

July 19, 1961

**Four Of 13 Ministers
Of Year Are Baptists**

ATLANTA (BP)--Four Southern Baptists were among 13 recognized as rural ministers of the year in their states.

Selections are made annually from 13 Southern states by Progressive Farmer magazine and the school of theology of Emory University in Atlanta.

Southern Baptists honored in their respective states were Ralph Z. Mullins, Greenville, Ala.; Arthur T. Achord, Grant Parish, La.; Paul McCullough, Watonga, Okla. and R. C. Woodham, Hattiesburg, Miss.

The ministers are judged on leadership of their churches and effectiveness in the community. Each received a scholarship to a Church and Community Workshop at Emory University, where certificates were awarded them at a banquet in their honor.

Alabama's rural minister of the year, Ralph Mullins, is pastor of five churches: Southside, Midway, Antioch, Spring Hill, and Spring Creek. He was cited for faithful service to his community and emphasis on Bible teaching. A preacher of 38 years, Mullins alternates between three and four services each Sunday and has a weekly radio broadcast.

Louisiana's rural minister of the year, Arthur Achord, is completing his 10th year as pastor of Walnut Grove Baptist Church. He was commended for his outstanding leadership with young people and his efforts to help "all people in the community to enjoy a richer and fuller life."

Oklahoma's rural minister of the year, Paul McCullough, was praised for his work at Nash, the pastorate he just left. He led the church in Sunday school and Training Union growth, in giving to missions, and in developing active Brotherhood and Royal Ambassador organizations.

Oklahoma Baptists had previously recognized McCullough's ministry by naming him rural pastor of the year.

Mississippi's rural minister of the year, R. C. Woodham, is pastor of Dixie Baptist Church. Previous pastorates were in Amite, Forrest, and Stone Counties of Mississippi where his ministry resulted in increased membership, improved property and greater financial support.

The Progressive Farmer noted Woodham's efficiency in having the annual church program prepared and mailed to each family which enables all members to vote intelligently. He has served as moderator and president of the Pastor's Conference in two associations.

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1961 Receipts Pass
1960 For Same Period

(7-19-61)

NASHVILLE (BP)--During June, Cooperative Program receipts for the Southern Baptist Convention in 1961 went over the corresponding six month income for 1960.

Treasurer Porter Routh announced here January-June receipts totaled \$8,646,367 compared with \$8,499,488 for the same months one year ago. This is a rise of 1.73 per cent. Prior to the end of June, 1961 income had been less than 1960 for the corresponding period.

Designated income for the first six months of 1961 ran 8.06 per cent over 1960 for a like period. The amounts were \$11,250,163 versus \$10,410,727.

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Cooperative Program receipts for June alone totaled \$1,469,221 against \$1,309,304 for June, 1960. Designations for June, 1961, reached \$557,228 compared with \$546,485 for the same month the year before.

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Large Response Greet
Call For Conservatism

(7-19-61)

DALLAS (BP)--Letters and telephone calls indicate liberal views toward the ecumenical (church union) movement are not too widely held among Southern Baptists.

The calls came to Thomas A. Patterson here, executive secretary of Baptist General Convention of Texas. He had written an article out of concern over efforts "to edge Southern Baptists into the ecumenical movement."

A few speakers at the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference in St. Louis in May expressed liberal views toward church union.

Respondents to Patterson's article, coming from several Southern states have unanimously agreed with Patterson's plea for strict adherence to traditional Southern Baptist positions on baptism, communion, evangelism and missions.

Patterson said that the Pastors' Conference revealed for the first time that "there is a small but determined group of men who intend to destroy what they term 'Baptist exclusiveness.'"

In the article, Patterson said, "We do consider ourselves separatists but not isolationists. Separation does not necessarily lead to exclusiveness. We are ready to work with any group for the betterment of the society in which we live but not at the expense of cherished principles from God's word."

"Quite a bit of sarcasm and innuendo was directed toward those of us who hold another view," he said. "We were accused of being followers of 'the man from Vermont....' Our allegiance is not to 'the man from Vermont' but to the man from heaven, the Lord Jesus Christ," said Patterson.

He referred to major addresses at the conference in which Baptists were chided for their "refusal to converse" with other denominations.

A Louisiana pastor said Patterson's comment "reflects the thinking of a vast majority of Southern Baptists. If we ever subscribe to such irrational, unscriptural and precarious thinking...we will be identifying ourselves with the god of Baal and not Jehovah God."

Said a Texas pastor: "You hit the nail on the head."

A leading Arkansas pastor said: "Having read so little in the editorial columns of our Baptist papers in recent weeks concerning this matter, I was beginning to wonder if some of our Baptist leaders have changed their minds. As I listened to the Pastors' Conference, I couldn't believe my ears."

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Miss Alma Hunt
On Medical Leave

(7-19-61)

BIRMINGHAM (BP)--Miss Alma Hunt, executive secretary here of Woman's Missionary Union, is on a medical leave of absence.

During a routine examination, Miss Hunt's doctor discovered a condition that could have resulted in serious heart damage. After 10 days in the hospital, Miss Hunt went to her home in Roanoke, Va., for two months of rest.

Though relieved of the pressure of office routine, Miss Hunt is in daily contact with the Birmingham headquarters and has shared in the last-minute planning of the summer conferences at Glorieta, N. M., and Ridgecrest, N. C., Baptist Assemblies.

Her present condition is good, according to reports from Roanoke. She hopes to resume full responsibilities in early fall.

Woman's Missionary Union is auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention.

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