

Historical Commission, SBC  
Nashville, Tennessee

NATIONAL OFFICE  
SBC Executive Committee |  
901 Commerce #750 |  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203 |  
(615) 244-2355 |  
Herb Hollinger, Vice President |  
Fax (615) 742-8919 |  
CompuServe ID# 70420,17 |



**BAPTIST PRESS**  
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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

February 22, 1996

96-31

- WASHINGTON--U.S. business interests sanction persecution, witnesses maintain.
- VIRGINIA--Journeymen ready for rigors of foreign mission service; photo.
- TENNESSEE--Broadman & Holman more than publisher of books, Bibles; photo.
- TEXAS--Regional ministry network reunites families, inmates.
- DALLAS--Baptist women raise money for women's prison chapel.
- TENNESSEE--Rock concert flap stirs Baptists, others to action.
- TENNESSEE--Correction.

U.S. business interests sanction persecution, witnesses maintain      By Tom Strode      Baptist Press 2/22/96

WASHINGTON (BP)--Some American business interests are, in effect, supporting the persecution of Christians by repressive foreign governments, according to recent testimony before a congressional panel.

Most of the 12 witnesses before a subcommittee of the House of Representatives International Relations Committee testified to the inadequacy of the U.S. government's response to the global persecution of Christians. A witness and the chairman of the subcommittee said some corporations and business interests actually are helping maintain repressive policies.

Despite claims to the contrary, there is no evidence economic progress with the United States in a country with a repressive regime results in greater respect for human rights or religious liberty, said Nina Shea, director of Freedom House's program on religious freedom.

"In fact, religious freedom has deteriorated in both (China and Vietnam) as trade has been renewed," Shea said. "And what we're seeing is that, unfortunately, a number of American companies are incorporating local practices."

Shea cited the case of Gao Feng, 27, a Chinese Christian who was arrested for "praying without authorization." He missed work for a couple of weeks at the Chrysler Jeep plant in Beijing because of his detention. Chrysler fired him because he did not have an official reason for his absence, Shea said.

Rep. Christopher Smith, R.-N.J., chairman of the International Operations and Human Rights Subcommittee, said a large consortium of U.S. business interests had the "audacity to assert" in a position paper "human rights had improved dramatically" in China.

The position paper by the Business Coalition for U.S.-China Trade also said the annual debates on most favored nation trade status for China "had set back progress on trade and, get this, human rights," Smith said. "... now, as (Shea's) testimony clearly indicates, they are actual enforcers" of religious persecution.

In a meeting with U.S. Chamber of Commerce officials in Beijing, Smith said those present "were unaware of the coercive population control program and thought it was a figment of my imagination when I spoke about it." One member said, "Religious freedom flourishes here," even though he was referring to the liberty to attend an official church, which is under the control of the government, Smith said.

"It must be terribly demoralizing for people of the world" who know of Americans' love for freedom "to see American citizens acquiesce to this kind of thing," said Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, R.-Calif.

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, was among witnesses who addressed the issue of connecting trade status and aid to foreign governments' treatment of religious adherents.

"Calvin Coolidge is reported to have once said, 'The business of America is business,'" Land said. "I do not believe that. I've never believed that. I don't believe most of my constituency believes that. I don't believe most Americans believe that.

"Most Americans believe that the business of the United States of America is the propagation of our values. And the most fundamental value of this republic is freedom of conscience and as part of that freedom of religious belief."

Testimony focused primarily on persecution under communist regimes in China, Vietnam, North Korea and Cuba and in Muslim-dominated countries such as Iran, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan and Pakistan.

Shea said American missionaries recently reported to her the repression of Christians in China is the greatest since the late 1970s.

"The current word on the street among evangelicals is that local authorities are being pressed hard to round up all evangelicals for registration or arrest," Shea said. "An American Bible missionary who recently returned from China said that an arrest warrant with the names of 3,000 evangelical preachers is being circulated by the Public Security Bureau."

The form of Islam which threatens Christian minorities is fascism, not traditional Islam, said David Forte, a professor of law at Cleveland State University.

"China now has a fascist regime, as does Iran, as does the Sudan," Forte said. "We should call these movements for what they are. They are not religious -- let us never legitimize them with that name and insult hundreds of millions of Muslims as we do so -- they are a new form of fascist tyranny."

By refusing to use its influence to help persecuted Christians and other minorities in Muslim-dominated countries, the U.S. State Department, Forte said, sends these messages:

-- "We don't believe in protecting those religious adherents of the West: We must be the materialist, bankrupt culture the Islamic radicals claim we are.

-- "Radical Islam is a legitimate force in the world, and it is all right with us if, for reasons of state, Islamic governments give in to radicals' tyrannical agenda.

-- "We treat our Islamic friends with patronizing indifference. After all, we in effect say, this isn't a human rights problem. This is a Muslim problem, and we know how these people behave."

While Smith said the subcommittee's Feb. 15 hearing is the first to focus on persecution of Christians, Smith and Rohrabacher said the attention given to the issue will continue.

"We are going to make this a significant national and international issue," Rohrabacher said.

Among those testifying about persecution of Christians were a spokesman for Roman Catholics in China, a Catholic priest from Vietnam, as well as representatives of The Rutherford Institute, Family Research Council, The Voice of the Martyrs, Iranian Christians International and Amnesty International.

Albert Pennybacker, associate general secretary of the National Council of Churches, also testified, but he opposed a recommendation offered by the National Association of Evangelicals and supported by the CLC's Land for a special presidential adviser on religious liberty. Pennybacker said it was premature. He also failed to answer questions by Smith about the content of a NCC meeting with Cuban dictator Fidel Castro last year.

Journeyman ready for rigors  
of foreign mission service

By Mary E. Speidel

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--"Just get me out of Africa," thought Tim Motis as his plane landed.

It was the last layover in Africa during his flight from Sierra Leone to the United States. At the time -- the summer of 1990 -- his parents were missionaries to Liberia. "When we touched down, I thought, 'Oh no, we're not out of Africa yet. What if something else happens?'" Motis recalled.

Plenty already had. As Liberia's civil war had worsened that summer, the Motis family had tried to evacuate through bordering Sierra Leone. At the border, first they were held by Liberian government troops, then captured by rebel forces. The family was detained a week in several locations before being allowed to leave the country.

Six years after that ordeal, Motis is heading back to Africa -- this time to do agricultural work as a journeyman of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Journeyman are single college graduates under age 30 who work two years overseas with career missionaries.

Motis was among 30 journeymen commissioned Feb. 18 at Gayton Baptist Church in Richmond, Va. During their commissioning service, a group of journeymen built a pyramid from cardboard blocks covered in white paper. The boxes represented spiritual building blocks.

One journeyman pulled a "Jesus" block at the foundation out from under the other boxes as she read from John 15:5: "But without (Christ), you can do nothing." The pyramid tumbled down.

That's a truth Motis, 27, doesn't take lightly.

He was born in Eritrea, an eastern African country then part of Ethiopia. His parents, Ben and Ramona Motis, were missionaries with the Society for International Ministries (S.I.M.), formerly Sudan Interior Mission. They currently work with S.I.M. in Eritrea.

During the communist revolution in Ethiopia, Motis remembers hearing gunfire and ducking for cover on the floor at his boarding school. "As a kid I don't think it really sunk in how serious it was, so I don't remember being afraid," Motis said.

But Motis remembers clearly the fears he felt during the summer of 1990. He and his sister, Cathy, then students at South Dakota State University, had been visiting their missionary parents in Liberia, where the family had moved in 1978.

When word came that rebel forces were nearing their area, the Motis family had tried to evacuate with some other Americans through bordering Sierra Leone. At the border town of Bo Waterside, Liberian government troops held them. After about six hours of questioning, officials refused to let them leave.

"You people aren't going anywhere," a soldier told them. "You'll stay here until the rebels come. And when they do, you can suffer with us."

The Americans spent the night in their vehicles. At midnight, chaos erupted. "The rebels are coming!" Liberians shouted.

The next day, rebel forces stormed the town. By then the Motis family and their party were holed up inside the immigration office, surrounded by their luggage, a desk, an old freezer and an engine block they'd found nearby. Bullets shattered glass nearby. His mind raced: "What if I get hit? What if I make it through this alive but my family doesn't?" Nearly an hour passed.

"It was so loud. I didn't think the barricade would really stop (the bullets)," recalled Motis, ill with malaria at the time. "But then I remembered I'm a child of God, and his power is infinitely greater than all the guns outside put together. I prayed, 'Lord, I'd like to think I'd still be useful for something here on earth. But if this is it, I'm ready to go.'"

In that moment, "I felt a complete transformation. I went from being scared to death to having complete peace," Motis said.

--more--

The rebels took the Americans to their camp, then kept them in various locations for several more days. Motis' father managed to get a message into Sierra Leone, which reached Dean Ekberg, then a Foreign Mission Board missionary. He helped negotiate their release.

So why go back?

Motis, who holds bachelor's and master's degrees in horticulture, admits he struggled with that question. But he found some answers after hearing stories of Liberian Christians forgiving people who committed atrocities against them and their families during the brutal civil war.

"I've seen how the gospel can stop the cycle of violence, how it's relevant in any situation," Motis said. "I've realized the way to respond to all that's wrong in the world is (to show) the love of Christ. His love is the most powerful force in the world."

--30--

(BP) photo (vertical) mailed 2/21/96 to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press. Outline available on SBCNet News Room.

Broadman & Holman more than  
publisher of books, Bibles

By Linda Lawson

Baptist Press  
2/22/96

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Broadman & Holman's 1995 best-selling products ranged from "Experiencing God" (book and Bible) to "Christy" videos to a pocket Bible, four-color certificates for special occasions such as ordination and Remembrance communion cups and wafers.

The very breadth of items produced and distributed by the Baptist Sunday School Board's trade publishing group is one dimension that sets B&H apart. It is not just a general trade or academic books publisher, a Bible publisher, a publisher and distributor of Christian videos or a publisher and distributor of church supplies.

Broadman & Holman encompasses all of these.

Kirk Freeman, director of sales and marketing for B&H, acknowledged the difficulties sometimes presented by the wide range of products but emphasized the opportunity they provide in coming up with innovations to meet needs.

"I think the future of B&H lies in becoming more sensitive, responsive and current in meeting the needs of people and the retailing industry," Freeman said. "We have made significant progress."

In the books category, B&H worked with the board's church growth group (CGG) to release a trade book, "Experiencing God," by Henry Blackaby and Claude King. It includes content similar to the popular 13-week course book produced by the discipleship and family development division but in a hard-cover book format.

More than 100,000 copies of the B&H edition have been sold. B&H also produced the "Experiencing God Study Bible" in the New King James Version with study helps related to the book content. A Spanish edition also is available and a New International Version (NIV) is set for release this year.

Freeman described "Experiencing God" as second only to the Bible in literature that has influenced his life. "God is using this to bring about revival. The response is part of signs that people are feeling more urgent about spiritual issues."

In another cooperative venture with CGG, the trade edition of "The Mind of Christ" by T.W. Hunt also reached best-seller status for B&H.

The premier 1996 B&H book release is "Breaking Through" by Wellington Boone, a popular speaker with the Promise Keepers men's ministry. The foreword in the just-released volume was written by Bill McCartney, former football coach at the University of Colorado who heads Promise Keepers.

--more--

"Wellington is emerging as one of the most prominent spokesmen for racial reconciliation," Freeman said. "Breaking Through" and a set of teaching pictures featuring prominent black persons from the Bible are two ways B&H is seeking to respond to the 1995 Southern Baptist Convention resolution on racial reconciliation, he said.

In Bible publishing, B&H faces a unique challenge in not having proprietary rights to a Bible translation. Instead, royalties must be paid to publishers holding those rights.

"We're a niche Bible publisher," Freeman said. The B&H New International Version pocket-size Bible released in 1995 sold almost 40,000 copies in the first three months.

"It's the smallest, most readable, quality Bible I've seen for the price (\$24.99 for bonded leather)," he said. Pocket editions in the King James Version and in Spanish are planned for 1996.

Another niche product, the B&H "True Love Waits Bible" for youth is being introduced in February.

Study helps are "not just on sexual abstinence and sexual issues," Freeman said. "We want to put kids' feet on solid ground." Four-color pages address such topics as friendship, prayer and common spiritual questions asked by teenagers.

In the area of Christian videos, B&H is now the largest distributor. The "Secret Adventures" series for children was developed by B&H in conjunction with MTM. A series for preschoolers, "The Storybook Tree," is being produced by B&H.

However, B&H also has the distribution rights in the Christian market to "Christy." The first two releases from the CBS television series were among B&H's best-sellers for 1995. The first segment released in late 1994 has sold about 100,000 while the second, "The Sweetest Gift," released in October 1995 has topped 50,000.

Noting the video sales in the United States generate five times more revenue than movies, Freeman said, "I think Christians have a responsibility to become involved in a medium this significant in our culture."

He predicted the sales of Christian videos will continue to grow but noted technology improvements will cause changes. For example, magnetic tape will give way to CD versions.

In church supplies, Freeman said B&H is "one of the biggest and certainly the most diverse in what we provide." B&H supplies include everything from bulletins to communion ware, pencils, flags, teaching pictures, church signs, choir robes and baptismal garments, offering envelopes and records forms.

"Retailers are waking up to the business of church supplies," Freeman said. "We constantly get calls from retailers asking for help in designing their store layouts for church supplies."

Four-color certificates were introduced in 1995 and immediately became best-sellers. The traditional one-color editions for baptism, ordination, license and appreciation continue to be available. Four-color offering envelopes also are being introduced.

The B&H supply item that drew the most public attention in 1995 was Remembrance communion cups, already filled, and with a wafer attached."

"Bookstores are cautiously buying this product because it's new," Freeman said. "Our goal is broadening the opportunity for people to partake of communion."

Response indicates the goal is being achieved as testimonies of appreciation from shut-ins attest. Also, positive comments have been received from churches conducting special events with large crowds where observing the Lord's Supper with traditional communion service would have been impossible.

Among supply items scheduled for future release is a line of less expensive communion ware.

Freeman's responsibilities require that he be well-versed in release dates, sales figures and marketing plans. But he emphasizes the most important element is understanding what benefit a product will bring potential customers.

"We must be able to articulate how our products are designed to encourage, motivate and nurture a person's relationship with Christ -- which is the whole reason we're in this business/ministry," he said.

--30--

(BP) photo (vertical) mailed to state Baptist newspapers by the BSSB bureau of Baptist Press. Outline is posted in the SBCNet News Room.

Regional ministry network  
reunites families, inmates

By Ken Camp

Baptist Press  
2/22/96

DENTON, Texas (BP)--An inmate saw his 5-month-old daughter for the first time. A woman with inoperable cancer saw her imprisoned son for what was probably the last time. And a Korean couple who came to visit their son met Jesus.

They were among more than two dozen relatives of prisoners from Oregon who recently visited family members in the county jail in Denton, Texas. Their four-day visit was made possible by the Criminal Justice Ministries Network of North Texas, an organization founded by two Texas Baptist laymen.

Last fall, the Oregon Department of Corrections transferred 230 inmates to the Denton County Jail due to overcrowding in Oregon's prison system. Of course, the 1,500-mile transfer stopped most family visitation.

The Criminal Justice Ministries Network coordinated Operation HELP -- Helping, Encouraging and Loving Prisoners. The project was designed to enable families from outside Texas to visit prisoners held in north Texas prisons and jails.

The network secured low-cost air fare for the families, helped to subsidize their lodging and enlisted local churches -- including First Baptist Church and University Baptist Church in Denton -- to provide them with ground transportation, meals, counseling and hospitality.

"The churches just loved all over them," said Gene Grounds, executive director of the regional ministries network.

University Baptist held a prayer service for the families following an evening meal at the church.

"It was a special time of prayer," said pastor Richard New. "They prayed individually for their family situations, and they expressed gratitude for the people in Texas who had helped them."

When the visitors first arrived in Denton, they had a high level of anxiety and a low level of trust, according to Grounds, a deacon at Prestonwood Baptist Church, Dallas. But within a day or two, they became open to hospitality and to each other.

"When the families came in, nobody knew anyone else," he said. "But as they stayed together for four days, they bonded. They wept together, had fun together, did all the things that new friends do together."

As the barriers came down, they also became more receptive to the gospel. Grounds led one Asian-American couple to faith in Jesus. They were visiting a 20-year-old son serving a 10-year sentence for murder.

Operation HELP is just one facet of the Criminal Justice Ministries Network, said Grounds, who launched the regional network last year with Jimmy Roberts, a deacon at First Baptist Church, Dallas. (NOTE: There is just one M in Roberts' first name.)

Their goal is to develop an interdenominational information-sharing group that will represent all aspects of criminal justice ministry in 64 north central and northeast Texas counties.

"We want to motivate, educate and equip the church to develop local criminal justice ministries," Grounds said.

Ministries include five groups: offenders, ex-offenders, criminal justice professionals, crime victims and the families of all those involved.

The regional network works closely with INFORMS, a statewide clearinghouse of criminal justice ministry information. INFORMS is supported by the Texas Baptist State Missions Commission through gifts to the Mary Hill Davis Offering for State Missions.

--more--

Grounds currently serves on the Texas Baptist Men criminal justice ministry committee, which has adopted the goal of encouraging at least 300 churches to develop criminal justice ministry teams this year -- a goal shared by his network.

More than 100 criminal justice ministries currently operate independently in north Texas, focusing on evangelism, discipleship, mentoring, aftercare and family support.

"Our purpose is to recruit, train and equip volunteers from all Christian denominations for these ministries," Grounds said. "The church and criminal justice ministries working together can more effectively reach the more-than-1.5 million people affected by crime in the north Texas mission field."

--30--

**Baptist women raise money  
for women's prison chapel**

**By Ken Camp**

**Baptist Press  
2/22/96**

DALLAS (BP)--Each Sunday, about 1,000 prisoners meet for worship in the outdoor recreation yard at the Plane State Jail, a southeast Texas facility for female offenders. It's the only place they can worship now, but the Woman's Missionary Union in Tryon-Evergreen Baptist Association wants to solve that problem.

With "Building Hope: Woman to Woman" as their theme, the associational Women on Mission voted in January to raise \$25,000 to help build a chapel at the state jail.

Although the state no longer funds the construction of prison chapels, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice will provide inmate labor to build them if community residents raise the needed money. Once a chapel is built, it becomes state property and is available for all religious groups to use.

"A chapel with multipurpose rooms will enable more volunteers to provide more Christ-centered ministries to the women," said Anita Parrish, WMU director for Tryon-Evergreen Baptist Association.

Parrish, a member of Burning Hope Baptist Mission, Trinity, Texas, said the ministries to female offenders will have "a greater positive impact on their lives which will, in turn, have a positive impact on the lives of their loved ones."

The \$25,000 fund-raising goal for Tryon-Evergreen's Women on Mission is less than 10 percent of the total required to build a chapel at Plane State Jail. But Parrish is hopeful that their "Building Hope: Woman to Woman" emphasis will spread statewide.

Milfred Minatrea, director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas' church ministries department, pointed out female offenders are the fastest-growing segment of the population within the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

"For the sake of families and communities, and for the sake of the kingdom, Texas Baptist churches must invest themselves in ministry in women's prisons," said Minatrea, who coordinates Texas Baptist criminal justice ministries.

"And if that is to be accomplished effectively, it will be through woman-to-woman ministries."

While Plane State Jail can house up to 2,144 prisoners, its largest meeting room holds a maximum of 120 people. Even using the recreation yard for worship means conducting 14 separate services every Sunday.

Weekday ministries such as literacy training, English as a Second Language classes, support groups and crafts demonstration led by Christian volunteers can only be offered when educational classrooms are available.

"The gospel has to wait its turn while state requirements are met," said Rose Mattox, a member of Walnut Creek Baptist Church, Magnolia, Texas, and project leader for the fund-raising effort in Tryon-Evergreen association.

Mattox has divided the association into five regions and is looking for a key person in each region to share the need with area churches.

"Texas WMU commends the Women on Mission in Tryon-Evergreen association for their vision and commitment, as seen by their desire to 'build hope, woman to woman,'" said Joy Fenner, executive director-treasurer, Woman's Missionary Union of Texas.

--more--

Frank E. Graham, a layman at Prestonwood Baptist Church, Dallas, and executive director of Chapels of Home Ministries, is working closely with Tryon-Evergreen's Women on Mission.

Graham's organization is working with 20 groups around the state, raising money to build prison chapels. The first to be funded, the Hutchins State Jail in Dallas County, is under construction and should be completed in April.

Out of more than 100 prisons and state jails in Texas, only 12 have adequate chapel space, Graham noted. He also points to another troubling statistic -- 43 percent of all inmates return to prison in three years.

"Those that have not had a change of heart will most likely return to a life of crime. And Jesus Christ is the one who changes hearts," he said.

"What we're trying to do is save tens of thousands of lives and tax dollars. Prison chapels make a safer Texas."

--30--

Rock concert flap stirs  
Baptists, others to action

By Wm. Fletcher Allen

Baptist Press  
2/22/96

BRISTOL, Tenn. (BP)--It's not often thousands of Christians almost spontaneously take a stand on a moral issue and gather in a major rally of public concern, but that's what happened in the Kingsport, Bristol and Johnson City, Tenn., area.

Concerned citizens in the Tri-Cities area had had enough.

A rock music group called White Zombie had leased Freedom Hall, the Johnson City civic center, for a Feb. 4 concert. After meeting with a group of citizens, the city council unanimously overruled the arrangement and canceled the concert.

But that wasn't the end of the matter.

Bristol's Viking Hall authorities permitted the controversial rock group to be scheduled there Feb. 4.

A meeting was soon organized by concerned citizens opposed to such morally controversial concerts, and they immediately started planning a rally to oppose the Bristol action -- a mass "Rally of Concern" in Viking Hall five days prior to the scheduled concert.

Despite rainy weather, about 3,500 concerned citizens attended the Jan. 30 rally, including Baptists and members from other supportive churches in the area. Joe Hudson, pastor of Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church, Bristol, was the master of ceremonies.

Preceding the rally, the Tri-Cities' television and radio stations and newspapers scurried to keep up with the events. News items attracted national attention as well. Freedom of speech became an issue to be reckoned with. While not sidestepping the free speech ideal, leaders were careful to promote a positive attitude.

Les Bailey, an attorney from Kingsport, told rally participants Viking Hall did not have to allow the concert, that it was not protected speech, according to a U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

Tal Thompson, director of missions of the Holston Baptist Association, in opening the rally said the crowd was present to "express our sincere concern that White Zombie was offered a contract at Viking Hall after being denied the same opportunity by Johnson City."

He explained, "... how we express our concern is of utmost importance. We are not here to bash, hurt or malign anyone, but to share the light of Christ ... to encourage our city government to join hands with us in helping raise our community moral standards."

In discussing the rally, Thompson said he considered it to be a "miracle of God."

After he signed a contract for use of Viking Hall, volunteers began getting the word out about the rally. "It was amazing," Thompson said. "People from all over began expressing interest and asking for information. We had people from all denominations."

--more--

In addition to the rain, there was a huge traffic problem the night of the rally. Even so, it started on time and ran smoothly. There were some Zombie supporters present with signs, but there were no major disturbances.

It was decided to approach the Bristol city council to request a committee to set standards protecting individual free speech rights but also keeping community standards as a guiding force in allowing future permits for use of the facility.

According to Tommy Holtzclaw, director of missions for Sullivan Baptist Association, which includes Kingsport and Bristol, efforts will be made to put in place regulations that will reflect community moral values for each civic center.

The public seemed amazed by the unfolding events, Thompson said, and particularly amazed that the church groups maintained a high level of conciliation and peaceful decorum. Holtzclaw said that kind of attitude let "outsiders" know that the church people "were not a group of protesters set to disturb the peace of the community."

The rally became a unifying time for Christians and people with moral standards, noted Steve Playl, pastor of Woodlawn Baptist Church and president of the Bristol Ministerial Association. Woodlawn is across the street from Viking Hall.

"It's time to see Christ lifted up," Playl added, noting the rally developed into "a wonderful joint worship hour and God was in it." Holtzclaw described it as "a two-hour worship experience, one of the greatest rallies I have ever attended."

The night of the White Zombie concert, Playl reported, church groups gave Christian tracts to ticket buyers as they waited outside Viking Hall for the rock concert.

Playl said he talked with two teens from First Baptist Church, Gate City, Va., who had witnessed about Christ to a group of fans for an hour.

He said there were others talking one-on-one to ticket buyers. Playl said, "The Lord put this on the hearts of caring people -- to do something about these immoral actions in public facilities."

Concert management reported 3,100 tickets were sold for the Feb. 4 event, but observers, including a score of Bristol policemen, estimated much-lower figures. The hall can seat about three times that number. Police were on hand that evening for emergency situations and not for general crowd behavior.

One of the first follow-up efforts from the Rally of Concern was a Feb. 21 a breakfast meeting "for a cross-section of businessmen and pastors to plan for action," Playl noted.

"We may try to replace council members who approved of the Zombie concert," he said, "and we certainly want to help set up a committee to make decisions on moral standards for all events at places such as Viking Hall."

--30--

---

CORRECTION: In BP story titled "2 SBC budget recommendations depend on bylaw 15 outcome," dated 2/21/96, please substitute the following for paragraph 18, which begins "-- approved the SBC audit ..." with:

-- approved the SBC audit for the 1994-95 fiscal year, which ended Sept. 30, 1995. It showed revenues of \$4,318,442 were \$33,192 short of expenditures of \$4,351,634 and the operating budget fund total of \$627,078, at the end of fiscal year 1993-94, was reduced to \$581,970 at the end of fiscal year 1994-95. According to Executive Committee finance officials, the reduction was the result of increased expenses at the 150th anniversary celebration in Atlanta last year, both in preparation for and in costs associated with the facility, and increased legal fees during the year.

Thanks,  
Baptist Press

---

HOUSE MAIL

<b>(BP)</b>	<b>BAPTIST PRESS</b> 901 Commerce #750 Nashville, TN 37234
	Southern Baptist Library and Archives

F  
I  
R  
S  
T  
  
C  
L  
A  
S  
S