

December 24, 1964

Pastors Have Christmas
--Angel, Shepherds Too

By Suzanne Ezell
Baptist Press Staff Writer

Everyday was, and still is, Christmas--a Merry Christmas--in a pastor's home in Sylacauga, Ala. This pastor has the distinction of being Charles Merry Christmas.

Other Southern Baptist ministers also told the Christmas story, according to the record of pastors' names in the 1964 Southern Baptist Convention Annual.

Andrews, N. C., and Dermott, Ark., each has a Thomas Christmas.

J. V. Angel, Dunlap, Tenn., pastor, would have to sing very loudly if he wanted to be heard by all the Shepherds. Some pastor by that last name is located in almost every state in the SBC, with spelling variations in some instances.

A Baptist Press survey of the names of pastors, chaplains, ministers of education and ministers of music offers more interesting parallels to their vocational calling.

In addition to serving a church, eight sign their last names as church--Hunter and Clyde of Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro, N. C.; Avery M. of Winston-Salem, N. C.; David of Springfield, Ill.; W. E. of Norwalk, Calif.; Paschall C. of North Little Rock, Ark.; Billy L. of Birmingham, Ala., and Joe B. of Evergreen, Ala.

New Mexico and California, typically, have Churches, Spanish style. Marcos Iglesias is at Taos, N. M., and Margarito Iglesias at Sanger, Calif. Iglesias is the Spanish word for church.

Christian describes more than religious belief for another group. It is also their family name--Claude of Earlville, Ill.; John H. of Wadley, Ala.; Leslie G. of Independence, Mo., and several Christians each in Texas and California.

Several Old Testament characters continue to guide in Southern Baptist churches today. Take Moses for instance. There's Tom Moses of Winter Park, Fla., and Bill Moses of Knoxville, Tenn. Looking for Aaron? There's J. E. of Jasper, Ala., and Lafayette A. of Cusseta, Ala.

Jerry Cain of Lovington, N. M., and Harlan Abel of Stigler, Okla., make up another pair of "Bible brothers."

Prophets continue to proclaim God's revelation. Charles E. Amos at Oklahoma City, Earl E. Hosea at Big Wells, Tex.; J. A. Hosea at Lexington, Tex., and Raye Zacharias at Hobart, Okla. There's an evangelist in Atlanta named John Haggai.

Even though Baptist names--ministerially speaking--seem to heavily favor the Old Testament, there is one New Testament book included. Bennett Romans of Marion, Va., is the pastor.

There are two Pilgrims in Mississippi. Enterprise, Ala., claims a James Preachers.

The interesting name of David Solomon, Orange City, Fla., echoes the famous father-and-son kings of Israel. And there's a chaplain in service named Kenneth R. Israel.

Other biblical characters turning up in the survey included David C. Boaz and David O. Boaz, both of Winston-Salem; Joseph M. Abram of Sylacauga, and Keith Hamm (with an extra 'm') of Iola, Kans.

Some last names have the ring of other denominations, though their bearers are Baptists. Baptist pulpits are filled by Priests, Nunns (two 'n's'), Monks, Popes and Bishops.

S. W. Monk preaches at Ellisville, Miss., and Clifford G. Priest ministers at Slocumb, Ala.

Alabama also has not one but three Popes! Harvey at West Blocton, Jerry W. at Fort Payne and Milton H. at Cullman. A Southern Baptist chaplain is a Pope--Teddy R. Pope Jr.--in Army uniform.

Speaking of Chaplains, Jack E. Nunn (double consonant) wears a "habit," the uniform of an officer in the U. S. Navy.

Taking writer's license on the spelling, one Army chaplain has a fitting name for that branch of service even though chaplains have officer rank. He's John C. Sargent.

Two other names of SBC Chaplains match their branches of service. In the Air Force is Arthur J. Camp and with the Navy is Howard E. Waters. If another Air Force chaplain does more than one man should do, it's because he has a plural last name associated with the ministry--A. B. Parsons Jr.

Southern Baptists have men to spread the gospel in all directions--at least five pastors just in Texas named West; one named R. L. South in North Little Rock; Wade B. East, superintendent of the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home, Monroe, and Floyd H. North, Richmond, editor of the Commission, Foreign Mission Board magazine. (BP)

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T. L. Holcomb, Retired
SBC Leader, Married

(12-24-64)

DALLAS (BP)--A former executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Sunday School Board, Dr. T. L. Holcomb, was married here to a former Southern Baptist foreign missionary, Miss Eunice King of Sherman, Tex., in a unique ceremony performed here by the groom's son.

It was a reversal of the circumstances 25 years ago when Holcomb officiated at his son's wedding. This time the son, Luther Holcomb of Dallas, performed the father's ceremony.

The wedding took place at Lakewood Baptist Church here where Luther Holcomb was pastor before becoming executive director of the Dallas Council of Churches.

Vows were read by the church's pastor, Robert L. Herring, and the younger Holcomb pronounced the couple married. The elder Holcomb, 82, was interim pastor of the church between the ministry of his son and the present pastor, and he is now a member there.

Holcomb was also once pastor of the First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, and of the First Baptist Church of Sherman, where his bride was a member.

Miss King, a one-time Baptist missionary to Brazil, lived in Sherman where she has operated a food specialty firm for many years. She is 65.

Holcomb was executive secretary of the Sunday School Board for 18 years, and was once executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Foundation and the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The wedding ceremony followed traditions of the family in which another member was officiating minister. Only members of the immediate family were present.

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When Dr. Holcomb was married in 1909 to Miss Willie Jenkins, who died three years ago, his father, W. B. Holcomb of Wesson, Miss., also a Southern Baptist minister, officiated.

Holcomb retired seven years ago after more than two decades as a top Southern Baptist denominational executive. He makes his home in Dallas and still fills many speaking engagements throughout the SBC.

Three days after the wedding, Holcomb celebrated his 83rd birthday.

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(Photo sent Baptist state papers.)

MISS CHRISTINE GARNETT
Savannah, Ga.
Miss Garnett in Savannah

Miss Garnett in Savannah

(12-24-64)

SAVANNAH, Ga. (BP)--Miss Christine Garnett, retired missionary of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, arrived here from Matanzas, Cuba, coming by way of Mexico. She is under doctor's care for minor injuries resulting from a fall which occurred just before she left Cuba. Doctors also said she is suffering from malnutrition because of an inadequate diet, but she should be in good health again after an adequate diet and medical care.

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