



BAPTIST PRESS

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80-91

State Transportation Aid Survives High Court Test

By Stan Haste

WASHINGTON (BP)--Over the objection of only one justice, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear a challenge to a Pennsylvania law providing free transportation to nonpublic school children.

By dismissing an appeal by the McKeesport Area School District against the eight-year-old law, the high court let stand the principle that providing transportation to and from parochial schools does not violate the no establishment of religion clause of the First Amendment.

The suit against the Pennsylvania Department of Education by local McKeesport school officials marked the second unsuccessful challenge to the statute, the other coming just a year ago.

The Pennsylvania law also provides for transporting parochial pupils on field trips, a practice declared unconstitutional in a 1977 Ohio case. That provision was not struck down in the Pennsylvania case, the court explained, because it had not been challenged in lower court proceedings.

Two justices, Harry A. Blackmun and William J. Brennan Jr., while concurring in the action not to hear the case, stated nevertheless that they found the field trip provision unacceptable based on the earlier action.

One justice, John Paul Stevens, who in recent cases has taken an increasingly hard line against any form of state aid to nonpublic schools, indicated that he voted to schedule the case for oral argument and a full decision.

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Ernest Mosley Named
Illinois Chief Executive

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6/8/80

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (BP)--Ernest E. Mosley has been elected executive director of the Illinois Baptist State Association, effective August 1.

Mosley, pastoral section supervisor in the Baptist Sunday School Board's church administration department, has been at the board for 13 years.

In Illinois, he will succeed James Smith, who resigned in August, 1979 to become executive director of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

Mosley, 52, a native of Arkansas, graduated from Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

He began serving churches as pastor while still in high school and has been pastor of churches in Hawaii, Arkansas and Louisiana.

He is the author of six books, including "Priorities in Ministry," which details his philosophy about how persons in church-related vocations should order their priorities.

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Mosley's \$35,780 salary includes housing, plus normal health benefits and a 10 percent retirement annuity. The Illinois Baptist State Association has 966 churches and missions with membership of 219,000.

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

West Virginia, North Carolina
Baptists Enter Partnership

Baptist Press
6/8/80

ST. ALBANS, W. Va. (BP)--The Baptist conventions of West Virginia and North Carolina have agreed to enter into partnership to help West Virginia double its number of churches by 1985.

West Virginia executive secretary-treasurer Tommy Halsell requested the help of North Carolina Baptists to begin 100 Southern Baptist congregations in West Virginia by 1985. The North Carolina General Board agreed to help at its May meeting.

Details of the partnership arrangement are not yet worked out. Specific projects and involvement of North Carolina Baptists in West Virginia will be largely determined by the needs and goals expressed by West Virginia churches and associations.

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Texas Baptist Offices
Will Move in 1981

Baptist Press
6/8/80

DALLAS, Texas (BP)--The executive board offices of the Baptist General Convention of Texas will move across the street from their downtown Dallas location about Jan. 1, 1981, to the building which houses the Southern Baptist Convention's Annuity Board.

The move to 511 N. Akard St. from 703 N. Ervay St. will increase the amount of office space for the executive board from 30,000 square feet to 35,214 square feet. It will lease the space for \$8 per square foot annually.

The agreement also includes the option of allowing the executive board to lease 10,000 square feet of additional space after Dec. 31, 1983. The lease agreement is for five years, with four, five-year lease options.

Also included in the agreement is a five-year option that would allow the Baptist General Convention of Texas to purchase an interest in the Annuity Board building. The Annuity Board has given the Baptist convention the option of purchasing for \$675,000--the appraised value--a piece of land in downtown Dallas on the corner of North Akard and New San Jacinto streets.

The move will allow the executive board to sell the present Baptist building on the corner of North Ervay and San Jacinto.

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Family Faces Tough
Sledding, Cothen Says

By Roy Jennings

Baptist Press
6/8/80

ST. LOUIS (BP)--The American family can expect tough sledding if the latest forecasts about divorce hold true, Grady Cothen, president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, told religious researchers here.

The latest trends identified by Yankelovich Monitor, a national research service, indicate one out of every two marriages in 1980 will end in divorce, Cothen said.

Research also shows the problem of the absentee father, long prevalent in black families, is becoming a growing problem for white families, too, the Southern Baptist executive said.

Cothen was the principal speaker at the third annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Research Fellowship, an organization of Southern Baptists with research responsibilities.

The research fellowship was one of almost a dozen Southern Baptist groups meeting in advance of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 10-12 at the Cervantes Convention Center.

In a business session, J. V. Thomas, church extension consultant for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas, was elected president of the fellowship for a two-year term. He succeeded Leonard Irwin, a section director of the Home Mission Board, Atlanta.

Other new officers include Martin Bradley of Nashville, program vice president, Don Mabry of Alexandria, La., membership vice president, J. C. Bradley of Atlanta, news bulletin editor, Chester Davidson of Houston, secretary-treasurer, and Willis Bennett of Louisville, Ky., awards chairman.

In a special ceremony, Albert McClellan, retiring associate executive director for the SBC Executive Committee, Nashville, received an honorary life membership in the fellowship.

In research presentations leading up to Cothen's address, research specialists from the Sunday School Board and Home Mission Board described projects just completed, in progress, and on the drawing board.

Cothen, who heads Southern Baptists' largest education and publishing agency, identified a series of implications for Southern Baptists from the trends in American society, the research showed.

"The redemptive work of God is more needful now than ever before," Cothen said. "Society cannot be patched up by sociological tinkering. Something must happen to the individual.

"We need an awareness of the issues to be able to minister and witness," the Baptist executive added. "I just want us to take a hard look at the world we live in."

Cothen said he plans to share the latest trends in American society with the 300 editors and consultants on his staff and to publish portions of them.

Yankelovich Monitor was described as a secular study of a highly secular society, including moral and ethical changes and ways Americans perceive their lives.

Customers of the national research service, in addition to the Sunday School Board, include 100 major corporations who use the research data to develop products and marketing campaigns, Cothen said.

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Dallas Baptists Killed, Injured
In Arkansas Bus Accident

Baptist Press
6/8/80

DALLAS (BP)--Two Dallas Baptist churches mourned their dead or prayed for their injured members after a tour bus for senior citizens skidded off a twisting mountain road in Arkansas in the early morning of June 5, killing 20 and injuring 14.

Hampton Place Church in Dallas suffered the most casualties in the accident. Ten of its members were on the tour and three of them were killed, Veda Bull, 62; Eva Crosby, 75; and Gladys Gray, 50. Another woman, Marjorie Stinson, 52, a cousin of Gladys Gray, was also killed.

Injured Hampton Place members and their conditions are Elva Johnson, 67; serious; Nedra Highfield, 57, fair; Ruth Garrett, 60, good; Ima Smith, 60, serious; and her husband James R. Smith, 61, fair.

Elmer Durr, a coworker with Ruth Garrett, was also killed.

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One member of First Baptist Church, Irving, Texas, was injured. Mrs. D. S. Covey, 76, was listed in serious condition with a broken back and leg.

Many of the 10 Hampton Place members involved in the crash, the worst in Arkansas history, were members of the church's single adult class. They had a going away party in the home of single adult ministry director Jessie Humphries before the trip, which had been planned to last three days.

Hampton Place Pastor Robert Jenkins drove to Arkansas to minister to the injured and relatives of the victims.

"They and their families have the prayer support of the entire congregation," Jenkins said. "They know about Heaven and life after death and hope in the Lord. They are all Christians."

The bus was not chartered by any church, but was a private tour, though most of the passengers were church members. Besides the Baptists, at least six of the dead were members of First Christian Church in Irving.