



## BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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80-15

### Federal Judge Refuses EEOC Jurisdiction Over Seminary

By Philip Poole

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--A federal judge in Fort Worth has ruled that the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission does not have jurisdiction over Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

U.S. District Judge Eldon Mahon ruled, following a two-and-a-half year court battle, that the EEOC did not have the right to seek employee records at the Southern Baptist institution. The EEOC cannot force the seminary to provide records on the race, sex or salaries of employees, nor can the federal agency take any action against the seminary while enforcing federal laws on discrimination.

EEOC lawyers filed suit in May 1977, when the seminary refused to divulge records on the grounds it would violate First Amendment rights for the separation of church and state. The suit was considered a test case for Southwestern and five other Southern Baptist seminaries in determining how far the EEOC could go in forcing seminaries to comply with federal guidelines against discrimination.

"At this point we do not have any word as to whether the EEOC will appeal the case," seminary President Russell H. Dilday Jr. said. "Since any appeal is decided only upon the facts already introduced in the suit, we feel confident about positive decisions in any future litigation." Any such appeal would be made to the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court in New Orleans.

In a trial in March 1979, seminary attorney Jenkins Garrett argued that the seminary is a "wholly religious" institution in its purpose and thus is not subject to federal jurisdiction by the agency. EEOC contended that the seminary is required to follow federal guidelines because it is an institution of higher education employing more than 15 persons.

Judge Mahon said the wording of the 1967 Civil Rights Act appears to give the EEOC jurisdiction, but he emphasized that the operation of a seminary is a "religious activity entitled to the highest degree" of federal protection.

In a lengthy opinion, Mahon said the seminary sought to create an "integrated homogeneous community" where all employees "are expected to contribute to a unified religious endeavor and maintain a commitment to spiritual life."

Mahon said, "The task of unseemly governmental entanglement increases" as the function of an institution becomes more fundamentally religious.

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The ruling will give seminary officials complete freedom in creating the proper atmosphere of training ministers, seminary officials said.

"The real issue at stake, of course, is the decision that the seminary is engaged in a totally religious function unlike other general institutions," Dilday said.

"The EEOC had held that even though the seminary is an integral part of the Southern Baptist Convention and its churches, established to train its ministers, they still have jurisdiction. In fact, they have taken the position that the EEOC even has jurisdiction over the church," Dilday said.

The seminary enrolls more than 4,000 students annually and employs more than 600 persons. Included in this total are 110 full time faculty members.

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Bellevue Plans National  
Women's Concerns Conference

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MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--A national Women's Concerns Conference will be held May 15-17 at Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., featuring a variety of speakers and workshop leaders.

Mrs. Adrian Rogers, wife of the Bellevue pastor and Southern Baptist Convention president, will chair the conference, which expects to attract 3,000 participants.

Built around the theme "A Wise Woman Builds," the conference will feature such speakers as Adrian Rogers; Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union; Elisabeth Elliot, author and speaker; Billie Barrows, speaker and wife of Cliff Barrows, music director for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association; Beverly LaHaye, speaker, author and wife of Tim LaHaye, a pastor and president of Family Life Seminars, San Diego, Calif.; Vonette Bright, speaker, author and wife of Bill Bright, president of Campus Crusade for Christ; and Millie Dienert, speaker, Graham team member and wife of communications executive Fred Dienert.

Besides general sessions, the conference will include choices among 35 workshop sessions.

"Because we believe the Written Word of God is our inerrant guide, revealing the Living Word of God--the Lord Jesus Christ, the following are some areas of concern for this conference," conference planners said.

The concerns listed are "to affirm the equal worth of all people in Christ, but not always sameness of function; to emphasize the biblical male-female role as stated in Ephesians 5, I Corinthians 11, and other passages; to seek God's way of correcting abuses to women; to encourage the use of creativity and talents in effective ministries; to emphasize the priority of homemaking for those called to be wives and mothers; to recognize the high calling of singleness; to help women discover their identity in Christ; to inform of the dangers and fallacies of modern philosophies and strategies concerning women, sex, family and children; to provide a pattern for Christian action in response to moral pollution."

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Southern Baptists Plan  
'Olympic' Witness Efforts

By Charles Willis

LAKE PLACID, N.Y. (BP)--Plans for Southern Baptists' first comprehensive outreach and witnessing effort at an international sports event have been completed for the 13th Winter Olympics here in February.

The needs of between 25,000 and 50,000 daily visitors, 14,000 support persons, 1,800 athletes and 2,800 local residents have been included in plans spearheaded by David Book, Southern Baptist home missionary.

"In reality, what's happening here in Lake Placid is the reverse of the Great Commission," he said. "Instead of our going out into the world, the world is coming to us."

The multi-faceted project has been in the planning for about three years, according to Book. About a year ago, the Home Mission Board assisted the Baptist Convention of New York in locating a ministry center right in the heart of the anticipated Olympics activities.

Known as "Exchange House," the facility will serve as the nerve center for Southern Baptist efforts during the Olympics and will be the home for a chapel that is Book's long-term assignment.

From Feb. 3-24, Book will oversee approximately 125 volunteer personnel, including a core staff of 25 persons, predominantly Christian Service Corps volunteers, semester missionaries and US-2 missionaries.

A hospitality center at Exchange House will be open 24 hours a day, including a soup and salad bar, literature distribution, Christian entertainment, language interpreters, information service, emergency service, large-screen television viewing of the games and conference room space.

Teams of specialists trained in ministry and evangelism will conduct a street ministry. Using select titles from the Sunday School Board's "Choice Creations" tract series, Book said the teams "will not blitz or distribute the tracts wholesale." Rather, team members will seek out human needs and respond with tracts that address those specific needs.

Since Lake Placid schools will close for five weeks, Southern Baptists will participate in an "Olympic Learning Project," a learning experience for elementary school children. Parents, teachers and clergy will use puppets, music and other aids to bring understanding of the Olympics to the children's level. Book said enrollment is already at capacity.

A Christian supper club in nearby Saranac Lake, N.Y., at the Blue Gentian Restaurant will be run by Southern Baptist home missionaries Ken and Marilyn Prickett.

Southern Baptists will maintain welcome stations at airports, bus stations and peripheral parking lots, offering free coffee, information, literature and selected tract distribution.

"The Good Sam Program" is a project to aid senior citizens whose activities will be curtailed due to traffic congestion and the confusion of crowds. All Lake Placid senior citizens will be eligible for assistance in having errands run or miscellaneous forms of help provided during the Olympic weeks.

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Other Southern Baptist participation includes a delegation from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary which will engage in personal witnessing, and service by Barbara McElhaney, student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, as one of 14 chaplains working with a Religious Affairs Committee.

"We want Christ to be lifted up to the world," said Book. "I'm praying for an opportunity to show visually that Christ is alive and is the redemptive factor in life.

"We want to demonstrate to Lake Placid that we're genuine people--that we can offer something that has integrity. Many think we'll leave after the games," he said, "which is not the case at all."

Book will be in Lake Placid long after the Olympics have ended, working to establish Southern Baptists as a permanent and valued part of the community.

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WMU Announces  
Lowndes Winners

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BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--David Pinkston, son of missionaries in Ivory Coast, and Jean Reid, daughter of missionaries in Las Vegas, Nevada, have been named outstanding college students by Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

The two MKs--missionary kids--will receive the Elizabeth Lowndes Award of \$200 each. The executive board of WMU, auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention, made the selection from among all recent college graduates who were recipients of Margaret Fund scholarships. WMU established the Margaret Fund to provide college educations for children of Southern Baptist missionaries. Now most funds are administered by the Home Mission Board and the Foreign Mission Board, but WMU continues to recognize the top recipients.

Pinkston graduated summa cum laude from Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark., with majors in chemistry and math. He is now studying at the University of Bayreuth, Germany, on a Fulbright Scholarship.

At Ouachita he was in the student senate, soccer club, and numerous professional and honorary societies. His parents are Edwin and Greta Pinkston, who work in general evangelism in the Ivory Coast.

Jean Reid is the daughter of James and Janice Reid, church extension home missionaries. She is a recent journalism graduate of Northwestern University. She was active in Christian campus organizations.

The Lowndes Award is named for a long-time treasurer of WMU, who formerly administered scholarships for missionary kids.

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CORRECTION: In (BP) story mailed Jan. 18 entitled "Politics Sometimes Halts Mission Work," in paragraph eleven please delete the phrase "now assigned to Hong Kong." (Moore resigned in July 1979.)

Thanks,  
Baptist Press