

(BP)

- - 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

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Martin King, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 898-7522, CompuServe 70420,250
DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 333 N. Washington, Dallas, Texas 75246-1798, Telephone (214) 828-5232, CompuServe 70420,115
NASHVILLE Linda Lawson, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300, CompuServe 70420,57
RICHMOND Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151, CompuServe 70420,72
WASHINGTON Tom Strode, Chief, 400 North Capitol St., #594, Washington, D.C. 20001, Telephone (202) 638-3223, CompuServe 71173,316

July 19, 1995

95-112

TENNESSEE--Penn/Jersey board charges 'abuse' of SBC trustee election process.
SWITZERLAND--Europe often hostile ground for Baptists, leader says.
SWITZERLAND--European Baptists challenged to see gospel responsiveness.
RUSSIA--Evangelicals to bolster church planting in Russia.
TEXAS--Hailstorm changed church's priorities.
ATLANTA--'Ordinary' men share passion for evangelism.
TEXAS--SBC sesquicentennial segments telecast on ACTS, FamilyNet.

Penn/Jersey board charges 'abuse'
of SBC trustee election process By Herb Hollinger

Baptist Press
7/19/95

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

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The Pennsylvania/South Jersey convention's executive board has charged "abuse" of the trustee election process at the June Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Atlanta and has called for SBC officials to "speak out against this abuse and confront those responsible for propagating it ..."

A member of the SBC Committee on Nominations, however, said the Penn/South Jersey nominations followed the guidelines of the committee as well as the SBC constitution and bylaws.

The criticism from the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania/South Jersey came in the form of a resolution adopted by its executive board July 7 in Harrisburg, Pa. A letter, signed by the state convention president, Jerry Cowan, and the president of the executive board, Ray Wise, accompanied the resolution, both sent to SBC Executive Committee President Morris H. Chapman, Nashville, Tenn.; Bob Hutcherson, chairman of the SBC Committee on Nominations, Smyrna, Ga.; and Jim Henry, SBC president, Orlando, Fla.

The resolution cites the "shared commitment" of the churches, associations, state conventions and national body, charging there was outside intervention in the nomination process for the state's SBC Executive Committee representative and circumvention of the nomination process in a state vacancy for the board of trustees of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

Messengers to the SBC annual meeting June 20-22 in Atlanta approved a slate of more than 200 nominees from the Committee on Nominations for eligible trustee and director slots at the SBC's 19 agencies, boards, commissions and related groups.

Noting the state had two representatives on the Committee on Nominations, as prescribed by SBC bylaws, the resolution said "a certain layman from Virginia, who, though serving on the SBC Executive Committee, (had) no position on the Committee on Nominations nor standing in the (Penn/South Jersey state convention), as an outsider nevertheless sought to put forth his own choice for the Executive Committee representing our state convention."

The resolution said "a handful of members of the committee on nominations, consisting of only 10 percent of the whole, including a certain pastor from Kentucky who was assigned to follow up on the nominee from Penn/South Jersey, rejected the nominee put forth by our own representatives on that committee and in turn ratified the Virginia layman's choice."

--more--

It was done, the resolution continued, without the "knowledge or approval of our representatives on the committee on nominations and in direct contradiction of printed guidelines of the (committee)."

The resolution also charged that the nomination of the state's representative on the trustee board of Golden Gate Seminary, filling a vacancy, was done also without the "knowledge or endorsement" of the state's representatives on the committee on nominations.

Not so, said Michael W. Routt, the nominating committee member appointed to a seven-member subcommittee of the Committee on Nominations whose responsibility is to provide nominees just before the SBC annual meeting (for last-minute changes, such as resignations, deaths, ineligibility, etc.). The subcommittee is called for in the operating guidelines for the Committee on Nominations, which meets just one time during the year, usually several months before the SBC annual meeting.

Routt, pastor of Rose Hill Baptist Church, Ashland, Ky., said he followed the committee's guidelines. Those guidelines require the subcommittee to seek input from the two committee members of the respective state where the vacancy occurs, "but in no case shall the subcommittee nominate a person to fill the vacancy without the knowledge of at least one state member unless the timing is such that the members of each state cannot be reached."

Regarding the nominee for the SBC Executive Committee, Routt said the state members had recommended a person who, when interviewed by Routt, was found to be in "deliberate violation of our agreement, made in March in Nashville (by the Committee on Nominations), (that) no one who supports the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship personally or attends a church that supports the CBF, would be nominated."

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is an organization of moderate Southern Baptists critical of SBC leadership.

Routt said he attempted to contact one of the state members at his home and church June 15, and his church again on June 16, but was unable to reach him. Penn/South Jersey's two committee members were Robert M. Colvin, Jr., Middletown, Pa., and Melba Dean Boudreaux, Wyoming, Pa.

Then, "because of the need to fill the vacancy," Routt said he asked a friend who had contacts in Pennsylvania to "help me secure a nominee."

Routt said the state members had not forwarded any nominee for the Golden Gate Seminary trustee vacancy, and since he couldn't reach them June 15 and June 16, the subcommittee therefore nominated a person for that position.

There is only one layman on the Executive Committee from Virginia -- T.C. Pinckney, a retired Air Force general from Alexandria. Having seen a copy of the resolution which apparently refers to him, Pinckney told Baptist Press July 18 he would have no response.

In the letter accompanying the resolution, Penn/South Jersey officials gave a seven-point rationale for the resolution, including: "... our hope is that this effort will be redemptive in spirit. We do, however, feel that ours is a just cause."

"We believe our Lord compels us to faithfully and forcefully speak out against an aggrieved wrong suffered by our state convention with the ultimate desire that positive change will occur which will preclude this from happening in the future," officials said in the letter.

According to the resolution, the state's executive board "vehemently protests this abuse, and ... we call upon the President of the SBC, the President of the Executive Committee and the chairman of the SBC Committee on Nominations to speak out against this abuse and confront those responsible for propagating it, to lead in bringing all Committee on Nominations policies in line with the bylaws of the SBC, and moreover to do what they can to assure that the spirit of cooperation and fair representation be upheld in future actions involving the people and churches of the Baptist Convention of Penn/South Jersey."

Chapman told Baptist Press he is in the process of reviewing the matter with David C. Waltz, Penn/South Jersey convention executive director-treasurer.

Hutcherson told Baptist Press July 19 he had not yet received a copy of the resolution and did not want to make comment until he had time to review it.

Henry was out of town and unavailable for comment.

--30--

**Europe often hostile ground
for Baptists, leader says**

By Mike Creswell

Baptist Press
7/19/95

INTERLAKEN, Switzerland (BP)--Europe's 750,000 Baptists are a minority church group who must contend with state-sponsored churches that are often hostile, Baptist leader Karl-Heinz Walter told Baptists attending the 35th summer assembly of the European Baptist Convention.

Walter, a former German Baptist pastor, is executive secretary of the European Baptist Federation (EBF), comprised of 47 Baptist unions in Europe and the Middle East, including the English-speaking European Baptist Convention. He led a conference at the assembly attended by about 900 European Baptists July 8-13.

In four one-hour lectures, Walter covered a broad range of historical and political factors which have defined European Baptists. The area is strategic for Southern Baptists, who support more than 450 missionaries in the region through their Foreign Mission Board. Southern Baptists have been expanding their forces in Eastern Europe dramatically in recent years.

Although large Baptist groups exist in Great Britain, Ukraine and Romania, many national Baptist unions have fewer than 10,000 members. In most countries Baptists are outnumbered by members of state churches, including the Roman Catholic Church in Western Europe and the Orthodox Church in Russia and several other Eastern European countries. Problems arise when the predominant churches try to define national identity in terms of church identity, he said.

"If you live in Poland and want to be a good Polish citizen, you have to be Roman Catholic. If you live in Romania and you're not a Romanian Orthodox member, you have problems. If you're in Bulgaria and not a Bulgarian Orthodox or in Georgia and not a Georgian Orthodox, you have problems," Walter said.

Historically, state churches had civil authority. "For a long time you couldn't get married or be buried if you didn't belong to the right church. Some small Baptist churches still have cemeteries today because earlier Baptists weren't allowed to be buried in the state-church cemetery," he said.

It's hard for Europeans to change their religion, he said, "because it means changing cultural and national identity."

Walter and other Baptists have met with Roman Catholic and Orthodox leaders in Moscow and Istanbul to smooth relationships. A significant advance occurred in Moscow, where Baptists were included on a Russian Orthodox list of "traditional" churches which could be allowed to continue. A bill on religion in Russia has so far been left unsigned by President Boris Yeltsin, he said, "but it will come up again and again."

An ongoing problem in discussions with Orthodox leaders is the question of missions versus proselytizing, Walter said. "If you talk to any patriarch, the first thing that comes up after two seconds is the problem of more than 1,000 missions groups active in Europe," he said.

Walter said biblical commitment to missions is the one issue on which Baptists around the world will unite without hesitation, so no need exists to discuss whether they will continue to do missions. At the same time, both Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches have lost active members in recent years, although they still claim big percentages of the population in Europe.

After the Soviet Union fell, people returned to Orthodox churches for a time, but their involvement "has decreased dramatically," he said. Walter told Orthodox leaders Baptists don't want active Orthodox but the 40 percent to 50 percent of the population professing atheism. "What are you doing to reach these people for the Christian faith?" he asked Orthodox leaders.

--more--

"I want them to understand that we (Baptists) aren't trying to proselyte. We want to win people who have no faith in Jesus Christ," he said.

Similarly, 20 years ago 40 percent to 50 percent of the Roman Catholics in Western Europe attended church, but that number has declined by half in the past two decades, he said.

Orthodox and Roman Catholic leaders are sensitive of turf, staying out of each other's "canonical territory." But Walter said he told them, "We're bound to the Bible. We have no patristic documents. We have no documents more important than the Bible, and the Bible doesn't know anything about canonical territory."

Walter described Bulgaria's religious intolerance as one of the worst in Europe in recent years.

A smear campaign in Bulgarian newspapers accused Baptists of killing babies to eat for breakfast. One woman said Baptists wanted to sacrifice her. So far Bulgarian officials have ignored Baptist requests for religious freedom, even when they come from Baptists like former U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

There's one bright spot for Bulgaria Baptists and their president, Theo Angelov, the incoming president of the European Baptist Federation.

On July 13, Walter learned the city parliament of Sofia, the capital, has finally agreed Bulgarian Baptists can proceed with a construction project that includes a church, school and orphanage. The project had been in doubt for months as officials repeatedly delayed granting final approval.

One factor affecting missions in Europe is that more than 1,000 para-church groups operate on the continent -- "80 percent claiming Baptist background and doing harm," Walter said. Further, Baptists are often seen as being from America, regardless where they are from. He suggested that missionaries try to work through local Baptists and reduce the image of being American.

Many Europeans believe Europe is "post-Christian" and that Christianity has proven it's not the answer. Baptists have responded by strategically starting churches in unchurched areas. Now there are churches in southern Germany where members use the local Bavarian dialect. "If you're a northerner as I am, you can't understand an older lay leader there," Walter said.

Being a minority faith in such an environment explains why European Baptists strongly support separation of church and state and why unity is important to them, he said. "Unity is really one of the most holy gifts we treasure in our churches," he said.

Baptists in Europe also have tried to live by high ethical standards, "because if you live in a minority situation, the majority will always look at you and see what's really different in your Christianity," he said.

Some Baptists in Eastern Europe and Central Asia with poor economies have 90 percent unemployment. Some Baptists must live off food they produce in gardens, he said. "In some Baptist unions, employment is the exception."

But one advantage of being a minority church is higher commitment, Walter said. "In many Baptist unions in Europe we find most people give 10 percent of their income to the church." Besides this basic giving, European Baptists give millions of dollars in relief aid to Eastern Europe, he said.

--30--

European Baptists challenged
to see gospel responsiveness

By Mike Creswell

Baptist Press
7/19/95

INTERLAKEN, Switzerland (BP)--"Fifty-five percent of the world population hasn't really heard this gospel of Jesus Christ," Avery Willis told the 35th summer assembly of the European Baptist Convention.

Willis ended a series of five sermons by urging conferees to help carry the gospel to hundreds of people groups around the world who have no chance to hear it. He is senior vice president of overseas operations for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board but better known as an author of the MasterLife discipleship program used around the world.

--more--

About 900 Baptists from across Europe gathered for the assembly July 8-13 within sight of some of Switzerland's highest peaks. The assembly offered Bible studies, preaching and a series of 31 conferences on topics ranging from parenting skills and teaching English as a second language to the Holy Spirit and how to grow churches. Southern Baptist chaplains who relate to the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board also met with the assembly.

The convention, a fellowship of 60 English-speaking Baptist churches across Europe, has close ties to Southern Baptists. Willis pledged increased support from the Foreign Mission Board for EBC ministries, especially in personnel. In recent years the EBC has received a support boost through its partnership with Arkansas Baptists, many of whom attended the assembly.

Fourteen EBC churches have ceased to exist in recent years as the United States has slashed its military forces in Europe. But the convention responded by starting 17 international congregations, many in Eastern Europe.

An English-speaking Baptist church was constituted in Moscow this year with 160 members, said Southern Baptist missionary Ray Reynolds, EBC church planting consultant.

Arkansas Baptist leader Don Moore presented a series of Bible studies on Romans 8. Moore, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist Convention, told how God helped him through the death of his first wife.

Christians in several locations were moved to pray for him during specific times of need, he said, although they didn't know why at the time. One couple prayed at the exact hour he was planning the funeral. "God is always at work to make all kinds of circumstances and situations work for our good," he said.

Moore told of nearly committing suicide one night before becoming a Christian. He held a loaded gun to his head in a fire station where he lived because he found no significance in life. But when a sleeping fireman stirred, causing him to miss his self-imposed deadline, he felt God had intervened seconds before he pulled the trigger.

"I learned that night that God was for me! He's for you! He loves you just like he loves me," Moore declared.

Relating the conference theme -- "More Than Conquerors" -- to missions, Willis said Christians are saved "not just to be happy and enjoy life but to take (God's) message so others can hear and understand and know him." The problem is that some Christians don't do that, he said. "The problem with a lost world isn't that the lost world won't receive the gospel. It's that God's people won't take the gospel."

More people are responding to the gospel than any time in history, Willis said, citing reports from the Foreign Mission Board's 10 area directors who oversee more than 4,000 foreign missionaries around the world. "God is at work more than ever all over the world, not just in little pockets."

Willis illustrated his point by stories of response areas overseas:

Four years ago there were fewer than 50 Christians in Nepal, but recent reports show 150,000. In India, 2,000 people became Christians through a radio program on farming techniques and the gospel. In Kenya, more than 500 volunteers carried out a six-week effort to share the gospel with thousands of people and start 100 new churches in Nairobi, the capital. Also in Africa, 42,000 Masaai people of Kenya have become Christians, he said.

Earlier in the week, Willis said usually Christians ask God what his will for their lives is. "That's probably the wrong question," he said, "We should say, 'God, what are you doing and how can I get in step with it?'"

Christian workers who followed that approach in one little-evangelized city discovered a Christian woman leading 1,000 people in house churches. They were invited to bring in Christian businessmen to help her in discipling and evangelism. That led to 1,300 people becoming Christians, he said.

--more--

God's not playing "peek-a-boo" and hiding from his followers, Willis said. "He reveals himself because he wants to involve you in what he's doing." Willis repeatedly emphasized prayer and Bible study as key ways to discover God's will. "Ever wondered why Jesus prayed so much?" he asked. "Because he needed to know what the Father was doing!"

Several Eastern European leaders also spoke. Konstanty Wiazowski, president of Polish Baptists, said 58 Baptist churches in Poland have only about 3,680 members. But, he added, "We baptize every year 10 percent of our membership. It's not bad, I think," he said as delegates applauded.

Willis noted if Southern Baptists baptized that many people, "there would be four times as many Southern Baptists."

--30--

Evangelicals to bolster
church planting in Russia

By Mike Creswell

Baptist Press
7/19/95

SALTIKOVKA, Russia (BP)--Southern Baptist foreign missionaries are teaming up with other evangelical workers and Russian Christians to promote church planting across Russia in an ambitious plan called "Project 250."

Originally intended to start 250 new churches, the project already has met that goal.

Seventeen church leaders from across the former Soviet Union attended a Project 250 church-planting seminar at a church in this small village 20 minutes drive west of Moscow during June. The eight-day seminar offered them 55 lectures, courses and messages.

In the seminar, Southern Baptist foreign missionaries Matt Spann and Mel Skinner joined with John Worcester, a Southern Baptist church planter who has worked two years in Russia on his own, and representatives from The Evangelical Alliance for Missions (TEAM), The Alliance for Saturation Church Planting, The Co-Mission and the Community Bible Fellowship Organization.

Other groups involved with the project include Conservative Baptists from America and Wesleyan Methodists.

Russian teachers included Peter Marchenkov of Kiev, Ukraine -- "one of the men who's shown the most promise and enthusiasm," Spann said. "His church has been very effective in reaching non-believers and gathering them into home groups," now numbering 10.

During the Saltikovka seminar, Spann and Marchenkov taught how to develop home groups into new churches. Spann, from Missouri City, Texas, taught the church-planting strategy of the apostle Paul and winning visitors to churches. Skinner, from Trenton, Mo., taught personal evangelism, emphasizing how to share the gospel in a short period of time using a tract, gospel presentation or personal testimony.

Another teacher, who has helped start several churches, came from Voronezh, a city eight or 10 hours drive south of Moscow.

One of the 17 students, a converted Muslim, has planted several churches and is beginning a church-starting ministry among Muslims.

Project 250 has succeeded so well that plans now call for opening satellite centers in Vladimir, Kiev, Donetsk, Voronezh and Krasnodar, probably this fall. The centers will deliver the same successful approaches to a wider audience within the churches, Spann said.

--30--

Hailstorm changed
church's priorities

By Laura Horne

Baptist Press
7/19/95

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Frightened and weeping, a Hispanic mother and her girls huddled on the front steps of their Fort Worth, Texas, home. Part of their roof had caved in during a devastating hailstorm, and the father was at work.

--more--

Ray Visor, minister of missions at Fort Worth's Sagamore Hill Baptist Church, was on his way to check on nursery workers and children who were at the church during the storm. He saw the family and stopped to give them a flashlight. The church began ministering to the family and offered them help with repairs.

As a result of the church's concern, the family joined a Hispanic Bible study, and the entire family received Christ.

"I have heard the gospel on television and on the radio in Spanish and in English, but this is the first time I listened because your church showed me the gospel," the mother told Visor.

"She listened because we cared," said Visor, who noted people in the community are more open to the gospel when churches help meet physical and emotional needs.

"We weren't just a clanging symbol."

That is just one of the many ministry opportunities Sagamore Hill has had since the destructive storms hit in May.

"God has allowed us new contacts through the hailstorm," Visor said. "He has given us a wake-up call that people in this neighborhood have real needs that need to be met.

"Our church is here for a reason, and we believe it is to help the people in the neighborhood. Our ultimate goal is to remove all barriers so that people can be reached for Christ."

The Sunday after the storm, members of Sagamore Hill canvassed the community to see how they could help residents recover. Since then, the church has been helping with roofing, repairs and cleanup projects throughout the neighborhood.

Through their efforts to rebuild the community, the church found other needs. Volunteers from the church have conducted surveys in the community finding a need for seminars and classes on personal finance, job training, legal assistance and Bible study groups.

Sagamore Hill is bringing together its new ministries and its ongoing ones to form Mission Fort Worth. A building will house the clothes closet, food pantry and crisis pregnancy center as well as provide meeting places for seminars and classes.

"This is something we didn't plan. No one plans for disasters like those storms," Visor said. "But God has used this to help us see the great need in our neighborhood. God has simply put it on the front burner for us.

"My prayer for other churches is that they won't wait for a hailstorm or some other tragedy to get out into the neighborhood and find out who the people are that live across the street."

Since the hailstorm, pastor Gary Miller declared this year as a year of missions, challenging his church to be one that is on mission and not on maintenance.

The church has even adopted part of recording artist Steve Green's song "The Mission" as its mission statement:

"To love the Lord our God is the heartbeat of our mission, the spring from which our service overflows. Across the street or around the world, the mission is still the same -- to proclaim and live the truth in Jesus' name."

Every Sunday night since the storm, church members have gathered for Summer Light Reach Out, a special visitation program. Volunteers visit homes in the community recruiting people to help with additional rebuilding and finding out if anyone else needs help with repairs.

Visitors also conduct surveys to find out if there are additional needs and if families are involved in church.

Summer Light Reach Out will end July 28-Aug. 2 with activities such as a block party, a 3-on-3 basketball tournament for youth, Backyard Bible Clubs for children and family meals at night before special services.

"In the Book of Acts, it has always impressed me that the whole family came to Christ," Visor said. "We are trying to involve the whole family, not just target the children or adults or youth, but to involve the whole family."

**'Ordinary' men share
passion for evangelism**

By Sarah Zimmerman

ATLANTA (BP)--Art Stacer, Joe Cowan and Travis Johnson insist they're "common, ordinary people."

Yet together they distribute 250,000 evangelistic tracts a year, and in one week this summer they reported more than 500 professions of faith.

The three men live in San Antonio, Texas, where they have jobs and families. But as the Holy Spirit leads, they go to America's largest cities to witness in the poorest neighborhoods.

Cities they've been to include Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Las Vegas, Houston and Dallas. They said their strategy comes from the New Testament. "Jesus Christ went from city to city," Cowan explained.

This summer the trio was in Atlanta during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. As messengers voted for officers and discussed restructuring, these men witnessed in housing projects surrounding downtown. In five days, they recorded 504 professions of faith.

"We're not heroes," said Stacer, a member of First Baptist Church of Castle Hills, Texas. "The Spirit of God is simply working in clay vessels."

At 60, Stacer is the group's leader. Working in inner-city evangelism for 24 years has convicted Stacer about the role of laity.

"Jesus Christ never said pastors are supposed to go out. Pastors equip," said the retired military airman. "The Lord has an assignment for every saint in the world, a God-called purpose."

The men shun publicity -- they did not want their picture taken -- but they agreed to discuss their work to encourage more people to be involved in evangelism.

"Anyone can do this," Stacer said. "They CAN do it."

As the men travel, they live in a white van that Johnson uses in his Texas painting business. They refer to it as the Econoline Motel.

They go to housing projects armed with New Testaments and gospel tracts. When someone makes a profession of faith, "We give them a Here's Hope New Testament, open to page 85 and get them started in the gospel of John," Johnson said. The new Christian is encouraged to read the Bible every day, pray every day and "find a good, Bible-believing church."

The men keep lists of each new Christian's name, age and address so they can pray over the names. They also give the lists to local churches for follow-up.

Where the men go and how long they stay depends on the Holy Spirit's leadership. This summer they went to Washington after leaving Atlanta.

When they return to San Antonio, they don't leave witnessing behind. Johnson and Cowan will paint houses to earn an income, but they save a few hours every afternoon to witness with Stacer.

"It's a daily ministry, and it's massive," Johnson said.

--30--

**SBC sesquicentennial segments
telecast on ACTS, FamilyNet**

By C.C. Risenhoover

**Baptist Press
7/19/95**

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--A June 29 ACTS and FamilyNet broadcast of edited versions of evangelist Billy Graham's and Jim Henry's sermons to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) during its annual meeting in Atlanta June 20-22 resulted in decisions for Christ and prayer request telephone calls from 13 different states.

Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church of Orlando, Fla., is president of the SBC.

The edited version of Graham's and Henry's messages will air again on FamilyNet July 28 at 7 p.m. central time.

In late June, ACTS and FamilyNet, the cable and broadcast television services of the SBC Radio and Television Commission, also aired edited versions of two events celebrating the convention's 150th anniversary that resulted in people from 26 states calling RTVC volunteer counselors for a variety of reasons.

--more--

"Response to the programs was excellent," said Jack Johnson, RTVC president. "The programs reached out to many people who have never had a personal relationship with Jesus Christ."

"Sesquicentennial Celebration Part I" aired again on FamilyNet July 14.

"Sesquicentennial Celebration Part II" will air on FamilyNet July 21 at 7 p.m. Central.

An SBC annual meeting highlights video with excerpts of Graham's and Henry's messages is available from the RTVC, along with "Sesquicentennial Celebration Part I" and "Sesquicentennial Celebration Part II."

Information about ordering the videos is available from: Radio and Television Commission SBC, 6350 West Freeway, Fort Worth, TX 76150; (817) 737-4011.

(BP)

BAPTIST PRESS
901 Commerce #750
Nashville, TN 37234

F
I
R
S
T

C
L
A
S
S

Southern Baptist Library
and Archives