



SELMA UNIVERSITY

R.T. POLLARD RETREAT

The R.T. Pollard Retreat is held in the spring semester of each year to honor a former president, an ardent leader, and a former Alabama State Missionary Baptist pastor.

Historical Reflection of R.T. Pollard

Dr. R.T. Pollard, for whom this retreat is named, is one of the great names in the history of Baptist Work in Alabama. He was born in slavery, October 6, 1860, in Gainesville, Alabama. After receiving his formal education, Dr. Pollard launched out into the ministry. One of his pastorates was the First Baptist Church, Eufaula, Alabama. From Eufaula he was called to the Pastorate of the Tabernacle Baptist Church, Selma, Alabama.

In 1902, Dr. Pollard was elected President of Selma University. Under his leadership, the school prospered numerically and financially. Two new buildings were constructed, Dinkins Hall (the administration building), and Foster Hall (the women's dormitory).

In the summer of 1929, with growing age and failing health, Dr. Pollard resigned from the presidency of Selma University. The Board of Trustees and the Convention reluctantly accepted his resignation. In the Board Meeting of the Convention, he was elected Dean of the Theological Department, a position he held until his death, January 17, 1938.

Dr. Pollard was a deep student of the Bible. He was an effective pastor, having pastored at least seven churches in Alabama. He was a great teacher of ministers. Many of the present pastors of Alabama churches received their inspiration from him. He was a great college president.

It is therefore fitting that this Retreat be named for this great man of God and patriarch of Alabama Baptists.

Complied by
The Late Dr. William H. Dinkins
February 22, 1974