



## 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** \_\_\_\_\_, 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) \_\_\_\_\_, 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. Hasty, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

February 29, 1980

80-34

### News Analysis

Controversy Swirls Around  
Helms School Prayer Moves

By Stan Hasty

WASHINGTON (BP)--At the center of the current controversy within the Southern Baptist Convention over prayer in the public schools is a proposal by U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., himself a Southern Baptist.

Helms has been the strongest advocate in recent years for legislation which would in effect circumvent the U.S. Supreme Court's decisions of 1962 and 1963 that state-sponsored devotional exercises in public school classrooms violate the "No Establishment of Religion" clause of the First Amendment.

Helms' efforts have taken two forms. On the one hand, he has in years past sponsored an amendment to the Constitution declaring that the government may not forbid "voluntary" prayer in schools or other public buildings.

But a constitutional amendment must be approved by two-thirds of both houses of Congress and three-quarters of the state legislatures. Only 26 times in the history of the republic have amendments been incorporated into the Constitution. And the first 10 of those were actually adopted in 1791 as the Bill of Rights.

Because his efforts to amend the Constitution have proved fruitless, Helms has turned in recent years to a device provided for in Article III of the Constitution allowing Congress to declare exceptions to the scope of the Supreme Court's jurisdiction over cases it may review. It is this provision of Article III that Helms has invoked in seeking to remove from Supreme Court jurisdiction the matter of "voluntary" prayer in schools and other public buildings.

The practical effect of Helms' action, were it to be adopted by Congress, would be to leave the writing of school prayer laws to state legislatures, laws which would then be reviewable only in state, not federal courts. Helms believes that passage of his legislation would effectively bypass the 14th Amendment's provision that rights guaranteed under federal law cannot be denied by the states.

So far in the present Congress, Helms has met with mixed success. Last April 5, the Senate adopted his proposal as an amendment to the bill which called for the establishment of a separate cabinet-level Department of Education.

But in a deft parliamentary maneuver, Senate Majority Leader Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., managed to convince a sufficient number of his colleagues that the Helms language might well doom the Department of Education bill and that it should be transferred instead to a lesser bill dealing with the Supreme Court itself, a measure also pending at the time.

-more-

That bill, with the Helms proposal riding along, then passed the Senate but has since languished in the House Judiciary Committee, where U.S. Rep. Peter W. Rodino Jr., D-N.J., who chairs the panel, has indicated it will be allowed to die.

As a last resort, Helms and some of his House colleagues have resorted to yet another parliamentary device, the discharge petition, in hopes of freeing the bill for House action. A discharge petition move, if successful, forces a bill out of committee and directly onto the floor for an up-or-down vote. Before that can happen, however, the petition must be signed by 218, or one-half plus one, of the members.

According to reliable projections, the chances for the discharge petition forcing Helms' proposal onto the House floor during this session are slim.

The controversy within the Southern Baptist Convention over the Helms proposal erupted recently when SBC President Adrian Rogers was announced as a prime supporter of the new Coalition for the First Amendment, a group which has pledged to support Helms in his ongoing battle over prayer in public schools.

On two occasions, in 1964 and 1971, the SBC adopted resolutions supportive of the Supreme Court position that government may not constitutionally sponsor prayer in the schools. And during several other sessions of the convention, messengers have defeated proposed resolutions by critics of the high court's rulings.

Criticism of Rogers' action was immediately forthcoming from James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Washington-based Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, an agency largely supported by the SBC which has resisted every Helms effort on school prayer.

Rogers and Wood later discussed their differences during the February meeting of the SBC Executive Committee after Rogers, in a presidential address to the group, protested Wood's criticism.

Several editors of Baptist state newspapers have joined the fray, all but one unequivocally supporting the SBC and Baptist Joint Committee position.

-30-

Floods Hit Brazil State;  
Baptists Send Supplies

By Ernest and Billie Wilson

Baptist Press  
2/29/80

CERES, Golas, Brazil (BP)--Like a giant anaconda snake lashing out along its 1,000-mile course, the Tocantins River continues to swell, causing flooding and leaving 200,000 homeless in Brazil's central western state of Golas.

After almost two weeks of rain, the flooding has been called the worst disaster in the state's history--claiming lives, suffocating enormous crops of rice and corn ripe for harvest, drowning cattle, and damaging property.

Although some Baptist property has been damaged, no Baptists have been reported dead or seriously injured since the rains began Feb. 14. The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, however, has authorized \$32,500 in hunger relief funds and \$2,500 in disaster relief funds for food, medical supplies and other items in the affected areas. Last year the Foreign Mission Board appropriated more than \$300,000 for flooding which devastated a widespread area in Brazil.

-more-

Southern Baptist missionary Ernest Wilson, along with Paulo Roberto Seabra, executive secretary of the Brazilian Baptist Home Mission Board, and Domingos Mendes da Silva, a Baptist physician in Ceres, flew with medical supplies to F.F. Soren Baptist Orphanage in Itacaja to treat sick children.

The orphanage director managed to wade in and out of the area and used a canoe to bring in food. Other food was flown in later and all children are safe. The orphanage, suffering from thousands of dollars in damage, lost all crops and its fresh water supply. Buildings received extensive damage.

In all, 168 municipalities have high-water damage. Government sources have furnished food, medical supplies and other items. Baptists in the capital city of Goiania have collected food, clothing and other items and sent them to the affected areas.

Open-air kitchens have been set up to try to feed the hungry and homeless. People are living in pastures--many without shelter. Snakes are a constant threat. Babies are being born on tables in thatched roof huts.

The mayor of one city said, "Water is to the rooftops. The only way to identify houses is by their chimneys. My city is destroyed."

-30-

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, both Texans, are Southern Baptist missionaries in Ceres, Golas, Brazil.

National HMB Conference  
'Scaled Down' By Economy

By Dan Martin

Baptist Press  
2/29/80

ATLANTA (BP)--Mission U.S. '80s, planned as a national festival on volunteers and volunteerism, has been "scaled down" after economic uncertainties limited advance registration.

The meeting was aimed at bringing past, present and future volunteers to Atlanta, April 24-27, 1980, for a national rally and informational sessions on the "how-to" and "where-to" of missions.

Because of limited advance registration, the major thrust of the meeting has been dropped, but other sectors which were to take part have continued with plans to meet.

While the major meeting will not be held, sessions for directors of religious education, laypersons in evangelism, and the Alabama and Georgia Campers on Mission groups will be held as planned.

Mission Service Corps, a major Southern Baptist Convention plan to recruit and assign volunteers, will not participate in the scaled down meeting, but will instead hold an orientation session for newly assigned volunteers and other interested persons.

"The meeting was aimed primarily at laypersons who would be expected to pay their own travel costs and expenses. Apparently, the economic conditions stopped many people from attending," said William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer of the Home Mission Board.

Tanner cited increasing costs of fuel--predicted to reach \$1.50 per gallon by late Spring--as well as expected increases in other modes of travel and lodging as factors in the limited registration.

-more-

He told of receiving a letter from a pastor who supports the concept of volunteers and volunteerism but suggested holding regional meetings in large churches because of the "exorbitant" costs of traveling to such a meeting in Atlanta.

"We feel sure many Southern Baptists are committed to serving as volunteers--short or long term--but when faced with a choice of spending money to attend a meeting or to do mission work on the field, they chose not to attend the national meeting," Tanner concluded.

One of the sectors planning to participate in Mission U.S. '80s was a meeting of directors of religious education from across the nation. The meeting--"The Gift of Your Life"--will be expanded but moved from the Atlanta Civic Center and Biltmore Hotel to facilities at Wieuca Road Baptist Church, Atlanta.

"With the scaling down of Mission U.S. '80s, the program for the educators has been expanded," said Robert E. Bingham, director of the services section at the board and a former education director.

"The religious educators were the largest group to respond to registration for the meeting, and we have been able to expand our meeting with the dropping of the main sessions."

The meeting for laypersons in evangelism, sponsored by the evangelism section at the Home Mission Board, will launch a project aimed at recruiting 1,000 volunteers to work in evangelism during the decade of the 1980s. Several conferences over a three-day period will emphasize the role of the volunteer in all aspects of evangelism, according to Reid Hardin, director of evangelism support at the board.

The sectors planning to meet--the religious educators and laypersons in evangelism--will hold a joint meeting at Wieuca Road Baptist Church, Friday night, April 25, which will feature the thrust of volunteers and volunteerism.

The third sector, Alabama and Georgia Campers on Mission, will hold their meeting in Stone Mountain Park near Atlanta, but has changed dates to April 25-27.

Mission Service Corps will hold its orientation session in Ignatius House in Atlanta, April 21-25. David Bunch, coordinator of MSC for the Home Mission Board, said persons interested in volunteerism or in MSC are invited to attend. He said advance registration is required.

The scaling down of the meeting has resulted in changing lodging arrangements. Rather than being lodged in downtown hotels, arrangements have been made for housing at Days Inn, Clairmont Road and I-85; the Terrace Garden Inn, 3045 Lenox Road, NE; and Rodeway Inn, 3387 Lenox Road, NE.

Additional information may be obtained by writing to the Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring Street, NE, Atlanta, Ga., 30309. Inquiries for directors of education should be addressed to Robert E. Bingham; laypersons in evangelism to Reid D. Hardin; Campers on Mission to Don Hammonds and Mission Service Corps to David Bunch.

**Waldheim May Address  
Christian Life Seminar**

NEW YORK (BP)--United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim will address the annual seminar of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission here, if world conditions don't interfere.

The group, which will gather at the Roosevelt Hotel, March 24-26, is scheduled to go to the UN, March 25, where the commission represents Southern Baptists, in a non-governmental observer role, to hear Waldheim.

The three-day seminar will feature a keynote address by noted theologian and church historian Martin Marty, as about 500 Southern Baptists "deal with some of the major moral and ethical concerns confronting Southern Baptists in this new decade," according to Foy Valentine, executive director of the Christian Life Commission. "Our response to these issues will inevitably affect our convention's ongoing life and work."

Besides Waldheim and Marty, program personnel include a wide range of well-known speakers.

Hunger expert Frances Lappe will address the global hunger crisis; Jim Guy Tucker, chairman of the national advisory committee for the White House Conference on Families, will discuss family issues; Mercer University President Kirby Godsey will speak on the crisis in education; and educator, architect, and inventor Buckminster Fuller will address ethical issues raised by modern technology. Sarah Weddington, from President Carter's White House staff, will speak on "Women in the Eighties," and Ben Hooks, executive director of the NAACP; will speak on "Race Relations in the Eighties."

Other speakers and topics for the seminar include television journalist Bill Moyers, "Ethical Issues in the 1980 Presidential Election"; author and seminary dean Philip Wogaman, "Economic Ethics"; former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, "Personal Life Style"; Christian ethicist John Swomley Jr., "Church-State Issues"; and environmentalist Barry Commoner of Washington University, "Energy."

Frank Pollard, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss., and host of the Southern Baptist produced television show, "At Home With the Bible," will deliver the closing sermon.

-30-

Olympic Aftermath:  
Continued Ministry

By Marv Knox

Baptist Press  
2/29/80

LAKE PLACID, N.Y. (BP)--Worldwide attention shifted from this picturesque hamlet almost as soon as the XIII Winter Olympics ended, but Southern Baptists claim they're in the Adirondack Mountains to stay.

Such a revelation may come as a surprise to locals in Lake Placid who watched scores of groups set up shop here to take advantage of the Olympics and who now must witness the mass evacuation of their fair-weather neighbors.

-more-

Like most of the organizations and businesses temporarily housed in the area, Southern Baptist work began on a full-time basis less than two years ago, explained David Book, pastor/director of Lake Placid Baptist Chapel.

"As we sought to develop our ministry here, we worked to establish local integrity and a feeling of permanence," he explained. "The fact that we have survived and remain gives us further credibility."

"People are realizing that we're still here and that we'll continue to be here, caring and concerned for the people in the Adirondacks," he said. "Some people haven't joined with us because they've been worried that we would be just another fly-by-night organization like some groups. Their proof is that we're still here--after the Olympics."

Proof actually started stacking up some 18 months ago when paid and volunteer missions workers started flocking to Lake Placid and nearby Saranac Lake to help establish a ministry in the region. By last fall, approximately 30 workers--most of them young people who obtained secular jobs in the area to support their mission endeavors--were on hand.

That figure swelled to almost 125 during the games as short-term volunteers from across the country conducted a variety of programs. Their labors extended from a chaplain ministry for athletes to a "go-fer" errand ministry for senior citizens who could not get about easily during the contests.

The Exchange House, a large home converted to a chapel/dormitory/coffee house, was the base of operations. From it, volunteers conducted one-on-one lifestyle evangelism efforts and provided a counseling service and worship services.

Other efforts included a youth ministry at a home for emotionally disturbed boys, a tutoring and day camp program for students out of school and a prison ministry.

All of the programs came off better than expected, Book declared. "We received a greater response--both numerically and qualitatively--than we thought possible. During the games, we touched thousands of people in one way or another.

"It's still too early to determine the overall significance of Southern Baptist ministry during the Olympics," he added. "What we see now is only the tip of the iceberg. We'll discover the effect we've had on the community in the days to come."

Early indications support optimism, he said. "Our relationship with other clergymen here is better than ever, and we did not receive a single complaint about our ministries, even though we do things a little differently than what people are accustomed to.

"In fact, the local newspaper printed an article affirming the work done by us and two other religious groups during the Olympics."

The positive product of the Southern Baptist Olympic ministry spread beyond Lake Placid, said Harold Clark, pastor of Saranac Lake Baptist Chapel.

"The work these volunteers performed helped people here to understand what Baptists are all about," he said. "Locals know Baptists are concerned and care for them. They also know we're here to stay--that we won't desert them now that the games are over and the glamor has faded."

Southern Baptists' current responsibility is to build upon the strong base built previously and firmly established during the Olympics, said Ken Prickett, a Home Mission Board field worker and the person in charge of putting the services of the volunteers to best use.

"Local ministers and civic leaders have accepted us as part of the community," he said. "They give us credit for our mainline approach to worship and ministry, and they expect us to keep it up.

"Our opportunity to minister to these people—the merchants, leaders and community at large—is going to continue," he said. "Now we must be careful to stay active and maintain the desire to work with them."

-30-

(BP) photos mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press.

Indiana Names Haygood  
Executive Director-Elect

Baptist Press  
2/29/80

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (BP)--R. V. Haygood has been named executive director treasurer-elect of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana.

Haygood, 50, will succeed E. Harmon Moore in the top administrative spot, Jan. 1, 1981, after Moore's retirement.

The state convention's executive board elected Haygood, now the convention's associate executive director and director of missions, by a vote of 20 to 1 in a secret ballot.

Haygood joined the Indiana convention in 1969 as director of missions and stewardship and became associate executive director and director of missions in 1973. He has also served as pastor of churches in Arkansas and Texas.

He attended A & M College, Monticello, Ark., is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark., and attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

-30-

(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by the Indiana Baptist.