



BAPTIST PRESS

Official Organ of the Southern Baptist Convention

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May 5, 1970

Citizen's Right To Bar Obscene Mail Is Upheld

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously that a private citizen has the right to stop obscene advertisements from being sent to him.

The justices upheld a 1967 law which permits any person to tell the postman to stop "pandering advertisements" which "the addressee in his sole discretion believes to be erotically arousing or sexually provocative."

A group of 15 companies and individuals who sell publications through the mails unsuccessfully argued that they had a right to communicate through the mail.

In a decision written by Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, the court said that "the asserted right of a mailer...stops at the outer boundary of every person's domain."

In complaining that their constitutional right to communicate was violated, the appellants said: "The freedom to communicate orally and by the written word and, indeed, in every manner whatsoever is imperative to a free and sane society."

The court agreed that "communication is imperative to a healthy social order" but, it said: "The right of every person 'to be let alone' must be placed in the scales with the right of others to communicate."

In defending its unanimous decision, the court said that "to hold less, would make hardly more sense than to say that a radio and television viewer may not twist the dial to cut off an offensive or boring communication and thus bar its entering his home."

"Nothing in the constitution compels us to listen to or view any unwanted communication, whatever its merit; we see no basis for according the printed word or pictures a different or more preferred status because they are sent in the mail," the court said.

The law which the court upheld applies only when an addressee has received an advertisement which promotes something that the addressee feels is offensive.

If the person does not want to receive any more such mail, he may ask the Post Office department to stop delivering it. The Post Office then issues an order to the sender forbidding him to continue mailing to that person.

-30-

Ministers' Wives Plan Luncheon During SBC

5/5/70

DENVER (BP)--Wives of Southern Baptist ministers attending the Southern Baptist Convention here will hold a luncheon on Tuesday, June 2, at the Brown Palace Hotel, but tickets must be purchased prior to the convention, according to Mrs. Virginia L. Norfleet of Kansas City, Mo., president of the organization.

The Conference of Ministers' Wives will feature an address by Mrs. Robert Fling of Pleasantville, N.Y., former president of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union; and entertainment by Carol Conway and Tony Greaves, graduate students at the University of Denver.

Mrs. Norfleet, whose husband is pastor of Wornall Road Baptist Church in Kansas City, said that because of an earlier starting time for the convention this year, sale of tickets at Denver has been practically eliminated.

"This makes it necessary for us to sell tickets through the mail," said Mrs. Norfleet. "Therefore, it is extremely important that ministers' wives make their reservations immediately by sending \$5.00 to Mrs. Glenn Braswell, P. O. Box 22005, Denver, Colorado, 80222."

The meeting, scheduled at 12:45 at the Brown Palace Hotel, will be the 15th annual luncheon of the Conference of Ministers' Wives, an auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

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Cooperative Program Gifts
Increase 3.5 Per Cent in '70

NASHVILLE (BP)--Gifts to world missions through the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program unified budget increased by 3.56 per cent during the first one-third of 1970, compared to a similar period in 1969, convention officials reported here.

For the first four months of 1970, contributions through the Cooperative Program had reached \$9.5 million, an increase of \$329,042 over Cooperative Program gifts for the same period in 1969, the SBC Executive Committee monthly financial statement reported.

Contributions during the month of April stayed at almost the same level of April, 1969, gifts through the Cooperative Program, the report indicated. April, 1970, gifts were \$2.25 million, a decrease of \$1,748 or .08 per cent compared to April, 1969 Cooperative Program contributions.

In addition to the \$9.5 million in Cooperative Program gifts for the year, Southern Baptists have contributed \$16.5 million in designated offerings to specific world mission causes. Designations are up \$245,161, or 1.5 per cent compared to the first four months of 1969.

The grand total of designated and Cooperative Program contributions for the year reached \$26.1 million, compared to \$25.3 million for the same period in 1969. This was an increase of \$576,204, or 2.25 per cent.

Biggest portion of the \$26.1 million total went to support Southern Baptist foreign mission efforts in 70 countries. The SBC Foreign Mission Board has received \$20.1 million of the total amount given thus far in 1970. The SBC Home Mission Board has received \$3.1 million of the total.

The monthly financial report, prepared by the SBC Executive Committee here, reflects only funds given to support world and national mission causes of the SBC, and does not include amounts contributed to local or state missions.



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