

MEMORIALS

JOSEPH P. FREE

“How I love your laws!
How I enjoy your commands!
‘Come, Come to me,’ I call to them,
for I love them and will let them fill my life.”
Psa. 119:47-48 (LB)

This phrase from the work of the Psalmist expresses the central faith and commitment of our colleague, Joseph P. Free. A member of the Evangelical Theological Society since 1949, Joseph P. Free was called to the Saviour's presence, October 12, 1974 in Bemidji, Minnesota. He was born in Cleveland on October 1, 1911.

He received his early education at University School in Cleveland and at Stony Brook School at Stony Brook, Long Island, New York. Dr. Free was a graduate of Princeton University, receiving the A.B., A.M., and Ph.D. degrees from that institution. For ten years he carried on post-Ph.D. work in the field of archaeology and Near Eastern studies at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago.

Interest in archaeology was developed when as a prep student at Stony Brook School the headmaster, Dr. Frank E. Gaebelien showed an ancient clay cone inscribed with cuneiform writing. This early interest was renewed when, as an undergraduate at Princeton University, he lived next door to Professor George Elderkin, the excavator at Antioch, and a few homes from F. Leslie Shear, the excavator at Ancient Corinth. On this foundation of early interest, Dr. Free built a life committed to the study and teaching of Biblical Archaeology.

Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois, extended an invitation to Dr. Free to join its faculty in 1935. At first, he taught French and Spanish; and, at the same time pursued the study of Akkadian, Assyrian, Babylonian, Egyptian Hieroglyphics, Arabic, and Hittite. Eventually he was to head the Department of Archaeology for nearly twenty years and served as Fred McManis Professor of Biblical Archaeology until 1965. At that time he resigned in favor of a more relaxed schedule in the north woods of Minnesota to pursue his publication projects. However, not many months passed until Bemidji State College beckoned him back to the classroom as Professor of Archaeology and History, where he was serving until the time of his death.

Joseph Free is best known as the excavator of Ancient Dothan. Early field experience was achieved as a member of the staff at the American Schools of Oriental Research in Jerusalem. After which, he and Mrs. Free

directed Ten Seasons of excavation at Dothan in the years between 1953-1964. Many field archaeologists owe their basic training to his untiring efforts and competent leadership. More recently, he pursued excavation at Indian mounds near Dixon, Illinois and Bemidji, Minnesota.

His vision for serious first-hand study in the Holy Land included the founding of the Near East Archaeological Society in 1960, and the Near East School of Archaeology and Biblical Studies in 1962. Scores of students and teachers were introduced to Bible geography, history, and archaeology under its auspices.

Dr. Free's capacity for work was boundless. Much of his time and effort was devoted to pioneering travel arrangements for Holy Land tours. He personally conducted many of these tours, sharing with lay Christians his enthusiasm for Bible Study and direct experience in observing the sacred sites.

His best known publication is *Archaeology and Bible History*. He authored more than fifty articles on archaeology for Christian periodicals. In addition, he served as Archaeological Editor for *The Sunday School Times* from 1942-1965.

He held membership in numerous professional societies, including the American Schools of Oriental Research, American Oriental Society, Society of Biblical Literature, and the National Society of Arts and Letters, which he served as National Literature Chairman, 1966-70.

He was married to Ruby Aldrich on August 20, 1935. In addition to Mrs. Free, he is survived by a daughter, Alice Anita Wilhelmi, and a son, David P.; three grandchildren, also a foster son, Abed Ismail, and two sisters.

Through the diverse activities of Joseph Free, a host of persons came under his influence. He was indeed, mentor to so many. His work will continue without faltering, and the publication of his excavations will continue to completion. In his death we have lost a great teacher, friend, and supporting member of the Society.

—Robert E. Cooley

Earl C. Smith

September 25, 1974, Dr. Earl C. Smith was in his accustomed place at the front of the auditorium of Toccoa Falls Institute, but, instead of sitting in the pew to worship the Lord, he was lying in state before the large congregation which had gathered around him to hear how he had worshipped his "most gracious Heavenly Father," as he always addressed Him, during his eighty years on earth.

Five spoke at the Memorial Service of his present teaching ministry that extended to the very end of his life, of his early teaching ministry, of the twenty six years he was head of the Bible Department at John Brown University, of his twelve years as a member of the Theology Department of Toccoa Falls Bible College, and of his family. The keynote of all five speeches harmonized in telling of Dr. Smith's consistent style of living in his home, in all public places, in the pulpit, and in the classroom. He loved to teach the Pauline Epistles, especially Romans, the Gospels, and the Johannine Literature from which he drew succinct statements of doctrine concerning the abundant grace of God to be freely received by man and lovingly given not only in word but also in deed. As he practiced these truths, his acquaintances could describe him in the words of I John 4:17: "As He is, so are we in this world."

Alfred A. Cierpke

Dr. Cierpke, born in Koenigsberg, Germany, on October 18, 1901, accepted Christ as his Saviour at the age of fifteen. He received his education at the Universities of Cologne, Hamburg, and Koenigsberg; the Baptist Theological Seminary in Hamburg, Germany; and the Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. He held Master's, Bachelor of Divinity, and Doctor of Theology degrees.

He served as international director of the Baptist Youth Movement for the entire country of Germany and pastored two churches before coming to the United States to serve as pastor of the Erie Baptist Church, Cleveland, Ohio, in 1940.

He taught at Tennessee Temple College, Chattanooga, Tennessee in 1947 and 1948.

He became dean of Temple Baptist Theological Seminary in Chattanooga, Tennessee in January 1948 (when the Seminary was founded), and served until his retirement in May 1961.

Dr. Cierpke is survived by his wife, the former Miss Irmgard Stahl and six children: Miss Adi Cierpke, who is vocalist with Csehy Musical Messengers; Mrs. Isaiah Brown (Sieglinde), teacher at Tennessee Temple; Mrs. Peter Forsythe (Lilian), who assists her husband, a minister of music in California; a son Timothy, minister of music in Birmingham,

Alabama; and two other daughters, Liebilde and Evangeline, who are housewives.

It was while serving as a pastor in Berlin and director of the Baptist Youth Movement in Germany that Dr. Cierpke was sent to America in 1939 as German representative to the Baptist World Congress, which was meeting in Atlanta. During this visit, war broke out in Germany. The border was closed; and Dr. and Mrs. Cierpke were forced to stay in this country, leaving their three children with relatives in Berlin, where they remained until the close of the war, when they joined their family here.

Dr. Cierpke was well known for his stand against the Nazis in their treatment of Jewish people. For this reason it was quite dangerous when they left the children in Germany while they were in the United States. They had feared as to whether they would see the children again.

Dr. Cierpke was the author of four books. Three of his writings dealt with Bible prophecy and the Jewish people. They are PALESTINE-ISRAEL, THE MARVEL OF THE WORLD and GOD'S MIRACLE NATION and THE HOLY LAND TODAY.

Long before his homegoing, Dr. Cierpke had donated a great number of his books and writings to the library of Tennessee Temple Schools.

The main auditorium of the Highland Park Baptist Church was filled to capacity by members of the church, students and faculty of Tennessee Temple Schools at the funeral service held at ten o'clock, December 19.