

Nashville, Tennessee



REPORT FROM THE CAPITAL

Volume 56, No. 14

July 11, 2001

NewsMakers

◆ Former Sen. Mark O. Hatfield, R-Ore., and Gordon C. Bennett, a retired longtime faculty member at Eastern College in St. Davids, Pa., were presented the 2001 Edwin T. Dahlberg Peace Award during the biennial meeting of American Baptist Churches USA. The awards were presented by Aidsand Wright-Riggins III, the executive director of American Baptist National Ministries and a BJC board member.

◆ James M. Dunn, president of the Baptist Joint Committee Endowment, was presented the Howard Moody Award on June 24 by the Coalition for Baptist Principles. Accepting the award in Providence, R.I., Dunn discussed the importance of soul freedom and competence of the individual before God. To those who dismiss church-state separation, Dunn quipped, "you may be far closer to Jesus than James Dunn, ... but frankly my dear, you're not a Baptist."

◆ Leila Nadya Sadat of St. Louis, Mo., and Felice Gaer of Peramus, N.J., were appointed by House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. Sadat is a professor of law at Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, Mo., and Gaer is director of the American Jewish Committee's Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights. ▲

Church, state do not mix, Lewis tells RLC luncheon gathering

"In our nation, church and state do not mix," civil rights leader and House of Representatives member John Lewis, D-Ga., told participants at the annual luncheon meeting of the Religious Liberty Council.

The RLC — the individual membership arm of the Baptist Joint Committee — met June 29 in Atlanta in conjunction with the 10th annual meeting of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

The RLC presented Lewis with its second Barbara Jordan-Mark Hatfield Courage Award, given to members of Congress who demonstrate courage in the advancement of religious liberty.

Rep. Chet Edwards, D-Texas, was recognized in 1999 for helping defeat a proposed constitutional amendment to allow school-sponsored prayer.

Lewis came out strongly against President George W. Bush's faith-based initiative, in particular the "charitable choice" plan to fund religious social service ministries with tax dollars.

"I am strongly opposed to this effort for many reasons," Lewis said. "In our nation, church and state do not mix. They cannot, they must not and they should not. This principle is so important, it is in the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights."

He said the Bush plan "may be a well-intended way to solve our problems, but it is a proposal we cannot embrace." He called it "an assault on our Constitution and our Bill of Rights."

Lewis, an ordained Baptist minister,

said church-state separation has "guided us for more than 220 years."

"Organized religion can and should involve itself in important social issues," he said.

"We should care for our nation — our brothers and sisters — because it is the right thing to do, the moral thing to do, not because the government has paid us to do it," Lewis said.

He criticized government-funded proselytization, saying, "In the United States of America, people should never have to get saved to be saved."

And he criticized provisions in charitable choice that would allow churches to take federal funds while discriminating

in their hiring practices. He said employment offers could say: "Catholics, Jews, Protestants or Muslims need not apply for this federally subsidized job. I cannot and will not support any bill that allows the government to promote discrimination or return us to the days of religious intolerance and bigotry."

At the conclusion of his remarks, Lewis announced he had written a check and joined the RLC.

Earlier, Melissa Rogers, executive director of the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, described the BJC as having "perfect pitch" on religious liberty advocacy. The former BJC general counsel said that at the same time the BJC has questioned parts of the Bush faith-based initiative, it has also worked to clarify ways in which the church and state can cooperate in a constitutional way. ▲



"Church and state do not mix."

— U.S. Rep. John Lewis

Court upholds firing of teacher for praying with students

A federal court jury in New York ruled June 27 that the New York City Board of Education did not violate the constitutional rights of a substitute teacher who was fired for praying with students and talking to them about her belief in Jesus.

Sixth-grade teacher Mildred Rosario — who had taught bilingual classes at Intermediate School 74 in the South Bronx — claimed school officials violated state laws as well as her constitutional rights under the First, Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments when they fired her.

Rosario said the lawsuit stemmed from an incident in which one of her pupils asked about the whereabouts of a student who had drowned after the school principal announced a moment of silence for the dead child. Rosario said she told the pupil that the drowned classmate was in heaven, then asked who "would like to hear more about God?"

Students who were not interested were allowed to opt out of the discussion.

Rosario was dismissed after refusing to agree not to engage in "preaching" in the classroom in the future.

School administrators claimed Rosario would not have been asked to return to the school anyway because of poor performance evaluations. Δ

Mainline groups speak out against House faith-based bill

As the House Judiciary Committee considered President George W. Bush's faith-based initiative, leaders from mainline Protestant denominations voiced opposition to aspects of the legislation, including resistance to religion-based hiring discrimination funded with public dollars.

Though each group has a slightly different approach to the president's faith-based initiative, they are "united by a strong belief that opposition to a specific legislative initiative should not be dismissed as a lack of understanding 'the power of faith,'" the groups said in a statement.

The denominational leaders said they hoped changes made to the Community Solutions Act during the bill's mark-up session in the House Judiciary Committee signaled "a willingness to engage in further review and discussion."

"Our church believes that programs serving the community and funded with federal or state dollars should not be allowed to use faith to discriminate," said James Winkler, general secretary of the United Methodist General Board of Church and Society.

The leaders expressed concern that the "legislative pace for charitable choice has accelerated in recent weeks, to the detriment of deliberation and debate."

Groups represented at the news conference included the United Church of Christ, the Friends Committee on National Legislation, the United Methodist Church, the Episcopal Church, the American Baptist Churches USA, the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Baptist Joint Committee.

BJC General Counsel Holly Hollman urged lawmakers "to listen to the religious voices that are issuing statements of concern regarding charitable choice and to act cautiously when considering any legislation that will alter our first freedom, the freedom of religion." Δ

House panel OKs faith plan, says strip religion from services

Supporters of President George W. Bush's "charitable choice" plan have long argued that religious social service programs are effective because they include an element of faith. But now, House GOP leaders are requiring that religious aspects of federally funded programs be stripped out of the social service programs.

The House Judiciary Committee approved the Bush faith initiative (H.R. 7) on June 28 with 20-5 party-line vote.

But before approving the measure, lawmakers made it clear that religious groups would have plenty of red tape if they accept government funds.

Rep. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said the bill would require religious groups accepting the funds "to leave their religious practices at the door." It also would require churches to set up separate accounts to receive tax dollars.

Committee Chairman James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., said that "religious organizations receiving direct funding will have to separate their social service program from sectarian practices. If any part of a faith-based organization's activities involve religious indoctrination, such activities must be set apart from the government-funded programs and hence privately funded."

The committee also voted to require organizations to sign documents stating they will comply with the bill's regulations. The revised bill would also mandate self-audits by tax-funded organizations to ensure compliance in reporting to appropriate government agencies.

Sensenbrenner said programs that integrate religion in addressing problems such as drug abuse and violence would not be eligible for funding. He added that "it is up to the religious organization to make a determination if they can separate out their religious mission from their social service mission." Δ

Tribute, Continued from Page 4

wastebasket — while still getting the anger off his chest.

Barry and I learned we could trust each other and depend on one another. One of the best pieces of advice he gave me was to put aside everything I could afford into a retirement account. If he had invested more and earlier, he would say, he could have retired earlier and spent more time traveling the country in his Avion and fishing on Lake Anna in Virginia. In time Barry and LaVerne were able to retire a bit early and well. No two people enjoyed retirement more.

Now, well beyond the enjoyable stages of retirement and freed from the cruel illnesses of old age, Barry Garrett is truly at rest. Those of us who knew him as patient mentor and gentle friend bid a good man farewell. Thanks be to God.

— Stan Hasty
Executive Director
Alliance of Baptists

Stalwarts of 'greatest generation' shouldered load for religious liberty



We Americans tend to venerate our Founders and elevate Colonial heroes to near Olympian heights. We build monuments to their memory and pound their heroic acts into the nogginns of our schoolchildren. But

we often neglect the lives and deeds of Americans who lived in this century.

Tom Brokaw's insightful 1998 book, *The Greatest Generation*, rekindled our long-overdue debt of gratitude to that generation of Americans who fought a world war to preserve our freedom and then built a peace so we could enjoy freedom's fruits. He aptly writes: "They came of age during the Great Depression and the Second World War and went on to build modern America — men and women whose everyday lives of duty, honor, achievement, and courage gave us the world we have today."

In the same way, we freedom-loving Baptists tell the stories with great alacrity of those who fought for religious liberty during the 17th and 18th centuries. Names like Thomas Helwys, Roger Williams, Isaac Backus and John Leland ring in our ears and their stories roll off our tongues at every opportunity. But we often overlook modern Baptist heroes who have done as much to turn the Baptist heritage of religious freedom into a legacy for us and our sons and daughters. We forget them at our peril.

Two members of our Baptist "greatest generation," who worked collectively for 28 years at the Baptist Joint Committee during the mid-20th century, recently passed away.

Jim Sapp, serving on the staff at the BJC from 1964-1971, died December 20, 2000. First as director of correlation services, where he sought to involve state Baptist organizations in the work of the Baptist Joint Committee and then as editor of *Report from the Capital* and director of the BJC's Religious Liberty Conferences, Jim labored to advance the cause of religious liberty and the separation of

church and state. Even after he retired, he continued to promote the Baptist Joint Committee and encourage his successors. He was instrumental in steering Mandy Tyler, current assistant to the general counsel, our way.

Barry Garrett died on June 20, 2001, in a nursing home in North Carolina. He worked on the staff of the BJC from 1957-1978, along with his sidekick Jim Sapp for seven of those years. He served as director of information services and the first editor of the Washington bureau of Baptist Press. He participated in the first European Baptist Conference on church and state at the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, in 1963 and was the only accredited Baptist journalist at the last three sessions of the Second Vatican Council in Rome. Pam Parry, in her history of the Baptist Joint Committee titled, *On Guard for Religious Liberty*, recounts how, when Amy Carter was baptized at First Baptist of the City of Washington, D.C., Barry went to the White House to explain to the press corps the Baptist view of baptism.

True to form, Barry's family has requested that expressions of sympathy be made in the form of memorial gifts to the Baptist Joint Committee.

We owe an incalculable debt of gratitude to these two stalwarts. We celebrate their manifold contributions to our work, which continued in the form of financial support to the end. Tom Brokaw's words are a fitting tribute to Jim and Barry, as well. These good men were indeed among the leaders of their generation whose everyday lives of duty, honor, achievement and courage gave us the heritage of religious liberty we have today.

We hold these two up as exemplars of that "greatest generation" of Baptists who faithfully labored in the vineyards of religious liberty. Their examples and achievements both bless and challenge us every day. Δ

RLC elects BJC board members, re-elects officers

Members of the RLC elected officers and representatives to the Baptist Joint Committee during the organization's annual meeting June 29. Suzie Paynter of Austin, Texas, and a staff member of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission and Bill Wilson, pastor of First Baptist Church in Waynesboro, Va., were re-elected co-chairs of the RLC. Bryan Brock of First Baptist Church in Gaithersburg, Md., was re-elected RLC secretary.

Hal Bass of Arkansas and Jack Glasgow of North Carolina were re-elected to serve three-year terms on the BJC.

Newly elected to represent the RLC on the BJC board for three-year terms were Pat Anderson, head of the Florida Cooperative Baptist Fellowship; Cynthia Holmes, an attorney in St. Louis; and David Massengill, an attorney from New York and member of Metro Baptist Church in New York. Also, Barbara Baugh, travel agent and member of Trinity Baptist Church in San Antonio, was elected to complete an unexpired term. Δ

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REPORT FROM THE CAPITAL

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REPORT from the CAPITAL (ISSN-0346-0661) is published 24 times each year by the Baptist Joint Committee. Single subscriptions, \$10 per year. Bulk subscriptions available.



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In Memoriam

Wilkins Barry Garrett Jr.

October 2, 1915 - June 20, 2001

A Tribute by Stan Hastej

Barry Garrett was my mentor and friend.

As mentor he introduced me to the ways of covering Washington for the old Baptist Press news network. Neither Barry nor I was trained in journalism at either the undergraduate or graduate level. Yet Barry arrived in the nation's capital in 1958 with more than a decade's experience as a writer and editor, having served with distinction as editor of Arizona Baptists' newspaper, the *Baptist Beacon*.

When I joined him in 1974 and knowing I had no experience as a journalist, Barry had me enroll in two courses in the journalism school at George Washington University. My classroom study, he told me, would supplement and confirm what I was learning from him on the job. Sure enough, that's what happened. From Professor Christopher Robbins at GWU, I learned what a fine journalist Barry Garrett was. And from both of them, with an able assist from my journalism major spouse Bettie, I got my start as a newswriter in Washington.

Barry was a patient yet demanding teacher. Although he had not recruited me himself, he signed off on my selection as his assistant and determined to help make a writer out of an utterly green church history major. At the same time he demanded excellence. He edited with a blue pencil and sometimes my copy came back plenty blue. More than once he had to caution me about using too many adjectives in writing the news. "Let the story carry itself," he would say. "The

readers will get the point on their own if you simply tell the story as it is." He was right, of course, and so taught me one of journalism's most valuable lessons.

Within my first year I learned another important lesson. Barry assigned me to cover the Supreme Court, a beat that was mine for the following 15 years. But that first year I made a major blunder in a story about a case involving Bob Jones University and a challenge by the government to its tax-exempt status because of its ban on admitting black students. Somehow, in reading the briefs and listening to oral arguments in the case, I concluded that the fundamentalist school's tax exemption already had been lifted when in

fact it had only been threatened. And somehow, Bob Jones III noticed the mistake. He was not happy. So unhappy was he, in fact, he told us he would sue the Baptist Joint Committee if we didn't correct the error. So that very day we did just that. Barry moved decisively to do what had to be done, not just to avoid a lawsuit, but to set the record straight. He did not upbraid or even lecture me. Apparently he determined I could learn my lesson without such a reprimand. Believe me, it was the kind of mistake I never made again.

Not unrelated to this early learning experience came another bit of advice Barry himself had learned the hard way. Go ahead and write your mad letter, he would say, but never mail it the day you write it. Let it rest on the desk overnight and see how it reads in the light of a new day. Nearly always, he told me, he ended up tossing the ill-advised missive into the



W. Barry
Garrett Jr.

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