



BAPTIST PRESS

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McCarty takes part
in victory celebration

By Marv Knox

*N-CO
190 Conv.*

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Appearances were deceptive when Barry McCarty climbed up on a chair and called to order a victory celebration of Southern Baptist Convention conservatives, the SBC parliamentarian said.

"Order, order. I call this group to order," McCarty shouted above the noise in New Orleans' Cafe du Monde June 13, at the end of the second day of the SBC annual meeting. "After all, I am the parliamentarian."

Afterward, other Southern Baptists who witnessed the event expressed outrage that the convention's paid parliamentarian would participate in what appeared to be a partisan political function. McCarty told the Western Recorder newsjournal of the Kentucky Baptist Convention his participation was merely coincidental.

"I am under 24-hour-a-day call to the (SBC) president," said McCarty, a Church of Christ minister and president of Cincinnati Bible College. "I accompany him wherever he goes."

Of his participation in the conservatives' victory celebration, McCarty explained: "I was just passing by, waiting on an order of donuts. A gentlemen, whom I don't know, asked me to get their attention. He said he had a presentation to make."

The presentation was the gift of framed certificates of appreciation to Houston judge Paul Pressler and Dallas educator Paige Patterson, who met years ago in that French Quarter cafe and planned the strategy to control the SBC. During the New Orleans meeting, their forces won the SBC presidency for the 12th straight year.

"I was not an invited guest," McCarty noted. "I was with the president (Jerry Vines), who was an invited guest."

"I had no official part in what was going on. The president gets parliamentary questions and has to do business, so I travel with him throughout the day."

Some Southern Baptists expressed their displeasure with McCarty and the conservatives, even during the celebration. "Shame, shame, shame," they shouted, before being drowned out by conservatives, who sang a verse of "Victory in Jesus."

At least one observer confronted McCarty and Pressler in the cafe with his interpretation of the events there.

"I said, 'You know what took place here, and it was inappropriate,'" reported Jay Robison, a messenger from Penile Baptist Church in Valley Station, Ky. "McCarty's participation in such a celebration in a public restaurant was a breach of Christian ethics and integrity. The jubilant gloating by the participants was embarrassing, especially in front of non-Christians."

Robison's frustration continued the following day. He made at least four attempts to report the incident to fellow SBC messengers, seeking a point of personal privilege, but was not recognized twice and had his microphone cut off twice.

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McCarty told the Recorder he does not believe he is partisan. "At the convention, I crossed back and forth over the lines of skirmish," he said. "I can be seen with everyone from Roy Honeycutt to Adrian Rogers." Honeycutt is president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville; Rogers is a former conservative SBC president.

McCarty has been the SBC parliamentarian since 1986. Last year, he was paid about \$14,500 for his services. Recently, he was hired by the executive committee of Southern Seminary's trustees. "I am looking forward to working with their trustees.

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(Marv Knox, former feature editor of Baptist Press, is editor of The Western Recorder, newsjournal of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.)

Sunday School Board workers
reject unionization attempt

N-55B

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NASHVILLE (BP)--Employees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board rejected representation by the Graphic Communications International Union (GCIU) June 20 by a four-to-one vote of 143 to 36.

The GCIU attempted to organize approximately 200 shipping and receiving, order filling, postal and maintenance workers at the board as part of an effort this year to organize several Middle Tennessee printing and publishing companies.

The election was the first such attempt at the board since 1959 when the Teamsters petitioned to organize some employees. At that time the National Labor Relations Board dismissed the petition, ruling there was insufficient interest among employees.

In a letter to employees following the vote, Board President Lloyd Elder called the union rejection "a vote of confidence in the board" and urged employees to continue to "build on our 100-year heritage so that the days ahead will truly be our greatest times of productivity and service."

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Messianic Jews form
fellowship within SBC

By Mark Wingfield

N-60
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NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Messianic Jews within the Southern Baptist Convention have formed a new fellowship.

During the denomination's annual meeting in New Orleans, about 30 messengers formed the Southern Baptist Messianic Fellowship. That brings to 22 the number of ethnic fellowships relating to the SBC.

Ethnic fellowships are independent, autonomous groups that relate to the denomination primarily through the Home Mission Board's language church extension division. The Messianic Fellowship also will relate to the HMB's interfaith witness department.

The fellowship's president is Jim Hendricks, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Princeton, W.Va. Currently Hendricks knows of fewer than 10 Messianic congregations within the SBC; most are small, struggling congregations with 20-30 members.

Those who have been interested in Messianic work have been frustrated by lack of support in the past, he said. "We felt like nobody was interested."

However, formation of the fellowship and support from the HMB will foster opportunities to strengthen existing congregations and start new ones, he said.

"We're making definite plans for training and for establishing new works," Hendricks said. "If we could see even 10 or 20 new works in the next 10 years, it would be wonderful."

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The fellowship has set a goal of having 1,000 Messianic Jews within the SBC by the denomination's June 1991 annual meeting in Atlanta.

Hendricks said the Southern Baptist Convention is the first denomination to reach out to Jews in any organized fashion. The SBC is the most ethnically diverse denomination in America with congregations worshipping each week in 101 languages among 97 ethnic groups and 97 American Indian tribes.

Even with this diversity, the denomination has not previously made organized attempts to minister to Jews, Hendricks said. Most evangelistic outreach to Jews in the United States has been done through para-church organizations.

"If you had 5,000 Vietnamese in a city, you would target that and try to start a congregation. But if you have 200,000 Jewish people in a city, no one would give any thought to it," Hendricks said.

"It has been ignored. We haven't been doing that much."

"This is a great day for us," said Jerry Young, vice president of the fellowship and pastor of the Houston Messianic Congregation. "We've been trying to minister to Jews for years, but we keep losing our people because they can't get support" within the SBC.

Leaders of the new fellowship are "legitimate, longtime Southern Baptists," Hendricks added. "We don't want to have to leave the convention to do this."

Other officers of the fellowship are secretary, Peggy Young of Houston Messianic Congregation; financial secretary, John Worley, mission pastor from First Baptist Church of Dallas; editor, Marcy Shaw of Norwalk Baptist Fellowship in Norwalk, Calif.

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Record number pledge to
support foreign missions

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6/21/90

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'90 Conv*

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--A record 1,882 people committed themselves to foreign missions support or participation during the Foreign Mission Board's report to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 13 in New Orleans.

By signing decision cards, 1,430 people pledged to support missions and 452 committed to some type of mission work overseas. That total included 115 people interested in career missionary service and more than 300 interested in volunteer missions.

Total pledges are expected to top 1,900 when additional mailed-in decision cards arrive at the board's Richmond, Va., headquarters.

The number of people indicating interest in becoming career missionaries fell below the total in 1988, when 166 people pledged to consider a career in missions. But mission officials said this year's record overall missions commitment is encouraging.

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Court rejects
religion cases

By Kathy Palen

Baptist Press
6/21/90

N-90 C

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Supreme Court recently rejected appeals in three religion-related cases.

In Eanes v. Maryland, the high court refused to review a dispute over whether a Maryland law prohibiting "loud and unseemly noises" could be used to stop an individual from preaching in front of an abortion clinic.

Jerry Wayne Eanes, a Maryland resident, was found guilty of violating the state law after he preached, read the Bible and handed out religious tracts on a sidewalk near an abortion clinic in downtown Hagerstown, Md.

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The Maryland Court of Appeals upheld Eanes' conviction.

In North Valley Baptist Church v. McMahon, the justices refused to hear a case involving state licensing of church day-care centers.

The California congregation challenged the constitutionality of that state's day-care licensing mechanism. Although conceding California has a compelling interest in regulating child-care providers, the church argued licensure is not the least restrictive means of accomplishing that interest.

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals held the burden placed on the church by California's licensing mechanism was justifiable because no other proposal would provide as high a level of accountability to the state.

In Kirkland v. Northside Independent School District, the Supreme Court turned down an appeal by a public school teacher who claimed he was fired unjustly.

Timothy Kirkland, who taught history, said the Texas school district's decision to dismiss him was influenced in part by a group of religiously fundamentalist parents who objected to the extra-credit reading list he assigned his classes.

The 5th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Kirkland's dismissal did not violate his First Amendment rights and the school district was not obligated to pay him back wages or reinstate him as a teacher.

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Baptist sees public service as ministry

By Ken Camp

N-10

Baptist Press
6/21/90

DALLAS (BP)--John Shelton of Dallas sees his three terms with the Texas Silver Haired Legislature as more than public service. It is his ministry.

In 1986, Shelton retired after a long career as an Oklahoma Baptist pastor and more than six years as minister of missions and senior adult minister at Cliff Temple Baptist Church in Dallas. At that point, several friends urged Shelton to file as a candidate for the Texas Silver Haired Legislature.

"I wanted to make a contribution and to branch out into a new area of ministry to senior adults," Shelton said.

The Silver Haired Legislature -- a 116-member, all-volunteer organization -- was created by Texas lawmakers in 1984 as a means for senior citizens to educate themselves about the legislative process. Since then, it has emerged as a powerful lobbying group for the rights of older citizen.

Twenty-three states now have their own versions of the Silver Haired Legislature, and a National Silver Haired Legislature met for the first time earlier this year in Washington.

"Our purpose is to identify priority issues that effect the lives of senior citizens, and then make recommendations to the Texas Legislature so that they enact into law or implement the changes in law that we recommend," Shelton said.

Any citizen age 60 or older by Jan. 1 of an even-numbered year may declare his candidacy by presenting to the Texas Department on Aging a \$5 filing fee and signatures of 25 senior adult supporters in his district.

Then on a prescribed election day in May, voters 60 years and older are eligible to cast their ballots at designated polling places within their districts.

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The Silver Haired Legislature meets at the Capitol for about one week in the autumn of even-numbered years to develop a list of issues they plan to promote during the regular session of the Texas Legislature the following year.

With the support of many senior adults from Cliff Temple and other nearby churches, Shelton was elected to his first term with the Silver Haired Legislature in 1986. He was re-elected in 1988 and again this May.

During his first term, Shelton served as co-chaplain of the Silver Haired Legislature, along with former Texas Baptist pastor Joe Weldon Bailey of Milano, Texas. Shelton also offered the invocation during the opening session of his second term.

Shelton said contributions of the Silver Haired Legislature include pushing Texas lawmakers to enact nursing home reform laws, preserve the Homestead Exemption Act and raise the cap on monthly income limits for senior adults seeking to qualify for Medicaid benefits.

During his first two terms with the Silver Haired Legislature, Shelton served on the organization's Ways and Means Committee. Weston Ware, citizenship associate with the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission, notes that Shelton and Bailey were influential in squelching in committee any endorsement of a state lottery.

"I'd like to see something positive come out of this session of the Silver Haired Legislature in terms of registering opposition to the lottery. But up until now, I've had to be on the defensive. I'll just have to wait and get the feel of this session to see what we can do this time," Shelton said.

This session, Shelton also would like to see the Silver Haired Legislature "break new ground" by looking at issues of general concern, such as the abortion question.

"I'd like for us to give an overall examination of that issue, to awaken and quicken conscience and register deep concern about it," he said.

Shelton also hopes that the Silver Haired Legislature can make an impact on legislation concerning crime.

"We need better security for our senior citizens. We want to give the neighborhoods and streets back to our older citizens, where they'll once again feel safe going shopping or making social visits," he said.

"We need to do all we can to work for the security, safety and welfare of senior citizens."

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Townsend elected
to HMB post

N-HMB

Baptist Press
6/21/90

ATLANTA (BP)--Hugh Townsend has been elected assistant director of metropolitan missions for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Townsend, who has been director of missions for Howard Baptist Association in Columbia, Md., was elected by the HMB's executive committee. He will assume the new post July 1.

In his new role, Townsend will be a consultant to associations and state conventions in the eastern United States as they develop Mega Focus Cities strategies. Mega Focus Cities is an interagency planning process for associations in metropolitan areas.

Prior to becoming associational director of missions in 1986, Townsend was a Maryland pastor and minister of education for 11 years. He is a graduate of Towson State University in Towson, Md., Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

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Soviet refugees looking
for Baptist sponsors

By Sarah Zimmerman

N-AMB

ATLANTA (BP)--"Soviet Pentecostals" are the newest group of refugees seeking Baptist sponsors in the United States.

Soviet Pentecostal is a catch-all term for Protestants who were not members of Russian Orthodox, Catholic or registered Protestant churches in the Soviet Union, said William Rutledge, assistant director for refugee church growth with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. The term is not related to highly emotional religious groups Americans equate with Pentecostalism.

Rutledge is seeking churches or associations to sponsor such families. The focus on Soviet Pentecostals is an extension of the Home Mission Board's refugee resettlement program which previously has centered on people from Asia and Spanish-speaking countries, he said.

The number of refugees from Soviet bloc countries is "literally in the thousands each month," Rutledge said. For example, in April, Church World Services handled 376 refugee cases from the Soviet bloc. But, Church World Services only processes about 10 percent of refugees seeking sponsors in the United States, Rutledge said.

The Home Mission Board is not a member of Church World Services, but works with the organization to place refugees.

Despite expanded religious freedom in the Soviet Union, Jim Powers, director of missions for Concord Baptist Association in Murfreesboro, Tenn., said Russians "live with the fear that the liberties will be taken away."

As long as the government denounces a belief in God, "there is no hope," said Liubov Mormul, a Russian refugee who moved to the United States last year with her parents and her three children.

To be classified as a refugee, a person must have experienced persecution or the threat of persecution. Mormul's family experienced death, imprisonment and poisoning because of their Baptist convictions, she said.

Michael Thomas is pastor of New Vision Baptist Mission in Murfreesboro which, along with Concord Association, sponsored Mormul's family and another Soviet family. "Our people did the hands-on work, but we could not have done it without the association's help," Thomas said.

Powers said joint sponsorship is almost essential with Soviet families because of family size. "It would be very hard for any single church to sponsor one family with 12 or 10 people," Powers explained.

Powers estimates the cost of sponsoring a large family at \$1,000 a month, which includes renting a house and paying utilities. Cost depends greatly on the size of the family and donation of items such as linens and furniture.

When a church or association agrees to sponsor a family, it agrees to provide food, clothing and shelter for at least three months. However, Thomas said sponsors should be prepared to support the family for six months.

The obligation includes running a number of errands, from getting Social Security cards for the family to enrolling children in school and taking the family to the local health department for screenings. Thomas said the paperwork at first can be overwhelming, as everything has to be documented with refugee resettlement officials.

Sponsors also must teach refugees the difference between socialism and free enterprise. Families have to be taught how utility companies operate because they are used to the government providing their water and electrical services.

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One of the sponsor's key responsibilities is to help the adults find work. Rutledge said many of the refugees are highly skilled but must take entry level jobs until they master the language. For example, he said a doctor from Romania is working as a nurse's aid until he can pass the medical exams in English.

Though sponsors are committed to the refugees, the family is under no obligation to its sponsors, Rutledge said. One family assigned to a church in Tennessee never made it past Philadelphia. Another family sponsored by an Oklahoma church moved to California after several months.

Sponsoring refugees is an investment that can return eternal dividends, Rutledge said. He noted that about 380 churches in the Southern Baptist Convention are "refugee churches" composed primarily of refugees from a certain country.

Thomas said his church, though only 18 months old, agreed to help sponsor the families because they "have a broader vision than fostering our immediate needs."

Powers, who has personally sponsored three families, said refugee resettlement is "a tremendous experience. I feel like we're saving lives, literally."

Churches or associations interested in sponsoring refugees should contact Rutledge at the Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring Street NW, Atlanta, GA 30367. He will refer potential sponsors to a person in their state who coordinates refugee resettlement.

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Muslim World Project
focuses on education

By Frank Wm. White

CO
N-SSB

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6/21/90

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Muslim World Project for Southern Baptist college students planned for the 1990-91 academic year will involve 66 students in foreign countries and training for students throughout the United States.

The project involves three Southern Baptist agencies, the Sunday School Board, the Foreign Mission Board and the Home Mission Board, according to Brad Gray, consultant for evangelism and world student ministry in the SSB student ministry department. He said this represents the first time the three agencies have worked together on a project involving a single mission focus.

"Educating students about the Muslim culture is important because it is the fastest growing religion in the world," Gray said.

While 66 students will participate in foreign mission aspects of the project, training and spring break mission projects will help develop for many others an awareness about Islam and the Muslim community, Gray said.

The Muslim world project is the second student world missions encounter. A 1988 two-week pilot project in Brazil involved 150 students.

For the Muslim project, six students will be selected to go to the nation of Sierra Leone and three to The Gambia in December 1990. Other teams will include from four to 15 students in the spring of 1991 in France, Indonesia, Israel and Trinidad.

State student ministry departments have been asked to request particular mission assignments. Based on those requests, assignments will be allocated to states in August. State convention student ministry departments then will be responsible for selecting students to participate, Gray said.

Rather than providing orientation only for the 66 students selected for the mission projects, church and campus student groups throughout the nation will be encouraged to educate students about the Muslim world, Gray said.

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The project coincides with the fall 1990 missions study on "Islam and the Muslim Community." Student groups will be encouraged to participate in that study, Gray pointed out.

Students also will be encouraged to take college courses on world religion and Islam, he said.

Interfaith witness personnel from the Home Mission Board and state conventions as well as others with knowledge of the Islamic religion will be available to lead conferences, seminars and training sessions on campuses and in churches, Gray said.

Another phase of the project will involve spring break mission trips coordinated by the Home Mission Board, Gray said.

The HMB will designate mission projects in three or four cities in the United States that will involve students in ministry and provide training about the Muslim world, he explained.

Involvement in the Muslim world project will begin with student conferences at Glorieta and Ridgecrest conference centers this August with seminars for students and student directors. Details of the year-long focus will be announced at those conferences, Gray said.

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19 SBC colleges named
to Templeton honor rolls

Baptist Press
6/21/90

NASHVILLE (BP)--Nineteen Southern Baptist-related colleges and universities have been named to two honor rolls of distinction by the John Templeton Foundation.

The honor rolls, selected by presidents and development directors from more than 1,400 colleges and universities, is named for John Marks Templeton, an investment expert.

One of the honor rolls honors schools that excel in building moral and spiritual character and the other lists institutions with a commitment to teaching "the traditional Western political and economic philosophies" generally known as "free enterprise."

Twelve Baptist schools are on the Honor Roll of Free Enterprise Teaching, which lists 95 schools on the list.

Nineteen Baptist schools are among the 102 listed on the Honor Roll for Character-Building Schools.

Eleven of the schools appear on both lists. They are:

Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.; Baylor University, Waco, Texas; Campbell University, Buies Creek, N.C.; Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo.; Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss.; Furman University, Greenville, S.C.;

Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Okla.; Georgetown College, Georgetown, Ky.; William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo.; Belmont College, Nashville, and Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn.

Two schools -- Wingate College, Wingate, N.C., and Palm Beach Atlantic College, West Palm Beach, Fla. -- are listed on the free enterprise teaching honor roll.

Listed as top character-building schools are:

Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark.; Stetson University, Deland, Fla.; Cumberland College, Williamsburg, Ky.; Louisiana College, Pineville, La.; Gardner-Webb College, Boiling Springs, N.C.; Meredith College, Raleigh, N.C.; Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N.C.; and Union University, Jackson, Miss.

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