



**BAPTIST PRESS**  
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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BWA President's Church Burns  
On Pastor's Return From Tokyo

GERMANTOWN, Pa. (BP)--Second Baptist Church of Germantown, Pa., was gutted by fire and virtually destroyed on the night before the church's pastor, newly elected Baptist World Alliance President V. Carney Hargroves, was to report on his trip to the Baptist World Alliance in Tokyo.

Hargroves, pastor of the church since 1932, had returned only four days earlier from Tokyo where he was elected president of the 39-million member world Baptist organization.

He was scheduled to report to his church on his trip to the Orient, the Baptist World Congress meeting and his own election as president on the Sunday the church burned.

At 3:00 a.m. that Sunday, the fire was spotted by a policeman cruising in the area. Two hours later, the fire was under control, but not until it had gutted the church, leaving only the walls and heavily-damaged roof standing.

A report in the Philadelphia Inquirer described the scene as "grotesque," and said the 104-year old two-story structure had been reduced to "watered-down rubble."

An accurate estimate of the extent of damage was not immediately available, but the church sanctuary probably will have to be completely rebuilt.

Fire marshals said that the fire apparently started when a defective cable shorted out near a wooden beam.

The new Baptist World Alliance president went to the scene of the fire and watched as the church went up in smoke. Later in the morning, he announced on local radio stations that there would be no morning worship services.

So many members, however, came to the church that services were held in the church's nearby chapel. Instead of preaching a sermon or reporting on the Baptist World Alliance, Hargroves called on members of the church to express their faith in a testimony service.

Immediate plans were made for the church to rebuild on its present site. For the past year, the church has been studying its mission and ministry as it faces a changing neighborhood.

Hargroves, 70, is former chairman of the North American Baptist Fellowship, former president of the American Baptist Convention with which his church is affiliated, and former vice president of the Baptist World Alliance.

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Edgar Cooper, Jacksonville Pastor,  
Elected Florida Paper's New Editor

3/12/70

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)--Edgar R. Cooper, pastor of North Jacksonville Baptist Church here, has been named editor-elect of the Florida Baptist Witness, weekly paper published by the Florida Baptist State Convention.

Cooper, a former president of the state convention, has been pastor of the 2,400-member church since January of 1968. He resigned the church effective Sept. 30.

W. Allen Conner of Pensacola, Fla., chairman of the Florida Baptist Witness Commission who announced Cooper's election, said the new editor will begin a period of orientation with Editor W. G. Stracener, who plans to retire Dec. 31. Cooper will become editor of the paper on Jan. 1, 1971.

A native of Florida, Cooper is a graduate of Stetson University, DeLand, Fla., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, where he earned master and doctor of theology degrees.

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He has been pastor of Baptist churches in Florida since 1948, serving for 11 years as pastor of Mayfair Baptist Church, Jacksonville; and for nine years as pastor of North Park Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.

Active in state and local denominational affairs, Cooper has been president of the state convention, president of the State Baptist Pastors' Conference, member of the State Board of Missions for the convention; moderator of the Jacksonville Baptist Association, president of the Jacksonville Baptist Pastors' Conference, chairman of the Jacksonville association's city missions committee, trustee of the Baptist Bible Institute in Graceville, and the Jacksonville Baptist Home for Children, as well as several other state Baptist denominational positions.

He has also been president of United Christian Action, Lakeland, Fla., an organization concerned with civic righteousness, and has been a "counselor" for a Jacksonville-based insurance company and the City of Orlando's Review and Appeals Board.

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Solons Plan Would Increase  
Doctors Serving Poor Areas

8/12/70

WASHINGTON (BP)--The five Republican members of the Senate subcommittee on health have introduced a bill that would increase substantially the training of doctors from minority groups and would distribute these doctors in the areas of greatest need throughout the country.

Five hundred scholarships and 200 fellowships would be awarded the first year at a total cost of \$4.5 million. These funds would provide medical students with a \$5,000 scholarship each year, and would grant fellowships ranging from \$9,000 to \$12,000 for interns and residents.

The number of scholarships and fellowships would be increased each year until by the 4th year, 1,000 scholarships and 500 fellowships would be authorized, amounting to \$10 million.

Priority for the scholarships would go to persons from minority groups and to those who agree to serve in areas short on doctors, such as isolated rural communities, Indian reservations, inner-city slums and especially with migrant families.

Also, in awarding the fellowship grants, priority will be given to interns and residents in hospitals located in a disadvantaged area, or hospitals serving a substantial number of needy persons.

The "Family Physician Scholarship and Fellowship Program Act" was introduced by Sen. George Murphy (R., Calif.). He was joined by four other Republicans: Sens. Peter H. Dominick (Colo.), Jacob K. Javits (N.Y.), Winston L. Prouty (Vt.) and William B. Saxbe (Ohio).

Although it is late in the session for the introduction of such a major bill, hearings are expected to be scheduled before Congress recesses for the fall elections, according to a spokesman for Sen. Murphy. The senator's aide also said an effort is being made to get other senators to co-sponsor the legislation.

The California Republican pointed out public health statistics showing the need for 50,000 additional physicians, and the present shortage of doctors in many depressed areas.

Murphy noted also the lack of medical students from minority races who are enrolled in medical schools. He said of the total medical school enrollment, only 2.2 per cent are black. In the west and south central regions where a large number of Mexican-Americans live, only 1 per cent of the medical school enrollment is of that heritage.

Paying tribute to the idealism and commitment to service of many young people in the nation, Sen. Murphy said his proposed measure would provide a means "to channel their talents, energies and idealism into the communities of the country which are crying for medical attention.

"My measure is designed to train more doctors and to direct these doctors into the right places," he declared.

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Sunday School Board Official  
Elected Academy President

SEYMOUR, Tenn. (BP)--Hubert B. Smothers, director of the Service Division for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, has been named president of Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy here by the school's board of trustees, effective Sept. 1.

Smothers succeeds Charles C. Lemons, president of the academy for 10 years, who requested that his status as president be changed to some other position with the school.

A native of Trenton, Tenn., Smothers is a second-generation graduate of the academy.

He said his association with the academy, which had a 1969-70 enrollment of 215, began in 1933 when his father "felt the call to preach at age 33 and took the family to the academy where he enrolled as a ministerial student."

Mrs. Smothers washed and ironed clothes for students at the academy to make money to send her husband and four children, including the new academy president, through the school.

Smothers said that because of these early days, he was "not afraid of difficult situations, but rather challenged by them."

He said he felt the position as president of the school was "a tremendous challenge and I go to the school with a great deal of enthusiasm for the type of work that Harrison-Chilhowee can do."

The Tennessee Baptist Convention, which owns and operates the academy, voted in 1959 by a six-vote margin (463 to 457) to reject a survey committee's recommendation to close the school and sell the property. Smothers was active in trying to keep the school open.

On his election as president, Smothers told the Baptist and Reflector, Baptist state paper for the Tennessee convention, that he feels "there is a need to restudy the purpose and set new goals for the academy."

Of the academy's future, Smothers said, "Chilhowee will continue to offer a high standard of cultural enrichment, spiritual enrichment, athletics, and student activities." He added he hoped students would have more opportunities in the fine arts, the faculty would be strengthened, the curriculum enlarged, admission policies strengthened, and membership would be sought in the proper accrediting agencies.

A graduate also of Cumberland University, Lebanon, Tenn., and George Peabody College, Nashville, Smothers has been a high school teacher and coach, admissions counselor for Shorter College in Rome, Ga., and public relations director and student enlistment director at Belmont College (Baptist), Nashville.



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CUTLINES

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NEW FLORIDA EDITOR: Edgar Cooper, pastor of North Jacksonville Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., has been named editor-elect of the Florida Baptist Witness. Cooper, former president of the Florida Baptist State Convention, joins the state paper's staff on Oct. 1 for a period of orientation with Editor W. G. Stracener, who retires Dec. 31. He will become editor Jan. 1, 1971. (BP) Photo