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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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April 21, 1971

Court Rules On Sunday
School Board Tax Case

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board is subject to taxation on those portions of its Nashville properties which are not used strictly for religious purposes according to a Chancery Court ruling here on April 15.

In a decision on an appeal by the Sunday School Board and the Metropolitan Government of Nashville on a ruling by the State Board of Equalization, the court ruled that a portion of the activities of the Baptist Sunday School Board are purely and exclusively religious and that a portion of the activities may not be so classified. Those activities which are purely and exclusively religious were ruled to be exempt from property taxes.

The ruling stated that the publishing of non-religious, secular materials and administrative activities not directly related to a religious purpose are not purely and exclusively religious and shall be subject to taxation.

The ruling was critical of the State Board of Equalization for hearing the Sunday School Board's case on the same day it heard the Methodist Publishing House case and for handing down identical opinions in both cases. The court stated that the State Board of Equalization made no apparent effort to relate its general findings and conclusions to particular properties of the Sunday School Board. It further indicated that the State Board's ruling referring to printing operations were not applicable since the Baptist Sunday School Board does no printing.

The ruling also held that the law is clear that it is the use of the property rather than ultimate use or profit or competition which is the test to be used in determining if an institution is exempt.

The case was remanded to the Metropolitan Board of Equalization for determination of the "proper portions of the properties of the Baptist Sunday School Board which are subject to taxation."

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Ukrainian Congregation Dedicates Building

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. (BP)--The first Ukrainian congregation to affilate with the Southern Baptist Convention, dedicated its new facility here recently. Ukrainian Baptist Church, now three years old, hopes to become an international center with other ethnic groups using its building for services. Already the infant church supports a Polish mission and has begun work with Portuguese and Spanish speaking people.

The Home Mission Board was presented a plaque in appreciation for its financial support to the church during the dedication service. The board gave Ukrainian Church an interest free $25,000 loan to purchase the building from its American Baptist owners.

The owners, Second Baptist Church, sold the old stone structure at $15,000 a significantly small rate, because "they appreciate Baptist witness being continued in this community," Elias Golonka, board staff member, said.

Golonka, assistant secretary of the Department of Language Missions, accepted the plaque for the board Executive Secretary Arthur Rutledge and brought the Ukrainian sermon. G. W. Bullard, superintendent of missions for the Delaware Baptist association brought the English message.

Golonka explained that Philadelphia is fast becoming the Ukrainian center of the nation. The area surrounding the church is populated by approximately 3,000 people, most of whom

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are Catholic.

About 310 persons attended the dedication service.

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God Using "Tongues" Revival,
Theology Prof Says 4/21/71

EUSTIS, Fla. (BP)--God is using the charismatic revival to summon Christians not to quench the holy spirit, theology professor, John Newport, told a group here recently.

The Pentecostal and non-Pentecostal movements have come about to encourage people to earnestly desire and appropriate the spiritual gifts, Newport said.

Th Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary teacher was speaking to a group of 100 laymen and laywomen meeting here for a three-day Lay Renewal Conference.

Newport said one of the greatest needs of churches today "is a rediscovery of the resources of the Holy Spirit. We need the excitement, the joy and the vigor of the spirit's presence."

He cautioned, however, that tongues in churches are not objectionable if they are controlled. "Pentecostals err when they conclude that evangelical in rejecting a major emphasis on tongues, reject the fact of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit."

The statewide meeting was sponsored by Layman's Landing of Deerfield Beach, Fla., and Personal Sharing Ministries, Lakeland, Fla.

Layman's Landing, now four years old, was established to train laymen for witnessing and to develop lay teams to travel throughout Florida and the southern United States.

Its founder and director is Reid Hardin, an insurance agent and ex-seminarian. "Our organization is a fellowship of Christian laymen and pastors interested in the total involvement of laymen in witnessing and ministering in the church. The movement now numbers about a thousand persons," Hardin explained.

Conference participants attended seminars on subjects ranging from "Christian mysticism and the Holy Spirit" to "the marriage adventure."

They also heard Richard McKay, associate in the Home Mission Board's Division of Chaplaincy, who led a seminar on "the awesome power of the listening ear."

Commenting on the meeting, McKay said: "I am greatly impressed with the commitment of Hardin and the landing to lay evangelism. Southern Baptists now realize the unlimited potential they have in their laymen. These meetings do an oustanding job in training the layman and bolstering his confidence for an effective ministry."

Other equipping conferences had revealed a need for a period of thorough discussion on the responsibilities and marriage. The marriage adventure seminar was the result.

Although pastors are invited to the conferences they are encouraged to participate as little as possible to allow for maximum participation by laymen.

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FMB Appoints 27 Missionaries;
145 Youths Register Decisions 4/21/71

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--"Christianity is not a place to stand but a road to walk," said one of 27 persons appointed to overs as mission posts during an evening session of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board meeting here.

The candidates for missionary appointments affirmed their commitments to mission service in testimonies to an estimated 7,000 people in Freedom Hall at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center.

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The 13 couples and one single woman will go overseas following 14 weeks of missionary orientation next fall. They are assigned to a variety of work in 12 countries.

At the close of the appointment service, 145 young people came to the speaker's platform to register their decision to serve eventually in church-related vocation. They came in response to an invitation by Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board.

The young people were escourted to a private room for counseling by board staff members.

Earlier in the service the audience applauded when told by Cauthen that receipts from the 1970 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions had reached $15,982,548 toward a goal of $16,000,000. Receipts from the offering, taken annually in Southern Baptist churches will be tabulated through April 30.

Equally encouraging, Cauthen said, is the news that Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program receipts during the first quarter of 1971 show an increase of 8.21 per cent over the first quarter of 1970. Cooperative Program funds and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering are the primary sources of financial support for the foreign mission enterprise.

Cauthen led the audience in a biblical response of thanksgiving: "Bless the Lord, Oh my soul: and all that is in me, bless his holy name."

He said, "All over the world doors were never more widely open to tell the story of Jesus than right now," adding, "what shall our answer be?"

Cauthen said that the response of the missionary candidates have been: "We heard the drum beat of the great commission, here are the marching orders of our Master."

The candidates were introducted by Louis R. Cobbs, secretary for Missionary Personnel for the board, as they stepped to the microphone to give their testimonies. They were appointed later by vote of the board members persent.

Following their appointment, Cauthen charged the missionaries to "be strong and of good courage." He admonished them to "go with bearing, creativity and inventive spirit, confidence and high expectations."

The new missionaries are: Mr. and Mrs. Herbert L. Barrett of Kansas City, formerly of Roach, Mo., who were appointed to Taiwan; Mr. and Mrs. Maurice L. Caldwell of Monticello, Ark., Peru; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas L. Cole of Pleasureville, Ky., Argentina; Mr. and Mrs. J. Virgil Cooper of Summit, Miss., Korea.

Also appointed were Miss Louise Donaldson of Campbellsville, Ky., Brazil; Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Golmon of Louisville, Malaysia-Singapore; Mr. and Mrs. D. Fredrick Harner of St. Joseph, Mo., Brazil; Mr. and Mrs. Wayne E. Maness of Dell, Ark., Philippines; Mr. and Mrs. James C. Shelly Jr. of Louisville, formerly of Florence, Ala., Brazil.

Also Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Sherer of Fort Worth, Japan; Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Smith of Alma, Ark., Botswana; Mr. and Mrs. Leo E. Waldrop of Fort Worth, Surinam; and Mr. and Mrs. Larry C. Yoder of Danville, Va., Belgium.

During the same service, Mr. and Mrs. William L. Womack Sr., of Liberty, Mo., were employed as missionary associates for Guyana.

Relatives and friends of the missionaries sat in a reserved area along with most of the 67 members of the board and some of the faculty, staff and trustees of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here. The seminary trustees were meeting in Louisville at the same time as the Foreign Mission Board.

The appointment service coincided with the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual youth night, and several thousand young people were present. Included were members of approximately 125 youth choirs from Baptist churches in Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio.

They and three choirs and a brass ensemble from Southern seminary presented a variety of sacred song.

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Prayers were said by Duke K. McCall, president of Southern seminary, and Carl Bates of Charlotte, N.C., president of the Southern Baptist Convention, who was slated to address the board members in their completing business session the following day.

Drew J. Gunnells of Montgomery, Ala., president of the board, presided during the appointment service. Harold G. Sanders and G. Allen West Jr., executive head of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and Long Run Baptist Association respectively welcomed board members and other visitors to Louisville.

The Foreign Mission Board meeting, including the appointment service, was the first to be held in the Kentucky-Indiana-Ohio area. It was only the third such meeting held outside the Richmond, Va., headquarters of the board, except for those held annually at the Baptist assemblies in North Carolina and New Mexico.

The board plans to meet and appoint missionaries in Jackson, Miss., in April, 1972.

With the latest appointments approximately 2,500 Southern Baptists are assigned by the Foreign Mission Board to posts in 76 political and geographical entities.

Admission to the appointment service was free and open to the public.

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