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BIOGRAPHICAL  
SKETCHES OF  
PRIMITIVE OR OLD  
SCHOOL BAPTIST  
MINISTERS

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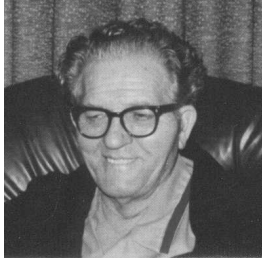


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## **ELDER ALLEN ABERNATHY**



Elder Abernathy of California was ordained in 1938. He pastored the Blythe, Riverside, Westmoreland, El Centro and Santa Paula Churches in California for over thirty years. We regret that we could not obtain more information on this good minister.

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## **ELDER BUDDY ABERNATHY, JR.**

I was born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama on June 9, 1963. My mother faithfully carried me and my sister to Five Mile Church where she is a member. I joined Five Mile Church in November 1978 and was baptized the following month by the pastor of the church, Elder Elmer Kitchens from Jasper, Alabama.



In 1981, I entered the University of Alabama in pursuit of a degree in Engineering. It was also during this period of time that I began to feel impressions to speak but did not realize that the impressions were an indication that I was called to preach.

In June of 1985, I was liberated to preach and the following August I met Miss Tina Lynne Wingard of McCalla, Alabama. She was not a member but had attended a singing at the home of one of the preachers in our community. We then began attending church together regularly.

In June of 1986, Tina joined Five Mile Church and was baptized by Elder Glenn Payne. Elder Payne was my "father in the ministry" and always encouraged me regarding my efforts to preach. In July of 1986, I was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry. Tina and I were married on January 3, 1987 and began living in a rental house in Akron.

In June of 1989, I accepted the care of Mars Hill Church in Edison, Georgia. The church owned a house in which we were allowed to live and they were financially generous to us. Therefore, I was able to devote all of my time to the work of the ministry, for which I am grateful. In August of 1994, I accepted the care of El Bethel Church in Tampa, Florida.

By the end of 1998, I felt that I had completed the work, which the Lord had sent me there to do. For approximately six months I traveled by airplane to Birmingham, Alabama and filled appointments at Grants Mill Church. Initially, I had accepted a call to pastor Grants Mill Church. However, I could not feel at peace with my decision and declined the call. As of this writing (Feb. 2000), I am traveling to preach at other churches almost every weekend as I prayerfully wait upon the Lord to open a door in accordance with His providential will.

My wife and I have been blessed with five children Sara (11), Rachel (9), Hannah (6), Lydia (3& 1/2), and Chloe (1 month).

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**ELDER ELIJU R. ABERNATHY**

Elder Abernathy, son of Seth and Elizabeth Abernathy, was born in North Carolina September 2, 1838. He removed to Cass County, Georgia with his family about the year 1848.

In September 1877, Brother Abernathy expressed a desire to follow in the steps of Christ and upon this expression he was received into the fellowship of Macedonia Church in Bartow County (old Cass) on November 2, 1877. He was baptized the following day and was ordained to the ministry on February 2, 1889. His companion in life, Miss Malinda George, joined him in marriage on January 14, 1862.

Brother Abernathy continued his Christian perseverance until his death on July 9, 1903.

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**ELDER JAMES EVERETT ABERNATHY**

On July 25, 1922, a son was born into the household of Jesse F. and May (Stapleton) Abernathy who was destined to become a minister in Arkansas. This son was born in Brookston, Lamar County, Texas.

Brother Everett married the former Miss Laurine Abernathy on June 22, 1948.

After several years, Brother Everett came to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and he joined himself with the Church in Little Rock, Arkansas known as Bethel. About 2 years later the church set him aside for ordination as a minister. He was ordained on August 17, 1974, with a presbytery consisting of Elders A. Abernathy, T. Huckaby, E. Tillery, C. Tillery, L. McClain, L. Webb, P. McClain, M. Henson, R. L. Cottrell, Troy Corley, Frank Baker, Tommy Hart, V. O. Bynum, V. Griffin, Ernest Sowder, I. Thornton, and W. Preslar.

### **ELDER J. S. ABERNATHY**

WRITTEN BY LILLIAN ABERNATHY OF CARTERSVILLE, GA: J. S. Abernathy was born May 16, 1852 and departed this life Sept. 1, 1939. He was married to Mary Gravett. To them six children were born.

Elder Abernathy saw himself a sinner in the sight of God at an early age. He and his wife were baptized into the fellowship of Macedonia Church by his father, Elder B. L. Abernathy. Sometime later he began to exercise his gift as a minister. He was loved by his neighbors. The church has lost a father in Israel. After service conducted by Elders W. R. Abernathy and J. W. Dempsey he was gently laid away in the cemetery at Macedonia.

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### **ELDER WALTER P. ACTON**

Elder Walter Acton was born on August 13, 1910, the son of Arthur E. and Lola B. Acton. His earliest memories were of his parents getting out the songbooks after the evening chores and singing the songs of Zion. When his father would read from the Bible, his heart would rejoice over the precious promises of God. When he was 16 years old and working in the field he heard a clear voice saying, "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people saith your God." He looked toward Heaven and answered, "O Lord, not me, I'm just a boy."



He joined the church during the Hazel Creek Association in 1928. Elder Acton first introduced services in October 1931 and felt the only cure for his burden of so many years was to tell others of the "wonderful works of God."

On May 15, 1932, he was married to Miss Faye Tracy at Winterset, Iowa. They had one adopted son.

He was ordained to the ministry at the Hazel Creek Association in 1945. He pastored churches throughout Northern and Mid-Missouri for more than 45 years. He passed away on September 4, 1941

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### **ELDER ERNEST C. ADAIR**

Elder Adair was born on July 23, 1908, in Rutledge, Georgia, and passed from this life on February 11, 1985, at his home in St. Petersburg, Florida. He was laid to rest in Lone Pilgrim Cemetery to await the master's call.

His funeral service was conducted at Lone Pilgrim Church by his pastor, Elder Robert Mayhorn, and by Elder Hilton Raulerson.

Elder Adair was married to Sister Jean on April 28, 1928, and of this union a son was born, Eddie F. Adair. Elder Adair, Sister Jean, and Eddie joined New Hope Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1945.

He was ordained to the ministry in 1946, at Lone Pilgrim Church.

He was called to serve Hopewell Church in Sarasota as their Pastor. Elder Adair was called to Lone Pilgrim Church as Pastor on October 1, 1949. He served Lone Pilgrim Church, except for a two-year period, until ill health forced him to step down in October of 1983. Elder Adair also served several other churches in the Mt. Enon Association during his ministry.

Elder Adair worked as Stereo Foreman for the St. Petersburg Times.

He retired in July 1973 after more than 28 years on the staff, casting the final stereo plate June 25, 1974. The plate was used, gilded and given to him along with a plaque which noted that, "his leadership as Stereo foreman covered more than a quarter century of service."

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#### **ELDER J. BRYAN ADAIR**

Elder Adair was born in Stephens MO near Columbia on May 28, 1905. His parents rarely took him to church, neither of them being professors of religion. He was, however, taught that a church is a very sacred organization, and that there is a God in Heaven. At a young age, he was deeply burdened by religious things. As a young man, he began to search for a church and decided that the hard-shells were the only that believed as he did. In November of 1926, he united with the Old Cedar Church near Columbia, MO and was baptized by Elder G. E. Edwards. Within one month, he was trying to speak in public. Two years after being baptized, he was married to Miss Adah Collins of Adair County, MO. He then moved his membership to Hazel Creek Church where she was a member. She passed away after only 16 months of marriage. He then married Miss Viola Copps and they had a baby girl. At the request of Hazel Creek Church, he was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry on August 25, 1931, and since that time had the care of churches in Missouri, Iowa and Illinois. He passed away on February 9, 1976.



### **ELDER E. J. W. ADAMS**

Elder Adams was born March 16, 1846, in Randolph County, Georgia. He was married to Miss Elizabeth Silcox in the year 1869. To this union two children were born. Again he was married to Miss E. E. Bryan on July 2, 1893. To this union eleven children were born. Brother Adams was stricken with paralysis and died at his home on Bowman Street, Mansfield, Ohio, Feb. 13, 1924.

He received a hope in the Savior in 1868, and joined the Mars Hill Church, Calhoun County, Georgia, in May 1872. He was baptized by Elder J. B. Teet, was liberated to preach in June 1885, and ordained to the work as a gospel minister May 26, 1894. He was a member of Honey Creek Church at the time of his death.

He entered into the Civil War in Company I, Fifth Florida Cavalry, July 1874, and received an honorable discharge at the end of the war.

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### **ELDER HARVEY JOHN ADAMS**

The subject was the son of Benjamin Franklin and Laurena Adams, born near Stewartsville, Ind., Feb. 21, 1875, and died May 16, 1931. He was united in marriage with Aldine Robinson Feb. 23, 1898. This union was blessed with three sons.

While quite a young man, Elder Adams united with the Church at Wadesville, Ind., and was baptized by the late Eld. Lemuel Potter. Feeling the call to the work of the ministry, he was shortly afterward licensed to preach. During the early '90's he made his home with Mr. John Van Horn, of near Oregonia, Ohio, and placed his membership in the Bethel Church, which is now extinct. Later he transferred his membership to the Mt. Zion Church at Blanchester, Ohio, which remained his church home until his death.

After unusual success in his business undertaking, he changed his business connections in 1913, in order to give his time more fully to the work of the ministry of the gospel. Following his ordination in 1913, he ungrudgingly gave his strength and substance for the welfare of the church, oftentimes pastoring five or more churches.

Elder Adams was a profound student and thinker, an able theologian and a kind and conscientious pastor. His labors had been freely given, for the most part, to the weaker churches of his denomination. He had served as clerk of the Miami Association from 1911 to 1930, at which time he was chosen moderator of this association.

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### **ELDER JOHN BENTLEY ADAMS**

John Bentley Adams was born September 10, 1912, at Howard, Taylor County, Georgia, to John Henry Adams and Nettie Smith Adams. Both his parents were active in Shiloah

Church in Talbot County, Georgia. His father was ordained a deacon of Shiloah Church on April 28, 1906.

John Adams joined Shiloah Church in June 1935 and was baptized the fourth Sunday in June 1935. His wife, Florine Buland Adams joined at his baptism and both were baptized by Elder S. H. McCorkle.

Elder Adams was first ordained a deacon at Shiloah Church on November 30, 1952. He was ordained to the full work of the ministry at Shiloah.

He joined Pleasant Hill Church by letter May 1, 1954. He helped build and constitute Pleasant Hill Church in Thomaston, Georgia. Elder Adams was very active and faithful to his church and to the Upatoi Association, which he served as moderator from 1956 to 1984.

He served as pastor of Bethel church, Bethlehem church in Butler, Pleasant Hill church in Thomaston, Mt. Pisgah in Buena Vista, Mt. Paron in Box Spring, New Bethel in Pitts and Mt. Carmel in Roberta.

Elder Adams passed from this world on February 9, 1989.

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#### **ELDER LUKE ADDISON**

Elder Addison, of Mississippi, was born on July 14, 1971. Elder Marvin Peterson, his grandfather, baptized him. He was married on June 12, 1996 to the former Robyn Wallace. To this union two children were born: Hope Elise and Nathanael Lewis.

Brother Luke was ordained to the ministry at the Middleton Creek Church near McComb Mississippi. He is currently serving the Mt. Gilead Church as pastor.

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#### **ELDER GEORGE SAMUEL ADERS**

Elder Aders was born in Bristow, Indiana to Daniel Francis and Mary M. (Sandage) Aders on September 30, 1895. In October 1916, Brother Aders united with Mount Gilead Church at his hometown of Bristow, Perry County, Indiana. He joined in an eternal marriage with Miss Sarah Howe on December 7, 1917.

Elder Aders' education was limited but the Lord provided him with all the necessary abilities to preach the Gospel all these years. He also pursued the trade of Carpentry.

Elder Aders united with Mt. Gilead Church, Bristow, IN, in 1916. He was ordained a deacon in 1922 and an elder in 1932. He served as this church's pastor until April 1991 and co-pastor until his death. He had served as pastor to other churches in this area and pastored Little Pigeon Church until his death.



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**ELDER RAYMOND E. ADKINS**

Elder Adkins, son of Sylvester E. and Martha M. (Sexson) Adkins, was born February 24, 1906 at Spencer (Owen County), Indiana. Just past his eighteenth birthday, Brother Adkins took for his wife and life's companion, Miss Ruth Livingston. They were married on March 22, 1924.

Little Flock Church, located 10 miles Southeast of Spencer, Indiana became the spiritual home of Brother Adkins in December 1935. He was baptized on April 10, 1936. On May 28, 1955, the church recognized a gift to the ministry and ordained Brother Adkins. The presbytery consisted of Elder Leslie Brinson, Paul Chastain, Charles J. Small, Maurice Jackson, John Sparks, Jesse Brinson, Robert Shockley, B. T. Stevens, Lloyd Chastain, Manson Mood, Cecil Fuson, and Mervin Drake.

Since his ordination, Elder Adkins has pastored many churches. Among them have been Union Church near Stanford, Indiana; Coatsville Church at Coatsville, Indiana; Old Salem Church in Indianapolis; and his home church, Little Flock Church.

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**ELDER CLAYBURN COLUMBUS AGEE**



Clayburn Columbus Agee, son of C. D. and Clearcie Harwell Agee, was born in southeast Missouri, Jan. 1, 1867. He married Miss Minnie Dooley and to this union ten children were born. He was a firm believer in the faith and practices of the s from early manhood, his parents having been of that faith. He obtained a hope in Christ when he was 16 or 17 years of age. He debated many times, on various phases of the gospel, with members of other faiths, long before he united with Round Prairie Church at Louisburg, in 1898. He was baptized by Elder Wm. C. Wisdom, who became his father in the ministry. In Nov. 1898, he was made a licentiate, and in the November following was ordained in the full work of the ministry. In 1901, he was chosen moderator of Ozark Association, which place he filled faithfully until his death. He was also pastor of the following churches: Fellowship, Ozark, Zion and New Bethel, having served each, consecutively, from 13 to 34 years. He was also pastor of Pisgah Church for many years.

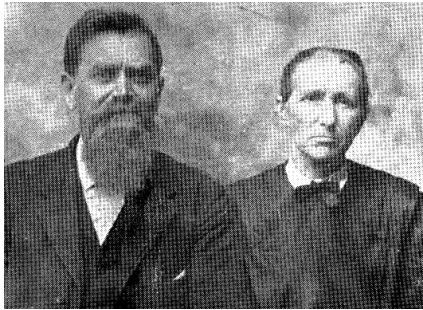
On Friday night, Jan. 18, 1934, Elder W. B. Howard of Freewater, Ore., had preached a good discourse at New Bethel Church. Elder Agee concluded the services but was stricken with paralysis soon after and died four days later, Jan 23, 1934 in a Springfield hospital.

## ELDER J. E. ALDERMAN

WRITTEN JULY 27, 1933. I am the son of Daniel Alderman, who was born and reared in North Carolina. I was born in Marion County, GA, on November 28, 1853.

I married Fannie Barr on January 9, 1879. I was enjoying life as I had been until one night after we lay down; when I was disturbed with the sentence of death and condemnation, which made me mourn and groan.

I was in that condition for three years, but the time came when the Lord unbound me and freed me from the sentence that came on me that night. When the deliverance came I had a feeling I had never had before. Everything looked and felt different.



In October 1886, I went back to the old home. The Bethany Association convened on the second Saturday in October, 8 miles from Father's. I attended it while there. Father asked me if I did want to live in the church. I said, "Yes". He said, "I want to see you baptized". They arranged for Zion Hill Church to have a meeting the next Sunday at Father's. It was my desire that old Elder Oden be there. We were blessed to have the meeting. I stated to the church a part of what I have written and was received. We went to the pond near father's and dear old Elder Oden baptized me. I then found that rest that is received by taking the yoke of Jesus and learning of Him. A year from that time my wife was baptized by Elder S. V. Ford.

On Saturday before the fourth Sunday in April 1891, the church gave me right to preach and to continue the exercise of my gift. I served four churches until five years ago; two at present. This is my 38th year to serve as pastor for one of them, Good Hope. I have baptized a little over 100 there.

FROM HIS OBITUARY BY ELDER J. M. SHOWS: Elder Alderman served the following churches of the Good Hope Association of MS (which was constituted out of the Bethany Association in October 1890): Providence (Jasper County); Good Hope (Simpson County); Bethel (Jasper County); New Zion (Smith County); Old Zion (Simpson County); and New Chapel (Scott County). He was a pastor at Providence and Good Hope for over 40 years. He also traveled extensively throughout the southern states. When not attending to his ministerial duties, he was busy with his farming operations. Six children were born. Elder Alderman died on January 7, 1941 and was buried in Providence Cemetery.

He made his last public appearance at the Good Hope Association in October 1940, and though he spoke for only a few minutes, words of praise and appreciation were heard on every side.

## ELDER CHARLES W. ALDERTON

WRITTEN BY ELDER RAYMOND PRESSLEY: This is in memory of our beloved pastor and dear brother servant in the ministry, Elder Charles W. Alderton, who died Saturday, May 20, 1978 at age 69, in an automobile accident near Luray Virginia. He was born July 4, 1908, the son of Kirk and Dora Alderton.

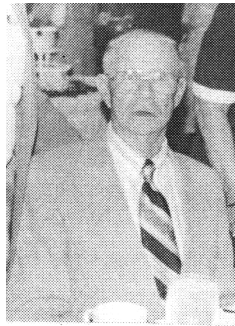
He was married June 20, 1929 to Virginia Soper. They had two children, Charles, Jr., and Virginia May Alderton. Sister Virginia died December 27, 1957 and he later married Retha Sue Caudill. They had two children, John W., and Retha Alice Alderton.

Brother Charles was ordained into the ministry on July 19, 1952 and for twenty-six years he faithfully fulfilled that office, serving several different churches during that period.

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## ELDER J. EMORY ALDERTON

FROM "HISTORY OF THE CHURCH AT COLUMBIA" BY ELDER STEPHEN R. AQUINO: November 1955 through December 1967. Born of Edward C. Alderton and Mary E. Gates on January 7, 1917 in Montgomery County, Maryland. Moved to Paw Paw West Virginia then back to Lay Hill, Maryland about 1923 or 1924 with Grandparent Gates. On May 11, 1938 married Virginia M. Snellings.



His earliest impression to preach was in 1948 when in several dreams there was a white-sleeved hand pointing at him as he heard, "you preach the gospel." Emory would avoid this impression for some time.

After his return to Maryland Emory started going to church. Then on June 6, 1948 he united with the church being baptized by Elder Percy Dalton. His wife, Virginia, was baptized a year later on June 19, 1949.

His first early impressions about preaching were realized when Elder Dove came to Emory outside the church building explaining his own desire to have him speak to the church.

On October 1948 the church at Columbia recognized his God-given gift and a presbytery was organized made up of Elder Harvey Daily, J.E.L. Alderton, F.E. Thompson, L.S. Dove, Benjamin Seekford, T.W. Alderton and W.G. Fletcher.

In addition to serving at Columbia as Associate Pastor Elder Emory was pastor of Tonoloway, Seneca, Wilmington, Needmore, Waterlick, Goose Creek, Grace, Union. He has preached at many other churches throughout Virginia. At the time of writing this historical account Brother Emory Alderton continues as the Pastor of White Oak Church in Fredericksburg Virginia.

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### ELDER JAMES E. L. ALDERTON

FROM "HISTORY OF THE CHURCH AT COLUMBIA" BY ELDER STEPHEN R. AQUINO: Brother James E.L. Alderton son of Elder Thomas N. Alderton and Francis Powell Alderton. He was born near Paw Paw West Virginia on December 8, 1880. He married Anna Laura Compton on May 22, 1901 in Great Cacapon, W. V. They had five children. Elder Alderton united with Petworth Church of Washington D. C. in September 1902 and was ordained to the ministry in 1921. He was elected trustee of the church a few years after becoming a member.

On October 21st, 1923 he was voted as Pastor for the Columbia Church and would commence a period of time in which five Aldertons would preach at Columbia Church. In a period extending 49 years, five Aldertons, two who were Pastors, one an Associate Pastor and two others, preached frequently. Elder James E.L. Alderton was well versed in his Bible and instructed the Church, ably delineating what the Bible taught.

J.E.L. Alderton passed this life on December 30, 1954. He is buried at Andrew Chapel Cemetery, Fairfax Virginia.

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### ELDER THOMAS EZRA ALDERTON



Thomas Ezra Alderton was born January 25, 1898, in Georgetown, D. C., now a part of the City of Washington. He was the son of John Corder and Emily Alderton, the second of three children. He died on Sunday, August 8, 1976, in Montgomery County, Maryland. Brother Tom on August 11, 1923, married Eva Mae Waters in Washington, D. C. To This union two sons were born: Robert Howard and John Frederick. His wife died in September 1940. In October 9, 1943, Brother Tom was united in marriage to Lottie Mae (Powell) Day in Washington Church. The ceremony was performed by Elder J. E. L. Alderton, Brother Tom's uncle. To this union one son was born, Kenneth Powell Alderton.

He was baptized into the membership of Columbia Church, on July 17, 1938, by his uncle, Elder J. E. L. Alderton. He was ordained a deacon of Columbia Church on July 14, 1962 and a minister of the gospel on July 15, 1967. He was also elected as a Church Trustee on June 5, 1958. His wife, Sister Lottie, was baptized into Columbia Church membership by Elder Leonard Dove on July 22, 1953. Brother Tom served as pastor of Columbia Church from November, 1967 to April 14, 1973. He and Sister Lottie moved their membership to Washington Church on the Fourth Sunday, April 22, 1973.

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### ELDER THOMAS W. ALDERTON

WRITTEN BY ELDER CHARLES W. ALDERTON: Elder Thomas W. Alderton was born February 29, 1880 and died October 1, 1954. He united with the Church at Enon in Largent, W. Va. in 1905 and was baptized by his uncle, Elder T. N. Alderton.



Elder Tommie was born in Largent, W. Va. He was the son of the late Daniel P. and Mary V. Alderton. Twice married, his first wife, Lillie May Hutchinson is deceased.

Elder Tommie began speaking in public in 1906. In 1910, he moved his membership from Enon to Petworth in Washington, D. C. then later to White Oak Church in Fredericksburg, Va. In 1942, he moved his membership back to Enon where it remained until his death.

In the early years of 1900 to 1952, Elder Tommie served churches in Md., W. Va., Pa. and traveled in many other states devoting his full time to the service of his master, preaching the unsearchable riches of Jesus Christ.

In 1952, due to ill health, Elder Tommie was forced to give up serving his churches at Enon, W. Va., Old Union, W. Va., Cumberland, Md., Sideling Hill, Pa., Needmore, Pa., and Tonoloway, Pa. However, to the very last he made efforts to get to the meetings whenever he was able to present his body.

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### ELDER EDGAR T. ALESHIRE

WRITTEN BY ELDER LASSERRE BRADLEY: Elder Edgar Trenton Aleshire was born near Stanley, Virginia June 25, 1905, the sixth and last child of James William and Ada Painter Aleshire. It was in the Shenandoah Valley that he first came under the sound of preaching in the Old Baptist Church, his mother having been baptized by Elder R.H. Pittman at old Alma Church where her family attended with her.



In April 1925, Brother Aleshire first felt the quickening power of God in his life. He sought to know the will and truths of the Lord and found his place among the Old School people. During the following years, he was married and became the father of two daughters. He worked in the printing trade for several years in Springfield and Dayton. Later, he established his own construction business.

In June 1932, at 28 years of age, he was baptized into the fellowship of Miami Church of Dayton, Ohio. He served as clerk and then deacon in the Dayton Church and was ordained to the ministry on July 25, 1942. He served several central Ohio churches as pastor, and in January 1949, he led in the formation of the Springfield Church. He served this church as pastor for 22 years, from 1949 until 1971. He also served the Reynoldsburg Church once a month during those years.

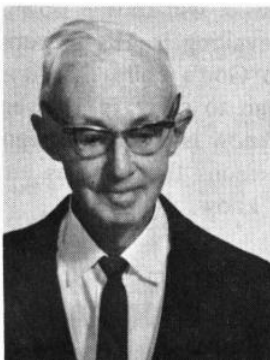
During his years of ministry, Brother Aleshire earnestly exhorted his hearers to meet more frequently; and the Springfield Church met every Sunday. In the early 1960's, Elder Aleshire led in remodeling the Reynoldsburg Church, and then urged the membership to meet every Sunday and to call a new pastor who could serve them that often. He was overjoyed at their calling Elder Paul Jones of Indiana. In 1962, Elder Aleshire followed Elder Earl Daily to become the sixth editor of the *Primitive Monitor*, established in 1886 by a son of Elder Wilson Thompson. He published the *Monitor* for ten years. He also preached every Sunday morning over WIZE in Springfield, Ohio, for ten years. He was a gifted and articulate preacher, an earnest student of the Bible, a capable pastor.

Elder Aleshire's youngest daughter, Barbara Ann, brain-injured in childhood, had a tremendous, ever-increasing and never-ending influence on his life. Barbara could not talk and was blinded at the age of twelve. Because of her, he became much concerned for the afflicted, especially for those despised or set aside by others. In 1971, Elder Aleshire made the decision to move his family to Florida because of Barbara's health.

He pastored the New Hope Church in Port Orange, Florida for a year. While he was pastor, the New Hope Church voted to meet twice a month, to his great joy. While he served them, he was overtaken with illness, which prevented him from ever preaching again.

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#### ELDER H. L. ALFORD



I was born December 15th, 1889, in a little log cabin in Clay County, Alabama, in the Bethany Church Community. I am the son of William and Elizabeth Hodnett Alford.

In my later years I have wondered if I had the good influence over my children that my father and mother had over me. Mama and Papa carried us children to church and we have carried ours. I remember seeing Mama and Papa baptized. It scared me. I was just a little boy then. But the Third Sunday in August 1907, I was baptized in the same creek by Elder S. W. Pruett, as a member of Bethany Church.

The church meant much to me in my young days. I can remember those good old Elders. Elder Lecroy, in closing would say, "Lord, bless truth and pardon error." Elder Harris was preaching one time and said, "If some one will give me a dime I will quit." Grandma Hodnett carried him a dime. The congregation smiled. It kindly embarrassed him, but he quit in a short time. I would take a part in the prayer meetings.

The brethren decided I had the gift of speaking, so in 1932 they asked me to exercise the gift. The Lord's people need to hear the truth, but I have not been the best speaker by any means, but a humble godly life effects me more than oratory. I do not think I have been very effective with either one.

In 1909, at a church meeting, I saw a girl and I liked her looks, so I asked a young man to introduce me to her. The lady was Miss (13 year old) Esther Vickers. I continued to visit her until I decided to take her as my wife if she would have me. She agreed to take me as a husband, so we were married October 19th, 1913. She has been a good helpmeet these fifty-seven years. She joined Bethany Church with me in 1917. At the present we have three boys and three girls. We lost a little seven weeks old girl in 1917. She died with the whooping cough.

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### ELDER BILL ALLEN

I was not raised a Primitive Baptist. I was raised among the Southern Baptists. It was during that time, around the age of eight years, that I felt my first convictions of sin and experienced a hope in Jesus Christ, and joined the church of my parent's membership.



As an older teenager, I began to notice certain inconsistencies between what was being taught from the pulpit and what I was reading in my Bible. I began to ask questions that obviously made some of those brethren uncomfortable like, "What is this election taught in the Bible? Why is it not preached?" I did not receive satisfactory answers to these questions.

Then for a period of two years, the first two years that I was in college, I lived a miserable life filled with immorality.

Within the next couple of years, while still in college, the Lord introduced me to my wife, Charmion. To my amazement, I had found a person who did not think I was mistaken about the truth of God's grace! She took me to her church and I heard the gospel of grace in Jesus Christ preached for the first time! I joined that church. That was in October 1990. Charmion and I had been married in August that same year.

Eventually, in July of 1993, after feeling a burden to preach the gospel and exercising for a time, I was ordained to the gospel ministry. I then served the Progressive Primitive Baptist Church in Jamestown, LA as pastor for about two years. After that, I returned to Texas and served at First Primitive Baptist Church of Wichita Falls as pastor for about three years.

As I studied, I found myself somewhat dissatisfied with some of the practices of the Progressive churches, namely use of instrumental music, acceptance of Freemasons as members, and the common Sunday School form of the Bible study program. I will say,

however, that my dissatisfaction was never in doctrinal issues and that I dearly love these brethren.

After much study, soul searching, and prayer, I came to the point that I felt I again needed to change course. During this time I had come in contact with Old Line Baptists. I found myself in more agreement with them on the above stated issues than I did with the churches I was serving. I felt that I had no choice but to be true to what I felt the Bible taught. About this time I came in contact with Elder David Montgomery because some of the members of the Wichita Falls Church were living in San Antonio and were attending the church he pastored at that time. He and I began a correspondence and discussed many things and I felt a great kinship in understanding. There was a certain point at which he said he wanted to meet in person, so he arranged a meeting with me. This took place in Stephenville, Texas at the home of Elder Dwayne Shafer.

I visited the church that Eld. Shafer pastored in Stephenville periodically after that and the church there showed me a great hospitality and love. I resigned the pastorship at Wichita Falls and we moved to Stephenville in the summer of 1998. I joined the church at Stephenville by baptism in August 1998; my wife did the same several months later. I continued to feel the burden to preach the word and was afforded that opportunity in the Stephenville Church. In time, the church decided to recognize this in me and called for my ordination to serve in the gospel ministry among them.

I was ordained at Stephenville, Texas, on the second Saturday of January 1999. Elder David Montgomery conducted the examination and Elder Hugh Montgomery delivered the charge. Since then I have been blessed to serve the church at Stephenville and labor in the word.

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#### **ELDER EDDIE ALLEN**

FROM THE "PRIMITIVE MONITOR:" Elder Allen received a hope in Christ in early life and united with Salem Church (Wayne Co.), Indiana, December 1910, and was baptized by Elder E. W. Harlan. He was later ordained as a deacon and humbly served in this capacity for a number of years.

It pleased the Lord to call Elder Allen to preach His everlasting Gospel. While he procrastinated against this High Calling for a number of years, he learned that it was as Solomon said, "Thy people shall be willing in the day of Thy Power" and became obedient to the will of his master and the desire of Salem Church and was ordained in July of 1929.

Soon after his ordination he was called to pastor Salem Church and labored with her for 25 years. During this period he also served numerous other churches as pastor. He was blessed to baptize a number of the members of Salem Church as well as many others.

The Whitewater Association called him for their Moderator in 1934 and was favored with his services for the next 18 years.



He was well known among the s of this section for his ready wit and humor as well as for his devotion to the cause of Christ and the welfare of Zion. Many of the Lord's sheep turned to him for guidance and comfort and no request seemed to be too small or too great for him to give the best he had.

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**ELDER J. B. ALLEN**

Brother Allen was born June 26, 1874 near Newton, Mississippi and died December 19, 1965 at his home in Lubbock, Texas.

His wife preceded him in death in 1954. One son, Earl, preceded him in death in 1958.

CONDENSED FROM AN EXPERIENCE REPRINTED IN MESSENGER OF PEACE: When Elder Allen was about seventeen or eighteen, he was impressed to join the church, but did not feel that he had anything to tell the brethren. He would read various experiences of grace, but felt he had nothing to tell, and this caused him much trouble. He also felt an impression about preaching, but did not feel able to stand before the people of God. As time rolled on and he grew of manhood, he realized he now had a double duty to perform: to join the church and preach the gospel.

In his twenty-second year, on June 10, 1896, he married Ada A. Graham. She was reared by a people of a different belief, but she never put a barrier in his way, and instead encouraged him all she could.

On Saturday before the second Sunday in October 1897, he went to the cotton field, but could not pick cotton. He would find himself sitting or standing in a deep study, so he picked up his sack, threw it in the wagon, and started for the house. He told another man in the field he was going to church. He and his wife were soon on their way to Beulah Church in Falls County, Texas. After preaching by Elder L. H. Stukeley and his father, there was an opportunity given to those who wanted a home in the church. His old uncle began singing, "Children of the Heavenly King," and before he realized it he was almost up to where his father was standing. He was baptized by his father, Elder T. A. Allen, on the second Sunday in November.

Later, Brother Allen moved to Oklahoma, was liberated to preach, and on the first Sunday in November 1929, was ordained to the work of the ministry.

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**ELDER JACK DEAN ALLEN**

Elder Allen of the Muskingum Association in Ohio was born May 4, 1943, in Champaign, Illinois. His parents were Brother Olad Elmo Allen and Sister Ida Bernice Allen, both members of the New Liberty Church in Champaign. Brother Olad was a deacon.

When he was nine years old Brother Jack asked for a home in New Liberty Church and was baptized that afternoon by Elder Clapp.



Brother Jack and Sister Joyce were married on January 25, 1964, in Symrna Church with Elders Orvel Prior and Lloyd Clapp officiating. They lived for nearly two years in Champaign, then moved to Bloomington, Indiana, where Brother Jack attended Indiana University, receiving his Ph.D. in theoretical chemical physics in December of 1969. They moved to Ohio, eventually transferring their memberships from the churches where they grew up to Harmony Church near Alexandria, Ohio.

On September 29, 1973, Brother Jack was ordained as a deacon at Harmony Church. He was ordained as an elder on April 29, 1978. Elder Jack and Sister Joyce have four children, each of whom is a member at Harmony.

Elder Allen has been the pastor at Harmony since shortly after his ordination. He has also pastored or co-pastored other churches, including Beulah (near Zanesville), Friendship (in Newark), Licking (in Hebron), and Turkey Run (near Lancaster), all in central Ohio. He served as moderator of the Muskingum Association from 1978 to 1994. Besides Harmony, he currently co-pastors Friendship and Licking with Elder John Krumm of Granville, Ohio.

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**ELDER J. M. ALLEN**

FROM "A HISTORY OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS OF ALABAMA, MT. ZION ASSOCIATION" BY ELDER E. B. WATTS: Elder Allen was also a member and pastor at Little Vine in Walker County. Elder Allen was first listed as an ordained Elder in 1914. He pastored the churches located in Walker and Jefferson Counties. His address was generally Dora, Alabama. He is listed with the association's Elders after 1929.

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**ELDER M. A. ALLEN**

Elder Allen served Enon church in Queen City, Texas for several years. No other information could be obtained.

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**ELDER N. A. ALLEN**

FROM SOUTHWEST TEXAS ASSOCIATION MINUTES - 1924: Elder Allen was born September 1883. He joined San Marcos Church on the fourth Sunday in April 1906. He was ordained the fourth Saturday in July 1915; died November 8, 1923.

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**ELDER WALTER L. ALLEN**

SUBMITTED BY ELDER KEITH HOLLINGSWORTH: Elder Allen was born in Louisiana, August 17, 1881, but lived most of his life in Walton County, Georgia. He was the son of the late Elder Lorenza and Emma Mitchell Allen. He married Cora Estelle Autry on February 7, 1904, and they were blessed with six children. Elder Allen was blessed to baptize five of them.



Elder Allen joined Mt. Paran Church, Walton County, Georgia, by experience on July 5, 1909. He served as assistant clerk on various occasions and was ordained a deacon on June 30, 1916. He was liberated in 1920 and was ordained an Elder on Friday, April 29, 1921. Mt. Paran was blessed to have him as pastor all but 5 years of the more than 50 years he served as an Elder. In addition to Mt. Paran, he was also pastor of Moriah (Athens, GA), Rock Springs (Morgan County, GA), Hardeman (Decatur, GA), Gum Creek, Shoal Creek (Walton County, GA), Camp Creek (Milledgeville, GA) and Fellowship (Tucker, GA).

Elder Allen passed away November 4, 1971 at the age of 90 years. His funeral was held at Mt. Paran with burial in the church cemetery.

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**ELDER W. M. ALLEY**

Elder Alley, of Hot Springs, Arkansas, served Mt. Tabor Church of the Salem Association from at least 1937 through 1949. He is remembered by some today for his distinctive, musical manner of preaching.

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**ELDER J. P. ALLISON**

FROM "PRIMITIVE MONITOR" WRITTEN BY ELDER S. B. MOFFITT: Brother Allison was born March 4, 1831, in Crawford County, Illinois. He died in Oregon City, Oregon, April 1, 1911, aged eighty years and twenty-seven days. He moved with his parents to Wisconsin in 1844, where he was married in 1850 to Miss Mary Long, daughter of the late

Elder Wm. and Martha Long. They moved to Minnesota about the year 1856, and from there to Iowa in the year 1857, remaining there eight years. From there they moved to Oregon by ox train in 1866, settling near Oregon City where they have continued to reside, except for a few years in eastern Oregon and California.

Brother Allison received a hope in Christ when a mere boy, joined the church in Illinois, called Apple River, at the age of sixteen years, and was baptized by his father, Elder Richard Allison. He began preaching at the age of twenty-seven years and was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry in the year 1865, which honored position he held to the day of his death.

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**ELDER A. F. ALLUMS**

FROM "A HISTORY OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS OF ALABAMA, MT. ZION ASSOCIATION" BY ELDER E. B. WATTS: Elder Allums was a member and pastor of Little Vine Church in Walker County. His name first appears with the list of ordained Elders in 1914. In 1916, he was pastor at Cluster Springs in Jefferson County and in 1917, he was pastor at Ebenezer Church in Jefferson County. His name is not mentioned after 1919.

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**ELDER M. R. ALTOM**

WRITTEN BY MARK GREEN: Elder Marion Riley Altom was born in 1916 in Buckner, Arkansas, in Lafayette County, the son of Marion Hampton and Ola Gertrude Swindell Altom. At the age of 15 he joined the Missionary Baptists.

Two of his brothers held to the beliefs of the Primitive Baptists, and would frequently discuss the doctrine with him. He began to search for the truth. Finally, one night about midnight while he was reading, the truth of election was revealed to him, and John 3:16 was the first text in which he saw its beauty. He immediately woke his wife to tell her about it, and then walked a mile and a half to tell his parents, feeling sure they would rejoice in it as he had, but that was not the case.



In 1951 he joined First Church of Dallas, and was baptized by Elder J. P. Dale. Soon afterward he began taking a public part in the worship service. His first text was James 1:17. In 1952 Elder Altom was ordained, with Elder Dale preaching the charge.

Elder Altom has served Bethlehem Church in Dallas, Old School Church in Ft. Worth, and New Hope Church of Tulsa (now in Broken Arrow), Oklahoma. He resigned the care of New Hope in November of 1999, his last sermon to them as pastor being Jeremiah 6:16: "Ask for the old paths."

Elder Altom and his faithful helpmeet, Sister Frances, live in Irving, Texas.

ELDER ALTOM WRITES: I joined the Missionary Baptist Church at the age of 16. The Lord revealed the doctrine of grace to me one night while searching for the truth. He opened my blind eyes to see Him as the only way of salvation. I walked that night two miles to tell my parents what the Lord had made known to me. It was so plain to me.

I thought I could show the truth to every one. I found out the only way anyone could know the truth was the same way that He showed me Christ must be revealed in us. What a wonderful time I had that night. I was delivered from the law in my experience. Never have I gone to Moses and the Law to be justified. I found out Moses was dead and buried. I began to love the doctrine of free grace. It has been my comfort all these years. If I perish I will perish at His feet.

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**ELDER EDISON D. AMSTUTZ**

FROM AN OBITUARY IN "PRIMITIVE MONITOR:" Elder Amstutz, son of Phillip and Cathrine Amstutz, was born Dec. 3, 1900, and called to his eternal home on the 14th day of June 1959. On June 12th, 1924, he married Naomi Silveus. Brother Amstutz, with his wife, were baptized into the fellowship of the Van Buren Church by her father, Elder M. Silveus, where he continued faithful until death. His chief delight was to be present in church, association or homes listening to or taking part in the proclamation of the gospel; the Bible and hymn book being his special delight; his favorite hymn being that which begins, "There is a name I love to hear, I love to speak its worth."

Brother Amstutz was ordained to the ministry on the third Sunday in June 1956. His travels were in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Michigan, and to know him was to love him for the truth's sake. Elder E. L. Kinter visited his home shortly before leaving for the Sandusky Association and was requested to read the 32nd Psalm and offer prayer, and the next day he requested his companion to read the 33rd to 40th verses of the 119th Psalm.

He passed away peacefully at his home about 3:45 Sunday, about the time of the closing of the association. He suffered much during the last couple of years, but was resigned to the Master's will, filling his appointments up to the May meetings.

### **ELDER CECIL ANDERSON**



Elder Anderson was born on November 30, 1907 in Cashion, Oklahoma to John E. and Ida May (Merritt) Anderson. Elder Frank McCarty baptized him at the Mt. Zion Church in Inglewood, California on November 12, 1960. He was ordained on April 29, 1967 by Elders Smith Lawson, H. J. Donohue, Troy McCarty, T. R. Bonds, Frank McCarty, Wesley Keith, Amos Deskin, F. I. Robinette and C. R. Bierbower.

Elder Anderson was not raised among the Primitive Baptists. He started attending church with his wife who was a member. During the next four years, he diligently studied his Bible and saw that the Old Baptists preached the truth as he saw taught in the Scriptures.

After his ordination he served the Bethel Church at Lindsey, California. He served this church until his death.

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### **ELDER JOHN T. ANDERSON**



John T. Anderson was born September 13, 1953, in Kimball, Nebraska. At the age of 8, he asked for a home with Shiloh Church, located 13 miles north of Kimball, Nebraska.

He was first asked to introduce services in the spring of 1972 at Mt. Zion Church, Cozad, Nebraska. After marrying in 1974, he moved in 1975 to Blair, Nebraska, and placed his membership with Council Bluffs Church, Loveland, Iowa. On September 9, 1978, he was ordained to the full work of the ministry, and served as co-pastor and then as pastor of Council Bluffs Church until 1985. In the following years he served as pastor of Little Flock Church at Pleasant Hill, Missouri, and Sardis Church at Leeton, Missouri. Since 1993, he has pastored New Liberty Church, Ashland, Missouri.

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### **ELDER S. M. ANDERSON**

WRITTEN BY ELDER J.R. WILSON. This good brother and faithful minister was born Oct. 24, 1846 and died Mar. 17, 1923; united with Old Canoochee Church when only 19 years of age. On Sept. 2, 1876 he was liberated and was ordained by Elders D.J. Lamb and Moses Daniels Jan 25, 1877 and faithfully served Canoochee, Long Creek and other churches for many years. He was also for many years the beloved Moderator of the Original

Upper Canoochee Association and was highly esteemed by his brethren. In his last days, he was a great sufferer but bore his suffering with Christian fortitude.

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**ELDER LEON ANDREWS**

Elder Andrews was born on August 1, 1916. He was baptized on July 10, 1960, at the Hopewell Church by Elder Prentice Spivey. He was ordained on January 11, 1975, at the Hopewell Church. He is married to Effie Jewel Godwin Andrews and they have two children: Priscilla Jane Andrews Sanders and Audry Leon Andrews

ELDER ANDREWS WRITES: Being a former member of another denomination, there ceased to be "life" there for me and a death came. Peace and comfort came for me when the Lord led me to the order of faith; joining Hopewell PBC, Pelham, Ga., in June of 1960.

About one month after joining Hopewell PBC (June, 1960), a vision was showed to me concerning my first grandchild, Andy.



I wrestled with this vision for two long agonizing years. This was the beginning of my burden for the ministry that I tried every way not to have to do. I would rather that God take my life than to have this burden placed upon my shoulders... but this was not God's will for me.

When Andy reached the age of two, he was hospitalized. I fell on my face before God and begged God's mercy on me and healing for my grandson. I surrendered to God's call and promised that with HIS help, I would do what ever was commanded me, at any time I was called upon, to do the best I could. I am convinced God got my attention through my first-born grandchild, Andy.

I have served six different churches during my ministry, serving four at one time.

I have served as a fill-in capacity numerous times. I was shown two churches to serve before my ordination. I have served in the ministerial capacity in South Carolina, East and Southwest Georgia, North Florida, and Alabama.

**ELDER JERRY ANSTEY**

I joined the Old Baptist Church in 1965 when I was 8 years old. I remember wanting to wait to join the Church until my dad came home from a tour of duty over seas. I tried to wait but just couldn't, so I joined and waited for him to return to be baptized. As long as I can remember I have had a love for the Lord and His Church.



I don't have a tremendous experience to tell regarding my call to the ministry other than to say that the more that I studied the word of God the more that I desired to tell people about it. I don't recall feeling what I would describe as a call until 1997, when there was a much greater urgency to

study and share what the Lord blessed me to see.

I was ordained on January 16, 1999 at the Golden Gate Church in Fremont, California. I pray that I will be found faithful to that which the Lord would have me to do in His service.

NOTE: Elder Anstey and his wife Cheryl have two children.

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**ELDER STEPHEN R. AQUINO**

Brother Aquino was born January 22, 1957 in Baltimore, Maryland, of Rudolph and Margaret Aquino. Being raised under Roman Catholicism, he had, at an early age, an instilled discipline to attend weekly services. But he was blinded to the things of God as revealed in Scripture. Then, in January 1976, by the power and mercy of God, the truth of the gospel was revealed in a mighty way. This created in him an intense desire to follow Christ and search for greater truths. At once, the gospel became good news and he expressed a hope in Christ his Saviour.

He then began to search out and read subjects on Bible topics. He became acquainted with the great doctrine of salvation by sovereign grace alone. Guided by providence through four years of Air Force in Montana, he continued to study the Bible while attending a small, Sovereign Grace Baptist Church in Great Falls.



After his tour of service in 1980, he returned to Maryland. When finally it seemed every door was closed, to finding church life and godly fellowship, he then considered it the will of



God to return to Montana, regardless of cost, for the sake of church life. It was at that time the Lord in mercy opened the door of fellowship and blessings at the Columbia Church. Brother Aquino first attended in May of 1988; on October 23, 1988, he united with the church at Columbia and was baptized by Elder James L. Compton. The church voted to set him at liberty for public speaking on January 22, 1989. Then on July 14, 1990 at the Union Meeting, a presbytery was formed and ordained him to the full work of the ministry.

Following the resignation of Elder James Compton, the church voted Elder Aquino as pastor of February 17, 1991. On August 12, 2000, Elder Aquino and Sister Janice Story were married at Mt. Carmel PBC in Bel Air, MD.

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#### **ELDER PHILLIP ARCHER**

FROM "A HISTORY OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS OF ALABAMA, MT. ZION ASSOCIATION" BY ELDER E. B. WATTS: Elder Archer was probably a minister in the Mount Zion Association when it was organized. Our first account of him is when he and Elder Thomas Jones ordained George Roberts at Mount Moriah in 1825. He was first connected with Elyton Church and later at Etton.

Elder Archer must have been a devoted evangelist. According to Holcombe's history, he organized several churches. Most of his labors were in the south and southeastern areas of the Mount Zion Association. He labored extensively with Elder Blythe and Elder Joseph Hill. In 1833, he helped constitute the Coosa River Association and in 1834, the Tallasseehatchie. Elder Archer was probably one of the most evangelistic ministers of his day according to Holcombe's History of the Alabama Baptists. He constituted more churches than any minister we have record of at this time. Elder Archer served as moderator of the Mount Zion Association for several years.

In 1835 Elder Archer moved to Benton County (Calhoun) and sometime later he left Alabama. In 1813, he was living in Madison County, Missouri.

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#### **ELDER REED ARNOLD**

SUBMITTED BY NORMA HASLAM AND RICKY ARNOLD: Elder Jewel Reed Arnold was born July 9, 1946, at Smithville, DeKalb Co., Tennessee. His parents were Ralph and Ethel Young Arnold. He married Christine Young in 1966, and they have one son, Dennis.

Elder Arnold joined Mt. View Church and was baptized July 16, 1972. He was ordained to the ministry September 5, 1976, at Mt. View by a presbytery consisting of Elders Avery Land, Quinton Land, David Graves, Lynn Russell, H. E. Young, Thomas Hart, Quay Tate, Hershel Standifer, and thirteen deacons. He has served Fykes Grove and Richland Churches as pastor, and currently serves Yellow Springs Church, Dunlap, Tennessee, where he was called in 1997. This church at one point had closed its doors, but now meets every Sunday

and has been blessed to grow spiritually and in number. He has also preached at Lebanon Church, Lebanon, Tenn.

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**ELDER RICKY ARNOLD**

Elder Arnold was born on July 14, 1958. He is married to the former Deborah Sue Mabe.

I joined the Mt. View Church when I was 14. I was baptized by Elder Avery Land and learned much while I was with these good people. But as I became an adult I felt that New Bildad was where I belonged. It was a very old church with a small congregation that met the third Sunday and the Saturday night before. They had a wonderful and faithful servant in Elder Young who would be my father in the ministry. I was blest to labor with Bro. Young and learn from him. God has blest in so many ways. We have grown in number and hopefully grown in grace, for this I give thanks and glory to our Lord and Master Jesus Christ. I was ordained to the ministry in May 1984 and have served New Bildad until now.

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**ELDER W. C. ARNOLD**

Elder Arnold was the son of Isaac and Louvenia (Bilderback) Arnold. At the age of 32, Brother Arnold united with South Fork Church at Spurgeon, Indiana, on March 24, 1889. After South Fork Church recognized his gift in the ministry, he was ordained on October 15, 1897. His ordination presbytery consisted of Elders J. W. Richardson, A. J. Willis, James W. Crane, John T. Oliphant, Lewis Fleenet, James F. Ross, and Dr. J. H. Purefoy of Furman, Alabama. Elder Richardson examined the ministerial candidate, Elder Crane led the ordination prayer, and Elder Oliphant delivered the ministerial charge.

In 1901 Brother Arnold removed to Crossville, Illinois and became a member of Crossville Church where he stayed until his death on July 25, 1932, at Carmi, Illinois.

From his own hand we copy the following concerning his life:

“Born in Pike County, Indiana, April 20, 1867; married to Martha B. France Feb. 24, 1886, to which union a son and daughter were born, the son who died in youth, and the daughter, Mrs. Loy Carr, who survives; united with the church at Spurgeon, Ind., 1889; ordained to the work of the ministry Oct. 15, 1897; located in Crossville, Illinois in 1901; been pastor of the church there since its organization in 1901; traveled 225,000 miles by railroad in twenty-two states; preached 6500 sermons; conducted 1100 funerals, 12 of which were elders, 7 double, 3 triple and 6 military funerals.

“I have baptized 350, had 390 weddings, personally acquainted with 360 elders, 125 of whom I have had in our home; have been associated with the *Primitive Monitor* and *Church Advocate* since 1905, four years of which time, 1919 to 1922 inclusive, as editor.

“I have never asked or remuneration of any kind or in any manner, and never had the promise of financial aid from any person, church, or other organization. I have trusted in God to direct my steps, and to put it into the hearts of those I served to supply our needs. We have been supplied! Amazing goodness.”

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**ELDER JOE ASBELL**

Elder Asbell, of Oil City, Louisiana, is an earnest and faithful brother whose labors are highly valued by the churches of Louisiana and Arkansas. He currently serves Bethel Church at Oak Grove, Louisiana, in the Louisiana Association, and Pleasant Grove Church at Kirby, Arkansas, in the South Arkansas Association. He has also served Mt. Pleasant and Fellowship Churches in the Salem Association of Arkansas.

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**ELDER N. W. ASBELL**



I was born April 16, 1916 in Levy County near Trenton, Florida. I was raised in a Primitive Baptist home, and sometimes went to other churches.

In 1937 I united with Shady Grove Church and was baptized the second Sunday in April. I was ordained to the work of a gospel minister on November 9, 1940. I moved to Louisiana in September of 1948. I have served churches in Florida, Arkansas and Louisiana since 1944.

The Lord has blessed my wife and me wonderfully. We married August 22, 1935. We were baptized together. We plan to celebrate our 65th anniversary August 22, the Lord willing. The church has been a great place to live.

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**ELDER A. V. ATKINS**

BY DAVID MONTGOMERY: The date of Elder Atkins' birth and death could not be obtained. He was a pioneer minister in central Texas during the nineteenth century and was well respected.

In *The Gospel Messenger* January 1888, Elder Atkins, in an article wrote, "I read with pleasure 'From Babylon to Zion,' by Brother Rees Prather. It is true the circumstances are not the same as my own, as occurred in 1869, when in deep distress I left my father's house in Alabama and wandered up through Northwest Georgia, among the mountains, near Rome, Ga., where I feel assured that if the gracious Lord ever revealed anything to me on

earth as a poor sinner. He showed me his people; not in a dream (none the less true), but face to face, the particulars of which I will not give here, but reserve. One night while Elder Rambo was setting forth the glorious gospel of Christ, something whispered to my poor burdened soul, 'This is the way; walk ye in it.' I was not aware it had ever been spoken before, but it sounded down through the past ages, and pointed to the great future. Although it occurred over eighteen years ago last May, I have found no reason, as yet, to believe otherwise than what was said to me there. I feel more assured every day I live, and standing in the face of and approaching vast eternity, that salvation is of and from God, first to last."

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**ELDER R. H. ATTAWAY**



Elder Attaway labored mainly within the bounds of the South Arkansas Association, serving, among others, Sardis, New Bethlehem and Cane Creek Churches. He served as moderator of the association in the 1960's, and lived near Thornton.

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**ELDER J. P. AUSMUS**

Elder Ausmus pastored the Orthodox Church of Lubbock, Texas during the 1930s. We regret that we could not obtain more information on this good minister.

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**ELDER A. J. AUSTIN**

WRITTEN IN "THE GOSPEL MESSENGER" BY ELDER SYLVESTER HASSELL: Elder Avery J. Austin was born on Roanoke Island, N. C., May 22, 1848, and lived there till 1875, when he moved to Kitty Hawk, Currituck County, N. C., and died of apoplexy at Paul Gamiel's Hill Life Saving Station, six miles north of Kitty Hawk, November 5, 1902. He married Miss Martha Perry May 25, 1869, and their five children preceded him to the grave. He united with the church in 1869, and was ordained to the ministry in January 1883, and was called in 1884 to the pastoral care of Providence Church, at Kitty Hawk, and afterwards to that of Elim Church, at Powell's Point, and was pastor of these two churches at his death. He preached the fourth Saturday and Sunday in October 1902, at Providence Church, and was taken sick Monday, and died the following Wednesday week. He was one of the humblest, kindest and gentlest of men; good to the poor and needy, never refusing them a favor, and loved by all who knew him, and resigned in his many and sore trials, to the will of the Lord. He was one of the best friends I ever had; helped me to pay the Church History debt, and entertained me repeatedly and most brotherly at his hospitable home. His life was a bright and shining light on the northeastern coast of North Carolina. He proved that he

was what he professed to be—a child of God and a minister of Christ. His faith was strong; as the elders who obtained a good report by faith, all died in the faith, so did he.

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**ELDER LARRY B. AUSTIN**

Elder Larry Austin was born in Union County, North Carolina on September 6, 1941. He joined High Hill Church in August 1961 and was ordained as a deacon in 1966 at the age of 24. Elder Austin felt a call to preach even as a young lad, but never expressed it to the church until many years later. He made his first public effort to speak in the Lord's name in December 1973. He was ordained to the ministry in 1981 when he was called to serve as pastor of Crooked Creek Church.



Elder Austin is continually busy serving among the churches of the Original Bear Creek Association and often travels among the churches in the eastern states.

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**ELDER J. F. AUTRY**

Elder Autry served churches in the Salem Association of Arkansas from at least 1935 to 1942, including Pilgrim's Rest, Harmony, Macedonia and New Prospect. In 1935, his address is listed as Spiro, Oklahoma, and in 1937, he had moved to Mena, Arkansas.

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