

FUNERAL OF MORDECAI HAM

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky (EP)—“There are at least 8,000 preachers in pulpits today whom he led to Christ.” The speaker was Dr. Billy Graham; the subject of his eulogy was the late Rev. Mordecai F. Ham of Louisville.

Speaking at the funeral services for Mr. Ham, who died here at the age of eighty-four after sixty years of ministry, Evangelist Graham lauded Mr. Ham for his “consuming passion for souls.”

Recalling that he himself made his decision for Christ under Mr. Ham's ministry, Dr. Graham recalled that, when he went to hear the older evangelist twenty-seven years ago, “he pointed directly to me and said, ‘Young man, you are a sinner.’”

“It seemed to me he was talking directly to me,” recalled Dr. Graham, “and I kept going back every night. One night, I couldn't stand it any longer. That was when I made my decision for Christ.”

Mr. Ham, who launched his preaching ministry in 1900, was a former pastor of First Baptist Church in Oklahoma City. A pioneer religious broadcaster, who at one time was heard over more than thirty stations in the South, he continued publishing a religious newspaper almost until his death.

No Courtesy Call on Pope

EDINBURGH, Scotland (EP). — The Edinburgh Presbytery has voted against the moderator of the Church of Scotland, the Rev. Dr. A. C. Craig, paying a courtesy call on the Pope when he visits Rome early next year.

The denomination's last General Assembly had authorized its interchurch relations committee, in co-operation with the General Administration Committee and Colonial and Continental Committee, to study the advisability of such a visit.

Southern Baptists Reject Violence in Race Crisis

ST. LOUIS, Missouri — (EPS) The Southern Baptist Convention has rejected “mob violence” and “unwarranted provocation” as solutions to the southern racial crisis, which flared up with the recent wave of “Freedom Riders” seeking integrated transportation.

Such actions were unanimously condemned by the 12,000 “messengers” (delegates) attending the annual meeting of the 10,000,000-member denomination here. The church has traditionally maintained a conservative view on racial matters.

“Because Southern Baptists are the largest Christian group in the area where racial tensions between whites and Negroes are most acute, we feel an especially keen sense of Christian responsibility,” the resolution declared.

Southern Baptists, it added, “cannot afford to let pride or prejudice undermine either our Christian witness at home, or the years of consecrated, sacrificial missionary service among all the peoples of the world.”

Divorce Rate Doubles Population Growth Pace

WASHINGTON, D. C. (EP).—The number of divorced persons in the United States increased between 1950 and 1960 at a rate twice as fast as that of population growth, the U. S. Census Bureau reported here.

It said that the 1960 census showed a record number of divorced persons.

Persons 14 years of age or older in the population totaled 126,276,000—an increase of 12.6 per cent—census statistics indicated. The number of divorced persons found in this group numbered 3,152,320, an increase of 694,941, or 28.3 per cent, over the 1950 census.

The King's Highway

A Sound Judgment

ONTARIO PROTESTANT COUPLE CAN ADOPT BOY, BORN R.C.

There has been wide-spread satisfaction and commendation over the ruling of District Judge Walter Little in Parry Sound, Ont., recently that 4-year-old Joseph Lamb could be adopted by his foster parents.

The point at issue was that the child, baptized as a Roman Catholic, was placed in the home of Oliver and Betty Lamb of South River, who are Protestants, when he was 23 days old, and he had been allowed to remain with them for four years. The rule with regard to foster-parents is that a Roman Catholic child must be placed in a Roman Catholic home and a Protestant child in a Protestant home.

When the boy was placed with the Lambs, there was no Roman Catholic home available. During the four years, the C.A.S. made no effort to remove the boy until he had become deeply attached to his foster parents and they to him. And several times the parents had tried to procure the boy by adoption, but to no avail.

It seems the regulations in regard to adoption do not include any restriction compelling the parents to be of the same religion as the child.

Now by Judge Little's ruling, the boy can be adopted by the South River couple with no stipulation as to conformity of religion, and there is great joy in the household which also includes another boy, Perry, whom they adopted a short time ago.

There can be no doubt the cruelty of tearing a boy of four years from the only parents he ever knew to place him in another home because of a religious difference, of which he could never be conscious, shocked people generally and there is every possibility that an effort will be made to have the regulations relating to foster-homes conform to those of adoption in regard to the religious issue.

The decision said there was nothing in the Child Welfare Act saying a child christened as a Roman Catholic may not be adopted by a Protestant family, or vice versa.

“As there is no statutory bar to the making of an adoption on the basis of religion, is there any logical reason why there should be an obstacle? In my view there is not,” said Judge Little.

“To decide otherwise would be to put a religious tag on the word justice — which its very meaning denies.

“It is therefore my conclusion that it is not a condition precedent to the adoption of children in Ontario that the applicants must be of the same religion as the child.”—The Sentinel

Billy Graham to Hold Chicago Crusade Early Next Summer

CHICAGO, Illinois (CNS)—A month long evangelistic crusade will be held in Chicago by Billy Graham early next summer. The exact dates of the event, May 30-July 1, and the opening of Crusade offices in Chicago for that event were announced at a recent press conference. Rev. Walter H. Smyth of the Graham team who will serve as the crusade coordinator came here to open the crusade office. His immediate task will be to arouse prayer support for the event and to set up organizational machinery for a series of meetings which are expected to be the biggest of Graham's crusades.