

GARBER, BISHOP PAUL NEFF

Christian Advocate
Jan. 4, 1973.

Bishop Garber Dies; Headed Three Areas

Bishop Paul Neff Garber, who headed three areas during a 24-year episcopacy, died December 18 in Geneva, Switzerland following a brief illness. He was 73 years old.

Bishop Garber had lived in Geneva in retirement since 1968. Early in his retirement he had served as interim secretary of the World Methodist Council's newly authorized Geneva office. The



Geneva Area, including nine European countries and north Africa, was Bishop Garber's first assignment following his election to the episcopacy in 1944 in The Methodist Church.

From 1952 to 1964 he headed the Richmond, Va., area, and in his final active quadrennium, 1964-68, he headed the Raleigh, N.C., area.

A doctor of philosophy graduate from the University of Pennsylvania, Bishop Garber was dean of the Duke University Divinity School at the time of his election.

In 1963-64 he was president of the Council of Bishops. He authored some dozen books, including a study of the historical and legal aspects of the 1939 merger which created The Methodist Church. One of his books, *The Methodists Are One People*, was credited as creating the good relations which followed the merger.

Bishop Garber was not averse to conflict, though. In 1956 he issued a statement opposing Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam's reported attack on the jurisdictional system. He asserted that Bishop Oxnam "does not represent the view of all his episcopal colleagues and many Methodist preachers and laymen and certainly does not represent my views. . . . To me the jurisdictional system is a vital part of the church . . . and I plan to do all in my power to retain and to strengthen it."

Bishop Garber was born in 1899 in New Market, Va. His first wife died in 1927. His second wife survives.

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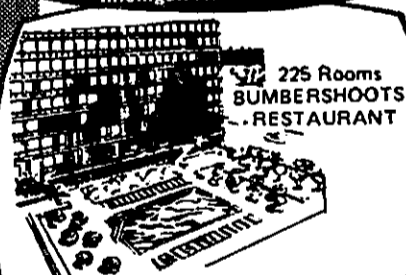


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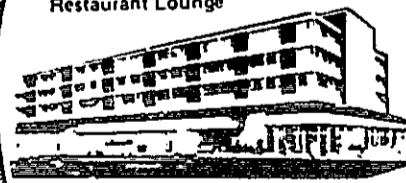
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New York Times, Dec. 21 1972

**PAUL N. GARBER DIES;
METHODIST BISHOP**

Paul Neff Garber, a retired bishop of the United Methodist Church, who had been living in Geneva since 1969, died Monday in a hospital there. His age was 73.

Bishop Garber presided over the Virginia and North Carolina Conference of the United Church from 1951 to 1964. When the area was divided in 1964, he served four years as bishop of the North Carolina Methodist Conference.

Before his ordination, he was professor, registrar and dean of Duke University Divinity School, Durham, N. C.

His first assignment as a bishop was in Geneva, where he served from 1944 to 1951. That year, he was recalled to the United States. He retired in 1968.

He graduated from Bridgewater (Va.) College in 1919 with a B.A. degree and earned a master's and doctorate at the University of Pennsylvania in 1921 and 1923, respectively.

Bishop Garber leaves his wife, the former Nina Fontana.

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NEW YORK (UMI) -- Bishop Paul Neff Garber, 73, a retired bishop of the United Methodist Church living in Geneva, Switzerland, since 1969, died in a Geneva Hospital December 18, according to reports received here.

Bishop Garber had been a Methodist bishop for 24 years in Europe, in Richmond, Va., and in Raleigh, N.C. He retired in 1968. Before becoming a bishop, he was professor, registrar and dean of Duke University Divinity School, Durham, N.C. He was the first person to serve as secretary in the Geneva Office of the World Methodist Council when it opened in 1969.

On election to the episcopacy in 1944 by the Methodist Church's Southeastern Jurisdiction, Bishop Garber was assigned as episcopal leader of the church's Geneva Area, which comprises 10 countries in Europe and North Africa. He served there until 1951 when he was recalled to the U.S. to become bishop of the Richmond Area because of the illness of Bishop W. W. Peele, who died in 1959.

The Richmond Area, both at that time and now, was one of the largest in the denomination. In 1951 it included not only the Virginia Conference but also the North Carolina Conference (the eastern part of the state). Bishop Garber was episcopal leader of the Richmond Area for 13 years. In 1964 a new episcopal area, the Raleigh Area, was created and Bishop Garber was assigned to it, with headquarters in Raleigh, N.C. He served until retirement in 1968.

In early 1969 he returned to Geneva to make his home. The World Methodist Council had decided to open an office in Geneva, which has offices of several

as the Council's Geneva secretary. He filled the office for a year on an acting basis, and was succeeded in January, 1970, by the first full-time secretary, the Rev. Ole Borgen, who was elected bishop of United Methodism's Stockholm (Sweden) Area in 1970.

Bishop Garber's connections with the World Methodist Council were not limited to the Geneva Office. He has been a member of the Council's Executive Committee and its USA Section.

Before his election to the episcopacy, Bishop Garber had a distinguished 18-year career in theological education at Duke University. It was from the deanship of the divinity school that he was elected bishop. He was professor of church history 1926-44, registrar 1928-42 and dean 1941-44.

Bishop Garber was ordained to the ministry in 1926 in the Western North Carolina Conference, following five years of university teaching. He was instructor in history at the University of Pennsylvania 1921-22, at Brown University 1923-24 and assistant professor in history at Duke 1924-26.

Born July 27, 1899, in New Market, Va., Bishop Garber received the B.A. from Bridgewater College in 1919, the M.A. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1921 and the Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1923. He did additional study at Crozer Theological Seminary 1919-21. He held several honorary degrees including doctorates from Duke University, Emory University, Randolph-Macon College, Bridgewater College, Simpson College and Washington and Lee University.

Bishop Garber served widely in the church, including being president of the Council of Bishops 1963-64. He had been president of the Board of Education, chairman of the Commission on Camp Activities, vice-chairman of the Methodist Corporation, and a member of the Board of Publication, the Commission on Promotion and Cultivation, the Commission on Chaplains, the Association of Methodist Historical Societies, the American Historical Association and the American Society of Church History. He had been trustee of several colleges and universities, including American University,

Wesley Theological Seminary, Randolph-Macon College, High Point College and others.

He had lectured at several colleges and universities.

Author of several books, including some of a historical nature, Bishop Garber was doing research for a book on Methodism in Europe.

Bishop Garber married the late Orinda Winifred Kidd of Fall River, Mass., in 1927. She died in 1959. In 1963 he married Nina Fontana of Geneva, who survives. Also surviving is a sister, Mrs. B. W. Hite, Timberville, Va., three nieces and two nephews. A funeral service was scheduled for Friday, December 22, in Geneva.

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(December 20, 1972)