

Southern Baptist Convention. Home Mission Board

Research Division Collection

AR 631-23



Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

December 2015

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Summary

Main Entry: Southern Baptist Convention. Home Mission Board. Research Division Collection

Date Span: 1944-2010. Most of the reports and studies cover the period 1970-1990.

Abstract: Size: 19.5 linear ft. (39 document boxes)

Collection #: AR 631-23

Historical Sketch

The Home Mission Board (now North American Mission Board) is one of the oldest organizations of the Southern Baptist Convention. Since the Southern Baptist Convention's founding in 1845, the Home Mission Board (HMB) has trained and employed missionaries for various areas of service across North America.

First located in Marion, Alabama, the HMB relocated to Atlanta, Georgia, in 1882. In 1995, HMB staff moved to a new five-story office complex twenty-two miles north of Atlanta. In 1997, the Home Mission Board merged with the Brotherhood Commission and Radio and Television Commission to form the North American Mission Board. The Research Division originally known as the Department of Survey and Special Studies was begun in 1958 as a part of the Division of Missions. Its objective was "to make available the collection, compilation, and interpretation of data in helping mission leaders to visualize plans, conduct and evaluate their work." In carrying out its objective, it conducted studies and research related to strategy planning for home mission programs and publishes reports related to its findings. Some of the key members of this department and authors of many of the research studies included: Orrin Morris, Kirk Hadaway, Phillip Jones, Clay Price, and Richie Stanley.

Scope and Content Note

The collection is divided into three series: (1) Research studies and reports arranged by the title of the report; (2) Research studies arranged alphabetically by state or region; and (3) Barna Research Group research studies.

Collection contains a plethora of data on missions in the United States and Canada. The titles series addresses a variety of subjects related to home missions including American ethnicity; church populations; evangelism; Baptist associational work; Black Americans; urban and rural missions; families; Inter-Agency Council; language; and socio-economic studies.

The geographical series covers all of the United States; District of Columbia; U.S. territories including Panama, Puerto Rico, the Pacific Islands; and in addition all Canadian provinces. Geographic data gathered includes maps, tables, graphs, demographic analysis, census profiles, planning data, reports, studies, church growth data, surveys, and strategies.

The final series contains a study conducted by the Barna Research Group, Ltd. in the spring of 1999. Constituents studied were the unchurched, churched, Southern Baptist pastors, teens, Southern Baptists, and marginal groups. Questions asked range from socio-economic and cultural to doctrinal theology and religious perspectives.

Arrangement

With a total of 39 boxes, the collection is divided into three series with the first the research reports arranged by document title; the second series arranged geographically by Baptist state, regional, and U.S. territorial conventions as well as Canadian Baptist provincial conventions; and the third series primarily Southern Baptist Image Research studies by the Barna Research Group.

Provenance

Transferred to the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives by the North American Mission Board in 2015. Much of this collection had been collected and preserved in the Research Division Library. Placed by Richie Stanley.

Preferred Citation

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Access Restrictions

None

Subject Terms

Southern Baptist Convention. Home Mission Board. Research Division.

Southern Baptist Convention. Interagency Council.

Baptist VIEWpoll

Canada

Church and social problems

Church development, New

Demography – Canada

Demography – United States

Ethnic groups – United States

Evangelism

Home missions

Missions- Ethnic identity

Public opinion – United States

Race relations-Religious aspects-Baptists

Related Materials in Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

Southern Baptist Convention. Home Mission Board. Executive Office Records, AR 631-3

Southern Baptist Convention. Home Mission Board. Operational Manuals. AR 631-17
 Research Reports Collection, AR 837
 Southern Baptist Convention. Home Mission Board. Research Reports, 1963-1994. MF6957.
 Lawrence, J. B. *History of the Home Mission Board*, 1958
 Rutledge, Arthur B. *Mission to America: a century and a quarter of Southern Baptist home*, 1969

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