

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

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

**NATIONAL OFFICE**SBC Executive Committee  
460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
(615) 244-2355W. 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. Haste, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

March 25, 1980

80-50

Stewardship Commission  
Report: 1.5 Million Tithe

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--David C. "Bill" Bates, an insurance man from Pineville, La., was re-elected chairman of the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission during the commission's annual meeting in Nashville, Tenn.

Commission members also approved a 1980-81 budget of \$1,690,300 of which \$310,000, or 18.3 percent, is anticipated income from Cooperative Program receipts. Additional income is received through the sale of materials and consultant fees for the "Together We Build" program of capital funding. They also approved a request of up to \$345,000 in Cooperative Program budget funds for 1981-82, an increase of 11.3 percent.

Last year "Together We Build" raised \$30.4 million in pledges for capital projects among local churches.

A staff report to commission members indicated that 1.5 million of the 13.2 million Southern Baptists reported in 1978 statistics are tithers, and that in that year per capita giving was \$141.68.

The report also said that per capita income in the United States as of October 1979 was \$7,495. "It is almost incomprehensible to estimate the gifts Southern Baptists would give to God's work if 13 million of us were to tithe rather than 1.5 million," the report said.

Between 1974 and 1978, the ratio of Cooperative Program contributions from the churches to total gifts was an average of 8.92 percent. The latest statistics from the research department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, however, indicate that ratio was 8.3 percent in 1979.

The report said Southern Baptists must adopt and promote a philosophical and theological basis for Christian stewardship which will include personal, church, associational, state convention and national convention-wide stewardship, world missions through the Cooperative Program, special mission offerings, special financial campaigns, development programs and foundation programs.

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Religious Educators  
Celebrate HistoryBaptist Press  
3/25/80

ST. LOUIS (BP)--Southern Baptist religious educators will celebrate their heritage, examine today's educational resources and look to strategies for the future at their 25th annual meeting, June 8-9, at the Sheraton St. Louis Hotel.

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The silver anniversary meeting is one of several related meetings preceding the annual Southern Baptist Convention at the Cervantes Convention Center June 10-12.

"Religious education has been an evolutionary process," said Lawrence Klempnauer, president of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association and minister of education and administration at Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas.

"As churches became more urban, congregations acquired more specialized needs," he said. "They wanted their pastors to be more involved in counseling and not just preaching. They started to demand more of their pastors and churches which led to the need for multiple-member staffs."

The quarter-century development of the Religious Education Association will be traced at a luncheon June 9 through reflections of early members Ernest Loessner, emeritus professor of religious education, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; William Souther, secretary of music/church training, Utah-Idaho Baptist Convention, Salt Lake City, Utah; Joe Davis Heacock, dean emeritus of the school of religious education, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; and Allen Graves, dean of the school of religious education, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. Mark Short, program consultant for the Louisiana Baptist Convention, will moderate.

All sessions will revolve around the theme, "Religious Education: The Past Is Important, the Present Is Vital, the Future Is Imperative."

Keynote addresses on the status of religious education will be delivered by Keener Pharr, director of the education division of the Florida Baptist Convention on "The Foundations of Religious Education for Southern Baptists;" by Joe Hinkle, secretary, family ministry department of the Baptist Sunday School Board on family ministry; by Reggie McDonough, secretary, church administration department, Baptist Sunday School Board, on church administration; and by Charles Roselle, secretary of the board's national student ministries, on trends in student ministry.

Other program personalities include Crawford Howell, manager of Broadman sales department, Baptist Sunday School Board; Avery T. Willis, church training department, Baptist Sunday School Board; John Sisemore, minister of education, First Baptist Church, Shreveport, La.; William Hale, associate director of the Georgia Center for Continuing Education at the University of Georgia, Athens, Ga.; and Findley Edge, professor at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Bill and Linda Cates, recording artists from Nashville, Tenn., will lead each session in worship.



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## SOUTHERN BAPTIST RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

June 8-9, 1980

Sheraton St. Louis Hotel

St. Louis, MO

Theme: "Religious Education: The Past Is Important, The Present Is Vital, The Future Is Imperative"

### Sunday Evening, June 8

Session Theme: "Religious Education: 1780-1980, A Proud Heritage"

Lawrence Klempnauer, Fort Worth, TX, president, presiding

7:00 Worship--Bill and Linda Cates, Nashville, TN

7:20 Welcome--Harold Souther, Jefferson City, MO

7:30 Feature--"Religious Education: The Here and Now--Family Ministry," Joe Hinkle, Nashville, TN

7:50 Recommendations and Roll Call of Charter Members--Roy Lee Williams, Houston, TX

8:00 Panel--"Reflections From the Past"--Mark Short, Alexandria, LA, moderator

Ernest Loessner, Louisville, KY; Allen Graves, Louisville, KY;

Joe Davis Heacock, Fort Worth, TX; Bill Souther, Salt Lake City, UT

8:25 Address--"The Foundations of Religious Education for Southern Baptists"

Keener Pharr, Jacksonville, FL

9:00 Prayer--Joe Burnette, Charlotte, NC

9:00 Fellowship--Missouri Baptist Religious Education Association

### Monday Morning, June 9

Session Theme: "Religious Education: The Dynamic of Today"

Thelma Williamson, vice president, Ferguson, MO, presiding

8:50 Worship--Bill and Linda Cates, Nashville, TN

9:10 Recognition of New Members--Tim Holcomb, Fort Worth, TX

9:15 "Resources for Religious Education"--Crawford Howell, Nashville, TN

9:25 Feature--"Religious Education: The Here and Now--Church Administration"

Reggie McDonough, Nashville, TN

9:45 Message--"The Dynamics of Religious Education Today"

John Sisemore, Shreveport, LA

10:20 Break

10:50 Music--Bill and Linda Cates, Nashville, TN

11:00 Message--"Communicating Christian Values Today"

William H. Hale, Athens, GA

11:45 Summary and Dialogue--Findley Edge, Louisville, KY; William H. Hale, Athens, GA

12:15 Prayer--Henry Love, Memphis, TN

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Monday Noon, June 9

## Banquet

Roy Lee Williams, Houston, TX, vice president, presiding  
 Multimedia presentation celebrating 25 years of Southern Baptist religious education work

Monday Evening, June 9

Session Theme: "Religious Education: Strategies for the Future"

J. Roger Skelton, president-elect, presiding

- 6:45 Worship--Bill and Linda Cates, Nashville, TN  
 7:00 Feature--"Religious Education: The Here and Now, Trends in Student Ministry"  
       Charles Roselle, Nashville, TN  
 7:20 Reports and Recognitions--F. Marvin Myers, Nashville, TN, and Lawrence  
       Klempnauer, Fort Worth, TX  
 7:50 Message--"Discipling for Tomorrow"  
       Avery T. Willis Jr., Nashville, TN  
 8:30 Prayer--Bob Bingham, Atlanta, GA

Religious Education Association Officers

Lawrence Klempnauer, president; minister of education and administration, Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, TX  
 J. Roger Skelton, vice president and president-elect; professor of religious education, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, CA  
 Roy Lee Williams, vice president; director of church services, Union Baptist Association, Houston, TX  
 Thelma Williamson, vice president; director of childhood education, First Baptist Church, Ferguson, MO  
 F. Marvin Myers, secretary-treasurer; church management consultant, church administration department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, TN  
 Tim Holcomb, assistant secretary-treasurer; minister of education, Polytechnic Baptist Church, Fort Worth, TX

High Court Schedules  
 Parental Rights Case

By Stan Haste

Baptist Press  
 3/25/80

WASHINGTON (BP)--At a time when the legal rights of both parents and children are being increasingly debated, the nation's highest court has agreed to hear an important test case which should help determine the conditions under which state officials may permanently remove children from their parents.

The U.S. Supreme Court will decide if state laws are constitutional that provide for the termination of the parent-child relationship in cases where parents are found "not fitted" to keep their children.

The high court agreed to hear a test case from Delaware on the sensitive issue after a couple there had their five children, ages eight months to four years, taken from them in 1975 by state social services officials who cited the fitness standard in the law. The officials pointed to the father's consistent inability to hold a job and to the fact that the family repeatedly moved from one residence to another.

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The couple, identified in papers filed with the court as John Doe and Jane Roe to preserve anonymity, has already lost twice in Delaware courts, the latest reversal coming last August when the state supreme court upheld the action removing their children.

Attorneys for the parents argued in a written brief that the Delaware law is unconstitutionally vague and indefinite and therefore violates the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution.

For state officials to cite generalized evidence as grounds for taking children away from their natural parents also violates the "protected nature of the family relationship," the argument continued, adding that such a drastic measure should be resorted to only when the state can demonstrate conclusively its "compelling interest" in the situation.

In its legal brief to high court justices, the state also cited two criminal convictions against the father, one in 1974 for sexually fondling his oldest daughter, the other two years later when the parents were both convicted of incest for being half brother and sister.

The parents hold that state welfare officials had known that they were half brother and sister since 1972, and had told them that this would not disqualify them from maintaining custody of the children. The incest charge was brought, they went on, after state officials decided "to obtain control of the children."

After the parents were found guilty on the incest charge, the state removed their children permanently, placing all five in foster homes.

The case will be scheduled for oral argument by the Supreme Court sometime next fall.

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Former Mississippi  
Editor Odle Dies

Baptist Press  
3/25/80

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--Joe T. Odle, editor of the Mississippi Baptist Record from 1959 to 1976, died March 24 after a brief illness. He was 71.

Odle was associate executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention from 1956 to 1959. Before that he was pastor of churches in Gulfport and Crystal Springs, Miss., and in Illinois, Tennessee and Kentucky.

While editor of the Baptist Record, the newspaper for Mississippi Baptists, Odle was president of the Southern Baptist Press Association in 1971. He was awarded honorary life membership by the Associated Church Press in 1977 for contributions to religious journalism.

After his retirement, he filled several interim pastorates, including that of First Baptist Church Pearl Harbor in Honolulu, Hawaii. At his death, he was recording secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Survivors include his wife, Mabel; mother, Mrs. Winona Ice; daughter, Mrs. Roland Maddox; and two grandchildren.

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