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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE:

SBC Executive Committee
901 Commerce #75
Nashville, Tennessee 3720
(615) 244-235
Herb Hollinger, Vice President
Fax (615) 742-891
CompuServe ID# 70420,1

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Martin King, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 898-7522, CompuServe 70420,250
DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 333 N. Washington, Dallas, Texas 75246-1798, Telephone (214) 828-5232, CompuServe 70420,115
NASHVILLE Linda Lawson, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300, CompuServe 70420,57
RICHMOND Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151, CompuServe 70420,72
WASHINGTON Tom Strode, Chief, 400 North Capitol St., #594, Washington, D.C. 20001, Telephone (202) 638-3223, CompuServe 71173,316

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His vision built bridges
to take Baptists overseas

Baptist Press
5/16/96

By Charles Richardson & Art Toalston

ABILENE, Texas (BP)--They're well beyond the normal retirement age, but W.H. "Dub" and Doris Jackson continue to focus their energies on sharing Jesus with the world.

Their concept of "partnership missions" has become a key missions thrust for many Southern Baptist congregations, state conventions and the Foreign Mission Board.

"Without a doubt, the victories of the past are a great encouragement for us," said Jackson. "But there is no way we can let those victories cause us to be willing to say to the Lord, 'Thank you for the past, now we will rest!'"

In their early 70s, the Jacksons continue a vigorous schedule, now focusing on Western Europe, recruiting volunteers to share their testimonies and the gospel in churches, homes, hotels, restaurants and everywhere else they go across the region.

Two current Southern Baptist leaders credit the Texas couple with pioneering the widely accepted partnership missions strategy.

"The vision of Dub and Doris Jackson had a lot to do with this concept that is making a major impact on fulfilling the Great Commission and reaching a lost world for Jesus Christ," said Foreign Mission Board President Jerry Rankin.

James T. Draper Jr., president of the Baptist Sunday School Board president and a former Dallas/Fort Worth-area pastor, said, "It was Dub Jackson who lit the fire under Texas Baptists to send over 500 pastors and laymen/laywomen to Japan in 1963," he said, recalling the "New Life Crusade."

Draper added, "There is no doubt that the concept of partnership missions originated in the heart of Dub Jackson."

The Jacksons, former Southern Baptist missionaries to Japan who continue their work with the FMB through its International Service Corps, currently make their home in Abilene, Texas, home of their alma mater, Hardin-Simmons University.

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The Jacksons are now seeking 450 people for 10 teams to Norway, 30 teams to Sweden and 10 teams for Italy, all in October of this year. In 1997, 500 more volunteers are needed for campaigns in France and Italy -- "and many more needed in 1998 for Germany and, possibly, Scotland and, hopefully, Austria." The Jacksons maintain an office ready to hear from prospective volunteers; the phone number is (915) 670-2500.

"I started preaching and presenting the idea of American people going over on short two-week programs to help in 1955 while we were living in Abilene and on furlough," said Jackson. Because it was a new concept among Southern Baptists, it took nearly eight years for the dream to become reality, he recounted.

Jackson said he also presented the idea to Japan Baptists and, after four years of study, they adopted it and began another three years of preparation.

Texas Baptists, meanwhile, adopted the campaign and agreed to send 549 team members to Japan, Korea, Philippines, Taiwan and Hong Kong. Thus the Japan "New Life" effort became "the first real partnership meeting," Jackson said.

The Jacksons eventually left Japan to set up the World Evangelism Foundation and helped to send out more than 8,000 people to 38 foreign countries.

"God led the Jacksons to begin World Evangelism Fellowship to promote and coordinate volunteer partnership projects between Southern Baptist churches and churches overseas," Rankin said. "As this grew, it became the model for the Foreign Mission Board."

State conventions were organized into partnerships with overseas countries, multiplying the enlistment potential and expanding the involvement of pastors and laypeople from America in missions, Rankin said.

The FMB's top mission executive added, "Such personal involvement has been used of God to call people to full-time career mission service, while strengthening prayer and financial support for missions in the churches."

"It has been my privilege to participate in a number of these crusades," Draper said. "No one in the entire world can set up and carry out a partnership crusade like Dub Jackson. He and Doris have literally spent their lives in calling God's people to global evangelism."

Recounting his early efforts, Jackson said, "There have always been people with doubts about the value of foreigners going overseas without the language and great knowledge of a country. That is not a valid concern! From the first partnership in Japan in 1963, and even before that first partnership, in a meeting in Asahigawa, Japan in 1954, God gave to us the conviction that effective work could and should be done by any and all of us -- if we want to be used!

"The basic principal in partnership is that anyone can and should witness anywhere anytime, and that God will honor and bless that witness," Jackson continued. "This has to be believed and practiced by the partnership participant. To be effective is not difficult, but it does demand absolute confidence in God and boldness in inviting people to TRUST HIM NOW.

"It does not require our 'great' personalities and persuasive ability," Jackson said, reiterating, "It does demand our obedience and trust in him, that if a person will bow and invite our Lord into his heart, he will come in right then!" Confirmation of his conviction came early in the Japan campaign.

"I stood in front of the city auditorium handing out invitations to the Japanese passing by," Jackson recalled. "One young man, a cripple, and under some influence of alcohol, took one of my invitations and, no doubt led by the Holy Spirit that he knew nothing about, went in and sat down at the back. He kept his hat on and lit up a cigarette as he heard his first message.

"An invitation was given and he raised his hand saying, 'I am inviting Christ to come into my heart.

"If I had been reporting this conversion of this partially drunk cripple who had just heard his first sermon, I think that almost every preacher in my home state of Texas would have expressed some doubts about his decision," Jackson said. "That would have been understandable. However, I had the joy of baptizing Mr. Saito -- and he went on to graduate from our seminary in Fukuoka, Japan, and, for more than 30 years, has served as one of our best loved pastors in Obihiro, Japan.

"We need all of God's people who are willing to be 'message givers' for our Lord," Jackson stated. "God is ready to use anyone if we will just make ourselves available."

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Richardson is director of media relations for Hardin-Simmons University and was a part of a partnership effort to Japan coordinated by the Jacksons.

FIRST-PERSON

Ready-to-work Texas farmer
helped Frenchman meet Jesus

By W.H. "Dub" Jackson

Baptist Press
5/16/96

ABILENE, Texas (BP)--A farmer from Seagraves, Texas, was one of the 200 team members on a partnership to France in 1974.

We always give the first day free for team members to rest and get ready for a very busy week of hard work and witnessing. However, this farmer, as is true with most farmers, was used to early hours and long, hard work, and he came to me asking, "When do we start?"

I explained our schedule and why it was that way but, thank the Lord, he did not follow the schedule.

He took out a copy of his testimony that we had translated into French and went on up to the coffee shop to have his breakfast and witness to whomever he could find.

As he walked into the restaurant, he noticed an elderly gray-headed Frenchman drinking his coffee and eating his hard roll.

The farmer, not being able to speak French but having the warm presence of the Lord in his heart and face, moved over to the Frenchman's table and, warmly and politely, handed his testimony to the man and went on to his own table, where he sat down and prayed as he too had his coffee and roll.

The farmer watched several times as the Frenchman took out the testimony, glanced at it and then put it back in his pocket.

Finally, he saw the Frenchman take out the testimony and begin reading. After a while, with tears in his eyes, the elderly Frenchman took out his pen and, at the close of the testimony where it invites the person to receive the Lord by faith now, he signed his name and handed it to the Texas farmer.

Not one word was spoken, but perfect obedience and faith was expressed and God answered, as he always does. Our problem is we doubt and we don't ask!

Partnership is an effective tool for world evangelism because it lets everyone become the world witness God meant for us to be!

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Jackson and his wife, Doris, are former Southern Baptist missionaries to Japan and, currently, crusade coordinators for Western Europe for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

'Spiritwind' country duo
preparing to cross an ocean

Baptist Press
5/16/96

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--As sons of Baptist preachers, David Wooten and LaFloy Johnson grew up "on the road" -- moving from church to church with their parents as their fathers pursued their callings to share the gospel.

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Now, Wooten, son of Herman Wooten, longtime California pastor and associational director of missions, and Johnson, whose father, the late Billy G. Johnson, served in churches in Mississippi and Alabama more than 40 years until his death in 1990, are, in the words of famous country singer/songwriter Willie Nelson, "on the road again" as the Christian country musical act "Spiritwind."

The "road" will even span an ocean.

The duo, along with their band, has received an official invitation to participate in a month-long series of crusades in Norway, Sweden and Italy beginning Oct. 9 of this year -- and invitation from Dub and Doris Jackson, crusade coordinators for Western Europe for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board,

"It is my plan to have you and your group in a different church each night, beginning in Norway, moving into Sweden and moving on into Italy," Dub Jackson wrote in a letter to Wooten and Johnson. "There is absolutely no way to know just how much God will use all this to draw people to him and see many come to know him as Lord and Savior. My personal conviction is that (the crusade effort) is the most effective way to presenting the Christian message outside of our nation You are desperately needed."

Country music in Norway, Sweden and Italy?

"Country music has always been popular in Europe," Wooten said. "But since Garth Brook's 1994 European tour, the Europeans' love for it has soared to new heights.

"We believe it will provide an excellent medium to present God's message of love and forgiveness to those who might not otherwise be exposed to the gospel," Wooten said.

Jackson, who recently returned from a trip to Europe to meet with European Baptist leaders, said they were very excited about plans to use music as a drawing card for the crusades. "Country music seems to be very popular over there," he observed.

Christian country music -- which Johnson defined as "faith and family music" -- "is beginning to get its feet wet" in Europe, said Gene Higgins, president of the Christian Country Music Association, based in Nashville, Tenn. "Country music has got a solid market in Europe," he noted.

One reason for the accelerated popularity of country music in Europe has been the exposure of country music artists such as Brooks, Dwight Yoakum, Mary-Chapin Carpenter and others through video programming, said Amelie Tseng, a spokesperson for County Music Television based in Nashville.

CMT entered the European market in October 1992 through the gateway of Great Britain and since then viewership "has grown tremendously throughout Europe," Tseng said, adding Norway and Sweden are among countries where CMT programming is available.

Johnson and Wooten did a five-week concert tour in Wooten's home state of California to help raise the necessary funds for Spiritwind's missions trip. The duo kicked off their ministry venture in March by performing their initial concerts at Johnson's church, Crieveewood Baptist, and Wooten's church, Haywood Hills Baptist, both in Nashville.

"It's always good to perform at home," Wooten said of Haywood Hills. "But this was particularly meaningful to me. I know that my church is standing behind us in what we believe God is directing us to do."

Further concerts are planned in Tennessee and beyond: a Mississippi tour in June; a Florida tour in July; a Midwestern tour -- Missouri, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas -- in August; and various dates in September.

The pair met in 1995 after Wooten moved to Nashville. "I saw David's press packet laying on the floor at the office of the Christian Country Music Association," Johnson said. "I picked it up and started reading it. When I found out he was a Baptist preacher's son and had been a Baptist preacher himself, I wanted to meet him. But, when I heard his tape, I really wanted to meet him. He's a great singer."

Wooten, who attended Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in the San Francisco area and is an ordained minister, was pastor of three California churches before forming Spiritwind in 1986. The group performed throughout California and the western United States until he moved to Nashville. In 1994, Wooten recorded a project which carried two of his songs, "He'll Never Change" and "Contented Man," onto airplay charts tracking Christian country radio stations throughout the United States.

"When LaFloy asked me if I would be interested in forming a group to participate in the European crusades, I knew it was time to rekindle the Spiritwind flame," Wooten said. "God has really been blessing our efforts."

Johnson, a 1985 graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, moved to Nashville -- for the third time -- in 1989 from Mississippi, where he was working as a newspaper reporter and part-time church music director.

"I was 19 the first time I moved to Nashville," Johnson said. "I thought I was something special, but, truthfully, I was a green weed. I stayed in Nashville about nine months, spent all my savings and then moved back to Mississippi." The second time, he lasted a year and a half.

However, the third time -- 12 years after the first -- "as they say, has been the charm," with Johnson eventually working his way into the tight-knit Nashville music community. As a songwriter, he has had several songs recorded, including a current Christian country single, "Nothin' Like Love," recorded by Melody Bieser, a Southern Baptist artist from Pataskala, Ohio.

"I'm grateful that the Lord has put David and me together," Johnson said. "If all we believe God has given us to do comes true, it will be a miracle; but, of course, we've got a God who is in the miracle business."

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Compiled by Art Toalston. (BP) photo available by calling (615) 297-8418.

Volunteers still needed for
Moscow Evangelism Project By Steve Barber & Carol Spurlin

Baptist Press
5/16/96

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--Southern Baptist volunteers still are being recruited to work with leaders and members of local Baptist churches in the Moscow region during the 1996 Moscow Evangelism Project, June 27-July 10.

The Brotherhood Commission is seeking four teams of four to five volunteers each to serve in four specific target areas of greater Moscow, as outlined by Foreign Mission Board missionaries and local Russian Baptists.

"The Moscow Evangelism Project represents one of the most dynamic volunteer mission projects that we've ever managed," said Herschel Wells, associate director of Adults in Missions at the Brotherhood Commission. "This is the kind of hands-on missions experience that can change the lives of volunteers and boost the missions awareness of the churches they come home to."

Team members, who do not have to be fluent in Russian, will be using a variety of ministry tools, including street witnessing, home visitation and visits to hospitals, factories, orphanages, prisons and other local government institutions. They also will worship with members of local sponsoring churches and demonstrate the use of "Survival Kit for New Believers" and other follow-up materials.

Volunteers with skills in music, drama, pantomime and working with children and students are especially needed, Wells said, adding all team members should be prepared to share their own testimonies of faith.

Two translators will be accompany every team.

The evangelistic campaign is being undertaken exclusively by Baptists in the greater Moscow area.

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"We are pleased that God has again allowed the Brotherhood Commission to join our Foreign Mission Board in hands-on missions in Russia," said James D. Williams, Brotherhood Commission president, pointing to the agency's involvement in other recent projects there.

In 1991, the agency worked with the Foreign Mission Board and Woman's Missionary Union to distribute Bibles there. The next year, 84 Brotherhood-recruited volunteers distributed more than 360 metric tons of food to local institutions and some 35,000 families.

The estimated cost per person for the trip is \$1,557, which includes air fare from New York, lodging, meals, in-country transportation and insurance. Team members will be housed in private homes, local hotels or dormitories, depending upon location.

For more information, contact Wells at the Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38104 or 1-800-280-1891.

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Spurlin is associate for volunteer recruiting at the Brotherhood Commission.

Original Hootie drummer
heading to seminary?

Baptist Press
5/16/96

GREENVILLE, S.C. (BP)--Whatever happened to the original drummer for pop sensation Hootie and the Blowfish?

He played with the group for three and a half years, leaving in 1989; it wasn't a "falling out," just a leading of the Lord; he has done youth work at First Baptist Church, Taylors, S.C., the past several years; he's getting married; and he will enroll this fall as Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

In an article circulated nationally by Knight-Ridder, drummer Brantley Smith, 28, tells of his faith in Christ in an interview with Susan Hogan/Albach, religion writer for The State newspaper, Columbia, S.C.

"These are great guys and we had a lot of fun together," Smith says of the band members. "I was leaving something I loved for something I loved even more -- my relationship with Christ."

Putting it another way: "There's nothing in this world that can match the riches that come from a relationship with Christ. For that reason alone, I would have quit Hootie a thousand times over," Smith tells Hogan/Albach.

Leaving the band was an agonizing decision, Smith says, acknowledging, "I'm a hero to some and an idiot to others."

The band's 1994 debut album, "Cracked Read View," has hit 13 million in sales.

Smith, the youngest of six children from Southern Baptist family, was with the band when they were students at the University of South Carolina. He didn't consume alcohol when they played in area clubs or have a party nightlife.

The other band members teased Smith because he didn't drink, but he tells Hogan/Albach it was done in a tender way that showed their respect.

Until recently, Hogan/Albach reports, Smith had little contact with Hootie and the Blowfish since the 1994 album's release. Then he got a call inviting him to play cello with the band during an "Unplugged" concert for MTV.

"That they'd even think to include me shows what kind of guys they are," says Smith, who can play several instruments.

Hootie guitarist Mark Bryan tells Hogan/Albach, "We've always been very good friends with Brantley and think highly of him. When he left the band, it's because his desires in life had changed, not because of any rift. He's a wonderful person."

"I have peace about the past and trust that this is where God wants me to be," Smith says. "As long as I have Christ, there won't be any regrets."

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Adapted by Art Toalston.

**Students turn to prayer
after school shooting spree**

LYNNVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Last November tragedy struck Richland High School, Lynnville, Tenn., when a student took a gun to school and began firing, killing a student and a teacher.

With the memory of that event still etched in their minds, some students at the high school are turning to prayer and trusting in the healing power of God three times a week.

One of the organizers of the group -- Shaunda Parsons, a member of New Zion Baptist Church -- was inspired to begin the group after returning from the Tennessee Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference in March.

Parsons, 17, felt ill the morning of the shooting, arriving at school one hour late, after the tragedy.

"By then everybody was leaving. I believe the Lord kept me safe for a reason that morning. This might be the reason," the Giles County teen said of her efforts to organize the prayer group at school.

After the Tennessee youth conference, Parsons went home, called some friends and the next day 10 students gathered around the flagpole and prayed. The numbers have grown since then, with about 50 students gathering at the pole three days a week at 7:45 a.m., before classes start. For about 10 minutes they hold hands, read Scripture and pray.

At the conference, she had heard a high schooler tell how he and his girlfriend had started a prayer group at their school in Memphis. "I saw how God was really working in their lives, and I wanted to see how a prayer group would do here. I think that's what God wanted me to do," Parsons said.

No one is pressured to read aloud or pray and from time to time a teacher or two has come by and participated, she said.

"I don't know that anything has changed in our lives yet because of what we're doing, but I'm sure it will," she said.

Richland principal Wayne Hobbs said the prayer group is a "great" idea and he knows of no rule the students are violating because it is strictly a voluntary effort.

"We don't have any kind of rules that would prohibit that. For those that want to participate and take part, we think it's a great thing," Hobbs said.

Sam Wallace, pastor of New Zion where Parsons and Cassie Newton, another of the organizers, attend, called both girls outstanding Christians "who live their beliefs."

Parsons, however, refuses to take credit for the new program at Richland. "I don't want to be taking the glory for it. I give the glory to God," she said.

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Adapted from a story in the Nashville Banner, 4/11/96.

**SBC restructuring task force
preparing New Orleans report**

By Herb Hollinger

**Baptist Press
5/16/96**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The task force coordinating the restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention met May 14-15 in Nashville, Tenn., working on its report to the SBC in New Orleans in June, which will include a generalized cost analysis of the restructuring.

The 10-member Implementation Task Force, appointed by the SBC Executive Committee to coordinate the "Covenant for a New Century" restructuring approved by the SBC last year in Atlanta, said the report also will contain an "updated timeline" for the implementation. The Covenant reduces the number of SBC agencies from 19 to 12. A second vote of a revision to SBC Bylaw 15, which lists the agencies by name, will be taken in New Orleans.

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The Nashville meeting was the last scheduled full task force meeting before the SBC annual meeting June 11-13 in New Orleans, according to Robert Reccord, task force chairman and pastor of First Baptist Church, Norfolk, Va.

Reccord said the task force report will be given to the Executive Committee at its pre-convention meeting June 8 in New Orleans. Copies of the report will be available for messengers June 9 in the SBC registration area of the Louisiana Superdome.

The report will be presented to the convention June 11 during the Executive Committee report. Motions dealing with legal documents required to accomplish the dissolution and merger of affected SBC entities will follow.

Reccord also said the ITF discussed candidates to serve as "incorporators" for the North American Mission Board, a merger of the present Home Mission Board, Radio and Television Commission and the Brotherhood Commission. Six incorporators already have been nominated by the three agencies.

Reccord said the ITF will nominate an additional seven "incorporators," including the chairman, but the names will not be released until all of them have agreed to be nominated. That information, Reccord said, may come as early as the end of May. The names of the 13 "incorporators" and a description of their assignments will be included in the NAMB charter.

The ITF also heard from the task force's subgroups that the SBC agencies scheduled to be dissolved are under way in the process of transition. Most have presented employee severance plans, revised calendars and program adjustments to their boards, Reccord said. The three agencies merging into NAMB have meetings scheduled with ITF members and consultants later in May to further discuss the transition processes.

In a May 2 meeting in Dallas, several members of the ITF and state convention executive director representatives discussed the relationship between state conventions and the SBC, particularly the future relationship with NAMB, Reccord said. The executive directors made suggestions and asked questions about cooperative agreements, definition and promotion of the Cooperative Program, the proper balance between NAMB emphasis on new work and old work states and other matters.

Reccord said the ITF members present at the Dallas meeting said the discussions were forthright, informative and helpful.

"The task force intends to continue interfacing with the executive directors as the implementation moves forward," Reccord said.

"The work of the ITF is on schedule," he said. "We continue to be in communication with agency leadership and other constituencies as we develop an orderly and efficient transition process. The convention can expect, upon the second approval of Bylaw 15 revisions, a timely, comprehensive and cost-effective implementation of the objectives of the Covenant."

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Capital celebration marks
Index's 175th anniversary

By William Neal

Baptist Press
5/16/96

WASHINGTON (BP)--The dedication of a historical marker, a White House briefing and a reception at the U.S. Capitol were highlights of the celebration of the 175th anniversary of The Christian Index in Washington.

The country's oldest religious newspaper, the Index was founded in the nation's capital in 1822 by pioneer Baptist missionary Luther Rice.

Members of the Georgia Baptist publication's staff and board of directors, Georgia Baptist leaders and historians and other friends of the Index were in Washington May 4-9 for a "heritage tour" to mark the journal's beginnings.

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At a luncheon hosted by George Washington University, Editor William Neal summarized the history of the Index, calling particular attention to its early days of publication in Washington. University archivist David Anderson spoke about Luther Rice, who not only founded The Columbian Star (now known as The Christian Index) but also Columbian College (now George Washington University).

GWU, which was a Baptist school until early in this century, has been celebrating its 175th anniversary this year. The university's administration building, Rice Hall, is named for the noted Baptist leader.

The Index historical marker has been erected near the corner of E and 10th streets in the city, just around the corner from historic Ford's Theater. It marks the site from which The Columbian Star was published during its first five years. The funding for the historical marker came from the Georgia Baptist Historical Commission. The prayer of dedication was delivered by J. Robert White, executive director of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

On Sunday, May 5, the Index tour group attended services at Washington's First Baptist Church, where a luncheon was held in their honor hosted by pastor Chuck Poole. In his remarks Poole recounted the number of connections between that historic church and Georgia Baptists. Poole moved to Washington last year from the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Macon, Ga.

Wednesday, May 8, was the day on which the marker itself was dedicated. That afternoon, following the luncheon at GWU, the Index group gathered in the historic Roosevelt Room of The White House to receive a briefing from senior administration officials on the President's initiatives related to welfare and education reform and issues dealing with religious liberty concerns. The briefing had been arranged through the assistance of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

The special day ended with a reception hosted by Speaker Newt Gingrich in the Rayburn House Office Building. Among those in attendance were several members of the Georgia congressional delegation as well as D.C. Baptist officials.

The Index heritage tour was the first of several highlights to the year-long celebration of the journal's 175th year of production. A special anniversary issue of the Index is being prepared for distribution in November at the Georgia Baptist Convention, and a new magazine, The E Street Journal, is being launched by the Index this summer.

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Draper, McDowell headline
BSSB presentation at SBC

Baptist Press
5/16/96

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Baptist Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr., along with Josh McDowell, creator of the national "Right from Wrong" campaign, will headline the agency's report to the Southern Baptist Convention June 11 in New Orleans.

Draper will present the formal report, using the theme "Bearing Abundant Fruit," and will outline preparations the 105-year-old board is making for 21st century ministries.

Reports and testimonies related to BSSB services and resources will be featured such as LeaderCare, the board's strategy for helping ministers in crises; 1.5.4. Kingdom Principles for Church Growth; resources from Broadman & Holman Publishers; personal and church resources from the Church Growth Group; and ministries of Baptist Book Stores.

McDowell, whose campaign is sponsored by more than 50 groups including the BSSB, will address the convention on family values. For the campaign, the BSSB has published a series of resources on Christian values for all age groups.

The Sunday School Board is the denomination's church ministries enrichment agency.

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Baptists celebrate opening of hospital in Tanzania

KIGOMA, Tanzania (BP)--Two days of ceremonies marked the opening of Kigoma Baptist Hospital in Kigoma, Tanzania.

More than 100 Baptists and dozens of other supporters walked through and around the hospital, singing and stopping at various points to pray for the facility's ministry, according to Southern Baptist missionary physician Bill Harrington. More than 300 attended dedication ceremonies and an open house the next day.

In a related matter involving Harrington, one of two lawsuits filed against him by disgruntled former employees has been dismissed as groundless. The second lawsuit remains to be resolved.

The Kigoma facility, unlike traditional mission hospitals, opens with only a \$10,000 subsidy from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and plans to generate operating income through a bus service, the hospital restaurant and by manufacturing intravenous fluids for other hospitals in the area.

Missionary physician Susan Smith asked Southern Baptists to pray for the hospital's 25 new staff members and for the witness and ministry opportunities that will arise.

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EDITORS' NOTE: The following feature is adapted from the weekly "He Said/She Said" column by Mark and Alison Wingfield in the Kentucky Western Recorder on the differing male-female perspectives toward relationships and family life. Mark is editor of the Western Recorder; Alison is a free-lance writer; they are the parents of 3-year-old twin boys.

FIRST-PERSON

Why do children ask so many
tough questions of parents? By Mark & Alison Wingfield

Baptist Press
5/16/96

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--We've got a bumper crop of questions at our house this spring. Three-year-olds spit out questions faster than the grass grows in May. Some of these questions are just plain silly, but others are profound and even theological.

Of course, mom and dad take different approaches to answering these often-unanswerable questions.

Here's a sample of recent conversations at our house:

Luke: Why did God make girls in the world?

Dad: Good question. Ask your mother.

Mom: Because girls are special, just like boys. (I wanted to say superior, but I didn't want to cause any long-term inferiority complexes.)

Garrett: Why does the world spin around?

Dad: Because God made it that way.

Garrett: But why?

Mom: Because.

Garrett: But why?

Dad: Because.

Garrett: But why?

Mom: Because, because, because. Just because!

Luke: How old is God?

Dad: God has always been, so we can't talk about how old God is.

Luke: But how old is God?

Mom: God doesn't have an age.

Luke: When is God's birthday?

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Mom: God doesn't have a birthday.

Luke: Why?

Mom: Because God has always been here.

Luke: How old is Jesus?

Mom: Well ...

Luke: Was Jesus a baby when he was born?

Dad: Jesus was born as a baby when he came to live on earth, but he was alive before that.

Luke: (blank stare)

Mom: It's something you'll understand when you're older.

Luke: How old?

Dad: Hey, Luke, look outside at the squirrel on the tree. Hurry, look now!
(Never discount the effectiveness of the theological distraction technique.)

Garrett: Why is daddy losing his hair?

Mom: Because he's getting old.

Garrett: Will I lose my hair when I grow up?

Mom: Maybe not.

Dad (muttering under my breath): Huh! Just look at your Granddaddy Lacy's head!
(Try explaining genetics to a 3-year-old.)

Luke: Why don't cinnamon rolls roll?

Mom: Good question. Ask your dad.

Dad: Because they're to eat.

Luke: Do they roll down to my tummy?

Dad: I guess so.

Garrett: Does everybody in the world love Jesus?

Mom: It's sad, but no, they don't.

Garrett: Why?

Dad: Because they don't know what's best.

Garrett: I love Jesus.

Mom: That's really good. I hope you always will.

--30--

CORRECTION: Please substitute the following for paragraph three of (BP) story titled "New FMB monthly video to tap kids' interest in missions," dated 5/13/96.

To help children ask those questions, the board will introduce in June a new video entitled "Kids On Mission." The eight-minute video, produced by the agency's Electronic Media Department, is geared to grade-school children and can be used by children's groups in local churches.

Thanks,
Baptist Press

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