

March 10, 1965

Kansas Churches Aid
In Cuban Reunion

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (BP)--A poignant reunion was held in Kansas City recently when a family of Cuban refugees arrived to be greeted by a bevy of relatives.

The reunion involved 18 Cubans, three Southern Baptist churches, and a waiting period of three years.

The latest arrivals were the family of Miguel Angelo Castro, including his wife, his mother and the Castros' 10-year-old daughter, Florangel.

They will find a new home because of the Southern Baptist ministry of sponsoring Cuban refugees.

The church that sponsored the latest Cuban arrivals in Kansas City was the Berean Baptist Church. The church found a house for the newcomers to live in and the church members fixed it up.

"Already, I think we have been blessed," said Paul Andrews, pastor of Berean, in explaining how the church members have helped the Cubans.

The story of Miguel, a textile worker in Cuba, begins three years ago in October, 1962 when the first Southern Baptist Church, Kansas City, Kan., voted to sponsor a Cuban family. The family was Othoniel Castro, his wife and their two children. In Cuba, he was an accountant and she a school teacher. Both have jobs in Kansas City now.

Once located here, the Castros aided in sponsoring two of her cousins, Nanita Alvarez and Javier Gonzalez Jr., to bring the total to six.

Next to come were Javier's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Javier Gonzalez Sr., and this time another denomination came into the picture. They were sponsored by the First Nazarene Church of Kansas City, Mo., but the total of Cuban refugees in the family grew to eight.

First Southern Baptist, the original sponsoring church, got into the act again when it sponsored relatives of Nanita Alvarez. They included Nanita's mother, Mrs. Laudelina Rodriguez, and Miss Anolad Madruga, a sister of the Mrs. Castro, who came in the first group. The total went up to 10.

Next to come was Mrs. Castro's brother, Manuel Madruga, a bookkeeper in Cuba but now a worker in a publishing house here. The number of relatives grew to 11. He was also sponsored by the Nazarene church.

Another Southern Baptist church sponsored the next group to arrive. It was the nearby Leawood Baptist Church, Leawood, Kan., and the group included Mr. and Mrs. Antonio Leon Rodriguez and their son. This family is also related to Mrs. Castro and the number increased to 14.

Now the emphasis has shifted to Mr. Castro's side of the family. The latest to arrive, Miguel Castro and his family, are related to Othoniel. Miguel is Othoniel's brother and he brought their mother for a reunion that all had awaited with great anticipation. The latest arrivals brought the total number of relatives to 18 who have arrived here from Cuba because of the interest of Southern Baptists.

Since January, 1959 more than 175,000 refugees have entered the United States through Miami, and 85,000 have been resettled in other areas. Southern Baptists have aided 1,318 of the Cubans.

Baptist workers in Miami say the refugee problem is changing, since few now enter the country, and many already here have settled down to some type of employment.

"However, we are still in the refugee resettlement business," says Robert Fricke of Miami, Baptist director of Spanish work there. "The need is still here if on a much more limited scale."

Fricke says a number of single people, or wives with husbands in Cuba, need assistance. Many Cubans in Miami live on marginal assistance from the government.

High Church Membership
Found In Little Rock

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP)--A house-to-house survey of 73,300 people of metropolitan Little Rock found 72.6 per cent holding church membership.

The survey, conducted by 1,700 members of 40 churches of the area, was directed by Orrin Morris of Atlanta, survey specialist with the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Morris said the survey found the downtown and the older satellite communities in need of a stronger Christian witness.

The lowest percentage of church membership was found in the Geyer Springs area with only 60 per cent. The highest percentage of persons indicating they never attend church was in the downtown area.

Areas found to be best served by churches were the new subdivisions.

Morris said seven denominations participated in making the survey, which gathered information from the white population only.

Another breakdown of the population surveyed was by age: birth through eight, and nine and older. Of the older group, 13.4 per cent have no church membership; and 23 per cent of the younger group seldom or never go to church or Sunday school.

The survey also checked on the attendance pattern of those surveyed. Findings revealed 62.7 per cent attended weekly, 8.7 per cent monthly, 15.9 per cent seldom, 9.2 never attend and no record for 3.5 per cent.

Denominational preference of the population was found to be 38 per cent Baptist, 21 per cent Methodist, 9 per cent Catholic, 7 per cent Presbyterian, and 6 per cent Church of Christ.

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Gift Leaves Pastor
(Baby) Sitting Pretty

3-10-65

MARTINEZ, Ga. (BP)--A Baptist pastor here received a gift which is certain to evoke a hearty "Amen" from his wife.

The girls in the Young Woman's Auxiliary at Pine View Baptist Church, as a climax to their annual Focus Week, gave Pastor Grover C. Lee Jr. a certificate entitling him to "one YWA baby-sitter once a month."

The gift was made "on the condition that you take your wife out to dinner on money otherwise spent for a baby-sitter." Six potential baby-sitters signed the gift certificate.

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McKay Named Acting
College President

3-10-65

PHOENIX (BP)--Charles L. McKay, Phoenix, executive secretary of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, has been designated acting president of Grand Canyon College here.

The college is an agency of the Arizona state Baptist group. Eugene N. Patterson resigned as Grand Canyon College president to become superintendent of missions for an association of churches in Alabama.

A committee composed of the executive committee of the Arizona Baptist executive board and of the executive committee of college trustees will be an advisory group to McKay in college affairs.

This advisory committee will form the nucleus of a nominating committee to recommend a new, full-time president of the college.

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The executive board of the Arizona state convention, in an action here, voted to buy from a Jewish synagogue property it owns next door to the Arizona Baptist Building in the 300 block of West McDowell Road in Phoenix.

The Arizona convention is paying \$70,000 for the property, which is considerably less than its appraised value, it was reported. The convention will take possession of the property of Beth El Synagogue when a parochial school there closes for the summer.

The synagogue is moving to a new location.

Arizona Baptists plan to remodel the synagogue and to remodel their present Baptist Building as well. The Baptist Book Store, now located downtown about a mile from the McDowell Road site, is expected to move out to the Baptist Building.

Purchase of the synagogue's two and half lots and building will be financed through a loan.

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Final 30,000 Tally
Reports 24,917

3-10-65

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptists closed last year their 30,000 Movement--and the final report just in found them only 5,000 short of the goal of 30,000 new churches and missions.

The movement was a church extension effort to start 10,000 churches and 20,000 missions in nine years. They reported 24,917.

C. C. Warren, president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1956, challenged Southern Baptists at their meeting that year in Kansas City to match the number of churches with new missions and churches.

Thus was born the 30,000 Movement. Warren left the pastorate of First Baptist Church of Charlotte, N. C., to direct the effort, employed by the SBC Home Mission Board and Sunday School Board. The mission agency presently continues the emphasis of the movement through its church extension department.

Warren's final report indicates 6,682 churches and 18,235 missions were started.

The last known church to be organized as a part of the movement is the First Southern Baptist Church of Bellwood, Ill., which held its constitution service Dec. 31, 1964.

A reporter wrote, "At 11:59 p.m. the council of pastors recommended that the Bellwood Chapel proceed to constitute as a Baptist church with 50 charter members.

"Seconds later, before the New Year struck, a Bellwood member made a motion that the council's recommendation be accepted and the church constituted.

"Thus, the last new church for Southern Baptists in 1964 was organized."

The new church, the 58th in the Chicago Southern Baptist Association of churches is located 20 miles west of the downtown Loop.

Both the first church recognized in the movement, Northtown Baptist Church of Spokane, Wash., and the last near Chicago are located in territory where 25 years ago Southern Baptists were not working.

Such areas, called "pioneer" by Southern Baptists, are in the western and northern part of the nation which the denomination entered during and after the population movements of World War II.

More than 1,500 of the new churches started in the 30,000 Movement were in these states, 351 of them in California alone, and 253 in Illinois.

California also reports starting 1,036 missions, and Florida started 1,037 missions. Texas reported starting the largest number of churches, 448.

A breakdown by states of the final report from Warren follows. The first figure will be new churches organized and the second figure will be new missions established.

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Alabama--271, 623; Alaska--21, 623; Arizona--120, 287; Arkansas--102, 157; California--351, 1,036.

Colorado--182, 290; Cuba--5, 52; District of Columbia--11, 63; Florida--344, 1,037; Georgia--199, 320.

Hawaii--9, 44; Illinois--253, 842; Indiana--94, 250; Kentucky--208, 483; Kansas--65, 233.

Louisiana--153, 395; Maryland--113, 297; Michigan--109, 234; Missouri--179, 759; Mississippi--133, 273.

New Mexico--59, 182; North Carolina--221, 550; Ohio--265, 560; Oklahoma--168, 485; Oregon-Washington--84, 216.

Panama-Canal Zone--40, 80; South Carolina--166, 468; Tennessee--218, 356; Texas--448, 971; Virginia--112, 210.

Foreign Missions--1,979, 3,595; SBC chaplains, (new missions established) 1,737; Baptist Student Unions, (new missions established) 907; work with National (Negro) Baptists, (new missions) 200.

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Golden Gate Undertakes
Urban Witness Project

3-10-65

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--A Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary professor here will direct a research project to find ways in which Southern Baptists can reach people in large California cities.

The project, outlined at the annual meeting of Golden Gate trustees, will also involve several pastors and will include staffers from the Southern Baptist General Convention of California office in Fresno.

Directed by Gaines S. Dobbins, the research project will last more than a year. After that Dobbins said he will retire from a seminary teaching position for the second time.

After he retired from the faculty of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Dobbins came to Golden Gate Seminary here as distinguished professor of religious education.

In addressing the seminary last fall, Grady C. Cothen, California convention executive secretary, asked the seminary to help California Baptists with their problems during the decade ahead.

Cothen described "the complexity of the social, educational, cultural and spiritual conditions confronted by Southern Baptist churches in California, and elsewhere on the West Coast." Cothen said Golden Gate Seminary could play an important part in the future of California Southern Baptist work.

The research project resulted as an effort by Golden Gate to help the state convention. Presumably Southern Baptist work in two other states on the West Coast could be included in the project.

Golden Gate Seminary trustees also adopted a record budget, elected a new staff member and reelected the chairman of trustees.

The record operating budget for the 1965-66 fiscal year is \$573,712. The new staff member is Stanton H. Nash, onetime executive secretary of Southern Baptist work in Hawaii, and more recently of Atlanta, where he was administrator at First Baptist Church, and then business manager of John E. Haggai Evangelistic Association.

Nash will be assistant to President Harold K. Graves. He will direct Golden Gate's 10-year development program called, "Projection '74."

Two professors at the seminary were promoted. Kyle M. Yates Jr. was elevated from associate to professor of Old Testament history and biblical archaeology. Geil Davis moved up from assistant to associate professor of elementary education.

Elwin L. Skiles of Abilene, Tex., was reelected trustee chairman.

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2 At Southeastern
Receive Study Grants

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)--Stewart A. Newman and George H. Shriver Jr., of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here have been granted fellowships by the American Association of Theological Schools for their sabbatical leaves during the academic year, 1965-1966.

These were among the 40 fellowships given by the Association which is composed of 127 divinity schools and seminaries, including the six Southern Baptist theological seminaries.

Newman, professor of theology and philosophy of religion of Southeastern, plans to spend his sabbatical leave in research and study in Rochester, N. Y. At the Colgate-Rochester Divinity School (American Baptist) he will use resource-materials of the American Baptist Historical Society for the completion of a manuscript on the "Free Church Ecclesiology."

Shriver, associate professor of church history at Southeastern, is a native of Florida and began teaching at Southeastern in 1959. He plans to study at Bossey and the University of Geneva in Switzerland and to travel in Europe.

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Activities Director
At Southern Retires

3-10-65

LOUISVILLE, Ky (BP)--Mrs. Louise Foreman Blount is retiring after 11 years as director of women's activities at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Her work has been related to the role of women in the life of Southern Seminary. As the first director of women's activities, she has (1) served as first director of the Seminary's evening school for student wives, (2) organized a program of orientation for student wives, and (3) been advisor for all women's organizations on campus, chief of which is the seminary Woman's Missionary Union.

Dr. Blount's husband, William Oscar Blount, a pastor, died in 1949. Then 50 years old, Mrs. Blount decided to return to school to study for the doctor of religious education degree. After receiving the degree from Eastern Baptist Seminary, Philadelphia, she served for three years as dean of women and assistant professor of religious education at Mary Hardin-Baylor College (Baptist), Belton, Tex.

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Mountain Preacher
Award Given Meade

3-10-65

PINEVILLE, Ky. (BP)--D. E. Meade of Forest Hills, Ky., received the annual "Mountain Preacher of the Year" award at Clear Creek Baptist School here.

Meade helped organize the First Baptist Church of Forest Hills in 1941 and has served as its pastor for 24 years.

L. O. Griffith of Atlanta, a former mountain minister at Whitesburg and Fleming, Ky.; now director of the education and promotion division of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, presented the award.

The citation, made each year by Clear Creek School, this year was named the "A. S. Petrey Minister of the Year Award." Petrey spent 61 years in Baptist mission work in the Kentucky mountains. He died in 1952 at Hazard, Ky. Pastor J. E. Howell of Ludlow, Ky., eulogized Petrey at the services.

Clear Creek's ministry centers in training ministers from and for mountain areas, though its student body now represents many sections of the nation.

Both Meade and Griffith also spoke at the services. Meade asked Christians to "remember who you are." He said, "The devil is most interested in preachers, deacons and Sunday school teachers."

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Urging Christians to live Christ-centered lives, he said, "One of the saddest parts of our Christianity today is that too many Christians have tried to live in two worlds at the same time."

He told his audience, which included a large proportion of ministers, that ministers should "prepare for their tasks and preach the whole message of the Bible. Otherwise, a dead ministry results."

He paid tribute to his wife for her leading him to deeper spiritual insights. She was present for the award service.

The citation said Meade was selected from among Baptist ministers in the Appalachian Mountains for his mission zeal, radio ministry, personal study, visitation and denominational work.

He is a member of the SBC Foreign Mission Board and a former executive board member of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Griffith told the Clear Creek audience Jesus' command to follow him was the summary of the Christian's business.

Being a missionary is the business of every Christian, and the "greatest blessing you can give or receive is being a missionary."

He said Southern Baptists have the "greatest opportunity ever with their membership, finances and churches for a strengthened witness to the world."

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Bassett To Retire
On 48th Anniversary

3-10-65

DALLAS (BP)--Wallace Bassett, 80-year-old pastor of one of the largest churches in the Southern Baptist Convention, has announced plans to retire on his 48th anniversary as pastor of Cliff Temple Baptist Church here, March 1, 1966.

The announcement was made during a Sunday worship service honoring Dr. Bassett on his 47th anniversary as pastor of the church in Oak Cliff, a Dallas suburb.

With 6,503 members, the Cliff Temple Church is ranked seventh in size throughout the SBC.

His 47 years as pastor of one of the largest congregations in the SBC is considered somewhat a record.

During those 47 years, Bassett has baptized 5,835 converts, married 3,643 couples and officiated at between 5,000 and 6,000 funerals.

The octogenarian minister said he feels as vigorous as he did 25 years ago, but knows he can't stay as pastor of the church "indefinitely."

Even at 80, he spends more than 25 hours each week studying. He made a resolution 54 years ago when he came to Texas to keep up his study.

During the anniversary service, two Baptist leaders praised Dr. Bassett for his Christian courage, compassion and understanding.

"Very few Baptists have walked among us like the giant that Wallace Bassett is," said Abner McCall, president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and president of Baylor University of which Bassett has served as a trustee for 40 years.

The executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, R. Alton Reed of Dallas, praised Dr. Bassett's contribution to the denomination.

Bassett has served as a trustee for the Annuity Board every year since it was established in 1918. He has been president of the board for 43 years, and has been either president or vice-president every year since 1918.

Bassett had been president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas on three occasions. McCall said in the anniversary service it would take an entire hour to read all his list of accomplishments.

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(Photo being mailed to Baptist state papers.)

Colleges: 3 Say Yes,
3 No To Rights Act

By the Baptist Press

Three Mississippi Baptist Convention colleges will not sign "assurances of compliance" with the 1964 Civil Rights Act passed by Congress. A fourth Mississippi Baptist school will comply.

Two Tennessee Baptist Convention colleges have agreed to comply.

Compliance is necessary if colleges want to continue to participate in programs of any kind supported by federal funds.

An "assurance of compliance" indicates the college already receives qualified students without regard to race, color or national origin, or will in the future practice an open admissions policy.

Colleges refusing to comply in Mississippi are Mississippi College at Clinton, coeducational senior college and largest of the four Baptist schools in the state; Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain, senior college for women, and Clarke Memorial College, Newton, a junior college.

Complying is William Carey College, Hattiesburg, another senior college.

In Tennessee, Carson-Newman College at Jefferson City has four local Negroes enrolled this year. Union University at Jackson said it would comply with the Civil Rights Act.

Mississippi College trustees said "more than \$200,000 has been available to the students under the National Defense Education Act loan program." They expressed "vital concern with finding means to replace" this federal source of loans.

Mississippi College also received from 1959 through 1961 over \$1-1/3 million total in three loans from the Housing and Home Finance Agency. In 1961 and 1962, William Carey College received in two loans nearly \$600,000 total from that source.

Housing and Home Finance Agency loans are generally used for dormitories, student union buildings and dining halls.

Prior to the "assurance of compliance" regulation, there was no type of special requirement for colleges to accept to have loans. The Mississippi schools apparently felt federal say-so over admissions and other policies would not conform to their belief in separation of church and state, and declined to comply with the act.

The Mississippi trustees made no mention of race in their actions regarding compliance. No Mississippi Baptist schools have announced a racially open policy on admissions.

The chairman of trustees at Blue Mountain College said, "We all felt that once an institution submitted to federal control in any way there would be growing demands by the government agencies. We did not want that."

Mississippi College trustees emphasized their decision, made after "deep and prayerful consideration," was in line with their 139-year tradition of the college.

At Clarke College, the trustee chairman said, "It was felt that pledges made in a recent financial drive were made with the understanding that the college would remain outside government control. To keep faith with the donors, we reached the decision not to sign the agreement." (BP)