



**BAPTIST PRESS**  
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
Telephone (615) 244-2355  
W. C. Fields, Director  
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

June 13, 1966

**REGIONAL OFFICES**

**ATLANTA** Walker L. Knight, Editor/161 Spring Street, N.W./Atlanta, Georgia 30303/Telephone (404) 523-2593  
**DALLAS** R. T. McCartney, Editor/103 Baptist Building/Dallas, Texas 75201/Telephone (214) RI 1-1996  
**WASHINGTON** W. Barry Garrett, Editor/200 Maryland Ave., N.E./Washington, D.C. 20002/Telephone (202) 544-4226

Cuban Baptists Welcome  
World Alliance Official

LONDON (BP)--C. Ronald Goulding, associate secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, observed following a recent visit to Cuba that although Baptist churches there have faced serious problems since the 1959 revolution, Cuban Baptists have met them with "real courage and faith". Goulding illustrated their courage and faith with the scriptural question: "If God for us, who can be against us?"

Goulding flew recently from London to Havana to carry to the 17,888 Cuban Baptists the greetings of the world's other 27 million Baptists. He was on the island eight days, visiting Baptist centers at both Havana and Santiago and talking with government officials.

He preached twice. A congregation of more than 800 heard him in the First Baptist Church of Havana, and among the worshippers were the British Ambassador, J. H. A. Watson and Mrs. Watson; the Swiss Ambassador, Emil Stadelhofer; the Dutch Charge de Affaires; the Dean of the Anglican Cathedral; and Canon Pawley of Ely Cathedral, England.

The attendance of these visitors served, Goulding said, "to remind Cuban Baptists in a tangible way of the interest in their life and work of many beyond their own shores."

His other speaking engagement was at the First Baptist Church in Santiago de Cuba, in the eastern part of the island. This service on a week night was attended by 200, including the British consul and his wife.

Goulding said he did not visit any of the 41 pastors and theological students reported by the news agencies to be held in prisons or the national labor camp.

He did observe from his visits to the churches and in conversations with lay leaders that the churches are severely handicapped by the absence of pastors.

Except for the absence of the pastors and possibly other key leaders, the churches are allowed to continue their usual services.

The large First Baptist Church in Havana is marked by an illuminated sign announcing the hour of services and offering a welcome in both Spanish and English. This building originally was a theatre but was converted to church use several years ago. A lay preacher filled the Havana pulpit on Sunday morning, with Goulding speaking at night.

Goulding said that the Cuban Baptists received him with extra ordinary warmth.

"I have rarely felt the value of Christian greetings, embodying as they do the promise of thought and prayer, so much as I did in Cuba," he said.

"Fellowship becomes a precious thing when it can be known so rarely. I realized again the importance of the work of the Baptist World Alliance as a 'bringing together agency' for Baptists throughout the world, especially for those who by geography or political circumstances are feeling alone and sometimes forgotten."

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Michigan Board Votes  
Studies on Future Plans

6/13/66

DETROIT (BP)--The Executive Board for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan authorized two committee studies comparing present programs to future needs of the state Baptist convention work.

Two special five-member committees were appointed to make (1) a personnel study of present work loads and future needs, and (2) a financial study of future expansion programs and new projects.

Both committees were asked to bring recommendations to the next meeting of the board, according to Fred D. Hubbs, executive secretary of the convention and newly-elected first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Laymen Form Foundation  
For Conservative Theology

HOUSTON (BP)--A group of Texas and Gulf Coast area businessmen have established an "Evangelical Christian Education Foundation" to support conservative theological education as opposed to "liberal theology now being taught in the United States".

At a recent meeting here, the businessmen set a goal of \$500,000 for scholarship funds for students who accept their definition of conservative theology, and placed the funds with New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, La.

"Trends toward a wider acceptance of liberal theology, broad teaching that the Bible is less than the holy and inspired Word of God, and a desire to help educate pastors and teachers with conservative theological conviction are basic reasons for establishing the foundation," said Paul Pressler, a Houston attorney and foundation chairman of trustees.

Six trustees and approximately 40 advisory board members met several times during the spring and early summer to organize the foundation and establish its purpose "as an expression of concern for conservative as opposed to liberal theology."

Carroll Karkalits, a Houston chemical engineer and the foundation's secretary, said: "Since Christianity is primarily a lay movement, it seems appropriate for laymen to express their concern over the Christian faith being weakened by liberalism, humanism, and rationalism at this time."

Karkalits said that New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary was selected to receive the foundation's funds "because of its identity with conservative theology and academic excellence."

The trustees added that the Articles of Religious Faith signed by New Orleans seminary faculty members fulfilled their definition of a "conservative theological position."

H. Leo Eddleman, president of the New Orleans seminary, spoke at the group's meeting here.

Karkalits explained that foundation funds may also be secured for other educational institutions at a later date.

The scholarships provided will go to students who (1) accept the group's definition of conservative theology, (2) have financial needs, and (3) are studying for graduate or professional theological degrees.

Trustees for the foundation are all active Baptist deacons and Sunday School teachers. In addition to Pressler and Karkalits, others are Carlross Morris, Orrien R. Smith, and Harold Tate of Houston; and Aubrey Raiford, Port Arthur, Tex.

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Grocer Named Arkansas  
Baptist Father of Year

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP)--"He always wants to do what is right and his love for God guides him in all his ways."

This is how the daughter of the Arkansas Baptist Father of the Year described her father, Ralph A. Holt of North Little Rock.

Holt, a grocer and former school teacher, was selected for the award by a committee of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.

A member of the Baring Cross Baptist Church near Little Rock for 24 years, Holt has served the church as Sunday School superintendent, Training Union director, Sunday School teacher, and chairman of deacons. Currently he is director of the church's teacher training department.

A native of Bingen, Ark., the 63-year-old Holt was the eighth in a family of 11 children. He and his wife, married in 1925, have two daughters--Rebecca, a recent graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and Ruth, (Mrs. Raymond A. Lowery) of North Little Rock. Their son, Ralph A. Jr., lost his life at sea in 1957 while serving with the U. S. Navy.

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Baptist Pastor, Catholic  
Priest, Perform Wedding

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--A Southern Baptist pastor and a Catholic priest participated together in a wedding ceremony here considered to be the first of its kind in the nation.

The Baptist minister is William Jackson, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, Hebbardsville, Ky., since 1962.

Jackson helped to marry his sister, Joyce, to 24-year-old James M. Larkin during ceremonies at the St. Michael Catholic Church in Memphis. The bride says she will remain a Baptist and her husband will remain Catholic.

Father James Miller, assistant pastor of the St. Michael church, led in the exchange of the vows; Jackson delivered an exhortation and led in the closing benediction.

The Catholic priest said the ceremony might possibly be the first of its kind in the United States.

Jackson called it "a breakthrough" in Baptist-Catholic relationships, saying that both he and the Catholic priests at the church came to a greater understanding of their denominations as a result.

Jackson added that he spent an entire day prior to the wedding in dialogue with the Catholic priests of the church.

"I found a real openness in talking with them" he said. "I think this must have been the first time they've had a chance to sit down with a Baptist minister and honestly and frankly ask questions."

He added that Father Miller was very generous with the time allowed him during the ceremony. "There were almost no restrictions given me, except that he had to exchange the vows," said Jackson. "And this is something I would want to do at any wedding performed in my church."

Jackson said he was permitted to preach a sermon, to lead in prayer, or do just about anything he liked. His message extolled love as described in I Corinthians 13 as the basis for marriage.

Jackson also read both the Gospel lesson and the epistle lesson as found in the Episcopal Book of Prayer, and led the closing benediction following a vocal solo.

He explained that his sister had wanted him to perform her wedding ceremony ever since he had been ordained.

Two days after the Vatican decree liberalizing restrictions in Protestant-Catholic marriage ceremonies, Joyce went to the Catholic priest and asked what her brother could do at the wedding.

Father Miller later said he almost fell out of his chair when she requested that a Southern Baptist minister be permitted to participate in the ceremony.

Jackson recently earned the master of theology degree at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and is also a graduate of Union University, (Baptist) Jackson, Tenn.

He attended Christian Brothers High School, a Roman Catholic school in Memphis, and graduated in 1956.

Baptist Press Photo

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**GERMAN BAPTIST MEETING ENDS:** More than 1,300 people attending the triennial conference of the Union of Evangelical--Free Churches in East Germany say farewell outside the Sophien Chapel in East Berlin. The union includes Baptists and other evangelical groups in Germany. The words over the church's doorway say: "How lovely are thy dwellings, Lord Sabaoth," and "Hear the Word of the Lord." (European Baptist Press Photo)

Baptist Press Photo

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**NATO OUSTER KILLS BUILDING PLANS:** Members of the Toul Baptist Church in Toul, France, (English-speaking) discuss a decision by the church against planning to build its own building following announcement by the French government that NATO (North American Treaty Organization) forces will be asked to leave the country. The church is presently meeting in a French agricultural school. The church decided to buy property in the name of the French Baptist Federation as a possible future French-language Baptist church site. Most of the church members are American servicemen stationed in France, and are Southern Baptists. (EUROPEAN BAPTIST PRESS PHOTO)