

August 6, 1964

Pilot Advertising
Latin Crusade Killed

SAN ANTONIO, Tex. (BP)--An advertisement for a Texas Baptist-sponsored Latin American Evangelistic Crusade turned to tragedy here when a plane pulling a banner promoting the crusade crashed, killing the pilot.

The pilot was George M. Force, a Dallas bank vice-president and airplane enthusiast who had built a sideline business pulling advertising banners.

His wife and 10-year-old daughter watched from the ground as the plane sputtered during take-off, and crashed on its back. Force was pinned beneath the wreckage.

The plane was pulling a 136-foot banner advertising "Cruzada Bautista Nueva Vida," the Latin American Baptist New Life Crusade, slated Aug. 30-Oct. 11, and sponsored by the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The plane had previously pulled the huge banner without mishap over four other Texas cities--Corpus Christi, Alice, Houston and Galveston. Force was also scheduled to fly the banner over Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth and several other west Texas cities.

Ironically, Force had two days earlier used the same plane to save the life of a San Antonio skydiver who parachuted accidentally into a nearby lake.

Force was flying over the lake when he saw two skydivers go into the water. Landing at a nearby airport, Force got an inflated inner-tube and flew it to the floundering skydivers.

One of the parachutists, Mike Mullins, grabbed the inner tube and was saved. The other, Robert Despres, became tangled in his parachute lines and drowned.

A television cameraman from WOAI-TV in San Antonio was shooting film of the heroic pilot at the time of the tragic crash.

The cameraman filmed the takeoff, but stopped shooting film just prior to the crash when he had to duck as the 400-foot nylon rope pulling the banner swung toward him.

The bi-plane plunged about 50 feet to the ground. The victim's daughter raced to the plane, screaming "Daddy," "Daddy."

Mrs. Force administered mouth-to-mouth respiration, to no avail. The pilot died apparently of head and internal injuries.

Force, a Methodist, was vice-president in charge of public relations and development for Grand Avenue Bank and Trust Co., Dallas.

-30-

July Becomes Highest
Income Month In 1964

(8-6-64)

NASHVILLE (BP)--July was the largest month of year in terms of Cooperative Program income for Southern Baptist Convention agencies.

SBC Treasurer Porter Routh reported here receipts from state Baptist offices amounted to \$1,833,300. The previous monthly high was January, with \$1,828,157.

July, 1964 receipts also compare favorably with June receipts of \$1,564,701 and July, 1963 income of \$1,575,123 through the Cooperative Program, the undesignated giving program of Southern Baptists.

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August 6, 1964

2

Baptist Press

Total July funds from the states was \$2,255,044, counting the \$421,743 worth of special designations for SBC agencies.

Not included in the \$2-1/4 million figure are the approximately two-thirds of church offerings from the Cooperative Program which the states keep to support their own work. Nor are designated funds for state convention institutions included, either.

July's Cooperative Program receipts for Conventionwide agencies bring the seven-month total to \$12,072,247. This is nearly \$1 million more than at the seven-month mark in 1963, a gain of 9.03 per cent.

Designated receipts for the year reached \$14,920,875, up 5-1/2 per cent over the July, 1963 year-to-date mark.

Disbursements for July were heaviest to the Foreign Mission Board, the agency which receives more Cooperative Program income month by month than any other. The July figure of \$1,099,047 for foreign missions brought the year-to-date in disbursements for this cause to \$17,805,624.

Home missions has received \$5,399,281 so far this year, including \$580,885 in July. Both the foreign and home missions figures include special mission offering receipts as well as Cooperative Program support.

-30-

Dean Changes Schools

(8-6-64)

MACON, Ga. (BP)--Garland F. Taylor, dean of William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., since 1959, will become dean of the college of liberal arts at Mercer University here effective Oct. 1. Both are Southern Baptist colleges.

-30-



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Davis C. Woolley
Historical Commission
127 Ninth Ave., No.
Nashville, Tennessee

519

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