



# BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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May 31, 1974

## Court Refuses To Hear Private School Case

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U. S. Supreme Court let stand a decision by two lower courts in the case of a private, religious school in Alabama whose tax-exempt status has been challenged by the Internal Revenue Service.

The school, Crenshaw Christian Academy, has been threatened with the loss of its tax-exempt status because it refuses to state publicly that it will admit black students. The five-year-old school has never had a black student but claims that no blacks have applied for admission.

While claiming to be non-denominational, the academy's statement of purpose at the time of its incorporation declared that the school was being opened "for students and parents who object to the constitutional inhibitions against prayer, Bible reading, religious study and other activities of the Christian faith in public schools."

In January, 1969, shortly after the school was opened, the IRS issued a letter granting tax-exempt status to the academy. Another letter gave advance assurance that gifts to the school would be deductible from the personal income taxes of donors.

But in July, 1970, the IRS issued a news release announcing that private schools which practiced racial discrimination would no longer be tax-exempt and contributions to such schools would no longer be tax deductible.

A year later, the IRS demanded that Crenshaw Christian Academy comply with the new regulation by establishing a clear-cut policy of racial non-discrimination and by publicly advertising such a policy.

The school declined and instead took the matter to U.S. district court, where it asked for an injunction against enforcement of the IRS decision. The court dismissed the suit on the grounds that it had no authority to grant injunctive relief and that the school had adequate legal remedy through the tax courts.

The court of appeals for the fifth circuit upheld the district court before the school brought its case to the Supreme Court.

In its brief, the school argued that the district court did have authority to grant the injunction requested. In addition, the school argued that the IRS action against it violated the establishment clause of the First Amendment and the due process clause of the Fifth Amendment to the U. S. Constitution.

In declining to hear the case, the Supreme Court evidently decided that the case need not be scheduled for oral argument because issues involved were nearly identical to similar cases recently decided involving Bob Jones University and Americans United for Separation of Church and State. In both those cases, the high court ruled in favor of the IRS.

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## Court Will Not Hear Louisiana Smut Case

5/31/74

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U. S. Supreme Court declined to grant a hearing to the state of Louisiana in a petition to have the high court review the constitutionality of its obscenity law.

Louisiana brought charges against the operators of four theaters and book stores for

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displaying and selling allegedly obscene matter. The movies under challenge are two X-rated films, "The Stewardesses" and "Last Tango in Paris."

In a series of trial court proceedings in Shreveport, the state obtained convictions against all the accused. Among those who alleged that the films were obscene in the local trial were persons representing a men's Bible class from a nearby church who had viewed one of the films.

The defendants brought suit before the Louisiana Supreme Court, challenging the constitutionality of the state's obscenity law on grounds that it was too broad and vague. The court agreed with the defendants, holding that the Louisiana statute failed to meet the requirements for local obscenity regulations as stipulated in last year's Supreme Court ruling in *Miller v. California*.

In that case, the high court ruled that communities may impose their own views of what constitutes obscenity upon local theaters and book stores but only after certain steps are followed, including careful study of differing views within the communities.

The Supreme Court's refusal to hear the case indicates neither agreement nor disagreement with the lower decision. In this instance, the high court's refusal is likely due to the fact that a similar case, *Jenkins v. Georgia*, has already been heard during the current court term. That case has yet to be decided.

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Seminary Gives McClellan  
E. Y. Mullins Service Award

5/31/74

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Albert McClellan, associate executive secretary and program planning director for the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, was presented the E. Y. Mullins Denominational Service Award for 1974 during spring commencement exercises at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

The annual award is the highest recognition given by the seminary's board of trustees, which voted unanimously in their annual meeting to present the award to McClellan. Some other persons who have received the award since its inception in 1963 are Herschel H. Hobbs, Gaines S. Dobbins, Clifton J. Allen and James L. Sullivan.

A graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, McClellan, a Bowie, Texas, native, first joined the SBC Executive Committee staff in 1949 as public relations secretary. He has also served as pastor in North Texas and Oklahoma, as editor of the Oklahoma Baptist Messenger and as a school teacher.

Seminary President Duke K. McCall presented the award to McClellan immediately before McClellan delivered the commencement address to the seminary's graduating class.

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Revival Comes to the  
Elderly in Lubbock

5/31/74

By Dan Martin

LUBBOCK, Tex. (BP)--The man is small and so badly crippled he cannot walk without assistance.

He's spent all his life out in the Matador Ranch Country near Spur, Tex., and looks as weathered as the wrinkled land around the caprock.

At the age of 72, he has accepted Jesus as his Lord and Saviour.

That might not seem so strange, except that he is confined to a rest home here.

He didn't go to a revival; the revival came to him.

Three revivals were held in three nursing homes here, part of the ministry of Calvary

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Baptist Church in Lubbock.

"We have people in all of the rest homes here," said Gene Hawkins, Calvary's pastor. "We decided we would have revivals as sort of a trial."

The revivals were held Monday through Friday, with one service each morning and two each afternoon.

"Attendance was about 500 for the three homes," Hawkins said, revealing that nine of the elderly people accepted Christ and eight became members of Calvary.

"We gave an invitation for salvation every day. We also urged rededication of lives, making commitments to witnessing and to helping each other, but we did not talk about church membership until the last day," Hawkins said.

Because of the response and the need, Hawkins and his church plan other revivals and will have evangelistic services in each of the 12 nursing homes in Lubbock before August.

"We probably will repeat the process in a year," he added.

Hawkins and his church have been involved in an aggressive program of ministry to elderly people since he came to the church a year and a half ago.

"When I came, we had services in one rest home. We have expanded that to where we have services in all of them, involving 25 or 30 of our people every Sunday," he said.

Since Calvary is in an older section of Lubbock, the church also functions with an extension department, an outreach program, a prayer chain of elderly people and regular telephone contact.

"We try to minister to the people in our neighborhood, whether they are Lutheran, Methodist or what. It occurred to me one day how tragic it would be if one of these elderly people died and just lay there for several days before being found. We want to minister to these people,"

Hawkins said he learned some things from the revivals. "The thing that impressed me was the spiritual need we found. I've been going into rest homes for years and I guess - like everyone -- I assumed these old folks were all Christians.

"But I found out they need Jesus just like anybody else does...that they are lonely and lost...that they have adjustment problems and fears and frustrations," he said.

And, with the knowledge, he said, came a renewed dedication to minister to the elderly people in their needs.

The joy comes in seeing a 72-year-old, crippled, wrinkled old man accept Jesus.

"He came up to me last week and told me, 'Everything is just going better since I've decided to follow the Lord.'

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Meredith College Gets  
\$300,000 Kenan Grant

5/31/74

RALEIGH, N. C. (BP)--A \$300,000 special purpose grant from the William R. Kenan Jr. Charitable Trust has been awarded to Meredith College, a Baptist women's college here.

The Kenan grant, the largest received by Meredith from a foundation or trust, is restricted to endowment and will be used to enrich the academic program at the four-year women's college, according to John Weems, Meredith's president.

Grants are awarded by the Kenan Trust to enhance the learning process at the undergraduate college or university level at private, independent educational institutions which are well established and accredited. The grants are for endowed chairs or are special purpose grants. From 1966-1973, the Kenan Trust awarded only eight special purpose grants to colleges and universities, Weems said. Meredith received one of these special purpose grants.

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Flood Damages in Brazil  
Include Baptist Property

FORTALEZA, Brazil (BP)- Recent devastating floods in the state of Ceara damaged church buildings, perhaps irreparably, and destroyed the homes of Baptist families in the area, according to Southern Baptist Missionary Jerold E. Golston.

Golston said that 33 counties were under water and Aracati, a city of 20,000, was completely evacuated for more than two weeks. Six feet of water stood in a Baptist church building for more than a month.

A Brazilian newspaper reported that 112,000 in the state have lost their homes. That figure is increasing every day and transportation has just about come to a standstill, Golston said.

Baptist churches in Aracati, Limoeiro do Norte and Acarau have all suffered perhaps irreparable damage, he said.

The Baptist board in Ceara has collected food, clothing, medicine and money to aid Christian families without homes, work and personal effects.

Golston said that while a complete list was not yet available, they know that ten Baptist families in Limoeiro do Norte lost their homes as did eight Baptist families in both Aracata and Sobral, five in Acarau and one in Jaguaribe. Over half are agricultural workers who now have neither a job nor a prospect of finding one for perhaps another two months.

A landslide behind a retreat house used by Southern Baptist missionaries near here buried 13 people alive. The house wasn't damaged, but the caretaker has evacuated since more slides are probable, Golston said.

All the cities along the Jaguaribe River suffered damage with up to 22 feet of water pouring over the floodgates of the Oros Dam for more than two weeks. Golston said that if the dam breaks an entire valley would be destroyed.

An estimated one million head of beef stock have drowned in the flood and many crops have been destroyed, Golston said. The nation fears epidemics will follow when the water goes down, he added.

More than 100 Ceara dams and reservoirs have reportedly been broken. In Sobral, where the city square has been flooded four times by the Acarau River destroying 2,000 houses, a dam broke destroying an additional 200 homes, reports said.

Six Christian families are living in the church in Sobral because their homes were completely demolished. Sobral has 15,000 homeless, Golston noted.

The government is providing tents for some of the homeless, but many have remained in camps under trees and others have come here to stay with acquaintances, he continued.

"Our work here needs the prayers of Christians around the world," Golston said. "We are perhaps entering one of the most difficult years in the history of our state."