

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

ARTHUR BRISTOW RUTLEDGE

Arthur Bristow Rutledge, as executive director-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, provides executive leadership for all the Board's programs and finances.

The Home Mission Board is organized into fourteen programs of work: Evangelism Development, Mass Evangelism, Personal Evangelism, Chaplaincy Ministries, Church Loans, Church Extension, Associational Administration Service, Pioneer Missions, Rural-Urban Missions, Metropolitan Missions, Language Missions, Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists, Christian Social Ministries and Interfaith Witness.

There are approximately 2,000 missionaries serving in the fifty states and Puerto Rico, under the auspices of the Home Mission Board. The missionary force is directed and assisted by an Atlanta staff of 95 and a clerical force of about 120. Approximately 900 Southern Baptist chaplains relate to the Convention through the Home Mission Board.

A native of Texas, Dr. Rutledge is the fourteenth executive officer in the Board's 129 years of service. He not only represents the Home Mission Board in general, but also coordinates the work of its several sections and divisions.

Before taking over the executive leadership of the Home Mission Board at the beginning of 1965, Rutledge had served for six years as director of the Division of Missions. He came to the Home Mission Board from Texas, where he served for two years as secretary of Stewardship and Director of Missions for Texas Baptists. His previous service included twenty-five years as pastor, principally of churches in Texas.

Rutledge is a graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Texas; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. He received honorary doctor's degrees from East Texas Baptist College and Baylor University, and Distinguished Alumnus Awards from both Southwestern and Southern Seminaries.

Broadman Press published his books, HOMES THAT LAST, in 1954 and MISSION TO AMERICA in 1969. He is author of the 1976 home missions study book, TOMORROW STARTS TODAY. He continues to write articles for Baptist publications, including a regular column for HOME MISSIONS Magazine.

FACTUAL DATA

Birth: April 30, 1911, San Antonio, Texas

Education: Baylor University, Waco, Texas, 1932-36, B.A.
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky,
1936-39, Th.M.
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas,
1940-44, Th.D.

Family: Married to Vesta Mae Sharber
Children: two living children
Grandchildren: eight

Experience: Part-time pastorates in Texas, Kentucky, and Indiana, 1930-40
Pastor, First Baptist Church, Royse City, Texas, 1940-42
Pastor, Central Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas, 1942-45
Pastor, First Baptist Church, Marshall, Texas, 1945-57
Secretary of Stewardship and Direct Missions, Baptist General Convention of Texas, 1957-59
Director, Division of Missions, Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Georgia, 1959-64
Executive Director-Treasurer, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Georgia, 1965-

Other: Moderator, Soda Lake Baptist Association, Texas, 1947-49
Member, Board of Trustees, East Texas Baptist College, Marshall, Texas, 1946-57; and Bishop College, Marshall, Texas, 1947-57
Member, Executive Board, Baptist General Convention of Texas, 1946-49, 1954-57; chairman, 1955-57
Chairman, Christian Life Commission, Baptist General Convention of Texas, 1950-55
Member, Radio and Television Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, 1948-51
Member, Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, 1954-57
Member, North American Baptist Fellowship, 1966-
Member, The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, 1965-
Chairman, 1974-
Has traveled in all fifty states plus Panama and Cuba in connection with Home Mission Board work.
Has traveled extensively overseas in connection with meetings of Baptist World Alliance. Made an around-the-world trip in 1967, touching twenty countries in Asia and Europe, on behalf of the Chaplains Commission (a division of the HMB). Mrs. Rutledge has accompanied him on all of these overseas trips.
Listed in the following: Who's Who in America, since 1968; Who's Who in the South and Southwest, since 1971; The Blue Book, since 1970; Dictionary of International Biography, since 1972
Received the Distinguished Service Award of the SBC Christian Life Commission, jointly with Home Missions, editor, Walker L. Knight, 1973