



# BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE  
SBC Executive Committee  
901 Commerce #750  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203  
(615) 244-2355  
Alvin C. Shackelford, Director  
Dan Martin, News Editor  
Mary Knox, 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, 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 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

April 27, 1989

89-67

NBJC

Court hears arguments  
in anti-abortion case

By Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP)--A highly publicized anti-abortion case was argued before the U.S. Supreme Court April 26, but no ruling is expected before late June.

Although experts expect the court to be narrowly divided over Webster v. Reproductive Health Services, the justices' questioning revealed little about how much of a Missouri anti-abortion law they might be willing to uphold or if they intend to overturn the court's 1973 landmark abortion decision, Roe v. Wade.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, considered the probable swing vote in the case, asked a few questions during the one-hour proceeding.

She did press former U.S. Solicitor General Charles Fried as to whether a fundamental right to decide whether or not to have a child exists.

Fried -- a Harvard Law School professor who on behalf of the Bush administration asked the high court to overturn Roe v. Wade -- said he was hesitant to formulate the right in such abstract terms or sweeping generalities as contained in Roe.

O'Connor then asked, "Do you think that the state has the right to, if in a future century we had a serious over-population problem, require women to have abortions after so many children?"

Replying that he did not, Fried said: "I think the important thing to realize is that when Roe was decided, it swept off the table regulations in the majority of American jurisdictions ... and declared a principle, which said that it was unfair and unreasonable to regulate abortion in ways that most western countries still do regulate abortion.

"We are not here today suggesting that the court would, therefore, allow extreme and extravagant and bloodthirsty regulations and that it would lack the power to strike those down if they were presented to it. ... What is necessary is for the court to return to legislatures an opportunity in some substantial way to express their preference, which the court says they may express, for normal childbirth over abortion, and Roe v. Wade stands as a significant barrier to that."

The administration was not asking the justices to "unravel the fabric of unenumerated and privacy rights which this court has woven" in previous privacy cases but rather "to pull this one thread," Fried said.

But Frank Susman, who represented the St. Louis abortion clinic that challenged the Missouri statute, countered: "I think (Fried's) submission is somewhat disingenuous when he suggests to this court that he does not seek to unravel the whole cloth of procreational rights, but merely to pull a thread. It has always been my personal experience that when I pull a thread, my sleeve falls off. There is no stopping.

"It is not a thread he is after. It is the full range of procreational rights and choices that constitute the fundamental right that has been recognized by this court."

--more--

A "bright line" no longer exists between the fundamental right established in *Griswold v. Connecticut* -- a 1965 ruling that married couples have a right to privacy that entitles them to purchase contraceptives -- and the fundamental right to abortion established in *Roe, Susman* said.

Justice Antonin Scalia challenged that if the court can draw a line between the first, second and third trimesters in abortion cases then it also should be able to draw a line between abortion and birth control.

Susman said many present forms of contraception -- including IUDs and low-dose birth control pills -- act as abortifacients and would be illegal under a state law, such as the Missouri statute, that defines fertilization as the beginning point of human life.

Acknowledging disagreement exists over when human life begins, Scalia asked Susman whether that disagreement leads to the conclusion that there "must be a fundamental right on the part of the woman to destroy this thing that we don't know what it is" or rather that it is a matter upon which people should vote after having made "up their minds the best they can?"

Susman said his conclusion is that when an issue is so divisive, emotional, personal and intimate, it must be left as a fundamental right to the individual to make that choice under "her then-attendant circumstances, her religious beliefs, her moral beliefs and in consultation with her physician."

Other questioning focused on technical aspects of the Missouri anti-abortion law.

Justice John Paul Stevens repeatedly questioned Missouri Attorney General William L. Webster on various points in the statute, including a preamble that defines human life as beginning at conception. Lower courts have struck down sections of the law that prohibited public hospitals from offering abortion services or counseling and required physicians to conduct tests to determine the viability of any fetus 19 weeks or older before performing an abortion.

After probing, Webster said he does not believe the section on testing for fetal viability would require a "physician to perform any tests that would be unnecessary."

Webster also described the preamble as "an abstract, philosophical statement of the legislature" that "doesn't affect anyone."

"It does not in any way prohibit a woman's right to choose abortion over childbirth," he said.

--30--

Committee nominates  
seminary trustees

N-CO

Baptist Press  
4/27/89

NASHVILLE (BP)--Trustees to serve on the boards of the six Southern Baptist Convention-related seminaries have been nominated by the 1989 SBC Committee on Nominations.

In order to serve, the trustees must be elected by messengers to the 1989 annual meeting of the SBC, scheduled June 13-15 in the Las Vegas, Nev., Convention Center.

Under convention bylaws, seminary trustees serve five-year terms and are eligible to serve two consecutive terms.

SOUTHERN SEMINARY (63 members): 15 nominations considered; 8 new trustees; 7 renominated.

Nominees with terms to expire in 1994, replacing members ineligible for renomination:

Ron L. Herrod, pastor of First church, Fort Smith, Ark., replacing Wilson C. Deese of Little Rock; Morris W. Denman Jr., pastor of Cook Memorial church, Lynn Haven, Fla., replacing James L. Monroe of Fort Walton Beach; Michael E. Harris, a dentist and member of Severns Valley church, Elizabethtown, Ky., replacing William Wilson of Owensboro;

--more--

Kenneth Cademan, pastor of Tabernacle church, Baltimore, Md., replacing Clive L. Vice of Glen Burnie; Steve Hogg, pastor of First church, Rock Hill, S.C., replacing James P. Craine of Anderson; and Fred B. Caffey, a dentist and member of First church, Martinsville, Va., replacing Eldon F. Wood of Charlottesville.

David Miller, a director of associational missions and member of Southside church, Heber Springs, Ark., was nominated to fill the unexpired term -- to expire in 1992 -- of Mark Coppenger of El Dorado.

The committee also nominated Clarence Jones, pastor of North Charleston church, Charleston, W.Va., as a new at-large member, replacing Richard O. Sutton of Topeka, Kans.

Nominated to second five-year terms are Jerry David Mahan, Cedartown, Ga.; O. Max Lee, Winnsboro, La.; George Steincross, Liberty, Mo.; W. Horace Benjamin, Greenville, S.C.; and Stephen W. Anderson, Memphis, Tenn.

Nominated to second five-year terms as local members are John R. Michael and Henry B. Huff, both of Louisville, Ky.

SOUTHWESTERN SEMINARY (37 members): 10 nominations considered; 5 new members; 5 renominations.

Nominated to terms to expire in 1994, replacing members ineligible for re-election include:

Gerald E. Dacus, pastor of First Southern church, Bakersfield, Calif., replacing Billy J. Tolbert of El Toro; and Charles A. Lawson II, an electrical engineer and member of Linthicum (Md.) church, replacing Lewis N. McDonald of Bel Air.

Nominated to unexpired terms include:

Kenneth L. Faught, pastor of East Dayton (Ohio) church, replacing Roger W. Freeman of Gahanna, who moved (term to expire in 1992); and David P. Bruce, pastor of Riverside church, Denver, replacing Roy Phillip Belcher of Arvada, who moved (term to expire in 1993).

The Committee on Nominations subcommittee will nominate a replacement for Tammi Ledbetter of Lancaster, Texas, who moved (term to expire in 1993).

Nominated for second terms are Stephen G. Hyde, Silver Spring, Md.; Charles Baggett, Hayesville, Kans.; and William H. Hightower, Taylors, S.C.

Nominated for second terms as local members are Jim Bolton, Dallas, and James T. Draper Jr., Euless, Texas.

NEW ORLEANS SEMINARY (37 members): 8 nominations considered; 5 new members; 3 renominated.

Nominated to five-year terms replacing members ineligible for re-election include:

Michael L. Prince, pastor of First Southern church, San Diego, Calif., replacing Donald D. Jackson of Mariposa; R.T. Brantley Sr., pastor of Lawrence Drive church, Macon, Ga., replacing J.E. Moak of Moultrie; and Morris Anderson, pastor of Dotson Memorial church, Maryville, Tenn., replacing Robert M. Jelks of Paris.

William M. Hamm, owner of a mechanical and industrial contracting firm and member of Broadmoor church, Shreveport, La., was nominated to a five year term as a local member, replacing James Davison of Ruston, who was ineligible for re-election.

The Committee on Nominations subcommittee will nominate a replacement for Lawton E. Searcy of Huntington, W.Va., who moved (term to expire in 1991).

Nominated to new terms are George F. Webb, Mesa, Ariz., and Charles R. Dampier, Fairfield, Ill.

Nominated to a new term as a local member is J. Roy McComb, Columbia, Miss.

--more--

SOUTHEASTERN SEMINARY (30 members): 6 nominations considered; 2 new members; 4 renominated.

Nominated to terms to expire in 1994, replacing members ineligible for re-election:

Hayward R. Casey, pastor of Green River church, Cromwell, Ky., replacing Charles W. Midkiff of Greenville; and Wendell L. Page, pastor of First church, Lee's Summit, Mo., replacing W. Lee Beaver Jr. of St. Louis.

Nominated to second terms are William O. Key, Augusta, Ga., and Calvin T. Partain, Gallup, N.M.

Nominated to second terms as local members are Thomas M. Metts, Falls Church, Va., and Eddie L. Sellers of Morganton, N.C.

MIDWESTERN SEMINARY (35 members): 9 nominations considered; 6 new members; 3 renominations.

Nominated to five-year terms replacing members ineligible for re-election:

Robert A. Lilly, pastor of Cantonsville church, Baltimore, Md., replacing Russell R. Reid of Smithsburg; and Ralph F. Carter Jr., pastor of Western Avenue church, Statesville, N.C., replacing T. Robert Mullinax of Raleigh.

Elaine (Mrs. John) Hardy, a nurse and member of Blue Valley church, Overland Park, Kans., was nominated to a five-year term as a local member replacing J.W. Simmons of Windsor.

Don Gann, a state representative and member of First church, Ozark, was nominated to replace James E. Graves of Kansas City, who declined to accept a second term as a local member.

Jean (Mrs. John) Crady, a homemaker and member of First church, Owensboro, Ky., was nominated to fill the unexpired term -- to expire in 1991 -- of Jack D. Amis of Hopkinsville, who moved.

James B. Dobb, an attorney and member of Dublin (Ohio) church, was nominated to fill the unexpired term -- to expire in 1993 -- of Billy E. Roby of Columbus, who moved.

Nominated to second terms are Lewis Adkison, Colorado Springs, Colo.; James W. Jones, Trenton, Mich., and C. Eugene Dempsey, Orofino, Idaho.

GOLDEN GATE SEMINARY (36 members): 8 nominations considered; 3 new members; 5 renominations.

Gayle (Mrs. David) Butler, a homemaker and member of Springdale church, Louisville, Ky., was nominated to a five-year term replacing O.M. Kingston Jr., of Madisonville, who is ineligible for re-election.

The Committee on Nominations subcommittee will nominate a replacement for Lois G. McKinnish of Hendersonville, N.C., who declined to accept a second term.

Bobby R. Arnold, a health care-retirement center manager and member of First church, Jackson, Miss., was nominated to fill the unexpired term -- to expire in 1992 -- of Thad Hawkins of Jackson, who resigned.

Nominated for second terms are Calvin Kelly, Birmingham, Ala.; Sandra S. Castell, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; and R. Harold Dove, Princeton, W.Va.

Nominated for second terms as at-large members are Herman E. Wooten, Sacramento, Calif., and Robert D. Lewis, Fairfield, Calif.

CORRECTION: In the 4/26/89 Baptist Press story titled "Nominees recommended for Executive Committee, boards," please substitute the following for the second paragraph on nominees for the Home Mission Board:

The new member from Oklahoma is Sam Hammonds, an attorney and member of Quail Springs church, Oklahoma City.

Thanks,  
Baptist Press

Committee, commission  
trustees nominated

N-CD

Baptist Press  
4/27/89

NASHVILLE (BP)--Trustees to serve on the commissions and committees of the Southern Baptist Convention have been nominated by the 1989 Committee on Nominations.

The trustees must be elected by messengers to the 1989 annual meeting of the SBC, scheduled June 13-15 in the Las Vegas, Nev., Convention Center.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST FOUNDATION (35 members): 9 nominations considered; 6 new members; 3 renominations.

The Committee on Nominations nominated agency representatives for the SBC Education Commission, Historical Commission and Stewardship Commission to the Foundation. Each of the new representatives is a member of the board of trust from which he is named.

They are W. Randolph Davenport, Campbellsville, Ky., representing the Education Commission; David J. McDaniel, Nashville, representing the Historical Commission; and Robert L. Ross, Oklahoma City, representing the Stewardship Commission. Terms for Davenport and McDaniel expire in 1992, and for Ross in 1990.

Two other agency representatives were renominated: Henry B. Huff, Louisville, Ky., representing Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Kenneth L. King, New Braunfels, Texas, representing the Brotherhood Commission.

Three new members were nominated to replace trustees ineligible for re-election. They are:

Leonard M. Brannan, a businessman and member of White Oak church, Chattanooga, Tenn., replacing Gilbert E. South, Lutherville, Md.; Mel Carnahan, an attorney and member of First church, Rolla, Mo., replacing Billy M. Cary, Huntingdon, Tenn.; and Ronald L. Bryant, an attorney and member of Forest Avenue church, Redmond, Ore., replacing Robert F. Owens of Foley, Tenn.

Robert H. Wilhite, Hendersonville, Tenn., was nominated for a second term.

AMERICAN SEMINARY COMMISSION (16 members): 3 nominations considered; 2 new members; 1 renomination.

Robert F. Loggins Sr., mission pastor at Glendale Memorial church, St. Louis, Mo., was nominated to replace Roy D. Raddin of Greenville, Miss., who is ineligible for re-election.

The Committee on Nominations will name a replacement for W. Roy Fisher of Donelson, Tenn., when it meets at the annual meeting.

George W. Lampkin, Norfolk, Va., was nominated for a second term.

EDUCATION COMMISSION (21 members): 6 nominations considered; 5 new members; 1 renomination.

Nominated to replace members ineligible for re-election were Jerry M. Henry, pastor of Elkdale church, Selma, Ala., replacing Leslie D. Wright of Birmingham; James E. McDaniel, pastor of First church, Brinkley, Ark., replacing D. Jack Nicholas, Walnut Ridge; and Max Kell, pastor of El Camino church, Sacramento, Calif., replacing William R. Hann of Westminster.

--more--

Nominated as at-large members replacing members ineligible for re-election were Judy (Mrs. Charles) Brandon, a teacher and member of Central church, Clovis, N.M., replacing Robert E. Lambert of Castle Rock, Colo.; and Gregory W. Brockham, a retired soil scientist and member of Friendly Hills church, Littleton, Colo., replacing Bill W. Stacy of Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Bob R. Agee, Shawnee, Okla., was nominated to a second term.

BROTHERHOOD COMMISSION (37 members): 11 nominations considered; 5 new members; 6 renominations.

Nominated to replace members ineligible for re-election were J.L. McCollough, a government employee and member of Central church, Carson, Calif., replacing B.J. Byrd of Santa Ana; David J. Partin, a businessman and member of First church, Lakeland, Fla., replacing Tom L. McGuire of North Fort Myers; and Joseph H. Arbuckle, a retired maintenance superintendent and member of Southern Hills Church, Salem, Ore., replacing James M. Hensley of Spokane, Wash.

Robert P. Stroup, self employed and a member of First church, Spruce Pine, N.C., was nominated as an at-large member replacing Fred W. Graham Jr. of Asheboro, who was ineligible for re-election.

Donald Ford, a retired railroad employee and member of Calvary church, Grafton, W.Va., was nominated to fill the unexpired term -- to expire in 1990 -- of Michael R. Elliott of South Charleston, who resigned.

Nominated to second terms were Charles E. Englebrecht, Thorngon, Colo.; William Tim Brown, Columbia, S.C.; Thomas W. Daniels Jr., Germantown, Tenn., and Kenneth L. King, New Braunfels, Texas.

Nominated to second terms as at-large members were Thomas M. Knotts, Belvedere, S.C., and Joe T. Lenamon, Fort Worth, Texas.

CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMISSION (31 members): 8 nominations considered; 6 new members; 2 renominations.

One member eligible for renomination to a second term was not renominated because of lack of attendance at commission meetings. Thomas E. Boland of Chamblee, Ga., was replaced by Nancy (Mrs. Bruce) Schaefer, president of a family and moral concerns organization and member of First church, Atlanta.

Nominated to terms replacing members ineligible for re-election were:

William E. Whitfield, pastor of Cypress Shores church, Mobile, Ala., replacing Fred Lackey of Athens; Joy (Mrs. Phillip T.) McClung, a psychologist and member of First church, Fontana, Calif., replacing Larrey Noia of Fountain Valley; and Arthur Lee McGehee, chief of police and member of First church, Ocala, Fla., replacing Roy T. Rhodes of Tallahassee.

John L. Yeats, pastor of Shawnee Heights church, Topeka, Kans., was nominated as an at-large member, replacing Virginia Hendricks of Glorieta, N.M., who was ineligible for re-election.

Nominated for second terms were J.W. Atchison, Rogers, Ark., and Harry A. Lane, Eutawville, S.C.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION (32 members, being reduced to 31): 8 nominations considered; 4 new members; 1 member not to be replaced; 3 renominations.

Nominated to terms replacing members ineligible for re-election were:

Glenna (Mrs. Lloyd) Johnson, a teacher and member of First church, Washington, D.C., replacing Helen Y. McKee of Washington; Jerald Hicks, pastor of Powers Drive church, Orlando, Fla., replacing James R. Beasley of DeLand; and Furman B. Hendricks, a retired public health worker and member of Tabernacle church, Cartersville, Ga., replacing Waldo P. Harris III of Washington, Ga.

--more--

The Committee on Nominations subcommittee will name a replacement for Philip Langley of Parachute, Colo., who declined to serve a second term.

Three members were renominated to second terms: Marlene H. Rikard, Birmingham, Ala.; Mrs. Gaylon Cothorn, Tolleson, Ariz.; and Slayden A. Yarborough, Shawnee, Okla.

Norris E. Smith of Memphis, Tenn., has served his allowed terms and will not be replaced.

RADIO-TELEVISION COMMISSION (27 members): 10 nominations considered; 6 new members; 4 renominated.

Nominated to replace members ineligible for re-election:

C. Wyman Copass, pastor of Farndale church, Louisville, Ky., replacing LaVerne Butler of Louisville; Billy R. Thomas, pastor of Emmanuel church, Lafayette, La., replacing T.W. Terral of Baton Rouge; and Dallas W. Bumgarner, pastor of Elvaton church, Millersville, Md., replacing W. John Peper Sr. of Glen Burnie.

Two new members were nominated to terms to expire in 1991. Richard O. Logsdon, pastor of First church, Upper Marlboro, Md., replaces James C. Sims of Washington, who resigned. Garland A. Morrison, pastor of Sunnycrest church, Marion, Ind., replaces James R. Hawthorne of Evansville, who moved.

Charles H. McKeever, president and general manager of a television station and member of First church, Roanoke, Va., was nominated to fill the unexpired term -- to expire in 1990 -- of Linwood F. Perkins Jr. of Norfolk, who resigned.

Nominated to second terms were LeRoy Stevens, Phoenix, Ariz.; Richard L. Wakefield, Camdenton, Mo.; Neil G. Arveschoug, Spokane, Wash.; and Michael S. Hamlet, Spartanburg, S.C.

STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION (27 members): 10 nominations considered; 7 new members; 3 renominations.

Nominated to trustees replacing members ineligible for re-election:

O. Eugene Tyre, pastor of First church, Newnan, Ga., replacing James O. Dorriety of LaGrange; Rosemary (Mrs. Emory) Wilson, a life underwriter and member of Calvary church, Granite City, Ill., replacing L. Roland Wilson of Napierville;

J. Dore Langley, pastor of Jenkins Memorial church, St. Martinsville, La., replacing Beverly Durham of Alexandria; and Richard G. Hicks, pastor of Edgewood church, Winston-Salem, N.C., replacing Dwight Ledbetter of Kings Mountain, N.C.

The Committee on Nominations subcommittee will nominate a replacement for Tom A. Gratton of Suitland, Md., when the meet in advance of the annual meeting.

Samuel J. Hodges, an architect and member of Hillcrest church, Hillcrest Heights, Md., was nominated to fill the unexpired term -- to end in 1990 -- of Worth C. Grant of Washington, who resigned.

J. Lawrence Wood, a staff member at Cross Lane church, Cross Lanes, W. Va., was nominated to replace Ross C. Harrison of Scott Depot, who resigned.

Nominated to second terms were B. Lee Black, Albuquerque, N.M.; Cecil C. Sims, Beaverton, Ore.; and Joe E. Burton, Radford, Va.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (18 members): 4 nominations considered; 1 new member; 3 renominations.

Jay H. Strack, an evangelist and member of Prestonwood church, Dallas, was nominated to fill the unexpired term -- to expire in 1990 -- of Richard D. Land, who resigned to become executive-director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, Nashville.

--more--

Nominated to second terms were J.T. Williams Jr., Tallahassee, Fla.; La m P. Leavell II, New Orleans; and Robert Hughes, Jackson, Miss.

The committee also nominated Albert Lee Smith, a Birmingham, Ala., insurance executive as chairman.

COMMITTEE ON ORDER OF BUSINESS (6 members): 2 nominations considered; 2 new members.

Nominated to replace members ineligible for re-election were Joe Aulds, pastor of Temple church, Winnsboro, La., replacing John B. Wright of Little Rock, Ark.; and Danny E. Watters, pastor of Beulah church, Douglasville, Ga., replacing Thomas D. Elliff of Oklahoma City.

The committee also nominated Dwight Reighard, pastor of New Hope church, Fayetteville, Ga., as chairman.

DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR COMMITTEE (6 members): 2 nominations considered; 2 new members.

Nominated to replace members ineligible for re-election were Don O. Davis, pastor of Mill Park church, Portland, Ore., replacing James A. Green Jr. of Jal, N.M.; and Tom V. Harlan, minister of music and youth at Jackson Avenue church, Lovington, N.M., replacing Ted J. Ingram of Knoxville, Tenn.

The Committee on Nominations also nominated Leon B. Hataway, pastor of Central church, Grand Junction, Colo., as chairman.

--30--

North pushed for split,  
Baptist historians told

By Marv Knox

N-60

Baptist Press  
4/27/39

NASHVILLE (BP)--Blame for the historic North-South split between U.S. Baptists lies on both sides of the Mason-Dixon Line, H. Leon McBeth told a gathering of church historians.

McBeth addressed the Southern Baptist Historical Commission and the Southern Baptist Historical Society during their annual joint meeting April 25-26 in Nashville.

"Baptists in America: 175 Years of National Organization" was the theme. It marked the anniversary of the "Triennial Convention" missions society, the first national Baptist body.

McBeth, professor of church history at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, spoke on "The Broken Unity of 1845: A Reassessment."

"What happened in 1845?" McBeth asked. "The answer might be: That is the year the Southern Baptist Convention was formed; or, that is the year Southern Baptists withdrew from national Baptist cooperation over the issue of slavery. ...

"The popular perception is that Baptists in the South just decided to withdraw from national cooperation and from their own regional convention to go their own separate way. The record, however, suggests that the schism of 1845 was at least as much exclusion on the part of the North as withdrawal on the part of the South."

Northerners became angry in 1843, when they learned that two Baptist missionaries were slaveholders, McBeth said. A flurry of letters and editorials in Baptist newspapers "moved the issue onto the front burner of Baptist awareness."

Northern moderates found themselves trapped between Northern militant abolitionists and Southerners, he said. Eventually, the Boston-dominated Acting Board of the Triennial Convention sided with the abolitionists, declining to appoint slaveholders as missionaries.

"They made a deliberate and intentional choice, on the basis of what they thought would be best for the missionary enterprise," McBeth said, noting the decision also was made "in order to prevent a separation (between militants and moderates) in the North itself."

--more--

A Southern editor wrote, "It would be more honorable to withdraw than be driven off," McBeth quoted. He concluded: "Southern Baptists are, of course, without defense in their attitudes on slavery. But they were more victims than aggressors in the broken unity of 1845, a division that still runs like a Berlin Wall through the Baptist family in America."

Other papers presented during the meeting included:

-- "The Shaping of Cooperation Among Early Baptists," by William L. Lumpkin, retired pastor of Freemason Street Baptist Church in Norfolk, Va.

Several obstacles worked against Baptist cooperation in Early America, Lumpkin said: "the vastness of the new country, the sparseness of the population, the unplanned and spontaneous generation of churches ... (and) the variety of backgrounds and of denominational titles."

These were countered by forces that supported cooperation: "need for defense against foes, need for authentication of ministers, desire for fellowship and counsel, movement of ministers (and laypeople) among the churches ... and large tasks (that) required the pooling of resources and united action beyond the capabilities of local congregations."

The challenge of fighting for religious freedom in the face of state churches was one such task, Lumpkin said. But concern for world missions truly bonded Baptists, he added.

"The cause, of course, which brought American Baptists into larger cooperation and unity was that of foreign missions," he said. "Local autonomy might conceivably be imperiled, but so long as the voluntary principle was operative, a general organization might safely be fashioned."

Of the early Baptists, he noted: "Their unification required no creedal test -- for there was large variety of belief and cultus among them -- but a declared desire to share the gospel with the entire world and actual involvement in that enterprise. The general union ... rested on a basis of mutual trust and the will to cooperate."

-- "The General Missionary Convention of the Baptist Denomination, 1814-1845: An American Metaphor," by William H. Brackney, vice president and dean of Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Philadelphia.

The General Missionary Convention, or Triennial Convention, was a metaphor for American life in that "so much of what happened with Baptists reflects what happened with our country," Brackney said. The Triennial Convention "could not have been founded before it was, and given the sectionalism of antebellum American history, it was destined not to survive 1850," he noted.

For example, he said, prevailing social and political trends made possible the development of a democratic convention; maturity of Baptists along with their nation allowed them to "enjoy public respect as one of the great religious forces"; and a "strong nationalist fervor" encouraged them.

And just as the nation was expanding, Baptists also committed to grow -- through foreign and home missions and education, he said.

However, the plagues of the nation also afflicted Baptists, he added. "Economic over-extension, internal political dissension and deep social antagonisms" fated both the republic and the convention, setting the stage for the Civil War and denominational schism.

-- "Notable Achievements in Missions and Evangelism Since 1845," by B. Gray Allison, president and evangelism professor at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis, Tenn.

Allison tracked the progress of the National (black) Baptist conventions, the American (Northern) Baptist Churches and conservative Baptists. They all have sponsored mission efforts in America and around the globe, he said.

Most of his paper was dedicated to Southern Baptists, he noted, saying: "Most of the achievements have come from Southern Baptists. I'm glad about that, and I'm sad about that."

--more--

The formation of the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget was "the greatest single stride forward in missions," he said. "This meant that convention agencies no longer had to raise their own funds. The churches would cooperate in funding all convention work. Eternity alone will reveal the contributions of this program to Southern Baptist missions."

Among landmarks Allison cited were formation of the Woman's Missionary Union for missions education and support, the Home Mission Board's decision to create an evangelism department, creation of the Bold Mission Thrust global evangelization campaign, the Foreign Mission Board's emphasis on starting churches, creation of Cooperative Services International to minister in countries where missionaries cannot go and the Home Mission Board's emphasis on starting churches and ministering in large cities.

-- "Baptists in Higher Education, 1814-1989," by Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Education Commission.

Baptists began at "levels of society which did not automatically assume that a college education was either available or appropriate," Walker noted. "Early Baptists were hailed as incorrigible dissidents who should be excluded from all structures of society, including the educational institutions."

Although Baptists were branded "anti-intellectual and anti-education," their leaders "recognized the value of education and educational institutions," Walker said. He described how Baptists created academies, colleges and universities, seminaries and manual training institutes, which collectively numbered in the hundreds, even before 1900. Indeed, Southern Baptists have founded 186 colleges and universities, and 55 remain as members of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools.

In recent years, "denominational colleges have faced disturbing forces," he said, citing competition with public universities for private funds, inflation, decreased federal aid and "a lack of denominational consciousness (that) has reduced the sensitivity to the importance of the institutions and the importance of attending them."

Still, Baptists worldwide sponsor 285 schools, he said: "This is a rather significant number of educational institutions sponsored by those who by history have been designated as anti-education. We have ... worked very hard to provide education for those of our concern."

In response to a question, Walker urged Southern Baptists not to give up on their educational institutions, particularly because of their evangelistic value. Noting the average age of students is rising and those students are people who are making career changes and open to new ideas, he said, "We have a significant opportunity for presenting the gospel to people who already are at a point of making decisions about their lives."

--30--

Brotherhood pilots new  
national training approach

By Tim Seanor

N- CO  
(BIC)

Baptist Press  
4/27/89

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--A new training approach for Royal Ambassador counselors, directors and committeemen called RA University has been developed by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

"RA University is the most extensive Royal Ambassador leadership training program we've ever provided," said Karl Bozeman, national director for Lad and Crusader RAs. "This may very well set the pattern for future Royal Ambassador national training programs. By using a college campus setting, we have been able to reduce the cost factor significantly."

More than 300 RA leaders have preregistered for the RA University training conference, promising to make the four day event the largest national training event in RA history, Brotherhood officials said.

"We are pleased with the response that we have already received," said Brotherhood Commission President James Smith. "This is a method of training that helps equip a new generation of adults to better involve men and boys in missions."

--more--

Scheduled for May 25-28 at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tenn., RA University will fill a training gap by providing extended classroom sessions at a centrally located regional training facility, Brotherhood leaders said.

Participants will choose from a variety of courses and instructors and have opportunities to apply new skills in practice laboratories. In addition to RA program study, a worker's forum will discuss successful counseling techniques.

"It's the kind of counselor training that has been needed for a long time," said David Langford, director of North Carolina Baptist Men. "Counselors have been asking for this kind of in-depth training."

--30--

Current trends point to future  
of church ministries to families

By Terri Lackey

N-SSB

Baptist Press  
4/27/89

NASHVILLE (BP)--While planning an effective church ministry with families can be as complex as the families it must reach, a study of trends in family life might make the job easier, a consultant in the field said.

Blended families, single parents, two-income families, couples without children and boomerang families in which grown children return home for economic reasons are all examples of present and future trends, said Ken Jordan, a consultant in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's family ministry department.

Jordan spoke at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Association of Family Ministers held in Nashville April 20-22.

Family ministry leaders must know their audience, and studying trends is one way to understand the needs of families of the '90s, Jordan said: "We must reach them where they are. We have got to know their needs."

One of the major needs facing families today is improved ability to manage their time, he added: "People are approaching life in the fast lane; even fast food isn't fast enough. Time is a far more significant factor than price today."

Related to time, Jordan said, the length of programs churches offer may be a large factor in a family's decision about whether to participate. Four weeks is about the average length of time to which a church member will commit, he said, noting, "We (the family ministry department) might need to take a look at some of the longer courses we offer."

Jordan compared the trend toward "grazing, or frequent snacking for energy" rather than eating a full-course, sit-down meal to attitudes families have toward church programs.

"When it comes to churches and examining the programs we have, 'grazing' becomes a part of that mindset as well," he said.

Another trend emerging among families, Jordan said, is "cocooning," in which families prefer to stay home rather than go out.

"More families are staying in the comfort of their own homes and away from what is perceived as a hostile world," he said, noting the trend explains the popularity of video stores, take-out food and even take-out or television religion.

"We might have to provide these families with some take-out family education," he suggested.

Successful family ministry programs will have to change with the times, he said: "Change is the watchword for the '90s among American families. And if we are going to attract these families to our programs, we are going to have to change with them."

--30--