

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee

-- **BAPTIST PRESS**
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee

901 Commerce #750

Nashville, Tennessee 37203

(615) 244-2355

Herb Hollinger, Vice President

Fax (615) 742-8919

CompuServe ID# 70420,17

(BP)

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Jim Newton, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 898-7522

DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 333 N. Washington, Dallas, Texas 75246-1798, Telephone (214) 828-5232

NASHVILLE 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 Tom Strode, Chief, 400 North Capitol St., #594, Washington, D.C. 20001, Telephone (202) 638-3223

January 20, 1993

93-11

NASHVILLE -- Southern Baptists are watching Clinton's welfare plans closely.
CALIFORNIA -- Oakland pastor recounts civil rights struggle.
ATLANTA -- Home missions personnel decreases slightly in 1992.
DALLAS -- Blankets bought, boxed by Baptists to be flown to Bosnia-Herzegovina.
TEXAS -- Baptist nurse in flood wins bout with illness, will return to Yemen.
KENTUCKY -- Peggy Say, former hostage's sister, turns attention to needy children.
DALLAS -- Ex-convicts seen as effective in inner-city church planting.
CALIFORNIA -- Saddleback adds 632 members during last 3 months of '92.
FLORIDA -- East German exchange student learns about America, God.

EDITORS' NOTE: A story on the inauguration of Bill Clinton as the 42nd president of the United States will appear tomorrow in Baptist Press, filed by (BP)'s Washington bureau chief, Tom Strode.

Southern Baptists are watching
Clinton's welfare plans closely By Louis Moore

Baptist Press
1/20/93

NASHVILLE (BP)--As President Bill Clinton seeks to shift America's primary attention from its global role to itself, a cornerstone in his plan calls for radical changes in the way the nation addresses the needs of the poor, including the homeless, the fatherless and those in the inner cities.

Such sweeping changes, if implemented, could revolutionize the \$150 billion Washington spends each year on welfare programs and also dramatically impact the economy and social structure of the nation, Clinton's friends and foes agree.

The proposed changes are so dramatic and far-reaching, Southern Baptist leaders who specialize in government affairs are watching closely with a mixture of optimism and concern.

In Mandate for Change, a think-tank project considered a good blueprint for the early Clinton years, authors Will Marshall and Elaine Ciu outline a possible Clinton scenario "for replacing welfare with a work-based social policy that reinforces mainstream values, rewards individual initiative, and demands responsible behavior from recipients of public assistance, even as it expands opportunities to achieve self-sufficiency."

The plan calls for replacing permanent welfare with a two-year transitional program that puts welfare recipients to work, assures all Americans access to health care and creates social insurance for children through guaranteed child support.

"We will scrap the current welfare system and make welfare a second chance, not a way of life," Clinton-Gore campaign literature promised. "We will empower people on welfare with the education, training and child care they need up to two years so they can break the cycle of dependency. After that, those who can work will have to go to work, either by taking a job in the private sector or through community service."

--more--

The Clinton-Gore plan calls for steering a new path between those who advocated the old so-called liberal system of government meeting the needs of the poor and the so-called conservative system of letting the poor pull themselves up by their own bootstraps.

Among the different elements in the Clinton plan is the statement, "... we will make no progress unless individuals take responsibility for their own lives, working tirelessly to overcome challenges and solve problems in their families and communities."

The plan calls for major changes in child-support enforcement, considered one of the major reasons so many of the nation's children are on welfare today.

"We will crack down on deadbeat parents by reporting them to credit agencies, so they can't borrow money for themselves when they're not taking care of their children," the Clinton campaign literature stated. "We'll use the Internal Revenue Service to collect child support, start a national deadbeat databank, and make it a felony to cross state lines to avoid paying support."

Regarding the homeless, the Clinton-Gore plan calls for transferring 10 percent of HUD and other government-controlled housing to community nonprofit organizations and churches to house the homeless. It also calls for using housing available at closed military bases for homeless people, "with a preference for homeless veterans." It also calls for developing "targeted strategies to help different homeless populations -- those who need supported living environments, those who need residential alcohol and drug treatment, and those who simply can't afford to house their families."

If implemented, such sweeping changes could win the support of many Southern Baptists, denominational leaders say.

"There are a lot of laudable goals in Mandate for Change," said Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. "I am personally very encouraged by some of the policy proposals put forward by President Clinton in Mandate for Change. He talks about the need to get beyond welfare and move to workfare."

Land said he especially likes the outline of the Clinton-Gore plan which calls for making welfare temporary, subsidizing work, not penalizing people for working and stressing job placement and training among the poor.

He said, however, he is concerned whether such a plan will ever see the light of day in Congress or be implemented by the government. Land said he sees tension between the "old guard" Democrats who don't want to see welfare overhauled and "new guard" Clinton Democrats who support the president's proposals.

Land said he was particularly disappointed Clinton's nominee for secretary of Health and Human Services, Donna Shalala, failed to mention welfare reform during her appointment process before the Senate.

"She has listed her top five priorities, and welfare reform is not on that list," Land said.

James A. Smith, the CLC's director of government relations in the Washington office, said the agency will be listening carefully to discern the direction Southern Baptists wish to go on the issue of welfare reform and other programs that impact the poor and needy.

"We're always listening to the ground for the approaching hoofbeats of future concerns," he said. "We will be listening very acutely for what Southern Baptists will be telling us about this issue."

Smith said, however, Clinton, because he is a Democrat, may be well positioned to make reforms in the welfare system. "It is probably true that only a Democratic administration can make reform in welfare in the same way only Richard Nixon could go to China," he said.

Glen Stassen, professor of Christian ethics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, said the Clinton-Gore plan for the poor is "a shift from a philosophy that was neutral on values to one that encourages people to take responsibility where they can. This is not a values-neutral administration. It is trying to encourage people to work.

"Our society has not been reproducing the values that we need to be a strong society," Stassen said. "We have had too much value neutrality. He (Clinton) wants a nation that sets its own values and course for its life."

Stassen added, "Any president needs to be prodded by the people to do what is right, so let's not sit back and just wait (for Clinton to act)."

C. Ben Mitchell, director of biomedical ethics and life issues for the CLC, said he applauds the Clinton-Gore plan to provide housing and care for the homeless.

"I'm anxious to see how those plans will be fleshed out," he said. "My main concerns about every program for fighting homelessness are: 1) that we provide immediate relief and housing; 2) that we explore long-range initiatives for ending chronic homelessness; 3) that we do not create a government program-dependent mind-set; and 4) that we keep every door open for church ministry and for voluntary involvement in the effort to fight homelessness and the socioeconomic conditions that cause it."

--30--

Oakland pastor recounts
civil rights struggle

By Cameron Crabtree

Baptist Press
1/20/93

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--America still struggles with the "invisible line" of racism that divides people according to color and culture, California pastor Joseph Patterson told students at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

Patterson, pastor of New Beginning Baptist Church in Oakland, Calif., spoke during the seminary's observance of Martin Luther King Day Jan. 18 -- recounting his participation in the 1963 civil rights march King led in Washington.

Despite achievements in the 30 years since, Patterson said he believes "we are still struggling with how racism impacts the dispensing of justice in our land," and he expressed concern for some of the current debate about diversity and multiculturalism.

"The problem I have with this new terminology -- such as Latin-American or African-American -- is the fact that it suggests that all of us have given up on being Americans," Patterson said.

"We cannot substitute these hyphenated definitions of who we are for the reality that we all here are part of this great nation and are called to make its dream come true to the extent that we are willing to put above all else those cardinal principles of quality, of justice and of giving to each and all their just due."

Concerning the 1963 demonstration in the nation's capital, Patterson reflected, "I joined thousands of other local leaders who had amassed this great expression of humanity from hamlets, towns and villages across the nation. We had come because we bore grievance against a nation that had insisted on maintaining segregation and discrimination. We went to Washington to mount a frontal attack on these vestiges of evil.

"We were persuaded that they (senators and representatives) would be compelled to recognize the seriousness of our cause and forced to see by the sheer weight of our numbers that we were keenly set in our determination to have an end to this past maltreatment," Patterson said.

While some have discounted the 1963 event as "heroic fantasy" not really designed to change anything, Patterson said he looks back differently: "Rhetoric or not, those of us who stood atop the Lincoln Monument that day had different ideas. We believed that a new day had surely dawned and that God had ordained one such as Martin to herald its coming."

Patterson said he remembers King's words that day vividly. "In his speech, Dr. King referred to justice as a dream. For him the dream was that America would practice its creed that all men are created equal. What he has to say concerned us all; it involved us all and we need to think always from that angle."

--30--

Home missions personnel
decreases slightly in 1992

By David Winfrey

ATLANTA (BP)--The number of Southern Baptist home missions personnel remains ahead of schedule for meeting the Bold Mission Thrust goal of 5,000 by the year 2000 despite a slight decrease in 1992.

Missions personnel numbered 4,868 by the end of 1992, down 1 percent compared to 4,922 at the end of 1991.

Bold Mission Thrust's goal called for 4,172 missions personnel by the end of 1992 in order to reach the goal of 5,000 by the year 2000.

The number of mission pastors decreased by 173, while the number of Mission Service Corps volunteers who serve more than two years increased by 157. The number of missionary apprentices also dropped from 147 in 1991 to 117 in 1992.

The decrease in mission pastors resulted from the maturity of many mission churches, said David Bunch, assistant vice president for extension. As those mission churches mature, the board moves from directly funding mission pastors to assisting the churches to assume that responsibility, Bunch said.

The number of missionaries, missionary associates, US-2 volunteers, field personnel assistants and state staff stayed relatively unchanged. Meanwhile, the number of Mission Service Corps volunteers serving two years increased because of better recruiting and response to a call for missions volunteers, said Bob Mills, director of the Mission Service Corps program.

State convention volunteer consultants are "getting the message out that there are opportunities for folks to get involved and people are responding to that," Mills said.

Short and long-term volunteerism through the Home Mission Board increased during 1992 by slightly more than 3 percent, according to preliminary figures from the board's volunteer division.

In 1992, the total number of MSC volunteers increased by 183 from 1,428 in 1991 to 1,611.

Home missions personnel totals

	1991	1992	Change
Missionaries	862	852	- 10
Missionary Associates	508	507	- 1
Apprentices	147	117	- 30
US-2s	67	76	+ 9
Mission Pastors	915	742	-173
Field Personnel Assistance	1,653	1,644	- 9
State Staff	99	102	+ 3
Mission Service Corps	<u>671</u>	<u>828</u>	<u>+157</u>
Total	4,922	4,868	- 54

--30--

Blankets bought, boxed by Baptists
to be flown to Bosnia-Herzegovina By Ken Camp

Baptist Press
1/20/93

DALLAS (BP)--From an East Texas nursing home, from the central Texas home of a retired missionary to Yugoslavia and from homes throughout the United States, checks earmarked "Blankets for Bosnia" continue to arrive at the Dallas offices of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, according to Bob Dixon, executive director of the Texas Baptist Men missions organization.

--more--

More than 50,000 blankets are en route to war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina where they will be distributed to needy people, thanks to the generosity of Southern Baptists and other concerned Christians, Dixon said.

The blankets -- half of them purchased primarily by Southern Baptists in Texas and North Carolina and half provided by the Pennsylvania-based "Brother's Brother" relief organization -- were packed by North Carolina Baptist Men in boxes labeled "Christian Humanitarian Relief."

The boxes have been freighted to a military base and will be airlifted by military transport planes to the former Yugoslavia.

Once in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the blankets will be distributed by non-governmental organizations, including some largely staffed by national Baptists.

The TBM office had received a fax message Jan. 4 from a representative of the U.S. Department of Defense citing desperate needs in Bosnia-Herzegovina and asking for help in securing blankets for the winter. Dixon made an initial commitment of 25,000 blankets to meet the most immediate needs.

After news about the Texas Baptist "Blankets for Bosnia" program was published, North Carolina Baptists immediately pledged \$30,000 and Baptist Men in the state volunteered to box and label the blankets.

A number of individual contributions also were received from Southern Baptists in other states, Dixon noted.

A boys' missions group at Central Baptist Church in Livingston, Texas, collected aluminum cans and raised \$13.05 to buy blankets. More than 100 blankets were purchased by the John Allen Moore family of Brownwood, Texas, retired Southern Baptist missionaries to Yugoslavia. And from a nursing home in Gilmer, Texas, an elderly woman sent a check for \$1,000.

Brother's Brother, an international Christian relief organization with which Southern Baptists had worked on Kurdish relief following the Gulf War, purchased 25,000 blankets.

The blankets were made available by Beacon Manufacturing of North Carolina for less than \$3 each. When the manufacturer's supply of cotton blankets was exhausted, the company substituted higher quality wool blend blankets at the same cost, Dixon said.

Although the supply of \$3 blankets has been depleted, other low-cost blankets are available and will be purchased as funds become available and delivery systems are secured, Dixon said.

Pending an assessment of conditions in Bosnia-Herzegovina by Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board personnel and an evaluation of the first shipment's distribution, collection sites may be established at strategic points throughout Texas so that persons can donate previously purchased blankets and coats.

People wishing to purchase blankets for Bosnia-Herzegovina should designate checks "disaster relief," make the checks payable to Baptist Executive Board and send them to the Treasurer's Office, Baptist General Convention of Texas, 333 N. Washington, Dallas, TX 75246-1798.

--30--

Baptist nurse in flood wins bout
with illness, will return to Yemen

Baptist Press
1/20/93

By Marty Croll

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--A Southern Baptist nurse swept over a 20-foot waterfall in Yemen last November spent the last two months at her parents' home in Texas recuperating from hepatitis but planned to be back on the field by February.

Sandy Rogers, a representative to the primarily Muslim Middle Eastern nation since 1983, failed to recover from fatigue and weakness after the waterfall incident. In early December she came home to rest. A week after her arrival in Fort Worth, she began to turn yellow and was diagnosed with hepatitis.

--more--

On Nov. 5 a flash flood washed the 38-year-old nurse more than a mile downstream after she slipped while crossing a normally manageable riverbed and was overcome by a wall of floodwater on her way to work. A search party found her battered, bruised, lacerated and suffering from hypothermia caused by being wet at 50 degrees.

Yemenis who came to see Rogers after the incident near the Baptist hospital in Jibla said God must have preserved her life for a special purpose. Scattered body parts are all they've ever found of other friends washed over that same waterfall in churning rainwater that frequently crashes down from the mountains, they told her.

Arriving from Yemen Dec. 13, Rogers celebrated the Christmas season in a somewhat weakened state in her parents' home in Fort Worth. In early January she started feeling better and getting out some, she said.

Her doctor in Texas told her in mid-January her body has "done a good job fighting" the infection and should suffer no more from it. A bout with hepatitis leaves some people chronically susceptible to it, she said.

Rogers said she could tell by the length of time before she saw the visible symptoms of hepatitis that it resulted from the flash flood incident. Yemenis also use the riverbed as a sewer.

--30--

Peggy Say, former hostage's sister,
turns attention to needy children

Baptist Press
1/20/93

By Mark Wingfield

LEBANON, Ky. (BP)--Injustice can be found in Lebanon, Ky., as surely as in Beirut, Lebanon, according to Peggy Say.

Say, sister of former hostage Terry Anderson, came to Kentucky's Lebanon Jan. 12 to speak at Lebanon Baptist Church's WinterFest program. Anderson was abducted in 1985 in Beirut, where he was working for Associated Press.

Say, who became perhaps the best-known crusader for the hostages, was a member of Cadiz Baptist Church in Cadiz, Ky., during much of Anderson's captivity. She and her husband, David, recently moved from Cadiz to Cookeville, Tenn.

Since Anderson's release in 1991, Say has found a new cause to champion -- the plight of underprivileged children in Africa and Eastern Europe. She now works as outreach director for the human rights organization Friends in the West.

The same Christian convictions that forced her to plead her brother's case compel her to speak out for the children of the world, Say said.

"I'm a Christian person, a moral person," she said. "My brother was being chained to a wall. What else could I do? Say, 'Sorry, kiddo, I'm not a diplomat or a politician?'"

In the same way, "I cannot turn my back on the children of Africa," she said. "Being a Christian and having seen these children, I cannot turn my back."

Say urged those in her audience to find a similar conviction about fighting against the injustices of the world, whether it be hostages, needy children or something else.

"If you're not drawn to Africa, be drawn to something," she pleaded. "Look in your back yards, and if there's a need, know with God's strength you can meet it."

God's strength is what sustained her through the nearly seven years of Anderson's captivity, Say said. "I don't think most people realize what a strong part faith played in what I did for Terry."

Even before the hostage ordeal, Say said, she had learned to base decisions on God's leading: "I don't make decisions without first checking it on the moral thermometer -- what will God think of this?"

That dependence on God sustained her through Anderson's captivity and her vigilant campaign to see him freed, she said. During those years, she met with United States Presidents Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter and George Bush, as well as Mother Theresa, Pope John Paul II and Yasser Arafat.

--more--

Someday her grandchildren may appreciate the fact that she met so many powerful people, Say noted, but she still finds no joy in the memories because of the circumstances. "I don't have enough distance" from the trauma, she explained.

The year 1986 was particularly bad, "like stepping into a nightmare that had no end," Say said. During that year of Anderson's captivity, the Andersons' father and brother died, as did one of Say's grandsons.

"I remember thinking, 'What has happened to my family?' she recalled.

But still she never doubted God working in the midst of those trials, Say said.

"I was scared to death every day," she confessed. "I was scared to get on the plane, to go to the Mideast, to meet the president."

Despite those fears, Say said, she found access to some of the most influential world leaders and felt like she got their attention.

"I never believed it was what I said to them that moved them," she said. Instead, what moved them was the words God put in her mouth, she continued.

"When I didn't believe in myself, God believed in me. I never overcame my fear."

Say's testimony was one of four special features offered by Lebanon Baptist Church during WinterFest, which pastor Kevin Lee described as "a revival in disguise."

The church publicized WinterFest with a mailing to every home in Marion County, Lee said. By the third night, at least 12 people attending the programs had indicated their desire to profess faith in Jesus Christ, he added.

--30--

**Ex-convicts seen as effective
in inner-city church planting**

By Ken Camp

Baptist Press
1/20/93

DALLAS (BP)--"Reborn ex-convicts" could make the most effective inner-city church planters, according to speakers at a Black Church Development Seminar Jan. 16 at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Dallas.

Don Dennis, an ex-offender from Ennis, Texas, who pioneered the teaching of the MasterLife discipleship curriculum in state and federal prisons, convened the meeting of criminal justice professionals, inner-city Christians and converted ex-convicts.

With the support of the Baptist Sunday School Board's black church development office, Dennis is launching a pilot program using recently released prison MasterLife graduates as inner-city church planters and Christian disciplers. To date, there are about 600 prison MasterLife graduates; only four are known to have returned to prison, Dennis noted.

"The majority of these men are black. The majority of them came from the inner-city, and most of them will return to the inner-city when they are released," Dennis said. "They have the potential for ministering to inner-city adults."

In addition to starting new Bible studies and preaching units, Dennis hopes the prison MasterLife graduates will strengthen existing inner-city minority churches by starting MasterLife programs in them.

Trained workers from those churches could then complete the cycle by going into prisons, discipling convicts and training future inner-city church planters.

Dennis quoted a letter from Sam Beene, the BSSB's coordinator of black church development, citing the need nationwide for 1,000 leaders willing to develop at least 10 adult Bible studies within selected 10-block inner-city areas.

Two potential inner-city church planters -- ex-offenders Harold Cannon of Living Waters Baptist Church in Dallas and Chris Lumpkin of New Faith Baptist Church in Houston -- testified of the impact of the 26-week MasterLife discipleship program on their lives.

--more--

Lumpkin, who coordinates criminal justice ministries at Houston's New Faith Church, encouraged inner-city black Baptist churches to become more involved in prison ministries.

"There is no set way to get a prison ministry started, but there must be a calling and you must be hooked up to the Vine -- Jesus," he said.

T. Wayne Price, pastor of Rose Hill Baptist Church in Texarkana, Texas, currently is leading his church to implement the entire Lay Institute for Equipping discipleship series -- of which MasterLife is a part -- in the Texarkana Federal Correctional Institute.

"If we can disciple men and ladies inside the prison walls and then they come out to do the same in the inner-cities, we'll all be tremendously helped," Price said, noting his church is seeking a black pastor to lead a mission in an area surrounded by three housing projects.

"We must continue to disciple inmates, giving them the best teaching resources that we can. Then when they come out and go back home to south Dallas or inner-city Texarkana or wherever, they will have the character and the foundation on which to build and with which to minister."

--30--

Saddleback adds 632 members
during last 3 months of '92

By David Winfrey

Baptist Press
1/20/93

LAKE FOREST, Calif. (BP)--While many churches might be happy to have more than 600 total members, Saddleback Valley Community Church added that many to its rolls in one quarter, leaders say.

In fact, the church received 492 new members in one week during a membership drive, said Glen Kruen, pastor of membership. Saddleback added 632 new members between October and December, Kruen said.

The 13-year-old church now has about 3,500 members and averages 4,500 in attendance during four services on Saturday nights and Sundays, he said.

The congregation, which met in school gymnasiums and auditoriums as it continued to grow, recently moved services to a 72-acre site where it will build a more permanent meeting place. Members currently worship under a tent that seats about 1,800, Kruen said. Church offices are housed in an industrial center about five miles from the site.

Ground breaking should start within a year, with plans for a multi-purpose fellowship hall to be built first followed by an education building and then a sanctuary.

The church also has a ministry among Hispanics, with 76 Bible study groups and a goal of starting 12 Hispanic churches in 1993.

--30--

East German exchange student
learns about America, God

By Terri Lackey

Baptist Press
1/20/93

AVON PARK, Fla. (BP)--Unaware his trip to the United States would result in "the most important decision of (his) life," an East German exchange student left his fatherland and met his Father.

Ruediger Horst, 17, came to the U.S. in the autumn of 1992 to attend high school for one year and learn about American culture.

Living with Bill and Brenda Anderson and their two sons was part of the bargain. Falling in with a group of young people involved at First Baptist Church, Avon Park, Fla., taking a youth trip to Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center and giving his life to Jesus was not.

--more--

But, Mona and Randy Severn, volunteer youth leaders at the church, see the decision Horst made at December's Winter Youth Celebration at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center as more than just chance.

"My husband and I had really been praying a lot that he would accept Christ," Mona Severn said.

Severn said she and her husband took Horst and a group of about 16 others from the church to the celebration sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board's discipleship and family development division in late December. The youth event is an explosive time spiritually, Severn said, and she felt that if Horst were to make a decision for Christ there, he would receive support from young people who are committed Christians.

"We didn't have much time there, so my husband just came right out and asked him before worship service at supper one night if he had ever given his life to Jesus," Severn said.

Horst indicated he had been christened as a baby but had never understood what it meant to make a profession of faith, Severn said.

After the worship service that evening, Horst made a decision to accept Christ as his Savior, Severn said. Nine from Severn's group made decisions for the Lord that week. Three, including Horst's, were professions of faith, she said.

"My husband was Rudy's counselor that night during the invitation and he asked him if he knew what decision he wanted to make. Rudy said, 'Yes the most important one in my life.'"

Since, Horst said he has been reading the Bible almost constantly. Because he was brought up in a society where religion was frowned upon, his knowledge of biblical teachings is minimal, he said.

His mother sent him a German Bible and he has been reading from an English student Bible, comparing the verses and content for better understanding.

Horst said he hopes to take what he learns back to his friends in Leipzig, East Germany.

He said he has so many questions about everything from evolution to Adam and Eve. He hopes to find answers by studying the Bible, but he acknowledges it would be helpful if he could find someone knowledgeable about the Bible when he returns to his country.

Severn said she hopes to help Horst get a good start on understanding the Bible before he returns to his country this summer. She said the youth group presently studies the Sunday school resource for youth, WordData2. He is also reading the Student Bible in conduction with his German Bible.

Many young people make life-changing decisions at Summer, Winter, Youth and Fall Celebrations, sponsored in different areas of the country by the Sunday School Board, according to Clyde Hall, manager of the discipleship and family youth section.

In 1992, a total of 1,327 decisions for the Lord were made, Hall said. Those included 301 professions of faith, 771 rededications, 111 church vocations and 144 other.

Winter, Spring, and Summer Celebrations will be held this year at Ridgecrest, N.C.; Cold Springs, Calif.; New Orleans; Glorieta, N.M.; Talladega, Ala.; Bambi Lake, Mich.; Toccoa, Ga.; Eagle Eyrie, Va., Eunice, La., and Alberta, Canada.

For more information on youth celebrations, schedules and dates, call the Discipleship and Family Youth/Children/Preschool Department at (615) 251-2855.

HOUSE MAIL



BAPTIST PRESS

901 Commerce #750
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

HOUSE MAIL

So. Baptist Library & Archives
901 Commerce
Nashville, TN 37203