

April 10, 1965

'Go Ahead' Given West  
Virginia Convention

CHARLESTON, W. Va. (BP)--The Southern Baptist West Virginia missions committee recently studied possibilities for a state convention by 1966 and gave themselves a 'go ahead' sign.

Meeting with the committee were representatives of four neighboring state conventions, the Sunday School Board and Home Mission Board, agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention.

According to John I. Snedden of Charleston, superintendent of missions for West Virginia, the committee studied requirements which new conventions must meet in order to receive financial assistance from SBC agencies.

The yardsticks for aid, made by the home mission agency in cooperation with other agencies, include membership, mission giving, a regional organization and an established operating fund.

Snedden said only in membership did they find any difficulty, and he expects this to be overcome. States are asked to have 70 churches with 10,000 members or 50 churches and 12,500 members.

West Virginia is expected to have 50 churches, but membership may be less than the 12,500.

There are now 53 churches with a total of 13,500 members, but only 42 churches have committed themselves to participate in the new convention.

Churches are now affiliated with existing state conventions in Kentucky, Maryland, Virginia and Ohio.

The missions committee plans to go ahead with the regional fellowship meeting at Burke Memorial Baptist Church in Princeton, W. Va., Oct. 1-2.

West Virginia churches of the denomination plan to constitute their own convention in the fall of 1966, and begin operating on Jan. 1, 1967.

The fellowship will consider a budget for 1967 in excess of \$100,000, plus a proposed constitution.

The budget provides for three staff positions--an executive secretary who will also be evangelism secretary, a religious education director who will also be the state paper editor, and a missions and stewardship secretary.

West Virginia reports a population of nearly two million, of which a million and a quarter are unchurched. There are also 730 American Baptist Convention churches in the state with a membership of 126,000.

-30-

Wilfred C. Tyler, 63,  
School President, Dies

4-10-65

BLUE MOUNTAIN, Miss. (BP)--Dr. Wilfred Charles Tyler, 63-year-old president of Blue Mountain College (Baptist) here, died April 7 at Baptist Memorial Hospital, Memphis, after an illness of several weeks.

Funeral services were conducted two days later at Lowrey Memorial Baptist Church in Blue Mountain. Pastor Bill R. Peacock officiated. Burial was in this north Mississippi community.

Tyler died following brain surgery at the Memphis hospital. He was stricken several weeks ago with influenza. This evolved into encephalitis. Doctors had said he was making marked improvement when he suffered a deep relapse. The surgery was an effort to combat his relapse.

-more-

Dr. Tyler had been professor of Bible at Blue Mountain, a Mississippi Baptist senior college for women, for 25 years before he succeeded Dr. Lawrence Lowrey as president in 1960.

Tyler was once pastor of College Avenue Baptist Church, Annapolis, Md.

Born at Bogue Chitto, Miss., Tyler graduated from Mississippi College (Baptist), Clinton, and earned master's and doctor's degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. He also had studied at the University of Michigan.

He was coauthor with his wife of two books, "The Little World of Home," and "Touch and Go."

Dr. Tyler is survived by his wife, Frances L. Tyler, who teaches Old Testament here; a daughter, Mrs. Timothy Lee Townsend, Louisville, Ky.; a son, Landrum Tyler, Jackson, Miss.; his mother, Mrs. Florence Tyler, Blue Mountain, and a brother, C. V. Tyler, Hattiesburg, Miss.

The family suggested a memorial gift to the college instead of flowers.

-30-

Most SBC Schools Sign  
Civil Rights Compliance

4-10-65

By the Baptist Press

More than 70 per cent of junior and senior colleges related to the Southern Baptist Convention have agreed to comply with the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964.

A survey by Baptist Press, news service of the SBC, found that 38 colleges will comply with the act. Six colleges said they will decline to comply with the act.

The four Baptist colleges in Virginia, on church-state grounds, have refused to accept loans from federal sources, either for the college itself or for students, and indicated the question of compliance did not affect them.

Compliance is necessary for the colleges to continue to receive funds from the government through Housing and Home Finance Agency construction loans or for student loans through the National Defense Education Act.

Two colleges told Baptist Press they have not reached a decision on whether to sign compliance with the Civil Rights Act. Another said a decision had been reached but did not disclose what it was.

One college which could not comply because of a charter limiting enrolment to white students only was planning to ask permission of the state Baptist convention to change the charter limitation.

A "no comment" was received from another institution. In all, Baptist Press contacted each of the 52 junior and senior colleges covering the nation from Richmond, Va., to Riverside, Calif.

Baptist Press' contacts were made first with the presidents of the colleges, who in some cases asked other administrative officers to provide information.

Senior colleges which said they will comply with the Civil Rights Act include Baylor University, Waco, Tex.; Belmont College, Nashville, Tenn.; California Baptist College, Riverside; Campbell College, Buies Creek, N. C.; Campbellsville College, Campbellsville, Ky.; University of Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi, Tex.; Mars Hill College, Mars Hill, N. C.; Wayland Baptist College, Plainview, Tex.

Cumberland College, Williamsburg, Ky.; East Texas Baptist College, Marshall; Furman University, Greenville, S. C.; Georgetown College, Georgetown, Ky.; Grand Canyon College, Phoenix, Ariz.; Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex.

Houston Baptist College, Houston, Tex.; Howard Payne College, Brownwood, Tex.; Kentucky Southern College, Louisville; Mary Hardin-Baylor College, Belton, Tex.; Mercer University, Macon, Ga.; Meredith College, Raleigh, N. C.; Union University, Jackson, Tenn.; Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn.

-more-

Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee; Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark.; Shorter College, Rome, Ga.; Stetson University, DeLand, Fla.; Tift College, Forsyth, Ga.; Wake Forest College, Winston-Salem, N. C.; William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., and William Carey College, Hattiesburg, Miss.

Junior colleges to comply with the Civil Rights Act include Brewton-Parker College, Mount Vernon, Ga.; Gardner-Webb College, Boiling Springs, N. C.; Hannibal-LaGrange College, Hannibal, Mo., Dallas Baptist College, formerly Decatur (Tex.) Baptist College.

Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, Ark.; Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, Mo., and Truett-McConnell College, Cleveland, Ga.

Another college voting to comply wished not to be identified by name.

Declining to sign compliance are Mississippi College, Clinton; Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain, Miss.; and Judson College, Marion, Ala., all senior colleges, and Clarke Memorial College, Newton, Miss.; Anderson College, Anderson, S. C., and Wingate College, Wingate, N. C., all junior colleges.

George M. Modlin, president of the University of Richmond, located in the Virginia capital, said there was no need to comply since the senior college did not accept federal construction loans and students did not receive federal loans either.

The same apparently applied to three Virginia Baptist junior colleges--Bluefield College at Bluefield; Averett College, Danville, and Virginia Intermont College, Bristol.

The two colleges telling Baptist Press they have reached no decision on whether to sign are Louisiana College, Pineville, and Mobile (Ala.) College. North Greenville Junior College, Tigerville, S. C., said a decision had been made but did not announce it.

The charter of a Georgia junior college, Norman College at Norman Park, limits enrollment to white students. An effort is expected at the Georgia Baptist Convention session in November to receive permission to change the charter.

Howard College President Leslie S. Wright, Birmingham, gave a "no comment" reply to Baptist Press.

Colleges which sign compliance have already admitted qualified students without regard to race or are willing ultimately to pursue a policy which does not restrict student admission on a racial basis.

The United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare is the government agency involved in the federal loans to colleges and college students.

The department does not keep records on refusals to sign an assurance of compliance with the Civil Rights Act. There is no form to sign for refusal.

There is a form for compliance. If the school takes no action on signing, the school is considered by the department to have taken no action. However, no money would be loaned unless the school signed the compliance with the Civil Rights Act.

If a college which at first failed to sign compliance later decided to comply to get a federal loan, it could sign the compliance agreement at that time.

The document a college signs for assurance of compliance includes this wording:

" . . . in accordance with title VI of the (Civil Rights) Act and the Regulation, no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which the Applicant (the college) receives Federal financial assistance from the department; and hereby gives assurance that it will immediately take any measure necessary to effectuate this agreement." (BP)

Southern Awards 10  
Rice, Judson Grants

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Ten college seniors who will enter Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here this fall have been named Luther Rice and Adoniram Judson Scholars by the seminary. Each will receive a stipend of \$1,000 for first-year seminary studies.

Luther Rice Awards go to students who expect to minister in the United States. Receiving these awards were William H. Barber, Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee; Charles B. Bugg, Stetson University (Baptist), DeLand, Fla.; James C. Buie, Valdosta (Ga.) State College; John P. Clayton, Baylor University (Baptist), Waco, Tex., and Miss Sandra Carol Whitener, University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Adoniram Judson Scholars are chosen from among students who expect to become foreign missionaries or minister outside the United States. Selected for these honors were Miss Mary Roanna Burnett, Baylor University; William E. Collie, Murray (Ky.) State College; Miss Sonja Gayle Davis, Baylor University; Marion M. Fink Jr., Howard College (Baptist), Birmingham, and David E. McKenzie, Louisiana College (Baptist), Pineville.

The applicants were judged by a committee of seminary deans and trustees on the basis of academic achievement, churchmanship, leadership ability and motivation for the ministry.

William H. Barber has been secretary and vice-president of the ministerial alliance at Oklahoma Baptist University, and chairman of the publications board. He will enter the seminary's school of theology.

Charles B. Bugg is a past president of the student government organization at Stetson University. He has also served as president of his sophomore and junior classes, and as president of the Baptist Student Union freshman council.

A former student summer missionary to Thailand, James C. Buie has been president of the Georgia Baptist Student Union.

John P. Clayton is presently enrolled in the graduate school of Baylor University.

Miss Sandra Carol Whitener will enter the school of church music at Southern Seminary. She has served as organist for churches in North Carolina.

Judson Scholar Miss Mary Roanna Burnett has been a member of the debate team and the oratorio chorus. She is the daughter of Sibley C. Burnett of the Baptist Sunday School Board staff.

William E. Collie has served as president of the executive council of the Baptist Student Union at Murray State College. He was a student summer missionary to Thailand in 1964.

Miss Sonja Gayle Davis plans to study social work at Southern Seminary. She has participated in the honors program at Baylor University.

Howard College senior Marion M. Fink Jr. is now president of his college Baptist Student Union. He has been a summer missionary to Taiwan.

David E. McKenzie has been active in the student advisory council at Louisiana College. He is also a member of the college choir.

Two students will receive stipends of \$400 each as runners-up for the Luther Rice Awards. They are Bruce P. Powers, Mercer University (Baptist), Macon, Ga., and Miss Carol Ann Windham, senior at the University of South Carolina, Columbia.

-30-

New Orleans Names  
Hooper Music Dean

4-10-65

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--William Lloyd Hooper has been named dean of the school of church music at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

The 34-year-old professor has served as acting dean of the school since last September.

-more-

An author and composer, Dean Hooper has published more than 30 compositions, including a Christmas cantata released this year by Broadman Press, a Southern Baptist publication outlet. In addition to many articles in periodicals, he has written the Broadman Press book "Church Music in Transition."

A native of Sedalia, Mo., Hooper has degrees from William Jewell College (Baptist), Liberty, Mo., and the University of Iowa, with additional study at George Peabody College, Nashville.

The new dean was formerly professor of music at Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, Mo., and minister of music and education at First Baptist Church, Old Hickory, Tenn. He joined the New Orleans music school faculty in the field of choral arranging in 1962.

Hooper is married to the former Doris Joan Wallace, and they have two children.

The New Orleans Seminary school of church music, which began offering professional music degrees in 1952, has more than 80 students from 20 states now enrolled in the degree programs.

-30-

Cuba Arrests Fite, Caudill, 53 Others

4-10-65

ATLANTA (BP)--Fidel Castro's security police have arrested 53 members of an alleged spy ring, including Herbert Caudill and David Fite, Southern Baptist missionaries.

Caudill, 61, a native of Clinchport, Va., is superintendent of missions in Cuba for the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Fite, 31, a native of Fort Worth, teaches in the Cuban Baptist Theological Institute and is pastor of the Buena Vista Baptist Church in Marianao.

First word of the arrests came by way of a monitored broadcast by Havana Radio, which said Caudill had been arrested. A phone call to Mrs. Caudill in Havana confirmed the arrest and informed the board of Fite's internment.

"We were stunned to learn of Caudill's arrest, shocked that he would even be considered in any way as subversive, for we doubt any Cuban loves his country more than Herbert Caudill," said Arthur B. Rutledge, Atlanta, on first hearing the news.

Rutledge, executive secretary of the mission agency, said the U. S. State Department has been contacted for aid in securing the missionaries' release.

The Havana broadcast said the American, ostensibly head of the Western Baptist Convention in Cuba, and the other ministers, organized a counter-revolutionary group for missions of espionage and subversion.

"Caudill gathered much military information, also information of economic and political nature which was turned over to espionage agencies of the United States," Havana Radio said.

"At the same time he received instructions and support and issued propaganda against the revolution. Other activities of the gang of spies included helping and concealing counter-revolutionaries and trafficking in foreign exchange," the broadcast charged.

News of Caudill's arrest reached the Home Mission Board as its executive committee was in session. In an atmosphere of shocked concern, they stopped to pray for the missionaries.

Those in Cuba include Mrs. Caudill and Mrs. Fite, the daughter of the Caudills.

The statement made by Rutledge, was as follows:

"The news of Dr. Caudill's arrest reached us as we were in the monthly executive committee meeting of the Home Mission Board handling the affairs of our missionaries. We are stunned to learn of his arrest, shocked that he would even be considered as being involved in subversive activities, for we doubt that any Cuban loves his country more than Caudill loves Cuba. He has given more than 35 years of his life to Christian service in Cuba.

-more-

"Dr. Caudill is known and loved by Southern Baptists throughout the nation who have complete confidence in his integrity and commitment. He would do nothing that would injure his Christian witness. During the months he spent in the United States last year, he would not discuss Cuban political matters for fear he would jeopardize the opportunity to return to his spiritual ministry in Cuba.

"We have since learned that another Southern Baptist missionary from the States, David Fite, also has been arrested. Fite, son-in-law of Dr. Caudill, has served in Cuba since 1960.

"A telephone call to Mrs. Caudill revealed that she, Mrs. Fite and the three Fite children, including a month-old infant, are all well.

"We pray and ask all Christians to pray for the release of these men of God. We also ask prayer for Cuba and for those in power that they too may come to know such faith in God."

Caudill, in Cuba since 1929, was educated at Mercer University (Baptist), Macon, Ga., and at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth. He was a pastor of a field of churches in the Middle Baptist Association, living at Newington, Ga.

Fite, appointed by the agency in 1960 for Cuba, is also a graduate of Mercer University, and of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary at Wake Forest, N. C. He was a pastor in Georgia and in North Carolina. The Fites have three sons.

Two other Caudill children live in the United States. They are a daughter, Jane, who is married to George Douglas Pringle, a Baptist missionary to Spanish-speaking people in Park View, N. M. A son, Herbert Jr., is a student at New Mexico State University at Las Cruces.

Two other missionaries of the board, Miss Lucille Kerrigan and Miss Ruby Miller, were expelled by the Cuban government from Cuba in July of 1963. They now work with Cuban refugees in Miami.

In Nashville, Porter Routh, executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee, sent the following telegram to President Lyndon B. Johnson:

"Earnestly request that State Department make every effort possible to obtain early release of Herbert Caudill, leader of Southern Baptist mission work in Cuba for 30 years."

-30-

Arkansas Leader, Ben  
L. Bridges, Dies; 76

4-10-65

LITTLE ROCK (BP)--Ben L. Bridges, 76, retired executive secretary of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, died here April 8 after a long illness.

A native of Pine Bluff, Ark., Bridges invested his ministry almost entirely in the state of Arkansas. He was a graduate of Ouachita Baptist College, Arkadelphia, Ark., and later the college gave him the honorary doctor of divinity degree. He did not have a seminary degree.

Bridges served as pastor of churches in Crossett, Paragould and Little Rock, all in Arkansas. The longest was a decade with the First Baptist Church of Paragould.

After a two-year pastorate of Little Rock's First Baptist Church, Bridges was elected executive secretary of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. He held that position from 1931 to 1957, when he retired.

Most notable of his achievements as executive secretary was his leading Arkansas Baptists to pay off in full a debt of \$1 million caused by bank failures in the depression of the 1930's.

Though the court had ruled the Baptist convention could pay off its debt for \$350,000 --or 35 cents on a dollar--Bridges rallied Arkansas Baptists to not only pay off the \$1 million but to pay 5 per cent interest to the creditors as well. The debt was retired in 1952.

After retiring in 1957, Bridges served as secretary of the Arkansas Baptist Foundation for a brief time, then filled pulpits as a supply or interim pastor.

Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Vivian Stone Bridges, and a son, James W. Bridges, both of Little Rock.

Funeral services were conducted April 10 in First Baptist Church, Little Rock, with the present pastor, Paul Roberts, officiating. S. A. Whitlow of Little Rock, who succeeded Bridges as Arkansas executive secretary, assisted.

-30-

Former Ohio Staffer  
Returns From Georgia

4-10-65

COLUMBUS, Ohio (BP)--A former convention employee will return to Columbus June 25 to serve as secretary of annuity and Brotherhood promotion for the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio.

He is Darty Stowe, pastor of First Baptist Church, Trion, Ga. He left Ohio three years ago after serving as an area missionary for Southern Baptists and later with the Ohio convention as superintendent of missions and associate executive secretary.

Stowe's coming will enable the Ohio convention executive board to make some shifts in the present department arrangement at its offices here.

W. Leonard Stigler, the convention's present secretary of evangelism and Brotherhood, will transfer his Brotherhood promotion duties to Stowe. He will replace it with Stewardship promotion and still handle the evangelism secretary's work.

Stewardship promotion has been carried on to date by several members of the convention staff without a specific assignment to any person. There has been no staff member promoting retirement and annuity plans for church and denominational workers, a convention spokesman said.

Southern Baptist Convention agencies will help with the expenses of promoting annuity and Brotherhood work, it was pointed out.

The Ohio convention executive board, at the same meeting in which Stowe was elected, also voted to employ "as soon as feasible" a full-time student director for colleges and schools in the Columbus area. The most prominent of these schools is Ohio State University, with an enrolment of 30,000.

Support of the student director will be three-way, from the local association of Southern Baptist churches, from the Ohio convention and from the SBC Sunday School Board, it was announced.

Although the Ohio convention has no Baptist student center building at Ohio State University, the Baptist Student Union there has attendance averaging 100 at its meetings. They are held in the campus student center operated by the university.

The Ohio convention board also voted to take advantage of a Baptist Student Union internship program used by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. As part of their training, students from the seminary will go out into student union work for a semester under faculty supervision.

The Ohio executive board wants a seminary student to work with Baptist college students attending Ohio University at Athens starting this fall. The expenses of the student during the assignment at Athens will be jointly borne by the seminary and the Ohio convention.

-30-

## With Cuba Situation

President Wayne Dehoney of the Southern Baptist Convention announced in Jackson, Tenn., he has sent two telegrams to public officials over the arrests of Southern Baptist missionaries in Cuba.

The first message was directed to Secretary of State Dean Rusk, Presidential Assistant Bill Moyers, Tennessee Sen. Albert Gore and White House Consultant and former SBC President Brooks Hays. It said:

"Reports from Cuba indicate that 40 Baptist ministers and 13 Baptist laymen have been arrested including veteran Southern Baptist missionary Dr. Herbert Caudill and Southern Baptist missionary David Fite. You are respectfully urged to use every possible effort to effect the release of these American missionaries and the other religious leaders. Ten million Southern Baptists in the U. S. and 25 million Baptists in 100 countries shall await further news and reports as to what can be accomplished through the State Department and the influence of our respected leader President Johnson to liberate these men and reestablish an atmosphere of religious liberty in which they may work."

Dehoney's second telegram to President Lyndon B. Johnson read:

"May I respectfully request your personal attention and consideration as regards the plight of Southern Baptist Convention missionaries Dr. Herbert Caudill and Rev. David Fite. They have been arrested by the Cuban authorities in a group of 40 Baptist ministers and 13 laymen. Ten million Southern Baptists join in prayerful concern for the safety of these religious leaders and respectfully request the assistance of your prestige and influence in effecting their release."