



BAPTIST PRESS

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89-161

Court to decide if parents
can deduct contributions

By Kathy Palen

N-BJC

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear a case testing whether parents who contributed directly to their missionary sons may deduct that money as a charitable contribution.

Harold and Enid Davis, a Mormon couple from Idaho, provided financial support in 1980 and 1981 for two of their sons who were selected as missionaries by the Mormon Church. When the couple attempted to deduct the money as charitable contributions, the Internal Revenue Service rejected their claim.

A federal district court denied the deductions, holding that a donation should not be considered "for the use of" a church -- as required under federal tax law -- unless the church exercises control amounting to "possession of the contribution."

In the case in question, the court said, the "particular use to which the funds were put was solely within the power of the missionary."

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the district court's ruling. In its opinion, the appeals panel said the federal tax system "does not provide for a deduction by a taxpayer who does not actually render service to the charity or make a contribution directly to the charity."

In appealing to the Supreme Court, the Davises' attorney argued the couple's intent in making their contributions was "to benefit the religious and charitable work of the church."

The Mormon Church routinely asks the family of each of its missionaries to contribute the necessary financing for that missionary, wrote Washington attorney Rex E. Lee. The church also prefers that the donor send the funds directly to the missionary, rather than through the church, he said.

Lee rejected the "actual control" or possession test imposed by the lower courts, saying it contravenes Congress' intent in specifically defining charitable contributions to include gifts "to or for the use of" a charitable organization.

The 9th Circuit decision also conflicts with two other circuit court rulings in cases with almost identical facts, wrote Lee. The 5th and 10th circuits both upheld such deductions.

The Justice Department agreed the Supreme Court should resolve the issue but disagreed that the deductions should be allowed.

"If an organization has no control over certain funds, it cannot 'use' them in the ordinary sense of the word," wrote Solicitor General Kenneth W. Starr. "Similarly, if funds are transferred to an individual under circumstances that will not provide an organization with control over their disposition, the funds would not ordinarily be regarded as having been given 'for the use of' that organization."

Requiring that an organization have control over the funds ensures the gift will be used for charitable purposes, Starr argued. The requirement also is vital to the Internal Revenue Service's ability to perform its oversight responsibility in the charitable contributions area, he said.

The case is expected to be argued next spring. (89-98, Davis v. U.S.)

Everley Hayes in coma
following accident

By Marty Croll

N-FMB

SALISBURY, Md. (BP)--Retired Southern Baptist missionary nurse Everley Hayes remains in a coma following a fall after Sunday morning worship in Salisbury, Md., Oct. 22.

Hayes is known for working in China with her famous missionary colleague, physician Bill Wallace. She identified his body and helped bury it after he died in a Chinese communist prison in 1951. She later was confined by the communists for eight months before leaving China. She went on to work for 30 years as a nurse in Indonesia and retired in 1983.

Hayes, 73, was descending stairs from the Allen Memorial Baptist Church choir loft when she fell, fracturing her skull. That evening a neurosurgeon removed two blood clots from her brain, and she has been unconscious since then in intensive care at a Salisbury hospital, said her sister, Eunice Ruark.

Hayes had shown no sign of response until Nov. 5, when she began moving her eyes at the mention of her name, Ruark said. She is in critical but stable condition and is receiving assistance in breathing. Doctors are making no prognosis, Ruark said.

Hayes, of Salisbury, was appointed a missionary to China in 1947. She joined the staff of the Baptist hospital in Wuchow and worked closely with Wallace as director of nursing. They continued to work in comparative freedom after the communist victory in China in 1949, until Wallace was arrested in late 1950. Wallace is believed to have been executed in the communist prison.

For about eight months under house arrest by the communists, Hayes was not allowed to work. She filled her time by studying the Bible, practicing piano, piecing together a quilt, preparing a series of lectures and reading detective stories. She credits that experience with drawing her closer to God.

After leaving China, Hayes was one of three women missionaries who laid the foundation for Southern Baptist medical missions in Indonesia. Although told by an Indonesian official that "a man must open your medical work," she and her companions remodeled a building, set up equipment and procedures, trained nurses' aides and started a clinic before the first male missionary doctor finished language study and their work "officially" opened. Later she was director of nurses at a second Baptist hospital in Indonesia.

Just weeks before her accident, Hayes and Ruark attended a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board meeting in Richmond, Va., where she talked with a new missionary doctor being appointed to work in Indonesia. The doctor, Ronald White of Little Rock, Ark., will work in a Baptist hospital there. White told Hayes that reading a book about Bill Wallace helped him to a make missions commitment, Ruark said.

"Everley was so excited about meeting a new doctor going to Indonesia, because that was where her love was," Ruark added.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press

2 more die from Seoul fire;
angry parents ask compensation

By Michael Chute

N-FMB

Baptist Press
11/10/89

SEOUL, South Korea (BP)--Two more children have died from injuries suffered in a Baptist kindergarten fire in Seoul, South Korea, bringing to six the number of children killed by the fire that swept through the second floor of Seoul Memorial Baptist Church Oct. 16.

Eight children remain in critical condition in Seoul hospitals. Doctors do not believe their injuries are life-threatening but cannot predict how long the children might be hospitalized. Fifteen other children injured in the fire were treated and released from four area hospitals.

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"There have been arms and legs amputated already," said Southern Baptist missionary Cloyes Starnes of those hospitalized. "There are many badly burned faces and bodies."

Angry parents of fire victims are clamoring for compensation of \$50,000 for each child killed or injured in the fire. If granted, the total compensation figure would exceed \$1.5 million. The church had no insurance.

Demonstrations by parents of victims on the church grounds have forced the congregation to move its services to the playground of a nearby elementary school. On Sundays, the parents gather at the church entrance to prevent members from entering the building.

"It may take a long time for the church to get back in the building," Starnes predicted. The parents have "put up a tent inside the gate with pictures of the dead children and put graffiti around the gate and walls saying the church has murdered children."

Missionary Jack Green said the church is "almost paralyzed and neutralized by this tragedy."

The cause of the fire remains unknown. But in the Oriental tradition of placing blame, school Principal Ohm Hyun Suk is being held in a Seoul prison. Her family members and friends hope her trial will be scheduled within three months, but it could take much longer.

Two other workers at the kindergarten were arrested along with Ohm but were released when she accepted full responsibility for the fire. She is the wife of Han Myung Guk (David Han), pastor of the church and a former president of the Korea Baptist Convention.

Ohm "is one of the most radiant Christians you will find anywhere," said Starnes. "Many people ... love her." Green added that "she reveals the presence of God in this challenge."

Ohm is being held in a cell with nine other people. One of the other inmates is a Christian. "She wants to witness to them while she's there," Starnes said. "She just wants people to pray that she might be a witness" through this ordeal.

To compensate the children's families, the church has raised more than \$150,000. Other donors in South Korea have pledged another \$300,000. The Seoul Baptist Association asked its 300 member churches to assist, and the Seoul International Baptist Church already has donated more than \$2,000 from special offerings.

Also, pastor Han has made plans to sell his apartment and move into a room in the church building. He will use proceeds from the sale to help compensate the families of fire victims.

Seoul Memorial Baptist Church was the first Baptist church built following the Korean War. It was constructed with funds raised by military chaplains as a memorial to Southern Baptist servicemen killed during the war. Organized in 1946, the historic church is the "mother" congregation of the other Baptist churches in Seoul.

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Baptist abortion protesters
facing courts in Atlanta

By Mark Wingfield

AMB
Baptist Press
11/10/89

ATLANTA (BP)--At least 33 Southern Baptists arrested last year in Atlanta's Operation Rescue abortion protests are now working their way through the judicial system -- some being sentenced to jail and most paying fines of \$500 to \$1,000.

Despite the punishment and legal battles, the Southern Baptists involved say they have no regrets about their actions and would risk arrest again to stop abortion. (See related story.)

During the almost-daily protests last year, participants in Operation Rescue blocked entrances to three Atlanta abortion clinics with their bodies. Southern Baptists were among those arrested in the protests, and Maj. Kenneth Burnette, a Southern Baptist deacon, was the police officer rounding them up.

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Southern Baptists are prominent on both sides of the issue again as the battle moves from Atlanta's streets to the state court of Fulton County.

Fulton County Solicitor General James Webb, who is responsible for prosecuting the abortion protesters, is a member of Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta. His chief assistant, Robert Lee O'Brien, who was the state's prosecutor against Operation Rescue leader Randall Terry is a member of First Baptist Church of Mountain Park.

On his desk, Webb has a six-inch stack of correspondence about Operation Rescue he has received from people across the United States -- postcards from elderly women, theological discourses from laymen, handwritten letters from young mothers. One person wrote, "Let My People Go," in large letters at the bottom of the page.

Webb has sorted some of the correspondence into two manila file folders labeled "Correspondence Favorable to Solicitor's Office" and "Correspondence Unfavorable to Solicitor's Office." The two folders are about equal in thickness.

Webb said he is dismayed that people who have never met him assume he is a non-Christian and favors abortion just because he is prosecuting the Operation Rescue cases.

Representatives of Operation Rescue have picketed in front of Webb's and O'Brien's homes. They also picketed at O'Brien's church on a Wednesday night and attempted to talk with the pastor about how O'Brien can profess to be a Christian and still prosecute the cases.

While people around the nation have been sending Webb and O'Brien Scripture references to support their cases, the two prosecutors have been quoting Scripture themselves. On a recent morning Webb brought to the office a commentary on Romans. "We are commanded to obey civil authority," he noted of the 13th chapter.

Of about 1,000 Operation Rescue cases that already have been tried in state court, the solicitor's office has lost only one. About 200 cases still are pending.

In most cases, the solicitor's office has offered defendants a plea bargain where the individual pleads "nolo contendere," pays a \$500 fine and receives a one-year suspended sentence with the stipulation that the person will not go within a certain distance of any Atlanta abortion clinic during that time. By pleading "nolo contendere," which means, "I will not contend," a defendant subjects himself to conviction without admitting any guilt.

Some Southern Baptists have accepted the plea bargain, while others have not. James Wood, pastor of Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Atlanta and a trustee of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, pleaded "nolo contendere" to charges of unlawful assembly and blocking a public way.

"I felt like what I did was not illegal," he said. "But it became abundantly clear it was not going to be possible to get a fair trial."

As with Wood, most of the Southern Baptists being tried are angry at the judicial system because they have been prohibited from using what they call the "justification" or "necessity" defenses at their trials.

Put simply, the necessity defense argues it was necessary for the person to commit an unlawful act to prevent another unlawful act. The justification defense says the person is justified in his actions because of the commands of a higher authority than the written law.

O'Brien, whose has fought to keep the necessity and justification defenses out of the trials, said the problem is that most abortions are legal acts in Georgia. Therefore, the protester's unlawful act is not being committed to prevent another unlawful act.

"If they were able to prove that an unlawful act was being performed at the time, they might have a shot at using that defense," he explained. "But the state has said abortion is lawful under certain circumstances."

"The sad thing about the justice system here in Atlanta is that not one rescuer could bring up the issue of abortion or the fact of a higher law," said Pidge Haynes, a member of Christ Community (Baptist) Church in Clarkston, Ga., who was arrested at two different protests. "That basically takes away our entire defense."

"We were not allowed to defend ourselves," said Frances Harper, a member of Prince Avenue Baptist Church in Athens, Ga., whose two-year probated sentence prohibits her from going within 200 feet of any abortion clinic in the state. "Our defense was that we were there to place ourselves between the child and its killer."

"What they're saying is that abortion is relevant to my punishment but not to my defense."

Becky Fern, a member of First Baptist Church in Atlanta who has been banned from going within 200 feet of any Atlanta abortion clinic for two years, was not pleased with that condition either. "They don't tell someone who robbed a bank that they cannot go within 200 feet of any bank," she said.

But O'Brien said such restraints have precedent citing instances where thieves have been ordered not to go near stores where they were caught stealing and cases of people who were banished from entering certain counties.

Additionally, the Southern Baptists on trial said their penalties are out of line with what defendants in cases not related to abortion receive. Several cited an incident in September when 20 disabled protestors pleaded guilty to blocking entrances to Atlanta's Greyhound bus station. Those protestors, charged with similar crimes as the Operation Rescue participants, received \$75 fines that were suspended.

"It seems like the justice system shows which things they are in favor of protesting against and which ones they are not," said David Lively, pastor of Northbrook Baptist Church in Lawrenceville, Ga., who received a \$500 fine and two-year suspended sentence.

O'Brien explained the two situations were different because the City of Atlanta charged Operation Rescue protesters with state offenses and only charged the disabled protesters with breaking city ordinances. Also, owners of the Greyhound bus station did not push for additional charges, as owners of the abortion clinics did, he said.

Webb said the prolonged attempt by Operation Rescue to disrupt the judicial system also is a factor in the stiff prosecution. "We have to do whatever is necessary to stop certain things," he explained.

However, the tough sentencing only adds fuel to the fire of the abortion protesters' cause. "I feel stronger than ever now that this is important," said Elizabeth Hall, a member of Christ Community Church. "They wouldn't be doing such tough sentencing and trying to squelch this so much if it wasn't working."

Hall, the mother of a nursing 4-month-old, has been sentenced to 30 days in jail but is out on bond pending appeal. She was convicted after rejecting the plea bargain offered by the solicitor and taking her case to a jury trial.

But Southern Baptists on the other side of the issue remain firm in their stand also. "We're not a group of prosecutors trying to put everyone in jail," Webb said. "We're trying to do the job we were elected to do."

"This has been hard to deal with. There's no way I can come out being liked by 100 percent of the people."

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After a year of trials,
abortion protesters have no regrets

By Mark Wingfield

F. HMB

Baptist Press
11/10/89

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptists who were arrested in last year's Operation Rescue abortion protests come from different walks of life, but all still agree that what they did was right.

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At least 33 Southern Baptists were among more than 1,200 people arrested in the summer and fall of 1988 for blocking entrances to three Atlanta abortion clinics in almost-daily protests. Those arrested are now making their way through the judicial system -- most receiving suspended sentences with fines of \$500 to \$1,000 and some receiving jail sentences.

James Wood, pastor of Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Atlanta and a trustee of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, said he remains convinced God told him to participate in Operation Rescue: "It was useful in saving the lives of children. That is a very small price to save a human life."

Wood, who accepted a plea bargain to receive a \$500 fine and one-year suspended sentence, said the trauma he has been through in the past year is "minor compared to what unborn children go through every day in this country."

"This is also very minor compared to what we face in the future if the church of Jesus Christ does not wake up and repent of the apathy and the selfishness that has caused us to allow this horrible wickedness in our land," he said.

That sentiment was echoed by Clint Day, a member of North Lanier Baptist Mission in Atlanta and franchisee of several fast-food restaurants in the state. Day, who was arrested Aug. 27, 1988, and spent two days in jail before being released on bond, still has not been notified of his court date.

"This is a cakewalk compared to what's going to happen if Christians don't wake up," he said.

"I would do it again," said Diane Lewis, a single mother and church secretary at Christ Community (Baptist) Church in Clarkston, Ga., "but not right away, because I'm still paying off \$1,000 in fines.

"I know that one baby was saved while we were singing in front of the clinic that day. It was well worth the thousand dollars to save one child's life."

Sandy Hinton, a homemaker and member of Briarlake Baptist Church in Atlanta, said she has no regrets about her participation in Operation Rescue despite the two-year probated sentence she received and the \$500 fine she still is paying in monthly installments.

"I don't feel the national attention could have been garnered as it was without Operation Rescue," she said. "Look at all that's happened in the past year. Look at what's happened in the Supreme Court. There's a possibility that Roe v. Wade may be overturned.

"I don't believe the justices are deaf. Look at the turnaround they've made."

Becky Fern, whose case has not yet been decided, said the abortion protests were "probably the peak of my spiritual life." Her husband, David, an Atlanta surgeon, received a two-year probated sentence for his participation and has to get permission any time he leaves the state. The Ferns are members of First Baptist Church in Atlanta.

After participating in the Operation Rescue protests, some Southern Baptists have found ministries related to abortion.

Don Villnow, a member of Eastside Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., who works for Lockheed Aeronautical Systems, now volunteers at a local crisis pregnancy center.

Pidge Haynes, a homemaker and member of Christ Community Church, has worked closely with three women who decided not to abort their babies as a result of the protests. One of the women lived with the Haynes family for a time.

Dwain Mercer, pastor of Briarwood Baptist Church in Norcross, Ga., said the month after he was arrested was "the best month of ministry I ever had in my life."

"The first five days after I got out of jail I led seven adults to the Lord. That was just a confirmation in my own heart that what I did was right."

Texas Baptists elect Lineberger,
adopt budget and mission goals

By Ken Camp

N- Texas

LUBBOCK (BP)--Texas Baptists elected Phil Lineberger of Richardson as president, approved a \$68.75 million challenge budget and adopted a five-year, long-range state missions plan at their annual convention.

More than 5,000 elected messengers attended the 104th annual meeting of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Nov. 7-8 in Lubbock.

Lineberger, pastor of Richardson Heights Baptist Church, was elected on a first ballot, defeating John Morgan, pastor of Sagemont Baptist Church, Houston, and H. Bailey Stone, pastor of First Baptist Church, Odessa.

Winfred Moore, pastor of First Baptist Church, Amarillo, nominated Lineberger, citing his church's record on evangelism and missions. He noted the 4,000-member Richardson congregation gave more than \$550,000 to missions causes last year.

Ed Rogers, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dumas, was elected first vice president. He defeated Gary Don Miller, pastor of First Baptist Church, Borger, and Dennis Hochgraber, pastor of Parkside Baptist Church, Denison.

William Ray Parmer Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church, Valley Mills, was elected second vice president. Other nominees were Greg Wallace, pastor of First Baptist Church, Atascocita, and Richard Barret, a deacon at First Baptist Church, Denton.

At a news conference following his election, Lineberger affirmed the course set by previous leaders while encouraging Texas Baptists to "loosen up, lighten up and stop being so serious about each other."

Shunning labels that have characterized the 10-year controversy within the Southern Baptist Convention, Lineberger said, "I dislike labels. They cause us to dismiss people too quickly."

Underscoring support for Texas Baptist leadership and institutions, Lineberger said, "Our Texas Baptist work has been so strong, it would be difficult for anyone to attack Texas Baptists in the area of leadership. A glaring weakness would be hard to find."

Messengers approved a \$63.5 million basic Cooperative Program unified budget and a challenge goal of \$5.25 million for 1990. The basic budget recommendation was the same as in 1989, while the challenge portion represents an increase of \$250,000.

Worldwide Southern Baptist mission causes will receive \$23,270,210 (36.65 percent) of the basic budget. Those funds will help support more than 7,500 missionaries in about 110 nations, six seminaries, the Radio and Television Commission and other missions endeavors.

The remainder will be used in Texas to support 23 Texas Baptist educational and benevolent institutions and a variety of state missions causes.

Convention messengers also adopted a long-range plan for 1990-1995, "Mission Texas: Reach, Grow, Serve," an emphasis on reaching people, developing believers, strengthening missions and ministering to persons.

Goals of the plan include: increasing Sunday school enrollment to 1.75 million and average attendance to 750,000 in the next five years; starting 1,500 new churches and missions by September 1995; and involving 2,000 churches in new ministries to persons with critical needs.

In the annual convention sermon, B O Baker, an international evangelist and longtime pastor of Plymouth Park Baptist Church, Irving, challenged Texas Baptists to follow Jesus' example of humble servanthood.

"We are entering the era of the '90s desperately separated, significantly wounded and bleeding from the blows of our brother's sword," Baker said.

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"We dare not continue to barter the influence of Southern Baptists upon the game table of denominational politics. It is imperative that we close ranks, sound the certain sound and move out upon the common agenda of missions and world evangelism."

In other business, the Texas Baptist convention approved resolutions opposing a state lottery, affirming small membership churches, calling for prayer, urging support for cooperative missions and evangelism, and underscoring the need for integrity in church finance.

The 1990 BGCT is scheduled for Nov. 13-14 in Houston.

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Colorado Baptists
now 'less in debt'

By Dan Martin

N- (C)

Baptist Press
11/10/89

DENVER (BP)--Colorado Baptists will end 1989 about \$1 million less in debt than when the year began, Executive Director Charles Sharp told participants at the 34th annual meeting of the Colorado Baptist General Convention.

But, Sharp added, the convention remains about \$1.4 million in debt and budgeting will continue to be tight.

Sharp painted an improved financial picture for the 315 messengers who attended the Oct. 31-Nov. 2 annual meeting in Riverside Baptist Church in Denver.

The convention has experienced financial difficulties for several years, brought on in part by a declining economy in Colorado and in part by poor over-the-counter investments by the Colorado Baptist Foundation and Church Loan Corp.

In the 1988 annual meeting, messengers trimmed the budget to bare bones, cut five staff positions and made the Woman's Missionary Union into a self-supporting auxiliary in an effort to pay off indebtedness and stabilize convention finances.

Sharp told messengers to the Denver session part of the debt was paid when property owned by the foundation was sold and the \$940,000 proceeds were used to pay bank loans which had been entered into to pay off bond issues. Negotiations for the sale of the land and high-rise apartment building have been ongoing for about a year, he added.

Messengers adopted without discussion a \$2,391,109 budget, up slightly from the \$2,355,081 current budget. Of the budget, \$1,140,325 will come from the 245 congregations affiliated with the convention. The remainder will come from other sources, including the state mission offering, interest and contributions from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Sharp noted convention bylaws dictate that the budget must be based on receipts from the churches in the last six months of the previous year and the first six months of the current year.

"So far, the receipts have exceeded the budget requirements. Our giving has been pretty well on target," he said.

The budget also increases the amount Colorado Baptists will send to support the worldwide missionary, educational and evangelistic activities of the Southern Baptist Convention. The 1990 budget calls for sending \$319,291 to support SBC causes, 28 percent of the receipts.

Last year, in an effort to balance the budget, the amount sent to SBC causes was cut to 25 percent, down from 29.5 percent in 1987.

Sharp also reported the convention now is able to set up a contingency reserve fund, partly paid for out of receipts from the sale of the land and high-rise apartment. The budget calls for establishing a \$30,000 reserve fund.

During the annual meeting, Sidney Portis, executive director-treasurer of the Woman's Missionary Union, reported on the first months of operation of the organization as a self-supporting auxiliary.

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She noted the last two months she was director of the WMU department of the state convention and her first 10 months as executive director-treasurer of the new WMU auxiliary "have been the most difficult, hard, exciting, tiring, trying, different, frustrating, encouraging, learning, leaning, praying, trusting months of my ministry. I could add a lot of other adjectives but these give you the idea."

The auxiliary operated on a 1989 budget of \$57,160. Only 38 of the churches affiliated with the CBGC contributed to the work, giving \$8,635. Individuals gave another \$6,203, she said.

Much of the funding came from other state WMU organizations, SBC agencies and the Southern Baptist WMU. She said 57 percent of the funding for the work of the auxiliary "came from agency sources, most of which will not be available in 1990."

The 1990 budget for the Colorado WMU is \$71,152, said Portis, appealing to messengers to consider including the organization as part of the state convention staff again.

"I pray that you will vote once again to support the WMU at the state level," she said.

Messengers elected Lewis Atkinson president by acclamation. Atkinson, pastor of Circle Drive Baptist Church of Colorado Springs, had been first vice president, but succeeded to the presidency when Roy Spannagel of Pueblo left the state.

In his presidential address, Atkinson recalled his 32 years in ministry in Colorado and encouraged pastors and laypeople to dream big dreams about evangelism and missions.

"Not everybody is going to get excited over your dreams," he said. "Sometimes they will call you all kinds of names if you dare to dream big dreams.

"I believe in our state we should dream again. We need to dream and to keep on dreaming. We need to dream about our Colorado convention being an encourager to our churches, about it being a channel of missions support. We need to dream again; we need to keep on dreaming."

Also elected were Clyde Thompson, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Trinidad, first vice president; and John Robbins, pastor of Bookcliff Baptist Church, Grand Junction, second vice president.

Messengers also averted an issue which caused controversy at the 1988 annual meeting, seating of churches whose support of the unified giving plan is marginal.

In the 1988 meeting, messengers from three churches -- First Southern, Rifle; Calvary, Brighton; and South Wadsworth, Denver -- had been challenged "due to their lack of support in giving to the Cooperative Program." Messengers from all three churches were seated.

In 1989, Steve Hoekstra, pastor of Vail Baptist Church, Vail, and chairman of the credentials committee, said the group had met and discussed whether their responsibilities included monitoring the giving of churches who currently are members of the state convention, or whether they were to deal only with churches requesting affiliation.

The discussion, he said, called into question whether the credentials committee had authority to recommend action against churches whose support of the unified giving plan is marginal.

Instructions from the convention "were unclear," he said, "and until the convention gives clear and unquestioned instructions, the credentials committee will deal only with churches seeking affiliation with the convention."

Messengers also turned back a recommendation by the constitution committee which would have set more specific requirements for representation at the annual meeting.

Currently, article three of the constitution says the convention "shall be composed of churches who are in sympathy with the purpose of this convention and who regularly contribute to and participate in the support of the work of this convention."

The amendment would have substituted the requirement that to be represented churches would have to contribute "at least \$5 per resident member to the state convention Cooperative Program budget the fiscal year preceding the annual session."

Robbins opposed the change, noting Bookcliff Baptist Church had gone thorough financial difficulties, but "never stopped giving to the Cooperative Program. But we could not have sent messengers to the convention under this (change)."

Only one messenger, David Miller, pastor of Crown Peak Baptist Church in Parachute, supported the change, urging messengers to "adopt it and try it out. I back it as one means of measuring participation in the convention." The amendment was rejected with a scattering of favoring votes.

Messengers adopted a resolution expressing thanks and pledging continued support for Sharp and others of the state convention staff.

The 1990 annual meeting will be Oct. 30-Nov. 1 in the Red Lion Inn in Durango.

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New York Baptists
observe anniversary

By Quentin Lockwood Jr.

N- (O)
(N.Y.)

Baptist Press
11/10/89

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (BP)--The Baptist Convention of New York celebrated its 20th anniversary with a Founders Rally and Prayer Meeting prior to its annual meeting Nov. 2-3.

During the convention sessions in Syracuse, founders and participants in Southern Baptist work in the Northeast recounted the early days leading up to formation of the convention.

During each session, a particular aspect of the convention development was highlighted by testimonies from laypeople and pastors. The three former executive directors were honored: Paul James, Jack Lowndes and Roy Gresham who served as interim. Each spoke of their experiences in the Baptist Convention of New York. Music leader was Buryl Red, the first paid Southern Baptist church musician leader in the Northeast. Special guests included Ken Lyle, executive director of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware and the first president of the BCNY; and R.Z. Boroughs, the first Southern Baptist pastor in the Northeast.

The Baptist Convention of New York constituted with 70 churches in 1969 and has grown to 206 churches in 1989. In the 1988-89 church year, 12 new congregations were constituted. The total number of churches and church-type missions is 341 with a membership estimated to be more than 25,000.

Roger Knapton was elected for a second term as president. He is pastor of Lincoln Avenue Baptist Church in Endicott, where he has been for 27 years. Alwyn Dennis, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Jamaica, was elected first vice president. Larry Pridmore, pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Whitehall, was elected second vice president.

The convention adopted a budget of \$2,458,402 for 1990 with 24 percent, or \$592,725 exepcted from the churches, an increase of 7 percent over anticipated 1989 receipts. Additional funds come from: Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, \$1,753,621 (71 percent); Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, \$81,004 (3 percent); and other income from special gifts and investments, \$31,152 (1 percent). The convention also increased the percentage it sends to support the worldwide ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program by 0.25 percent to 25.25 percent for 1990.

The adopted budget included a 2 percent increase for field staff and support staff but no increase for convention administrative staff. A motion was adopted that any undesignated receipts about budget would be applied to giving all staff a 4 percent salary increase.

Messengers adopted motions to have the annual convention sessions interpreted for the deaf and for the Baptist Book Store to have time on the program of major convention events for promotion.

Also, the convention authorized Executive Director Quinn Pugh to recommend a Day of Prayer and Fasting for the "Here's Hope" sumultaneous revivals scheduled for the spring of 1990.

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After some discussion, the convention also adopted a motion instructing the Executive Board to study the inclusion of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs as a line item in the 1991 budget.

The 1990 annual session will be on Long Island, Nov. 8-9.

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Edwards named president
of William Carey College

N- (O)

Baptist Press
11/10/89

HATTIESBURG, Miss. (BP)--James W. Edwards, who has been interim president of William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Miss., since June, was elected Nov. 2 as president of the institution with a three-year contract.

Edwards, 51, succeeds J. Ralph Noonkester, who retired after 33 years as president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention-related school.

Before assuming the interim presidency, Edwards, a native of Bowling Green, Ky., was president of Edwards and Associates in Nashville, a firm specializing in educational and financial consulting.

Previously, he was academic vice president of Union University in Jackson, Tenn., and Dallas Baptist University. He also was senior vice president/finance and chief operating officer of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

Edwards, a certified public accountant with an earned Ph.D. degree in business and economic from Michigan State University, was hired in June as interim president following a month as temporary financial administrator. He had been hired as a consultant by the Mississippi Baptist Education Commission to aid in an investigation of Carey's finances and administration.

Noonkester's final year as president of the four-year liberal arts college was marked by controversy, during which he had been accused by some trustees of fiscal and administrative mismanagement.

Accusations centered around budget problems, including spending of endowment money and a deficit approaching \$1 million. In the fall of 1988, Noonkester's accusers forced his retirement, but reversed the action in the next meeting.

Edwards said when he was appointed interim president "the major goal I set at that time was achieving institutional stability and unity within the various constituent groups. An enormous amount of my time and energy has been focused on the priority of financial stability."

After he was elected president, Edwards said he planned an announcement soon concerning achievement of that financial stability. Reports were that a multi-bank loan was about to be signed which would give the school \$4.1 million toward paying off the \$1 million deficit and reorganizing the nearly \$6 million indebtedness.

Edwards, in addition to holding a doctorate from Michigan State, is a graduate of Western Kentucky University and Indiana University. He and his wife, Imogene, have three children.

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Illinois Baptists cut percentage
of Cooperative Program going to SBC

N- (O)
(Ill.)

Baptist Press
11/10/89

ST. CHARLES, Ill. (BP)--Messengers to the 83rd annual meeting of the Illinois Baptist State Association approved a list of financial proposals, including one that lowers the percentage of Cooperative Program unified budget gifts being sent to the Southern Baptist Convention.

IBSA's \$6,327,054 budget for 1990 calls for 59.75 percent of undesignated Cooperative Program receipts to be used for ministries in Illinois. The remaining 40.25 percent will be sent to the SBC for national and worldwide ministries.

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The 1989 ratio was 56.4 percent for IBSA and 43.6 percent for the SBC, but \$360,000 in "preferred items" were exempted from the ratio. The '90 budget has no such items. Illinois Baptists are expected to give \$4,662,218 toward the budget; most of the balance of the budget will come from the SBC Home Mission Board. All undesignated receipts in excess of that goal will be sent to the SBC.

Messengers also voted to convert the state newspaper, the Illinois Baptist, to circulation by paid subscriptions. The paper, now funded through the Cooperative Program, will change to paid subscriptions April 1, 1990.

The salary scale for the IBSA staff was raised 5 percent, allowing staff members to receive merit raises of up to 5 percent in 1990.

Messengers also considered a resolution titled "Divisive Issues." After one amendment to the resolution was defeated, a motion to refer it back to the Resolutions and Christian Life Committee was approved. Since that vote occurred in the final business session, the resolution was not reconsidered and thus was rejected.

The resolution called for messengers to "reaffirm our historic commitment to cooperation and Christian unity." Bob Pearle, pastor of First Baptist Church of Clarendon Hills, moved that the resolution be sent back to committee. "This resolution falsely assumes Christian love and diverse opinions are incompatible," Pearle said. It "implies that we should be silent on moral issues such as abortion because it may be divisive. And if we as Bible-believing Christians do not stand against the evils of abortion, who will?"

Resolutions Committee chairman John C. Taylor responded, "I don't think any of you could be against abortion any more than I am." But, he said, there are "honorable, good" Baptists "who don't take the anti-abortion position."

Ten other resolutions were approved. One offered support for the Cooperative Program. It urged churches "to plan to annually increase their percentage giving through the Cooperative Program" and "to regularly and systematically educate and inform their members concerning the Cooperative Program."

Other resolutions dealt with church-staff relations, the environment, the state lottery and riverboat gambling.

Messengers re-elected President Charles West, pastor of First Baptist Church in Bethalto, and Vice President Rodney Osborn, layperson from Woodland Baptist Church in Peoria. Marti Bingham, layperson from First Baptist Church of Vandalia, was elected recording secretary; and Dennis Blankenship, pastor of Lincoln Southern Baptist Church, was chosen as assistant recording secretary.

The 1990 annual meeting will be held Nov. 6-8 at the Continental Regency Hotel in Peoria.

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Land urges protest regarding
homosexuality on ABC program

By Louis Moore

N- (O)
(CLL)

Baptist Press
11/10/89

NASHVILLE (BP)--The executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission has called upon Southern Baptists to join him in protesting to ABC-TV for "breaking one of the few remaining barriers to decency on prime-time television."

Tuesday, Nov. 7, the ABC prime-time show "thirtysomething" portrayed two male homosexuals in bed.

CLC Executive Director Richard D. Land wrote ABC Chairman Thomas Murphy and sponsors of the program to express outrage at what he termed the intentional and vivid portrayal of homosexuality in the show.

"Southern Baptists have long been concerned about the declining quality of television programming," he said. "We have also been alarmed by the increasingly sympathetic portrayal of homosexual behavior in various forms of the media.

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"I am aware that some critics of homosexuality evidence a hysteria that may be accurately called homophobia. But it would be a serious mistake on your part to dismiss many others who compassionately yet firmly regard homosexuality to be a destructive, non-biblical and tragic lifestyle choice. I consider myself and most Southern Baptists to be among those with these compassionate but strong convictions.

"Television should not use its power to model vividly for the families and children of America this debased lifestyle.

"Will you be kind enough to respond and to outline for me what your network's guidelines are regarding the portrayal of sexual matters, of which homosexuality is but one part? I want to share this information with 15 million constituents whom I serve and who are potential viewers, and non-viewers, of your network's programming."

ABC spokesman Eddie Centron said that about 200 callers had complained about the program, while "about 500 calls from the gay community have expressed appreciation for portraying homosexuality in a natural and normal manner."

Another spokesman confirmed that ABC confers regularly with the Gay Media Task Force on shows dealing with homosexuality.

"It would be unthinkable that Christians would allow more calls of support to be registered than expressions of opposition," Land said. "Calls of opposition should be made to ABC at (212) 421-9595 or (212) 456-7777."

Land encouraged Southern Baptists to write Murphy at 77 West 66th St., New York, NY 10023.

The letters of protest were written three months after Land had joined with other Christian leaders calling for a boycott of Mennen and Clorox products. The interdenominational group, CLear-TV, had identified Mennen and Clorox as being the leading sponsors of programming with a high content of sex, violence, profanity and anti-Christian stereotyping.