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Day Care Center May Close If Volunteers Not Found

JACKPOT, Nev. (BP — Parents here will face a severe crisis if replacements for four Baptist young women are not found soon.

For the past year the women have operated the only day care available for the 900 residents of Jackpot. Here under the sponsorship of Nevada Baptists and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, their terms of service will end soon. If they are not replaced by a fresh volunteer corps, the center may cut back services, or even close.

Yet day care has become a vital part of the lives of Jackpot residents. Says Iris Hillstead, a dealer at Cactus Pete's Casino: "It's hard to go to work, but when you know your kids are OK, it's a lot easier."

The village of Jackpot literally grew up around three gambling casinos. Operating the casinos today requires dozens of workers who empty slots, deal cards and spin the wheels—and scoop chips from the soft green velvet tabletops.

Serving casino employees are others: workers in the grocery stores, restaurant cooks and dishwashers, four teachers for the elementary school, owners of gas stations, tellers in the bank and clerks in the post office—both located in casinos—and the four young women who staff the day care center.

A year ago August, when Georgia volunteers Debbie Snyder and Jan Salmon arrived in Jackpot, the Growing-up Day Care Center in Jackpot Baptist Church, was between ebb and flow.

The center operates around the clock, six days a week, taking infants to eight-year-olds. In six months, the number of kids drifting through rose from six to 20; in eight months, to 30-plus.

Even with the four workers, the staff still feels shorthanded. "We never get away from it," says Brenda Cloyd from Kentucky.

But if the center has been demanding, it's also been rewarding. "A lot of the kids are ignored at home," says Snyder, "so we've tried to be a positive influence. We hug and pay attention to them."

The team emphasizes Christianity—only once has a mother objected to the Bible lessons and daily prayers. A women's Bible study has been started—10 or more attend each week. A men's study is just underway. The church has added a few members.

"We've seen prayers answered," says Salmon. "We can tell a difference, especially in the kids. They have a knowledge of Jesus now; their parents tell us they won't eat until prayers are said, or go to bed without them."

"When you're giving so much because the kids demand it, you know what's real and that you're not number one," concludes Cloyd. "Maybe that's the best thing we've learned."

Dawn Thornton, a new Christian who deals in one casino, says Jackpot residents have benefited, too. "The center's a lifesaver. The town was in desperate need," she explains. "My kids love it here. They learn discipline and to share with others. I don't know what I'd do without it."

If a new team does not volunteer, she may soon find out.

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Adapted from MissionsUSA magazine. (BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press.

Simpson New Editor
For Indiana Baptist

Baptist Press
7/30/81

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (BP)--David Simpson, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in New Whiteland, Ind., will become the new editor of the Indiana Baptist newspaper Sept. 1.

Simpson, 31, is chairman of the state convention executive board, was chairman of the editor search committee and was twice vice president of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana.

He is a second generation Indiana Baptist. His father, Walker, was a pastor in the state and Simpson has been preaching since high school.

He graduated from Oakland City College, near Evansville, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and received the doctor of ministries from Luther Rice Seminary in May. He plans to enroll in journalism courses this fall at the Indianapolis branch of Indiana University.

The Indiana Baptist, a 9,600 circulation weekly, has been without an editor since Feb. 2 when Gene Medaris resigned suddenly following censure by the state convention executive committee.

Simpson has been pastor of churches in Princeton, New Harmony and Palestine, Ind., and Fairview, Texas.

He and his wife, Connie, have two sons, Troy, 7, and Michael, 4.

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(BP) photo to be mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Aug. 5.

'Friendly Folk'
Survey Surprise

Baptist Press
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CADILLAC, Mich. (BP)--The survey team was apprehensive.

Four couples from a young marrieds class at Woodmont Baptist Church in Nashville, Tenn., were in Cadillac, Mich., to conduct backyard Bible clubs and survey the city for church prospects.

None of the eight had done the difficult, door to door confrontation before. And they had heard people in the North just were not as friendly as southerners.

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So when Penny and Alan Terry were greeted at their very first house with handshakes and a kiss and invited into the living room, they thought, "Hey, these folks are really friendly after all."

But after a moment's conversation, the man who greeted them suddenly got a quizzical look on his face and said, "Wait a minute, you're not my grandchildren!"

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Congressional Panels Ponder
Supreme Court Jurisdiction

By Larry Chesser

Baptist Press
7/30/81

WASHINGTON (BP)--Does Congress have the constitutional power to strip the Supreme Court of its authority to hear school prayer, busing and abortion cases?

That is the key question facing House and Senate judiciary panels considering a cluster of bills designed to limit or remove Supreme Court and/or lower federal court jurisdiction from involving these emotionally-charged issues.

While admitting that their dissatisfaction with Supreme Court rulings on school prayer, abortion and busing prompted these proposals, sponsors contend that the approach is constitutional.

Opponents of the bills argue that the constitutionally valid method of checking Supreme Court decisions is through a constitutional amendment. But that process, which requires a two-thirds vote in both houses of Congress plus ratification by 38 states, has been tried several times without success by anti-abortion, anti-busing and pro school prayer advocates.

During hearings in both houses this summer, constitutional specialists clashed over the central question of the constitutionality of the court-curbing bills.

The House Subcommittee on Courts, Civil Liberties and the Administration of Justice, chaired by Rep. Robert W. Kastenmeier, D-Wis., has concluded its hearings which focused on the broad question of jurisdiction limitation. However, a spokesman for Kastenmeier's panel indicated additional hearings may be scheduled if the Reagan administration decides to take a position on the proposals.

In the Senate, the separation of powers subcommittee, chaired by Sen. John East, R-N.C., has already reported out favorably a human life bill which limits lower federal court jurisdiction in abortion cases. The Subcommittee on the Constitution, chaired by Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah, held earlier hearings on the general question of congressional power to limit court jurisdiction and has begun hearings on anti-busing proposals. Consideration of the school prayer proposals is expected this fall.

Clearly, the strongest sentiment for these proposals lies in the Senate subcommittees where some members, including chairmen Hatch and East, are convinced that Congress has the power to limit federal court jurisdiction.

Even if one or more of the bills cleared the Senate, however, it is quite possible that it would meet the same fate as the Helms Amendment in the previous Congress. The proposal by Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., to limit Supreme Court and lower federal court jurisdiction on school prayer cases cleared the Senate only to die in committee in the House.

Current members of Kastenmeier's subcommittee have "expressed grave reservations" about the proposals, according to a panel spokesman who added, "I don't think there is a single member who supports this legislation."

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Seminary Asks Rehearing In EEOC Appeal Ruling

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary will appeal a federal appeals court ruling which orders it to comply with requests from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

The Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans last week overturned portions of a decision favorable to the seminary in its continuing legal battle with the EEOC over whether the federal agency has jurisdiction over the employment practices of the seminary.

In January of 1980, U.S. District Judge Eldon Mahon in Fort Worth ruled in favor of the seminary, saying EEOC does not have jurisdiction over the school and may not seek employment records or enforce federal laws on discrimination.

EEOC filed an appeal to the decision, and last week the federal appeals court ruled, at least partially, in their favor, saying the seminary must comply with the request, in regard to non-faculty and non-academic employees.

"The decision was kind of down the middle," said seminary attorney Jenkins Garrett of Fort Worth. "They held that the seminary is a wholly religious institution and thereby is entitled to the status of a church.

"Then, they held that those who are connected with teaching within the seminary, or who had supervision of teaching, are considered ministers and accordingly are beyond the jurisdiction of the EEOC.

"Then they went on to hold that those administrators and support people who are not quote ministers unquote, are subject to EEOC jurisdiction."

Garrett told Baptist Press: "I have been instructed to file a motion for a rehearing before the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court. Because of what we consider the importance of the question, our motion is that the rehearing be held 'en banc' or before the entire court (12 justices)."

Garrett will file the motion for rehearing Aug. 14.

He said the seminary has "two procedures open to us. We can ask for a rehearing or we can appeal directly to the U.S. Supreme Court. If we are turned down on our request for a rehearing, we can still ask the Supreme Court to review the case."

The case has been underway since May 1977, when the EEOC attorneys filed suit against the seminary, which had refused to divulge records on the grounds it would violate First Amendment rights for separation of church and state.

Garrett said the seminary is acting on behalf of all six seminaries affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention. "EEOC sent a demand for questionnaires (EEOC-6 forms) to all six seminaries and was going to bring suit in all six jurisdictions. We worked out an agreement with EEOC that five of them would file the forms under protest and that Southwestern would not file. The matter would be resolved on both sides on the outcome of the Southwestern case," he said.

The attorney said the implications of the appeals court decision are enormous. "This is the first decision, to my knowledge, that any court has made sanctioning a federal agency invading the operation and administration of a church.

"The implications are that whether it be Catholic, Methodist or Baptist, that EEOC can come in and second guess a pastor as to who he has as his secretary, finance officer, or janitor. It says in effect that a church cannot use commitment of support people as a prime standard of employment."

Seminary President Russell H. Dilday Jr. said the impact extends beyond the seminary. "Up to this point, the implications have been pretty well limited to the seminaries, but the current decision has implication for the entire convention. Other agencies, boards, as well as local congregations might be invaded by federal agencies."

Dilday said he was "surprised at the inconsistency of the decision," adding that he was "very pleased the court decided in our favor that we are a wholly religious institution... but disappointed the court would decide that the federal government has the right to intervene in the employment of people who serve in this function of training ministers."

"Our people, all our people, no matter what their job, are participating in the function of equipping those whom God has called into the ministry," he added.

In a recent Supreme Court action, a Baptist-owned and operated college, Mississippi College in Clinton, Miss., was ordered to turn over employment records to the EEOC.

Garrett said the action was not a "decision, but a denial of a writ. They (the Supreme Court justices) did not pass on the merits, but sent it back to the Fifth Circuit, which had ruled the college must comply with EEOC requests."

The seminary, he said, is "distinguished from colleges like Mississippi College or Baylor University because the sole purpose of the seminary is the training of God-called people to go into service in the churches or the mission fields. It does not serve the public; it serves only the church."

"The case," Garrett said, "has enormous ramifications in the church-state field. I do not think it relates to religious education in general, but this is the first case which has given a federal government agency the right to come into a church and dictate what its hiring policies will be. It is disturbing."