



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
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 Stan L. Hastey, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

June 6, 1979

79-93

Final Lottie Moon Total
Just Under \$36 Million

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Southern Baptists gave a record \$35,919,605.40 to the 1978 Lottie Moon Christmas offering for foreign missions.

The total is a 12.5 percent increase over the 1977 offering of \$31,938,553, or a dollar increase of more than \$3.98 million. The goal for the offering, which provides nearly half the budget for Southern Baptists' foreign missions enterprise, was \$40 million.

"We praise God for the wonderful victory attained in the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering," said Baker J. Cauthen, executive director of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. "This great gift, along with the Cooperative Program (unified budget) will support missionaries, provide funds for work around the world, and bring glory to our Lord.

"We thank Woman's Missionary Union (which sponsors and promotes the offering) and every church, pastor, organization, and person who by prayer, love and giving made it possible."

-30-

Athlete Says Movement
Afoot To Take God from U. S.

DENVER (BP)--A movement is growing to take God out of the United States, Jack Dolbin, wide receiver for the Denver Broncos, told 5,000 participants in a Jesus '79 Rally in Denver.

When God is left out, he will not bless a nation, Dolbin warned those gathered at one of 55 interfaith rallies held worldwide to celebrate the day of Pentecost.

Dolbin, the only Southern Baptist on the program, said San Francisco is a prime example of a city where God has been taken out. This is obvious, he said, when pornography and homosexuality are prevalent and events occur such as the murder of Mayor Moscone.

Dolbin urged Christians to be more vocal in their communities, to "stand up and speak out against some of these significant problems."

He cited legislation he said was taking prayer out of school, textbooks where the word "God" has been taken out and movements to prohibit nativity scenes in public buildings.

Children grow up believing that if something is legal it's okay, but that's not so, Dolbin said. Instead, he said, the Word of God should be the standard.

"Let's put Jesus Christ back in the lives of people," he said.

-30-

\$20,000 Allocation
Goes to Nicaragua

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (BP)--A \$20,000 emergency allocation for hunger relief in strife-stricken Nicaragua has been granted by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Food items will be purchased and distributed to refugees and others severely affected by the nation's massive strike and fighting between government and guerrilla forces. The urgent request for relief came from the Baptist Convention of Nicaragua, said John R. Cheyne, the board's associate consultant for relief ministries. Money will be administered by missionaries through the convention, working with churches in Leon, Chinandega, Rivas and Estelí.

Food supplies are curtailed in the country as strikes and fighting often close markets and stores. Clashes, tension and unrest have prevailed in this Central American country for more than a year between the government of President Anastasio Somoza and guerrillas of the Sandinista National Liberation Front.

-30-

Market Man Turns
Preacher, Gets Table

Baptist Press
6/6/79

DALLAS (BP)--Texas Baptist Convention President Milton Cunningham and his wife were dining at a Dallas hotel when they overheard a man tell the waitress, "I'm president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and I expect good service."

"I'm going to have some fun," said Cunningham, pastor of Westbury Baptist Church, Houston.

He walked over to where the man was eating with a woman and two other men and said, "I'm president of the Texas Baptist Convention, and I like to know the people I work with."

The counterfeit president covered his face with his hands. The woman gasped, "I knew this was going to happen." One of the other men mumbled, "I'm leaving."

Finally the shocked pretender looked out from behind his hands to ask, "Mister, are you for real?"

Extending his calling card, Cunningham said, "I'd like for you to have my card, and I'd like to have one of yours. What do you do?"

"I run a produce company," the man confessed. "Several years ago when the Southern Baptist Convention was in Dallas, we went into a crowded restaurant and were sent to the bar to wait for a table.

"I looked around and finally told the waitress, 'We're with the Southern Baptist Convention.' Immediately we got a table. I've been a Baptist preacher ever since, and it helps."

-30-

Supreme Court Upholds
Veterans' Preference Laws

WASHINGTON (BP)--On the same day a narrow 5-4 Supreme Court majority held that members of Congress may be sued for employment discrimination, a solid 7-2 majority upheld a Massachusetts law by giving veterans hiring preference in Civil Service jobs.

The decision disallowed a challenge by a Massachusetts woman, Helen B. Feeney, who claimed that the law discriminates against women because most veterans are men.

-more-

Feeney challenged the law in federal district court, claiming that on several occasions during her 12 years as a state employee she had been passed over for better jobs because of the veterans preference law. She argued that the law worked overwhelmingly to the advantage of males.

The district court agreed with her, finding that while the goals of the law had merit, the impact on women was so severe that the state should seek a more limited form of preference for veterans. On an earlier appeal to the Supreme Court, the case was sent back to the district court, but it reaffirmed its earlier decision, nevertheless, concluding that the Massachusetts law was not "neutral" in that its impact inevitably would be to prefer males over females in state jobs.

The Supreme Court reversal of the decision announced by Justice Potter Stewart, acknowledged that while the Massachusetts law "may reflect unwise policy" in that veterans gain a "substantial edge" in hiring and promotions, Feeney had failed to prove that the purpose of the law was to discriminate against women.

Stewart pointed out that the law, which has been on the books and has been updated several times since the Civil War, "remains what it purports to be: a preference for veterans of either sex over nonveterans of either sex, not for men over women." The opinion went on to observe that significant numbers of men, as well as women, are adversely affected by the law.

Justice Thurgood Marshall, writing for himself and Justice William J. Brennan Jr., disagreed with the majority reasoning, arguing that Massachusetts "has created a gender-based civil service hierarchy, with women occupying low grade clerical and secretarial jobs and men holding more responsible and remunerative positions."

-30-

Wake Forest Gets
January Funds

Baptist Press
6/6/79

WINSTON-Salem, N. C. (BP)--January Cooperative Program funds for Wake Forest University totalling almost \$86,000 have been released by the North Carolina Baptist State Convention.

The funds have been held in escrow since Jan. 31 when the convention's general board voted to withhold its allocation because of actions the Baptist school's trustees took to amend its charter.

A question arose after the January board meeting over whether the funds were to be held in escrow from the day of the vote or retroactive to Jan. 1, the beginning of the fiscal year.

The board decided May 29 to authorize the convention to forward a check amounting to \$85,789 to Wake Forest. Interest amounting to \$2,689 also was sent.

Wake Forest University President James Ralph Scales made no appeal at the general board meeting for all the funds to be released, but he did call for that at a law school speech earlier. Wake Forest University is scheduled to receive nearly \$937,000 from the convention in 1979.

The Council on Christian Higher Education voted 13-11 to table a request that all of Wake Forest University's funds from the convention be released from escrow.

Frank Campbell, chairman of the council, said it's "possible" that a recommendation to release the funds could come as early as the September general board meeting or at a called meeting.

Lawyer Robin L. Hinson said the convention acted within its rights to withhold money from the university. He also urged both the North Carolina convention and Wake Forest University to avoid a court battle over their differences.

-more-

Hinson presented a digest of a 22-page legal opinion to the general board which stated, among other things, that the convention has the legal right to elect trustees of the university and cannot be deprived of the responsibility by the "unilateral" action of the trustees.

The attorney reported that he had been advised by Wake Forest's counsel that the trustees "have not yet amended the university's bylaws to establish the procedure for the election of trustees."

The convention, in unprecedented action in January, voted to place Cooperative Program funds for Wake Forest University into a special escrow account after trustees amended their charter, without convention approval, to remove Wake Forest from the agency relationship with the convention; to change language relative to trustee selection and to gain authority to borrow funds without convention approval.

-30-

High Court: Congress May Not
Discriminate in Employment

By Stan Haste

Baptist Press
6/6/79

WASHINGTON (BP)--A divided Supreme Court ruled that members of Congress are not immune from damage suits brought by staff employees who claim their constitutional rights have been violated.

The 5-4 decision, announced by Justice William J. Brennan Jr., was strongly attacked by the court minority as an infringement on the doctrine of separation of powers among the three branches of the federal government.

The decision marks a major victory for women employees of Congress, who along with other disaffected staff members, have claimed that Congress should not be allowed to discriminate in its employment practices while it requires other employers under the Civil Rights Act to hire and fire on a nondiscriminatory basis.

Shirley Davis, formerly deputy administrative assistant to U.S. Rep. Otto E. Passman, D-La., brought suit against the congressman for firing her solely because she is a woman. She was dismissed from the No. 2 position on Passman's staff just seven months after assuming the post.

In a letter informing Davis of her firing, Passman told her that "on account of the unusually heavy work load in my Washington office, and the diversity of the job, I concluded that it was essential that the understudy to my administrative assistant be a man."

Davis brought suit in the U.S. district court for the western district of Louisiana, alleging the congressman's decision discriminated against her on the basis of sex in violation of her right to due process under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution.

She also sought damages in the form of back pay, demanded to be reinstated, and asked that she be promoted and given a salary increase. The high court ruling, which affirmed her right to sue a congressman, will allow Davis to argue her case on its merits and receive back pay if she wins. Because of Passman's defeat in 1976, however, Davis's other demands cannot be met.

The federal district court ruled against Davis, declaring that she had "no private right of action." A three-judge panel of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the district court, however, holding that Davis had a cause of action for damages directly under the Fifth Amendment.

Because of the importance of the case, the full court of appeals, consisting of 14 judges, decided to reconsider the case and reversed its own three-judge panel, holding with the district court that Davis could not sue Passman under the due process clause.

In reversing that decision, the high court majority emphasized that its decision was based on Davis's right to seek relief and not on the merits of her case. The case was sent back to the court of appeals for further action.

In a strongly-worded dissent, Chief Justice Warren E. Burger declared the Davis case "presents very grave questions of separation of powers." He pointed out that "Congress has historically treated its employees differently" and should be allowed to continue to do so.

-30-

CORRECTION: In Baptist Press story mailed 6-4-79 entitled "Koreans Responsible for Asia, Says Convention President" please change sentence in fourth graph to read: Now there are about 620 Baptist churches, etc. Thanks, Baptist Press