



BAPTIST PRESS

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October 3, 1969

Two Former Baptist Fund Raisers Missing In Swamp

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP)--Two former directors of development for a Southern Baptist theological seminary and a Baptist college are missing in a small plane believed to have crashed in the marshlands of central Florida.

An intensive ground and air search was underway for F. Stanley Hardee Jr., 38, former assistant to the president at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; Hardee's 13-year-old son, Robbie; and H. Arthur Fisher, 47, former vice president for development at Stetson University in nearby DeLand, Fla.

Five days after radio contact was lost with their plane at 8:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 3, Civil Air Patrol search parties had still found no trace of the plane or its occupants.

Some had lost hope of finding the three alive, but Fisher's wife, who is a believer in extra-sensory perception (ESP) reportedly said she believed they were still alive.

Both Hardee and Fisher had resigned their development and public relations responsibilities for the two Baptist institutions earlier this year to become associated with a Florida real estate holding corp., Oceanado Inns, Inc.

Hardee had flown to St. Petersburg to pick up Fisher, an attorney for the company, and was returning to Daytona Beach, when radio contact was lost as their Beechcraft Baron was approaching Orlando during a storm. Both Hardee and Fisher were pilots.

The area between Orlando and Daytona Beach is marshy swamp land. Search parties were wading into the waist-deep waters and about 30 Civil Air Patrol planes were scouting the area as late as five days after the three were lost.

Hardee, a former Baptist pastor, had been with New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary for two years in the public relations and development position.

Fisher, a retired Army Lt. Colonel, had been with Stetson University for five years, serving as director of development for six months and prior to that as assistant professor of law at the Stetson College of Law, St. Petersburg.

Previously, Hardee was pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Indianapolis, Ind.; First Baptist Church, Thomasville, N.C.; Lydia Baptist Church, Clinton, S.C.; and Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Laurens, S.C.

Mrs. Hardee and three other sons, Roger, Ray and Richard, were awaiting further news of the possible crash at a temporary residence in Ormond Beach, just north of Daytona Beach, Fla.

Hardee had accepted the position as executive vice president of Oceanado Inns, Inc., and executive vice president of Lyndaunick Investments, both investment and real estate firms in Florida. He said at the time the new positions offered a tremendous opportunity for a Christian witness in the field of business.

Hardee graduated from Presbyterian College, Clinton, S.C., and New Orleans Baptist Seminary, and also attended Furman University, Greenville, S.C., and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

He was a speaker at the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference in Houston in 1968.

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Allen Becomes President Of Americans United (POAU)

10/8/69

WASHINGTON (BP)--Jimmy R. Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church in San Antonio, Tex., has become president of Americans United for Separation of Church and State upon the resignation of Louie D. Newton, Atlanta, former president.

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Announcement of the new president was made by Glenn L. Archer, executive director, following a meeting of trustees. Allen was first vice president.

Newton was president for 12 years and a founder of the organization in 1947 which was first known as Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

He explained in his resignation that his wife's continued illness made it impossible for him to attend trustee meetings. He was elected president emeritus and will continue him as a trustee.

Allen's term as president continues to the annual trustee meeting next February in Detroit. He was secretary of the Christian Life Commission for the Baptist General Convention of Texas before accepting the San Antonio pastorate last year.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: You may wish to use this with some editing as an insert in the BP story dated 10-7-69, headlined, "Baptists, Catholics May Cooperate In Oklahoma Social Service Agency," following graph 9 of story as sent. Or you may prefer it as a separate side-bar.

Oklahoma City Pastors Say
Few Baptists In New Agency

10/8/69

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--About 75 Baptist ministers attending a meeting of the Oklahoma County Baptist Pastors' Association took action indicating that there would be no large number of Southern Baptist pastors or churches participating in the Agency for Christian Cooperative Ministry.

The pastors, without a dissenting vote, asked news media to correct misleading reports that Baptists and Catholics would unite in the new agency developed to provide an inter-denominational program of Christian social service in Oklahoma City.

The pastors voted to ask a committee to draft a resolution expressing their sentiments. Later the committee chairman, M.H. Koonce of Mayfair Baptist Church, issued a news release indicating that very few of the 75 pastors present planned to participate.

"Southern Baptists have shied away traditionally from involvement in the ecumenical movement," said Koonce's release. "It was the judgment of those in attendance at (the) meeting that the great majority regarded this new organization as another ecumenical organization and that most Southern Baptist pastors would not join it."

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SBC Colleges, Seminaries
To Evaluate Base Designs

10/8/69

NASHVILLE (BP)--Evaluation of current base designs of the education division of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood Commission are being conducted on 21 college and seminary campuses this fall.

A base design is a statement of why a program exists, what a program does, and how a program is administered.

The evaluation will be completed early in 1970 to allow time for consideration in revising the 1973-76 designs.

The base designs to be evaluated are: church program, Bible teaching program, church training, church music, Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood Commission, church recreation, church library, family ministry, vocational guidance, and pastoral ministries.

Relevancy to church concerns, content, comprehensiveness for all sizes and types of churches, and any conflicts or overlapping will be the major questions to be considered in the evaluation.

All six Southern Baptist seminaries, plus the Baptist Bible Institute, Graceville, Fla., and Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary, and 13 Southern Baptist colleges will participate in the evaluation.

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Baptist Pastors Organize
Integrated Fellowship

HOUSTON (BP)--Members of the newly organized Harris County Baptist Ministers' Fellowship are both black and white, but they say that they like to be seen merely as Baptist ministers.

Travis Key, director of missions and social ministries for the Union Baptist Association, was instrumental in forming the integrated group which meets monthly, alternately in white and black Baptist churches.

There are two other groups of Baptist pastors in Houston: the Houston Baptist Pastors' Conference, a white, weekly fellowship group; and the Baptist Ministers' Association of Houston, a black, weekly fellowship group.

"With this group we are opening up tremendous communications," said Key. "With Southern Baptists, the problem hasn't been integration, I think, but rather lack of understanding and communication."

Recently meeting at Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church in Houston, the 100 pastors were urged by speakers to bring issues like water and air pollution, zoning laws, housing problems and other community problems before their congregations and church groups.

"If you do this you will not be getting out of your field," Texas State Senator Criss Cole told the Baptists at the meeting. "You have responsibilities in this area, too."

One white Baptist pastor said his congregation was generally apathetic about community problems even though he consistently tried to bring them to the attention of church members.

"I think we Baptist pastors are often guilty of the same thing," said the minister. "We are just so wrapped up in our religious world that we forget about community problems. Our horizons are too small."



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