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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

**NATIONAL OFFICE**  
SBC Executive Committee  
901 Commerce #75  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203  
(615) 244-235  
Alvin C. Shackelford, Director  
Dan Martin, News Editor  
Marv Knox, Feature Editor

**BUREAUS**

**ATLANTA** Jim Newton, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 873-4041

**DALLAS** Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 511 N. Akard, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 720-0550

**NASHVILLE** (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300

**RICHMOND** (Foreign) 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

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**U.S.-Brazil Project Meets Goals,  
Involves Students In Evangelism**

By Frank Wm. White

BRASILIA, Brazil (BP)--Sharing Christ's love through a language barrier has given 143 American college students hands-on foreign missions experience as they developed lasting bonds of friendship with 110 of their Brazilian counterparts.

In a pilot project for short-term student missions in foreign countries called Global Student Missions Encounter -- Brazil-U.S.A., the students worked Jan. 1-12 in 26 mission teams throughout Brazil. The project was a cooperative effort of two Brazilian Baptist agencies along with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and Sunday School Board.

"We were not Brazilians or Americans but Christians. We represented the nation of God as we went out," Franco Timbol, a student at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, said during a celebration service in Brasilia at the end of the project.

Despite the language barrier, people listened to the message of Christ's love that often was portrayed in songs, puppet shows and, when needed, through an interpreter.

"People accepted what we had to say whether a Brazilian or an American said it," explained Andrew Carrithers, a student at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green.

Students participated in evangelistic projects including survey work and street evangelism, revival teams, medical assistance, Vacation Bible School, beach ministry and student work. Assignments were determined by needs at each location. Teams usually included five Southern Baptists and five Brazilian Baptists.

About 600 conversions have been reported by the teams, according to Brad Gray, missions consultant in the Sunday School Board's student ministry department and coordinator for the project.

"Every goal set for the project was accomplished," said Gray. "The victory is that far more came about than was expected. The American students were able to see their role as world citizens rather than only United States citizens."

"The Southern Baptist students have gone beyond a tourist's view of Brazil. They now have a personal understanding of particular locations and personal relationships with Brazilians," pointed out Jimmy Joseph, a Southern Baptist missionary and former Tennessee campus minister who worked with a team at a remote missions site.

The bond of friendship was evident when the Brazilian students said farewell to their Southern Baptist friends at the Brasilia airport. Team members knelt in prayer in the airport terminal then hugged each other in tearful farewells.

"I don't know of any group this large who has developed such a strong bond together and then gelled so well and so quickly," Bill Richardson, Foreign Mission Board area director for Brazil and the Caribbean, said as students participated in the closing celebration service.

As Richardson spoke, the Brazilian and Southern Baptist students spontaneously stood, joining hands across the hotel convention center, tearfully singing "Love in Any Language Can Join Our Hearts Together" in both English and Portuguese.

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Earlier, in an emotional testimony, Jeff Boyette, a student from Delta State University in Cleveland, Miss., expressed the feelings of many. "I'd like to take all of you home with me but there's not room enough in my house. I will take all of you home in my heart. There's plenty of room for all of you in my heart."

The long-range benefits for both Brazilians and Southern Baptists will be far more numerous than the immediate emotional experiences, Richardson said.

"The Brazilian students are seeing their potential for missions for the first time. The Southern Baptist students have had their visions heightened. We can expect to see Journeymen (two-year foreign missions volunteers) and career missionaries from this group," he said.

Richardson said the success of this project makes similar projects in the future appealing.

In addition to the work completed at each location, an unexpected accomplishment was the elevation of student work in Brazil.

Josue Campanha, executive director of the Brazilian Baptist Youth Board, announced at the end of the project a plan to develop a Brazilian national ministry to university students in consultation with the Sunday School Board's student ministry department.

Currently the only work on Brazilian university campuses is that of Southern Baptist missionaries assigned to student work in three states.

Because 75 percent of the nation's population is below the age of 25, the need for increased student work is critical, said Steve Moore, a Southern Baptist missionary in student work and former Texas minister to college students.

Moore worked with the only project team assigned specifically to student ministry.

"We learned that it takes students to reach students. Students can relate to each other no matter what the language," Moore said.

One student in the project, Doug McLemore, from Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas, remained in Brazil at the conclusion of the project to work with Moore as a semester missionary in student work.

"This is a beginning point. We need more students willing to help us," Moore said.

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

McAteer Joins  
Bush Campaign

By Stan Haste

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WASHINGTON (BP)--Veteran conservative political organizer E.E. McAteer, a Southern Baptist layman, has endorsed George Bush for president and joined the incumbent vice president's campaign for the White House as national director of the Coalition of Christians and Jews for George Bush.

The Memphis, Tenn., activist, whose support also had been sought by Republican presidential candidates Robert J. Dole and Marion G. (Pat) Robertson, told Baptist Press he decided to join the Bush campaign over Robertson because Bush is more experienced and more electable.

Robertson, McAteer said, "never has held any political office." Bush, in contrast, "has vast experience."

Asked if his decision to support Bush instead of Robertson indicated a "falling out" with the Virginia Beach, Va.-based religious broadcaster, McAteer responded, "Positively, absolutely not." On the contrary, the decision to work in the Bush campaign, thus bypassing Robertson, was "a very difficult decision based on my personal relationship with Pat."

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McAteer, who helped sponsor a Robertson reception during last year's annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis, said he hosted the gathering "Because he (Robertson) asked me to." One of the other sponsors of the St. Louis reception, former SBC President Jimmy R. Draper, has endorsed Robertson, as has another former president of the 14.7-million-member denomination, Charles F. Stanley.

McAteer expressed surprise at the degree and tone of opposition he has received from some fellow evangelicals, principally Robertson supporters, since word began to seep out about his endorsement of Bush. He declined to identify his critics, saying the party eventually will need to rally around a single nominee.

McAteer, who had been rumored in recent weeks as on the verge of endorsing Senate Minority Leader Dole over both Bush and Robertson, acknowledged he had talked with Dole advisers about joining that campaign. In the end, he said, he chose Bush over Dole because of the vice president's broader experience, electability and the fact that Dole still would have a job if he lost the nomination.

"A vote for Dole," he said, "would be a rejection of George Bush. But a vote for George Bush is not a rejection of Bob Dole, because Bob Dole is still the minority leader of the Senate. ... He's still in office. But if Dole wins over Bush, then Bush is out."

But "winnability," McAteer stressed, "is the absolute, bottom line."

According to accounts by McAteer and fellow conservative activist Richard Viguerie, publisher of the Conservative Digest, McAteer was assigned the task in 1979 of recruiting Jerry Falwell and other prominent clerics to conservative politics and to Ronald Reagan's candidacy for president. Besides convincing Falwell to give up the notion that political activism is sinful and adopt instead the view that it is a Christian obligation, McAteer set up his own organization, Religious Roundtable, to recruit others.

Among his early recruits was Southern Baptist evangelist James Robison. Together, McAteer and Robison organized the August 1980 National Affairs Briefing in Dallas, an event that brought together several thousand evangelical and fundamentalist preachers and featured an appearance by Reagan, who had been nominated as the Republican standard bearer just days earlier in Dallas. During that appearance, Reagan made his declaration that while the assembly could not endorse him, "I do endorse you," a statement that sealed the active support of thousands of Christians previously uninvolved in national politics.

Reagan went on to defeat incumbent President Jimmy Carter, a Southern Baptist layman. Urged on by many of their pastors, Southern Baptists themselves turned against Carter, giving him only 40 percent of their votes. Four years earlier, when he had defeated sitting President Gerald R. Ford, Carter had received 60 percent of the Southern Baptist vote.

The outspoken McAteer said each of the six Republican candidates -- Bush, Dole, Robertson, U.S. Rep. Jack Kemp, former Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr. and former Delaware Gov. Pierre S. (Pete) du Pont IV -- is an "acceptable" candidate. But it is Bush, he predicted, who will be the next president.

McAteer first became widely known within the SBC in 1982, when he lobbied the SBC Resolutions Committee at that year's annual meeting in New Orleans for endorsements of causes on Reagan's social agenda. Among resolutions recommended by the committee and passed by the convention were a first-ever endorsement of a school prayer amendment to the U.S. Constitution and the most conservative anti-abortion statement to date.

Narrowly defeated on a 5-4 vote by the resolutions panel was a separate statement endorsing the third key element of Reagan's social agenda, legislation in Congress that would have provided tuition tax credits to parents who send their children to sectarian schools.

McAteer was present with the committee throughout its deliberations and later told Baptist Press he was there at the expressed request of the White House.

Jack Harwell Honored  
By Church, Georgians

By Jim Newton

ATLANTA (BP)--Jack U. Harwell, recently retired editor of Georgia Baptists' Christian Index weekly newspaper, was lauded and honored Jan. 15 at a testimonial banquet sponsored by Smoke Rise Baptist Church where he is a member.

Harwell was praised by speakers as an outstanding journalist, a prophet, a Baptist statesman and patriarch, a layman and servant leader, and as a martyr for the cause of freedom and integrity.

Harwell had worked with the Christian Index for 30 years before retiring Dec. 31 after the Georgia Baptist Convention's executive committee voted 57-54 against a motion to allow him to continue as editor.

In October, Harwell, 55, announced plans to take early retirement, saying he could not continue with integrity after a review board had threatened to fire him if he wrote one more editorial its members disapproved.

In November, messengers to the Georgia Baptist Convention voted to dismiss the review board and ask Harwell to remain as editor.

Harwell agreed to do so, but the convention's executive committee, which controls hiring and firing of personnel, unanimously rejected allowing him to continue.

Convention officials were absent as speakers at the retirement banquet sponsored by Harwell's church, although many were present among 500 participants.

J. Truett Gannon, pastor of Smoke Rise Church in Stone Mountain, an Atlanta suburb, called the occasion "a night that should never have been, but a night that has to be." He pointed out Harwell has been far too significant in Georgia Baptist life to honor him in any less significant way.

R.G. Puckett, editor of the Biblical Recorder, weekly newspaper of North Carolina Baptists, called Harwell a martyr for the cause of truth, freedom and integrity. History has proven that "the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the faith," Puckett added.

The North Carolina editor said he was struggling not to express too strongly his grief and anger. "In one 30-day period, two of my dearest friends have become the latest casualties of the current controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention," he said, noting, he was referring to Harwell and to W. Randall Lolley, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

Participants at the banquet had come not to grieve a defeat, but to celebrate a victory, Puckett said. "Whatever personal price paid by Jack and (his wife) Blanche," he said, "truth, integrity, freedom and authentic devotion to Jesus Christ have never been more clearly demonstrated."

He called on other Baptists to take a stand for the issues Harwell supported: "The time has come for us to say we will oppose any enemy, support any friend, bear any burden, endure any hardship, or pay any price" for truth, integrity and freedom.

Truth is not to be trampled. Integrity is not to be impeached. Freedom is not to be forfeited."

Floyd Roebuck, pastor of First Baptist Church of Rome, Ga., and former president of the Georgia Baptist Convention, described Harwell as a "great servant-leader" and "prophet" recognized nationwide for his courage and convictions.

Roebuck pointed out that although Harwell was one of the best preachers in the state, he had never been ordained. "In this Year of the Laity in the Southern Baptist Convention, we need a lot more laymen of his kind," he said, adding, laypeople ought to have equal representation with pastors on the boards and committees of the convention.

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Roebuck drew sustained applause when he said, "A large part of the Georgia Baptist Convention family would still prefer that Jack Harwell be editor of the Christian Index."

Two Atlanta journalists who have been long-time friends also paid tribute to Harwell.

Lamar Matthews, retired Associated Press bureau chief in Atlanta and deacon at Druid Hills Baptist Church in Atlanta, described Harwell as "one of the nation's truly great religious journalists."

Both Matthews and Aubrey Morris, retired newsman for WSB radio in Atlanta and executive with Cox Broadcasting Co., compared Harwell to the late Louie D. Newton, editor of the Christian Index for nine years and pastor of Druid Hills Baptist Church for 37 years.

Morris emphasized that a free press is a bulwark of freedom. "Censorship cannot stand up under the light of an unfettered, unrestricted press," he said.

Puckett added Harwell not only follows in the tradition of Newton and John Jeter Hurt who preceded him as editor, but also in the tradition of Luther Rice, Jesse Mercer and Thomas Meredith of the previous century.

All these Baptist leaders, said Puckett, were strong supporters of a free denominational press and of quality Christian education. They believed, he added, the mission of the Southern Baptist Convention runs on the twin tracks of information and education.

"Those who would seek to capture and control the Southern Baptist Convention would naturally attack the editors of our publications and the presidents of our schools," Puckett said.

Ches Smith, pastor of First Baptist Church of Tifton, Ga., presented to Harwell a complete video system and a videotape of the evening's proceedings. The gift was from friends of the Harwells.

In response, Harwell expressed gratitude for 30 years with the Christian Index. "I love the Christian Index. I love Georgia Baptists. And that love will continue," Harwell said. Harwell's remarks prompted two standing ovations.

He asked for Georgia Baptists to pray for him as he seeks direction for the future, saying he is considering 20 job offers he has received.

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Telethon Nets \$27,652  
For Jacksonville ACTS

Baptist Press  
1/19/88

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)--ACTS of Jacksonville raised \$44,565 in gifts and pledges in a Jan. 16 telethon, which after expenses will net an estimated \$27,652 for use by the group in producing programs for its local cable TV channel.

It was the first telethon ever for the ACTS network or one of its cable TV affiliates.

The three-and-a-half-hour telethon was carried live on WNFT-TV, an independent Jacksonville TV station, because ACTS does not allow fund raising on its nationwide network.

Telethon viewers were entertained by singers Debby Boone and Gary McSpaddin, while host Harold Hunter, pastor of North Jacksonville Baptist Church, and other area leaders asked for donations.

The profit from the telethon will be used by the 14 area churches cooperating as ACTS of Jacksonville to produce programs for local churches, which share time on the cable TV channel with the national network.

WNFT will receive an estimated \$6,913 for producing the telethon and co-host Debby Boone was paid \$10,000, leaving ACTS of Jacksonville with about \$27,652 if all pledges are paid.

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Boone's fee was donated by the North Jacksonville Church and by First Baptist Church of Jacksonville. The two \$5,000 gifts were included in the total and posted as part of the \$19,000 of "seed money" announced at the start of the telethon.

This is the second ACTS fund-raising event in Jacksonville in the past year. A banquet last April raised \$191,000 in pledges and gifts, for national ACTS.

The money from last year's banquet, after expenses, was to be split evenly between the local ACTS board and the American Christian Television System, the TV network sponsored by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission of Fort Worth, Texas.

According to Mary Taylor, executive vice president of ACTS of Jacksonville, expenses for the banquet ran so high and the return on pledges was so low that there was only enough money left in the local board's share to pay back \$30,000 it had borrowed from the national network in 1985 to purchase satellite receiving equipment.

That was part of the reason why another fund-raiser was scheduled this year, Taylor said, and why all the proceeds will stay in Jacksonville.