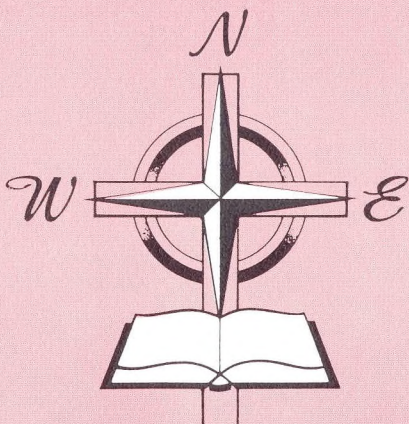


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PIONEER MISSIONS in NEW YORK



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The Empire State is one of the original thirteen states, the largest in the Northeast. Its physical features present great variety. It has a seacoast which includes one of the world's greatest harbors, a mountain system which at one point attains over 5,000 feet, a system of navigable rivers and a vast number of lakes totaling over 2,000.

New York covers 49,576 square miles (about the size of Louisiana) and is divided into 62 counties. Total population was 16,479,143 in 1960, a 13.2 percent decade increase, or 200,000 per year. New York has long been noted for the size, ethnical diversity and uneven distribution of its population. The first Dutch settlers of 1609 found numerous Indian groups, which account for the many cities and towns being named in their honor. "New Netherland" (later New York) had by 1644 a population representing many northern European nationalities. Even to the present day more than 85 languages are spoken throughout the state and newspapers are published in 57 languages in New York City alone!

The 1960 population consists of: whites, 15,287,071; Negroes, 1,417,511 (more than the state of Mississippi); Italians, 858,601; Spanish-speaking, 800,000; Chinese, 37,573; Indians, 16,491; Japanese, 8,702; and 9,553 others.

A majority of the members of each national group arriving in New York City has usually remained there. In up-state New York many national groups have contributed largely as factory workers, truck and dairy farmers, businessmen and have distinguished themselves in fields of political, economic, and social endeavor. Each group has brought a large cultural contribution to the life of the state and nation.

Religions and Spiritual Background

The religious life of New York is illustrated by one up-state county of a quarter million people. Sixty percent of the county's population are

church members (U.S. average is 64 percent) divided as follows:

Catholic	24%
Methodist	10%
Presbyterian	4%
Episcopal	3%
Lutheran	2%
Others	13%
Nonchurch Members	40%

As early as 1656, there was a Baptist witness on Long Island, a witness that was stilled with the arrest and banishment of the preacher for baptizing without permission of the state. The first record of a Baptist church was at Oyster Bay, Long Island, in 1700.

The Philadelphia association was formed in 1707, the territory extending from Rhode Island to Virginia. Five New York churches cooperated. In 1792, there were 57 known Baptist churches in the state, with a membership of 4,895. By 1807 the number had grown to 170.

Other denominations were strong: Episcopal (English influence); Catholic (Irish and Southern European); Lutheran (Scandinavian); Methodist, and Presbyterian.

In 1818, Charles G. Finney was converted in Adams, New York, and today is recognized as the one who sired the evangelistic movement in America. Whole communities in up-state New York were brought beneath his Spirit-filled preaching.

In 1908, 844 churches reported 164,538 members. The Great Religious Awakening in the final decade of the century accounts for the rapid increase of new churches. In 1929, there were 1,029 churches reported in the Northern (American) Baptist Convention with membership reaching 228,700 in 1940. The decline since then is seen in the random-selected dates below:

Year	Churches	Baptisms	Membership	State Population	Ratio
1792	57		4,895		
1807	150				
1812			19,242	959,049	1-49.8
1832		5,668	60,006		
1837	660	4,385	65,584		
1900	943	6,399	152,716	7,268,894	1-47.6
1929	1,029	6,947	210,046		
1930	1,026	6,934	213,697	12,588,066	1-58.9
1931	900	5,964	195,492		
1940	817	4,967	228,700	13,429,142	1-58.7
1947	781	4,023	216,188		
1948	708	4,672	180,572		
1960	585	3,926	132,581	16,479,143	1-126.6
1961	596	3,843	144,599		
1962	588	3,578	145,063		

OBSERVATIONS

Since 1929, total American Baptist churches have fallen from 1,029 to 588, a loss of 441. This is more than one per month. Actual losses are greater by 91, since approximately 40 new churches have been started (about one per year) and 51 Negro churches have been admitted.

Membership has fallen by 83,637 people since 1940, an average of 3,800 per year, a net loss of more than 10 per day for 22 continuous years.

Federated churches total 32, with Methodists, Presbyterians, and Congregationalists included with Baptists in the 6,923 reported members.

Twenty-seven churches have non-Baptist pastors.

In 1962, membership gains were reported at 7,592 and losses at 7,905 a net loss of 413 members. Sunday School enrollment is 69,957, some 75,106 less than church membership. Resident membership is 116,550 with 20 percent (28,513) nonresident.

The following table will help to see today's strength:

NEW YORK STATE (1962)	Churches	Members
American Baptists	588	145,663
General Association of		
Regular Baptists	130	18,330 (est)
Conservative Baptists	72	15,984 (est)
"Independent" Baptists (est)	100	9,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	890	188,977 or 1.1
		percent of population
Southern Baptists (1965)	62	5,185

Surveys indicate that while 50-60 percent of the population claim church affiliation, only 1/5 of total population can be found in *any* church of *any* community on *any* given Sunday.

Our Southern Baptist Story

PAST

Because of the shift of population and economic opportunities since World War II many people of the "Bible Belt" found themselves living in New York State. In 1954, Southern Baptist work with 30 in attendance was started in Niagara Falls. On May 5, a group from Alabama, working on the Niagara Power Project, called a pastor and held services in the YMCA. The church was constituted on June 24, 1955, with 54 charter members. They became affiliated with Southern Baptists in Ohio.

In 1957, chapels started in Syracuse and Manhattan, a borough of New York City.

PRESENT

There are three associations in the state:

Frontier (Western New York) affiliated with Ohio; Central and Metropolitan, affiliated with Baptist Convention of Maryland.

1965	Churches	Chapels	Membership
*Metropolitan	18	18	3,200
**Central	6	9	1,250
***Frontier	6	5	735
	<u>30</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>5,185</u>

*Includes Northern New Jersey—Connecticut

**Includes one in New England

***Includes two in Pennsylvania

The Southern Baptist ministry is reaching:

- Baptists of the South transferred to local areas and often forming the nucleus for a new chapel.
- Unenlisted Christian people of various denominational backgrounds.
- Unreached people for Jesus Christ.

FUTURE

Projected goals through 1967 are:

	Membership	
Central association	1,700	
Frontier association	1,293	Total churches: 46
Metropolitan association . .	4,000	Total chapels: 47

Policies Toward Other Evangelicals and Religious Groups

Participation in community surveys and census.

Sharing and receiving information with regional planning of the Council of Churches.

Identifying Needs to Meet the Present Challenge

Reinforcements of pastors to bring the witness of Southern Baptists to a realistic maximum.

Money to purchase sites in advance of development at key places in the ever-expanding urban areas.

Mission centers in our cities.

300 Southern Baptist churches in communities listed with population of 10,000 or more without any kind of a Baptist witness.

1,000 Southern Baptist churches to meet needs of people already here.

Enlistment of more workers (US-2; Christian Service Corps including Tentmakers; seminary couples; student summer missionaries).

A consciousness of the mission needs by the thousands of Southern Baptist people who move to New York and who will dedicate themselves to God's will and leadership; who know and follow the Southern Baptist program; who set worthy examples of Christian living; who will witness

and practice faithful stewardship of material means.

Gifts and loans to undergird the purchase of land and the erection of church buildings.

Churches in the South who will "adopt" a church or chapel in New York.

Prayer for wisdom, guidance, and strength for the laborers already working here.

Is the Southern Baptist Convention Meeting the Needs and Challenge Through Its Agencies?

Home Mission Board through mission pastoral aid; loans for sites and buildings; literature and conferences; associational and area missionary salaries; ministry to college students and West Point; personnel to language groups and student summer missionaries.

Sunday School Board through supplying literature and hymnbooks; conferences and clinics within the state, undergirding the work of the Sunday School; Training Union and music ministries.

Woman's Missionary Union through leadership for societies and auxiliaries; providing camps, clinics, and conferences.

Brotherhood through layman and preacher crusades; surveys, and census.

Come Where The People Are!

If numbers alone make any demands upon the Great Commission, New York well qualifies. One person out of every 11 in America lives here. More than 1/3 of the people live in the 1,392 villages of less than 5,000 population. Some eight million live in the "big" city. All of them need Christ. Local leadership envision the day when the Empire State will become a strong "Baptist empire" for world mission outreach. We are well on our way!

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DEPARTMENT OF
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