

# Baptist Pastor Quits Church for State Post

The Rev. Dr. J. Murdock Palmer, pastor of the Mariners Harbor Baptist Church for almost 14 years, last night presented his resignation from the pastorate to the congregation, at a meeting in the lower auditorium of the church. Dr. Palmer resigned to assume the post of Protestant chaplain at Willowbrook State School.

Terminating the longest pastorate in the 98-year history of the Mariners Harbor church, Dr. Palmer notified the boards of trustees and deacons of his intention to resign a week ago.

In presenting his resignation, Dr. Palmer thanked the church boards; Miss Beverly Lehn, church clerk and his secretary; the Rev. George T. Jones, associate pastor, and the congregation for cooperation and loyalty during his years of service.

"THE NEXT few years will be the crucial ones in Mariners Harbor, as the community undergoes some important changes in constituency potential," he told the members, urging them to reevaluate the life of the church in terms of time, talent and financial responsibility and warning that "only in a proper distribution of these vital factors can the church of the future outlive the church of the past."

He commented, too, on the Four Chaplains Memorial Chapel work, stating that it "will



DR. J. M. PALMER

be not only a credit to the faithfulness of the people, but beneficial in the over-all program of the Mariners Harbor Baptist Church."

Recommended by the New York State Council of Churches, after fulfilling the requirements for a state school chaplaincy, Dr. Palmer is the first American Baptist Convention minister named to such a fulltime state school post.

He, Mrs. Palmer, who teaches the blind at the school, and their children, Lois, 13, and Sharon Joy, 8, will reside on the school grounds.

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## State School Aide Accused in Escape

An attendant at Willowbrook State School was arrested early this morning on a charge of allowing five patients to escape by giving them a key.

The man taken into custody is David Jenkins, 22, who lived at the school. He was arrested by Detective Joseph DiGiovanni.

Five children at the school ran off Sept. 3, according to police. Two of them are still missing.