



# BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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November 28, 1972

### Two Baptist Evangelists Killed in Plane Crash

**NASHVILLE (BP)**--Two Baptist evangelists were killed and another critically burned in a firey plane crash here after returning from a Southern Baptist bus evangelism conference in Atlanta.

In critical condition, suffering first and thir d degree burns on 80 per cent of his body, was Ray Sadler, head of Total Evangelistic Concepts, a Nashville-based evangelistic organization which consults with churches on their total evangelism outreach.

The crash claimed the lives of two evangelists on Sadler's team, Henry Bruce French, an associate evangelist and pilot; and Barton Barrett, music director for the team. French is a former Southern Baptist pastor from Pensacola, Fla., and Barrett is a former evangelist from Galena Park, Tex.

The three were returning from an engagement at the Briarlake Baptist Church in Atlanta where the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board was sponsoring a bus evangelism clinic.

Cause of the crash was not immediately determined. Officials of the Federal Aviation Agency said the Beechcraft Bonanza plane had been cleared for an instrument approach landing when the plane suddenly left the radar screen.

The plane crashed and burned several miles from the Nashville airport, in heavy fog and rain.

A witness on the scene, William Rohling, said he saw Sadler walking away from the crash. Sadler, his clothes smoking heavily from the fire, "was hollering for help."

Sadler, former associate pastor for Park Avenue Baptist Church of Nashville, startled the intensive care unit at Vanderbilt Hospital here by walking into the hospital without h lp, a church official said.

Later at the hospital, he asked his brother, Joe Sadler, chief of operations for Total Evangelistic Concepts, how he got out of the plane. Joe Sadler is also president of the Am rican Church Bus Co., and the Church Bus Evangelism Supply Co., two companies which refinish old school buses for sale to churches and provide "gimmicks" for the bus ministry.

Sadler said he had talked to people from churches all across the East Coast, and a prayer chain had been formed to pray for his brother. The next three weeks will be critical, he said.

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### Bob Sessoms Named Recreation Consultant

11/28/72

**NASHVILLE (BP)**--Bob Sessoms, minister of recreation at First Baptist Church, Greensboro, N.C., has been named a consultant in the church recreation department, Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

A native of Raleigh, N.C., Sessoms attended Mars Hill (N.C.) College, and earn d th bachelor of arts degree in recreation administration from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He also holds the master of religious education degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

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Prior to serving the First Baptist Church, Greensboro, Sessoms was minister of recreation at First Baptist Church, Memphis. Earlier, he was youth director at Calvary Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo.

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Black, Canadian Baptists  
To Lead North American Group

11/28/72

WASHINGTON (BP)--The North American Baptist Fellowship, an organization of nine conventions and conferences in Canada, Mexico and the United States, has elected a black Baptist leader as its chairman and a Canadian Baptist as its vice chairman.

Named chairman was S.S. Hodges, executive secretary of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc., with offices in Washington, D.C.

Elected vice chairman was R. Fred Bullen, executive secretary of the Baptist Federation of Canada, with offices in Brantford, Ontario, Canada.

The North American Baptist Fellowship, a committee of the Baptist World Alliance, links leadership of the nine Baptist conventions with a total membership of 18 million members. Its purpose is to promote fellowship and cooperation, and to further the aims and objectives of the Baptist World Alliance in North America.

About 70 persons attended the annual meeting of the fellowship's general committee here, engaging in sharing sessions on missions, stewardship, denominational administration and lay development.

Heavy emphasis was given to North American participation in the World Mission of Reconciliation Through Jesus Christ, a Baptist World Alliance project for 1973-75.

In another action, Glendon McCullough, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, was named to convene a special committee to consider an organization of North American Baptist Men.

Denominational executives attending requested the Baptist World Alliance to study the possibility of arranging special seminars for discussion of common management problems. The group also emphasized the need for prayer and personal devotion in meeting spiritual and business management roles of their responsibilities.

Hodges, the new chairman, succeeds G.K. Zimmerman of the North American Baptist General Conference. Bullen follows John W. Williams of the National Baptist Convention of America as vice chairman.

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