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September 7, 1999

(99-72)

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**Charlie Warren elected editor of Arkansas paper**

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (ABP) -- Veteran denominational journalist Charlie Warren has been elected editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.

Warren, 52, is currently director of public relations at Oklahoma Baptist University. He is former editor of Home Life, a magazine published by the Southern Baptist Convention's LifeWay Christian Resources, and a past associate editor of Baptist and Reflector, state newspaper of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Directors of the 37,000-circulation, biweekly paper elected Warren in a called meeting Sept. 2. Warren, who begins work Oct. 5, succeeds Trennis Henderson, who left the Little Rock-based paper to become editor of Kentucky's Western Recorder in July.

"We were looking for a man who was a fellow Christian and felt a call to the ministry, as well as one who had a journalistic education and experience in Christian journalism," said Erby Burgess, chairman of the Newsmagazine's editor search committee. During the search process, "Charlie Warren continued to rise to the top of the list," he said.

Ken Shaddox, president of the newspaper's board of directors, said Warren's experience in Christian journalism would be a great asset to Arkansas Baptists. "Sharing how God is at work among the people and churches in our state is a tremendous privilege and responsibility," he said. "As editor, I believe Warren will bring with him a commitment to sharing the truth with balance and fairness."

Warren said the paper has "a solid reputation for fairness, balance and journalistic quality" that he hopes to maintain. "With God's help, the assistance of a great staff, and the support of Arkansas Baptists, we will attempt to produce the best Baptist news publication to be found anywhere," he said.

Warren has been at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee three years. He edited Home Life more than eight years and worked for the Baptist and Reflector four years. He also has worked in editorial positions at the former Baptist Brotherhood Commission, the Southern Baptist International Mission Board and the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

A native of Roanoke, Va., Warren is a graduate of Bluefield (Va.) College and Oklahoma Baptist University with a master's degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He and his wife, Sandy, have two grown sons, Todd and Brad, and a 15-year-old daughter, Jan.

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-- By ABP staff

## **Former seminary president Olin T. Binkley dead at 91**

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (ABP) -- Olin T. Binkley, the second president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, died Aug. 27.

Binkley, 91, was president of the seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., from 1963 to 1974. During that time, the seminary expanded its curriculum and 13 new buildings were constructed. The chapel on campus is named in his honor, as is a Baptist church in Chapel Hill.

"Dr. Binkley was one of the Baptist giants of this century," said Marse Grant, editor emeritus of the North Carolina newspaper Biblical Recorder.

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-- By ABP staff

## **Judge allows temporary resumption of Cleveland school-voucher program**

By Kenny Byrd

WASHINGTON (ABP) -- A federal judge has delayed his ruling halting Cleveland's school-voucher program after an outcry from parents left scrambling to find schools for their children.

The reversal, filed three days after the original injunction, allows most of the nearly 4,000 students to return to private and parochial schools with tax dollars. But U.S. District Judge Solomon Oliver reiterated his Aug. 24 opinion that the program, which provides parents with tax dollars for tuition at private and parochial schools, has the primary effect of advancing religion.

He said he still believes that opponents of the voucher program have a "very substantial chance" of winning their argument that the U.S. Constitution's Establishment Clause bars such aid to religious schools.

However, he said the timing of the initial injunction, which was issued the day before schools were scheduled to open, "caused disruption to the children previously enrolled in the program beyond that normally associated with a student's transferring from one school to another."

The temporary reversal allows only students who were enrolled in the voucher program last year to return to private and parochial schools. New enrollees, a small portion of the 4,000 voucher students, are barred from participating in the program. And Oliver said the stay would last only until the end of the school semester unless he rules the program unconstitutional before that time.

Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, said the reversal does not mean the program is constitutional. In fact, Lynn said, "It's pretty obvious Judge Oliver believes the Cleveland voucher program violates the First Amendment's church-state separation provisions."

The injunction, which halts the program until the decision on the merits of the case is made, left parents of as many as 4,000 students scrambling to determine where their children will attend school.

The Cleveland program provides 3,801 students up to \$2,500 each to attend private or parochial schools. In his Aug. 24 injunction, Oliver pointed out that participating schools are overwhelmingly sectarian. "This means that parents cannot make an educational choice without regard to whether the school is parochial or not," he said. "Therefore the Cleveland Program has the primary effect of advancing religion."

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## **Survey shows strong commitment to nation's public school system**

By Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (ABP) -- Most Americans want to improve education by reforming the existing public-school system, not by seeking alternatives to it, according to a new survey.

Seventy-one percent of survey respondents favored reforming the existing system, while 27 percent said the nation should instead focus on an alternative system.

Phi Delta Kappa, a professional education organization, and the Gallup Organization conducted the survey.

The survey also asked respondents whether they preferred a plan to strengthen existing public schools or one that provided vouchers to pay tuition at private and church-related schools.

Seventy percent opted for strengthening public schools, while 28 percent said they would prefer vouchers for private and church schools.

"The results clearly affirm the public's belief that our national commitment to educating all our children through the public schools should be maintained," said Lowell Rose and Alec Gallup, in a summary of the 31st annual PDK/Gallup Poll.

As in past years, support for aid to private education varied depending on how the question was framed.

In one question, opposition to "allowing students and parents to choose a private school to attend at public expense" grew from 50 percent in 1998 to 55 percent in 1999, while those favoring the proposal declined from 44 percent to 41 percent.

But when asked a similar question -- whether they favor or oppose allowing parents to send children to any public, private or church-related school with the government paying all or part of the tuition -- 51 percent favored the choice and 47 percent opposed it.

Respondents were more supportive of a voucher system that paid part of tuition for a private or church-related school than for one that paid it all.

They favored a partial-tuition voucher plan 52 percent to 45 percent but opposed a full-tuition voucher plan 48 percent to 47 percent.

By a 77 percent to 21 percent margin, respondents said private and church-related schools that accept government tuition payments "should be accountable to the state in the way public schools are accountable."

By an almost equal margin, 74 percent to 21 percent, respondents said nonpublic schools that receive public funding should be "required to accept students from a wider range of backgrounds and academic ability than is now generally the case."

Asked what "one thing" they would change to improve public schools in their communities, 12 percent of respondents cited discipline, control and tighter rules. Ten percent called for more teachers and smaller class sizes, 7 percent called for better-qualified teachers and 5 percent cited funding. Cited by 4 percent of respondents were security and putting prayer and God back in schools.

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## **Baptism by submersion, perhaps? Here's a chance to reach new depths**

By Stacey Hamby

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (ABP) -- For sale: One submarine. Capable of making 300-foot dives and staying underwater for six hours. Recently revamped. Any takers?

Dennis Kolb, a former search-and-rescue and recovery worker from Missouri, is offering just such an item.

"This isn't something somebody made out of an old tub" but is a manufactured submarine, he said.

Kolb's wife, Lois, recently called the Missouri Baptist Convention building in Jefferson City to request the address of a church in Anchorage, Alaska. She figured someone up there might want the sub. The Kolbs, members of South Haven Baptist Church in Springfield, Mo., joked that perhaps a foreign missionary could find a use for the craft on a mission field.

Kolb said he spent many years doing metal-detection work, such as locating downed airplanes in lakes and bringing them to the surface.

"But now I'm getting too old for that kind of thing," he said. "My wife won't let me play with my sub any more."

The submarine is in demand for marine shows, Kolb said, but he would rather sell it to someone who would use it either to educate children or for search and rescue.

"Brand new, these things sell for about \$140,000," he said. "But it's worth about \$20,000 to \$25,000 to me as long as they use it for children or search and rescue."

About the size of a mini-van, the submarine isn't stored anyplace special. It sits on a flatbed trailer next to Kolb's house in Grand Lake, Okla.

That is just across the state line from Seneca, Mo., where Dennis and his wife, Lois, own and operate a mental-health center.

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