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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
SBC Executive Committee
901 Commerce #750
Nashville, Tennessee 37203
(615) 244-2355
Wilmer C. Fields, Director
Dan Martin, News Editor
Craig Bird, Feature Editor

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Jim Newton, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W. Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 511 N. Akard, Dallas, Texas 75201-3355, Telephone (214) 720-0550
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300
RICHMOND (Foreign) Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151
WASHINGTON Stan L. Hasteley, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

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**1,100 In Paraguay Accept Christ;
More Become Aware Of Baptists**

ASUNCION, Paraguay (BP)—More than 1,100 people accepted Christ as personal Savior during two recent weeks of simultaneous evangelistic campaigns across Paraguay.

The campaigns boosted national awareness of Baptists in the South American country, according to Southern Baptist missionary Thomas Law. A nationwide media blitz before and during the campaigns helped the 53 participating Baptist churches attract an average total of more than 4,300 people each night.

Some 40 Baptist preachers from neighboring Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay participated in the campaigns. Paraguayan President Alfredo Stroessner invited national Baptist leaders and several of the visiting preachers to meet with him. The Baptists told Stroessner about their evangelistic efforts during the meeting, which drew considerable press attention.

The campaigns helped Baptists realize more than ever that evangelism is possible in Paraguay and "the people are hungry for the gospel," Law reported.

"I am ecstatic," said Baptist leader Heriberta Escobar. "Thirty-three people made professions of faith at our little mission point at Loma Pyta. Even those neighbors who live right in front of the mission point came and they have been the hardest ones to reach. On the first night, when the weather was so bad, the building...was full. It only has a roof and a wall on one side but the poor weather did not keep the people away."

The largest Baptist church in Paraguay holds no more than 300 people, so most of the churches overflowed with people during the weeks of the campaign. The 53 churches averaged 10 nights of services. A cumulative total of 41,475 people attended nationwide. In addition to the 1,111 professions of faith in Christ, 240 people publicly made other spiritual decisions.

The campaigns climaxed the third year of Paraguayan Baptists' five-year evangelistic project begun in 1983. Study and planning dominated the first year, followed in 1984 by extensive training of church members in personal evangelism. Next year will feature united evangelistic campaigns in four metropolitan areas, followed in 1987 by evaluation and projections for the future.

In 1983 the Baptist convention set a goal of growing to 600 churches with 60,000 members by the end of this century. Baptists now total almost 6,000 in 46 organized churches and 113 mission congregations. Each church has been challenged to establish another church every four years, nurturing it until the new church can itself begin a church. The convention has targeted specific areas for new work and challenged existing churches to commit members living in those areas to help start new work.

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**SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES**
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee

Tennessee Churches To Appeal
PAC Classification Ruling

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11/5/85

JACKSON, Tenn. (BP)—Churches in the Jackson, Tenn., area have decided to appeal a ruling by the Chancery Court of Madison County that churches be classified as "political action committees" under the Tennessee Campaign Financial Disclosure Act.

Chancellor Joe C. Morris issued his ruling Oct. 30 to a class action lawsuit filed by the 13 churches—nine of which are Southern Baptist—which was tried Aug. 7. Morris ruled the act "does not specifically mention churches or church groups, but neither exempts them."

In response to Morris' ruling, representatives of the churches met Nov. 4 in Jackson and voted unanimously to request their attorneys to challenge the ruling in the Tennessee Court of Appeals. The appeal must be filed within 30 days.

The 1980 act declares any organization which spends as much as \$250 in support of a candidate or referendum issue would be a political action committee and must file financial disclosure forms within 48 days after the election, listing receipts and expenditures.

The churches involved in the lawsuit had either contributed to Citizens Against Drug Abuse or had purchased advertising in an attempt to defeat a liquor-by-the-drink referendum held Aug. 2, 1984. The referendum was defeated by 40 votes.

Later that month, Tennessee Attorney General Michael Cody issued an opinion that the churches were subject to the provisions and must file disclosure forms.

The churches refused to submit the forms and filed a lawsuit, seeking a declaratory judgment that the statute is a "serious violation of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution which guarantees religious liberty and the separation of church and state."

At the trial, the plaintiff churches presented several pastors and representatives of various religious organizations who testified the churches' participation in the liquor referendum was on the basis of religious or moral grounds, rather than for political reasons.

The state's defense declared that under the disclosure act as passed by the Tennessee General Assembly the churches must be treated like any other organization.

In issuing his ruling, Morris upheld the constitutionality of the Campaign Disclosure Act of 1980 and said, "The free speech clause of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution has not been violated by the requirement churches file campaign disclosure statements."

The ruling also said, "This court agrees that the churches and religious groups should and must state their positions publicly on moral, political, or other issues they consider right or wrong. If they fail to do so, the causes which they champion have no meaning." Morris specifically mentioned "their opposition to the spread of liquor, pornography or other vices that surround us."

In ruling against the churches, the judge declared, "It appears that the act is drafted to give equal and fair treatment to all groups and organizations participating in elections in this state."

Morris cited Mark 12:12-17 and Luke 20:20-35 in his ruling, saying "this Scripture appears somewhat in the instant case with the act being deemed as Caesar, (and) the act must be complied with until overruled by the legislature."

Referring to the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, Morris declared, "A minister of the gospel, or proponent or opponent of a referendum or political candidate, is free to say what he wants to, when he wants to from the pulpit, over the radio, on television, or by newspaper editorial, unless he makes campaign donations or advertises."

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High Court To Review
State Sodomy Statute

By Stan Hastey

Baptist Press
11/5/85

WASHINGTON (BP)—Against the backdrop of heightened concern over the spread of the fatal disease AIDS, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed Nov. 4 to decide if state laws forbidding sodomy violate the privacy rights of practicing homosexuals.

The case originated in Atlanta, where Michael Hardwick, a homosexual, and a heterosexual couple, known only as "John and Mary Doe," challenged Georgia's sodomy statute in a federal district court. There, Judge Robert H. Hall dismissed the complaint, ruling the Does had no legal standing and upholding the law as applied to Hardwick.

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But the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the lower panel's ruling on Hardwick, citing the Constitution's implied right to privacy. The state, the panel ruled last spring, is required to establish a compelling governmental interest to override Hardwick's privacy right. The appellate court did uphold Judge Hall's ruling against the Does.

Asking the nation's high court to review the Eleventh Circuit's finding on Hardwick, Georgia Attorney General Michael J. Bowers argued in a written brief that "...sodomy of any kind, including that which perchance takes place in private, cannot be considered a fundamental right or implicit in the concept of ordered liberty."

Bowers argued further that letting the Eleventh Circuit ruling stand would "substantially impede" states in efforts to legislate "in any area which touches upon moral issues." Among laws potentially at risk, he wrote, were those forbidding suicide, prostitution, polygamy, adultery, fornication and the private possession and use of illegal drugs.

Hardwick's attorney, Kathleen L. Wilde, of Atlanta, argued unsuccessfully the high court should reject the case, noting the appellate panel's holdings on the right to privacy and the state's duty to prove compelling interest.

"Whatever the State's power to regulate certain activities in public," she wrote, "the acts which underlie this case occurred in the home, and require a compelling governmental interest to justify intrusion upon them by the State." She noted 22 states have decriminalized private consensual homosexual acts.

Hardwick was arrested in August 1982 and charged with sodomy with another man in his Atlanta house. The state subsequently decided not to prosecute, but Hardwick, claiming he intended to continue his practices, filed suit anyway. Georgia law sets the penalty for those convicted of sodomy at one to 20 years.

The case will be argued at the Supreme Court sometime after the new year and is expected to be decided next spring.

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University Of Richmond
Seeking New President

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RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—E. Bruce Heilman, president of the University of Richmond since 1971, will become chancellor effective Sept. 1, 1986. He will continue as president until he assumes the role of chancellor.

A search committee is expected to select a new president by Sept. 1, 1986.

George M. Modlin, president from 1946 until 1971, and chancellor since 1971, will become chancellor emeritus.

Heilman is only the fifth president in the university's 155-year history.

The number of faculty members holding doctoral or terminal degrees has risen from 60 percent in 1971 to 90 percent today. Faculty publications have more than doubled, and faculty salaries have risen dramatically and the average student SAT scores have risen to some 235 points above the national average.

The endowment has increased from \$38 million in 1971 to \$162 million today, placing UR in the top two percent of all universities in the country.

Heilman was president of Meredith College in Raleigh, N.C., from 1966-71 prior to coming to UR. He also had been coordinator of higher education for the state of Tennessee.

The Kentucky native is married to the former Betty Jean Dobbins of Louisville. Heilman was in the U.S. Marine Corps, primarily in the South Pacific theater. He is a member of First Baptist Church in Richmond.

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'Missions Experience'
Visits OBU Students

By Larry Brumley

SHAWNEE, Okla. (BP)—"Be on mission with your life right now, where you are" was the challenge given to Oklahoma Baptist University students by William R. Tanner, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, during home missions experience in late October.

Tanner, former OBU president, urged students to realize the urgency of people's needs, the emergency due to the quick passing of time and the fervency of their response.

"The Son of God was not meant to be domesticated," Tanner said. "We can't shut him up in our churches. Christians must allow him to occupy the whole personality of their being before they can take him out in missions.

"Our land will never be won to Christianity," Tanner said, "if we only participate as a spectator."

Tanner spoke during the first of five home missions experience services sponsored by the Home Mission Board on the OBU campus. A missions fair and several conferences also allowed students to get a closer look at home missions.

Home Mission Board personnel came from around the nation to relate to students the responsibility of Christians in meeting the need of the people around them.

Many Christians are plagued with the disease "psychosclerosis" which is a hardening of the mind, soul and heart, said John T. Walsh, campus minister at Princeton University and speaker during Wednesday's service. They harden themselves toward life in order to go on living "comfortably."

These Christians are pressing around Jesus as if they are in fellowship with him when actually they won't reach out and touch him to receive his power and healing. They are fearful of the cure that can be found in Jesus because it will make them responsible—responsible to the needs of the world around them, Walsh said.

"Maybe it's time we quit singing Jesus Loves Me and start singing to our world Jesus loves you," said Esther Burroughs, assistant director for the Home Mission Board special mission ministries department and speaker at the Monday evening service.

Jesus never said you should go and convert people; the Holy Spirit does that, Aias de Souza, catalytic missionary for the Home Mission Board language missions division and Tuesday evening's speaker.

Jesus does expect Christians to see people as he sees them and to meet their needs. Christians aren't called to just preach the gospel, they're called to be the gospel, he said.

The Wednesday evening services featured the presentation of the missions music/drama, "A Call to My People," written by Bob and Esther Burroughs. Burroughs, composer/clinician and church musician from Atlanta, was the worship leader in each of the services. The musical was presented by the OBU chapel choir, orchestra and drama department.

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(Brumley is director of public relations at Oklahoma Baptist University.)

Gambling Opponents
Organize Coalition

By David Wilkinson

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DALLAS (BP)—Anti-gambling leaders from 19 states created Nov. 1 the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling in an effort to add muscle to nationwide opposition to state-sponsored gambling.

The coalition will gather information, conduct research and provide strategy assistance and resources for anti-gambling efforts at state and national levels.

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The organization was approved during a two-day strategy meeting in Dallas, convened by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. While composed primarily of religious organizations, the coalition anticipates support from a variety of other groups, said the CLC's Larry Braidfoot who was asked to coordinate the coalition's activities.

CLC Executive Director Foy Valentine said the agency's board, in its annual meeting in September, authorized the staff to lead in the establishment of a national anti-gambling organization.

"Clearly the best way to bring the gambling industry's momentum to a grinding halt is through a concentrated, coordinated effort that brings together the best resources and expertise we can muster," Valentine said.

In addition to the CLC, much of the impetus for forming a national coalition came from leaders of California's Coalition Against Legalizing Lotteries (CALL) which last year mounted an intensive campaign against the lottery in a state referendum.

During the Dallas meeting, 40 representatives from several different denominations focused on strategy for defeating gambling initiatives, addressing issues related to morality, public policy and economics.

Sociologist Henry Lesieur of St. Johns University in New York described several studies of pathological gamblers, whose numbers have increased dramatically in the midst of America's "gambling explosion." Lesieur pointed out the American Psychological Association in 1980 officially recognized pathological gambling as a behavior disorder, joining alcoholism, drug addiction and other disorders.

Lesieur developed research projects which studied gambling behavior by students in Atlantic City High School and three other New Jersey high schools. He also has spent several years studying gambling problems among prisoners. He noted that 37 prisons in the U.S. now have Gambling Anonymous chapters.

Lesieur said there is "no doubt" about the connection between legalized gambling and pathological gambling, pointing out "it's a two-way street. If you pass a bill to legalize gambling, then the scientific evidence indicates you are risking increases in the number of pathological gamblers, the suicide rate, domestic violence and crime," he said.

Pat Anderson, a Southern Baptist criminologist from Louisiana State University, outlined types of crime associated with pari-mutuel betting on horse racing, state-sponsored lotteries, sports betting and casino gambling. With only four states without any form of legalized gambling, "time is running out" for gambling opponents to press their case, he said.

Two United Methodist leaders from California, Bishop Jack Tuell of Pasadena and Harvey Chinn, executive director of the California Council on Alcohol Problems, described last year's unsuccessful campaign against the lottery in that state.

California voters approved the lottery referendum despite public opposition enlisted from the governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, state PTA, most major newspaper editorial boards and other groups. "The thing that beat us was greed," Chinn said. "People were simply enthralled with the idea of getting something for nothing. And ironically the people who had the most to lose were often the ones who voted for it."

Another major factor was \$2.5 million spent by lottery proponents to gather signatures and conduct a statewide media blitz, he added. Ninety-nine percent of the funds came from Scientific Games, an out-of-state company which has backed lottery efforts in several states, Chinn said.

Tuell emphasized the lottery--and a state's involvement in it--violates the whole understanding of civil government that has been part of our tradition for centuries. It is a symbol of the loss of national consensus about some basic values."

Despite the loss to lottery supporters in California, Tuell said gambling opponents do not face a hopeless situation. "The sentiment of many people in our country is open to the arguments against the lottery. We just have to do a better job of getting the message to the people."