

THE NEWSLETTER

of the Southern Baptist Research Fellowship

Vol. 1 No.1

Fall 1978

Editor: Orrin Morris

THE NEWSLETTER IS BORN

With this issue a new venture is launched -- a newsletter of the Southern Baptist Research Fellowship. For now it will be called THE NEWSLETTER. I doubt if such an unimaginative title will "stick", so let's have a write-in effort for naming it. In the next 30 days, jot down a name and mail it to me

Orrin D. Morris
HMB Research Division
1350 Spring St. N.W.
Atlanta, Ga. 30309

In the Winter issue of THE NEWSLETTER, I'll list the suggested names on a "ballot" for you to check your preference. The two most favored will be circulated in a runoff in the Spring issue.

Another item of importance for the newsletter is its content. On the last page of this issue are listed twenty topics that might be given visibility in the newsletter. For sure, the first two items are essential to the newsletter: business news of the fellowship and professional news of fellowship members. This first issue touches these two items several times. For example, Roy Jennings' report on the charter membership roll of the fellowship (page 3). Then, the notice of the 1979 SBRF meeting in Houston is placed on page 1. Professional news of fellowship members is illustrated in Phil Jones' article on the HMB's Research Division, page 2.

Look over the twenty items. Then code them as instructed from EVERY-

TIME (up-date of news) to the other extreme of FORGET IT (I'll get this info elsewhere, if I want it).

Immediately send this survey to me at the address noted at the top of the form. If you have other topics, issues or concerns that are not included on the list write them in the space provided.

Finally, mark the appropriate box at the bottom of the form to indicate the level of involvement you are willing to make in sharing info such as titles, abstracts or articles with me for the newsletter.

SECOND ANNUAL SBRF MEETING SET

The second annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Research Fellowship has been scheduled for June 9, 1979 in Houston, Texas. The program will be developed within the time-frame of an afternoon and a night session. As with last year in Atlanta, the spouses are invited, especially to the night session which we hope will be at a restaurant. Details will be given in a later issue of THE NEWSLETTER.

If you have suggestions for the program write:

J.V. Thomas
Baptist General Convention
of Texas
703 North Ervay St.
Dallas, Texas 75201

RULE OF ACCURACY

When working toward the solution of a problem, it always helps if you know the answer. -- copied

1980 CENSUS COUNTDOWN

The Pretest Years

The first major, full-scale census was conducted in April, 1976 in Travis County (Austin) Texas, which has a considerable proportion of Spanish origin and black populations.

Another mail census was conducted in Camden, New Jersey, in September 1976, to test enumeration in an inner city setting.

The third major pretest census was held in Oakland, California in April 1977.

"Dress Rehearsal" For 1980

Richmond, Virginia area (Richmond city and Chesterfield and Henrico counties) was the site of final test of the mail system census. It was conducted April 4, 1978.

A conventional census was conducted at the same time in two Colorado counties (La Plata and Montezuma) which have about 40,000 in a rural setting.

The final part of the dress rehearsal was made this September in New York City on Manhattan Island for that part which is south of Houston Street.

New Census Items

New items include questions on the number of persons in a carpool, travel time to work, wage rates, number of vans or trucks, and shelter costs for homeowners.

From Now To Census Day

The 1980 Census questionnaires are scheduled to go to press in January 1979, and the massive printing job of over 80 million forms will take nearly a year.

A network of over 400 temporary census offices will open across the country in January 1980, and the

bulk of the temporary field employees will be recruited in February and March. These offices are to remain through the summer of 1980, to permit the review of the preliminary population and housing counts.

In early March 1980 the labeled mailing packages will be delivered to post offices, where certain checks will be made to try to ensure that every residential address receives a questionnaire.

After Census Day

The total population counts for each state are to be published by January 1, 1981 for U.S. House of Representative redistricting.

On April 1, 1981--a year after Census Day--the Bureau must produce the small area breakdowns for each state to redistrict the state legislatures.

More detailed reports will follow for about eighteen months. The last reports to be published will be the housing documents on census blocks within Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas. (Jean Foster, Bureau of the Census in "Countdown Begins for 1980 Census" INTERCOM, Washington D.C: Population Reference Bureau, Inc. Vol. 6 No. 9 Sept. 1978)

HOME MISSION BOARD ORGANIZES RESEARCH DIVISION

The Board of Directors of the Home Mission Board in their July meeting in Atlanta approved the formation of a Research Division within the Board's Planning Section. The Research Division was created to coordinate the research conducted by and for the Home Mission Board as well as improve the quality of research produced. Leonard G. Irwin, president of SBRF, heads the Planning Section of the HMB.

Staffing of the new division came at the October meeting of the Board. Orrin D. Morris, presently Regional

Coordinator for the Board, was appointed director, effective January 1, 1979. Leonard O. Hinton will be transferred from the Office of Evangelism Survey and Analysis to be Evangelism/Services Researcher. He will have responsibilities for designing and conducting research projects and evaluation studies for the Evangelism and Services Sections. This will involve extensive activities with state Evangelism Directors.

Clay L. Price was elected to the position of Missions Researcher with similar responsibilities as Hinton's, but exclusively for the Missions Section staff. This will involve him in many activities with associational and state convention Directors of Missions. Phillip B Jones presently serving as Research Consultant within the Planning Section, was appointed Planning Researcher with responsibilities for conducting research and evaluation for Planning Section staff. This also involves extensive activities with state conventions through the Regional Coordinators.

C. Kirk Hadaway was appointed Research Associate, Data Development. His responsibilities will be similar to a position he presently holds in the Planning Section. He will coordinate research data processing and development of data resources. He will relate closely to data sources outside the HMB, especially with other agencies in the SBC who have data bases which would assist in HMB research.

The support staff of the research Division include an Executive Secretary, Mrs. June Brumbeloe; a Research Assistant, Mrs. Sherry Hyder; a Research Librarian, Miss Vicki McCaughey; and Mr. Mike Hand (student at Georgia Tech) the part-time Data Processing Technician. There will be two other positions to be filled later, a Text Editing Operator and a Receptionist. (Phillip B. Jones)

The HMB phone is 404-873-4041

FELLOWSHIP MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Charter membership in the Southern Baptist Research Fellowship has climbed to thirty with receipt of dues from eight persons from the Sunday School Board.

They are Martin Bradley, Lewis Wingo, Charles Sullivant, Mary Frances Jones, Cliff Tharp, Ken Hayes, Jim Lowery and Jean Hudgens.

From the Home Mission Board are Lyndon Collings, Leonard O. Hinton, Jr., Glenn Igleheart, Nelson Tilton, Fermin Whittaker, Leonard G. Irwin, Phillip B. Jones, C. Kirk Hadaway and Orrin D. Morris.

Other charter members include Chester Davidson of the Baptist Associations Correlating Committee, Baytown, Texas.; Phillip Rodgeron of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, Richmond; William Tillman of the Christian Life Commission, Nashville; and W.L. Howse, III of Hurt Gerontology Center, Culpeper, Virginia.

Four persons from the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas include: W.E. Norman, J.V. Thomas, Charles McLaughlin and Taylor Pendley.

The rest of the charter members, enlisted so far, include June Whitlow of Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham; John Bloskas of the SBC Annuity Board, Dallas; Lee Davis of the Stewardship Commission, Nashville; Albert McClellan of the SBC Executive Committee, Nashville; and Roy Jennings of the Brotherhood Commission, Memphis. (Roy Jennings)

MORE FROM MURPHY'S LAW

Gordon's First Law

If a research project is not worth doing at all, it is not worth doing well. -- copied

Williams and Holland's Law

If enough data is collected, anything may be proven by statistical methods. -- copied

BAPTIST VIEWpoll REDESIGNED

The Baptist VIEWpoll is an on-going panel survey conducted quarterly by the Research Services Department of the Sunday School Board in cooperation with the Research Division of the Home Mission Board. The purpose is to collect useful information about the attitudes, awareness, and activities of approximately 300 pastors, 300 ministers of education, and 150 associational directors of missions. Each group has been randomly selected so the sample obtained should accurately represent the total population of pastors, ministers of education and the associational directors of missions.

Issues of the VIEWpoll will contain questions of specific interest to the Sunday School Board, the Home Mission Board, and questions of general interest to both agencies. A great emphasis will be placed on periodic monitoring of attitudes on important issues, the mood of the churches, etc. So certain questions will be repeated on an annual or semi-annual basis.

The first questionnaire for the new SSB/HMB Baptist VIEWpoll will be mailed out this December with the director of missions' form differing slightly from that sent to the other two groups. This one includes items about Bold Mission Thrust, Growing An Evangelistic Church seminars, ministries to minorities, the SSB television program "AT HOME WITH THE BIBLE," attitudes towards the Cooperative Program, and the general optimism or pessimism of church leaders.

(Kirk Hadaway)

THE UNCHURCHED AMERICAN: A GALLUP STUDY, 1978

During April 1978, The Princeton Religious Research Center conducted a national survey of the unchurched American through the Gallup

Organization, Inc. and supported by thirty-one religious groups and denominations. Both the HMB and the SSB participated.

The study sought to answer three central questions:

1. Who are the "unchurched" and how do they differ from the "churched"?
2. What factors lead to becoming unchurched?
3. What can churches do to encourage the unchurched to become part of the community of active worshippers?

The "unchurched" were defined to include all persons who were not members of a church or synagogue or who had not attended in the previous six months apart from weddings, funerals, or special holidays. The "churched" were those who were members of a church or synagogue and had attended in the previous six months. The survey revealed that 41 percent of all adults were "unchurched" while 59 percent were "churched." The percentages translate into 61 million unchurched adults and 89 million churched adults.

The final report contains many important findings relevant to the SBC's Bold Mission Thrust emphasis. Almost 38 million of the "unchurched" Americans probably have not made any commitment to Jesus (or were not sure) and almost 20 million of the churched have not or are not sure. Further, the majority of the unchurched have had some church background and most would want religious instruction for their children as well.

Copies are available from the Gallup Organization for \$15.00.

(Phillip Jones)

REMEMBER TO HELP NAME THE SBRF NEWSLETTER -- SEND SUGGESTION BY JANUARY 15, 1979 -- ALSO SEND IN A FAVORITE "MURPHY'S LAW" TOO.

mail to:
Orrin D. Morris
HMB Research Division
1350 Spring Street N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

(your name)

Please code the following items by how visible each of the following items should be in the future issues of THE NEWSLETTER (give your opinion of what the total fellowship probably would prefer).

- Enter the following code numbers:
- 1 = EVERYTIME (up-date of SBRF news)
- 2 = FREQUENT (if newsworthy)
- 3 = SPECIAL PAGE OCCASIONALLY (one page on a single topic published every two or three years)
- 4 = FILLER MATERIAL (might be included if space available)
- 5 = FORGET IT (I'll get this info elsewhere, if I want it)

- Business news of the fellowship _____
- Professional news of SBRF members _____
- Titles of research completed by SBRF members _____
- Abstracts of research completed by SBRF members _____
- Titles of research of general interest published in professional journals, etc. _____
- Titles of unpublished research submitted by SBRF members (only items available on request) _____
- Calendar of meetings/events of interest to SBRF _____

TITLES OF THESES/DISSERTATIONS AVAILABLE FROM:

- Seminary libraries _____
- Baptist college/university libraries _____

SPECIAL SUBJECTS

- Denominational studies _____
- Congregational studies _____
- Clergy/staff studies _____
- Education/Relig. Ed studies _____
- Changes in American Values _____
- Marriage/Family studies _____
- Population change/growth _____
- Political/Economic studies _____
- Urban/Rural life _____
- Aging Americans _____
- Ethnic/Racial studies _____
- other _____

- Yes, I'll be glad to recommend titles of research for future issues
- Yes, I'll even prepare abstracts for future issues
- Sorry, count me out this year.

