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March 1, 1967

Fites In Cuba To Ask
For Son's Release

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ATLANTA (BP)--The parents of Southern Baptist Missionary David Fite are in Havana, Cuba, for a "face-to-face" appeal to Fidel Castro to release their son from prison.

News that the Clifton Fites of Waynesboro, Ga. had reached Havana came to the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in a cablegram that simply read, "Arrived safely, and family well!"

The Fites were given no assurance that they would be able to see Castro, but made the trip in order to see their son and his family, including grandchildren they have never seen.

The couple reached Havana through Mexico City, where they waited for a visa from the Cuban government for two weeks.

Fite, who is pastor of the Rosemont Heights Baptist Church, Waynesboro, earlier had said, "I have one desire in my wish to go to Cuba--to confer with Prime Minister Castro in the interest of the release of my son.

"I know nothing of international relationships and I have no desire to enter into any involvement as a representative of either my government or my religious denomination. I go only as a private citizen and a father."

The Fites traveled thousands of miles, wrote volumes of letters, and spent hundreds of dollars on telephone calls attempting to free David who was arrested in April, 1965 along with veteran Cuba missionary Herbert Caudill and 51 Cuban Baptist leaders.

The two missionaries were convicted on charges of illegal foreign currency exchange. David, who had worked in Cuba for five years, received a six-year sentence, and Caudill, in Cuba since 1929, received a 10-year sentence.

Caudill, suffering from a detached retina, was released from prison in November, 1966 to seek medical treatment in Havana, where he is living at his home.

Mr. and Mrs. Fite (she is a school teacher at Waynesboro High School) left Mexico City Saturday, Feb. 25, but the cablegram was sent Monday, Feb. 27 and reached the mission agency the next day.

In his efforts to free his son, Fite had worked through Georgia senators, the State Department, and had applied more than a year ago through the Czechoslovakian Embassy for a visa.

David's wife, Margaret (who is a daughter of the Caudills), has remained in Havana with their young sons, James David, John Daniel, and Mark Joseph. Mark was born the month before David was arrested.

The elder Fites are staying with Margaret.

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Ivey
~~Named~~ California
Foundation Assistant

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FRESNO, Calif. (BP)--R. Bates Ivey, a church worker from San Diego, Calif., has been elected assistant executive secretary of the California Baptist Foundation to head the organization's church loan and church debenture business.

Ivey for 14 years has been associate pastor and director of Christian education at First Southern Baptist Church in San Diego, Calif.

For 17 years he worked with Cecil Pearson, a former San Diego pastor who is now executive secretary of the Foundation.

A native of Texas, Ivey attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, and is currently a member of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

He was vice president of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California at the time of his election to the foundation post, but resigned to accept the denominational position.

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Seminary Trustees Name
Professors, Honor Retirees

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FORT WORTH (BP)--Trustees of the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary honored a retiring professor, recognized four trustees whose terms expire in June, and elected a new faculty member during their semi-annual meeting here.

Miss Sara Thompson, professor of music bibliography and music librarian since 1945, was the honored guest during a faculty trustee dinner. She retires this year.

Four trustees, representing an accumulated 47 years of service on the seminary board, were honored during the dinner. They are: J. T. Luther and James Riley of Texas, S. C. Ray of North Carolina and E. B. Shivers Jr. of Georgia.

The trustees elected Phillip W. Simms, music librarian with the rank of assistant professor. He has been a teaching fellow in the school of church music since 1962 and worked in the music library since 1964.

A native of Fort Smith, Ark., Simms is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark., and holds two degrees from Southwestern. He is scheduled to receive the doctorate of church music degree next year.

The seminary governing body heard the president's report from Robert E. Naylor and reports on finance, faculty curriculum and buildings and endowments.

Seminary endowments increased \$320,659 since August 1966, according to the endowment committee's report.

The trustees also advanced three faculty members: Lacoste Munn, to professor of New Testament, Larry Walker to assistant professor of Old Testament and T. W. Hubbs to associate professor of piano and organ.

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Baptists Urged To Reach
America's Largest Ghetto

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NEW ORLEANS (BP)--A Southern Baptist missions worker in New York City has urged the nation's largest evangelical denomination to work in the nation's largest ghetto.

Paul S. James, director of the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association, urged Southern Baptists to forget their prejudices, to become color blind, and to move into the basements, the highrise apartments and the dark alleys of New York with the message of Christ.

Speaking at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, James asked students and faculty members during the annual Missionary Day address: "When will America's largest evangelical church do something for America's largest metropolitan area? When will it say something to America's largest ghetto?"

"We are no longer a regional church, we are a nation-wide convention with a nation-wide responsibility," the former Southern Baptist Convention vice president said.

Pointing to Northeastern United States as the "top-priority-area" in the nation for Southern Baptists to reach, James said that one-third of the population of America is living between New York, Boston and St. Paul.

"In this area seven of the nation's nine major cities are located; it is the center for national and international governments; great universities are located there; and the idea makers of Madison Avenue are ruling there. No matter how you look at it, the need is so great."

"Our missionaries can not go to Poland, but the Polish people are there; we can't send our missionaries to Pakistan, but their students are there, along with 10,000 international students. World mission begins right where you are."

"Southern Baptists, with their minds, their money, their methods and resources, can do so much more than what they are presently doing," said the SBC Home Mission Board official.

A graduate of Wheaton College, Wheaton, Ill., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., James was pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church in Atlanta, Ga., Second Baptist Church in Auburn, N. Y., and Manhattan Baptist Church, New York City, before being named to the New York missions position.

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F. E. Wright Resigns
As Union President

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JACKSON, Tenn. (BP)--F. E. Wright, president of Union University (Baptist) here since 1963, has resigned to become president of a new junior college in Jackson.

Wright's resignation is effective April 1. He will become president of the Jackson State Community College here, a new school which is being organized.

The president of the Union board of trustees, E. E. Deusner, has appointed a five-member committee to select a new president for the Baptist school, and to appoint an interim president.

Wright, 51, served for nine years as academic dean for Union before becoming president.

He was dean of men at Baylor University (Baptist), Waco, Tex., from 1950-1952, and for two years was personnel counselor at Northwestern State College in Natchitoches, La.

He spent three years in the U. S. Air Force during World War II as a chaplain.

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Baptist Leaders Call
For Flexible Missions

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LOUISVILLE (BP)--"Take the church to the people" was the persistent appeal from Southern Baptist leaders to more than 1,000 college students during the 1967 Missions Conference sponsored by the student body of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

"If we are expecting to win the world with preaching from the pulpit alone," said Florida State University chaplain Charles Wellborn, "we will wait and wait and wait."

Wellborn said the church is often like a bird trapped in a sanctuary, flying vainly against the windows in an attempt to escape.

"Everyone is so occupied with watching the bird that nobody thinks to open the windows and let it out," he said, concluding: "Don't you think it's about time we smashed some stained-glass windows?"

In a session on contemporary missions, Nathan Porter of the SBC Home Mission Board warned that the church can no longer say, "If you have a problem, come to the church and we will minister to you," but must go where people work, play and live.

"We're speaking of churches being established where they will never own real estate-- churches which will meet in homes and rented halls," he said.

Howard Tisdale, who is directing a pilot project in industrial chaplaincy in the Louisville area, explained to the students the concept of sending chaplains to industries to council with the working man concerning his problems, and explained the SBC Home Mission Board's new "agora" ministry in shopping centers. ("Agora" is the Greek word for marketplace.)

Another unique missionary venture was described by Earl Troglin, now a resident at the Georgia Baptist Hospital, who was a resort missionary last summer, working with vacationing people on beaches and in parks.

Seminars conducted by SBC missionaries included discussions on juvenile delinquency, the inner city, educational projects abroad, summer missions and medical missions. Professors and international students at the seminary led conferences on ecumenism, Communism, world religions and national cultures as each relates to missionary problems and opportunities.

The theme of the weekend meeting was "The Cross and the Crossroads." The 1,000 students attending represented 88 colleges in 14 states.

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