

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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October 24, 1969

Kentucky Association Refuses
To Oust Churches Over Baptism

VERSAILLES, Ky. (BP)--The Elkhorn Baptist Association refused to consider motions to withdraw fellowship from churches practicing "alien immersion" and from one church in the association which has ordained women as deacons.

But the messengers to the association never actually voted on the motions to withdraw fellowship. Rather, they voted on a parliamentary point of order which permits the messengers to decide whether or not they even want to consider a matter.

The effort to withdraw fellowship from churches that accept as members, persons who have been baptized (immersed) by churches of other denominations and ordaining women as deacons was led by Ross L. Range, pastor of Ashland Avenue Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky.

At least six churches would have been excluded if Range's motion to exclude churches practicing alien immersion had been approved.

Range, vice moderator of the association, said that such a practice was unscriptural, unbaptistic, and was disrupting to the fellowship of the association. He cited several historical Baptist statements supporting his view, including an association constitution provision for the association to determine its membership and protect its unity,

Frank Owen, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington, the largest church in the association, argued against the motion, saying that alien immersion was not a test of fellowship for the Southern Baptist Convention or the Kentucky Baptist Convention, and should not be for the Elkhorn Association.

Owen pointed out that Baptists had never agreed on this matter, and probably never would.

He then raised a point of order, in a parliamentary move asking the body to decide whether or not to consider the matter further.

The vote by the association was 74-68 in favor of not considering the matter further.

Following this vote, Range made another motion calling for the association to withdraw fellowship from Faith Baptist Church, Georgetown, Ky., for ordaining women as deacons.

Association Moderator Donald White ruled that the same principle applied to this motion as the first, and asked the messengers to vote on whether or not to consider the matter. The vote was 73-65 against consideration.

The action by the association, located in central Kentucky, was the fifth nationally-reported Baptist association (usually involving Baptist churches in one or more counties) to vote on accepting or rejecting churches because of baptism practices.

During the same week, it was reported that three associations in Arkansas had taken actions accepted as "messengers" persons from churches which practice "alien immersion," including two churches that were ousted from the state convention in November of 1968 over the issue.

Delta Baptist Association and Pulaski County Baptist Association both seated without questioning messengers from two churches excluded at the state level because they practice "alien immersion." In the Washington-Madison Baptist Association, a motion consider seating messengers from another church practicing "alien immersion" separately from all other churches and messengers was defeated.

Earlier, the Long Beach-Harbor Baptist Association voted to exclude International Baptist Church in Carson, Calif., over the issue, denying a seat to the church's pastor, C. Robert Tucker, who was the current moderator (chairman) of the association.

The issue is expected to come up during the Arkansas, California and Texas state convention sessions in November. Texas Baptists last year appointed a committee to study what is meant by a "regular Baptist church."

Alien immersion has been a "burning issue," say some observers, in the Elkhorn Baptist Association, which includes Lexington, for many years. A serious confrontation came several years ago when Trinity Baptist Church in Lexington was seated, despite much opposition because it received members immersed by other than Baptist churches.

Subsequently, at least five other churches have followed the example of Trinity in receiving members immersed by other denominations. These include Calvary, Immanuel, Rosemont, Central and Seventh Street Baptist churches. Calvary and Immanuel are the two largest Baptist churches in Lexington.

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Oklahoma Heart Transplant
Patient, New Christian, Dies

10/24/69

by Bob Matthews

TULSA, Okla. (BP)--Dwane Shannon Marlow lived on borrowed time for four months, but the time he borrowed was long enough to gain eternal life.

Prior to receiving a heart transplant last June, Marlow, 52, had not been receptive to the gospel, according to Bartley Rogers, pastor of Suncrest Baptist Church here.

But the first Sunday that Marlow was home from Houston where he received the heart transplant, Marlow and his wife made professions of faith in Christ at the Tulsa church.

"After his conversion and baptism, Dwane was a new man, and was as active in our church as he could be under the circumstances," the pastor said.

"He attended Sunday morning services when he would get so weak that other men had to help him back to his car," said Rogers. "He was a happy Christian and had a fine attitude."

The pastor added that the man with a new heart often wanted to tell the members of his church the full story of his conversion experience, but was too emotional to relate it. He died before he could do so.

One of his dreams was to set up an organ bank in Oklahoma for persons needing any kind of transplant, Rogers added. There is no such organ bank now in Oklahoma, and Houston is reportedly the only place in the nation a person can register to donate an organ.

Marlow never met the man who gave him his new heart, and didn't even know his name. The donor reportedly was a university student who died in a fall. Marlow often wondered if he were a Christian.

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Oklahoma Elects Siler
Child Care Executive

10/24/69

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--The board of directors of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma has elected Forest H. Siler, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lawton, Okla., as executive director of the convention's department of child care.

If Siler accepts the post, he would succeed H. Truman Maxey, who is retiring after 25 years of directing child care ministries in Oklahoma.

Siler said he would give the board an answer after two weeks of revivals in Florida and Tennessee.

The Oklahoma Baptist child care department presently provides for 230 children in two institutions. It is a \$500,000-a-year operation.

Siler is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

Prior to becoming pastor of the Lawton, Okla., church, he was pastor of Baptist churches in Wichita, Kan., Uvalde, Plano and Pynner, Tex. He was for two years president of the Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists.

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