

BAKER, BISHOP JAMES C.



BISHOP BAKER DIES

Retired Bishop James Chamberlain Baker, 90, one of United Methodism's best-known elder statesmen and founder of the Wesley Foundation movement on college campuses throughout the nation, died Friday, September 26, at a hospital in Pomona, California.

He was elected to the episcopacy in 1928 and retired as resident bishop of the Los Angeles Area in 1952.

Bishop Baker's ministry in The Methodist Church spanned all of this century. He was born in Sheldon, Illinois, June 2, 1879, and graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University in 1893. He entered the ministry in 1900

WORLD OUTLOOK

11/69

nation for the organizing of the black community in America."

Should NCBC goals be found in harmony with the scope of the Episcopal Special Program, the determination of whether BEDC receives all or part of the \$200,000 would presumably rest with the black churchmen's group. (RNS)

METHODIST MINISTER, WIFE ARE SLAIN IN CHICAGO

The Rev. Bruce Johnson, 30, and his wife Eugenia, 30, were found slain in their North Side apartment in Chicago on September 29. The three children of the United Methodist clergyman were not harmed.

Mr. Johnson, who was pastor of the Armitage Avenue United Methodist Church, was found in a living room chair by one of his four-year-old twin boys. He had been stabbed repeatedly. Mrs. Johnson, found in the bedroom, also had been stabbed to death.

Police had no clues about the killer or possible motives. It was estimated that the couple had been dead ten or twelve hours before they were found. Mr. Johnson's wallet was empty and his wife's purse had been rifled.

Mr. Johnson was chairman of the Renewal Caucus, a group of younger United Methodist ministers concerned about urban affairs in the Chicago area. He had been working closely for some months with the Young Lords, a gang composed largely of youths of Puerto Rican background. Plans were underway for a gang-operated day

NOVEMBER 1969

Speaker



BISHOP JAMES C. BAKER

Department of the national YMCA. He was elected bishop in 1928 and given jurisdiction over Methodist work in Japan and Korea where he remained for four years. In 1932 he was assigned to the San Francisco area with supervision over Methodist missions in Japan, Korea and Hawaii.

Bishop Baker was a delegate to the Oxford Conference in 1937, and to the Madras Conference in 1938.

Bishop Baker attended the United Nations Conference on International Organizations in San Francisco as one of the three consultants chosen by the Federal Council of Churches. As a representative of the Protestant church at UNCIO, Bishop Baker's chief responsibility was to act as the official representative of the missionary forces of America and of some 28 national councils making up the International Missionary Council.

Bishop Baker was one of a deputation of four sent by the Protestant church of America to Japan in the fall of 1945, in response to a request from the Christian leaders of Japan for representatives of the Christian church in America to come to Japan on a goodwill tour to help them in re-establishing the work of the Christian church there.

Bishop Baker was chairman of the International Council from 1942 to 1948, having succeeded Dr. John R. Mott in that position. He spent the month of July, 1947, in Whitby, Canada, at the International Missionary Council, it being the third world conference to be held since the Edinburgh Conference in 1910.

Bishop Baker is president of the council of bishops, having been elected to that office at the meeting of the council in Atlantic City in April, 1948.

Bishop Baker was a delegate to the World Council of Churches meeting in Amsterdam, Holland, August, 1948; and is a member of the ad-interim committee of that council.

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OBITUARY

MRS. ROBERT L. BOBRICK Dies in California

Mrs. Lois Baker Bobrick of 15 Parcot Avenue, descendant of a French Huguenot family, died last Wednesday at a Pasadena, Calif., hospital after a long illness, according to word received here today. She was forty-six.

Wife of Robert L. Bobrick, a New York City attorney, she had been resting at the San Marino, Calif., home of her father since February in an attempt to regain her health.

Mrs. Bobrick was born Oct. 8, 1908, in Urbana, Ill., daughter of retired Methodist Bishop James C. and Lena Benson Baker. Bishop Baker, founder of the Wesley Foundation in the United States and former head of his church for the San Francisco area—including Japan and Korea—is former world chairman of the International Missionaries Council and past president of the Council of Methodist Bishops.

A University of Illinois graduate, Mrs. Bobrick came to New York and worked for the American Scholar Magazine of Phi Beta Kappa Fraternity, and was a reporter for the old Brooklyn Eagle and the old New York

Morning World until its sale by the Pulitzer family.

She was assistant to the president of the Union Theological Seminary, Henry P. Van Dusen, at the time of her marriage to Mr. Bobrick in 1941. They moved to New Rochelle in 1947.

Mrs. Bobrick attended St. John's Methodist Church here, was a member of its Naomi Circle and superintendent of the primary department of its Sunday School.

She was a descendant of Isiah Valleau, a Huguenot who left France for New Rochelle in 1685 and built and lived for many years in the old Drake Homestead on what is now Drake Avenue.

In addition to her husband and parents, Mrs. Bobrick is survived by three sons, James, Peter and Barry of the home address.

Funeral services were held last Friday at the home of her father. She was buried in Mountain View Cemetery, Pasadena.

and was ordained in the Illinois Annual Conference of The Methodist Episcopal Church. At that time he was on the faculty of Missouri Wesleyan College in Cameron, Missouri.

In 1902 Bishop Baker entered the Boston University School of Theology and accepted a student pastorate in Asheland, Mass. He received the degree of Bachelor of Sacred Theology in 1905 and returned to his native Illinois to become pastor of a church in McLean.

In 1907 he accepted an appointment to Trinity Church in Urbana, Illinois, which was located adjacent to the campus of the University of Illinois, then a school of less than 5,000 enrollment. Bishop Baker and his wife created a church that ministered in a unique and innovative way to that campus community, and the style of campus ministry that he carried out during his twenty-one years at Trinity Church became the model for hundreds of student ministries of all faiths at tax-supported institutions of higher learning throughout the world. Bishop Baker was known for the remainder of his life as the "Father of the Wesley Foundation," an honorary title that he valued as highly as he did the title of Bishop. When asked on his eightieth birthday what he prized most, he replied without hesitation, "The affection and confidence of so many young people."

Bishop Baker accepted the call to the Methodist episcopacy at the General Conference in Kansas City in 1928. He was assigned to the Seoul Area, with responsibility for Methodist work in Korea, Japan and Manchuria.

In 1932 he returned to the United States and was assigned to the San Francisco Area, which then included work in Hawaii, Japan and Korea as well as California. In 1939 he became the new episcopal head of the California Area of the newly united Methodist Church, and he moved to Los Angeles shortly thereafter. In 1948, when the California Area was divided into two episcopal areas, Bishop Baker was assigned to the Los Angeles Area. He retired in 1952, to be succeeded by Bishop Gerald Kennedy.

After his retirement Bishop Baker remained active in many church affairs. He taught at the graduate School of Theology of the University of Southern California for several terms, and he showed his lifelong concern for students by donating to the school, after it moved to Claremont, California, most of his personal theological library. He attended sessions of the Southern California-Arizona Annual Conference and the General Conferences of the church until very recently, and he carried on a heavy speaking schedule until well past his eightieth birthday.

BY
FRANK B. COW

O brothers brave,
O patriots of eve
Let us the way of
And be one broth
Through love and
From strife and
And league the m
Beneath the snow

Let us attain thro
The bliss foretold
The prophet's drea
And usher in the
Then earth shall t
Where plague and
And Peace shall j
And ruthless war

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O let us do with
To make the world
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And knowledge ev
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ATHEISTIC BROADCASTS

In the Los Angeles Times
September 1 we read that the Federal Communications Commission has announced a decision which, is contended, will compel stations broadcasting religious views broadcast also anti-religious views when these are offered. Congressional committee is looking into this matter. It sees that some time ago, in what called "the Scott case," three California stations denied an atheist the opportunity of presenting views on the air. We are told that a theologian and some lawyers are accusing the FCC "of seeking to coerce radio stations to air religious broadcasts." We do not know what conditions are imposed by federal or state legislation upon the business of broadcasting. I feel that those who can go along with the theologians and the churches should be allowed to express their anti-religious views. Freedom of thought and speech are fundamental in democracy. To deny atheists equal opportunity in the field of propaganda would imply fear on our part that the cause of religion could not defend itself at the bar of reason. Religion must vindicate itself by facts and logic in the field of argument and by behavior in the field of morality.

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DON'T MISS THE CARNIVAL
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Appreciation To Liquor

... riously along the Gaza front today. Israel announced two of her jets downed two Egyptian fighters a few hours after she disclosed her ground forces blew up an Egyptian military headquarters inside the battle-scarred coastal area.

An Israeli Army spokesman said the Egyptian Vampire jets were patrolling over Israeli territory when the Israeli pilots engaged them. He said one Egyptian plane blew up in the air and the other crashed.

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SEVEN CENTS



RNS PHOTO

le up of a majority of Protestant denominations at Abidjan, the Ivory Coast. During the assembly, K. Amissah of Cape Coast, Ghana (upper left) and member Churches of AACC in Ghana (lower right) Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, General Secretary, was greeted by Samuel Amissah (upper left) leaders of the assembly answer the prayer, organizing secretary for the assembly, Samuel Amissah, who welcomed participants, Samuel Amissah (lower right) some 550 participants gather for

in East Germany, a spokesman for the Communist regime declared.

Speaking in Wittemberg, Gerald Goetting, chairman of the puppet Christian Democratic Union of East Germany, said the Churches had been freed from "massive political and ideological pressure" by their formal separation from EKID (the Evangelical Church in Germany), which had formerly linked Evangelicals in both halves of the Divided country.

The split of the new Federation from EKID came as a result of years of campaigning by the East German government which repeatedly denounced EKID as a "tool of imperialism." Establishment of an independent East German Church organization is part of the government's effort to present East Germany as a permanently independent country, not as the result of a temporary division resulting from World War II.

Pressure is now mounting against the Roman Catholic hierarchy of East Germany

(Released for Publication)

THE INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY COUNCIL'S CHAIRMAN

In accordance with a decision announced at Madras, when accepting re-election, Dr. John R. Mott is now retiring from the Chairmanship of the International Missionary Council. At Madras he placed severe limitations upon his acceptance, agreeing to serve for only three years longer. He now insists on adhering to the program then announced.

Happily, however, we are able to report that Dr. Mott is not wholly severing his connection with the International Missionary Council. Through letters from twenty-seven countries the Committee of the Council has unanimously and emphatically requested him to serve as Honorary Chairman. Dr. Mott has consented to do so. Consequently his world-wide influence, his prestige, his wise counsel, his invaluable service, will still be available.

The International Missionary Council is "the lengthened shadow" of Dr. Mott. We shall never be able to think of it apart from him. Since the setting up at Edinburgh in 1910 of the Continuation Committee Dr. Mott has given himself with complete and sacrificial abandon to the fashioning of what is now the International Missionary Council - an organization having constituent units in 31 countries. By repeated round-the-world journeys which have taken him on errands of service to 80 or more countries and to most of them again and again and by conducting conferences beyond number Dr. Mott has won the respect, confidence, and cooperation of influential leaders in every land whither the Christian enterprise has gone. National Christian Councils have grown under his wise stimulus and direction. With his associates he has developed multiplied programs of cooperation and collaboration. A new understanding and appreciation of the ecumenical Church has resulted. Best of all, living networks of Christian fellowship and trust have been woven which abide even in these bitter days of war, and bring comfort, hope, and steadfast purpose to multitudes of broken hearts.

The influence of the International Missionary Council under Dr. Mott's leadership has gone far beyond its own organization. It has stimulated many new adventures in Christian cooperation. Its officers have had a part in developing world conferences and in organizing the World Council of Churches. In fact the very form of organization of this epochal Christian body is being patterned on their experience.

While Dr. Mott has been one of the great organizing minds of the Christian Church, we miss the way if we think of him only as an organizer. He has been a passionate and effective evangelist and from the beginning of his career until now has emphasized Evangelism as the primary and central task of the Church. As a practicing evangelist he has witnessed with intelligent skill and power especially in the colleges and universities of the world. To this day, as at the Amsterdam World Youth Conference, Dr. Mott has a vital and challenging message to youth and they hear him gladly. He knows that the life of Christ in the spirit of man precedes Christian organization and that the continuous renewal of that life is the very condition of its effectiveness and use.

Dr. Mott is "for the morning." This is the glorious fact. In all his amazing years of service he has never sounded a note of discouragement or retreat. He has always thought carefully and in larger dimensions. He has

looked forward, he has had inextinguishable faith in the future of the Christian cause; he has been in the vanguard leading forward. His hopes are even as bright as the promises of God.

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The Committee of the Council has authorized Dr. Mott to designate one of the Vice-Chairmen to serve as Chairman of the International Missionary Council until the Council or its Committee can take action to elect a Chairman. Accordingly the Reverend Bishop James C. Baker has been so designated, and he has consented to accept this office. This action became effective on January 15, 1942.

In making this appointment Dr Mott has said:

"Bishop Baker served for over twenty years as a University Pastor at the University of Illinois, and during that period, more than any other person, he developed what is known as the Wesley Foundation, an organization of Christian ministry to students and faculties at state and tax-supported educational institutions. These Foundations have become influential factors in the religious life of the universities and colleges in America. Bishop Baker has also been officially related to the wider Student Christian Movement in America.

"In the midst of these activities among students, he was elected a Bishop of the Methodist Church. For several years he was resident Bishop in Japan and Korea, and for a time filled the gap occasioned by the illness of one of the Bishops in China. In recent years he has served on the Pacific Coast of the United States, and, in addition, has had episcopal supervision over the Methodist Missions in Japan, Korea, and Hawaii, making visits to these lands each year. His official responsibilities have also included journeys to the Philippine Islands, the Netherlands Indies, Thailand, and Malaya. These visits have kept him in intimate touch with the Orient. Within the last few critical months he served as a member of an important Commission to Japan, and still later participated in the consultation between Church leaders of Japan and America.

"Bishop Baker has also been deeply interested in the more recent developments of the ecumenical movement, having been a delegate not only to the Oxford Conference, but also to the creative gathering at Westfield College, London, which determined so largely the program and action of the Oxford and Edinburgh Conferences. It is likewise fortunate that he was a delegate to Madras, where he had opportunity to establish most helpful contacts with present-day leaders of the missionary forces throughout the world.

"The International Missionary Council therefore welcomes the appointment of Bishop Baker as its Chairman, because of his Christian character, his thorough-going thoughtfulness, his truly Catholic-mindedness, his appreciation of the ecumenical trends of the day, and, what is of special importance, because of his wide contacts with youth and responsiveness to their visions and plans for the coming day."

As Chairman of the International Missionary Council, Bishop Baker's address will be at the American office of the Council, Room 1124, at 156 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York.

A. L. Arnshuis

January 15, 1942

J. C. Baker

193.

BISHOP JAMES C. BAKER

Bishop James C. Baker was born in Sheldon, Ill., June 2, 1879, and is a graduate of both Illinois Wesleyan and Boston Universities. He joined the Illinois Conference and was from 1905-1907 pastor at McLean, Ill. In 1907 he was appointed to Trinity Church, Urbana, Ill., at that time a small church on the edge of the campus of the University of Illinois. Bishop Baker organized the first Wesley Foundation in the country for the purpose of better serving the students of this rapidly expanding state university. For twenty-one years he was pastor of this Church and director of the Wesley Foundation.

Bishop Baker has been active in the student life of the nation during his entire ministerial career. He was for many years chairman of the Lake Geneva Student Conference and is a member of the National Student Division of the Y. M. C. A. His Conference honored him with election to the General Conferences of 1916, 1920, 1924 and 1928. In 1924 he was chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Missions. The Church has entrusted him with important commissions for the Board of Home Missions and Church Extension and for the Board of Education. He has been a member of the Board of Education since 1920 and served one term on the Board of Foreign Missions previous to that time.

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Photographs from this
file have not been
included but are
available upon request.
For more information
please contact
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