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May 10, 1971

Lucius Polhill, Retired Virginia
Executive Secretary, Dies At 71

RICHMOND (BP)--Lucius M. Polhill, retired executive secretary of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, died here after suffering a heart attack Sunday, May 9, at a Richmond restaurant. He was 71.

A native of Georgia, Polhill became executive secretary of the Virginia association in 1955, serving in that capacity for 12 years before retirement Dec. 31, 1967.

Previously, he had been pastor of Deer Park Baptist Church, Louisville, for 11 years. He also was pastor of First Baptist Church, Americus, Ga., and Vinton Baptist Church, Vinton, Va. He also had been professor of Bible at Tift College, Forsyth, Ga.

At the time of his death, Polhill was chairman of the administrative committee for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. He had also served on the SBC Home Mission Board, was vice president of the Georgia Baptist Convention, chairman of the Executive Board for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, and a trustee for several Baptist schools and agencies.

Both Mercer University, Macon, Ga., and the University of Richmond had conferred upon him honorary doctoral degrees. He was a graduate of Mercer, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, where he earned the doctor of theology degree. He had also done graduate study at Yale Divinity School.

Funeral services were scheduled May 11 at Grace Baptist Church, Richmond, with burial the following day in Tipton, Ga.

Survivors include his widow, two sons, Mack Polhill of Dallas, and John Polhill of Louisville, a faculty member at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

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Puerto Rican Baptists Move
To Indigenous Bible Training

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (BP)--In a move toward indigenous theological education Baptists in Puerto Rico have begun a four-region coordinated Bible institute under the supervision of the Puerto Rican Baptist Association.

Four Bible training centers located here, in Aricebo, Ponce and Mayaguez train about 30 Baptist pastors in three-month sessions under the new system.

The training centers, located in churches in the different regions, have a core curriculum which includes Bible, preaching, religious education, music and pastoral ministry.

Classes are taught by the four regional missionaries appointed by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta.

The move toward indigenous training is part of the SBC Home Mission Board's efforts to make all language work that is operated and supported by local churches indigenous, according to Oscar Romo, secretary of the board's language missions department.

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Romo explained that the school makes possible the training of Puerto Rica leadership in a natural setting, in the area in which students plan to serve and is designed "to help them put into practice the things they are learning.

It makes possible the development of the work while the leadership is being trained," Romo said. This same educational concept has been applied in other mission areas including the Navajo reservation in Arizona.

Future plans for the Bible institute include a central library, to be located preferably in San Juan near the university. Books would be loaned out to the regional centers according to the courses being offered at each period. This would remove the necessity for separate libraries, Romo said.

Eventually, Puerto Rican Baptists would like to have a seminary in the university complex so that Baptist students attending the university could simultaneously take courses at the seminary which would apply toward their baccalaureate degree, he added.

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Both Youth, Christ Have
Hatred for Sham, Guinn Says

May 10, 1971

FORT WORTH (BP)--"Youth of today have one thing in common with Jesus Christ--their hatred of sham," a college president told 226 graduating students of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary at commencement exercises here.

G. Earl Guinn, president of Louisiana College, Pineville, La., told the graduates that today's minister must recon with space exploration, ecology, depth psychology, and the technological organization of the world.

"We have learned by means of Telestar to throw our voices across the world, but we have managed to drown out the voices of conscience and moral conviction," Guinn declared.

He told the graduates they must combine dreams and intelligence to accomplish their mission in life. "It's not enough to have dreams and it's not enough to have intelligence; we must have both dreams to motivate us and intelligence to direct us," he said.

"The destination we reach will be determined by the validity of our dreams and the fidelity of our learning," Guinn added.

The president, who headed the seminary's preaching department before going to Louisiana College in 1951, said that religion has always been paradoxically a great stimulation and a great hindrance to learning. America's founding fathers, he offered, believed religion palced them under obligation to cultivate morals.

"These days will not allow us the luxury of ignorance," he pointed out. "We have a moral obligation to be intelligent."

Speaking of the historical attitudes of the church in America toward education, he suggested that intellectual laziness has frequently been rationalized and justified by bizarre religious ideas and behavior.

"Christian intelligence must address itself to new dimensions of the modern world," he said, "and if religion has nothing to say in these areas, it should get out of the way so men will not be tripped up by its frumpery and deceived by its solemnity."

Seminary president Robert E. Naylor presented degrees to 128 graduates of the School of Theology, 78 from the School of Religious Education, and 20 from the School of Church Music. The graduates were from 30 states and four foreign countries.

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Swedish Union, Two OTHERS
Break Off Merger Discussions

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (BP)--The Baptist Union of Sweden and two other religious bodies in Sweden have broken off discussions about uniting the three free church groups.

All three groups, the Baptist Union, the Mission Covenant Church of Sweden, and the Methodist Church of Sweden, issued a statement recognizing "that merger talks may be considered dormant for a while" after the Methodist Church reported its discussions and a majority action of its board.

The Methodist board had voted seven to four, with two abstentions, not to pursue any longer the course toward closer cooperation with the other two.

The talks began in January 1969, according to a report in European Baptist Press Service, and were aimed originally at a single United Free Church. In October, 1970, the discussions took a new direction, with plans only to coordinate certain aspects of their work such as publishing, education, social work and missions.

The Methodist Church, with about 10,000 members, is the smallest of the three. The Baptist Union numbers about 27,000 and the Mission Covenant Church (Congregational) counts around 90,000 members.

The joint statement issued by the three groups stated that "the delegates still voice their conviction that the responsibility of the free churches toward society demands that the question of unity between free churches in different ways be broadened and deepened."

The idea for a single United Free Church in Sweden originated in October, 1968, among the Congregational officials. They expressed hope that eight free church denominations would join the merger talks, but five soon declined--including a second Baptist group, the Oerebro Mission with almost 20,000 members.

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Midwestern Seminary
Receives Accreditation

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here has received full accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, according to an announcement by President Millard J. Berquist and Dean Roy L. Honeycutt, Jr.

The North Central Association is the regional accrediting agency for colleges and universities in 19 states extending from Michigan and Ohio to New Mexico and Arizona.

Full membership in the association and accreditation without notation of its current degree program came to the seminary upon the unanimous recommendation of each investigating committee as well as the full association, the seminary officials said.

Accreditation followed an intensive two-year self study during which the total degree program was redesigned, they added.

Although accredited by the American Association of Theological Schools since 1964, the seminary sought additional accreditation through the North Central Association for several reasons, Berquist and Honeycutt said.

Listed as reasons were the conviction that theological education profits from the positive influence of the larger academic community, the desire to inaugurate joint degree programs with universities, and the conclusion that nonchurch related institutions are concerned that degree programs are approved by a comprehensive accrediting agency such as the North Central Association.

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Honeycutt said that the new accreditation "both confirms the academic quality of the seminary before other institutions and agencies, and strengthens degrees held by alumni."

Only a few weeks earlier, the seminary had announced a new relationship with the Conservatory of Music at the University of Missouri--Kansas City, for a joint degree plan.

Under the plan, students who enroll for the master of music and master of religious education (or master of divinity) degrees will complete required initiatory and core courses simultaneously at both the seminary and conservatory campuses. Six hours of seminary study may be transferred to the Conservatory's degree program.

Thirty hours plus a thesis are required for the joint degree, the master of religious education (or master of divinity) and master of music degree awarded jointly by the two institutions.

Seminary officials said that they hoped to work out other arrangements for joint degree programs for a masters degree in a student's area of vocational interest plus the master of divinity or master of religious education degree.



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