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85-106

**AU Will Sue Bennett In
 Parochial Aid Dispute**

By Stan Haste

WASHINGTON (BP)—Top leaders of Americans United for Separation of Church and State announced Aug. 30 they will sue Secretary of Education William J. Bennett for refusing to comply with a Supreme Court decision forbidding states and localities from sending public school teachers into parochial schools for specialized instruction.

Robert L. Maddox, a Southern Baptist minister who is executive director of Americans United, told a crowded news conference at the National Press Building in Washington, Bennett has allowed "a religio-political agenda to undercut his sworn duty to uphold the U.S. Constitution and help America's children get the best possible education" by "willfully failing to implement the rulings of the Supreme Court."

The nation's high court ruled July 1 that New York City school officials violated the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment by sending some public school teachers into parochial schools to provide remedial education under Chapter 1 of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

That historic law, enacted as part of Lyndon Johnson's Great Society program, mandated equitable educational services for all pupils in underprivileged neighborhoods, whether they attended public or private schools.

Americans United officials, including Maddox and the group's general counsel, Lee Boothby, repeatedly have warned Bennett of the possibility of a lawsuit unless he moved quickly to implement the high court ruling.

For his part, Bennett has assailed the decision in speeches this summer and has written state school officials promising assistance from his department and the Department of Justice in any litigation they might undertake to delay implementing the Supreme Court decision. He also pledged to do what he can to "nullify" the effect of the ruling.

"In all this muddle created by the Secretary the Constitution is impugned; hard-pressed U.S. taxpayers face further raids on their pocket books; and, worst of all, children in public and private schools suffer while politicians fiddle," Maddox declared.

Behind Bennett's "footdragging," Maddox charged, is the administration's intent "to arm-twist the Congress into passing some sort of voucher program," a plan which would give all parents of school-age children a check at the beginning of the school year to spend in the school of their choice.

Attorney Boothby told reporters Americans United is considering multiple legal actions across the nation in states where school officials seek delays in implementing the Supreme Court ruling. Some lawsuits already have been filed, he said.

Among the most hotly disputed of the battles is one in Missouri, where education commissioner Arthur L. Mallory has sought unsuccessfully to implement a new plan to deliver Chapter 1 funds to private schoolchildren in constitutionally permissible ways. His efforts have failed, Boothby said, because Bennett aims "to destroy the whole (Chapter 1) program."

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He described the controversial secretary of education as an administration "handmaiden" whose actions have been "shameful." Maddox accused Bennett of "grandstanding" and engaging in "a bit of demagoguery."

The lawsuit against Bennett will be filed in a Missouri U.S. district court, the AU leaders announced, and will seek both injunctive relief and monetary damages.

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Lolley Says Covenant
Basis For Ministry

Baptist Press
9/3/85

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)—Covenant, not contract is at the heart of God's dealing with his people, whether they be seminary students specifically or Southern Baptists generally, according to Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary President W. Randall Lolley.

Speaking at the opening convocation of the Wake Forest, N.C., seminary's 35th year, Lolley had words of encouragement for seminarians worried about their future ministry, and suggested a theological norm on which "Southern Baptists can cut a fresh covenant."

The questions most asked him recently by students and alumni, he said, were "What of me and my ministry in times like this? What if I choose the wrong school, the wrong side, the wrong rhetoric? Will there be a ministering place for me?"

In his sermon, based on Matthew 19:27-20:16, Lolley said Jesus' story about the land owner carries clues to a solution. "Both the work and the workplace are the Lord's," he explained reminding his audience "the workers are sent to their duties by the owner of the workplace, even though others may never understand their particular part of the work. Your covenant, after all, is with the owner. Keep faith with him!"

Now in his twelfth year as president of the Southern Baptist Convention seminary, Lolley took note that the newly created Peace Committee of the Convention has targeted theology for its central focus.

"Theology is a fine place to begin," he said, because "Christian theology--Baptist theology--begins, continues and ends with one fundamental conviction: JESUS CHRIST IS LORD!" Because God deals with his people on the basis of covenant, Lolley said this conviction could become the starting point for Southern Baptists to "have a fresh covenant."

Lolley shared a proposed covenant:

"JESUS CHRIST IS LORD! Believing that, from looking to the Scriptures for guidance and to the Holy Spirit for power, we covenant to worship God together and to join him in his work in the world."

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Korean Sailors Meet
Christ At Texas Port

By Ken Camp

Baptist Press
9/3/85

FREEPORT, Texas (BP)—Four sailors from Korea met the Teacher from Galilee at a port in Texas.

The four were baptized at First Baptist Church, Freeport, after accepting Christ during an aboard-ship Bible study conducted as a ministry of the Seaman's Center at Freeport.

The sailors were part of a 25-man crew aboard a Japanese-owned cargo ship loaded with 6.5 million pounds of bananas from Honduras. For six months, the same crew made weekly voyages from Central America to the Texas Gulf Coast, bringing 200 truckloads of bananas for marketing throughout the United States and Canada. At the end of six months, the crew would be replaced by another crew who would travel the same weekly route for six months.

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"It was the first time we ever had a ship come here on a regular basis at regular intervals with the same crew," said Joe E. Jones, chaplain-director of the Seaman's Center.

The Seaman's Center is an international Baptist ministry to sailors whose ships dock in the southeast Texas harbor at Freeport. The center is sponsored by Gulf Coast Baptist Association and salary support for Home Mission Board appointee Jones is provided in part by Texas Baptists through the Mary Hill Davis Offering for State Missions.

Every year more than 6,000 seamen from as many as 100 countries visit the center to play ping pong and table games, to watch television, to make telephone calls home or to buy stamps, stationery and personal items. While there, the sailors have an opportunity to read the Bible in their own language and to relax in a Christian atmosphere.

When the banana ship began to dock at the Gulf Coast harbor each week, the Seaman's Center staff recognized the opportunity their schedule presented.

"We knew they'd be here every Monday, and it would always be the same Korean crew, so we proceeded to find a Korean-speaking pastor to talk with them," said Jones.

The center contacted Sung Kim, pastor of Dong San Baptist Mission in Houston, a mission of College Park Baptist Church, Houston. Kim agreed to begin Bible studies and services on-board the docked cargo ship.

As a direct result of these services, at least 11 seamen--including the ship's captain--made decisions for Christ and four requested baptism. These four were baptized in a Monday night service at First Baptist Church, Freeport, attended by most of the crew. It was understood by those who were baptized that each would transfer his letter to a local church when he completed his time at sea.

"Many of the crew will not be seamen very long," said Jones. "Many will go back home and become involved in Baptist churches in Korea."

"We're excited about the ministry to the Korean seamen," said O. Jack Chastain, director of missions, Gulf Coast Baptist Association. "We anticipate a whole new group coming in soon."

He said maintaining the Seaman's Center for groups such as the Korean sailors has been both spiritually rewarding and financially draining for the association. "We need the prayer and the gifts of fellow Baptists," he said.

Following a going away party for the departing crew, Jones said that he, Kim and assistant director Raymond Eddy would begin preparing to minister to the next banana ship crew.

"Brother Kim will continue to come down as often as possible," he said. "We'll be visiting on the ship to invite new seamen to come as soon as the next crew arrives."

"Of course, the next crew might not respond as favorably as this (most recent) crew. Each crew is different. But we hope they will have already been told about us by others."

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Union University Gets
Two \$1 Million Gifts

Baptist Press
9/3/85

JACKSON, Tenn. (BP)--Union University has received two \$1 million gifts from anonymous donors, according to Robert E. Craig, president. Both gifts will be used for endowment, primarily for scholarships.

The Baptist college's first \$1 million gift in the school's 160-year history was pledged last year. The donor issued a challenge for his gift to be matched this year. The second \$1 million donation was a response to that challenge.

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"I have a deep abiding faith and belief in the sanctity of Union University and all that it stands for—Christianity at its finest and dedication to helping others find Christ," the first \$1 million philanthropist stated in a letter to the college.

The second \$1 million donor, who pledged his contribution earlier this month to be paid on Jan. 1, said, "I am very impressed with what the leaders of Union University have done and I hope that this gift will help great things to continue...for the glory of God."

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French West Indies
Church Is Unique

By Oscar Hoffmeyer Jr.

Baptist Press
9/3/85

POINTE-A-PITRE, Guadeloupe (BP)—A raised baptistry at the Baptist church in Pointe-a-Pitre, Guadeloupe, has captured attention for the congregation.

Wayne Frederick, Southern Baptist missionary who is pastor, said "We have a first of its kind, a baptism pool elevated inside the church."

It is located in a building where Louisiana Baptist volunteers helped with construction. Frederick said most churches either build a baptismal pool outside the church or in the floor.

The church also is unique for the French West Indies because it has a fellowship hall with a kitchen, cabinets, sink and stove.

Louisiana Baptist volunteers were requested to assist with enlarging facilities because of the church's growth. Maynard Hazelwood, project leader from First Baptist Church, Zachary, and a crew spent time there early this year.

The crew worked in spite of a strike protesting a gasoline tax increase which inhibited travel to the job, an earthquake which caused the steel structure to sway and extended national holidays which delayed the work.

Frederick said the facilities set a new trend in church design and has provided them space for the increased membership. "In the past four years we have grown from about four members to Sunday school attendance of approximately 120. We have baptized about 90 persons in that time," the Mississippi native said.

Now the church has shared some members who are helping to start a mission at Morne-a-l'Eau where David Murray, a Louisiana missionary is pastor.

In addition to being pastor of the church and field evangelist with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Frederick is literature coordinator for the Baptist Mission. A bookstore is located in the church's building and he has started a book deposit program among other Baptist churches on the island.

The church has been saving for more than four years to upgrade their facilities. "We saved about 80,000 francs and borrowed additional money to do the work." The church's budget is 66,000 francs this year (about \$7,400 depending on the exchange rate).

Future projects include developing members to become deacons, preparing them to support a national pastor, remodeling the front of the church to include a foyer and steeple so it will be known as a church rather than a house, and helping the people grow in their spiritual maturity.

Frederick said he has seen response to the Christian gospel grow in recent years much greater than previously.

"Ministry is difficult because of a French mentality that is basic materialism. But in the Pointe-a-Pitre church we have had approximately 40 people make decisions in the past five months, something unheard of six years ago," he said.

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Louisiana Baptists were invited to become a partner with the French West Indies islands because of the French language heritage. Programs of church construction, developing Sunday school leadership programs, family life emphasis and evangelism was begun in 1983.

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N.C. Crusade Ignores Rains,
754 Profess Christ As Savior

By Bobby Stafford

Baptist Press
9/3/85

WILMINGTON, N.C. (BP)--Foul weather the first few nights, compliments of Hurricane Bob, soaked the crowds but couldn't dampen the spirit at a Wilmington, N.C., crusade last July.

The crusade location moved four times because of the weather but that didn't stop people from attending. One night 3,000 people sat in driving rain for more than two hours to hear a drenched Freddie Gage, a Southern Baptist evangelists from Texas call for commitment to Christ. That service 27 professions of faith were made.

Originally scheduled to run Sunday through Tuesday, the crusade was extended twice, first through Friday, then through Sunday.

By week's end, 754 people had made public, first-time decisions to follow Christ as personal savior. Another 440 people "rededicated" their lives--many pledging to become "soul winners" through personal witnessing.

All racial and denominational lines were crossed as representatives from Presbyterian, Church of God, Advent Christian, Methodist, Catholic, Church of the Brethern, Community Church, Southern Baptist, Freewill Baptist, Independent Baptist, Pentecostal Holiness, Church of Reconciliation, Seventh Day Adventist and Christian churches responded to the invitation.

Pastors who attended the daily luncheon meetings were given lists of people who had made decisions the previous night.

The final service, on Sunday evening, drew 6,000.

The 754 professions of faith during the week contrasts to a total of 771 baptized all of last year by the 54 Southern Baptist churches of the Wilmington Association, which sponsored the crusade.

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(Bobby Stafford is director of missions for the Wilmington Baptist Association.)



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