

DR. BENJAMIN L. REA

1922-1965



THE LIFE of DR. REA was one of accomplishment. He was born in Ruston, Louisiana, and attended public schools there before going on to the Louisiana Polytechnic Institute. He was four years in the Army, Navy and Marines as a medical corpsman. He fought at Roi, Namur, Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima. He was wounded on Iwo Jima, brought back to the United States and discharged from the Naval hospital in New Orleans.

After leaving the Navy, he went to Louisiana State University where he received a Bachelor's degree in International Economics and Business Administration in 1948 and continued working toward his Master's degree. Later, he took a position as investigator for about 300 insurance companies in Louisiana.

DR. REA came to know God's truth about 1951, and at this time quit his job and helped his father start a business. In 1952, he attended his first Feast of Tabernacles at Seigler Springs, California. On his way home, he stopped by Ambassador College and had a talk with Mr. Armstrong. At the following Passover in Texas, Mr. Armstrong surprised him with the announcement that he would be a Spanish teacher at the College.

Immediately after this, he left for Mexico to do work for his Master's degree at La Universidad Interamericana in Saltillo, Coahuila de Zargosa, Mexico. After many hours of study and examinations, he received his Master's Degree in 1955. He later obtained his Ph.D. Degree in 1960.

During those early years of teaching Spanish at Ambassador College, DR. REA translated many of the booklets into Spanish. By 1958, 13 radio stations in South America opened for a Spanish version of *The WORLD TOMORROW*.

DR. REA came to England in 1960 to help establish Ambassador College, U. K. He was, as Mr. Armstrong recently mentioned in a student meeting, in a sense the founder of the College in England by taking care of the thousand and one details involved when starting a new college.

As Dean of the Faculty, Professor of Spanish and Interna-

tional Relations, speaker on the Spanish broadcast, and Pastor of the Birmingham Church, DR. REA will be remembered for his loving personality, persevering drive and hearty chuckle. He will be remembered for his devotion to God's Work and serving others despite his extremely high blood pressure and his severe heart condition that hindered him.

The news of DR. REA's sudden death stunned the faculty and Students of Ambassador College, Bricket Wood, England, as well as members of the British Churches of God.

DR. REA had been suffering from acute high blood pressure and heart trouble.

Because of this condition, he was given about six months leave of absence—from August to January—so he could rest, in hopes he would be able to recover in health.

After returning to the College and his duties here in England in January this year, his responsibilities were curtailed in hopes of averting serious heart trouble.

In spite of all this, DR. REA collapsed late Tuesday afternoon, March 9, after going through a very upsetting experience with the reporter of a London paper. He died a few

hours later, at 2:40 a.m. early Wednesday morning.

It fell my lot to preach his funeral, which was held at 3 p.m. Friday, March 12. He was buried in a small wooded area, near the tomb of Sir David Yule, not far from Memorial Hall.

God granted us a very beautiful day for the funeral. The students, faculty and staff of Ambassador College, plus members of the London, Bricket Wood and Birmingham churches attended the funeral. Many sprays and wreaths of flowers had been sent by friends and relatives, as well as from the colleges, various churches and business associates.

DR. REA will be remembered mostly for his extremely warm and friendly personality, plus his driving zeal for his work—God's Work! Please continue to remember Mrs. Rea and her small five-year-old son, Raphael, in your prayers each day! They will both need and appreciate these very much.

—Raymond F. McNair

