

August 11, 1956

127 Ninth Avenue, North — Nashville, Tennessee

ADAMS AND DENNY
VISIT SPAIN

MADRID, Spain--(BP)--Now on a six-week, around-the-world official visit with Baptists in other lands, Theodore F. Adams, president of the Baptist World Alliance, and Robert S. Denny, associate secretary for youth for the Alliance, bring a firsthand report of their attempt on behalf of religious freedom in Spain.

The Alliance officials were invited to the office of a representative of the Spanish Government, where several issues of vital importance to Baptists in Spain were discussed. Adams and Denny took the opportunity to express their concern over the closing of the Protestant Seminary located in that country, and to request that Baptist churches in Spain be reopened. They requested adoption of a uniform policy regarding marriages and funerals of Baptists in Spain. Finally came their request that there be someone in the Spanish government to whom Baptists could turn in difficulty to avoid delay. The fact that Mr. Barrandica, the representative with whom they talked, offered his services in this area is encouraging.

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NEW QUARTERLIES ISSUED
BY SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Beginning in October the Sunday School Board will issue four new Sunday school publications. All of these are in line with the plan of making special provision in the Sunday school for Young People and Adults according to a closer grading program than formerly.

The Adult Teacher and The Young People's Teacher will replace The Teacher. Sunday School Young Adults is intended for use by persons between the ages of twenty-five and thirty-five or forty. Sunday School Married Young People is designed to meet the special needs of young husbands and wives below the age of twenty-five. All publications for Young People and Adults will continue to use the Uniform Lessons.

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BAPTIST FEATURES

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MY RENDEZVOUS WITH DEATH

By B. H. Duncan

The doctor, having completed his tests, came into my hospital room and somewhat hesitatingly began: "I think you would want me to be perfectly frank with you."

The series of examinations over a three weeks period had indicated his concern about my condition. The words that followed were the pronouncement that I had an early rendezvous with death -- a victim of the dreaded leukemia. All cases of leukemia that had come directly under my observation had succumbed to the disease within a few weeks. Suddenly I was brought face to face with the possibility that I had but a few weeks to live.

It was October 7, 1955, that I discovered a lump in my left side. I made an appointment to see my doctor on October 11 for an examination. The lump which I had discovered proved to be the enlargement of my spleen. The doctor ordered a series of tests during the following few weeks, finally committing me to the hospital for an analysis of bone marrow. This was the conclusive test and the doctor made his fateful announcement -- leukemia.

For the next few days I was trying to adjust my thinking and my attitudes and my life to the prospect of an early death. There occurred an emergency which seemed to bring death even nearer than I had anticipated. Early on the morning of November 7, I was seized with a terrific pain in the area of the left kidney. The doctor was immediately called. He rushed to my home and gave me a shot immediately. In reply to a question from my wife, the doctor said it was probably an internal hemorrhage. An ambulance was called and I was rushed to the hospital. The X-ray revealed that the enlarged spleen was pressing against the kidney which caused the suffering. Several doctors were called into consultation to decide what should be done about the enlarged spleen. There was danger that the kidney might be injured and serious complications might arise. The first decision of the doctors was in favor of surgery to remove the spleen. I was scheduled for surgery on the morning of November 10, but because of the low platelet count in my blood there was danger that the bleeding could not be controlled. A second conference of the doctors on the night of November 9 resulted in the decision

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in favor of X-ray therapy to shrink the spleen.

The X-ray treatments were continued at intervals over a period of approximately two months. These treatments were effective in reducing the spleen sufficiently to relieve the discomfort, but they posed a different problem. The X-ray treatments lowered the white corpuscles to the point that there was danger of infection. This called for a round of antibiotics and the threat of a blood transfusion.

Death isn't a stranger to me, a Baptist minister for 46 years. I have prayed with scores of people in their last hours. I have turned from the deathbed to comfort hundreds of others in their hours of sorrow. Standing beside the casket, I have pointed thousands to the Christ I served as the one great comforter in all hours of grief.

I was in the eye of a hurricane of emotional and mental disturbance, yet my situation required calm and deliberate thinking and wise planning during the time that was left to me.

Death isn't a pleasant assignment. It is doubly difficult when it may mean leaving a sick wife, who had recently been a hospital patient herself. Besides her physical disability, there was a mortgage on the home and one of my annuities would not mature for five months. My deep concern was that she might be adequately provided for in the event that she was left a widow. But the prospect at that time was everything but encouraging.

Also, the question was hurled at me: Will my life in these few weeks be an example of what I have preached? Does death look different, now that it has come so near to me, than it looked when I was counseling with others and praying with them when they faced the grim reaper? Is the counsel I gave to others adequate for myself now that I face the possibility of an early death? Am I willing to rest my case upon the assurances I gave to others through the years? After a thorough heart-searching I found that I could add nothing new for my own counsel.

The same assurance of God's word which had met the needs of others is sufficient for me. The same Christ whom I had held up as Lord and Savior to others in their trials is also my comforter and stay. I can say with the apostle Paul, (II Timothy 1:12) "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

It has been a wonderful experience through which I have gone during the last few months, an experience that tested the anchorage of my life, an an-

chorage that held firm and steady. This experience has enriched my life by a conscious nearness of my Lord and the sufficiency of His redeeming grace.

Early in this experience I was reminded of Hebrews 4:15: "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities." To be touched with feeling means to be moved with sympathetic understanding and helpfulness toward the person whose infirmities have aroused one's compassion. It is significant that it is not said that our high priest is touched or moved by our intelligence, our learning, our position, our wealth, or the society with which we associate. On the contrary, it is our infirmities that move our Lord to act on our behalf. It is my ignorance that moves His wisdom in my behalf; it is my weakness that moves His strength and enabling power toward me; it is my helplessness that moves His helpfulness in my extremities; it is my lack that moves His abundance to relieve my poverty of life and spirit; it is my unloveliness that moves His love toward me; it is my sins, my faults, and my failures that move His forgiving grace and His imputed righteousness.

So it is by the grace of God that a degree of strength has been afforded me during the past several months to carry on my work and maintain the standard of the Arkansas Baptist. The promise of Hebrews 4:15 has not failed us during these experiences. Its trustworthiness has been demonstrated in the crises of the past few months.

The deadly killer is still in my blood stream. It is operating quietly at the moment, but it may start its rampage at any hour. Death may then be only a matter of weeks. In the meantime, I am under no illusions concerning the disease, neither am I despondent and morose. I expect to live a full life while life lasts, be it long or short.

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.....The opening of the fall term of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, originally scheduled for September 10, has been postponed until Monday, September 24.

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.....Dr. J. Ralph Noonkester, Dean of Instruction, William Carey College, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, has been elected president of the college.

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....."The Place of Religious Education" will be the theme for the thirty-sixth annual meeting of the Southwestern Baptist Religious Education Association which will be held at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, August 28-30.

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.....Delegates from seven countries in Africa met at Camp Young, Ede, Nigeria, on July 9-12 for the inaugural meeting of the African Baptist Women's Union, Women's Division of the Baptist World Alliance.

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.....William C. Bolton, former radio, television and newspaperman, has assumed his duties as director of public relations at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

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.....Dr. John A. Freeman has been appointed professor in the psychology department of Wayland College, Plainview, Texas, to begin a series of psychological research projects in extra-sensory perception.

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.....Many Baptists will send their Jewish friends New Year's cards on September 6, 1956 -- or 5717 on the Jewish calendar, according to William Mitchell, superintendent of Jewish work for the Home Mission Board.

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.....Eugene Sloan, area missionary in Southern California, has accepted a call to the Calvary Baptist Church, San Diego, California.

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.....Martin V. McKinster has been appointed Dean at Baptist Bible Institute, Graceville, Florida, according to an announcement by President A. H. Stainback.

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.....Final enrollment figures show that 325 ministers attended the nine schools for working pastors which were conducted by Furman University during June and July at strategic points throughout South Carolina.

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.....Fourteen Baptist representatives meeting in Dallas have formed a new organization which will be known as the Texas Chapter of the Southern Baptist Public Relations Association.

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.....The first Church Public Relations Workshop was held recently at Glorieta Baptist Assembly, New Mexico, led by H. E. Ingraham. The workshop included studies, experiences, answers to questions concerning church public relations, panels, demonstrations, and exhibits. A similar workshop will be held at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly, North Carolina, August 23-29.

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