



- - BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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April 19, 1988

88-64

May 20: Day To Pray, Fast
For World Evangelization

By Art Toalston

N-FMB

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Accept Responsibility,
Parks Tells Seminarians

By Breena Kent Paine

Baptist Press
4/19/88

A-10
(100/375)

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Missionaries must "depend on spiritual resources rather than material resources to do the work of the Lord, ... and on the movement of the Spirit of God through biblical teaching," Parks said.

Once basic essentials have been shared with nationals, missionaries "get out of the way" and let them express worship in their own way, he said, adding: "As that is done, then they feel Christianity is natural for them, and not a Western religion."

"Every trained Christian leader is responsible for sharing the gospel with everyone in the world in his or her generation. I think there's a misconception that if I'm not called to be a missionary, I don't have the responsibility to share with the rest of the world."

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(BP) photo available upon request from New Orleans Seminary

Hardin-Simmons' Richardson,
Noted Historian, Dies At 96

By Charles Richardson

N-10

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Associated with HSU as either a student or faculty member or administrator since 1907, Richardson built interlocking careers as a teacher, researcher, author, university administrator, churchman and civic servant. He received numerous awards for outstanding service in each field.

Funeral services were April 16, at First Baptist Church of Abilene.

HSU President Jesse C. Fletcher, said of Richardson: "No other person has been so uniquely identified with Hardin-Simmons University throughout its history than Rupert Richardson. In the classroom, in student life, and in its administration, he set a lofty example for all to see and follow.

"He is recognized as one of Texas' premier historians. Most of the presidents who served the university have benefited from his guidance and support, and for the last 11 years he has been an unflinching source of counsel and encouragement to me.

"As an educator, as a churchman, as a husband, father, and friend, his life exemplified the Christ to whom he committed himself."

He was named a dean of HSU in 1926, vice president in 1928, executive vice president in 1938, and acting president in 1943. He was named president in 1945, a post he held until resigning in 1953 to return to teaching, researching and writing. He then was named president emeritus.

He was a member of First Baptist Church of Abilene, where he was named a lifetime deacon. He was named an Elder Statesman by Texas Baptists in 1962.

He was married to Pauline Mays. She died in 1965. A son, Rupert N. Richardson Jr., survives him.

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N-FMB

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N-10
(NOBTS)

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As "that treasure in the earthen vessel is creating unto the very likeness of Jesus Christ that old clay pot," a new person emerges, a person who puts into practice flesh-and-bones witnessing and becomes the agent of God, Johnston said: "For you see, there is that mystery of this paradox of God calling us to be God, which seemingly is impossible. But at that moment of sharing the witness, we can become the very incarnation of God's love through the incarnation of his Spirit.

"Our clay hides the treasure, but as we let that treasure, then, no longer be possessed by us, but we let him possess us, then that radiance of God comes through."

Johnston asked seminarians to look back on the time when they came to know Christ, when they saw "the messenger of God who became for that moment for you the very word of God, the touch of God, the acceptance of God, the cool glass of water from the hand of God."

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A healthy Christian is one who allows the Spirit of Christ to live through him and who knows God "by experiencing him until we embody him, until we can express him. And the treasure gains the glory while the clay gains the gladness," said Johnston.

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