

J. M. Ray served as pastor of Ferris Hill Baptist Church, Milton.
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Olivet Baptists Slate Revival

M I L T O N — The Olivet Baptist Church in Milton will conduct a revival, Aug. 6-13.

Rev. Lester Garrette, pastor of the Cora Baptist Church near Jay, will bring the messages with **Rev. J. M. Ray**, pastor of the Ferris Hill Baptist Church, leading the congregational singing.

Rev. Oran N. Hayes, host pastor, says services will begin at 7:30 **p.m.**

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Friday night will bring a sermon from the **Rev. J. M. Ray**, pastor of the Ferris Hill Baptist Church, on "The Biblical Description of Man."

Santa Rosa Minister's Retirement Is in Full Services to Churches

"I go Lord where thou sendest me;
Day, after day I plod and moid;
But, Christ my God, when will it be:
That I may let alone my toil, and rest with thee?" By Christina Rossetti, from "Weary in Well doin"

By BEN POOLEY
News-Journal Bureau

MILTON — One Sunday morning early in 1953, a lean, gaunt Texas minister, who had pastored several Southern Baptist churches in the East Texas oil fields for more than 24 years, was driving down a lonely stretch of U.S. 29 north of Cantonment.

Suddenly as if an invisible hand had turned the wheel, he found himself turning into the parking lot of the Highland Baptist Church in the small community of Molino.

On that particular Sunday the congregation of the small church just happened to be without the services of a pastor, and upon finding out that the Rev. C. D. Fant, the Tex-

as minister, was in their presence, asked him to fill the pulpit.

This particular sermon resulted in the congregation calling Fant as its pastor. For seven years he labored there during which time rapid growth was experienced and a new parsonage and educational building erected.

In October, 1959 "Brother Fant" as he was now called by all who knew him, suffered a severe heart attack and was absent from his pulpit for seven weeks. Shortly after his recovery he was called to the Billory Baptist Church in Holly, which was the date of his moving into the spiritual activities of Santa Rosa County.

After serving as pastor of the Holly church for three years, Brother Fant retired from the active ministry and moved to his, as he calls it, "Fants Acre in Molino."

To many Baptists in Santa Rosa County, this is when Fant's real work actually began.

Since 1963 Brother Fant has served as Interim Pastor for three Baptist churches in Santa Rosa. While there to serve only until a regular pastor was called by these congregations,

grew in numbers, financially, and spiritually while under his guidance. He has served more than 37 years in the field.

Denominational lines mean nothing to this minister who

is known and loved by Christians of all denominations in Santa Rosa County.

Visiting in homes from early morning until night, calling upon sick in the hospitals during the early morning and

late evening hours, and constantly working to promote the Christian work in the community in which he was serving are just a few of the traits which gained him the love and respect of so many persons in the communities in which he serves.

One member of a church pastored by Brother Fant said, "The only complaint our membership ever had with him was that many times he was out knocking on our doors before we were yet awake."

Brother Fant served as interim pastor of the Ferris Hill Baptist Church while it was looking for a pastor, and served there until the church called its present pastor, Rev. J. M. Ray.

Shortly after this he was pressed into service as interim pastor of the Olivet Baptist Church, where he served until the church called the Rev. Oran N. Hayes.

Now he is serving as interim pastor of the Bagdad Baptist Church, and will end his services there upon the calling of a new pastor by the congregation.

The feeling of so many in Santa Rosa County toward this God-called spirit-filled minister are summed up in



THE REV. C. D. FANT
"... where thou sendest me."

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Retired Minister Labors Full Time

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the words of Louman Reeves, a member of the Olivet Baptist Church in Milton.

"Brother Fant came to our church when we were in desperate need of help. Even though upon coming he knew his stay would be only for a short time, he worked hard and elevated our church in membership, financially, and most importantly, spiritually, while he was with us. Even though he was called to fill in for a short time, his work will be long remembered by the membership of our church," Reeves said.

In the case of Brother Fant, as in every instance, the helping hand of a good woman has ever been present to assist in the work he so loves.

He was married to Miss Eva Moulton in Linden, Tex. in 1922, and today as in days past, she is by his side in all phases of his work. Daily she can be seen going in and out of homes with her husband, or sitting in the parked car while he visits a prospective member or one of the congregation needing help.

Of their six living children, four boys and two girls, two of the boys are ordained Baptist ministers.

The First Baptist Church of Bagdad is in the process of calling a new pastor, and soon will, as have Ferris Hill and Olivet churches, have to give up the services of the interim pastor.

Recently the membership heard a sermon by Brother Fant in which he said he sincerely felt he would be present on this earth when Christ returns.

The entire membership there, along with those of the other churches mentioned and many others in Santa Rosa County, will be praying that Fant and his dedicated wife, will be found living on "Fants Acre" in Molino, on the occasion so looked forward to by those who believe in the same Christ as he.