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May 12, 1988

Two missionaries narrowly
Escape injury in car bomb

By Art Toalston

**SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
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NICOSIA, Cyprus (BP)--Just a few feet separated Southern Baptist missionary Linda Sacco from death or serious injury when a car loaded with dynamite exploded in Nicosia, Cyprus, May 11.

Another missionary, Frances Fuller, about a block away, was beneath a window blown out by the blast. She, too, escaped injury.

Both women, who weathered much of Lebanon's civil war, are continuing their work amid the Middle East's tensions. But even in Lebanon they were never so close to the scene of terrorism, death and serious injury.

The car bomb exploded on a bridge in downtown Nicosia, near a busy thoroughfare and near the Israeli embassy. The driver of the car and two Cypriots were killed, according to news accounts. A Lebanese man who bailed out of the car before the blast was captured by police.

Sacco and Fuller had driven from their homes in Larnaca to Nicosia for medical examinations that morning.

Sacco said she "felt a tremendous amount of force ... and saw a bright light" while she was driving along the street. She looked in her rearview mirror and saw that the blast had rocked the car behind her, and it had burst into flames. She saw no one in it, but noticed a man on the sidewalk trying to get to his feet.

"It makes you feel very vulnerable," confided Sacco, of McAlester, Okla. "It doesn't matter where you are, you're going to be under a certain amount of danger, either through accidents or other circumstances."

Fuller was resting in a clinic after an outpatient exam she undergoes regularly to check for any signs of a recurrence of colon cancer. Her doctor was in the room to see how she was faring.

The blast blew out a window above Fuller's bed. Fortunately, a heavy curtain had been pulled shut a couple hours earlier, and it prevented broken glass from spraying Fuller and the doctor.

"There's an odd thing about loud explosions I experienced in Lebanon," Fuller later said. "The closer I am to the explosion, the harder it is for me to remember what the sound was like. It's so sudden. You don't know you've heard it until it's all over. I remember more the glass falling than the sound of the blast itself."

Within a few minutes after the explosion, ambulances began arriving at the small clinic. The first one carried a woman "whose face was covered with blood," Fuller recounted. "She appeared to have lost the skin on her face." Another man soon arrived "who was burned all over and had one leg blown off."

Numerous other people with minor injuries gathered outside. "People were crying and in various states of shock," Fuller said. "They didn't know what to do, what to say."

Sacco, Fuller and their husbands were among 24 Southern Baptist missionaries forced to leave Lebanon in February 1987 after the U.S. State Department revoked passport privileges for Americans in the strife-torn nation. The Saccos and Fullers are among several missionaries who now work in Cyprus; several others went to assignments in Gaza.

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After the blast, Fuller said, "I just wanted to get in my house and not expose myself to the dangers of the world." At the same time, she said: "The car bomb certainly doesn't scare me out of Cyprus.

"I'd feel better if I were where I belong," she added, referring to her sense of call to Lebanon. "I don't want to get blown up by a bomb in the wrong country.

"We recognize that Lebanon is a dangerous place, but we're still in a dangerous place, not because we're in Cyprus, or some of us are in Gaza, but because we're in a very wicked world."

Fuller, of Wynne, Ark., quipped that her closest brush with death was in Louisiana several years ago. A hunter's stray bullet crashed through the window of her car and whizzed by her head.

Ministry in danger zones is inherent to her faith, Fuller said: "Jesus is our example. He didn't turn back because what he was trying to do proved to be difficult and because it was going to cost him his life.

"Some things are worth risking your life for. Some things are not."

The most worthwhile risk, she said, is "fulfilling the call you have from the Lord, the purpose he has given you for your life."

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'Courageous conservative' needed
To continue SBC correction: Vines

By Greg Warner

Baptist Press
5/12/88

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)--Southern Baptists should elect a "courageous conservative" as president of the Southern Baptist Convention in order to continue the process of theological correction underway in the denomination.

That's the advice of Jacksonville, Fla., pastor Jerry Vines, who is expected to be nominated for SBC president this summer and receive the support of conservatives in the convention.

Vines, co-pastor of the 18,000-member First Baptist Church of Jacksonville since 1982, said no one has asked to nominate him, and he is not sure he will be a nominee, but added, "I would say at this point it appears I probably will be."

Since 1979 conservatives have controlled the SBC presidency and its appointive powers, giving them the influence necessary to redirect the country's largest Protestant denomination in a more conservative direction.

Vines conceded some conservatives have made mistakes in their pursuit of theological correction in the SBC, but he said it is important for the correction to continue: "The theological problems in our convention are real. This has been substantiated by the Peace Committee and overwhelmingly affirmed by the St. Louis convention (in 1987). I personally believe that these problems cannot be lived with. They must be dealt with."

While insisting the continued conservative success is not dependent on his own election, Vines said, "It is important to have someone who is a courageous conservative as president."

A graduate of Mercer University in Macon, Ga., and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Vines said his two years of service on the SBC Peace Committee confirmed his suspicion that some Southern Baptists, including some seminary professors, had strayed beyond the parameters of traditional Baptist belief.

At the Southern Baptist Convention last year, the Peace Committee won approval for its recommendation that future employees of the seminaries and other SBC agencies adhere to the dominant beliefs held by Southern Baptists.

"I believe the process of addressing the problems is underway," Vines said. "The Peace Committee report, the affirmation of that report by the St. Louis convention, the commitment of the seminary professors as reflected in the Glorieta Statement and the trustees addressing these concerns is the proper manner.

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"I am fairly optimistic about the progress that's being made. I don't think any sensible person could expect that every concern be resolved overnight. ... I think some of the recommendations are in the process of implementation. Others are not."

Another of the Peace Committee's recommendations calls for fairness from future SBC presidents and from the committees that result from their appointments. It asks that the selection of SBC committee members and trustees be "drawn in balanced fashion" from people who are "representative of the diversity of our denomination."

"If I should be nominated and elected," Vines said, "I will appoint, to the best of my ability, the very best Baptists to serve on the committees."

However, the Peace Committee's call for balance, Vines pointed out, asks for appointments that are "balanced within the parameters of the Baptist Faith and Message Statement," the 1963 statement of faith that says the Bible has "truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter."

"I would not appoint anyone to any committee," Vines added, "who did not endorse the Baptist Faith and Message Statement on the Scripture as interpreted by the Peace Committee, affirmed by the convention sessions and interpreted by the Glorieta Statement of the seminary presidents."

Since Vines sees those interpretations as consistent with his view of inerrancy, the result is that only inerrantists would be appointed to leadership positions in a Vines presidency, he said.

The same Peace Committee recommendation that would keep non-inerrantists off Vines' list of appointments also should keep non-inerrantists out of SBC trustee posts, Vines said.

Asked if, to achieve balance or as a gesture of unity, he would appoint inerrantists who have been involved with moderates in the SBC struggle, Vines said, "If I were elected president, I would like to be able to put my arm around every Baptist brother -- and I'm using that term generically -- and say, 'Come on, let's win this nation to Christ.'"

But he emphasized those deciding Baptist business during a Vines presidency would only be people committed to the 10-year conservative trend. "If a person who himself is a conservative does not really perceive the theological problems which are being worked out, I would not appoint him," he said.

Vines would not concede, however, that such a use of presidential powers would mean his appointees would be committed or obligated to certain political solutions to the SBC controversy. Politics are an inescapable element of SBC life, he said: "If there are votes taken, then you are involved in a political process. That's just the way our convention is set up. I'm grateful it is."

Vines said he would consider "every possible bit of information" in choosing his appointees. "I would be looking for people who have a positive, concerned, Christ-like spirit," he said. The number of people baptized and the amount of money given to the SBC Cooperative Program unified budget by the appointee's church would be among the factors considered.

Vines himself is criticized by opponents for his church's Cooperative Program record. According to the Florida Baptist Convention, First Church of Jacksonville gave \$200,000 from its 1986-87 undesignated receipts of \$7.4 million to the Cooperative Program -- or 2.7 percent.

Opponents also say Vines has been uninvolved in Baptist work at the state and associational levels. In 1985 Vines was replaced as a nominee to the state board of missions after state convention messengers noted his lack of participation.

SBC messengers also have rejected Vines before, when in 1977 he lost the presidency in a runoff with Jimmy R. Allen, then pastor of First Baptist Church of San Antonio, Texas.

But this time support for Vines as president has been more organized and widespread since his delivery of the annual convention sermon last June in St. Louis. The sermon since has been circulated nationwide by his church. Meanwhile Vines and his church have been featured in at least two inerrantist magazines in recent weeks.

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He also has been asked to preach the concluding message at this year's SBC Pastors' Conference, a meeting that has helped launch every presidency since 1979. Vines said he is unaware of any political intentions in the invitation, which he said came last June from Pastors' Conference President Stan Coffey of Amarillo, Texas.

Still some conservative leaders have been slow to embrace a Vines candidacy, reportedly because he is not well known outside the Southeast. Some predict he will have difficulty getting elected in San Antonio, site of the June 14-16 convention, where he is expected to face native Texan Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix (Ariz.) Baptist Church.

But Vines said he is unconcerned about such pessimism: "It's in the hands of the Lord. No, I'm not concerned."

Vines said he sees no theological differences between himself and Jackson, but he would not say why he could not support Jackson for president. "The only comment I will have about Richard is that I love him as a brother in the Lord," he said.

If elected, Vines said, his presidency could be a transitional time for Baptists, allowing them to put a decade of controversy behind them. "I would like to be the president who could call our denomination to a renewed commitment to winning the lost to Christ," said the pastor, whose church baptized 950 people last year.

Vines suggested the 1989 Southern Baptist Convention in Las Vegas would provide an opportunity to put the renewed commitment into practice, with messengers conducting crusades, street services and door-to-door witnessing -- "all the things Baptists know how to do so well."

"Probably none of us is thrilled at the prospect of going into Las Vegas, but I propose that we take a lemon and make lemonade," he said. "I would like to call Southern Baptists to shake that old wicked city with the gospel of Christ."

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Baptists should end control,
Return to priesthood: Jackson

By Greg Warner

Baptist Press
5/12/88

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP)--Southern Baptists are abandoning one of their cherished doctrines -- the priesthood of the believer -- by surrendering control of their denomination to a handful of "high priests."

That's the warning from Arizona pastor Richard Jackson, who is expected to be nominated this summer as president of the Southern Baptist Convention and receive the support of SBC moderates.

The doctrine of the priesthood of believers, which gives each Christian the right and responsibility of direct relationship with God, is applied by Jackson to the decade-long controversy in the SBC. The conflict, he says, is a struggle for priesthood -- whether individual, free-thinking Southern Baptists will determine the direction and nature of their denomination or whether those powers will reside in a handful of leaders.

"It is obviously evidenced that a small group of dominating leaders have overly influenced the direction of Baptists," said Jackson, pastor of the 18,000-member North Phoenix (Ariz.) Baptist Church for 21 years. "They have led people to blindly follow rather than make individual, prayerful, informed decisions."

That trend is evident among the trustees elected in recent years to Southern Baptist boards and agencies, he said. In some cases, those trustees have carried out the "preset agenda" of a group of national leaders, he said, rather than functioning as independent "believer-priests."

"I don't believe in the high priesthood of a few believers but in the priesthood of all believers," Jackson explained.

The choice facing Southern Baptists when they elect a new president June 14, Jackson said, is what type of leadership they want.

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SBC messengers have rejected Jackson as president three times in the past -- 1977, 1980 and last year, when he lost to incumbent Adrian P. Rogers of Memphis, Tenn., by a 3-2 margin.

Opponents have made much of Jackson's previous losses and of his 1986 nomination of W. Winfred Moore for president, which they say shows his ties to moderates. Jackson pointed out he also nominated former President Bailey Smith in 1981, which he said shows his independence.

Jackson has been attractive to moderates because of his conservative theology, which makes him electable, and his record of cooperation, which makes him acceptable.

During the 1986-87 fiscal year, Jackson's church gave \$1 million to the SBC Cooperative Program unified budget from undesignated receipts of \$6.6 million -- or 15.2 percent. That same year, the church baptized 1,206 people. The fete reportedly is the only time in SBC history when one church has led the convention in both Cooperative Program gifts and baptisms in the same year.

Jackson said messengers to the June convention will be hard-pressed to find significant theological differences between himself and the other likely nominee, Jacksonville, Fla., pastor Jerry Vines, however. By any analysis, both are conservative theologically.

Jackson used that similarity to issue a challenge to conservatives, who have insisted the struggle in the SBC is over theology, particularly the inerrancy of the Bible: "If it's theological, then what's wrong with my theology? If I'm conservative, and if a conservative man says he's going to nominate me, why do they need to nominate anyone else?"

In January George Harris, pastor of First Baptist Church of Castle Hills in San Antonio, Texas, announced he would nominate Jackson when the SBC meets in San Antonio June 14-16. Harris, who acknowledged he previously had been identified with the SBC's "fundamentalist movement," said Jackson would be "good for fundamentalists, good for moderates and good for all."

Jackson, noting his nomination came before Vines or any other person had agreed to be nominated, added, "That person's obviously saying I'm not good enough."

In February Homer Lindsay Jr., who shares the pulpit of First Baptist of Jacksonville with Vines, announced his colleague was the favored candidate of conservative leaders. While in years past Jackson might have counted on the support of those leaders, many of whom are his longtime friends, Jackson said they since have abandoned him because "I don't have the right political stance."

Jackson is accused of "selling out" to moderates, who have lost every presidential election since 1979. After Harris' announcement in January, leaders like Lindsay, Bailey Smith of Atlanta, and Texans Paige Patterson, Paul Pressler and James T. Draper Jr. all acknowledged Jackson's conservative credentials but suggested he is being used by moderates who want to regain control of the convention.

"Theologically he's one of us, but he's aligned himself with the liberals, the moderates and the wrong crowd," Lindsay said in February. "He deserves to be defeated."

Jackson bristled at such charges. "That's the most dishonest thing anyone can say about me. I'm really weary of deceptive statements that try to explain me away," he said. "People say, 'He's a nice guy but....' Either I am, or I'm not. Homer (Lindsay) knows whatever stand I took I took on my own. Nobody makes my decisions."

Jackson, a native Texan who says he's "as independent as a hog on ice," issued the same warning to moderates, whom he said should not expect preferential treatment in a Jackson presidency. "If you're looking for someone to pass out Purple Hearts because you've been wounded, look for someone else," he said.

Such talk doesn't settle well with many moderates, who see the 1988 election as their best chance in a decade to loose the conservative grip on the presidency and perhaps reverse the conservative swing on SBC boards and agencies.

Asked if he would use the presidential power to appoint moderates to SBC committees to balance out the shift of recent years, Jackson said: "Not on your life. I'm not interested in parity. I'm interested in purity."

Baptists who are appointed to committees or elected as trustees should demonstrate commitment in five areas, he said: the lordship of Jesus Christ; the absolute authority and integrity of Scripture; the Baptist method of cooperation for worldwide missions; the intellectual preparation needed for responsible service; and the spiritual strength "to resist the intimidation of others who have a preset agenda."

There is some legitimacy to claims the SBC has become less conservative in recent decades, Jackson said. The denomination has no place for seminary professors "who don't believe the Bible," added Jackson, a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, but "we don't need to stand up and say our seminaries are full of liberals." If any are found, they should be "prayed for, prayed with, and asked to leave before they are forced to leave," he advised.

If current leaders hold too much power in the convention, Jackson said, so did the previous generation of leaders, which he called "the Foy Valentine era" in reference to the former executive director of the SBC Christian Life Commission. "I resented that," he recalled. "They didn't have an agenda, but guys were passed over. But I didn't think their theology was bad; I didn't know their theology."

While the current conservative trend in the SBC may have intended to remedy such problems, the trend now has shifted from theological correction to political control, he said: "What has all this controversy brought us? Were we supposed to do better because of it?"

The politics of control, Jackson said, resulted in his own exclusion from the SBC Peace Committee in 1985.

"I don't believe there ought to be a control group," he said. "There was in the past a loosely knit control group and now there is a tightly knit control group, and I'm opposed to both of them."

While moderates are hoping Jackson will lead the way in eliminating control politics, Jackson warns those supporters, "it would include them, too."

If indeed a Jackson election signals a reversal in the denomination, he said, "It would be a change to allow Baptists to be free again."

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Jackson meets in Missouri
With conservative pastors

By Trennis Henderson

Baptist Press
5/12/88

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--"I am not on a campaign trail," Richard Jackson told a group of conservative pastors from Missouri, Kansas and Illinois.

The three-hour meeting, held April 26 at the Airport Hilton in Kansas City, Mo., was arranged by David Baker, founder of the Southern Baptist Coalition for Biblical Inerrancy.

Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix (Ariz.) Baptist Church, is one of two announced nominees for the office of Southern Baptist Convention president. Jerry Vines, co-pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., also is expected to be nominated for president during the SBC annual meeting June 14-16 in San Antonio, Texas.

Declaring his opposition to "any small-group control in the Southern Baptist Convention," Jackson told Word & Way, newsjournal of the Missouri Baptist Convention, "I sensed that the overall position of the group (in Kansas City) was not that they had grown out of a movement but that they were honest men with honest concerns who had perhaps seen the movement within the convention as a vehicle to express their concerns."

Twenty Missouri Baptist pastors were among the meeting's 30 participants. Baker, pastor of First Baptist Church of Belton, Mo., described each invited pastor as "a strong supporter of the conservative movement" within the SBC.

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The Kansas City meeting followed a series of phone calls he made to Jackson "out of my concern over statements being made about him I didn't feel were accurate," he said.

The meeting was sponsored by the biblical inerrancy coalition, but Jackson's travel expense were not paid by the coalition, Baker said. He added the meeting was designed to provide "discussion between Richard and some conservative pastors to try to gain some understanding. I think it's silly for men of exactly the same convictions to be shooting at each other.

"I think the pastors were thrilled at Richard's responses" to questions they posed, Baker continued. "I think a foundation was laid for really good things to happen in San Antonio."

Jackson said, "The result of the meeting was we realized we are brothers in the Lord with a commitment to the lordship of Christ, the word of God, missions and evangelism."

Jackson, Baker and several other participants agreed few if any minds were changed concerning how individuals would vote in San Antonio.

Dennis Newkirk, pastor of First Baptist Church of Ferguson, Mo. reported: "Richard clearly enunciated a fundamental-conservative point of view but without ties to the Pressler/Patterson coalition. I think many of the men there were quite surprised at his conservative stance and felt somewhat in agreement with what he believes and what he would do as president. But many came with no intention to change their mind and went away from the meeting with their intentions intact."

Gary Taylor, pastor of Tower Grove Baptist Church in St. Louis, said he left the meeting "feeling better about our convention and about Richard Jackson than I had. I'm going to San Antonio breathing a little easier."

Noting both Jackson and Vines are conservative theologically, Taylor added, "I feel you could reach in a bag and pull out either one of them and they would do an effective job" as SBC president.

Jim Reimer, pastor of Second Baptist Church in Springfield, Mo., described the meeting as upbeat. He noted Jackson "spoke candidly and frankly. I didn't go with the intention it was a political meeting and didn't get the feeling that it was."

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Send resolutions in early,
Committee chairman asks

By Linda Lawson

Baptist Press
5/12/88

NASHVILLE (BP)--The chairman of the Resolutions Committee for the 1988 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting has appealed for messengers to submit to the committee advance copies of resolutions they intend to introduce at SBC sessions in San Antonio, Texas, June 14-16.

Jerry Sutton, pastor of Two Rivers Baptist Church in Nashville, asked that messengers mail their resolutions, preferably typed, by June 1 to: Resolutions Committee, SBC Executive Committee, 901 Commerce St., Nashville, Tenn. 37203.

Messengers who send advance copies of proposed resolutions also must submit them on the first day of the convention. Committee representatives will be at a table near the platform to receive resolutions during business sessions June 14 in Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center.

In 1987, 54 resolutions were proposed by convention messengers and referred to the Resolutions Committee. The committee then presented 15 resolutions for messenger consideration.

The 10-member committee, named in late April by SBC President Adrian P. Rogers, will meet Saturday, June 11, in San Antonio for preliminary deliberation of resolutions previously received and to agree on procedural matters, Sutton said.

When Rogers announced the members of the Resolutions Committee, he told Baptist Press he would not instruct the committee how to do its work but hoped "intensely controversial issues" could be avoided.

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"I hope resolutions adopted at this convention will reflect the points of agreement among messengers, not disagreement," said Sutton, who added he has not talked personally with Rogers about the committee's work. "I am asking that persons refrain from resolutions on personalities and focus on issues.

"While convention resolutions are not binding, they carry a great deal of weight," said Sutton, noting resolutions often are used to influence pending legislation. "We need to weigh carefully what is said and what is not said."

The fact two of the 10 members have recent previous service on the Resolutions Committee can be a positive factor, Sutton said, adding, "Any time you have continuity, that is positive."

Eldridge Miller, pastor of First Baptist Church of Sallisaw, Okla., was on the 1986 Resolutions Committee, and Rhonda H. Kelley, a speech pathologist and member of First Baptist Church of New Orleans, was on the 1987 committee.

Other committee members are Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala.; Steve Brumbelow, pastor of Cross Lanes Baptist Church of Cross Lanes, W.Va.; Bettye Atchison, homemaker and member of First Baptist Church of Rogers, Ark.; John Yeats, pastor of Shawnee Heights Baptist Church in Topeka, Kan.; Betty Worrell, interior decorator and member of First Baptist Church of Jefferson City, Mo.; Ray Long, pastor of Rock Hill Baptist Church in Inman, S.C.; and Jewell Davis, a physician and member of First Baptist Church of Lubbock, Texas.

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SBC Missions day camp
Provides fun for children

By James Warren

Baptist Press
5/12/88

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--While parents are tending to convention business, singing, praying, and standing in lines at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas, their children may be involved in action-oriented activities at SBC Missions Day Camp.

SBC Missions Day Camp will be sponsored by the children and youth division of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission during the June 14-16 annual meeting.

Volunteers from Texas Baptist Men, the San Antonio Baptist Association and Trinity Baptist Church in San Antonio will conduct the day camp this year under the direction of Karl Bozeman, director of Lad and Crusader Royal Ambassadors at the Brotherhood Commission.

The SBC Missions Day Camp will provide missions education for children of messengers during all daytime sessions of the convention, June 14, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; June 15, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; and June 16, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Special planned activities for the children this year include missions studies lead by missionaries Thomas Law III and Linda Law of Paraguay and Ted and Francis York of the Ivory Coast, Bozeman said. A trip also is planned to the San Antonio Brackenridge Park and Zoo. Other activities will include games, crafts, nature study and sports activities.

Boys and girls who have completed the first through sixth grades may participate in the day camp, Bozeman announced. The cost is \$7 per day per child, or \$20 for three days. The price includes lunch June 14 and June 16 and refreshments all days.

Registration will be at the SBC Missions Day Camp booth near the messenger registration area of Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center June 13, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., and during convention times June 14-16, Bozeman said.

Transportation will be provided to and from the day camp from the convention center, he added. All day campers will leave at 8:30 a.m. from the SBC Missions Day Camp booth.

Children in the seventh grade and up are eligible to serve as assistant counselors for the day camp by contacting Bozeman at the Brotherhood Commission or at the SBC Missions Day Camp booth June 13.

The day campers should dress to stay cool in the hot Texas weather expected, Bozeman said.

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Kentucky Baptist men respond
To Middlesboro tornado

By Jim Burton

MIDDLESBORO, Ky. (BP)--A tornado swept through Middlesboro, Ky., May 9, killing one person and injuring 15.

The tornado destroyed a 15-block area that included homes and businesses. The path of the tornado was estimated to be up to one-half mile wide.

The Kentucky Baptist convention's mobile feeding unit was on site by May 10 and began feeding May 11, said Bob Simpkins, Kentucky Brotherhood director and state disaster relief coordinator. More than 600 meals had been served through early May 12.

West Cumberland Baptist Church was destroyed by the tornado. The church has a resident membership of 216 people, said Pastor David Bullock.

Simpkins, who was appointed director of all volunteer response in Middlesboro by the Kentucky Department of Emergency Services, said that in addition to feeding, Baptist men began cleanup operations May 11.

Chainsaw crews went from door to door offering to clear trees from yards. "One lady responded, 'You must be Christians'," said Simpkins. When Jim Fox, on-site coordinator asked her why she said that, she said, "No one else helps like that."

Volunteers also have helped residents suffering shock following their experiences.

"On two different occasions, our ham radio operator has located people suffering depression and has gone to minister to them," said Simpkins.

The disaster relief feeding unit is set up at First Baptist Church of Middlesboro. Feeding and cleanup crews are to remain in Middlesboro through May 15 when the a new damage assessment report will be made.

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Nominations subcommittee
Fills agency vacancies

Baptist Press
5/12/88

NASHVILLE (BP)--The subcommittee of the Southern Baptist Convention's Committee on Nominations has filled four vacancies on agencies of the SBC.

The Committee on Nominations met in Nashville March 17-18 to nominate more than 240 persons to serve on the boards of trust of the 22 national entities of the SBC, but left some vacancies to be filled by a subcommittee.

Usually, the subcommittee has met in the city in which the SBC will be held, but this year, the subcommittee has functioned as an executive committee and has filled the vacancies.

Nominated to fill an unexpired term on the Home Mission Board is Robert F. Curtis, pastor of Fellowship First Church, High Ridge, Mo., replacing Charles L. Chaney, of Bolivar, who resigned. The term expires in 1991.

Nominated to an unexpired term on the board of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary is H. James Reimer, pastor of Second Church, Springfield, Mo., replacing Robert L. Perry of Kansas City, Mo., who moved. The term expires in 1990.

Nominated to a full term -- to expire in 1993 -- on the Midwestern seminary board is Marvin T. Nobles, pastor of Park View Church, DeSoto, Mo., replacing Paul Terranova of Merriam, Kans., who declined to accept a second term.

Nominated to a full term -- to expire in 1992 -- on the Historical Commission is Mrs. C. Nolan (Sarah) Phillips, a pastor's wife and member of University Church, Middletown, Ohio, replacing Margaret Melton Young of Waynesville, Ohio, who declined appointment to a second term.

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The subcommittee also reported an error in the report which was released in late April. Max A. Brunneman, an insurance broker and member of Baptist Temple Church in San Antonio, Texas, was reported in error as a new trustee of the Southern Baptist Foundation, replacing James R. Bocell of St. Joseph, Mo., who is ineligible for renomination.

The nominee for the new term is Miller Carpenter, a bank president and member of Rothville Church, Rothville, Mo.

The subcommittee will name a replacement for Calvin R. Capps of Greensboro, N.C., who declined to accept a second term.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: In the listing of appointments made by Southern Baptist Convention President Adrian P. Rogers, it was reported Arnold Wooden, a member of Abilene Church, Martinez, Ga., had been appointed to the SBC Credentials Committee. Wooden is not a member of the Martinez congregation, but is a member of First Church, Tucker, Ga.

Home Mission Board elects Cox
Black church relations director

Baptist Press
5/12/88

ATLANTA (BP)--Ohio pastor and home missionary Michael J. Cox has been named associate director of the black church relations department for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Cox, pastor of Faith Community Church in Euclid for the past four years, was elected to the post by the board's executive committee during its May session. He will join the staff June 16.

In his new position, Cox will assist Department Director Emmanuel McCall with the board's program of starting churches in black communities.

Cox has been a church planter apprentice at the Euclid church, as well as a consultant for the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio.

Born in Jackson, Tenn., he is a graduate of Morehouse College in Atlanta and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Cox has been associate pastor of Bethsaida Baptist Church in Chicago, research assistant for the Institute for Black Religious Research in Evanston, Ill., and youth minister for Brentwood Baptist Church in Houston.

He will succeed Chan Garrett, who has been elected regional coordinator for the board's planning section.

The board's executive committee also appointed two missionaries, two missionary associates, and six mission pastors.

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