



FAMILY

BY AHARON GILADI

This Month . . .

Planning for years ahead is not new, either for the Foreign Mission Board or for Missions on the fields. But at intervals, specific challenges are issued that stand as milestones in the continuing progress of foreign missions.

Such a mark was the proposal and adoption in 1948 of the Program of Advance. Goals set then included 1,750 missionaries and annual budget of \$10 million. (These goals have long been surpassed; missionary force as of April 1, 1976, was 2,642; 1976 budget is \$51,036,424.)

Another milestone appears this month. "Foreign Missions Looks Toward A.D. 2000" is the summary paper prepared for the Coordinating Committee for Study of Advance Plans and the Foreign Mission Board. The FMB adopted the report in January. It was presented to the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee in February. In June the SBC, meeting at Norfolk, Va., will consider and vote on these plans. The full report, with minor abridgment for space considerations, is carried in this issue.

What you will see is a statement of principles and a projection of plans, procedures, methods, and goals for Southern Baptist foreign missions 1976-2000. Many of the sections are in outline form, suggesting areas for action.

The report calls for *more*—more missionaries, more fields, more churches, and, as a consequence, greater support from Southern Baptists, both in finances and in personnel.

This report asks for *different*—inventive methods, imaginative approaches, concentrated efforts. It should be noted, as does the interview on page 20, that many of the actions called for are already under way in specific locations, sometimes in experimental ways.

The report pleads for *better*—greater coordination, more sharing of methods, sharper focus on targets.

Lest anyone say the goals are not truly "bold," look carefully at the series of graphs in this issue. The graphs show (1) actual statistics over the past 25 years, based on factual research; (2) projected growth over the next 25 years at the current growth rate; (3) growth rate needed to meet Bold New Thrusts goals.

In every instance the growth rate required for the new goals far surpasses (sometimes doubling and more) the growth rate based on what has taken place.

In fact, if a secular business were to project such goals, they would likely be considered beyond reasonable expectations. The boldness of the numerical missions goals, in the light of history, underlines the view held among those who formulated these plans—that the goals are not man-made, but were arrived at under leadership of the Spirit.

The COMMISSION

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COVER

Representing all humankind, in reflection of the Foreign Mission Board's goal of carrying the gospel to all the world, is the painting, "Family," by Israeli Artist Aharon Giladi. The artist's favorite subjects are mother and children and family groups. The lack of faces allows the viewer to supply faces of his own loved ones and thus better identify with the painting.

CREDITS

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Needed Now

Requests for missionary personnel come to the Foreign Mission Board from the Missions overseas. More than 1,000 new missionaries are currently being requested to reinforce, replace, and begin new work. Listed below are the needs by categories of service.

Church Development

70 Percent of Current Requests

General Evangelism: Involves preaching, teaching Bible classes, serving as church development advisors, associational missionaries, working in urban or rural evangelism.

Student/Youth Work: Could involve training programs, discussion groups, drama, films, Bible study.

Religious Education: Organizing and developing programs of Christian education and leadership training within the churches in areas of Bible study, membership training, Baptist doctrine, stewardship, and missions.

Music: Developing and promoting music for the churches on a local or national level, or teaching in a seminary.

Women's Leadership Training: Working with WMU organizations, leadership training, special events, camp activities, directing mission action, leading study courses.

Theology: Providing training in seminaries, Bible institutes, or by extension.

Medical Services

13 Percent of Current Requests

Physicians: Internists, surgeons, general practitioners, ob-gyn, pediatricians.

Dentists: Hospital, clinic, and mobile work.

Nurses: General duty, surgical, anesthetists, teachers, public health, rural clinic.

Other Specialists: Hospital administrators, medical technologists, dieticians, public health, physical therapists.

Education

7 Percent of Current Requests

Elementary Teachers.

Secondary Teachers.

College Teachers.

Adult Vocational Teachers.

Literacy Workers.

Other Specializations

11 Percent of Current Requests

Agricultural Evangelists.

Radio-TV Programmers.

Publication Workers.

Social Workers.

Other: Occasionally there are requests for business managers, secretaries, maintenance men, book store managers, communications workers, etc.

This column will, from month to month, describe some of the top-priority requests. For additional information about missionary service abroad, contact: Department of Missionary Personnel, Foreign Mission Board, SBC, Box 6597, Richmond, Va. 23230.

BOLD NEW THRUSTS in Foreign Missions 1976-2000

Ten selected highlights

1. Great overarching objective: To preach the gospel to all the people in the world.
2. One hundred percent increase in missionary staff—more than 5,000 by A.D. 2000.
3. Missionaries at work in at least 125 countries as God may lead.
4. Accelerated tempo of volunteer lay involvement overseas—up to 3,000 per year needed now, and up to 10,000 per year by A.D. 2000.
5. Greatly expanded efforts in evangelism—major thrusts in urban areas and among students and other young people.
6. Tenfold multiplication of overseas churches—with concomitant increases in baptisms and church membership.
7. Extraordinary efforts in leadership training—through strengthened seminaries, Theological Education by Extension, and lay leadership training.
8. Vastly increased use of radio, television, and publications on mission fields, and penetration by way of mass media of areas not presently open to missionary activities.
9. Accentuated attention to human need—through health care, disease prevention, benevolent and social ministries.
10. Vigorous, appropriate, and prompt responses to world hunger and disasters.

—Adopted by the Foreign Mission Board, January 13, 1976

Facing the Challenge

By James G. Harris

Pastor, University Baptist Church, Ft. Worth, Tex.
President, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board

For 131 years the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has been in business. This agency has accumulated a wide experience in effective mission work. It has profited by mistakes and successes through the years. A look backward can help us chart the future.

However, a look forward is most important. In a changing world, the changeless gospel must adopt new forms. Methods that worked in China and Africa and South America a hundred years ago are not as effective today. No section of the world is isolated from any other section. We know the faults and sins of other nations as well as of our next-door neighbors.

New forms of communication have multiplied our ministries. The printed page is read by millions who formerly were illiterate. The transistor radio has penetrated the most obscure village. Television has saturated the cities of the world. The cassette tape has become a leading form of teaching. The mobility

(Text continues on page 4)



Although one couple was assigned to Russia 1921-25, that country is not shown in color here.



BOLD NEW THRUSTS

Missionaries at work in at least 125 countries as God may lead.

Facing the Challenge

(Continued from page 1)

of the people of Southern Baptist churches has made them world travelers and tourists. The affluence of many dedicated Baptists has made possible their availability on mission fields for limited assignments at their own expense.

For several years the Foreign Mission Board has been aware that the last quarter of the twentieth century offered Southern Baptists our greatest challenge of history. More missionaries can be appointed in the next 25 years than in all previous years combined. Plans were already emerging for advance. Executive Secretary Baker J. Cauthen had repeatedly challenged the Southern Baptist Convention to a mighty surge of growth and expansion.

The growing crisis of world hunger added another dimension to the responsibility of the Foreign Mission Board. Our missionaries were helplessly watching people die of starvation and disease. The rest of this century promises to accentuate, rather than solve, this problem.

Then in 1974 the Southern Baptist Convention, in session in Dallas, Tex., authorized special studies by the Foreign Mission Board and the Home Mission Board to plan "bold new strategies" for the last years of this century. A Convention Missions Challenge Committee was appointed to coordinate those studies. This issue of *The Commission* includes a summary of the report of the Foreign Mission Board.

This report is not the product of a professional staff. It is a report of the elected members of the Foreign Mission Board, with the capable staff serving as resource persons in each phase of study. The report is the result of the combined efforts of the Board and the staff. Representatives from every state had a part in the formulation of this study.

Thirteen subcommittees spent many

hours and weeks and months studying the needs and challenges of the world. The Board will continue to implement sections of the findings through the establishment of new committees and new strategies. This report is just the beginning of their assignment, so far as the Foreign Mission Board is concerned.

The presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit have been evident throughout this process. This is not a report of cold, professional planning. It has been permeated with prayer for God's guidance. It is flexible for any future changes led by the Holy Spirit and by world conditions.

The keynote of the entire report is the challenge to attempt to reach every living person in the world with the gospel by the year 2000.

When this thought was first presented, it was overwhelming. The projected population of the world in the year 2000 is seven billion. To let everyone hear the gospel message even once calls for the doubling of the number of our appointed missionaries.

It calls for at least twice that many more serving at their own expense in definite assignments under the missionaries.

It calls for the staggering exploitation of the mass media.

It calls for tremendous sums of money.

But as this challenge grew in the hearts of the members of the Foreign Mission Board, it was remembered that this is what Jesus Christ commanded us to do. We dare not attempt less.

We pray that God's Spirit will now make this excitement contagious in the hearts of Southern Baptist and that we shall begin immediately a thrilling advance that will move us toward God's goal—all of the gospel for all of the world.

TC



James C. Harris

Foreign Missions Looks TOWARD A.D. 2000

Advance Plans Report Prepared

By Frank K. Means

The last quarter of the twentieth century is a time to reaffirm our commitment to an entire world. Along with other missionary groups and churches, we challenge the Southern Baptist Convention to join in an all-out effort to see that every living person on earth at the close of this century shall have had the opportunity to hear the gospel. This will call for the dedication of every means of communication possible by all Christians at home and abroad.

The Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has given careful study to plans for the remainder of this century.

Long-range strategy planning, in the view of the Board, is consistent with its stewardship obligations (1) toward our great God and his eternal purpose, and (2) toward the supporting churches. Consequently, it encourages its missionaries and Missions to project plans for the next 25 years with participation of national leadership.

The Board has sought the counsel of Southern Baptist agency representatives and state convention forces through a series of conferences in various locations. To this were added the contributions of Foreign Mission Board members and staff.

This report of plans by the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention for the next quarter century was drafted for the Coordinating Committee for the Study of Advance Plans by Frank K. Means, FMB secretary for Eastern South America. The report was adopted by the Foreign Mission Board in January and will be presented to the Southern Baptist Convention for approval in June. The report has been abridged to some degree for presentation in this issue.

These lines of influence all came together in a Consultation on Foreign Missions held in Miami Beach, Fla., immediately prior to the 1975 Convention.

This report represents the fruit of planning which must be continued, but planning is only preparation.

Basic Principles

It is God who redeems, but men are the instruments of a redeeming God. People who know the gospel ("good news") have inescapable obligations toward other people and areas where the gospel is not known. God intends to make known his redemption through the church to the farthest extremities of the universe. Missions is an integral part of God's eternal purpose.

God sees men as whole persons, rather than as compartmentalized beings. Man has many needs. Ministry in the name of Christ requires attention to all of them, beginning with his basic need for God.

Basic to the work of Southern Baptist world missions are certain principles whose

validity has long since been established.

1 *New Testament churches are independent and autonomous under the lordship of Christ.* The Foreign Mission Board is committed to the principle of indigenous churches, conventions, and institutions on foreign fields, consistent with New Testament norms, including Christian partnership. Strong encouragement will continue to be given to national leadership, administration, and self-support.

The Foreign Mission Board maintains an overview of mission strategy throughout the world in line with instructions given to it by the Southern Baptist Convention. It draws up overall strategy guidelines, takes initiatives, and helps to coordinate efforts and plans in other parts of the world. It seeks to cultivate the work of Japanese Baptists, Nigerian Baptists, Brazilian Baptists, etc., in their proper spheres.

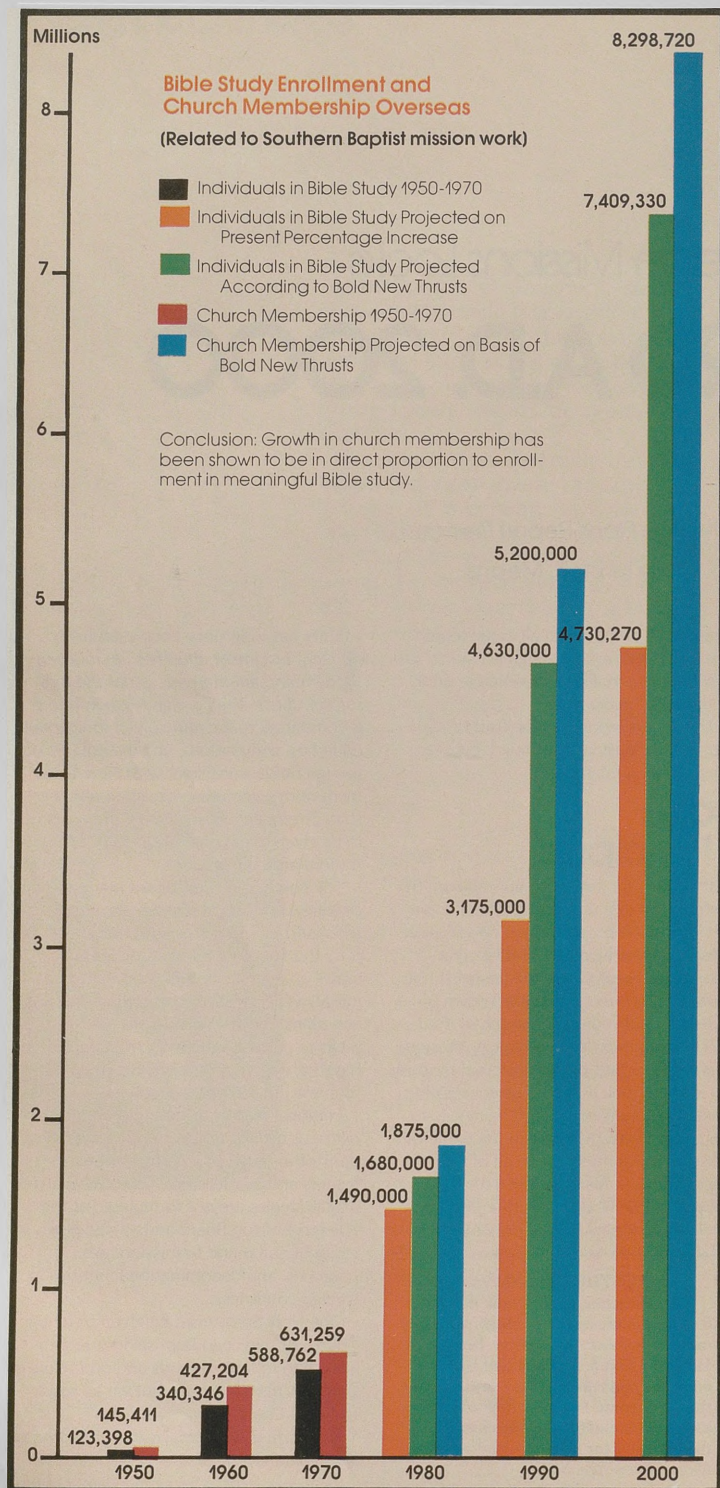
National and local strategy formulation overseas usually takes final focus on the basis of initiatives taken by national leaders and missionaries. Overseas plans and strategies are not formulated at the Foreign Mission Board and passed down a chain of command to missionaries, churches, and denominational entities in foreign countries.

The Holy Spirit must be given free reign. The Spirit may lead Baptists in foreign groups to follow methods and procedures different from our own, but we all serve the Lord Christ.

2 *A unified program—not a collection of separate programs—is essential.* The overseas task includes evangelism, church

ON THE OFFENSIVE

The churches must avoid defensiveness and defeatism in missions. They must remember that power belongs to God, and that it is in him that they overcome the opposition of the world.... The time has come for bold new objectives that will challenge the churches to take the offensive for Christ.—Missions Challenge Committee, SBC



Graph research by James W. Cecil; design by Burriel W. Perry

development, theological and leadership training programs, mass media ministries, publications ministries, health care ministries, benevolent and social ministries, and disaster relief and world hunger programs.

Such a unified program calls for a unified, as opposed to a fragmented, administration. Southern Baptists have one unified program of overseas missions which has many facets.

3 *Proportion and balance are both desirable and necessary.* This applies to countries, as well as programs of work. With so many needs, in so many places, Southern Baptists can ill afford to direct all their effort to either a single country or a single program of work. Coordinated planning is the Board's role as it weighs available resources over against compelling needs.

4 *The methodology is comprehensive and flexible.* Our commitment is not to one method to the exclusion of others.

BIBLICAL BASIS

The churches need a new understanding of the biblical basis for missions. This is one of the high priority requirements for Southern Baptists. Missions lives from a comprehensive study of the Bible.
—Missions Challenge Committee, SBC

Every method which God will honor should be employed where feasible and possible. Comprehensive methodology is inclusive of all such methods.

Some mission organizations exist to promote one method exclusively. Our commitment to a comprehensive methodology may expose our work to certain problems which such organizations do not face. The polarization which can result from the magnification of one method over another can have unfortunate consequences.

Methods, procedures, and organizational forms are being called into question by changing times. New ways will be found to do old and new things. Care will be taken to preserve necessary functions—even though forms may have to change radically.

5 *The Foreign Mission Board regards as basic the concept of the career mis-*

Left: "In the past, increases in the number of churches has been coupled with a simultaneous increase in the number of people involved in meaningful Bible study," notes James W. Cecil, missionary associate to Hong Kong currently in the U.S., who did the research for the graphs in this issue. "With increase in the number of units teaching God's biblical revelation and the number of people involved in such study, an increase in baptisms has resulted, and thus an increase in the number of persons related to Baptist churches," he points out.

BOLD NEW THRUSTS

1. Great overarching objective: to preach the gospel to all the people in the world.



sionary. Short-term and volunteer personnel make significant contributions, and the Board is committed to the use of these categories. But the overwhelming, long-term need is for career missionaries, who are committed to the truth of the incarnational principle—"the Word became flesh and dwelt among us"—dwelling among the people of some other land on a long-term basis.

6 *Missionaries go to their fields to share the gospel of Christ and minister to human need. They do not involve themselves in political or commercial affairs. They are recognized as people who are dedicated to the purpose of Christian witness and service. Anything that will make unclear that image will greatly handicap their efforts, and, in some places, make impossible their residence in the country.*

7 *Evangelism and church development will be maintained as the imperatively central thrusts. Compassionate ministries are no less insistent as expressions of*

On the Fields in 1975 Work related to Southern Baptist foreign missions

Churches: 7,584 (6,006 self-supporting).

Mission points: 10,905.

National pastors: 6,351.

Baptisms: 80,747.

Church membership: 896,063.

Contributions by members: \$22,800,453.

obedience and examples of Christian compassion in action.

8 *The "Great Commission" makes the overseas task the responsibility of each Christian and each church. Churches exist and cooperate for the purpose of world outreach and kingdom extension.*

Winning and Training

Our great obligation is to communicate the "good news" to "all nations"—to the ends of the earth—to the close of the age—to every generation.

By 2000 the world's population may exceed seven billion. The task is growing in size and complexity.

Evangelism

Objective: Massive, extraordinary, unprecedented efforts in evangelism.

The following emphases are recommended:

1) Urban Evangelization. The second and third quarters of the twentieth century have seen a mass movement of people from rural districts to urban centers. City dwellers can be born, live, and die without ever being brought face to face with Christ

FOUR BILLION

On Sunday, March 28, a baby was born. He or she became the four billionth inhabitant of earth, according to the U.S. Population Reference Bureau.

The new mark came a year later than some demographers had predicted. That was because world population growth rate dropped slightly in the past year or two. But the four billion plateau came only 15 years after the three billion level was reached in 1961. It had taken 31 years (from 1930 to 1961) for world population to advance from two billion to three billion. Eighty years had been required to reach from one to two billion.

The bureau's current estimates, revised slightly downward, show world population growing at 1.8 percent a year. At that rate, population should reach five billion by 1989.

and his claims on their lives.

In planning strategy for evangelistic advance during the next 25 years, we are compelled to consider the areas of most rapid population growth and methods for vastly accelerating evangelization of those centers.

(1) The Foreign Mission Board has developed and will implement a program of major city evangelization (see page 14).

(2) A prayer support plan for major city evangelization has also been drawn up and will be implemented.

(3) The Foreign Mission Board will also promote a program of accelerating the evangelization of cities where Baptists do not have sufficient constituency, or where cities are not large enough to support the program of major city evangelization.

2) Rural Evangelism. In a number of countries the population continues to be predominantly rural. It would be a tragic mistake to divert attention completely from the rural hinterland in an accelerated effort to serve the needs of the cities exclusively.

3) Perennial Evangelism. Churches maintain maximum vitality and momentum through continuing personal and corporate evangelism. Since the preponderance of evangelistic opportunity and response is realized within the normal life and program of local congregations, regular ongoing plans for evangelism will be encouraged.

4) Student and Youth Evangelism. More than one-half of the population in most countries of today's world consists of youth under 18 years of age. Maximum attention must be concentrated on the evangelization of the youth.

The world's student population will increase dramatically between now and 2000. Student work overseas requires a

pronounced evangelistic emphasis, both in high school and university settings, and in the local churches.

5) In all of these emphases, the Board will endeavor to develop and use to the maximum possible:

(1) Mobile task forces. The possibility of developing and using mobile task forces, which could devote their energies for short periods of time to the special opportunities that suddenly emerge, will be investigated. An impact can be made by pastors and lay persons in areas where there is no (or little) possibility of long-range involvement.

(2) Mass media. Added emphasis will be given to the use of all avenues of mass media in evangelistic witnessing.

(3) Evangelistic projects overseas of various kinds in addition to major city evangelization, some of which will involve lay participation.

(4) Strong emphasis given to WIN [Witness Involvement Now] schools or similar programs of training in personal lay witnessing, in continuing cooperation with the Home Mission Board's Department of Evangelism, to include both missionaries and nationals.

6) Vast areas are still untouched, both in countries to be entered and in broad areas within countries already entered. The Board stands ready to enter new countries, as well as minister to neglected areas in countries already entered, as God leads. The witness will be expanded as opportunities and resources permit.

Both responsive and unresponsive fields must be served. There is concern for maximum results. Yet the Great Commission gives no warrant for neglecting so-called "unresponsive" fields. The divine mandate includes "all the world" and "every creature."

Church Development

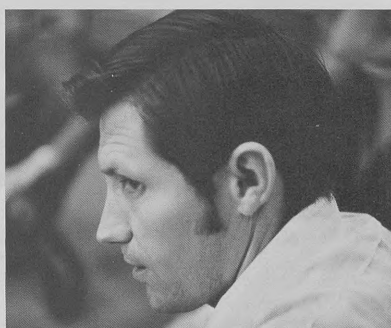
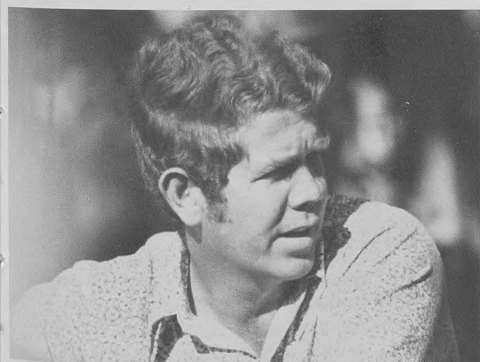
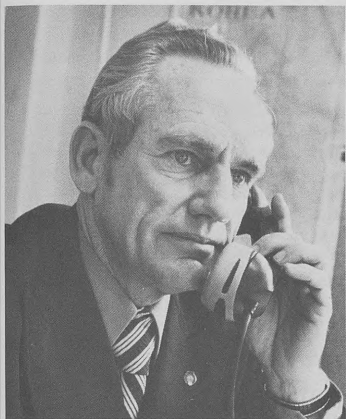
Objective: Establishment, multiplication, and strengthening of churches at greatly

THEIR OWN WAY

There are three traditional signs of a truly indigenous church: being self-governing, self-propagating, and self-supporting. There are, however, three other signs: using their own church music; encountering their own, unique problems; forming their own heresies. In this way, the Lord develops a completely national church, acceptable to its own people. The American church planter should plant only. He is to do nothing that is not reproducible by the people. The result: a group of people identifiable in the community by their life-style, not by buildings of foreign design and adopted foreign ways.—Charles A. Chilton, missionary to the Philippines

BOLD NEW THRUSTS

2. One hundred percent increase in missionary staff—more than 5,000 by A.D. 2000.



EARLY MODEL

The work of the Holy Spirit in missions is clearly set forth in the activities of the early churches and their leaders. The exciting things we see in that work apply even today. Some of them are: (1) The local church was a bridgehead for Christian conquest. (2) The churches cooperated in missions. The newer churches looked to the older churches for strength and leadership, and the older churches looked to the newer churches for inspiration and renewal. (3) The churches called out and contributed to the support of missionaries. (4) The permanent fruits of the labors of the missionaries were new Christians and new churches. (5) The churches themselves, as the body of Christ, were his continuing incarnational presence of God in the world. (6) They followed strong leaders who could provide them guidance in the work of missions. (7) Laymen played important roles in missions. (8) No barrier or opposition stopped the churches in their witness for Christ. (9) The purpose of missions as carried out by the churches was both the evangelization of the lost and the alleviation of human suffering.—*Missions Challenge Committee, SBC*

accelerated rate.

Southern Baptists are committed to the development of New Testament churches throughout the world. This is apparent in our past and present. It is our earnest expectation for the future.

1) The Foreign Mission Board reaffirms its commitment to church development as a compelling priority. The objective of mission effort is that of bringing persons to Christ and establishing and multiplying New Testament churches—churches which must be dependent on local leadership, form, methods, and resources. These churches should be encouraged to cultivate fraternal and cooperative relationships—partnership—with other churches of like faith and order for specific and stated purposes.

2) Churches, like all normal living things, have the prospect of growth, development, and reproduction. They will continue to be given every encouragement to do so. The Board is committed in principle and practice to the development of national Baptist leadership and self-supporting churches as quickly as possible.

3) The Board and the missionary staff recognize and respond to the need for the discovery and training of national lay leadership. The goal will be for total involvement in growth and outreach. Overseas churches will be encouraged to continue to cultivate the spiritual climate in which God's call to Christian ministry can be heard and obeyed.

4) All available help will be extended to our missionaries in developing methods of stewardship education and training fitted to their particular field of service. Without strengthening in this area, the Missions' stated purpose of "phasing out" certain mission subsidies will be met with difficulty. God is at work using funds from overseas sources, as well as Southern Baptist sources. The stewardship potential of the overseas churches stretches the imagination.

5) Our entire foreign mission enterprise will seek to develop a greater openness to flexibility of methods and creative approaches to church development: (1) dictated by the Holy Spirit, and (2) mindful of the lessons experience and history have taught us. Changing circumstances and needs demand altered methods and organizational forms, as well as a willingness to experiment.

6) Relationship with national Baptist bodies. Acknowledging the rapid growth of churches and conventions overseas, the number of overseas churches should multiply tenfold by 2000. Therefore, the Foreign Mission Board proposes to:

- Encourage, through appropriate means, the development and implementation of cooperative efforts between missions organizations and national bodies.
- Review present relationship policies of the Missions and the national churches and their organizations with a view to improved cooperation and unified promotion.
- Encourage overseas Missions to give more urgent priority to the development of culturally oriented programs of evangelistic and missionary outreach that can be implemented where possible without foreign resources.
- Encourage the area secretaries, field representatives, and missionaries to exercise vigilance in maintaining fraternal relationships with Christians where direct involvement of personnel is impossible, and to seek means to support Christian witness in those areas.

Theological Education, Leadership Training

Objective: Adequate ministerial and lay leadership training by a wide variety of methods.

The primary purpose of theological education and leadership training is to equip ministers and lay leaders for the work of Christian ministry.

Theological education and leadership training will continue to contribute to winning the lost to Christ, teaching Bible doctrine, and sending the disciplined Chris-

tians to win others to Christ. It is our purpose to provide for every minister and for lay leaders a program of training to equip them for involvement in Christ's mission in a given culture.

Every theological school will strive to be Bible centered, doctrinally sound, and will offer courses that hopefully are adequate to meet the need of pastors and church leaders in Bible knowledge, evan-

MOTIVATION

Missionaries render service that authority cannot command and money cannot buy. The only way to understand their motivation is to realize that they serve in the name of, and for the sake of, the Lord Jesus Christ.—Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary, Foreign Mission Board

gelism, and practical methods of church planting and development.

Nationals should normally be educated within their own culture, and each leader should be trained at his own educational level. Educational institutions should be administered by nationals when capable and qualified personnel is available.

In looking ahead:

- 1) The urgent need for trained leadership is recognized in every country where missionaries are serving.
- 2) Emphasis will be placed on "calling out the called."
- 3) Existing programs of theological education and leadership training will be strengthened. Proper strengthening begins with evaluation. The curricula will be upgraded. Training in practical ministerial skills will be provided. Plans will be made to increase the teaching and administrative

PERSON IS PRIMARY

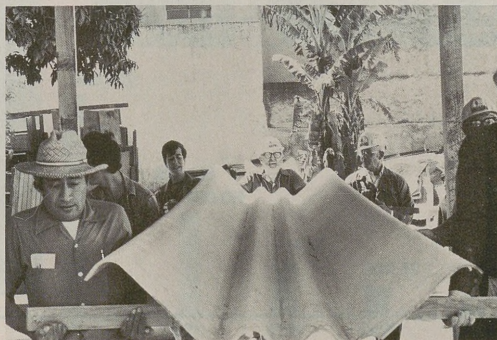
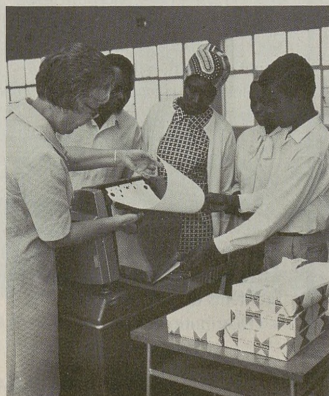
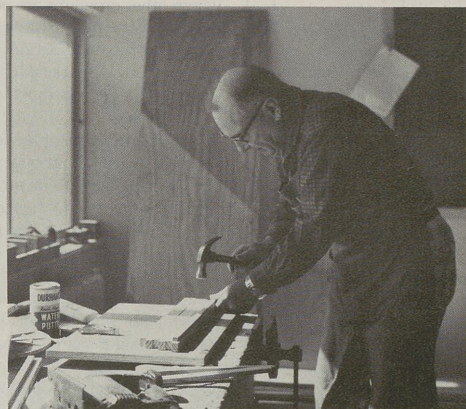
Whatever new tools and new methods may become available, the primary channel of Christian witness and ministry is still the person. This continues to include those who are missionaries in a special sense. The meaning of calling to this special missionary role may be variously interpreted, but Christian mission outreach will still be largely dependent upon the continuity and depth made possible only by an incarnational style of missionary life and ministry.—Winston Crawley, director, FMB Overseas Division

staffs. Additional missionary personnel may need to be requested. More qualified and gifted nationals will be sought to fill personnel needs.

The materials and facilities will be improved. Curriculum materials must be clothed in the national's own cultural idiom and commensurate with the student's

BOLD NEW THRUSTS

4. Accelerated tempo of volunteer lay involvement overseas—up to 3,000 per year needed now, and up to 10,000 per year by A.D. 2000.



WORKING TOGETHER

The mammoth problems in today's distraught world require more cooperation, not less. Suppose, for example, a single church had to educate the missionary, support the missionary, provide the missionary materials with which to work, and to take care of the missionary in retirement. Add to this cost, travel, medical care, and modern electronic communication cost. All of this expense would require more money than most churches could provide. But working together, all of the churches can provide all of these things for all of our missionaries.—*Missions Challenge Committee, SBC*

educational background. Libraries and other teaching aids need to be upgraded in line with the curriculum.

4) New institutions and new programs will be established. New seminaries and/or Bible schools will be necessary as the numbers of Christians and churches increase. Therefore, Missions will be encouraged to work with national leadership in projecting and establishing appropriate theological training schools to meet these needs.

5) Strong emphasis will be placed upon Theological Education by Extension (TEE). Reports from over the world indicate the rapid development of this program.

Correspondence courses will be used in some instances for leadership training where other programs are not available or as a supplement to existing programs.

6) The process of nationalizing the existing programs of leadership training will undoubtedly be continued and accelerated at four points:

- International faculties, with gradual but steady increase of national membership.

- Curricula need to be adapted to cultural differences, and the rigid reproduction of an American or Western plan of instruction should be avoided.

- On boards of trustees, the national members should be gradually increased, especially as the churches and conventions assume a larger share of financial support.

- Financial support. Responsibility for support of all schools and programs of leadership training must be increasingly borne by the churches to be served by the trained personnel.

In many cases the cost of theological education can be kept down by using church buildings as a meeting place, es-

pecially for extension centers. Institutions should be kept near the support level of existing constituencies, except for unusual cases.

Mass Media

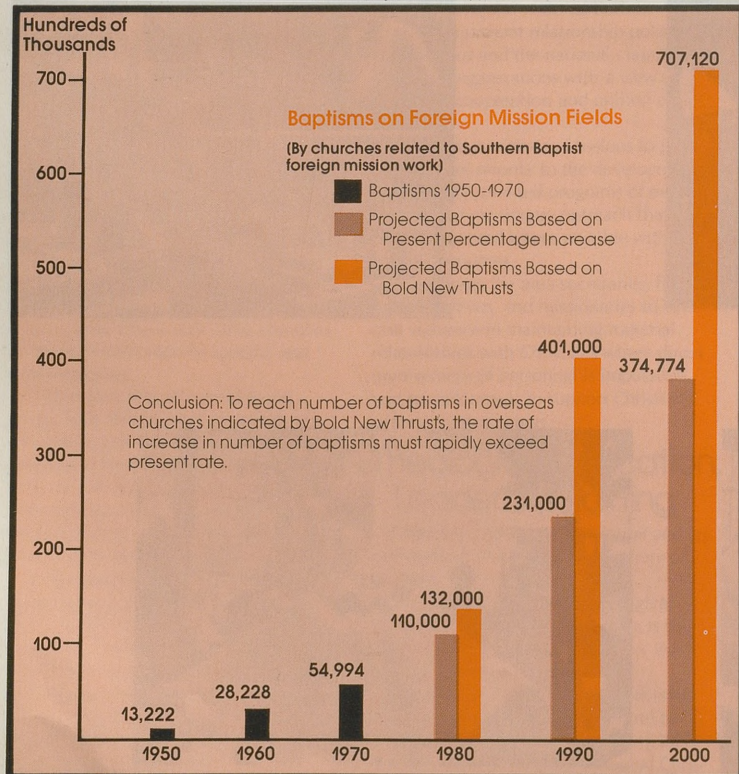
Objective: Vastly increased use of mass media.

Mass media ministries offer almost limitless possibilities in our kind of world. "In an era of exploding knowledge in the science and knowledge of transportation, communication, news media, and electronic processing," said the Consultation, "Southern Baptists should launch a massive effort to utilize every feasible method of taking and sending the Christian good news to the entire world. The impact of 'future shock' should be made the instru-

CHURCHES AND CITIES

The obstacles of reaching people of the world in the city are not in the city; they are in the church. So often a church is so preoccupied with its own internal organization, it doesn't take time to go out. The men and women with the greatest capacity are used for internal organization, rather than to bring others in.
—*João Falcão Sobrinho, executive secretary, Brazilian Baptist Convention*

Graph research by James W. Cecil; design by Burriel W. Perry.



ment rather than the frustration of global Christian witness."

Preliminary steps in that direction are proposed as follows:

1) More than half the world is shut off from missionary contact. A task force approach to strategic unreached areas of the world through mass media expertise and facilities will be pursued.

2) Radio and television:

- Maximum use of radio and TV will be made.
- "Getting on the air" will be preceded by investigative planning and followed by careful analysis in quest of improvement.
- Goals (statements of intent to obtain a measurable quality and/or quantity of results) will be set and pursued.
- More and better programs will be produced, keeping them as close to field situations as possible.
- Better ways will be found to distribute them.
- More creative use of materials will be made, giving them national personality and cultural frames.
- The right kind of follow-up will lead to new converts and congregations.
- Follow-up by mail and personal contact will help thousands with deep spiritual problems to cope with life.
- Distribution of pre-tuned transistor

(Text continues on page 16)

BOLD NEW THRUSTS

5. Greatly expanded efforts in evangelism—major thrusts in urban areas and among students and other young people.



MAJOR CITY EVANGELIZATION

Joseph B. Underwood, Foreign Mission Board consultant in evangelism and church development, was asked to prepare suggestions for major city evangelization as part of the FMB strategy planning for the next 25 years. These suggestions were presented to the Board's Overseas Division staff, to the Foreign Mission Board, and are now being shared with Missions on the fields for further study, suggestions, improvements, revisions, and consideration.

Objectives

- To penetrate and saturate every segment of major cities with the gospel.
- To develop a plan of evangelization that provides church membership training for immediate and continuing values in every area of church life.

Phase One Preparation

I. Exploratory conference.

A) Share ideas with evangelism committee, leaders, pastors, missionaries, etc.

B) Choose evangelism committee if response is affirmative.

II. Organization.

A) Coordinating committee—general chairman, plus chairman of each committee needed for campaign.

B) Duties:

- Develop and correlate details of committee planning.
- Develop flow chart (calendar).
- Provide training for committees as needed (visiting specialists might be invited to assist).
- Visit, inform, and motivate churches for maximum involvement.
- Plan special features.
- Guide and activate every committee.

III. Spiritual preparation.

- A) Evangelism conference.
- For pastors and lay leaders.
- Present plans, discuss and improve.
- Training sessions.
- Bible studies related to revival and evangelism.

B) Inspirational and commitment rally.

B) Spiritual renewal in churches.

—Special Bible studies.

—Pastoral preaching (consider sermon series on revival, prayer, personal witnessing, life commitment).

—Stewardship studies and emphases in each church.

—Lay-renewal emphasis (study suggestions for conference led by laymen).

C) Personal evangelism training i.e., WIN (Witness Involvement Now) schools.

• WIN leadership training.

• WIN schools in every church.

D) Leadership training.

—Train and equip teachers for Sunday School and home Bible study units.

—Discover and cultivate spiritual gifts for maximum effectiveness in daily life and in the church.

—Use specialists in religious education to develop program of teacher training.

E) Music training—for each church; for campaign choir. Visiting (concert) musicians may assist.

F) Conservation.

—Begin special training after WIN schools.

—Review just before central campaign.

—Directed follow-up continues for several weeks after campaigns.

G) Evaluation.

—Develop and use evaluation criteria from initial stages.

—Be ready to modify plans as needed.

—Consult pastors and members at given intervals after campaigns.

—Advise with committee on conservation to stimulate effective follow-up.

Phase Two Penetration and Saturation

I. Target groups.

A) Guest specialists, from different countries as possible, will be invited for seminars, banquets, concerts, various types of conferences, etc., to reach those of their particular vocations or professions, especially those not usually attracted by the churches or through special campaigns. Possibilities include:

- Medical societies and students.
- University faculties and students, educational administrators.
- Artists, musicians, athletes, dramatists.
- Business men and women, industrialists and laborers, bankers, economists.
- Lawyers, political leaders, jurists.
- Family consultants, specialists for rehabilitation of alcoholics, drug addicts, etc. (These are only a few of the possible vocational target groups for which eminent specialists might be invited.)

Note: Plans should be included to reach ethnic groups, as well as vocational and professional groups.

B) Introductory letters. Letters from people of same or similar vocations and businesses could be written to introduce visitors and to stimulate interest.

C) Seminars, banquets, personal visits of guest specialists to people in the same businesses or professions.

D) Interviews with news media; advance news stories, etc.

E) Interviews with government leaders.

II. Special seminars and Bible conferences.

A) In hotel conference rooms or other appropriate meeting place.

B) Aim at select groups, small in number, meeting on "neutral" ground—but with the purpose to relate positively to Baptist churches.

C) These seminars will include:

- Bible studies under the leadership of an outstanding expositor.
- Conferences led by professors of philosophy of the Christian religion.

• Conferences led by psychologists, family consultants, and the like.

• Special seminars for university students.

III. Home meetings.

A) During month preceding city campaign.

B) Under direction of trained leaders.

C) Home meetings in every section of city, to reach every neighborhood and to penetrate huge apartment blocks, etc.

D) Bible study, fellowship, prayer groups, evangelistic witness, cultivation of friendship.

Specially prepared Bible study workbooks, special evangelistic pamphlets, the use of audiovisuals, or the video cassette could enhance the studies and witness of these meetings.

E) Visitors from other countries could be used in homes where desirable. (They would not be the leaders of the meetings, but simply guests who would share their testimonies as requested.)

F) "House-churches" for cultivation of new converts.

IV. Mass media.

A) Newspapers:

- Carefully prepared series of doctrinal advertisements.
- Photographic advertisements portraying Baptist ministries in the country and in the world.
- News stories and advertisements about the campaigns, visiting personalities, special events, and about Baptists in other countries to acquaint readers with universality of message and ministry.

B) Radio and TV. Special programs:

- Brief doctrinal statements by Baptist leaders of various races, nationalities.
- Testimonies by people like Van Cliburn, Bill Pogue, James Irwin, Jerome Hines, Mark Hatfield, etc.

—Programs depicting Baptist ministries, especially in local city and country.

—Half-hour programs: concerts, worship, Bible study, testimonies, etc.

—Interviews with guests.

C) Audiovisual cassettes or 16 mm film clips.

• A variety of programs prepared on this type of cassette could be used in television sets in store windows, air terminals, train stations, bus centers, university centers, social centers.

• Special programs on these audiovisual cassettes could be used for training and motivation, for home sessions as well as in small churches.

• Programs for home meetings could be prepared. For example, a 15-minute Bible study might be presented by an able pastor or professor (a national), with home meeting leaders prepared to direct conversation or workbook study afterward.

• Audiovisual cassettes could be used in various types of training conferences. (Film clips could be used instead of cassettes.)

V. Concerts and dramas.

A) Possible locations: concert halls and public theaters; radio and TV; churches; in resort areas during vacation periods.

B) Concert artists, in addition to performances in concert halls and on television, could meet with professional musicians in special workshops or banquets and with music students.

C) Concert artists and choir groups would serve during central campaign, as well as in pre-campaign meetings.

D) Guest artist would give positive testimony on each occasion.

VI. Films.

Various types of films could be developed for use in churches, theaters, TV.

VII. Literature.

A) A basic tract on theme of campaign, primarily evangelistic in nature.

B) Specifically prepared evangelistic and doctrinal tracts.

C) Mass Scripture distribution.

D) Photographic brochure on "Who Are the Baptists?"

E) Various workbooks, or correspondence studies, for preparation of counselors, Bible study leaders, and for home meetings, new converts, etc.

F) Quality literature, as well as quantity.

Phase Three The Campaigns

I. The Central Campaign.

A) Time: one week or ten days in a stadium or large auditorium, arena, or other appropriate place.

B) Personnel:

- Excellent evangelist.
- Musicians.

A mass choir, an excellent choir leader and congregational leader, visiting artists and choirs.

- Special guest personalities.
- International and multiracial preachers,

musicians, laymen might share testimonies in the mass meetings, be presented in interviews on television or radio, visit civic clubs, and help in visitation in close cooperation with the churches.

C) An evangelistic workshop each morning for pastors and laymen. Would include Bible studies, conferences on evangelistic methods, training in personal evangelism and music, refresher course for counselors, and the like.

D) Personal witnessing—a major feature of the central campaign and of the church campaigns.

II. Simultaneous campaigns in churches.

A) During week following central crusade, in every Baptist church of the city.

B) Use of multi-national personnel—in home visits and in churches.

C) Emphasis on personal witnessing.

D) Follow-up visitation—to those who made decisions during central campaign.

Phase Four Conservation

I. Counselors, general committee.

• One of the major committees from the beginning.

• Responsible to impress on every church the importance of thorough follow-up for discipleship, commitment, involvement.

• Responsible to develop plan most appropriate for churches.

• Develop plan for concerted training in central meeting places.

• Committee should continue to function during several weeks of follow-up, giving specific guidance where needed, motivating churches to thorough follow-up, according to agreed-upon plan.

II. Cultivation of church fellowship.

A) During months of preparation, special attention should be given to providing a warm, spiritual, loving, redemptive fellowship for new believers.

B) Get-acquainted fellowships for those

who make decisions.

C) Assignments of counselors and church members to new converts for follow-up visits, Bible study, fellowship.

D) Emphasis on religious education.

—During year of preparation, attention should be dedicated to training good teachers both for church members and for new converts.

—This could involve the use of religious education specialists and should help develop better Bible teaching in the churches and in home meetings.

III. Follow-up visits with new believers.

A) Individual sponsorship.

B) Special study workbooks prepared for assistance to new believers to be studied with the new convert by the individual sponsor. (Correspondence studies in various countries could be used.)

C) Enlist and involve new convert in church family and work.

D) Lead to early baptism.

IV. "House-churches."

A) Establish and maintain home Bible study fellowships.

B) Continue to penetrate every area of city and every class of society (multiply units).

C) Maintain close relationship with churches.

Evaluation

• Special committee functions throughout entire period.

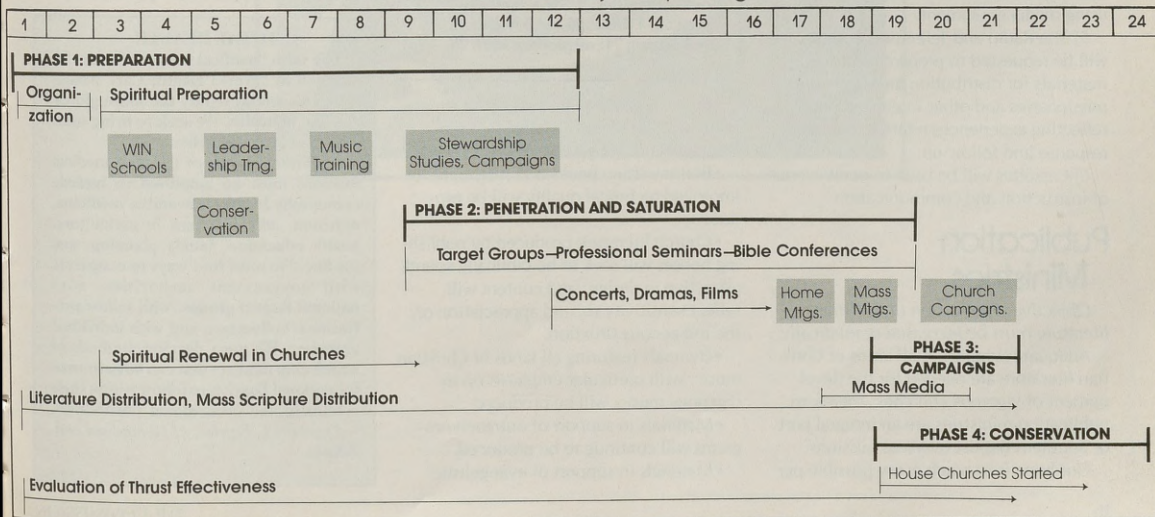
• General coordinator selects three or four committee chairmen to serve with him in evaluation.

• Evaluation process should enable general steering committee to make modifications as necessary during preparation period.

• Effectiveness of various special features and aspects of campaign should be assessed: immediately; after a period of a few weeks; after several months.

• This committee should be ready to assist conservation committee as needed. TC

24-month Flow Chart for Major City Evangelization



(Continued from page 12)

radios (inexpensive) will continue to expand the listening audience.

- The use of videotape technique will continue to add all sorts of possibilities for teaching, preaching, and promoting.

- Radio will be used to communicate the Christian message to Communist and Muslim countries where missionaries either cannot go or are prevented from preaching.

- Contract relations with overseas media organizations will be used more frequently and intensively. These will include contracts for the management of time blocks, a new element, as resources permit.

3) Audio-visuals. Films, slides, filmstrips, still pictures, art, and illustrative materials of all sorts will be given increasingly larger use.

4) The Foreign Mission Board will continue to maintain a full and complete

MODERN FRONTIER

For the church of Jesus Christ, the city has become the modern frontier of missions. It is the place where Christian convictions, courage, and creative imagination are tested most severely.—Roger S. Greenway, Latin America secretary, Christian Reformed Board of Foreign Missions

interrelationship with the Radio and Television Commission:

- By working together on joint projects.
- By training media missionaries in workshops at Ft. Worth when feasible.

- By giving encouragement to missionary personnel to seek help from the Radio and Television Commission concerning techniques and equipment.

- By exploring the possibility of including in missionary orientation some training in basic skills in handling and using media equipment.

5) The Radio and Television Commission will be requested to prepare resource materials for distribution among media missionaries and other interested people, reflecting experiences relative to audience response and follow-up.

6) Cassettes will be used to open avenues of instruction and communication.

Publication Ministries

Objective: Publication of Christian literature must be increased dramatically.

Adequate supplies of all kinds of Christian literature are needed for the development of vigorous churches; therefore, publication ministries are an integral part of Southern Baptist overseas missions.

Our hope is to reach every possible per-

PASTORS

Strong mission-minded leaders are necessary in the development of missionary churches. The most essential person in mission support is the pastor. . . . God calls every pastor to be a world mission leader. The cause of Christ will prevail only if the pastors are faithful to this lofty ideal.—Missions Challenge Committee, SBC

son overseas with the printed word. People are learning to read. What they read is of paramount importance.

1) Literature ministry.

- The flow of better-written literature will be substantially increased.

- More missionaries with specialized training will be engaged in publication work.

- More national writers and editors will be trained in all areas of literature preparation, production, and distribution.

- Well-written articles and advertisements on Christianity will be published in secular newspapers and magazines for the "unbelieving world."

- A process for determining the literature needs of the people served by the literature ministry will be developed.

- Objective criteria will be established for evaluating the adequacy, or inadequacy, of church literature published and used overseas; and increased care will be taken to avoid duplication of effort.

2) Literature production.

Publications on the fields in 1975 Related to Southern Baptist foreign missions

Publication centers: 27.

Missionary staff: 93.

National staff: 548.

Periodicals: 406 titles; 6,232,476 pieces.

Books: 487 titles; 1,784,128 pieces.

Tracts: 274 titles; 16,153,460 pieces.

Book stores: 71; missionary staff, 26.

- Bibles and adequate supportive literature must be made available to every language and age group in every country.

- Better-written books and magazines of improved technical quality will be produced.

- Church literature produced by publishing houses will seek to be biblically sound, attractive in design; and content will reflect sensitivity to, and appreciation of, the indigenous situation.

- Hymnals featuring all kinds of Christian music, with particular emphasis on indigenous music, will be produced.

- Materials in support of outreach programs will continue to be produced.

- Materials in support of evangelistic

and training ministries to new literates, believers and non-believers, will be developed.

- Literature production will be coordinated better.

3) Literature distribution.

- The establishment of additional book stores will be encouraged.

- Where a publishing house serves more than one country, the wholesale deposit of materials in each country will continue to be advocated and accelerated.

- The use of homes and churches as sales and distribution centers will be increased.

- Secular outlets will be used for materials appropriate for general readership.

- Strategies will be developed for mass distribution of evangelistic materials.

4) Utilization of U.S.A. resources. The talent, expertise, and related resources of Southern Baptist Convention agencies and institutions are available to the Foreign Mission Board. Keeping in mind the necessity for indigeneity, the Board, the Missions, and individual missionaries will make use of all available resources that will enhance the effectiveness of publication ministries.

Compassionate Ministries Health Care

Objective: Accentuated attention to health care and disease prevention.

1) Purpose—

- Reaffirmation will be given to the objective for medical missions as stated in the program statement of the Foreign Mission Board for Hospitals and Medical Care in Foreign Lands, as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention, May 1966: "To provide medical assistance to people in foreign countries, as an expression of

TOTAL HEALTH

The term "medical missions" must be changed to "World Health Care Ministry." This would signify the more global concept of health. We seek to bring total health, not just medicine.

Traditional forms of curative medical missions must be amplified to include community health, preventive medicine, nutrition, and programs in agriculture, health education, family planning, and the like. We must find ways to cooperate with government authorities, with national Baptist groups, with fellow professional colleagues, and with individual churches. We must develop methods of health care ministry that can be patterned for national Baptists to follow within their economic and professional possibilities.

—Franklin T. Fowler, FMB medical consultant

BOLD NEW THRUSTS

6. Tenfold multiplication of churches overseas—with concomitant increases in baptisms and church membership.



Christian love, and as a means of witness in order that they might be brought to God through Jesus Christ."

—Reaffirmation will be given to the biblical and historical validity of medical missions.

—In view of the overall objective, a continuous evaluation of the effectiveness of all medical missions units will be made to determine and improve: spiritual effectiveness and results, professional standards and competency, administrative proficiency, financial efficiency.

'OUR OBLIGATION'

We must reassert Southern Baptists' responsibility to suffering humanity. We cannot abandon our responsibility without committing heresy. We may have to change our approach, but we cannot disown our obligation, if we truly preach the gospel of love.—Franklin T. Fowler

2) Enlarged medical ministries will require increased finances and a great many more medical personnel.

3) Health care overseas will continue to be given in a multiplicity of ways through: hospitals, clinics, mobile units, churches, good will centers and other denominational institutions, and government programs. New ways are being sought, tried, and accepted or rejected.

4) Particular attention will be given in two directions: community health, and the training of qualified national medical personnel.

5) Lay involvement—
—Medical/Dental Volunteer Program will continue to be promoted and coordinated.

—Baptist Medical/Dental Fellowship will be promoted.

—Disaster response teams will be organized: (1) emergency field hospital units; (2) medical emergency teams.

6) Relationships with national governments. Recognizing that national governments are becoming more and more concerned for the health care of their own people, it will be imperative that mission hospitals and medical units cooperate with government health authorities in various ways, but without compromising freedom of Christian witness or basic convictions. Medical ministries often open people's hearts to the message of salvation. They also are possible where certain other types of work are forbidden.

Benevolent and Social Ministries

Objective: Benevolent and social ministries on an expanding scale.

1) **Basic principles and concepts.** Benevolent ministries must grow from the nature of the good news.

Approaches to benevolent ministries include careful evaluation of the long-range implications of the chosen philosophy of helping. Working through churches and training existing leadership are considered as priorities, rather than the establishment of separate institutions.

Benevolent ministries have a twofold purpose: (1) to demonstrate the love and concern of God through Christ for the whole person, and (2) to provide an opportunity to proclaim the redeeming, liberating, and sustaining power of the gospel. Structures and programs which would contribute to the polarization of the individual's salvation and social concern will be avoided. Proclamation and service are two sides of the same coin. In the light of today's glaring needs, each Mission will study its need for social benevolent ministries.

2) **Applications of principles and concepts—**
—Focus will continue to be on quality. We cannot do it all, but a strategy of selected services of quality in Jesus' name will be most meaningful and positive.
—Programs will have unique and distinctive functions interrelated at the local

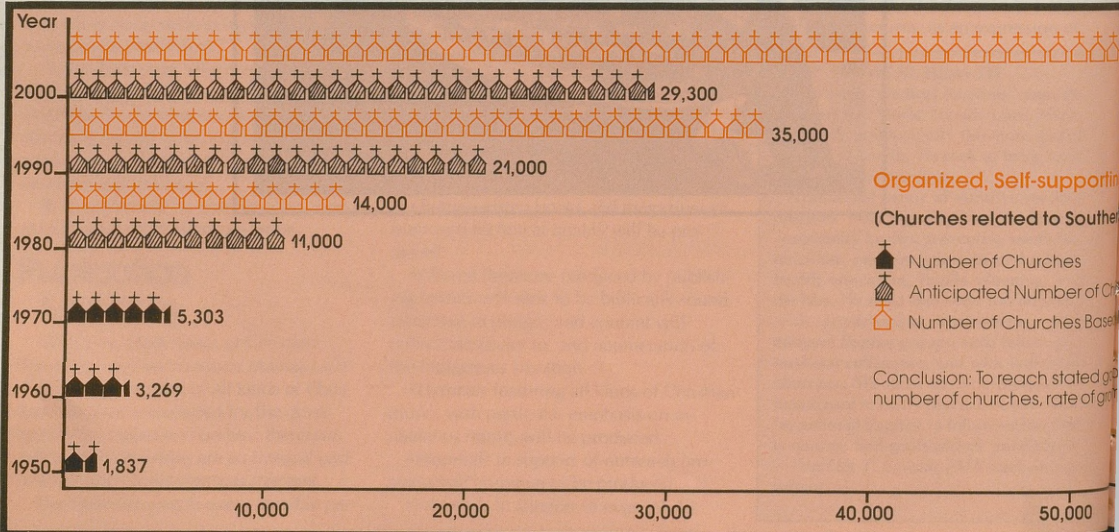
READY CHANNEL

Southern Baptists are blessed in having a channel of relief whereby missionaries of the Board, who are involved in ongoing tasks of missionary ministry, are able to guide the administration of relief in their fields so that the long-range fruitage of relief measures will be constructive.—Baker J. Cauthen

Medical Work in 1975 Related to Southern Baptist foreign missions

Missionary physicians: 59.
National physicians: 245.
Missionary nurses: 101.
National nurses: 673.
Other medical missionary personnel: 51.
Other national personnel: 1,609.
Hospitals: 21.
Clinics and dispensaries: 125.
Total beds: 2,055.
Inpatients registered: 101,945.
Outpatients registered: 970,747.

Graph research by James W. Cecil; design by Burriel W. Perry



church level so that all can be a part of dynamic evangelism and outreach.

—Mission personnel, including an enlarging number trained in social work, will be used so that their unique gifts will build and strengthen the quality of benevolent ministries.

—Facilities will be used for multipurpose ministries following a church-oriented approach.

—The job cannot be done by us alone. We can and must work closely with other church groups and voluntary organizations, as well as agencies of government, without sacrificing or compromising our autonomy or convictions.

3) **Benevolent ministries will remain highly visible** through a variety of approaches utilizing personnel trained in the following specialties: good will centers; social centers; child care centers; children's homes; literacy programs; adult education classes; care for aging; family planning emphases; poverty relief; demonstration farms; crop programs; animal husbandry improvement projects; water improvement schemes; well digging; government welfare, health, and penal institutions; community development projects.

Hunger Relief and Disaster Response

Objective: Vigorous, appropriate, and prompt response to desperate human need in crisis situations.

World hunger is a tremendous problem. Recurring disasters will continue to plague mankind. They call for Christian responses characterized by promptness and gen-

MEDICAL FELLOWSHIP

As lay volunteer involvement increases and participation in the world health care ministry grows, a Baptist medical fellowship is called for. This would be a fellowship of all Baptist medical personnel in Southern Baptist churches who, through designated channels, would advise and give consultation to the Foreign Mission Board on world health care ministry. Such a fellowship would also organize disaster relief medical teams and volunteer projects, and would help in promotion and recruitment of medical missionaries.

—Franklin T. Fowler

erosity. To meet these needs:

- The Foreign Mission Board will further develop its long-range program of "Hunger Relief and Disaster Response," consistent with the biblical imperative of the Great Commission (Matthew 28) and the great culmination (Matthew 25), complementary to and supportive of our role in evangelism and church development, and responsive to the needs of the world and the concern of our people.

- The Board will give missionary personnel training and "know-how" in areas related to "Hunger Relief and Disaster Response."

- The Board will continue to inform Southern Baptists freely about the needs, the responses, and the goals of these programs, in keeping with the encouragement the Southern Baptist Convention has already given.

- The Board will develop appropriate

COOPERATION ESSENTIAL

The twin pillars of Southern Baptist organizational vitality are the doctrines of the autonomy of the local churches and the cooperation of churches in missions. One is no less essential than the other, and each balances the other. . . . Most Baptists have found cooperation a better way than non-cooperation. . . . The Southern Baptist Convention was formed as a cooperative expression of the churches on mission. . . . In the minds of the founders of the Convention, three things loomed very large: the need for the world to believe, the autonomy of the churches, and the necessity for cooperation. —Missions Challenge Committee, SBC

models in various places and of various kinds, based upon previous experience, as well as present and future needs.

- Funds given by Southern Baptists for these purposes will continue to be used to feed the hungry, provide tools and work projects, increase agricultural undertakings,

help with housing needs, provide medical assistance, and for other forms of aid.

- Organization and procedures will be developed, refined, and clearly stated for making efficient response to starvation and disasters.

Life Commitments Missionary Personnel for the Future

Objective: Missionary staff of 5,000, which will call for 9,000 new missionaries to be sent out in next 25 years.

All Christians are called to be missionary in outlook, commitment, and involvement. Some Christians are called to serve as missionaries in other parts of the world.

We challenge Southern Baptists to have at least 5,000 missionaries under appointment by the end of this century. This is attainable, given continuing and growing Southern Baptist commitment to the foreign missions task. At the present level of church membership in the SBC, this would mean approximately one couple for every 15 churches, or one couple for approximately 5,000 Southern Baptists. But many individual churches should produce one missionary or more from their own mem-

MATURING CHURCHES

The Missions of East Asia expect to continue programs of expansion, with primary emphasis on evangelism and church development. A healthy spirit of cooperation exists between the Missions and the national Baptist bodies. Many of the churches have attained a high level of maturity and project their own programs of evangelism. —George H. Hays, FMB secretary for East Asia

bership. Our Southern Baptist churches have the resources in people and money to do this.

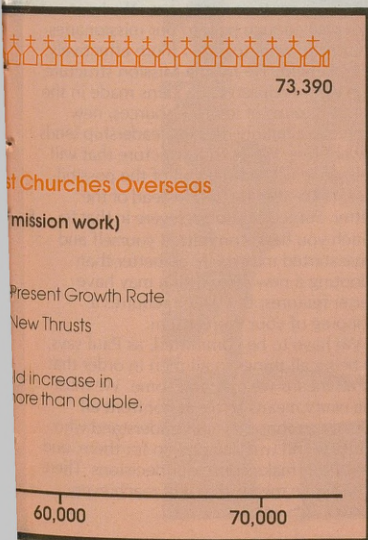
The overseas Missions are requesting additional personnel—currently, for 1,217 people for 1976. The requests from overseas suggest a 100 percent increase by the end of this century.

To reach this goal of 5,000 by the year A.D. 2000 will force Southern Baptists to reexamine their basic convictions and commitments:

1) Who is a Baptist foreign missionary?

He is one who out of his experience of faith in Jesus Christ has come to feel the call to involve himself in the lives of other people for God's redemptive purposes.

(Text continues on page 22)



BY ALL MEANS

In this condensed interview three Foreign Mission Board area secretaries—Charles W. Bryan, Middle America and the Caribbean; Davis L. Saunders, Eastern and Southern Africa; William R. Wakefield, Southeast Asia—discuss “Bold New Thrusts.”

Question: What are some specific meanings of Bold New Thrusts for your areas?

Saunders: We must intensify investigation of the possibilities of mission work in the few countries of the area where we don't have missionaries at present.

Bryan: The thrust of additional missionary personnel means we can go into countries already surveyed, where we have seen the need and have been invited, but where we have not been able to go because of lack of personnel.

Saunders: A number of national conventions have specifically asked us to open new stations; they have a list of priorities. We have been unable to involve ourselves in many of these places because of the lack of personnel.

Bryan: Other things would be parallel in importance. One is in updating missionary skills. The role of the missionary is changing drastically, and because we have been limited in resources, we have not been able to keep up in providing our missionary force with new skills to match the needs of a new day.

Saunders: We need to equip missionaries in leadership training. Here is our greatest resource—the nationals, fulfilling their own commission for carrying the gospel.

Bryan: Right along with that is the stewardship thrust. We need to equip missionaries and nationals to see what is involved in New Testament stewardship. The resources must come from the people, those who are touched by the gospel.

Q: One aspect of Bold New Thrusts is “more”—more missionaries, more money—to allow enlargement of what is being done. Another aspect would be “different.” Do you see new ways of accomplishing old tasks?

Saunders: There is always development—sometimes geographical, sometimes numerical, but more often it is actually change. The missionary's role is changing. Shortly after he goes as an evangelist, he finds himself a teacher of witnesses. You think of him as a preacher and pastor, but soon he finds himself a teacher of preachers and pastors. Alongside the missionary is a growing nucleus of national leadership.

In terms of new avenues, there are a number. For example, a missionary doctor

has been teaching in the School of Medicine at the University of Nairobi. He is now presenting to the Mission the possibility of utilizing resources of the university for training national pastors and others in the chaplain's role to minister in hospitals and prisons in the whole of Kenya.

Wakefield: We need more development from within an area, more creativeness. I say to new missionaries, “You ought to have an ‘experimental farm’ going,” to use an agricultural term. On an actual experimental farm, the measure of success is not whether a profit is made, but what is learned. On a missionary's “experimental farm” he ought to be doing some things in which the only purpose is to learn. Even if he fails, he's learned.

Bryan: Many new and exciting approaches are going on. New things are being experimented with; they are just not heard about here. As the gospel becomes more indigenous within a country, new avenues open. This points to the importance of developing national leadership and having them take a responsible role. This has been our approach through the years. Radio and television representatives all the time are exploring new avenues to reach the masses.

Saunders: The Bible correspondence courses being developed are uniquely suited for the mission field. The program is directed not only toward Bible study, but also toward evangelism and then follow-up. The cassette ministry is growing, operating where it is difficult for the leadership to do an effective job because they themselves have not had opportunity for detailed training.

Q: If Southern Baptists provide the personnel and the money called for, can these new plans be implemented? Will the pace of growth overwhelm the Missions?

Saunders: Any change in emphasis in the next 25 years could be examined in the light of a counterpart in change of emphasis in the last 25. There is constant change. In terms of doubling the missionary force and the resources with which to support them, the Missions would have no difficulty in absorbing and effectively utilizing such a force.

Bryan: But it's not just more of the same. We are entering a new day in our missionary thrust. We must provide additional help to our missionary force. In student work, for example, we have in our foreign mission enterprise the combined resources to come to an understanding of how youth and students can be reached. But we need not

leave it up to one individual here and another there. We need some kind of a model program.

Wakefield: We need more models rather than studies. For example, Ralph Neighbour in Singapore is providing a model in urban work. Others can see how it can be done. The same would be true in student work. Perhaps we need a model and then someone able to interpret from it which factors are universal and which are particular to that setting. A missionary must have the professionalism to analyze the principles that enable him to succeed. We need missionaries with a learning attitude.

Bryan: We have people with specialized training that somehow we have kept within the boundaries of one country. We have broken out of that; we are trying to develop some area skills, using on a broad scale men with extraordinary skills. It is a matter of stewardship.

Wakefield: It seems to me that the seeds of almost all I see in the strategy report are inherent in what we are doing. So much is going on in the Missions. There are many creative individuals. To some extent the Bold New Thrusts report reflects the futuristic thinking germinating now in many of the fields.

Saunders: If you were to examine every Mission, I think you would find somewhere every one of these germinal ideas.

Wakefield: This is not to say we are simply to do more and more of what we are doing, but to call for creativeness, to let the new and better become the commonplace, instead of being restricted to one area.

Q: What are some practical factors in implementing these plans?

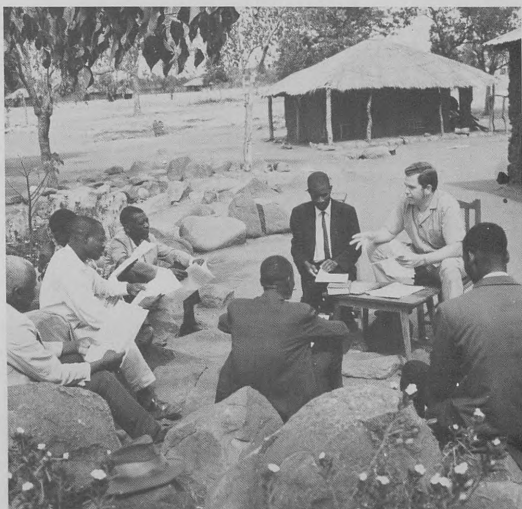
Bryan: One big need is in personal communication. I would like to see us provide some basis on which national leadership and missionary force, country by country, could come together and understand each other in a more in-depth way. We have not provided enough help to our missionaries on how to work together more effectively.

Wakefield: We need a Mission structure that would conserve the gains made in the fields in terms of ideas, resources, new projects; a rapidly rotating leadership tends toward loss. We need a structure that will help us select between all of the possibilities, to choose the best instead of the better. Sometimes to persevere in that to which you have committed yourself and have started may really be better than adopting a new idea, which may have better features, but which requires a stopping of your momentum.

We have to be committed, as Paul says, to being all things to all men in order that by all means we may win some. We must use every means to try to confront all persons so that they can understand who Christ is and what he can do for them, and out of this make conscious decisions. There is no single means that will reach every person. **TC**

BOLD NEW THRUSTS

7. Extraordinary efforts in leadership training—through strengthened seminaries, Theological Education by Extension, and lay leadership training.



Missionary Appointments
Projection 1975-2000

Year	Total Appointments*	Total Force**
1975 (actual)	252	2,671
1976	259	2,739
1977	265	2,808
1978	270	2,880
1979	276	2,953
1980	282	3,028
1981	288	3,105
1982	294	3,184
1983	299	3,265
1984	307	3,347
1985	315	3,432
1986	322	3,520
1987	331	3,609
1988	339	3,700
1989	348	3,794
1990	357	3,891
1991	365	3,990
1992	375	4,091
1993	385	4,195
1994	395	4,302
1995	405	4,411
1996	415	4,523
1997	425	4,638
1998	436	4,756
1999	447	4,877
2000	458	5,000

*Includes appointments of career missionaries and employment of missionary associates and other auxiliary personnel (missionary journeymen and special project personnel).

**Net total at end of year, allowing for retirements, resignations, and turnover in auxiliary personnel.

(Continued from page 19)

He gives evidence of gifts and abilities which can be utilized in an overseas assignment. These qualities are recognized and affirmed by his supporting community. In his overseas service he enjoys the encouragement and support of his denomination.

2) **The Foreign Mission Board believes in a call to missionary service.** "Call" comes on the initiative of God in the person's life and expresses itself in his willingness to yield himself totally to the service of Jesus overseas. "Call" can never be a purely private experience. Yet it is a strong definite word of command to the individual, from the Lord Jesus Christ, to share the message of eternal life overseas through his name.

3) **All missionaries must be committed to the absolute need for evangelism.** They should be skilled witnesses, whose witness (with God's blessings) has resulted in decisions for Christ. Some missionaries are specialists, but all are witnesses.

4) **Recruitment of missionaries is the process by which those who are called of God and qualified for missionary service are contacted and brought to appointment as missionaries.** The following is recommended:

That an emphasis be made on the fact that every Baptist church has a worldwide

privilege and responsibility. Further, that each Southern Baptist church should make at least an annual emphasis that points specifically toward the recruitment of missionaries by observing the following—

- Pray that the Lord of the Harvest call forth at least one missionary out of that local fellowship.

- Challenge the parents to commit themselves to a world ministry and a ministry of encouragement to their children to respond to that world ministry if the Lord leads.

- Give an opportunity for members of the congregation to commit themselves to missionary service.

- Provide a nurturing ministry for those who do commit themselves to foreign mission service.

To this end the Foreign Mission Board will provide materials for local church staffs which would enable them to fulfill this ministry.

Efforts similar to this must be encouraged in other entities of Baptist life.

As an enabling ministry, the personnel staff of the Foreign Mission Board makes itself available to channel these called-out people from the churches to their desired overseas involvement.

Better utilization of furloughing missionaries will strengthen recruitment.

5) **The Board will strengthen plans for** (1) missionary orientation and renewal, before and after arriving on the field, and on furloughs; (2) major attention to be given to ongoing missionary training—to sharpen skills, update information, prepare for new assignments, spiritual equipment and undergirding, etc.—by a variety of materials and means.

It will continue to avail itself of, and intensify the use of, skills and resources offered by other Southern Baptist agencies (especially seminaries) in equipping missionaries for peak performance.

Volunteer Lay Involvement Overseas

Objective: Increased tempo of volunteer lay involvement overseas.

UNFINISHED TASK

Forms and structures may change, and the theology of mission may be stated in differing ways, but the Christian world mission will continue "to the end of the age." The continuing missionary imperative expressed in the Great Commission and impelled by the Holy Spirit calls us to an unfinished task. Our Lord does not rest content, nor should we, until the task is finished. —Winston Crawley

WHERE THEY COME FROM

During the next 25 years Southern Baptists hope to appoint a growing number of missionaries for foreign service. The question that often comes to me is, "Where are these people going to come from?" My response is that they must come from among the youth of our churches—mission-minded churches that are involved in the basic and exciting dimensions of Christian ministry.

This means that men and women who are now involved in church work, and young people who are in Sunday School, Church Training, and the mission activities of those churches must be instructed and encouraged in their Christian discipleship in such a way that they will see the basic mission of the church as found in John 20:21 ("As the Father hath sent me, even so send I you").

As disciples, we are to go in the name of Jesus; we are to pattern our work after his example. This is basic. This means that missions—foreign missions, home missions—is one of the finest expressions of the New Testament church: the giving of life, life commitment.

Life commitment touches us at the point of giving of our money sacrificially, the giving of our time and energy, the giving of self. —Louis R. Cobbs, FMB secretary of missionary personnel

Southern Baptists are becoming more directly and personally involved in overseas tasks. The Foreign Mission Board is the appropriate channel for bringing together the needs of our mission fields around the world, and the laborers and resources of Southern Baptists.

1) The Board will utilize a broader volunteer lay involvement and participa-

GRATEFUL LAYMEN

In various countries are opportunities for laymen in various fields. Christian laymen who can serve even for a short time will be surprised at the contacts they make. We came away from Botswana with an overwhelming sense of blessing in our lives. We received much more than we gave. —H. E. Mitchell, dentist who served as volunteer in Botswana

tion in planned ministries on foreign mission fields. Up to 3,000 volunteers per year can be used to good advantage now, and the number will increase.

These ministries will include: (1) lay evangelism; (2) specialized church leadership projects (WIN schools, women's work, stewardship instruction, interim pastors, etc.); (3) health services (doctors, dentists, nurses, hospital personnel); (4) teachers and educators; (5) construction projects; (6) agricultural opportunities; (7) business

BOLD NEW THRUSTS

8. Vastly increased use of radio, television, and publications on mission fields, and penetration via mass media of areas not presently open to missionary activities.



management (office, host, MK dorm, etc.); (8) disaster relief; (9) choirs and youth groups.

2) Devoted lay persons make strong allies for missionaries and national leaders in kingdom extension.

- Much more attention will be given to challenging and utilizing the thousands of lay persons going overseas in connection with their employment.

- Encouragement will be given to lay persons to accept secular employment overseas. One thousand families a year, deliberately moving overseas to serve Christ through secular vocations, can make a tremendous impact.

- Southern Baptist participants will be challenged and recruited from the churches for short-term involvement.

The help of individuals, interested groups, churches, associations, and/or

BRAZILIAN STEWARDSHIP

Brazilians are emphasizing the need of each believer to practice Christian stewardship. As a result, the Brazilian Baptist Convention is approaching self-support. The percentage of support of Brazilian Baptist work by funds from Southern Baptists through the Foreign Mission Board dropped from 54.3 percent in 1971 to 34 percent in 1974. Brazilian Baptist leaders are committed to the goal of stewardship.—O. D. Martin, Jr., missionary to Brazil

state conventions will be sought.

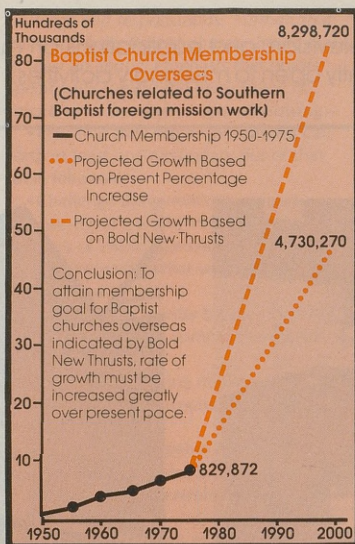
Opportunities will be communicated through such channels as the Sunday School and Church Training programs, denominational publications, Woman's Missionary Union, Baptist Men, Ridgcrest and Glorieta Conference Centers, and Baptist educational institutions.

3) The following guidelines will implement and facilitate the orderly channeling of talent and resources in response to overseas needs:

- Requests may be initiated from the mission fields and addressed to the Foreign Mission Board. The Board will evaluate each request, seeking counsel and information from whatever source seems proper.

- Requests may be initiated in countries where Southern Baptists do not have missionaries. Such requests should be channeled directly to the Foreign Mission Board for consideration.

- Requests channeled through the Board will contain a description of the need, the type of project or program desired, the location of the activity, the suggested dates, the approximate length of time desired, and the number and capabilities of persons needed.



Graph research by James W. Cecil
Design by Burriel W. Perry

"How is it possible to effect a ten-fold multiplication of individuals relating meaningfully to overseas Baptist churches?" asks Graph Researcher James W. Cecil. "First, we must recognize that to be realistic, this goal must originate in the mind of God and not in the speculation of man," he suggests. "Also, the planning of strategic actions to accomplish this humanly impossible task must be formulated with the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Planners will be keenly aware of what God has done in the past and his plan for the redemption of mankind in the future."

- Reasons for overseas origination and Board implementation include the following: (1) Overseas situations are best known by the missionaries and national leaders who are actually there. (2) The ultimate purpose of such projects is to serve the needs of the field. (3) Guidelines are necessary, and the Board will provide them.

4) Financial foundations are frequently interested in the well-being of people overseas. Baptist lay people will be encouraged to motivate such organizations to help where they have special interests.

CITIES AND CHANGE

Despite massive indifference and rampant materialism, the new cities have brought the greatest interest in spiritual things in our time. This attests to one overriding reality: the great social change that accompanies intensification of urbanization creates a vast spiritual void and, therefore, a unique and challenging evangelistic opportunity.—Francis M. DuBose, professor and urban specialist, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary

Homeland Stewardship

The stewardship obligations of Southern Baptists toward overseas missions rest upon all church members and churches.

The Foreign Mission Board has been given specific responsibilities to discharge. It proposes to fulfill them (1) through its oversight and administration, (2) by motivating beliefs and convictions, and (3) by its reliance upon Southern Baptists for their dedicated resources.

Oversight and Administration

The Foreign Mission Board stands ready to strengthen its home base administration to discharge all necessary responsibilities occasioned by vastly expanded programs of mission work. This will call for:

- Continuing study and research. The Board is committed to constant and sustained planning for the future. It believes that study, research, and any other creative processes should be employed in continuing investigations, searching for new methods, fresh and innovative approaches, and more effective techniques.

- Adequate staff for heavy administrative responsibilities.

- Additional facilities for the headquarters building, orientation, and missionary research.

Motivating Beliefs and Convictions

Motivating beliefs and convictions are acquired. One is not born with them. They can be communicated, as well as experienced. The Board's program of missionary education and promotion exists to stimulate missionary knowledge, interest, and participation.

The objective of the Board's program of missionary support is so to communicate to Southern Baptists the story of foreign missions that many will respond for missionary service, and that all will respond in prayer, giving, continuing concern, and personal involvement.

The Board's missionary education and promotion tasks are:

- To convey to Southern Baptists the biblical imperative to be missionary.

- To communicate to Southern Baptists the need of the world and information on their foreign mission programs to meet this need.

- To provide supportive materials, in-

Missionaries:Church Membership

Ratio of Southern Baptist foreign missionaries to membership of related churches overseas.

1950 1:205 (for each missionary there were 205 related churches)

1975 1:318

2000 1:829



ENABLERS: Emphases of the Bold New Thrusts call for about twice as many Southern Baptist foreign missionaries in the year 2000 as there were in 1975. But the plans call for a tenfold increase in number of churches on foreign fields related to Southern Baptist mission work (with parallel increases in church membership and number of baptisms).

This means approximately a 100 percent increase in number of missionaries, but a 1000 percent increase in number of churches.

It becomes obvious, then, that members of indigenous Baptist churches overseas must take progressively larger roles in witnessing. More and more the missionary must become an enabler. Missionaries will still be witnesses, of course. But they must teach and train national leadership who will help local members to take increasing responsibility in witnessing and church growth.

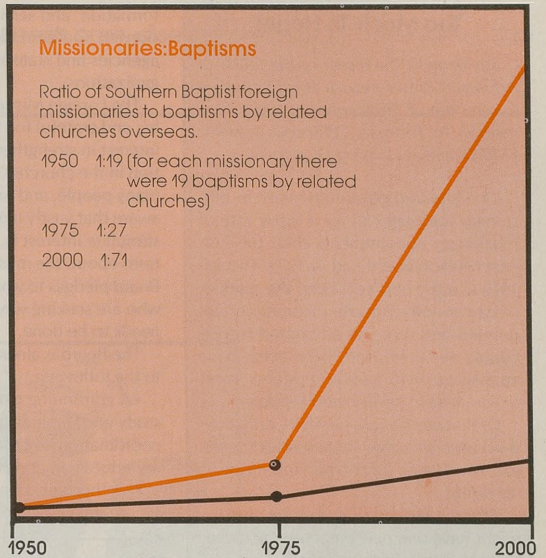
Missionaries:Baptisms

Ratio of Southern Baptist foreign missionaries to baptisms by related churches overseas.

1950 1:19 (for each missionary there were 19 baptisms by related churches)

1975 1:27

2000 1:71



INDIGENOUS: "New Testament churches are independent and autonomous under the lordship of Christ. The Foreign Mission Board is committed to the principle of indigenous churches, conventions, and institutions on foreign fields, consistent with New Testament norms, including Christian partnership. Strong encouragement will continue to be given to national leadership, administration, and self-support.

"The Foreign Mission Board . . . seeks to cultivate the work of Japanese Baptists, Nigerian Baptists, Brazilian Baptists, etc., in their proper spheres.

"National and local strategy formulation overseas usually takes final focus on the basis of initiatives taken by national leaders and missionaries."

Excerpt from "Foreign Missions Looks Toward A.D. 2000," adopted by the Foreign Mission Board.

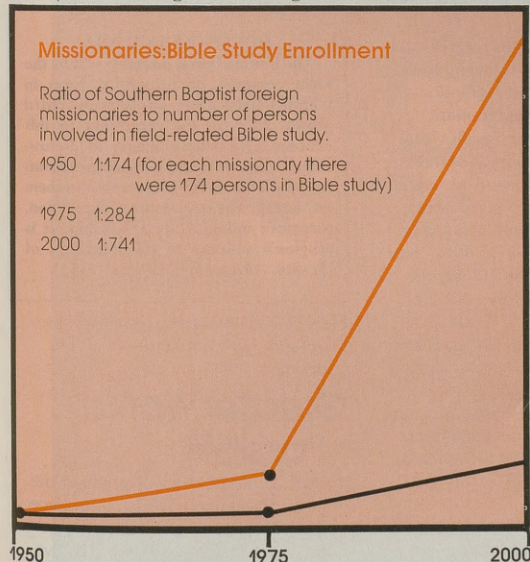
Missionaries:Bible Study Enrollment

Ratio of Southern Baptist foreign missionaries to number of persons involved in field-related Bible study.

1950 1:174 (for each missionary there were 174 persons in Bible study)

1975 1:284

2000 1:741



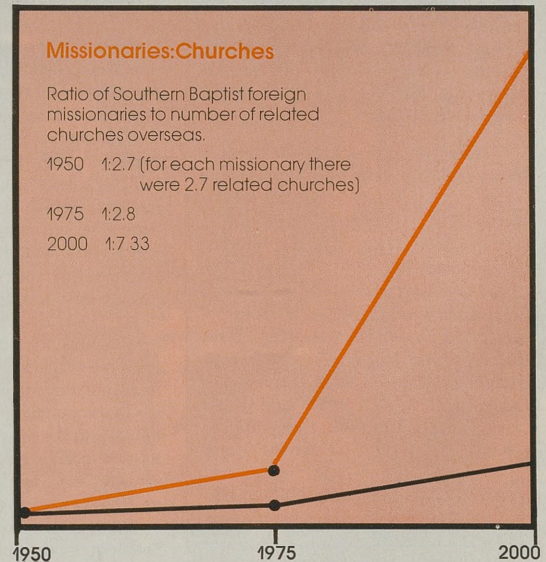
Missionaries:Churches

Ratio of Southern Baptist foreign missionaries to number of related churches overseas.

1950 1:2.7 (for each missionary there were 2.7 related churches)

1975 1:2.8

2000 1:7.33



Too Much To Hope?

Speaking to the report of the Study of Advance Plans before the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention in February, Winston Crawley, FMB Overseas Division Director:

One hundred percent increase in missionary staff will call for a faster rate of missionary appointments than the Foreign Mission Board had in 1975. Though 1975 was the best year ever, the number of career and associate missionaries appointed and sent out amounted to one couple per field. And these fields have an average of 16 million residents, most of whom have never heard the gospel.

Of that one couple per field, only one-third were preacher missionaries for the job of church planting and church nurturing.

Would it be too much to hope that we might have one new preacher each year for each field where we serve?

Would it be too much to hope that 10 percent of those graduating from the seminaries might offer themselves to serve where 95 percent of the world's lost people are?

Would it be too much to hope that out of each association some young preacher might be spared to go across the world to some city where he might be the only Baptist preacher?

Also speaking to the report were three former SBC presidents:

Southern Baptists are interested in the people of the earth basically because all men need Jesus. . . . Witness to the cross and service to fellowmen—both are essential for Christian witness to the gospel. . . . To ignore either permanence or change is to become irrelevant in history.—*Carl Bates*

The Lord won't bless a church that does not give high priority to worldwide concerns. . . . The strong leadership needed in the local church begins in the pulpit. . . . We need strong pastors committed to missions.

We need strong stewardship emphasis and strong missions emphasis in our colleges and in our seminaries. . . . Every agency of the Southern Baptist Convention ought to be involved in missionary education. . . . God didn't give us any task to do that he didn't provide the people to do the task.—*Owen W. Cooper*

Cooperation has made Southern Baptists, and cooperation must maintain us.—*J. D. Grey*

formation, and services on foreign missions to Southern Baptist Convention agencies and state and associational organizations.

The Foreign Mission Board is encouraged by, and grateful for, the recent widespread interest in strengthening missionary education in the churches. It recognizes that many people, and various agencies, are aware that vastly more must be done to stimulate interest in, and strong convictions about, the missionary enterprise. The Board pledges to work closely with those who are seeking ways to achieve what needs to be done.

The Board is already giving consideration to the following:

- A continuing group or structure to study and implement the correlation and coordination of Conventionwide missionary education and promotion.
- Methods and structure to be set up to secure missions information utilizing all

MISSIONS EDUCATION

Broadly based programs of intensive missions education must be provided for in the churches. This calls for renewal of the missionary educational organizations. The time has come for the enlistment of more church members and children in the activities of the Woman's Missionary Union and the Brotherhood. It is not enough for some people to be marginally related to these groups; there must be in-depth involvement.—Missions Challenge Committee, SBC

media to communicate this to our constituency in the optimum time frame.

- Use of videotape in missionary education.
- Provision of a promotion and distribution plan to disseminate Conventionwide missionary education and promotion materials as timely and appropriate.
- Production of print and audiovisual items on: (1) the biblical basis of missions; (2) history and the story of foreign missions; both in the formats of books, pamphlets, cassettes, tapes, and films.
- Development of a plan to utilize more effectively the time of the furloughing missionary in the missionary education task.
- Providing for the furloughing missionary more of the tools he needs to communicate the foreign missions story.
- Development of a definitive program to relate to the associational director of missions and to provide the materials and services he needs to promote foreign missions in his association.
- Producing and making available to Southern Baptists missionary education

HIGHER STEWARDSHIP

Cooperation requires a recommitment of the churches to a higher stewardship. We note with some sadness a decline in giving through the Cooperative Program by the churches. In 1966 the Cooperative Program received 10.11 cents from the collection-plate dollar. In 1974 it received 8.87 cents. This is a difference of 1.24 cents. This sounds very small, but translated into dollars it means that if Southern Baptist churches in 1975 had done as well as they did in 1966, they would have given \$1,384,298 more to missions. This does not seem worthy of the churches in times of great American affluence and great world need. It surely requires a new look at cooperation in missions, and a new commitment to bold stewardship.—*Missions Challenge Committee, SBC*

materials, some for free distribution and some at modest cost.

Dedicated Resources

If we fail to pray for workers for the harvest, we should not be disappointed that the program is not larger. If we are not good stewards of God's substance, we surely can understand why many urgent needs have to be neglected. If Southern Baptists turn their gaze inward, neglecting the wider aspects of Christian responsibility, we should not be surprised to learn that we are not keeping up with the world's burgeoning population.

The task ahead must be done on the

HOUSE-CHURCH ERA

The house-church probably will be the most common organizational form in which Christianity appears in Third World cities for the remainder of this century. City people hunger for fellowship, recognition, and personal acquaintance with the man who preaches to them on Sunday. The smaller the congregation, the more intimate the fellowship. It is religion's antidote to the loneliness of the city.—Roger S. Greenway

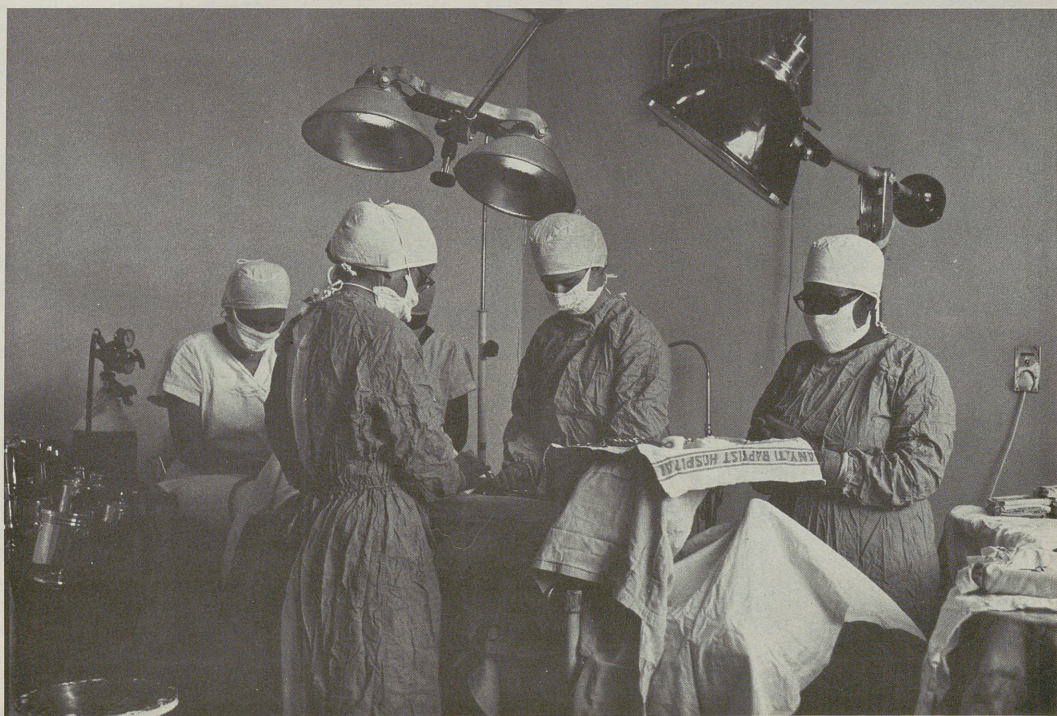
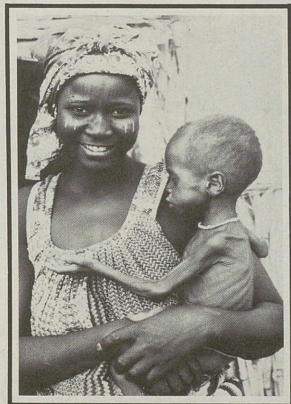
basis of available resources. Money is important, but spiritual resources are vastly more important.

Greater Works Possible

Christ continues his work without the limits imposed upon him by time, place, or his humanity. He gives us the opportunity to work along with him. That we

BOLD NEW THRUSTS

9. Accentuated attention to human need, through health care, disease prevention, benevolent and social ministries.



Reach Out

Baker J. Cauthen, Foreign Mission Board executive secretary, speaking to the Study of Advance Plans report before the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention in February:

Early in the Study of Advance Plans is this paragraph: "The last quarter of the twentieth century is a time to reaffirm our commitment to an entire world. Along with other missionary groups and churches, we challenge the Southern Baptist Convention to join in an all-out effort to see that every living person on earth at the close of this century shall have had the opportunity to hear the gospel."

These are words, but they're much more than words. They are convictions. And the price tag on these convictions is not to be measured just in dollars and cents. It's going to be measured in the life's blood of the people who will go—some won't come back—who will go and put themselves into the labor, and go deeper and deeper.

There is no bargain basement in this enterprise. It will cost all we are capable of bringing to the feet of our sovereign Lord. And the measure of our leadership in Baptist life will be in direct proportion to our capability under God of helping people to bring to our Lord the dedicated life and resources and prayers to make possible doing what Jesus said to do long ago. . . .

Baptists anywhere in the world are held together . . . by the truth of Jesus Christ as we apprehend it and a sense of loyalty to our sovereign Lord. That keeps us together. That sense of loyalty to our Lord makes us walk in step in reaching a broken world. . . .

Of the basic principles listed in the paper the last one says, "The Great Commission makes the overseas task the responsibility of each Christian and each church. Churches exist and cooperate for the purpose of world outreach and kingdom extension."

This means this task does not belong to the Foreign Mission Board. But rather it's something resting upon every New Testament church. The Foreign Mission Board is just a channel through which we pump the energy of Southern Baptists across the world. . . .

Whether we can do this or that or the other is optional, but telling the world about Jesus is mandatory, not because some Baptist preacher said it. But the Lord Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations."

That's what we say to you: Let's reach out and tell the whole world.

are able to do his works, in glorification of the Father, as incredible as it may seem, is because he continues his work, both through us and in other ways.

Southern Baptists have sought to do the works of Christ in world missions. But if they believe in him, they, with him, can do even greater things than he did "in the days of his flesh."

The sphere for greater works in overseas missions is the world: (1) countries where missionaries are at work, (2) countries where no Southern Baptist representatives are located. The doors to some countries, like China, are closed, but they will not remain closed forever. Yesterday's closed fields, in many instances, are today's open fields.

The time frame for greater works in missions is the last quarter of the twentieth century, or until Jesus comes again, whichever occurs first. The urgency is immediate. Greater works are needed now, and at an accelerated rate, as the rest of the century unfolds.

Bold New Thrusts

Bold New Thrusts in missions between 1976 and 2000 have been set forth in the foregoing material. Ten have been selected to be highlighted (see page 1).

In order to achieve these Bold New Thrusts in missions, the Foreign Mission Board looks to God and the people in the churches. The Board can make all the elaborate plans it pleases, but only God and Southern Baptists can say whether or not they can be implemented and carried to realization. Conditional, uncertain, subjunctive plans can only be converted into unconditional, certain, imperative realities by God's blessings and help, and by the committed wills, lives, and actions of the people in the churches.

Spiritual Preparation

The preparation for bold thrusts in missions must be spiritual. Those who participate must be spiritually conditioned for the task. They must be (1) redemption-conditioned, (2) resurrection-conditioned, (3) Holy Spirit-conditioned, (4) Great Commission-conditioned, (5) prayer-conditioned, and (6) commitment-conditioned.

Christ's promise of greater works is accompanied by perhaps the most unconditional prayer promise in the Bible (John 14:13), and it is repeated for emphasis (v.14): "Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it, that the Father may be glorified in the Son; if you ask anything in my

EACH ONE A WITNESS

True and vital missionary expression will mean spreading the gospel in ever-widening, concentric circles, beginning at the place where we are and reaching to the ends of the earth. When the concept of the people of God becomes clear to the church—that each follower of Christ knows he has the responsibility to witness—a revolution in Christianity will take place. Already where the concept of the lay ministry is at work on mission fields, a powerful force has been released. —A. Clark Scanlon, FMB field representative, Middle America

name, I will do it" (all Scripture quotations RSV).

Do Southern Baptists dare to claim this promise in relation to world missions? Christ's greatest deeds were prefaced with: "If you have faith. . . ."

"Did I not tell you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" (John 11:40).

"I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see

BOLD STEWARDSHIP

The challenge is a radical one and calls for bold stewardship. Motivated by a renewed vision of Christ's world mission, a new sense of urgency, and by unprecedented personal commitment, our churches must attempt to present the gospel to every person in every nation in the world during the next 25 years. Such commitment calls for a lofty new height in personal stewardship of both self and possessions. So great a cause demands no less than our all.—*Missions Challenge Committee, SBC*

how the fields are already white for harvest" (John 4:35).

"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (Matt. 9:37, 38).

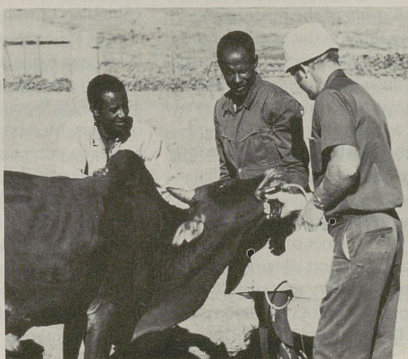
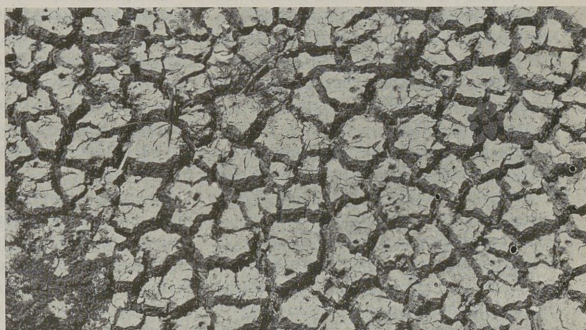
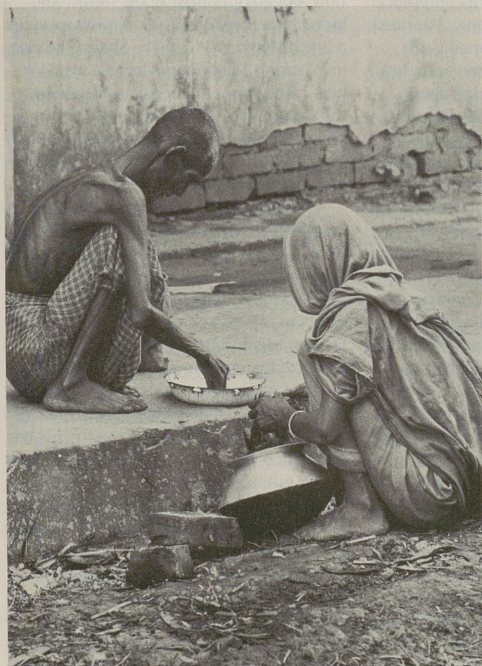
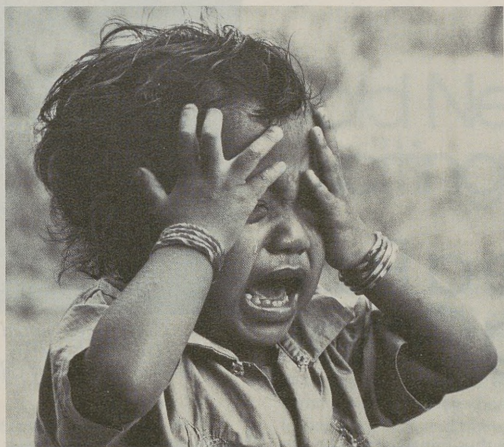
"We must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work" (John 9:4).

Bold thrusts in missions will be costly. The cost will be paid in the currency of life and resources. Christ himself, standing in the shadow of the cross, said, "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour?' No, for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify thy name" (John 12:27,28).

God grant that Southern Baptists, as they face the remainder of this century, will be willing to say: "For this purpose have we come to this hour. Father, glorify thy name"! TC

BOLD NEW THRUSTS

10. Vigorous, appropriate, and prompt responses to world hunger and disasters.



We Are a Part of Something Great



Carolyn Weatherford
Executive Secretary
Woman's Missionary Union

A teens sing with enthusiasm, "We are a part of something great, as to his Word we all relate." This spirit of enthusiasm is evident in all the WMU family as we study the Foreign Mission Board's "Bold New Thrusts in Foreign Missions, 1976-2000."

We have looked at the ten goals. We have listened as staff from the Foreign Mission Board has reminded Southern Baptists that the Board is looking to God and to the people in the churches for the achieving of the bold goals in this last quarter of the 1900s.

Woman's Missionary Union wants to reaffirm its recognition of the responsibility it has assumed in the awesome task of providing missionary education. Executive Board members and staff accept with renewed commitment the opportunity to lead in mission support. We acknowledge the need for accelerated efforts in these areas if the bold new goals are going to be accomplished in this century.

Through the study of the missionary message of the Bible in our organizations, we will give continuing emphasis to Christ's command to preach the gospel to all the people in the world. Until the members of our churches accept fully this command for this day, there will not be the response to those areas where the gospel is still relatively unknown.

Through the years, Woman's Missionary Union has stressed career missions as a means of mission support. Beginning in Girls in Action, members are taught what missionaries do, where they go, and why. In the years ahead we intend to increase

our membership, thus bringing into consistent missionary education more women and girls.

This part of the program of WMU was stressed by a young woman in a conference who said, "Oh, I understand now. We need WMU in our church so that when God calls our young people to be missionaries, they will know what he is talking about."

We commit ourselves to mission study that will keep before our members the need for people who will help to preach the gospel to all the people in the world. We expect to have a strong part in realizing the 100 percent increase in missionaries by A.D. 2000.

We are glad that more missionaries will make possible entering more countries. Prayer in organizational meetings will include prayer for the countries where Southern Baptists are not working, but should be.

Awareness of opportunities for volunteer lay involvement overseas will lead to more volunteers. Through Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women organizations, WMU can make available lay persons who, through mission study, have a better-than-average understanding of what they can do overseas. Membership rolls will give ready access to potential volunteers in times of crisis or special need.

As the Foreign Mission Board seeks to expand evangelism efforts, to multiply the overseas churches, to strengthen leadership training, and to increase the use of mass media, Woman's Missionary Union will seek to interpret this work to our membership. Information about these efforts will

normally result in greater prayer support, more financial gifts, and personal response to mission service, more mission volunteers.

"When We Know, We Care" was a one-time slogan of Baptist Book Stores. The innovative Stewardship Commission added a line, "When We Care We Share." Leaders in Woman's Missionary Union care. Members care. They care because they know, through mission study, of the hurt of humanity. Leaders and members are sharing. They want to share more intelligently and more generously.

As we join the Foreign Mission Board in its efforts to achieve the ten bold goals, we will make an emotional response to the goals relating to human need, world hunger, and disasters. Woman's Missionary Union wants to make itself available to the Foreign Mission Board practically, to stabilize the emotional response with a tangible response.

What will Woman's Missionary Union do? We will attempt to do more effectively that which we have been organized to do.

Our publications will be channels of missionary education to our membership.

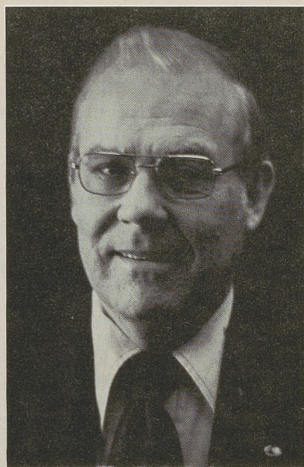
We will assert strong leadership in making available mission study opportunities for all members of the church, not just those who join WMU organizations.

Our state and national meetings will provide a platform for foreign missionaries and Foreign Mission Board staff to share needs, accomplishments, difficulties, joys.

We commend you, Foreign Mission Board, for enlarging our vision; for stimulating our planning, for renewing, in our day, the challenge of the Great Commission.

TC

THE COMMISSION



Glendon McCullough
Executive Director
Brotherhood Commission

Bold New Thrusts: Exciting, Demanding

It is true that not all persons committing themselves to missionary service will receive Foreign Mission Board appointment. But that should not be a loss to the cause of missions. Such persons will carry that commitment into their church life as leaders, teachers, and trainers. In view of this, I see our long-range education task as requiring not only preparation of career missionaries, but also encouragement and guidance of committed persons toward the needs and opportunities for short-term vocational involvement overseas. This is where Brotherhood and Baptist Men can do much toward preparing men for service that will assist and augment the work and witness of career missionaries.

Southern Baptists who are familiar with studies done in recent years by SBC special committees and study groups are, I believe, aware of the need for an accelerated program of missionary education. If the majority of our 12 million-plus church members can be made familiar with what is being done through their mission boards, I am convinced that great change will come about in stewardship of life and mission giving. This must be done to enable the mission boards, financially, to accomplish goals that God has led them to set for the closing quarter of this century.

I am encouraged by what appears to be an increasing conviction on the part of SBC and church leadership that mission education has been neglected in many churches. We dare not overlook this need, as pointed out in the study report of the Missions Challenge Committee. Their report undergirds what leaders of Brotherhood and Women's Missionary Union have felt for a long time.

The first of the Bold New Thrusts states a goal that, to me, is absolutely necessary. How can we evade our Lord's command to witness to all mankind? It is a command that we Southern Baptists, along with our

fellow Christians across the world, are capable of doing. Especially is it so with all the media now at hand. Such a goal must not be viewed apart from our total dependence on the leading wisdom and power of the Holy Spirit. This is not to imply that achievement of the goal will be easy. It is going to require much more than we have ever done before.

In churches at home and abroad, a key to the future is the pastor's and the missionary's role in equipping the saints for witnessing wherever they are. This will help make ministers out of all the saints, confronting them with the fact that winning souls to the Lord Jesus Christ is their role in his Great Commission.

International business organizations probably have more employees assigned overseas than the combined missionary force of all Christian denominations. We are not there yet, but I feel we are well on the way to becoming adequately organized for fully enlisting and channeling the expertise and dedication that many of these people have. I anticipate great acceleration soon along these lines under the Foreign Mission Board's leadership.

These people need training and orientation. Possibly this is even more essential than the orientation career missionaries receive soon after appointment. I have discovered that many U.S. laypersons overseas are looking for avenues of service and opportunities for Christian witness. The Bold New Thrust dealing with volunteer lay involvement overseas is my assurance that soon a great host of people will be enlisted and serving, greatly reinforcing the effort to achieve every objective and goal the Foreign Mission Board has set before us.

I will not be surprised if soon the Board finds that it needs a department for laymen overseas every bit as large as the department for missionary personnel. **TC**

I have been studying the Foreign Mission Board's document, "Foreign Missions Looks toward A.D. 2000."

These are the most exciting things to come from the Board in many years. The objectives and goals are demanding enough to require new and deeper commitment of all Southern Baptists; also, they are realistic enough for fulfillment as that commitment is forthcoming.

I am delighted with the ten Bold New Thrusts in foreign missions set to be realized by the year 2000. They are comprehensive. They reflect a very realistic look at some needs that are dear to my heart and are central concerns of the Brotherhood Commission.

I can see our task of missionary education in the churches being stepped up to help generate a climate out of which God can call people to invest their lives as career missionaries under Board appointment. This has been the goal in our work with men and particularly in the Royal Ambassador program. In curriculum materials and in summer camps across the years, we have sought to present the missionary challenge so that every boy would be made aware of God's invitation and calling in this direction.

In this challenging document I have noted that one missionary couple will be needed for every 5,000 Southern Baptists, if we are to meet the Board's personnel goal by A.D. 2000. I note also that this will require an average of one couple for every 15 Southern Baptist churches. I believe the possibilities are actually better than this, and my organization is going to pull out all the stops to help make it so.

God's Time for Southern Baptists

By Baker J. Caughen

The Bicentennial celebration prods us sharply with a reminder of how far God has brought Baptists in 200 years.

The contrasts between the circumstances of Baptists 200 years ago and those today are tremendous. Arrests, floggings, imprisonment, fines, ridicule, and contempt were confronted by Baptists at that time. All of that made a profound contribution toward the emergence of religious freedom guaranteed by the first amendment of the Constitution of our land.

Since those days, God's hand of leadership has been strong, bringing us to this present time, when approximately 35,000 churches with more than 12,000,000 members are linked in ministries for our Lord at home and throughout the world.

But now we stand at a watershed in history. Even the most casual observer

would conclude this is no ordinary time in which to be alive. The world is sharply divided between competing major powers armed with nuclear weapons capable of the most frightful destruction. At the same time, the smaller powers, driven by burning passions of hatred and desperate determinations for survival, keep the world trembling upon the brink of chaos, while they are locked in their bitter struggles.

The world is caught up in the phenomenon of a population explosion, having already passed the four billion mark, and is expected to go far beyond the six billion mark within the next 25 years.

At the same time, the slow rate of increase in food production leaves the world haunted by the spectre of pathetic little children with agony-filled faces, bloated stomachs, and spindly legs.

Throughout the world, confidence in governments, institutions, economic systems, and ancient religions is at a low ebb. Despair, disillusionment, and bitterness are the common experience of multiplied millions. The words of the Apostle Paul, "without hope and without God in the world," describe their condition.

The world is like a forest parched by long continuing drought, waiting for a mere spark to set off a conflagration of gigantic proportions.

Such a spark could be supplied by forces of evil that could bring the world to the most abject level of human misery since mankind began to walk on the face of the earth.

But the spark could be a continuation of that which Jesus described when he said, "I came to cast fire upon the earth; and would that it were already kindled!"

For many months the Foreign Mission Board, the Home Mission Board, and the Missions Challenge Committee have earnestly sought God's guidance with regard to bold new thrusts for the future. Around the world in 82 countries missionaries have earnestly prayed and counseled together in order to offer recommendations concerning what should be done in making the gospel of Christ known to our fellowman. A consultation on foreign missions brought together more than 300 representatives a year ago to devote time, prayer, and thought to this important matter. The Foreign Mission Board devoted itself to months of examination of all aspects of this great responsibility.

Out of this process has emerged a challenge to press forward in the next 25 years with the thrilling objective of enabling every human being upon the face of this earth to hear the gospel of Christ before the year A.D. 2000.

What if God should see fit to let this provide a spark which would kindle a mighty fire of spiritual awakening that would sweep the earth.

Could this be God's time for Southern Baptists to make our major contribution to the kingdom of God?

If we can yield ourselves to God and be empowered by his Holy Spirit, he could so move upon us that the missionaries needed, the resources which are urgent, the lay involvement necessary, and the creative imagination required would all be available.

To God be the glory! Let us dare to trust God, press forward, and give whatever it takes. **TC**





Streetside booth was one of many such places in Taiwan during mourning period for President Chiang.

His Witness Lives On

By Irma Duke

It has been more than a year since Chaing Kai-shek, president of Taiwan, died. But the light of his Christian witness still glows, perhaps even with a brighter flame than while he was living.

Chiang was a devoted Christian. He accepted Christ shortly after his marriage in 1927 to Mayling Soong, daughter of a leading Chinese businessman. As the late Hollington K. Tong once wrote in *China Post*, "With the wholeheartedness which characterizes all of his convictions, Chiang found in Christianity a deep inspiration which he has carried into his daily life." (Tong was Taiwan ambassador to the U.S. 1956-58.)

For 47 years Chiang closely followed Christ. Every day he spent two 30-minute periods on religious devotions. Most Christians would be hard put to find Scripture as rapidly as President Chiang could in his own worn Bible, according to a letter to the *China Post* from the Tai-chung Protestant Missionary Community.

Chiang was responsible for the retranslation of *Streams in the Desert*, a daily devotion book, into Chinese. More than 50,000 copies were printed and distributed among military men on Taiwan over a period of years, according to Tong. Many of these Chiang distributed personally.

Chiang was a concerned Christian, according to Missionary W. Carl Hunker. "He could not, because he was the president of a Buddhist country, take measures for placing Christianity in the public schools, for instance, or when he met with the legislature, begin with a prayer," Hunker explained. "It seems to me he was . . . a more warmhearted sharer of his witness than you would find of most people in public life."

Chiang attended Kai-ko Chapel at Shihlin until his death. His chaplain, Chow Lien-hwa, a Baptist pastor, conducted the Protestant memorial service. Although Chiang, according to Tong did not encourage publicity about his spiritual life, more than ten million persons witnessed his funeral service April 16, 1975 (Chiang died April 5). Parts of the service were

shown many times by all three television stations in Taiwan.

A Baptist television special shown April 3 of this year commemorated the death of Chiang. Chow was speaker, and the Taipei Children's Choir, which sang at the funeral, was featured.

"Since the president's death, . . . there has been sort of a going back to the spirit," said Missionary Carol (Mrs. Jerry) Simon. "A copy of *Streams in the Desert* was buried with the president," she added. "During the funeral there was a great program on television to tell about his death, and it was really a witness for Christianity. Immediately all the book stores started selling more and more copies."

The number of Bibles sold by the Bible Society in Taiwan in the month Chiang died exceeded by almost 200 percent the number sold the month before, said Chow.

Chiang's will began: "I have tried to be faithful to the teachings of Jesus and to the principles of the father of our country, Sun Yat-sen."

Students in schools in Taiwan were asked to memorize this portion. When they came to the word "Jesus," they asked their teachers about the name. Some of the teachers, being Buddhists, did not know how to answer. Some of them, in turn, asked Chow about Jesus, so that they could explain to their students. In response, Chow prepared in simple terms a booklet, *His Wounds*, subtitled "Who Is Jesus?" This booklet has been distributed throughout Taiwan.

Chiang "left a beautiful Christian witness in his death and in his burial," related Missionary Jerry Simon, "and since that time it has been just fantastic to see the response among the national people to the witness of Baptists, as well as the witness of all other evangelical groups on the island."

The President's death has created a climate for willingness to hear the gospel that hasn't been seen on Taiwan for about 15 years, added Hunker.

Chow has said he has never seen his fellow countrymen so willing to attend church as they have been since the death of President Chiang.

Church attendance records back up these appraisals. Attendance has increased 10 percent since the funeral, according to the 1975 annual report by the Taiwan Baptist Mission. Almost every church in central and southern Taiwan experienced attendance increases from 10 to 15 percent. Many new believers acknowledge that their acceptance of the Lord is directly related to the testimony of Chiang.

Chow is continuing to make impact for the Christian faith on Taiwan. He has recently held evangelistic crusades throughout the island, with many decisions reported. Even before Chiang's death, Chow was in demand as a speaker, although he was better known in Christian circles. Today, reported Hunker, Chow is familiar in non-Christian settings, too.

During the memorial period this year, special youth evangelistic crusades were held in major cities April 3-6, with Chow leading in Taipei. Christian youths of several denominations worked together in these meetings.

Chow believes opportunity for witness in Taiwan is great. "If we do not grasp this opportunity," he said in a recent sermon, "the Lord will someday ask why we did not diligently use the opportunity that he gave us." Chow not only is pastor of Kai-ko Chapel, but also is pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Taipei. He directs Madame Chiang's chaplains' corps for military hospitals and is a professor at Taiwan Baptist Theological Seminary.

"Chow Lien-hwa continues to be God's man of the hour in leading crusades, inspiring and giving national leadership direction," wrote Missionary Associate Lounelle Selle in a recent newsletter.

The late President and his wife spoke at Good Friday services annually for many years. In one of his messages Chiang said, "The three days from his (Christ's) crucifixion to resurrection not only commemorate a historical event, but also are a source of inspiration for us to see the real meaning of life." He continued, "We learn that there are elements in our life that are eternal and inexhaustible."

His Christian witness could be considered one of those inexhaustible elements. **TC**

MISSIONARY FAMILY ALBUM

Note: Current addresses of Foreign Mission Board missionary personnel, including emeritus missionaries, are available in the *Missionary Directory*, published every four months by the Board's Department of Missionary Education. The *Directory* is available free on request from the department, Box 6397, Richmond, Va. 23230.

Be advised some addresses may have been changed between copy deadline and receipt of magazine.

Arrivals from the Field

Clark, Phyllis (Mrs. Eric H.) (Kenya), c/o Mrs. L. Rogers, Rt. 6, Frankfurt, Ky. 40601.
Ditsworth, Mary Alice (Indonesia), 4610 Orchard Rd., Pascagoula, Miss. 39567.

Jowers, Alcie May (Mrs. S. Clyde) (Philippines), c/o Mrs. H. K. Pettigrew, 339 Marigny Ave., Mandeville, La. 70448.
Lindsey, Robert L./Margaret (Israel), c/o Dexter Lutz, 1420 Santo Domingo, Duarte, Calif. 91010.
Martin, Pauline (Nigeria), 730 Myrtle St., Kingsport, Tenn. 37660.
Nelson, G. Barry/Judith (Indonesia), c/o R. M. Ray, 2203 Monterey Dr., St. Joseph, Mo. 64507.
Ray, Charles A./Mary Elizabeth (assoc., Thailand), 117 Oak Dr., Brandon, Miss. 39042.
Wheeler, S. Wayne/Annette (Honduras), 925 Skyline Dr., Morristown, Tenn. 37814.
Woffard, Rodney B./Sue (S. Brazil), 3601 NW. 44th St. Oklahoma City, Okla. 73112.

Departures to the Field

Bahl, Karl D./Susan, Rhodesia.
Barker, Robert B./Joyce (appointed for Venezuela), Costa Rica.
Beighle, Dale E./Ann, Ethiopia.
Blundell, C. Ray, Jr./Martha, Tanzania.
Bowlin, Ralph T./Betty Jean, Rhodesia.
Clement, Richard D./Barbara, Ecuador.
Cooper, June, Japan.
Day, Fredrick E./Janice, Surinam.

Dison, Dale W./Patsy, Kenya.
Gardner, Edna (jour.), Venezuela.
Jenkins, Orville B./Edith, Kenya.
McTye, John H./Maurine, Chile.
Newman, Van G./Ira Dean (appointed for Chile), Costa Rica.
Nicholson, Kenneth R./Joyce, Liberia.
Nixon, Helen, Argentina.
Renfrow, Harold E./Nona, S. Brazil.
Roberts, Robert V./Brenda (appointed for Honduras), Costa Rica.
Ross, P. Vaughn/Johnene, Kenya.
Sanford, Fred H./Gale, Benin.
Sasser, T. Lynn/Sandra (appointed for Chile), Costa Rica.
Sellers, Robert P./Janie (appointed for Indonesia), Philippines.
Stephens, Kenneth H./Nancy (appointed for Dominican Rep.), Costa Rica.
Terry, J. Mark/Barbara (appointed for Indonesia), Philippines.
Tribble, C. Lamar/Elizabeth, Chile.
Turman, Joe G./Gloria (appointed for Indonesia), Philippines.
Williams, Clara L., N. Brazil.
Williams, Robert D. (Niger Republic), France.
Williamson, R. E./Vicki, Rhodesia.
Wills, Miriam, Dominican Rep.

Births and Adoptions

Branan, Martin Carl, son of Jack S./Rosanne Branan (Philippines), Mar. 25.
Dillard, Brandon James, son of Jim C./Janet Dillard (Kenya), Feb. 1.
Dockins, Kimberly Dawn, daughter of Deral E./Harriet Dockins (Ecuador), Mar. 9.
Upton, Stephen Thomas, son of Samuel T./Marlyn Upton (Malawi), Apr. 7. (See Deaths.)

Deaths

Barnett, S. S., father of Elizabeth (Mrs. Farrell) Runyan (Senegal), Apr. 7.
Benton, Mrs. L. L., mother of Louise (Mrs. John B.) Hill (Nigeria), Mar. 24.
Bounds, A. W., father of Corella (Mrs. Samuel A.) Ricketson (Taiwan), Mar. 12, Tulsa, Okla.
Cowan, Mrs. Edna, mother of Anna L. Cowan (Jordan), Feb. 11, Urich, Mo.
Davis, Carl R., father of Jeanelle (Mrs. Julian R.) LeRoy (S. Brazil), Feb. 26.
Gaskin, J. K., stepfather of Audrey (Mrs. Glenn M.) Swicegood (N. Brazil), Mar. 14, Live Oak, Fla.
Lackey, Mrs. G. E., mother of Margie (Mrs. B. Layton) Lynch (Taiwan), Jan. 26.
Upton, Stephen Thomas, son of Samuel T./Marlyn Upton (Malawi), Apr. 12, Eldon, Mo.
Young, Mrs. Brooks, mother of Sara (Mrs. Charles D.) Mullins (Hawaii), Mar. 12.

Marriages

Bellington, John Mark, son of R. Paul/Doris Bellington (Eq. Brazil), to Linda Kay Winter, Jan. 24, Tyler, Tex.
Orr, Randall Lee, son of Donald L./Violet Orr (Colombia), to Mary Katherine Lintner, Mar. 20, Dallas, Tex.

MOVING?

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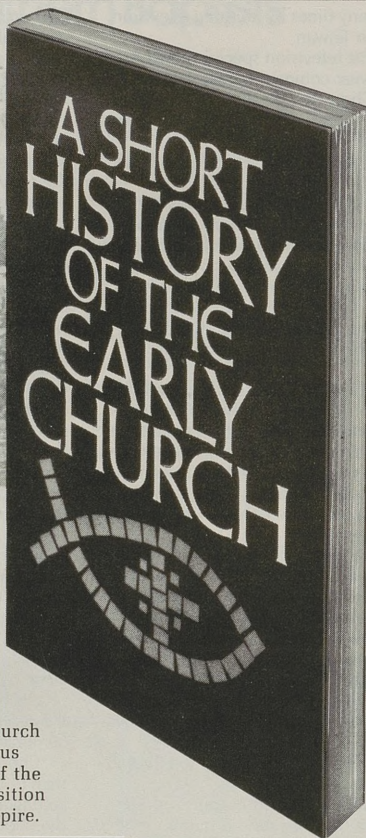
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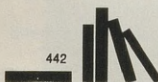
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Charter for a People of Mission

The word "usual" must be abandoned by all who are willing to become involved in the fulfillment of what this issue of *The Commission* is all about. In the calendar sense we are already into a quarter century that shows indications of becoming the world's most awesome but most promising time for heralding our Lord's coming kingdom.

Whatever transpires from this day on, the conditioning term is "more." If you have read the ten Bold New Thrusts in Foreign Missions (page 1), surely you agree that Southern Baptists should look upon what has been done as the launching base for world evangelization on a scale never before considered possible, let alone probable.

We have reproduced herein the basic text of a document that has been many months in the making. It has to be more than a man-made production, considering the way it came about. This writer has watched its development at close range and in several ways as a participant in the process. That process has been: "pray, search, share"—this at every known level and with input from every sector of Southern Baptist life and the missionaries around the world.

If we as Southern Baptists come to the year 2001 with the objectives and goals achieved, as now projected, we will have been part of the greatest effort in our Convention's history aimed at confronting the entire human race with the invitation of our forgiving, redeeming Lord.

To consider seriously this new challenge and the purpose of our overseas task, we must take a hard look at our recent and current stewardship of life and resources. The degree of commitment and the quantitative response can no longer be just gradually improved by fractions of a percentage point per year. The steps we take to meet such a demanding purpose must be so resolute that the onlooker will call them strides.

Ahead of us are the most exciting days any generation has faced. On the flip side, they are terrifying days, if we allow them to go by without a supreme effort to reach languishing, bewildered millions of persons like ourselves, but who know nothing of God's grace.

It is my prayer that every church in the Southern Baptist Convention soon will be made aware of what their Foreign Mission Board has placed before them for prayer and fulfillment. For each church and every member in it, this should become an occasion for soul searching and reckoning with God's claim on our lives, our children, and our cooperative potential.

It's Incomparable

A GRATIFYING record is being written these days in the reports about the Cooperative Program. Its meaning is better understood, obviously, because of the excellent way its fiftieth anniversary was observed last year. The occasion was a year-long opportunity to penetrate every fiber of Southern Baptist life with many illustrations and proofs that their past, present, and future in missions

have meaning in the context of togetherness toward fulfillment of the Great Commission.

How tragic if we assume that what was done and said in 1975 will suffice for years to come! We must keep the media within our fellowship throbbing with the good news of what God is doing through our togetherness. It is the marvel of this century as a supportive plan for world missions.

On Target—As You Pray

THE Ernest Wilson family is on leave of absence, and we do not know when or if they will return to Mato Grosso. Miss Ann Wollerman has retired and left the field. That leaves us as the only Southern Baptist missionaries in the state of Mato Grosso. Pray for us. Pray that the Lord of the harvest will send more workers. Three couples visited the state this year, but felt that the Lord was leading them elsewhere. We would not want them here if God wants them in another place. However, we still feel keenly the need for more workers.

—Missionaries Ben and Berdie Hope
Brazil

Pray for the many Hakka villages on this island that have no Christian witness of any kind. People without Christ take on a new dimension and value when you look at them face to face.

Pray that we can adequately answer this question: "What do you have that is better than what we already have?"

—Missionaries Mike and Kay Norfleet
Taichung, Taiwan

Pray for our new demonstration farm project in eastern Mindanao. In particular, remember Agriculturist and Director Harold Watson and Church Planter James Stanley. Their purpose: to assist farmers and at the same time win the lost and establish churches.

—Missionary Bob Nash
Manila, Philippines

Don't Be Late

TIME is running out for the person intending to renew his or her subscription at the current rate. After June 30 the rate will be \$3.50 a year. We have tried to communicate this fact and opportunity to every subscriber by direct mail, but if this announcement is your first notice, we encourage you to extend your subscription immediately for one year, remitting \$1.50.

Whether your subscription is just beginning or near expiration, you can extend it one year at this 20-year-old rate. And no matter whether your current subscription is for one year, two years, or three years, this renewal opportunity will bring *The Commission* to you for an additional year. This bargain ends June 30.

(In case you missed it, our earlier announcement about the new rates appeared in the February issue, inside the back cover. There you will find the rationale and description of circumstance that led us to the change.)

Call for Volunteers

This listing of opportunities for laymen to serve in short-term mission projects overseas was provided by the office of the consultant for laymen overseas at the Foreign Mission Board. If you feel God's leading to fill such a role, write to W. L. (Wimpy) Smith Foreign Mission Board, Box 6597, Richmond, Va. 23230.

CONSTRUCTION TEAMS

Guatemala: Work teams will be needed during the fall and winter of 1976 and throughout 1977. The Foreign Mission Board will work through the Baptist Men's Department in each state in forming the teams. Selection will be made on the basis of skills requested from Guatemala. Two Spanish-speaking persons must be included in each team. The teams will be made up of 12 men, each paying round-trip transportation and daily food. Tents are provided for sleeping.

Philippines: A team is needed to build the director's residence at Luzon Baptist Bible School.

Another team is needed to construct the first floor of the main building of Luzon Baptist Bible School.

Ten men are needed for 15 days to construct a small dormitory for 12 students at Luzon Baptist Bible School. The school provides training for pastors—high school, plus two years of college.

Chile: A team is needed during July or August 1976 for two weeks to lay a new gym floor at the Baptist Academy in Temuco. Team members will be responsible for their round-trip transportation. The Mission will provide food and lodging. Wood has been purchased and is ready to install, but team members will need to bring their own hand tools.

CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE

Dominican Republic: One person or a team is needed to help construct a chapel in the Jayaco Mission and to repair electrical wiring in Bonao Church.

In Santiago four persons are needed to do general repair work on church building, missions, missionary residences.

BIBLE TEACHER

Liberia: Person needed to teach Bible for missionary on furlough, grades seven, nine, and twelve at Ricks Institute. Arrival date of April 1, 1977, requested. Round-trip transportation and furnished housing provided for husband and wife.

VOCATIONAL INSTRUCTOR

Philippines: Vocational instructor in mechanics needed for Southern Baptist College to work with teachers in the vocational department and to help with church work in local churches for one year. Volunteer would need to bring basic tools for auto and/or motorcycle maintenance. Housing

and round-trip air fare provided.

EVANGELISM TEAM

Philippines: Ten men to witness and teach home Bible studies needed.

MUSIC/RELIGIOUS EDUCATOR

Philippines: Retired person needed for church music and/or religious education at Mindanao Baptist Bible School, Davao City, for one year. Round-trip transportation and furnished housing provided for husband and wife.

WMU WORKERS

Dominican Republic: One or two Spanish-speaking women trained in WMU work needed in Santiago to train national leaders; a one- to two-month assignment.

SECRETARY

France: Person needed to serve as secretary to director of European Baptist Press Service. All areas of secretarial competence necessary, plus experience with office machines. Knowledge of French would be helpful, as well as experience in journalism and photo lab procedures.

ADULT VOCATIONAL TEACHER

Philippines: Person needed to establish a variety of programs on campus by which students would be training to involve themselves in multiple ways that would provide for their financial needs while at the Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary. Since the school year begins in mid-July, a volunteer is needed as soon as possible for this one-year assignment. Round-trip transportation and furnished housing provided for husband and wife.

SPORTS

Dominican Republic: One individual or team, such as baseball or basketball, for exhibition games, clinics, and public testimonies needed for the summer of 1976.

WATER WELL SPECIALIST

Colombia: Needed is an expert in determining whether water can be found in a given location, to assist Valle Camp, the national Baptist camp, in improving its water supply. Person would also be expected to give instructions as to how the well for the camp could be built. A two-week to four-week assignment.

ROAD-BUILDING SPECIALIST

Colombia: There is a need for a road to be built from the main road to the back of the national Baptist camp, Valle Camp, a distance of a little more than half a mile. Part of the terrain is hilly. Workmen to construct the road would be found in Colombia. A two-week to four-week assignment.

VOLUNTEER MEDICAL NEEDS

Synopsis of volunteer medical needs, two weeks to three months. For additional information, please write Dr. Franklin T. Fowler, Foreign Mission Board, SBC, Box 6597, Richmond, Va. 23230.

Dentists: Antigua, Honduras, Trinidad.

GP: Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras, Jordan, Rhodesia, Thailand, Yemen.

Internal Medicine: Ghana.

Internist: Rhodesia.

Pediatrician: Ghana, Nigeria.

Surgeon: Gaza, Ghana, India, Nigeria, Rhodesia, Thailand, Yemen.

LETTERS

Shoveling Sand

The February issue of your publication was almost completely reserved for discussion of world hunger. I have no quarrel with the effort to feed the hungry as you propose in your excellent magazine and believe that, as Christians, we should make every effort in that direction. However, in considering this problem, we always tend to either deemphasize or ignore completely the underlying question of birth control.

In your issue there are only a very few lines devoted to the question of world population and birth control. Most of the issue was devoted to the plight of these unfortunate. I realize that overpopulation is only one phase of this problem, but to me it becomes of greater importance when you consider that, unless you solve this problem soon, we are only causing more suffering by having a lot more people to suffer. Possibly because of the solid opposition of the largest Christian denomination, to-wit, the Roman Catholic Church, we have been afraid to speak out on the issue of birth control with any certainty. It is my hope that eventually the Roman Catholic Church will soften its attitude on this problem. If such occurs, it will have the effect of removing many of our inhibitions on this subject of birth control.

We, the largest Protestant denomination, must do all possible to not only alleviate the suffering, but we must take rational, intelligent steps to make sure that we do not compound the problem for the future. Your recent issue was an excellent presentation of the problem we face. I would now appreciate an approach along the line of showing the various alternatives available for solution. If we stop and become complacent about having done our Christian Duty about what has been proposed (i.e., we even up food distribution and cut down excessive consumption in this rich country), we will still be merely shoveling sand against the tide that will eventually engulf all of us.

Ken McFarlane Smith
Arlington, Va.

Makes Sense

We appreciate *The Commission*. In March issue, Charles A. Chilton's "A Key to World Outreach" . . . makes more sense to me than anything has in a long time.

Mrs. C. N. Varner
Melbourne, Ark.

Pleasant Memories

Regarding "A Haven in Crisis" in the January issue: While a missionary journeyman in Hong Kong, I had numerous opportunities to be in missionary residences. Though I don't remember any particulars, they were all more or less tastefully and comfortably furnished. What has made a lasting impression was the open-hearted hospitality. One always felt "at home," free to ask questions and find answers, free to be one's self—one's best self. I, for one, am deeply grateful that contact with missionary homes was an integral part of my MJ experience. Those memories set a standard and give inspiration to me as a homemaker.

June Thomsen
Haslev, Denmark

Missions Update...

Total received for the 1975 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering was \$26,169,421. Books on the offering closed April 30. This is \$2,935,327 above the 1974 offering total.

The Foreign Mission Board in April appropriated \$235,000 for world relief: \$75,000 for a year-long program of hunger relief in NORTH BRAZIL; \$25,000 for a medical project in FARIDPUR, BANGLADESH; \$10,000 for work with Indochina refugees now in THAILAND; \$5,000 for a measles immunization campaign in KENYA; \$5,000 for recurring relief needs in KOREA; \$5,000 for hunger needs in CHILE; \$5,000 for hunger needs in North Brazil; \$5,000 to assist refugees from ANGOLA and PORTUGAL; from earlier appropriations for VIETNAM relief, \$100,000 was transferred to a hunger relief and disaster emergency fund.

Despite reports of political unrest in RHODESIA, Southern Baptist missionaries there are in no danger, and work is proceeding normally, Mission Chairman JAMES WEST-MORELAND reported in mid-April. As a matter of policy, Southern Baptist missionaries maintain a non-political stance. . . . In BEIRUT, LEBANON, the Baptist school had re-opened, and the seminary was continuing to operate amid political unrest in mid-April.

The FMB in April elected two field representatives: for EAST ASIA, beginning June 1--SAMUEL M. JAMES, Missionary to VIETNAM who has been serving temporarily as a research assistant at Board offices in RICHMOND, VA.; for EUROPE, effective Oct. 1, when JOHN ALLEN MOORE, current field representative, returns to the U.S. for furlough preceding retirement--ISAM E. (Dick) BALLENGER, missionary to WEST GERMANY for 11 years. Another of Moore's responsibilities, fraternal representative for EASTERN EUROPE, will be shifted to JOHN DAVID HOPPER, missionary to SWITZERLAND and AUSTRIA for 11 years. This post provides a communication link between Southern Baptists and Baptists living in eight Eastern European countries. . . . Approved for training as missionary journey-men by the FMB in April were 98 young adults. Following six weeks of training, the new journeymen will be commissioned for overseas service July 22. Since the journeyman program began, about 700 young Baptists have served overseas on two-year assignments.

Missionary Dr. GEORGE M. FAILE, JR., has been awarded the Grand Medal (honorary division) by the government of GHANA. Faile, who began medical work at the Baptist Medical Center, NALERIGU, Ghana, is the first Southern Baptist missionary so honored. . . . Miss GEORGIA MAE OGBURN, missionary to CHILE, in ceremonies at the Chilean Embassy in WASHINGTON, D.C., received the O'Higgins Decoration, given by the Chilean government to foreigners who have contributed to the people of Chile in a cultural, moral and spiritual way. Her selection by the awards council was unanimous.

The Foreign Mission Board in April approved a new organization for the Mission Support Division, reorganizing from the present three departments into four: communications, denominational coordination, missionary personnel, and furlough ministries. . . . The Board authorized two new positions: an associate medical consultant and an associate disaster response coordinator. . . . H. CORNELL GOERNER, secretary for WEST AFRICA, and RALPH MAGEE, assistant treasurer, are to retire at year's end. . . . The Board reelected JAMES G. HARRIS, FT. WORTH, TEX., pastor, president, and J. ROY CLIFFORD, RICHMOND, VA., pastor, first vice-president. J. R. WHITE, MONTGOMERY, ALA., pastor, was elected second vice-president. MRS. DORIS MULLENDORE, BOWLING GREEN, KY., was elected recording secretary. Miss ELIZABETH MINSHEW, of the Board's staff, was reelected assistant recording secretary.

The Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary has opened in PAYNESWARD CITY, LIBERIA, with 19 young men in its first class. Missionary BRADLEY D. BROWN is director; co-director is ADVERTUS A. HOFF, Liberia's minister of education. . . . Becoming the first Baptist pastor in the PHILIPPINES killed in fighting between government forces and "New People's Army" rebels, RAMON CALVAN, lay pastor of a congregation about 50 miles north of DAVAO CITY, was shot to death by three rebels who accused him of being an informer.