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April 8, 1966

ATLANTA, (BP)--The Cuban government has released from prison a former president of the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba. 154

He is Nemesio Garcia, pastor of the McCall Baptist Church in Havana. Garcia was one of 53 Baptists arrested on April 8, 1965.

The report of the release came in a letter to the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board here from Mrs. Herbert Caudill of Havana, wife of one of the imprisoned missionaries.

Arrested by the government were 51 Cuban Baptists and two U. S. missionaries, Herbert Caudill, superintendent of Baptist mission work for Western Cuba, and David Fite, a teacher in the Baptist Theological Institute in Havana.

Gerald B. Palmer of Atlanta, secretary of the department of language missions for the mission agency, said no other information about Garcia or the other prisoners was given.

The released pastor served as president of the Baptist convention three years ago and was not president of the organization at the time of his arrest.

"We do not know how to interpret the significance of Garcia's release," palmer said. "We simply pray that it predicts the future release of others."

Only 34 of the arrested Baptists received sentences, and some of these were a form of house arrest. However, the two missionaries received sentences of 10 years for Caudill and six for Fite.

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Baylor Offers Ph. D.
 Degree in Religion

70
 4-8-66

WACO, Tex. (BP)--Baylor University this fall will become the only Baptist university to offer the doctor of philosophy degree in religion.

The long-anticipated announcement of the addition of the Ph. D. program in religion to the university's graduate school degree offerings was made by Ray Summers, chairman of the department of religion.

Summers' announcement followed approval of the program by Baylor's graduate school executive council.

The council approved the program on recommendation of J. Philip Hyatt, consultant for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

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Charleston Baptist College
 Presented \$100,000 Check

4-8-66

CHARLESTON, S. C. (BP)--The chairman of the board of trustees for the Baptist College of Charleston, Clifford Strong Jones, has given the new college a check for \$100,000. 56

The funds will be used to build a wing of a classroom building now under construction. That wing will be called "Jones Hall" in honor of the board chairman and his wife.

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Visiting Australian
Dies After Revival

210

SIKESTON, Mo. (BP)--A visiting Australian Baptist evangelist here to participate in the Australian-Missouri statewide Baptist evangelistic crusade died unexpectedly two days after completing a revival meeting at the Murray Lane Baptist Church in Sikeston, Mo.

The Australian was J. Wilbur Fletcher of Tamworth, New South Wales in Australia. He is one of 76 Australians in Missouri during March and April for the evangelistic campaign.

Fletcher became ill during his revival at the Murray Lane Baptist Church here and had decided to enter the hospital for treatment before beginning another revival in Fort Madison, Iowa.

He had been dismissed from the hospital and was preparing to resume work in the crusade when fatally stricken. Death was attributed to a blood clot.

Mrs. Fletcher was traveling with and assisting her husband in the crusade. She planned to continue participating in the crusade following funeral services, traveling with her brother, S. R. Jensen of New South Wales, also of the Australian evangelistic team.

Funeral services were (to be) held in St. Louis, Mo., April 9, conducted by fellow Australian ministers and Missouri Baptist leaders.

The Australian-Missouri crusade, March 13-April 17, is a sequel to the Missouri-Australian crusade in 1964 when 160 Missouri Baptist pastors, music directors and denominational workers went to Australia for an evangelistic campaign in 400 Australian Baptist churches.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Please note dates in the following story. The second phase of the Lake Michigan Operation Penetration will begin April 17. Most state Baptist papers, however, will not be able to get the story in type before then. For this reason, story is written in PAST tense. If story is used before April 17, please change verbs throughout story to FUTURE tense. Thanks.

--Baptist Press

260 Revivals Set For
Operation Penetration

By the Baptist Press

308

Southern Baptists in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Minnesota have launched the second phase of "Lake Michigan Operation Penetration," with the beginning of about 260 revival meetings at Southern Baptist churches in the Lake Michigan area.

The simultaneous church revivals follow a Sunday School Witnessing Campaign conducted March 17-23, in which the churches used the Sunday School organization in an effort to discover and reach prospects.

Second phase of Operation Penetration, the revivals in local churches, was scheduled April 17 through May 1.

Simultaneous revivals during that period were slated by 115 churches in northern Illinois, and 125 churches in northern Indiana. An additional 19 Baptist churches and missions in Wisconsin and Minnesota will conduct revivals at a later date, May 15-22.

Just before the revivals, about 190 Baptist churches in the four states conducted Sunday School Witnessing Campaigns in preparation for the revivals.

Orientation meetings have also been held in an effort to prepare church leaders in conserving the results of the evangelistic crusades and in dealing with new church members.

In the Illinois revivals, 95 Baptist preachers from 19 states paid their own expenses to participate in the evangelistic effort. Also in Illinois, 63 music directors from eight states came to direct the music.

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Students from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth and from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Tex., were to participate in "Operation Penetration," their expenses underwritten by the Panhandle Baptist Foundation, Inc., an independent organization established to support world-wide missions.

The name "Lake Michigan Operation Penetration" was given the project as a result of a speech at the Southern Baptist Convnetion last year by SBC President Wayne Dehoney, who challenged Southern Baptists to launch evangelistic efforts in the highly-populated areas of the north and east.

More than 21 million people live in the four states on the southern and western shores of Lake Michigan, and only about 210,000 are Southern Baptists.

The project is jointly sponsored by the Illinois Baptist State Association, the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, the Baptist General Convention of Texas which sponsors Baptist missions work in Wisconsin and Minnesota, the Baptist Sunday School Board, and the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Indiana Baptist
Paper Goes Weekly

4-8-66

154

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (BP)--The Indiana Baptist, official publication of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, has published its first weekly issue.

The publication, formerly a semi-monthly, began weekly production with the issue of April 6. The Indiana Baptist, which began in 1959 as a monthly, has been issued semi-monthly for the last year and a half.

Editor is Alvin C. Shackelford, who became editor last October. E. Harmon Moore had served as combination editor and executive secretary for the state convention since its first publication in 1959.

Shackelford said that publication of an editorial page, Sunday School lesson commentary, devotional column, letters-to-the-editor column, and use of improved paper grade were the major new features of the weekly paper.

"Weekly publication will make it possible for the Indiana Baptist to better perform its task of informing, enlightening, and inspiring Baptists in Indiana," Shackelford said.

The Indiana Baptist will continue its 8½ X 11, eight-page format, but the weekly publication will double the amount of material carried.

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Volkswagen Offers Free
Bus Use For Convention

4-8-66

154

DETROIT (BP)--A fleet of 20 Volkswagen busses will be available for Convention use when Southern Baptists meet for their annual sessions in "Motor City USA" here May 24-27.

Most of the busses will be used for tours, emphasizing growth of Baptist missions work in the Detroit area.

Three main tours are planned: one for Woman's Missionary Union Convention participants on Sunday afternoon before the convention; one for laymen beginning at 6:00 a. m. Tuesday, May 24; and a general tour for all interested on Thursday afternoon, May 26, when no convention sessions are scheduled.

The busses will also be used for courtesy purposes. Two are assigned for press use.

They will also be used to transport Baptists to church services on Sunday before the convention, to take pastors' wives to their meeting, and to transport persons into the residential areas on Thursday afternoon as part of a "witnessing program."

A Baptist deacon who operates a motor company, George Melton, conceived the idea of Volkswagen of America rendering a service to Southern Baptists during their 1965 convention.

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Detroit Weather Forecast:
Cool To Moderately Warm

168

DETROIT (BP)--Baptists planning to attend the Southern Baptist Convention in Detroit May 24-27 have been advised by Detroit Baptist leaders to leave their "deep South summer clothing" at home.

The weather forecast for Detroit during that period is unpredictable, but those who live here say it probably will be cool to moderately warm.

The daily maximum average for May in Detroit is 68.6 degrees, and the daily minimum average for May is 49.4 degrees.

But there could be a variation of as much as 60 degrees, since the record high for May is 93 degrees (1962) and the record low is 30 degrees (1943).

Francis M. DuBose, superintendent of missions for the Greater Detroit Baptist Association, said that men and women attending the convention should be comfortable in suits. Women might like to bring light coats.

Average rainfall for May is 3.5 inches, or .11 per day. DuBose said it wouldn't hurt to bring along a raincoat or umbrella.

"Detroiters know what it is to melt in May, and to be driven from their patios by the chilly night air," DuBose said. "Michiganders say the same thing about their weather as Texans: 'If you don't like it, just wait a little while.'"

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State Business Officers
Name Strickland Chairman

4-8-66 126

DALLAS (BP)--Henry D. Strickland, financial secretary for the Alabama Baptist Convention, has been elected chairman of the state Baptist convention business officers at the conclusion of their two-day conference here.

Also elected were: vice-chairmen, Jay L. Skaggs, controller for the Baptist General Convention of Texas and Joseph B. Kesler, Jr., business manager for the Tennessee Baptist Convention; and treasurer Wesley Bowman, business officer for the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

The conference, made up of business officers of the various state Baptist conventions, met at the Southern Baptist Annuity Board in Dallas to discuss problems and programs of mutual interest.

Discussions were on such subjects as computers, church and institution loans, role of business officer, counseling functions, budgetary and purchasing controls.

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Annuitants Luncheon Set
For Detroit Convention

4-8-66 84

DETROIT (BP)--The seventh annual annuitants luncheon, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, will be held at 1 p. m., Thursday, May 26 in the Pick-Fort Shelby Hotel in Detroit.

J. D. Stoneham, director of the relief and annuitants service department of the Annuity Board, said about 150 persons who receive a benefit from one of the plans the board administers are expected to attend.

Stoneham said reservations can be made at the Annuity Board booth at the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Detroit May 24-27.

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