

BAPTIST VIEWpoll

November, 1983

VIEWpoll is a cooperative effort of the Sunday School Board and Home Mission Board to monitor quarterly certain key areas of Southern Baptists' awareness, thought, and action.

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BAPTIST VIEWpoll FOR NOVEMBER, 1983

I. INTRODUCTION

This report is a presentation of the findings from the November, 1983 poll of the Baptist VIEWpoll panel.

There are currently 618 members (252 pastors, 196 ministers of education, and 170 directors of missions) on the Baptist VIEWpoll panel. Of these, 86.9 percent (219) of the pastors, 90.3 percent (177) of the ministers of education, and 96.5 percent (164) of the directors of missions participated in the November poll.

Items on the November poll involved five areas of interest:

- 1983 Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions
- Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal
- Percent of budget designated for Cooperative Program
- Functions of a Director of Missions
- Major roles of a Director of Missions

II. COMMENTS ON THE FINDINGS

COMMENTS A THROUGH D RELATE ONLY TO PASTORS AND MINISTERS OF EDUCATION.

A. The majority of the pastors in the survey report that their churches promote members' awareness of the needs and work of the Foreign Mission Board (FMB) in the following ways: (1) promotion poster(s) placed in church (86%); (2) distribution of offering envelopes to all members (86%); (3) promotion in church bulletin (85%); (4) program by WMU during Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions (79%); (5) month-long promotion of offering goal (79%); (6) Sunday morning emphasis including special mission sermon (73%); (7) mission books taught in mission organization(s) (60%); and (8) promotion in church newsletter (57%).

According to the majority of the ministers of education in the survey, their churches promote members' awareness of the needs and work of the FMB in the following ways: (1) promotion in church bulletin (90%); (2) program by WMU during Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions (87%);

(3) promotion poster(s) placed in church (85%); (4) promotion in church newsletter (85%); (5) distribution of offering envelopes to all members (85%); (6) month-long promotion of offering goal (80%); (7) mission books taught in mission organization(s) (61%); (8) Sunday morning emphasis including special mission sermon (58%); and (9) special displays set up for promotion (51%).

- B. Ninety-six percent of the ministers of education and 92 percent of the pastors serve in churches that set a Lottie Moon Christmas offering goal each year.

Of those who set a Lottie Moon Christmas offering goal each year:

- 32 percent of the pastors and 27 percent of the ministers of education serve in churches in which the WMU either sets or suggests the goal; 21 percent of the pastors and 15 percent of the ministers of education serve in churches in which the church council either sets or suggests the goal; and 17 percent of the pastors and 28 percent of the ministers of education serve in churches where the missions committee either sets or suggests the goal.
- 88 percent of the ministers of education and 79 percent of the pastors reported that their goal had already been set for 1983 at the time of the survey--November-December, 1983.
- 80 percent of the ministers of education and 72 percent of the pastors reported that their 1983 goal was "more than" their 1982 goal, and of these, the largest portion (25% of the pastors and 29% of the ministers of education) reported a 9-10 percent increase in the goal.
- 94 percent of the pastors and 91 percent of the ministers of education "expected" to reach their 1983 offering goal.

- C. The largest portion of the churches represented in the survey (24% of the pastors and 23% of the ministers of education) have designated 10 percent of their 1984 budget to the Cooperative Program. Forty-nine percent of the pastors and 51 percent of the ministers of education represent churches that have designated more than 10 percent of their 1984 budgets to the Cooperative Program.

Figure 1 compares the current data on this item with data on the same item collected from the same individuals two years ago. The figure reveals little overall change for pastors (53% represent churches giving more than 10% in 1984 compared to 50% in 1982) and ministers of education (55% represent churches giving more than 10% in 1984 compared to 58% in 1982). (It is not known how many of these staff members are still serving in the same churches.)

- D. The majority of the pastors (59%) and ministers of education (54%) represent churches that have not changed the Cooperative Program percent of the budget for 1984 as compared to 1983. However, 31 percent of the churches represented by pastors have raised the Cooperative Program percentage of the 1984 budget either "less than one percentage point" (9%) or "one percentage point or more" (22%). Further, 35 percent of the churches represented by ministers of education have raised the Cooperative Program percentage of the 1984 budget either "less than one percentage point" (10%) or "one percentage point or more" (25%). Five percent of the churches represented by each of the staff groups have lowered the Cooperative Program percentage of their 1984 budget as compared to 1983.

This same item appeared on the November, 1981 poll, and Figure 2 reveals that overall percentages involving the same individuals in both time periods (November, 1981 and November, 1983) did not change significantly. However, within the churches represented by both panel groups there appears to be some moving around--both increases and decreases.

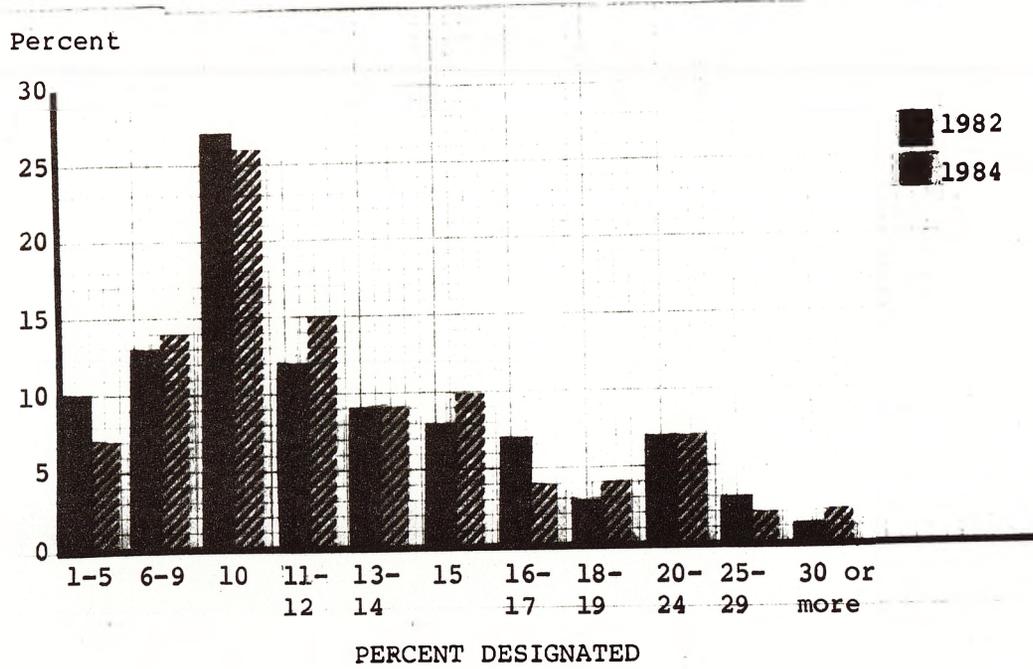
COMMENTS E THROUGH G RELATE ONLY TO DIRECTORS OF MISSIONS.

- E. For the 1983 Week of Prayer for Foreign Mission, the majority of the directors of missions report that their associations were going to promote Baptists' awareness of the needs and work of the Foreign Mission Board in the following ways: (1) promotion in the associational newsletter (96%); (2) the director of missions speaking in the churches (76%); (3) special promotional efforts by the associational WMU committee or other associational committees (73%); and (4) securing of furloughing missionaries to speak in the churches (52%).

FIGURE 1

PERCENT OF BUDGET DESIGNATED FOR COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

PASTORS



PERCENT OF BUDGET DESIGNATED FOR COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

MINISTERS OF EDUCATION

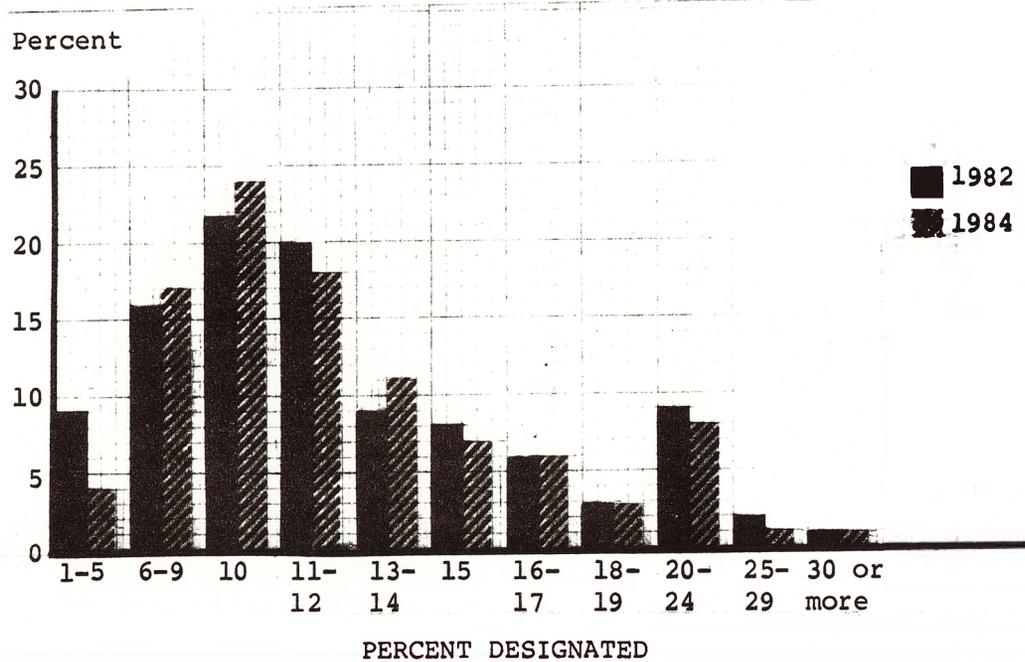
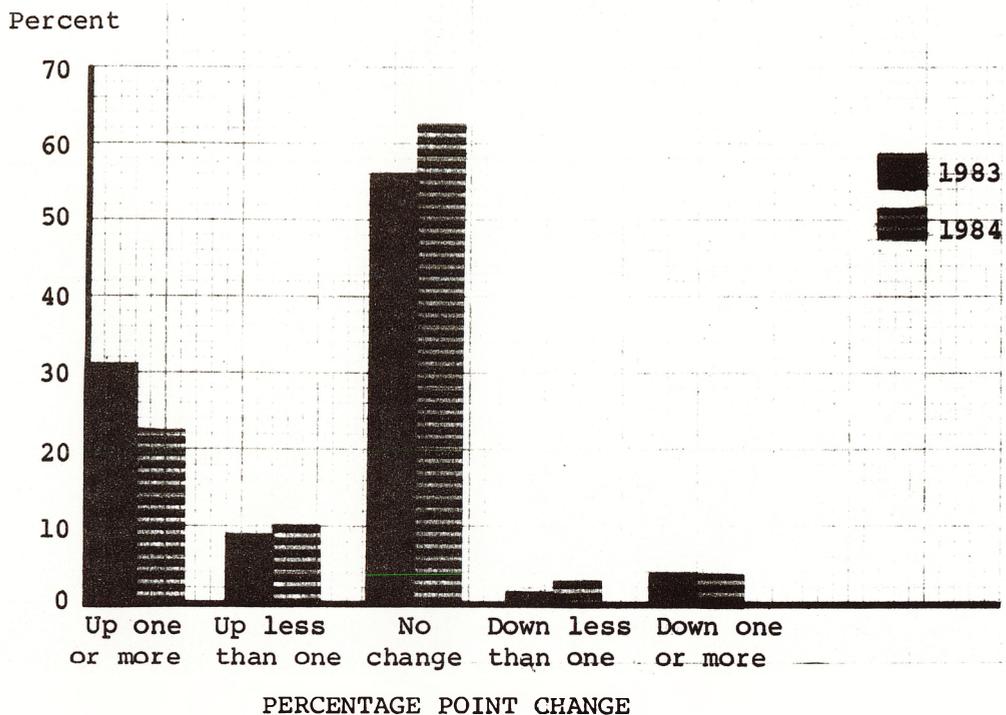


FIGURE 2

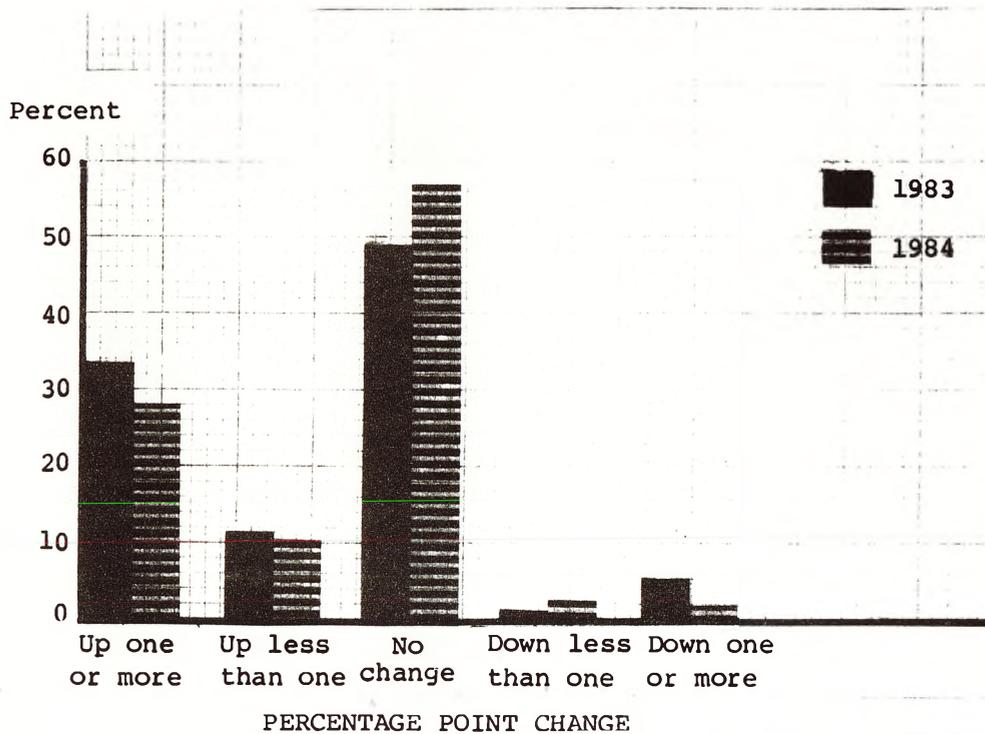
CHANGE IN CHURCH'S COOPERATIVE PROGRAM AS A PERCENT OF THE BUDGET

PASTORS



CHANGE IN CHURCH'S COOPERATIVE PROGRAM AS A PERCENT OF THE BUDGET

MINISTERS OF EDUCATION



F. When directors of missions were asked to rank from a prepared list the three most important functions of a director of missions, they ranked the following three in descending order: (1) work with/assist pastors (a weighted ranking of 1.65); (2) work with/assist churches (a weighted ranking of 1.37); and (3) work with associational organizations and leaders (a weighted ranking of .84).

This same item appeared on the November, 1981 poll and the same three functions which topped the November, 1983 poll also topped the earlier poll. However, in the 1983 poll the ranking order of the first two functions is reversed in comparison to the 1981 poll.

G. What are the five major roles of the director of missions? According to the directors on the panel the five major roles (selected from a list) are: (1) pastor to pastors (60%); (2) mission strategist (51%); (3) administrator (44%); (4) resource person for information (38%); and (5) encourager (35%).

III. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

QUESTIONS 1-4 WERE ASKED ONLY OF PASTORS AND MINISTERS OF EDUCATION.

1. For the 1983 Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions what ways will your church use to promote members' awareness of the needs and work of the Foreign Mission Board? (Check all that apply.)

	<u>Pastors</u>	<u>Ministers of Education</u>
a. Program by WMU during Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions	79%	87%
b. Mission books taught in mission organization(s).	60	61
c. Church-wide study of mission book on Sunday and Wednesday nights.	25	21
d. Church-wide study of mission book on two or more evenings	12	10
e. Church-wide study of mission book on two or more mornings	1	4
f. Mission book circulated for individual home study	25	22
g. Sunday morning emphasis including special mission sermon	73	58
h. Sunday morning emphasis without special mission sermon	22	28
i. Mission emphasis in Sunday School departments.	43	44
j. Month-long promotion of offering goal. . .	79	80
k. Promotion poster(s) placed in church . . .	86	85
l. Special displays set up for promotion. . .	49	51
m. Promotion in church bulletin	85	90
n. Promotion in church newsletter	57	85
o. Distribution of offering envelopes to all members.	86	85
Not indicated.	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
Totals	* (219)	* (177)

*Totals do not add to 100 percent due to multiple answers.

2. Does your church set a Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal each year?

	<u>Pastors</u>	<u>Ministers of Education</u>
Yes	92%	96%
No	<u>8</u>	<u>4</u>
Totals	100%	100%
	(219)	(177)

If "YES,"

a. How is that goal set?

	<u>Pastors</u>	<u>Ministers of Education</u>
Included in the church budget.	6%	9%
Suggested/set by the Missions Committee. . . .	17	28
Suggested/set by the Church Council.	21	15
Suggested/set by staff member(s)	7	6
Other (voluntary responses):		
Suggested/set by the WMU.	32	27
Suggested/set in consultation with others (staff members, Brotherhood, church council, budget committee, etc.) .	5	6
Set by church in business session	9	1
Suggested/set by the Missions Committee and the Church Council.	1	3
Other	1	2
Not indicated.	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>
Totals	100%	100%
	(202)	(170)

b. Has your 1983 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal been set?

	<u>Pastors</u>	<u>Ministers of Education</u>
Yes	79%	88%
No	<u>21</u>	<u>12</u>
Totals	100%	100%
	(202)	(170)

2. (continued)

If "YES," to 2b,

(1) Is your 1983 goal the same as, more than, or less than the 1982 goal?

	<u>Pastors</u>	<u>Ministers of Education</u>
Same as	22%	15%
More than	72	80
Less than	5	5
Not indicated	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>
Totals	100%	100%
	(160)	(149)

If "more than," what percentage increase?

	<u>Pastors</u>	<u>Ministers of Education</u>
1-2%	4%	10%
3-4%	3	6
5-6%	11	13
7-8%	6	6
9-10%	25	29
11-12%	1	4
13-14%	3	4
15-19%	8	6
20% or more	22	14
Not indicated	<u>17</u>	<u>8</u>
Totals	100%	100%
	(116)	(119)

(2) Do you expect the 1983 goal to be met?

	<u>Pastors</u>	<u>Ministers of Education</u>
Yes	94%	91%
No	1	2
Uncertain	4	6
Not indicated	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Totals	100%	100%
	(160)	(149)

3. In your 1984 church budget, what percent is (or will be) designated for the Cooperative Program?

	<u>Pastors</u>	<u>Ministers of Education</u>
1-5%	7%	4%
6-9%	14	15
10%	24	23
11-12%	14	17
13-14%	8	10
15%	8	6
16-17%	4	5
18-19%	4	3
20-24%	7	8
25-29%	2	1
30% or more	2	1
Not indicated	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
Totals	100%	100%
	(219)	(177)

4. Please indicate below any change in your church's Cooperative Program percent of the budget for 1984 as compared to 1983.

	<u>Pastors</u>	<u>Ministers of Education</u>
Up one percentage point or more	22%	25%
Up less than one percentage point	9	10
No change	59	54
Down less than one percentage point	2	3
Down one percentage point or more	3	2
Not indicated	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
Totals	100%	100%
	(219)	(177)

QUESTIONS 5-7 WERE ASKED ONLY OF DIRECTORS OF MISSIONS

5. For the 1983 Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions what ways will you and/or your association use to promote Baptists' awareness of the needs and work of the Foreign Mission Board? (Check all that apply.)

	<u>Director of Missions</u>
a. Director of Missions speaking engagement(s) in churches	76%
b. Promotion in associational newsletter	96
c. Special associational-wide meeting with emphasis on Foreign Missions.	25
d. Emphasis on special meeting at pastors conference	34
e. Special promotional efforts by associational WMU committee or other associational committees	73
f. Securing of furloughing missionaries to speak in churches . . .	52
g. Packets of information sent to churches	18
h. Promotion of foreign mission/evangelism tours	<u>12</u>
Total	*
	(164)

6. Listed below are some of the functions of a director of missions. What three do you feel are most important? Please rank the three most important functions with a "1" being most important, "2" being of next importance, etc. Please rank only three.)

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>N.I.</u>	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Weighted Rankings**</u>
Work with/assist pastors	29%	32	14	25	100% (164)	1.65
Work with/assist churches.	19%	34	13	34	100% (164)	1.37
Strengthen relationships among churches	6%	8	15	71	100% (164)	0.49
Work with associational organiza- tions and leaders.	10%	12	31	47	100% (164)	0.84
Provide missionary leadership. . . .	21%	4	9	66	100% (164)	0.79
Maintain denominational and other external relationships	-%	1	4	95	100% (164)	0.07
General administration/leadership. .	9%	5	7	79	100% (164)	0.43
Office/staff management.	-%	-	1	99	100% (164)	0.01

*Total does not add to 100 percent due to multiple answers.

**Weighted rankings were derived by assigning a numerical value of "3" to each "1" rank, a numerical value of "2" to each "2" rank, etc., until each rank had a numerical value of 1 through 3. The total numerical value of each item was then divided by the total number of respondents to obtain the weighted ranking of each item. Thus, the greater the weighted ranking of an item, the higher the item in the order of items.

7. From the following list please check the five major roles that you would use to best explain who a director of missions is. (Please check only five.)

	<u>Director of Missions</u>
Administrator	44%
Change agent	12
Communicator	31
Community leader	1
Counselor	21
Denominational leader	14
Denominational program promoter	6
Denominational representative	10
Enabler	26
Encourager	35
Evangelist	2
Executive secretary or director	10
Implementor	6
Innovator	4
Minister	15
Missionary	23
Mission strategist	51
Pastor to pastors	60
Planner	24
Preacher	10
Printer	1
Reconciler	5
Resource person for information	38
Resource person for supplies	2
Shepherd of the churches	6
Spokesperson	-
Supervisor	-
Supply preacher	3
Teacher/trainer/equiper	26
Not indicated	<u>1</u>
Total	*
	(164)

*Total does not add to 100 percent due to multiple answers.