

# (BP)

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EDITORS' NOTE: On Wednesday, June 14, Baptist Press will have a noon Eastern Standard Time deadline, related to preparations for its news operations during the Southern Baptist Convention, June 20-22 in Atlanta. On June 15-16, Baptist Press will operate from Atlanta. The SBC News Room in the Georgia Dome will open Sunday, June 18, at 2 p.m. The Newsroom number will be (404) 865-7330. In addition to daily postings of Baptist Press during the SBC, all SBC News Room stories will be posted in SBCNet, in General Ministry B, Library SBC 95.

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**Heated debate marks hearings  
on religious liberty amendment**

**Baptist Press  
6/12/95**

WASHINGTON (BP)--"Spirited discussion" marked the first two in a series of congressional hearings on whether an amendment to the U.S. Constitution is needed to protect religious freedom, a Capitol Hill aide said.

In hearings at Washington and Harrisonburg, Va., strong opinions on both sides were expressed. Proponents of an amendment said it was needed to protect the right of people to express religious beliefs in schools and other public places. Opponents charged an amendment is unnecessary and would damage religious liberty.

The hearings apparently are designed to provide the foundation for the introduction of a "religious equality" amendment which some conservative and Christian organizations have been formulating.

The Southern Baptist Convention's religious liberty agency, the Christian Life Commission, supports the ratification of an amendment to protect religious expression but has not committed itself to a specific proposal. The Baptist Joint Committee, the SBC's former church-state representative, opposes an amendment.

Two days after the Capitol Hill hearing, a high school auditorium at Harrisonburg was the site of the first of at least four field hearings on religious liberty. Other field hearings conducted by the Constitutional Subcommittee of the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee are scheduled June 26 in Tampa, Fla.; July 10 in New York City; and July 14 in Oklahoma City. There may be one more hearing outside Washington, a congressional aide said. Hearings will be held again in the capital in late July, she said.

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While constitutional scholars and lawyers dominated the witness list at the June 8 hearing in Washington, the Harrisonburg hearing "had a lot more stories of real people who have some experience with religious liberty," some who favor an amendment and some who do not, said Michelle Morgan, press secretary for Rep. Charles Canady, R.-Fla., chairman of the subcommittee. "That's what we expect at the other field hearings."

Canady and another subcommittee member, Rep. Robert Goodlatte, R.-Va., attended the hearing in Harrisonburg. Goodlatte said courts have "misinterpreted and misapplied" the First Amendment in such a way as to deny religious expression, according to an Associated Press article in The Washington Times.

A clear majority of 200 to 300 spectators at the hearing applauded when witnesses promoted a solution to religious liberty problems, according to the AP report. Lawyers cited a list of religious discrimination cases.

"We are moving quickly toward ... religion being treated as pornography when expressed in public," The Rutherford Institute's Kelly Shackelford told the panel, AP reported. Rutherford, which provides legal aid in religious expression cases, is headquartered in Charlottesville, Va.

Among witnesses who opposed an amendment was Ray Gingrich, a professor of Bible and church history at Eastern Mennonite College.

"It is not a move toward democracy but toward majority rule; not a nudge toward greater freedom and a deeper national spirituality, but a shift toward the potential for religious tyranny," Gingrich said, according to AP.

Subcommittee members and witnesses clashed during the first hearing.

Rep. Ernest Istook, R.-Okla., the House Republicans' point man on the amendment effort, testified, "Nobody is proposing that we return to a practice of compulsory prayer, or mandatory recital or reading from Scripture. We are talking about permitting religious expression, not about compelling it," according to an article in The New York Times.

At one point in Istook's testimony, Rep. Jose Serrano, D.-N.Y., said, "It's also the next civil war," The Times reported.

In an exchange with Istook, Rep. Melvin Watt, D.-N.C., a subcommittee member, said, "What you are saying is that you want to amend the federal Constitution to give that control to the majority, and I can understand your desire to do that because you are a member of the majority religion and the majority race in this country," according to The Times.

Istook is a Mormon.

Baylor University church-state scholar Derek Davis testified an amendment would be "very radical surgery ... from which we would never recover as a nation," The Washington Post reported.

Meanwhile, Michael McConnell, law professor at the University of Chicago, said an amendment is needed because the Supreme Court has "been issuing confusing, contradictory and in some cases hostile-to-religion decisions for over 40 years," according to The Post.

In response to the first two hearings, CLC general counsel Michael Whitehead said, "The overwhelming majority of the American people, from a variety of religious persuasions, supports an amendment to provide students religious freedom to pray and talk about their faith. The opponents complain about majority rule and local control of schools as though these were terrible vices, whereas the heckler's veto should always be heeded as a virtue."

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Compiled by Tom Strobe.

Chapman fields PSSC questions  
on SBCNet news conference

By Herb Hollinger

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The first national news conference on Southern Baptists' electronic network, SBCNet, heard Morris H. Chapman field questions about the proposed restructuring plan for the denomination.

Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee, said the Program and Structure Study Committee is recommending its report "in its entirety because they see it as an organic whole. Nevertheless, amendments may be offered from the floor and if the body adopts them they would become a part of the report . . . . If the convention chooses to amend, they (committee members) would certainly understand."

The PSSC report, offered as a recommendation by the Executive Committee, would dramatically change the structure of the SBC. It would rename several agencies, merge some and eliminate some, reducing the number of agencies from 19 to 12. It will be discussed and voted on at the 150th anniversary meeting of the SBC June 20-22 in Atlanta.

The setting for Chapman's June 8 remarks was historical, according to David Haywood, coordinator of the SBCNet, because it was the first time a SBC agency executive responded to questioners, via computer, on a national issue. Haywood said SBCNet, now with more than 5,000 subscribers, is another important communications tool for SBC agencies and leaders to "hear from the people."

Chapman responded to a variety of questions, most of which he and the PSSC had spoken to in previous stories and articles.

Addressing a recent exchange with Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis, regarding the report's effect on home missions, Chapman told a questioner the "committee did not intend to state anything which would be damaging to cooperative work between the SBC and the states. It does believe it is possible for the HMB to engage in some direct missions as well as cooperative missions, but not in a spirit of disregarding the states."

Chapman also said if the report is adopted in Atlanta, "we will begin to look at all that has to be accomplished in the way of legal, financial matters. Once we have voted again in 1996, we will bring the best organizational, legal and financial minds to the table to help work through all the details."

A requirement for implementation of the PSSC report's recommendations is the approval of a change in SBC bylaw 15 which necessitates a vote in two consecutive conventions.

Responding to a question about the effect of the report in "shrinking (the) number of trustee positions," Chapman said the reduction in the number of trustees "will certainly reduce costs. I join you in favoring that many Southern Baptists should have opportunity to serve on the boards of our entities. At the same time we must be cost conscious if we can accomplish for less what we have been doing for more. Then more dollars of the Cooperative Program can go directly to missions."

Chapman said the PSSC's primary objective, although dollars will be saved, "was to be more effective in reaching the world for Christ. They (committee members) do believe that the structure they are recommending will be a savings which will be studied to a greater extent in the implementation process."

"They are primarily asking Southern Baptists, 'Do you want to proceed in this direction?' If so, we are told it can work financially and legally," Chapman said.

The hour-long news conference, moderated by Haywood and network assistant Lisa Traugher in Nashville, came from more than a dozen questioners from Washington state to Georgia. Haywood said there were about 60 subscriber identities in the electronic conference room although at least one seminary class observed the proceedings as well on a class computer.

Foundation's collapse leaves  
funds for Romania on hold

By Marty Croll

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board is not directly involved with a philanthropic foundation whose collapse affected numerous charitable organizations, but it does expect to lose some funds from a benefactor who was.

As a result, the board has stopped promoting, at least for now, a special \$3 million program for post-communist evangelism in Romania.

The program called for using up to \$1 million in matching funds from the Chattanooga, Tenn.,-based Maclellan Foundation, which experienced problems with the recently collapsed Foundation for New Era Philanthropy.

Maclellan was paying part of the matching funds from a grant it received for Romania from the New Era foundation. New Era declared bankruptcy May 15 amid accusations of fraud and reportedly millions of dollars in debt. Now it appears bankruptcy trustees might require Maclellan to give back part or all of the grant it received, said Thomas McCallie, Maclellan's executive director.

At least for now, Maclellan has stopped making payments for matching funds to the board. Still, McCallie told Foreign Mission Board officials to keep the money the board already has received -- \$279,571 -- whatever the outcome of proceedings against New Era.

"We're in the business of making grants," said McCallie. "The Foreign Mission Board is in the business of being a good steward over the resources God gives it to accomplish global evangelization. Let us (Maclellan) bear the responsibility for this."

Through May, the board had received \$611,792 for Romania from its own sources. With Maclellan's contributions, total money contributed under the program stood at \$891,363.

Besides building 100 new churches, the project called for supporting two educational institutions and a Romanian Baptist publishing effort. Including the matching funds, the board has received \$608,963 for new churches; \$150,200 for Bucharest Christian University; \$132,050 for Emmanuel Bible Institute; and \$150 for the publishing effort.

Maclellan is expected to decide June 16 whether it can match funds amounting to one-half of the \$52,649 the board received for the project between April 30 and the time it notified the board of its dilemma, said David Coleman, the Foreign Mission Board's development office director.

Coleman's office is asking anyone who sends funds for Romania if they still want their gift to go to the field unmatched. The Foreign Mission Board will continue to send funds to Romania as long as they continue to receive them, Coleman said.

New Era now faces lawsuits filed by federal and state regulators. The Securities and Exchange Commission alleges its creator, John G. Bennett Jr., was running a complex "ponzi" scheme in which new contributors paid for the financial gain of earlier ones.

Numerous philanthropists and Christian organizations gave money to New Era under a matching funds agreement. Their money was to be doubled by gifts from a secret group of wealthy donors and either returned to them or distributed to a charity. But the "anonymous donors" to which Bennett referred apparently were simply the newest entrants into the plan.

Still, McCallie believes some legitimate money might have flowed through New Era after its creation in 1989. The grant for Romania might be among that money, and if so, U.S. bankruptcy officials might not require it to be paid back, he said. Then Maclellan would restart the matching funds program with the Foreign Mission Board, he stressed.

Donors to New Era include such names as Laurance Rockefeller and former U.S. Secretary of Treasury William Simon. Countless evangelical organizations such as Focus on the Family, Moody Bible Institute and the Haggai Institute are named as creditors in bankruptcy proceedings. And many secular agencies such as the American Red Cross in Philadelphia, Drexel University and the Detroit Institute of Arts also claim to have lost money.

The Maclellan Foundation first approached the Foreign Mission Board in mid-1994. The agreement called for Maclellan to give 50 cents for every \$1 Southern Baptists donate to Romania through the FMB.

"During negotiations we were not made aware the Foundation for New Era Philanthropy was an anonymous donor partner," said Don R. Kammerdiener, the board's executive vice president. "We were advised only that the Maclellan Foundation was working with a group of philanthropists from the northeast."

The Maclellan Foundation is the fruit of a fortune amassed through the Chattanooga-based Provident Life and Accident Insurance Co. of America. In 1890 a Scottish Presbyterian named Thomas Maclellan, who suffered financially when his bank in Nova Scotia failed, came to the United States. He bought Provident, then a 2-year-old company, to provide income to pay off creditors.

Maclellan supports overseas Christian witness by funding programs to start churches and train leadership. Under the program with the FMB, Baptists in Romania were to provide land and build a foundation for each church.

The board, aided by the matching funds, was to pay \$15,000 each for prefab construction of church buildings big enough to seat 100 people. Romanians tend to peg groups that worship without church buildings as cults.

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Israelis pay tribute to Lindsey  
during 2 memorial gatherings

By Marty Croll

Baptist Press  
6/12/95

JERUSALEM (BP)--Israelis gathered during two separate services to pay tribute to Robert Lindsey, whose 43-year career as a Southern Baptist representative in Israel bridged eras, cultures and faiths during critical days of Middle East history.

"We lost a great friend, but the world lost a great citizen," said Teddy Kollek, mayor of Jerusalem for nearly three decades preceding his defeat in 1993 in an atmosphere of rising Jewish nationalism.

The legendary Kollek, a lifelong friend of Lindsey, is credited for winning enough Jewish and Arab support to transform Jerusalem into a modern city. He masterminded unifying Jerusalem's western Jewish and eastern Jordanian districts after Israel defeated Arab countries in 1967.

Lindsey, who died May 31 in Tulsa, Okla., at age 77, was a scholar fluent in Greek and Hebrew and known throughout Israel for his large spirit and ability to find inventive solutions.

He made an impact in both the Jewish and Arab sectors of the Mideast nation over his career, which began when the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission appointed him and his wife, Margaret, in 1944, four years before modern Israel was formed. They retired in 1987.

One service June 3 featured an extended, spontaneous joyful worship punctuated by songs Lindsey had written for the community of Jewish believers.

Kollek spoke during a memorial service June 7 at Baptist House, where the Narkis Street Baptist Congregation and several international Christian groups worship. Public comments during the two-hour service were in Arab, English and Hebrew.

About a third of those in attendance spoke Hebrew only. Many were not Christians. David Flusser of Jerusalem's Hebrew University, the world-renowned scholar on Judaism who immigrated from Czechoslovakia to Israel, quoted Lindsey as saying, "You can't be a good Christian until you become a good Jew."

Flusser, a Jew, said: "There's still hope for Christians because of Lindsey."

Lindsey became known as a father to the Messianic Jewish community for his ministry to Israelis who were born as Jews but came to recognize Jesus Christ as Messiah. His ministry developed out of research he did in which he discovered the Jewishness of Jesus and his teachings.

Southern Baptist representatives Pat Hoaldrige, Ray Register and Ray Hicks, current leaders in Baptist work in Israel, characterized Lindsey as a friend and mentor whose impact reached deeper than it appears.

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Representative John Anthony and other Baptist leaders told how his vision for the nation was so strong that it's hard to travel anywhere where there is Baptist influence without seeing the mark of Lindsey himself.

Lindsey and his wife captured the hearts of many by taking in 19 little children left without families during the war that preceded the formation of Israel in 1948. These children, 18 Arabs and one Jew, became known as the "Home Kids."

One of them, Rhadia Quibti, told how the Lindseys, despite raising their own six children, made sure the Home Kids also enjoyed the fruits of family life by taking them camping and on other recreational outings with them. Lindsey encouraged them as he did his own, she said. Many of them became highly educated and successful.

Lindsey gained lasting notoriety in Israel after he lost his left leg below his knee in a land mine accident in 1961. The story goes that he had walked across the border between West and East Jerusalem camouflaged as a diplomat to retrieve one of the Home Kids. Sneaking back into Israeli Jerusalem in the middle of the night, he stepped on the mine.

Lindsey's wooden leg prosthetic became an object for Lindsey to use in his person-to-person ministry with other people. Many people speaking at the service told "leg" stories. Lindsey would let children pull it off as a joke.

Kollek noted what an impact it made on him that Lindsey was so willing to help this orphan child that he risked his life and lost a part of his body.

Israeli Dov Chaikin spoke as a friend of Lindsey's and made a statement that carries as much cultural and political weight as it does spiritual significance in the highly charged atmosphere of Jerusalem today.

"I hope I don't offend anybody," he said. "But I am a believer in Jesus because of him."

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(BP) photo (horizontal) mailed 6/12/95 to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press. Cutline available on SBCNet News Room.

Former Baylor president  
Abner McCall dies at 80

By Ken Camp

Baptist Press  
6/12/95

WACO, Texas (BP)--Baylor University President Emeritus Abner V. McCall, who grew up in a Fort Worth orphanage and became one of the most influential figures in Texas' academic, religious and political life, died June 11 at his home in Waco, Texas.

McCall, 80, served as president of Baylor University from 1961-81. During his tenure as president, Baylor's Waco campus grew from 40 to 400 acres and the university's enrollment nearly doubled to 10,000 students.

Appointed in 1956 to an interim term as associate justice of the Texas Supreme Court, McCall was affectionately known on campus and throughout the state simply as "the judge."

Robert Sloan, who assumed office as Baylor's president June 1, praised McCall as "one of the greatest individuals ever to walk across the pages of Texas history," leaving his mark on the university, Texas politics and Baptist life.

"Abner McCall was truly a great Texan and great president of Baylor University," Sloan said. "He left an indelible mark on Baylor with his vision, his friendliness and his great sense of humor. This is a huge loss for Baylor and a deep personal loss for me."

Gale Galloway of Austin, chairman of the university's board of regents, hailed McCall as "a great leader and an outstanding Christian statesman."

McCall was president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas in 1964-65, and he was named Texas Baptist Elder Statesman in 1985.

The Southern Baptist Convention elected McCall first vice president in 1979, and he was honored by the convention the following year for refusing to allow Baylor coeds to pose for a Playboy magazine "Girls of the Southwest Conference" feature.

He was defeated, however, one year later when he was nominated for SBC president as standard-bearer for the moderate cause, challenging incumbent Bailey Smith for a traditional second one-year term.

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For 45 years, McCall taught Sunday school at Waco's First Baptist Church, where he was a former chairman of deacons.

William M. Pinson Jr., executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, cited McCall's "numerous and significant" contributions to Texas Baptist life.

"Judge McCall, a Texas Baptist statesman, daily demonstrated qualities of life which made him a premier Christian leader -- commitment to Christ, devotion to his church and denomination, love for his family, and loyalty to his state and nation," Pinson said. "We shall miss him. I am thankful for all that he has meant to the family of Texas Baptists."

McCall was actively involved in statewide campaigns against liquor and parimutuel gambling. He was former chairman of the Anti-Crime Council of Texas and Texans Who Care, forerunners to Texans Against Gambling.

In 1979, McCall was named "Texan of the Year" by the Texas Legislative Conference. It was said of McCall that every Texas governor for three decades sought his counsel.

McCall was born on a farm in Perrin, Texas. His father died when McCall was 3, and his mother was left to care for four children. When her health failed, McCall and his brothers and sisters were sent to the Fort Worth Masonic Home.

After graduating as valedictorian from the Masonic Home's high school in 1933, he entered Baylor University, earning both undergraduate and law degrees there.

After passing the state bar exam with the highest score of any person up to that time, McCall joined the Baylor School of Law faculty in 1938. He taught there until 1942 when he left to earn a master's degree in law from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

McCall wanted to serve in the U.S. Navy in World War II, but at 6 ft. 2 in. and 130 lbs., he failed to pass the required physical exam. Consequently, he joined the FBI, serving three years as a special agent assigned to internal national security.

He returned to the Baylor faculty in 1946, and two years later was named the youngest dean in the history of the university's law school at age 33. He was named Baylor's executive vice president in 1959, president in 1961, chancellor in 1981 and president emeritus in 1985.

Baylor Chancellor Herbert H. Reynolds, who served 16 years with McCall in university administration, said, "Baylor was and is a fortunate institution, indeed, to have been the beneficiary of Judge McCall's dedicated and outstanding service for most of his adult life. He will be greatly missed by Baylorites and friends everywhere who loved and appreciated him."

McCall was preceded in death by his first wife, the former Frances Bortle of Longview, Texas, who died in 1969. He is survived by his wife, Mary Russell McCall of Waco, and four children: Anne, Bette, Richard and Kathleen.

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Volunteers see 'God's timing'  
in thwarted trip to Haiti

By Mary E. Speidel

Baptist Press  
6/12/95

GRANGE HILL, Jamaica (BP)--Southern Baptist medical volunteers denied a permit to work in Haiti saw "God's timing" in a substitute trip to Jamaica.

The medical professionals were to have led rural clinics in Haiti's central plateau May 6 to June 3. That project was the final stage in a Haiti relief program sponsored by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission and Foreign Mission Board.

But at the last minute, project planners got word that Haiti's minister of health had denied a work permit for the medical volunteers. So volunteers who could change their travel dates went instead to Jamaica, where they led clinics through Baptist churches near Montego Bay.

The 17 volunteers worked in two teams in separate stints May 20-June 3, treating about 3,000 patients. About 330 Jamaicans accepted Christ as Savior during the clinics.

Their work made a "tremendous, tremendous impact" upon Jamaicans, said Jamaican Baptist pastor Sebert McKoy, the volunteers' host.

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"People saw (the volunteers) were not only interested in (Jamaicans') souls and salvation but in their total lives," said McKoy in a telephone interview from his home in Grange Hill, near Montego Bay.

That interest showed clearly in the volunteers' efforts to help 12-year-old Kadine Miller, a Jamaican Baptist girl suffering from cancer.

Before the first team arrived in Grange Hill, McKoy's wife, Edna, called the Foreign Mission Board's Bill Snowden to alert him to the girl's situation. Snowden, who recruits medical volunteers for the board, learned Miller needed a type of chemotherapy medication not available on the Caribbean island. And even if the drug could be found, her parents couldn't afford the price -- about \$4,000.

Snowden, a retired Kentucky Baptist dentist, got busy making contacts to try to get the medication at a discount. Finally, he found a Baptist pharmacist in Richmond, Va., who asked to remain anonymous, who agreed to provide the drug at cost -- about \$1,050.

Then Snowden polled the volunteers -- some already in Jamaica -- to see if they'd be willing to help. Volunteers agreed and bought the drug using a refund owed each volunteer from the canceled trip to Haiti. That trip cost slightly more than traveling to Jamaica.

"The Lord just worked everything out," Snowden said.

The drug was shipped to McKoy, who then "just happened to be in Atlanta," Snowden said. McKoy carried the medication back to Jamaica. There a customs official donated her services to get the drug through customs without charge.

The volunteers' donation made a strong impression upon the girl's family and the broader Jamaican community, said McKoy. Miller's father works at an area sugar plant; many of his colleagues and others know about the gift.

"It speaks volumes about the helping hands of a Christian organization and Christian medical people, willing to go beyond the extra mile to show love and compassion in the name of Christ," said McKoy.

The volunteers, of course, thought they'd be showing that love in Haiti, the poorest country in the western hemisphere. When Ray Brown learned he'd be going to Jamaica instead, "I said, 'Why Jamaica?' It didn't seem as needy financially or medically," said Brown, a family physician in Jacksonville, Fla. "But we found tremendous needs there."

Many of the volunteer saw the change in plans as "God's timing and God's agenda," said volunteer Betty Van Horn, a nurse from Floyds Knobs, Ind.

McKoy agreed. In fact, he had prayed for several years for a volunteer medical team to work near where he is pastor of several Baptist churches.

"I saw that this answer to prayer was in God's good time," said McKoy. "This was God showing us there's an opportune time for things. We should be patient and wait because he knows best."

"We likened it to (the apostle) Paul, when he was trying to get into Asia but was told he couldn't go, but the Macedonians said, 'come over and help us,'" said Van Horn, a member of First Southern Baptist Church, Floyds Knobs.

Besides helping Miller receive chemotherapy, the medical teams treated a wide range of illnesses -- high blood pressure, intestinal parasites, arthritis and skin infections. Crowds of patients began lining up at the clinics before dawn.

"We were behind even before we started," said Margaret Moore, a retired nurse from Midlothian, Va.

Moore recalled examining a 15-year-old boy with sickle cell anemia. He came to the clinic with rags tied around his leg, covered with ulcers from the anemia. The team gave him medication and showed his mother how to treat the leg.

"The patients were so grateful for the medicines," said Moore, a member of Winfree Memorial Baptist Church, Midlothian.

In fact, the need for medication was so great, both teams ran out, even though the second team was alerted to bring twice what they'd planned.

But the spiritual need seemed even more intense, some volunteers said.

"You could just sense the leading of the Holy Spirit. People were so hungry to learn about Jesus," said Brown, a member of Deermeadows Baptist Church, Jacksonville.

"They were extremely receptive to the gospel. No human planning could be responsible for that. ... We realized that in God's wisdom, he must have planned for us to go to Jamaica all along. He gets the glory for it. We can't say the Brotherhood, the Foreign Mission Board or we did it, because we weren't really in control."

Volunteer Kirk Landau, also a member of Deermeadows church and a family physician in Jacksonville, expressed a similar view.

"Obviously, one individual in need is just as important as another," he said. "And it appeared that God probably had planned all along for us to go to Jamaica. He simply used Haiti as a hook to get some of us there."

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EDITORS' NOTE: The following story updates one with the same headline in (BP) dated 6/8/95.

Billy Graham becomes ill  
during Toronto meetings

Baptist Press  
6/12/95

TORONTO (BP)--Billy Graham remained in Toronto the week of June 12 after becoming ill during a June 6 speaking engagement at the outset of his Mission Ontario crusade in Toronto's SkyDome.

Graham, 76, who is scheduled to address the Southern Baptist Convention's closing session June 22 in Atlanta, was released from Toronto East General Hospital June 9 but is to re-enter the hospital June 13 for further tests, according to a news release issued by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

Graham had experienced flu-like conditions Monday night, June 5, but kept a Tuesday luncheon engagement with two Toronto civic groups, the Empire and Canadian clubs. He cut short his address when he began to feel faint.

"Mr. Graham's condition has improved at every level," said one of the physicians treating Graham, Kenneth Gamble, in a June 9 statement.

Toronto physician Michael Bentley-Taylor, head of cardiology at the hospital who also is attending Graham, issued a statement June 8, noting, "Mr. Graham had a significant blood loss from his colon requiring multiple transfusions which has left him in a weakened state -- not only from the blood loss, but also from not eating for almost three days."

Gamble added June 8, "What Mr. Graham has been through this week is traumatic, even for a young person. His battery of tests yesterday would have caused a person half his age to take three days off work. From a medical standpoint, he is stabilized and now just needs rehabilitation."

In a joint statement June 7, the doctors reported, "Results from routine tests today show he has experienced bleeding in his colon, which at present appears to have stopped. No tumor was found. Further tests will be conducted to determine the cause." They said his "voice and vital signs are strong" and they were "cautiously optimistic that he will be able to continue his mission later this week as planned."

Graham's meetings in the SkyDome were scheduled through June 9. BGEA associate evangelist Ralph Bell preached in Graham's place. Nearly 1,000 decisions were recorded during the June 7 service.

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**(BP)**

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