

BAPTIST FEATURES

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FROM ATLANTA OFFICE
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November 29, 1960

Carpenter, Chaplains' Chaplain, Retires

by Jacqueline Durham

Atlanta--(BP)--"When the Lord called me to preach, I told him if he'd help me get rid of everything--my crops, equipment, and cattle--I'd do it," says Alfred Carpenter, retiring director of the Southern Baptist Chaplains Commission.

Within a month he had sold everything. He entered Oklahoma Baptist University and the gospel ministry. In retrospect, he speaks of the most important element of the span of years between 1922 and 1961: "It has been simply to leave life's program in the hand of the Lord and to walk by faith. When opportunities for service were beyond my estimate of my ability, I depended upon the same Lord with the same faith."

One has only to follow Carpenter's "life's program" from the day he left his Oklahoma farm to his retirement this month, to be convinced that opportunities have never been more than his faith, talents, and determination could perform with effectiveness.

The First Baptist Church at nearby Cement, Okla. called the young man of 30 as pastor during his study at OBU. His next move was to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth for bachelor of theology and master of religious education degrees. Vickery Baptist Church in nearby Dallas claimed him as their pastor.

A call to missions led Carpenter to Panama where he served as pastor of the Balboa Heights Baptist Church in the Canal Zone and as superintendent of missions in the Republic. There he had his first contact with the chaplaincy as interim chaplain at Ft. Clayton Army Hospital and chaplain on the staff of the governor of the Canal Zone.

The missionary zeal which took him to Panama, never left Alfred Carpenter. Except for one pastorate, the rest of his career was spent on the staff of Southern Baptists' Home Mission Board. His final pastorate at First Baptist Church of Blytheville, Ark. lasted seven years.

When World War II broke out in 1941, the Southern Baptist Convention turned to the Home Mission Board to deal with the government in supplying Southern Baptist chaplains and to promote work in military and defense centers. The Board turned to Carpenter. He left the pastorate and became a major force in establishing and developing the Chaplains Commission, leading in the formation of policies which have guided the commission since 1941. He has been counselor, friend, and a source of encouragement to the chaplains.

After the war, the duty of secretary of the Board's direct mission work in Panama, Cuba, in mission centers, and among language groups in the U. S. was added to Carpenter's work. But he managed to keep the commission functioning. He went back into the chaplaincy work full time just before the Korean War, rebuilt the commission's status for the conflict, and has been full time director since then.

Carpenter has led and Southern Baptists as a denomination have followed into new dimensions in the chaplaincy. He has led in setting up policies for the civilian chaplaincy.

At the request of chairman of the interior chiefs of staff, George C. Marshall, and First Secretary of Defense Forrestal, to cover fields in the interest of religion in the military, Carpenter accepted assignments which took him to Africa, India, Burma, China, Europe, the Caribbean, Alaska, Japan, and the Pacific.

In 1959, the National Military Chaplains Association cited him "for strengthening religion and morality...in American life." He has a presidential citation, medal of merit, and certificates of appreciation from the Army and Navy Departments.

As Carpenter retires at the end of 1960, he foresees an even greater ministry for the chaplaincy. What will he do?

"I have planned nothing definite. But I have the same faith and the same Lord that I've always had. If he has something that he wants me to do, it will open up," he says.

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Home Board Budget Nears \$4½ Million

ATLANTA--(BP)--Southern Baptists will spend \$4,425,000 to support the work of 2,034 missionaries of their Home Mission Board in 1961.

These figures were released at the annual meeting of the mission board following its adoption of the new budget for work in the United States, Cuba, and Panama.

This exceeds the budget of 1960 by a third of a million, according to Courts Redford of Atlanta, executive secretary.

Most of the funds will be supplemented by budgets of state conventions in carrying out the mission work in the United States. In an other action the Board completed co-operative agreements with additional states, making a total of 23 of the 28 state conventions in the plan.

These agreements provide for the ratio of financial assistance from both states and Home Board, place the direction of missionaries for the most part under state leadership, and spell out the working arrangements.

The new states entering into agreements in 1960 are Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

An increase of \$99,411 in the Annie Armstrong Offering for Home Missions and \$250,000 additional from the Cooperative Program for missions accounted for the increased budget, according to Redford.

"A larger portion of the budget will go to less developed areas of work," he said. The budget is distributed among the Board's five divisions with \$3,331,694 going to the big missions division. This division, headed by Arthur Rutledge of Atlanta, includes departments of city, associational, and pioneer missions, language group ministries, work with National Baptists, survey work, and a new special mission ministries department.

The evangelism division with offices in Dallas, Tex., received \$165,276, education and promotion--\$173,682, chaplains--\$85,460, church loans, \$156,974, and the remainder went to general missions--\$367,200, and administration--\$251,688.

An increase of \$58,000, for a total of \$197,892, for student summer missionaries indicated the Board is backing financially its plan to place 800 students on the field this summer.

This is part of an increased emphasis on starting new churches and missions as a part of the 30,000 Movement and the 1962 Jubilee Advance year of church extension.

Officers re-elected at the meeting were president, C. G. Cole of Atlanta; state vice president, John Landrum of Mississippi; local vice president, W. A. Duncan of Atlanta, and secretary, Mrs. S. L. Astin of Atlanta.

George Cummins Named
Director of Chaplaincy

ATLANTA, Ga.--(BP)--George W. Cummins of Atlanta, was named director of the Southern Baptist Chaplains Division by the denomination's Home Mission Board at its annual session in Atlanta. He succeeds Alfred Carpenter of Atlanta who retires January 1.

"Cummins has proved himself a qualified leader, an efficient worker, and well-qualified to succeed Carpenter," said Courts Redford, the Board's executive secretary-treasurer.

Cummins, associate director of the commission since 1955, has helped to plan and lead the work and has visited chaplains at U. S. and foreign installations.

"He is well-prepared for this position from every angle, and already has the program in hand," said Carpenter. "He is a great Christian, a loyal Baptist, a hard worker, and an inspiring yoke-fellow."

Cummins will become the second director of the Chaplains Commission which was established in 1941 under Carpenter's leadership. In addition to 400 active duty military chaplains and 795 military chaplains in other categories, active duty Southern Baptist civilian chaplains number 240.

Cummins, a Kentuckian, is a graduate of Georgetown College in Kentucky and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Georgetown conferred a doctor of divinity degree upon him this year.

He has held pastorates in Kentucky and served as an associational missionary in California and superintendent of western missions for the Home Mission Board.

A Navy chaplain for nine years before entering the field on the administrative level, Cummins was commissioned in the U. S. Naval Reserve chaplaincy in 1942. He remained on active duty until 1945, and returned in 1948 during the Korean conflict. Cummins, a commander in the Chaplains Corps of the Naval Reserve, is the current chaplain of the national chapter of the Naval Reserve Association.

He holds a presidential citation, a U. S. Army Distinguished citation, a citation from the Secretary of Navy, and eight other service ribbons and medals for the Korean conflict and World War II.

Cummins married Bessie Mae Cummings; they have two children.

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Note to editors: picture available on request.

Home Board Appoints 25,
2,034 Missionaries on Field

ATLANTA--(BP)--Twenty-five Southern Baptist home missionaries, commissioned in Atlanta's first public appointment service, placed the number of home missionaries at 2,034. The service was a part of the annual meeting of the denomination's Home Mission Board.

Among those appointed were a product of Panamanian missions for Spanish work in California, a Texas pastor of 16 years for pioneer mission work in Long Island, and a native of Spain for Spanish work in Texas.

Executive Secretary Courts Redford used Paul's admonition to the young Timothy as he charged the new appointees to "Maximum use of talents for God."

"If it had not been for Southern Baptists, it would be impossible for me to be here," said Panamanian Homero Yearwood as he told of his call to missions and paid tribute to three successive superintendents of missions in the Republic.

"Missions is all of life to a Christian," said Miss Suzanne Willis, a former Atlanta school teacher, appointed to mission center work in New Orleans. "My prayer is that I will always have a missionary heart, no matter where I serve," Miss Willis said.

The candidates were presented by the secretaries of departments in which they will work. Those appointed for city missions were Lydia Wheitsel of New Mexico for Good Will Center work in Louisville, Ky.; Sara Wilson of North Carolina, Good Will Center kindergarten in New Orleans, La.; and Earl B. Crawford of Texas, superintendent of missions in Riverside, Calif.

Language missions appointees were Ricardo Alvarez of Spain and Lidia Alvarez of Argentina for Spanish Work in Harlingen, Tex.; M. D. and Belle Oates of Arkansas and Virginia for Spanish work in Fresno, Calif.; Richard and Barbara Mefford of Colorado and Arkansas for work with Indians in Philadelphia, Miss.; and Ray and Mildred Douglas of Texas for work with Migrants in Fresno, Calif.

Those appointed for pioneer missions were Don Miller of Texas, pastoral missionary, Long Island, N. Y.; L. P. Barnette, associational missionary in Md.; A. Wilson Parker of Tenn., area missionary in Montana; David Perkins of N. Y., pastoral missionary in New York; and Jay C. Dannelley, area missionary in Michigan.

Associational missionaries appointed were Gerald Locke of Missouri, George Hair of Texas, and Tom Riddle of Texas for Kansas, Meeler Markham of Texas as superintendent of missions for Kansas, A. B. Christian of Missouri for California, and J. W. Lester of Alabama for an in-service training program at Clear Creek School, Pineville, Ky.

Ottie Lee West of North Carolina was appointed as teacher-missionary with National Baptists in St. Augustine, Fla.

Six appointment services were scheduled by the board for 1961.

Orientation conferences were held simultaneously with the two-day meeting of the board. The conferences, led by Glendon McCullough, the first missionary personnel secretary of the board, were for the purpose of acquainting new appointees with fields of service, procedures of work by the board and related topics.

Of the 2034 missionaries now under appointment by the Home Mission Board, 450 were appointed during 1960.

Home Board to Ask
for Loan Corporation

ATLANTA--(BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention will be asked to approve a multi-million dollar church loan corporation, to be controlled by its Home Mission Board.

The action was taken by the mission board following the recommendation of its church loans committee with the advice of an advisory committee composed of top financial leaders of the nation.

The advisory committee counseled against implementing a funded reserve previously considered. The funded reserve proposal, having been approved by the convention last May, would have used loan funds to secure church loans and bonds.

"The limitations placed by the convention on the funded reserve," G. Frank Garrison of Atlanta, director of the church loan division, said, "rendered it largely ineffective."

The proposed corporation, to be known as the Baptist Home Mission Board Church Loan Corporation, will start with more than \$3 million to be transferred from the church extension loan fund.

Added to this will be funds from the capital needs section of the Cooperative Program. The convention had set up \$4 million for the church extension loan fund during 1959-63.

The corporation, as suggested by the advisory committee and the church loans committee of the home board, will be able to issue bonds for sale to the public. This will enable the corporation to increase its available loan funds to as much as six and two-thirds times its assets.

According to Garrison, the \$3 million could secure bond sales totaling \$20 millions.

The financing will work in this manner. Bonds will be sold to investors with a set rate of interest and maturity. The funds thus derived will be used 1) to make loans secured by a first lien on the church's property, 2) to purchase first mortgage church bonds. The mortgages and bonds purchased will secure the bonds issued by the corporation.

The proposal will be presented to the Southern Baptist Executive Committee in February, and, if approved, will go to the convention at its meeting at St. Louis in May.

One board member termed the action, "the most momentous decision the Home Mission Board has ever made in this realm."

Ben Wooten, chairman of the board of directors of the First National Bank of Dallas, said, "This will perhaps be the largest thing the Home Mission Board could do to provide money for churches."

Others on the advisory committee besides Wooten are Wallace O. Duvall of Atlanta, President of the Atlanta Federal Savings and Loan Association; Frank P. Sanford of Birmingham, Ala., chairman of the board of directors, Liberty National Life Insurance Company; H. K. Wadley of Texarkana, Ark., oil operator and philanthropist; Carl G. McCraw of Charlotte, N. C., president of First Union National Bank of Charlotte; and H. Terry Parker of Jacksonville, Fla., bank director realtor and director of Gulf Life Insurance Company.