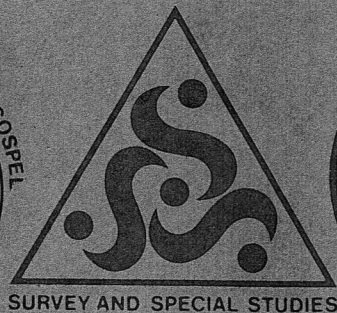
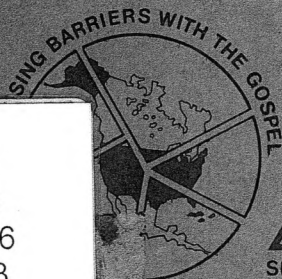


A Study of Churches and People in Georgia

VOLUME I



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A STUDY OF CHURCHES AND PEOPLE IN GEORGIA

- VOLUME I -

February, 1975

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Prepared by

Don F. Mabry

DEPARTMENT OF SURVEY AND SPECIAL STUDIES

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INTRODUCTION

This study has been prepared at the request of the Division of Evangelism and Missions of the Georgia Baptist Convention. The staff of the division and numerous other persons across the state of Georgia have assisted in the compilation of the data contained in this report. The report itself is addressed to staff members of the state convention, members of an ad hoc committee who met on February 19, 1975 to discuss the findings of the report, interested church leaders in the state convention, and other persons who would relate to the work of Baptists in the state of Georgia.

Hopefully, the study will be used as a tool for developing a strategy to minister to and evangelize the unchurched persons in Georgia. The report is an attempt to assemble several data that are important in the analysis of the communities, counties, and churches, and the changes in these areas. The characteristics displayed in the report have been chosen for their descriptive powers as to the kinds of people who reside in the state. The report gives some brief interpretation of these data and attempts to present factual information regarding the people of the state.

There are three chapters in the report: the first deals with the population and population characteristics of the state, the second deals with economic and housing characteristics, and the third deals with churches and church membership. At the end of the report are the conclusions that have been developed by the author as a result of his observations of the data on the counties, communities, and churches of the state. The conclusions represent an attempt to share with the reader the observations which the author has developed as a result of the study. The report is stimulative

in nature rather than exhaustive since it would be physically impossible to present all of the data which have been accumulated as a result of this study.

Appreciation must be expressed to several people who have made significant contributions to this report. Dr. Searcy Garrison has given wise counsel to the Division of Missions and Evangelism in the pursuit of this statewide study. Ernest J. Kelley, the Division Director, has worked diligently in accumulating several of the data contained in the report and in constantly counseling with the author over the development of the report. The staff of the division are: O.M. Cates, Evangelism; Henry K. Neal, Metropolitan Missions; Earle F. Stirewalt, Work with National Baptists; Archie Mayo, Chaplaincy; A. J. Silva, Spanish Ministries; and Charles A. Fanshaw, Deaf Ministries. All of these have made significant contributions to the study by their efforts in accumulating the data for several sections of the report. The directors of associational and area missions were also instrumental in assisting in the project, by contacting the churches selected for the questionnaire distribution. A very special "thank you" goes to Miss Cathy Hulsey, the department office secretary, Mrs. Larra Druin, Mr. Clay Price, Miss Carolyn Thigpen, and especially to Miss Lynn Parrish, who have all worked diligently in accumulating data and in the analysis of the findings contained in the report.

Methodology

The study grew out of a mutual interest and discussion of the mission and evangelism needs of Georgia. The initial discussion involving Ernest

TABLE 1

LOCATION AND SIZE OF GEORGIA CHURCHES IN STUDY BY NUMBER IN SAMPLE, AND
BY PERCENT RETURN, 1974^a

SIZE	LOCATION ^b										TOTAL PERCENT RETURNED	TOTAL IN SAMPLE
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
1-49	28.6										28.6	21
50-99	27.2	18.2									25.2	103
100-149	31.6	44.0	50.0								35.1	131
150-199	38.9	42.9	27.3	25.0							37.7	130
200-299			46.7	35.7	100.0	12.5	37.5	0	25.0	0	31.6	57
300-399			33.3	40.0	0	0	33.3		66.7	75.0	35.9	39
400-499			28.6	16.7	0	66.7	25.0		33.3	20.0	27.6	29
500-999				36.4	33.3	33.3	12.5	66.7	0	60.0	33.3	39
1000-1499						0	0		50.0	50.0	28.6	7
1500-1999									50.0	0	33.3	3
2000-2999									0	100.0	50.0	2
3000+										0	0	1
TOTAL PERCENT RETURNED	32.4	35.3	38.0	32.7	33.3	20.8	25.0	50.0	33.3	36.0	32.7	
TOTAL IN SAMPLE	290	68	50	49	6	24	28	4	18	25		562

^aSource: Questionnaires Distributed to Selected Churches.

^bLocation: 1- Open Country; 2- Village under 500 Pop.; 3- Town 500-2,499; 4- City 2,500-9,999;
5- City 10,000-49,999, Downtown; 6- Neighborhood; 7- Suburban; 8- City 50,000 or more,
Downtown; 9- Neighborhood; 10- Suburban.

Kelley, Jack Redford, Lyndon Collings, and this author occurred in December of 1973. As a result of that conversation, a request was issued to the Department of Survey and Special Studies to assist the Division of Evangelism and Missions in the study of Georgia as to its mission and evangelism potentials. There have been several elements of work that were precipitated by the study.

It was decided that the 1970 Census data would be the most accurate and up-to-date data that could be obtained for developing the characteristics of the population. The counties have been used as the basic unit of the study. It was felt that five-year profiles of the Southern Baptist Churches in each of the counties should be established. This was necessary since most of the associations in Georgia do not follow county lines and since it would be a monumental task to correlate the statistical data on the counties and the associations respectively. The author and the other participants in the study are aware that this may cause some difficulty for several of the associations in the state when they develop a profile of their own association, but hopefully this will not be too difficult.

Another element of the study has been the accumulation of data on churches and church membership of other denominations, so as to get a statewide profile of church attendance and church membership among the population. Due to limited data in this area of work, the study is not as complete as would be desired, but does offer some description of churches and church membership in other denominations.

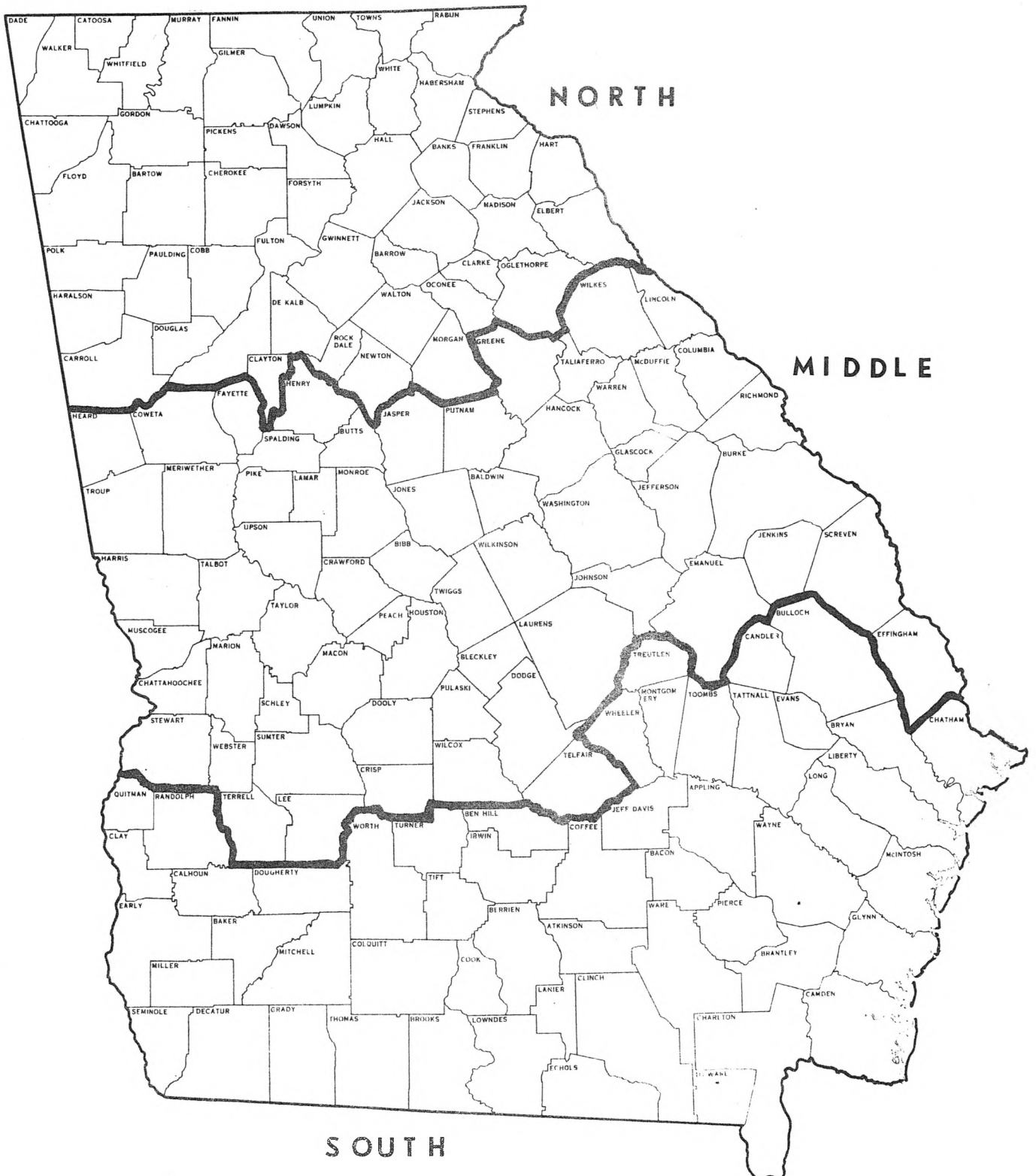
Finally, a monumental task of a profile of Georgia Baptist church members was attempted. This was accomplished by distributing questionnaires in a scientifically selected random sample of churches in the state. The data on Table 1 indicate the number of churches that were selected by sizes

and location and the percentage of churches that returned the questionnaire. The total indicates that 32.7% of all the churches in the sample returned the questionnaire. It is the opinion of the author that this is a very good return of the questionnaire when the massiveness of this project is considered. The churches were selected in the Atlanta office of the Georgia Convention, and a list of these churches in each association was shared with the missions director or moderator of that association. Training was given to these missionaries and moderators in the distribution of the questionnaire and the techniques involved in measuring the characteristics of the church members. They were then requested to make contact with the individual selected churches and request their cooperation in the survey. A packet was made up for each church, which was distributed by the missionary or moderator to the pastor, who then conducted the survey in his church as he was requested by the Missions and Evangelism Division. After the survey was completed, the questionnaires were returned to the Atlanta office of the Georgia Convention, and in turn were given to the Department of Survey and Special Studies for computer analysis. The result of this survey will appear throughout the study so that comparisons can be made between the church constituencies and the population of the three regions in Georgia.

For the purposes of this study, Georgia has been broken into three regions, North, Middle, and South, and these three regions appear on Figure 1, which is a map of the state on which its counties and regions are delineated. Due to the fact that there are 159 counties in the state and 92 associations, it was felt that this was too large of a mass of data for any reader to assimilate in a report of this nature. Therefore, a data book

FIGURE 1

LOCATION OF STUDY REGIONS AND COUNTIES IN GEORGIA



with the same statistical tables appears in Volume II, but with a delineation being made by counties.

Don F. Mabry, Director
Department of Survey and Special Studies
Home Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention

CHAPTER I

POPULATION AND POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS IN GEORGIA

Population General Characteristics

The data on Table 2 indicate that in 1970 there were almost 4,600,000 persons in Georgia. Of this number, 50.5% lived in North Georgia, 28.6% lived in Middle Georgia, and 20.9% lived in South Georgia. The total further indicates that approximately 60% of the people in the state live in urban areas (places of 2,500 population or more). This varies somewhat between the regions, with North Georgia having almost 65% of its population in urban areas. The remainder of the table indicates the foreign stock, Spanish and the non-English mother tongue population. Of course, there are some duplications in each of these columns, but the ethnicity of the population in the state is indicated. The foreign stock indicates those persons who either they or one or both of their parents were born in a foreign country. This represents almost 112,000 people in the state, with over half of them in North Georgia. The next column indicates the Spanish population, and not all of these persons would be included in the foreign stock. Some of these are native born, third, fourth, or fifth generation Spanish-speaking persons who have a Spanish heritage and are listed under Spanish population. In the state there are approximately 45,000 of these with slightly less than half located in the North Georgia region. Finally, the total indicates non-English mother tongue. These are persons who were born and reared in a home where the primary tongue was not English. Seven percent of all the people in the state belong to this category, and again it is evident that approximately half of these live in the North Georgia Region.

TABLE 2

POPULATION AND GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS IN GEORGIA BY REGIONS, 1970^a

STATE AND REGIONS	1970 Population	Urban Population		Foreign Stock		Spanish Population		Non-English Mother Tongue	
		Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
GEORGIA	4,589,569	2,767,510	60.3	111,516	2.4	45,289	1.0	327,833	7.1
North Georgia	2,317,623	1,488,011	64.2	62,217	2.7	21,606	0.9	162,147	7.0
Middle Georgia	1,314,338	742,253	56.5	31,692	2.4	15,165	1.2	98,743	7.5
South Georgia	957,608	537,246	56.1	17,607	1.8	8,518	0.9	66,943	7.0

POPULATION AND GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS IN GEORGIA CHURCH STUDY, 1974^b

STATE AND REGIONS	1974 Population	1974 Adult Population	URBAN POPULATION	
			Number	Percent
GEORGIA	20,901	7,611	5,500	72.3
North Georgia	7,865	2,910	2,087	71.7
Middle Georgia	7,770	2,775	2,143	77.2
South Georgia	5,266	1,926	1,270	65.9

^aSource: 1970 Census of Population.^bSource: Questionnaires Distributed to Selected Churches.

The second part of Table 2 indicates the general characteristics of persons who completed the questionnaires which were distributed to the churches. There were actually 6,303 questionnaires which were returned that were usable. These questionnaires were filled out on the families of the individuals and their families account for approximately 21,000 individuals. Of this number 7,600 or 36% were adults.

The most interesting fact revealed here is that the questionnaire suggests that the churches are more urban in their makeup than is the general population. Note on the table that 60% of the total state population is urban, but 72% of the persons responding to the questionnaire live in urban areas. A study conducted in 1974 by the department on 23 metropolitan counties in Georgia found that approximately 45% of all the resident members in the Georgia Convention are located in the 23 metro counties. The interpretation of this data is that likely a greater proportion of the membership of the Georgia Baptist churches are urban than is true of the population. The reverse is true when the number of churches is considered, that is, there are more rural churches, percentage wise, than urban churches.

Nativity of the Population

The data on Table 3 indicates that for the most part 99.3% of the Georgia population was born in the United States. It is interesting to note that almost 74% of the Georgia population are natives of the state of Georgia. As might be expected, slightly less than this, 72% of the North Georgia population, are native Georgians, while in South Georgia almost 78%

TABLE 3

NATIVITY OF POPULATION IN GEORGIA BY REGIONS, 1970^a

STATE AND REGIONS	NATIVITY				
	U.S.	GEORGIA		SOUTH	
	Number	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
GEORGIA	4,555,195	3,367,765	73.9	653,585	14.3
North Georgia	2,298,488	1,642,372	71.5	378,220	16.5
Middle Georgia	1,302,804	980,090	75.2	167,735	12.9
South Georgia	953,903	745,303	78.1	107,630	11.3

NATIVITY OF POPULATION IN GEORGIA CHURCH STUDY, 1974^b

STATE AND REGIONS	NATIVITY				
	U.S.	GEORGIA		SOUTH	
	Number	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
GEORGIA	8,948	6,683	74.7	1,744	19.5
North Georgia	3,485	2,488	71.4	748	21.5
Middle Georgia	3,334	2,540	76.2	615	18.5
South Georgia	2,129	1,655	77.7	381	17.9

^aSource: 1970 Census of Population.^bSource: Questionnaires Distributed to Selected Churches.

are native Georgians. Of the remaining population, approximately 14% were born in one of the other Southern states and migrated to Georgia, and this indicates that approximately 12% of the Georgia population have migrated to the state from other regions of the nation other than the South.

It is somewhat surprising to find among the respondents to the questionnaire distributed in the churches that approximately the same percentage of the members are native of Georgia as the whole population, and 19.5% are native of other Southern states, which indicates that only 5.8% of the Georgia church membership would be from other regions. This indicates that in the main, Georgia churches have not been particularly successful in reaching non-Southern natives into the fellowship of the churches.

Racial and Age Characteristics

There are some surprising racial characteristics of the population of Georgia. More than 25.9% of the population was Negro in 1970. This likely has changed slightly since 1970, since there has been an in-migration of blacks from other parts of the nation. It is somewhat surprising to learn that more than 35% of the Middle Georgia population is Negro, while approximately 1/3 of the South Georgia population is Negro and only 18% of North Georgia is Negro. Of course, the largest concentration of Negroes in the state is in the city of Atlanta, with the largest total number being in the Middle Georgia Region.

On Table 4 are the age characteristics of the population. This table

TABLE 4

RACIAL AND AGE CHARACTERISTICS OF POPULATION IN GEORGIA
BY REGIONS, 1970^a

STATE AND REGIONS	NEGROES		AGE CHARACTERISTICS (PERCENT)			
	Number	Percent	Under 18	18-64	65 Years+	Median Age
GEORGIA	1,187,149	25.9	35.8	56.2	8.0	25.9
North Georgia	423,512	18.3	34.9	57.7	7.4	27.5
Middle Georgia	462,832	35.2	36.4	55.2	8.5	26.0
South Georgia	311,413	32.5	37.3	53.9	8.8	25.6

^aSource: 1970 Census of Population.

AGE CHARACTERISTICS OF POPULATION IN GEORGIA CHURCH STUDY, 1974^b

	Under 19	20-59	60 Years+	Mean Age
GEORGIA	39.2	51.1	9.7	30.7
North Georgia	39.3	54.2	6.5	30.0
Middle Georgia	39.0	51.5	9.5	31.2
South Georgia	39.4	46.0	14.7	31.0

^bSource: Questionnaires Distributed to Selected Churches.

COMPARISON OF AGE CHARACTERISTICS IN GEORGIA

	15-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70+
GEORGIA (1970)							
Men	13.8	24.3	16.7	14.1	13.1	10.0	8.1
Women	12.3	22.3	16.0	13.9	13.2	10.7	11.6
CHURCH STUDY (1974)							
Men	0.5	12.7	21.6	29.5	24.0	10.9	4.4
Women	1.3	15.5	25.6	27.8	17.6	8.7	3.6

is not particularly informative since it follows pretty much the national norm, and there seems to be very few age characteristic differentials between the regions and the state as a whole. Even the median age of Georgia, 25.9 years, approximates the national norm. When the age characteristics of the churches is considered, it is found that a slightly higher percentage of the population is under 19 than is true in Georgia, and a slightly lesser percentage is between the ages of 20 and 59. The age group categories are not parallel since there is a one year difference, but these categories are close enough for comparison.

It is surprising that the average age of the church members is 30.7 years, while the median age of the state is 25.9. It was not possible to calculate the median age for the churches, but with the large sample involved in this study, it is likely that the mean and median would not be drastically different.

A comparison of the age characteristics (Table 4) reveals that only about half as many of the church members are between the ages of 20 and 29, as is true in the state population. For instance, about 24 percent of the state's population in 1970 was between ages 20 and 29, while in the churches in 1974 only about 13% of the population was in this age group. Then, when the comparison was made between the churches and state in the age groups 40 to 49 and 50 to 59, more than twice as many of the church members are in these age groups as is true in the general population.

Persons over 70 years of age, for the most part, are not involved in the activities of the churches. This is a general observation of the churches, but it is also true in the number of persons who filled out the

questionnaire. It is possible that older people did not fill out the questionnaire because of the detailed questions and the small print, but it is also highly likely that their age group represents only about 5% of the church members, while they represent between 9 and 12 percent of the general population.

The average size household in the state and the churches is about the same (3.25 in the state and 3.30 in the churches). This is surprising to this author. The programs of most churches are geared toward families with children present in the home, and in Georgia in 1970, only about 57% of the homes had children under the age of 18. It would have been the assumption of the author that there would be a larger family size in the churches than in the community. The findings of the survey indicates that approximately 7% of the respondents' homes are one-person households, while approximately 28% are two-person households. On the other hand, 44.3% of all households have three to four members, 17% have five to six members, and approximately 3% have seven or more members.

Educational Attainment

The data on Table 5 reflect the educational attainment of the general population and of the church survey respondents. The data on the state is for persons 25 years of age or older and the educational attainment for the church study is for adults. The data indicate that approximately 11% of the total state population is functionally illiterate, that is they have less than five years of formal education. It is slightly higher in Middle and South Georgia. Approximately 25% of the people are non-readers, that is they have from five to eight years of formal education. For the most part,

TABLE 5

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF PERSONS 25 YEARS AND OLDER IN GEORGIA
BY REGIONS, 1970^a

STATE AND REGIONS	Persons 25 Yrs. and Over	EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT									
		Functionally Illiterate		Non-Reader		High School		College		High School Graduate	
		Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
GEORGIA	2,355,810	261,237	11.1	592,449	25.1	1,074,026	45.6	428,098	18.2	951,770	40.6
North Georgia	1,214,446	100,365	8.3	293,617	24.2	562,775	46.3	257,689	21.2	541,161	44.6
Middle Georgia	662,791	89,436	13.5	177,517	26.8	293,057	44.2	100,378	15.1	235,966	35.6
South Georgia	478,573	71,436	14.9	121,315	25.3	218,194	45.6	70,031	14.6	174,643	36.5

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF ADULT PERSONS IN GEORGIA CHURCH STUDY, 1974^b

STATE AND REGIONS	ADULT PERSONS	EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT					
		Functionally Illiterate and Non-Reader		High School		College	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
GEORGIA	9,310	1,499	16.1	5,317	57.1	2,494	26.8
North Georgia	3,634	546	15.0	1,931	53.1	1,157	31.8
Middle Georgia	3,455	551	16.0	2,094	60.6	810	23.5
South Georgia	2,221	402	18.1	1,292	58.2	527	23.7

^aSource: 1970 Census of Population.

^bSource: Questionnaires Distributed to Selected Churches.

these persons have lost their reading skills and do very little reading for pleasure or in performance of their employment. The data from the church study indicates that only about 16% of the church members are in the category of the functionally illiterate and non-reader, while 36% of the state's population are in this category. The churches are not reaching this large segment of the population since in most churches it is fairly common to be called on to read in public or to pray or the other public functions which would demand some readership skills. It has been felt for some time, that one of the reasons that the normal church program does not reach the lower socio-economic groups is because of their lack of reading skills and a demand for these skills in the normal church program. A slightly higher percentage of the people in the churches have a high school education than is true in the general population (57% to 46%). A much higher percentage of the church members have college education than is true of the general population (26% to 18%).

These data then indicate that the churches are reaching a higher educationally attained person than is true in the general population. It would seem to this author that some churches in the many communities across Georgia need to be aware of the presence of these lesser educated individuals in order to perform ministries and services that will reach these kinds of people.

Marital Status

On Table 6 are data which indicate the marital status of the population age 14 years and older in 1970. Approximately 25% of the population of the state and in each of the regions were single, while about 62% were married.

TABLE 6

MARITAL STATUS OF PERSONS 14 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER IN GEORGIA BY REGIONS, 1970^a

STATE AND	MARITAL STATUS									
	Single		Married		Separated		Widowed		Divorced	
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
GEORGIA	807,982	24.4	2,039,385	61.6	87,079	2.6	271,296	8.2	106,521	3.2
North Georgia	394,019	23.3	1,076,091	63.6	38,984	2.3	123,488	7.3	59,836	3.5
Middle Georgia	247,080	26.4	550,616	58.7	28,456	3.0	84,399	9.0	27,097	2.9
South Georgia	166,883	24.5	412,678	60.5	19,639	2.9	63,409	9.3	19,588	2.9

^aSource: 1970 Census of Population.

Of the remainder, 2.6% were separated and 3.2% were divorced, while 8.2% were widowed. These data indicate that there are a fairly significant number of marital "problems" in the community, but the data from the church survey indicate that very few of these are represented in the churches. Of the more than 6,000 questionnaires turned in, only 23 of them had a head of household that was separated and only 127 had a head of household that was divorced. This was less than 3% of all families represented in the survey. At the same time, however, approximately the same percentage (7.5%) were widowed, as is true in the general population. This would indicate to this author that, for the most part, the churches do not minister to nor relate to those persons who have had marital "problems" and are now in a non-married state. It is not known how many of the non-married have been previously married to other persons. It does not seem likely, however, that very many of the present church attenders in Georgia Baptist churches are previously married individuals. This area of community life will demand the very best in programming of ministries to reach these kinds of people. In many of the community organizations, including the churches, these people are "left out" in the planning and activities.

CHAPTER II

ECONOMIC AND HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Two of the most important descriptions of people in a state or region are the economic conditions and housing characteristics. This assists in determining the life-style and community commitment of the people.

Family Income Characteristics

The data on Table 7 indicate the median and mean family incomes and some selected sources of income. The median is the exact middle, half of the families would receive more than this and half would receive less. The mean is an average arrived at by totaling the family incomes and dividing by the number of families. In both cases it can be noted that the Georgia median and mean are higher than each of the three regions. The explanation for this is the influence of the metropolitan areas. They carry a disproportionate influence since almost 1/3 of the state's population lives in the metro area of Atlanta.

The three columns indicating the social security, public assistance, and poverty incomes of families are very significant. Approximately 18% of all families in the state are receiving social security. This includes not only those who have retired, but also those where there has been disability and where there are minor children with a deceased father. This indicates that there is a large dependance upon social security as a source of family income in Georgia and its regions.

Public assistance is actually the welfare income families. Approximately 8% of all families in the state receive welfare, but in Middle and South Georgia, approximately 10% of the families are on welfare.

TABLE 7

FAMILY INCOME CHARACTERISTICS IN GEORGIA BY REGIONS, 1970^a

STATE AND REGIONS	ALL FAMILIES	FAMILY INCOME							
		Median	Mean	Social Security Income		Public Assistance		Poverty	
				Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
GEORGIA	1,149,771	8,167	9,491	204,845	17.8	91,353	7.9	192,465	16.7
North Georgia	598,137	7,357	8,294	98,167	16.4	34,563	5.8	70,411	11.8
Middle Georgia	316,100	6,346	7,517	60,284	19.1	31,778	10.1	66,525	21.0
South Georgia	235,534	5,639	6,950	46,394	19.7	25,012	10.6	55,529	23.6

^aSource: 1970 Census of Population.

The poverty level in 1970 was established at approximately \$4,000 for a family of four, but in 1974 this was raised to almost \$5,000. It is highly likely that approximately the same percentage of persons are in poverty today that were in this category in 1970. The data indicate that almost 17% of all families in the state were in poverty in 1970, with 21% of the families in Middle Georgia and 24% of those in South Georgia having poverty-level incomes. This, of course, affects greatly the life-style of the families and indicates that a large segment of the population is having a very difficult time in getting by. It is also observed that the incidence of poverty is much greater among the black families than among the white.

Employment and Occupations

One of the best indicators of the life-style in any area is the measure of occupations by categories. The data on Table 8 indicate the nine occupational categories most generally used in studies of this nature. These categories are for all persons age 16 and over, and reflect both the general population and those persons interviewed in the church study. When the columns entitled "Professional," "Managers," and "Sales and Clerical" are added together, they form the white-collar segment of the employment structure. In Georgia as a whole, 43.7% of the population are employed in the white-collar categories. In the churches, almost 57% of the members are employed in white-collar jobs. Thus the churches are much more white-collar in their makeup than is the general population of the state and would indicate that the churches are not reaching as significant a portion of the blue-collar as the general population would indicate. There are some categories where the churches have a greater proportion than is present in the

TABLE 8

POPULATION BY OCCUPATION IN GEORGIA BY REGIONS, 1970^a

STATE AND REGIONS	Total Employed 16 Years and Over	OCCUPATIONAL CATEGORIES								
		Profess- ionals	Managers	Sales & Clerical	Crafts- men	Opera- tives	Trans- port	Laborers	Farmers	Service Workers
GEORGIA	1,746,769	208,985	147,325	406,776	242,292	292,549	72,716	123,939	28,925	223,262
Percent		12.0	8.4	23.3	13.9	16.7	4.2	7.1	1.7	12.8
North Georgia	955,094	126,376	85,251	252,265	133,430	157,084	39,125	50,107	6,726	104,730
Percent		13.2	8.9	26.4	14.0	16.4	4.1	5.2	0.7	11.0
Middle Georgia	453,977	48,945	34,849	89,836	62,596	83,800	18,762	36,539	7,890	70,760
Percent		10.8	7.7	19.8	13.8	18.5	4.1	8.0	1.7	15.6
South Georgia	337,698	33,664	27,225	64,675	46,266	51,665	14,829	37,293	14,309	47,772
Percent		10.0	8.1	19.2	13.7	15.3	4.4	11.0	4.2	14.1

^aSource: 1970 Census of Population.

POPULATION OF CHURCH STUDY BY OCCUPATION, 1974^b

STATE AND REGIONS	Total Employed 16 Years and Over	OCCUPATIONAL CATEGORIES								
		Profess- ionals	Managers	Sales & Clerical	Crafts- men	Opera- tives	Trans- port	Laborers	Farmers	Service Workers
GEORGIA	6,523	1,031	538	2,138	1,267	610	170	114	379	276
Percent		15.8	8.3	32.8	19.4	9.4	2.6	1.8	5.8	4.2
North Georgia	2,568	479	259	814	413	294	63	47	83	116
Percent		18.7	10.1	31.7	16.1	11.5	2.5	1.8	3.2	4.5
Middle Georgia	2,437	365	151	861	543	221	60	39	103	94
Percent		15.0	6.2	35.3	22.3	9.1	2.5	1.6	4.2	3.9
South Georgia	1,518	187	128	463	311	95	47	28	193	66
Percent		12.3	8.4	30.5	20.5	6.3	3.1	1.9	12.7	4.4

^aSource: Questionnaires Distributed to Selected Churches.

state. For instance, among craftsmen the churches have 19% of their membership in this category, but only 14% of the state's employment falls in this category. Then in the category of farmers, the churches have approximately 6% of its members in this category, while only 2% of the state's population are farmers. Finally, in the category entitled service workers, approximately 13% of the state's population are employed in this segment, while only 4.2% of the churches' population is in this category. The reader can make comparisons of the trends in each of the regions in the state.

One of the employment factors which is most influential on the churches is the employment of females age 16 and older. In the general population approximately 45% of all females in Georgia over 16 are employed, while in the churches a slightly greater percentage (45.3%) are employed. These data would indicate why many of the churches have difficulty in recruiting volunteer workers for the church program organizations. As more and more women become employed outside the home, it becomes increasingly difficult to recruit them into leadership positions in the churches.

The data on Table 9 indicate the number and percent of women with small children under 6 years of age, and those that are employed. Approximately 20% of all the women over 16 have small children less than six, and approximately 40% of these are employed outside the home. There is very little variation between the state trends and the three regions. Since this large percentage of women with small children are employed, day care ministries are indicated for many of the communities. Of course, the major portion of these small children will be cared for by relatives, but a fairly large percentage of them need public or private day care facilities. The churches need to give consideration to day care ministries in their own communities.

TABLE 9

EMPLOYMENT OF FEMALES IN GEORGIA BY REGIONS, 1970^a

STATE AND REGIONS	EMPLOYMENT OF FEMALES						
	Female 16 Yrs.+	Female 16 Yrs.+ Employed		Women with Children less than 6 Years		Employed Women With Children less than 6 Years	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
GEORGIA	1,637,745	731,618	44.7	334,943	20.5	135,982	8.3
North Georgia	839,803	393,323	46.8	175,678	20.9	69,772	8.3
Middle Georgia	461,702	199,159	43.1	90,461	19.6	38,575	8.4
South Georgia	336,240	139,136	41.4	68,804	20.5	27,635	8.2

EMPLOYMENT OF FEMALES IN GEORGIA CHURCH STUDY, 1974^b

	Adult Female 15 Yrs. +	Employed		
GEORGIA	5,342	2,417	45.3	
North Georgia	2,027	929	45.8	
Middle Georgia	2,022	956	47.3	
South Georgia	1,293	532	41.2	

^aSource: 1970 Census of Population.^bSource: Questionnaires Distributed to Selected Churches.

Those persons responding to the questionnaire in the churches were asked to give their employment status. Eighty-six percent of the male respondents and 34.8% of the female respondents indicated they were employed full time. As might be expected, a lesser percentage (2.5% of the males and 11.1% of the females) were employed part time. At the time of the survey in the fall of 1974, only a small percentage of the people were unemployed, since 1.3% of the males and 2.2% of the females reported themselves as being unemployed. The other two categories for males were the retired (9.6%) and the students (0.7%). In these same categories among the females it was found that 6.2% of the females listed themselves as being retired and approximately 1% of the females were students. In addition, almost 45% of all the females listed themselves as being housewives. This still gives the churches a fairly significant number to draw from as volunteers in the church program organizations. It should be remembered, however, that the percentage of women employed outside the home has been increasing in the United States for the past several years. The economic outlook for the country at the present time is downward, but when it turns upward again it is conceivable that a large percentage of the females will find employment for the first time.

Mobility of the Population

One of the questions asked on the 1970 Census was, "Where were you living in 1965?" The question was designed to determine the mobility of the population between 1965 and 1970. In the general population of Georgia, the trend was that almost 49% of the people remained in the same house for the duration of the five-year period. On Table 10 are data which indicate the mobility of those who did move during the period 1965 to 1970. Of

TABLE 10

MOBILITY OF POPULATION FIVE YEARS OF AGE OR MORE IN GEORGIA BY REGIONS, 1970^a

STATE AND REGIONS	Population Five Yrs. or More	MOBILITY							
		Same House as in 1965		Different House Than in 1965					
				In Georgia		Diff. State		South	
		Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
GEORGIA	4,169,684	2,027,679	48.6	1,422,394	34.1	431,636	10.4	277,204	6.6
North Ga.	2,104,890	974,332	46.3	752,375	35.7	237,060	11.3	159,028	7.6
Middle Ga.	1,196,146	607,065	50.8	385,023	32.2	117,394	9.8	67,265	5.6
South Ga.	868,648	446,282	51.4	284,996	32.8	77,182	8.9	50,911	5.9

^aSource: 1970 Census of Population.

those who moved, approximately 34% of them moved from one house in Georgia to another, while 10% moved from a different state (6% from a different state in the South). Of those who moved from a different state, 64% of them came from a Southern state and the other 36% came from states in the West and North.

It seems highly likely to this author that the mobility patterns of the state have not changed drastically since the 1965-1970 period. When the trends from the church questionnaire are compared to the general population, it is found that the churches are much more stable than the general population. It was found among the church members that approximately 70% have been in their home for 5 years or more and in the general population 49% remained in their homes for the five years, 1965-1970. The questionnaire asked the church members to indicate how long they had lived at their present address, and it was found that 22.5% of them had lived in their home 20 years or more, 15.4% 10 to 20 years, and 18.7% had been in their home from 5 to 9 years, and 30% have been in their home for four years or less.

On Table 11 are data which indicates the years that the general population and the church members moved into their present home. There are some dissimilarities between the two tables since the final column on each table is different. These data do indicate that in the state as a whole 13% moved in before 1950, while 15% of the church members moved in during this period. The trends are similar until the 1965-1968 time period, when 29% of the general population moved into their home, and only 19% of the church members. Finally, 25% of the general population moved in during the one-year period 1969-1970, while 31% of the church membership moved in over the

TABLE 11

YEAR MOVED IN, IN GEORGIA BY REGIONS, 1970^a

STATE AND REGIONS	YEAR MOVED IN ^c				
	1949 or Before	1950- 1959	1960- 1964	1965- 1968	1969- 1970
GEORGIA	13.2	15.7	16.5	29.6	25.1
North Georgia	10.8	14.7	16.8	31.6	26.1
Middle Georgia	15.6	16.6	16.5	27.2	24.1
South Georgia	15.8	17.0	16.0	27.5	23.8

YEAR MOVED IN FOR GEORGIA CHURCH STUDY, 1974^b

STATE AND REGIONS	YEAR MOVED IN ^c				
	1949 or Before	1950- 1959	1960- 1964	1965- 1969	1970- 1974
GEORGIA	15.7	18.8	14.7	19.3	31.4
North Georgia	9.3	17.6	15.8	21.8	35.4
Middle Georgia	16.4	20.3	13.8	18.6	30.9
South Georgia	17.1	19.8	16.1	18.3	28.7

^aSource: 1970 Census of Population.^bSource: Questionnaires Distributed to Selected Churches.^cYears Moved in Categories are Different in each Part of the Table.

four-year period 1970-1974. These categories do not match up, but they do indicate that the church members are much more stable and longer-term residents than is true in the general population. This is likely true because it takes approximately ten man-hours to recruit a church member into the fellowship of the local congregation. These ten man-hours can take place over a short period (1 to 3 months) or a longer time (6 to 10 months) before the new church member is actually reached. This means that the churches generally are reaching the longer-term residents since this person stays with the church for a longer period of time than the more migratory-type person.

Housing Characteristics

One of the indicators of permanency in almost any area is the owner occupied housing. On Table 12 are the data which indicate that 57% of all the homes in Georgia are owner occupied and that 36.3% are renter occupied. The remainder were vacant on April 1, 1970 when the census was conducted. It is very likely that these data have not changed significantly in the past five years. The person who owns his own home and lives in it is much more involved and committed to his community than one who is a renter. Of course, in many of the small towns of Georgia there are numerous rental properties which contain families that have lived in the same house for five years or more. These persons have a genuine commitment and involvement with their community as well, but for the most part renters do not become as involved with their community as homeowners.

The housing characteristics revealed in the church study indicates that only about 10% of the church members are renters and 85% are homeowners. This again indicates that the churches have not reached the

TABLE 12

HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS IN GEORGIA BY REGIONS, 1970^a

STATE AND REGIONS	TOTAL YEAR- ROUND HOUSING UNITS	OWNERSHIP		SUBSTANDARD		OWN SECOND HOME
		Owner	Renter	Lacking Some or all Plumbing	1.01 or More Persons Per Room	
GEORGIA	1,446,687	57.0	36.3	12.9	10.0	50,380
North Georgia	750,699	58.8	36.0	7.8	8.2	25,134
Middle Georgia	409,290	54.8	37.0	18.5	12.4	13,948
South Georgia	306,698	55.7	36.3	17.8	11.1	11,298

HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS IN GEORGIA CHURCH STUDY, 1974^b

STATE AND REGIONS		OWNERSHIP		
		Owner	Renter	
GEORGIA		85.3	10.2	
North Georgia		85.6	9.5	
Middle Georgia		84.5	11.1	
South Georgia		86.0	9.7	

^a Source: 1970 Census of Population.

^b Source: Questionnaires Distributed to Selected Churches.

apartment house and other rental type units in the community as well as the homeowner. Surprisingly, about 11% of the church members in Middle Georgia are renters in contrast with the 9.5% in North Georgia and 9.7% in South Georgia.

Three of the data on Table 12 indicate other housing characteristics. Under the category "Substandard" are two characteristics: one indicating lacking some or all plumbing and the other indicating those homes where there is crowding. Almost 13% of all homes in the state are substandard according to its plumbing facilities and approximately 10% of all homes have crowding, that is one or more persons per room. These characteristics indicate family abrasions and other family problems in any community when a significant proportion of the population is living in this type housing. These conditions breed crime, family problems, marital problems, and other social and economic ills. The churches need to be aware of these conditions in order to plan their ministries to the people who live in these type homes.

The final data on Table 12 indicate those who own second homes. Only a very small percentage (2.5%) have a second home, but there are more than 50,000 second homes. This indicates that a relatively large portion of the population have places where they can carry on their leisure time activities. These persons offer a challenge to the churches in all parts of the state of Georgia since recreational housing can be found in all parts of the state. It takes some very diligent effort to reach the families who are giving time to recreational activities in their second home.

The data from the 1970 Census also indicate the age of housing, which is reflected on Table 13, and the type housing as to its structure. The data indicate that more than 40% of all housing was built prior to 1950 and

TABLE 13

AGE OF HOUSING IN GEORGIA BY REGIONS, 1970^a

STATE AND REGIONS	PERCENT STRUCTURE BUILT BY YEARS						TOTAL HOUSING
	1939 or Earlier	1940- 1949	1950- 1959	1960- 1964	1965- 1968	1969- 1970	
GEORGIA	28.6	14.7	22.5	14.6	13.9	5.6	1,466,687
North Georgia	23.6	13.5	23.3	16.7	16.6	6.3	750,699
Middle Georgia	34.6	14.7	20.9	12.9	12.0	5.0	409,290
South Georgia	32.9	17.6	22.8	11.8	10.1	4.8	306,698

^aSource: 1970 Census of Population.

20% was built in the period 1965-1970. Of course, the housing inventory has been increased each year since 1970 at approximately 5% a year. This trend has slowed down drastically during 1974 and 1975.

The age of housing indicates to the churches that many of the communities are in the process of renewing themselves, particularly in those where the housing was built before 1940. This housing is now 35 years old, and the life expectancy of most single-family type dwellings is approximately 40 to 45 years. In the future, many more churches in Georgia will be facing communities that are renewing themselves and facing other transitional characteristics. The churches must always be aware of the new residents of the community as the housing characteristics change in order to minister to the newcomers along with the more long-term residents. Some churches will find themselves with communities that seemingly have changed almost "overnight" once the housing patterns begin to change. In most cases as older, single-family housing is demolished, multi-family housing takes its place and this presents some different challenges to most of the Georgia churches.

On Table 14 are data which indicate the numbers and percentages of housing by type structure. Almost 75% of all housing in the state in 1970 was single-family dwellings. This likely has not changed more than one or two percentage points since 1970, but more than half of all new housing built since 1970 has been in multi-family housing. The data also indicate that about 5% of all housing was in mobile homes, while approximately 20% was in multi-family apartment houses and townhouses. Only about 40,000 units are in 20 or more unit apartment houses and more than 150,000 units are in buildings of less than 5 units, with an additional 100,000 in buildings of 5 to 20 units.

TABLE 14

TYPE OF HOUSING IN GEORGIA BY REGIONS, 1970^a

REGION	TYPE OF HOUSING							TOTAL YEAR ROUND
	Single Family	Multi-Family						
		Duplex	3-4 Units	5-19 Units	20+ Units	Mobile Home	Total	
Georgia State	1,097,812	91,295	56,778	106,749	37,618	76,435	368,875	1,466,687
North Georgia	530,092	41,189	31,587	81,500	30,719	35,609	220,604	750,699
Middle Georgia	322,885	28,061	14,392	16,908	4,880	22,331	86,572	409,290
South Georgia	244,835	22,045	10,799	8,341	2,019	18,495	61,699	306,698

PERCENT OF TYPE OF HOUSING IN GEORGIA BY REGIONS, 1970^a

REGION	TYPE OF HOUSING						
	Single Family	Multi-Family					
		Duplex	3-4 Units	5-19 Units	20+ Units	Mobile Home	Total
Georgia State	74.8	6.2	3.9	7.3	2.6	5.2	25.2
North Georgia	70.6	5.5	4.2	10.9	4.1	4.7	29.4
Middle Georgia	78.9	6.9	3.5	4.1	1.2	5.5	21.2
South Georgia	79.8	7.2	3.5	2.7	0.7	6.0	20.1

^aSource: 1970 Census of Population.

One of the questions which appeared on the church study questionnaire was, "How far is your home from the church building?" The data from the question indicate that about 35% of all church members live within one mile of the building. Sixteen percent live within two miles, 13% within three miles, 7% within four miles, 8% within five miles, 4% within six miles, 3% within seven miles, 3% within eight miles, and approximately 9% nine miles or more. These data indicate that for the most part the church's influence deteriorates rather rapidly after five miles. Although it is surprising that almost 9% live nine miles or more from the building. It is quite evident that the bulk of the congregation would live within three miles of the building, since 63.5% live within this range.

CHAPTER III

CHURCHES AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

All Denominations in Georgia

One of the major areas of study for this report was the total number of churches and the church membership in the entire state of Georgia. The data on Table 15 reflect the result of this study. In 1974 a report based on 1971 data was published by the Glenmary Research Center in Washington, D.C. This was a joint effort by the National Council of Churches and the Roman Catholic Church to do a study, county by county, of all areas of the nation. The data are from 53 participating denominations and do not represent all churches in the state. The 53 denominations represent approximately 80% of all church members in the U.S. On Table 15 the data reveal that there were 6,255 churches in the state in 1971, with a total membership of a little over 2,000,000, which represents approximately 46% of the total population. This is slightly less than the data for the nation, where the 53 denominations have 49.6% of the total population as church members. Again, it can be noted that North Georgia has the largest number of churches, church members, and the largest percentage of its population as church members (48.9%). Middle and South Georgia occupy the same positions in rank as they do in population when churches and membership are concerned.

The number of churches and members by denominations are on Table 16. As might be expected, Southern Baptists are the largest group in the state, with more than twice as many churches and more than three times as many church members as the Methodists. The third largest group in number of churches is the Church of God (Cleveland, Tennessee), followed by the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. The third largest group in terms of membership is the Catholic church, followed by the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.

TABLE 15

CHURCHES AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP BY REGIONS IN GEORGIA, 1971^a

STATE AND REGIONS	NUMBER OF CHURCHES	COMMUNICANT, CONFIRMED, FULL MEMBERS	TOTAL ADHERENTS	
			Number	Percent of Total Population
GEORGIA	6,255	1,638,773	2,118,091	46.2
North Georgia	2,813	864,036	1,132,631	48.9
Middle Georgia	1,989	452,074	566,743	43.1
South Georgia	1,453	322,663	418,717	43.7

^a Source: Churches and Church Membership in the United States, 1971.

TABLE 16

CHURCHES AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP BY DENOMINATIONS IN GEORGIA, 1971^a

DENOMINATIONS	NUMBER OF CHURCHES	COMMUNICANT, CONFIRMED, FULL MEMBERS	TOTAL ADHERENTS		
			Number	Percent of Total Population	Percent of Total Adherents
GEORGIA	6,255	1,638,773	2,118,091	46.2	100.0
American Baptist Convention	1	481	602	--	--
The American Lutheran Church	5	1,487	2,472	0.1	0.1
Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church	11	2,166	2,682	0.1	0.1
Baptist Missionary Association of America	1	131	167	--	--
Catholic Church	129	0	103,609	2.3	4.9
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)	101	13,272	16,405	0.4	0.8
Christian Churches and Churches of Christ	129	24,315	30,090	0.7	1.4
Church of God (Anderson, Indiana)	43	1,732	4,052	0.1	0.2
Church of God (Cleveland, Tennessee)	368	34,704	43,161	0.9	2.0
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints	0	0	13,956	0.3	0.7
Church of the Nazarene	87	6,542	11,630	0.3	0.5
National Association of Congregational Christian Churches	3	192	242	--	--
Cumberland Presbyterian Church	4	430	540	--	--
The Episcopal Church	131	39,780	54,187	1.2	2.6
Free Methodist Church of North America	6	200	297	--	--
Free Will Baptists	130	11,925	14,806	0.3	0.7

^aSource: Churches and Church Membership in the United States, 1971.

TABLE 16

CHURCHES AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP BY DENOMINATIONS IN GEORGIA, 1971

(continued)

DENOMINATIONS	NUMBER OF CHURCHES	COMMUNICANT, CONFIRMED, FULL MEMBERS	TOTAL ADHERENTS		
			Number	Percent of Total Population	Percent of Total Adherents
Friends World Committee, American Section	2	87	107	--	--
Lutheran Church in America	45	12,654	17,198	0.4	0.8
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod	33	4,902	7,198	0.2	0.3
Mennonite Church	4	120	147	--	--
The Orthodox Presbyterian Church	2	158	227	--	--
Pentecostal Holiness Church, Inc.	51	2,592	3,183	0.1	0.2
Plymouth Brethren	12	905	1,543	--	0.1
Presbyterian Church in the US	308	76,718	94,946	2.1	4.5
Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod	2	245	330	--	--
The Salvation Army	23	1,684	7,208	0.2	0.3
Seventh-Day Adventists	69	8,433	10,434	0.2	0.5
Southern Baptist Convention	2,947	1,026,650	1,276,081	27.8	60.2
Unitarian-Universalist Association	12	1,451	2,345	0.1	0.1
United Church of Christ	19	2,737	3,363	0.1	0.2
The United Methodist Church	1,522	358,372	390,240	8.5	18.4
The United Presbyterian Church in the USA	24	2,802	3,444	0.1	0.2
The Wesleyan Church	30	866	1,127	--	0.1
Wisconsin Evangelical—Lutheran Synod	1	40	72	--	--

These data can be used to get some idea of the denominational representation of each group located in the state. There are no wards (churches) listed for the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints, but there are approximately 14,000 church members. This likely indicates that the Latter Day Saints have approximately 10 congregations located in the state. Some of the denominations are relatively small while others have significant representations located in Georgia.

Size and Location of Georgia Baptist Churches

The data included in the report on Tables 17 and 18 indicate the size and location of the churches affiliated with the Georgia Baptist Convention. On Table 17 are the churches by size categories for each of the study areas and the state as a whole. The data represented on this table account for 2,906 churches. There are some discrepancies in the number of churches on several of the tables because of the availability of data. On several of the tables the total number of churches is 2,930, while on a previous table it was 2,947. The differences are accounted for by the source of each item of data. The source of the data on Tables 17 and 18 is a computer printout made by the Research Services Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, and made available to the Department of Survey and Special Studies.

An arbitrary figure of 300 members has been used by the Home Mission Board as an indication of the smaller churches of the convention. In Georgia, 61.7% of all the churches in the convention have less than 300 total members, and it is somewhat surprising to find that 458 (or 15.7% of the churches) have less than 100 members in the Georgia convention. There are more than 180 churches which have more than 1,000 members, and this represents 6.1% of the churches in the convention. The reader should give some study to Table 17 in

TABLE 17

NUMBER AND PERCENT OF CHURCHES BY SIZE IN THREE STUDY REGIONS IN GEORGIA, 1973^a

STATE AND REGIONS	CHURCHES BY SIZE - TOTAL MEMBERS												TOTAL	
	1- 49	50- 99	100- 149	150- 199	200- 299	300- 399	400- 499	500- 999	1000- 1499	1500- 1999	2000- 2999	3000or more	Number	Percent ^b
North Georgia	14	106	145	151	269	176	89	223	55	16	15	6	1,265	43.5
Percent	1.1	8.4	11.5	11.9	21.3	13.9	7.0	17.6	4.3	1.3	1.2	.5		
Middle Georgia	58	147	156	122	160	88	66	99	40	6	6	3	951	32.7
Percent	6.1	15.5	16.4	12.8	16.8	9.3	6.9	10.4	4.2	.6	.6	.3		
South Georgia	31	102	115	90	130	77	40	72	19	7	6	1	690	23.7
Percent	4.5	14.8	16.7	13.0	18.8	11.2	5.8	10.4	2.8	1.0	.9	.1		
TOTAL GEORGIA	103	355	416	363	559	341	195	394	114	29	27	10	2,906	
PERCENT	3.5	12.2	14.3	12.5	19.2	11.7	6.7	13.6	3.9	1.0	.9	.3		

^aSource: 1973 Uniform Church Letters^bPercent of Churches in Georgia

order to understand the number and percentage of churches by size categories in the three study areas and the convention as a whole. The distribution of churches as indicated in the final column of Table 17 indicates that there are 1,265 churches in North Georgia, which is 43.5% of the total. Approximately 1/3 of the churches are in Middle Georgia and less than 1/4 of them are located in South Georgia. This is somewhat surprising since the study areas are fairly equal in geographical distribution, but is more understandable when their population is considered.

The church data on Table 18 displays the location of the churches in the convention. The numbers across the top of the table indicate the location of the churches, and there is a footnote to interpret the numbers. Exactly 1/2 of all the churches in the convention are located in the open country, rural areas. There are a total of 70.5% of the churches that are actually located in the rural areas, which is all areas of less than 2,500 population. There are some differences in the three study areas, but basically they follow the state characteristics. There are 255 churches (8.7%) located in places of 50,000 or more.

A comparison of the population and churches appears on the bottom of Table 18, and approximately 36% of the population and 62% of the churches are located in places less than 1,000 population. Approximately 4% of the state's population and 9% of the churches are located in places of 1,000 to 2,500 population. A much less percentage of the churches are located in places 2,500 or more than is true of the population. For instance, only 8.7% of the churches, but 22% of the population are in places of 50,000 or more. This indicates that the churches are not equally distributed into the several areas of the state. Georgia has had an increasing migration from the rural to the urban areas during the past 35 years and apparently the population has shifted faster

TABLE 18

NUMBER AND PERCENT OF CHURCHES BY LOCATION IN THREE STUDY REGIONS IN GEORGIA, 1973^a

STATE AND REGIONS	CHURCHES BY LOCATION ^b										TOTAL	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Number	Percent ^c
North Georgia	681	106	101	127	25	68	107	6	37	54	1,312	44.8
Percent	51.9	8.1	7.7	9.7	1.9	5.2	8.2	.5	2.8	4.1	100.0	
Middle Georgia	437	143	98	64	13	33	34	8	45	57	932	31.8
Percent	46.9	15.3	10.5	6.9	1.4	3.5	3.7	.9	4.8	6.1	100.0	
South Georgia	348	87	65	70	10	31	27	5	19	24	686	23.4
Percent	50.7	12.9	9.5	10.2	1.5	4.5	3.9	.7	2.8	3.5	100.0	
TOTAL GEORGIA	1,466	336	264	261	48	132	168	19	101	135	2,930	
PERCENT	50.0	11.5	9.0	8.9	1.6	4.5	5.7	.6	3.5	4.6	100.0	

POPULATION	Less than 1,000	1,000- 2,499	2,500- 9,999	10,000- 49,999	50,000 or More	TOTAL STATE
Number	1,649,194	181,699	1,092,563	641,719	1,024,400	4,589,575
Percent	35.9	4.0	23.8	14.0	22.3	100.0
Churches Percent	61.5	9.0	8.9	11.8	8.7	100.0

^a Source: 1973 Uniform Church Letters^b Location: 1- Open Country; 2- Village under 500 Pop.; 3- Town 500-2,499; 4- City 2,500-9,999; 5- City 10,000-49,999, Downtown; 6- Neighborhood; 7- Suburban; 8- City 50,000 or more, Downtown; 9- Neighborhood; 10- Suburban.^c Percent of all Georgia Churches.

than the churches in this transition. For many years Georgia was an agrarian, rural-oriented state, and of course, the churches were established in these areas. With the beginning of World War II, Georgia began the urbanization that has affected most of the nation, but the churches were not started in the cities at the same rate which the population was increasing in these places.

The churches in the cities are much larger in size than the churches in the rural areas of the state. A study by the author in 1974 on the metropolitan areas of the state found that in the state as a whole, the average size church had 270 resident members, while the churches of the metropolitan areas had an average of 451 resident members.

Indicators of Congregational Distribution

The penetration of Georgia Baptists into the various communities of the state are reflected on Table 19. The number of churches, the 1970 population, and the resident membership have been used to calculate the church-to-population ratio and the member-to-population ratio. The church-to-population ratio for the state is one church for every 1,566 individuals, and the variation from this figure in the three study areas is very small. There are approximately 200 more individuals per church in North Georgia than in the state as a whole, and approximately 160 less in South Georgia.

The member-to-population ratio is almost exactly the same in the state as a whole and in each of the three study areas, and this calculates to one out of every six persons being a member of a Georgia church. The resident membership has been used in this calculation rather than the total membership. The observation of this data is that Georgia Baptists have made some very deep penetrations into the population and communities of the state, and this gives the state convention some strong resources with which to work. It also means that

TABLE 19

INDICATORS OF CONGREGATIONAL DISTRIBUTION IN GEORGIA BAPTIST CONVENTION, 1973^a

CONVENTION AND REGIONS	NUMBER of CHURCHES	1970 TOTAL POPULATION	CHURCH/ POPULATION RATIO	RESIDENT MEMBERS	MEMBER / POPULATION RATIO	AVERAGE SIZE CHURCH
GEORGIA CONV.	2,930	4,589,569	1:1,566	762,363	1:6.0	260
North Georgia	1,312	2,317,623	1:1,767	392,964	1:5.9	300
Middle Georgia	932	1,314,338	1:1,410	218,076	1:6.0	234
South Georgia	686	957,608	1:1,396	151,323	1:6.3	221

^aSource: Computer Printouts of Uniform Church Letters by Department of Research Services, BSSB.

Georgia Baptists have a very large responsibility for evangelism and missions in the state.

When the Southern Baptist Convention is compared to the nation as a whole, there is one church for every 6,085 persons, and approximately 1 out of every 24 persons in the nation is a Southern Baptist. The other data on Table 19 contain the average size church in the state convention and the study areas. As has been previously noted, the average size church for the Georgia convention is 260 resident members, and there are some differences between the three study areas. The range is from 221 resident members in South Georgia, to the 300 in North Georgia. Most of the larger churches are in North Georgia.

Indicators of Congregational Change

Several data which indicate the changes among the churches of the convention have been assembled and calculated and are contained on Table 20. All five columns are suggestive of the trends among Georgia Baptists that are most important.

In the number of churches, the convention had a net loss in the five-year period of 1969-1973 of 32 churches, which was 2.1%. The bulk of the loss occurred in North Georgia where there was a loss of 35 churches, while South Georgia showed a net gain of 6 and Middle Georgia had a net loss of 3. This loss occurred mainly because of the demise of a number of churches in the Atlanta association, some disbanded, others merged with sister churches in the same association or in other associations, and still others left the affiliation of the Georgia convention to join other groups. It might also be observed that some of the open-country, rural churches in the convention have also disbanded during the five-year period of the study.

TABLE 20

INDICATORS OF CONGREGATIONAL CHANGE IN GEORGIA BAPTIST CONVENTION, 1969-1973^a

CONVENTION AND REGIONS	CHURCHES		RESIDENT MEMBERS		SUNDAY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT		TOTAL RECEIPTS		GIFTS TO MISSIONS	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
GEORGIA CONV.	(-32)	(-2.1)	36,874	5.1	(-25,388)	(-4.2)	27.7	36.3	3.5	31.0
North Georgia	(-35)	(-2.6)	19,578	5.3	(-20,694)	(-6.5)	13.4	32.4	1.8	28.3
Middle Georgia	(-3)	(-.3)	10,003	4.8	(-2,543)	(-1.5)	8.3	39.0	1.0	32.2
South Georgia	6	.9	7,293	5.1	(-2,151)	(-1.8)	6.0	44.4	.7	38.1

^aSource: Computer Printouts of Uniform Church Letter by Department of Research Services, BSSB.

During the same period, the resident membership of the convention as a whole increased by approximately 5%, or almost 37,000 individuals. More than half of this increase came in North Georgia, while Middle Georgia had an increase of approximately 10,000 and South Georgia slightly over 7,000. The Sunday School enrollment at the same time was decreasing by approximately 25,000 individuals, which was a 4% loss, and again the bulk of this loss (81.5%) occurred in North Georgia. The other two study areas have very small net losses in Sunday School enrollment.

The other data on the table indicate the increase in total receipts and gifts to missions among the churches. The churches almost kept pace in their percentage increase in gifts to missions as they received in total gifts. There was a 36% increase (\$27.7 million) in total receipts while the mission gifts increased 31% (\$3.5 million). This indicates some very strong mission commitment on the part of the churches. It is highly likely that the churches will continue to give this kind of support to missions in the future.

Indicators of Congregational Resources

The author has found that one of the best ways to indicate the evangelism thrust of the churches is to calculate data from three previous years and average these to an annual figure, and then calculate a rate per 100 resident members. On Table 21 are the results of these calculations. The first five columns have all been calculated from 1971, 1972, and 1973 data. There is very little variation between the Georgia convention as a whole and the three study areas. There were 77.4 persons per 100 resident members enrolled in the Sunday School, and this normally indicates that there are very few lost and unchurched individuals enrolled in the Sunday School. This is approximately 10 persons per 100 greater than the Southern Baptist Convention enrollment rate.

TABLE 21

INDICATORS OF CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCES IN GEORGIA BAPTIST CONVENTION, 1973^a

CONVENTION AND REGIONS	RATE PER 100 RESIDENT MEMBERS AVERAGED 1971-1973					PER CAPITA DOLLARS		
	S.S. Enr.	Baptisms	Letters	Losses	Net	Total Receipts	Gifts to Missions	Percent Receipts to Missions
GEORGIA CONV.	77.4	4.1	5.2	7.7	1.6	122.70	18.24	14.9
North Georgia	77.5	3.9	5.4	7.6	1.7	125.96	19.23	15.3
Middle Georgia	77.3	4.1	5.0	7.5	1.6	121.57	18.22	15.0
South Georgia	77.4	4.6	5.2	8.2	1.6	115.77	15.64	13.5

^aSource: Computer Printouts of Uniform Church Letters by Department of Research Services, BSSB.

The next four columns indicate a very strong evangelism thrust on the part of the churches, but a very small net gain in resident membership. On the average, over the last three years, the churches of the convention had 4.1 baptisms per 100 resident members and 5.2 additions by letter or statement. At the same time, the churches were averaging a loss of 7.7 members, for a net gain of 1.6 members for every 9.3 additions. This indicates why the resident membership on the previous table showed only a small net gain of 36,000, when the convention as a whole had 210,772 additions during the period 1971 and 1973.

Additional data on Table 21 indicate an average of the per capita dollars total receipts of the churches and the per capita gifts to missions. The convention is slightly under the national figure of Southern Baptists in their average total receipts per capita, which in Georgia was \$122.70 and in the SBC was \$124.16. The per capita receipts of the North Georgia churches were slightly larger than the other areas, but not significantly higher. In gifts to missions, the state gives \$18.24, which is almost 15% of the total receipts. Both of these figures are slightly less than the Southern Baptist Convention figures, which are \$20.19 per capita gifts to missions and 16.3% giving to missions. It should be indicated that these data are indicative that Georgia Baptists have some very sizable resources with which to work in missions and evangelism in Georgia.

Results of Questionnaire Distributed to Georgia Churches

As was mentioned earlier in the study, a questionnaire was prepared for distribution to a selected random sample of churches in the Georgia convention. The response to this questionnaire is discussed in the introduction, along with the methodology for its distribution. One of the questions which was listed on

the questionnaire was "What was the first contact your family had with this church?" The responses to this question from the churches in the three regions are listed on Table 22. The most significant item on the table is that 56.4% of the present members had their first contact through friends that recommended the church to them. In all likelihood, these friends were already members of that church and suggested their own church to the newcomers. The second most frequently listed first contact was a visit from a member of the church (18.4%). Thirdly, was a visit from the pastor, which represented 12.7%. Advertising and a former pastor recommending the church were the next two largest, but less than 1% gave any of the other possible answers as their first contact with the church. There are some variations in the data among the three study areas, but in the main the data for the entire state are representative of the three study areas.

A second question on the questionnaire asked, "What one thing attracted your family to this church?" The respondents were given ten possible answers to the question and the responses are on Table 23. The largest category indicated the fact that it was a Baptist church was the most attractive aspect, followed by family who were already members of the church. Two categories had an equal response: it was a friendly church and a common interest and background with the people of the church. Perhaps the latter of these was related to the first in that friendliness would be generated by persons who have a common interest with those who are already members of the church. The fact that the church was near the family's home was the next most attractive, followed by the worship service, and then the minister himself. It is somewhat surprising that the minister is not as attractive as some of the other categories.

As might be expected, the fact that it was a Baptist church should be the largest category, but perhaps the surprising factors are that 32.9% of the

TABLE 22

FIRST CONTACT WITH CHURCH BY MEMBERS BEFORE THEY JOINED, 1974^a

STATE AND REGIONS	FRIENDS	ADVER- TISEMENT	FORMER PASTOR	LETTER FROM CHURCH	VISIT OF PASTOR	VISIT OF MEMBER	RELIGIOUS SURVEY	BACKYARD BIBLE CLUB	BUS VISITOR
GEORGIA									
Number	2,493	244	200	36	562	815	39	15	20
Percent	56.4	5.5	4.5	0.8	12.7	18.4	0.9	0.3	0.5
North Georgia									
Number	904	100	52	10	207	274	18	4	5
Percent	57.4	6.4	3.3	0.6	13.2	17.4	1.2	0.3	0.3
Middle Georgia									
Number	988	87	89	21	185	310	15	2	8
Percent	58.0	5.1	5.2	1.2	10.9	18.2	0.9	0.1	0.5
South Georgia									
Number	601	57	59	5	170	231	6	9	7
Percent	52.5	5.0	5.2	0.4	14.9	20.2	0.5	0.8	0.6

^aSource: Questionnaires Distributed to Selected Churches.

TABLE 23

MOST ATTRACTIVE ASPECT OF THE CHURCH TO MEMBERS WHEN THEY JOINED, 1974^a

STATE AND REGIONS	BAPTIST CHURCH	WORSHIP SERVICE	NEAR HOME	BECAUSE OF CHILDREN	MINISTER	FRIENDLINESS	FAMILY CHURCH	CHURCH PROGRAM	FACILITIES	COMMON INTEREST OF BACKGROUND AS PEOPLE OF CHURCH
GEORGIA TOTALS										
Number	1,236	483	573	116	203	611	1,025	110	6	614
Percent	24.8	9.7	11.5	2.3	4.1	12.3	20.6	2.2	0.1	12.3
North Georgia										
Number	366	211	199	56	96	195	386	73	2	201
Percent	20.5	11.8	11.2	3.1	5.4	10.9	21.6	4.1	0.1	11.3
Middle Georgia										
Number	481	174	235	39	71	266	367	26	3	201
Percent	25.8	9.3	12.6	2.1	3.8	14.3	19.7	1.4	0.2	10.8
South Georgia										
Number	389	98	139	21	36	150	272	11	1	212
Percent	29.3	7.4	10.5	1.6	2.7	11.3	20.5	0.8	0.1	16.0

^aSource: Questionnaires Distributed to Selected Churches.

people indicated that either family in the church or the friendliness of the church was the most attractive aspect for them. This seemed highly significant to this author, and indicates that probably most of the people who join the churches are joining as a result of the invitation of friends or family. Probably these two factors help generate a friendly attitude toward prospective families as they visit in the congregation.

All of the data on the questionnaire were computerized and several analyses were run to determine the trends. One of the most interesting facts that was uncovered in this research was that 72.7% of the respondents lived in families where there were three or less persons in the family. Thirty-eight percent of the families had two members, and approximately one out of every seven (15%) members in Georgia Baptist churches lives alone. In contrast, only 4% of the families have 6 or more members. Most of the families (80%) in the survey indicated that there was no one in their family above the age of 10 years (living at home) that was not a member of the church. This indicates that there are very few non-church members among the families of those attending Georgia Baptist churches. Most of those who indicated that there was some one in their family that was not a church member had only one person that was not a church member.

One of the more surprising facts that came out of the statistical analysis of the questionnaires was the percentage of persons who were reared in rural areas and those reared in metropolitan areas. The data indicate that almost 28% of the persons actually responding to the questionnaire lived in places of less than 2,500 for most of their lives, and about 5% have spent most of their lives in places of 500,000 or more. About 13.5% of the persons indicated that they had spent most of their lives in places of 2,500 to 20,000 and 14% in places of 20,000 to 500,000. This indicates that Georgia Baptists still

have a very significant group who have a rural orientation and background, although most of these people would have made adjustments to their present location. When these data are contrasted with the fact that 44.5% of the resident members are located in metropolitan counties it becomes readily understandable to church leaders that a large percentage of the church members do not readily relate to the large cities.

Selected Church Data

On Table 24 are data which indicate the trends among the churches of the Georgia Baptist Convention for the period 1969 to 1973. These data indicate that the number of churches declined by 62 between 1969 and 1973. During the same time there was a net increase in the total membership of approximately 37,000 individuals, and an increase of 53,449 in the resident membership. This, of course, is a much greater increase in resident membership than in the total membership, and the only explanation for this that could be given is that the churches were reaching more of the "permanent" population during the five years under study than they had been in previous years. It may also represent an "emptying" of the total membership list of some non-resident members and others who have died or were unknown.

During the five years there were 149,313 persons who were baptized, for an average baptism rate of 4.0 and there were 195,647 persons added to the membership by letter and statement. This gives a total number of additions of 344,960, which is an addition rate of 9.3 persons per 100 resident members. The net gain rate was 1.4 per 100 and when this is subtracted from the total addition rate there is a net loss rate of 7.9 per 100 resident members. The interpretation of this data is that for every person added to the resident membership, eight are lost. This indicates a very high mobility among

TABLE 24

SUMMARY OF SELECTED CHURCH DATA FOR GEORGIA BAPTIST CONVENTION, 1969-1973

CONVENTION TOTALS	YEARS				
	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969
Total Churches	2,930	2,932	2,943	2,962	2,992
Total Membership	1,050,068	1,040,056	1,026,652	1,013,280	1,013,111
Resident Membership	762,363	763,264	739,408	725,489	708,914
Baptisms	29,647	33,095	30,107	28,641	27,823
Baptism Rate ^b	3.9	4.5	4.1	4.0	NA
Other Additions	39,576	40,978	37,432	37,772	39,889
Enrollments					
Sunday School	578,380	587,033	588,005	603,768	622,986
Church Training	162,460	171,189	173,409	185,058	191,887
Total Receipts	103,805,945	90,628,246	83,494,491	76,140,614	72,768,024
Per Capita Receipts ^c	136.16	118.74	112.92	104.95	102.65
Gifts to Missions	14,860,831	13,807,729	12,640,373	11,344,297	11,229,221
Per Capita Missions ^c	19.49	18.09	17.10	15.64	15.84
Perc. Miss.of Tot. Rec.	14.3	15.2	15.1	14.9	15.4

^aSource: Computer printouts of Uniform Church Letter by Department of Research Services, BSSB.

^bDivide baptisms by previous year's resident membership to get rate per 100 members.

^cDivide total of each item by resident membership for that year.

Georgia Baptists and even though the churches have been very strong in additions, they have been losing almost as many persons as they have been adding to the membership.

Both the Sunday School and Church Training enrollments have shown slight decreases over the five-period, but total receipts and gifts to missions have shown significant increases. There has been a 42.7% increase in the total receipts of the churches, and the per capita giving has increased approximately \$34. The per capita receipts of the Georgia churches (\$136.16) is slightly higher than the Southern Baptist Convention figure of \$120 per capita. Gifts to missions have increased by approximately \$3,500,000 during this same period, or 32.3%. The increase in mission giving per capita was \$3.65. The percentage of receipts that were given to missions has changed very little during the period, which indicates a consistent dedication to mission giving among Georgia Baptists.

There are three tables of data, Table 25, 26, and 27, which give five-year profiles of church data in each of the three study areas. The reader can observe the changes in each of the study areas and note the significant differences from the trend in the state as a whole.

Inventory of Local Church Ministries

As a part of the state-wide survey of church members in Georgia, an attempt was made to generate some information about ministries in the local churches other than the five church program organizations (Sunday School, Church Training, WMU, Brotherhood, and Music Ministry). The data from this survey are indicated on Tables 28, 29, and 30. On Table 28 is a listing of the ministries by categories in the three study areas that are present in the churches.

TABLE 25

SUMMARY OF SELECTED CHURCH DATA FOR NORTH GEORGIA REGION
OF GEORGIA BAPTIST CONVENTION, 1969-1973^a

REGION TOTALS	YEARS				
	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969
Total Churches	1,312	1,321	1,326	1,347	1,382
Total Membership	540,458	538,767	533,241	525,524	531,223
Resident Membership	392,964	399,471	383,491	373,386	363,870
Baptisms	14,422	16,078	15,457	15,027	14,419
Baptism Rate ^b	3.6	4.2	4.1	4.1	NA
Other Additions	20,417	22,381	20,113	20,948	21,246
Enrollments					
Sunday School	296,503	305,878	308,862	317,197	330,961
Church Training	69,564	75,462	77,292	83,736	86,984
Total Receipts	54,755,138	48,399,069	44,963,744	41,360,943	39,586,582
Per Capita Receipts ^c	139.34	121.16	117.25	110.77	108.79
Gifts to Missions	8,033,672	7,520,403	7,064,238	6,262,245	6,397,890
Per Capita Missions ^c	20.44	18.83	18.42	16.77	17.58
Perc.Miss.of Tot.Rec.	14.7	15.5	15.7	15.1	16.2

^aSource: Computer printouts of Uniform Church Letter by Department of Research Services, BSSB.

^bDivide baptisms by previous year's resident membership to get rate per 100 members.

^cDivide total of each item by resident membership for that year.

TABLE 26

SUMMARY OF SELECTED CHURCH DATA FOR MIDDLE GEORGIA REGION
OF GEORGIA BAPTIST CONVENTION, 1969-1973^a

REGION TOTALS	YEARS				
	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969
Total Churches	932	929	930	935	930
Total Membership	296,872	292,069	287,381	283,617	280,772
Resident Membership	218,076	213,384	211,217	208,073	204,729
Baptisms	9,180	9,237	8,156	7,997	7,442
Baptism Rate ^b	4.3	4.4	3.9	3.9	NA
Other Additions	11,270	10,528	10,188	9,820	10,776
Enrollments					
Sunday School	166,509	165,149	164,844	169,052	172,059
Church Training	50,654	52,985	53,560	57,181	59,013
Total Receipts	29,631,373	25,229,637	23,268,240	21,326,485	20,561,420
Per Capita Receipts ^c	135.88	118.24	110.16	102.50	100.43
Gifts to Missions	4,240,450	3,916,071	3,550,707	3,208,360	3,066,039
Per Cepita Missions ^c	19.44	18.35	16.81	15.42	14.98
Perc. Miss.of Tot.Rec.	14.3	15.5	15.3	15.0	14.9

^aSource: Computer printouts of Uniform Church Letter by Department of Research Services, BSSB.

^bDivide baptisms by previous year's resident membership to get rate per 100 members.

^cDivide total of each item by resident membership for that year.

TABLE 27

SUMMARY OF SELECTED CHURCH DATA FOR SOUTH GEORGIA REGION
OF GEORGIA BAPTIST CONVENTION, 1969-1973^a

REGION TOTALS	YEARS				
	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969
Total Churches	686	682	687	680	680
Total Membership	212,738	209,220	206,030	204,139	201,116
Resident Membership	151,323	150,409	144,700	144,030	140,315
Baptisms	6,045	7,780	6,494	5,617	5,962
Baptism Rate ^b	4.0	5.4	4.5	4.0	NA
Other Additions	7,889	8,069	7,131	7,004	7,867
Enrollments					
Sunday School	115,368	116,006	114,299	117,519	119,966
Church Training	42,242	42,742	42,557	44,141	45,890
Total Receipts	19,419,434	16,999,540	15,262,507	13,453,186	12,620,022
Per Capita Receipts ^c	128.33	113.02	105.48	93.41	89.94
Gifts to Missions	2,586,709	2,371,255	2,025,428	1,873,692	1,765,292
Per Capita Missions ^c	17.09	15.77	14.00	13.01	12.58
Perc.Miss.of Tot.Rec.	13.3	13.9	13.3	13.9	14.0

^aSource: Computer printouts of Uniform Church Letter by Department of Research Services, BSSB.

^bDivide baptisms by previous year's resident membership to get rate per 100 members.

^cDivide total of each item by resident membership for that year.

TABLE 28

INVENTORY OF LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES IN GEORGIA BAPTIST CHURCHES^a

CATEGORIES OR MINISTRIES	NUMBER OF CHURCHES							
	TOTAL		NORTH GEORGIA		MIDDLE GEORGIA		SOUTH GEORGIA	
	Number ^b	Percent ^c	Number ^b	Percent ^d	Number ^b	Percent ^d	Number ^b	Percent ^d
WEEKDAY EDUCATION MIN.								
Adult Education	14	9.0	7	13.5	4	7.1	3	6.4
Kindergarten	6	3.9	2	3.8	4	7.1		
Literacy Classes								
Job Training								
Tutoring								
Library	15	9.7	5	9.6	7	12.5	3	6.4
Bible Study in Church	53	34.2	21	40.4	16	28.6	16	34.0
Bible Study in Home	19	12.3	7	13.5	6	10.7	6	12.8
Mission VBS	19	12.3	8	15.4	7	12.5	4	8.5
Other	7	4.5	2	3.8	4	7.1	1	2.1
DAY CARE MINISTRIES								
Preschool	2	1.3			2	3.6		
Before-After School	1	0.6			1	1.8		
Mature Adult								
Short-Time Care	3	1.9	1	1.9	1	1.8	1	2.1
Mother's Day Out	2	1.3	1	1.9	1	1.8		
Other	1	0.6			1	1.8		
HUMAN WELFARE MIN.								
Clothing Distribution	41	26.5	16	30.8	10	17.9	15	31.9
Food Distribution	37	23.9	12	23.1	13	23.2	12	25.5
Medical Clinics								
Well-Baby Clinics								
Prenatal Care	1	0.6	1	1.9				
Legal Assistance								
Counseling	26	16.8	9	17.3	7	12.5	10	21.3
Dental Clinics								
Other	7	4.5	2	3.8	4	7.1	1	2.1
COMMUNITY CLUBS								
Mother's Club	1	0.6	1	1.9				
Father's Club								
Teen Club	6	3.9	1	1.9	1	1.8	4	8.5
Mature Adult Club	3	1.9			2	3.6	1	2.1
Boy Scouts	8	5.2	3	5.8	4	7.1	1	2.1
Girl Scouts	1	0.6	1	1.9				
Camp Fire Girls								
Other	5	3.2	4	7.7	1	1.8		

^aSource: Questionnaires distributed to selected churches.

^bMinistries are sponsored by either local church, with another local church, the association, or a combination.

^cPercent is percent of total churches in study (155).

^dPercent is percent of total churches in study for each region in Georgia (NG-52, MG-56; SG-47).

TABLE 28

INVENTORY OF LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES IN GEORGIA BAPTIST CHURCHES^a
(continued)

CATEGORIES OR MINISTRIES	NUMBER OF CHURCHES							
	TOTAL		NORTH GEORGIA		MIDDLE GEORGIA		SOUTH GEORGIA	
	Number ^b	Percent ^c	Number ^b	Percent ^d	Number ^b	Percent ^d	Number ^b	Percent ^d
SPECIAL GROUPS								
Migrants	1	0.6					1	2.1
Juvenile Delinquents	4	2.6	3	5.8	1	1.8		
Alcoholics	2	1.3	1	1.9			1	2.1
College Students	8	5.2	2	3.8	3	5.4	3	6.4
Internationals								
Catholics								
Jews								
Language Groups								
Negroes	1	0.6	1	1.9				
Deaf								
Ex-Prisoner & Family	1	0.6	1	1.9				
Other	9	5.8	2	3.8	5	8.9	2	4.3
SPECIAL PLACES								
Resort Areas	9	5.8	6	11.5	3	5.4		
Convalescent Home	52	33.5	17	32.7	21	37.5	14	29.8
Jails	8	5.2	5	9.6	2	3.6	1	2.1
Other	10	6.5	2	3.8	5	8.9	3	6.4
CHAPLAINCY MIN.								
Industrial	3	1.9					3	6.4
Hospital	26	16.8	13	25.0	7	12.5	6	12.8
Institutional	3	1.9	1	1.9	1	1.8	1	2.1
Other	5	3.2	1	1.9	3	5.4	1	2.1
Bus Ministry	18	11.6	7	13.5	10	17.9	1	2.1
Church-Type Mission (Intended to be self- supporting in future)	7	4.5	5	9.6	1	1.8	1	2.1
Church-Type Mission (Intended never to be self-supporting)	2	1.3					2	4.3

There was a total of 155 churches that responded to the questionnaire, with 52 of these being in North Georgia, 56 in Middle Georgia, and 47 in South Georgia. There were 183 churches that received the questionnaire, and since 155 returned it this is a completion rate of 84.7%. Of the 155 there were 52 churches (33.6%) that had no ministries other than the regular five church program organizations. The most frequently listed ministry among Georgia churches is a Bible study in the church at some time other than Sunday School (34.2%). The next most frequently indicated ministry was in convalescent homes, and this was 33.5%. This ministry would likely indicate a Bible study or worship service. The next two most frequently indicated ministries were clothing distribution (26.5%) and food distribution (23.9%). A casual reading of the list and observation of the number of churches having each will give the reader an understanding that most of the churches did not indicate any type of ministry in their community other than the church program organizations. It is surprising that only 11.6% of the churches who responded to the questionnaire indicated a bus ministry and only nine indicated a church-type mission.

On Table 29 are data which indicate the type of ministries by church size, while on Table 30 are data which indicate the type of ministries by church location. There is a correlation between the church size and the number of ministries offered. Since there is an increase in the number of ministries as the church size increases in all categories except churches with 300 to 400 members. As might be expected, the larger churches have considerably more ministries than those in the smaller and middle range. For instance, those churches with 400 to 500 members offer 5.9 ministries per church, while those in the category 2,000 to 3,000 offer 10 ministries. The largest number of ministries fall into the week-day and day-care categories, with human welfare ministries being

TABLE 29

NUMBER OF CHURCHES AND MINISTRIES BY SIZE OF CHURCH^a

CATEGORIES OR MINISTRIES	CHURCH SIZE												TOTAL
	1- 49	50- 99	100- 149	150- 199	200- 299	300- 399	400- 499	500- 999	1,000- 1,499	1,500- 1,999	2,000- 2,999	3,000+	
No. Chs. in Study	2	25	39	43	16	10	7	10	2	0	1	0	155
Total Ministries	3	28	95	124	64	16	41	54	12	NA	10	NA	447
Ministries per Ch.	1.5	1.1	2.4	2.9	4.0	1.6	5.9	5.4	6.0	NA	10.0	NA	2.9
Weekday		13	30	40	16	3	13	11	3		4		133
Day Care			2	1	1		1	3			1		9
Human Welfare	2	6	27	32	19	5	6	12			3		112
Community Clubs		2	3	4	2	1	5	4	2		1		24
Special Groups		1	3	10	4	1	3	3	1				26
Special Places		5	16	21	10	5	8	10	3		1		79
Chaplaincy	1	1	7	8	8		4	7	1				37
Bus			5	4	3	1	1	3	1				18
Church-Type ^b			2	3	1				1				7
Church-Type ^c				1				1					2

^aSource: Questionnaires distributed to selected churches.^bIntended to become self-supporting in future.^cNot intended to become self-supporting.

TABLE 30

NUMBER OF CHURCHES AND MINISTRIES BY LOCATION^a

CATEGORIES OR MINISTRIES	Open Country	Village Under 500	Town 500- 2,499	City 2,500- 9,999	City 10,000-49,999			City 50,000+			TOTAL
					Down- town	Neigh- borhood	Sub- urban	Down- town	Neigh- borhood	Sub- urban	
Number of Chs. in Study	83	19	15	16	2	4	5	0	4	7	155
Total Ministries	182	44	50	63	6	25	22	NA	11	44	447
Ministries Per Church	2.2	2.3	3.3	3.9	3.0	6.3	4.4	NA	2.8	6.3	2.9
Weekday	64	12	13	18		9	4		1	12	133
Day Care	3					2				4	9
Human Welfare	51	9	20	13	2	3	8			6	112
Community Clubs	4	4	2	6		3			1	4	24
Special Groups	8	6	1	2		2	2		1	4	26
Special Places	32	7	5	13	1	3	5		5	8	79
Chaplaincy	10	4	6	8	2	2	2		1	2	37
Bus	7	2	1	1	1	1	1		2	2	18
Church-Type ^b	3		2	1						1	7
Church-Type ^c				1						1	2

^aSource: Questionnaires distributed to selected churches.^bIntended to be self-supporting in future.^cNot intended to become self-supporting.

only slightly less. Also, as might be expected the churches in the cities offer more ministries than those of the rural and small town areas. The established neighborhood churches in cities of 10,000 to 50,000 and the suburban churches in cities of 50,000 or more offer the largest number of ministries per church. The average for the total convention is 2.9 ministries per church, which does indicate some significant commitment on the part of the churches to ministry in the community in addition to the regular five church program organizations.

CONCLUSIONS

The following information is the result of the author's observations of the data presented here and other material accumulated on Georgia and the Georgia Baptist Convention. It is an attempt by the author to share his thoughts and to give some basis for a discussion of the report.

1. The population of Georgia is sizable since in 1970 it was 4,589,569 and has been increasing at approximately 100,000 persons per year. About 60% of all population is located in the urban areas, but only about 30% of the churches are located in the urban areas.

2. There is significant ethnicity in the state since 327,833 (7%) of the population have a non-English mother tongue, an additional 111,500 (2.4%) is foreign stock, and approximately 45,000 are Spanish origin. Further, approximately one-fourth of the state's population is black. All of these data indicate that Georgia Baptists are facing a very diverse ethnic population and programs should be initiated that will reach all kinds of people.

3. The report indicates that a majority of the population was born in Georgia (73.9%). In addition to this, approximately 14% of the state's population in 1970 was born in another Southern state. In the churches it was found that approximately 75% of all church members were born in the state and 19.5% were born in another Southern state. This indicates that Georgia Baptists are slightly more Southern in origin than is the state population.

4. The church members are slightly older (30.7 years) than the general population (25.9 years). This indicates that the churches have not done well in reaching young adults. Approximately 24% of the state's population is in the age bracket 20 to 29 years, but only 14% of the churches' membership

are in this age group. It will take a great deal of effort for the churches to reach this "lost generation" that grew up in the 50s and 60s and represents the largest generation in the U.S. population.

5. There is a large number of functional illiterates and non-reading individuals in the population of the state. Approximately 11% of the state's population over 25 years of age are functionally illiterate, and an additional 25% are non-readers (have 7 to 8 years of formal education). The percentage of high school graduates in the population of the state is 40.6%, which is slightly less than the 52% in the nation as a whole. This indicates that the churches must have the kinds of programs that will reach persons with all kinds of educational attainment in order to minister to the whole community.

6. Membership of the churches is more white-collar in employment than is true in the state as a whole. The report indicates that 57.6% of all employed persons in the state have a white-collar job while in the churches it is 76.3%. This indicates that the churches are doing a much better job of reaching white-collar persons than other employment groups. Some churches who have the skills and ability to reach blue-collar and "no-collar" persons should give emphasis to the reaching of these kinds of people since they represent almost 43% of the population of the state, but only about 23% of the churches' membership.

7. It was found that Georgia residents are not as mobile as the remainder of the nation. Almost half (48.6%) of the Georgia residents in 1970 have remained in the same house for approximately five years. In addition to these, 34% have moved within the state of Georgia. Of those who have come from outside of the state of Georgia, 64% came from another Southern state.

8. In the matter of housing characteristics, it was found that more of the church members live in their own home than is true in the general population. About 57% of all residents in the state live in their own home, but 85.3% of the church members live in their own home. This again indicates to Southern and Georgia Baptists that we have not learned to reach the apartment dweller or the persons who live in rented houses.

9. There is a very large unchurched population in the state. The data in the report indicate that 46.2% of the Georgia residents belong to a church in Georgia. This gives the churches a real challenge in the number and percentage of persons in the state who do not belong to any church.

10. Small and rural churches are prevalent in the state since 61.7% of them have less than 300 total members, and 71% are rural in location. About half of all the churches are open-country churches, and an additional 20.5% are located in places of less than 2,500 in population.

11. Georgia Baptists have made a very deep penetration into the resident population of the state. There is one church for every 1,566 individuals, and one out of every six persons is a Georgia Baptist. This is a commendable penetration, but it also gives Georgia Baptists a responsibility to be efficient in reaching the present residents, the newcomers, and the new generations as they grow up in the state.

12. In the matter of church growth, there has been a very small increase in the total membership and organizations of the Georgia Baptist Churches. There has been a slight decline in the number of churches in the convention and the Sunday School and Church Training enrollments have both decreased during the five year period 1969 to 1973. There has been an increase in the total membership of 36,874 (5.1%) during this same period.

13. The increase in the receipts and mission gifts has been very significant. The report indicates that the total receipts of the churches have increased approximately 36% from 1969 to 1973 and gifts to missions have increased approximately 31%. As was mentioned in the report, this indicates a very strong missions commitment on the part of Georgia Baptists and it is highly likely that this will continue in the future.

14. The evangelism thrust of Georgia Baptists has been very strong since there has been an average baptism rate of 4.1 during the past three years and a letter rate of 5.2. This means that for every ten resident church members, there has been one addition during each of the last three years. At the same time that this evangelism thrust was occurring, there has been a very small net gain of 1.6 persons per 100 resident members, which would calculate to a loss rate of 7.7. The interpretation of this is that for every 9.3 additions, there has been a loss of 7.7 members, for a net gain of 1.6.

15. The churches of the Georgia Baptist Convention are dependent upon the family and friends of the new members to recommend the church to them. The report indicates that the first contact of 56.4% of all members was through friends, and 18.4% had their first contact when a member of the church visited in their home. The report further indicates that almost 1/5 of the church members had family who were already members of the church when they joined. Approximately 12.3% found friendliness to be the most attractive factor to them about the church. In addition, 12% of the present members had a common interest with the church before they joined it. All of these data combined indicate that for the most part, it is the influence of family and friends that bring new members into Georgia Baptist Churches.