BISHOP GRANT DIES

Bishop A. Raymond Grant, head of The Methodist Church's Portland Area since 1952, died August 15 of cancer. He had been ill for some time and in the hospital since July 24.

Memorial services were held August 18 at both First Methodist Church, Portland, and First Church, Sacramento, California where he was pastor for 15 years. A service was held August 22 at the Methodist Building in Washington, D.C. Bishop Grant had been president of the church's General Board of Christian Social Concerns since 1964. He had been president of the board of trustees of Alaska Methodist University since its inception in 1954.

The bishop, who would have been 70 August 24, was a native of Oshkosh, Wisconsin. He was graduated from Cornell College in 1919 and from Boston University School of Theology in 1926, and held honorary doctorates from these and several other schools. He served pastorates in Nashua and Vinton, Iowa; Minneapolis and Duluth, Minnesota, and Sacramento, prior to his election to the episcopacy in 1952. Surviving are his wife, in Portland, and one daughter, Mrs. Kimball Salmon of Sacramento.

BISHOP GRANT DIES IN PORTLAND AT 69

Bishop A. Raymond Grant died in Portland, Oreg., on August 15 following a long illness. He was 69.

Memorial services were held at First Methodist Church in Portland, in First Church in Sacramento, Calif. (where he served 15 years as pastor), and in Washington, D.C., head of the Portland Area since his election to the episcopacy in 1952. Bishop Grant was president of the Methodist Board of Christian Social Concerns. He has been characterized as a staunch leader who gave "thoroughgoing support to the implementation of the Social Creed." Bishop Grant had been chairman of the board of trustees of Alaska Methodist University since its inception in 1954. He was a member of the Methodist Co-ordinating Council and a delegate to the National Council of Churches General Assembly.

A native of Wisconsin, Bishop Grant is survived by his widow and a daughter, Mrs. Kimball Salmon of Sacramento.

BISHOP A. RAYMOND GRANT DIES AUGUST 15

Bishop A. Raymond Grant, head of The Methodist Church's Portland Area since 1952, died in Portland, Oregon, on August 15 of cancer. He had been ill for some time and in the hospital since July 24.

Memorial services were held August 18 at both First Methodist Church, Portland, and First Church, Sacramento, Calif., where he was pastor for 15 years. Bishop Grant had been president of the church's General Board of Christian Social Concerns since 1964. He had been president of the board of trustees of Alaska Methodist University since its inception in 1954.

He was one of 12 religious leaders who signed a letter to President Johnson at the end of last year, criticizing him for interstate the war in Vietnam.

The bishop, who would have been 70 on August 24, was a native of Oshkosh, Wis. He was graduated from Cornell College in 1919 and from Boston University School of Theology in 1926 and held honorary doctorates from these and several other schools. He served pastorates in Nashua and Vinton.

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college, was held Tuesday, September 19 at 10:00 a.m. in Seabrook Gymnasium. Dr. B. L. Gore, Dean of the College, was the speaker for the convocation.

PASTORS' CONVOCATIONS HELD IN AREA

Three Pastors' Convocations were held within the bounds of the Area during the summer. The South Carolina and Tennessee-Kentucky Conferences held jointly sponsored convocations with the Holston, Memphis, Tennessee and South Carolina Conferences respectively.

The pastors' convocation held at Tennessee-Western College, Athens, Tennessee had an attendance of about 500 ministers from the Holston Conference (SEJ) and the Knoxville District of the Tennessee-Kentucky Conference. The convocation at Wofford College, Spartanburg, South Carolina involved about 500 ministers from the South Carolina Conference (SEJ) and the South Carolina Conference (CJ). At Lambuth College, Jackson, Tennessee there were a little over 500 ministers from the Memphis and Tennessee Conferences (SEJ) and the Nashville Conference.

Television Valuation booklet designed for every Methodist home.

If millions of Methodists register their reactions to TV programming with a flood of postcards in the next month and beyond, it may have as great an impact on television as any single factor since ratings. The great advantage of Television Valuation Month over ratings is that the ratings record only what particular program a given set was tuned to. Through this emphasis we can report who watched a particular program, and how it was received. This kind of mass audience response, if it is articulate and intelligent, can give the television industry a kind of important data it never has had before.

Too often in our mass culture we feel that individuals are powerless to make any difference. This need not be true. Together during the next month we not only can examine ourselves as members of the viewing public but we also have the opportunity to bring to the kind of concerted witness to the television industry that could result in startling improvements.

In the month ahead, television specials will be in short supply as the networks concentrate on launching regular programs of their new season. Since this area of evening television has the most room for improvement, it is appropriate that we major in viewing and responding to these evening series. (Those of you who are announced Dr. Howard M. Ham, general secretary of the division.

The Nashville-based unit will be divided into five work areas, each headed by an executive director.

The five areas and their directors are:

- Experimentation with Educational Innovations—Dr. George E. Koehler; Services of Support and Guidance of Designated Leaders—Dr. Wayne M. Lindecker, Jr.;
- Age-Related Ministries to Persons—Miss Margie McCarty; Resources for Learning and Processes of Educational Communication—Dr. B. F. Jackson, Jr.; and

The four staff members assigned to the general secretary's office are the Rev. Elmer A. Thompson, administrative assistant; Dr. Carl L. Stocking, assistant for budget management and personnel; and the Revs. Robert S. Clemmons and Thomas J. Van Loon, assistants for design and coordination and ecumenical relations, respectively.

'CRISIS IN RELIGION'

Little Consolation in Prayer

Today worship and prayer bring increasingly little consolation, and religion faces a "crisis of the sacred," says Roman Catholic theologian Father Gregory Baum, O.S.A.

Some Protestant theologians interpret this crisis as the "death of God." Father Baum told the Inter-Faith Seminar on Religion and Contemporary Man, held recently in Traverse City, Mich. This does not help those inside and outside the church who are in spiritual distress though, he added.

"They remember when they were consoled by prayer and worship, but today these acts mean less to them, even among those in the Church," and in
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He was one of 12 religious leaders who signed a letter to President Johnson at the end of last year, criticizing him for intensifying the war in Vietnam.

The bishop, who would have been 70 on August 24, was a native of Oshkosh, Wis. He was graduated from Cornell College in 1919 and from Boston University School of Theology in 1924, and held honorary doctorates from these and several other schools. He served pastures in Nashua and Vinton, Iowa, Minneapolis and Duluth, Minn., and Sacramento, prior to his election to the episcopacy in 1952.
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BISHOP A. RAYMOND GRANT
The Portland Area
The Methodist Church

August 15, 1967

President of the General Board of Christian Social Concerns during this quadrennium, he was also a member of the Conference Council and the Commission on Discipleship.

Born in Oskaloosa, Iowa, Bishop Grant graduated from Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Iowa; and Boston University. His academic degrees were earned by Cornell College College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the School of Theology of Boston University.

He was elected a deacon in the Methodist Church in 1929, and a elder in 1935. He served as pastor of churches in Kansas and Ohio.

In 1955, he became a district superintendent in the Central States Conference. In 1962, he was elected a bishop of the church.

OCTOBER, 1967

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 10
Superintendents Pay Tribute to a Leader

Oregon

How many are the ways we shall remember him.

Bishop A. Raymond Grant was a truly great prophetic spirit of our time. In his sensitive concern for a just and fair treatment of the minority groups of the world, and in his great and fervent hope that there be peace between the nations, he was ahead of most of the church.

We cherish the memory of his great courage!

He was fearless in his support of the causes in which he believed. He could not be intimidated. He stood by his ministers who "got in trouble" for their convictions, when he was convinced of their sincerity, even though he may not have always been in agreement with a pastor's particular stand.

His courage was a great comfort to those near to him during his last days. He faced death with dignity, believing in the primacy of the spirit.

Many of us, lay and ministers alike, will remember his human qualities. He possessed a rare, quick, and lively wit, stimulating and often perspective. The tension of long hours of appointment-making and tedious sessions of annual conferences were many times eased by the contagion of a timely remark full of smiles.

Those who were privileged to share the intimacy of his cabinets know best the compassion and care with which he reviewed each appointment. None was made in haste. Each was made only after considering the many factors of the needs and abilities of persons and families and the needs of local churches and the whole church. So often his wisdom transcended the limited awareness of the rest of us.

A timely phone call or a warm personal note of encouragement, in spite of his busy schedule, often unexpectedly, expressed his concern for all of us.

He knew the slings and arrows of the wrath of men aimed at those in high and lonely places. Sensitive to misunderstanding and sometimes his words were misinterpreted or left open to misinterpretation by those who trusted him and on whom he believed, he learned to understand and forgive. He had a special concern for men who needed a second and even third chance, and opened doors to Christian service to many of them.

We will long remember him as a man who loved to preach, and whose preaching had a forceful and prophetic quality.

Most of all, many among us will praise God for what he meant to us as a dear friend, a real person, a good minister of Jesus Christ. God grant to him exploring horizons of life where spirit is eternal. God give the church wisdom to grieve for the world his prophetic concern for the children of men.

We are grateful and richer for having been served by this servant of God.

C. Gene Allabson
Daniel E. Taylor
George Emmons
Ken Simmons

Idaho

A. Raymond Grant made his first visit to Idaho in 1952. He came as guest preacher for the sixty-seventh session of the Idaho Conference which met at Caldwell. His next trip to Idaho was on June 12, 1957, when he presided over the meeting of the Conference Coordinating Council in Boise.

In the intervening years, Bishop A. Raymond Grant has done more to inspire and shape the growth of Methodism in Idaho than any other man. Elected to the office of bishop in 1952, he was assigned to the Portland Area and in cooperation with conference leaders, immediately embarked on the Advance for Christ and His Church. Then in the late 50's, he led the program to provide adequate positions for the ministers of the Idaho Conference.

Bishop Grant combined in himself to a rare degree the great contributions of Methodism to a needed world—the warm heart, the tender conscience, the rational mind. His powerful preaching never failed to stir his hearers to the call of the gospel as it related to the life we live. No one who heard his last messages to the Methodists of the Idaho Conference in January, 1967, when he spoke at Onion, Caldwell, Pocatello, and Twin Falls, could fail to catch the note of urgency and commission which characterized all of his ministry.

Bishop Grant gave himself without reservation in these four sermons to inaugurate the Idaho Conference Major Needs Crusade. We who remain must carry on the work he so nobly began and resolve to bring this crusade to a glorious and triumphant conclusion as a fitting memorial to him. He now rests from his labors, we must finish the task. Yet still, in a very real sense, he labors with us, shoulder to shoulder, spirit with spirit, in all of our efforts to make the gospel relevant to each new day, to meet human need, to bring peace to a troubled world.

Owville A. Coats

Alaska Mission

Our leader, Bishop A. Raymond Grant, had a great concern for the work of the churches in the Alaska Mission and led them from victory to victory.

First Church was the only Methodist church in Anchorage when he came in 1952. Anchor Park, St. John's, East Anchorage, and Chuathbaluk in the Anchorage area; Portage, Homer, Kenai, North Kenai, and Sitka have all been developed under his leadership.

In 1946-47, the churches of Alaska gave four times as much for their self-support and programs as the combined giving of the churches and National Division for that work in 1957.

In 1952 value of churches and personnel in Alaska was about $480,000. Today they value the worth of the churches and personnel at $1,000,000. In addition to the developments at Alaska Methodist University, Jesse Lee Home, and other institutions, he took a personal interest in recruiting able ministers and missionaries. These men have made possible the development of the churches and also have helped the church to have an informed and keen interest in social, economic, and political issues which, I believe, has had a most wholesome effect in helping build stable communities and government in our new and growing state.

He dreamed of Alaska and gave himself in a large way to Alaska. The fruits of his labors are seen in happier and better lives of thousands of God's children in Alaska.

It has been my privilege to work closely with him during the past 12 years as district superintendent in Oregon, five years as secretary of the coordinating Council of the Oregon Conference, where we conferred almost daily, and three years as superintendent of the Alaska Mission.

He has been called Alaska's "Great Friend." He was my dear friend. He was a friend of every minister and congregation and many beyond these. He knew the needs, problems, the possibilities and challenges facing each man and situation. He never failed to answer every concern that he had heard or to tell a story or to give himself in a large way to the Lord.

He was a pastor, educator, administrator; he was all of us and was especially to the needy and disappointment. On Friday, August 18th as I write these words, I have a great loneliness feeling a great emptiness in the sky. But I have a way to have shared these 12 years with him. I am thrilled to have a part in seeking to continue working for his dreams for our Alaska, for our Portland Area, for our church, and for our world.

Wendell L. Coe

Alaska Mission

Tribute to a Leader

Superintendents Pay Tribute to a Leader

Together October 1967
PORTLAND, Oreg.--Bishop A. Raymond Grant, head of The Methodist Church's Portland Area since 1952, died here Aug. 15 of cancer. He had been ill for some time and in the hospital since July 24.

Memorial services were to be held Aug. 18 at both First Methodist Church, Portland, and First Church, Sacramento, Calif., where he was pastor for 15 years, as well as Aug. 22 at the Methodist Building in Washington, D.C.

Since 1964, Bishop Grant had been president of the church's General Board of Christian Social Concerns, but he was in the hospital and unable to preside when it met in Portland last April. He had been president of Alaska Methodist University since its inception in 1954.

The bishop, who would have been 70 on Aug. 24, was a native of Oshkosh, Wis. He graduated from Cornell College in 1919 and from Boston University School of Theology in 1926, and held honorary doctorates from these and several other schools.

After entering the ministry in Iowa in 1921, he served pastorates in Nashua and Vinton, Iowa; Minneapolis and Duluth, Minn., and Sacramento, prior to his election to the episcopacy in 1952.

A trustee of both Willamette University and Willamette View Manor, Bishop Grant had served this quadrennium on the Methodist Coordinating Council and as a delegate to the National Council of Churches Assembly. He was a Mason, a Shriner, and had been an Iowa district governor of Lions Clubs.

(more)
Executives of the Board of Christian Social Concerns characterized him as a "staunch leader" who gave "thoroughgoing support to implementation of the Social Creed."

Surviving are the widow, in Portland, and one daughter, Mrs. Kimball Salmon of Sacramento. Private committal services are to be in Sacramento.

8-16-67
Photographs from this file have not been included but are available upon request. For more information please contact research@gcah.org