

**(BP)****BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Baptist Hospital-NLRB  
Fight Ends in Draw

By Stan Haste

WASHINGTON (BP)--In a case involving Baptist Hospital of Nashville, Tenn., the Supreme Court ruled here that workers may be solicited for membership in a union in some parts of the hospital but not in others.

The dispute between the hospital and the union dates to 1974, when a local unit of the Service Employees International Union began organizing workers at the 600-bed hospital. The hospital then announced a new rule prohibiting union solicitation at all times in areas of the hospital accessible to or used by the public.

The union filed a complaint with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) which found that the hospital's ban on solicitation violated a section of the National Labor Relations Act and ordered the hospital to lift it.

When the hospital refused, the union sought to have a federal court of appeals enforce its order. The court refused, however, agreeing with hospital officials who claimed that solicitation anywhere on the premises might adversely affect patients' recovery.

In its 9-0 ruling, the Supreme Court agreed with a portion of the court of appeals' decision, holding that the hospital may forbid solicitation in certain areas of the hospital, including corridors and sitting rooms on floors of the hospital having patient rooms or operating and therapy rooms.

At the same time, the justices held that the NLRB order overturning the ban is valid for much of the hospital's first floor, including the cafeteria, gift shop, and lobbies.

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Baptists Need 'Political  
Evangelism' Too, Elder SaysBaptist Press  
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KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--A Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission executive appealed for Southern Baptists to become involved in "political evangelism" during a workshop for campus ministers from seven states.

"There is Good News for the structures of society as well as for the individual, and the only way those structures are going to hear the Good News is if Christian people use the political process, based on their commitment to Christ," proclaimed William H. Elder, director of Christian citizenship development for the national moral concerns agency.

"This is political evangelism, and the Bible calls for it from the origins of Israel through the Book of Revelation," he said.

Elder was one of the principle speakers at the week-long workshop at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary which attracted campus ministers from Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Tennessee.

He told the group that Southern Baptists have tended to emphasize personal evangelism while neglecting societal evangelism.

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"That is not to minimize the personal dimension of evangelism for a moment," said Elder, "but it is to realize that in the Bible proclaiming Good News includes both facets, and we need to reclaim both to be true to our evangelism."

"We have a whole gospel, and we need to have a whole evangelism too. If we put into effect this societal dimension, we'll be ministering to the whole man, not just the spiritual side of man. We need to be 'people winners' rather than simply soul winners."

The Christian Life Commission, Elder said, has developed a Christian Citizenship Corps to provide Southern Baptists with some practical handles for the political evangelism concept.

Officially introduced several weeks ago, Elder said the citizenship corps will be a network of Southern Baptists who are informed on political issues and are willing to communicate with government at local, state, and national levels. The Christian Life Commission will channel information on legislative issues and their ethical implications to corps members and will try to facilitate communication with government.

He said the nationwide network will allow Southern Baptists "to utilize biblical principles in analyzing public policy issues and then, in the spirit of Christian love and courage, to bring that kind of insight to bear on government and politics."

Membership in the citizenship corps, he added, is open to any interested Southern Baptist.

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Education Commission  
Elects Rex Hammock

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Rex Hammock has been named director of communications of the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, according to Arthur L. Walker, executive director-treasurer.

Hammock, 25, a native of Phenix City, Ala., will coordinate the commission's communication activities and serve as associate editor of the "Southern Baptist Educator."

A graduate of Samford University, Hammock is scheduled to receive the master of divinity degree from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., in December.

While at Southern, Hammock worked in the seminary's public relations office. At various times, he served as seminary news director, managing editor of the alumni magazine "The Tie," editor of the campus publication "Towers," and campus photographer.

He has worked as public relations intern for the Alabama Baptist State Convention and served one summer as staff writer for The Alabama Baptist. At Samford, Hammock was president of Campus Ministries and was selected "Mr. Samford" by the student body.

He is married to the former Ann Parker Knight of Largo, Fla.

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BWA's Affiliated Bodies  
Show Increases in 1978

WASHINGTON (BP)--Membership of churches within the 111 Baptist conventions and unions affiliated with the Baptist World Alliance increased 1.4 percent during 1978.

A new statistical survey lists a total membership of 29,586,529 baptized believers in 115,563 churches within these affiliated bodies, Robert S. Denny, the BWA's general secretary, reported. This represents a gain of 1,436 churches and 415,174 members.

Reports also show a total of 27,035 "other preaching places," reflecting the evangelistic outreach of churches in missions and other congregations not yet organized as churches.

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Some groups reported lower 1979 figures than for 1978, but there were spectacular gains in other groups.

Church membership in the Baptist Convention of Nigeria increased 50 percent--from 200,000 in 780 churches to 300,000 in 1,250 churches. Membership increased 11 percent in Brazil, 20 percent in Burundi, 16 percent in Colombia, 10 percent in North East India, 17 percent in Korea, and 63 percent in Rhodesia.

The 1979 survey is restricted to the Alliance's member bodies, which have headquarters in 82 nations and dependencies. These bodies are known to have members and mission work in a total of 120 countries but the membership of churches outside their own geographical area is not reported in the survey.

Estimates indicate that "The total number of people bearing the name 'Baptist' exceeds 34 million--of which 29.6 million are active members of the Alliance's affiliated bodies," said C. E. Bryant, BWA associate secretary for communications. "This larger number includes Baptist work in as many as 138 countries and dependencies."

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First Hispanic Editor  
Joins Sunday School Board

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6/22/79

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The first editor of materials for Spanish-speaking Baptists living in the United States has begun work in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Sunday School department.

Tito Fafasuli, 44, a native of Argentina, came to the board from the Baptist Spanish Publishing House in El Paso, Texas, where he had served for three years as associate director of the book department.

As editor of language materials, his responsibilities include Sunday School materials for adult members and teachers, El Interprete and El Interprete: Maestro, and initiating the publication of other materials in Spanish.

"This is a big step forward for the board because we have never had a Hispanic person on our staff," said Gene Chamberlain, supervisor of the special ministries section which includes language ministries, as well as work with the deaf, blind, and mentally retarded.

"We look forward to producing more and better materials in Spanish," said Chamberlain, who added that future plans include the development of materials in other languages.

Fafasuli, formerly a pastor in Paraguay and Argentina, came to the U.S. in 1971 to attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. After completing his master of divinity degree, he became book editor at the Spanish Publishing House, operated by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, before becoming associate director of the book department.

Fafasuli said he came to the board because "I saw the challenge of the job. There are now more than 1,200 Spanish-speaking Southern Baptist congregations in the United States. There is a great need for materials in Spanish designed especially for the bilingual, bi-cultural Hispanic population in the United States," he said.

Fafasuli grew up in a Baptist home after his parents became Christians through the efforts of Southern Baptist missionaries. He attended the Baptist seminary, Internacional Bautista, in Buenos Aires.

He has served as president of the Paraguay Baptist Convention, chairman of the Buenos Aires Baptist Association and chairman of the Argentina Baptist Pastors Association.

"We have reached a new dimension in foreign missions when people who are products of our foreign mission work come to the United States to serve our denomination," said Mary Jo Stewart, press representative, Baptist Spanish Publishing House.

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(BP) photo mailed to Baptist state newspapers by Sunday School Board Bureau of Baptist Press.

Washington Association  
Re-Instates Church

By Herb Hollinger

EDMOND, Wash. (BP)--A Seattle church, removed from the local association in 1970 because of "Pentecostal tendencies," was unanimously received back into membership during the semi-annual meeting of the Puget Sound Baptist Association.

Woodland Baptist Church, at one time one of the larger Southern Baptist churches in the Seattle area, had been charged with "corrupt practices" as early as Oct. 16, 1969, when the association was asked to exclude messengers from the church because of "heresy."

At the urging of Woodland's pastor for the past two and one-half years, Gus Bohot, 52, the church had earlier this year voted with just one dissenting vote to seek to return to the association. The Puget Sound credentials committee recommended the church be received and after more than nine years the messengers were seated.

An objection to the seating of Woodland messengers occurred during Northwest Baptist Convention's annual meeting in 1970 because of the church's "corrupt practices." It was sustained by the convention and they have not been seated since. However, Bohot said he has written convention executive-director Dan C. Stringer for information on how to get the church back into fellowship with the convention.

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Herb Hollinger is editor of the Northwest Baptist Witness, Portland, Ore.

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Maston Recovers  
In Fort Worth Hospital

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FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--T. B. Maston, 81-year-old retired professor of Christian ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, is "improving steadily" at a Fort Worth hospital after being rushed to the hospital's emergency room because of severe chest pains.

According to Maston's wife, Essie Mae, doctors at Harris Hospital have determined the problem to be angina, rather than a heart attack, and have found no heart damage. Mrs. Maston said the chest pains struck Maston as he was getting ready to go to church on Sunday.

Maston was honored for his contribution to the life of Southern Baptists through his 41 years of writing and teaching at Southwestern Seminary at a special luncheon during the recent Southern Baptist Convention in Houston.

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