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April 8, 1992

92-61

CLC, Catholics, NAE ask
Court to reverse Roe

By Tom Strode

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission took an apparently unprecedented action April 6 by joining the United States Catholic Conference in a friend-of-the-court brief asking the Supreme Court to reverse its 1973 decision legalizing abortion.

The National Association of Evangelicals also signed onto the brief in Planned Parenthood v. Casey, which concerns a Pennsylvania abortion-restriction law. Oral arguments before the Supreme Court are scheduled April 22.

"To my knowledge, it is the first time that the Southern Baptist Convention has joined with the United States Catholic Conference in any brief, and I believe it's certainly the first time that we have filed together in an abortion brief," James A. Smith, the CLC's director of government relations, said in an April 6 news conference.

"The fact that we would join together on this demonstrates ... we are willing to cooperate in spite of our differences of religious tradition and theology on this fundamental issue of our day."

"I am delighted that we were able to file a friend-of-the-court brief in cooperation with the United States Catholic Conference and the National Association of Evangelicals in this particular case," Richard D. Land, the CLC's executive director, said. "Since our three organizations have been assigned to address this issue by approximately 90 million persons in our respective constituencies, our cooperation illustrates the breadth of concern in the religious community on this issue."

The Catholic Church, the largest religious body in the United States, has about 59 million members. The SBC is the largest non-Catholic denomination in the country with 15.2 million members. NAE serves about 15 million evangelical Christians.

The Pennsylvania law provides for informed consent for women considering abortion, a 24-hour waiting period before one could be performed, parental consent for minors, a prohibition on sex-selection abortions and a ban on abortions after the 24th week of pregnancy except for severe health problems in the mother. The Third Circuit of Appeals upheld these provisions but struck down a requirement women notify their husbands before the abortion.

The brief filed by the CLC, USCC and NAE contends the Pennsylvania law is a legitimate exercise of a state's authority to regulate the medical profession and should be upheld in its entirety. The groups ask the Court to revisit and reverse Roe v. Wade, the 1973 decision resulting in the legalization of abortion on demand throughout pregnancy. In Roe, the Court erred in including abortion as a constitutionally protected privacy right, the brief argues.

"Having been promised 'freedom of choice' by abortion's supporters, pregnant women find themselves poorly served by the abortion industry's contrived 'autonomy,'" says the brief, written by USCC lawyers. "The result of isolating expectant mothers from the aid and support they need has been to expose them to victimization by an abortion industry that masquerades as operating in their best interests, while in fact it seeks to avoid legitimate state regulation aimed at protecting health and safety.

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"This Court can help begin the turn from a society that condones abortion while ignoring its insidious consequences, to one that protects the health of its citizens and respects the lives of their offspring. Restoring the traditional authority of Pennsylvania and other states to regulate the medical profession in order to achieve these goals is an important first step."

When it agreed in January to accept the case, the Supreme Court seemed to indicate it may not reconsider Roe.

"We do not believe ... the Court is poised to overturn Roe in this case," the USCC's Helen Alvare said at the news conference. "We hope that they will use the case as another steppingstone to weaken Roe v. Wade. We argue for them to go even further."

Alvare is director of planning and information of the Secretariat for Pro-life Activities of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"I am particularly pleased that we were able to argue for a reversal of the 1986 Thornburgh decision, which is perhaps the worst decision the Court has made in this area since Roe," the CLC's Land said of the brief. "In Thornburgh, the Court invalidated provisions of a Pennsylvania law requiring informed consent, ruling in effect that a woman's right to an abortion superseded her right to the information necessary to provide informed consent to the surgery which killed her unborn baby.

"It should be noted that recent polls by CNN and others reveal at least two out of three Americans believe that pregnant women ought to be given the data necessary for informed consent. In addition, the same polls show that 70 percent support parental consent for minors to obtain abortions and 73 percent support spousal notification, other issues in dispute in this case," Land said.

"I know overwhelming numbers of Southern Baptists will join me in praying for the justices in their deliberations and that not only would the provisions of Casey be upheld but that the Court would use the occasion to overturn the infamous Roe decision."

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N.C. officers, executive committee
at odds over homosexual issue

Baptist Press
4/8/92

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (BP)--Members of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's executive committee voted 9-8 against joining six officers of the convention and its general board in recommending the rejection of funds "from any church which knowingly takes, or has taken, any official action which manifests public approval, promotion or blessing of homosexuality."

The April 7 vote followed nearly two hours of discussion by the committee in a regular meeting at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem.

The discussion and the recommendation drafted by convention officers came in the wake of decisions by Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh and Binkley Memorial Baptist Church in Chapel Hill regarding homosexuals in their congregations. Pullen voted March 1 to bless the "union" of two male homosexuals and Binkley voted April 5 to license a student at Duke Divinity School to the ministry. The marriage-like union service for two homosexual men was held March 15 at Pullen.

Six convention officers drafted a resolution in late March to be presented to the state convention's general board May 19 to reject funds from churches taking actions such as Pullen's and Binkley's. The officers also recommended, "Any such church shall not therefore qualify as a 'cooperating church' as defined in Article IV, A, 3 of the Constitution of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina."

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Five of the eight votes cast during the executive committee meeting in favor of the motion were by the officers who drafted the recommendation.

The state executive committee, which has the power to implement but not make financial policies, discussed the Pullen decision for two hours March 3. The committee took no action but did affirm Roy J. Smith, convention executive director who had issued a statement in which he affirmed the autonomy of the two churches, commended Christian ministry and witness to all persons, including homosexuals, but did not "affirm, approve nor condone such lifestyle which I believe stands clearly outside the teachings of the New Testament."

According to R.G. Puckett, editor of the convention's newsjournal, the Biblical Recorder, "The central issue in the discussions and decisions is not homosexuality and the teachings of Scripture about it but rather church autonomy. Those opposing the recommendation of the officers felt it was setting a dangerous precedent, 'creating a slippery slope' in which other issues later could continue the erosion of local church autonomy which has long been considered a cherished Baptist practice."

Letters, telephone calls and resolutions about the issue have inundated the officers, the administrative offices at the Baptist Building in Cary, N.C., and the Biblical Recorder, Puckett reported.

The Recorder has received only one letter which in any way sought to defend or plead for toleration of homosexual conduct and lifestyles, Puckett said. The lines of debate are clearly drawn between which shall take precedence, local church autonomy or the teachings of Scripture on homosexual conduct, he said.

Lamar Brooks, president of the convention's general board and chairman of the executive committee, said the April 7 vote would not change the plans of the officers in their recommendation to the general board. State convention President E. Glen Holt stated he did not think the decision would change anyone's position on the issue.

However, the issue has become a political matter between "conservatives" and "moderates" in the state, with both camps reflecting a division of opinion as to whether church autonomy should prevail, Puckett reported. The most recent issue of Conservative Carolina Baptist, the publication of the organization by the same name, devoted its front page to the issue of homosexuality, he said.

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EDITORS' NOTE: This bulletin briefly outlines major actions at today's meeting of Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board Trustees. A complete story about the meeting will be released later today.

Parks' October retirement official,
Jackson elected trustee chairman

Baptist Press
4/8/92

CLEMSON, S.C. (BP)--Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks, who earlier announced his intention to retire, made it official at the board's trustee meeting April 8 in Clemson, S.C.

Parks has said one of the reasons he is retiring is that his leadership continued to cause division among trustees. Outgoing trustee chairman Bill Hancock appointed a 15-member committee to seek a replacement for Parks, who will step down as president in October. Hancock selected trustee Joel Gregory of Dallas as chairman of the committee and Leon Hyatt, from Pineville, La., as vice chairman.

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Prior to Parks' report and retirement announcement, trustee L.H. McCollough, from Bastrop, La., moved that trustees vote to support Parks as president and commit to his leadership through 1995. However, during discussion of the motion, pointed questions were directed to Parks about his views of the current political nature of the Foreign Mission Board -- views attributed to him in a Baptist Press story. Hancock ruled both the discussion and the motion out of order. In a requested vote, a majority of trustees sustained Hancock's ruling.

Trustees elected John Jackson, pastor of First Baptist Church in Fairfield, Calif., as chairman of the 88-member board for the next one-year term. Jackson, nominated by trustee Paige Patterson of Dallas, received 48 votes. John Greene, a layman from West Palm Beach, Fla., received 35 votes.

Jackson assumed his responsibilities as chairman at the end of the Clemson meeting. He will preside as chairman at the next trustee meeting in June in El Paso, Texas. Bonnie Westbrook, a physician from Beaumont, Texas, was elected first vice chairman; Mike Goodwin, a pastor from Festus, Mo., second vice chairman; and Karen Gilbert, a pastor's wife from Hampton, Va., was reelected recording secretary.

Some 11,000 people, mainly from churches in the host Baptist Convention of South Carolina, gathered at Littlejohn Coliseum at Clemson University April 7 for the appointment of 38 new foreign missionaries. Music by a 1,200-voice choir and a parade of world flags opened the service.

After Parks gave a challenge to the missionaries and issued an invitation to the audience, 199 people made spiritual decisions, including 77 who committed to foreign mission service. The appointments bring the total foreign mission force to 3,955 missionaries assigned to 125 countries.

Besides Gregory and Hyatt, Hancock appointed the following trustees to the presidential search committee: Mike Goodwin of Festus, Mo.; Bob Oxford of Lakewood, Colo.; Phyllis Randall of Blacksburg, Va.; Karol Wise of Harrisburg, Pa.; John Simms of Salem, Va.; Hoyt Savage of Las Vegas, Nev.; Bruce Romoser of Ellicott, Md.; Terry Williams of Batesville, Miss.; Ted Moody of Warner Robins, Ga.; Reed Lynn of Shawnee, Okla.; John Greene of West Palm Beach, Fla.; Carol Gilbreath of Florence, Ala.; and Terry Horton of Colleyville, Texas.

Some of the appointees, however, have not yet been contacted and agreed to serve, so the composition of the final committee may be slightly different.

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WMU to honor Parks and highlight leadership during annual meeting By Susan Todd Doyle

Baptist Press
4/8/92

INDIANAPOLIS (BP)--Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union will honor R. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, during its annual meeting June 7-8.

The five sessions of the meeting will be in the Indiana Convention Center of the Hoosier Dome beginning Sunday afternoon at 2:30. The Sunday evening session begins at 7 p.m. Monday sessions begin at 9:30 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Theme of the meeting is "Lead Me, Lord."

Parks, who recently announced plans to retire in October, will bring the closing message of the meeting. WMU will honor Parks during the Monday evening session. That session also will include a commitment service, the first ever included during a WMU annual meeting.

William O'Brien, director of the Global Center of Samford University's Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Ala., and husband of WMU Executive Director Dellanna W. O'Brien, will bring the special music prior to Parks' address.

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All living former WMU national leaders will participate in the program: Carolyn W. Crumpler and Alma Hunt, former national executive directors, and Helen Fling, Christine Gregory, Dorothy Sample and Marjorie McCullough, former national presidents.

Silent Touch, a deaf praise and worship group from Louisville, Ky., will present the theme interpretations at the beginning of each session.

A leadership profile will be a part of each session. These profiles will highlight the following women leaders: Billye Brown, professor emeritus of the University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing; Judy Hayes, registered nurse, Lawrenceville, Ga.; Carol Childress, research manager, Tyler, Texas; Martha Wood, mayor of Winston-Salem, N.C.; Sheryl Brissett-Chapman, executive director of Baptist Home for Children, Bethesda, Md.; and Linda Freeman, Southern Baptist missionary to Ecuador.

During the annual meeting, nine Southern Baptist missionaries will talk about God's leadership in their lives: Ann Griffith, New York, N.Y.; Jim Queen, Lincolnwood, Ill.; Heberto Becerra, Manhattan, N.Y.; Fred and Lavada Loper, Oklahoma City, Okla.; Peter Chen, San Francisco, Calif.; Ethne Stainer, Yemen; Thomas Canady, Honduras; and Bonnie Wiggs, South Korea.

Reports will be given by Catherine Allen, president of the women's department of the Baptist World Alliance, and Dorothy Sample, president of the North American Baptist Women's Union.

Dellanna O'Brien will present reports during each session. Carolyn D. Miller, national WMU president, will bring an address during the Sunday evening session.

An offering for the Second Century Fund, WMU's permanent endowment fund, will be taken. The Second Century Fund was created by WMU during its centennial year as a gift to future generations of women in missions. All contributions are invested permanently. Only the interest earned on the principal is given each year in grants to develop women's missions endeavors worldwide.

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Woman's Missionary Union
Annual Meeting
June 7-8, 1992
Indiana Convention Center/Hoosier Dome
Indianapolis
Theme: Lead Me, Lord

Sunday Afternoon, June 7

Lead Me, Lord, to Grow

2:30 Theme Interpretation -- Silent Touch, Deaf Praise and Worship Group
Rhonda Long, tour director, Louisville, Ky.
Call to Order -- Carolyn D. Miller, president, WMU, SBC, Huntsville, Ala.
Hymns -- Laverne Melton, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Thomson, Ga.
Invocation -- Carolyn W. Crumpler, Cincinnati
Response: "Spirit of the Living God"
Executive Board Report, "Lead Me, Lord, to Grow" -- Dellanna W. O'Brien, executive director, WMU, SBC, Birmingham, Ala.
Presentation of National Acteens Panelists -- Marti Solomon, Acteens specialist, WMU, SBC, Birmingham, Ala.
Hymn
Leadership Profile: As God Has Led Me -- Billye J. Brown, professor emeritus, school of nursing, University of Texas at Austin, Manchaca, Texas; Judy Hayes, registered nurse, Lawrenceville, Ga.;
Special Music -- Peggy Ray, GA consultant, Georgia WMU, Atlanta
Message: He Leadeth Me -- Ann Griffith, home missionary, New York
Closing Meditation -- Silent Touch

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Sunday Evening, June 7Lead Me, Lord, To Change

7:00 Theme Interpretation -- Silent Touch
 Hymns
 Invocation -- Helen Fling, former WMU president, Birmingham, Ala.
 Response: "Spirit of the Living God"
 Executive Board Report: Lead Me, Lord, to Change -- Dellanna W. O'Brien
 Leadership Profile: Will You Accept the Challenge of Change? -- Carol Childress, research and information manager, Leadership Network, Tyler, Texas
 Hymn
 Feature: Lead Us, Lord, to Be Change Agents -- Jim Queen, home missionary, Lincolnwood, Ill.; Heberto Becerra, home missionary, Manhattan, N.Y.; Thomas Canady, foreign missionary, Honduras; Bonnie Wiggs, foreign missionary, South Korea; Sheryl Churchill, interviewer, age-level specialists group manager, WMU, SBC, Birmingham, Ala.
 Special Music -- Laverne Melton
 President's Address: Are You Ready for Tomorrow? -- Carolyn D. Miller
 Closing Meditation -- Silent Touch

Monday Morning, June 8Lead Me, Lord, to Confront

9:30 Theme Interpretation -- Silent Touch
 Hymns
 Invocation -- Christine Gregory, former WMU president, Danville, Va.
 Response: "Spirit of the Living God"
 Executive Board Report, Lead Me, Lord to Confront -- Dellanna W. O'Brien
 Leadership Profile: Confronting the City -- Martha Wood, Mayor, Winston-Salem N.C.
 Hymn
 Recognition of Local Committee
 A Legacy: The Second Century Fund -- Mary Helen Dixon, development specialist, WMU, SBC, Birmingham, Ala.
 Offering for Second Century Fund
 Special Music
 Feature: Confronting Today's Health Issues -- Fred and Lavada Loper, home missionaries, Oklahoma City
 Confronting World Religions -- Peter Chen, home missionary, San Francisco
 Closing Meditation -- Silent Touch

Monday Afternoon, June 8Lead Me, Lord, to Commit

2:00 Theme Interpretation -- Silent Touch
 Hymns
 Invocation -- Alma Hunt, former WMU executive director, Roanoke, Va.
 Response: "Spirit of the Living God"
 Executive Board Report, Lead Me, Lord, to Commit -- Dellanna W. O'Brien
 Leadership Profile: Committed to a Purpose -- Sheryl Brissett-Chapman, executive director, Baptist Home for Children, Bethesda, Md.
 Hymn
 Reports: Is Your World Big Enough? -- Catherine Allen, president, Women's Department, Baptist World Alliance, Birmingham, Ala.; Dorothy Sample, president, North American Baptist Women's Union, Flint, Mich.
 Election of Officers
 Hymn
 Special Music
 Message: Committed to a Difficult Place -- Ethne Stainer, foreign missionary, Yemen
 Closing Meditation -- Silent Touch

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Monday Evening, June 8Lead Me, Lord, to Dare

7:00 Theme Interpretation -- Silent Touch
 Hymns
 Invocation -- Marjorie McCullough, former WMU president, Alexandria, La.
 Response: "Spirit of the Living God"
 Executive Board Report, Lead Me, Lord, to Dare -- Dellanna W. O'Brien
 Leadership Profile: His Grace Never Fails -- Linda Freeman, foreign missionary,
 Ecuador
 Missions Medley
 Special Music
 Invitation Hymn
 Parting Praise

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Missionary battles cancer
 but keeps eyes on the world

By Ferrell Foster

Baptist Press
 4/8/92

HENDERSON, Ky. (BP)--Kathy Lloyd likens her situation to "a mother in a car pool getting sick." It would help to know someone else could pick up the kids, she said.

Lloyd, in fact, is very sick. A fast-growing cancer has attacked her bones and now threatens her life. The "car pool" she has been a part of is foreign missions.

She and her husband, Skip, were Southern Baptist missionaries to South Korea from 1984 to 1991. Her illness forced them to resign and now her prayer is that others will take their place.

"If I can't go, someone else can go," she said in a telephone interview.

"There are a lot of missionaries who are having to leave (the mission field) because of physical situations," she said. "Maybe that's why God's brought me back ... to challenge people" to go overseas as missionaries.

Little more than a year ago, Lloyd and her husband, Skip, were busy working in Seoul, South Korea. She was listed as a church and home worker by the Foreign Mission Board and she ministered to unwed mothers.

Then her health began to fall apart. In March 1991 doctors in Korea removed a cancerous tumor from Lloyd's breast and recommended she return to the United States for further treatment.

Kathy, from Posey County, Ind.; Skip, from Granite City, Ill.; and their two daughters, Heather, 13, and Kristin, 5, headed for America and expected to return to Korea in six to eight months.

Because of a family history with breast disease, Lloyd chose to have a double mastectomy at St. Louis Medical Center. It was seen as preventive. "We felt like we were being really smart to try to prevent the cancer from coming back," she said.

Six months of chemotherapy followed as an "insurance policy" and blood tests and bone scans produced good reports.

Then "right before Christmas" last year, Lloyd started having hip pains. They became so severe she had trouble getting out of bed and standing during the benediction at First Baptist Church in Henderson, Ky., where Skip is now minister of education and administration.

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They resigned as missionaries Jan. 1 with assurance from the Foreign Mission Board that future reappointment would not be a problem despite FMB restrictions on appointing missionaries with teen-agers.

In February, tests revealed the cancer had spread to Lloyd's bones. "It was everywhere from the femur to the skull," she said. "And it must have done that in two months." The rapid advance of the cancer shocked doctors. The cancer was "so widespread and so fast-growing that at that time they gave me six months to two years" to live, Lloyd said.

Twice since February Lloyd has entered St. Louis Medical Center for 72-hour chemotherapy treatments.

"I've lost all my hair again," Lloyd said. She lost her hair last year during chemotherapy and it had since grown back about three inches. "I was real proud of it and it fell out in about a week this time."

Her hopes for a longer life now hinge on prayer and on a dangerous medical procedure.

On April 23, she will enter the hospital for a four to six-week stint during which doctors will "harvest immature cells" of bone marrow and freeze them. Then she will be subjected to higher doses of chemotherapy "that will suppress just about anything that's growing." At the "point of total suppression" the immature cells will be returned to her body and doctors will "try to get healthy cells growing."

"If the procedure works, it usually gives you two to five years," Lloyd said. Patients who survive for more than five years usually are considered cured, she added.

As for now, she must try to cope.

"You try to deal with just right now," Lloyd said. But it's hard to keep from thinking about the future. She began to cry as she told of wondering if her children would remember her if she died now.

Lloyd said she has "put aside special things in special boxes" for her daughters.

Lloyd said her daughters are "doing pretty well." Korea was home to them and the oldest one, Heather, wants to return. But she's a Christian and she's "learning to listen to God," her mother said.

Dealing with God through this crisis hasn't always been easy for Lloyd herself. But now, she said, "I guess I feel a lot closer to God. I've really come to appreciate the power of intercessory prayer ... All the churches in Korea are praying for us," as are churches here, Lloyd said. She described it as an "outpouring of love. People really do believe God is in control," the former missionary said.

"Our family is not just the people we're related to by blood," Lloyd said. The people she and Skip have worked with the past seven years have provided support and love. Korean pastors have called often and one visited them in Kentucky.

In the midst of the pain and the love, Lloyd expresses a confidence. "In some way, God is using this. The world says this is bad but I truly believe that God can make it good. That doesn't mean that I will survive it ... but God can use it for good.

"You just have to have the security that nothing touches your life that hasn't first touched Jesus," Lloyd said. "Even though he hasn't caused this to happen, you know he is aware of it ... He can use it. And that gives you a lot of peace of mind."

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(BP) photo available upon request from the Richmond bureau of Baptist Press.

Eleven-year-old RA begins
Bible study club in school

By Julie Wilkerson

HOPE, Ark. (BP)--Daniel Bramlett believes in putting his faith into action. Concerned with the pressures faced by his peers, the fifth grader at Beryl Henry Elementary School in Hope, Ark., made a presentation to the Hope School Board to form a Bible study club at his school.

Under federal equal access provisions, students are allowed to form groups before and after school on school property but they must go before the school board for approval. Daniel met with the Hope School Board March 16 to present a proposal and constitution for the club. The board voted unanimously to approve it.

Inspired by the "Meet Me at the Flagpole" concept used by the local high school, Daniel hopes the club will "minister to kids. . . . Some of them have problems at home," he said.

It's no surprise Daniel is concerned about others. His family has been active in Christian service for generations. His aunt, Debbie Moore, is a missionary in Liberia, and his great-grandfather, S.A. Whitlow, was a pastor and Baptist associational leader. Daniel, a member of the First Baptist Church and a Royal Ambassador for four years, has had firsthand experience in missions. Last summer, he worked at the migrant mission center his church sponsors.

"Daniel has already devoted his life to full-time Christian service -- he knows the Lord has his hand on him and he (Daniel) allows God to use him," said Betty Moore, Daniel's grandmother. "He was so shy in kindergarten, there's no other way to explain it." She credits his mother, Beckie (Mrs. Carl) Bramlett, for having a positive Christian influence on him. "She works with Daniel on his devotionals at night," Moore said.

Club members will study the Bible under the direction of the club president who, along with the vice president and secretary, will be elected later this school year. Daniel will serve as interim president until the election.

Besides Bible study, the club also will sponsor school service projects such as picking up litter and organizing parties to celebrate teachers' birthdays.

Billy Capps, an area dentist, will help club members who need to talk about their concerns. And, as with all school functions, a faculty member must attend although, according to Daniel, this staff person will not be a club participant.

The club has not met yet but Daniel has gotten the word out by telling kids face-to-face. "I have about 20-25 prospects who have been contacted by word of mouth," he said. He plans to use a school bulletin board to announce club events and special speakers and to develop displays using Bibles donated from First Baptist Church for students and faculty to take home.

There will be no dues for membership. The group, which is non-denominational, is open to anyone. Meetings will be twice a month at a time determined by group members. Club members also will meet in smaller prayer groups on a weekly basis.

Daniel offered advice to anyone who wants to start a similar group. Be prepared, he said, to prepare thoroughly and follow all requirements when dealing with a school board. Daniel also was ready with a proposal and constitution from a sample he found in a book. To further prepare for his encounter with the board, Daniel said, "I read, studied and prayed."

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Julie Wilkerson is communications assistant for the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission in Memphis.

Ecumenical leader underscores
need for 'missionary identity'

By Pat Cole

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--A "missionary identity" is an essential component of the Christian faith, said the general secretary of the World Council of Churches.

"If you do not have a missionary people of God, you do not have a people of God," said Emilio Castro during the Gheens Lectures at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He emphasized there is no biblical calling "that will not imply immediately a task, a vocation, a mission."

Missions involves proclamation of the gospel as well as acts of love and service, said Castro, a native of Uruguay and an ordained minister in that nation's Evangelical Methodist Church.

Proclaiming the gospel cannot be separated from "the living of the gospel and the acting of the gospel," he said. Yet persons who serve human needs should be prepared to point others to "the source of love," Castro said. "How could we be satisfied with providing for whatever needs we discern and make a line by which we will not go beyond to announce the name of Jesus Christ?"

Love provides the motivation for all missionary service, Castro said. "It's not that we love in order to evangelize. It's that we evangelize because we love, because we believe the gospel of Jesus Christ. The knowledge of Jesus Christ is for the blessings of the people we love."

Castro underscored the need for Christian unity in missionary efforts. However, he said authentic unity would not come by a "clever architect" devising methods to merge various denominational traditions into a giant denomination. Rather, unity must be developed through persons from differing denominational backgrounds who sense a "passion" to work together, he said.

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Mississippi College trustees
vote to close Clarke College

Baptist Press
4/8/92

NEWTON, Miss. (BP)--Mississippi College trustees have voted to close Clarke College, a two-year institution they operate in Newton.

Trustees, in a written report, cited as reasons for closing a continuing loss of students, dwindling financial resources and a loss of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in 1990.

The current semester ending in May is the last scheduled for the junior college which was established in 1907 by an association of Regular Baptists. The Mississippi Baptist Convention took control in 1914.

Clarke trustees in 1980 reported an anticipated deficit of \$175,000 and recommended merger with Mississippi College in Clinton. The recommendation was approved by the convention that year. MC's attorney, N. Shelton Hand Jr., noted since the merger Clarke's operating funds had fallen in excess of \$1 million and student enrollment had fallen from 200 to 100.

MC operated Clarke as a division of MC, with separate accreditation. After loss of accreditation, MC appealed through the appeals committee of SACS and through the federal courts. As of the end of March, the federal court had not responded to MC's appeal for an injunction which had been filed last September.

MC trustees said all of the about 100 Clarke students could transfer to MC. Clarke Dean James Read said faculty and staff, numbering about two dozen, had not had job offers but were being helped in finding other employment.

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Baptist Press

MC President Lewis Nobles said disposal of the \$2 million plant and property and \$750,000 million in endowment funds had not yet been determined. MC trustees may make such decisions in their May meeting.

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