

## **1972 Wilson Deese named to head Chaplaincy ministries for ABSC**

**Wilson Deese** has been named Director of Chaplaincy Ministries in the Department of State Missions of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. He will succeed R. H. Dorris who became Director of the Department in November, 1971. Chaplaincy Ministries is a cooperative work with the Chaplains

Commission of the Home Mission Board, and Deese's election coincides with his appointment by that Board.

As Director of Chaplaincy Ministries Deese will coordinate the institutional chaplaincy programs in five state institutions where Arkansas Baptists provide fulltime chaplains for religious ministries to residents and inmates. These institutions include the Boys Training School, the Girls Training school, Cummins Prison, the Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center, and the State Sanatorium. A weekend student ministry is provided for the McRae Unit of the Childrens Colony, and assistance is given in a volunteer ministry to the jail systems in Craighead and Greene counties.

Deese will also assist churches in their ministry to military personnel and their families, conduct seminars for pastors who desire to serve a neighborhood industry or agency as a volunteer chaplain. He will assist military reserve chaplains through liaison with the Chaplains Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The services of Deese will be offered on a non-demoninational basis in promoting and assisting new chaplaincy programs in hospitals and industries in the state.

Deese was born at Wattensaw, Lonoke County. He comes to this new position from the pastorate of West Helena Church where he has served since 1952. Prior to that he served as pastor of First Church/ Cabot, for three years. During his tenure as a pastor in the state he has served in various denominational capacities including membership on the Executive Board as a Trustee of Ouachita Baptist University and more recently as Chairman of the Committee of 25.

He is a chaplain veteran of World War II where he served in the Southwest Pacific. He currently holds the rank of Lt. Col. in the Army Reserve. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist College (now University) and the Southern Seminary.

Mr. Deese is married to the former **Margaret Lucile Jacks** of Sparkman. They are parents of three daughters, **Margaret Lane Phelps** and **Linda Lucile Pate**, both of Arkadelphia, and **Charla Sue Deese** a sophomore in Ouachita University.