

September 26, 1963

**Big City Sponsorship  
Urged For Refugees**

MIAMI (BP)--A Baptist leader in the resettlement of Cuban refugees has asked churches in big city areas to increase their efforts to sponsor the Latins.

"Most of the Cubans in Miami have come from urban areas in Cuba," said Robert Fricke of Miami, director of relief and resettlement for the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"The cities offer better employment opportunities," he added. "There are usually other Cubans already in the cities, and many of them have a fear of rural areas because they have never lived in the country."

Fricke also chided Southern Baptists for losing interest in a job half done. "There are between 40,000 and 50,000 refugees in Miami still on relief," he said.

"In many ways resettlement is needed now more than ever, and thousands of the churches have not had any part in this ministry." However, he did praise those churches which have resettled more than 1,000 of the 65,000 which have been helped to live in other areas.

Fricke said any church holding back for fear of the finances involved, need not, for no church was expected to undergo undue financial hardship in resettlement.

"If hospitalization is needed or there is a long unemployment period, the church should contact local welfare agencies," he suggested.

Motion pictures concerning the resettlement problem are available to churches by writing Robert Fricke at 3318 N. W. 17th Ave., Miami 42, Fla.

Churches wanting other information may contact directors of Cuban resettlement at state Baptist offices.

-30-

**Ghana Student Accepted  
For Church Membership**

(9-26-63)

MACON, Ga. (BP)--The Ghana student who is one of four Negroes attending Mercer University (Baptist) here under its desegregation policy has been accepted as a member of Vineville Baptist Church.

Sam Jerry Oni came by letter from Takoradi Church. He was one of 12 who joined at the Sunday morning service. A brief discussion preceded the vote, estimated at 70 per cent favorable, which made him the first member of his race to join a Southern Baptist church in the state.

Fifteen other persons joined Sunday night.

The pastor of the church, Walter L. Moore, was chairman of the special trustee committee which led to the university desegregation.

Oni is the only member of his race living on campus. The other three are Macon residents, one a special night student.

-30-

## Wagoner Named Chief

THOMASVILLE, N. C. (BP)--W. R. Wagoner, general superintendent of the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina here, has been elected president this year of the North Carolina Association of Child Caring Institutions. This is the state's highest organization for child caring personnel.

-30-

Negro Athlete Goes  
To Another College

(9-26-63)

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C. (BP)--Bennie Blocker, outstanding Negro football star from Lancaster, S. C., who was expected to enrol at Wake Forest College (Baptist) here, has instead entered Ohio State University.

A spokesman at the college here said Blocker scored "extremely low" marks on the college board entrance examination and his high school record did not meet the college's requirements.

-30-

Baptist Leaders Seek  
End To Racial Strife

(9-26-63)

WASHINGTON (BP)--Religious leaders of the nation have joined with civic and political leaders in conferences in the Nation's capital seeking solutions to the race problems that plague the country.

Two Southern Baptist pastors from Birmingham were in the groups that conferred with President John F. Kennedy about the problems in their city. Earlier other Baptist leaders joined with a group of 20 of the nation's leading religious spokesmen to ask Congress to enact strong civil rights legislation.

In the group of six Birmingham clergymen that called on the President was Earl Stallings, pastor of the First Baptist Church.

Others were Bishop Nolan B. Harmon of the North Alabama Conference of the Methodist Church; Joseph A. Durick, auxiliary bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Alabama; his assistant, Joseph C. Allen; Rabbi Milton L. Grafman of Temple Emmanuel; and Bishop George M. Murray, bishop coadjutor of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama.

The Alabama clergymen met in the White House upon the invitation of the President.

Earlier in the day a group of white Birmingham civic leaders conferred with the President. Among them was W. Landon Miller, pastor of Ruhama Baptist Church, who went as president of the white ministerial group in Birmingham.

The clergymen refused to discuss their meeting with the President, but they issued a statement through their spokesman, Bishop Murray. They expressed hope the two representatives of President Kennedy sent to Birmingham for negotiations between local leaders of the White and Negro races "may prove to be helpful and fruitful."

The ministers assured the President of their desire to cooperate with his representatives "in seeking to improve racial harmony in our city."

In an interview with the Baptist Press about the racial tensions in Birmingham, Stallings (1) asked for the prayers of Baptist people for solutions to problems there, and (2) said one of the reasons the problem is unresolved is that "no tears have been shed yet."

The civic leaders of Birmingham joined with the President in the hope that the city's racial problems could be solved locally. However, they were firm in their belief that a large portion of the people of Birmingham, including many Negroes, "are firmly, deeply dedicated to the principle of segregation."

-more-

They made it clear they favored a peaceful solution on the basis of segregation.

The week prior to these Alabama meetings with the President, 20 of the nation's outstanding religious leaders called on many members of Congress and the attorney general, Robert Kennedy, and made a strong appeal for civil rights legislation.

"Until a community puts out of its life all sanctioned forms of discrimination and segregation," the clergymen said, "demented men will find encouragement to commit racist murder."

They explained that their visit to Washington was occasioned by the death of six young Americans in Birmingham. They called the killing of these boys and girls "tragic and senseless" and a "hideous massacre."

They said in their statement to Congress, the President and the attorney general "that we believe the nation is ready now as it has never been before for legislation which will insure that incidents such as happened last Sunday--and such as have been happening over and over again in only slightly less monstrous forms throughout this land in recent times--will not occur again."

In their statement to the attorney general the clergymen urged:

1. The fullest possible use of the authority of the federal government to insure the physical safety and the protection of the rights of all citizens;
2. Additional legislation to extend and guarantee those rights;
3. The administration to support stronger civil rights legislation and to seek elimination of "legal bottlenecks" that obstruct justice;
4. The maximum use of the F B I on the basis of currently existing anti-bombing laws; and
5. The imposition of sanctions against the Governor of Alabama if it is determined he by his recent actions stands in criminal contempt of the Federal Courts.

The names of the religious leaders who visited members of Congress and the attorney general are as follows:

Norman Baugher, general secretary, General Brotherhood Board, Church of the Brethren, Elgin, Ill.

Rabbi Balfour Brickner, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, New York.

Daniel Corrigan, director, home department, National Council of the Protestant Episcopal Church, New York.

Rabbi Richard Hirsch, Synagogue Council of America, Washington.

His Eminence Iakovos, archbishop, Greek Orthodox Church of North and South America, New York, N. Y.

J. Oscar Leed, associate director, National Council of Churches, commission on religion and race, New York.

Bishop John Wesley Lord, bishop of the Washington area, Methodist Church, Washington.

William H. Marmion, Episcopal bishop of southwestern Virginia, Roanoke.

J. Erwin Miller, president, National Council of Churches, Columbus, Ind.

Harold Murray, staff member, National Conference on Religion and Race, New York.

James A. Pike, Episcopal bishop, San Francisco.

Charles Raphael, Orthodox layman, New York.

Rabbi Stanley Rabinowitz, Synagogue Council of America, Washington.

Bishop B. Julian Smith, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Chicago.

Robert W. Spike, executive director, commission on religion and race, National Council of Churches, New York.

Harold Stassen, president, American Baptist Convention, Philadelphia.

John W. Williams, president, Sunday school congress, National Baptist Convention of America, Kansas City, Mo.

Gardner Taylor, pastor, Concord Baptist Church, Brooklyn, N. Y.

C. Joseph Nuesse, president, Catholic Interracial Council of Washington, (D. C.).

Bishop Stephen Gill Spottswood, chairman of the board, N. A. A. C. P., Washington.

-30-

Delamarter, Price Lead  
Guidance Conference

(9-26-63)

NASHVILLE (BP)--John M. Price Jr., dean of the school of religious education, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, has been voted president-elect of the Southern Baptist Counseling and Guidance Conference here.

He will preside at the conference in 1965.

Assuming presidency, and to preside at the 1964 conference, is Walter Delamarter of Fort Worth, who will join the faculty of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville after Christmas.

Delamarter has been president-elect. The retiring president is N. Eugene Mandrell of Walhalla, S. C.

The Counseling and Guidance Conference chose Miss Velma Darbo of Nashville as recording secretary. She is editor of Upward, published by the Southern Baptist Convention Sunday School Board.

Foy Valentine of Nashville, executive secretary of the SBC Christian Life Commission, fills the secretary-treasurer post. The commission is one of the coordinators and sponsors of the conference.

The conference draws together about 75 persons in the pastorate and in denominational agency positions whose work involves counseling and guidance.

-30-