

AUGUST 31, 1951

127 Ninth Avenue, North

Nashville, Tennessee

DR. ANDREW POTTER, OKLAHOMA
STATE SECRETARY, IS DEAD

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. --(BP)-- Dr. Andrew Potter, Oklahoma Baptist state secretary, died late Wednesday, August 29, just two days before the completion of his eighteenth year as head of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

He had been seriously ill following surgery in mid-summer, but had been making satisfactory progress toward recovery. Death came from a heart attack while he was taking his first steps following the long stay in bed.

He is survived by Mrs. Potter and a son, Billy Andrew, an Oklahoma City attorney.

Dr. Potter came to Collinsville, Oklahoma, in 1913 from Paris, Tennessee, where he had served as pastor of rural churches and associational missionary. He remained at Collinsville until 1916 when he accepted the pastorate of Waurika. A year later he went to the First Baptist Church of Enid, Oklahoma, serving there until August 31, 1933, when he accepted the secretaryship.

His leadership in Oklahoma saw expansion of Baptist membership from 176,498 in 1933 to 340,660 in 1950, a 100 per cent gain. In this period, denominational mission receipts, including all gifts to missions by the churches, rose from \$147,079 in 1933 to a 1950 figure of \$1,574,126. He also led Oklahoma to be one of the leading states in giving to the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention, with gifts totaling \$321,299.87 for 1950 as compared to \$17,923.35 in the year he became secretary.

Under his leadership this year Oklahoma Baptists are well on the way toward reaching a million-dollar goal for missions through the Cooperative Program.

Other notable gains in the eighteen years were (1) the development of a group of four Baptist hospitals, two of which have been added in recent years (Dr. Potter's business acumen has long been credited with the saving of two of the hospitals in the early thirties while he was still pastor at Enid); (2) construction of an orphanage, nationally known for its beauty and the efficiency of its management; and (3) the development of a strong state mission organization.

Dr. Potter surrounded himself with capable young men, whom he trusted to do the work of the denomination. He often said that "an executive is a failure who does not bring into his organization men who can do their work better than he could do it." He believed that "men will always do better if you believe in them."

(more)

Dr. Potter was also instrumental in the growth of Oklahoma Baptist University from a small struggling school facing bankruptcy to a modern campus regarded as one of the most up-to-date in the South.

The Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma was organized and developed under his leadership also.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday, September 1, in the First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City with the pastor, Dr. Herschel H. Hobbs, presiding, and Dr. John W. Raley, president of Oklahoma Baptist University, assisting.

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ARIZONA BAPTISTS BUILD NEW CAMPUS IN PHOENIX

PHOENIX, Ariz. --(BP)-- Students at Grand Canyon College, Arizona Baptists' fast-growing college, will meet classes in new buildings on a new campus in Phoenix this fall, according to Dr. Leroy Smith, president of the school. The campus has been located at Prescott since the school opened in September, 1948.

Dr. Smith reports that the building program, being financed partially by a Building Bonds campaign, is progressing toward the completion of buildings sufficient to open school on time.

The new campus includes eight buildings under construction now. These are two dormitories, two classroom buildings, an administration building, a library building, a dining hall and music building.

Applications for the fall session have been received from California, Oregon, New Mexico, Utah, Alabama and Arizona, Dr. Smith says. Others are still being received.

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MICHIGAN CHURCH AFFILIATES WITH MISSOURI BAPTISTS

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. --(BP)-- A Baptist church organized early in the year in Flint, Michigan, is affiliated with the Black River Association of Missouri Baptists. The Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, with 36 charter members, called Rev. C.R. Cole from the Black River Association as pastor after he led their first revival. Since then, Rev. H.L. McClanahan, missionary of the Black River Association has conducted another revival for the church. The Michigan congregation uses Southern Baptist organization and literature. Membership is now past 100.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS BECOMES
INTERMEDIATE PREACHING TEAM

NATCHEZ, Miss. --(BP)-- A Sunday School class of sixteen-year-old boys with one or two prospective preachers in it probably isn't so rare, but Aubrey Brown, First Baptist Church, Natchez, Mississippi, teaches a class full of quite active preachers.

The five boys in Mr. Brown's class have become popular as a preaching team and have traveled as far as seventy-five miles to conduct a service. The novelty of the service is that all five preach the same sermon.

Defying all rules of homiletics, the boys divide a sermon into five parts and each preacher develops a five-minute message on his part.

Teacher Brown is quite proud of his preaching class because the project "affords valuable experience in Christian leadership to the boys themselves," as well as inspiration for their listeners.

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THIEF TAKES RECORDER AND SERMONS
FROM MISSISSIPPI PREACHER'S STUDY

BROOKHAVEN, Miss. --(BP)-- Dr. W. Landon Miller, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Brookhaven, could understand why a thief would steal a wire recorder but taking a large file of completely written-out sermons is almost unbelievable.

But it's not impossible. For those were the only two things taken when someone broke into Dr. Miller's study recently. He has offered a reward for the return of the sermons, an accumulation of ten years of research, study and work, but to no avail as yet.

At the time of the theft, Dr. Miller was preparing to leave for a revival in Paris, Texas. He has recently resigned the Brookhaven pastorate after four years of service to accept a call to the First Baptist Church of Sherman, Texas.

Dr. Miller would like to have his sermons back; in fact, he needs them -- badly.

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