sup>See Appendix D.

church-type missions. There were 67 write-in responses ranging from mobile homes to hotels/motels to a garage. These responses are listed in Appendix D.

Just as there was wide diversity in the meeting facilities for church-type missions, there was wide diversity in their geographical locations. The questionnaire asked, "Which category best describes the location of the mission when it started?" Table 7 lists the responses. No definitions were given for these different geographical areas. Thus, the distinction between large and small cities depends on the perceptions of the director of missions. The largest single response was the "suburbs of a large city." This was just slightly ahead of the 18.3 percent response of "town." All together "town," "village" and "rural area" accounted for 40.6 percent of the total missions started. Most of the remainder 57.4 percent were started in areas classified as city--24.0 percent downtown and 33.4 percent suburban.

#### Mission Committee Assistance

Nine out of ten church-type missions had a sponsoring church (89.7 percent); 8.3 percent did not; 2.0 percent did not respond. Of those 451 church-type missions that had a sponsoring church, 368 or 81.6 percent of the sponsoring churches had a missions committee. Of the remainder 77 or 17.1 percent did not have a missions committee. No response was indicated for 1.3 percent, which is presumably a negative response.

Table 8 lists the type of aid received by the 368 church-type missions that had a sponsoring church with a missions committee. "Recruitment of leadership" was the largest single response for aid given by the sponsoring church's missions committee--57.9 percent. More than half of the missions received aid in the form of community surveys and financial assistance. Over 30.0 percent received aid in the form of meeting facilities and approximately 30.0 percent were provided a nucleus for membership. Only 13.0 percent received no assistance from the missions committee.

Of the 503 church-type missions studied, 490 or 97.4 percent were in an association with an associational missions committee. One was started in an association without an associational missions committee. This question was left blank for the remaining twelve.

For those 490 church-type missions started in an association with an associational missions committee, the responses for type of aid received are listed in table 9. The most common aid received from the associational missions committee was financial aid--55.3 percent. Just over half received aid in the form of a community survey and recruitment of leadership. With respect to these first three items, the aid received from associational missions committees was very similar to that from church missions committees. Missions did receive about 10 percent less aid from associational missions committees than their church counterparts in providing meeting facilities and enlisting a nucleus for membership. A few directors of missions wrote-in that church-type missions received aid in the form of consultation. It was indicated that about one in six received no assistance from the associational missions committee.

Table 7

## LOCATION OF MISSION WHEN IT WAS STARTED

| Response                      | Number     | Percent      |
|-------------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Downtown area of a large city | 59         | 11.7%        |
| Suburb of a large city        | 105        | 20.0         |
| Downtown area of a small city | 62         | 12.3         |
| Suburb of a small city        | 63         | 12.5         |
| Town                          | 92         | 18.3         |
| Village                       | 76         | 15.1         |
| Rural area                    | 36         | 7.2          |
| Not Indicated                 | 10         | 2.0          |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>503</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

Table 8

## IF THE SPONSORING CHURCH HAS/HAD A MISSIONS COMMITTEE, WHAT ASSISTANCE DOES OR DID THE MISSION COMMITTEE PROVIDE THE MISSION?

| Response  | Number | Percent |
|---|--------|---------|
| Recruitment of leadership                             | 213    | 57.9%   |
| Financial assistance                                  | 201    | 54.6    |
| Conducted community survey before mission was started | 189    | 51.4    |
| Meeting facilities                                    | 115    | 31.3    |
| Provided a nucleus for membership                     | 110    | 29.9    |
| No assistance   | 48     | 13.0    |

Note: Based on multiple responses from 368 church-type missions that had a sponsoring church with a missions committee.

Table 9

WHAT ASSISTANCE DOES OR DID THE ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS  
COMMITTEE PROVIDE THE MISSION?

| Response  | Number | Percent |
|---|--------|---------|
| Financial assistance                                  | 271    | 55.3%   |
| Conducted community survey before mission was started | 257    | 52.5    |
| Recruitment of leadership                             | 249    | 50.8    |
| Enlisted a nucleus for membership                     | 94     | 19.2    |
| Meeting facilities                                    | 93     | 19.0    |
| No assistance   | 75     | 15.3    |

Note: Based on multiple responses from 490 church-type missions started in an association with an associational missions committee.

### Problems Experienced

An effort was made to determine the types of problems church-type missions encounter after being started and the types of problems that lead to their demise. Two closely related questions with similar sets of responses were used to gather this information. Multiple responses were permitted for both questions. Remember the responses were elicited from directors of missions and thus dependent upon their perception of problems.

Table 10 lists the frequency of responses to the question, "What problems (if any) did/does the mission encounter after being started?" The most frequently cited problem was "lack of leadership within the congregation"--37.6 percent experienced this problem. The second most frequently cited problem was "pastoral leadership"--27.0 percent. "Lack of appropriate meeting facilities" was a close third at 26.4 percent.

If broad generalizations can be made of the responses it seems that most frequent problems relate to internal aspects of the church--lack of leadership, pastoral problems, lack of evangelism strategy, fellowship problems, and failure to equip members to witness. Surprisingly, doctrinal problems are not a particularly prevalent aspect of this phenomenon. The second most prevalent set of responses is physical and economic--lack of meeting facilities and financial aid from the sponsoring church and poor locations. Factors, which are external to the mission--mismatch to community, community resistance, community not biblically oriented, membership in transition and population shifts--are less likely to cause problems.

These "other" responses are listed in all their diversity in Appendix E. "Other" problems were specified for 13.1 percent of church-type missions. A significant number of these could be reclassified into the list of responses on table 10. For example, a number of those listed in Appendix E could have been classified as pastoral leadership problems. However, no further attempt was made to force these open-ended responses into the narrower set of responses.

Table 11 lists the reasons given for the demise of those church-type missions started and subsequently disbanded during the specified time frame. The single two most frequent problems relate to leadership--pastoral leadership and lack of leadership within the congregation. Each of these problems was experienced by more than half of the disbanded missions. Apathy, lack of interest by the congregation, was the third most frequent problem directly attributing to the death of over a third of the missions disbanded. Lack of an evangelism strategy was the fourth most frequently fatal problem. These first four reasons given for the demise of those churches disbanded are similar to problems cited for all church-type missions in the previous question in that they relate more to the internal aspect of missions.

The next most prevalent set of problems is again physical and economic. Problems cited were financial problems, poor location and lack of meeting facilities. Of these three, "financial problems" was cited most often. More than one of every four missions disbanded at least partially because of financial problems.

Table 10

WHAT PROBLEMS (IF ANY) DID/DOES THE MISSION  
ENCOUNTER AFTER BEING STARTED?

| Response  | Number | Percent |
|---|--------|---------|
| Lack of leadership within the congregation      | 189    | 37.6%   |
| Problems with pastoral leadership               | 136    | 27.0    |
| Lack of appropriate meeting facilities          | 133    | 26.4    |
| Lack of evangelism strategy                     | 97     | 19.3    |
| Fellowship problems within the membership       | 86     | 17.1    |
| Failure to equip members to witness             | 84     | 16.7    |
| Lack of financial aid from sponsoring church    | 66     | 13.1    |
| Poor location of mission                        | 65     | 12.9    |
| Local community not Bible-oriented              | 58     | 11.5    |
| Community resistance/resentment of mission      | 57     | 11.3    |
| Membership in transition                        | 54     | 10.7    |
| Lack of financial aid from association          | 30     | 6.0     |
| Doctrinal problems                              | 28     | 5.6     |
| Socio/economic mismatch of mission to community | 18     | 3.6     |
| Drastic population shifts in community          | 16     | 3.2     |
| Other <sup>a</sup>                              | 66     | 13.1    |

Note: Based on multiple responses from 503 church-type missions.

<sup>a</sup>See Appendix E.

Table 11

IF THE MISSION OR ITS RESULTING CHURCH HAS DISBANDED,  
INDICATE THE REASONS FOR ITS DEMISE

| Response   | Number | Percent |
|--|--------|---------|
| Problems with pastoral leadership                        | 62     | 52.5%   |
| Lack of leadership within the congregation               | 61     | 51.7    |
| Lack of interest by congregation                         | 44     | 37.3    |
| Lack of evangelism strategy                              | 33     | 28.0    |
| Financial problems                                       | 31     | 26.3    |
| Poor location of mission                                 | 23     | 19.5    |
| Lack of meeting facilities                               | 23     | 19.5    |
| Fellowship problems within the membership                | 22     | 18.6    |
| Failure to equip members to witness                      | 15     | 12.7    |
| Membership in transition                                 | 14     | 11.9    |
| Socio-economic mismatch of mission to community          | 13     | 11.0    |
| Organized prematurely into a church which then disbanded | 11     | 9.3     |
| Community resistance/resentment of mission               | 10     | 8.5     |
| Doctrinal problems                                       | 9      | 7.6     |
| Local community not Bible-oriented                       | 5      | 4.2     |
| Became charismatic                                       | 3      | 2.5     |
| Drastic population shifts in community                   | 2      | 1.7     |
| Kept a mission too long by sponsoring church             | 0      | 0.0     |
| Other <sup>a</sup>                                       | 25     | 21.2    |

Note: Based on multiple responses from 118 church-type missions started and subsequently disbanded, 1977-1982.

<sup>a</sup>See Appendix F.

The next two most frequently cited problems are fellowship problems and failure to equip members to witness. As with the top four problems these also could best be described as internal problems. Factors that are external to the church-type mission (membership in transition, socio-economic mismatch, community resistance/resentment, non biblically oriented community, population shifts) are cited relatively infrequently. Organizational problems such as a church-type mission being organized prematurely into a church, a fatal problem for 9.3 percent of those disbanded, and such as being kept a mission too long by a sponsoring church, a problem not cited, are relatively infrequent fatal problems. Doctrinal problems also tend to be an infrequent fatal problem.

Appendix F lists "other" responses for the demise of church-type missions. As with the previous question many of these uncategorized responses deal with pastoral leadership thus further emphasizing the importance of this problem. Again no attempt was made to force these "other" open-ended responses into those listed in table 11.

A comparison of responses to the question, "What problem (if any) did/does the mission encounter after being started?" with responses to the statement "If the mission or its resulting church had/has disbanded indicate the reasons for its demise" gives more insight into the severity of problems experienced. Table 12 lists for the directly comparable responses, the number and percentage of all church-type missions that experienced a problem and subsequently disbanded, citing at least in part, that problem as a causal factor. If experienced, socio-economic mismatch of a mission to its community was the most fatal problem confronting a church-type mission. Only 8.5 percent of all church-type missions experienced this infrequent problem, but of those that did 44.4 percent later disbanded. The second most fatal problem was pastoral leadership--35.3 percent of church-type missions for which this problem was cited later disbanded. The severity of this problem is greatly magnified due to the frequency it was experienced by all church-type missions.

Lack of evangelism strategy, lack of leadership within the congregation, fellowship problems within the membership and poor location of missions were fatal for between one-fourth and one-fifth of all church-type missions experiencing these problems. Lack of leadership within the congregation is the most frequent and severe problem experienced by all church-type missions. With the major exception of socio-economic mismatch of a mission to its community, internal factors tend to be most fatal, followed by physical factors, which in turn are followed by factors external to the church.

#### Pastoral Employment and Numerical Growth

Several additional questions were included in the survey instrument in order to obtain information on pastoral employment and the numerical growth of church-type missions. Of the 370 church-type missions started still in existence as a mission or a constituted church, 316 or 85.4 percent at the time of the survey had a pastor. Of the remainder, 13.2 percent indicated no pastor and 1.4 percent made no response to the question. When broken-out separately, 82.0 percent of missions have a pastor compared to 93.0 percent of churches.

Table 12

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHURCH-TYPE MISSIONS THAT  
EXPERIENCED PROBLEMS AND DISBANDED

| Response   | Total with<br>Problem | Number<br>Disbanded | Percent<br>Disbanded |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Socio-economic mismatch of mission<br>to community | 18                    | 8                   | 44.4%                |
| Problems with pastoral leadership                  | 136                   | 48                  | 35.3                 |
| Lack of evangelism strategy                        | 97                    | 23                  | 23.7                 |
| Lack of leadership within the<br>congregation      | 189                   | 44                  | 23.3                 |
| Fellowship problems within the<br>membership       | 86                    | 19                  | 22.1                 |
| Poor location of mission                           | 65                    | 14                  | 21.5                 |
| Membership in transition                           | 54                    | 10                  | 18.5                 |
| Doctrinal problems                                 | 28                    | 5                   | 17.9                 |
| Failure to equip members to witness                | 84                    | 12                  | 14.3                 |
| Lack of (appropriate) meeting facilities           | 133                   | 17                  | 13.8                 |
| Community resistance/resentment of mission         | 57                    | 7                   | 12.3                 |
| Drastic population shifts in community             | 16                    | 1                   | 6.3                  |
| Local community not Bible-oriented                 | 58                    | 2                   | 3.5                  |

Of the 316 churches and missions still in existence with pastors, 52.8 percent have full-time pastors. This percentage of full-time pastors is almost the same for both groups when broken-out separately. A separate question asks, "If the mission/church has a pastor, does he/she have employment separate from the mission/church?" This is similar to the question asked periodically on the Uniform Church Letter and used to estimate the number of bivocational pastors. Of the 316 churches and missions with pastors, 47.2 percent have employment apart from the church and thus may be considered bivocational. Interestingly, when compared separately, 51.4 percent of those missions having been constituted into churches have bivocational pastors compared to only 45.0 percent of those remaining as missions.

While the question concerning full-time/part-time pastors is very similar to the question concerning employment apart from the church, these are not identical questions. Technically a pastor could be full-time and still have employment apart from the church or mission. Indeed, 12.1 percent of those churches with bivocational pastors were also indicated to have full-time pastors. Rather than inconsistencies in data, it may be an indication of incredible demands made on some pastors' time.

There are two questions that deal with the size of membership in the questionnaire. The first asks the number of members, either actual or best estimate, of the mission when it started. The second asks for current membership if still in existence. Zero or no response was made for about 50 missions on the first question. When these responses or non responses were excluded, the median size was 9 members for the newly started church-type mission. Comparisons with the second question on present membership are more difficult to make. For those church-type missions started in 1977 and still in existence as a church or mission, the median size is 61 members. For those started in 1978, the present membership is 48; in 1979, 35; in 1980, 25; in 1981, 25; and 1982, 12.

### Conclusions

Over 500 church-type missions were started in the North Central States from 1977 through most of 1982. Church-type missions started within the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio were almost double that of any other convention/fellowship. When controlled for size, smaller conventions tend to have higher rates of starting new church-type missions.

Of those missions organized over half remain a mission, about one-fourth have been lost to the Southern Baptist Convention and roughly one in five constituted into a church. Most of the missions organized were overwhelmingly Anglo. Primarily, Black and Hispanic missions comprised the second and third largest categories with each accounting for roughly 5.0 percent of the total.

Over half of the church-type missions were started as preaching points. About 44.0 percent started "as a Bible Study". Over a third started as a Sunday School and a third started as a home fellowship. Over twice as many church-type missions initially met in individuals' homes compared to facilities.

Most all church-type missions have sponsoring churches and most sponsoring churches have missions committees. Most frequently missions committees aid by conducting community surveys, providing financial assistance and recruiting leadership. Also most church-type missions were started in associations with associational missions committees. Associational missions committees provided the same types of aid with almost the same frequency as missions committees of sponsoring churches.

The most frequent problems experienced by church-type missions were leadership problems--both pastoral and membership. Lack of appropriate meeting facilities was also a frequent problem. The most frequently fatal problems for those church-type missions having disbanded were again leadership problems--pastoral and membership. The third most frequent fatal problem cited was lack of interest by the congregation. Lack of an evangelism strategy and financial problems were also frequently fatal.

Of those missions or resulting churches currently in existence, almost 85.0 percent had pastors. Roughly half of these are bivocational pastors.

A P P E N D I X   A

### NORTH CENTRAL STATES THRUST

Name of Mission \_\_\_\_\_ [1-20]  
State Convention \_\_\_\_\_ [21-22]  
Association \_\_\_\_\_ [23-25]

NOTE: Bracketed numbers are computer designations. Please ignore.

[26] Year mission started:

- \_\_\_\_\_ (1) 1977
- \_\_\_\_\_ (2) 1978
- \_\_\_\_\_ (3) 1979
- \_\_\_\_\_ (4) 1980
- \_\_\_\_\_ (5) 1981
- \_\_\_\_\_ (6) 1982

[27] What is the current status of the mission?

- \_\_\_\_\_ (1) Still a mission
- \_\_\_\_\_ (2) Disbanded in 19\_\_\_\_\_ (year) [28-29]
- \_\_\_\_\_ (3) Organized into a church in 19\_\_\_\_\_ (year) [30-31]
- \_\_\_\_\_ (4) Merged with another church or mission
- \_\_\_\_\_ (5) Other. Please specify. \_\_\_\_\_

[32-33] Is (was) this mission primarily (check *only one*):

- \_\_\_\_\_ (1) Anglo
- \_\_\_\_\_ (2) Black
- \_\_\_\_\_ (3) Hispanic
- \_\_\_\_\_ (4) Korean
- \_\_\_\_\_ (5) Chinese
- \_\_\_\_\_ (6) Laotian
- \_\_\_\_\_ (7) Vietnamese
- \_\_\_\_\_ (8) European
- \_\_\_\_\_ (9) Deaf
- \_\_\_\_\_ (10) American Indian
- \_\_\_\_\_ (11) Middle Eastern
- \_\_\_\_\_ (12) Caribbean
- \_\_\_\_\_ (13) Other. Please specify. \_\_\_\_\_

[34-37] How many members (actual or best estimate) did the mission have when it started? \_\_\_\_\_

[38-41] If still a mission or organized into a church, how many members does it have now? \_\_\_\_\_

How did this mission get its start? (Check *all that apply*.)

- [42] \_\_\_\_\_ As a preaching point
- [43] \_\_\_\_\_ As a Bible Study
- [44] \_\_\_\_\_ As a Sunday School
- [45] \_\_\_\_\_ As a Home Fellowship
- [46] \_\_\_\_\_ As a result of a church split
- [47] \_\_\_\_\_ As an independent group which asked a church or the association for a sponsor
- [48] \_\_\_\_\_ As a language department

- [49] Where did the mission originally meet? (Check *only one*.)
- (1) YMCA/YWCA
  - (2) An individual's home
  - (3) School building
  - (4) Other public buildings
  - (5) Store front
  - (6) In the sponsoring church's building
  - (7) In a church building other than a sponsoring church
  - (8) Other. Please specify. \_\_\_\_\_
- 
- [50] Which category best describes the location of the mission when it was started? (Check *only one*.)
- (1) Downtown area of a large city
  - (2) Suburbs of a large city
  - (3) Downtown area of a small city
  - (4) Suburb of a small city
  - (5) Town
  - (6) Village
  - (7) Rural area
- [51] Did this mission have a sponsoring church?
- (1) Yes
  - (2) No
- [52] If "Yes," did the sponsoring church have a church missions committee?
- (1) Yes
  - (2) No
- If the sponsoring church has/had a missions committee, what assistance does or did the missions committee provide the mission? (Check *all that apply!*)
- [53]  No assistance
  - [54]  Conducted community survey before mission was started
  - [55]  Financial assistance
  - [56]  Meeting facilities
  - [57]  Recruitment of leadership
  - [58]  Provided a nucleus for membership
- [59] Did the association have a missions committee?
- (1) Yes
  - (2) No
- If "Yes," what assistance does or did the associational missions committee provide the mission? (Check *all that apply!*)
- [60]  No assistance
  - [61]  Conducted community survey before mission was started
  - [62]  Financial assistance
  - [63]  Meeting facilities
  - [64]  Recruitment of leadership
  - [65]  Enlisted a nucleus for membership
- [80] 1
- (Card /2, Repeat [1-20])

What problems (if any) did/does the mission encounter after being started?

- [21]  Problems with pastoral leadership
- [22]  Fellowship problems within the membership
- [23]  Lack of leadership within the congregation
- [24]  Doctrinal problems
- [25]  Lack of financial aid from sponsoring church
- [26]  Lack of financial aid from association/state/H.M.B.
- [27]  Poor location of mission
- [28]  Socio/economic mismatch of mission to community
- [29]  Community resistance/resentment of mission
- [30]  Local community not Bible-oriented
- [31]  Membership in transition
- [32]  Drastic population shifts in community
- [33]  Lack of appropriate meeting facilities
- [34]  Lack of evangelism strategy
- [35]  Failure to equip members to witness
- [36]  Other. Please explain. \_\_\_\_\_

- [37] Does this mission/church currently have a pastor?
- (1) Yes
  - (2) No

- [38] If "Yes," is the pastor?
- (1) Full-time
  - (2) Part-time

- [39] If the mission/church has a pastor, does he/she have employment separate from the mission/church?
- (1) Yes
  - (2) No

If the mission or its resulting church has disbanded, indicate the reasons for its demise. (Check *all that apply*.)

- [40]  Problems with pastoral leadership
- [41]  Fellowship problems within the membership
- [42]  Lack of leadership within the congregation
- [43]  Doctrinal problems
- [44]  Financial problems
- [45]  Poor location of mission
- [46]  Socio-economic mismatch of mission to community
- [47]  Community resistance/resentment of mission
- [48]  Local community not Bible-oriented
- [49]  Membership in transition
- [50]  Drastic population shifts in community
- [51]  Lack of meeting facilities
- [52]  Organized prematurely into a church which then disbanded
- [53]  Kept a mission too long by sponsoring church
- [54]  Became charismatic
- [55]  Lack of interest by congregation
- [56]  Lack of an evangelism strategy
- [57]  Failure to equip members to witness
- [58]  Other. Please explain. \_\_\_\_\_

A P P E N D I X B

**What is the current status of the mission?**

Association would not receive them. They split off an associational church.  
Presently not meeting.  
Withdrew from fellowship with the association and mother church.  
Became independent.  
No longer Southern Baptist.  
Reverted to Bible study fellowship.  
Reverted to mission status in 1982.  
Was organized when they affiliated with Southern Baptist Convention.

A P P E N D I X C

**Is (was) this mission primarily:**

Haitian (2)

Arab

Cambodian

Anglo, Hispanic, Laotian, Vietnamese

Cambodian, Loatian, Vietnamese

Portuguese

Filipino

A P P E N D I X D

**Where did the mission originally meet?**

Building in a mobile home park (5)  
Trailer home owned by State Convention of Baptists in Indiana (2)  
Grange Hall (4)  
Union Hall (4)  
Association office (2)  
Masonic Lodge (3)  
Group purchased a building (3)  
Lodge (2)  
House (2)  
Own facilities  
Rented space  
Student union building on college campus  
Religious camp out of town  
Small residence  
State convention building  
Basement of pharmacy  
Boys club  
Savings and loan building basement  
Democratic headquarters building  
University dormitory  
Skating rink  
Baptist Student Union/University  
Church building that was another Baptist group--deeded to sponsoring church  
Apartment  
Moble home  
Theater  
Chapel of funeral parlor  
Christiam Social Ministry facility  
Garage  
A group disbanded leaving a building and debt on one family who called for help  
Unused school building  
Bank hospitality room  
KOA camp community building  
Log cabin  
American Indian center  
City fire department, town hall building and school building  
Quality Motor Inn  
Resturant and motel  
Holiday Inn  
Individual's home and school building (3)  
Individual's home and public buildings (5)  
Public buildings and storefront  
Individual's home and storefront (2)  
City Hall building  
4H Club

A P P E N D I X E

**What problems did/does the mission encounter after being started?**

Openness of community.

Pastor's inexperience hindered growth.

Discouragement resulting from slow growth in the beginning. The pastor almost resigned the first year, but continued and did an excellent job.

Inexperience on part of director of missions.

Preacher enlisted strung mission along and then turned it down.

Independent element.

Facilities were purchased and remodeled with assistance from sponsor church, the association and the state convention.

Apathy (2)

Lack of follow up support.

Poor relationship with sponsoring church.

Lacks visibility (2)

Membership has very low income level. (2)

No pastor, sponsoring pastor preaches in afternoons. (2)

Lack of familiarity with Southern Baptist Convention, no pastor living in community.

Problem of relationship with sponsor--some of nucleus participated because of discord with church pastor, when he left they returned.

Problems with sponsoring church, they organized in order to get away.

Pastor was mismatched with the community.

Too young to evaluate.

Had meeting place only 3 months, owned by another congregation.

Centered around one clan.

Bivocational pastor has limited time to visit.

None at present time. (2)

Pastor and members of sponsoring church went into community on Sunday afternoon with no response from people in the community.

Started through Praxis Program. Had good lay leadership--called a pastor but did not come after delaying four months--after keeping work going six years they became discouraged and disbanded.

Lack of good meeting place.

Economic status of community.

Pastor had to leave to find work and we do not have support.

A woman in membership desired to preach.

Unclear as to their purpose for being.

Sponsoring church pastor led group to withdraw from Southern Baptist Convention--morale problem.

A resort community, people are constantly moving and unattached.

Needs more time, recently started. (3)

Few Hispanics in area.

Problems with sponsoring church.

Mission to high rise community in North Loop of Chicago.

Bought building too big and had many financial problems.

Leadership quit.

Problems with sponsoring church pastor. (2)

No pastoral leadership.

Most members were Swedish background and decided to affiliate with Baptist General Conference.

Should have been viewed a summer venture only.

Members moved away. (2)

Too far from population center.

Sharp competitive spirit among independent Baptist splinters.

Lack of Sunday School space.

Work has grown in spite of many difficulties.

Mission has experienced steady but slow growth.

Lack of support from members of sponsoring church.

Difficulty locating a building.

Pastor moved.

Large repair and utility costs on large older building.

Leadership conflict between pastor of sponsoring church and pastor of mission.

Could not locate meeting place to continue.

Conflict with associational church and association fellowship.

Few Southern Baptists in town, main industry shut down.

A P P E N D I X F

**If the mission or its resulting church has disbanded, indicate the reasons for its demise.**

Sponsoring church did not feel there was sufficient outreach and withdrew sponsorship.

Inexperience of director of missions. (2)

Pastor led the group to remain independent.

Not an adequate base, tried to skip home fellowship. (2)

Started too quickly, no lay participation or cultivation.

Built around the pastor and he moved out of state.

They had a pastor who lived about 40 miles from community and finally gave up and group disbanded.

Mother church let it die.

Building was condemned by Department of State.

Pastor gave energy to secular employment.

Pastor resigned to become staff member of another church.

Student pastor resigned at the same time a key family moved. The group has reconciled with original church.

Closed for the winter because of heating system and poor attendance.

Few Southern Baptists in town, main industry shut down.

Members moved from community. (2)

Pastor left, no one to take place .

Pastor moved.

Too far from population center.

Located to minister to summer people and should have been relocated for ongoing ministry.

Mission was not given rights of voting, separate account, et cetera.

Leadership quit going.

Woman preacher led a group out of the mission.

Problem of relationship with sponsor--some of nucleus participated because of discord with church's pastor--when he left they returned.