

October 9, 1960

### Some Missionaries To Stay In Cuba

(EDITORS: Note companion story in this same bundle.)

ATLANTA--(BP)--Not all of Southern Baptists' missionaries will leave Cuba at the present time.

The information came from Mrs. J. David Fite of Havana, wife of a missionary studying language in Costa Rica and daughter of the director of Southern Baptist activities on the island, Herbert Caudill.

The missionaries have been given the privilege of making their own decision whether to follow the suggestion of the United States Government to leave.

"We have no hindrance of any kind in performing our work which is what we are here for. As long as this situation continues, I cannot conscientiously leave," Mrs. Fite said.

In her communication to Loyd Corder, secretary of the language group ministries department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board here, Mrs. Fite indicated only one family had returned and possibly another would return to the United States later.

"I would much prefer to risk a little danger and be where I feel very definitely at this time the Lord wants me to be," she said.

The Tom Laws of Havana have returned to the United States. Other missionaries besides the Caudills and Fites are Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Hurt of Havana and Miss Ruby Miller and Miss Lucille Kerrigan of Cabanas.

-30-

### Choctaw Indians Get New Missionary

(10-9-60)

ATLANTA--(BP)--R. L. Mefford of Liberty, Miss., will become general missionary to the Choctaw Indians at Philadelphia, Miss., Nov. 1. He replaces Victor Kaneubbe, missionary to the more than 3500 Choctaws in Mississippi for three years.

Mefford, who has been superintendent of missions in Amite and Wilkinson Counties in Mississippi since 1957, will serve the 12 Choctaw Indian churches on the reservation and direct the work of the Baptist Indian Center in Philadelphia.

A graduate of Ouachita Baptist College in Arkadelphia, Ark., and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisiana, Mefford will be jointly employed by the Mississippi Baptist Convention and the Home Mission Board after the first of the year. Until then, he will serve under the home board only.

Mefford is a native of Timnath, Colo., and his wife, Barbara Ann, who will serve with him, is a native of Arkansas. He held pastorates in Amite and Pike Counties in Mississippi and an associate pastorate in Bauxite, Ark., before entering associational mission work.

Kaneubbe is now a missionary to the Navajo Indians at Farmington, N. M.

-30-

Musician Finds Cubans  
'Cordial, Very Happy'

NASHVILLE--(BP)--"This was as nearly perfect a field engagement as I've had," a Baptist music department officer said on his return here from 10 days with Baptists in Cuba.

Loren R. Williams of the Baptist Sunday School Board said he was "very cordially received" in the country and had no difficulties at any time.

As editor of the board's church music materials, Williams was assisting Cuban Baptists in their church music activities. One of the soloists in the Baptist church in Havana during his stay was Premier Fidel Castro's sister, about 20.

Midway his stay in Cuba, the State Department of the United States advised Americans living in Cuba to return home. Williams said he decided to complete his engagement and experienced no problems in the remaining four days.

The most prominent signs he said had the words, "Cuba, Yes; Yankees, No." These were posted on buildings and carried in placards on the fronts of transit buses. The Cubans told him, he said, that the signs were directed at United States business and political activities, not at individuals.

After the State Department issued its notice, the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention adopted a policy by which any of its missionaries could leave the island. The policy does not force the missionaries to leave, but it requires that the entire family must leave (not just the dependents) if they decide not to stay.

The director of Home Mission Board activity in Cuba, Herbert Caudill, and Mrs. Caudill have been there for about 30 years. This apparently is the first time unstable political conditions have created a situation which might cause them to leave.

This 10-day visit was Williams' third in four years. On his first two visits, the Batista regime was in government control. Several times, police with drawn guns stopped his movements during the first trip, he said.

"I moved about freely this time," he added. "The country seems very peaceful. The people seem very happy. I saw a one-crop country becoming diversified in agriculture. New schools have been built since Castro's revolution and they say there are no unemployed school-teachers in Cuba. Highways are improved. I saw new housing areas that were not there on my last two visits."

Castro has curtailed gambling, he said, including the government-sponsored weekly national lottery that once existed. "I didn't see as much evidence of drinking this time," Williams reported.

Williams said he was invited to return for more music conferences. He said he hopes to return for them in about two years.

His observations of religious liberty in Cuba correspond with missionary statements--that "evangelical Christianity is as open today as it ever has been any time in Cuba's history." He said evangelical groups are taking advantage of the lack of religious restrictions.

He admitted he returned from Cuba more confused than before because of the apparent conflict between his experience there and his impressions received about Cuba from what he had heard in the United States.

-30-

Illinois Has Plans  
For Chicago School

(10-9-60)

CARBONDALE, Ill.--(BP)--A committee of the Illinois Baptist State Association recommends that the association create a seminary in Chicago during the present decade.

It also recommends a state Baptist home for aged during the same period(1965-1969).

-more-

The long-range committee, however, reports that "present budget possibilities" rule out creation of a state Baptist college.

The committee's report, published here in the Illinois Baptist, goes to the annual associational meeting in Rockford, Ill., in November for action.

"There seems little hope that there will be any serious attempt on the part of the (Southern Baptist) Convention to start a seminary in the Chicago area in the near future. If anything is done about such a project it is evident that Illinois Baptists will have to do it," the committee adds.

The committee says that a seminary could be established and operated "more economically" than a college.

The association presently has no junior or senior colleges or seminaries. Its higher education is carried on through two chairs of Bible at large state universities--one in Urbana and the other in Carbondale.

The committee proposes starting chair of Bible programs at other state campuses.

Illinois Baptists sought unsuccessfully for Chicago to be home of the Southern Baptist Convention's sixth seminary. The Convention instead selected Kansas City, Mo., for Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Two Southern Baptist Convention seminaries originated as state Baptist-supported schools. They are Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, the largest of the six, and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary near San Francisco.

Southwestern Seminary was once a Texas state Baptist school which the S B C began to operate in 1925. California Southern Baptists operated Golden Gate Seminary at Berkeley till 1950, when S B C voted to accept control. The seminary has a new campus at Mill Valley, north of San Francisco.

-30-

#### Kentucky Calls Off Inter-Faith Meeting

(10-9-60)

LOUISVILLE--(BP)--The General Association of Baptists in Kentucky has put off indefinitely a proposed conference here with leaders of other denominations.

The meeting was first scheduled Apr. 28., then rescheduled for Oct. 4.

As the October date neared, association officials found that response by others was not sufficient to "guarantee a meeting with all religious viewpoints represented."

Some observers said the current so-called "religious issue" in the Presidential campaign had an indirect bearing.

The conference was to be under auspices of the association's public affairs committee. The association had approved the inter-faith meeting after taking notice of "mounting tensions in public affairs as religious groups bring their often divergent policies and practices to bear upon public life.

"This is especially true with reference to education and health programs of our state and nation," the association continued.

W. C. Boone, Middletown, Ky., association general secretary, and Edwin F. Perry, Louisville minister who is chairman of the committee, issued invitations last March to leaders of major denominations in Kentucky, including Roman Catholics and Jewish groups.

The Western Recorder, Kentucky Baptist weekly magazine, said that the Roman Catholic Church archbishop of Louisville did not reply to the invitation to meet Oct. 4. "It was felt that discussion which left out the Roman Catholics would do little to remove present misunderstandings," the Western Recorder reported.

-30-

California Agreement  
Uses More Students

MILL VALLEY, Calif.--(BP)--A new Home Mission Board-California Southern Baptist agreement has stepped up the process of utilizing seminary students in California's Southern Baptist churches.

More than half the Southern Baptist churches in the state were established by students of or alumni of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary at Mill Valley according to the seminary's field work director Elmer L. Gray here.

Gray, who is responsible for getting students in place of service in northern California says students now serve in 120 churches in more than 20 associations, covering 40,000 square miles.

Fifteen student pastors' salaries are supplemented by the denomination's Home Mission Board under an agreement signed last January. The agreement, between the seminary, the Southern Baptist General Convention of California, and the Home Mission Board, requires that students who are to receive salary supplements meet approval by representatives of all three bodies. The students must agree to attend orientation classes, make monthly reports to all three agencies, and work year-round.

Gray arranges missionary-student conferences. In a recent meeting of nine area missionaries with students on the Golden Gate campus, Byron Todd of Fresno, Calif., said, "We could open 35 missions tomorrow in halls or chapels, but we need men to start them."

The consensus on problems was expressed as a need for church sites and men with vision who are willing to sacrifice and to do secular work as they start churches.

-30-

Mississippi First  
State Juvenile Work

(10-9-60)

ATLANTA--(BP)--The first state leader of juvenile rehabilitation work among Southern Baptists begins work Nov. 1 in Mississippi.

Lincoln D. Newman of Lucedale, area missionary for the southern part of Mississippi, will direct the new program, according to J. V. James of Atlanta, superintendent of juvenile rehabilitation with the denomination's Home Mission Board, and Chester Quarles of Jackson, executive secretary of Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Newman will be employed by the home board, the Mississippi Convention, and the Hinds County Baptist Association where the rehabilitation program will be set up. The work will operate under the Jackson, Miss., city missions program.

As state director, Newman will help in setting up volunteer programs in smaller cities.

"I rejoice in the prospect of this work. Surely God has led us to set up the program, and we are sure that he will bless the efforts. We are grateful to the Home Mission Board for making possible such a venture," said Foy Rogers of Jackson, secretary of the state's co-operative missions.

Newman, with experience as a pastor and denominational worker, will serve as a liaison between the court, the church, and the child. He will follow the pattern of juvenile rehabilitation programs in 30 cities throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. These programs stress sponsorship of juveniles by Christian families who seek to enlist the child and his family in church activities, says James.

"We are pleased with this new program in Jackson which will extend to smaller cities. Lincoln Newman is a capable man to direct the work," said Fred Moseley of Atlanta, secretary of the home board's city missions department.

Newman, a graduate of Howard College (Baptist) in Birmingham, Ala., attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and plans for further study in sociology and psychology.

He held several pastorates in Alabama, five of them in Birmingham.

-30-