

WHY LEAD?

"I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back; bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth." Isaiah 43:6.

Our ability to love, serve, build, cooperate, refresh, pray and give depends upon the ultimate response we give to the question, "Why Lead?"

Jesus called disciples unto Himself that they might be with Him and that He might send them forth. Our Home Mission Board has the motto of: "Our land for Christ." To fulfill this, beginning in Kentucky, depends upon our willingness to spend time in His presence and our determination to go forth as His witness.

From year to year there is a special denominational emphasis on some phase of church work throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. The theme of the churches for the year 1967-68 has been "A Church Fulfilling Its Mission Through Ministry." Ministry has been defined as meeting the needs of persons in Jesus' name. Christ was, is, and ever shall be concerned about the total needs of people. He came "to seek and to save that which was lost" by coming "not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give life a ransom for many."

During the year, our denominational agencies have provided many services, materials and suggestions to help the churches focus on this function of ministering. Their work has been built around three common purposes.

1. To improve understandings of Bible teaching about ministering.
2. To improve individual response to the needs of church members, their families and their neighbors.
3. To establish or improve a program approach to minister to one or more special groups of persons within or without the church.

STATISTICS ON KENTUCKY BAPTISTS

	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	
Churches	2,220	2,207	
Church Members	649,391	652,926	- .5%
Additions by letter	20,373	19,922	- 2.2%
Additions by baptism	17,908	19,153	+ 7%
Members received from other denominations		1,232	
Members lost to other denominations		1,659	- 427
Sunday School Enrollment	401,942	397,150	- 1.2%
LOSS:			
Village	2.5%		
Town	6.4%		
City	.6%		
Training Union Enrollment	104,389	101,658	- 1.2%
W. M. U. Enrollment	67,159	65,585	- 2.4%
Brotherhood Enrollment	17,338	17,460	+ .7%

Of the 2,207 churches in Kentucky, 389 did not contribute anything to the Cooperative Program last year. All churches in 18 associations did. In 8 associations all churches except one contributed. Five associations lacked two churches each.

The Direct Missions Department in Kentucky assists in two metropolitan programs, one in Long Run Association and the other in the North Bend-Campbell County Associations; fourteen District Programs (one missionary working with two or more associations); thirty-two Associational programs (Including ten self-supporting); thirty local mission programs and five community missionaries. Its services are available to all associations.

The Direct Missions Department also assists with Goodwill Centers and Weekday programs at Louisville, Lexington, Marrowbone, Hazard, and Caney; Juvenile Rehabilitation and other Special Ministries at Louisville, and Covington; work with Deaf and Retarded, Health and Welfare, Clinic and Conferences.

The Direct Missions Department has also promoted Schools of Missions. The Foreign Mission Board and the Home Mission Board cooperate with the State Mission Board in making available missionaries for the Schools of Missions. There is now a new or different Schools of Missions Program called the Modified Program. This modified program also encourages Mission Study Classes, and uses two Foreign Missionaries, two on Sunday morning and ends on Wednesday evening with one half of the participating churches in the association, and begins on Thursday evening and ends on Sunday evening with the other half of the churches. It is a five-session program and uses only one-half as many missionaries.

For eight years the Schools of Missions Program has been promoted by the Direct Missions Department, but at the end of the year it was transferred to the Brotherhood Department. The Direct Missions Department will continue to commit state missionaries for Schools of Missions.

The Direct Missions Department also provides Student Summer Mission Workers and Student week-end Workers to associations and churches. It offers assistance in the organization of local missions and the constitution of new churches.