



RAY E. ROBERTS (1915-1988)

The Man for Whom the Ohio State Missions Offering Is Named

He helped Ohioans to *lengthen their cords and to strengthen their stakes* through his gentleness of spirit, fervor for the Lord Jesus' service, eloquence in the pulpit and his compassion for people.

Among Southern Baptist leaders, **Ray E. Roberts** stands tall. At six feet five inches in height, topped with a shock of red hair, full featured, possessed with steely-blue eyes and a soft voice, and weighting 250 pounds, he was an impressive personality. **Roberts** was even more impressive as an administrator and spiritual leader -- untiring in his service as a missionary statesman and a dynamic preacher filled with compassion for a lost world.

Captain of his high school football team

Taught a class of boys in Sunday school

Married Margaret Monneyhgam

Called to be the White Water Baptist Association missionary in 1952

Led in the organization of the State Convention of Southern Baptists in Ohio on January 8, 1954

Served as missionary and Executive Secretary-Treasurer for the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio until 1980

Helped Ohio grow from one to fourteen associations with 449 churches and 103 missions during 25 years

Elected Vice-President of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1986

Presented an honorary doctorate from Georgetown Baptist College of Kentucky

Roberts goal was to have a Baptist church in every community in the state. In his first message to the White Water Baptist Association, he said, "It is my deep conviction that the ripest field for Southern Baptist work...lies with the boundaries of Ohio. There are no geographical boundaries in the Great Commission."

Adapted from a pamphlet by L. H. Moore, Editor Emeritus, *The Ohio Baptist Messenger*.