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Box 4, Folder 8, "Dr. James Parkes: The Righteous Christian", 23
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DR. W JAMES PARKES, "THE RIGHTEOUS CHRISTIAN"

by Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum

Recent
The death ~~during the second week of August~~ of the saintly Anglican scholar, Dr. James Parkes, has removed from our midst one of the primary architects of the world-wide movement for improved relations between Christians and Jews.

The passing of this 84-year-old British historian-theologian-- whose studies decisively influenced my career more than any other single personality--also terminated the life of one of my most cherished personal friends who did me the high honor of including me in the dedication of his book, Prelude to Dialogue, as one of "the Pioneers of Dialogue."

In 1928, James Parkes, an Oxford graduate and Anglican clergyman, was serving in Geneva as secretary to the International Student Service. There he encountered for the first time anti-Semitism among German students and he learned about *quota* numerus clausus discrimination against Jewish students in Eastern Europe. To this civilized, sensitive, and humane Christian, that anti-Jewish hatred was a moral abomination, and he began an intensive study of the Christian sources of anti-Semitism that became his life dedication.

His monumental study, The Conflict of the Church and Synagogue - A Study in the Origins of Anti-Semitism, became a classic, influencing the attitudes of thousands of Christian leaders. With the constant inspiration and active help of his marvelous wife, Dorothy, James Parkes wrote scores of major books and pamphlets on Jewish history and religion, and on Israel. So determined and effective was his pro-Jewish advocacy that the Nazis placed his name on Hitler's "death list."

The last public tribute to James Parkes several years ago in ~~xxxx~~ Southampton epitomized his life and work ~~as one of "the truly~~ ^{in these most appropriate} ~~righteous among the nations."~~ ^{words -} The text of his honorary doctorate ~~xxxx~~ said it all: "a scholar in an age of unreason, an individualist in an age of conformity, and a tolerant man in an age of intolerance."¹⁷

May the memory of beloved friend and teacher, James Parkes, be forever a blessing.



Baptist search committee names its chairman editor of Indiana church journal

By Religious News Service

INDIANAPOLIS (RNS) — After its leading prospect backed out of the job, the committee set up to hire a new editor for the Indiana Southern Baptist named its own chairman to the post.

The Rev. David Simpson takes over on Sept. 1 at the 9,600-circulation paper, editorless since Gene Medaris resigned under fire last winter.

Mr. Medaris, the editor since June 1977, quit after the executive board of the state Baptist convention censured him for publishing two letters the state convention's executive committee deemed controversial.

Mr. Simpson, who also heads the state convention executive board, accused Mr. Medaris then of failing to provide a "supportive service of information, inspiration and encouragement."

In June, the paper announced that James Walker, stewardship director of the Arkansas Baptist Convention, would succeed Mr. Medaris as editor. But Mr. Walker subsequently declared that he had changed his mind because he had not "felt comfortable in the situation."

Mr. Simpson, 31, a graduate of Oakland City College near Evansville and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, has no previous publishing experience, but said he plans to take some journalism courses at the Indianapolis branch of Indiana University.

Morrow Coffey Graham, mother of evangelist, is dead at age of 89

By Religious News Service

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (RNS) — Morrow Coffey Graham, mother of evangelist Billy Graham, died at her home here Aug. 14 at the age of 89.

A native of Mecklenburg County, she married dairy farmer W. Franklin Graham in 1916. They had four children.

Mrs. Graham was an active member of the Steele Creek and Chalmers Memorial Reformed Presbyterian churches before she and her husband became charter members of Calvary Presbyterian Church in Charlotte. She taught Sunday school and sang in the choir there.

In his massive biography of Billy Graham, published in 1979, journalist Marshall Frady described Mrs. Graham's life in recent years. He wrote that since her husband's death in 1962, Mrs. Graham was spending her days in Charlotte "in a halcyon and unruffled

solitude. She still receives a few visitors, ladies from her Bible circle and her DAR chapter, but they know to call on her only in the afternoon, and they are expected to take their leave by at least six."

Mrs. Graham is survived by her sons, Billy and Melvin, two daughters, Catherine Morrow McElroy and Jean Coffey Graham, 12 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

Black church official who enslaved eight teen-agers gets 20-year prison term

By Religious News Service

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (RNS) — Jimmy Conyers, 39, described as an official of the Church of God and True Holiness, has been sentenced to 20 years in prison for enslaving eight teen-agers here.

The leader of the all-black group, Robert Allan Carr, 63, was convicted of similar charges last year and sentenced to 10 years in prison and a \$5,000 fine. His daughter and son-in-law were also given prison sentences last year.

During Mr. Conyers' trial, several young persons testified that he had enslaved them between 1974 and 1978, forcing them to work and keeping the money they had earned.

Richard Roberts, a Justice Department prosecutor, told the jury that Mr. Conyers had practiced "child slavery" in the guise of working in the name of the Lord.

After the trial, District Judge Hiram H. Ward commented, "With the possible exception of one horrible premeditated murder case I once tried, this is the most heinous evidence I've ever heard in my life."

The group had congregations in Durham and Wilson, N.C., and Florence, S.C.

Author James W. Parkes, Christian-Jewish expert, dies at 84 in England

By Religious News Service

SOUTHAMPTON, England (RNS) — Dr. James William Parkes, a leading scholar in the field of Christian-Jewish relations, died here at the age of 84, after a long illness.

A prolific author, his influential works included "The Conflict of the Church and Synagogue" (1934), "The Jewish Problem in the Modern World" (1939), "Judaism and Christianity" (1948), and "The Foundations of Judaism and Christianity" (1960).

Dr. Parkes was born in Guernsey, one of the Channel Islands between England and France, and came to England at age 16. After military service during World War I, he studied at Oxford and earned a Ph.D. there in 1934. Although he was ordained an Anglican priest, most of his career was in non-parish positions.

From 1923 to 1926 Dr. Parkes was international study secretary of the Student Christian Movement. He was study secretary of the International Student Service in Geneva from 1928 to 1934. During this time, his denunciations of anti-Semitic activities made him a target of violent attacks by fascists.

In 1947, Dr. Parkes received an honorary doctor of Hebrew letters degree from the then Jewish Institution of Religion in New York "in recognition of a lifetime of dedicated service to inter-faith accord."

In a 1968 lecture in New York that was jointly sponsored by the American Jewish Committee and the National Conference of Christians and Jews, Dr. Parkes commented that "Jewish-Christian dialogue will only become creative when it is a dialogue between equals." He said he did not believe that either faith "replaces the other or can absorb the other."

Estelle Griswold is dead at 89; campaigned against state birth control law

By Religious News Service

ESSEX, Conn. (RNS) — Estelle T. Griswold, a birth control crusader and former head of the Planned Parenthood League of Connecticut, is dead at the age of 81.

She was instrumental in bringing a test case before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1965 which overturned Connecticut's 1879 anti-birth control law.

The use of contraceptives by anyone, including married couples, was outlawed under the Connecticut law. The Planned Parenthood League of which Mrs. Griswold was executive director, twice challenged the law unsuccessfully before the June 1965 victory in the Supreme Court.

In a 7-to-2 decision, the Supreme Court struck down the Connecticut law and established a new constitutional right of privacy.

Mrs. Griswold, who had lived in Essex, Conn. for many years, died Aug. 13 at her home in Fort Myers, Fla. She has no immediate survivors.