

FROM REGIONAL OFFICE

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February 15, 1963

**Proposed Law Promises
More Liberty In Spain**

WASHINGTON (BP)--The prospect of a new law granting increased liberty "may bring in a new day for Baptists and other evangelicals in Spain," in the opinion of Josef Nordenhaug, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance.

"It would be a big step forward," Nordenhaug said when Alonso Alvarez de Toledo, secretary of the Spanish Embassy in Washington called his attention to the proposed legislation.

Nordenhaug and the Alliance's European secretary, Erik Ruden, have for several years maintained contact with Spanish officials in Washington and Madrid, seeking increased religious freedom for non-Catholics in Spain.

"Though the new law will still not permit full evangelistic activity by non-Catholics," the Baptist leader said, "it will bring about an easing of previous restrictions on the rights of non-Catholic citizens in Spain." The right to "proselytize" will still be denied non-Catholic groups.

Nordenhaug mentioned particularly that Baptist young people in the past have been subject to long delays in getting married while they waited for "clearance" from a Catholic bishop. Protestants have been denied public funeral processions or burials in Catholic cemeteries.

No outward sign has been allowed to indicate a Protestant church. The present law provides: "No external ceremonies or manifestations other than those of the Catholic religion are permitted."

Two Baptist meeting houses, the Second Baptist Church in Madrid and the Baptist Chapel at Elche, are closed because of alleged violations of these restrictions, Nordenhaug said.

The new law, which has been proposed by Foreign Minister Fernando Maria Castiella y Maiz, will grant Protestant churches juridical recognition as religious groups. They previously have been forced to operate as "foreign commercial enterprises."

It is also proposed that Protestant churches will be allowed to run their own schools and seminaries, print and distribute their own translations of the Bible, and operate hospitals and cemeteries. Non-Catholics also would be permitted to hold public office.

Nordenhaug said that Ruden, who has stayed in close touch with both Spanish evangelicals and government authorities, reports "a gradual change in the attitude" toward evangelical churches during the past several months.

Non-Catholic churches in Spain list a membership of 31,000, of whom 3,400 are Baptists. The population of Spain is 30 million.

Baptists Resettle 600
Cuban Refugees in Year

MIAMI (BP)--Southern Baptists have resettled more than 600 Cuban refugees from among the 150,000 who have fled to the United States since Castro gained control of the island's government.

Of the 600, most were resettled during the last months of the year, according to Robert Fricke of Miami, director of Cuban relief and resettlement for the denomination.

Fricke, a missionary of the Home Mission Board, reported only 200 resettled by August.

Also Fricke said the Cuban emergency refugee center, operated by the Federal Government, had presented Southern Baptists with a citation in appreciation for their efforts in resettlement.

"Interest by the churches is accelerating to such an extent, it may temporarily exceed our work load in Miami," he said.

Virginia Baptists have a goal to resettle 100 families by Easter, and "they have already resettled more than any other state."

Fricke said Texas, Georgia, California, and Tennessee also have resettled a number of families.

Churches sponsoring Cuban families range from 40-member North City Baptist Church in Seattle, Wash., to 6,000-member First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, Okla., where Southern Baptist President H. H. Hobbs is pastor.

One church in Decatur, Ga., the Oakhurst Baptist Church, has started a Spanish department in its Sunday School, reporting more than 20 attending at times from the Cuban refugee population of greater Atlanta. Other churches are asking for their second and third families.

All agencies engaged in resettlement have placed more than 53,393 of the refugees outside the Miami area. There are still 100,000 or more in Miami, and some 40 to 50 a day continue to come by boat, Fricke said.

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Freak Explosion Kills
3 Baptist Teen-agers

(2-15-63)

DALLAS (BP)--Two shocked Sunday School teachers at Baptist churches here removed the names of three teen-age boys from their class rolls after a Sunday afternoon tragedy.

The three 16-year-old boys were killed in an explosion which demolished their automobile and badly injured two other companions.

The boys, all of them Baptists, had earlier attended church that Sunday morning. Four of them were in the same Sunday School class at Royal Lane Baptist Church, the other was a member of Park Cities Baptist Church.

"It's a tragedy," John D. Clark, the boys' teacher at Royal Lane Baptist Church told the Baptist Standard. "This church has felt it from the roots up."

Clark said he had taught the four boys in Sunday School at Royal Lane Baptist Church for three years, and that they had good attendance records.

The five teen-agers spent most of the tragic Sunday afternoon experimenting with model airplane fuel and chlorine crystals obtained from a friend's swimming pool.

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On an isolated lot they had used an eyedropper to add fuel to the chlorine crystals, then placed a metal container on top of the mixture and waited for the resulting explosion. The chemical reaction which triggered the explosion required about 45 seconds.

When the boys started home, some of the fuel apparently became accidentally mixed with the chlorine crystals, and the mixture exploded from its sealed, glass jar.

The three boys in the rear seat of the car died before the week was out. The other two suffered lesser burns and are expected to live.

Killed were Ronald Baxter, Bruce Poole, and Mark Raines. Injured and burned were Joseph Straka III and Kent Drew. The Drew boy attended San Marcos Baptist Academy in San Marcos, Tex., and had returned to Dallas only a week earlier.

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Home Board Adds Morris
For Survey Expansion

(2-15-63)

ATLANTA (BP)--The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has added another worker to help meet an increasing national demand for its services in the field of religious surveys.

The board employed Orrin D. Morris of Jackson, Miss., as an associate secretary in the department of survey and special studies. Morris, an employee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, has led that state in survey work for the past two years.

Survey methods developed by the board enable churches to secure information from their communities on the religious affiliation of the residents. In addition, the surveys provide information on areas which need new missions or churches.

The surveys have been used for areas as small as a local church to as large as an entire state.

After years of testing, the methods have received national acceptance by most religious groups.

Leonard G. Irwin of Atlanta is secretary of the department. He has one other associate, William A. Powell, also of Atlanta.

Morris, a native of Omaha, Neb., received most of his education in Virginia, after his family moved to Newport News. He secured degrees from Bluefield Junior College at Bluefield and at the University of Richmond (Baptist). His theological degree was earned at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

"Morris has rendered outstanding service in Mississippi in survey promotion and comes to our staff with a background of pastoral and denominational experience," said Arthur B. Rutledge of Atlanta, director of the board's mission division.

He worked in Virginia with the Goodwill center in Richmond, was a mission pastor in Delacroix Island, La., and was pastor of D'Lo Baptist Church in D'Lo, Miss.

He married Margaret June Anderson, who also secured degrees from each of the three schools he attended. They have two children.

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Call To Ministry
Changes Occupations

LOUISVILLE (BP)--If you judge by their former jobs, God's call to the ministry is no respecter of occupations.

Students entering Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here for the first time this semester attest to that.

One student qualifies for future membership in the Southern Baptist Flying Parsons organization, even before beginning his seminary study. He's Cecil G. Thrasher Jr., a native of Moulton, Ala. He spent the past nine years as a pilot in the military.

Another new student, Robert J. Cook, Gibsonton, Fla., might find his experience as a funeral director's assistant helpful to him in the pastorate.

Other professions from which the student preachers have come include those of bookkeeper, medical laboratory technician, auto mechanic, teacher of vocational agriculture, statistician, electrician, welder and banker.

The students come from eight states. They're part of more than 800 students now studying on the Southern Seminary campus.

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Baptist Hour Speakers
Named For April-June

(2-15-63)

FORT WORTH (BP)--The Baptist Hour, Southern Baptists' international radio worship service, will feature three "relief" preachers during April, May and June. They are Howard E. Butt Jr., Paul M. Stevens, and Wayne E. Oates.

Herschel H. Hobbs, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and permanent preacher for The Baptist Hour, will be off the air from April through July.

Herbert Gabhart, chairman of The Baptist Hour committee for the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, said Hobbs will get a vacation from Baptist Hour preaching to allow him more time for Convention duties during this period of his heaviest schedule.

Hobbs, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, has been permanent speaker for The Baptist Hour since October of 1958. The Baptist Hour is produced by the SBC Radio-TV Commission here and sent to 493 stations in 35 states and 13 foreign countries.

Named to preach on the 30-minute radio program during the month of April was Howard E. Butt Jr., of Corpus Christi, Tex., vice-president of the H. E. Butt Grocery Co. and a Baptist layman evangelist.

Paul Stevens, director of the Radio-TV Commission, will be the speaker during May. It will be the first time Stevens has appeared on the program since 1954.

Wayne Oates, professor of religious psychology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., will speak for five Sundays on the program in June.

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Hardin-Simmons Given
Two Irrigated Farms

ABILENE, Tex. (BP)--Two irrigated farms, valued at \$175,000, have been deeded to Hardin-Simmons University (Baptist) here under terms of a trust made by the late R. C. Johnson and his wife of Lubbock, Tex.

The two irrigated farms, comprising 340 acres, are located near Littlefield, Tex.

The late Mr. Johnson, his wife and son, R. C. Johnson Jr., are all graduates of Hardin-Simmons. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson met while attending the Baptist school.

Johnson, for 35 years a Baptist deacon, died Dec. 1, 1962. He was owner and manager of Johnson Manufacturing Co. in Lubbock, a firm which makes farm construction equipment. The firm is now operated by R. C. Johnson Jr.

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Baptist Preacher Speaks
On CBS Radio Program

(2-15-63)

By the Baptist Press

A Southern Baptist pastor, Brooks H. Wester of Houston, will be the featured speaker on the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) radio program, "Columbia Church of the Air," Sunday, Feb. 24.

Wester, pastor of Park Place Baptist Church in Houston, will speak on "The Power of the Unexpected" during the nation-wide network radio broadcast. Music for the program will be by the Baptist Hour Choir of Fort Worth.

"Columbia Church of the Air" is a weekly religious broadcast sponsored by CBS for various denominations. The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission will produce the transcribed program for CBS.

Webster had served as pastor of churches in Georgia, Mississippi and Texas before coming as pastor of the Houston church in 1956. He is a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: If this story is used in a publication after Feb. 24, please change the verbs to past tense. Thanks.

Dallas Baptist Press

Home Missionaries Commissioned
For Work In Michigan, Arizona

(2-15-63)

ATLANTA (BP)--An associational missionary working in Arizona and two area missionaries serving northern and western portions of Michigan were formally commissioned following an orientation period at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board here recently.

(more)

Those commissioned during the board's February meeting included Lawrence B. Cobb as an associational missionary in Yuma, Ariz.; Austin Dale Maddux, working out of Flint, Mich.; and Claude Newton Roy, with home base in Battle Creek, Mich.

Maddux is an area missionary serving the northern part of Michigan, while Roy is serving in the western part of the state.

Cobb, born in Fargo, Okla., has studied at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Okla., and at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary where he received a doctor's degree in theology.

He has served as pastor in Union, Miss., and Oklahoma City, Okla., and as a mission pastor in Phoenix, Ariz. He also worked as a state director for a mortgage and investment banking firm in Phoenix.

Maddux, a native of Laverne, Okla., has served as a student pastor in Avery, Tex., and as a regular pastor and missions pastor in Coffeyville, Kan.

In addition, he has been a Baptist Student Union director at Kansas State College and an associational missionary in the counties of Cherokee Crawford and Burbon, Mich.

His education includes degrees from Ouachita Baptist College, Arkadelphia, Ark., and from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

Roy, originally from Wellington, Tex., was educated at Baylor University, Waco, Tex., Howard Payne College, Brownwood, Tex., Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Texas Wesleyan College, Fort Worth. He has pastored churches at Moline, Denton and Fort Worth, Tex.; at Altus and Carter, Okla.; and at Battle Creek, Mich.

The missionaries received certificates from the Home Mission Board following a brief service during the board's meeting.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Photos being sent to state Baptist editors in Arizona, Arkansas, Kansas, Michigan, Oklahoma, and Texas. Others available on request.

Cuban Refugee Dies
In Miami Air Crash

(2-15-63)

MIAMI (BP)--The first Cuban refugee of more than 53,000 resettled in the United States outside of Miami lost his life in the crash of a jet airliner which was carrying him to resettlement.

Ramon Diaz, 24, was among 43 passengers and crew members killed Feb. 12 when a Boeing 720 jet of the Northwest Orient Airlines crashed in the swamplands of Southern Florida.

The young Cuban, an accountant, was on the Chicago-bound plane as the first lap of a trip to Seattle, Wash., where his resettlement was being sponsored by the Riverton Heights Baptist Chapel.

Diaz, who had fled his island home a year ago, was unmarried and without family in the United States. His parents and two sisters remain in Cuba.

However, he had received unconfirmed word that one of his sisters was to reach Miami by boat the weekend following his death.

Though not a member of a Baptist church, he had attended one in Miami, according to Robert Fricke of Miami, director of relief and resettlement work for Southern Baptists.

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Nearly 5,000 Churches,
Missions Reported in '62

GULFSHORE, MISS. (BP)--Southern Baptist mission forces reported approximately 5,000 missions and churches started in 1962 as a part of the denomination's effort to organize 30,000 missions and churches by 1964.

The effort, known as the 30,000 Movement, was started in 1956, and director C. C. Warren of Charlotte, N. C., reported here to a national meeting of associational missionaries that 19,117 units have been reported. This includes 5,328 churches and 13,789 missions.

A year ago the report read 14,210--which means 4,907 missions and churches were reported during 1962, a year designated by the Southern Baptist Convention as church extension year.

Reported for the first time in the figures were missions started by Southern Baptist chaplains (1,305) and by workers in Baptist Student Unions (716).

The following figures indicate reports from state Baptist conventions, foreign missionaries, chaplains, and Baptist Student Unions: (First figure indicates churches; second, missions)

Alabama	223	522
Alaska	18	32
Arizona	84	204
Arkansas	89	120
California	301	718
Colorado	93	243
Cuba	5	52
District of Columbia	9	11
Florida	274	708
Georgia	175	274
Hawaii	7	41
Illinois	210	691
Indiana	64	149
Kentucky	169	397
Kansas	57	170
Louisiana	120	267
Maryland	77	171
Michigan	85	159
Missouri	147	564
Mississippi	114	203
New Mexico	52	150
North Carolina	198	448
Ohio	209	393
Oklahoma	127	329
Oregon-Washington	74	175
Panama	16	67
South Carolina	126	312
Tennessee	193	268
Texas	390	799
Virginia	90	165
Foreign Missions	1,532	2,966
Chaplains --	1,305	
Baptist Student Unions --	716	

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Decatur Baptist College
Approves Move To Dallas

(2-15-63)

DECATUR, Tex. (BP)--Trustees of Decatur Baptist College, the world's oldest junior college, voted to move the school from the site of its founding 70 years ago to a brand new campus in Dallas.

(more)

The school will begin its move to the metropolitan center 63 miles southeast of Decatur in June of 1965.

The action of the Decatur trustees, who voted 19-0 in favor of the school's relocation, was considered the major hurdle in getting a Baptist college off the planning board in Dallas.

The administration, staff, faculty, all moveable equipment, assets and liabilities will be transferred to Dallas under the proposal.

Final approval must come from the Texas Baptist Education Commission, the state Baptist Executive Board, and from messengers to the annual Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Decatur President Otis Strickland was enthusiastic about the school's relocation. "I believe along with the trustees that it is the will of God," he said.

"The move will give the school a greater opportunity and wider influence, and we will be able to do more good for the cause of Christ and Christian education in Texas," said President Strickland.

Decatur Baptist College has much to gain by moving to Dallas, the president pointed out. "We will be able to teach more students and influence more people," he said.

The brand-new campus, located in Southwest Dallas overlooking Mountain Creek Lake, will accommodate 300 to 400 students. Current enrollment at the school in Decatur is 139 students, with a total of 207 enrolled during the past year.

Also, the school will gain nearly \$1.4 million in pledges enlisted for the support of the proposed Dallas Baptist University. Businessmen in the Oak Cliff area of Dallas have promised to raise an additional \$500,000.

As a part of the principles and procedures set up for the move, the Dallas Baptist Association agrees to raise an additional \$100,000 to pay off the bonded indebtedness of Decatur Baptist College.

The school's board of trustees also elected representatives to a ten-man steering committee to work out details on the relocation, and approved a resolution expressing appreciation to the people of Decatur and to all who have given the school support.

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SBC Problems Aired
At Editors' Meeting

92-15-63)

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (BP)--A Baptist editor said here the Southern Baptist Convention faces four "concerns"--declines, relations with other religious bodies, doctrinal issues and race relations.

Another Baptist editor said special offerings in the SBC are not consistent with the business and financial plan of the convention.

These addresses were before the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Press Association. It includes the editors of 28 Southern Baptist weekly state papers and certain other SBC journals.

J. Marse Grant of Raleigh named the four areas of concern in a speech titled, "Whither Southern Baptists?". Grant, editor of the Biblical Recorder, singled out the decline in seminary enrolment. He said the increase in church membership is less than the increase in population, and added that Sunday School enrolment gains in the SBC took a downward plunge.

(more)

But, he added, the decline may leave the churches with a "committed core of believers." Persons who drifted into the church only for social standing or from fear of war may be drifting out of it, he said.

He denied he ever proposed a merger of the SBC and the American Baptist Convention. "I pleaded for a more united witness rather than for organic merger," said Grant. "It hurts me to see us take the attitude that only we are right.

"Let's face it," he continued, "Southern Baptists can't win the world alone. Would you agree with me that evangelical Christianity could never win a numbers battle?" This is why the united witness is needed.

He asked Baptists to keep an open mind and to refresh themselves on their history. "I don't have the answer," he said.

"What Southern Baptists do in the next 10-15 years in race relations can make or break our foreign mission program," Grant declared.

He lamented the church's leaving better race relations to political leaders.

Reuben E. Alley of Richmond, elected the new association president, said he believed in special offerings. He claimed however the two SBC Mission Boards--Foreign and Home--are in conflict with the SBC business and financial plan in the promotion of special annual mission offerings.

They are not to promote these offerings among churches and individuals without permission of the convention, he alleged. The Foreign Mission special offering--the Lottie Moon Offering--comes at Christmas. The Annie Armstrong Offering for Home Missions follows in a few months.

He said, "I believe in the Woman's Missionary Union more than some of the women in it believe in it." The Woman's Missionary Union, an auxiliary (but not agency) of the SBC, sponsors the two offerings.

Alley said consistency demands the convention choose between alternatives. One would be to retain the offerings as women's projects only. If the convention does not intend to let them remain a women's project, he said:

"Let's make (the special offerings) churchwide offerings if it's to be a churchwide approach." Let it be a direct appeal by the two mission boards to the men of the churches as well as to the women, he added.

He said he was concerned about the effect of the special offerings on the Cooperative Program. This is the unified budget plan the SBC adopted to support state and world missions.

"I think we have an excellent financial plan. I hate to see anything undercut the Cooperative Program," he said.

James F. Cole of Alexandria, La., was elected the vice-president of the Southern Baptist Press Association. He edits the Baptist Message. Gainer E. Bryan Jr., of Baltimore, editor of the Maryland Baptist, was elected secretary-treasurer.

The 1964 meeting will be held in Houston Feb. 9-11.

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NY Yankee Baseball Star
Leaves for Japan Crusade

(2-15-63)

DALLAS (BP)--The New York Yankees' star second-baseman, Bobby Richardson, traded his bat for a Bible here and left for Tokyo where he will be participating in the Japan Baptist New Life Movement.

(more)

The 27-year-old athlete said in a press conference here he will speak before youth groups in a baseball-loving country--Japan--and will try to teach Christianity through baseball.

"I'm in baseball for a purpose--to serve God," he said. "In Japan, I'll be giving my testimony to bring youth to Christ."

Asked by one reporter the number he might win, Richardson answered: "If we win one to Christ, it will make the trip worthwhile."

The handsome young man from Sumter, S. C., will be in Japan before the vast nation-wide Japan New Life Movement begins, and will return to the United States in time for spring training.

The New Life Movement, aimed at reaching the entire population of Japan with the Gospel message, will include five area-wide crusades and 156 revivals in Japan cities and Baptist churches. About 500 Baptists from the United States will participate in the crusade.

The New Life Movement is sponsored jointly by the Japan Baptist Convention, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, and the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Richardson is going to Japan at the request of Japanese Baptist leaders.

Richardson said he primarily would be involved in pre-crusade speaking engagements, but added that the baseball crazed Japanese might talk him into getting out on a baseball diamond.

"I enjoy the sport I am in," he said, "but only because I feel it is where God would have me serve Him."

"God gave me the ability to play baseball," he said, "and baseball gives me the opportunity to present my Christian testimony when I often otherwise would not be able to."

Richardson, who had a .302 batting average for the Yankees last year, made the catch that saved the final game of the World Series game for his team last year.

Bobby said he is just a mediocre athlete during the regular season. "I make my living by hitting bunts and singles."

He admitted, however, he had managed to make a couple of records during World Series games, adding modestly, "I feel there are a lot of fellow Christians praying for me during the Series who don't even see me the rest of the year."

Richardson holds the record for the number of runs-batted-in during a World Series game, and is one of the few players in baseball history to hit a home run with the bases loaded during a World Series game.

The dedicated young athlete met his wife, Betsy, at Grace Baptist Church in Sumter, S. C., where they are both members. Mrs. Richardson has an aunt who is a Southern Baptist missionary in Taiwan where Bobby will be speaking as a part of his trip to the Orient.

Richardson has taught a Sunday School class, spoken before youth rallies and city-wide crusades, and has participated in youth camps sponsored by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

"My purpose in life," he said, "is to know, to love, and to walk daily with Jesus Christ, and I think that should be everyone's purpose."

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