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**"Preacher Jacobs" Pastors
Same Church For 50 Years**

By Orville Scott

PEMBROKE, N.C. (BP)--What does it take for a man to be pastor of the same church for 50 years?

Pastor Lonnie W. Jacobs of Pembroke, N.C., who possibly holds the longest tenure as a pastor of a Southern Baptist church, has his own answer, based on 50 years as pastor of the Mt. Airy Baptist Church here.

"Just try to be faithful in the Lord's work...lead the people, and not boss them," he observed.

When the Mt. Airy Church honored Jacobs on his golden anniversary as pastor, he seemed about the calmest person there. He admitted that he "hadn't even thought about" the part of the service when he was seated in front of the "50 Year" floral design.

Members of the church took turns pinning money on his suit coat, and it probably amounted to many times his first year's salary of \$51.

Sunday School Superintendent John L. Carter, registrar at Pembroke State College, extolled "Preacher Jacobs," as he is affectionately called by his members, for having the patience to "put up with the same Baptist church for 50 years."

Carter then quipped, "On the other hand, they had to have patience to put up with him for 50 years."

Present for the observance were four members who heard Jacobs preach his first sermon at Mt. Airy half a century ago.

Not only does "Preacher Jacobs" hold a possible record for tenure at one church; he may also hold the record for total years of pastoral work, 154.

For the past 35 years, he has also pastored the Harper's Ferry Baptist Church, also near Pembroke. He tried to resign there recently, but "they wouldn't hear to it."

Other Baptist churches which he has pastored include Bear Swamp, Beres, Mount Olive, Oak Grove and Ten Mile Center. He has been moderator of the Burnt Swamp Association for four times.

In addition to his pastoral duties, the pastor taught school for 18 years and served as postmaster in Pembroke from 1936-40. He has served for 38 years on the board of trustees of Pembroke College and was recently appointed to a new 8-year term by Gov. Dan Moore.

Some estimate that "Preacher Jacobs" has baptized upwards of 2,000 people since he preached his first sermon at his home church of Reedy Branch more than half a century ago.

Harper's Ferry Baptist Church has an outdoor baptistry beside the church. It's called the Lumber River, and there Jacobs has baptized many new Christians in much the same manner Christ was baptized in River Jordan 2,000 years ago.

During "L. W. Jacobs" day at Mt. Airy the Sunday School superintendent reminded the standing-room-only crowd that "We can't really begin to honor 'Preacher Jacobs,' because he hasn't reached home yet. His real honor will come when he reaches home."



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Arkansas Convention Sets
Two Year Education Study

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LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP)--The Arkansas Baptist State Convention here voted to conduct a two-year study of the convention's higher education similar to the recent Baptist Education Study Task (BEST) on the Southern Baptist Convention level.

The study would be designed to determine the purpose and objectives of the two Baptist colleges in Arkansas with a view to determining what contributions these schools are making to the needs and objectives of the state convention.

Although most of the convention, according to veteran convention observers, was "devoid of controversy," debate erupted one afternoon on an oft-questioned practice in some Arkansas Baptist churches--alien immersion.

A resolution was offered by convention parliamentarian Carl Overton of Hamburg, Ark., proposing that "policies and constitutional interpretation of the former (previous) conventions be added as appendages to the convention constitution and bylaws."

After lengthy discussion, the resolution was adopted by the convention.

Overton, superintendent of missions for the Ashley County Baptist Association, said the purpose of his resolution was to bring a showdown at the next session of the convention on the question of seating messengers from churches which practice alien immersion (accepting members into Baptist churches from other denominations without re-baptism.).

Earlier, messengers from the First Baptist Church of Russellville, Ark., which two years ago was barred from the convention because the church practices "alien immersion," had been seated at the convention without challenge.

In other actions, the convention adopted a budget of \$2,496,267 for 1968 which will allocate \$821,932 to Southern Baptist Convention world mission causes.

Elected president of the convention was Thomas A. Hinson, pastor of First Baptist Church, West Memphis, Ark., who on the previous day was re-elected president of the convention's Executive Board. It was believed to be the first time one man has held both offices simultaneously.

In a meeting prior to the convention, the Executive Board voted to award a \$668,428 contract to the Baldwin Co. of Little Rock for construction of a new convention office building in Little Rock.

A Negro Baptist pastor from Houston, Tex., delivered a major address at the convention, saying that he felt integration was a part of God's plan.

"Some people think it (integration) just happened," said W. H. Dudley of Houston. "But let me tell you, it happened in creation. It was God's plan. It just took time to roll down to the decision of the Supreme Court."

In a report to the convention, Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine Editor Erwin L. McDonald said there are at least four churches within the Arkansas convention which have Negro members, not because they sought integration, but because they determined to minister to all people on their church fields.

"In Christ there is neither integrationist, segregationist, nor moderate; but only brothers, sisters and the joint heirs with Christ," McDonald said.

The convention approved a motion to televise one hour of the 1968 convention proceedings for state-wide broadcast. The next convention will meet at Second Baptist Church, Hot Springs, Ark., Nov. 18-20, 1968.

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Baptist Press

Retired Staff Member
Named Hawaii Pastor

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ATLANTA (BP)--Lewis Martin, retired staff member of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board here, has been named pastor of Pukalani Baptist Church in Maui, Hawaii.

Martin goes to the church under the auspices of the department of pioneer missions of the SBC Home Mission Board, and with the approval of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board.

The Pukalani Church was constituted in 1960, and now reports a membership of about 26, with a Sunday School enrollment of 88. A church building was constructed in 1962.

Martin retired from the Home Mission Board in December of 1965 after serving 31 years, first as a missionary evangelist in the Appalachian Mountains and then as secretary of the board's department of missionary education.

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Code of Hammurabi Stela
Added To Seminary Museum

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LOUISVILLE (BP)--A rare, full size, exact replica of the Code of Hammurabi has been presented to The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary by the Cully Cobb family of Decatur, Ga.

In making the presentation, Mr. and Mrs. Cobb pointed out that many of the laws of Moses are similar to the legal provisions found in the Hammurabi Code. "To understand the Old Testament," stated Cobb, "one must know the culture of the time in which it developed."

"A better understanding of our Biblical heritage is our goal in presenting this Hammurabi Stela to the students of Southern Seminary," said Cobb.

The code is carved into a seven-foot five-inch pillar called a "stela". Of its original 284 legal provisions, 250 of these are still legible. The original was discovered in 1901. It dates back to 1700 B.C.

Seminary Archaeology Professor Jerry Vardaman said that the code was an invaluable teaching aid. While there are many similarities with the laws of Moses, Vardaman pointed out some differences.

"The Old Testament was more impartial in meting out strict retribution," he said. "It seems that the Old Testament was concerned that even little, poor people were not placed at a disadvantage."

"The sacred writer took a great step forward when he taught us that God was impartial in His righteous judgements," Vardaman added.

The stela was made for Southern Seminary by the technical services division of the Louvre Museum of Paris, where the original code is deposited. Any replicas of the stela --such as those now on display at the University of Chicago, the British Museum and Southern Seminary--must be received from the Louvre.

The Hammurabi Stela is displayed in the first floor lobby of the seminary's James P. Boyce Centennial Library. Elsewhere in the library the Nicol Museum of Biblical Archaeology and the Eisenberg Museum of Egyptian and Near Eastern Antiquities are housed.

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Brotherhood Executive's
Father Dies in Richmond

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RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--G. M. Euting, the father of Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission Assistant Executive Secretary George M. Euting, died here Nov. 7 after a long illness.

Funeral services were to be held in Richmond on Nov. 10.

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