



BAPTIST PRESS

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RTVC To Honor CBS' Jankowski,
Keeshan at Abe Lincoln Awards

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)-"Captain Kangaroo" and a CBS television executive will be honored by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission (RTVC) during its 14th Abe Lincoln Awards for distinguished broadcasters, Feb. 17.

Bob Keeshan, creator and host of "Captain Kangaroo," and Gene F. Jankowski, president of the CBS/Broadcast Group, will receive two of the top awards presented by the agency at the annual ceremony.

The Abe Lincoln Awards were created in 1970 to recognize the contributions of radio and tv broadcasters to their communities.

Jankowski's honor, the Distinguished Communications Medal, is the highest accolade given by the RTVC. He will be recognized for encouraging the broadcast industry "to achieve its potential as a major contributor to the quality of life in America today and tomorrow." The citation also notes Jankowski's sensitivity to the moral values of viewers and his networks commitment to quality news coverage.

Keeshan, who created "Captain Kangaroo" in 1955, will receive the Distinguished Communications Recognition Award for "enhancing the quality of life and contributing to the emotional and ethical growth of the children of this nation." His program, long the mainstay of CBS' morning lineup, is the longest running children's program on network television. It is now seen on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

"Gene Jankowski has led the way in revitalizing his networks' programming," said Jimmy R. Allen, president of the Radio and Television Commission. "He has insisted on excellence in news reporting and informing the American people about issues. He has shown a perceptive awareness of values in his response to the religious community of this nation."

Jankowski joined CBS in 1961 as a radio sales account executive. He held several positions in both the television and radio divisions before being named vice president and comptroller of CBS Incorporated in 1976. He became executive vice president of CBS/Broadcast Group in July 1977 and was appointed to his present position three months later. As president of the group, Jankowski oversees CBS' news, entertainment and sports programming, as well as the radio and television networks and CBS-owned stations.

"Bob Keeshan's efforts have set the standards by which all other children's programs are measured," Allen said. "Our children, and many of our children's parents, have grown up with 'Captain Kangaroo'. Mr. Keeshan's main concern has been to make children feel valuable and feel they have a future. He has a special ministry and we are pleased to honor his work."

"Captain Kangaroo" has won three Peabody Awards, an Ohio State Award, four Emmy Awards and two Gabriel Awards. Keeshan was named Broadcaster of the Year by the International Radio and Television Society in 1979 and Television Father of the Year in 1980.

The presentations to Jankowski and Keeshan will highlight the awards program, scheduled for the Americana Hotel at 7 p.m. Jankowski will deliver the keynote address.

"Neither of these awards is presented annually, but only when people of exceptional merit are found," Allen said.

NBC commentator John Chancellor received the Distinguished Communications Medal last year. The last recipient of the Distinguished Communications Recognition Award was Fred Rogers, creator of "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood," who was honored in 1981.

In addition to recognizing these industry leaders, the Abe Lincoln Awards also salute the efforts of local broadcasters to improve their communities through public service programming and projects. Eight such awards will be given out at the 1983 ceremony. The winners were judged by a panel of the entrants' peers on the basis of professionally accepted standards.

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(BP) photos mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Radio and Television Commission.

Board Members Name
1984-85 WMU Emphasis

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BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Woman's Missionary Union national Executive Board during its January meeting approved plans for national WMU work for 1984-85, launched a massive prayer network for a 1984 convention and initiated plans for WMU's Centennial celebration.

"By Love Compelled" will be the official 1984-85 WMU emphasis. In that period, WMUs will focus on greater personal involvement in missions through mission action.

Plans also call for more in-depth training of WMU members to equip them for mission action.

The board also approved goals for the two national missions offerings. The 1984 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions will amount to \$72 million. The 1985 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions will be \$32 million.

The board, along with state and national WMU staffs, also launched a nation-wide prayer network, committing themselves to pray regularly for the national Acteens convention, held every five years.

According to Marti Solomon, national Acteen consultant, the network will be implemented by state WMUs who will ask women to pledge their prayer support for the convention, July 18-21, 1984, in Fort Worth, Texas.

Bea McRae of Lumberton, N. C., president of North Carolina WMU and chairman of WMU Centennial committee, introduced other committee members who will plan the 1988 Centennial celebration. They are: Marjorie McCullough of Alexandria, La.; Helen Allen of Columbus, Ohio; Mary Stevens of Montgomery, Ala.; Joy Fenner of Dallas; Brenda Staver of El Toro, Calif.; Alma Hunt, former executive director of WMU SBC of Richmond, Va.; Helen Fling, former national president of WMU, Birmingham, Ala. and Catherine Allen, Bobbie Sorrill and June Whitlow of the national staff.

Work groups were formed to initiate planning for the event.

In other business, Beth Gilreath of Charlotte, N.C., chairman of the relocation committee, announced that the Executive Board voted not to hold a fund raising drive for its new national headquarters now being built. Gilreath said individual contributions would be accepted, however.

WMU staff will occupy the building in the spring of 1984.

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Evelyn Blount, director of WMU's national enlargement plan, announced that 1,652 new WMU organizations were started in 1982. She expressed optimism for national enlargement, saying that of the 1,948 churches contacted, 88 percent plan to start WMU.

Blount also recognized the following state conventions which reached their 1982 goals: Alabama, Maryland/New England, Nevada and Utah/Idaho.

Although the national enlargement will formally end Sept. 30, 1983, the board approved an enlistment goal of 2 million women, girls and preschoolers by September 1988.

In other business, the board approved the 1984-85 associational WMU dated plan; voted to support Dayspring, which is two evangelism conferences in 1983 and 1984 sponsored by the Home and Foreign Mission Boards and approved the publication of three new missionary biographies for adults.

The board also approved the WMU associational Base Design, a planning guide that defines the scope of WMU work at the associational level.

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Yemen Baptists Give
As Well As Receive

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Baptist Press
1/21/83

Birmingham, Ala. (BP)--When it comes to giving to missions, Southern Baptist representatives in Yemen don't just receive--they also give.

During the January meeting of the national Woman's Missionary Union Executive Board, Carolyn Weatherford, executive director, announced WMU had received a check from the Southern Baptist representatives in Yemen for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

Sarah Thomas, a representative, spearheaded a week of prayer in Yemen. She challenged her fellow representatives not to spend more for any one person's gift than they would be willing to give to the Lord through the offering.

The first time the offering was collected, it exceeded \$1,200. Later the total rose to \$2,247.36.

"We didn't set a goal because most of us have made commitments of gifts through our churches in America," Thomas wrote.

The gift was from five couples and eight single representatives, plus three contract workers at Jibla Baptist hospital in north Yemen.

WMU forwarded the check to the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee in Nashville, Tenn.--the usual channel for Lottie Moon gifts. From there, the amount was wired to the Foreign Mission Board.

The offering provides about one half of the budget of the Foreign Mission Board.

Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention, received its first gift from overseas for the new national headquarters building during its January meeting of the WMU Executive Board.

The gift, in the amount of \$10, was presented by Southern Baptist missionary Virginia Oliver from the WMU of the Equatorial Baptist Church, Belem, Brazil.

Announcing the gift, Weatherford expressed her thanks for the women's generosity. Weatherford said the women had contributed the money from their own budget and that for many, \$10 represented a week's wages.

The WMU staff expects to occupy the new building in the spring of 1984.

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W.D. Stogner Named
To Resolutions Group

SHREVEPORT, La. (BP) -- W. D. Stogner, recently retired director of the Northwest Baptist Association in Shreveport, has been named to the Resolutions Committee for the 1983 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Pittsburgh.

Stogner becomes the tenth and final member of the committee. His appointment was announced by John Sullivan, pastor of Shreveport's Broadmoor Baptist Church and first vice president of the SBC.

SBC President James T. Draper Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas, has said the appointment process for the convention committees will be a "three-man effort" between the president and the two vice presidents. Second Vice President is Gene Garrison, pastor of First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City.

In announcing the appointment, Sullivan said Stogner in 1976 led the 80 churches of the association to become the first association in Louisiana to give more than \$1 million in a single year through the Cooperative Program. Last year, he added, the association gave some \$2 million through the SBC unified giving program.

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Baptists React To Supreme
Court Ruling In Lubbock Case

Baptist Press
1/21/83

DALLAS (BP) -- Baptist reaction is mixed to the decision of the United States Supreme Court not to hear an appeal by the Lubbock Independent School District of an appellate court decision which struck down a policy permitting students to gather for religious purposes before and after school hours.

The high court announced Jan. 17, without comment, that it will not review the decision of the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in the bitterly disputed case over a 1980 policy of the Lubbock school district permitting students "to gather at the school with supervision either before or after regular school hours on the same basis as other groups as determined by the school administration to meet for any educational, moral, religious or ethical purposes so long as attendance at such meetings is voluntary."

The federal district court ruled in favor of the policy, but the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans reversed the ruling. The school district appealed.

Two Lubbock Baptists -- Mrs. Don (Skeet) Workman who with her son and husband participated in the suit, and D. L. Lowry, pastor of First Baptist Church -- were disappointed in the high court action.

"We thought they would hear our case," Workman said. "Their refusal means that we can have no voluntary acts before or after school or any school property for anything that pertains to religion. We believe this is a loss of freedom of speech ... the freedom of assembly. It is much broader than a loss of religious freedom."

She added: "We are not losing our freedom of religion by a blowout but by a slow leak. They are taking it away from us a little at a time."

Lowry said he believes the Fifth Circuit decision "is too restrictive. I believe it has gone beyond the original ruling of the Supreme Court to prohibit any kind of Christian or religious expression on the school grounds."

He commented the ruling eliminates many activities of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and said school officials have banned Young Life representatives from the campuses of public schools.

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He did not predict what actions will be taken, noting Baptist ministers "have just been waiting and hoping that the decision would be overturned. Since it hasn't, we will have to look at other alternatives" such as opening churches near school campus s for morning watch or other religious activities.

Phil Strickland, director of Texas Baptists' Christian Life Commission, expressing understanding for the decision, said: "The fact this court, representing a wide spectrum of legal and political philosophy, was unanimous in this action indicates that his was not the clear test of the issue that is needed. "The issue of equal access to school facilities for activities before and after school is not really resolved by this case. There were too many other complicating factors."

He added, however, that the Lubbock case "indicates the urgency of a definitive word from the courts or from Congress on this issue."

Like Strickland, James M. Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington, D.C., said the court's action was understandable. Rejection of the case, he said, "is yet another example of the old legal maxim that 'bad cases make bad law.'"

Dunn said the Lubbock case was "flawed from the beginning, mainly because of the school board's open defiance, over a 17-year period, of the Court's correct rulings in 1962 and 1963." In those years the high court ruled that states and localities may not under the Constitution require prayer and Bible reading in public school classrooms.

Dunn also noted the possibility of future litigation over the issue of student access to school facilities for religious gatherings, noting that "simple fairness. . . demands recognition that the Court did not affirm the decision of the Court of Appeals," but "simply declined to review that decision, leaving open the possibility that a cleaner case ...may be reviewed in the future."

Addressing the ongoing problem of misinterpretation of the high court's 1962 and 1963 rulings, Dunn added: "All of us who are concerned about the proper role of religion in public schools should redouble our efforts to educate the educators to what the Supreme Court did and did not decide 20 years ago. What it decided was that government may not write and require the recitation of prayers as devotional exercises. What it did not do was rule out truly voluntary prayer, prayer as described by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount."

On Capitol Hill, meanwhile, a prominent U.S. senator who had asked the high court to review the Lubbock case, indicated he will reintroduce legislation in the new Congress forbidding school districts to "discriminate against any meeting of students on the basis of the religious content of the speech at the meeting."

Sen. Mark O. Hatfield, R-Ore., who was joined by 23 other senators in asking the court to review the lower panel's decision, said his bill is designed to protect the right of students to exercise freely their religion and at the same time keep schools from unconstitutionally establishing religion. The bill specifies that the meetings must be voluntary and must not involve any "activity which is in and of itself unlawful."

Hatfield's bill also contains language forbidding any unit of government to "influence the form or content of any prayer or other religious activity" or "require any person to participate in prayer or other religious activity."

Sen. David L. Boren, D-Okla., one of the 23 lawmakers who joined with Hatfield in asking the high court to review the Lubbock case, expressed "regret" over the denial. "In the wake of recent debates in both the courts and Congress over what constitutes 'voluntary' religious activities," Boren said, "much confusion still exists."

The former political science professor at Oklahoma Baptist University added: "This case provided an opportunity for the Supreme Court to clarify whether truly voluntary religious activities outside of regular school hours should be permitted."