

April 23, 1960

Jesse D. Franks
Seminarian, Dies

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky.--(BP)--Dr. Jesse D. Franks, 76, former business manager and public relations director of Baptist Theological Seminary, Ruschlikon-Zurich, Switzerland, died April 19 in Hopkinsville, Ky. Funeral and burial services were held April 21 in Columbus, Miss.

Dr. Franks led in the founding of the seminary in 1949 and served on the administrative staff from 1950 to 1954. He had been in Europe since 1947, first as a member of the staff of the department of reconstruction and inter-church aid, Geneva, Switzerland, and then as European representative of the Southern Baptist Relief committee.

Returning to the states in 1954, Dr. Franks lived in Wake Forest, N. C., for two years and then moved to Hopkinsville to teach Bible in Bethel College (Baptist).

A native of Mississippi, he received the bachelor of arts degree from Mississippi College, Clinton, and the master of theology degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. The honorary doctor of divinity degree was conferred upon him by Mississippi College.

Before going to Europe, Dr. Franks was pastor of First Baptist Church, Pineville, La., and First Baptist Church, Columbus.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Augusta Franks, of Hopkinsville.

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New Mexicans Adopt
Baptist College Guide

(4-23-60)

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M.--(BP)--The mission board of Baptist Convention of New Mexico put forth here a set of requirements to guide it in establishing a Baptist college.

There is no convention-supported Baptist college in New Mexico at present, but chairs of Bible are located at state-supported universities.

According to the directive voted by the board here, before a Baptist college may be created, there must be:

- 1) A 160-acre campus;
- 2) \$1 million in cash on hand for construction;
- 3) \$3 million endowment which will provide at least \$100,000 a year;
- 4) Total annual income of \$400,000.

Several sites for a Baptist college have been advocated by those who say one should be established. No college is expected to be created in the immediate future.

In another education matter, the mission board adopted plans for a new student center building adjacent to the campus of the state university at Las Cruces, N. M. The contract went to an Albuquerque firm for \$80,920. Construction will be completed in September, according to present plans.

The board called Joe Carl Johnson, pastor, First Baptist Church, Raton, N. M., as director of the convention's department of missions, succeeding Gerald B. Palmer. Johnson will direct language missions, Indian and Spanish missions, and associational missions. He takes office May 1.

Herbert E. Bergstrom, teacher at the chair of Bible, Eastern New Mexico University, Portales, N. M., resigned.

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Moon's, Broadus's Church
Joins 30,000 Advance

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va.--(BP)--The Southern Baptist church which Lottie Moon, missionary to China, first joined, and which was once pastored by John A. Broadus, one of the four founding fathers of Southern Baptists' first seminary, plans to take a big step in missions.

Historic First Baptist Church of Charlottesville, Va., organized in 1831, will establish missions in six locations by 1964 as a part of Southern Baptists' movement to establish 30,000 churches and missions, according to pastor H. Cowen Ellis.

The 2687-member church had been reluctant to start missions because of giving up key members to work in them, said Ellis, who has been pastor for two and a half years. He led the church in the appointment of a mission committee and a survey of the city.

The survey showed that churches are needed in eight specific locations, six of them right now. When the church members saw these results, they voted to start all six missions by 1964. The church operates on a budget of \$150,000, but hopes that the first missions sponsored will become self-supporting churches before the last missions are started.

Broadus pastored the church in the mid-19th century, and Miss Moon joined the church in 1858. Another feather in the cap of Charlottesville's First Church is the formation of the first Baptist Young People's Union in the Southern Baptist Convention there in 1884. It also claims the membership of the founder of vacation Bible schools, Mrs. Virginia Sinclair Hawes.

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Alabama Baptists Name
Associational Secretary

(4-23-60)

MONTGOMERY, Ala.--(BP)--George E. Ricker of Montgomery has been elected secretary of the department of rural and associational missions of the Alabama Baptist state executive board.

A. Hamilton Reid, executive secretary of the state board, announced that Ricker would assume his new position on May 1.

Ricker, 34, now serving as associate in the Alabama Baptist state Training Union department, is a native of Jackson County, Ala.

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Gulfshore Assembly
Opening April 25-29

(4-23-60)

PASS CHRISTIAN, Miss.--(BP)--Gulfshore Baptist Assembly here, purchased last year as surplus property from the United States Government by Mississippi Baptist Convention, officially opened April 25-29 with the annual state pastors and missionaries' assembly.

The special campaign to raise \$100,000 has been nearly reached, with \$93,543 having come in to date.

When renovation is complete the assembly will provide sleeping accommodations for 580; three auditoriums, one of them seating 1500; adequate classroom space; a children's building; cafeteria seating 328, an infirmary; manager's residence, and an abundance of recreation facilities, including gymnasium, ballfield, playground, tennis courts, swimming pool, and beach.

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Prominent Georgia
Baptist Is Dead

ATLANTA, Ga.--(BP)--Earl Cooley Sheridan, retired former Georgia Baptist pastor and denominational leader, passed away April 19 at his retirement home in Augusta, Ga.

Dr. Sheridan was pastor of Curtis Baptist Church in Augusta from 1919 until his retirement in 1954. He was former vice-president of Georgia Baptist Convention, served on the Southern Baptist Hospital Commission, and was first moderator of the Augusta Baptist Association when it was organized in 1949.

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Cuban Baptists Launch
Strong Mission Program

(4-23-60)

ATLANTA, Ga.--(BP)--Cuban Baptists, responding to what they call the "most favorable conditions in history" have launched an aggressive mission program on the island. Southern Baptists report 40 missions started during the year.

This is the observation of Southern Baptist Convention leaders who recently visited Cuba, including W. C. Fields of the Executive Committee of the S B C, Nashville, and Loyd Corder and Glendon McCullough of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta.

Fields, director of public relations for the Executive Committee, visited the island the first part of April. Corder, secretary of language missions, and McCullough, secretary of missionary personnel, were there for the Cuban Baptist Convention at Colon April 11-15.

All three observers agreed that the overwhelming majority of the people, including Baptists, support the revolution, and feel that government favoritism has shifted from the top 10 per cent to the bottom 90 per cent of the people.

The evangelical denominations, they said, are enjoying complete separation of church and state for the first time, and this has given them a more aggressive spirit. At the same time the general economic situation is better.

There was the feeling that because of this encouragement by the government of the evangelical mission work, it could lead to the opposite position being taken on religious freedom if the enemies of the present government should come to power.

Catholic writer Dale Francis, in the Sunday Visitor, claims Castro is playing Protestants against the Catholics. He recently cited Baptist announcements of growth and said, "Castro will someday be gone. Then those Protestants who have been assisted by him, who have been aided by him in setting up their missions, will discover the favors are gone. Because they have fawned on him, they'll find people will look on them as a part of his regime."

Herbert Caudill of Havana, superintendent of Southern Baptist mission work in Cuba, said, "Conditions have never been more favorable than now for mission work." The president of Baptist Ministers of Western Cuba, Daniel Rodriguez of Maceo, said, "We are engaged in building a new Cuba. After so much political and spiritual and intellectual negligence on the part of the previous governments, we now see that a great reform is on the move. We expect great things in the future, but more than anything we expect that Baptists will be able to meet the challenge of this hour and do great things for the Lord."

Corder said, "Though by far the major portion of our Cuban Baptist people favor the revolution, there are indications that many fear the growing influence of Communism."

Fields made these observations: (1) Cuban Baptists have a high quality of Christian devotion. (2) They have a new sense of freedom in their work. (3) The overwhelming majority support Castro and feel the revolution has shifted government favoritism to the people. (4) There is a continuing bond of affection between Baptists of Cuba and North America. (5) Visits by Baptists to Cuba in connection with the S B C in Miami Beach and Baptist World Alliance in Rio this year would be "enjoyable and helpful."

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Corder had this advice for visitors: (1) Identify yourselves with Cuban Baptists through badges from Cuban Baptists or the Home Mission Board. (2) Greet people in a friendly fashion. (3) Tip those who serve you. (4) Do not make slighting comments or confer secretly about the situation. (5) Remember that everything Cubans see and hear Americans do will be interpreted in the light of reports in North America and the Cuban press.

Southern Baptists work in the western four provinces of Cuba where a major portion of the people live. They are organized in a convention and the work is very similar to that in the United States. There are 86 churches and 150 missions, with approximately 9000 members.

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Clear Site For New
Champaign Center

(4-23-60)

CARBONDALE, Ill.--(BP)--Construction has begun at Champaign, Ill., on the new Baptist student center serving those attending the University of Illinois.

The directors of Illinois Baptist State Association, meeting here, awarded a contract for nearly half a million dollars to a Decatur, Ill., contractor. He is clearing the site for the new building.

Directors abandoned plans to erect the center one unit at a time. Instead, it will be completed in the present building program.

State offices of the association here will have additional off-street parking because of action taken by the board. It bought a lot just west of the present building at 400 W. Main St., Carbondale, for \$46,000.

Noel M. Taylor, Carbondale, executive secretary of the association, told directors the state's Cooperative Program receipts for the first quarter of 1960 were \$148,149. This is an increase of 18 percent over the year before.

Mrs. Helen Galloway, Carbondale, for the past several years a field worker in the state Training Union department, was promoted to associate secretary.

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