

**(BP)****- - BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICESBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355
Wilmer C. Fields, Director
Dan Martin, News Editor
Norman Jameson, Feature Editor**BUREAUS****ATLANTA** Jim Newton, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 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 Stan L. Haste, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

July 15, 1982

82-100

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

**

**U.S. Supreme Court Rules
On Government Intervention**

By Stan Haste

WASHINGTON (BP)--The growing tendency of government at all levels to interfere in church life was reflected again in the Supreme Court docket for 1981-82, as the high court was asked to unravel a number of complicated and sensitive controversies.

In its most significant such action for Baptists, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary suffered a major setback when the court declined to review a lower decision requiring the 4,000-student school to file employment data with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

The action left in place a ruling by the Fifth Circuit ordering the Fort Worth, Texas, institution to furnish the federal agency with numerical data on the racial, sexual and ethnic makeup of its support staff and other "nonministerial" employees. Southwestern was joined by the other five Southern Baptist Convention-operated theological seminaries in challenging the EEOC requirement.

Although the Baptist institution won the first round of its court battle in January, 1980, when a federal district court judge ruled the seminary was not under EEOC jurisdiction, the Fifth Circuit overturned portions of the lower decision. It held that while the seminary was entitled to the status of "church" for tax purposes and that faculty and teaching-related administrators should be exempted from the EEOC reporting requirements, data must be provided on support staff and administrators performing tasks "not traditionally ecclesiastical or religious." (81-1115, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary v. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission)

Several California churches and religious schools lost their high court case when a 7-2 majority sidestepped the primary question of whether state officials may demand tax information and collect unemployment compensation taxes on church school employees.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor wrote for the majority that the federal Tax Injunction Act should have kept a federal district court in California from hearing the churches' challenge that the state action infringed on their First Amendment rights. O'Connor emphasized that the court's ruling was narrow and that the churches still have access to the California state court system. If denied relief in those courts, she said, the churches could then appeal once more in federal court. (81-31, California v. Grace Brethren Church; 81-228, U.S. v Grace Brethren Church; 81-455, Grace Brethren Church v. U.S.)

Also defeated was a self-employed Amish farmer from Pennsylvania who refused to pay Social Security taxes for his employees, each of whom likewise belonged to the traditionalist Old Order Amish sect. Members of the tiny group maintain that payment of Social Security taxes and receipt of such benefits conflict with a religious requirement that they provide for one another without government assistance.

-more-

But chief justice Warren E. Burger, writing for a unanimous court, held that while compulsory participation in the Social Security system interfered with the free exercise of religious rights of the Amish, "not all burdens on religion are unconstitutional." He added, "The state may justify a limitation on religious liberty by showing that it is essential to accomplish an overriding governmental interest." (80-767, U.S. v. Lee)

And in what was its most highly publicized case of the term, the high court was forced by Reagan administration indecision to hold over to its 1982-83 term the politically explosive question of whether the Internal Revenue Service may deny or revoke tax exemption to religious schools with racially discriminatory admissions policies. (81-1, Goldsboro Christian Schools, Inc. v. U.S.; 81-3, Bob Jones University v. U.S.)

Although the Supreme Court did not issue a formal ruling in this area of increasing legal action, it did dispose of at least three cases involving challenges to local property taxes.

In one of them, First Baptist Church, Silver Spring, Md., failed to convince the justices to decide if local authorities may deny tax exemption to a residence owned by the church and used by its minister of music. Denial of the church's appeal brought to an end a long and unsuccessful legal battle during which the Southern Baptist congregation sought to convince a succession of state courts that the local taxing authority violated the First Amendment by ruling that the church's minister of music did not perform ministerial duties and was therefore not entitled to live in a tax-exempt house. (81-1971, Trustees of First Baptist Church of Silver Spring, Md. v. Supervisor of Assessments of Montgomery County, Md.)

While the Silver Spring congregation clearly raised a valid tax question in its case, the problems facing local taxing authorities in assessing the legitimacy of property tax exemption applications appeared twice on the high court docket. In both cases, each from Minnesota and each involving a "house church," the high court left standing rulings by the Minnesota Supreme Court upholding the denial of tax exemption. Both applications were made by followers of "Pope" Jerome Daly and his Basic Bible Church of America. Daly and his disciples form but one of several bogus "churches" clearly organized primarily to dodge taxes. (81-438, Basic Bible Church of America, Chapter 8035 v. County of Hennepin; 81-1655, Baldwin v. Minnesota Commissioner of Revenue)

A sharply divided Supreme Court struck down in April a provision in Minnesota's charitable solicitations law which exempted from registration and reporting requirements only those religious organizations that received more than half their contributions from their own members.

Challenged by members of Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church, the law fell, in the words of senior justice William J. Brennan Jr., because it set up "the sort of official denominational preference that the framers of the First Amendment forbade." (80-1666, Larson v. Valente)

In a separate action two weeks later, the high court left standing lower rulings declaring that city officials may not decide which church activities are spiritual and which are secular in regulating solicitation of funds. The 7-2 action followed earlier rulings invalidating an Albuquerque, N.M. ordinance empowering city officials to forbid charitable solicitation of the public unless numerous requirements were met.

The ordinance was challenged by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which conducts an annual "ingathering" program that includes door-to-door solicitation. (80-1207, Rusk v. Espinosa)

In other kinds of actions affecting newer religions in the country, the high court:

--Declined to review the denial of a charter to the Unification Church's Barrytown, N.Y. seminary (81-777, Warder V. Board of Regents of University of State of New York);

--Refused to disturb a lower court ruling that a Unification Church member had the right to sue his parents and others for making an unsuccessful attempt to "deprogram" him (81-751, Mandelkorn v. Ward);

--Left standing a lower court ruling upholding the constitutionality of a 1977 FBI raid on the Washington offices of the Church of Scientology (81-1275, Founding Church of Scientology v. U.S.); and

--Agreed not to review an Illinois decision that the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (Hare Krishna) was not entitled to collect damages or attorneys' fees they sought after the Evanston, Ill. city council revoked the group's "special use" permit (80-1838, International Society for Krishna Consciousness, Inc. v. City of Evanston).

-30-

Board Adjusts Nicaragua Work:
Names Three To New Positions

Baptist Press
7/15/82

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Under present conditions, Southern Baptist work in Nicaragua will not be carried out by resident missionaries but will be done through the local Baptist convention with whatever short-term assistance it needs, Don Kammerdiener told the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission board July 13.

Kammerdiener, director of work in middle American and the Caribbean, stressed that good relations with the Baptist convention of Nicaragua "augur well for the future." The convention's executive secretary, Tomas Tellez, has advised the board not to send in resident missionaries now but will invite short-term consultants as the needs arise, he said.

The report on Nicaragua came in connection with the transfer of veteran missionaries Stanley and Glenna Stamps, of Mississippi and Texas, from Nicaragua to Honduras. Transfer of the couple, on furlough in Jackson, Miss., becomes effective Aug. 1.

Ed and Kathy Steele, the other missionary couple assigned to Nicaragua, returned to the United States April 9 shortly ahead of their scheduled furlough after consultation with Baptist convention leaders.

The present Nicaraguan government, established by the Sandinistas after overthrow of the Anastasio Somoza government in 1979, did not ask Southern Baptist missionaries to leave. But strong anti-American feelings flared earlier this year after the Nicaraguans accused the Reagan administration of planning an invasion from neighboring Honduras. The Reagan administration, in turn, has accused Nicaragua of supplying arms to Salvadoran rebels.

Kammerdiener said Southern Baptists will give financial aid to the literature ministry, which has been their primary work there. Also, fellowship will continue with Nicaraguan Baptist leaders, who will be invited to regional meetings, Kammerdiener said.

In the most dramatic moments of the July meeting, missionary James Ragland gave a firsthand report on his work in west Beirut since fighting began in Lebanon June 4. Displaying a four-inch piece of shrapnel found less than a block from the Beirut Baptist School and Israeli propaganda leaflets, the 28-year veteran of Lebanon missionary work urged Southern Baptists to pray that missionaries may be peacemakers and reconcilers between the Lebanese people and the Palestinians once hostilities cease.

Other highlights included naming 88 new career and associate missionaries, the largest number ever approved in one service, and filling three new positions on the home office staff in Richmond.

The 88 missionary additions, surpassing last July's previous high of 84, came during a special appointment service at Grove Avenue Baptist Church, Richmond. Total career and associate missionaries named in 1982 reached 151, a new midyear high. With 99 missionary journeymen scheduled to be commissioned July 16, plus missionary reappointees and special project workers, total additions to the missionary force stand at 278 for the year.

Named to new home staff posts are Charles Beckett, who will become assistant to the vice president for human resources Aug. 1; Ward Hildreth, to assume duties in September as facility director for the new missionary orientation center being constructed near Richmond; and Robert Desbien, who will join the board's staff Aug. 23 as project coordinator in the product development department of the office of communications.

-more-

Beckett has been manager of the student section in the ministries and duputation department under the office of human resources since 1977. He and his wife, Jeanne, are former missionaries to Bangladesh.

Hildreth, director of the information management department in the office of management services, fills a new post in which he will direct the physical operation of the new orientation center, relieving the program managers of the day-to-day logistical details at the 233-acre site about 15 miles from Richmond. During the two-year construction period, Hildreth will be the board's on-site construction representative.

Desbien comes to the board from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., where he has been assistant to the president and director of public relations. In his new job he will coordinate content and production schedules for pamphlets, books, filmstrips, motion pictures and video related to foreign missions, with primary responsibility for print products.

-30-

Raglands Anxious To Return
To Beirut As Peacemakers

By Bill Webb

Baptist Press
7/15/82

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—His son's upcoming wedding in Oklahoma finally brought Jim Ragland out of besieged west Beirut.

But the Southern Baptist missionary firmly believes the futility of the war raging in Lebanon makes it more important than ever for him and his wife, Leola, to return to resume their roles as peacemakers.

Speaking at Foreign Mission board offices in Richmond, Va., on July 13, just two days after he left the Middle East, Ragland said some of his Lebanese friends feel the war between Israeli and Palestinian soldiers will rid Lebanon of its estimated 700,000 Palestinians and most of the nation's problems.

However Ragland, who has lived nearly 28 years in west Beirut, believes "most of the Palestinians are there to stay. My Lebanese friends are going to have to learn to live with that," he said, smiling.

Because the conflict has intensified the bitterness and anger between the Lebanese and Palestinians, the roles of missionaries as mediators, peacemakers and reconcilers won't be easy since, "You get shot at from both sides. We believe that in the Lebanon of tomorrow there will be more bigotry and more suspicion of Americans," he suggested.

Missionary presence for Ragland was anything but easy from the time Israeli troops invaded Lebanon June 4 until July 7 when he left west Beirut, the focal point of Israeli shelling and rocket fire. He opened Beirut Baptist School, where he is principal, to refugee families streaming into the city from the south and established a Red Cross clinic on the compound. Some 300 refugees live there.

His days were clearly days of fear, he said.

Holding up a piece of shrapnel he found behind his house, he said, "We have feared these." The razor-sharp shell fragments spin in all directions with the capability to "tear your head off," he explained.

Israeli air raids, often beginning in early afternoon and continuing past midnight, always sent Ragland, families in the area and refugees scurrying for safety in the school basement.

Leaflets dropped from Israeli aircraft into west Beirut warned civilians in ominous terms to flee the city or be destroyed with the enemy. Many families loaded up their belongings and fled in panic for the mountains to the east or to safer areas in the south, creating "ghost towns" and totally emptying apartment buildings, he said.

The war has brought sorrow, Ragland said. Two girls who attended the 800-student Beirut Baptist School have been killed by rocket fire. The first, a shy, blue-eyed first-grader named Lina, one of Leola's favorite students, died along with her grandmother, two uncles and two cousins, Ragland said.

-more-

Yet despite the fear and suffering, a spirit of revival characterizes the little band of Baptists who remain in west Beirut, he emphasized. One young member of nearby Mouseitbeh Baptist Church left for east Beirut but returned after a couple of days. "On the east side there is peace. People play tennis and basketball and swim and visit and have parties," the young man reported. "But here in west Beirut we have revival. Here we pray together. Here we feel the presence of God. I had to come back and be a part."

The women and children and many of the men of the church have fled but the half dozen men who remain continue to meet each evening for prayer and all the Baptist pastors of west Beirut continue to stay and serve, he said with obvious pride.

The fear, panic and confusion that permeate west Beirut have provided Ragland with new opportunities to share his faith and to comfort the heartbroken.

One member of the unofficial troops sent to his neighborhood to ensure law and order observed how Ragland treated employees of the school and asked to know more about his God.

Ragland talked with him and gave him a Bible. As the soldier took the book the missionary thought, "This man is a Moslem and he'll have to read this Bible secretly."

Instead the young soldier carried his Bible under his arm wherever he went. He later went to the pastor and said, "I want to know how to become a believer," Ragland reported.

He told of one man at the school who had become a refugee for the third time in his life. "He broke down and wept, this man of about 50 or 60, gray hair, his spirit almost broken," Ragland recalls. "I just put my arms around him and hugged him like a child and said, 'We care for you and God cares for you.'"

Ragland, his wife (who returned to the states two weeks ahead of her husband), and their missionary colleagues have felt support from Southern Baptists praying on their behalf, from phone calls of encouragement and from encouragement within the missionary family.

"On one occasion, the missionaries on the other side sent us a pan of turnip greens, a pan of cornbread and a bouquet of flowers," he recalled, beaming.

The Raglands are out of west Beirut for the time being but it isn't likely they'll stay away very long from the place they feel they belong.

-30-

(BP) map and photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press

For Leola Ragland, Watching
From Distance Was Difficult

By Bill Webb

Baptist Press
7/15/82

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Leaving her missionary husband in west Beirut, Lebanon, was probably harder on Leola Ragland than staying there with him during the shelling and confusion.

The conflict in Lebanon was six days old when Jim Ragland awakened his wife at 4 a.m. after a night of Israeli shelling just a half mile from their home and said, "Let's get you out of here," she told reporters at Foreign Mission board offices in Richmond, Va.

Ragland took his wife to the hillside village of Mansouriye to stay with other Southern Baptist missionaries, then returned to the school to set up a clinic and refugee center in west Beirut.

At Mansouriye, Mrs. Ragland often stood on the steps of the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary and watched the shells fall on the city below. "I would think for sure they had hit our school," she recalled.

"It was a time I got closer to the Lord than I had ever been before because I had someone very precious at Beirut Baptist School," she said. She had been in Mansouriye a week when her husband called. "It's very foolish for you to sit up there and for me to stay in Beirut," he said. "Why don't you go on to America and help John (their son) get ready for the wedding."

-more-

She did what he asked and after a nine-hour trip by car to Damascus, Syria, she caught a flight to the United States.

In Duncan, Okla., she watched news reports from Lebanon but the "news was terrible." A son called from college and asked what she was going to do about her husband. "I tried to be calm as I answered I was going to turn him over to the Lord," she said.

When John dropped by for a visit, he told her he thought his father would stay in west Beirut until the end of the conflict. "Do you want your daddy to come home?" she asked.

"No," John answered, "My dad's right where he's supposed to be."

For Mrs. Ragland, the weeks leading up to Jim's reunion with her in Chicago July 11 were a difficult time, though she had a "feeling of knowing he was where the Lord wanted him to be."

"Even if I could have brought him home, I guess I would have left him in Beirut," she said.

-30-

Sorrells Fund Languishes,
Baptists Asked To Help

By Stan Hasteley

Baptist Press
7/15/82

WASHINGTON (BP)--In spite of wide publicity within the Southern Baptist Convention, a special fund set up to care for the long-term medical needs of disabled Mission Service Corps volunteer Bob Sorrells has attracted less than one-third the amount needed.

C. Vinton Koons, who is administering the fund through the D.C. Baptist Convention Foundation, said that as of July 15, only \$46,000 has been received. He estimates that \$150,000-200,000 is needed, investment interest from which would provide Sorrells with approximately \$25,000 a year, an amount Koons believes would adequately care for the paralyzed MSC volunteer.

Sorrells, 30, was injured in an automobile accident April 15, 1980, less than a week after he arrived in Nigeria, where he was to serve one year as an accountant. The Southern Baptist MSC program is designed to provide an opportunity for short-term missionary service overseas or in the U.S.

Sorrells, who was paralyzed from the neck down and remains disabled, was sent to Nigeria from Capitol Hill Metropolitan Baptist Church in Washington, D.C. Late last year a group of church members, called "Friends of Bob Sorrells," circulated letters critical of the Foreign Mission Board for not providing more funds for Sorrells' care.

The FMB declined to accept long-term financial responsibility for Sorrells because he had gone to Nigeria as a volunteer, not as a career missionary, and because all MSC volunteers signed waivers absolving the board of responsibility in the event of a disabling injury.

At the same time, the board spent more than \$28,000 for Sorrells' medical care and voted to continue a monthly stipend of \$603.50 until October, 1982, when government disability benefits are to take effect.

Koons, one of the "Friends of Bob Sorrells" and a long-time member of Capitol Hill Metropolitan Church, said that aside from a \$20,000 gift from a foundation operated by another Baptist layman and "significant" gifts from Southern Baptist missionaries in Nigeria and the Nigeria Baptist Convention, the money has been slow in coming.

Koons renewed his appeal to interested Southern Baptists, whose gifts may be sent to D.C. Baptist Convention Foundation, 1100 Seventeenth Street, N.W., Suite 412, Washington, D.C. 20036.

Capitol Hill Metropolitan pastor Walt Tomme, who along with Sorrells and two other "Friends" met and were reconciled with FMB president R. Keith Parks after last year's dispute, expressed disappointment that the Southern Baptist Convention failed to address Sorrells' situation at its recent New Orleans meeting.

-more-

Tomme and others asked the SBC resolutions committee to present a statement of concern for Sorrels to the more than 20,000 messengers in New Orleans, but the committee declined, reporting instead that it had decided to take no action.

Because of that inaction, Tomme said, he is planning to go to the September meeting of the SBC Executive Committee in Nashville, Tenn., to make a special appeal on Sorrels' behalf. The Executive Committee, under the denomination's constitution and by-laws, functions as the convention between annual sessions.

Meanwhile, in a legal development in the Sorrels case, the chief deputy commissioner of the Industrial Commission of Virginia has dismissed a claim by Sorrels' attorneys that he is entitled to state workmen's compensation in Virginia.

Chief deputy commissioner L.W. Hiner ruled July 7 that no actual employer-employee relationship existed between the FMB and Sorrels, finding instead that Sorrels was a volunteer, not an employee. Hiner also held that even if there had been such a relationship, Sorrels would not have been entitled to state compensation because all of his work was done outside Virginia.

An attorney for Sorrels said he is "distressed" by the ruling and said his firm will appeal Hiner's decision to the full three-member Industrial Commission. If Sorrels loses there, he added, the case will then be appealed to the Virginia Supreme Court.

An FMB attorney confirmed that Sorrels' lawyers have dropped the Southern Baptist Convention as a defendant, a development which removes from the case the question of "ascending liability," that is, whether the denomination is liable for damages claimed against its boards, institutions or other agencies.

-30-

Jun Cooperative Program
Receipts Up 7.6 Percent

Baptist Press
7/15/82

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--June mission gifts from the 34 Baptist state conventions to the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention reflected a 7.6 percent increase from June, 1981.

With the fiscal year three-fourths completed, total contributions to the national programs are \$144,900,599 compared to \$127,489,831 a year ago, leaving SBC income almost \$17.5 million ahead of last fiscal year.

June's undesignated total of \$7,121,691 surpassed June, 1981 by \$628,085--an increase of 9.7 percent. Designated giving, the vast majority of it to the Foreign Mission Board and the Home Mission Board, was up \$367,420 over the 1981 figures, a 5.6 percent increase.

Despite the extended slump in the nation's economy, 30 of the 34 state conventions have given more money to the Cooperative Program the first nine months of the 1981-81 fiscal year than they did the first nine months of 1980-81.

The Utah-Idaho convention is the percentage leader in both designated and undesignated contributions. The Far West convention has upped its designated gifts 52.4 percent and its undesignated gifts 68.3 percent compared to last year. Oklahoma is second in percentage increase in designated giving (30.7) and West Virginia is second in undesignated contributions increase (34.3). Alaska is third in both categories, 27.7 percent increase in undesignated and 29.8 percent increase in designated.

Overall the SBC is 13.7 percent ahead of last year in total receipts.

The Baptist General Convention of Texas is the "total dollar" leader in both designated (\$14,534,404) and undesignated (\$13,248,516). Georgia is second in undesignated contributions (\$5,558,412) and North Carolina is second in designated gifts (\$7,744,365).

-30-

**SWBTS Announces
Archaeological Museum**

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Artifacts from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's continuing archaeological expedition in Tel Batash, Israel, will be housed in the Charles D. Tandy Archaeological museum when the new A. Webb Roberts library opens this fall on the seminary campus.

The Tandy Corporation, a consumer electronics company, gave \$100,000 toward establishing the museum to house the collection currently stored at Israel's Hebrew University.

Charles D. Tandy, a Baptist, was founder and chairman of the board of Tandy Corporation, with headquarters in Fort Worth, he died Nov. 4, 1978.

Under mutual agreement, artifacts discovered at the dig at Tel Abtash (Timnah) in Israel are divided between Hebrew University and Southwestern Seminary. Since the seminary until this time has had inadequate storage and display area, its share of the finds have been kept at Hebrew University.

The 100,000 square foot A. Webb Roberts library, to be dedicated Oct. 19, has been constructed at a cost of \$6.6 million and is considered the largest theological library in the United States. Both the library and the museum will be open to the public.

-30-

**Oregon, Texas Mission
Leaders Honored By HMB**

Baptist Press
7/15/82

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) -- Two associational directors of missions were honored as the outstanding rural-urban and metropolitan mission directors for the west during Home Mission Week at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.

Rural-urban missionary of the year for the west was Weldon Leroy Gaston, of Bend, Or., director of missions for Klamath and Juniper Baptist associations. A graduate of Howard Payne University, Brownwood, Texas, Gaston was pastor of churches in Texas and Washington before becoming director of missions for the two associations in 1977.

Metropolitan director of missions of the year for the west was Wilson Brumley, director of missions for Union Baptist Association in Houston.

In honoring Brumley, Don Hammer, director of the HMB metropolitan missions department, noted Brumley has 17 years of pastoral experience, eight years of national experience at the HMB and seven years of associational experience. Brumley has been DOM of the Union association since 1977.

In a separate ceremony, a two-congregation church and a staff member of the Baptist General Convention of Texas received awards as the PACT church and consultant of the year for the west.

PACT (Project: Assistance for Churches in Transitional Communities) is an emphasis of the HMB metropolitan missions department designed to lead associations and churches in developing creative responses to socio-economic changes in their communities.

First Baptist Church of Jacinto City, Texas, was lauded for its intentional decision to remain in a rapidly changing community and minister to the exploding hispanic population.

Bobby Slaydon, pastor since November of 1979, accepted the award, explaining that the church has two congregations - one English-speaking and the other Spanish-speaking, "each with a separate identity yet together with a spiritual unity."

PACT Consultant of the Year is Richard Faling, coordinator of the church ministries section of the Texas convention's missions division. He was honored for his leadership in developing PACT programs in Texas during the past three years and for coordinating four PACT blitzes which involved more than 30 churches in Texas.

-30-