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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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(EDITOR'S NOTE: Because of the significance of the recently completed term of the U.S. Supreme Court, Baptist Press is providing a two-part series on the major church-state decisions. This is the first of two parts.)

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**High Court Term Historic  
In Church-State Relations**

By Stan Hasteley

WASHINGTON (BP)—In one of the most significant years for church-state relations in its 192-year history, the Supreme Court issued major rulings and took other actions on religious exercises in public institutions and government aid to religion in its just concluded term.

Headlining the high court's church-state actions was an 8-1 decision last December upholding the right of students at state-supported universities and colleges to conduct worship services on campus. That ruling struck down a policy at the University of Missouri-Kansas City banning worship and religious teaching in campus buildings or on campus property.

Adopted by university trustees in 1972 and implemented five years later, the policy was challenged in federal court by Cornerstone, a non-denominational group of evangelical Christian students who claimed the ban violated their rights of free speech and free exercise of religion.

Justice Lewis F. Powell Jr., writing for the court majority, declared the ban unconstitutional in that it violated the students' First Amendment rights of free speech and association.

He emphasized, however, that the court had consciously sidestepped what many observers believed to be the central constitutional issue in the case, that of free exercise.

Siding with the students in the high court test were several religious groups, including the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, which filed a friend-of-the-court brief in the case. (80-689, Widmar v. Vincent)

Precisely one week after the Widmar decision, however, the high court handed a defeat to a group of Guilderland, N.Y., high school students seeking to hold prayer meetings at their school before school hours.

The students lost their case when the justices unanimously declined to review two lower federal court rulings disallowing their free exercise claims. They had asked the high court to hear their appeal of those rulings, claiming that the Second Circuit Court of Appeals decision against them "ignores the fundamental right of millions of students to be free of governmental control of their associations and the free flow of ideas."

They also claimed that in the use of school property for religious purposes, "a high school, during school hours, is identical to a college or university."

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But the justices clearly disagreed with that line of reasoning although, as is customary, they gave no reasons for denying the appeal. Their refusal to review the case left standing the lower court's ruling which held that the prayer meetings "would create an improper appearance of official support, and the prohibition against impermissibly advancing religion would be violated." (80-1396, *Brandon v. Board of Education of Guilderland School District*)

In a third case dealing with religion in schools, the high court unanimously affirmed another court of appeals striking down a Louisiana law which authorized local school boards to provide for a period of prayer at the beginning of each school day.

After the 1980 law was passed by the state legislature, the school board in Jefferson Parish announced it would begin permitting prayer led by students and teachers and issued guidelines to govern the one-minute proceeding.

Among the guidelines were provisions that students with their parents' written permission first volunteer orally to lead in prayer. If no student volunteered on a given day, the teacher was authorized to lead the prayer. Students not wishing to participate were to be excused to another location with the understanding that upon their return the whole class was required to observe another one-minute period, this one for silent meditation.

Three parents challenged the state law and local regulations in a federal district court, where their complaint was dismissed. But on review, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals agreed with the parents.

By affirming the Fifth Circuit, the high court gave its stamp of approval to the reasoning of the lower panel's decision. (81-1031, *Treen v. Karen B.*)

High court justices also disposed of a pair of challenges by Madalyn Murray O'Hair, the country's most noted atheist, by refusing to disturb lower court rulings upholding the legality of invocations at city council meetings and of Christian and Jewish holiday displays in the rotunda of a state capitol.

O'Hair had challenged the custom of opening each meeting of the Austin, Texas, city council with prayer and the practice of displaying a nativity scene and a Jewish menorah in the Texas state capitol, also in Austin, where O'Hair's headquarters are located. (80-1907, *O'Hair v. Cooke*; 80-1908, *O'Hair v. Clements*)

Although the Supreme Court handled fewer than the normal load of cases dealing with government aid to religious institutions, one of them turned out to be a blockbuster of a decision.

In that case, a badly divided high court ruled that Americans United for Separation of Church and State did not have legal standing to sue the federal government for donating surplus land and buildings to an Assemblies of God college in Pennsylvania.

In a 5-4 opinion the high court held that the Silver Spring, Md.-based group failed to prove, either as taxpayers or as citizens, that it was actually injured by the transfer of a 77-acre plot of ground valued at \$1.3 million to Valley Forge Christian College.

Americans United argued before the high court that the gift of land and buildings violated the no establishment of religion clause of the First Amendment. The 35-year-old separationist organization also said it brought the suit on behalf of each of its individual members, none of whom wished to be taxed for the support of a religious body.

But Justice William H. Rehnquist, the high court's most conservative member, ruled that the federal government has the right under Article IV of the Constitution to dispose of land which it owns and said that Americans United failed to prove "any injury of any kind, economic or otherwise, sufficient to confer standing (to sue)."

Rehnquist also decried what he called "the philosophy that the business of the federal courts is correcting constitutional errors," a philosophy, he added, which "has no place in our constitutional scheme" nor is made "more palatable when the underlying merits concern the establishment (of religion) clause."

Because it dealt with an organization's ability to sue the government for infringing the constitutional rights of its members, the Americans United decision will have significance well beyond the actual arguments in the case. Some constitutional scholars are assessing it as a major new victory for the "strict constructionist" wing of the court determined to discourage or bar institutional plaintiffs from going to court with class action suits. (80-327, Valley Forge Christian College v. Americans United for Separation of Church and State, Inc.)

In a case of far less importance, the justices ended an 11-year battle in a Wisconsin school district over transportation of parochial school pupils by letting stand lower court rulings that the state has no constitutional obligation to bus such students beyond a five-mile limit set by the state legislature. (81-624, O'Connell v. Kniskern)

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Baylor Officials Name  
Public Relations Director

Baptist Press  
7/14/82

WACO, Texas (BP)—David Clanton, audio-visual director for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, has been named director of public relations at Baylor University.

The appointment becomes effective Aug. 1, according to Robert Feather, Baylor vice president for external affairs.

Clanton, 37, was born in DeFuniack Springs, Fla. He holds a bachelor of arts degree from Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, La., and a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, where he was a public relations staff photographer from 1966-70. He has done postgraduate work at East Texas State University.

Clanton has been on the BGCT staff for 11 years.

He is a member of Cliff Temple Baptist Church in Dallas, the Baptist Public Relations Association, the American Multi-Image Association, the American Management Association, and was president of the Texas Baptist Public Relations Association in 1981.

He and his wife, Jann, have two sons—Chad, 11, and Brett, 7.

Clanton succeeds Eugene W. Baker, director of public relations at Baylor since 1976, who will become executive director of publications for the University, Aug. 1.

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Beckett Named Assistant  
To Human Resources VP

Baptist Press  
7/14/82

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Charles Beckett has been named assistant to the vice president of human resources at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Beginning Aug. 1, Beckett will assist vice president Bill Marshall with administrative responsibilities. Beckett has been manager of the student section in the ministries and deputation department under the office of human resources since 1977.

Beckett and his wife, the former Jeanne Plunkett of Richmond, Va., are former missionaries. They were appointed in 1961 to East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) where he was a general evangelist. They resigned in 1974.

Beckett was born in Sanford, N.C., and grew up in Chase City, Va. He received the bachelor of arts degree from the University of Richmond and the bachelor of divinity, master of theology and doctor of ministries degrees from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

He has been the pastor of churches in Clarksville, Skipwith and Petersburg, Va., and Long Green, Md.

He and his wife have three children.

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(BP) photos mailed to stat Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press

## Chafin Tells Women To Abandon Stereotypes

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--If Southern Baptists want to win the world to Christ they must abandon stereotypes of evangelism, says Kenneth Chafin, pastor of South Main Baptist Church of Houston.

Chafin, who addressed 1,400 women at the Woman's Missionary Union Leadership Conference at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, said the most common stereotype is that of grabbing people by their lapels and forcing them to listen to a testimony.

Chafin urged the women to abandon that approach because "you don't have to love people to do that."

"The easiest way in the world to become a witness is to pray for God to give you a person to love and to minister to," Chafin said. "The people who will be won are the people who are in your world," adding that once a genuine interest in a person has been established, the way is open for a Christian to witness.

Chafin also urged women to help new believers mature in their faith. "A weakness of Southern Baptists is that they are more interested in baptizing people than in developing new believers," he said. "But it is a lifelong process for all of us to grow and mature in Jesus Christ.

Chafin also called for the women to abandon feelings that great things are done by other people in other places.

"You are gifted. If you are where people are, God can use you to reach people," he said.

Also urging women to use their spiritual gifts was Dorothy Sample, of Flint, Mich., national president of Woman's Missionary Union.

"God's call is a personal call," she said. "He has called every one of us to do something. We need to allow the spirit of God to stir up our gifts."

Saying that approximately 80 percent of the 4 billion people in the world have never heard the gospel, Sample challenged the women to accept the responsibility of mission leadership.

She warned women not to be "so busy going and doing that we don't minister to the bleeding and hurting along the way. Take time to be involved in the lives of people in their daily walking."

Bold Mission Thrust may be God's way of opening up new avenues for women to use their gifts, said Elaine Dickson, manager of direct sales for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Bold Mission Thrust is Southern Baptists plan to present the gospel to everyone in the world by the year 2000.

Referring to approximately 500,000 girls and teenagers currently enrolled in WMU organizations, Dickson said, "It is possible that God is planning to use these young women in ways we never dreamed possible."

Dickson spoke on the role WMU played in starting theological education for women 75 years ago with the establishment of the Woman's Missionary Union Training School (now a part of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary).

She called for women to be like 19th century WMU leaders who "did not demand freedom from oppression--"instead, they were women who dared assert their accountability for the world missions task and claimed their freedom to do something in the kingdom of God."

1982 Relief Allocations  
Already Close to '81 Total

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Southern Baptist giving to worldwide human needs climbed to \$2,124,719 in the first six months of 1982 while the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board allocated \$3,262,263 for world relief in the same period.

The figures show a 34 percent increase in giving over the first half of 1981 and a 129 percent increase in allocations. Allocations so far almost equal the year's total for 1981 and reflect Foreign Mission Board efforts to speed use of relief gifts, which have risen dramatically in recent years and built an accumulation of unspent funds.

From more than \$1.3 million designated for particular projects in May and June, \$902,113 went to eastern and southern Africa, an area brought to international attention in recent years because of refugee and drought problems.

In Zimbabwe, a \$620,000 sum will finance a pure water supply for the Sanyati Baptist Hospital, schools and surrounding community, and \$58,000 will pay for digging boreholes and building a water system near Gweru. The Sanyati Hospital and schools have resumed operations curtailed during the nation's seven-year guerrilla war. Funds will pay for a pipeline tying the community to a system already built by a company for its own staff in the area.

A \$154,000 allocation will finance the second phase of a hunger relief program in the Gokwe area of Zimbabwe, where drought killed crops and reduced the people of 10 villages to eating grass seeds and weeds.

The first phase provided transportation to bring food into the area. The second calls for rebuilding clinics for nutrition-related diseases, building storage centers for food, an agriculture demonstration program, small animal projects and a study of the water situation. When feasible, projects will be carried out on a food-for-work basis.

Another \$56,100 was set aside for improvements on a demonstration farm in Engabolt, Kenya. Heavy equipment is needed to till the area and build access roads, and water lines are needed to bring pure water from mountain springs to points in the village.

The Foreign Mission Board allocated another \$75,780 for the third phase of the Sanwabo Project in the Diabo Circle region of Upper Volta. Tennessee Baptists are working with missionaries there in carrying out a total impact development project which has already resulted in the construction of a dam and volunteer camp, in literacy classes, and some clinics.

Bangladesh received \$130,000 to finance well-drilling, carpentry training for young men, and establishment of a goat development and fish farming project. All three are part of continuing programs carried out by missionaries in the country.

Other major allocations in May and June went for well-drilling and establishment of a tree farm and nursery in Hatti, for hunger relief in Nicaragua and for flood relief in Honduras.

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Robert Desbien Named  
To Communications Post

Baptist Press  
7/14/82

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Robert Desbien has been named project coordinator for the product development department of the office of communications at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Desbien, assistant to the president and director of public relations at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., will assume his new duties Aug. 23.

As project coordinator Desbien will coordinate content and production schedules for pamphlets, books, filmstrips, motion pictures and video related to foreign missions, with particular responsibility for print products.

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Desbien, a native of Stockton, Kan., attended Washburn University, Topeka, Kan. He went to Midwestern Seminary in 1976 as a consultant in public relations and became director in 1978.

His professional awards include the Arthur Davenport award, first place in the Total Publications Program category and second place in the Total Development Program category of the Baptist Public Relations Association. He is the 1982-83 president of the association.

He is married to the former Kristen Gray.

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(BP) photos mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press

Parks Tells Foreign Board How  
SBC Issues Affect Missions

By Bob Stanley

Baptist Press  
7/14/82

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—President R. Keith Parks told the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in July he feels compelled to speak out against polarizing issues within the convention that "are not our first priority."

Quoting from articles he has written for missionaries and for the board's magazine, *The Commission*, Parks said his statements are being made "out of a deep and growing concern about us as a people, a people called Southern Baptists."

"Missions is the spiritual magnet that has held iron-willed Southern Baptists together," he emphasized. Yet, he added, "I came away from this convention (in New Orleans) with a feeling there had been an unconscious shifting of our focus."

Parks said he believes that both he and elected members of the board, as well as its staff, have an obligation to speak out against "anything that would hinder the foreign missions expression" of the denomination.

He read a column he has written for the September issue of *The Commission* entitled "Caesar and Missions." The column points to Baptists' historic commitment to the separation of church and state, based on Jesus' distinction between "that which is Caesar's" and "that which is God's."

"We have struggled throughout our history to prevent government from encroaching on our freedom," he said. "Yet the majority voting at a session in New Orleans voluntarily endorsed what could lead to government encroachment. This trend has serious implications for foreign missions."

Although Parks did not refer to it specifically, observers interpreted his remarks as being addressed to a convention resolution, adopted by a 3- to -1 margin, which endorsed a constitutional amendment supporting prayer in the public schools. It was the first such convention stand since the U.S. Supreme Court struck down compulsory religious exercises in public schools 20 years ago.

An attempt also was made to pass a resolution in support of Israel, but this resolution was tabled after Parks said it would adversely affect the board's work in other parts of the Middle East.

"Certainly we as individuals must be involved in our country in the political processes as Christian citizens," he said. "Our diversity will guarantee that participation will be across the political spectrum. But our convention will change its nature if it begins to support any specific political position."

Such convention actions, Parks said, can jeopardize the work of Southern Baptist foreign missionaries. He said missionaries serve as guests under foreign governments. They do not intervene in the political processes overseas, nor do they represent the political position of the United States.

"Any implication of political connections compromises our singular ministry to a lost world," he explained.

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Despite his warnings, Parks said he is optimistic and has "great confidence in the people called Southern Baptists."

"As they understand and are given the full range of possibilities and options, the common good sense of Southern Baptists will prevail," he predicted. "But I am convinced that we must lay out before them the interpretation of what could happen unless we do consider all the options."

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Foreign Board Names 88,  
Including Two Of Its Own

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7/14/82

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—In its largest appointment service ever, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board named 88 missionaries July 13, including two veteran members of the board.

The group surpassed the 84, named in July 1981, and pushed the total of new career and associate missionaries assigned this year to 151, a new mid-year high.

The 88 included eight former missionary journeymen, four children of missionaries, an Argentine, a Spaniard and the two board members, Lonnie Quillen of Virginia and Texan Fern Dannelley.

"Had someone come to me when I was a young boy and told me the story of Jesus, I'm sure I would have accepted him as my savior," Quillen, 53, told listeners at the missionary service, held at Grove Avenue Baptist Church in Richmond. "But no one did."

The towering ex-football and basketball player didn't become a Christian until age 20. That, he said, is one of the reasons he wants to tell the people of Botswana about Christ. A longtime Virginia pastor and nine-year veteran of service on the Foreign Mission Board, Quillen will work as an English-language pastor in Botswana with his wife, the former Patricia White of Oklahoma.

Fern Dannelley, for the last six years a board member representing Southern Baptists in Michigan, also will go to Botswana, where she'll be a Bible correspondence course coordinator and women's worker. She is a psychiatric social worker in Michigan, where she has held several offices and committee posts with the Baptist State Convention of Michigan. The former Fern Heath of Texas, she is the widow of Jay Dannelley, a Southern Baptist pastor.

Others named were: Sandy Achenbach, of Pennsylvania (Nigeria); Barbara Akins, Texas (Japan); Diann Bailey, North Carolina (Chile); Donnie and Dimple Conerly Bond, Mississippi (Leeward Islands); Shelly and Claudia Almeida Boyd, Georgia and Florida, respectively (Colombia); Bill and Michele Rogers Bringham, Texas and Mississippi (Thailand);

Barbara Hicks Brown, Tennessee (Zimbabwe); David and Karen Roper Campbell, Texas (Brazil); Bob and Kay Goodwin Cartwright, Texas and Oklahoma (Upper Volta); Steve and Mary Jo Tribbl Cooke, Illinois and Kentucky (Chile); Charles and Bobbie Jean Spradlin Cottle, Georgia (Switzerland); Julio and Dorothy Williams Diaz, Argentina and Mississippi (Mexico); and John and Nancy Bryant Dill, South Carolina (Philippines).

David and Phyllis Lee Dupree, Louisiana (Dominican Republic); Mike and Robin Cleveland Eberhardt, Georgia (Windward Islands); Jerry and Susan Sanderford Evermon, Texas (Brazil); Richard and Debra Carson Farley, Louisiana (Bangladesh); Russel and Vicki Hagan Fox, Oklahoma and Arkansas (Honduras); Virginia Fraser, Texas (Colombia); Larry and Susan Tribble Gay, Alabama (Mexico);

David and Gloria Marler Glaze, Kentucky and Mississippi (Argentina); Richard and Pat McIntoch Hipps, North Carolina and Hawaii (Brazil); Ron and Karen Jayes Holcomb, Texas (Nigeria); Wayne and Pam Bowen Jenkins, Georgia (West Germany); Frank and Laurie Richard Johnson, Oklahoma (Guatemala); and Hershel and Elizabeth Wells Johnson, Virginia and North Carolina (Japan);

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Leon and Kathy Kumabe Johnson, Arkansas and Hawaii (Zimbabwe); Gary and Sandy Stephenson Light, Louisiana and Kentucky (Peru); Jackie Madon, Georgia (Brazil); Ruth McConnell, Kentucky (Yemen); Stan and Charlotte Wilson Parris, Arkansas (Venezuela); Glen and Nina Phagan Pinkston, Texas (West Germany); Howard and Belinda Mabry Rhodes, Texas (Malawai); Clayton and Charolette McDonald Rock, Kentucky (Argentina);

Terry and Kathy Chapman Sharp, Tennessee and Kentucky (Spain); Milton and Jeanna Binkley Smith, Tennessee (Austria); Peter and Jennie Jennings Stillman, North Carolina and Tennessee (Baptist Spanish Publishing House, El Paso, Texas); Glen and Teresa Lovell Sutton, Texas (Upper Volta); Allan and Jana Ruddick Thompson, Arizona and Texas (West Germany); Jim and Beverly Ballard Vaughn, Oklahoma and Florida (Senegal);

Mildred Verbeck, Texas (Colombia); Mike and Angie Andrews Welchel, South Carolina and Texas (Taiwan); Keat and Carolyn Joy Winsett Wiles, Kentucky and Texas (Indonesia); Keith and Janet Fruits Willis, Missouri (Senegal); Philip and Sandy Alexander Wilson, Tennessee (Nigeria); Ted and Frances Andrews York, North Carolina (Ivory Coast); and Chari Nunez Vasquez, Spain (to Spain).

Mrs. Vasquez' husband, Joe Vasquez of Texas, was reappointed and also assigned to Spain. He formerly served as a missionary in that country 1975-77. Jean McSwain Teague of North Carolina was re-employed as a missionary associate and assigned to Japan. She formerly served in Jordan and Gaza.

The board also named two special project medical workers: Dana Baker, Texas (Jordan) and Mac Prevost, Tennessee (Yemen).

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Stacker Urges Pastors  
To Delegate Responsibilities

By Jim Lowry

Baptist Press  
7/14/82

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--The inability of pastors to delegate responsibilities wisely and clearly is one of the biggest causes of wasted time according to Joe Stacker.

"The pastor who tries to do it all will find himself burned out and washed up," explained Stacker, secretary of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church administration department, while speaking at Bible Preaching Week at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center.

"The ideal is to balance care for people and responsibility of tasks. When you are called to a church, you are also expected to manage the church," said Stacker, who pastored churches for 24 years before joining the board in 1981.

He recommended that pastors: keep a time study log (list the hours spent with family, work and time wasters, if a task is ineffective, cut it out, if others could do it as well or better, delegate it); force yourself into a schedule (since results, not activities, are most important); and get ready before you move (plan through the church council and train people who are to work with you--training enables some church members to train others, developing a cycle which shares responsibility).

"The pastor has the responsibility to be a leader of leaders in the church," Stacker said. "If the pastor has an umbrella vision of the total church he can help other leaders accomplish tasks in Sunday School, church training, missions, and worship."

The results of this approach will be "more people won to Christ, attending Bible study and training and more people giving talents and time to the efforts of the church," he said. "The pastor who will share ministry in his church allows people to assume important tasks which will be achieved differently but with the same results.

"Pastors are primarily preachers, but they must also be administrators to give direction to fulfilling the Great Commission," Stacker said. "Cooperation in ministry is a shared responsibility."

Approximately 1,700 persons attended conferences sponsored by the church administration and media library departments.

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Mass Baptist Choirs  
At World's Fair

By Patti Stephenson

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Backdropped by the burnished Sunsphere and flanked by colorful flags, the 550-voice 1982 World's Fair Baptist High School Choir attracted hundreds of listeners during a recent concert at the energy exposition.

Members of the mass choir, representing 13 churches from six states, had participated in a three-day festival at Carson-Newman College sponsored by the college, Baptist Ministries to the 1982 World's Fair, Baptist Sunday School Board and Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The festival, "the first of its kind," according to Louis Ball, director of the music department at Carson-Newman, included 20-minute programs presented by each choir for judging by music department directors of Carson-Newman and Belmont Colleges and Union University. Ranked first was Lone Oak Baptist Church of Paducah, Ky.

According to Ball, festival planners mailed 2,500 brochures to states adjoining Tennessee inviting choirs to audition. Participants were selected after submitting an audition tape and gaining approval from their state director of music. When response from 35 churches exceeded the college's housing capacity, an additional festival which attracted 12 choirs from five states was held in June. The Tabor City (N.C.) Baptist Church choir was selected winner.

Choirs participating in the June festival included: (Ala.) Morningview Baptist Church, Montgomery; Dalraida Baptist Church, Montgomery; Siloam Baptist Church, Marion; First Baptist Church, Gadsden; (Ga.) First Baptist Church, Canton; First Baptist Church, Thomaston; First Baptist Church, Barnesville; (N.C.) Tabor City Baptist Church, Tabor City; First Baptist Church, Mooresville; (S.C.) Southside Baptist Church, Spartanburg; Reedy Fork Baptist Church, Piedmont; (Tenn.) First Baptist Church, Lewisburg.

Choirs performing in July were: (Ga.) First Baptist Church, Carrollton; First Baptist Church, Sandy Springs; First Baptist Church, Dalton; First Baptist Church, Bloomingdale; (Ky.) Lone Oak Baptist Church, Paducah; First Baptist Church, Richmond; (N.C.) First Baptist Church, Rockingham; Green Street Baptist Church, High Point; Pine Valley Baptist Church, Wilmington; (La.) First Baptist Church, Shreveport; (S.C.) Taylors First Baptist Church, Taylors; (Tenn.) Crieewood Baptist Church, Nashville; First Baptist Church, Hendersonville.

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Carrolls Face Robbers  
But Vow To Persevere

By Robert O'Brien

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JINJA, Uganda (BP)—Veteran missionaries Webster and Betty Carroll came face to face with a point of a gun in a terrifying early morning armed robbery of their home in Jinja, Uganda, but remain determined to continue their work.

The Carrolls and their son and daughter-in-law, Tim and Jeffifer Carroll of Bloomington, Ind., and a Ugandan Christian lost about \$7,000 in money and goods in the July 7 break-in.

In the past three years, Carroll says, missionaries and mission homes and property have suffered a series of burglaries. On two occasions, missionaries have had automobiles taken from them at gunpoint but, like the Carrolls, remained determined to persevere.

"People ask us why we don't leave," Carroll said. "We stay because we're naive enough to cling to the conviction that God still wants us here. We love the people and have had and still have many opportunities for ministry."

"We've had some problems," added Rick Goodgame, mission chairman, but "I believe the government is seeking positive approaches to help solve them."

The Carrolls have personally experienced seven robberies of their home, but the latest incident was the first time they had met robbers face to face.

The sound of barking dogs awakened the household about 1 a.m. and when Webster and Tim investigated, they saw four African men in the garden. A man at the kitchen window said, "Open the door. We're soldiers looking for guerrillas."

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"I didn't believe that, because the man was dressed in civilian clothing," the elder Carroll said. "We went back and told Betty and Jennifer to dress quickly because we knew they would break in."

Moments later a huge stone burst the kitchen door lock.

One intruder brandished a rifle, the others clutched heavy metal implements. A night watchman saw four other men standing outside.

They herded the young Ugandan Christian, Humphrey Sakwa, who lives on the Carrolls' property, into the house. They had already robbed Sakwa, whom Webster Carroll says "is like a son to us," of shoes and a \$200 radio Sakwa had saved for more than a year to buy.

The robbers made the five people lie on a bedroom floor. The 30 minutes of terror peaked as the men forced 23-year-old Tim, who is considering a career in missions in Africa, to crawl around the house pointing out valuable items.

"They kicked him continually," said his father. "That was the most terrifying time. They shut the bedroom door. We could hear them but we couldn't see. We were afraid they would kill him."

The men finally returned Tim to the bedroom, basically unhurt, and left with their loot, including \$300 in Tim's traveler's checks, airline tickets, a wallet containing Jennifer's passport, a stereo, a camera, three tape recorders, two radios, a lot of men's and women's clothing, shoes, watches and other items.

Mission volunteers James and Jacki I. Reed of Owasso, Okla., who live in a duplex with the Carrolls, heard the entire break-in but feared interference would jeopardize the Carrolls' lives.

Instead, the Reeds, part of the 16-missionary contingent in Uganda, prayed for the victims' safety. The Carrolls reported later that even though terrified they felt a strong sense of internal peace throughout the robbery.

In succeeding days a flood of Ugandans from near and far have visited to express sorrow, apologize for the outrage, and express gratitude for what the missionaries have meant to them. That has included a number of Ugandan government officials, "Who know what Baptist mission work has meant to Uganda in the years since the liberation from Idi Amin in 1979," Carroll said.

Since 1977 the Foreign Mission Board has spent more than \$500,000 for relief in Uganda. Funds were used to provide agricultural supplies, food and seeds and to transport medicine and food donated by other organizations.

The love and concern of the Ugandans moved Jennifer Carroll, who was reared in Florida and South Carolina, to explain: "I can really understand now why Tim's mom and dad can stay. The people are so giving and loving and they were so sad and apologetic about our difficulty."

"We went through a traumatic experience personally, but that has no weight when you consider the constant threat the Africans face with the loss of property and lives," Tim added.

"African Christians have so much more to offer missionaries than vice versa," said Tim, who grew up as a missionary kid in Tanzania and Uganda. "The vital element of the experience of working in Uganda is the tremendous Christlikeness and spiritual depth of so many African Christians."