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**Baptists Eulogize Johnson
As Man "Of Giant Character"**

WASHINGTON (BP)--Former President Lyndon B. Johnson, who sought to build a "Great Society" in America, was eulogized at his funeral here by a Baptist deacon who described President Johnson as "a tall man with giant character."

W. Marvin Watson, a lifelong friend who served President Johnson on the White House staff as appointments secretary and later as U.S. Postmaster General, said in his eulogy at the funeral held at Washington's National City Christian Church:

"He was a tall man of giant character, and when he committed himself, he committed himself totally. And he asked his countrymen to do the same.

"In victory," Watson continued, "he taught us to be magnanimous; in defeat, he taught us to be without hate--to learn, to rally, to accept the challenge and to try again."

Watson, a Baptist deacon and graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Tex., is now an oil company executive in California.

From the funeral in Washington, the late President's body was flown to his ranch on the Perdarnales River, for burial in the family cemetery just 100 yards from where he was born.

During the graveside services, Evangelist Billy Graham, another Southern Baptist, said the former President would "stand tall in the history books.

"To him, the Great Society was not a wild dream, but a realistic hope," Graham said. "The thing nearest to his heart was to harness the wealth and knowledge of a mighty nation to assist the plight of the poor."

Still another Southern Baptist, Anita Bryant, sang "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" during the graveside services in Texas.

While a soft mist fell on the gray, cold afternoon, the 36th President of the United States was laid to rest beside the graves of his mother, father and grandparents.

Johnson, a member of the Disciples of Christ church, was the great grandson of a pioneer Baptist preacher in Texas.

George Washington Baines, from whom Johnson received his middle name, preached in the mid-1800's in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas, and was pastor of a Baptist church in Huntsville, Tex., where Republic of Texas President Sam Houston was a member.

Baines also was president of Baylor University, then in Independence, Tex., from 1861-63 during the Civil War, and was one of the earliest secretaries of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Johnson recalled his Baptist heritage during one of two major addresses he delivered to nationwide Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission seminars in Washington in both 1964 and 1968.

"The faith of our fathers, the faith of men like George Baines, may become the folly of their children if individually we fail to see God face to face," Johnson told the Baptist group gathered in the White House rose garden in 1964.

Then he talked about his own faith. "When the pressures were the heaviest and the need for strength from above was the greatest, Lady Bird and I sat down to eat a meal alone," he recalled. "...I found myself speaking the words of grace that I had learned on my Baptist mother's knee so many years ago.

"The occupant of the world's most powerful office, like the most private citizen, has nowhere to go for help but up, up to the secret place of the most high, where faith and spiritual power are abundantly available," Johnson told the Baptist group in 1964.

President Johnson went on in that speech, delivered just before passage of the strong civil rights bill ever adopted, to urge Southern Baptists to work for racial justice in our land.

"No group of Christians has a greater responsibility in civil rights than Southern Baptists," Johnson told the group. "Your people are part of the power structure in many communities of our land. The leaders of states and cities and towns are in your congregations... Their attitudes are confirmed or changed by the sermons you preach... and the examples you set."

In Nashville, the executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission which sponsored the seminar Johnson addressed in both 1964 and 1968, praised the former President for the contribution he had made in civil rights and justice. Though many will remember Johnson for the escalation of the war in Vietnam, they should not forget what he did to help people, said Foy Valentine.

"President Johnson applied prodigious energy, magnificent vision and fantastic political skills to help make this a better country and make life better for all Americans," Valentine said.

"His commitment to bring about justice, equality of opportunity, elimination of racism, freedom from poverty, quality education and better health was basically a commitment to help people," Valentine said. "That commitment... was basically right, basically Christian. We honor him for it."

During a television interview following news of Johnson's death, a former ordained Baptist minister who served as Johnson's press secretary and top aide, Bill Moyers, described Johnson as a man who was as big as the whole state of Texas, a man who got things done.

Moyers, once described by Time Magazine as "LBJ's young man in charge of everything," said that action was the former President's ruling passion. "He was the epitome of a boy born poor who made good," Moyers said.

Johnson's populist political philosophy was shaped to a great deal by his rural background, and by a strong mother who read the Bible and urged him to do good, Moyers observed. His mother, Rebecca Baines Johnson, was a lifelong member of the First Baptist Church of Johnson City, Tex., and attended both Baylor University and Mary-Hardin Baylor College.

Texas Baptist leaders, gathered in Dallas for the convention's State Missions Commission meeting, adopted a resolution following Johnson's funeral, pledging their prayers for the Johnson family.

The Texas Baptist leaders described Johnson as "a great statesman who worked for peace," but who "barely missed seeing the goal he had sought"--peace in Vietnam.

"The lamps he lighted during his lifetime will never be extinguished," said the resolution. It applauded the late President's dedication to secure peace in Indo-China and in America between the races," and for his "constructive civil rights legislation."

In Waco, Tex., Abner McCall, the president of Baylor University which conferred on Johnson the honorary doctor of laws degree in 1965, said he did not always agree with Johnson's political philosophy, but did not know of anyone who tried harder to understand the needs of people and to help them. (Prepared by Jim Newton)

Vietnam Peace Affords
Opportunity, Uncertainty

RICHMOND (BP)--The transitional period between war and peacetime in Vietnam may present new opportunities for evangelistic work and good prospects for its success in that country, according to R. Keith Parks, SBC Foreign Mission Board Secretary for Southeast Asia.

Parks said in an interview here that these opportunities could be likened to the post World War II era in Japan. At that time, he said, General Douglas MacArthur called on Christians of this country to send at least 1,000 missionaries to Japan. The Japanese people were recognizing that the emperor was not God, and therefore would have been receptive to the Christian gospel. The call was not met and that receptiveness has never been as great, Parks said.

Because this transitional period has been so important in many countries, Parks added, "we feel an urgency to get as many missionaries as possible into Vietnam during this time."

The missionaries in Vietnam have continually requested additional personnel, Parks noted, and the need is doubly imperative now.

The projected withdrawal of all Americans engaged in combat in South Vietnam in no way means there will be a pull-out of Southern Baptist missionaries, Parks emphasized.

He added that he feels a cautious optimism about the future of the missionaries in Vietnam, but that all signs give hope for "a reasonable time of stability without any major hostilities.

"The missionaries have never lived with anything but war and they know how to cope with that," he added, "but there is an uneasiness about the uncertainties which lie ahead." These call for "more prayerful support by the people at home."

Parks added that the missionaries probably will not feel the strong anti-American sentiment which will likely occur during the transitional period. Once the missionary is established and identified in a community, he explained, the impact of these sentiments is lessened.

Parks also noted that missionaries in Vietnam have long had their own program of Vietnamization. Missionaries do not pastor churches, Vietnamese do, he explained.

It is for this reason that the missionaries have sought an identity independent of the war efforts of the U.S. military. In 1971, the organization of missionaries was recognized as a social welfare organization by the Vietnamese government.

Currently there are 40 missionaries under assignment to Vietnam. Six are on furlough, two in missionary orientation and 32 on the field.

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Garrison Named Pastor
Of Oklahoma City Church

1/26/73

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--C. Eugene Garrison, pastor of the First Baptist Church of El Paso, Tex., has been named pastor of the First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City succeeding Herschel H. Hobbs who is retiring.

Garrison, 41, will assume the pastorate on March 4, after serving for five years as pastor of the El Paso church.

Previously, he had been pastor of churches in Altus and Hobart, Okla., and Phillips and Grapevine, Tex. He is a graduate of West Texas State University, Canyon, Tex., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

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Texas Baptists Rejoice
Over Peace Settlement

DALLAS (BP)--Texas Baptist leaders meeting here, passed a resolution praising Presidents Nixon and Johnson for their parts in ending the war in Vietnam and pledged to work and pray for "the continuation of peace..."

"We applaud the successful efforts of President Richard Nixon, Dr. Henry Kissinger and other statesmen to end the war and halt the loss of life and resources," the Texas Baptist leaders said.

In the statement adopted by the State Missions Commission of the 1.9 million-member Baptist General Convention of Texas, the late President Johnson was described as "a great statesman who worked for peace" but "barely missed seeing the goal he had sought."

The statement was signed by Landrum Leavell, Texas Baptist president and pastor of First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls; Travis Berry, chairman of the convention's Executive Board and pastor of First Baptist Church, Plano; and by Gene Garrison, chairman of the 15-member State Missions Commission and pastor of First Baptist Church, El Paso.

In other actions, the commission elected James Louis Harrell of Mississippi as associate secretary of the convention's church stewardship department.

Harrell will serve under church stewardship department secretary Doug Brown in developing materials for church finance and stewardship; planning and conducting associational conferences in church finance and stewardship development; counseling with pastors and other church leaders, and helping develop unified programs for the promotion of total stewardship.

The 47-year-old former pastor has served in the Mississippi Baptist state stewardship department since 1968. Previously, he served in the Mississippi Training Union department and was superintendent of associational missions.

He is a graduate of Mississippi Baptist College and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

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CORRECTION

On BP story headlined "Baptist Leaders Rejoice At Peace, Mourn Johnson," mailed 1/25/73, please change last line of graph 11 to read, "together with our co-laborers..." (not collaborators). Thanks.

--Baptist Press