

### From TEXAS REGIONAL OFFICE

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#### More Baptist Unity In America Sought

SAN FRANCISCO (BP)--Presidents of two major Baptist groups in the United States met here and expressed hope for greater unity and cooperation among the 25 Baptist bodies in North America.

The presidents were J. Lester Harnish of Portland, Ore., and Wayne Dehoney of Jackson, Tenn. Harnish presided over the 58th annual meeting of the American Baptist Convention here.

Dehoney was a fraternal messenger from the Southern Baptist Convention, which he serves as president.

Harnish cited the fellowship of American Convention and Southern Convention state leaders in Ohio as an example of grass roots Baptist communications.

Dehoney pointed out channels of communication have developed through the Baptist World Alliance.

The SBC President predicted the North American Baptist Fellowship--up for a vote at the SBC this year as to that convention's joining it--would usher in "a great new area of joint Baptist witness."

The Tennessean also said the two conventions "are coming to share the same concerns and heart beats."

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#### Home Board Uninformed On Cuban Ransom Try

ATLANTA (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board reports no previous knowledge of the efforts of a Florida Baptist pastor who contacted Castro for a ransom price for the release of missionaries Herbert Caudill and David Fite.

Auburn Hayes of Orlando wired Fidel Castro on May 20, and since then he has reported phone calls from Mexico indicating the Cuban government might impose a fine instead of the prison terms asked during the trial May 14.

At the trial the government asked prison terms of 10 years for Caudill and 18 years for Fite. Caudill's term was first 30 years, but a Cuban law does not allow longer terms than 10 years for persons over 60 years of age.

Loyd Corder of Atlanta, director of work in Cuba for the Home Mission Board, said Hayes' actions were taken at the pastor's initiative, without prior knowledge or consent of anyone at the mission agency.

Hayes, director of the World Wide Prayer Fellowship, is listed in the Florida Baptist Convention Annual, but no indication is given of a church connection.

Hayes reported that his Mexico contact said, "Caudill and Fite are getting along fine. They (the contacts) said they (the Cuban government) had several other missionaries and some were Americans we might be able to make arrangements about."

Corder said the State Department reports about a dozen other Americans in Cuban prisons.

He cautioned Baptists to wait until the final results of these contacts are known before making any contributions.

In the event details are worked out favorably, Corder, who is not optimistic, said the Home Mission Board would announce the need for funds. He also added that government permission would be required for sending funds of commodities into Cuba.

American Baptists  
End 58th Convention

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. (BP)--The 58th annual meeting of the American Baptist Convention here voted to continue to meet annually instead of every two years, launched a \$20 million capital fund campaign for home and foreign missions, and resolved against all forms of segregation.

A total of 7,787 registered delegates and visitors also elected a new president, Robert G. Torbet, dean and professor of church history at Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Kan.

Resolutions adopted by the convention stressed renewed support for the National Council of Churches, condemned all forms of racial segregation, took a strong stand against obscenity, and rejected extremism of both right and left.

The convention also urged U. S. government officials to continue to work for a cease-fire in Vietnam and to re-evaluate its relationships with "all governments to which the U. S. does not now extend recognition."

Harold E. Stassen, prominent Baptist layman and statesman, attacked U. S. foreign policy in a speech before the convention, saying there is "too much bombing, too much shooting, too much killing,"...and "too little peacemaking."

Stassen, a key figure in the Eisenhower administration, said that more people have died through military violence in the past 30 days than any other 30-day period in the past ten years.

Stassen received a citation from the convention for his participation in drafting the United Nations Charter.

The convention also gave special recognition to Pastor L. Kijungluba Ao of Nagaland, India, for his role in achieving a cease-fire in Nagaland's civil war against the government of India.

The delegates voted by a two to one margin against a proposal which would provide for conventions every two years, instead of annually. The proposal, which required a two-thirds majority for approval, received 635 "yes" votes and 1,365 negative votes.

On the final day of the convention, more than 700 delegates teamed with San Francisco church members and visited thousands of homes, leaving literature and extending invitations to attend the convention's evening session.

Other officers elected by American Baptists were Mrs. Frank W. Skoog, of Rumford, R. I., first vice president; Samuel D. Proctor, Teaneck, N. J., second vice president; and Charles H. Read, Ridgewood, N. J., treasurer. General Secretary Edwin H. Tuller was re-elected to a third three-year term in the convention's top executive post.

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Six Volunteers Start  
Mission Service Corps

5-26-65

ATLANTA (BP)--Six Baptist volunteers, ranging in age from 46 to 74, will write a new chapter to mission service this summer.

They are the first appointees under the Christian Service Corps of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

The six will pay their own way to mission fields and serve without remuneration, one going as far as Hawaii and another to Alaska.

The mission agency created the corps to meet mission needs through use of mature adults who have experience in church leadership.

The six, selected as a first year pilot group, fill selected requests from missionaries. After this summer, the corps will expand to a short-term service throughout the year.

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The corps is limited to volunteers who are (1) 35 years or older, (2) in good physical and mental health, (3) without hindering family responsibilities, and (4) with experience in church work.

To the question, "Do you have chronic ailments?" one 74-year-old appointee answered, "No, I run a quarter-mile each day except Sunday, plus dumbbell work."

This corps worker, Lester Collins of Dallas, a retired pastor, will spend the summer as pastor of a small mission in Newbury, Ohio.

Beverly Hammack of Atlanta, secretary of special mission ministries for the mission agency, said, "We were surprised at the response to this ministry, both in the number of volunteers and the response from mission fields for these workers.

"It's obvious Southern Baptists have passed by some exceptional workers who can help meet critical mission needs. Following our experiences this summer we will be able to project this ministry to much larger proportions."

The other volunteers appointed for this first year include the following:

Miss Daphne Boone of Asheboro, N. C., a former associational missionary in North Carolina, will serve in Vacation Bible Schools in the Appalachian area of Kentucky.

Miss Edith Killip, of Louisville, now secretary to the state missions director for Kentucky Baptists, will spend her vacation working in the state Baptist office in Anchorage, Alaska.

A. B. Colvin, her employer, said, "This 20-year dream of hers to go to Alaska could mean we will lose her to work permanently there. It's the only thing we would give her up for."

Miss Lena Sisk of Royse City, Tex., a retired telephone operator, will work with teen-agers for two weeks in a Good Will Center in Atlanta, then spend the rest of her summer in a mountain weekday ministry in Hellier, Ky.

Mrs. Virginia Wood of Leaksville, N. C., a pastor's wife, will assist in music, Woman's Missionary Union work, and Vacation Bible Schools in Hawaii.

John Archer, a native of Ireland but now of Sarasota, Fla., and a retired General Electric executive, will serve in pioneer missions in New England, while living in Paoli, Pa.

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Seminary Librarian,  
C. P. Johnson, Dies

5-26-65

FORT WORTH (BP)--Funeral services for Charles P. Johnson, director of libraries for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, were held here in the seminary's Truett Auditorium adjacent to the library where he worked since 1947.

Johnson, 51, died in a Fort Worth hospital after a six months bout with cancer. He had undergone surgery in December, and had returned to the hospital four days before his death on May 22.

Burial was in Ottawa, Kan., Johnson's home town where he was graduated from Ottawa University.

He also held the master and doctor of theology degrees, and the master of religious education degree from Southwestern Seminary, and a library service degree from North Texas State University, Denton, Tex.

Johnson came to the seminary in 1947 as reference-research librarian, and became director of libraries in 1957.

The family requested that no flowers be sent, but instead suggested that personal tributes be in the form of memorial gifts to the seminary's Fleming Library, c/o the Seminary Business Manager, Box 22000, Fort Worth.

Seminary President Robert E. Naylor presided over the services, and was assisted by Earl Allen, pastor of Rosen Heights Baptist Church here. Ray Summers, chairman of the Baylor University Religion Department in Waco, brought the memorial address. The seminary male quartet brought special music.

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Pall Bearers and honorary pall bearers were seminary library department heads, and other seminary faculty members.

Before coming to the seminary, Johnson was pastor of churches in Rantoul, and Ottawa, Kan.; and Smithfield, and Italy, Tex.

He was also Baptist Student secretary and state director of Christian education for the Kansas Baptist Convention during the 1940's.

He had served as interim pastor for numerous churches in Texas and Oklahoma since coming to the seminary in 1947.

Johnson was survived by his wife, 12-year-old daughter Meredith Nell, ten-year-old son Stewart Charles; and his mother and sister, Mrs. W. H. Johnson and Miss Mary Margaret Johnson, both of Kansas City.

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New Orleans Names  
Music Professor

5-26-65

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Hermon V. Warford Jr. has been named assistant professor in the school of church music at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Beginning in September, Warford will teach courses in piano, music theory and music composition.

The 34-year-old Warford, a candidate for a doctoral degree in music theory at North Texas State University in Denton, Tex., has earned the bachelor and master of music degrees from Hardin-Simmons University (Baptist) in Abilene, Tex. He has been a teaching fellow in piano at North Texas state for the past three years.

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Wayland, Howard Payne  
Name Deans of Students

5-26-65

#### By the Baptist Press

Two Texas Baptist schools--Howard Payne College in Brownwood and Wayland Baptist College in Plainview, have named new deans of students.

Wayland has named S. L. Harris, former Baptist Student Union director at Texas Technological College in Lubbock, as dean of students and instructor in sociology, effective July 15.

A. J. Turner, division chaplain for the First Armored Division at Fort Hood, Tex., who retires in June as a lieutenant colonel in the Army, becomes dean of students at Howard Payne College, effective Sept. 1.

Announcement of the appointments were made separately by the Baptist school presidents, Guy D. Newman of Howard Payne, and Roy C. McClung of Wayland.

Both Harris and Turner are graduates of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, where Turner earned the doctor of religious education degree. (BP)

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#### For Release May 30

Stetson Honors Foreign  
Educators with Doctorates

5-26-65

DELAND, Fla. (BP)--Stetson University (Baptist) here honored on May 30 educators from Hong Kong and England with honorary doctoral degrees.

The doctor of laws degree was awarded to Lam Chi Fung, president of Hong Kong Baptist College, and the doctor of divinity degree was presented to G. Henton Davies, principal of the Regent's Park College of Oxford University, Oxford, England.

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Avery To Direct Florida  
National Baptist Work

ATLANTA (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board has appointed its first director for National (Negro) Baptist work in Florida.

Julius H. Avery of Panama City, Fla., for 16 years pastor of the city's First Baptist Church, accepted the position effective June 1.

The appointment is the second such state director named this year by the mission agency, and indicates an increased tempo in Southern Baptist work with Negroes.

Earlier this year Paul Aiken of Atlanta was appointed a director for National Baptist work in Texas. The Florida director raises to 11 those states with such leaders. All the states have large Negro populations.

Avery, who will work in a state with the tenth largest Negro population, sees the position as a "challenging opportunity."

"A new and more hopeful day is dawning in our America for steadily improved relations between the races of men," he said in accepting the work.

Avery, a native of Rome, Ga., with a wealth of experience in the denomination and the pastorate, will stress evangelism, stewardship, religious education, and mission work on a cooperative basis between National and Southern Baptists.

Working with National Baptists will be no new experience for Avery. During a pastorate at Clayton Street Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala., he started a training center for Negro ministers.

Earlier he had taught in the Negro Baptist Academy in Meridian, Miss., during a pastorate in that city. He continued his work with Negro leadership in Florida, and was recognized for service to the Florida Memorial College (Negro Baptist) in St. Augustine.

Victor T. Glass of Atlanta, secretary of the Department of Work with National Baptists for the mission agency, said Avery, while not a joint employee of the Florida Baptist convention, would work cooperatively with leadership personnel in the state Baptist office.

Commenting on the selection of Avery, John McGuire of Jacksonville, Fla., executive secretary for the Florida Baptist Convention, said, "We are highly pleased, and feel the best possible choice has been made in Avery, who is a former president of our convention and an honored pastor."

Avery is a graduate of Howard College (Baptist) in Birmingham, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (La.), where he earned the doctor of theology degree.

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Furman Women's Dean  
Changes to Teaching

5-26-65

GREENVILLE, S. C. (BP)--The dean of the Furman University (Baptist) Women's College, Miss Olivia Futch, has resigned her position as dean to return to full time teaching in the school's education department.

A member of the Furman education department faculty since 1938, she has been dean of the Furman Women's College since 1950.

Furman President Gordon W. Blackwell, said that the title "dean of the Women's College" is being retired with her resignation since Furman is now consolidated on one campus.

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Dominican Stations Still  
Use Baptist Programs

FORT WORTH (BP)--The main radio station and only television station in revolution-torn Dominican Republic have continued to broadcast Southern Baptist programs even though they have been on the air infrequently.

This encouraging word came from Howard Shoemake, Southern Baptist missionary to the strife-torn country, during an early morning ham radio-telephone conversation with Jerry Pillow, foreign language head for the denomination's Radio and Television Commission here.

Shoemake said that Santo Domingo's lone television station, HIN-TV aired the Commission's Spanish version of "The Answer" series, known as "La Respuesta," until it suspended broadcasts.

Since that time, Shoemake has showed the films in his home to help people in his neighborhood get their minds off the tense situation and to have a Christian witness in midst of the crisis.

He also indicated that Radio Santo Domingo, which was taken over by the rebel forces early in the fighting, had broadcast tapes of "La Hora Bautista," every time it was on the air.

In spite of the fact that there have been no mail deliveries in Santo Domingo for three weeks, Shoemake urged Pillow to continue sending tapes and films. He was confident that the stations would use the programs stacked in customs once mail service was renewed.

In addition, Pillow made arrangements to send several films by Mrs. Shoemake, who expects to return to the Dominican Republic in mid-July. She is staying with her mother in Denton, Tex., until the crises eases.

Shortly after hostilities broke out, the Shoemakes and Mr. and Mrs. Coffman, the only other Southern Baptist missionary family in Santo Domingo, were evacuated to Puerto Rico. Mrs. Coffman is visiting with her parents in Dallas.

Coffman and Shoemake both returned to the Dominican Republic after seeing their families safely back to the United States. The United States consulate asked them to help distribute aid to the Dominicans displaced by the strife.

Fifteen other Dominican radio stations now use "La Hora Bautista" or other Spanish programs produced by the Commission, such as "Control Central," "Momentos de Meditacion" ("Moments of Meditation"), and "Musica Para Records" ("Music To Remember").

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William Jewell College  
Awards Three Doctorates

5-26-65

LIBERTY, Mo. (BP)--William Jewell College (Baptist) here awards three honorary degrees to a leprosy missions worker and to two Baptist executives.

Receiving the honorary doctor of divinity degrees will be Thomas W. Nelson, executive secretary-treasurer of the Missouri Baptist Foundation in Jefferson City, Mo.; and G. Horace Wood, associate regional director for American Leprosy Missions, St. Paul, Minn.

An Honorary doctor of law degree will be presented to C. Ronald Goulding, associate secretary-elect of the Baptist World Alliance, effective in July.

Goulding, a native of London, England and pastor of the Haven Green Baptist Church in Ealing, London, will also deliver the commencement address.

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Baylor To Train Peace  
Corpsmen for Dominican

WACO, Tex. (BP)--Baylor University here and Peace Corps officials have signed a contract to train 45 Peace Corps volunteers at the Baptist university this summer for duty in the revolution-torn Dominican Republic.

The \$103,000 contract supplements one granted to Baylor in February to begin preparatory planning for the Peace Corps training program.

Peace Corps volunteers trained at Baylor will do work in urban community development and nursing in the largest cities of the Dominican Republic.

Classes run from June 28 to Aug. 28 with lectures in area studies, world affairs, communism, United States institutions, plus five hours a day of Spanish and a total of 152 hours of technical skills training.

Faculty will come mostly from Baylor's Spanish, physical education, political science, history, home economics and psychology departments, and schools of nursing, hospital administration and medicine.

Baylor Philosophy Professor William G. Toland is project director for the Peace Corps training program, and David McHam, journalism professor, is assistant.

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South Carolina County  
Found Well Churched

5-26-65

ROCK HILL, S. C. (BP)--A religious survey of the 80,000 people of York County, 20 miles south of Charlotte, found church membership at 71 per cent, seven per cent above the national average.

Releasing the information was Orrin D. Morris of Atlanta, survey specialist for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, who served as survey director.

Morris led 76 Protestant churches in the inter-racial door-to-door canvass.

The survey found the Negro community, with approximately 27,000 residents, to have 73.6 per cent of its population with church membership, whereas the white community with 53,000 residents reported 70.5 per cent.

The findings revealed that 19.2 per cent of the local white church members were inactive. In contrast, 36.3 per cent of the local church members in the Negro community were inactive.

More than one third of the children, birth through eight, seldom or never attended religious activities of any church. The attendance pattern of the entire population showed that 63.1 per cent indicated they attend religious activities at least once every week.

Breakdown of the church membership by denominations revealed the five highest were Baptist with 42.4 per cent, Methodist 21.5 per cent, Presbyterian 17.7 per cent, Associate Reformed Presbyterian 5.5 per cent, and Church of God 3.5 per cent.

Morris said, "Southern Baptist members were noted to be more inactive than the other denominations." Approximately 22 per cent of local Southern Baptist church members were inactive, in contrast to slightly more than 18 per cent of the local members of the other white congregations.

O. F. Watts, superintendent of missions for the York County Baptist Association, worked as survey coordinator. He is guiding the churches in the implementation of the survey results and is giving special attention to the analysis of the statistics for long-range planning.

Rock Hill, the principal city of York County, with 35,000 persons, is projected to more than double its population by 1980.

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Oklahoma Board Approves  
Budget, Promotes Garlow

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. (BP)--The board of directors of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma approved a record \$3 million state Cooperative Program budget for 1966 and promoted Lyle Garlow during a semi-annual meeting here.

Garlow, state Sunday School superintendent for Oklahoma Baptists for the past eight years, was elected secretary of the convention's department of religious education.

He will succeed E. W. Westmoreland, who will retire Dec. 31 after 23 years as the department's administrative head. Westmoreland will, however, continue his services to the convention as consultant in church buildings and the financing of building projects following his retirement.

The proposed \$3 million Cooperative Program budget for 1966, a \$140,000 increase over the 1965 Oklahoma convention budget, must get final approval by the state Baptist convention when it meets Nov. 9-11 in Oklahoma City.

The proposed budget would allocate 57.5 per cent to mission causes in Oklahoma, and 42.5 per cent to Southern Baptist world mission causes outside of Oklahoma. The percentage to causes beyond Oklahoma is an increase of one-half of one percent.

A recommendation introduced by the board's child care committee brought Oklahoma Baptists a step closer toward the establishment of a home for unwed mothers in the state.

H. Truman Maxey, executive child care director, presented the recommendation which drew a vote of support from the board in favor of an extension of child care services to include a Baptist maternity home in Oklahoma as soon as funds are available.

No definite date or location for the maternity home facilities was outlined in the proposal. Maxey estimated that a base operating fund of \$75,000 to \$100,000 was needed to initiate the services.

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Church Membership Below  
Average In Oregon City

5-26-65

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. (BP)--A religious survey of approximately 40,000 residents of the Klamath Falls area found church membership at only 53.4 per cent.

The national average for church membership is 64 per cent.

Thirty churches, representing all denominations in the area, cooperated in making the house-to-house canvass.

Leonard G. Irwin and William A. Powell, both of Atlanta and both survey specialists for the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, directed the survey.

The survey found 41.6 per cent of the people ages nine and older without church membership.

Local members, who attend as often as once a month, represented 40.2 per cent of the older group.

Local members attending less than once a month represented 13 per cent, and non-resident members totaled 5.2 per cent.

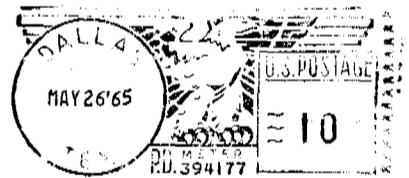
Breakdown of denominational identification (member or preference) reveals the five highest to be Roman Catholics with 23.2 per cent, Presbyterians with 13.4 per cent, Baptists with 12.5 per cent, Lutherans with 10 per cent, and Latter Day Saints with 7.4 per cent.

More than 15 per cent of the population indicated no denominational preference. "While the survey shows Baptists are the third largest denomination in the area," Irwin said, "only 44.8 per cent of those with a specific Baptist preference are active in local churches." He said more than a third of the members of local Baptist churches indicated they seldom or never attend.

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NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION  
WATCH FOR THE (BP) CREDIT LINE