

A BAPTIST NEWS SERVICE

Concise, thorough, accurate, and current news reports about Baptists or of special concern to the Baptist people.

FROM WASHINGTON OFFICE W. BARRY GARRETT, REGIONAL EDITOR 1628—16th St., N. W., Washington, D. C. 20009 Telephone: 232-3087

NEW ADDRESS: 200 Maryland Avenue, N.E.

Washington, D. C. 20002

July 9, 1965

LBJ Assures Baptists On Church-State Concern

WASHINGTON (BP) -- President Lyndon B. Johnson has responded to a telegram sent to him by the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Dallas recently.

The telegram expressed concern that "proper safeguards" be taken against violations of separation of church and state in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

The President's reply came from one of his assistants, Paul M. Popple. The letter said that "the Administration shares your dedication to the preservation of the traditional relationship between church and state in our society.

It further said that "clear protections of this tradition" are "embodied in Public Law 89-10 (the education bill) and in the committee reports of the Senate and House of Representatives.

Popple stated that the Office of Education is currently drafting implementing regulations for the elementary and secondary education law which are "designed to safeguard the constitutional principle of separation of church and state."

The statement adopted by the convention at Dallas was sent to Commissioner Francis Keppel of the U. S. Office of Education and to President Johnson.

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, with offices in Washington, was instructed to "convey to the Office of Education our deep concern that the principle of separation of church and state not be circumvented" by the education act.

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 authorizes certain public aids to all pupils provided they are public materials under public ownership and public administration.

It also makes provision for the use of public facilities by pupils who might be enrolled in private schools. This is done by the provision for "dual enrollment" in both public and private schools, and by the development of supplementary public educational centers that are available to all pupils in a community.

The telegram sent by the convention stated that "the tax structure or any legislative body of this country must not be used to support any religious educational institution."

Popple, addressing his letter to Joe W. Burton, secretary of the convention, said "the President appreciates the concern the Southern Baptist Convention has expressed in this important matter.'

Approves Presidential Succession Amendment

WASHINGTON (BP)-- A proposed constitutional amendment dealing with presidential disability and succession has received final approval by the U.S. Congress. It must now be ratified by three-fourths of the 50 states to become effective.

The proposed amendment was designed to end more than 175 years of uncertainty and debate about interpretation and application of that part of the U.S. Constitution dealing with presidential inability and succession.

The proposed amendment specifies that the Vice President would become President in the case of removal from office, death or resignation of the President. The right to become President rather than Acting President has been asserted by Vice Presidents under precedent set by Vice President John Tyler in 1841. However, the right is not explicitly guaranteed by the Constitution.

The proposed amendment also spells out procedures for replacing a physically disabled President and for filling the office of Vice President when a vacancy occurs. In the event of a vacancy in the Vice Presidency, the President would nominate a new Vice President, subject to majority approval by both Houses of Congress.

It spells out the following procedure dealing with presidential inability: (1) the President could voluntarily declare his own inability and allow the Vice President to step in as Acting President; (2) if the President failed or was unable to declare his own inability, the Vice President and a majority of the Cabinet, or a majority of an alternative body created by Congress, could declare to the Congress that the President was disabled.

The President would resume his duties when he declares his disability ended. If the Vice President challenged the President, Congress would have to decide within 21 days whether the President was able to resume the powers and duties of his office.

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BWA Head Visits U. S. President

(7-9-65)

WASHINGTON (BP) -- The newly elected Baptist World Alliance president paid a brief "courtesy call" on the President of the United States here.

William R. Tolbert, Jr., vice president of the Republic of Liberia, visited with President Johnson in his capacity as a state official. He also visited with Secretary of State Dean Rusk and Vice President Hubert Humphrey.

Tolbert was elected president of the Baptist World Alliance at the recent Baptist World Congress at Miami Beach. He is the first African to be named to the post. President Johnson congratulated Tolbert on his new position with the Baptist World Alliance.

At a press conference following his visit with the President, Tolbert was asked about the effect of his election to the Baptist post on some racially troubled spots, particularly South Africa. A reporter asked whether through the Baptist World Alliance any pressure would be exerted on South Africa. Tolbert replied:

"Through the Baptist World Alliance we do not exert pressure. Through the Baptist World Alliance we hope we can bring about peace."

While serving Liberia in an official capacity, Tolbert is also active in Baptist life of his country. He serves as president of the Liberian Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention, and as pastor of two churches. Mrs. Tolbert is president of the Women's Missionary Union in Liberia.

While in Washington the African Baptist visited with Josef Nordenhaug, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance. Tolbert hopes to make frequent visits to the United States, and to tour the world, on behalf of the Baptist World Alliance.

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Baptist School Gets Federal Loan

WASHINGTON (BP) -- A Baptist school is one of nine church related colleges and universities approved for college housing loans, according to announcement by the Housing and Home Finance Agency here.

Truett-McConnell Junior College, a Georgia Baptist school at Cleveland, was approved for a \$400,000 loan for the construction of two dormitories. Warner Earle Fusselle is president of the school.

The nine church related schools were approved for a total of \$10,246,000 in college housing funds. Besides the Baptist college they include Lutheran, Nazarene, Church of the Brethren, Presbyterian, Christian Reformed, Methodist and Roman Catholic.

During the same period 18 state and private colleges and universities were approved for similar loans.

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Senator Hits At Slander In Telephone Messages (7-9-65)

WASHINGTON (BP) -- A Wyoming Senator has called for a congressional inquiry into the use of recorded telephone messages by "extremist groups" which he says are "scurrilous attacks on individuals and institutions."

Sen. Gale McGee (D., Wyo.), in a news release from his office, said that the phone message entitled "Let Freedom Ring" should be investigated by Congress or by the Federal Communications Commission.

The Senator called the recorded message "an insidious right wing tactic of slur and smear" being used by "super-patriots" to discredit those who disagree with their viewpoints. He cited it as a "symptom of a new McCarthyism that uses anti-communism as a substitute for thinking."

"Let Freedom Ring," according to McGee, is a recorded telephone message, changed each week, distributed by W. C. Douglass of Sarasota, Fla.

McGee has been an outspoken critic of right wing groups, particularly the John Birch Society. He was re-elected to the U. S. Senate last year in spite of opposition by the John Birch Society. Earlier this year he engaged in a television debate with John H. Rousselot, former U. S. Congressman who is now national director of public relations for the John Birch Society.

The Wyoming Senator said he considers recorded telephone messages a form of public communication just as much as a radio or television program. Individuals who are attacked on radio and television have the redress of equal time and libel and slander laws at their disposal, he said, but not so with recorded telephone messages.

"The people who are viciously attacked and slandered" in these recorded messages "should have a legal redress of their grievance," McGee said.

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THE WASHINGTON OFFICE OF THE BAPTIST PRESS

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NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

Regional offices in Dallas, Atlanta, Washington. National office, 460 James Robertson Pkwy., Nashville, Tenn. 37219

From TEXAS REGIONAL OFFICE

R. T. McCartney, regional editor 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201 Telephone: Riverside 1-1996

July 9, 1965

Alliance Congress Registers 17,300

MIAMI BEACH (BP) -- Counseled for six days about civil rights, morality, and Christian witnessing, delegates to the record-breaking 11th Baptist World Congress here chose a Negro preacher as their president and spoke out sharply for world peace, religious liberty and racial justice.

A record 17,300 delegates from 77 countries alternately jammed Convention Hall and bussed to the Orange Bowl in Miami to hear challenges from such personalities as Evangelist Billy Graham, Presidential Consultant Brooks Hays and perennial presidential aspirant Harold Stassen.

The delegates agreed to meet in 1970 in Hong Kong if facilities are available. If not, they will gather in Tokyo.

A bomb threat telephoned to police abruptly ended the presentation of the oratorio, "What Is Man?", on the final night of the session. Police hurried more than 10,000 persons from Convention Hall but were unable to find the bomb or the man who made the call.

William R. Tolbert, Jr., vice-president of the Republic of Liberia, became the first Negro to head the Baptist World Alliance. He succeeds Joao F. Soren, pastor in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, and will serve for five years.

Soren called Tolbert's election "an exceptional breakthrough" in the Alliance, which represents 26 million Baptists in 121 nations.

Tolbert pledged to work to erase the idea of some Africans that Christianity is a white man's religion as he promotes fellowship and cooperation among Baptists throughout the world. "Christianity is not confined to any particular race or color," he said.

In their position on peace, the delegates called upon nations at war to stop fighting and settle their disputes at the United Nations. They also asked governments to renounce the use of nuclear arms, to quit testing nuclear weapons for war and to destroy their weapons stockpiles.

Opposing racial discrimination, delegates affirmed their belief as an alliance in both the Brotherhood of all Christians and the equality of all men under God, regardless of race or social position.

The resolution asked delegates to accept their responsibilities as Baptists to take a full share in solving unchristlike distinctions of societies, wherever they are.

Delegates took their stand for religious liberty by approving a manifesto calling on governments of all lands to guarantee religious and civil liberties to all mankind.

The proclamation hit at racial discrimination, expressing opposition to policies which deny basic human rights and bring suffering to individuals and communities.

World peace was the goal of two proposals made by Stassen, former president of the American Baptist Convention, in a major address.

Hays, another politician now teaching government at Rutgers University in New Jersey, told delegates it was their Christian responsibility to participate in the process of government. Hays is a former Southern Baptist Convention president.

Evangelist Billy Graham, easily the most popular speaker at the Congress, championed the cause of morality in two addresses in the Orange Bowl which attracted a combined attendance of almost 100,000.

Rejecting modern versions of theology and morality, Graham said old creeds are being scaled down to match dwindling faith and decaying morals.

Graham identified the new theology as humanism--man worship--and labeled it one of the most subtle enemies the Christian church has ever faced.

The evangelist called the new morality a movement in modern ethics which repudiates the commandment on adultery, denies the absolute authority of God, advocates permissiveness with affection, and represents the church's accommodation of its preaching to the current sex revolution.

"I say this is not a new morality. It is the old immorality brought up to date. Let us as Baptists reaffirm our faith in moral standards."

The civil rights issue was introduced at the congress by Joseph H. Jackson of Chicago, head of the $5\frac{1}{2}$ million member National Baptist Convention, U. S. A., Inc.

The Negro preacher discounted the personal efforts of Martin Luther King in the civil rights movement and called for Christian obedience and dependence upon court actions as the best solutions to America's racial problems.

Jackson said the Negro struggle for equality began years ago and cannot be contributed to one or two people. He gave the credit to Negro churches.

King, who arrived in Miami for the Congress only hours after Jackson's analysis of civil rights, called Jackson's statements unfortunate and ill-timed.

Associates of King, a 1964 Nobel Peace Prize winner, said Jackson did not voice the sentiments of the majority of Negro Americans. They lamented: "It is unfortunate that this noble church statesman would issue such a statement when the world needs a message that is truthful and honest."

King also got support from William A. Lawson of Houston, Tex., a Negro pastor who criticized the Alliance program committee for failing to find the civil rights leader a place on the Congress program.

Theodore F. Adams of Richmond, Va., chairman of the program committee and former Alliance head, said his group had to choose from several hundred persons and some had to be left off. He pointed out King had opportunities in the past to participate on Alliance-sponsored programs.

Five Russian Baptists drew the most attention among the foreign delegates. The Russians also attracted pickets from a right-wing religious group. They carried placards calling the Russians "spies."

The Russian Baptists said there were no Communists among the membership of Baptist churches in Russia. "If a person is a believer, he cannot be a Communist," said Ivan Motorin, a Moscow preacher.

Motorin was accompanied here by Michael Zhidkov, pastor of Moscow Baptist Church; Leonid Tkachenko, music director of that church; Mrs. Klaudia Pillipuk, secretary for the Evangelical Christian Baptist Council in Moscow; and Anatole Kiriukhantsev, pastor of Leningrad Baptist Church.

The theme for the congress was introduced by Herschel H. Hobbs of Oklahoma City, Okla., a serious pre-congress contender for the presidency of the Alliance.

In his keynote address on "The Truth That Makes Men Free," Hobbs, pastor of First Baptist Church and preacher on the 515-station Baptist Hour radio program (Southern Baptist) urged Baptists to share their gospel of freedom with the rest of the world.

Hobbs later was elected one of the nine vice-presidents of the Alliance.

Other vice presidents are Paul Mbende of Doula, Cameroun; Lawrence Silcock of Lower Hutt, New Zealand; Shuichi Matsumura of Tokyo; Aleksander Kircun of Warsaw, Poland; Ernest Payne of London; Roberto Porras Maynes of Mexico City; Mrs. R. L. Mathis of Birmingham, Ala., and John W. Williams of Kansas City, Mo. Mbende and Williams are Negroes.

A challenge by seminary professor C. Oscar Johnson of Berkeley, Calif., past president of the Baptist World Alliance, for delegates to rally behind the unifying force of Jesus Christ and his program to love lost men and women back to God closed out the Congress.

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Budget Goal Goes Over Halfway Mark

7-9-65

NASHVIILE (BP) -- The Southern Baptist Convention for the first half of the year received \$10,804,067 via the Cooperative Program, means of support for nearly all its agencies.

The 1965 budget goal is \$20,335,600, which allows for operating and capital needs for the agencies, plus \$500,000 estimated as an advance for foreign and home missions exclusively. Thus, in half the year, the convention has collected over half its budget goal.

SBC Treasurer Porter Routh reported Cooperative Program receipts were running 5.52 per cent ahead of the first six months of 1964.

Designations through June, 1965 amounted to \$15,601,543, up 7.6 per cent over the first six months of last year.

Cooperative Program funds, undesignated, go to support the various agencies according to a division voted by the Southern Baptist Convention. The Sunday School Board, a self-supporting agency through its literature sales, does not get Cooperative Program allotments.

Designated funds go only to the purposes picked by the donors.

The funds reported by Routh included \$1,653,371 via the Cooperative Program received in June alone, and \$804,795 received during the same month through designations. None of his report includes funds kept by local churches or by state Baptist conventions for local and state objectives.

Through the first half of 1965, the SBC Foreign Mission Board's share of the Cooperative Program and its designated receipts amounted to \$17,453,758. The Home Mission Board, through the same means, received \$5,072,068. No other agency had received as much as \$800,000.

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Memorial Aid Fund Honors Dead Student

7-9-65

NEW ORLEANS (BP) -- A memorial student aid fund has been established at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary here in honor of Bobbie Joe Thompson, who was killed in an automobile accident a few hours after spring graduation.

Seminary President H. Leo Eddleman made the first contribution to the fund to be listed in the student's name.

Thompson, 34, who received the diploma of theology in morning commencement exercies at the seminary, was passenger in a car involved in a three-car collision at 6 p. m. the same day.

July 9, 1965

Heritage Items Sought By Home Mission Board

ATLANTA, Ga. (BP)--Tangible links with the past, suitable for display, are being sought by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board for a newly-created heritage room in the Lawrence-Garrison Building in Atlanta.

Included in the room will be such items as a wardrobe which belonged to Miss Annie Armstrong, first executive secretary of Woman's Missionary Union, who also was active in home missions; a desk which belonged to Isaac T. Tichenor, an outstanding executive secretary of the mission agency, and pictures of each of the 15 executive secretaries of the board.

Individuals with items which might be suitable for the heritage room are asked to communicate with Walker L. Knight, chairman of a committee to develop the room, at 161 Spring Street, N. W., Atlanta, Ga. 30303.

Knight said the committee wants the room to reveal how God has worked through people and events in history to accomplish His will in winning the lost to personal faith in Christ.

To do this the room will preserve historical materials and artifacts which have some relationship to Southern Baptist Home Missions.

"We hope the room, by its strategic location on the first floor of the building, will encourage those with significant home missions materials to deposit them within it for permanent display to the hundreds of visitors," Knight said.

He asked that no items be sent to the Board at this time, but only that a description, location, and ownership of the material be communicated.

Each item should be unique, significant, clearly related to home missions since 1845, and practical for display.

As examples of material sought by the committee, he cited historical firsts, such as books, magazines, papers, etc., or items related to some beginning of mission work, or material belonging to an outstanding personage of home missions.

"If you do not personally have such material, maybe you can tell us of someone who does," Knight said.

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Kelly Named Chief Of Navy Chaplains

7-9-65

WASHINGTON, D. C. (BP)--A Southern Baptist chaplain and Arkansas native, Rear Adm. James W. Kelly, has been chosen as the new chief of U. S. Navy chaplains.

Kelly, formerly director of the chaplains division and assistant to the chief of navy chaplains, Washington, D. C., succeeds Rear Adm. Floyd Dreith who recently retired.

Kelly in 1963 became the first Southern Baptist chaplain to be advanced to the rank of rear adm. in the Navy, with assignment to the office of the chief of navy chaplains.

Prior to his assignment with the chief of Navy chaplains, Kelly was senior chaplain at the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, and supervised the academy's total religious program for the 3,800 midshipmen training for officers' roles. He had one of the largest congregations, preaching to more than 2,500 each Sunday.

Rear Adm. Kelly, a native of Carthage, Ark., graduated from Ouachita Baptist College, Arkadelphia, Ark., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Seminary Professor Dies In Fort Worth

FORT WORTH (BP)--Lee H. McCoy, professor of church administration at South-western Baptist Theological Seminary here, died from a heart attack July 5.

Funeral services for the Guthrie, Okla., native were scheduled at University Baptist Church July 7. Burial followed at Laurel Land Memorial Park.

McCoy began teaching at Southwestern in 1955. He taught during the first summer session this year. The 50-year-old professor held the B. S. degree from Oklahoma Baptist University, and the master and doctor of religious education degrees from the seminary.

Survivors include his wife; a daughter, Mrs. Don Enas of Fort Worth; and two grandchildren.

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4 New Orleans Professors Announce Sabbatic Plans

7-9-65

NEW ORLEANS (BP) -- Four professors at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary here have completed plans for a year of sabbatic leave, beginning in September.

They are William S. Garmon and Robert Soileau, school of theology; Harold Rutledge, school of religious education; and A. Ray Baker, school of church music.

Garmon, associate professor of Christian ethics, will be enrolled in the University of Chicago in September, with one-third of his time devoted to a pilot study sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Soileau, associate professor of theology, will study at Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., in philosophy and theology.

Rutledge, associate professor of psychology and counseling, will enrol at the University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg.

Baker, assistant professor of voice, will undertake graduate study in music and music education at Florida State University, Tallahassee.

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Howard Payne College Announces \$250,000 Gift

7-9-65

BROWNWOOD, Tex. (BP)--A gift of \$250,000 will go to Howard Payne College (Baptist) here if matching contributions are received by Jan. 1.

Carr P. Collins, Jr., of Dallas, a member of the board of directors of the Douglas MacArthur Academy of Freedom at Howard Payne, marked his quarter-of-a-million dollars gift for endowment. College President Guy D. Newman said that trustees have voted to seek an additional \$500,000 for the school. First contribution to the matching fund was pledged by J. Brown Cutbirth, Howard Payne trustee from Houston. He pledged \$60,000.

In other action the trustees voted to ask the Baptist General Convention of Texas to "give serious consideration to entrusting the matter of making decisions on federal loans and grants to the judgment of local boards of Baptist institutions."

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Kratz Goes To Harvard For Post-Doctoral Study

7-9-65

DALLAS (BP)--C. Eugene Kratz, coordinator of institutional programs for the Christian Education Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas is spending July at Harvard University in post-doctoral library research.

Mrs. Ussery Becom s Seminary Women's Dean

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Mrs. Annie Wright Ussery has been named dean of women at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary here, beginning in September.

Mrs. James H. Street, current dean of women, is moving to Clarke College (Baptist), Newton, Miss., with her husband.

Mrs. Ussery, a native and longtime resident of Roanoke, Ala., was the wife of the late Dr. Gordon Ussery. An author and teacher, the new dean of women graduated from Judson College (Baptist), Marion, Ala., and has a master's degree in English from Emory University, Atlanta.

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\$100,000 Gift Aids Palm Beach Campaign

7-9-65

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (BP)--An investment-gift of \$100,000 from Mr. and Mrs. William T. Wakeman, socially prominent Palm Beach residents, has been announced by officials of a campaign for funds for a Baptist college near here.

Jess Moody, local pastor and chairman of the college committee, made the announcement of the Wakeman contribution. The pledge has been earmarked for a Department of American studies.

Wakeman is chairman of the Florida Republican finance committee and a member of the National Republican finance committee.

Florida Baptists, sponsors of the college to be built in near-by Palm Beach Gardens, have decreed no tax dollars would be used in launching the college.

The \$100,000 pushed the campaign receipts total to \$467,000.

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Hall And Gardner Appointed By Board

7-9-65

ATLANTA (BP) -- The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board appointed here Winston Mervyn Hall and Laurin H. Gardner as missionaries to Carlsbad, N. M., and Hamilton, Ohio, respectively.

Their appointments brought the total home mission personnel to 2,463. Most of the missionaries work in cooperation with state mission boards.

Hall, a native of Hedley, Tex., was appointed as a superintendent of missions to Carlsbad, N. M. Prior to his appointment, he was pastor of churches in New Mexico and Texas.

He graduated from eastern New Mexico University, Portales, N. M., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.

Gardner, serving under the metropolitan missions department, was appointed a superintendent of missions to Hamilton, Ohio. A native of Fletcher, N. C., Gardner has been the pastor of the Linden Baptist Church in Columbus, Ohio.

He was educated at Furman University, Greenville, S. C., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

July 9, 1965

Coggin Recovering After Auto Crash

FORT WORTH, Tex. (BP)--James E. Coggin, newly-elected president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference and pastor of the Travis Avenue Baptist Church here, is recovering at his home from a non-paralyzing neck fracture.

7

Coggin's automobile flipped over outside Greenville, Tex., and was demolished as he and his family were returning to Fort Worth from a vacation trip to Washington and New York.

Mrs. Coggin suffered multiple bruises and sprains, and her mother, Mrs. Ruth Garrick of Thomasville, Ala., sustained four cracked ribs. The Coggins' two daughters were uninjured.

Doctors said Coggin will be unable to assume any activity for at least three weeks and will have to wear a neck cast for some time.

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Cunningham Appointed H-SU Dean Of Men

7-9-65

ABILENE, Tex. (BP)--Orville W. Cunningham, veteran public school official in the Texas Panhandle, has been appointed director of student life and dean of men for Hardin-Simmons University, Dr. James H. Landes, H-SU president, has announced.

Cunningham, who has been in the real estate business in Abilene for the past year, was superintendent of the Samnorwood public schools from 1946 to 1964.

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Caudill, Fite Appeal For New Cuban Trial

7-9-65

ATLANTA (BP) -- Southern Baptists' imprisoned missionaries, Herbert Caudill and David Fite, have appealed through their Cuban lawyer to the Cuban government for a new trial.

The announcement was made here by Loyd Corder of Atlanta, secretary of the Language Missions Department of the Home Mission Board. Corder directs Southern Baptist Missions in Cuba.

He said the request differs from an appeal to a higher court as in the United States and actually involves more than a review, as the court can change the sentence.

"This opens up the possibility of a greater or lesser sentence," he added.

Caudill is a native of Clinchport, Va., with strong connections in Georgia where he attended Mercer University in Macon and served as an associational missionary before going to Havana 35 years ago.

Fite was born in Fort Worth when his father, Clifton E. Fite, was attending Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. The elder Fite now is pastor of the Rosemont Baptist Church in Waynesboro, Ga. He has been in Cuba since 1960 and is married to Margaret Caudill, daughter of the Herbert Caudills.

The two U. S. missionaries were arrested April 8 with 51 Cuban Baptist pastors and laymen. On May 14, 34 of these were tried and sentenced to prison terms ranging from 30 years of imprisonment to two years of house arrest.

Caudill received a ten-year prison sentence, and Fite a six-year sentence. They are now held in the La Cabana fortress in Havana.

Corder said Baptists in Mexico, which maintain diplomatic relations with Cuba, have indicated an interest in helping the Home Mission Board and the imprisoned workers.

8

July 9, 1965 Baptist Press

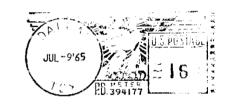
Roberto Porras Maynes, president of the Baptist Convention of Mexico and a vice president of the Baptist World Alliance, said he and other Mexican Baptists will attempt to visit Havana and see the prisoners.

Mr. and Mrs. Caudill returned to Havana, going by way of Mexico City, in December 1964. They had come to the United States in June of last year where Caudill underwent operations for a separated retina on his left eye.

Missionaries in Mexico reported that when the Caudills boarded the plane for Havana, they said, "We have spent the night in prayer, and no matter what happens we feel it is God's will that we return to Havana."

Corder said the Home Mission Board has indicated an interest in assisting Baptist pastors and families in Cuba to come to the United States by way of Mexico, if the pastors request such assistance.

"While we are doing everything possible to secure the release of our workers, and we are grateful for the assistance which has come from many sources," Corder said, "We have been reminded by other Southern Baptist missionaries that, for these Cuban leaders, this is possibly 'their finest hour' in witnessing to their faith in Jesus Christ."



BAPTIST PRESS

TEXAS REGIONAL OFFICE 103 BAPTIST BUILDING DALLAS , TEXAS 75201

VIA AIR MAIL

Theo Sommerkamp Executive Committee 460 James Robertson Parkway Nashville 3, Tennessee

NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
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