



- - BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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May 25, 1988

88-87

SBC having 'crisis
Of spirit:' Fuller

By Dan Martin

NICO

ROANOKE, Va. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention is "in a crisis of spirit," Charles Fuller, chairman of the SBC Peace Committee, said.

Fuller, who has headed the 22-member crisis resolution committee since it was created in 1985, issued a statement to Baptist Press on the state of the SBC in advance of the annual meeting, scheduled in Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas, June 14-16.

The committee, which presented its final report at the 1987 annual meeting in St. Louis, will report to the San Antonio convention on its new assignment of "observing the responses of all agencies, officers and other participants to the recommendations ... in an effort to encourage compliance and foster harmonious working relationships among all segments of our Baptist family."

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He added he has attempted to keep faith with his statement that the committee would not be "a super committee or watchdog," and so has had "little to say about what I see as violations of those actions."

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Fuller, who for more than a quarter century has been pastor of First Baptist Church of Roanoke, Va., and who has held a number of responsibilities in the Baptist General Association of Virginia and the SBC prior to his election as chairman of the Peace Committee, said:

"I am aware that individual conscience is prized among Southern Baptists and majority opinion does not always determine right over wrong. But I am struck with the number of us who seem to feel convention action means little if one does not agree with the decision.

"I recognize the limits of convention action. Local churches are not bound by it, and individuals are free to disagree. But what does cooperation mean among us if we intend to cooperate only with that with which we agree?

"Certainly, there is a place for the so-called 'loyal opposition,' but just as there are some theological parameters among us, there are some political and behavioral ones as well."

Fuller continued by saying he personally believes "the Peace Committee report, adopted by the convention, can work, but not if we work against it, or work around it or work to accomplish goals other than the ones it proposes."

"In my opinion, we are in a crisis of spirit. There have begun alterations of our theological course. Now, I feel there needs to be an alteration to the course of our spirit. Charity is not a theological tenet; it is an evidence of conversion."

In dealing with the issues, Fuller also dealt with specifics:

"Recommendation VI, adopted by last year's convention, calls for specific actions by requesting efforts to depoliticize our situation."

"An appropriate response to those requests is not, 'I will if he does' or 'We won't if they don't.' To be sure, the convention action was to 'request' the discontinuance of heavy politics, but that's where the spirit, more than the letter, is crucial.

"In my opinion, there have been many violations of this area of convention action. The violations are to be found on both sides of our controversy, sometimes on levels which are not in the highest profile."

Among the specifics he cited:

-- "There have been meetings this year in North Carolina, Georgia, Texas, New Mexico and other places, where the purpose had political ends or were perceived as such.

-- "I know Brig. Gen. T.C. Pinckney of Alexandria, Va., to be a genuine Christian, but his mailouts in Virginia I see as a break with the request of the convention. (Pinckney, a retired Air Force officer, mailed letters to Virginia pastors concerning "control" of the state convention and the placement of conservative pastors in pulpits around the state.)

-- "Likewise, I see the use of mailing lists by a publication such as SBC Cause as another violation. (SBC Cause is a new magazine published in Jacksonville, Fla., and widely perceived as a political promotional piece for a potential conservative presidential candidate of the SBC.)

-- "In my opinion, a blatant violation is seen in the mailout of Struggle for the Baptist Soul in May of this year. (The brochure was included in a mailing from moderate leader W. Winfred Moore of Amarillo, Texas, supporting the moderate cause.)

-- "Although some of the state Baptist newspapers have made good-faith efforts to abide by the recommendations of the convention, others have insisted on the continued use of labels, which is a violation of the convention action. (The convention recommended cessation of use of such terms as "moderate-conservative" and "fundamental-conservative," as well as other terms.)

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"The correspondence I have indicates an approach of the SBC Forum to the Pastors' Conference. The position of the Pastors' Conference is: 'You left us. You are welcome to return.' The Peace Committee's intent was not the disbanding of one group or the official wedding of two. We felt they could undertake something together which we mutually embrace. I, personally, still think such is possible, perhaps in jointly sponsoring a great evangelistic rally in the convention city.

Fuller concluded his statement by saying:

"In the public domain, there is what is known as a 'citizen's arrest.' Perhaps a sanctified version of that is Southern Baptists' best hope. No committee can, or should, police the spirit and attitudes of our denominational family, but individual Baptists can refuse to allow fellow Baptists to get by with a spirit which is so close to the emotions it is not a good judge of its own intentions.

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PAC pans childcare bill,
Praises funding process

By Marv Knox

N/C

WASHINGTON (BP)--Southern Baptists' Public Affairs Committee criticized a federal childcare bill and praised the new funding procedure for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs during its spring meeting May 19-20 in Washington.

The PAC comprises the SBC's delegation to the Baptist Joint Committee, a Washington-based church-state agency representing nine Baptist denominations. In addition to its duties on the BJC, the PAC is empowered to act on Southern Baptist motions or resolutions that the BJC cannot and/or does not support. Thirteen of the PAC's 17 members attended the meeting.

The PAC unanimously ratified a resolution expressing its unequivocal opposition to the Dodd-Kildee Bill, which would provide federal subsidies for qualified working mothers who place their children in child care.

The resolution claimed the bill is "blatantly discriminatory" against mothers who stay home to care for their children and families whose children are tended by friends, relatives or neighbors. It also noted the bill is "outrageously anti-religious" in that it would impose secular day care on children by disallowing the government subsidies to church daycare centers unless they comply with numerous regulations, including surrendering their right to teach religion.

Some PAC members criticized an article on the bill written by BJC General Counsel Oliver S. Thomas, saying he endorsed the bill. However, Thomas said, at the time of his writing, Dodd-Kildee was the only childcare bill that was being seriously considered, and his intent was to stress the need for strong church-state provisions if it were to be enacted.

BJC Executive Director James M. Dunn said the PAC's resolution on Dodd-Kildee was out of line. "The Public Affairs Committee again presumes to speak for Southern Baptists without authorization, responsible research or consultation with either of the agencies entrusted with such matters by Southern Baptists," he said.

"The PAC defies the explicit directions of last year's Southern Baptist Convention, 'to take actions on motions and resolutions of the Southern Baptist Convention,' since the SBC did not act on Dodd-Kildee or other childcare bills, he said. "And it violates the clear instruction of last year's convention 'to coordinate its work through the Baptist Joint Committee.'"

The PAC's resolution "commending the (SBC) Executive Committee" for the new PAC/BJC budgeting procedure is almost a word-for-word recitation of the Executive Committee's decision on the matter. It instructs that the BJC's budget request from the convention be made through the PAC to the Executive Committee, that the PAC cannot alter the BJC request, but that the PAC may offer recommendations on the BJC request.

The PAC's motion additionally spells out that the PAC understands the BJC must work through the PAC "at every step of the budgeting process," including reports, projections and requests made in September, November and January. It also asks the BJC to inform the PAC "as to its budget discussions and decisions in a timely and ongoing fashion."

The PAC motion was needed because "it had been difficult for some to accept the PAC's budgetary concerns at face value," said Richard Land, a PAC member from Dallas. "I felt there was a perception we just wanted to get the money and keep them (the BJC) from getting it, and that's not true."

The new procedure "will give us the opportunity to have budget discussions with the Joint Committee and will give us input into a process from which many of us felt totally excluded before," Land said.

Among the other actions:

-- PAC Chairman Samuel T. Currin, a state judge from Raleigh, N.C., and Roy Gean, an attorney from Fort Smith, Ark., were asked to meet with SBC Executive Committee attorney James P. Guenther regarding Guenther's legal opinion that PAC members are trustees of the BJC.

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That opinion, issued following an PAC request last fall, implied PAC members are BJC trustees, since the SBC's Cooperative Program budget cannot be allocated to support any entity for which the SBC does not elect trustees.

However, some PAC members have been concerned about that status. Since together the PAC only comprises one-third of the BJC membership, they have said, they may be legally accountable for BJC actions over which they had no control.

-- Currin and Gean also will study the BJC's procedure for filing legal briefs and offer possible suggestions for change. The action arose following discussion of a friend-of-the-court brief filed by the BJC's Thomas on behalf of all BJC member bodies opposing a portion of the 1981 Adolescent Family Life Act that provides federal subsidies for churches and other religious organizations to promote sexual morality.

Opponents of the BJC brief charged that it does not represent the opinions of most Southern Baptists and that the act is beneficial. They said churches can properly receive federal funds to support the programs.

While Thomas commended churches for their efforts to encourage teen chastity, his brief maintains churches, through the nature of their being and the environment of their facilities, cannot separate religious belief from moral teaching. Further, to receive federal funds for church-sponsored programs involves intermingling of church and state, it adds.

-- Three PAC members will function as a subcommittee to oversee operation of the PAC's exhibit at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 14-16 in San Antonio. The meeting will feature two church-state exhibits: the PAC's, which is allowed by SBC bylaws because the PAC is the SBC entity assigned to address church-state issues; and the BJC's, which was allowed an exhibit under the auspices of the PAC.

Early discussion of the issue centered on whether the BJC is to have its own exhibit or to share the PAC's space. The initial draft of a motion clarifying operation of the exhibit stated "no material (by either the PAC or the BJC) may be distributed without the express consent" of the exhibit subcommittee. But when members learned the BJC had been allowed its own exhibit, the motion was amended to urge the BJC staff to meet voluntarily with the PAC subcommittee to coordinate exhibit materials.

Thomas E. Pratt, a pastor from Brighton, Colo., and chairman of the subcommittee, told Baptist Press: "We have no intention of contacting them (the BJC) regarding what they will distribute in their booth. ... If they choose to contact us, that is fine."

-- PAC members voted 16-1 to defeat a motion requesting the SBC Executive Committee to reverse its decision not to ask Southern Baptists to consider dissolving the convention's institutional and financial ties to the BJC.

The PAC voted 8-4 last fall to request the dissolution of ties. But the Executive Committee, through which the request was channeled, declined to act on the proposal.

Some Southern Baptists have been critical of the BJC, stating the Washington agency is too liberal and has not represented their church-state views to lawmakers, the administration and the courts. The original PAC motion to dissolve ties grew out of some PAC members' frustration with accountability -- the BJC staff's accountability to them and their own ability to be accountable to Southern Baptists while representing a minority position on the 54-member BJC board.

PAC members who argued against the latest motion to seek dissolution expressed the desire not to counter the Executive Committee and to continue to seek the teamwork the Executive Committee encouraged.

-- The PAC referred to its long-range planning and policy subcommittee two matters. First, the subcommittee is to study the need to revise the PAC's convention program statement, which defines the scope and nature of its activities.

It also is to study the possibility of funding a "legal advocacy" role for both the PAC and BJC. That would involve increasing the size of the legal staff and budget to enable attorneys to get involved in more cases to "recover the real and perceived losses to religious liberty," explained PAC member J.I. Ginnings of Wichita Falls, Texas.

-- The PAC also discussed the BJC staff's role in the override of the president's veto of the Civil Rights Restoration Act, also known as the Grove City Bill. Some PAC members, who supported the president's veto, expressed consternation with a "fact sheet" on the bill produced by the BJC staff.

They said the "fact sheet" was responsible for influencing lawmakers to support the bill, which at least two of them called "the worst encroachment on religious liberty" in at least a generation. Staff members contended, however, that the paper was intended to be neutral and only answered, as factually as possible, questions about the bill that had been asked of the staff during repeated phone calls.

The committee had "a good two-day meeting," but dissension regarding the Grove City Bill "caused a lot of heartache," PAC Chairman Currin told Baptist Press. "Without the Grove City action, we could have had a constructive dialogue."

Currin expressed "extreme displeasure" with the way the BJC staff handled the Grove City ordeal: "Our committee feels they lobbied for the bill, and they are not being candid, and they played a key role in overriding the president's veto. ... A majority of our committee members feel we cannot trust them. It's hard to maintain a relationship in that kind of climate."

Speakers who addressed the PAC in informational meetings were Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C.; Jack Clayton, Washington representative of the American Association of Christian Schools; Bob Dugan, director of the National Association of Evangelicals office of public affairs; columnist Cal Thomas; Gary L. Bauer, assistant to the U.S. president for policy development; H. Robert Showers, executive director of the Justice Department's obscenity enforcement unit; Robert W. Sweet, deputy executive secretary of the Domestic Policy Council; and Carl A. Anderson, vice president for public policy of the Knights of Columbus.

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SBC Baptists to preview Las Vegas
During San Antonio convention

By Joe Westbury

N-AMB
Baptist Press
5/25/88

ATLANTA (BP)--Messengers attending the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas, June 14-16, will get a sneak preview of the denomination's next convention site and of attempts to reach Las Vegas, Nev., for Christ.

The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board will sponsor an exhibit in San Antonio's Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center to tell people about the denomination's ministry in Nevada and in Las Vegas, where the convention will meet June 13-15, 1989.

Bobby Sunderland, director of the board's direct evangelism division, said the booth will be the first spotlight the Atlanta-based agency has put on an upcoming convention city. The display will be co-sponsored by the Nevada Baptist Convention and Southern Nevada Baptist Association.

The booth will seek "to motivate Southern Baptists to become involved in soul winning in the state prior to the convention," Sunderland explained. The display will be near the board's own booth.

"Las Vegas, with nearly 700,000 residents, is one of the nation's fastest-growing cites. It is the only city in the nation where the phone book is printed twice a year to keep up with the population increase," Sunderland added.

The booth will feature a 10-minute video that will be shown on the half hour, as well as printed material on Southern Baptist ministry in the city and state. Three private counseling rooms will be available where individuals can volunteer for a variety of evangelistic endeavors planned for the area.

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On a statewide basis, simultaneous revivals, Scripture distribution, and sponsorship of 25 church-type missions are some of the activities planned prior to the 1989 SBC meeting. The main evangelistic emphasis will be the revivals, which will be a pilot for the "Here's Hope. Jesus Cares for You" national revivals in the spring of 1990.

For Las Vegas, evangelistic plans include a door-to-door canvas of the city to identify prospective church members and distribute scripture.

Each name in the Las Vegas telephone directory will be mailed to volunteers who will pray for that specific individual. A mass evangelistic rally will be held the weekend prior to the convention session, Sunderland said.

Pastors, evangelists and laypeople are being recruited for the Nevada evangelistic thrust. Sunderland hopes the project will receive a boost from people who visit the booth in San Antonio.

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Southern Baptist Cambodians
Celebrate 15th anniversary

N-~~HATS~~
TEXAS

Baptist Press
5/25/88

DALLAS (BP)--Fifteen years of Southern Baptist ministry to Cambodians in the United States will be celebrated June 12, at First Baptist Church in San Antonio, Texas.

First Baptist Church will be recognized for its pioneering role in Southern Baptist home mission outreach to Asians, said Sok Doeung, Cambodian catalytic missionary for the Baptist General Convention of Texas. The church began an international Sunday school class 15 years ago for Cambodians studying at the nearby Lackland Air Force Base language school.

Oscar Romo, language missions director for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, is slated to deliver the keynote address. The recognition service will be held prior to the annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-16, in San Antonio.

The anniversary program also will include Cambodian music, a slide presentation, and testimonies of Cambodian Baptists, missions volunteers and workers in refugee resettlement, said R.B. Cooper, minister of Christian social ministries at First Baptist Church.

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High court to review reversal
Of child pornography conviction

N- BJO

Baptist Press
5/25/88

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U.S. Supreme Court will review a lower court's decision to reverse the conviction of a Massachusetts man sent to prison for taking partially nude photographs of his 14-year-old stepdaughter.

Although a trial court in 1985 convicted Douglas Oakes of violating a Massachusetts law banning the depiction of children under 18 in stages of partial or total nudity, the state's highest court reversed the conviction. Oakes had been sentenced to a 10-year prison term, the minimum called for under the law.

In its 4-3 decision last February, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court struck down the law as overly broad. Photography, the panel ruled, is a form of expression protected under the First Amendment.

Massachusetts Attorney General James M. Shannon appealed the decision to the nation's high court, arguing courts should strike down laws as too broad "only when infringements on expression are substantial." He argued further that his state has a "compelling interest in preventing child sexual abuse."

In its decision reversing Oakes' conviction and striking down the law, the lower court ruled the statute as written would make parents who take innocent pictures of nude infants romping on the beach or posed on a rug liable to criminal charges.

Oakes' attorney, who asked the Supreme Court to uphold the lower decision, argued his client took the challenged photographs to help advance his stepdaughter's modeling career.

The court will hear arguments in the case during its 1988-89 term beginning next October.

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SUBJECTS: SBC, ROANOKE, VA.
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVE
Historical Commission, 300
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While Thomas commended churches for their efforts to encourage teen chastity, his brief maintains churches, through the nature of their being and the environment of their facilities, cannot separate religious belief from moral teaching. Further, to receive federal funds for church-sponsored programs involves intermingling of church and state, it adds.

-- Three PAC members will function as a subcommittee to oversee operation of the PAC's exhibit at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 14-16 in San Antonio. The meeting will feature two church-state exhibits: the PAC's, which is allowed by SBC bylaws because the PAC is the SBC entity assigned to address church-state issues; and the BJC's, which was allowed an exhibit under the auspices of the PAC.

Early discussion of the issue centered on whether the BJC is to have its own exhibit or to share the PAC's space. The initial draft of a motion clarifying operation of the exhibit stated "no material (by either the PAC or the BJC) may be distributed without the express consent" of the exhibit subcommittee. But when members learned the BJC had been allowed its own exhibit, the motion was amended to urge the BJC staff to meet voluntarily with the PAC subcommittee to coordinate exhibit materials.

Thomas E. Pratt, a pastor from Brighton, Colo., and chairman of the subcommittee, told Baptist Press: "We have no intention of contacting them (the BJC) regarding what they will distribute in their booth. ... If they choose to contact us, that is fine."

-- PAC members voted 16-1 to defeat a motion requesting the SBC Executive Committee to reverse its decision not to ask Southern Baptists to consider dissolving the convention's institutional and financial ties to the BJC.

The PAC voted 8-4 last fall to request the dissolution of ties. But the Executive Committee, through which the request was channeled, declined to act on the proposal.

Some Southern Baptists have been critical of the BJC, stating the Washington agency is too liberal and has not represented their church-state views to lawmakers, the administration and the courts. The original PAC motion to dissolve ties grew out of some PAC members' frustration with accountability -- the BJC staff's accountability to them and their own ability to be accountable to Southern Baptists while representing a minority position on the 54-member BJC board.

PAC members who argued against the latest motion to seek dissolution expressed the desire not to counter the Executive Committee and to continue to seek the teamwork the Executive Committee encouraged.

-- The PAC referred to its long-range planning and policy subcommittee two matters. First, the subcommittee is to study the need to revise the PAC's convention program statement, which defines the scope and nature of its activities.

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It also is to study the possibility of funding a "legal advocacy" role for both the PAC and BJC. That would involve increasing the size of the legal staff and budget to enable attorneys to get involved in more cases to "recover the real and perceived losses to religious liberty," explained PAC member J.I. Ginnings of Wichita Falls, Texas.

-- The PAC also discussed the BJC staff's role in the override of the president's veto of the Civil Rights Restoration Act, also known as the Grove City Bill. Some PAC members, who supported the president's veto, expressed consternation with a "fact sheet" on the bill produced by the BJC staff.

They said the "fact sheet" was responsible for influencing lawmakers to support the bill, which at least two of them called "the worst encroachment on religious liberty" in at least a generation. Staff members contended, however, that the paper was intended to be neutral and only answered, as factually as possible, questions about the bill that had been asked of the staff during repeated phone calls.

The committee had "a good two-day meeting," but dissension regarding the Grove City Bill "caused a lot of heartache," PAC Chairman Currin told Baptist Press. "Without the Grove City action, we could have had a constructive dialogue."

Currin expressed "extreme displeasure" with the way the BJC staff handled the Grove City ordeal: "Our committee feels they lobbied for the bill, and they are not being candid, and they played a key role in overriding the president's veto. ... A majority of our committee members feel we cannot trust them. It's hard to maintain a relationship in that kind of climate."

Speakers who addressed the PAC in informational meetings were Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C.; Jack Clayton, Washington representative of the American Association of Christian Schools; Bob Dugan, director of the National Association of Evangelicals office of public affairs; columnist Cal Thomas; Gary L. Bauer, assistant to the U.S. president for policy development; H. Robert Showers, executive director of the Justice Department's obscenity enforcement unit; Robert W. Sweet, deputy executive secretary of the Domestic Policy Council; and Carl A. Anderson, vice president for public policy of the Knights of Columbus.

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SBC Baptists to preview Las Vegas
During San Antonio convention

By Joe Westbury

Baptist Press
5/25/88

ATLANTA (BP)--Messengers attending the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas, June 14-16, will get a sneak preview of the denomination's next convention site and of attempts to reach Las Vegas, Nev., for Christ.

The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board will sponsor an exhibit in San Antonio's Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center to tell people about the denomination's ministry in Nevada and in Las Vegas, where the convention will meet June 13-15, 1989.

Bobby Sunderland, director of the board's direct evangelism division, said the booth will be the first spotlight the Atlanta-based agency has put on an upcoming convention city. The display will be co-sponsored by the Nevada Baptist Convention and Southern Nevada Baptist Association.

The booth will seek "to motivate Southern Baptists to become involved in soul winning in the state prior to the convention," Sunderland explained. The display will be near the board's own booth.

"Las Vegas, with nearly 700,000 residents, is one of the nation's fastest-growing cities. It is the only city in the nation where the phone book is printed twice a year to keep up with the population increase," Sunderland added.

The booth will feature a 10-minute video that will be shown on the half hour, as well as printed material on Southern Baptist ministry in the city and state. Three private counseling rooms will be available where individuals can volunteer for a variety of evangelistic endeavors planned for the area.

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On a statewide basis, simultaneous revivals, Scripture distribution, and sponsorship of 25 church-type missions are some of the activities planned prior to the 1989 SBC meeting. The main evangelistic emphasis will be the revivals, which will be a pilot for the "Here's Hope. Jesus Cares for You" national revivals in the spring of 1990.

For Las Vegas, evangelistic plans include a door-to-door canvas of the city to identify prospective church members and distribute scripture.

Each name in the Las Vegas telephone directory will be mailed to volunteers who will pray for that specific individual. A mass evangelistic rally will be held the weekend prior to the convention session, Sunderland said.

Pastors, evangelists and laypeople are being recruited for the Nevada evangelistic thrust. Sunderland hopes the project will receive a boost from people who visit the booth in San Antonio.

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Southern Baptist Cambodians
Celebrate 15th anniversary

Baptist Press
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DALLAS (BP)--Fifteen years of Southern Baptist ministry to Cambodians in the United States will be celebrated June 12, at First Baptist Church in San Antonio, Texas.

First Baptist Church will be recognized for its pioneering role in Southern Baptist home mission outreach to Asians, said Sok Doeung, Cambodian catalytic missionary for the Baptist General Convention of Texas. The church began an international Sunday school class 15 years ago for Cambodians studying at the nearby Lackland Air Force Base language school.

Oscar Romo, language missions director for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, is slated to deliver the keynote address. The recognition service will be held prior to the annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-16, in San Antonio.

The anniversary program also will include Cambodian music, a slide presentation, and testimonies of Cambodian Baptists, missions volunteers and workers in refugee resettlement, said R.B. Cooper, minister of Christian social ministries at First Baptist Church.

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High court to review reversal
Of child pornography conviction

Baptist Press
5/25/88

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U.S. Supreme Court will review a lower court's decision to reverse the conviction of a Massachusetts man sent to prison for taking partially nude photographs of his 14-year-old stepdaughter.

Although a trial court in 1985 convicted Douglas Oakes of violating a Massachusetts law banning the depiction of children under 18 in stages of partial or total nudity, the state's highest court reversed the conviction. Oakes had been sentenced to a 10-year prison term, the minimum called for under the law.

In its 4-3 decision last February, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court struck down the law as overly broad. Photography, the panel ruled, is a form of expression protected under the First Amendment.

Massachusetts Attorney General James M. Shannon appealed the decision to the nation's high court, arguing courts should strike down laws as too broad "only when infringements on expression are substantial." He argued further that his state has a "compelling interest in preventing child sexual abuse."

In its decision reversing Oakes' conviction and striking down the law, the lower court ruled the statute as written would make parents who take innocent pictures of nude infants romping on the beach or posed on a rug liable to criminal charges.

Oakes' attorney, who asked the Supreme Court to uphold the lower decision, argued his client took the challenged photographs to help advance his stepdaughter's modeling career.

The court will hear arguments in the case during its 1988-89 term beginning next October.

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