

August 4, 1969

**Grandpa Begins New Career;
Lawyer Becomes Evangelist**

by George Sheridan

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Former lawyers, physicians, accountants, engineers and other professional people are commonplace among the student body at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here, but the registrar, faculty and student body did a double-take when J. D. Carroll Jr. of Huntsville, Ala., enrolled at the seminary.

Carroll left a \$50,000-a-year law practice to enter the seminary to prepare for a career in evangelism.

To top it all off, Carroll is a grandfather.

J. D. (he has no first name, just initials) was born in Huntsville and has lived most of his life in the Alabama city where he has his law practice. He attended high school there.

After receiving a medical discharge from the Army for a spinal injury received in maneuvers before the outfit went overseas in World War II, J. D. took advantage of the G. I. Bill to attend the University of Alabama, graduating in 1949 with the bachelor of laws degree.

J. D. has been involved in church work most of his life. His father had been a merchant, but pastored in country churches the last decade of his life. J. D. has been a member of the Southside Baptist Church in Huntsville since it was organized in 1952. He has served as Sunday School teacher, deacon and trustee.

J. D. notes with satisfaction that he can grind out legal work and pull in fees at the rate of \$500 to \$600 daily. This has brought him an annual income of about \$50,000.

He has always felt, however, that there is more to life than material things. This feeling intensified in the past two years, and early in 1969, he decided that God has other purposes for his talents than law. He promptly enrolled in some Bible courses at Samford University (Baptist) in Birmingham, and applied for admission at Southern Seminary.

It was not until he had been accepted by the two schools that J. D. told his wife of his decision. Drexel completely supports his decision, however, "just like always," according to J. D. Mrs. Carroll is an avid church worker, and has helped organize Woman's Missionary Union units throughout the Huntsville area.

J. D. traveled the 100 miles to Samford University twice weekly from April to June to take some Bible courses. At Southern Seminary, he will live in the dormitory three or four nights each week, and return to Huntsville for the weekends.

He is enrolled in two summer classes at the seminary, and plans to be back in September to pursue a full schedule of courses under the seminary's master of divinity program.

J. D. plans to keep up his law practice on a limited scale for a while. It will take two years, he said, to phase out all present business. He will work at the law office on Saturdays and Mondays, and may take on a partner to whom he can turn over the entire practice when the need arises.

"I won't let the law practice interfere with the ministry," J. D. asserts, but he hopes that he can continue to do legal work part-time even after he becomes a full-time evangelist.

The dramatic impact of J. D.'s decision to enter evangelistic work is underscored by his limited background in the field. Except for leading the singing for revivals in some small country churches, he has no experience. But if enthusiasm is any indication of how he will succeed, he should be a success.



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August 4, 1969

Ohio Area Crusades End
With 7,129 Decisions

COLUMBUS, Ohio (BP)--The Crusade of the Americas came to a climax in Ohio and Western New York and Pennsylvania with a total of 7,129 decisions reported following central crusades in 11 cities and local church revivals in 381 Baptist churches.

It was the largest simultaneous evangelism effort undertaken by the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, which was assisted in the crusades by sister Baptist state conventions in Tennessee, Kentucky, Florida, Mississippi, Georgia, and Texas.

In planning for two years, the crusades included such preparation as Sunday School enlargement campaigns, community surveys, house-to-house visitation, television and newspaper advertising, and distribution of 750,000 scripture portions entitled "Good News by a Man Named John," an illustrated book of the Gospel of John in Today's English Version by the American Bible Society.

Several American and National Baptist congregations joined the Southern Baptists churches of Ohio to participate in the crusades.

The 11 central crusades, were held in Akron, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Hamilton, Piqua, Toledo, and Niles (Youngstown area) in Ohio; in Buffalo, N.Y., and in Pittsburg, Penn.

During the 11 central crusades, 1,363 persons were reported making professions of faith, with another 1,025 persons making decisions to rededicate their life. Attendance at the crusades were reported at 149,274.

Most of the central crusades were assisted financially by state Baptist conventions in the South.

Tennessee Baptists sponsored the Hamilton and Cincinnati crusades. Kentucky assumed responsibility for Toledo and Piqua. Alabama undergirded the Pittsburg Crusade. Florida helped at Cleveland and Buffalo. Assistance for other cities came from Baptists in Mississippi, Georgia and Texas.

The 11 central crusades were followed by revivals in 381 local churches and missions, with a total of 1,536 professions of faith, 373 transfers of church membership, and 3,182 rededications, commitments of life service, and pledges to live more consistently with the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Of the 5,091 total decisions reported in the local church revivals, 259 of those who made professions of faith and 91 who made other decisions reported that they made their initial decision in the central crusades.

About 2,000 Baptists from Tennessee, Florida, Alabama, Kentucky, Georgia, Mississippi and Texas assisted the local churches in their revival efforts as a part of the crusade.

The visiting Baptists from other states included pastors, song leaders, choral groups and other laymen who came to bolster the revivals through personal witnessing and visitation. All came at either their own expense or at the expense of their home church.

Total cost of the crusade effort was estimated at \$500,000. Cost of the central crusades ran more than \$200,000 and was financed partly by the Ohio convention, the sponsoring state conventions, churches and district associations in the Ohio convention, and by public offerings at the crusade meetings.

Some of the top evangelists in the Southern Baptist Convention, plus well-known sports and entertainment personalities were among the speakers for the central crusades.

Giving personal testimonies of their faith in Christ were Miss Vonda Kay Van Dyke, Miss America of 1965, Paul Anderson, known as "the world's strongest man," Bunny Martin, a yo-yo champion, Rex Kern, quarterback for Oklahoma State University, and Bill Glass of the Cleveland Browns professional football team.

Central crusade evangelists were Ramsey Pollard, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis; John Bisagno, Del City Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.; Herschel Ford of Jacksonville, Fla.; Carl Bates, First Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C.; Robert Norman, Belmont Baptist Church, Nashville; Jaroy Weber, Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala.; Roy Fish of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth; Jack Stanton and Eual Lawson, both associates in the Evangelism Division, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board; E. J. Daniels, evangelist, Florida; and James Robison, evangelist, Texas.

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Fite Will Begin Work
On Theology Doctorate

8/4/69

ATLANTA (BP)--J. David Fite, Georgia missionary who spent four years in a Communist prison in Cuba, this fall will enter Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

Through an in-service training program, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board here is providing a study leave on full salary for Mr. and Mrs. Fite.

Fite will be working for a doctor of theology degree. He holds a bachelor of arts degree from Mercer University (Baptist) in Macon, Ga., and bachelor of divinity and master of theology degrees from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

Also holding a bachelor of arts degree from Mercer University, Mrs. Fite will begin graduate study at Texas Christian University, Fort Worth.

Until moving to Fort Worth recently, the Fites had lived in Avondale Estates, Ga., since he was released by Cuban authorities in January, along with his father-in-law, Herbert Caudill. Both men were charged with espionage and illegal currency exchange.

The Caudills will retire from Home Mission Board service Dec. 31. They had been in Cuba since 1929 when he was pastor of First Baptist Church in Havana.

At the time of their appointments as missionaries, Caudill was a professor at the Baptist Seminary in Havana and had been pastor of several churches in Cuba.

Mrs. Caudill had been active in a music ministry and continued to assist with Baptist work in Cuba while her husband was imprisoned. Mrs. Fite also remained in the communist country with three sons.

The Fites have no definite plans beyond schooling, and the Caudills plan to reside permanently in Decatur, Ga.

BP Photo mailed to Baptist state papers. -30-

Austin Named To Post
At Georgia Medical

8/4/69

AUGUSTA, Ga. (BP)--James C. Austin, former associate director of the Southern Seminary Foundation at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, has been named director of the division of institutional relations at the Medical Colleges of Georgia.

Austin is a former director of alumni affairs at Southern Seminary, former associate director of the seminary's Billy Graham Chair of Evangelism endowment fund campaign, and previously was associate in the Southern Baptist Convention Stewardship Commission. He is a graduate of Southern Seminary and the University of Virginia.

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