

August 15, 1964

Home Mission Board
Picks Rutledge As Head

RIDGECREST, N. C. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, in session here, called on the 53-year-old director of its missions division to become its executive secretary, the fourteenth in its 119 years of service.

He is San Antonio-born Arthur B. Rutledge, who for the past five years has directed the departments which employ most of the agency's 2,342 missionaries serving in the United States, Cuba and Panama.

Rutledge takes over the leadership of the board with its \$6½ million yearly budget from Courts Redford of Atlanta. Redford closes on Dec. 31 his twenty-first year of mission service, 11 of them as executive secretary.

A 12-member committee, at work since last December, unanimously called for Rutledge's election. Committee Chairman Bert I. Cherry of Carbondale, Ill., said they considered 40 suggested individuals. The committee reached agreement on Rutledge after several were interviewed.

"His background in missions, both with the Home Mission Board and with the Texas Baptist executive board, his denominational experience and his years as a pastor give him outstanding qualifications for this position," Cherry said.

"Added to this is his familiarity with the program of the agency and his years of experience in formulating a cooperative mission work with the state Baptist executive secretaries.

"When these were considered with his many personal qualities, we were led to see him as God's man to lead Southern Baptists in home missions."

Cherry added that though Courts Redford will be executive secretary until Dec. 31, the committee recommended Rutledge work in close cooperation with Redford the rest of the year in achieving as smooth a transition of leadership as possible.

The change in top leadership of the mission agency comes at a time when a new promotional program must be announced. The Baptist Jubilee Advance, a five-year emphasis which climaxed with the observance of 150 years of organized Baptist work in North America, closes this year.

In addition, the denomination is presently studying the programs of each of its agencies, and those of the Home Mission Board are yet to be adopted by the Convention. Thus the new executive secretary will handle the final stages of this.

Another task for the new executive secretary will be the naming of leaders to an unusual number of vacancies created by retirement with the next year or two. Possibilities exist of new positions or organizational changes as a result of the program study.

However, working with a changing organization will not be new to Rutledge. He became in 1957 the first secretary of stewardship and direct missions for Texas Baptists.

From Texas he came to Atlanta in 1959 to direct the newly created missions division. The Home Mission Board had formed the division, one of five, by joining the departments of city missions, language missions, pioneer missions, associational missions, survey and special studies and work with National Baptists (Negroes).

Since 1959 the division has undergone some reorganization, but remains with basically the same tasks.

Rutledge received his education from Baylor University (Baptist) in Waco, Tex., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. From Southwestern he received the doctor of theology degree.

East Texas Baptist College at Marshall gave him the doctor of divinity degree in 1956.

He served the First Baptist Church of Marshall as pastor from 1947 to 1957, and was pastor at Central Baptist Church of San Antonio three years before then. For two years, he had served at First Baptist Church, Royse City, Tex.

Rutledge served as a member of the SEC Foreign Mission Board and its Radio-TV Commission, as chairman of the Texas Christian Life Commission and the state's executive board. He also was a member of the boards for East Texas Baptist College and Bishop College, also in Marshall.

Broadman Press, Nashville, published in 1954 his book, "Homes That Last," and he has written numerous articles for Baptist publications.

He married Vesta May Sharber, a graduate of Baptist-owned Mary Hardin-Baylor College at Belton, Tex. They have three children, Burt, David and Elaine, all of whom are married.

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Seminary Professor
Dies In New York

(8-15-64)

FORT WORTH (BP)--William H. Rossell, professor of Old Testament at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary since 1954, died Aug. 12 in New York City. Cause of death was not immediately known.

Rossell was teaching at Fort Hamilton, N. Y., at the Harvard Chaplain's School. He was a lieutenant colonel in the Army reserve.

Funeral for the 49-year-old native of New Jersey was held at Mount Holly, N. J.

Before going to Southwestern, Rossell taught at Central Baptist Seminary. He was educated at Elizabethtown College, Pennsylvania, Eastern Baptist Seminary, Philadelphia and Dropsie College for Hebrew and Cognate Learning, Philadelphia.

Rossell is survived by his wife and two sons, John Edward, 14 and David William, 9.

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Burned Church Fund
Created At Jackson

(8-15-64)

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--The Mississippi Baptist Convention board here will handle gifts to help rebuild burned church buildings used by Negroes in the state, Executive Secretary Chester L. Quarles of Jackson said.

The funds will be handled through the administrative office of William P. Davis, secretary of the board's department of Negro work. Gifts addressed to "Negro Church Rebuilding Fund," Mississippi Baptist Convention, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., will go for this cause, Quarles said.

The executive secretary said Negro churches will be assisted regardless of their denominational affiliation. Each case will be "thoroughly investigated and assistance rendered to each eligible church on the basis of justifiable need."

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Baptists Challenged
To Improve Race Scene

By Jim Newton
Baptist Press Staff Writer

GLORIETA, N. M. (BP)--Southern Baptists were challenged here during a Conference on Christianity and Race Relations to take the lead in granting the Negro his God-given rights.

A battery of speakers, including a Negro Baptist educator, spoke during the week-long conference sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention Christian Life Commission, urging Baptists to apply the word of God in the area of race relations.

Charles E. Boddie, president of American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, Tenn., said if Southern Baptists would apply the gospel to improve race relations, the Negro would not be long in gaining freedom.

The Negro educator, head of a seminary operated jointly by National (Negro) and Southern Baptists, said Baptists have for years been twiddling their thumbs instead of settling their moral responsibility in this area.

Boddie told the conference he was afraid there had not been much progress in the Southern "Bible Belt" towards granting the Negro freedom and full rights of citizenship.

"But I have great hope for the future," he said. "You Southern Baptists, as the nation's largest Protestant denomination, could really lead the way if you would do something about applying the gospel in the area of race relations."

Bill Dyal Jr., associate secretary in the SBC Christian Life Commission, told the conference Baptist pastors must recapture the power and leadership of the pulpit and preach the word of God as it relates to race.

He warned that church congregations should beware of trying to manipulate and control their pulpits lest they find them empty, and find themselves as sheep without a shepherd.

Dyal also warned there is danger today's youth might reject Christianity because of hypocrisy in race relations.

"The youth of today see adult Christians with our hands folded, our lips sealed, our hearts unconcerned, and our church doors closed to people of other races, and they probably will reject Christianity as irrelevant to today's world," Dyal said.

"But the real questions are, 'What is right?', 'What is true?', 'What is just?', 'Who is God?', and 'Who am I?'" Dyal said.

Another speaker, Will Campbell of Nashville, charged that churches of the South have failed, and share the guilt for racial violence in the South.

Campbell, director of the Committee of Southern Churchmen, a non-denominational group, said Christians share the guilt in the deaths of three civil rights workers in Mississippi.

A native of Mississippi, Campbell said he would not sit on a jury and vote "guilty" for those who killed the three civil rights workers, unless church leaders who preach that God is the original segregationist were on trial too.

Two-Year U. S. Mission
Tour Offered Students

RIDGECREST, N. C. (BP)--Southern Baptist college graduates will be asked to give two years to missions in the United States, Panama or Puerto Rico.

The requests will come from the Convention Home Mission Board's personnel department when representatives visit college campuses to institute a new ministry adopted by the board in session here.

The ministry, known as "US-2", is an attempt to keep 50 students at work continuously on mission fields. Twenty-five will be appointed each year.

"'US-2' is designed to appeal to the layman, not just the mission volunteer," said Personnel Secretary Glendon McCullough of Atlanta.

"This is an expansion of our ten-week student summer missionary and our permanent tentmaker ministries."

"The appeal is to sacrificial mission work, but there will be some financial benefits, especially in the form of a severance pay based on months of service, plus a scholarship bonus for those planning to go on to seminary or do other graduate study," he said.

Appointees for "US-2" must undergo standard screening procedures of the mission agency, be a college graduate or its equivalent, not older than 27, in good health, and come with a recommendation from the Baptist church where the candidate is a member.

"'US-2' appointees will work with missionaries or take the place of missionaries on leave in language school," McCullough said.

He cited such work as nursing centers, good will centers, mission centers, language areas, or new missions and churches throughout the United States.

All expenses of travel and living will be paid by the mission agency and local forces where the volunteers work.

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Caudill Improves,
Plans For Cuba Return

(8-15-64)

RIDGECREST, N. C. (BP)--Herbert Caudill, superintendent of missions in Cuba for Southern Baptists, said he hopes to return to the island in two or three months.

Caudill came to Atlanta in June, by way of Mexico, for an operation on a detached retina.

"The doctor said my eye is in good condition and were I not leaving the country he could release me now, but he has advised a stay of two or three more months," Caudill said.

He made the statement to the Home Mission Board, which was holding its semi-annual meeting here. The board employs the missionary, and supports the Cuban work.

Caudill said the United States government had granted him permission to return to Cuba. He now needs clearance through Mexico.

In giving his reasons why he wanted to return to Cuba, Caudill said the burden of his heart was to keep the work going.

"I believe it is easier to keep a door open than it is to reopen it after it has been closed," he said.

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"Baptists in Cuba now have developed a renewed sense of responsibility for those without Christ. There is a great demand for the word of God, both printed and spoken.

"Our methods have had to change with the circumstances, but we are still preaching to non-Christians," he said.

Caudill, who was accompanied by his wife, said, "God has not indicated to me I should stay out of Cuba, and I believe the best place for any person is where the Lord wants him to be."

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Home Mission Board
'Forgets' Alaska Loan

(8-15-64)

RIDGECREST, N. C. (BP)--The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention marked "paid" on a loan it held on the First Baptist Church of Valdez, Alaska.

The Valdez church was the only Southern Baptist church to suffer severe damage during that state's devastating earthquake March 27.

In 1956, the mission agency had loaned the church \$8,000, and the balance left was \$2,970.

In action taken here during the semi-annual meeting of the board, money was taken from the contingent fund to pay the loan made by its church loans division.

"There is a strong probability that the town of Valdez will be located some four miles from its present site," said G. Frank Garrison of Atlanta, director of the loans division.

"We are also cancelling a \$10,000 gift lien contract the board has held since 1954 so the church can exchange its present site for a new one in the proposed town area," he said.

The Home Mission Board had earlier given \$10,000 to the Alaska Baptist Convention for assistance, and in addition supports many pastors and missionaries in their work in the state.

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Agency To Study Move
Of Evangelism Office

(8-15-64)

RIDGECREST, N. C. (BP)--The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention named a committee during its semi-annual meeting here to study moving its evangelism division office from Dallas to Atlanta.

Three years ago an efficiency expert had recommended such a move, but it was postponed because of the division's involvement in the Baptist Jubilee Advance effort which ends this year.

The evangelism division, one of five within the board's organization, was placed in Dallas in 1946 when the evangelism work was reestablished and C. E. Matthews named secretary for what was then a department.

The offices for all other operations of the mission agency in the Lawrence-Garrison Building at 161 Spring St., N.W. in Atlanta.

The board uses only half of the eight floors of the building, and tenants have only recently vacated the other four floors.

So, the study comes at a time when space is available and no new evangelism program has been announced.

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