



BAPTIST PRESS

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March 2, 1971

W. A. Harrell, Architecture
Leader, Dies in Nashville

NASHVILLE (BP)--Funeral services for William Asa Harrell, 67, longtime secretary of the church architecture department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, were held Feb. 28 at First Baptist Church, Nashville.

Burial was in Woodlawn Cemetery at Nashville.

H. Franklin Paschall, pastor of the church and James L. Sullivan, executive secretary of the board, officiated.

Harrell died early in the afternoon of Feb. 26 at Baptist Hospital here. He apparently suffered a heart attack while attending a civic club luncheon.

He was a native of Grandview, Tex., and attended Decatur Baptist College at Decatur, Tex. (now Dallas Baptist College at Dallas, Tex.); Baylor University at Waco, Tex.; and George Peabody College for Teachers at Nashville. In 1963, Harrell received an honorary doctor of laws degree from California Baptist College, Riverside.

The church architecture department head joined the board in 1926 after serving as a field worker for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

He served as associate secretary for department young people's and adult Sunday School work from 1926-1933, and as associate secretary of the Baptist Training Union department of the board from 1933 to 1940.

Harrell became head of the church architecture department in 1940 and was scheduled to retire from the position March 31. He was honored last Dec. 11 with a retirement dinner.

He was the author of two books on church architecture--Planning Better Church Buildings and Providing Adequate Church Property and Buildings. He also wrote numerous other pamphlets, articles, brochures and manuals.

Harrell traveled around the world and to almost every state in the United States in the interest of church architecture.

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

Survivors include his wife, Louise Jarrell Harrell of Nashville, and a daughter, Mrs. Susan Smart of Austin, Tex.

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Moyers Says Priorities Wrong,
Churches "In Bed With Culture"

3/2/71

NEW YORK (BP)--Former White House Press Secretary Bill Moyers said here that the nation's priorities are "upside down" and that through it all, America's churches have been "in bed with the culture," condoning a society that places values on the wrong thing.

Moyers, former publisher of Newsday in Garden City, N.Y., symbolized the nation's false priorities by stating that American spent \$200 billion last year on military security, an amount 25 times what the nation spent on social and economic developments.

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In the keynote address of a seminar sponsored by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission on "National Priorities and Christian Responsibilities," Moyers was critical of "the system that does not know what to do with 300 million tons a year in garbage."

Saying the nation has poured millions into space exploration, Moyers observed that the country "has not yet created a NASA of garbage." Even though garbage disposal and pollution are the most important problems affecting the health of 70 per cent of the nation's population.

People who charge that the system is not working are wrong, Moyers declared. "The system is working extraordinarily well for those people who can afford it or who have friends who can manipulate it for them."

He cited as examples corporation executives for 25 companies with major defense contracts who contributed \$1 million to 1968 political campaigns, power companies that receive government benefits, and industries which are the major polluters in America but which have representatives on statewide pollution control boards.

"The system is failing only those people who are the victims of crime, consumers who have been cheated, homeowners with uncollected garbage on their stoops, persons awaiting trial in impossibly crowded courts, pedestrians breathing air noxious with pollution, and people who live in dilapidated housing with no means of escaping to the suburbs," he said.

Moyers observed that America's priorities at the moment are dominated by special interests, private greed, and political myopia.

Saying that "through it all, the church has been in bed with the culture," Moyers added that too often "the church has failed to comfort the afflicted and to afflict the comforted."

He urged the 418 conference participants "not to be intolerant of radicals--even those who advocate violence--because change often comes because radicals and others constantly press the system (for change)."

Asked about alternatives to the present system, Moyers said many people are turning not to a political alternative but to a culture alternative with growing involvement in a "counter-culture" that rejects the values of the majority.

Both Moyers and Southern Baptist Seminary Professor Eric Rust of Louisville, Ky., hit hard at pollution as a major American problem that has held low priority in the past.

"Whether we are Black or white, young or old, we are all going to perish by the year 2000 if we don't do something about the pollution of our ecology," said Rust.

He added that "the way man is going, fouling up the waters and the land, and by the way man is overpopulating the earth, there won't be much breathing space left by the year 2000."

To deal with the problem, he urged more Christians to enter politics, advocated churches and individuals to do something to clean up their own local pollution problems, urged churches to bring pressure to bear on government forces, and individual Christians to join conservation groups to do something about pollution.

Leighton Ford, a vice president of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, said in another address that Christians too often have been followers of a culture Christ, "a Jesus who wears red, white and blue."

Ford was critical of a "fraudulent evangelism that produces decisions for Christ but fails to produce disciples."

He said he was convinced a new breed of Christians is emerging with the recovery of genuine responsibility for man's spiritual and social needs.

Atlanta Baptist College
Trims on Budget, Faculty

ATLANTA (BP)--The Atlanta Baptist College has trimmed its budget, faculty and administrative staff in a determined effort to overcome financial burdens with which it has been struggling for months.

College trustees last week approved a 1971-72 budget of \$660,119 which is about a 20 per cent reduction from the 1970-71 budget of \$815,287. The new budget goes into effect Sept. 1.

President Monroe F. Swilley Jr., said college trustees also voted to reduce the faculty from 35 full or part-time instructors to about 20 professors, and to reduce the number of degree majors offered from 13 to seven.

Swilley also said no summer school will be held in 1971. He said three administrative staff members have already volunteered to resign to help the struggling three year old school meet its budget. The school has a current enrollment of 238 students.

In another action, college trustees voted to offer 25 acres of its property to the Georgia Baptist Convention, for \$2,000 per acre, as the possible location for an administrative center for the state convention.

That offer will be considered by the state convention's executive committee when it meets in quarterly session March 23.

The Georgia Baptist Convention in annual session last November, has authorized its executive committee to work with Atlanta Baptist College trustees toward possible deeding all college property to the state convention as the locale for a complex housing several Baptist enterprises.

But when the Atlanta Baptist Association's executive committee met in January to hear a request from college trustees to call the association into special session to approve that transfer to the state convention, the associational executive committee refused and told trustees to continue operating the beleaguered school.

C. Douglas Jackson, pastor of First Baptist Church, East Point, Ga., was named chairman of a special committee to work with college trustees in trying to get more financial support from churches of the Atlanta area.

Jackson said the association executive committee will be asked to set April 25 as Atlanta Baptist College Day when all churches will be asked to take special offerings for the college.

Swilley also said a new funds campaign is underway with the leadership of college trustees. He said "the total spirit of our trustee meeting was optimistic. We are determined to keep the school going if at all possible."

The executive committee of college trustees will determine within 60 days whether churches are underwriting enough additional support to guarantee operation of the school beyond June 1.

3/2/71

FIRST SPANISH COURSE--Raymond Rigdon, director of the Southern Baptist Seminary Extension Department (left) presents the first copy of the department's new "basic curriculum" course translated into Spanish to Arthur B. Rutledge (right) executive secretary of the SBC Home Mission Board which coordinates SBC work with Spanish-speaking people in the U.S.A. The course is designed especially for pastors with less than college education. Applauding the presentation are members of the administrative committee of the department--Seminary presidents Robert Naylor and Duke McCall (frontrow), and Harold Graves, Olin T. Binkley, and Grady Cothen (second row, left to right). (BP) Photo