



BAPTIST PRESS

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July 25, 1977

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An Evening With Jimmy Carter: 'We Sat Down and Talked'

By Don McGregor

YAZOO CITY, Miss. (BP)--"I don't want to get my feet back on the ground just yet. I might stump my toe."

Owen Cooper's adrenalin was still pumping as the retired industrialist and former Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) president attempted to unwind after an evening with Jimmy Carter in the Coopers' Yazoo City home.

"I don't want to recover from this visit for four or five days," he added, as he continued to receive newspaper and television reporters following the President's departure from Yazoo City.

President Carter spent the night of July 21 with the Coopers after attending a town meeting of some 2,000 people in the new Yazoo City High School gymnasium.

Although Cooper, retired president of the Mississippi Chemical Corp., the world's largest ammonium fertilizer manufacturing cooperative, had associated with Carter before, the President's visit left him full of superlatives.

He called the visit exciting but said Carter is such a "natural and genuine" person that "you don't feel a sense of awe, you feel a sense of companionship. I had known that Jimmy Carter is a sincere, genuine Christian without pretense. When he was governor of Georgia and attended SBC Brotherhood Commission meetings as a trustee, he would be there when the meeting started and not leave until it was over. His Christianity shows through in meetings and in conversations."

In the Cooper den that night, while the President ate Mrs. Cooper's homemade ice cream topped with peaches, and at the breakfast table the next morning, while he ate fresh peaches and drank coffee, host and visitor talked about a lot of things.

Their conversation ranged from casual discussion to the SBC plan to send 5,000 short-term missionaries by 1982--a plan for which Carter provided the impetus.

The President's informal, human touch set the tone for the visit.

Carter, who had taken off his coat in the heat of the un-air conditioned gymnasium arrived at the Coopers' still without it.

He asked his host if he could slip off his tie, and then spent the first 10 minutes with the Cooper grandchildren. He talked with them about his daughter, Amy, and established rapport with them, Cooper recalls.

"We just sat down and talked," Cooper said.

They discussed mental health and Mrs. Carter's recent trip to South America, among other things.

"We talked a little church, but not much," Cooper said. "We mentioned his reading his Bible daily in Spanish and asked him to read a devotional thought for the evening from II Corinthians 13."

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The President went upstairs to get his Spanish Bible and discovered he had left it at home. The Coopers had a paperback New Testament in Spanish and Carter used it. Afterward, he autographed it for Oscar Romo, the language missions director for the SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta, at the Coopers' request.

Following the Bible reading, Ben Ladner, the Coopers' son-in-law, led the group in prayer.

The President retired at 11 p.m. and was down for breakfast at 5:45 a.m. As they ate, Cooper brought Carter up to date on the program the President had recommended to the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting last June in Kansas City.

Following a meeting with SBC agency heads, in which he proposed the SBC beef up its short-term volunteer mission programs to tap the resources of Baptists of all ages, Carter made a videotape appeal to the convention. His suggestion passed enthusiastically.

Cooper filled the President in on the procedures being followed and told him the target date of having orientation in the Spring for the first group seemed realistic.

Characteristically, Carter volunteered his services if there was anything he could do further, Cooper said.

The retired industrialist, who seems to be just catching his second wind in denominational service, told the President the name selected for the program (at a meeting of a special committee in Nashville in early July) is Mission Service Corps.

"That thing (the Mission Service Corps) can work," Cooper told an interviewer after the President's departure. "We've always got to approach our missions work with the possibility of being able to witness and not back away completely because we think a door is closed."

Cooper, a member of First Baptist Church, Yazoo City, said he felt the meeting in the town on the edge of the Mississippi Delta, had helped the community.

"There was a wonderful feeling of cooperation in staging the event and that cooperation can come in other ways if we can get together and work," he said.

Part of the cooperation came from Cooper's next door neighbors, the Charles Jacksons, who moved out of their house for the evening to help the Secret Service. Jackson, senior vice president of Mississippi Chemical, is a city alderman and past chairman of deacons at First Baptist Church.

Jerry Clower, a national television personality and also a member of First Baptist Church, did his share by serving as master of ceremonies at a watermelon cutting for the town and visiting newspeople. The mayor of the city, Floyd Johnson, is also a Baptist.

The townspeople received the President warmly, giving him a standing ovation when he entered the gymnasium.

But it was not the first standing ovation of the evening. Shortly before the President arrived, Cooper walked in. Spontaneously the crowd was on its feet applauding.

First Baptist Church pastor, James Yates, for whom Cooper filled the pulpit the following Sunday while he was out of town preaching a revival, summed up how Yazoo City feels about Cooper:

"Even though people might not agree with all his decisions and philosophies, they could not help but appreciate what he was trying to do for the city and they respect him for it. Owen Cooper puts the interests of others first--especially his church and his pastor."

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(BP) Photo will be mailed to Baptist state papers by the Mississippi Baptist Record.

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

Second in a two-part analysis of Supreme Court decisions

ANALYSIS

High Court Moral Rulings
Counted as Gains, Losses

By Stan Hastey

WASHINGTON (EP)--In a series of controversial actions, the U. S. Supreme Court dealt with numerous moral issues in its recently-concluded term here.

Among these were abortion, the death penalty, obscenity, discrimination, and corporal punishment in schools.

No one question in the country during recent years has stirred passions quite so much as the debate over abortion and the role government should play in controlling it.

The Supreme Court decided late this term that neither the federal nor state governments are constitutionally mandated to provide funds for abortions. The justices also ruled that city-owned hospitals may refuse to perform abortions that are not medically necessary.

All these actions came as stunning blows to the women's movement and to civil libertarians who have interpreted the high court's historic 1973 ruling permitting most abortions as meaning that government must pay for the procedure in the cases of poor women unable to secure it otherwise.

The argument is that because the right to an abortion is a fundamental aspect of the right to privacy guaranteed by the Constitution, that right must be made available to all women if it is to mean anything.

On the other side, anti-abortionists claim that although the high court has declared that abortion in most circumstances involves the right to privacy, this does not mean by extension that the government is obligated to pay for it.

That is precisely the position of President Jimmy Carter, who has stated repeatedly that he opposes public funding of abortions. He also declared in a recent news conference that many things in life are unfair and that it is not the role of government to make everything equal for poor and rich, especially if a moral question is involved.

In one of the decisions reached by the court on the subject, Justice Lewis F. Powell wrote that the 1973 decisions striking down strict anti-abortion laws in the states "did not declare an unqualified 'constitutional right to an abortion.'" He went on to say that "it implies no limitation on the authority of a state to make a value judgment favoring childbirth over abortion, and to implement that judgment by the allocation of public funds."

Powell seemed to be using logic similar to the President's when he declared that "the Constitution does not provide judicial remedies for every social and economic ill."

In another action, the court ruled that state welfare officials cannot forbid young women who are wards of the state to obtain abortions. In so doing, the court held that the states cannot issue regulations giving welfare officials the right to refuse an abortion to a ward of the state during the first trimester.

The high court also ruled that an Indiana law requiring all first trimester abortions to be performed in hospitals is unconstitutional.

In another highly emotional area, the justices decided that the crime of rape does not merit imposing the death penalty. The court also held that mandatory death sentences on convicted murderers of policemen violate the Eighth Amendment's ban on cruel and unusual punishment.

In its 7-2 decision striking down capital punishment for convicted rapists, the court acknowledged that "short of homicide, (rape) is the 'ultimate violation of self.'" Nevertheless, the court said that "we have the abiding conviction that the death penalty, which is 'unique in its severity and revocability,' is an excessive penalty for the rapist who, as such, does not take human life."

The court also struck down a Louisiana law calling for mandatory death sentences for convicted murderers of policemen. Last year, the court invalidated more general mandatory death sentences in both Louisiana and North Carolina.

In its new ruling, the court conceded that while society has a special responsibility to protect law enforcement officials, circumstances such as the murderer's youth, absence of previous record of conviction, and emotional disturbance makes mandatory sentences unacceptable.

In what may be its most vexing area, the high court took numerous actions relating to obscenity.

The justices unanimously reversed the conviction of a Kentucky man convicted of transporting obscene materials across state lines on the basis of Supreme Court guidelines not in effect at the time of the conviction.

Since 1973, the high court has been working under a set of guidelines considerably stricter than those previously in effect. The court ruled in 1973 that local communities may set up their own standards of obscenity. The justices' failure to define "community," however, has resulted in a deluge of cases in federal courts around the country.

In another decision this term, the court ruled 5-4 that the states may enforce laws aimed at controlling magazines and films featuring sado-masochism. The action upheld Illinois' anti-obscenity statute.

The court also upheld the conviction of a California man convicted of selling two reels of obscene film despite his contention that the judge at his trial gave the jury improper instructions.

And, finally, the justices ruled in another 5-4 opinion that local juries, not state legislatures, are to determine what constitutes obscenity in federal cases.

The high court's term was also marked by numerous actions related to race, sex, and age discrimination.

In its most widely-publicized action, the court agreed to hear next term the case of a white student denied admission to medical school because of an "affirmative action" program designed to admit minority students. The case is seen by civil rights leaders as the most crucial legal test in recent years as to how serious the country is about righting past injustices against minorities, particularly blacks.

The court angered women's groups in a series of actions which many women see as setbacks in their struggle for equality.

In December, the court decided 6-3 that private employers are not obligated to provide pregnancy disability benefits to women who must drop out of the labor force to give birth. The ruling upheld such a policy at the General Electric Co. The court will hear a case next term to determine if sick leave benefits must be given women during time off for childbirth.

In another action seen as a major defeat by women's groups, the court said that an airline stewardess who was fired for getting married but later reinstated after passage of a federal anti-discrimination law is not entitled to full seniority for service before the new statute went into effect.

The court also ruled that some prison conditions are so bad that the states may deny women jobs as prison guards and upheld the right of the city of Philadelphia, Pa., to operate sex-segregated high schools.

In the area of age discrimination, the court held 7-2 that young men in the 18-20 age bracket may not be denied the right to purchase beer when young women of the same age are allowed to do so.

The court also agreed to hear a case next term challenging United Air Lines' policy of mandatory retirement at age 60.

In its corporal punishment decision, the court ruled 5-4 that local school officials and teachers are not forbidden by the Constitution to paddle pupils. The decision was met by considerable outrage, however, because the two students involved in the Miami, Fla., incident were severely beaten.

All in all, most civil libertarians see the just-concluded term of the Supreme Court as further evidence that the day when individual freedoms had the upper hand over the so-called rights of society has now ended--at least until the character of the court is changed by the addition of justices whose legal philosophy differs markedly from that of current Chief Justice Warren E. Burger and the present majority.

They point to what they see as heavy losses this past term in the areas of abortion, obscenity, discrimination, and criminal justice. And while they approve of the high court's rejection of the death penalty for rape and mandatory death sentences for murderers of policemen, they know that the big battle over capital punishment was lost last year when the court ruled that executing first degree murderers does not of itself violate the Constitution.

On the other hand, Americans convinced that the Supreme Court under the leadership of the late Chief Justice Earl Warren went too far in protecting the rights of criminal defendants and individual freedoms, are praising the Burger court for placing more emphasis on what they see as the right of society to be protected from criminals and protestors of the social order.

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20,000 Hear Luis Palau
In Buenos Aires Campaign

Baptist Press
7/25/77

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (BP)--An estimated 20,000 came to Luna Park here to hear Luis Palau speak in a recent evangelistic campaign.

Thousands had to stand outside the indoor stadium to hear the Argentine evangelist and radio speaker, according to Frances E. Roberts, Southern Baptist missionary press representative.

More than 2,700 made decisions during the five-day campaign, which was organized by the youth of six Protestant denominations. Young people, along with pastors and missionaries, served as counselors.

The participating churches are now involved in the follow-up, seeking to make serious disciples of those who made decisions, according to Southern Baptist missionary, Marion T. Lineberger Sr., promoter for the Federal Capital Baptist Association of Churches.

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Devotion For Carter,
Cooper Was 'Natural'

Baptist Press
7/25/77

YAZOO CITY, Miss. (BP)--President Jimmy Carter's reading of Corinthians 13 in Spanish while a guest in the home of fellow Southern Baptist layman Owen Cooper here was a "natural" for the special visitor and his hosts.

Carter spent the night of July 21 in the home of the 1973-75 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) president as part of his travels to visit in American homes and feel the opinion pulse of citizens via town hall-style meetings.

In an interview on the day which began with breakfast with the President, Cooper said that daily devotionals are observed by him and his wife and by President and Mrs. Carter. Thus, it was "very natural" for the evening of July 21 to end with Bible reading.

The evening that the President stayed with Cooper began with a session with photographers and reporters and an informal discussion between the President and Mrs. Cooper about their native Georgia. The mention of Rosalynn Carter's goodwill tour of South America and her interest in Spanish prompted the President to describe a custom of the first family.

"It was about a quarter til eleven at that point" Cooper recalled and he told us that each night either the President or Mrs. Carter would read out loud to the other a chapter in the New Testament in Spanish."

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"Would you read us a chapter in Spanish?" Cooper asked his guest. After the President agreed, he read Corinthians 13 from Cooper's Spanish-language New Testament.

A prayer by Cooper's son-in-law ended the impromptu Bible study, which included some English interpretation of the familiar passage.

A few minutes after bidding his hosts good night, Carter returned downstairs to request to borrow Cooper's Spanish-language New Testament since he had forgotten to bring his own copy "for my devotion tonight."

Carter returned the New Testament to Cooper after autographing it at his host's request. Cooper plans to give the copy to Oscar Romo, language missions director at the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) Home Mission Board.

Cooper said that Carter probably accepted his invitation to come to Yazoo City because of the 10-year association the two have shared through SBC programs for lay persons and for missions.

The two well-known laymen share interests besides daily devotionals. They have common professional interests because of Carter's peanut business and Cooper's longtime administration of one of the world's largest fertilizer manufacturing cooperatives.

Carter and Cooper discussed another major common interest over breakfast before the President's departure from Yazoo City.

Both have played formative roles in the SBC's goal of securing 5,000 short-term mission volunteers by 1982.

The President, who has done volunteer missions work himself, expressed to Cooper a continuing commitment to the Baptist program.

Cooper and other Southern Baptist leaders met with Carter at the White House on the subject in June.

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Missionaries' Son Dies
In Houston Hospital

By Ruth Fowler

Baptist Press
7/25/77

HOUSTON (BP)--Kyle Kingsley, 22-year-old son of Southern Baptist missionaries, died at 1:30 p.m., Friday, July 22, in Northwest Houston Medical Center after suffering a cerebral aneurysm during the weekend of July 16.

Kingsley's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gene E. Kingsley of Alabama and Texas, returned to the United States July 21 from Lilongwe, Malawi, where he works with theological education by extension and as a general evangelist.

Funeral services were held July 25 in the Champion Forest Baptist Church in Houston with burial at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Beaumont, Tex.

Young Kingsley was born in the states, but moved with his parents to the mission field at the age of five. He had just completed his sophomore year at Lamar University, Beaumont, and was living in Houston for the summer.

Survivors include his parents; two brothers, Kirk, who is a college student living in Dallas for the summer, and Keith, a senior at Rift Valley Academy in Nairobi, Kenya; and one sister, Karen, age 10, who lives at home.

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Pinson Elected President
Of Golden Gate Seminary

Baptist Press
7/25/77

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--William M. Pinson, Jr., has been elected to become the fourth president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary here.

The seminary's trustees selected the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Tex., to head the 33-year-old Southern Baptist seminary, succeeding Harold K. Graves, who retires July 31 after 25 years of service as president.

Pinson will begin his service as president on Aug. 15, 1977. The date for his formal inauguration will be announced later.

The 42-year-old Pinson has been pastor of the Wichita Falls church, one of the largest in the Southern Baptist Convention, since 1975. From 1963 to 1975 he was professor of Christian ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

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In 1969-70 Pinson was interim pastor of Manhattan Baptist Church in New York City. He served as associate secretary of the Christian Life Commission, Baptist General Convention of Texas from 1957-63. He was graduated with a B.A. degree from North Texas State University in 1955, B.Div. degree from Southwestern Seminary in 1959 and a Th.D. degree from Southwestern in 1963. He has done graduate study at Edinburgh, Columbia, Yale, Princeton, Texas, Christian and San Francisco Theological Seminary.

Pinson has written widely in the field of Christian ethics, general ministry and preaching. Among his works are: "Applying the Gospel: Suggestions for Christian Social Action in a Local Church," "The Five Worlds of Youth" and "How to Deal with Controversial Issues."

He has been the featured lecturer for Christian Emphasis Week for more than 25 college and universities, NBC's "Faith in Action" series and delivered one of the major addresses at the meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Kansas City, Mo., in June 1977.

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers.

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Baptist Press
7/25/77Ethiopian Missionaries
Seek New Assignments

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP)--An Ethiopian Christian has been appointed administrator for handling Southern Baptist work in Addis Ababa, but there are no plans for any Southern Baptist missionaries to return to Ethiopia "until the situation stabilizes" in that country, Davis L. Saunders said here July 25.

Saunders, area secretary for eastern and southern Africa for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, reported by phone that all missionaries assigned to Ethiopia, with one exception, are considering alternate assignments or doing feasibility studies relating to their future work.

This exception is V. Lynn Groce, an agriculturalist, who plans to remain in Nairobi serving as mission officer for Ethiopia in liaison with the Ethiopian administrator, who will maintain the work in Addis Ababa and be caretaker for Southern Baptist property in that area. Groce is maintaining contact with the administrator by phone and correspondence, Saunders explained.

Certain aspects of the Southern Baptist literature and Bible distribution work in Addis Ababa are continuing under this administrator's supervision. However, no work is being done outside of the capital, Saunders said.

"There is no real opportunity for our missionaries to function effectively in Addis Ababa at this time," Saunders said.

Unsettled political conditions in Ethiopia caused all of the Southern Baptist missionaries to leave the country by mid-June. Samuel R. J. Cannata Jr. was detained on a firearms technicality for 16 days in early April, although no formal charges were filed, and three other missionaries were detained for 48 hours later that month without charges.

Because of conditions in rural areas, the Ethiopia government advised the missionaries to contain their work to the area of Addis Ababa, the capital.

Saunders said he expects to bring recommendations for alternate assignments for about half the 30 missionaries assigned to Ethiopia to the September meeting of the Foreign Mission Board. Some, he said, will be reassigned to other countries and some will take temporary assignments awaiting clarification of conditions in Ethiopia.

Drinan Measure Would Guard
Sabbatarian Workers' Right-30-
By Stan HasteleyBaptist Press
7/25/77

WASHINGTON (BP)--A Roman Catholic priest who serves in Congress is pressing for new legislation which would guarantee job security to workers who refuse to work on Saturdays because of religious convictions.

Rep. Robert F. Drinan (D.-Mass.) introduced an amendment to strengthen a provision in the Civil Rights Act adopted in 1972 by making it more difficult for employers to fire or refuse to hire such workers.

The 1972 measure was introduced by U. S. Sen. Jennings Randolph (D.-W.Va.), the only Seventh Day Baptist in Congress. -more-

Randolph's language five years ago added religious discrimination to the list of protected categories by requiring employers to prove that "undue hardship" would result if they complied with Sabbatarian workers' request to have Saturdays off. The measure also required employers to make "reasonable accommodation" to such workers' religious needs.

Language in Drinan's proposed amendment would, according to a statement by the Congressman, "require an employer to respect the religious beliefs, practices and observances of its employees unless 'no accommodation for such employee's religious observances or practices is possible without severe pecuniary or other material loss to such employer.'"

The need for the stronger measure comes as a result of two Supreme Court rulings last spring upholding employers' dismissals of members of the Sabbatarian World Wide Church of God.

The court held that both Trans World Airlines and Parker Seal Co. had proven that "undue hardship" would result if they made arrangements for Sabbath-observing employees to take off every Saturday. Both companies cited morale problems on their work forces resulting from such accommodations.

Congressman Drinan, in introducing his new measure, said the High Court misinterpreted the intent of Congress in the rulings by "striking the balance too far to the side of purport d business interests to the detriment of religious liberty."

"In my view the balance should be struck more in favor of religious freedom than the court did in its recent decision," Drinan continued.

The decisions have been attacked by a number of religious leaders who agree with Drinan's assessment.

Among those groups affected by the ongoing debate are Jews, Seventh Day Adventists, Seventh Day Baptists, members of the World Wide Church of God, and others.

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94 Missionary Journeymen
To Serve in 45 Countries

Baptist Press
7/25/77

RICHMOND (BP)--The 13th group of Southern Baptist missionary journeymen were commissioned here July 22, bringing the total to 898 for the program, which began in 1965.

A total of 24 states were represented by this group's 94 journeymen, which is a tie with last year's group for the largest group ever appointed. Texas is represented with 16 journeymen; Tennessee, 11; and Virginia, 11.

Baker J. Cauthen, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's executive director, spoke to the overflow crowd of approximately 900 people.

"You are His messengers, His hands reaching out in love," Cauthen told the journeymen. "In whatever group you're in, you will stand as a voice of God, as His representative. And the only way you can do it is through faith."

Journeymen are college graduates younger than 27 who work for two years alongside career missionaries in specific job assignments overseas.

Job assignments include teaching, preaching, communications, nursing, youth and student work, office management and many other tasks.

Of the journeymen, 21 were commissioned for East Asia; 18 for Eastern and Southern Africa; 16 for Europe, the Middle East and South Asia; 15 for West Africa; 11 for Eastern South America; nine each for Middle America and the Caribbean, and Western South America; and five for Southeast Asia.

Prior to their commissioning, the journeymen completed six weeks of special training at Meredith College, Raleigh, N. C.

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