

(BP)

-- BAPTIST PRESS

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SOMALIA -- Aid worker in Somalia beats despair -- at least for a day; photos.
SOMALIA -- Somali chaos has simple rules: don't get shot, don't starve.
WASHINGTON -- Southern Baptists in Congress among leaders in tobacco gifts.
TEXAS -- Landry hosts 'ThanksLiving,' RTVC special for NBC-TV.
KANSAS -- Kansas-Nebraska Baptists note new work efforts, budget worries.
MISSOURI -- Missourians decide 2-way race, debate definition of 'family.'
TENNESSEE -- Brotherhood announces 1993 World Changers work dates.
NASHVILLE -- Corrections.

NOTE TO EDITORS: Africa correspondent Craig Bird recently visited Somalia. He filed the following stories.

Aid worker in Somalia beats
despair -- at least for a day

By Craig Bird

Baptist Press
10/30/92

MOGADISHU, Somalia (BP)--Not only the starving find survival difficult within the walls of the feeding centers and clinics of Somalia.

A deluge of death can strangle the compassion of aid workers. Too many skeletal hands pawing during food distribution, too many babies who don't wake up, too many vacant eyes staring at you -- even when you close your eyes to sleep.

The American volunteer can feel the cold, hard lump of defeat in his stomach. He has wasted a morning trying to find more supplies for the rapidly emptying aid warehouse. Friends were robbed at gunpoint last night.

His adult children back home are loudly unhappy their parents have volunteered to work in Somalia, thus their names won't be used in this story. Some of his fellow Southern Baptists in the United States don't understand it either.

Now it's time to make the rounds again. Time to load the supplies in the truck. Time to determine if the driver is too high from chewing khat, a stimulant beloved by Somali men, to steer around the potholes and roadblocks successfully. Time to see more starving faces and listen to more desperate people demanding more things he doesn't have and can't get.

But instead of defeat, this day he finds victories. Small, temporary ones perhaps, but enough:

-- A former university professor, a member of the select committee that rendered the Somali language into written form for the first time in 1972, greets the American. He has recently been shot in the arm but he has some good news to share. Separated from his wife and six children more than six months earlier, he has just heard they might be at a refugee camp a hundred miles away. "It isn't very definite, but just think -- they might be alive," he says with a smile.

-- A quick look through the second camp shows no sign of a man the American had met earlier. "He'd been dragged to the edge of the camp to die, but we put him on the supplemental feeding list" anyway, the volunteer says. "I guess he didn't make it." But he did. In fact, he's not at the camp because he walked with his son to get water outside the gate. Returning, he totters weakly toward the American to greet him. "I don't see how he's standing up, but at least he's still alive," says the amazed volunteer.

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-- Outside of town a young girl and a sibling sit under a tree, isolated from three other groups. "She's new; she doesn't live in the camps around the feeding center," he explains. He watches her carefully, easing protein-enriched porridge down her brother's throat as he asks why she's here.

"She has parents. She isn't an orphan," he explains, a note of quiet joy underlying the discovery. "They're a couple of kilometers away but they heard there was food here. I'm glad they heard. That little boy wouldn't have lasted much longer."

-- At a clinic, the American looks in on an "exception." For logistical and practical reasons, refugees aren't allowed to live in the aid centers. But a week before a woman had brought her husband to the clinic on a borrowed donkey cart. Too weak to talk, much less stand, the 45-year-old man looked to be minutes from death. A month before the couple and four children had begun walking -- with no food or water -- from their rural home 100 miles away. One by one the children, the oldest age 10, had starved.

The aid staff offered to let the couple stay on the compound and constructed a lean-to of poles and heavy plastic against the back wall of the clinic. After seven days he still has not been weighed. He still cannot stand. But he's alive. The wife smiles as she tells the American volunteer how much better her husband is.

The American stands a little taller, the lump of defeat banished at least for today. He too has survived, feeding on the hope of the Somali refugees and the promise of continuing to make a difference.

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(BP) photos (two verticals, one horizontal) relating to both Somalia stories mailed to state Baptist newspapers Oct. 30 by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press. Cutlines available on SBCNet Newsroom.

Somali chaos has simple rules:
don't get shot, don't starve

By Craig Bird

Baptist Press
10/30/92

MOGADISHU, Somalia (BP)--There are always rules, even in a civil war. Even in chaos. Even if not everyone follows them.

Rule No. 1 for survival in Somalia: Don't get shot. Rule No. 2: Don't starve. Follow these and you live.

To prosper, you add two more rules. Rule No. 1 for getting rich in Somalia: Provide armed "protection" for the foreign aid efforts keeping your country alive (i.e., be willing to shoot others). Rule No. 2: Loot those food shipments, rob those aid workers (i.e., be willing to let others starve).

Tough rules? No place is tougher than Somalia, a tragic country on the Horn of Africa where Southern Baptists -- through hunger relief funds distributed by the Foreign Mission Board to various aid groups -- are continuing to help because lives can be saved despite overwhelming odds.

Getting donated food to a child with a distended stomach and empty eyes is a difficult job made almost impossible by the firepower layered throughout the country.

The last aid ship to dock in Mogadishu filled 67 trucks with food. Only 33 of the trucks made the short trip out of the port without being looted and stolen. In mid-October another ship docked in the southern port of Kismayu. The local warlord's troops appropriated it for their food supply.

Grain is flown in. Landing rights, up to \$1,000 a plane and \$100 a passenger, are payable in cash upon arrival -- in American dollars -- to whatever Somali clan controls the runway.

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Of course, getting the grain unloaded, transported and protected costs more American cash. If another clan can outgun your guards, they can take the food. If your own guards decide to renege on their deal with you, they can take it. How do you stop them?

Even while the food is being distributed, the fees continue. Trucks rent from \$40 to \$100 per day, depending on the vehicle and the firepower. A compact pickup with a World War II-era 30-caliber machine gun mounted on the cab is at the lower end of the scale. A Landrover with a 50-caliber is at the top. Really serious money can get you a huge truck sporting an anti-aircraft gun taken from a ship. The number of rent-a-guards with their own assault weapons is limited only by the capacity of the vehicle.

Last in line in this bizarre food chain are the starving child, the emaciated mother. The food that survived the trip is distributed in the time left over from negotiating with street thugs and driving around ambush areas. So not everyone starves. And a lot of folks get rich.

Usually those who die get tucked out of sight. Graves are everywhere in the cities, marked by a wobbly stick, a bit of pipe or an empty artillery shell. But sometimes the dead are all too visible.

On a recent sunny day in Mogadishu, trucks headed south had to swerve around a body lying on a stretch of good highway (good because there aren't many potholes and because it's well clear of ambush areas).

The man sprawled on the highway, as lifeless as the crutch beside him. Had he broken survival rule No. 1 or No. 2? None of his countrymen in the heavily armed vehicles seemed willing to take the time to find out.

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**Southern Baptists in Congress
among leaders in tobacco gifts**

By Tom Strode

**Baptist Press
10/30/92**

WASHINGTON (BP)--Thirteen Southern Baptists, five in the Senate and eight in the House of Representatives, ranked among the leading recipients of contributions from the tobacco industry, according to a recent report.

Four of the 13 also were among the leaders in accepting donations from the alcohol industry, according to a report released less than two weeks previously.

Southern Baptists who were in the top 25 in the Senate in tobacco industry contributions were Jesse Helms, R.-N.C., second, \$60,950; Wendell Ford, D.-Ky., third, \$59,774; Mitch McConnell, R.-Ky., fifth, \$49,500; Thad Cochran, R.-Miss., 18th, \$22,450; and Trent Lott, R.-Miss., 22nd, \$21,000.

Bob Kasten, R.-Wis., ranked No. 1 among senators with gifts of \$67,652.

A Southern Baptist, Richard Gephardt, D.-Mo., was first in the House of Representatives with contributions of \$26,198 from the tobacco industry.

Other Southern Baptists in the top 25 in the House were Charles Taylor, R.-N.C., 14th, \$12,700; Steny Hoyer, D.-Md., 17th, \$12,200; Tim Valentine, D.-N.C., 20th, \$11,050; Bill Hefner, D.-N.C., 21st, \$11,000; David Price, D.-N.C., 22nd, \$10,550; Newt Gingrich, R.-Ga., and Tom DeLay, R.-Texas, tied for 25th, \$9,800.

Ford, McConnell, Gephardt and Gingrich also ranked in the top 10 in their respective houses in alcohol industry contributions from January 1989 to April 1992, according to a report released Oct. 13. Ford was No. 1 in the Senate with \$58,000, while McConnell was third with \$47,422. In the House, Gephardt was second at \$59,248. Gingrich tied for eighth with \$31,000.

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Results of the research on tobacco industry gifts, titled "The Congressional Addiction to Tobacco: How the Tobacco Lobby Suffocates Federal Health Policy," were announced Oct. 26 by two Washington-based consumer interest groups, Public Citizen and the Advocacy Institute.

In the report, contributions to Senate members were measured for the last three election cycles, January 1987 through June 1992. In the House, gifts were totaled from January 1991 through June 1992. Senators received \$1,376,245 from the tobacco industry during the election cycles measured, the report said. In the 18-month period for the House, members accepted \$1,161,474 in tobacco contributions.

Senators are elected to six-year terms while representatives face re-election every two years.

In the Senate, 16 of the 25 highest-ranking recipients were Republicans. In the House, 19 of the top 25 were Democrats.

"Until politicians go 'cold turkey,' or are forced by constituents to go 'cold turkey,' federal policies will continue to be dominated by tobacco interests instead of what is in the best interests of public health," said James A. Smith, the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission's director of government relations. "It's discouraging that Southern Baptist lawmakers seem no different than other politicians when it comes to accepting these tainted gifts.

"This type of information should be a factor for Southern Baptists and other Christians to consider when they cast their ballots," Smith said.

Other Southern Baptists in the Senate receiving tobacco contributions, according to the report, were: Strom Thurmond, R.-S.C., 48th, \$10,750; Al Gore, D.-Tenn., 53rd, \$9,490; and Mark Hatfield, R.-Ore., 82nd, \$2,000.

In the House, other Southern Baptists accepting tobacco gifts were Jack Fields, R.-Texas, 34th, \$8,500; Harold Rogers, R.-Ky., Clyde Holloway, R.-La., and Alan Mollohan, D.-W.Va., tied for 50th, \$7,000; Pete Geren, R.-Texas, tied for 86th, \$4,500; Claude Harris, D.-Ala., tied for 161st; and Tom Bevill, D.-Ala., and Duncan Hunter, R.-Calif., tied for 251st, \$500.

Four House Southern Baptists, all Democrats, did not receive tobacco contributions: Doug Barnard of Georgia; Earl Hutto of Florida; William Natcher of Kentucky and Glenn Poshard of Illinois.

The influence of the tobacco industry was illustrated in the 102nd Congress, the report said. During 1991-92, 29 bills, resolutions and amendments designed to combat tobacco problems were introduced in Congress. None of 13 Senate measures became law. Of the 16 House measures, two were passed, with one of those weakened during negotiations.

Of the six 1991-92 measures actively supported by the tobacco industry, three were incorporated into one bill and passed.

In contrast to the tobacco industry's influence in Congress, the public holds the industry in low esteem, the report said. In a 1989 United States Surgeon General's report, 79 percent of Americans think taxes on cigarettes should be increased and 84 percent favor a total prohibition or separate sections for smokers and nonsmokers in public places. A 1990 Gallup poll revealed 74 percent of smokers would like to quit smoking and 83 percent would never start smoking if they could do it over again.

The report recommends, among other suggestions: members of Congress stop accepting donations from tobacco interests and return gifts they have received; significant increases in excise taxes on tobacco; further restrictions on tobacco advertising, and enforcement of laws banning the sale of tobacco to minors.

About 487,000 Americans die each year from the effects of smoking, the report said. The country loses about \$52 billion annually in health care costs and lost productivity because of tobacco, according to the report.

The report was based on contributions by tobacco industry political action committees, tobacco executives and lobbyists.

Easily the No. 1 and 2 tobacco PACs in giving were R.J. Reynolds with \$486,850 and Philip Morris at \$444,931. Philip Morris, which owns Miller Brewing Co., also was second in alcohol-related PAC giving in the report released Oct. 13.

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Landry hosts 'ThanksLiving,'
RTVC special for NBC-TV

By Shawn Switzer & Doug Dillard

Baptist Press
10/30/92

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Tom Landry, longtime coach of the Dallas Cowboys, will host "ThanksLiving," a TV special produced by the Radio and Television Commission to air on NBC during the Thanksgiving holidays.

Viewing times will vary, said Bob Thornton, RTVC vice president for television services. Viewers must check their local stations or program listings for times and stations.

Rosser McDonald, RTVC producer who wrote, produced and directed the special, promises, "ThanksLiving will captivate the viewer with comeback stories told by the actual people involved." Those stories include:

-- a paraplegic who completed a record-setting journey from Los Angeles to Washington on a row cycle.

-- a lymphoma cancer patient, also a physician, whose book written to inspire other victims has gone to a second printing.

-- a school principal whose determination inspired a high-crime Hispanic community to restore her fire-gutted school in only six weeks so it could open on time.

-- an ex-circus motorcycle daredevil who expresses thanks for a changed life by distributing meals each Saturday to the homeless who huddle under interstate highway bridges.

ThanksLiving will be a second appearance for Landry in an RTVC production. He also hosted the popular "Set Free" in 1991, a documentary about prison ministries produced for NBC.

These documentaries, Thornton said, are aired on major networks as part of RTVC's participation in the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission (IBC), a coalition of five faith groups including the National Council of Churches, the United States Catholic Conference, the New York Board of Rabbis and the Jewish Theological Seminary of America as well as Southern Baptists.

The coalition, which the RTVC helped create in 1988 to coordinate the networks' offerings of public service time, normally produces eight documentaries a year for ABC and NBC, according to Richard T. McCartney, RTVC executive vice president and current IBC president. Until recently, the networks also furnished a production budget but that has fallen victim to financial pressures this year in the wake of competition from cable TV, pay-per-view and video.

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"NBC approached us with the opportunity to produce a 30-minute program on short notice and with no budget," Thornton explained. "Each member of the IBC chose a worthy individual to represent their group. All were selected from the Dallas/Fort Worth area so we could do it on a shoestring.

"ThanksLiving, the first Thanksgiving program the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission has ever produced, highlights four individuals who have faced life-changing events and are now deeply thankful," Thornton said.

Rob Bryant, an engineer who is a member of Southcliff Baptist Church in Fort Worth, has been a paraplegic since a fall from a steel derrick 10 years ago. Bryant set a world record by "rowing" across America in a row cycle.

Wendy Harpham is a doctor who became a patient two years ago after being diagnosed with lymphoma cancer. During six months of the strongest possible chemotherapy, fellow members of Beth Torah Synagogue ministered to her by delivering meals four nights a week to the suffering doctor and her family. To distract herself from the discomfort, she wrote a book to help new cancer patients. It immediately went into a second printing.

Sister Lucy Collins is principal of St. Mary of Carmel School in west Dallas. Surrounded by a poor, high-crime neighborhood, St. Mary is the moral and social center for Hispanic residents. Six weeks before school was to resume for the fall term, fire gutted a building which housed four grades. Sister Lucy's determination, coupled with an outpouring of help from the area got the building restored and ready for opening day.

George Rojas was employed by Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus as a motorcycle daredevil to ride inside a 16-foot steel cage called the "Circle of Death." Even more dangerous was the lifestyle of alcohol, drugs and selfishness he lived in the circus "fast lane." Finally, God was able to get George's attention and brought him back to the First Seventh-day Adventist Church of Dallas where he had grown up and attended school.

"As a way of giving to God instead of just taking, I decided to feed homeless people," Rojas said. Now joined by helpers from his church, he distributes over a hundred meals every Saturday to the homeless living under interstate bridges.

"ThanksLiving portrays widely divergent faith groups and quite different lives," Thornton said. "But a strong sense of faith in God and deep thankfulness overflows from each one of these heroes."

In that same spirit of giving, McCartney added, the RTVC and other IBC members "have taken our 'shoestring' and wrapped a Thanksgiving love-gift to the families of America."

"There are many ugly things going on in our world right now," he said. "It is our hope that every family will pause to count their blessings this season as they view these dramatic reminders of the true spirit of Thanksgiving."

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by the RTVC.

Kansas-Nebraska Baptists note
new work efforts, budget worries

By Eva Wilson

Baptist Press
10/30/92

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. (BP)--Kansas-Nebraska Southern Baptist churches started a record number of new works in the past year, messengers to the two-state convention's 47th annual meeting learned.

Yet skyrocketing health insurance costs are pointing to a potential financial crisis for the convention, messengers were warned.

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About 400 people gathered at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Overland Park, Kan., Oct. 19-21 for the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists' annual meeting and related activities.

Messengers re-elected all convention officers by acclamation. They are: president, Andy Antonson, pastor of Tyler Road Southern Baptist Church, Wichita, Kan.; vice president, Carl Garrett, pastor of the annual meeting's host church; recording secretary, Bob Grayson, pastor of Southview Baptist Church, Lincoln, Neb.; assistant recording secretary, Mary Wolfington, member of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Topeka, Kan.; and historian, Cliff Ramsey, pastor of First Baptist Church of Bethel, Kansas City, Kan.

Messengers also adopted the 1993 KNCSB budget and approved three resolutions, including one affirming Woman's Missionary Union and asking it to "maintain its historic focus on encouraging mission support of SBC churches."

Another resolution called for sacrificial giving to the 1992 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions.

Mark Clifton, KNCSB church extension director, told messengers that KNCSB will surpass its "200 by 2000" goal -- an effort to start 200 new works by the year 2000.

Twenty-six new works and their sponsoring churches were honored during the Wednesday morning session.

Messengers also learned skyrocketing health insurance costs are beginning to put a serious strain on the KNCSB budget. The 1993 budget, totaling \$3,668,712, is an increase of 3.3 percent above the 1992 budget.

Of the total, \$1,899,996 is anticipated to come from Cooperative Program receipts from Kansas-Nebraska Southern Baptists.

KNCSB giving to national and worldwide Southern Baptist causes was kept at 32.5 percent of its Cooperative Program income. This was due to the strain on the budget caused by rising health insurance costs, said R. Rex "Peck" Lindsay, KNCSB executive director.

In other action, messengers voted to ask the KNCSB executive board to name a subcommittee to form a policy for the convention on handling designated receipts.

Roger Roberts, pastor of Metropolitan Baptist Church in Wichita, Kan., presented the motion. Roberts is the Kansas-Nebraska representative on the Foreign Mission Board. Roberts asked for the subcommittee to form a policy on handling designated receipts which would be consistent with the KNCSB constitution. He cited the constitution's Article III on cooperation.

KNCSB would have to change its bylaws to accept certain funds going to non-Southern Baptist entities, Roberts said.

The 1993 KNCSB annual meeting will be Oct. 25-27 at First Southern Baptist Church in Liberal, Kan.

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Missourians decide 2-way race,
debate definition of family

By Russ Dilday

Baptist Press
10/30/92

CAPE GIRARDEAU, Mo. (BP)--Jackson pastor Rodney Travis received 62 percent of the votes in a race with director of missions Marvin Nobles for the Missouri Baptist Convention's presidency during its 158th annual session.

Travis, pastor of First Baptist Church in Jackson, served as the convention's first vice president during 1992.

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Travis described himself as a theological conservative but a person "who likes to cooperate and work together."

Travis emphasized following his election that he was not identified with any group or faction. Nobles, director of missions for Jefferson Baptist Association south of St. Louis, had been openly endorsed by a conservative pastors group in the state.

Missouri Baptists' Oct. 26-28 meeting in Cape Girardeau attracted more than 2,500 people to the first convention held in southeast Missouri since 1975.

During business sessions, messengers approved a \$15.2 million Cooperative Program budget for 1993. The Cooperative Program is the unified financial plan used by the Missouri and Southern Baptist conventions. Of the total, 35.75 percent will be used for national and international causes coordinated through the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee based in Nashville, the same percentage as the current year. The remaining 64.25 percent will fund missions and ministry projects in Missouri.

In addition to the budget, messengers routinely dispensed with 13 other recommendations with no discussion and virtually no opposition. The most significant action approved an enlarged master plan for Windermere Baptist Assembly, the state convention's retreat center on Lake of the Ozarks near Camdenton. The plan includes a major capital needs and fund-raising campaign as well as enhanced programming, facilities and staffing.

Messengers also approved two motions presented on the convention floor that call for studies on potential convention ministries related to mental illness and ministerial burnout.

Resolutions did spark some debate and opposition from messengers. A resolution on the biblical definition of family was approved on a close show-of-hands vote.

The resolution affirmed the "biblical ideal, the family of one man and one woman, committed together, as the ideal we shall present, affirm and teach in our homes and churches."

Although the resolution acknowledged that family units "may be broken through death or divorce," debate centered on whether single-person family units and single-parent families were covered by the definition used in the resolution.

Messengers defeated a resolution which would have recognized the national Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Baptist Fellowship of Missouri as "separate and distinctively different from the Southern Baptist and the Missouri Baptist conventions, autonomously governed and financed."

Both organizations have been identified with the moderate faction within the Southern Baptist Convention.

Approved unanimously was a resolution opposing riverboat and simulcast gambling. Both issues face Missouri voters in the Nov. 3 general election.

Other resolutions approved by messengers opposed prejudice and racism and encouraged churches to develop ministries to mentally ill persons.

In addition to Travis, other officers elected were first vice president, T.O. Spicer Jr., director of missions for Spring River Baptist Association, Carthage; second vice president, Evelyn Gustafson, communications/business manager for Greene County Baptist Association, Springfield; and secretary, Roy Jones, director of missions for Cape Girardeau Baptist Association.

Next year's meeting will be Oct. 25-27 at the Joplin Holiday Inn Convention Center.

Brotherhood announces 1993
World Changers work dates

By Susan Watt

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission has announced 11 World Changers national work project dates for 1993.

A project in Puerto Rico and a junior high project also are scheduled.

World Changers is a week-long missions project for Southern Baptist youth sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission. World Changers work projects include a missions education component before the youth go to their project location. Once on site, they are involved in activities allowing them to experience missions firsthand.

Project dates and locations for 1993 are: Houston, Kansas City, Mo., and Millington, Tenn., June 12-19; Briceville, Tenn., and Brockton, Mont., June 26-July 3; Savannah, Ga., and Canton, N.C., July 10-17; Campbell County, Tenn., July 17-24; Tuscaloosa, Ala., July 24-31; and Eastern Shore, Va., and Clarksdale, Miss., July 31-Aug. 7.

A World Changers international work project is scheduled for Puerto Rico, June 26-July 3. The World Changers junior high work project will be in Shreveport, La., July 19-24.

World Changers began with a pilot project in 1990 and has involved more than 3,700 Southern Baptist youth and leaders since then. More than 2,500 people are expected to participate in 1993.

More information about World Changers is available from the Brotherhood Commission at (901) 272-2461.

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Watt is assistant editor of World Changers materials at the Brotherhood Commission.

CORRECTION: In (BP) story titled "Theologian says prayer can start 'uprising' against world's disorder," dated 10/28/92 please correct the spelling of the writer's last name to Wimberly, not Wimberly. In the 17th paragraph, please change the attribution of Amidei to read, "... said Amidei, a Washington, D.C., social worker"

Thanks,
Baptist Press

CORRECTION: In the 10-28 (BP) story titled "Dobson targets Madonna's book, urges boycott of Time, printer," please correct the next-to-last paragraph's second sentence to read, "Time Warner's decision to publish and market this kind of filth is anything but responsible."

Thanks,
Baptist Press
