



## BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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November 4, 1982

82-156

High Court To Review  
Nebraska Chaplaincy

By Stan Hastey

WASHINGTON (BP)--Responding to an appeal by the state of Nebraska, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to review lower court decisions striking down the Nebraska legislature's longstanding practice of hiring and paying a single individual as chaplain over an extended period of time.

Neither party to the case is asking the high court to strike down the policy of having a chaplain open each day's legislative session with prayer.

What is at issue is the Nebraska unicameral legislature's longtime retention of Presbyterian Chaplain Robert E. Palmer who has served in that capacity since 1965, the state's monthly payment to Palmer of \$320 and the legislature's decision in three instances to print Palmer's prayers at public expense.

After those practices were challenged in 1980 by state senator Ernest Chambers, a U.S. district court ruled that while the First Amendment's ban on an establishment of religion was not violated by having a chaplain open each day's session with a prayer, it was abridged by paying him and by printing his prayers from public funds.

On appeal the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled last year that retention and compensation of a single chaplain for an extended tenure violated the establishment clause. But the same tribunal has allowed the practice to continue pending final disposition of the case by the Supreme Court (82-23, Marsh vs. Chambers).

In other church-state actions announced Nov. 1 the high court:

--Declined to review a ruling by Massachusetts' highest court upholding a state law which requires all private schools, religious or secular, to report to town school superintendents the names, ages and residences of all children attending their schools. Such a requirement, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled, does not violate the free exercise or no establishment clauses of the First Amendment (82-390, Bailey vs. Bellotti).

--Let stand a decision by the Third Circuit Court of Appeals that the National Labor Relations Board properly asserted jurisdiction over a Pennsylvania cheese processing plant, even though the milk for the processing comes from a cooperative controlled by Old Order Amish farmers who oppose unions as a matter of religious belief. The case involves the New Wilmington, Pa., Old Order Amish community which claimed its beliefs prohibit dealing with or associating with labor organizations (82-141, Jacobo Marti & Sons, Inc., vs. NLRB).

--Declared it could find no "substantial federal question" to review in a case challenging the New Jersey board of education's requirement that local school districts maintain sex education programs. The policy was challenged by parents who argued that it violated both the free exercise and no establishment clauses but the New Jersey Supreme Court ruled the rights of objecting parents were protected by the policy's provision excusing children if participation conflicted with conscientiously held religious beliefs (82-309, Smith vs. Brandt).



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BSSB Search Committee  
Begin Interview Process

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The chairman of the Baptist Sunday School Board presidential search committee has reported the seven-member group is reviewing nominations submitted by the Oct. 1 deadline and is arranging interviews with potential candidates.

John J. Bryan of Bluefield, W. Va., said in a recent progress report to the board's trustees that the nominations represent diversity in geographical areas and include men and women, laypersons and ministers and persons outside and within the Sunday School Board. He said all nominees will receive committee consideration.

"Some have been nominated without their knowledge or consent, others have been aware of their nomination, but to the best of our knowledge no one is seeking the position," said Bryan, a physician.

Bryan said other officers of the committee are Warren Hultgren, pastor of First Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla., vice chairman, and Raymond Langlois, pastor of Judson Baptist Church, Nashville, secretary-treasurer.

Bryan said the work of the committee will continue to be done "in a strictly confidential manner. This protects the nominees in their present positions and insures the integrity of the committee."

He told trustees: "The committee, individually and collectively, has been totally free of outside pressure. We are grateful to you and Southern Baptists that your attitude has been one of prayer."

Earlier the committee indicated they hoped to present a nominee to the trustees at the next regular meeting in February 1982, or at a called meeting as soon thereafter as possible.

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Southern Baptists Explore  
Re-Entry Of Mozambique

By Robert O'Brien

Baptist Press  
11/4/82

MAPUTO, Mozambique (BP)--Baptist leaders in Mozambique have asked Southern Baptists to reopen mission work in the small southern African nation if they can obtain government permission.

Their hopes have risen following the granting of a visa to a Foreign Mission Board representative to travel in Mozambique for the express purpose of discussing missionary re-entry with Baptist Convention of Mozambique leaders.

Marion G. (Bud) Fray, associate to the director for eastern and southern Africa, returned from that one-week trip and recommended the board seek two couples to fill desperately needed leadership training roles.

Board leaders have agreed to pursue the request, according to Davis Saunders, director for eastern and southern Africa.

Missionaries John and Jean Poe entered Mozambique in August 1975, after missionaries Ernie and Jan Harvey, who entered the country in 1973, left on furlough. But the Poes departed the following month because anti-American sentiment prevalent in the newly independent Marxist nation made their work practically impossible.

Since then no missionaries have been allowed to re-enter although a Brazilian Baptist missionary, Valnice Coelho, came to Mozambique in 1971 and has remained in the country. Fray says she may be the only evangelical missionary in Mozambique.

The possibility of re-entry arose last April when John Griggs, Southern Baptist missionary to Zimbabwe, was granted a visa to travel to Mozambique to conduct a week of revival meetings at the Baptist church in Beira. Convention officials approached him at that time.

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Fray returned from his trip in early October impressed by what the Baptists are doing despite pressures against Christianity. He expressed enthusiasm about the dynamism of the leaders and other members--especially young adults--in the convention's six churches and 15 preaching points and at the Baptist Bible Institute begun by the Harveys.

"We have a tremendous opportunity to help train leaders in this young convention which stands on the edge of really doing something for Christ," he said.

"We need to forget the losses of the past and the changes that have been made because of the past," Fray added. "The thrill of Mozambique is its wonderful new potential. Baptist work there is being born under extremely difficult circumstances. But it has the strength that difficulty and trial brings a person or an organization.

"There's faith there. There's commitment there. There's love there. There's priority there," he declared. "Southern Baptists need to pray for this vibrant band of Baptist believers in Mozambique who aren't just holding on but are marching forward for the cause of Christ."

Fray emphasized missionary personnel would have to be willing to face an austere situation characterized by a shortage of material things. He said they should be willing to keep a low profile, already know Portuguese, if possible, and possess patience and spiritual toughness.

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Ohio Baptists Up  
National CP Giving

Baptist Press  
11/4/82

CINCINNATI (BP)--Arthur L. Patterson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Mason, Ohio, was elected president of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio after two runoff ballots.

The major resolution approved by the messengers at the Oct. 25-27 meeting was one commending the Ohio legislature for enacting tougher laws against drunken drivers.

A budget of \$2,483,198 was adopted for 1983 with 39.5 percent of that amount designated to be sent on the the national level of Southern Baptist Convention mission and educational work via the Cooperative Program. This is an increase of one-half of one percent from the 1982 budget.

Messengers were told the two year "104 Miracles" campaign will conclude this December with the establishment of 90 new missions, 14 short of the goal.

A record attendance of 1,231 (650 messengers and 581 visitors) heard sermons by SBC President James T. Draper Jr. and Kenneth Mahanes, pastor of Far Hills Baptist Church in Dayton, the largest SBC church in the state of Ohio.

Draper predicted the SBC will come out of current controversies over the Bible and denominational leadership "stronger than ever" and charged Southern Baptists "don't care enough about people. Jesus cared about people and loved them until he hurt."

Mahanes delivered the convention sermon. "Don't make me choose between total submission to the Bible and total submission to God because it is one and the same," he said.

The 1983 convention will be Oct. 25-27 in Vandalia, Ohio.

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CORRECTION--In (BP) story released 10/29/82 "Nevada Convention Ups Mission Giving Two Percent" please correct first sentence, "Beverly McElroy, the Southern Baptist Convention's first female state convention president" to read "Beverly McElroy, the first female to be elected president of a Southern Baptist state convention aligned only with the SBC." The District of Columbia Baptist Convention, which is dually aligned with the SBC and the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A., has elected two women president. Thanks, BP

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Johnson Award To Honor  
Leading Baptist Educators

By Lonnie Wilkey

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention has announced the Charles D Johnson award to be given annually to a person who has made a significant contribution to Southern Baptist higher education.

"We are acknowledging our very great debt to Dr. Johnson while at the same time establishing a means of publicly recognizing individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to Christian higher education through Southern Baptist institutions," said Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director/treasurer of the Education Commission.

The award honors Johnson, author of Higher Education of Southern Baptists and chairman of the Education Commission from 1932 to 1953 before the commission employed a salaried secretary.

Walker said the first Johnson awards will probably be made to individuals who have had opportunities for long-standing contributions but the recognition will not be restricted to lengthy service.

"Even though we recognize our Baptist colleges are the result of the support and interest of various state conventions, the Education Commission feels Christian commitments by individuals who have made great contributions to various colleges, often at personal sacrifice, reflect in the best way the fulfillment of the command of Christ to 'Go, Teach,'" Walker said.

Nominations may be sent to The Education Commission, 460 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, TN 37219.

Recipients will be selected by the administrative committee of the Education Commission. The award will be presented at the annual meeting of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools.

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Seminary Extension Grows  
In Bold Mission Thrust

Baptist Press  
11/4/82

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--An increased number of students in 10 states outside traditional Southern Baptist Convention territory were part of more than 9,000 persons enrolled for study through the Seminary Extension department during 1981-82.

Students engaged in theological studies in local Seminary Extension centers or in correspondence work with the department's Independent Study Institute could be found in 49 of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam and 18 foreign countries, according to statistics for the year ending July 31, 1982.

"We were particularly gratified to find how many persons in 'new work' areas are turning to Seminary Extension as a resource for ministry training," said Raymond M. Rigdon, director of Seminary Extension work since 1969.

"In Indiana, for instance, the number of Seminary Extension students doubled, jumping from 72 in 1981 to 145 this past year. And in the Northwest, Washington and Oregon together went from 60 to 106."

Other states in new work areas showing increased enrollments last year were: West Virginia (180), New Jersey (54), Wisconsin (18), Delaware (12), Nevada (12), South Dakota (5) and Rhode Island (3). Each of these 10 states also posted an increase in the number of courses taken by those students.

A total of 9,049 students accounted for 14,857 course enrollments throughout the Seminary Extension system. A majority of these studied in a network of 391 centers operated by the Seminary Extension Department in cooperation with Baptist associations and other local entities.

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The Seminary Extension Department is a part of the Seminary External Education Division maintained jointly by the six seminaries of the Southern Baptist Convention. The six seminary presidents comprise the governing board for the division while the seminaries' chief academic officers serve as the academic council.

Among the more established SBC states, North Carolina continued to lead all other in its Seminary Extension involvement with 1,798 students and 74 centers. Texas followed with 1,033 students and 30 centers. Florida outdistanced Texas in its number of centers with 39 but its 929 students placed it third in that category. Tennessee finished fourth with 520 students and 28 centers, up eight over last year. California reported 397 students, moving into the top five ranking for the first time. Missouri had the fifth largest number of centers in operation with 21, a new record for that state.

Courses offered through Seminary Extension are designed for pastors and others desiring seminary-type courses on the pre-college or college level.

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Louisiana Revival  
Shows 'Senior' Class

By Oscar Hoffmeyer Jr.

Baptist Press  
11/4/82

WEST MONROE, La. (BP)--A minister who preached his first sermon in 1932, a couple who recently observed their golden wedding anniversary and a choir of silver-haired musicians joined together in what is believed to be the first senior adult-led revival in Louisiana Baptist history. The revival was at the Peniel Baptist Church in West Monroe.

Luther B. Hall, the evangelist, is preaching his first revival since a heart attack two years ago. He started preaching in June 1932.

Special music Sunday evening was delivered by Rev. and Mrs. W.O. Cory, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in September. Cory had been a pastor since 1947 when he retired in 1975. He continues serving as interim and supply preacher.

Pastor Charles Davis said he had been thinking of a way to engage the experience and talents of the many senior adults in the church when the idea of a senior adult-led revival kept coming around.

"I have never seen anything about this in any book, so we just had to start from scratch," Davis said. Other adult groups were contacted for ideas and reactions and all were in favor of it, and the first man who came to mind as the evangelist was Luther Hall."

Activities of the week followed a recognized pattern of visitation, attendance enlistment for services and entertainment of the guest speaker, all directed by senior adults of the church. Prayer groups and pack-a-pew enlistment efforts were held with different age groups honored each evening.

On Thursday all senior adults met for their regular monthly luncheon with the evangelist as guest. "The WMU has sponsored a senior adult luncheon every Thursday for about eight years and it came during revival week," Davis said.

Hall acknowledged he prepared in a special way for this revival. "I spent weeks preparing messages that I felt this age group might need," he said. "I preached messages not normally used in the usual revival. For example, I preached on 'Day of Destiny,' a sermon I had preached only once before in my life.

"Although a sermon can meet a universal age-group need, I know some senior adults have never made a profession of faith and the time is shorter for them than younger people. I have spent more time in preparation for this revival because of its uniqueness," he said.

One Hall sermon admonished his congregation to listen for God's voice. "Sometimes it's hard for God to get us quiet long enough for Him to speak to us," he pointed out.

From the enthusiasm of the Peniel Baptist Church senior adults they are hearing God's voice without slowing down.