



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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May 3, 1988

88-74

N-BOC

Reagan signs dial-a-porn ban;
Congress looks at new curbs

By Stan Haste

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Southern Baptist Convention support for both developments was visible as well in the presence of SBC Christian Life Commission Executive Director N. Larry Baker at the signing ceremony and in testimony the CLC chief delivered before the House Subcommittee on Crime.

The ban on the dial-a-porn services came in the form of an amendment to an \$8.3 billion reauthorization of most federal elementary, secondary and adult education programs passed by Congress April 20. Sponsored by Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., the provision outlawing sexually explicit telephone messages was approved by the Senate, 98-0, and the House of Representatives, 274-17. Signing the entire bill April 28, Reagan commended Congress for including the dial-a-porn prohibition.

Several religious leaders were invited by the White House to witness the signing, including Baker, Christian psychologist James Dobson, National Association of Evangelicals executive Robert Dugan and National Coalition Against Pornography President Jerry Kirk.

Earlier the same day, Baker and Kirk were joined by three other anti-pornography activists urging congressional approval of H.R. 3889, the Child Protection and Obscenity Enforcement Act of 1988.

Subcommittee Chairman Bill Hughes, D-N.J., described the bill as the most comprehensive anti-pornography legislation in the last decade. He said the measure is necessary to supplement laws passed in 1984 and 1986 designed to protect children from the exploitation of producers and distributors of child pornography.

One provision in the new law would forbid the use of computers to advertise, distribute or receive child pornography, including computerized pictures of children engaging in sex acts. Another would provide criminal sanctions against parents or other adult guardians who buy or sell children to produce child pornography.

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The Southern Baptist ethicist told the congressional panel that although Southern Baptists are a diverse people facing issues "on which we have our differences," they nevertheless have a high degree of unanimity in opposing child pornography. As evidence of such opposition, Baker pointed to eight separate anti-pornography resolutions overwhelmingly adopted by messengers at annual SBC meetings during the last decade.

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"I have found that most Americans are strongly opposed to obscenity and at the same time are deeply committed to preserving First Amendment rights. We have demonstrated these interests are not irreconcilable in our development of the child protection legislation. I believe that we can do more to protect our children and families from obscenity while remaining totally consistent with constitutional principles."

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By Joe Westbury

N- HMB

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N-CO
(A.Bd.)

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Celebrating the first 100 years
Is highlight of year for WMU

By Susan Todd

N-CO
(WMU)

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Marjorie J. McCullough, national WMU president, and Carolyn Weatherford, national WMU executive director, have led WMU to look for ways to encourage advancing this missions purpose through education, financial and prayer support, and personal involvement.

The first major step in pioneering new territory came this year when Signal Services Inc. was formed. The company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of WMU that provides video and data services to WMU and to commercial clients.

Signal Services' mobile satellite uplink was used to transmit the Foreign Missions Teleconference in November 1987.

Funding for Signal Services did not cut into WMU's \$10.5 million annual budget, but came from earnings from WMU investments, Weatherford reported.

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N-CO

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The service, held during the Wednesday afternoon break between sessions of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, is open to all messengers to the SBC event, Linginfelter said: "Everyone is invited to come and share in the 'old-time revival atmosphere.' ... We are praying for heaven to come down."

The program will feature a gospel concert from 1:15 to 2 p.m., he said. Featured artists will include vocational music evangelists Dick Barrett of Bremen, Ga.; Joe Atkinson of Arlington, Texas; and Lois Jane Huddleston of Gallatin, Tenn.

The preaching service that follows will include messages by vocational evangelists Jess Hendley of Atlanta; Bill Stafford of Chattanooga, Tenn.; and Jay Strack of Dallas. Evangelist Rick Hamil of Louisville, Ky., a former world-champion poker player, will tell of his Christian pilgrimage.

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Report encourages schools
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By Kathy Palen

N-BSC

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In its report, the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development called on educators to strengthen the moral education presented to public school students.

Moral education is not the "latest education fad but a very old concept," said Kevin Ryan, Boston University professor of education who chaired the panel that prepared the report. American schools were founded for moral reasons and offered moral education until the 1960s, he said, noting since then teachers have "stepped back" from their role as moral educators.

The report notes mounting public concern about a substantial long-term increase in adolescent emotional problems, including rising rates of teen-age homicide, suicide and out-of-wedlock births. Public opinion polls, according to the report, also indicate a vast majority of Americans favor the teaching of morals and moral behavior by public schools.

Describing moral education as "whatever schools do to influence how students think, feel and act regarding issues of right and wrong," the report suggests such education will help students to become "morally mature." It defines a morally mature person as someone who respects human dignity; cares about the welfare of others; integrates individual interests and social responsibilities; demonstrates integrity; reflects on moral choices; and seeks peaceful resolution of conflict.

To help achieve the goal of educating students to become morally mature, the report offers several recommendations:

- Moral education should be made a unifying and energizing force in public school curriculum.
- Educators must form partnerships with parents, the mass media, the business community, the courts, and civic, racial, ethnic and religious groups to create a supportive social and cultural context.
- Schools should define and teach a morality of justice, altruism, diligence and respect for human dignity. While the report defines these moral values as standing on their own as secular values, it also encourages schools to teach students about different ultimate sources for morality, including religion.
- Moral education must go beyond just knowing what is good to doing and prizing what is good.
- Schools should establish and communicate clear expectations for teachers and administrators regarding their roles as moral educators.
- People who educate teachers should give major attention to moral education to ensure that teachers have the necessary knowledge, attitudes and skills to fulfill their moral education responsibilities.
- Moral education ought to include teaching appropriate patterns of conduct and skills for critical thinking and decision making.
- Educators must ensure that a school's institutional climate and instructional practices contribute to moral growth.
- Further research should be done on ways to make moral education more effective.
- Educators ought to regularly assess the moral climate of schools and the conduct of students and communicate the results of those assessments to their communities.

The report points to possible controversies surrounding moral education.

It recognizes potential tensions over whether the religious bases of moral behavior can and should be taught in public schools; how and by whom moral education should be taught; whether a school's curriculum and programs should reflect, teach about and encourage understanding of varied ethnic heritages or focus only on a set of core values on which there is apparent agreement; and whether the goal of moral education should be to socialize students into a set of central values or to develop morally autonomous individuals.

Yellow ribbons wait
For pastor's arrival

By Theo Sommerkamp

F- (O
(Ohio)

WAVERLY, Ohio (BP)--A large yellow ribbon decorates the door to the pastor's study just down the hall from the auditorium at First Baptist Church of Waverly, Ohio. It was hung there a while back to welcome newly-called pastor, William Moore.

The Waverly church has been without a pastor since last June. And it may be at least this coming June, or later, until Moore is ready to take up regular duties of preaching, visiting and witnessing.

Moore is the pastor at Waverly, but has yet to preach a sermon, except the one he preached when he came in late January as a prospective pastor.

His daughter, Jenny, 13, and son, Chris, 10, are living in the Waverly parsonage and attending school in Waverly. They are being taken care of by their maternal grandparents, Melvin and Geneva Christmas.

Moore's wife, Ruth, is with her husband at St. Joseph's Hospital in Lexington where he is being treated for a brain inflammation which was first thought to be a tumor, but later was ruled out.

Moore, 34, was pastor at Owenton, Ky., about 40 miles south of Cincinnati.

He was first invited to come to Waverly in early December 1987. He became ill around Thanksgiving Day and had to cancel the trip. He was diagnosed as having a malignancy in his stomach, and spent two weeks in the Lexington hospital taking chemotherapy treatments. He was given a positive outlook by the doctor.

Lloyd Francis, Waverly pulpit committee chairman, said the church voted nearly unanimously to call Moore. A few days later, Moore accepted the call, effective March 1.

Waverly members remodeled the parsonage, "pounded" it with food and rented a truck to bring the Moore's belongings to Waverly. On the day the goods were unloaded, Moore again became ill at Waverly. His wife, Ruth, drove him back to Lexington where he was hospitalized with the brain inflammation, which has no certain connection with the stomach malignancy.

"He is our pastor," Francis said. "The whole church accepts him as our pastor." Churchwomen have driven to Lexington, 125 miles away, once a week with cards and monetary contributions and to pray with his wife.

Francis also has visited Moore, who is now able to sit in a wheelchair and can talk in a whisper (the aftermath of having tubes down his throat).

The Waverly folks hope Moore can be brought to Waverly in the near future to recover at home.

"We feel he is going to make a complete recovery and be able to assume full duties as our pastor," Francis said. The church has paid his salary since the first of March.

"God has given our church a wonderful chance to minister to Brother Moore in this situation," Francis added.

Local laymen, associational leaders, and state convention office staff take turns preaching for the church.

The yellow ribbon was hung there when they expected Bill Moore to occupy the pastor's study the first week of March. They aren't about to take it down until he does occupy it. He will have one chore which he alone can do -- unpack those boxes of books for the pastor's own library which are stacked around the pastor's study.



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- Moral education should be made a unifying and energizing force in public school curriculum.
- Educators must form partnerships with parents, the mass media, the business community, the courts, and civic, racial, ethnic and religious groups to create a supportive social and cultural context.
- Schools should define and teach a morality of justice, altruism, diligence and respect for human dignity. While the report defines these moral values as standing on their own as secular values, it also encourages schools to teach students about different ultimate sources for morality, including religion.
- Moral education must go beyond just knowing what is good to doing and prizing what is good.
- Schools should establish and communicate clear expectations for teachers and administrators regarding their roles as moral educators.
- People who educate teachers should give major attention to moral education to ensure that teachers have the necessary knowledge, attitudes and skills to fulfill their moral education responsibilities.
- Moral education ought to include teaching appropriate patterns of conduct and skills for critical thinking and decision making.
- Educators must ensure that a school's institutional climate and instructional practices contribute to moral growth.
- Further research should be done on ways to make moral education more effective.
- Educators ought to regularly assess the moral climate of schools and the conduct of students and communicate the results of those assessments to their communities.

The report points to possible controversies surrounding moral education.

It recognizes potential tensions over whether the religious bases of moral behavior can and should be taught in public schools; how and by whom moral education should be taught; whether a school's curriculum and programs should reflect, teach about and encourage understanding of varied ethnic heritages or focus only on a set of core values on which there is apparent agreement; and whether the goal of moral education should be to socialize students into a set of central values or to develop morally autonomous individuals.

Yellow ribbons wait
For pastor's arrival

By Theo Sommerkamp

WAVERLY, Ohio (BP)--A large yellow ribbon decorates the door to the pastor's study just down the hall from the auditorium at First Baptist Church of Waverly, Ohio. It was hung there a while back to welcome newly-called pastor, William Moore.

The Waverly church has been without a pastor since last June. And it may be at least this coming June, or later, until Moore is ready to take up regular duties of preaching, visiting and witnessing.

Moore is the pastor at Waverly, but has yet to preach a sermon, except the one he preached when he came in late January as a prospective pastor.

His daughter, Jenny, 13, and son, Chris, 10, are living in the Waverly parsonage and attending school in Waverly. They are being taken care of by their maternal grandparents, Melvin and Geneva Christmas.

Moore's wife, Ruth, is with her husband at St. Joseph's Hospital in Lexington where he is being treated for a brain inflammation which was first thought to be a tumor, but later was ruled out.

Moore, 34, was pastor at Owenton, Ky., about 40 miles south of Cincinnati.

He was first invited to come to Waverly in early December 1987. He became ill around Thanksgiving Day and had to cancel the trip. He was diagnosed as having a malignancy in his stomach, and spent two weeks in the Lexington hospital taking chemotherapy treatments. He was given a positive outlook by the doctor.

Lloyd Francis, Waverly pulpit committee chairman, said the church voted nearly unanimously to call Moore. A few days later, Moore accepted the call, effective March 1.

Waverly members remodeled the parsonage, "pounded" it with food and rented a truck to bring the Moore's belongings to Waverly. On the day the goods were unloaded, Moore again became ill at Waverly. His wife, Ruth, drove him back to Lexington where he was hospitalized with the brain inflammation, which has no certain connection with the stomach malignancy.

"He is our pastor," Francis said. "The whole church accepts him as our pastor." Churchwomen have driven to Lexington, 125 miles away, once a week with cards and monetary contributions and to pray with his wife.

Francis also has visited Moore, who is now able to sit in a wheelchair and can talk in a whisper (the aftermath of having tubes down his throat).

The Waverly folks hope Moore can be brought to Waverly in the near future to recover at home.

"We feel he is going to make a complete recovery and be able to assume full duties as our pastor," Francis said. The church has paid his salary since the first of March.

"God has given our church a wonderful chance to minister to Brother Moore in this situation," Francis added.

Local laymen, associational leaders, and state convention office staff take turns preaching for the church.

The yellow ribbon was hung there when they expected Bill Moore to occupy the pastor's study the first week of March. They aren't about to take it down until he does occupy it. He will have one chore which he alone can do -- unpack those boxes of books for the pastor's own library which are stacked around the pastor's study.

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