



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1330 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Billy Keith, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lynn M. Davis, Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203, Telephone (615) 254-1631
RICHMOND Jesse C. Fletcher, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (703) 353-0151
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

February 26, 1971

**Ivory Coast Baptists Dedicate
First French-Language Church**

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (BP)--The first French-language Baptist congregation in the Ivory Coast dedicated its building here, with the vice president of the Republic of Liberia, William R. Tolbert Jr., as the principal speaker.

About 250 members, guests and dignitaries attended the inaugural ceremony.

Representing the Ivory Coast were two of the country's three ministers of state and the vice president of the national assembly. The ambassadors of Liberia and the United States also attended.

Articles about the event reporting Tolbert's remarks appeared on pages one and two of the Daily Fraternaliste, official organ of the ruling Democratic party of the Ivory Coast.

H. Cornell Goerner, secretary for Africa for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, brought greetings from that agency, and John E. Mills, missionary field representative for West Africa, sketched the five-year history of Southern Baptist work in the Ivory Coast.

Other speakers included the mayor of Treichville, an industrial district here, and the pastor of the Methodist Church in Treichville.

The newly dedicated building, completed last spring, is located in the district of Marcory, a largely residential area near the downtown business section of the capital of Ivory Coast. It was built at a cost of \$45,000, supplied entirely by the SBC Foreign Mission Board. Missionary D. Edwin Pinkston of Crossett, Ark., is pastor.

Worship service attendance on Sunday mornings averages about 100. Nineteen new believers have been baptized into the church since it was begun in 1967 as a chapel in a rented room, Pinkston said.

Worship services, Sunday School classes, Bible studies and classes for new Christians are conducted in French, the official national language, except for one worship service each week in the More language.

Weekday ministries include classes in sewing, health, English and biblical studies as well as games and recreation for children and youth and a library-reading room. Home and hospital visitation ministries also are conducted.

Miss Wilma Rodgers and Miss Estelle Freeland, SBC missionaries from Independence, Mo., and Baird, Tex., respectively, are in charge of the weekday programs. These ministries will someday be taken over by nationals, Miss Rodgers said, allowing the missionaries to establish similar programs in other localities.

There are three other Baptist congregations in this city of 285,000 and all three are made up of Yoruba immigrants from Nigeria. The Baptist Church of Marcory is the first French-language congregation for the indigenous Ivoirians. The Yorubas have 19 churches throughout the country, Miss Rodgers reported. Total membership is more than 1,000.

Mills and his wife began Southern Baptist work in the Ivory Coast in 1966. They have been stationed in Accra, Ghana, since October 1969. They are from Mexia and Galveston, Tex.

Three couples and two single women are currently under SBC Foreign Mission Board assignment to the Ivory Coast.

Auguste Denise, a minister of state in the Ivory Coast, entertained Tolbert and about 60 other guests on the evening following the dedication. A seven-course dinner was served on the front lawn of the ministerial residence.

"This gave the local missionaries contact with a number of prominent personalities in the Abidjan community," Goerner said. "We feel that these contacts along with the excellent publicity in the newspaper, radio and television newscasts will provide the very best kind of publicity that we could have for this new church."

The front-page newspaper coverage was "very significant here," Goerner said, "since Baptists are almost unknown in this county."

Tolbert, president of the Liberia Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention and past president of the Baptist World Alliance, said that the dedication ceremony was "an historic occasion" for him, as it was the first time he had assisted in the inauguration of just such a Baptist church in West Africa.

-30-

Ratliff Named To Head
New Mexico Foundation

2/26/71

ALBUQUERQUE (BP)--John D. Ratliff, associate executive secretary of the New Mexico Baptist Foundation and the New Mexico Baptist Church Loan Corp., has been promoted to head the agency.

W. C. Ribble, executive secretary of the foundation and loan corporation for the past 11 1/2 years, has retired, effective Feb. 11.

"Prof" Ribble, as he is known to friends, was dean of the school of business and chairman of the division of business and social studies at Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex., for 29 years. He also has been chairman of the economics department at Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark.

Total assets of the foundation were slightly over \$40,000 when Ribble took over in 1959. They now total about \$1.7 million.

Ratliff, 46, is a former Southern Baptist foreign missionary to Peru and Honduras. A native of Floyd, N.M., he is a graduate of Eastern New Mexico University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Ratliff returned to New Mexico from foreign missionary service in 1967 as associate director in the department of missions for the Baptist Convention of New Mexico, a post he held before joining the foundation in October, 1969, as associate executive secretary.

-30-

Graham Urges Consistency On
Sex, Overpopulation Concern

2/26/71

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. (BP)--Evangelist Billy Graham, speaking to 3,000 students at Gardner-Webb College (Baptist) here, said that youth who are so concerned about overpopulation should "first stop engaging in back-seat sex relations before you criticize overpopulation.

"You young people want to stop wars, and that is a good idea," Graham went on. "But what are you doing about the killing on our own highways? Half of the more than 50,000 highway deaths involve drinking drivers, and half of these are teenagers.

"It is easy to debate and argue," Graham added, "but it is hard to become committed to something worthwhile.

Graham labeled today's generation of young people "the uncommitted generation" and charged that they are quick to blame society and look for a scapegoat for their own failures.

He issued a plea for youth to commit their lives to Jesus Christ, who "can give you young people everything you want."

-more-

Graham spoke to the students at the Baptist college during dedication ceremonies for the R. Patrick Spangler Hall, a \$400,000 men's dormitory named for a Shelby, N.C. businessman who currently is chairman of \$1 1/2 million capital fund drive for the school.

Spangler had led a 1965 fund campaign that raised \$2 1/2 million for the school, and is a former chairman of the board of trustees for Gardner-Webb.

At a luncheon following Graham's address in chapel, an oil portrait of Spangler was unveiled. State Senator Hargrove (Skipper) Bowles of Greensboro, N.C., was speaker at the luncheon.

Citing the need and importance of Baptist and private colleges as "vital to the state and nation," Bowles advocated state grants to students at private colleges to allow more young people to take advantage of such an education.

"As a member of the Senate, I assure you that I will be working to that end in this session," Bowles said.

Gardner-Webb President E. Eugene Poston paid tribute to Spangler for his service to the college during the dedication ceremonies.

-30-

Murdock Elected President
Of SBC Child Care Executives

2/26/71

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--The Child Care Executives of Southern Baptists elected John Murdock, assistant superintendent-treasurer of the Connie Maxwell Children's Home in Greenwood, S.C., as the organization's new president.

Meeting at the Mississippi Baptist Children's Village just west of Jackson, the national organization also elected two vice presidents--M. W. Freeman, superintendent of the Baptist Home for Children, Bethesda, Md., and Harold Hime, administrator of Buckner Baptist Children's Home, Dallas.

Named secretary-treasurer was Charles Wright, administrator of Texas Baptist Children's Home, Round Rock, Tex.

Principal speaker for the three-day annual meeting was Walter Delamarter, director of social work education for Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, who spoke on staff relationships and the proper use of authority by administrators.

Next year, the organization will meet in Williamsburg, Va., Feb. 15-17, 1972.

-30-

Five Missionaries Named
By SBC Home Mission Board

2/26/71

ATLANTA (BP)--Five missionaries, four of whom will be involved in Christian social ministries and another in cooperative efforts with National Baptists, were recently appointed by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

The five and their respective places of service are: Floyd and Ida Emmerling, Detroit, Mich.; Ernest MeHaffey, South Carolina; and Marshall and Mary Moore, Indianapolis, Ind.

Emmerling, now director of the Detroit Baptist Center, is responsible for establishing a program of community ministry and involvement. A native of Cabot, Ark., he graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has been a teacher in the Bayou Meo Public Schools of Jacksonville, Ark., and was pastor of several churches in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Michigan.

Mrs. Emmerling is originally from North Little Rock, Ark. She holds a degree from Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth.

-more-

MeHaffey increases to 13 the number of state directors of work with National Baptists. He will be responsible for fostering cooperative efforts between member churches of the three National Baptist Conventions, which are predominantly Black, and the Southern Baptist churches in South Carolina.

The North Carolina native attended Mars Hill College, Furman University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. His most recent pastorate was the First Baptist Church of Chesnee, S.C. He is married and the father of two children.

Moore is director of Christian social ministries for the Central Baptist Association of Indianapolis, Ind. He is directly responsible for the planning and implementation of all work related to the Christian social ministries among the churches and their auxiliaries in the Indianapolis area.

Moore and his wife are both natives of Conroe, Tex., and graduates of Baylor University, Waco, Tex. Moore earned his seminary degree at Southern Seminary, Louisville. He has been minister of youth and education at Northcrest Baptist Church, Waco, Tex, and Hazelwood Baptist Church, Louisville.

Mrs. Moore is a public school teacher with two years experience in the Louisville public schools.



BAPTIST PRESS

460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

RECEIVED
MAY 1 1974
HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Lynn May

HISTORICAL COMMISSION
1ST NINTH AVE. N.
NASHVILLE, TENN. 37203

2/26/71

PLEA FOR MISSIONS SUPPORT: CARL BATES (at podium), president of the Southern Baptist Convention, issued a plea for Southern Baptists to stop engaging in "sharp and loveless controversies" and instead to deepen their commitment to world missions. Bates, pastor of First Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C., made the plea in a Cooperative Program luncheon rally sponsored by the SBC Stewardship Commission at Nashville's Hermitage Hotel. More than 260 Baptist leaders from across the nation attended. (BP) photo.

###

Heart Attack Fatal
To W. A. Harrell

2/26/71 261

NASHVILLE (BP)--William A. Harrell, 67, longtime secretary of the church architecture department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board died Feb. 26 at Baptist Hospital after apparently suffering a heart attack while attending a Downtown Kiwanis Club luncheon.

Harrell, who joined the board in December, 1926, served as associate secretary for department young people's and adult Sunday school work until 1933. He was associate secretary of the Baptist Training Union department of the board from 1933 until 1940 when he assumed his position as head of the architecture department.

Harrell, who was honored last Dec. 11 with a retirement dinner at First Baptist Church, here was scheduled to retire March 31.

Prior to coming to the board, Harrell was a field worker for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

A native of Grandview, Tex., Harrell attended Decatur Baptist College, Decatur, Tex., (now Dallas Baptist College,) Dallas; Baylor University, Waco, Tex.; and George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville.

The architecture department head wrote two books, Planning Better Church Buildings and Providing Adequate Church Property and Buildings. He also co-authored several Sunday School and Training Union books and manuals.

He was married to the former Louise Jarrell Dec. 16, 1928.

He has traveled to Cuba, Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, Asia, the Phillipine Islands, Hong Kong, Japan, New Zealand and Australia in the interest of church buildings programs as well as covering almost every state in the United States.

He was a member of the Kiwanis Club and served as a deacon, usher and teacher in First Baptist Church, Nashville.

Survivors include his wife and a daughter, Mrs. Susan Smart of Austin, Tex.

#####