

THEO SOMMERKAMP, editorial assistant

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B. H. Duncan Succumbs  
To Leukemia March 19

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.--(BP)--B. H. Duncan, retired editor of the Arkansas Baptist whose struggle with leukemia had been an inspiration to many, died Mar. 19 in Baptist Hospital here.

Hospitalized since December, Duncan recognized his wife and friends almost to the last, but was unable to speak to them during his last hours.

Dale Cowling, pastor of Second Baptist Church here, officiated at funeral services Mar. 20. Duncan had been a member of Second Baptist Church during his years as editor of the weekly state Baptist newspaper.

He was buried in Marion, a small community in western Kentucky where he was born Nov. 19, 1889, and in which he served as pastor of First Baptist Church from 1922-24.

He is survived by his widow, the former Helen Brown, of Louisville, Ky. They were married in 1920.

Duncan, who had been editor of the Arkansas Baptist since 1947, retired effective Jan. 1. Erwin L. McDonald, of Louisville, Ky., succeeded Duncan as editor on Mar. 1.

The same Christian philosophy of death that the editor-preacher had given to many others during his lifetime guided him during the months after he learned from the doctor "there is a killer in my blood."

Doctors and nurses at the hospital told Duncan's friends and associates who visited the hospital how much they marvelled at "his wonderful spirit."

After learning of his leukemia, Duncan last year wrote an article entitled "My Rendezvous with Death." It appeared in newspapers and magazines across the nation.

In it, among other things, Duncan declared: "Death isn't a stranger to me, a Baptist minister for 46 years. . . Standing beside the casket, I have pointed thousands to the Christ I served as the one great comforter in all hours of grief. . . .

"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? . . . After a thorough heart-searching I found that I could add nothing new for my counsel. The same assurance of God's Word which had met the needs of others is sufficient for me."

Duncan's pastorates included First Baptist Church, Timmonsville, S. C.; First Baptist Church, Blackville, S. C.; First Baptist Church, Elco, S. C.; First Baptist Church, Ashburn, Ga., and First Baptist Church, Hot Springs, Ark.