By Roy Cantrell

The members of the Riverside Baptist Church are making it possible for their pastor, Reverend Curtis Oakley, to make a visit to the Holy Land.

Reverend Mr. Oakley will leave on May 4 on the twenty-two day tour that will carry him to nine countries including Israel. The trip is being made possible by the congregation of the Riverside Baptist Church, where Mr. Oakley has served as pastor for almost eight years.

The Sabina jet flight will leave New York on May 5 that will take the passengers to Brussels, Belgium. On the flight, the group will be changing time zones six times, losing six hours. Their arrival in Brussels at 1:00 A.M. will really be 11:00 P.M. of the previous day. Dinner and breakfast will be served in flight. After some time in Belgium, they will spend some time sightseeing.

TO VISIT CASTLES

Belair, Lebanon will afford the group the chance to visit the shores of the Mediterranean Sea. Here they will visit castles dating back to the time of the Crusaders some five or six centuries ago. The Roman ruins of the Temple of Jupiter will be seen in Baalbek (also known as the City of the Sun).

Unable to fly from the Arab country of Lebanon (or Egypt) due to lack of facilities, the group will fly the few minutes from Lebanon to Cyprus, and is- land in the Mediterranean. Con- ception will be made there to fly on into Tel Aviv, Israel.

For five days, the group will visit the places of Biblical im- portance and interest in the im- portant land of Promise (called the Land of the Promised One). In the birthplace of Jesus (Bethlehem) to see the cave where Jesus was born. At the Shepherds Field (where the angels first announced the birth of Jesus), they will visit the caves where the shepherds first heard of the news of the birth of Jesus. In Egypt, the group will visit the pyramids. In Alexandria, they will visit the house of the apostle Paul.

Riverside Pastor To Make Holy Land Trip

Reverend Mr. Oakley is the son of a missionary educator who served as headmaster of a Christian school in Damascus, Syria, for fifty seven years. An American citizen, though born in Damascus, Syria, Mr. Oakley is an authority on the Near East. His ability to speak several languages allows him to move freely as a tour leader. He is general man- age of the Sabean Travel Agen- cy and President of the Sabean Land Tour Association. Dr. and Mrs. Garrison have made local arrangements for the tour and secured the members of the traveling party but the tour is directed personally by Mr. Saadeh.

Next Day at Sea

After some time in Belgium, the group will fly the next day into Tel Aviv, Israel. For five days, the group will be in Israel. Their first stop will be a visit to the land of myth and legend. The trip will carry them to nine countries including Israel. The trip will include a visit to the ruins of Rome, the Eternal City, will offer the group their ruins and will be of indescribable beauty.

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LOOKS OVER BROCHURE — Reverend Curtis Oakley is seen looking over the brochure that tells of his forthcoming trip that will carry him to nine countries including Israel. The trip is being made possible by the congregation of the Riverside Baptist Church, where Mr. Oakley has served as pastor for almost eight years.

Photo By Roy Cantrell

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*Note: The text provided is a partial transcription of the document. For the complete version, please refer to the original source.*
Rev. Curtis Oakley retires

as pastor of Riverside Baptist Church he will remain active in the ministry on a limited basis. The title and honor of “Pastor Emeritus” was bestowed on Rev. Oakley by the members of Riverside, on his retirement day.

The Oakley children, their spouses and the grandchildren have established “The Curtis V. and Elizabeth R. Oakley Endowment Fund” with the N. C. Baptist Home for Children, as their special tribute.

A special quote by a friend, “Rev. Oakley has been a loving and dedicated pastor and friend to the people of Riverside Baptist Church. He will be missed, but the congregation wishes him happiness in his retirement from the pastorage and rejoices in the knowledge that he will always be their friend.”

REV. CURTIS OAKLEY

... Retires after 27 years

Rev. Curtis V. Oakley and his wife, Elizabeth, were honored by the church, Riverside Baptist Church, with a special retirement day celebration on Sunday. Included in the activities for the day were a “This Is Your Life” skit with people representing highlights of Rev. Oakley’s ministry, covered dish luncheon, afternoon song service and a 10 p.m. Watch Night service.

During the 11 a.m. service, Rev. Oakley was presented the keys to a new 1990 Ford truck and Mrs. Oakley was remembered with a piece of engraved gold jewelry. They were honored with a corsage and boutonniere and 27 yellow roses along with other gifts and a basket of cards and letters.

Rev. Curtis V. Oakley became pastor at Riverside Baptist Church in Graham on July 15, 1962, and retired on December 31st.

During these 27 years the church grew and moved from a tiny white frame structure to a larger modern brick building.

The Oakleys are the parents of one daughter, Mrs. Don (Linda) Patterson of Greensboro, and two sons, Keith and Geoffrey, both of Burlington. They have two granddaughters and one grandson.

Rev. and Mrs. Oakley reside in Alamance County in the Lakeview Community. Although he has retired...
Pastor Of Riverside Baptist Church To Visit Holy Land

By ROY CANTRELL

The Reverend Curtis Oakley, pastor of the Riverside Baptist Church near Graham, left Monday, May 4, on an overseas trip sponsored by the Church. The trip, twenty-two days in length, will take him to nine countries and three continents. Highlight of the trip will be about one week’s stay in Israel.

The tour sponsors are Dr. and Mrs. Joe M. Garrison, former Pastor of the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, Greensboro, N.C. The Garrisons are working through the Saadeh Travel Service of Boston, Mass. They will be working directly with Mr. Fred R. Saadeh, Mr. Saadeh is the son of a missionary educator who served as headmaster of a Christian School in Damascus, Syria. Mr. Saadeh is an authority on Egypt at the Metropoleum.

The Sabina Jet flight left New York May 5 to carry them to Brussels, Belgium. After arrival in the European capital of Brussels, they were to spend some time sightseeing.

The tour moves from Belgium to Amsterdam, Holland, in addition to the regular sights of this tour, the group will be in Holland during the Tulip season and are to see a “Tulip Show.” This should be at the heighth of the season.

From the land of beauty, Rome will be the next stop. This will be the scene of the great coliseum, built over a period of eighty years and used as a sports arena where the early Christians were fed to lions as a sport. Rome, the Eternal City, will offer sculpture and art of other note. The paintings by Michaelangelo in the Sistine Chapel will be seen. A visit to St. Peter’s Church will be a part of the tour. Mr. Oakley and the group will view the residence of the Pope and see the place where he appears before the people of the Vatican. Among the ruins of Rome, the death place of Julius Caesar is to be seen. The prison where St. Paul was confined will be a part of the tour.

Being in Rome will remind the group of the struggle of the early Christian faith and how Christianity fought for survival and outlived the worst kind of opposition.

After two days in the city of Rome, the next stop of the tour will be the land of myth and magic, Athens, Greece. The highlight of his visit will be the ruins of the great Parthenon, considered by some as the greatest building ever constructed. From the Acropolis (sight of the Parthenon), a view of the first theatre can be seen, Mars Hill, famous in the life of the Apostle Paul, will be a part of the visit to Athens.

Cairo, Egypt, will be visited during a two-day stay. While in Cairo, visits will be made to the Egyptian Museum which houses the most complete collection of antiquities in the world. There included are the treasures of King Tut (Tutankamen). Much understanding of the Moslem Religion should be gained while in Egypt. The group will no doubt see faithful Moslems as they stop to pray on the street at their special time of prayer. A visit will be made to the Mosque of Mohammed Ali. A camel ride to the Great Pyramids and the Sphinx will “add to” the visit in the desert.

Beirut, Lebanon, will afford the group a chance to visit the shore of the Mediterranean Sea. Here they will visit castles dating back to the time of the Crusaders, ten centuries ago. The Roman ruins of the Temple of Jupiter will be seen in Baalbeck (also known as the City of the Sun).

The group will fly the few minutes from Lebanon to Cyprus, an Island in the Mediterranean. Connections will be made there to fly to Tel Aviv, Israel. For five days, the group will visit the places of Biblical importance and interest in the ancient land of promise called the Holy Land. Visits to the birth place of Jesus in Bethlehem, to the Shepherd’s Field (where the news of the birth of Jesus was first sounded) should bring back memories of the Bible study and stories of childhood for the local Baptist Minister.

During these days in Israel the group is to see the Walling Wall, Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane and the Temple (where the temple stood during the days of Jesus), while in Jerusalem, visits will be made to the place of crucifixion (Calvery) and the tomb.

An excursion to the north will carry the group to the Nazareth area and Capernaum and places of interest around the Sea of Galilee.

After five days in Israel, seeing the places of importance in the life of Christ, the tour will move to Germany, During the three days in Germany, the Passion Play, a replay of the events that took place in the last week in the life of Christ, will be seen. The brochure describes this says, “At the vil-