

VITA

Dwight Leonard Baker, the son of William Dewey Baker and Wynona Graves Baker, was born November 21, 1920 at Bolivar, Missouri. He lived in several communities in Missouri and Kansas, graduating from the Iola, Kansas High School in 1938. He graduated from Baylor University in Waco, Texas in 1944, receiving the B. A. degree in history. He was ordained to the Christian ministry in the same year and entered Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. His theological studies were interrupted in 1945 for service as Chaplain in the 82nd Airbourn Division in Germany until 1947. He returned to Southwestern Seminary and received his Th.M. degree in Church History in 1949. From 1949-50 he served as pastor of the First Baptist Church in Miami, Texas. In 1950 he received appointment as Baptist representative to ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Israel under the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. In 1955-56, while on furlough he received the Th. M. degree from Princeton Theological Seminary in World Religions; his thesis was entitled, "Religious Liberty in the Arab States and Israel." In 1961 he entered Hartford Seminary Foundation as a student in the field of Islamics, Judaism, and Eastern Christianity, having been accepted as a candidate for the field degree program while in Israel. He received the Ph. D. degree in 1964 in absentia, having returned to his work in Israel. His thesis was entitled, "Religious Liberty in Israel." While writing his dissertation during the academic year of 1962-63 he served as instructor in comparative religion and missions at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary at Kansas City, Missouri. In 1963, following 13 years service in Nazareth as pastor and educator, he and his family moved to Haifa where he opened Baptist work. During the academic year of 1968-69 while on furlough, he served as guest professor in the Department of Religion at his Alma Mater, Baylor University. He presently serves in Israel as director of the Christian Service Training Center and editor of the Arabic language Baptist state paper, Al-Jama'ah. In June 1973 he returned with his wife to the States on furlough. In September, he moved to Wake Forest, North Carolina where he serves as visiting professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, in the departments of church history and missions. In Israel, he and Mrs. Baker make their home in Haifa. They have three children: William Glen, who graduated from Baylor University in May, 1973; Carol Elaine, a Senior at William Jewell College; and Jon Stephen, a Junior at the same college.

(revised Sept. 1973)

Sarah Kelt Bivins is a native of Conway, South Carolina. In 1954 she graduated from Coker College, Hartsville, S.C. with an AB degree. She studied Spanish at Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vt. in the summer of 1954 and taught Spanish in elementary schools in Atlanta, Georgia. She married Lee Bivins in 1955, and they both studied for two years at Southeastern Seminary, 1956-58. She taught English and Spanish in Conway High School in South Carolina for one year. She was appointed, along with her husband, as a missionary to Israel in 1961. He was appointed as an agricultural missionary and she as a homemaker and church worker. During their furlough year, they studied again at Southeastern Seminary, 1967-68, and then returned to the Baptist Village, near Petach Tikva, Israel. They have three daughters, Lynn, 11 years old; Mona, 9 years old; and Ruth Ann, 7 years old.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Dr. I. N. Patterson

Visiting Professor of Missions
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
Wake Forest, North Carolina

BIRTH: May 30, 1898

EDUCATION: High School, Baptist Collegiate Institute,
Newton, Alabama, 1916.
B. A., Howard College, Alabama, 1922
Th.M, Southern Seminary, Louisville, 1924

MARRIAGE: Sara Lou Bobo, June 16, 1924

Children: William Andrew, Born October 28, 1932

POSITIONS: Teacher: Bethel School, Fayette County, Alabama
Teacher: County Line School, Houston and Geneva
Counties, Alabama
Pastor: Bankston, Village Springs and Black Creek,
Alabama
Pastor: Rock Haven and Morgan, Kentucky
Interim
Pastor: First Baptist Church, Fountain Inn,
South Carolina
Principal: Baptist Boys' High School, Abeokuta, Nigeria
1925-1944
Supt.: Churches of Abeokuta and Oke-Ogun areas,
1925-1944.
Secretary - Treasurer:
Nigerian Mission, F.M.B., S.B. C.
1944-1962.
General Secretary:
Nigerian Baptist Convention
1944-1962.

LEARNED SOCIETIES AND CIVIC GROUPS

Member of Historical Society, Nigeria
Chairman of Nigeria Institute of Race Relations
(1948) Ibadan branch

POSITIONS OF HONOR AND LEADERSHIP

D. D. degree, Howard College, 1950
O.B.E. (Honorary Officer of the British Empire) 1952

PUBLICATIONS:

Editor: "Nigerian Baptist" 1929-1936
Author: Chapter on Dr. George Green's "Builders of a
New Nigeria" 1944.
Author: "Continent in Commotion", 1956.

SE - 1962 - 1963.

Foreign Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention
Box 6597, Richmond 30, Virginia
BAKER J. CAUTHEN, Executive Secretary
IONE GRAY, Director of Press Relations

NEWS ABOUT MISSIONARIES

W. A. Dorsey, father of Mrs. Donald R. Dolifka, Southern Baptist missionary appointee to Tanzania, East Africa, died September 11. Mrs. Dolifka, the former Mary Alice Dorsey, a native of Coryell County, Tex., may be addressed at Box 32, Limuru, Kenya, East Africa, where she is currently engaged in initial language study.

Dr. and Mrs. Ebbie C. Smith, Southern Baptist missionaries on furlough from Indonesia, may now be addressed at 373 Mission Rd., Glendale, Calif., 91205. Dr. Smith was born in Houston, Tex., and reared in Houston and Conroe, Tex. Mrs. Smith, the former Donna Rodman, was born in Braman, Okla., and reared in Texas, spending her high school years in Conroe. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1960.

*Save
for bio
sketch*

Dr. and Mrs. James R. Moseley, Southern Baptist missionaries on leave from Nigeria, may now be addressed at 328 West Ave., Wake Forest, N.C., 27587. Dr. Moseley, an Alabamian, was born in Thomasville, and reared in Birmingham, Montgomery, and Snowdoun. Mrs. Moseley is the former Myra Barnett, a native of Tuscaloosa, Ala. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1962.

~~Thomas~~

Tom H. Small
missionary to Zambia

native. Pinehill, Texas -

Education: ~~University of Houston~~
Howard-Payne College - B.A. '1949
Southwestern B.H.S. B.D. 1955
now post-graduate student at SE

Marriage - wife: Mary Burnett of Bessett, Va.
children: 3 -
Esther
Tom
Ray

~~Appointments~~

experience - pastor & chr in Texas

7 BC, Lorman, Texas

appointed 7 MB 1955 (April)

to Africa --

Teaching of ^{N.T.} ~~B~~ Zambia Bayl. ~~B~~
Lominy, Zambia --

will return this summer in July --

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Dr. Ben R. Lawton and Wife

BIRTH

BEN R. LAWTON, Missionary to Italy, born December 11, 1917, Fayetteville, North Carolina, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter T. Lawton.

EDUCATION

Received A.B. degree in 1939 from Washington Lee University having majored in Arts and Science. Several concurrent Scholarships covered tuition while various part-time jobs met remaining expenses.

Entered Cornell Medical School, 1939, with distinction of being the medical school's first freshman scholarship student. Withdrew after six months to enter Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky. Received Th.M. degree in 1943; Th.D. degree in New Testament in 1947.

The doctoral thesis, "An Inquiry into the Date of the Book of John," dealt with a paleographical study of papyrus 52 (John Rylands 45F), the oldest known fragment of John and of the New Testament.

EXTRA CURRICULAR

Phi Beta Kappa, member of national biological, chemical and other honorary fraternities, President of the B.S.U. of Virginia (1937-38), swimming and diving team, freshman football squad-- Washington Lee University. "Fellow", New Testament, for Dr. Edward McDowell of the New Testament department at Louisville Seminary, and at the same time a teacher at the Simmons University, a Negro Seminary in Louisville. Pastor of four churches for various periods during seminary study, as well as being employed in several secular positions.

MARITAL STATUS

Married December 26, 1940, to Patsy Patterson (Ogbomosho, Nigeria, October 23, 1917), eldest daughter of Dr. and Mrs. A. Scott Patterson, missionaries to Africa. Three children-- Benjamin Ray (1944), Patrick Scott (1946), Elena Lucilla (1953). Two older children born Louisville, Kentucky; youngest born Rivoli-Turin, Italy.

APPOINTMENT

Appointed by Foreign Mission Board, spring, 1947, for Italy to re-open, as President, the Baptist Theological Seminary, which Seminary was founded 1901 but was closed in 1933 during Fascist regime. Began a few classes in Rome with about fifteen students enrolled in January, 1948. After the first term of a few months, the school was moved to the piedmont section, in the northwestern part of

Italy, which is known as the evangelical cradle of Italy (home of Waldensees since 1150 A.D.).

Aside from the general evangelical heritage of the piedmont (the Baptist Union has more churches in this section than any other section of Italy), Turin, its capitol, was the seat of the first parliament after its king, Vittorio Emanuele II, unified Italy. It has always been the progressive industrial center of Italy. This progressive evangelical province was chosen for the location of the Baptist Theological Seminary and consequently it is now found at Rivoli, a suburb of Turin (one million inhabitants). The student body of 1962-63 numbered twenty-two; two-thirds of the 47 present Baptist pastors in Italy have received all or part of their theological education at Rivoli-Torinese.

MISSION WORK

Besides founding the present Italian Baptist Seminary, Dr. and Mrs. Lawton founded in their own home in Rivoli-Turin the local Baptist Church (the only Baptist church in Italy to erect its building with only local funds). Similarly the present national Sunday School program with its fully graded literature, including adult materials, was initiated by the Lawtons. Dr. Lawton was instrumental in the formation of the Italian Baptist Mission in 1955 (since 1870 the missionary in Italy served in a liaison capacity) and as Chairman of the Mission assisted directly in the formulation and application of a new constitution for the entire Italian work. Thus in 1956-57 an Italian Baptist body, separate from the Italian Baptist Mission and known as the "Unione Cristiana Evangelica Battista d'Italia" (The Evangelical Christian Baptist Union of Italy), was brought into being. Although he continues to teach in the Seminary as Professor of New Testament, Dr. Lawton, in order to favor national leadership, resigned as President of the Italian Baptist Seminary in the winter term of the 1958-59 session, just after the Foreign Mission Board took cognizance in the fall of 1958 of the new constitution of the Italian Baptist Union. Mrs. Lawton continues to work as Librarian of the Seminary, in which position, held since the founding of the Seminary, she has catalogued some 10,000 volumes. She is the author of the Junior Mission Study Course Book, And So He Did. Dr. Lawton's Outline of the History of Israel has been published in Italian and Dutch, and he is author of several textbooks and syllabi used in the various courses at the Italian Baptist Seminary.

During the sixteen years spent in Italy the Lawtons have participated in the formulation of an expansion program (1957) that calls for one missionary couple in each Region or State. Their work has likewise called upon them to encourage the Italian Baptist Union to assume the full financial and legal responsibility for the Italian Union. This year, 1963, commemorates the hundredth year anniversary of the entrance of the Baptist testimony into Italy. This year marks also the last step in the final assumption of the above responsibilities.

FURLOUGH

Dr. and Mrs. Lawton will be located during the year 1963-64 at 130 S. Wingate, Wake Forest, N.C. During the year Dr. Lawton will be a visiting Professor of New Testament at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Due to the unusual circumstances connected with the Lawton's work in Italy this will be only their second full furlough, the first being spent at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary where Dr. Lawton was visiting Professor of Missions during the year 1954-55.

LIGNIAPPE

Frequent question: "Have you ever regretted giving up medicine?" To answer this I might say that when I informed the Dean of Cornell Medical School that I was leaving, he "all but threw the book at me." It appeared I was most unappreciative of the scholarship awarded to me. An anatomy examination was coming up in two weeks, and for my own satisfaction as well as disliking the thought of being accused of leaving in the "face of fire", I remained to take the exam. After leaving Cornell, the graded examination paper was mailed to me, with the information that I had made the highest grade in the class. YES, I regretted having left, and wondered if I had done the right thing-- for a full fifteen minutes!

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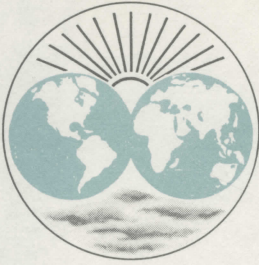
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IONE GRAY
DIRECTOR OF PRESS RELATIONS

THE FOREIGN MISSION BOARD

of the Southern Baptist Convention

BAKER J. CAUTHEN, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

3806 MONUMENT AVENUE • P. O. BOX 6597 • RICHMOND 30, VIRGINIA

October 25, 1962

Mrs. Betty Weathers
Public Relations Department
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
Wake Forest, North Carolina

Dear Mrs. Weathers:

As you requested by telephone, I am sending you a photograph and biographical sketch of Dr. I. N. Patterson, missionary to Nigeria.

Sincerely yours,

Carol L. Hunt

Carol L. Hunt
Editorial Assistant,
Press Relations

Enclosure
CLH

Dr. Benjamin R. Lawton, Southern Baptist missionary, is professor of New Testament and Greek at Philadelphia Institute, the Baptist theological seminary in Rivoli-Turin, Italy.

Dr. Lawton's work has been chiefly in the field of theological education since his appointment by the Foreign Mission Board in 1947. At that time the Italian seminary, originally opened in Rome in 1901, had been closed for 15 years due to Fascist pressure and other factors. With Dr. Lawton as president, the school was reopened, moved to Rivoli, in northwestern Italy, and reorganized as a full theological seminary.

In 1959 Dr. Lawton resigned as president so that an Italian might assume that responsibility. The achievement of a vital partnership between missionary and national is one of his goals.

Born in Fayetteville, N.C., Dr. Lawton grew up in Georgia and Alabama. After graduating from Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Va., where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, he entered Cornell University Medical School, New York City, on a scholarship. Several months later he withdrew from medical school to study for the ministry at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., where he received the master and doctor of theology degrees.

Before going to Italy he was fellow in Southern Seminary's New Testament department, pastor of two Kentucky churches, and teacher at Simmons University (no longer in existence), Louisville. Visiting professor at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary while on furlough during the 1954-55 school year, he will teach in Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., during his current furlough.

(more)

He is married to the former Mary (Patsy) Patterson, daughter of Mrs. A. Scott Patterson and the late Dr. Patterson, who were Southern Baptist missionaries to Nigeria, West Africa. Dr. and Mrs. Lawton have three children, Ben, Jr., Patrick, and Elene.



IONE GRAY
DIRECTOR OF PRESS RELATIONS

THE FOREIGN MISSION BOARD

of the Southern Baptist Convention

BAKER J. CAUTHEN, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

3806 MONUMENT AVENUE • P. O. BOX 6597 • RICHMOND 30, VIRGINIA

July 11, 1963

Public Relations Department
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
Wake Forest, North Carolina

Dear Sir:

At his request, we are sending you a photograph of Dr. Benjamin R. Lawton, missionary to Italy. Also, we are sending you a biographical sketch of Dr. Lawton.

Sincerely yours,

Doris Wheeler

Doris Wheeler,
Office Secretary

DW
Enclosures: 2