



BAPTIST PRESS

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June 5, 1974

**Criswell To Give Church
'Every Penny' He's Earned**

DALLAS (BP)--W.A. Criswell, the pastor of First Baptist Church here, is giving back "every penny" he earned in salary during his 30 years as pastor.

He also already has started to return more than \$600,000 to the 18,000 member congregation.

His pledge will be fulfilled upon his death, he said.

"I have always wanted to do God's work without any kind of financial reward," the 65-year-old pastor said.

"The first time I preached in a church, the deacons took up a collection and I was given \$10. I gave it back to them and told them I did not preach for money," he recalled.

At the time, he said, he did not know how he was going to live without money, "but I had the tremendous feeling that I had given my life to God freely."

He added, "I feel I still want to give back to the church everything that it has given me so that when I meet the Lord I can say I did all of my work freely."

He mentioned his plan in a recent Sunday sermon.

"I don't remember exactly what I was preaching on that particular Sunday. I remember I just told the people that I had something in my heart that I felt like I had to do."

It is estimated Criswell's annual salary now is about \$25,000. He owns his own home, and a church member has provided an automobile for several years.

"God has abundantly blessed my life. God has given me the ability to save money and (the knowledge) how to invest it wisely.

"I have been blessed in that way from the beginning, and I am still blessed. It is quite evident in the way God has prospered me and what he has done for this church," he added.

Criswell has written 15 books, which have received wide sale. He also has filled numerous speaking engagements and has received some "private gifts," said mainly to be investment opportunities.

"I think the ability to make money is part of a gift or blessing from God. It was never looked upon in any other way in the Bible," he explained.

Criswell's net worth is not known, but he said his financial commitment to the church will not jeopardize the security and well being of his family.

He concluded, "I think every man ought to have a last will and testament. And, in that will, I think he ought to do something for God's work on earth--whether little or big.

A member of First Baptist Church, when informed of Criswell's decision, remarked "I think it is a wonderful thing for a great man to do."

**Court Declines Review
Of Florida Abortion Law**

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U.S. Supreme Court has again declined to review the constitutionality of a state's abortion statute, this time involving the State of Florida.

In a brief, unsigned opinion, the court declared that it will not hear *Gerstein v. Coe*, a case in which Florida sought to have overturned a decision by a U.S. District Court declaring that state's parental and spousal consent regulations unconstitutional.

The District Court held that Florida's abortion statute, which includes provisions requiring a woman seeking an abortion to have the consent of her husband and further requiring that a women under the age of 18 have the consent of one of her parents, is unconstitutional.

Although the Supreme Court's order said nothing about the lower court's decision, it did refuse to schedule the case for oral argument on the grounds that Florida must first seek jurisdiction in the U.S. Court of Appeals.

Only in very rare instances does the high court agree to hear a case which has not come up via the appeals route.

In District Court, the women challenging the constitutionality of Florida's abortion law argued that parental and spousal consent regulations run counter to the Supreme Court's view in last year's abortion rulings that a woman in consultation with her physician may legally obtain an abortion during the first trimester of pregnancy.

The State of Florida argued that the question of its statute's constitutionality must be tested in the Supreme Court because last year's decisions did not deal specifically with the consent provisions. At least fifteen states have provisions in their abortion laws requiring a husband's consent, and at least eighteen states require a parent's consent before a woman under age 18 may secure a legal abortion.

The high court's order indicated that the state of Florida has filed an appeal before a U.S. court of appeals since filing its brief before the Supreme Court. Once the court of appeals has issued a decision in the case, the loser would then be able to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

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Eugene Chamberlain
Named Manuscript Analyst

6/5/74

NASHVILLE (BP)--Eugene Chamberlain, a children's worker at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board for 14 years, has been named manuscript analyst in the board's church services and materials division.

Chamberlain, coordinating editor in the children's section of the Sunday School department since 1972, assumes his duties as manuscript analyst June 16. He succeeds Lynn M. Davis Jr. who has become coordinated promotion planning coordinator working with the Southern Baptist Convention Inter-Agency Council.

According to Morton Rose, assistant to the director of the division, Chamberlain will be responsible for making analyses of church literature manuscripts. His duties will include work with doctrinal readers outside the board's employ, plus assisting editors with information and practices concerning writers for church literature manuscripts.

A native Texan, Chamberlain is a graduate of Southern Methodist University, Dallas, and holds the bachelor of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. He has done additional graduate work at the University of Texas, Austin.

Prior to joining the board as nursery editor in the Sunday School department in January, 1960, Chamberlain served as minister of music and education for Texas churches in Austin, Kenedy, Georgetown and College Station.

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He is co-author of "A Study of the Old Testament" in the weekday Bible study series published by Broadman Press and of two Convention Press Books, "Preschoolers at Church" and "Children's Sunday School Work." He is the author of "When Can a Child Believe?" from Broadman Press.

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers

Penn-Jersey Staffer
Accepts Missouri Church

6/5/74

HARRISBURG , Pa. (BP)--Larry L. Lewis, director of the division of religious education for the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey, has resigned to become pastor of the Tower Grove Baptist Church in St. Louis, Mo.

Lewis was the first director of religious education for the Penn-Jersey Convention after it became operative in January, 1971, having served since February, 1971.

He assumed duties with the Tower Grove church on July 1.

Lewis grew up in Centralis, Mo., and was born a short distance from where the Tower Grove church property is located.

Prior to joining the Penn-Jersey Convention staff, he was the pastor of Delaware Valley Baptist Church, Willingboro, New Jersey, for five years.

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Flood Causes \$25,000
To Clear Creek School

6/5/74

PINEVILLE, Ky. (BP)--A flash flood caused \$25,000 in damages to Clear Creek Baptist School here, according to estimates by President D.M. Aldridge.

Sustaining damage during the recent flood were the school's administration building, water mains to all campus buildings and student homes, roadways on campus, and several campus bridges.

Administration building damage from water and mud included class rooms, offices, the chapel and library. Aldridge said he is confident that necessary repairs can be made before the fall term begins on August 27. Fortunately, classes are not in session this summer, he added.

Clear Creek Baptist School is a theological school for adults operated by the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

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L.A. Brown Dies
of Heart Attack

6/5/74

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (BP)--L.A. Brown, professor of religion at California Baptist College here since 1967, a former seminary professor and staff member of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta, died of a heart attack on Sunday, May 26, 1974.

Prior to joining the Cal Baptist faculty, Brown was professor of missions and comparative religion 18 years at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.

He was previously with the Home Mission Board where he was instrumental in laying the groundwork for a ministry to language groups in California.

Brown was appointed a home missionary to serve among ethnics in California in 1946. He served in this capacity until he became field secretary in the then direct missions department, 1949-50.

A scholar with five earned degrees, Brown earned the bachelor of arts and bachelors of science degrees and went on to the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., where he earned the bachelor, master and doctor of theology degrees.

He also directed the church-related vocational program at Cal Baptist.

Surviving is his widow, Wilma T. Brown of the Cal Baptist faculty.

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