

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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81-173

Rogers Uses SBC Resolution
To Push Abortion Amendment

By Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP)--Armed with a 1980 Southern Baptist Convention resolution calling for a legislated or constitutional ban on all abortions except to save the life of the mother, former SBC president Adrian P. Rogers urged a Senate panel to pass legislation to stop abortions in the U.S.

Rogers told the Senate subcommittee on the Constitution that he was appearing in the dual capacity of pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., and immediate past president of the SBC. The committee is considering several constitutional amendments on abortion--ranging from an outright prohibition to a proposal by chairman Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah, which would permit states and the Congress to pass laws regulating abortion.

Without endorsing any specific proposal, Rogers told the panel that the burden to justify passage of anti-abortion legislation was not on evangelicals, but on Congress.

Rogers' appearance before the Hatch subcommittee occurred on the fifth day of seven scheduled as the panel heard pro and con arguments on the abortion amendments from representatives of Protestant, Catholic and Jewish faiths. During the session, Terence Cardinal Cooke of New York and Archbishop John R. Roach of Minneapolis and St. Paul endorsed, for the first time, the Hatch Amendment.

Rogers declared the 1980 Southern Baptist resolution to be the "heart" of his statement and told the panel that the resolution was approved overwhelmingly and has not been amended or rescinded.

The Memphis pastor urged the Senators to pass the anti-abortion legislation "in haste," warning that "one day, we will all give an account of our actions concerning the tragedy of abortion on demand."

In addition to the hard-line 1980 resolution, Rogers said he sensed a growing awareness among Baptists on the abortion issue leading to a consensus against the practice. Baptists are "johnny-come-latelys" to the issue, he said.

Without specifically referring to less restrictive Southern Baptist resolutions before 1980 which recognized the privacy rights of women in seeking "the full range of medical services" in abortion decisions, Rogers said in response to a question from Hatch that there has been "somewhat of an evolution, if I can use that word loosely," among Baptists on the issue.

Following his testimony, a Southern Baptist deacon attending the session confronted Rogers outside the hearing room and later expressed to Baptist Press her view that the 1980 resolution isn't necessarily representative of most Southern Baptists.

Dexanne Clohan, a member of D.C.'s Riverside Baptist Church and a lobbyist for the American Medical Association, pointed to national polls showing that a large majority of Americans oppose a constitutional ban against abortion and suggested that "It is as fair to assume that the national polls represent the views of Baptists as it is to assume the 1980 resolution represents a majority of the denomination."

On Rogers' statement that he detects a "rising tide" of anti-abortion sentiment among Baptists and evangelicals, Clohan said, "He might conclude from his personal context that there is a groundswell against abortion, but I doubt that it runs through the whole of the denomination."

Rogers told Baptist Press his appearance at the hearing did not signal an increased involvement on his part in the political arena, saying that he had never been a "political animal," and preferred the role of "preacher of the gospel."

He added, however, that it is important for Baptist ministers to be involved as citizens in the political process and that while he had no plans to step up his own political activity, he would not "run away" from difficult moral issues.

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Members of Congress
Honor Brooks Hays

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11/9/81

WASHINGTON (BP)--When Brooks Hays died in October, the nation lost one of its living treasures.

At least that's the way Rep. Carl Perkins, D-Ky., expressed it during a special order on the House floor arranged by Rep. Ed Bethune, R-Ark., to pay tribute to the former Arkansas congressman and Baptist statesman.

More than 25 House members joined in recalling the numerous attributes as well as stories told by and about Hays, who died Oct. 12.

The congressmen praised Hays for his wit and story-telling reputation, for his moderating influence in the often-stormy world of politics, and for his refusal to compromise his faith or his principles in politics or life.

Hays, who served as president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1958 and 1959, was widely acknowledged for his moderating stance during the 1957 Little Rock, Ark., integration crisis--a stance which most observers say cost him a ninth term in the House.

"By clinging to his Christian ideals of peace and moderation and by his refusal to play the demagogue, Brooks Hays quietly assured his political defeat in those poisonous years in the later 1950s, when bigotry and intolerance stalked the land," said Perkins, one of only 20 current members of the House who served with Hays.

"It is a time for us to rededicate ourselves to the ideals of fairness and justice and decency in American life that he held so dear," Perkins said during the tribute session.

Louisiana Rep. Lindy Boggs pointed to Hays' religious commitment.

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"He was probably the most joyful Christian I have ever known," she said, "and he was able to relate his joyfulness and his perfect harmony with nature and with his fellowman, a harmony that he achieved because he was in perfect harmony with his creator."

The veteran Perkins, also a Baptist, said: "The sorrow at saying goodbye to Brooks is tempered by the joy of having known him, and the richness of having him for a friend."

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Southern Seminary Picks
Supervised Ministry Head

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11/9/81

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Walter C. Jackson III, a veteran pastor, chaplain and educator, has been named director of supervised experience in ministry and professor of ministry by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Jackson, director of the department of pastoral care for the Baptist Medical Center of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, will join the seminary Jan. 1.

He will be responsible for overseeing all ministerial placement at the seminary and will be responsible for Southern's emphasis on practical and spiritual preparation for ministry, said Walter B. Shurden, dean of the seminary's school of theology.

"We're trying to help form the spiritual lives of future ministers," Shurden explained. "We want them to know theological education is more than simply an intellectual pilgrimage. It has to do with the development of their inner lives as disciples of Jesus Christ."

Jackson will help students form concepts of ministry, Shurden said, and as director of supervised experience in ministry, he will help students obtain contextual education in churches.

Jackson had held his Oklahoma position since 1977. From 1964-1977 he served the Louisville Baptist hospitals, first as chaplain, then as director of chaplaincy services, and finally as director of pastoral care. Previously, he was assistant pastor of two churches in Virginia and pastor of three churches in Kentucky.

He also has been adjunct and visiting professor at Southern Seminary, clinical instructor in pastoral care at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and instructor in religion at Kentucky Baptist Hospital School of Nursing.

He has earned three degrees from Southern Seminary--B.D., Th.M. and Ph.D.--and also is a graduate of the University of Richmond.

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Missionaries Survive
Kenyan Lake Accident

By Laura Lee Stewart

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11/9/81

NAIVASHA, Kenya (BP)--A Southern Baptist missionary couple and an independent Baptist missionary were dramatically rescued from stormy Lake Naivasha after spending more than six hours in the Kenyan Lake's penetratingly cold water Oct. 19.

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A wave about 14 feet high sank the boat in which Harry and Doris Shott Garvin, Southern Baptist missionaries to Uganda, and Jerry Piercey, an independent missionary to Kenya, had been fishing.

The trio had set out on calm waters to fish on the opposite side of the lake in Naivasha, a town in the Great Rift Valley about 40 miles northwest of Nairobi, Kenya. As they started to come in about 6 p.m., fierce wind and waves arose in the middle of the lake--"worse than I have ever seen," said Garvin, an Anson, Texas, native and former Fort Worth pastor.

The boat took on water, when, suddenly, the tall wave struck and the boat was swamped, sinking rapidly. The passengers had time to grab only two five-gallon gas tanks which floated near them. They emptied the tanks and used them for flotation to supplement life jackets.

When the party did not come in as expected, fellow Southern Baptist missionaries Bill Curp of Missouri and John Taylor of Iowa, who both serve in Kenya, went out to search. A nearby hotel also sent out a search boat.

Curp used a light which could be seen for a mile to penetrate the darkness. The Garvins said later the light gave them hope that the searchers would find them.

The two boats combed the eight square miles of water as thoroughly as possible. After four hours of searching, Curp ran low on fuel and started to shore. But the other boat sheared a pin in its propeller, and the men cut off the engine to repair it.

By that time, the wind had changed and they heard a cry for help. The boat was only 100 yards from the rapidly falling victims.

Because of a sailing club competition that weekend, doctors and an Army medic were on hand to give immediate medical treatment when the rescue boat came in. But the treatment almost came too late.

Piercey, unconscious for two hours, probably would not have survived another 30 minutes to one hour, according to doctors who examined them on shore. Because of the cold water, Mrs. Garvin's body temperature was still four degrees below normal after an hour of rehabilitation efforts in the boat's cabin enroute to shore and she likely would not have survived much longer.

Her husband also was numb with cold and exhaustion from efforts to keep his wife's and Piercey's heads above water. Piercey lost his main life jacket in the accident and had only a flotation collar. Finally, Garvin looped his belt through Piercey's belt and fastened it to a handle of one of the five-gallon tanks to keep the unconscious man afloat.

"It has to be a miracle of God that we're alive," said Garvin. "We're walking miracles. My wife and I had no great fear of death but there was a great deal of sadness at the thought of leaving our children."

Although the unpleasant memories and some weakening effects still remain, the three missionaries resumed their regular activities less than two weeks after the accident.

Laura Lee Stewart is a missionary to Kenya and serves as press representative for the Kenya mission.

(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by the Richmond bureau of Baptist Press.

Dunn, Puckett Laud
Tax Credits Defeat

WASHINGTON (BP)--The overwhelming rejection of a tuition tax credit proposal by District of Columbia voters Nov. 3 drew praise from a pair of Baptist church-state specialists.

Pointing to a strongly worded resolution opposing tuition tax credits adopted at the most recent Southern Baptist Convention in Los Angeles, Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs Executive Director James M. Dunn called the defeat of the controversial proposal by a nearly 9 to 1 margin a victory for Baptists and other supporters of church-state separation.

"Baptists will rejoice in the overwhelming victory for religious liberty and public education," Dunn said. "District voters rightly rejected this indirect aid for parochial and private schools as welfare for the well-off."

R. G. Puckett, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, noted the importance of the D.C. vote in light of numerous tuition tax credit proposals pending in Congress, including a version sponsored by Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan, D-N.Y., and Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore.

"With national attention focused on the District of Columbia initiative as a test vote, the defeat of tuition tax credits has a special significance," Puckett said. "I hope that Senators Moynihan and Packwood understand this and also that President Reagan, who recently reiterated his support for tuition tax credits, gets the message."

Unofficial totals showed 73,829 (89.2 percent) district voters opposed the measure while 8,904 (10.7 percent) favored it.

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Collins Named Interim
Executive In Arkansas

Baptist Press
11/9/81

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP)--L. L. Collins, associate executive secretary of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, has been named interim executive secretary, succeeding Huber L. Drumwright Jr., 57, the executive secretary, who died Nov. 2, following an apparent heart attack.

The convention operating committee named Collins to serve until the convention's executive board meets Nov. 17, and also voted to recommend that he be elected to fill the interim post until a successor to Drumwright is named.

Collins, formerly registrar and director of admissions at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, became Drumwright's assistant Feb. 2.

He has been a pastor in Oklahoma, Texas and Arkansas, and a public school teacher and administrator. He holds degrees from Southwestern Seminary, and taught Greek in the seminary for a year before becoming director of admissions in 1974.

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New Mexico Adopts
Record 1981 Budget

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Messengers to the 69th annual session of the Baptist Convention of New Mexico adopted a record \$3.6 million budget, re-elected its president and voted to refurbish the Baptist Building in Albuquerque.

Messengers approved a total budget of \$3,670,509, of which \$1,836,915 will come from the 252 churches and missions in the state. Messengers earmarked 29 percent--\$532,701--for worldwide mission causes through the Southern Baptist Convention unified budget, the same percentage as last year.

Bob J. Bacon, pastor of Del Norte Baptist Church in Albuquerque, was re-elected to a second term as president.

Messengers also voted to refurbish the Baptist Building at an estimated cost of \$600,000. Work is expected to start immediately and be completed in 240 days.

Chester O'Brien, executive director, said the first floor of the two-story building will be refurbished, and all offices will be moved into the downstairs area. The second floor, which currently houses convention offices, will be used as rental space.

The convention voted to designate Feb. 5, 1982, as Bold Mission Partners Day and to take a special offering on that day. The funds will be placed with the convention's foundation and church loan foundation to assist missions and smaller churches in the state.

Harry P. Stagg, executive director of the convention, 1938-1968, was honored in a special service on Tuesday evening. Stagg, executive director for 30 years, held that office longer than any other state executive director in the history of the SBC.

Next year's BCNM annual session will meet in Roswell at Calvary Baptist Church, Nov. 9-11.

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Minn.-Wis. Dedicates
Fellowship Offices

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11/9/81

ROCHESTER, Minn. (BP)--Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptists dedicated their new \$235,000 office building and enjoyed an open house with buffet dinner at the building during the 12th annual meeting of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Fellowship.

Messengers adopted a 1982 budget of \$969,898, up 12 percent over 1981. Twenty-five percent of the \$170,180 anticipated from contributions of Minnesota-Wisconsin churches will be forwarded to national SBC causes, the same percentage as 1981.

Fellowship Executive Director Otha Winningham noted that since the last meeting held in Rochester six years ago, just after fellowship offices were moved to Rochester from Madison, Wis., the number of congregations has more than doubled. And church membership has almost doubled. Currently there are 105 congregations, 67 of which are constituted churches. Total membership stands at 11,652. Last year there were 1,037 baptisms, an increase of 146.

Two bylaw changes eliminated the prohibition against more than one member from a church serving on the executive board at one time and changed Winningham's title of coordinator to executive director.

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Tom Biles, pastor of Northwest Baptist Church, Milwaukee, Wis., was elected president, succeeding layman Charles Dunning of Neenah, Wis. Don Plott, pastor of Friendship Baptist Church, Coon Rapids, Minn., was named first vice president; and Don Hill, layman from Wayzata, Minn., was elected second vice president.

Resolutions included recognition of the "sacrifice and faithfulness of the bivocational pastors in the fellowship," and an endorsement of the Bold Mission Thrust goals of going, growing and giving.

The resolution "recognized Southern Baptists have not responded in the manner of God's blessing" in their efforts to present the gospel to everyone by the year 2000, and urged them to "seek God's remedy."

The 1982 convention site, chosen last year, is Northwest Baptist Church in Milwaukee, Wis., the church of next year's fellowship president. Dates are Nov. 5-6.

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Building Sale Okayed
By North Carolinians

Baptist Press
11/9/81

GREENSBORO, N.C. (BP)--Messengers to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina approved the sale and relocation of the Baptist Building.

The vote apparently resolves a simmering controversy over the building, its sale and relocation of convention offices.

By a wide majority, messengers approved a recommendation of the General Board to sell the current building in downtown Raleigh and to relocate the offices of the convention in the Raleigh-Cary area.

General Secretary Cecil A. Ray told messengers he has two offers in hand for the sale of the building. He did not identify the prospective purchasers.

Messengers authorized the executive committee of the General Board to make necessary financial arrangements for the sale of the building.

The approved recommendation provides that the difference between the price received for the sale of the current building and construction of the new one must not exceed \$750,000. Ray reported if the cost cannot be contained to the figure authorized, a new building will not be constructed.

It is expected a new building would cost \$2 million. It would contain 50,000 square feet of floor space, about 3,000 more than the current structure. The location likely would be on one of two sites in the Raleigh suburbs.

Messengers elected Frank Campbell, pastor of First Baptist Church of Statesboro, as president of the convention in a close vote. Campbell, who had been first vice president, defeated Henderson Belk, a layman and a member of First Baptist Church of Charlotte.

Campbell had been identified with the "moderate" faction within the Southern Baptist Convention and Belk with the Inerrancy group, but the election did not take on those political overtones, observers said.

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Another layman, Al Lineberry, a member of First Baptist Church of Greensboro, was elected second vice president.

Campbell succeeds Cecil Sherman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Asheville and a leader in the "moderate" faction, who was ineligible for re-election, having served two terms.

Marian (Mrs. J. Marse) Grant was elected recording secretary, the first woman ever elected to the post. She is the wife of the retiring editor of the Biblical Recorder, journal of the state convention.

Messengers adopted a \$20.8 million budget, the largest in their history. Of the budget, 35 percent of the first \$20,250,000 will go to worldwide missions causes through the SBC unified budget. Phase II of the budget--\$550,000--will be shared on a 50/50 basis with the SBC.

The convention met in joint session with the black Baptist convention, the General Baptist Convention of North Carolina. Several leading National Baptist leaders, including J. H. Jackson of Chicago, president of the National Baptist Convention of the USA, Inc., were present for the meeting.

North Carolina Gov. James B. Hunt addressed a joint session, calling on churches to make an all out effort to help troubled youth.

In resolutions, the joint meeting went on record as strongly opposing "intensified efforts of the Ku Klux Klan in North Carolina."

Other resolutions by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (SBC) expressed opposition to anti-semitism and oppression of Christians and Jews in the Soviet Union in and in other places around the world.

Other resolutions:

--Opposed tuition tax credits and other devices "which directly or indirectly channel public funds into church-operated or religious elementary and secondary schools";

--Opposed state mandated prayers in public schools;

--Decried "the use of any device which attempts to grade candidates (for political office) on the basis of a few issues and which states either implicitly or explicitly that one candidate is a Christian candidate or one for which all Christians should vote";

--Rejected "all attempts to enforce religious opinions under a government which guarantees religious freedom to all"; and

--Called upon the federal government "to honor the clear mandates of the Constitution by giving high priority of concern and resources to the massive and urgent problems of health, housing and hunger which are beyond the capacity of churches and private agencies."

Grant, who has announced he will retire as editor of the Biblical Recorder in September of 1982, was commended in a resolution, and also was named layman of the year at a joint meeting of the North Carolina Baptist Men and the Pastors' Conference. It is the second time he has received the award.

The 1982 annual meeting will be in Cumberland County Coliseum in Fayetteville, Nov. 15-17.

'Bubbly Little Girl' Slain
While Parents Study Bible

By Jim Young

LOVELAND, Colo. (BP)--Wendy Watts, 9, a "bubbly little girl" who was "always happy," was shot to death Nov. 8 while her deaf parents were attending a Baptist Bible study nearby.

Wendy had gone with her parents to Lakewood, a suburb of Denver, to attend a Bible study in the apartment of Phillip and Sandy Goldberg, members of Silent Crusaders Chapel, a ministry of Denver Temple Baptist Church.

The girl, who was a member of Trinity Baptist Church of Loveland, where she lived, had gone outside to play and apparently went, by mistake, into the apartment of Steven Hiatt, 26.

Hiatt reportedly told police he thought the girl was a burglar. He was charged with manslaughter and released from jail after posting a \$2,000 bond.

The apartment manager described Hiatt as "a nice young man."

Friends said Wendy was unaccustomed to knocking, since her parents are nonhearing.

Wendy, who had made a profession of faith and was baptized about two years ago at Silent Crusaders Chapel, often interpreted for her parents, Charles and Mary Watts. She was a "hearing person," as is her brother, Bobby, 14.

A friend at Trinity Baptist Church said of Wendy: "She was a very bubbly little girl, always happy. She left an impression on people with her witness in her neighborhood."

Her Sunday School teacher, Sherry (Mrs. Dale) Witt, wife of the pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, added: "Her personality was the type that she never met a stranger; she was always open and witnessed to lots of people."

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Penn.-S. Jersey Sets
Three-Year Goals

Baptist Press
11/9/81

ERIE, Pa. (BP)--The Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey laid down a host of goals for 1982-85 during their annual convention in Erie.

Messengers voted to increase Sunday School enrollment from the current 18,000 to 25,000 by Oct. 1, 1985. They also want to add at least 85 new congregations to the 162 churches and chapels they now have and will encourage at least 125 churches to increase their percentage of mission gifts through the SBC Cooperative Program.

The convention elected Marshall Crawley, pastor of Delran Baptist Chapel, Riverside, N.J., as president.

They adopted a convention operating budget of \$1,313,646 of which \$398,000 is anticipated income from the convention's churches and chapels. The convention will forward 26.5 percent of the latter figure to national SBC causes, the same percentage as in 1981.

Other development goals adopted include having 2,500 members trained in witnessing; 5,000 in missions education through Woman's Missionary Union or Brotherhood Involvement; 150 churches in direct mission projects outside their church field; 1,000 family units committed to family worship and Bible study in the home and streamlining the process of calling and orienting mission pastors.

The 1982 annual meeting will be Nov. 4-6 at the Country and Town Baptist Church, Camphill, Pa.

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