



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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January 20, 1966

Report From Cuban Jail:
Baptist Missionary Ill

ATLANTA (BP)--Word has been received from Cuba that Southern Baptist missionary, Herbert Caudill has the flu. The report contained no other details, except that Caudill has been separated from his son-in-law, David Fite.

The two missionaries have been held prisoner by the Castro regime since April 1965. The Board's associate missions director, Lloyd Corder, said definite location of the two men was not known, but that they were thought to be in La Cabana Fortress, across the bay from Havana.

Mrs. Caudill and Mrs. Fite, both of whom are still in Cuba, are allowed to visit their husbands once a month. Mrs. Caudill reported in a letter last month that her husband and son-in-law were in good health.

"They are taking exercises, raising up on their hands, and have a much better 'figure.' Of course there are two reasons for this...", she wrote. "Their faces were full and they had a good color. Herbert apparently has had no further trouble with his eyes. There were in good spirits."

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Court Rule On Park May
Affect Church Agencies

1-20-66

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Supreme Court of the United States ruled that a private agency that serves a public function might in certain circumstances be subject to the constitutional limitations upon state actions.

The court held that the city of Macon, Ga., could not cease being the trustee of a park in circumstances that would have permitted the park to be operated by private trustees as a racially segregated facility.

Commenting on the case, Walfred H. Peterson, director of research for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, said "Those who operate church agencies that serve some public function cannot ignore this decision as they consider their legal status."

He continued, "The case may be important in the future in defining the difference between that which is public and that which is private."

The park in the case had originated "in a will that devised to the mayor and council...(land) to be used as a park and pleasure ground' for white people only."

The city, which by the will was to appoint a "board of managers" for the park, had let Negroes use the park since 1963 in line with other Supreme Court rulings on the equal protection clause of the fourteenth amendment.

Individual members of the board of managers brought suit asking that the city withdraw as trustee so that the will's racial intent could be honored. When the city tried to do so, others intervened to bring the case up as a civil rights matter.

The court in a 6-3 decision forbade the city to withdraw as trustee. Writing for the majority, Justice Douglas said, "What is 'private' may become intertwined with governmental policies or so impregnated with governmental character as to become subject to the constitutional limitations upon state action."

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He held that the park by the manner of its operation had become "an integral part of the city of Macon's activities." The park was public in its function--like a police or fire department. It was, he added, not like a private school or club. Therefore, it was subject to the impact of the fourteenth amendment. This meant the city could not withdraw.

To this Justice Harlan offered a dissent for himself and Justice Stewart. Besides saying that the record did not show public maintenance he vigorously plead that a park is like a school or orphanage that may be run by either public or private agencies. They serve public functions regardless of ownership title.

The majority opinion, he said, would threaten private control over all private agencies that served some public function. It was this foreboding that Justice Douglas tried to pacify in denying that schools were analogous to parks.

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Church Group Organized
To Aid 'War on Poverty'

1-20-66

WASHINGTON (BP)--Representatives from three major faiths met here to form the Inter-Religious Committee Against Poverty, "to rally the full weight of their constituencies in the national war against poverty."

Joining in the creation of the 45-member committee are the Synagogue Council of America in cooperation with other Jewish bodies, The National Catholic Welfare Conference, and The National Council of Churches.

Formation of the new committee was announced in a special press conference called by Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey and the organizing committee.

Six co-chairmen were named: Rabbi Seymour Cohen, president of The Synagogue Council of America; Louis Stern, past president of The Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds; Eugene Carson Blake, stated clerk of The United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.; Norman Baugher, general secretary of The Church of the Brethren General Brotherhood Board; Archbishop Robert E. Lucey, of San Antonio, and Bishop Raymond J. Gallagher, of Lafayette, Ind., both Roman Catholic.

The Vice President expressed appreciation to the religious groups for the efforts they have already made in the war against poverty. He called this newly formed committee "Another division brought into the army in the struggle in the war on poverty."

Humphrey said this committee would do in the war on poverty what it did in the civil rights battle--bring to bear the moral conscience of the nation on Congress and the leaders.

In a statement issued by the committee, the group called for more poverty funds and for maximum participation for the poor in poverty programs. The leaders of the cooperating groups "are committed to the proposition that the persistence of massive poverty in our society is a moral blight which can and must be eradicated."

The co-chairmen said the committee was formed because the sponsoring bodies are "united in the conviction that toleration of persistent poverty amid our national affluence is morally indefensible and that the combined efforts of both voluntary and governmental agencies are required for the successful waging of a total war upon this social and moral blight."

Eugene Carson Blake, during the press conference, stated that the committee would support, coordinate and even criticize existing private and governmental programs for the poor, and perhaps suggest some others.

The committee will be assisted by a "loaned" professional staff from the sponsoring bodies. Plans call for the committee to meet at least twice yearly and to have headquarters in Washington.

When asked if ministers would be asked to "mount their pulpits" to preach involvement in the anti-poverty war, Blake said he would expect them to preach the faith they profess to hold which would include this commitment.

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Civil Liberties Groups
Sponsor Religion Cases

WASHINGTON (BP)--Eighteen cases affecting religious freedom or separation of church and state are in various stages of progress in the courts of ten states, according to reports from civil liberties organizations.

These cases are sponsored in some instances by the American Civil Liberties Union, in others by Protestants and Other Americans United, in others by The American Jewish Congress, and in others by individuals or groups not connected with any of these organizations. In some cases these civil liberties organizations are joint sponsors.

Bus transportation for parochial school pupils at public expense heads the list in a number of cases. There are six cases in four states (Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Pennsylvania) pending on this problem.

Special services by public authorities for pupils in parochial schools are involved in two cases. Challenged in Missouri is the practice of supplying special speech therapy classes to children in parochial and other private schools. In Michigan a new law requiring public schools to provide for private schools the same auxiliary services that are given for public schools is being challenged.

In Maryland, two cases involving tax exemption for churches have been filed. One has to do with state property tax exemption and the other involves federal income tax exemption for churches.

Rhode Island has a law authorizing school committees of every county to lend textbooks to all elementary and secondary school pupils. This provision is similar to that included in the Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. This is being challenged on the ground that the state law was passed for the specific purpose of aiding parochial schools in violation of the United States and the state Constitutions.

An appeal to the Maryland Court of Appeals is pending on the constitutionality of grants from state tax funds for construction of buildings on the campuses of four private colleges in Maryland. The circuit court of Anne Arundel County ruled that the grants do not violate the constitution on the ground that the buildings were not to be used for sectarian studies but for secular studies.

The practice of conducting "Head Start" programs for pre-school children in the war on poverty in facilities of parochial schools when public facilities are available is being challenged in Missouri. This case is now inactive pending the possibility of further "Head Start" grants.

In Chicago, Ill., the "shared time plan" is being challenged. The plaintiffs in this case assert that a dual enrollment program which would permit parochial school children to use the public high school facilities for instruction on a part-time basis violates the United States and Illinois Constitutions. They also allege that the compulsory school Attendance Law is not satisfied by part-time enrollment in two school systems.

In Ohio a charge of religious domination in public schools has been taken to the courts. Among the practices challenged are: (1) close co-mingling of programs in the three public schools with religious instruction in adjacent church buildings, (2) segregation of Catholic children in the district in three of its four public schools, and (3) permitting nuns to teach in clerical garb.

A case is in progress in New York "To vacate the sale of land to a religious organization at a public auction." City officials limited the sale of the property to a non-profit corporation to be used for "religious and educational" purposes. The complaint is against this "bidder classification." It charges that the sale of land on the condition that it be used for religious purposes violates the United States and the state Constitutions.

A group in Oregon is seeking the removal of a 51-foot high neon-lighted reinforced concrete Latin cross erected in a public park. The charge is that this violates the religious freedom of the plaintiffs, is an establishment of religion, and that it is a use of public property for non-public use.

In Pennsylvania a permanent injunction is being sought to prohibit distribution by the public school of the publication of the Gideons Society containing the New Testament together with the Psalms and Proverbs.

Bible Presentation
Opens "Year of Bible"

WASHINGTON (BP)--The American Bible Society presented a bible to President Lyndon B. Johnson in a brief ceremony at the White House.

The occasion was the opening of 1966 as the "Year of the Bible" and in honor of the society's 150th anniversary. The bible presented to the President represented the 750-millionth copy of the bible distributed by the society since its founding in 1816.

In accepting the bible, President Johnson said that America was founded "on the principles of this book." He said that the early pioneers treasured the bible because "it contained the hope and the promise and the inspiration which gave them courage to keep on."

One hundred years ago a similar presentation was made to President Abraham Lincoln. Mr. Johnson said, "The time is not far off when some future president will be standing here to receive the one billionth copy of this book. Let us pray that, by then, the world will be genuinely at peace, and peopled by men of good will."

Governors of 41 states have issued proclamations declaring 1966 the "Year of the Bible" and the U. S. Senate has passed a resolution calling upon President Johnson to do the same. A supporting resolution is pending in the House of Representatives.

More than 65 denominations, representing 94 per cent of the membership of Protestant churches, support the work of the American Bible Society. The society's sole purpose is to translate, publish and distribute the bible, without note or comment, and to encourage its use.

The bible presented to the President was a family-library edition, King James Version, bound in red goatskin, hand-sewn, with its pages edged in gold.

The presentation was made by Sen. Claiborne Pell (D., R.I.), a vice president of the American Bible Society and by James Z. Nettinga, society secretary in charge of the anniversary.

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Career Status for Seven
Approved by Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)--The Home Mission Board, at its January board meeting here, accorded full missionary status to Larry Don Slaughter, an associate missionary pastor in Colorado since 1963. Six other career missionaries also were appointed.

Slaughter, whose wife was killed in an automobile accident last December, is pastor of La Iglesia Olivet Bautista in La Junta, Colo., where he and his wife had been associate missionaries for more than two years.

His previous experience includes a year as pastor of the Mount Zion Baptist Church in Rockdale, Tex., and a year as pastor of the First Southern Baptist Church in Manitou Springs, Colo. He is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University (Baptist), Abilene, Tex., and has attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

Other new career appointees:

Corbin Cooper, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Morehead City, N. C., since 1959, has been appointed as state director of work with National Baptists in North Carolina. He succeeds W. R. Grigg, who is now associate secretary of the Department of Work with National Baptists for the board.

Cooper is a graduate of Mars Hill College (Baptist), Mars Hill, N. C., Wake Forest College (Baptist), Winston-Salem, N. C., and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C.

Mr. and Mrs. William E. Amos, Jr., of Gatlinburg, Tenn., have been appointed to head up a weekday program in Louisville, Ky., for the 23rd and Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville. The program operates in cooperation with the board.

Amos has served on the staffs of the Charleston Baptist Association camp in South Carolina, and the Knox City Association camp in Tennessee. He was also youth director at the Third Avenue Baptist Church in Louisville for two years.

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Miss Judith Ann Bair of Arlington, Va., has been assigned to the Baptist Center in Alexandria, Va., to direct day care activities. Miss Bair, a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, has worked as a relief houseparent in the Kentucky Childrens Home at Lyndon.

The board also took final action on the appointment of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Carl Johnson of New Mexico to serve as superintendent of Baptist Work in Panama and the Canal Zone, replacing Mr. and Mrs. L.D. Wood. Johnson, previously director of missions in New Mexico, will report to Balboa, in the Canal Zone, about Feb. 15.



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Detroit Group To Test
Aid to Private Schools

DETROIT (BP)--A suit challenging the constitutionality of Michigan's Auxiliary Services Act has been filed in Federal Court for the Eastern District of Michigan.

The suit charges that the act violates the U. S. Constitution by providing tax aid for the support of religious schools and institutions and by compelling individual teachers to violate their religious beliefs.

Attorneys for 38 plaintiffs have filed a petition requesting a three-judge special court to rule on the constitutionality of the act, which has many provisions similar to those of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act passed nationally by Congress in 1965.

They also requested a temporary injunction restraining the board of education from acting under its provisions until there is a constitutional ruling.

The Auxiliary Services Act specifies that any public school district which provides "auxiliary services" to its own pupils must provide equal services to pupils of private or parochial elementary and high schools.

Examples of "auxiliary services" include visiting teachers, speech correction, remedial reading, diagnostic and consulting services for handicapped or disturbed children, and health services.

The 38 plaintiffs filing the case include ten clergymen, 12 teachers of special services employed by the Detroit Board of Education, and parents of children attending parochial and non-religious private schools.

They represent a variety of religious faiths, including Baptist, Episcopalian, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, Unitarian-Universalist, Roman Catholic, and Jewish.

The court test is supported by the American Civil Liberties Union, Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State, and the American Jewish Congress. Support has also been expressed by the Presbytery of Detroit, the Unitarian-Universalist churches of Michigan, and the Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Detroit.

Plaintiffs contend that the act will result in a \$1 million per-year cost increase to Detroit taxpayers for services to private and parochial schools. The plaintiffs say they are being required to pay taxes for the support of religious schools and institutions, in violation of the first and fourteenth amendments to the U. S. Constitution.

The suit also contends that the Detroit Board of Education, under the act, would be forced to abandon its constitutional obligation "to afford equal educational opportunities, regardless of race," by creating "separate but equal" elementary and secondary educational facilities based on religion, color, or creed.

Teacher plaintiffs argue that they face possible discharge, discipline or jeopardy of professional careers if they do not accept assignments to teach in parochial schools in a religious setting alien to their own beliefs and religious convictions.

Schools which would come under the act were identified in the complaint as about 125 Catholic schools, 21 Lutheran, two Seventh Day Adventist, two Jewish, one Quaker, one Black Muslim (the University of Islam), and four private, non-religious schools.

Stagg To Delay Retirement
As New Mexico Baptist Head

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M. (BP)--The State Mission Board of the Baptist Convention of New Mexico voted unanimously to request Harry P. Stagg to delay his retirement as executive secretary of the convention.

The board asked its top administrative officer to continue his work until completing 30 years as executive secretary.

New date for Stagg's retirement will be Jan. 31, 1968, which is 14 months beyond his original date of retirement.

Stagg announced plans for retirement to the board last November following the New Mexico Baptist state convention. He planned to retire on his 68th birthday, Sept. 30, 1966.

Stagg has served as executive secretary of the New Mexico convention longer than any other full-time paid state executive secretary in the Southern Baptist Convention.

He has served as executive secretary for 28 years. For 13 years before becoming the state's top Baptist executive, Stagg was pastor of the First Baptist Church, Gallup, N. M.

A personnel committee which requested Stagg's delay in retirement reported to the board that a grass roots movement had developed throughout the state suggesting that he continue. Three Baptist associations adopted resolutions requesting the board to extend his date of retirement.

Following action of the board, Stagg commented: "This is one of the greatest honors and compliments you could bestow upon me following 28 years in this position." He then announced his willingness to serve for the additional 14 months.

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Southwestern Seminary
Names New Librarian

1-20-66

FORT WORTH (BP)--Keith C. Wills, librarian at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., has been named director of libraries at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Wills, who has held the Midwestern post since 1958, will fill the vacancy left by the death of Charles P. Johnson last May. His appointment is effective immediately, said Southwestern Seminary President Robert E. Naylor.

A native of McCleary, Wash., Wills is a graduate of the University of Washington where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He holds the master of library science degree from the University of Denver, and the bachelor of divinity and doctor of theology degrees from Southwestern Seminary.

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January 20, 1966

Dear State Executive Secretary:

Every spring my predecessor, Theo Sommerkamp, wrote to you requesting a copy of your state convention annual. He's now in Switzerland, but I'm making the same request you've received from him each year.

Could you please send to the Baptist Press one copy of your state convention annual as soon as it is available? It is one of the most valuable reference sources we use in news coverage of Southern Baptist work in each state.

Thanks so much for your help. If I can be of assistance to you, please call on me.

Sincerely,

Jim Newton
Assistant Director

JN/se