

A REPORT

SIGNIFICANT RELIGIOUS FINDINGS

OF THE

YORK COUNTY RELIGIOUS SURVEY

SOUTH CAROLINA

MAY 7-14, 1965

May 19, 1965
Department of Survey & Special Studies
Home Mission Board, S. B. C.
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INTRODUCTION

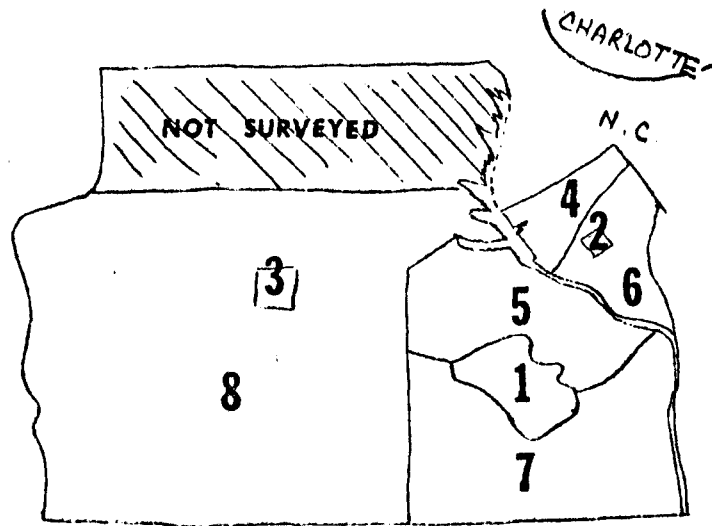
The following report deals with a single statistical table found on page 3. On it we have listed numerous percentages which were calculated from the tallies made in the processing centers of the York County Religious Survey. The survey was conducted May 7-14, 1965. Seventy-six churches for ten different protestant denominations participated. This particular report deals exclusively with the white population of the survey area. An earlier report was made which dealt primarily with the statistics of each geographical "Section". This report takes a different approach. The survey area is divided according to basic geographic distinctions. Those "Sections" primarily dealing with Rock Hill were separated, added together, and analyzed as a separate unit. In the same fashion, each area was compiled and analyzed. A chart on page two shows the general boundaries of each study area. The areas are numbered and named.

Two definitions must be clearly understood throughout this report if an accurate understanding is to be had. The first is the word "local". A local church is one "near enough for the person to attend every week". The second word which needs defining is "inactive". Inactive refers to a person who seldom or never attends religious activities of a local church.

Consult the facsimile of the survey card on page fourteen. From it you can see the distinctions made during the interview and how specific differences were made for processing the cards.

YORK COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

study areas



- 1. ROCK HILL, S.C.
- 2. FORT MILL, S.C.
- 3. YORK, S.C. (county seat)
- 4. Charlotte urban fringe
- 5. Rock Hill urban fringe
- 6. Fort Mill rural area
- 7. Eastern rural area
- 8. Western rural area

		SURVEY OF WHITE POPULATION								
AREA NO.		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	TOTAL
		ADOK HILL	FORT MILL	YORK	CHARLOTTE FRINGE	ADOK HILL FRINGE	Ft. Mill RURAL	EAST RURAL	WEST RURAL	
1	% of Ch. Memb.	73.0	70.8	66.1	70.9	65.2	70.9	70.3	71.7	70.5
2	% of W. Ch. Memb.	84.9	81.9	78.4	84.6	80.4	84.3	84.3	83.4	83.0
3	% of W. Assoc. M.	81.7	78.2	76.1	76.8	75.7	83.4	80.2	81.6	79.5
4	% of C.M. (20) Non-loc.	3.8	4.3	2.9	9.5	5.7	1.0	4.8	2.2	4.4
5	% of Assoc. M. inactive	17.2	25.4	17.8	21.3	17.8	25.5	19.7	19.2	19.2
6	% of 0-8 inactive	30.1	39.6	23.1	34.4	41.7	26.9	22.5	24.9	30.6
7	% of pop. 0-8	13.9	13.5	15.3	16.2	18.8	16.4	16.6	14.0	15.1
8	% of POP UNCHURCHED	32.0	41.4	35.3	38.8	39.6	36.0	33.5	32.8	37.9
9	% of Pop. weekly	64.0	58.2	63.4	59.3	62.9	61.8	63.6	64.5	63.1
10	% of W. NON-MEMB.	15.1	18.1	21.6	15.4	19.6	15.7	15.7	16.6	17.0
11	% of Bapt. potential	40.3	43.5	25.8	40.5	42.2	34.3	39.2	27.8	38.2
12	% of Bapt. potential being reached	67.4	55.7	68.6	61.1	62.3	60.0	68.2	63.8	64.8
13	% of Non-members Bapt. mem.	52.3	51.0	18.0	64.1	57.5	68.7	42.3	44.2	44.5
14	% of loc. Bapt. inactive	19.1	30.5	20.1	27.3	21.3	35.1	20.2	24.0	21.9
15	% of Bapt. (20) mem. Non-loc.	3.9	5.3	2.9	8.2	7.3	2.1	5.9	3.8	5.4
16	% of non-loc. mem. Bapt.	42.1	54.0	28.3	38.2	58.5	(66.6)	50.0	48.5	49.0
17	% of Bapt. mem. 0-8 who are inactive	30.5	36.1	15.7	34.9	36.2	(20.0)	21.0	21.6	27.7
18	% of other denom. potential being reached	68.2	60.8	63.2	61.1	59.1	66.1	65.5	68.5	64.3
19	% of other denom. loc. mem. inactive	15.9	21.7	16.9	16.4	18.5	20.1	19.5	17.4	18.1
20	TOT. POP SURVEYED	12,845	3206	3164	1324	5253	364	3971	4479	34,606
21	% of total pop.	37.1	9.3	9.1	3.8	15.2	1.1	11.5	12.9	100.0
22	TOT. NON-MEMB.	1672	506	584	170	836	48	523	638	4,977
23	% of total Re. NON-MEMBERS	33.5	10.2	11.7	3.4	16.8	1.0	10.5	12.8	100.0
24	TOTAL INACT. L.C.M.	1555	552	363	181	639	65	524	70	3,949
25	% of total G's	39.4	14.0	9.2	4.6	16.2	1.6	13.3	1.8	100.0
26	TOTAL INACT. CHILDREN 0-8	537	171	112	74	412	15	148	156	1625
27	% of total B's	33.0	10.5	6.9	4.6	25.4	.9	9.1	9.6	100.0

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF YORK COUNTY RELIGIOUS SURVEY
OF THE WHITE POPULATION

Line 1. PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION WITH CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: The variation between geographical areas is of little significance. The town of York and the Rock Hill urban fringe are slightly below the average of 70.5. Rock Hill is slightly above the average. These differences could be accounted for partially in the tallies made by the volunteers in the Processing Center. There is not enough difference in the variation to make a strong case either way. We can merely conclude that there appears to be a higher percentage of church members in Rock Hill in contrast to the town of York and the urban fringe north of Rock Hill.

Line 2. PERCENTAGE POPULATION NINE YEARS AND OLDER WITH CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: The most notable contribution this calculation makes is eliminating the very small children which seems to create an unbalance particularly in the urban fringe of Rock Hill. The differences between the geographical areas is now noted to be even less significant. However, it is now noteworthy that York remains nearly five percent below the norm for the area.

Line 3. PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION NINE YEARS AND OLDER, WHO ARE LOCAL CHURCH MEMBERS: The main contribution this calculation makes is eliminating the non-local members (see Line 4). This calculation gives us a further insight into the general needs of the area. We note that the Fort Mill rural area, which has a small population, is the highest with 83.4%. The two fringe areas and the town of York are the lowest. Area 4 and Area 5, the Charlotte and Rock Hill urban fringe areas, had a low percentage of local church members because of the influx of new population. As it will be noted in the comments for Line 4, these two areas have the highest percentage of non-local members. The town of York is low at 76.1 because, as it will be noted later (Line 10), it has the highest percentage of non-members.

Line 4. PERCENTAGE OF CHURCH MEMBERS NINE AND OLDER WHO ARE NON-LOCAL MEMBERS (NON-RESIDENT): The lowest percentage of non-local members can be found in the most stable areas. Rock Hill is noted to be low because of the aggressive efforts on the part of the local churches to reach the new population entering the city. Areas 4 and 5, as mentioned before, have the highest percentage, with the rural area south of Rock Hill close behind. These phenomena are related to the influx of population.

Line 5. PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN BIRTH THROUGH EIGHT, WHO ARE INACTIVE: In the study of this phase of the survey we note some of the most dramatic contrasts. In keeping with the general inactivity of local members in Fort Mill, approximately 40% of the small children are unreached. In the Rock Hill urban fringe area over 41% of the children are not being reached, even though less than 20% of the local church members are inactive. This is probably more closely related to the high incidence of non-members (see Line 10) and the moderate number of non-local members (see Line 4). It must be remembered, however, that the tallies for Section BJ only included about 50% of the cards which were eventually turned in. All indications point to the fact that the percentages would actually be higher in this area as the result of the late cards rather than for this percentage to be lowered. Again we note that the more stable areas, especially

the rural areas west of the Catauba river, have the lowest percentage of inactive children. In contrast to what is usually found in rural areas, this is a definite reversal of what would have normally been expected. In most rural areas across the southland 35 to 50 percent of the small children are unreached. In a general way, we would conclude, either there is a very small number of children in the rural areas, or the churches have advanced with an aggressive program to reach these small children (see Chart 5).

Line 7. PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION WHO ARE BIRTH THROUGH EIGHT YEARS OF AGE: The significance of this calculation comes in understanding the assumptions made in the last paragraph (see comments on Line 6). A definite pattern can be observed. A low percentage of very young children is noted in Rock Hill and Fort Mill. This is characteristic of central cities. The higher percentages are shown in the urban fringe areas where many of the young families have moved to the suburbs. There is a difference to be noted in regards to York since its percentage is even higher than the west rural areas, Area 8. The Section GL reached slightly outside of the city limits of York, thus picking up some of the suburban families. This alone could account for the contrast of the western rural areas.

Line 8. PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION CLASSIFIED AS UNCHURCHED: This calculation includes all inactive local members, all non-local members, all non-members, and all inactive small children. When these figures are combined and calculated as the percentage of the total population we note only minor variations throughout the county. There seems to be little indication of a significant difference except to note that Rock Hill and the open rural areas have the lower figures, whereas, Fort Mill and the fringe areas range among the higher figures (see Chart 1).

Line 9. PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION WHO INDICATED THEY ATTEND CHURCH WEEKLY: Again we note only moderate variations. The Fort Mill and Charlotte fringe areas show a lower percentage, whereas, Rock Hill, York and the open rural areas range above the average.

Line 10. PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION NINE AND OLDER WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS ANYWHERE: It is significant to note that Rock Hill, the Charlotte fringe and the open rural areas vary less than one percent. The high percentages of this factor are most notable in the city of York and in the Rock Hill urban fringe. It must be noted again that it is the opinion of this analyst if the other half of the survey cards for Section BJ had been tallied, the percentage of the urban fringe without membership, most likely, would be higher.

CHART 1

UNCHURCHED AS A PERCENT OF EACH AREA

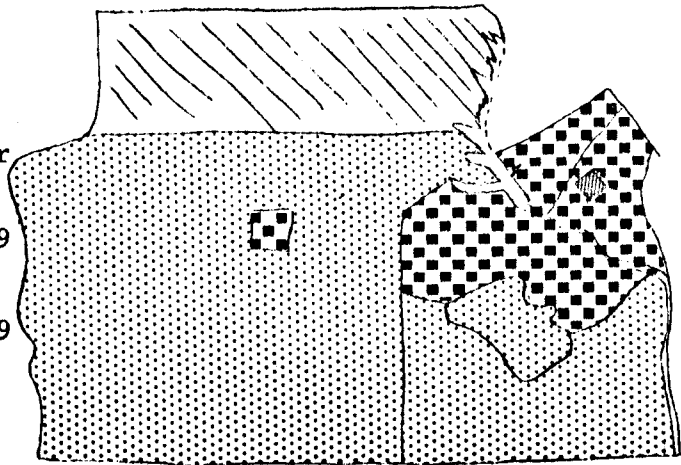
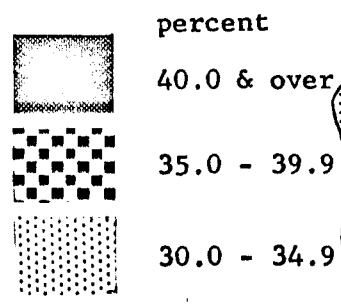
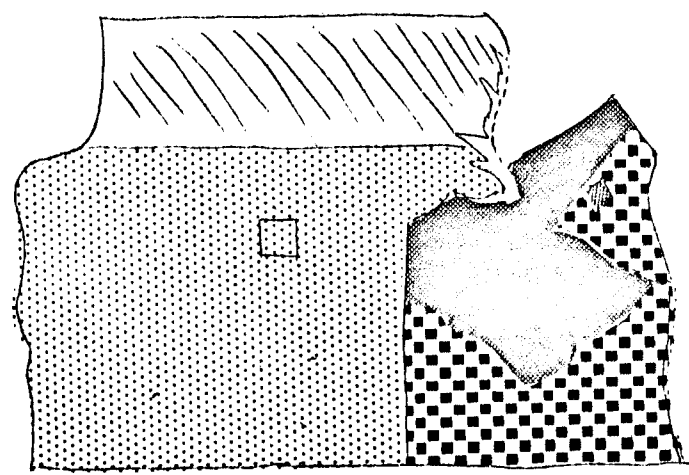
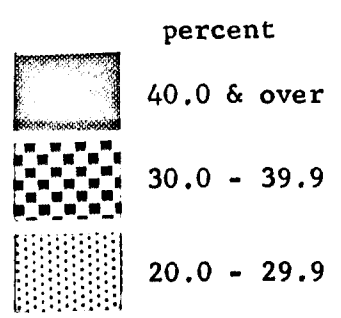


CHART 2

BAPTIST PENETRATION AS A PERCENT OF EACH AREA



SPECIFIC BAPTISTS FINDINGS

Line 11. PERCENTAGE OF BAPTIST PENETRATION: This figure is computed by adding the total Baptist membership to the non-members who prefer Baptists and dividing the sum by the total population. Thus we note that more than 40% of the total population in Rock Hill, Fort Mill and the Charlotte and Rock Hill urban fringe areas are either Baptist members or have a specific Baptist preference. The low percentages are in the western area of the county. It is significant to note that a very definite pattern emerges with the moderate preference being in the eastern rural areas. To summarize, Baptists are weaker in the west and strong in the east with moderate penetration of the eastern rural areas. (See Chart 2)

Line 12. PERCENTAGE OF THE IMMEDIATE BAPTIST POTENTIAL THAT IS BEING REACHED: This calculation is made by dividing the total number of the active Baptists and active children by the total Baptist preference. Thus we can say that in Rock Hill 67.4% of the Baptist membership and preference are active local members or active small children. In contrast the negative phrasing of this observation would be that 32.6% of the immediate Baptist potential is either non-members, non-local members, inactive local members, or inactive children with a Baptist preference AND are unreached.

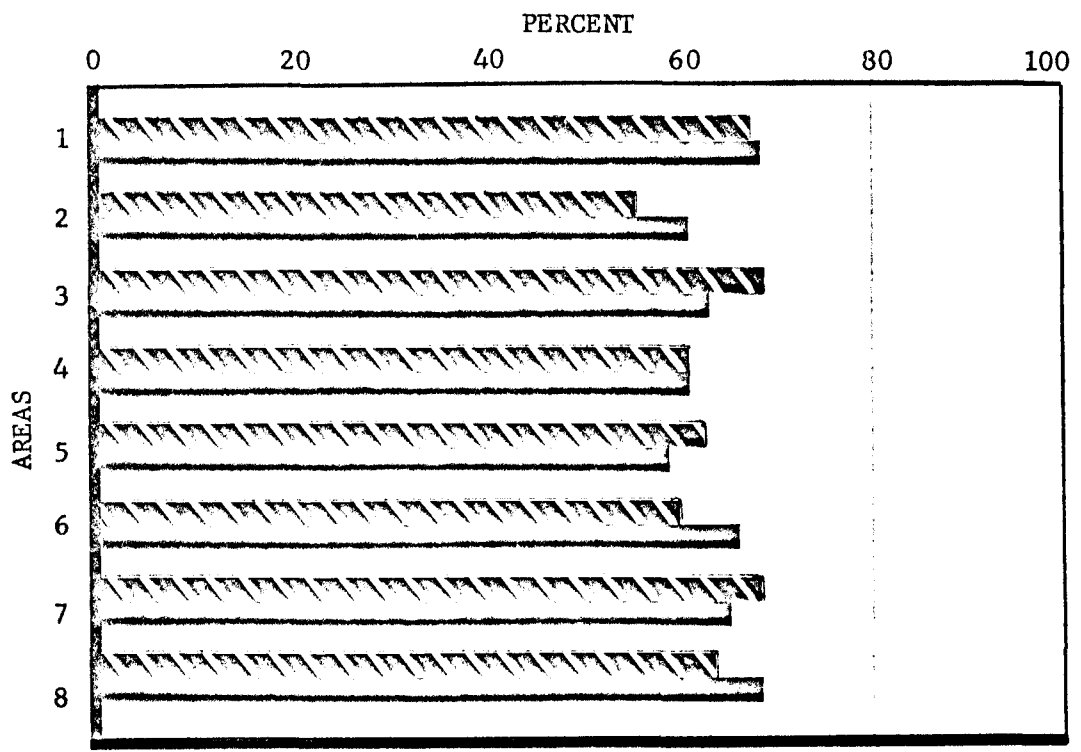
The Baptist churches in Rock Hill, York, and in the east rural areas, (south of Rock Hill) are more successfully reaching their immediate potential. The churches in Fort Mill and in the surrounding rural and urban fringe areas are less effective. This may be attributed to the mobility of the population, the background, training or attitude of the leadership, etc.



These figures are more meaningful when we contrast them with Line 18 "Percentage of the Potential for other Denominations that is being reached". It is a somewhat human trait to compare ourselves with others. (See Graph. 1) Such a comparison shows little difference in the ability to reach the immediate potential in Rock Hill and the Charlotte fringe area. All denominations are generally faced with serious problems in Area 4, the Charlotte urban fringe area. There is a slight improvement on the part of the Baptist churches in Rock Hill in contrast to the other denominations.

Most critical contrast is the sharp contrast between the effective outreach of our Baptist churches in Fort Mill and the Fort Mill rural area to the effectiveness of the other denominations. Though there is little comfort in this fact, it is apparent that the other denominations are meeting with only limited success also in Fort Mill.

Three areas are significantly encouraging. Baptists are more effective than the other denominations in the town of York and the rural and urban fringe areas around Rock Hill. It is encouraging to note in Area 5, the Rock Hill urban fringe, that other denominations are somewhat behind Baptists in making inroads into this growing area. It is possible that Lakewood Mission has made a significant contribution at this point. However, realizing the large area classified in this report as the urban fringe, other missions should be started to compensate for the general lag in this area. Attention to new work should more especially be given to the area immediately to the northeast of Rock Hill in the vicinity of the new by-pass and the proposed four-lane highway to cross

GRAPH 1 COMPARISON OF THAT PART OF THE BAPTIST POTENTIAL THAT IS BEING REACHED TO THAT PART OF OTHER DENOMINATION'S POTENTIAL THAT IS BEING REACHED



 % OF BAPTIST POTENTIAL, REACHED
 % OF OTHER'S POTENTIAL, REACHED

the river just south of the dam.

A look at the western portion of the county showed that Baptists are doing their most commendable work in the town of York but the very opposite in the rural areas surrounding the town of York. We note that nearly 70% of the Baptist potential is being reached in York by the Baptists where the other denominations are only reaching about 63% of their potential. In the rural areas Baptists there are only reaching 63%, whereas the other denominations are reaching nearly 70%.

Line 13. PERCENTAGE OF ALL NON-MEMBERS WHO ARE EITHER BAPTIST PREFERENCE OR HAVE NO PREFERENCE AT ALL: This calculation shows that percentage of all non-members who we classify as the most obvious evangelistic responsibilities. In the rural areas and urban fringe areas surrounding Fort Mill, the Baptist churches have their greatest proportionate opportunity of reaching the non-members. This is most significant when we realize that between 35 and 40% of the population in these areas indicate a Baptist preference whereas 65 to 70% of the non-members can be readily approached with the claims of Christ. (Contrast Line 11 with Line 13). Only in the town of York is the majority of non-members primarily committed to other denominations. Even in Rock Hill where Baptists only represent 40% of the population, over half of the non-members can be freely approached by our Baptist churches. Except for the town of York, Baptists have a wide-open evangelistic opportunity in proportion to their immediate penetration. (See Chart 3)

Line 14. PERCENTAGE OF LOCAL BAPTIST MEMBERS WHO ARE INACTIVE: This observation is most meaningful when contrasted to Line 19, "Percentage of Local Members of Other Denominations, who are Inactive". In EVERY instance, even where Baptists are the weakest, our local members are less active than other denominations. (See Graph 2) The most alarming contrast is in the area east of the Catauba river. (See Chart 4) In Fort Mill, 30% of the Baptists are inactive in contrast to 22% of other denominations. In the Charlotte urban fringe area, 27% of the Baptists are inactive in contrast to 16% for other denominations. In the Fort Mill rural area, 35% of the Baptists are inactive in contrast to only 20% for other denominations. The western part of the county, especially the rural area, showed a significant disparity. Rock Hill and the rural and urban fringe areas around Rock Hill have the smallest proportionate lag.

Line 15. PERCENTAGE OF BAPTIST MEMBERS NINE AND OLDER WHO ARE NON-LOCAL (NON-RESIDENT): As would be expected the two fringe areas (4 and 5) show the highest percentage; next to these is the eastern rural areas south of Rock Hill, part of which could be classified as urban fringe. The more remote rural areas and the town of York, have the lowest percentage of non-residents living in their areas.

Line 16. PERCENTAGE OF ALL NON-LOCAL MEMBERS WHO ARE BAPTISTS: Except for the town of York the percentage of non-resident members are greater for Baptists than for their corresponding penetration (see Line 11). The greatest disparity is found in Fort Mill, the Rock Hill urban fringe area and the western rural areas of the county. It must be remembered however, that Area 8, western rural areas, have only a very small number of non-local members anyway.

CHART 3

PERCENT OF TOTAL NON-MEMBERS WHO INDICATED
A BAPTIST PREFERENCE OR NO PREFERENCE

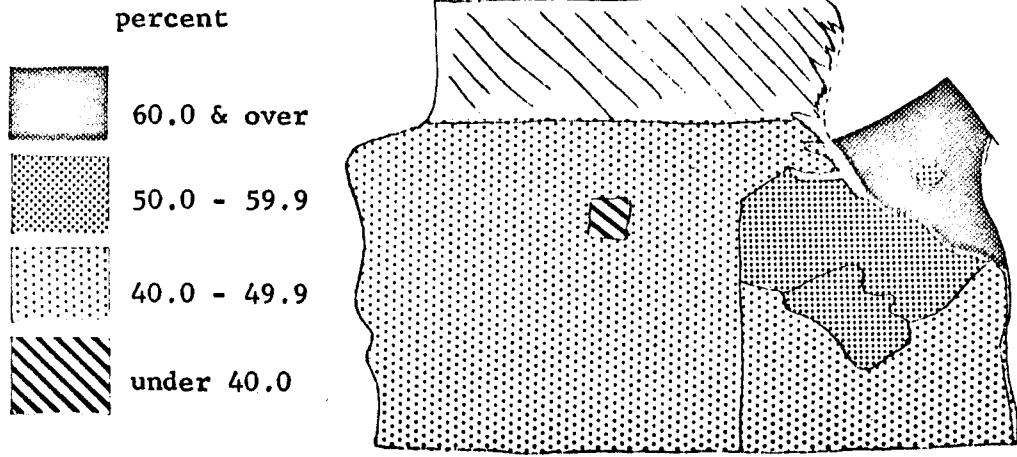
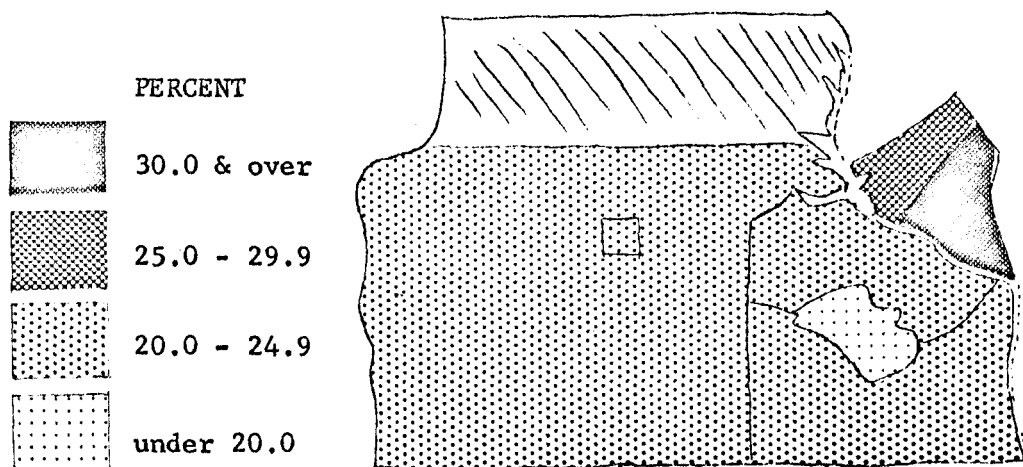


CHART 4 PERCENT OF LOCAL BAPTISTS WHO ARE INACTIVE BY AREAS



GRAPH 2 COMPARISON OF PERCENT OF LOCAL BAPTISTS WHO ARE INACTIVE TO THE PERCENT OF LOCAL MEMBERS OF OTHER DENOMINATIONS WHO ARE INACTIVE

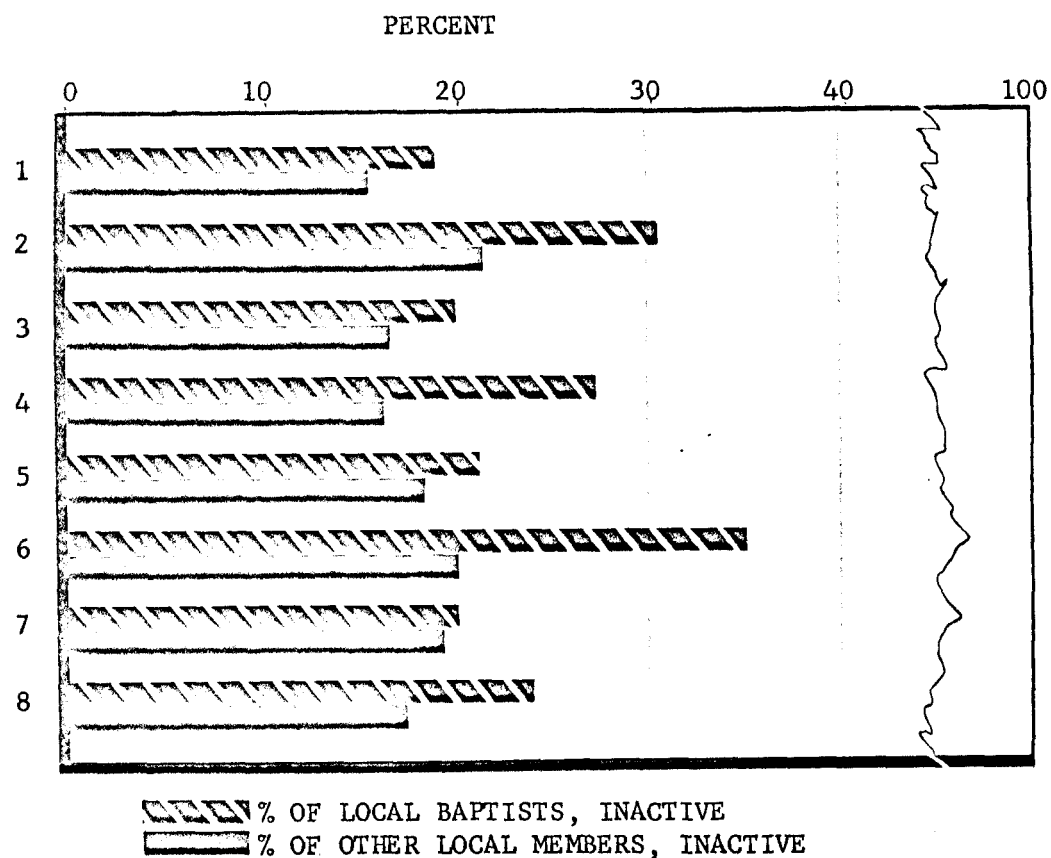
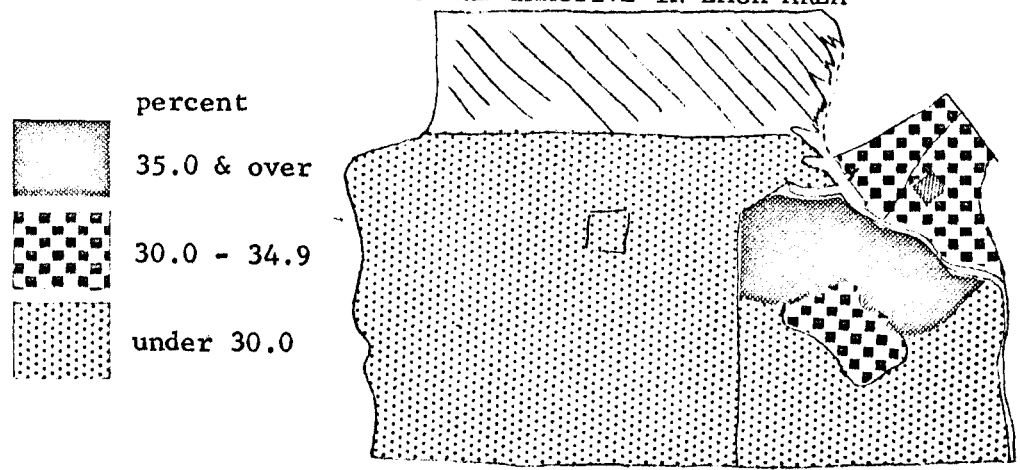
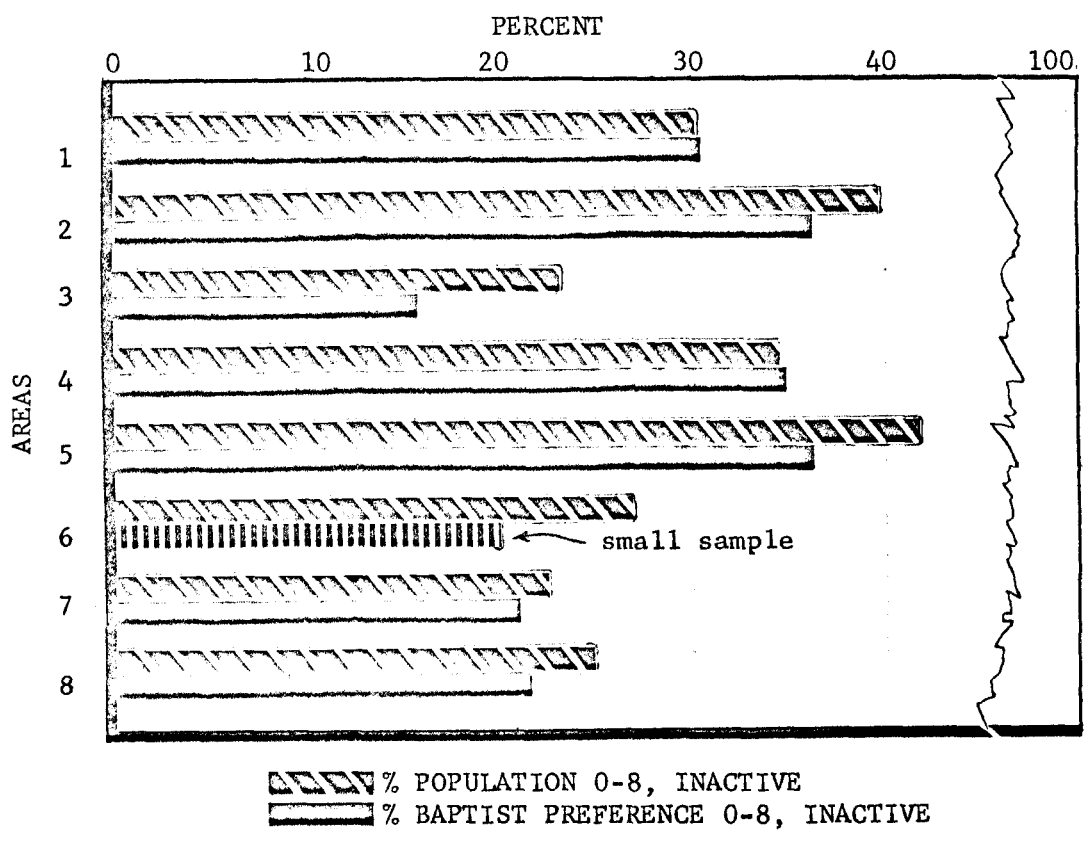


CHART 5 PERCENT OF POPULATION BIRTH THROUGH EIGHT WHO ARE INACTIVE IN EACH AREA



GRAPH 3 COMPARISON OF POPULATION BIRTH THROUGH EIGHT WHO ARE INACTIVE TO THE BAPTIST PREFERENCE BIRTH THROUGH EIGHT WHO ARE INACTIVE



Line 17. PERCENTAGE OF THE BAPTIST PREFERENCE BIRTH THROUGH EIGHT, WHO ARE INACTIVE: These data are most significant when compared to Line 6. Except for Rock Hill and the Charlotte urban fringe area, Baptist are doing a proportionately better job of reaching the small children than are the other denominations. Even in these two exceptions the difference is only slight. (See Graph 3)

Line 18. PERCENTAGE OF POTENTIAL FOR OTHER DENOMINATIONS, BEING REACHED BY THEIR CHURCHES: The other denominations are having their greatest difficulty in Fort Mill and the two urban fringe areas. This is similar to that which is experienced by Baptists and noted on Line 12 above.

Line 19. PERCENTAGE OF LOCAL CHURCH MEMBERS OF OTHER DENOMINATIONS WHO ARE INACTIVE: Fort Mill and the two rural areas, 6 and 7, appear to be problem areas for other denominations. In all other areas they experience near or below norm difficulties.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND NEEDS

Lines 20 through 27: These data are paired. The even numbered lines list the absolute figures for each factor. The odd numbered lines list the percentage of distribution for each of the eight areas. The total area represents 100% and each area is calculated for that percentage of the whole located within its territory.

As has been noted in the introduction to several reports, certain of the rural areas were only partially covered. Therefore, we must preface this section of this analysis by saying, "according to the survey cards that were tallied, the following observations are made". The observation, therefore, does not mean that 37.1% of the total population of York county lives in Rock Hill. We can merely say that 37.1% of the population that was surveyed and tallied lives in Rock Hill.

There are two basic ways of reading these data. Let us take the figures concerning non-members (Line 22 and 23). The majority of the non-members were located in Rock Hill (Line 22). However, we note in Line 21 that 37.1% of the surveyed population lives in Rock Hill whereas, only 33.5% of the non-members are located there (see Line 23). The most significant figures are for the city of York and the Rock Hill urban fringe area. In each of these instances the proportion of non-members is much higher than the proportion of population surveyed.

Other observations, which are quite significant, deal with the inactive local church members (Line 24 and 25). Here we note that Fort Mill and the east rural areas have a much higher percentage of inactive local members than population surveyed. One of the most consistent observations this analyst has made across the nation is the equal number of inactive local members compared to the number of non-members. This observation is true in four of the eight areas. The four areas which do not follow this general observation are basically rural or fringe areas.

The last observation is regarding the inactive little children. Immediately attention is drawn to the Rock Hill urban fringe area where 25% of all the inactive children are located.

