



# BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE  
SBC Executive Committee  
480 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
(615) 244-2355  
W. C. Fields, Director  
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor  
Norman Jameson, Feature Editor

## BUREAUS

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041  
DALLAS Richard T. McCartney, 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) L. Bracey Campbell III, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2798  
RICHMOND Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 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

July 7, 1978

78-110

American Families  
Accept Fairy Tale

By Bracey Campbell

RIDGECREST, N. C. (BP)--"Many Americans live a meaningless, empty, guilt-filled life because they believe in the American fairy tale," John Wood, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Paducah, Ky., told 260 participants in a conference on stress in the family.

Wood listed the five themes of the American fairy tale as: the more possessions, the more happiness; the more a person produces, the more important that person is; everyone must identify with and belong to a larger group; perfect mental health means no problems; and a person is abnormal unless he is always happy.

"We have problems in marriage and personal health if we believe any part of this fairy tale," Wood said. He said 90 percent of all mental illness begins with a person's inability to function in the home.

Wood said marriage was designed by God to be the most sublime relationship people can experience in this world. "But unfortunately it is not that way," he said. "The breakdown of marriage and the home is the nation's number one social problem."

To make a good marriage, Wood said, "commitment supersedes all other requirements. You must give yourself without reservation. You must throw away your parachute; don't have the attitude you can bail out."

The minister said marriage partners should develop an empathy that allows each to live in the other's shoes. "We must develop a sincere concern for the other's happiness, security and self-respect. We must think of the other person rather than major on our own complaints."

Families need to commit their children to God, according to Wood, who said King David failed as a father to Absalom because he missed his opportunity and set a bad example.

A primary parental responsibility is to teach a child that his first loyalty is not to his family. "You should tell your child that the secret is to discover who God wants him to be and to be true to that call," Wood declared.

He said family finances can be a source of fury or fellowship and that money is the number one cause of marital problems. "However, the real issue is values," he said. "Extreme difficulties arise when two parties bring to marriage completely opposite value systems."

The key to solving money arguments, he said, is to stop long enough to look under the argument and see what is at the heart of the controversy. "The most important characteristic in achieving compatibility is trust."

-30-

Court Puts New Limits  
On Death Penalty Laws

Baptist Press  
7/7/78

WASHINGTON (BP)--In the latest of a series of decisions over the past six years on the constitutionality of the death penalty, the Supreme Court struck down Ohio's death statute for failing to allow sentencing judges to consider the particular circumstances in each case.

The high court's 7-1 decision revokes the death sentence of Sandra Lockett, one of only a handful of women inmates on death rows around the country. Lockett was convicted two years ago for aiding and abetting in the murder of a Dayton pawnshop operator.

DARGAN-CARVER LIBRARY  
S. B. C. HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Ohio law requires the sentencing judge to condemn a convicted murderer to death unless one of three conditions is met: (1) the murder victim induced or facilitated the offense; (2) the killer was "under duress, coercion, or strong provocation;" or (3) the killing was occasioned by the murderer's "psychosis or mental deficiency."

Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, who wrote the 7-1 opinion, declared that in view of the fact that many states over the past few years have revised their death penalty laws, "the States now deserve the clearest guidance that the Court can provide." Burger acknowledged that "the signals from this Court have not...always been easy to decipher."

Six years ago, in "Furman v. Georgia" the court ruled that the death penalty as it was then being applied in the states violated the Eighth Amendment's ban on cruel and unusual punishment. Many observers of the court felt then that it was moving toward outright abolition of the death penalty.

Two years ago, however, the court ruled 7-2 that the death penalty does not violate the Constitution and upheld death statutes in Georgia, Florida and Texas. At the same time, by a 5-4 vote, it struck down mandatory death laws in North Carolina and Louisiana.

By ruling against mandatory death sentences, the court seemed to be telling the states that the circumstances surrounding a murder, including "mitigating" factors such as character, prior record, age, lack of specific intent to cause death, and the specific role played in the crime, must be considered at the sentencing stage since they may indicate need for a lesser sentence. Only Justice William H. Rehnquist voted to uphold the Ohio law.

Besides overturning Lockett's death sentence, the high court handed down a separate opinion doing the same in the case of Willie Lee Bell, who was sentenced to die under the same law for committing a murder four years ago when he was 16-years-old. Like Lockett, Bell did not actually "pull the trigger," but was present and participated in the crime.

The ruling also overturned the death sentences of 21 other inmates in Ohio prisons convicted under the same law.

In related cases, the court declined to schedule for review decisions of two lower courts invalidating death statutes in New York and Pennsylvania.

A New York law mandating the death penalty for killing a policeman was struck down earlier by the state's Court of Appeals after the nation's high court had invalidated a similar law in Louisiana last year.

The deficient Pennsylvania law was ruled unconstitutional by that state's Supreme Court for confining a jury's consideration of mitigating evidence in too narrow a manner.

Before recessing for the summer, the justices also declined without comment to hear an appeal challenging a Texas policy of denying entry to state prisons for executions to radio and television reporters. A federal court of appeals ruled earlier that the policy, which allows reporters for wire services, newspapers and magazines to cover executions, does not violate the free press provision of the First Amendment by making a distinction between print and electronic media.

-30-

Court Year Sees Gains In  
Liberty, Rights Rulings

By Stan Hastey

Baptist Press  
7/7/78

WASHINGTON (BP)--In its term concluded July 3, the U. S. Supreme Court took numerous actions involving church-state and human rights questions, including major decisions dealing with the sensitive issues of the role of clergy in public life, racial quotas and affirmative action, indecent language on the public airwaves, capital punishment, and sex discrimination.

-more-

Under the relaxed leadership of Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, the high court maintained its reputation for unpredictability. Nevertheless, the just-concluded term was marked by gains--sometimes modest ones to be sure--in several areas of concern to religious leaders and others committed to the cause of human freedom.

In its only major church-state decision of the term, the justices unanimously overturned a two-century-old provision in the Tennessee state constitution forbidding clergy from running for public office.

The ruling vindicated the position of a black Baptist pastor from Chattanooga, Paul A. McDaniel, who ran for and won a seat in the 1977 constitutional convention in Tennessee. McDaniel was sued by a losing opponent but was permitted to take his seat in the convention under an order by Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart.

Tennessee was the last state to still have such a ban. At one time, 13 states forbade ministers, priests, and rabbis from holding public office, but the high court had never before been asked to decide their constitutionality under the First Amendment's guarantee to the free exercise of religion.

Without question, the most closely watched and extensively analyzed decision of the term was "Regents of the University of California v. Bakke" that banned racial quotas but upheld the concept of affirmative action in school admissions. The case marked a rare instance in which all parties could claim victory. While no one seemed entirely pleased with the justices' middle-of-road position, both sides gained important objectives.

Allan Bakke, the white engineer who twice had been denied admission to the medical school at the University of California at Davis while other, less qualified students belonging to minority ethnic groups were admitted, was ordered included in next fall's entering class.

At the same time, the court upheld the concept of affirmative action in admissions to help racially disadvantaged students have a better chance to get a college or professional education.

In the aftermath of the Bakke decision the high court upheld an affirmative action hiring plan by the mammoth American Telephone & Telegraph Co. The plan, worked out under government supervision, has been in effect for the past five years and has resulted in significant employment gains for women and members of minority groups.

Rather surprisingly, the court sent back to a federal district court in California a case challenging the minority quota requirement of a federal public works law passed last year by Congress. The court thereby indicated its present unwillingness to deal directly with the issue of racial quotas in Congressionally-mandated employment legislation.

The court likewise sent back to a lower federal court a challenge by North Carolina college students to a requirement on one of the state campuses that blacks be guaranteed places in the student legislature, even if they fail to win the seats in regular elections.

In one of several actions dealing with the constitutionally delicate issue of obscenity, the justices ruled 5-4 that the Federal Communications Commission has the authority to discipline radio and television stations which violate its ban on "obscene, indecent, or profane" language.

Justice John Paul Stevens, writing for the slim majority, broke new constitutional ground by declaring that radio and television are entitled to more limited freedom of the press than print media, because "the broadcast media have established a uniquely pervasive presence in the lives of all Americans" and because of the accessibility of broadcast material to children.

In a second major obscenity ruling, the court held 8-1 that children may not be included in the determination by juries of what constitutes "community standards." The court has been groping to shed additional light on that nebulous guideline first introduced five years ago.

On the final day of its term, the high court ruled in a solid 7-1 opinion that state capital punishment laws which mandate punishments for convicted first degree murderers violate the Constitution. The decision struck down such a law in Ohio, where sentencing judges were mandated to condemn convicted murderers to death unless one of three narrowly-drawn factors could be proven. Chief Justice Burger said sentencers must be able to consider "any aspect of a defendant's character or record and any of the circumstances" surrounding the offense.

In another area, the high court made two major decisions relating to sex discrimination. In a case involving the Nashville (Tenn.) Gas Co., the justices ruled unanimously that companies may not penalize women returning from mandatory pregnancy leave by denying them accrued seniority rights. At the same time, the court held, employers are under no legal obligation to pay sick leave to women while they are temporarily removed from the work force to give birth.

In a second sex discrimination decision, the court ruled 6-2 that companies may not require women employees to make larger contributions to pension plans than do men, despite the acknowledged fact that women outlive men and thus draw more in annuity payments.

Late in the term, the court announced it will decide next term whether the National Labor Relations Board can force Roman Catholic dioceses to allow lay teachers in their parochial schools to unionize. At issue will be both religion clauses of the First Amendment, one forbidding the establishment of religion, the other guaranteeing the free exercise of religion.

Although the past term marked the first one in several years in which the burning issue of abortion did not figure prominently, the court did agree to hear a case next term involving Pennsylvania's law requiring doctors performing abortions to protect fetal life when there is sufficient reason to believe that the fetus may be viable outside the mother's womb. A federal district court held last September that the law violates the Constitution.

-30-

Tiller Named  
Interchurch Head

Baptist Press  
7/7/78

NEW YORK (BP)--Carl W. Tiller, associate secretary for the Baptist World Alliance since 1972, will become director of the Interchurch Center, which houses offices for Protestant, Jewish and Roman Catholic agencies in Manhattan's Upper West Side.

Tiller, 62, is taking early retirement from the BWA, where he had responsibility for relief, development, the inter-church aid program, financial management and liaison with the United Nations. He held various positions with the U. S. Office of Management and Budget from 1942 to 1972.

Tiller has been president of the American Baptist Convention (now the American Baptist Churches in the USA), and on the finance committee for six of the 12 years he was on the National Council of Churches' general board.

Tiller will succeed Carroll B. Fitch, who retires in August but will continue as a special consultant to the Interchurch Center.

-30-

#### CORRECTION

In (BP) story mailed July 5, entitled "Carlyle Marney Dies in Waynesville, N.C.," please change date of death in first paragraph to July 3.

Thanks, Baptist Press

**(BP)**

**BAPTIST PRESS**

460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

JUL 11 1978

*JM*  
*CD*

LYNN MAY HO  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
127 9TH AVE NO  
NASHVILLE TN 37203