

MISSION STUDY SURVEY

Home Mission study dated October 1981

Foreign Mission study dated July 1982

Based on a 60% return on a random sampling of 2,500 Southern Baptist churches, and details provided by the pastors of 500 of the responding churches, there is, for the first time, hard data to substantiate

THAT overall an estimated 24% of the 36,000 churches in the Southern Baptist Convention participate in the annual Home Mission Study and Foreign Mission Study.

THAT 65% of the studies are church-wide, with 95% of the sampled churches reporting adults involved in the studies, and 44% of them providing studies for all standard age-levels (adult, youth, older children, younger children--probably including preschoolers).

THAT 77% of the sampled churches use the age-level books, 70% the age-level teaching guides. Fewer than 40% use any other materials (slides, filmstrips, print items), while 8% use all resources produced by the missions agencies.

THAT 55% of the studies were conducted in the time frame set on the denominational calendar.

THAT 60% for foreign mission study and 41% for home mission study was done in one study session; with 35% taking "fewer than 2½ hours" total.

The researchers (Research Services Department, Office of Planning, Sunday School Board, SBC) found that churches most likely to have the study tend to be

- better organized, with both WMU and Brotherhoods;
- more committed to missions;
- congregations that give through the Cooperative Program and to both foreign and home missions offerings.

The researchers also found

THAT 70% of the churches reported more missions awareness.

THAT 58% of the churches reported more prayer support for missions.

THAT 50% of the churches reported increased financial support through special offerings.

THAT 11% of the churches reported they requested church study course awards for persons meeting requirements.

DETAIL / DATA PROVIDED BY MISSION STUDY RESEARCH PROJECT
 Home Mission Study, October 1981; Foreign Mission Study, July 1982

		Home Mission Study	Foreign Mission Study
% of return from random sampling		59%	60%
number of churches surveyed		2,517	2,487
number of churches sampled in detail		464	334
churches of 750+ members more likely to have separate studies for age-levels; with following totals for all size churches:			
AGE-LEVEL PARTICIPATION	adults only	79%	83%
	adults and youth	6%	8%
	youth only	63%	59%
	youth and older children	1%	not indicated
	older children	47%	53%
	older and younger children	25%	23%
	younger children	42%	48%
	younger children and older preschoolers	1%	not indicated
	older preschoolers	54%	56%
WHEN STUDY IS CONDUCTED	churches conducting study on recommended dates	54%	56%
	during month of recommended date	56%	44%
	during month following	27%	52%
	during appropriate week of prayer	not indicated	53%
DURATION OF STUDY	churches reporting one session for each age-level	41%	55% to 65%
	study of "fewer than 2½ hours"	37%	35% (adults) 46% (preschoolers)
MATERIALS USED	using age-level study books	76%	77%
	using age-level teaching guides	63%	70%
	using 1 or 2 of (6) available resources	not indicated	36%
	using 2 or 3 of available resources	54%	not indicated
	using 1 of available resources	17%	see above
	using all available resources	not indicated	8%
	church-wide studies	64%	65%
	adults participating	95%	96%
	youth participating	70%	73%
	older children participating	72%	81%
	younger children participating	66%	74%
	older preschoolers participating	54%	59%
	all age-levels participating	44%	50%
	teachers from congregation only	55%	58%
	teachers from outside congregation	8%	5%
RESULTS	more missions awareness	68%	75%
	more prayer support for missions	55%	64%
	increased financial support through		