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October 20, 1969

Search Finds Bodies Of Two
Former Baptist Fund Raisers

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (BP)--Search parties found the bodies of two former development directors for a Southern Baptist college and seminary and the son of one, all killed in a small plane crash just seven miles from their airport destination.

Killed in the crash were 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.

The plane, which apparently was burning when it crashed into the swamp-like area here during a rain storm on Oct. 3, was little but a burned-out shell when the search parties found it 16 days later.

Hardee, who was piloting the twin-engine Beachcraft Baron, was still strapped in the pilot's seat. His body was badly burned.

The other two bodies were found a short distance from the plane. It was not known if all three died instantly, or if Fisher and the Hardee boy lived and tried to reach help.

Not far from the two bodies, a deputy found a soggy leather-bound Bible lying under a tree. It was open to Genesis 1:1.

There was some speculation that the plane might have caught fire in mid-air, or been hit by lightning, since the tree-tops were burned where the plane crashed through.

The tragedy occured about nine miles west of Daytona Beach. Search parties, acting on a tip from a nearby farmer who said he remembered hearing a low-flying plane during the Oct. 3 rainstorm, had to wade through waist-deep water to reach the site.

They found the plane only two miles from U.S. Highway 92, which connects Daytona Beach and DeLand, Fla. Hardee and his son were living in Ormond Beach just north of Daytona; Fisher lived in DeLand.

Both Hardee and Fisher were officials with the Oceanado Inns, Inc., a Florida real estate holding corporation. Hardee had flown the plane to St. Petersburg, Fla., to pick up Fisher and the records of the company and take them to Daytona Beach.

All of the records of the company were destroyed in the firey crash.

Both Hardee and Fisher were pilots. Last radio contact was made with the plane at 8:45 p.m., Friday, Oct. 3, by the Orlando Airport. The Hardee boy's wrist watch was stopped at 9:10 p.m., the estimated time of the crash.

Hardee had been the public relations and development man at New Orleans Seminary for two years before resigning in August to join Oceanado Inns, and Lyndaunick Investments, as executive vice president of both firms.

Fisher, a retired Army Lt. Colonel, had been with Stetson University for six years. He was professor at the Stetson College of Law in St. Petersburg before becoming director of development early in 1969. He, too, resigned in August, to join Oceanado Inns, Inc.

Hardee was previously 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. A native of South Carolina, he was a graduate of Presbyterian College, Clinton, S.C.; and New Orleans Seminary. He also attended Furman University, Greenville, S.C.; and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

Mrs. Hardee had driven to Conway, S.C., the day before the plane was found. Funeral services for Hardee and his son were to be held in Conway, but specific arrangements for both Hardee and Fisher were pending.

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Black Power Group Seeks
Funds From Baptist Church

by Beth Hayworth

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Black United Front (BUF), a local militant group seeking reparations for Negroes, has asked National Baptist Memorial Church here for a quarter of a million dollars to help rebuild riot-torn areas of the nation's capital.

BUF officials had asked for and were given time during the regular Sunday morning worship service to make their presentation. R. Stuart Grizzard, a native Virginian, is the pastor of this inner-city Baptist church affiliated with both the Southern and the American Baptist Conventions. Grizzard said the request would be presented to the church for action at a later date.

The spokesman for the black group was George Hart, a community organizer with a local urban consulting firm. He serves as a vestryman in a predominantly white neighboring Episcopal church.

Addressing the Baptist congregation as "fellow Christians and friends," Hart said he came "to make a righteous request for reparations." His short speech to the integrated worshippers was more conciliatory with a plea for understanding of the black man's plight than it was hostile and demanding.

The word "demands" was not used by Hart, though it was used in the printed statement left with the church. Hart changed the term to "respectfully request" in his message to the congregation.

"Open your hearts and try to understand what we are about," Hart pled after recounting the history of the black man in American society and the present indignities suffered by most Negroes.

Quoting from the Sermon on the Mount, he charged that the church passes on the teachings of Christ purportedly, but does not follow those teachings herself.

Hart told the church, which meets for services just one block from the riot-torn areas of the city; "We come to you, the custodians of the Word, knocking, seeking and asking that you give us $250,000 to build the burned-out places in this community."

Hart suggested in his printed statement that these reparations be made "as a sign to the black man that you truly care, else they will look upon this church as a sepulcher of a dead white God."

Washington's Black United Front is made up of several community organizations and is not a part of James Forman's National Economic Development Conference. Earlier this year Forman's group issued a "Black Manifesto" demanding $500 million in reparations from churches and synagogues. Hart said that his group has "no relationship whatsoever" with Forman.

Grizzard responded to BUF's request in a printed sermon which he read and made available to the press. In it he defended the record of National Baptist as an "open, inner-city church" actively involved in ministering to people of all races.

He cited the large numbers of black children in the Sunday School, the scores of black internationals affiliated with the church and a growing number of American Negroes who are joining the church and assuming places of leadership.

He reminded the black power advocates of the day care center operating in National Baptist facilities which is sponsored by this and three other churches, and the weekday ministry for ghetto children and needy adults.

In addition, Grizzard said, the church recently placed part of its reserve funds in a black-owned and operated local credit union. The church's deposit was the largest, single deposit made to this particular financial institution, according to the church's minister of administration, Mark Tracy.

"Of course, we have not done enough to minister in these difficult days," Grizzard continued.

The senior minister at National Baptist used sharp words to condemn racial prejudice and said the church of Christ "has not acquited itself too well in trying to right these wrongs." He had equally strong words for the kind of separatism advocated by most black militants.

Although he rejected "demands for reparations" as a concept "which is not Christian," Grizzard said there is a positive lesson for the church to learn.

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"Demands like these should forever disabuse this and every church of the illusion that we can shut ourselves up behind our cloistered walls and lose ourselves in obscurantism while social change whirls around us.

"We are going to have to become more and more supportive of those forces that are trying to bring meaningful change in the world," he said.

National Baptist Memorial is the first Baptist church in Washington to be visited by the black power group. Previous visits have been to other downtown churches which also are integrated and are involved to some extent in a ghetto ministry.

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Baptist Pastor Says Vietnam
War Is Illegal and Immoral 10/20/69

WASHINGTON (BP)--A Baptist minister said here that he wishes President Nixon were as concerned about pictures of babies burned by napalm bombs as he is about pictures of nude women in pornographic magazines.

It is right that the President is concerned about pornography, said John W. Laney, pastor of the Twinbrook Baptist Church in suburban Rockville, Md. But he should be concerned also about our seeing pictures of babies burned by napalm, especially "when this is justified as a righteous act in defense of justice," he declared.

Laney was one of the speakers at a day-long series of discussions held for students at the Rockville Senior High School, and apparently the only Baptist minister in Washington to participate officially in Moratorium Day activities.

The Baptist pastor said he was not attacking the integrity of members of our government, "but I must attack violence and terror wherever it occurs," he declared.

Calling the Vietnam War "illegal and immoral," Laney said the history of U.S. participation in this war is based on deception. It is a deception "which is rooted in a sincere belief that we must maintain a military balance of power...and that is more important than defending freedom and justice and maintaining peace," he said.

Laney argued that special investigating committees had found that official government documents concerning Communist troops and weapons, including information on which the Gulf of Tonkin resolution was based, were either misleading or an exaggeration of facts. The Gulf of Tonkin resolution, passed by the Senate in 1965, was used as the authority for sending massive American troops to Vietnam.

Laney said further that America's support of the previous French position on Vietnam was "driving people to Communism because this is the only place they could get support." He added that he was not defending the National Liberation Front.

A native of Hickory, N.C., Laney is a member of the Executive Committee of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention. His church is affiliated with both the Southern and American Baptist Conventions.

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