



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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March 15, 1971

Two Cubans Travel To Europe,
Say Baptists Active in Cuba

by Theo Sommerkamp

RUSCHLIKON, Switzerland (BP)--Baptists are very much alive and prospering in Cuba, the first two Cuban Baptist leaders to make a trip abroad in the last five years said here.

Manuel Salom and Humberto Dominguez, both of Havana, came to Ruschlikon for a conference with European Baptist national leaders.

They had only a few days' notice that they could attend the meeting here before departure, they said.

Salom is treasurer, a full-time position, for the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba. Dominguez is the convention's missions secretary and pastor of Vibora Baptist Church, Havana.

Salom was in the last delegation of Cubans to attend a Baptist meeting abroad. He attended the 1966 meeting of the Baptist World Alliance Executive Committee in London.

The two Cuban Baptist leaders planned to spend a month visiting Baptist churches and headquarters in Europe. One of the main centers of their journey was to be Madrid, Spain, where a Baptist work has been developed among Cuban emigrants.

Salom and Dominguez told the European conference there are 16,000 Baptists today in Cuba. Of the total, about 9,000 are in the Baptist Convention of Eastern Cuba, which has 110 churches.

The Baptist Convention of Western Cuba has 7,000 members in 98 churches, they said. The Western Cuba churches have shown a net gain of over 1,000 members in the past decade, despite the fact that a number of Baptists moved out of Cuba during that time, according to the two Cuban's report.

Last year, the Western convention baptized 319 converts, 57 more than they baptized the previous year, they told the conference. The majority of converts came from families outside the church circle, they said.

The Western convention registered 584 messengers when it held its meeting in February, they continued. One night, attendance at the meeting at Calvary Baptist Church, Havana, exceeded 1,200, they added.

In other areas of convention work, Salom and Dominguez reported that 22 students are enrolled in a four-year course at the seminary in Havana, that seven students will graduate this year, that 12 one-week meetings are held each summer at the convention's campgrounds in Matanzas province with an average attendance of 150, and that 11 men and women are provided for at the convention's home for the aged in Havana.

Financially, they said, the Western convention topped its budget goal last year, collecting nearly 75,000 pesos on its budget of 70,000 pesos. Two special offerings brought the total income to 150,000 pesos last year.

Salom and Dominguez said the churches can hold worship services as often as they like within their own buildings, but services outside the churches are not permitted.

The two officials added that the majority of Cuban Baptist pastors who were once imprisoned have now been released and have resumed preaching.

They did not have detailed information on the work of Baptist churches in Eastern Cuba.

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Foreign Mission Board Plans
Commissioning in Louisville

3/15/71

RICHMOND (BP)--The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board will hold a public commissioning service for new missionaries during its semi-annual meeting in Louisville, April 20, with an estimated 20,000 persons expected to attend.

Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, outlined plans for the meeting during a monthly session of the board here in March.

The public commissioning service, the first of its kind for Southern Baptists in the Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky area, will be held in Freedom Hall at the Kentucky State Fair and Exposition Center beginning at 7:15 p.m. April 20.

In addition to the public commissioning service, the Foreign Mission Board will meet for its semi-annual business session at the Executive Inn, April 19-21.

Featured speakers for the commissioning service will be Cauthen and Carl E. Bates, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of First Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C.

The service will coincide with the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual youth night, with several thousand young people expected to attend.

Also meeting in Louisville on the same days as the Foreign Mission Board will be the trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Trustees, faculty and staff have been invited to participate as a group in the commissioning program.

It will be the third such service conducted away from Richmond in addition to services held alternately at the Baptist assemblies in Ridgecrest, N.C., and Glorietan, N.M. Missionaries were commissioned in Dallas in 1969 and in Lakeland, Fla., in 1970.

In his report to the March board meeting, Cauthen said that "no slowdown in missionary appointments is planned for 1971," and that the number of candidates for missionary journey-men training is the largest ever.

Approximately 80 young people, who must be college graduates under 27 years of age, are expected to be approved as missionary journeymen by the board on April 21.

Cauthen also reported that receipts for the 1970 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions totalled \$12,140,972 on March 11. The final total, to be tabulated May 1, is expected to be "well beyond the total reached last year," Cauthen said.

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Bulman Named Parliamentarian
For Southern Baptist Convention

3/15/71

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (BP)--James M. Bulman, pastor of Central Baptist Church, Oak Ridge, N.C., has been appointed parliamentarian for the Southern Baptist Convention when it meets in St. Louis, Mo., June 1-3.

Bulman, who has been elected parliamentarian for the North Carolina Baptist State Convention for the past eight years, was named to the SBC parliamentarian post by Carl Bates, president of the convention and pastor of First Baptist Church here.

"In my judgment, he is the best qualified man to help in this realm," Bates said in announcing Bulman's appointment. "I am very much concerned that we have someone on the platform who knows Roberts Rules of Order, and Bulman knows it thoroughly,"

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Bates added that Bulman was parliamentarian for the North Carolina convention during the two years that he was president of the state Baptist body.

He is a graduate of Furman University, Greenville, S.C., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, where he earned the doctor of theology degree.

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P. Boyd Smith, California
College President, Dies

3/15/71

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (BP)--Funeral services were held (March 9) for P. Boyd Smith, first president of California Baptist College who died in a local hospital at age 75.

Smith was president of the Baptist school here from 1950-57. He was pastor emeritus at First Southern Baptist Church, Glendale, Calif.

A graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, with an honorary doctorate from Howard Payne College, Brownwood, Tex., Smith was pastor of churches in Burden, Kan.; Dewey, Okla.; Okemah, Okla.; and Lawton, Okla., before coming to California in 1949.

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Jewish Heritage Emphasized
During College Dialogue

3/15/71

ATLANTA (BP)--Professors of religion at Christian colleges were called upon here to increase their emphasis upon Christianity's Judaic heritage.

Required study of Hebrew biblical commentaries, increased Judaic materials in religion libraries, and an appreciation of Jewish history in courses on religion and western culture were urged at the Institute on Contemporary Jewish and Christian Thought held at Emory University here.

The meeting was attended by about 30 Jewish and Christian professors of religion, including several from campuses related to Southern Baptist bodies.

The three-day meeting was co-sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the United Methodist Division of Higher Education. Rabbi Solomon S. Bernards, director of interreligious cooperation for the Anti-Defamation League, said the institute's purpose was to study current approaches to Judaic studies on Christian campuses and to seek to stimulate more.

In a major address, Rabbi Seymour Siegel, professor of rabbinic theology and ethics at Jewish Theological Seminary in New York said that the consciousness of contemporary Jewry, centers about a "fierce will to persist as a people despite its enemies."

The messianic hope of Jews gives the religion its warmth and exuberance, Rabbi Siegel said. Rabbinic tradition seeks to view present realities in light of that hope; to unite hope with patience, he added.

In another major address, Jack S. Boozer, professor of religion at Emory University, called for a balance of institutionalism and spontaneity in Jewish-Christian relations.

Boozer pointed out that no one in either tradition has spoken the last word of his tradition. Every person must live in the hope that other possibilities exist besides those currently perceived, Boozer said.

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Golden Gate Seminary Offers
Minority Struggles Course

3/15/71

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--A new experimental course on minority struggles will be offered at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary here during the spring quarter.

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The course will cover the struggles of the American Indian, the Chicano, the Oriental, and the black minority groups, and will be taught by four experts in the field, seminary officials said.

Former American Baptist Convention President Thomas Kilgore, black pastor of the Second Baptist Church of Los Angeles, will teach the segment on "The Black Struggle." Kilgore is presently vice president of the Los Angeles Council of Churches and West Coast director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

A woman lawyer and Cherokee Indian who specializes in defending the American Indian in legal matters, Cassandra Dunn, will teach the segment on "The American Indian Struggle." She is the only woman to hold the position of deputy district attorney of Fresno County, Calif.

Discussing the Chicano Struggle will be Francisco Lemus, pastor of the First Spanish Southern Baptist Church, Los Angeles, and a faculty member of Los Angeles State College where he is active in Chicano relations.

Eddie Lo, pastor of the First Evangelical Church of Los Angeles, will review "The Oriental Struggle."

Francis M. DuBose, associate professor of missions at Golden Gate Seminary, will be in charge of the two-hour credit course, entitled, "The Meaning of the Minority Struggle in America." Classes are scheduled March 23-May 28.

The study will include interpretive seminars, reading of vital current literature on minority struggles, a take-home essay final examination and field assignment investigation of minority groups, DuBose said.

The course is being sponsored jointly by the seminary and the department of work with National Baptists and the language missions department of the Southern Baptist General Convention of Calif.

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Missionaries's Daughter Wins
WMU Cash Award For Achievement

3/15/71

BIRMINGHAM (BP)--The daughter of missionaries to Venezuela has won the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union's cash award for outstanding achievement as a college student.

Mrs. Shirely Clark Merritt, a graduate of Houston Baptist College, was voted to receive the Elizabeth Lowndes Award by the Executive Board of WMU, an auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention.

The award, which is named in honor of the long-time treasurer of WMU, carries a cash gift of \$200.00. The award was established in 1934 as part of the Margaret Fund, which grants scholarships to children of missionaries.

Mrs. Merritt is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Clark, missionaries in Caracas, Venezuela. Officials of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and of Houston Baptist College praised her for her excellent academic record and for her Christian influence on campus life.

Mrs. Merritt won the college's Christian Action Award, which is given to the student who has exerted the greatest Christian influence in campus activities.

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