

New Chaplain Has Diversified Background

The 25-year-old Baptist minister who has been named chaplain of Forsyth Memorial Hospital has been serving Quaker Gap Baptist Church at King, Rt. 1, for about two years.

The Rev. Jack Eugene Ryder — he goes by Eugene — informed his 316-member rural Baptist congregation Sunday of his new work.

Quaker Gap was his first church following graduation from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary at Wake Forest.

Ryder served first on an interim basis while he completed a year's internship with the Department of Pastoral Care at Baptist Hospital. He had served the congregation full-time for almost a year. He will continue on an interim basis with the congregation after Aug. 1 until a new pastor is called.

Ryder is a native of Virginia. He received his B.A. de-



REV. J. EUGENE RYDER
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gree from the University of Richmond, Va., where he ma-

jored in English and psychology. At Southeastern, where he earned the B.D. degree, his major was theology.

Before his seminary training, he taught eighth grade English for one year at Patrick Henry High School in Ashland, Va. While a student in college he worked part-time as a cab driver, was a student pastor and also an assistant pastor to two churches in Richmond. His work experience also includes service station attendant and part-time salesman.

While in seminary he was pastor of Mount Olivet Baptist Church of Bent Mountain, Va., a small rural church.

Ryder is married to the former Ann Denton of Bedford, Va., his hometown. She is now working in the testing program at Graylyn. The Ryders have two sons. This week the family is at Mars Hill College, where the husband and wife are attending a Week of

Christian Study and Fellowship, sponsored by the Baptist State convention and the college.

Ryder was one of five candidates interviewed for the new work beginning Aug. 1 at Forsyth. Two of the interviewed were Baptist, two Presbyterian and one Lutheran.

Assisting Thomas R. Matherlee, hospital administrator, with the interviewing was a committee on chaplaincy from the Forsyth Ministers' Fellowship.

The hospital chaplaincy program of the interdenominational and interracial ministers' fellowship was formed a year ago. Its chairman is Dr. J. C. Hughes of Home Moravian Church.

In addition to the 10 members from the fellowship, the committee also includes a representative of the Roman Catholic faith, the Rev. Jesse L. Creel, pastor of Our Lady

of Fatima Church, and a representative of the Jewish faith, Rabbi David Rose of Temple Emanuel.

Hughes' committee or at least a smaller portion of it will be selected to serve in an advisory capacity with Ryder in developing the hospital chaplaincy program at Forsyth.

Matherlee said the formation of this advisory committee will not take place until Ryder completes an orientation program at the hospital.

Ryder said he was delighted to have been selected for the new work and looks forward to the opportunity of being of service in his new field.

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Baptist Chaplain Asks Ruling on Integration

A Winston-Salem Baptist chaplain in an open letter has asked the Baptist State Convention publication for a ruling on integration and the policies of the homes for children.

The Rev. Eugene Ryder, Baptist minister and chaplain at Forsyth Memorial Hospital, in a letter in the current issue of the Biblical Recorder, official publication of the convention, made this request:

"Recently an article appeared in the Winston-Salem Journal saying that certain child placement agencies could not refer children to Baptist Children Homes due to the failure of these homes to comply with the Civil Rights Act. If this is true, a sad situation exists for Southern Baptists, for it must mean that we are continuing to discriminate against our Negro brothers. This, in turn, is contrary to Jesus' demand that his followers actively demonstrate their love for one another which leaves us the usual non-involved Baptists we have been and less Christian in what we practice.

Chaplain's Question

"My question is this: Could some information be printed supplying the facts on integration and the policies."

The Recorder printed a reply from Dr. D. E. Ward Jr. of Lumberton, chairman of the board of trustees of the Baptist Children's Homes.

(The Journal story of Sunday, June 26, said children in the custody of public welfare departments could no longer be placed in any of the four units of the N. C. Baptist Children's Homes because the Baptist homes had not signed a statement of compliance with the 1964 Civil Rights Act. It is one of seven child-caring institutions of the 25 in the state which has not signed.

(Dr. W. R. Wagoner of Thomasville, general superintendent, was quoted as saying the trustees had been studying the compliance for about a year in an attempt to do as thorough a job as possible in its study "with respect to all the implications of the compliance."

(He pointed out that Baptist institutions do not receive any government money for the care of any of its children. When the home accepts a child, the Baptists assume the financial responsibility of the child unless the parents can contribute to the child's care.)

Ward said the board of trustees of the home through its executive committee has had under way for several months a study on ways and means of extending the ministry of the homes to needy and dependent children of all races.

"Believing firmly in the policy of the separation of church and state, we desire to determine our destiny in this area of social need just as we have in all others: Without coercion or limitation beyond that imposed by the Gospel itself," Ward said.

He added, "We believe that the principle involved is far more than creedal or religious, and is basic to all human freedom. This exploration involves a careful study of services needed by minority groups in North Carolina. When these needs have been evaluated, this agency will then be in position to determine the nature and extent of its services in areas of unmet need."

Study Under Way

Ward said the same group also was making a thorough study of the Civil Rights Act and "its implications for the children's homes. This study is being made in cooperation with the N. C. State Department of Public Welfare and the federal Department of Health, Education and Welfare in Washington."

It is the desire of the trustees, Ward said, "to have a clear understanding and an accurate interpretation" of the Civil Rights Act.

It always has been the policy of the homes, Ward said, "to cooperate with county departments of public welfare and the State Department of Public Welfare in providing services to needy children. The position of the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina has not changed."

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