

August 29, 1964

Retiring Official
Praises Rutledge

ATLANTA (BP)--The retiring executive secretary of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention predicts "the greatest era of home missions" under the leadership of his successor.

Courts Redford of Atlanta made the statement in formally presenting Arthur B. Rutledge to the administrative staff of the mission agency.

Rutledge, presently director of the missions division, was elected to succeed Redford, who retires at the end of this year.

"America is in desperate need of the ministries which the Home Mission Board can provide," Redford said. "We have in Rutledge a leader that will lead us to victory."

Redford said there was satisfaction in knowing "the responsibilities are passed on to one who is consecrated and well prepared for the work."

He said in the five and a half years Rutledge has been with the board "he has found his way into the hearts of the members of the administrative and secretarial staff."

"Where he walks, assurance and good will walk beside him. His sincerity is so genuine one feels at home with him in any situation. His faithfulness to his Lord and to his fellow Christians seems to challenge each to give his best in cooperative efforts.

"As a friend of God, and a friend of man, he stands forthright as a Christian leader in our midst."

Redford paid tribute to Rutledge's ability to work with and to inspire others.

"His many contacts with other boards and agencies contribute to his very unique ability to analyze and evaluate the problems and the opportunities which will face him day by day," he said.

"Only one who has traveled the highway of denominational life with his fellow Christians can choose the best route with confidence and assurance."

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Peace Corps Officer
Lists Negro Wishes

(8-29-64)

RIDGECREST (BP)--A government official, himself a Negro, told a Southern Baptist conference here what American Negroes want now is to "take our places in American life on the basis of personal merit like every other Tom, Dick and Harry."

The speaker, Samuel Proctor of Washington, is an associate director of the Peace Corps.

He told the Christian Life Conference on the theme, "Christianity and Race Relations," that Negroes in the United States have gone through four stages of development in the last century.

The first he described as a period of "dis-integration." This occurred immediately after slaves were freed.

Proctor said the second phase was imitation. In this period, Negroes copied both good and bad from the white man.

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Litigation marked stage three. The legal basis for segregation ended during this time, according to the Peace Corps officer.

The fourth stage, encountered now, is that of "re-integration," he told the 500 conferees.

"We are asking," said Proctor, "that the sins of the past be washed away in a sea of forgetfulness; that the Negro world across the tracks be dissolved..."

The conference was sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, the second of two on the race issue this year sponsored at Southern Baptist summer assemblies. The first was held at Glorieta, N. M., earlier but Proctor was not a speaker there.

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Atlanta Church Sale
To Muslims Denied

(8-29-64)

ATLANTA (BP)--A Southern Baptist church here has strongly denied published charges it considered selling its property to a Black Muslim group.

Pastor J. C. Embry of Western Heights Baptist Church said: "Our people absolutely refused to even consider an offer for our property from a local Black Muslim temple. We would never consider selling to such an unChristian, unAmerican and anti-white group.

"We will sell our property only to a group that will be a credit to the community. The amount of their offer was never a factor in our refusing to sell to the Black Muslims."

Western Heights Church is one of several in the Georgia capital totally surrounded by Negroes due to changing neighborhoods. The church has already bought property nearer where most of its members have resettled. It will move as soon as its present property sells, and will erect a new building on the new site.

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New Orleans Seminary
Gains Lee Library

(8-29-64)

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Robert G. Lee, pastor emeritus of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has given his 5000-volume library to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary here.

President H. Leo Eddleman said, "The Dr. Robert G. Lee collection is a valuable contribution to theological education and will be a permanent memorial to this generation's dean of pulpiteers."

The library will be received by the seminary in three segments. The first will be books read and studied by Lee during his 54 years in the ministry. A special room in the seminary library will house the collection.

The Lee acquisition comes at a time when the library is in an expansion program. To double existing facilities, a \$600,000 addition to the present library building is planned. A fund-raising campaign for the new wing is in its final stages, according to seminary officials.

As pastor of First Baptist Church, New Orleans, from 1921 to 1924, Lee became closely associated with the institution, then operated as Baptist Bible Institute. Lee, who was a trustee, explained he was both pastor and close friend of Byron Hoover DeMent, first president of the school.

Lee's library consists mainly of theological books. Some works were published in the 18th and early 19th Centuries. Books of law comprise a major section of the pastor's library, since Lee has a doctorate in international law from Chicago Law School.

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"I have faith that New Orleans Seminary will never depart from the faith once for all delivered to the saints," said Lee in making the donation.

"And I want my books to render service to all students who study at the seminary, that they may have some measure of the profit and pleasure my books--my great friends--were to me."

Engaged in the preaching ministry since 1910, Lee was for 33 years pastor of Bellevue Church, presently the second largest in membership of 33,500 churches in the SBC. During that pastorate, he served three consecutive years as president of the Convention. A writer as well as a reader, Lee is author of 33 books.

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Book On Dawson
Published At Waco

(8-29-64)

WACO, Tex. (BP)--An autobiography of J. M. Dawson, former executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and prominent Baptist church-state separation leader, has been published by the Baylor University Press here.

Dr. Dawson, 85, who now lives near two of his sons in Corsicana, Tex., has entitled his autobiography "A Thousand Months to Remember." He is still actively writing and preaching, and has previously written 11 books.

He became the first executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington, D. C., in 1947, after serving for 32 years as pastor of First Baptist Church in Waco.

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Baptist Agency Makes
Two New Records

(8-29-64)

FORT WORTH (BP)--Two new recordings have been produced for the Christian home music division of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission here by RCA Victor.

The new recordings include an album of hymns by the Baptist Hour Choir, and a record of devotional vignettes from the "MasterControl" radio program produced by the commission.

Christian home music is the record division of the Baptist radio-TV commission, and it specializes in offering phonograph records and tape recordings of music and other material prepared for Baptist radio programs.

Titles of the new recordings are "The Baptist Hour Choir in Concert" and "Reaching Up."

The 14 devotionals on the second record were recorded by John W. Drakeford, Fort Worth; W. Morris Ford, Longview, Tex.; Charles E. Myers, McAlester, Okla.; W. R. Pettigrew, Louisville, Ky.; and Foy Valentine, Nashville.

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Baptist Hospital Head
Elected To High Post

(8-29-64)

CHICAGO (BP)--The American College of Hospital Administrators, meeting here, has named the administrator of a Baptist hospital in Dallas as president-elect of the nationwide organization.

Boone Powell, administrator of Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, will become a member of the organization's 11-member governing board, and will serve as its president next year.

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Another Baptist hospital administrator, Gene Kidd of the Mid-Stat Baptist Hospital in Nashville, was elected to the group's council of regents.

The American College of Hospital Administrators is composed of nearly 6,000 hospital heads from throughout Canada and the United States.

Powell will preside over the professional society's sessions next year in San Francisco. He assumes the high position at the exact time he begins his 20th year at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas.

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Cutlines

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Baptist Press Photo

The Colorado Baptist General Convention occupies a new office building at 5400 S. Syracuse, Denver. Dedication will take place during the 1964 convention session Oct. 27-29. President Harold K. Graves of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., will speak then. (BP) Photo