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November 28, 1967

Catholic School Gives 1113
Baptist Graham Doctorate

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BELMONT, N.C. (BP)--A small Catholic college here, Belmont Abbey, has awarded an honorary doctor of humane letters to Southern Baptist evangelist Billy Graham, praising him as one of the great men of the 20th century.

The citation presented to the Baptist evangelist called Graham one of the few men who has "significantly shaped for good the events of our world" in the 20th century.

Stated the citation:

"When time has shifted the 20th century, and most of us have receded into statistics, there will remain visible to the eye of history a relatively few men whose individual minds and wills have significantly shaped for good the events of our world.

"In this small company--the company of Picasso and Einstein, of Schwietzer, Churchill and John XXVIII--will certainly be found the figure of William Franklin Graham."

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Underwood Heads Georgia 1114
Home For Retired Persons

11/28/67

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ATLANTA (BP)--Cecil T. Underwood, for 22 years pastor of the Morningside Baptist Church, Savannah, has been named administrator for Peachtree On Peachtree Inn, Inc., Atlanta, Baptist home for retired persons.

Underwood's election was announced today by W. A. Parker, Sr., Atlanta, chairman of the board of Peachtree On Peachtree Inn, Inc. Parker said that Underwood would assume his duties on Jan. 1.

Underwood will succeed the Rev. W. L. Rainwater, who has resigned to become pastor of the First Baptist church, Chatsworth, Ga.

Underwood, a native of Scotland, Ga., is a graduate of Brewton-Parker Junior College, Mr. Vernon, Mercer University, Macon, and the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.

Peachtree On Peachtree Inn, Inc., located at 176 Peachtree St., Atlanta, was given to the Georgia Baptist Convention in November, 1966, to be operated as a home for retired persons of "modest means." Valued at more than \$1,500,000, the property was a gift from the Beazley Foundation, Inc., of Portsmouth, Va.

It was known formerly as the Peachtree On Peachtree Hotel. When renovation of the property is completed, it is anticipated that facilities for nearly 200 residents will be available.

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Southern Baptists Growing 1115
In Wisconsin, Minnesota

11/28/67

84

MADISON, Wisc. (BP)--Southern Baptist strength in the Wisconsin-Minnesota area has reached in excess of 6,000, Frank B. Burress, superintendent of missions for Wisconsin, reports.

Latest available figures from the two-states includes 2,525 members in 16 churches in Wisconsin and 3,631 in 26 churches in Minnesota.

The Central Association in Wisconsin reports an increase of 108 members, with the Lakeland Association reporting a 107 member increase.

Burress said that both associations recorded 173 baptisms, which is a record for Southern Baptist-affiliated congregations. Minnesota churches recorded 91 baptisms during the year.

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1113-1115

Encounter Information
Conference Held

1116

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CEDAR HILL, Tex. (BP)--Thirty-three representatives of six Southern Baptist state conventions gathered here to learn first hand what makes an "encounter" evangelism effort tick.

"Encounter" is the name Texas Baptists have given to major area and state crusades since 1965. The most recent Encounter Crusade conducted by the Baptist General Convention of Texas was held this year in Dayton, Ohio, in cooperation with the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio.

The largest such crusade ever to be scheduled, according to Texas leaders, will be "Encounter California"--a strategic evangelistic program of 40 central crusades designed to present the gospel message to 20 million Californians in 1968. There are approximately 1,000 Southern Baptist churches in California.

The delegations meeting here, the largest being from Missouri, included directors of evangelism as well as associational evangelism chairmen and pastors. Other states represented included Arkansas, Colorado, Virginia, Illinois and Alabama.

C. Wade Freeman, director of the evangelism division of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, said that the Encounter theme is involvement.

He added that Bible teaching for a successful revival "depends upon involvement and this is the method we seek to use."

He also pointed out that the one-day meeting at Mt. Lebanon Encampment near here was to "sell state leaders on Encounter Crusade emphasis."

He added that the conference here was also an introduction to Encounter California and how individual Baptist state conventions might possibly assist.

Texas Baptist denominational leaders are aiding California Baptists by helping to match Texas Baptist (county) associations with associations in California and in the training of its crusade leadership.

Freeman also said that Encounter Crusades "put us together in one common enterprise." It was stressed that Encounter Crusades challenge Baptists to get outside the confines of the church walls to reach the unreached for Christ.

Theron V. (Corky) Farris, Texas staff associate for clinic evangelism, stressed that an Encounter Crusade involves personal evangelism as well as mass evangelism, and involves a total effort on both the part of the coordinating body as well as participating churches.

Farris added that "an Encounter is felt in every part of the area. It's impact reaches where no church service could ever go."

It was also announced that a crusade coordinator for the Texas convention will be named sometime in January or as soon thereafter as a staff associate of the evangelism division.

It is the first time an Encounter information conference had been scheduled on a multi-state basis. Sample promotional materials were on display.

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