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80-14

High Court Rules Against
Denver Creche Opponents

By Stan Haste

WASHINGTON (BP)--A six-week effort by advocates of separation of church and state in Denver, Colo. ended in failure here when the U.S. Supreme Court refused to reverse a lower court ruling which allowed the city of Denver to display a traditional nativity scene during the Christmas season just passed.

The Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit had ruled earlier that the city and county of Denver could leave the nativity scene in place despite a ruling against Denver in a federal district court. That decision held that the display violated church-state separation.

The original suit was filed by a group of Denver residents calling themselves Citizens Concerned for Separation of Church and State. They were supported in the suit by the American Civil Liberties Union.

Federal District Judge Richard Matsch agreed with their arguments, ruling that the use of public funds to erect and light the nativity scene violated the First Amendment's ban on an Establishment of Religion by the state.

Denver Mayor William McNichols, however, ordered his city attorney to ask the Tenth Court of Appeals for a stay of the lower order pending appeal of the case on its merits. That court agreed and the display was left in place.

The other side then asked Supreme Court Justice Byron R. White, a Colorado native, to ask the nation's high court to overturn the stay order.

Despite its failure to do so, the high court will likely be faced with the basic issues of the case in the future when the main appeal makes its way up the judicial ladder.

Two justices, William J. Brennan Jr. and Thurgood Marshall, dissented from the Jan. 21 action, indicating they would have vacated the stay and ordered the nativity scene dismantled. The nativity scene routinely was scheduled to be dismantled on Jan. 22.

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Financial Picture Improves
For International Seminary

By Susan Cahen

Baptist Press
1/22/80

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--The financially-troubled International Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, is not yet free of financial woes, but the end of 1979 saw its budget in the black.

"The financial problems continue," says J.D. Hughey, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's secretary for Europe and the Middle East, "but economizing at the seminary and contributions from European Baptists have relieved some of the financial pressure.

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"Prices seem extremely high in Switzerland for those depending on dollars, but for those dealing in Swiss francs, not so bad," says Hughey. Until seven or eight years ago the dollar was worth about 4.3 francs. Now it is worth 1.5 francs and exchange rates have, in recent years, dipped even lower.

Inflation isn't so much the problem in Switzerland as it is in other countries, Hughey explains. The more pressing problem at the seminary now is that the approximately \$300,000 subsidy provided by Southern Baptists makes up nearly half of the seminary's operating budget--and those subsidy dollars must be exchanged for Swiss francs.

Southern Baptists sponsored the seminary when it began in 1949 and have continued to contribute to its support. However, in 1976, the Foreign Mission Board was forced to reassess its role in the seminary operation when the exchange rate of Swiss francs for dollars began to drop.

The board requested then that emphasis be placed on financial management and on increasing income from students and European sources, with only minimal increases in the board's subsidy.

A year and a half later the board offered European Baptists financial and administrative responsibility for a five-year period with the possibility of renewal.

The board agreed to provide the \$300,000 annual subsidy to the seminary's operating budget between 1979 and 1983, with a \$5,000 increase each year starting this year.

But Hughey says "other funds may have to be made available for urgent repairs or capital needs of the seminary."

Currently 53 students are enrolled at the school, about the same as a year ago. Morale among the faculty and students is still good, Hughey says, despite the fiscal problems and the fact that Isam E. Ballenger, a Southern Baptist missionary, has resigned as seminary president effective April 30.

Ballenger had been serving both as seminary president and as the Foreign Mission Board's field representative for Europe, but he indicated he could not continue to hold both positions on a long-range basis.

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Scientologists Lose Appeal
For Return of Seized Papers

Baptist Press
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WASHINGTON (BP)--The Church of Scientology's demand that the federal government return documents seized in massive raids on church headquarters in 1977 was rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The papers were subsequently used in a trial in which eleven church leaders were convicted after being charged with conspiracy, obstruction of justice, and theft of government property.

Church officials had fought the government's use of the papers in the trial on technical grounds.

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The raids were conducted on July 8, 1977, at church headquarters in Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles by 130 FBI agents armed with search warrants. The church has argued throughout the appeals process that the FBI went beyond the search and seizure provisions in the warrants and made a general search instead.

Less than a month after the raids, a federal district court judge in Washington held that the search in his city had been invalid and ordered the documents returned. Days later a district court judge in Los Angeles followed suit.

But on Dec. 1, 1977, the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia reversed Judge William B. Bryant's order. The California district judge, Malcolm Lucas, reversed himself after the Supreme Court had declined to review the Court of Appeals decision.

While all the appeals were in process, a grand jury in Washington returned a 28-count indictment against the eleven church leaders, all of whom have since been found guilty and sentenced to prison terms.

The Church of Scientology, whose founder L. Ron Hubbard teaches a philosophy of life dealing largely with positivistic thinking, has constantly been in court for several years, charging government harassment and accusing the federal government of conspiring to destroy it.

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Worker Holds Job Despite
Refusal To Pay Union Dues

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WASHINGTON (BP)--A Seventh-Day Adventist worker in Alaska will be able to keep his job in spite of his refusal to pay union dues.

The U.S. Supreme Court noted here that it has no jurisdiction in the case of Robert A. Wondzell, a lumber worker who said that belonging or contributing to a union violated his religion.

The Alaska Supreme Court ruled last June that the local lumber workers union, to which Wondzell was required to pay monthly dues of \$6.75, had failed to accommodate his religious needs as required by federal law.

Wondzell, who was joined in his suit by the Alaska State Commission for Human Rights, wanted to make equivalent payments to the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Although his employer agreed with the arrangement, the union did not.

Union attorneys asked the nation's high court to hear the case, arguing that "religiously motivated 'free riders'" such as Wondzell stand in direct conflict with federal labor policy.

Seven of the high court justices disagreed with the union, voting to dismiss the appeal "for want of a substantial federal question." Only Justices Byron R. White and William H. Rehnquist said they would have heard the case.

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**Ambitious Bold Mission
Thrust Goals Proclaimed**

By Roy Jennings

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--A wide range of ambitious goals, designed to help Southern Baptists evangelize the world by the year 2000, will be recommended to messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in June in St. Louis.

The 12 goals, proposed by the denomination's Bold Mission Thrust Steering Committee for 1982-85, encompass the areas of reaching people, developing believers and strengthening families.

The proposed goals for reaching people call for Southern Baptists to reach 8.5 million persons in Bible study through the Sunday School; baptize 445,000 persons in 1983, 495,000 in 1984, and 560,000 in 1985; organize 1,500 new churches; appoint 2,554 more missionaries; enlist 300,000 short term mission volunteers; and lead 30,000 churches to increase their percentage of budget giving through the Cooperative Program.

To develop believers, Southern Baptists will be asked to involve 35,404 churches in regular prayer support for Bold Mission Thrust, train one million church members to witness and 3.5 million in discipleship and doctrine, involve 1.9 million persons in missions through Brotherhood and Woman's Missionary Union, and lead 20,000 churches to emphasize the development of Christian stewards.

In an effort to strengthen families, Southern Baptists will be encouraged to commit 500,000 family units to family worship and Bible study in their homes and to lead 35,404 churches to provide Christian family enrichment activities to strengthen family relationships and moral values.

A total of 13 major church projects ranging in length from one to three years will be prepared by Southern Baptist agencies for churches to use to reach the goals.

After reviewing the proposed goals and church projects, the Bold Mission Thrust steering body commended them to denominational agencies for long range planning and arranged for reaction to the plans by such groups as state Baptist executive secretaries, state Baptist editors and Southern Baptist program leaders.

Before recommendation to the messengers, the Southern Baptist Executive Committee will review the goals and projects.

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**WMU Points Toward Bold
Mission Thrust Enlargement**

By Catherine Allen

Baptist Press
1/22/80

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Getting Woman's Missionary Union organized in every church and getting "a bigger pie" for mission support were the two dominant concerns of the annual meeting for promotion of the executive board of WMU, auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention.

After a pointed challenge from Carolyn Weatherford, WMU executive director, the board agreed to fund a nationwide WMU enlargement strategy developed jointly with state WMUs. Amount of the fund and scope of the plan were not revealed, pending further consultation between the national and state WMU offices.

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Informal discussions indicate that the plan will begin with a study to determine why 44 percent of churches report no organized WMU, will involve a special national corps of organizers and consultants, and will continue through 1983.

"Nothing short of a national thrust toward enlargement will make a dent in the tremendous job to be done," Miss Weatherford said. "This strategy is not to take the place of various state plans now on the drawing board. But we will have to work together from a national perspective to get a warm body into contact with every church having no WMU."

Miss Weatherford commended South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland, in which more than 75 percent of the churches have a WMU organization. But she reminded the audience of state WMU leaders that some of their states reported only 50 percent of churches with WMU.

She and other speakers during the week-long meeting in Birmingham stressed that WMU is needed in every church to develop personnel, prayer support and financial backing for Bold Mission Thrust. Bold Mission Thrust is the SBC's plan for proclaiming the Christian message to every person on earth by the year 2000. WMU leaders say the plan cannot get past the slogan stage without major changes in personal involvement in missions.

"Every missionary whom we will appoint by 2000 has already been born," Miss Weatherford said. "These children are in our churches waiting to be nurtured in missions concepts."

"WMU is still the lead organization in promoting mission support," Miss Weatherford said. She referred to WMU's success in sponsoring the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions, each of which provides more than half the income for the respective program of missions.

"We have chosen to couch these in weeks of prayer, which we think is best. We do not divorce money from other forms of support--prayer and personnel--which are also essential," she said.

The WMU executive board voted to extend its "Life-Changing Commitments" emphasis for a third year. The emphasis on changing personal materialism toward a new involvement in missions is the key thread through plans adopted for WMU in 1981-82. The board exhaustively debated a document of nearly 500 pages detailing WMU's Life-Changing Commitments strategy for that year.

"This is an audacious emphasis," Miss Weatherford told the board. "We began it this year in the face of a national attitude of 'me first.' It has drawn a more immediate, appreciative response than I had expected."

Later in the week, R. Keith Parks made his first appearance before the WMU leaders since taking office as executive director of the SBC Foreign Mission Board. He echoed concern for WMU effectiveness in the face of need for new levels of mission support.

"You are humanly responsible for more dollars and prayer power supporting foreign missions than anybody else," Parks told the women.

He promised to provide more specific input for WMU's prayer programs and challenged WMU to pray on a constant basis. He echoed Miss Weatherford's concern for a broader base of financial support for missions.

"Unless our base of support escalates rapidly, there's no way we can pay for Bold Mission Thrust," he said. "We have adopted some goals, but we have not committed ourselves to pay for them. My concern is that Southern Baptists do not know what's going on. They do not know that our Cooperative Program allocations are not as great as the bite of inflation. If we can communicate this to Southern Baptists, I am convinced that they will pay the price for Bold Mission Thrust.

"In spite of our affluence, the percentage of money going out of local churches to missions is as low as it was in the Depression (of the 1920s). As we get more money, we give a smaller percentage to missions," Parks continued.

Parks explained that the percentage of foreign missions income from the Cooperative Program has not increased comparably to growth in contributions through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. "I do not believe we should be in a place where our denomination's main line of support is providing less than one-half our support," he said.

Yet Parks did not advocate upping foreign missions allocations at the expense of other cooperative Baptist work. "We're not going to get there by slicing the pie differently," he said. "We need more money in the pipeline."

In other business, the WMU board reviewed its annual audit and discovered that heavy interest from invested reserve funds enabled the organization to end the year in the black despite increased costs of operations. Prices of WMU's magazines, which provide almost two-thirds of operating income, will be raised effective with July issues.

The board authorized its staff to employ a consulting firm to study space utilization and future needs for the national office building in Birmingham, and asked that a current appraisal of the property be obtained.

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Construction Consultants
Eliminate Building Worries

By Marv Knox

Baptist Press
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ATLANTA, Ga. (BP)--Summer growing pains will come with less-than-usual trauma this year for many Southern Baptist churches.

That's because seven volunteers are spending winter and spring months helping congregations plan for facilities that other volunteers will help to build--when warmer weather finally arrives.

The volunteers are construction consultants for the special mission ministries department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. They help churches know the resources available and how to make the best use of them, said Bill Wilson, the board's special mission ministries consultant. His duties include directing the consulting service and coordinating volunteer adult construction groups assigned by the board.

The consultants also help Wilson assign the proper number of volunteer construction crews to each church--a task that affects the stewardship of time and talents for hundreds of people.

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"Last summer, we assigned 86 groups to work on 49 churches all across the United States," he said. "We'll probably send out over 100 groups--1,500 people--to about 75 churches this year.

"With that many projects handled through the Home Mission Board's office in Atlanta--often thousands of miles from the churches--communication can fail, resulting in stalled construction efforts," he explained. "That's why we decided to create this consulting service.

"Now, we don't have to worry about trying to work out long-distance details with someone who may or may not know anything about construction," he said. "Our consultant can meet with a church's building committee and make sure it is on the right track.

"Each consultant has a set of questions he asks to see how much planning has been done. He can size up the situation, give the church advice on proper preparation, and tell us how many groups will be needed to complete the project."

Wilson said the service should benefit both the churches and the volunteer construction groups. Churches will be assured of having the manpower to finish their buildings, and construction crews will be assured of having necessary preparations completed when they arrive on the scene.

The consultants also work in cooperation with the Baptist Sunday School Board's church architecture department and the Home Mission Board's church loans division.

Input from those groups adds depth to the long-term architectural and financial planning offered by the service, available without cost to churches in "new work" areas planning to build, Wilson said.

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Caribbean Meeting Reinforces
Urgency in Missions, Says Parks

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1/22/80

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (BP)--During his first overseas trip as executive director of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, R. Keith Parks said he sensed an urgency among missionaries to "capitalize on opportunities of the moment" using human and financial resources to be effective as quickly as possible.

"I've been convinced for a long time that we need more overall planning of our strategy in missions and more careful utilization of our resources," Parks said in a keynote address at a four-day strategic planning and communications seminar in San Juan, Puerto Rico, for Southern Baptist missionary leaders in Middle America and the Caribbean.

The new executive director said many of the 44 missionaries attending from 21 countries and political entities believe political situations are such that "we really don't know what the future holds for us, but we're going to do as much as we can to plant the kind of work that will go on whether we're here or not."

The group focused on making priority use of resources to evangelize, establish churches and train national leadership.

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"I don't think we have the luxury in resources or time to do all the good things that are possible (on the field)," said Parks. "We must be deliberate in our planning and focus our resources in such a way that we have a unified approach--an overall approach--that, as best as we can determine, will result in strong churches and national leadership, as quickly as possible."

In the opening address based on Ephesians 3, Parks challenged missionaries to realize that in the midst of changing cultures, language and circumstances they must keep their perspective clear on an unchanging gospel centered on Jesus Christ.

This second conference on planning for Middle America and the Caribbean presented goals to implement phase two of Bold Mission Thrust in the area for 1981 through 1983.

Parks said he has a personal commitment to attend meetings on the field. "I feel strongly that contact and visits with fields will help to color what I do in this office," he said. "I do want to maintain and establish as much of that as I can."

He already has planned a visit in April to West Africa with a stop in Paris for two European meetings and a July trip to the Middle East to attend a planning conference.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press.

Braswell Recuperating
From Open Heart Surgery

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DENVER (BP)--Glen E. Braswell, executive director-treasurer of the Colorado Baptist General Convention, is recuperating satisfactorily from open heart surgery, report doctors at St. Joseph Hospital here.

Braswell underwent two bypasses after doctors told him he had a 90 percent blockage in the main artery across his heart.

Recuperation is expected to take at least two months. Family members said he was doing well, but visits were being restricted.

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