



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor
James Lee Young, Feature Editor

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Orville Scott, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Tex. 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
MEMPHIS Roy Jennings, Chief, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104, Telephone (901) 272-2461
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Gomer Lesch, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 254-5461
RICHMOND Jesse C. Fletcher, Chief, 3808 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

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**Court Delays Decision
On College Student Aid**

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U. S. Supreme Court, in an unusual action, disclosed here that it will not hear a Tennessee higher education case it had agreed to hear less than two months ago. Instead, the case will be returned to a lower federal court for reconsideration there.

The case, Blanton v. Americans United for Separation of Church and State, was brought to the high court by Tennessee officials seeking to have reversed a U. S. district court decision that the state's tuition grant program for students enrolled in all Tennessee colleges and universities is unconstitutional.

The lower court held last year that the state's program, which provides a cash stipend to residents of Tennessee to stay in the state to pursue their college education, violates the First Amendment's prohibition of an establishment of religion.

In announcing its new decision, the Supreme Court noted that since it announced in March its willingness to hear the case, the Tennessee legislature has amended the tuition grant law so as to insure that state funds will not be used to aid sectarian teaching in the state's nonpublic, church-related colleges and universities.

Tennessee officials, led by Gov. Ray Blanton, had filed the request that the court send the case back to the U. S. district court for the Middle District of Tennessee, where it originated. The state's memorandum to the Supreme Court noted that the lower court had indicated at the time if a "secular use restriction" clause were included in the law, the outcome might well be different.

The memorandum called attention to the amendment to the tuition grant plan passed by the Tennessee General Assembly last month, which specified that colleges and universities receiving state funds "shall use those funds solely for secular purposes, and shall maintain such records as are necessary to allow verification that (they) are used for secular purposes."

Tennessee maintained in its request to the high court that the legislature's action had "cured the constitutional defect" invoked by the district court in its rejection of the program.

Americans United countered with a memorandum urging the high court to turn aside Tennessee's request and to proceed to hear the case as previously announced. The Washington-based group insisted that the amendment to the tuition grant program passed by the Tennessee legislature "addresses itself to the manner in which the funds are used by the school" instead of facing the more primary question of the "eligibility of the school itself."

The memorandum argued that even if a "substantially sectarian institution" did spend state funds solely for secular activities, that would "not negate the fact that the state has purchased for (the) recipient students an education that includes a sectarian as well as secular content."

Calling attention to a series of Supreme Court decisions holding similar plans on the elementary and secondary school levels unconstitutional, Americans United argued further that "tuition grants, though channeled through the conduit of the student, provide aid to the school itself."

The memorandum also questioned whether the administrative machinery which the revised law would require to insure that the state funds are used for purely secular purposes would not result in excessive "entanglement" of church and state. It further warned of "political divisions along religious lines of the sort that the First Amendment was designed to prevent" which might result from the program.

The new Supreme Court action probably merely delays the day when it will be faced with the case again. Regardless of the outcome at the district court level, the losing party is likely to appeal once more to the high court.

The action does not affect another higher education case which the court had already agreed to hear at the same time it would have heard the Tennessee case. In that case, a Maryland law, which channels state funds directly to both public and sectarian colleges and universities, is under challenge.

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Johnson To Head
Baptist Medical Centers

Baptist Press
5/13/75

BIRMINGHAM (BP)--Emmett Johnson, administrator, High Plains Baptist Hospital, Amarillo, Tex., will become president of the Baptist Medical Centers in Birmingham effective June 15.

Baptist Medical Centers, with a total of 912 beds, now ranks ninth in the number of patients cared for annually among the 5,200 not-for-profit hospitals in the United States. It also has management contracts with several hospitals and medical facilities. More than 33,000 patients were admitted in 1973.

Johnson, a native of Houston, came to Amarillo in November, 1963, as executive director of the Amarillo Area Foundation with specific responsibility for building and organizing High Plains Baptist Hospital and assisting in the development of the Amarillo Medical Center.

Previously he served as administrator of Western Baptist Hospital, Paducah, Ky., and associate administrator, Baptist Memorial Hospital, Jacksonville, Fla.

He holds a bachelor of business degree in hospital administration from North Texas State College in Denton, a master of science degree in hospital administration from Northwestern University in Chicago and spent his administrative residence at Medical Center Hospital in Tyler, Tex.

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Newport and Hal Lindsey To
Discuss Prophecy on ABC-TV

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5/13/75

FORT WORTH (BP)--A conversation on Biblical prophecy, featuring a seminary professor and a popular author on the subject, will be aired June 22 on the American Broadcasting Company's "Directions" program titled "Where Do We Go From Here?"

John Newport, professor of philosophy of religion at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Tex., and Hal Lindsey of Los Angeles, Calif., author of "The Late Great Planet Earth" and other books on prophecy, will discuss the subject from 1 to 1:30 p.m. EDT.

Virginia Sherwood of Washington, correspondent for ABC news, will moderate the program which was produced by ABC in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, Fort Worth.

Both Lindsey and Newport agreed that "Prophecy primarily is given to challenge people to meet crises." They disagreed on the belief that prophecy indicates that the world is living in what the Bible calls "the last days."

"History has begun and will move to its logical conclusion," Newport said. Lindsey said that "Prophecy is designed to give us understanding of where we are in God's program." He cited the return of the Jews to Israel as a nation as a signal that the world is in "the last days."

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Other subjects discussed in the conversation program included the results of the Jesus Movement, apostasy (a falling away from organized Christianity) in the churches, and the "one great hope" for everyone.

In a conversation dotted with friendly disagreements, both Newport and Lindsey agreed that the "one great hope" is a personal faith in Jesus Christ and in his second coming.

"God is still active in the world," Newport concluded. "It is God who gives us resources to help us make it a better world."

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Home Mission Board Gets Record Support; Looks to Future

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5/13/75

ATLANTA (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board received unprecedented support from Southern Baptists in 1974-75, according to economic indicators.

Its leaders look to the last half of the decade with a vision of reaching every person in America with the gospel of Jesus Christ, a board spokesman said.

In spite of national economic ills, Southern Baptists gave unflagging support for their home missions effort through the denomination's Cooperative Program unified budget and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions during the fiscal year.

The board's share of the record Cooperative Program receipts--up 13 percent in 1974--was \$6,225,913. Annie Armstrong Easter Offering totals also set a new record--\$8,130,142, up more than \$1.1 over the 1974 goal.

That support enabled the board to raise missionary and staff salaries, though the median salary for home missionaries is still some \$2,000 below the national median.

The national missionary force at the close of 1974 was 2,171--down six from the total a year ago. The goal for 1974 is to have 2,250 missionaries on the field, but the emphasis will continue on "catalytic missionaries" working through others instead of doing all the work of missions themselves.

During the year, the board appointed 414 persons, a gain of 14 percent over 1973, with 75 missionaries, 165 associate missionaries, 148 pastoral missionaries and 26 serving two-year US-2 appointments.

Also, 1,005 student summer missionaries were appointed by both the Home Mission Board and the Baptist Student Unions across the nation, and, also 23 "sojourners"--high school summer missions volunteers--were appointed for the first time.

Through the rest of 1975 and 1976, the Home Mission Board will join other SBC agencies and the rest of the nation in marking the nation's bicentennial, a board spokesman said.

An exhibit of photos and art work will tour shopping malls, college campuses, national parks and other areas. Spot announcements will be made on radio and television and vacationers and participants in the board's "campers on mission" program will visit and witness for their Christian faith in historical areas during the emphasis.

During the remainder of the decade, the board program will relate to one or both of two goals stressing evangelization and beginning new congregations.

In keeping with the Southern Baptist Convention's planning, which emphasizes a "bold mission thrust" for the rest of the decade, the board has adopted a two-fold theme for 1976-79: "Let every person in our land have an opportunity to hear and accept the gospel of Jesus Christ" and "Let every person in our land have an opportunity to share in the witness and ministry of a New Testament fellowship of believers."

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Louisiana College Names
Robert Lynn as President

PINEVILLE, La. (BP)--Robert L. Lynn, vice president for administration at Oklahoma Baptist University (OBU), Shawnee, has been elected the sixth president of Louisiana College here, effective July 1, according to Cal Hodges, who chaired the trustees' search committee.

Lynn, 43, succeeds Earl Guinn, who left in February, after 21 years as president of the 69-year-old Louisiana Baptist school, to accept a professorship at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. Academic dean E. Eugene Hall has served as interim administrator.

A native of Fox, Okla., Lynn was managing editor of All-Church Press, Fort Worth, when he joined the OBU staff in 1967 as assistant to the president. He had served on the All-Church Press staff for about 14 years and as a reporter on the Shawnee News-Star for a year before that.

Lynn, OBU's interim president for nearly a year (Oct. 1970-Aug. 1971), was named vice president for administration in 1973, with responsibilities in fiscal and institutional planning, administrative affairs, public relations, denominational relations, information systems and student recruitment. He has also taught journalism and education courses.

He earned a bachelor of science degree in journalism from OBU; a master's degree in religious education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth; a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University, New York; and a doctor of philosophy degree in higher educational administration from the University of Oklahoma, Norman.

Active in civic, educational and denominational affairs, Lynn has served as vice president and charter board member of the Oklahoma Association of Independent Colleges and universities; on the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board; on the national board of governors of the Religious Public Relations Council; on the board of directors of the Baptist Standard in Texas; as Shawnee United Fund Drive chairman; as an officer in several civic organizations; as a member of the advisory group of the Center for Studies in Higher Education and on the staff (June, 1972) of the Higher Education Resource Development Institute, both at the University of Oklahoma; and as a member of several professional educational, journalistic and public relations organizations.

As a member of First Baptist Church, Shawnee, Lynn has served as a deacon, Sunday School teacher, department director and chairman of the personnel and pulpit committees.

He is married to the former Bonnie Lynn Moore of McAlester, Okla., who also holds a Ph.D. degree and has served as administrative assistant, student special services, at OBU. They have two children.

Hodges, a Baton Rouge businessman and past chairman of the Louisiana College trustees, said the board elected Lynn unanimously because of "rare ability to move our school forward in the realm of Christian higher education" in a positive way. "His administrative expertise and unusual vision, together with his deep devotion to God and his local church, make him perfectly fitted and eminently qualified to assume the top administrative post at Louisiana College."

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(BP) Photo will be mailed to Baptist state papers.
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Thomas Jefferson Adams:
Their New Pastor, By George

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PORTLAND (BP)--Effective in June, Thomas Jefferson Adams will become pastor of First Baptist Church of the Deaf, Portland, Oregon.

Where does he come from?

The pastorate of First Baptist Church, George, Washington. Where else?

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