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ELDER JOVENCIO BAEL



I am from the heart of Mindanao, particularly Potungan Dapitan City. I was born on this Island, on May 3, 1963. I'm Jovencio Bael, ninth in a family of fourteen children--seven boys and seven girls. My name, Jovencio, was not the wishes of my parents but of the priest who baptized me when I was an infant. He wanted me to have a "saint's" name. God chose me out of mother's womb (Gal.1: 15) and before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4), then made me as one of the Saints (1 Cor.6: 1-2). God did it already before the priest uttered it. Thanks to His sovereign grace. My parents were devoted Roman Catholics and traditional in their lives. They died when I was nine years old. After their death, only our eldest sister sustained us and met our needs--raiment, food, finances, and education. I took my elementary education up to high school in Potungan and College in Misamis Universities, Saints Joseph Institute of Technology & University of Visaya, Cebu. I was forced to stop my study, because my eldest sister was no longer able to support my needs. I worked with the printing press for one year and at the same time studied. My attainment in secular school was only a second year college in Civil Engineering. I'm also a graduate of a basic computer course at Asian Computer, and electricity, particularly in wiring installation, of the Manpower training course.

Upon feeling a call to the ministry, I went to the International Grace Bible Institute in Ozamiz City. When I enrolled myself in the Bible School, I received a telegram from my eldest sister that I could go on to my studies in secular school, but I said in my mind and heart, "it is late." I graduated from that school (but not from the words of God) in April 1988. I was ordained to the full work of ministry on May 7, 1990 by the Grace Gospel Church of Christ. I was assigned in Polog, Consolacion pastoring a local congregation at Nangka, Consolacion. In 1988, after my graduation from Bible School, God gave me a partner of this life as my helpmate to love and cherish in all my life, Susan Maghanoy, a sixth child in the family. She was a native of Balasan, Iloilo and a member of Fellowship Baptists. God blessed us with two children, one boy and one girl: Jason and Pearl Ann.

In 1994, Brother Linbert Dalman (my brother-in-law) came to Lapu-lapu and told me that two ministers from Georgia were coming to Iligan. Without hesitation, I went with him to Iligan and met Elders Jeff Harris and Gus Harter. They preached the total depravity, unconditional election, limited atonement, irresistible grace and preservation of the Saints. They preached with power and conviction through the demonstration of the Holy Spirit. I'm convinced that my preaching before, for many years, was nothing and "bad spell" (not Gospel). I had received the wrong foundation and vain knowledge from the Bible School. I was encouraged, edified and enlightened through the preaching. The Grace Gospel Church had no baptism, but when I heard the Gospel, I offered myself and was baptized by Elder Gus Harter at Mauswagon.

I was ordained to the banner of Primitive Baptists in July 10, 1994. In July 1995, the Lapu-lapu Church was constituted. We were lost but now are found (Lk.15: 20-24). Among the Primitive Baptists, I have found the truth, true fellowship (1 Cor.1: 9; 1 Jn 1:3), true love in loving, caring, praising, edifying, encouraging and feeding. I'm thankful to the Lord that I'm a part of His salvation and glory in the banner of the Primitive Baptist Church (the true Church of Christ). I am what I am because of the grace of God (1 Cor. 15: 10). Pray for me that God will use me more to His ministry and to His glory alone (Isa.42:8) and to be a blessing to others (Gen.1-3; 14:21-24; 30:27-30; 39:5; 45:5, 7-8).

ELDER FRANK BAKER



I was born December 11, 1921, in Jack County, Texas. I was married to Nancy Sue Bryan on May 20, 1950. She died June 17, 1996. We have two daughters, Carol Walden and Pam Neeper.

On March 7, 1970, White Settlement Primitive Baptist Church was constituted, and I moved my membership to it.

I had consciousness of my sinful nature at a very early age. I didn't feel worthy to be a member of the church, though I loved to sing and do what I could at the services. In 1935 I was convicted that I should ask for a home in the church, but I waited until 1943. I was received and baptized in June 1943 at Laodicea Church by Elder Gilbert Dalton.

The pastor began asking me to speak, and I did, usually very briefly, but soon I began to feel more liberty. By the late 1950's I was being asked to come to other churches, and to supply when their pastor was called away. The Bethlehem Church at Munday didn't have a pastor so I was invited to come speak for them. When they had conference they called me to be their pastor even though I was not ordained at the time. They wrote my home church and asked them to ordain me. I was already a Deacon. I served there for two years. When Elder Stanford had the second Sunday free I suggested they call him, which they did. The next Sunday I was called to fill in at Harmony Church at Bonham for Elder Ball who was in the hospital. The next meeting I was called pastor. I was ordained to the work of the ministry on October 29, 1972. I was called full time to Providence Church at Farmersville from April 1974 to 1976. Shortly after that I was called to pastor Dixie Church at Whitesboro. I was there one Sunday and White settlement one Sunday until November 1981 at which time I left it with Elder Sowder.

I feel the Lord has kept me all my life and blessed me much more than I deserve.

ELDER JAMES MILTON BAKER



WRITTEN BY ELDER J. S. NEWMAN IN "THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST SENTINEL" MARCH, 1911: Elder James Milton Baker was born November 13, 1831, in Fayette County, Ala. He was the second child and the oldest son of William and Vashti Baker. He was married to Miss Elizabeth Guttrey, January 9, 1851, in Walker County, Ala. To this union twelve children were born.

San Marcos Church was constituted April 20, 1853. Elder J. M. Baker joined this church by experience on Saturday before the first Sunday in June 1856, and was baptized the next day by Elder George Daniels. He was liberated to preach in the early part of 1857, by Elders Abner Smith, George Daniels, and R. W. Ellis. Soon after his ordination he was called to the care of the church, in which capacity he served until his death November 6, 1910. He was a member of the above church fifty-four years, and preached for fifty-three years. Politically, Uncle Jim was a Democrat of the Jeffersonian type. He went in the War Between the States in its incipency as a brave and fearless man of God. He refused to be made chaplain, choosing, rather, to face the enemy in open field of battle.

Elders J. W. Shook, S. R. Woods, and Franklin Baker were the last of his brethren in the ministry to visit him. As they parted he fell upon their necks and they all wept, sorrowing most of all that he would see their faces no more. Finally, on November 6, at 10 p. m. he fell quietly asleep in Jesus.

While uncle was what the world would call an uneducated man, yet the wise and unwise would listen to him for two hours of more at a time.

ELDER J. W. BAKER

FROM SOUTHWEST TEXAS ASSOCIATION MINUTES - 1924: Elder Baker was born September 11, 1839. He was baptized into San Marcos Church, afterwards joining Bethel, in which he died in full fellowship. He was ordained the third Saturday in December 1873; died March 3, 1924.

ELDER W. F. BAKER



William Franklin Baker, the son of Obed and Eliza Baker, lived all of his life in Williamson County, Texas. He was a charter member of Center Grove Church near Georgetown. In May 1899, he was ordained to preach by a presbytery of Ministers J. W. Baker, G. W. White and R. A. Mercer, and deacons S. B. Purcell, A. W. Wimberly, J. R. Clark, and W. P. Woods.

His ministerial labors were spent within a hundred-mile radius, or approximately that, of his home church. A true and faithful preacher, his gift was pastoral.

Elder Baker died August 20, 1946 and is buried in the Baker family cemetery near his home.

EXCERPTS FROM THE PAPER, "MY FAMILY AND THINGS I REMEMBER" BY AUDICE BAKER HENTCHELL: William Franklin and Mary Josie (Callie) Baker were married November 11, 1899, and to this union nine children were born on their farm six miles from Andice and ten miles from Georgetown, Williamson County, Texas.

He united with the church at Center Grove 1897, began preaching 1898, and was ordained in 1899. From that time he always served as many as four churches, and was away from home much of the time. Most of the churches were some distance away except his home church of Center Grove. I think he served this church from the time he was ordained until his death in 1946, and the church was disbanded that year. His whole ministry lasted nearly fifty years.

ELDER RICHARD HAMILTON BALDWIN

WRITTEN BY ELDER C. R. FRAZIER: Elder Richard Hamilton Baldwin. He was born July 2, 1883, in Rappahannock County, near Sperryville, Va., and died at his home in Remington June 7, 1955.

He was the son of the late George and Elizabeth Dwyer Baldwin. He united with Thornton's Gap Church, near Sperryville, Va., in the summer of 1911 and was baptized by Elder R. T. Strikler, December 6, 1911. He was married to Miss Bessie Woodward of Boston, Culpeper County, Va., who also is a member of the same church.

In 1923, he felt the Lord called him to tell the old story, Salvation by Grace. In the year of 1951, he moved his membership to Barrows Run Church and lived a faithful member until the end.

The fourth Sunday in June 1952, he was ordained to the full work of the ministry. He had great faith in God and was willing to go whenever he was called.

Brother Baldwin is gone; we all miss him so much. The church has lost a faithful member, one whom we all loved, the Community has lost a good citizen, but it being the dear Lord's will to call him from this world of sorrow, we would not wish him back.

ELDER H. G. BALL

FROM THE "BAPTIST TRUMPET," OCTOBER 1970: I was born near Roswell, Georgia, the youngest son of Peter M. and Nancy Brightwell Ball.



There were twelve children in our family of which I was the youngest. Our family moved to Texas in 1896, locating near Gainesville, Texas. There were no Primitive Baptists in the country where we lived.

In the summer of 1903 something happened in my life, and it has never been quite the same since that time. I suppose I knew by nature that I was a sinner, but never before had I felt and realized this condemnation to the extent that my almost constant prayer was, Lord, be merciful to me a sinner. In April of the year 1904 while in the field at work, my every thought seemed to be in prayer, not only asking, but begging the Lord for His mercy. In some mysterious way to me that burden of condemnation was removed and my soul was filled with rejoicing.

The Sunday morning following, in this spirit of rejoicing, I asked for a home in the church and my request was granted. While being given the hand of fellowship, and in the arms of my mother, if it is possible that the Lord has really called me to the work of the gospel ministry, the Lord must have shown it to me then and there, as I was permitted to see the church, to me, in all its glory, and I was vain enough to then think that I could show it to every one of the children of God, as I saw it.

I do not know when I was first asked to take part in a church service publicly, but I think it was in 1909, and possibly by Brother J. D. Burgin. To my surprise in so doing my soul became, for a time, at rest from the anxieties that had oppressed me.

In July 1910, Harmony Church near Bonham, Texas, asked me to serve them as pastor, so did also the church at Durant, Oklahoma. This I undertook. The congregations were very charitable to me, bearing with my weaknesses and the attendance increased. In May 1912, I was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry by a presbytery composed of some of the most noble of the earth, Elders J. A. Paine, J. G. Webb, James Duncan, P. D. Ausmus, A. P. Johnson, J. W. Purefoy and H. S. Ball.

On December 2nd, 1914, I was married to Miss Minnie Greer near Tioga, Texas. She has been a gracious helpmeet all our married life, and if and when duty has called me from home she was never known to complain, and though we were deprived of many things others had.

ELDER H. S. BALL

Elder Harvey Shepherd Ball, the son of Peter M. and Nancy Brightwell Ball, was born in Atlanta, Georgia, and was a resident of San Antonio, Texas, for thirty years. For much of that time, he served the San Antonio Primitive Baptist Church as pastor.



Elder Ball preached mostly in south and central Texas and was well loved throughout the State. He was the brother of Elder H. G. Ball.

ELDER TEDDY BALL

WRITTEN BY ELDER MICHAEL ELSWICK: Elder T.R. Ball was born September 16, 1913 at Pinsonfork, KY, the son of Marion and Elizabeth Ball.

At the youthful age of 17, the Sovereign God was pleased to reveal His Son in Brother Teddy, bestowing upon him tender mercy, and the love of God was shed abroad in his heart by the Holy Ghost.

On March 6, 1936, Elder Ball was married to Dollie Deel, who preceded him in death on August 22, 1964. During their marriage there were three children born.



During April 1933, he expressed his experience of grace to the dear saints of God at Peter Creek Church, Phelps, Kentucky. They received him and he was baptized by Elder W.J. Prater. Since that time he has shown his love and good works with regard to the prosperity of God's militant kingdom, endeavoring faithfully to keep house in the name of the Lord for many of the churches in this area. Those churches that he has pastored for many years include Old Pond, Samaria (his home church), Peter Creek, Feds Creek, Dry Fork, and the Columbus Church. Not only has he served those churches, but he also assisted in the establishment and organization of four churches within the Association. Over 2000 have been baptized into the church kingdom by Elder Ball, of which a total of 38 have been called into the ministry themselves.



ELDER GEORGE F. BALLEW

FROM "A HISTORY OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS OF ALABAMA, MT. ZION ASSOCIATION" BY ELDER E. B. WATTS: Elder Ballew joined the Primitive Baptists at Brown's Creek Church in March 1859. He was received from the Missionary Baptists either by letter or confession of faith. Sometime after this, he joined Salem Church by letter. In 1877, Salem rescinded the act of receiving Elder Ballew and he was subsequently rebaptized and reordained. Also, all that had been baptized by him were rebaptized or excluded.

Elder Ballew was pastor of Salem Church until his death in 1886 and was moderator of the Mount Zion Association for many years.

ELDER A. J. BANKS

Brother Banks was born in Bryan County, Georgia, on the 4th day of February, 1886, the son of Joseph and Gatsy Ann Buie Banks. He was married to Mrs. Lula Cowart Kirkland on the 14th day of August 1910. To this union one daughter was born.

He united with the Primitive Baptists at Avera Church, Jefferson County, in June 1919, and was ordained to the Ministry in June 1920, and began serving Avera Church at this time.

Feeling that he could not please God who had called him to this work, and be entangled with the affairs of this life, he gave up his position that paid him well and gave himself wholly to the work of the ministry. God blessed his efforts and there were many additions to the Churches during his twenty-five and one-half years of service.

ELDER DANIEL C. BANKS

WRITTEN BY HIS BROTHERS, ELDERS M.C. AND A.J. BANKS: He was born January 18, 1884, died November 10, 1929, was baptized and joined Columbia Church near Ellabel, Georgia, August, 1910. He sometime later moved his membership to Lower Black Creek Church where he was licensed in February 1927, and ordained the full work of the ministry June 1928. He was a faithful soldier of the Cross and believed in and preached that "faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

ELDER MATHEW CORNELIUS BANKS

Elder Mathew Cornelius Banks was born in Bryan County, Ga., October 14th, 1882, and departed this life November 11th, 1935. He was married to Miss Sarah Cornelia Dickson, of Chatham County, Ga., on May 31st, 1906. To this union two sons and two daughters were born.

Elder Banks' father was Joseph J. Banks and his mother was Gatsy Ann Buie Banks. He was the second child of a family of six boys and two girls. He joined Stapleton Church, near Augusta, Ga., in April 1919, the ordinance of baptism being administered by Elder Lee Hanks. Later he moved to Atlanta and placed his letter in Cross Roads Church where he was ordained to the office of Deacon. He was ordained to the full work of the ministry on September 10th, 1927. He and his companion came to Bethany Church in Atlanta by letter from Cross Roads Church June 3rd, 1928.

ELDER JIMMY KEITH BARBER

I was born on August 29, 1944, in Fulton, Kentucky. During my young years, I had some thoughts about God but never anything of a serious nature.



The Lord arrested me, as far as I am able to tell, in August of 1962. The Lord visited my soul during a sermon by Elder Billy Boyd while he was preaching a meeting at Sandy Branch Church. When I joined, my parents also presented themselves for membership at Sandy Branch. We were baptized together by Elder E. D. McCutcheon in September.

Though I thought the Lord called me to preach, I wondered how it could be since I was such a wicked sinner. I concluded that I would not tell anyone about this and maybe it would go away. In 1965, the church clerk asked me one night after the worship services if I believed the Lord had called me to preach. I wanted to deny it, but I had to admit that I thought He had called me. Then Brother

Brundrige asked me if I would make an effort to stand before the congregation if they set a time for me to do so. Again I was troubled and considered saying that I would not do so, but I had to say that I would try. Sandy Branch Church then appointed that I preach on each Saturday night before the second Sunday of each month, beginning in the month of October. Since I did not own a Bible for such an occasion, I purchased my first Bible at this time.

I preached at various churches, as well as, my regular appointment at Sandy Branch for about three years. During this time two churches asked me to be their pastor and they would call for my ordination. However, I could not accept them because I believed the Lord was calling me to pastor Little Hope Primitive Baptist Church at Faulkner, Mississippi. Then Little Hope asked me to be their pastor and called for my ordination on December 1, 1968.

I pastored Little Hope for about 2 years. During the last months at Little Hope, I jointly pastored New Salem Church in Walnut, Mississippi. For some time I traveled somewhat preaching in many states. I have preached the gospel in at least twenty states, assisted in the reorganization of Ole Enon Church in Middleton, Tennessee, and was a member at Ozias Church in McDonough, Georgia for a while before moving to Memphis, Tennessee to pastor Frayser Church. After five years, believing my work finished at Frayser, I joined Grace Chapel until I knew where the Lord would have me to labor. I stayed at Grace Chapel for about fifteen years and co-pastored for about ten years with Elder Zack Guess. In February 1993, Mossy Grove Church called me to pastor them and I moved from Memphis in August of that year. In February 1998, I resigned Mossy Grove and after much prayer and meditation, began meeting in the YWCA in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. It appeared that the Lord was in the work and we constituted into Covenant Church on March 27, 1999, with seven members.

I have a blessed companion in my wife, Jill. We are graciously blessed of the Lord with six children: Heather, Matthew, Hannah, René, Samuel and Daniel. In 1995, the Lord took Samuel from us at the age of 3 1/2 weeks.

ELDER W. A. BARHAM



Elder William A. Barham, of Watalula, Arkansas, was a beloved minister who labored among the churches in western Arkansas in the latter part of the 19th and the early part of the 20th centuries. We have record of his serving Enon (north of Ozark) and Pleasant Hill Churches. We do not have record of the exact dates of his ministry, but do know that he was serving Enon as pastor as early as 1889 and as late as 1929. He served for many years as the Moderator of the New Hope Association.

ELDER EPHRAIM BARKER

This dearly esteemed brother and faithful servant of the Lord lived in the affection of his brethren, serving them for more than fifty years in the ministration of the gospel of the grace 'of God; to their comfort and peace. He held the faith in a pure conscience and swerved not from the oath of duty, bore the yoke in meekness and patience, with no aspirations to be great in a vain way. His humble spirit and godly deportment gave him influence, won to him many, warm admirers and devoted brethren who miss him much. He loved the truth and preached it as a man who feared God so much that he did not fear man at all. Though he believed it to be his solemn duty to contend earnestly for the truth, and would not swerve from doing so, yet it was in no spirit of harshness or unkindness to those of the contrary opinion. He preached the gospel in the love of it.

ELDER JOSEPH A. BARNARD

Was born Sept. 2, 1908 in Ware County, Georgia and died April 24, 1967. On Jan. 20, 1929, he was married to Debilah Anderson, and they became the parents of five sons and two daughters.

Eld. Barnard's experience of hope was almost life long. He united with Bethel Church, Nassar County, Florida, the fifth Saturday in October 1943. He was ordained as a deacon Jan. 6, 1951, and ordained to the ministry April 30, 1955. He served Little Phebe Church, Folkston, Ga., Little Buffalo Church, Nahonta, Ga. and Black Creek Church, Hampton, S.C.

ELDER E. ROY BARNES



The son of Eldridge and Mary Frances Barnes, was born Sept. 24, 1889 in Oak Grove, Mo., and died June 13, 1949, in Kansas City, Mo.

Eld. Barnes united with Oak Grove Church in 1910, and was ordained a deacon of that church. He and Sister Barnes moved to Kansas City, Mo. in the fall of 1923 and joined Mt. Vernon Church, where he was ordained to the ministry October 28, 1934. At the time of his death he had the pastoral care of Chaffton Church, Macon County, Mo., New Hope Church, Ray County, Mo., West Union Church, Nodaway County, Mo. and Liberty Church near Sidney, Iowa. He alternated with Elder Willett in preaching for Mt. Vernon Church on the second Sunday night of each month.

ELDER J. T. BARNES

Elder Barnes was born on October 13, 1855 in Boone County. He united with the Little Arrow Rock Church in Saline Country, MO in May 1881. He was ordained in June 1889 by Zion Church.

He first united with the Missionary Baptists in 1874, and lived with them for a few years but was not satisfied. He tried all other denominations but could not see any difference. Neither he nor his wife knew of the Primitive Baptists. They moved to Salem County, MO, where they began to attend the Primitive Baptist Church. In 1888, he moved his membership to Zion Church and was ordained. In 1901, they moved west to care for the church Mizpeh, OR.

ELDER COY L. BARNETT

Elder Barnett was born in Haleysville, Alabama, June 28, 1902. He passed away January 12, 1974 at the age of seventy-one years. He was married to Irene Creek September 15, 1925. To this union eleven children were born.

He was ordained to the ministry in May 1956, and was a true and faithful servant of God till his death. He was pastor of the Lone Pilgrim Church in Hillsboro, Missouri, the New Bethel Church in Niangaa, Missouri and the Wolf Creek Church near Mansfield, Missouri. Brother Coy was an exceptionally talented Elder, and was held in high esteem by all who knew him. Elder Elmer Calton delivered the charge when he was ordained to the ministry.

ELDER JAKE BARNETT

Elder Barnett was born July 27, 1868, a son of W. C. and Sabianna Barnett, in White County, Illinois. He professed a hope in the Lord about the age of 18 years. At the age of 20 years he married Laura Flemming and to that union six children were born, two who preceded him in death in their infancy.

Elder Barnett was ordained as a minister in the Missionary Baptist church in 1900. After five years he joined the Primitive Baptist Church and in the year on May 11, 1929, was ordained by them. For many years in a sweet and friendly manner he preached "Salvation by Grace and Grace alone." He was called to serve churches in Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky besides the many demands upon him in special occasions. He continued to serve as pastor of three churches until his health failed. He was called home March 16, 1955.

ELDER J. O. BARNETT

FROM "HISTORY OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS OF TEXAS" BY ELDER J. S. NEWMAN: Elder Barnett was born May 8, 1822. The place of his birth is unknown. He was highly esteemed by the Primitive Baptists of Texas and though bodily afflictions caused great sufferings, he served his church well.

Brother Barnett served as moderator of the Providence Association of Primitive Baptists for seven years.

He died at his home in Washington County, Texas, on July 7, 1878.

ELDER MILTON BARNETT



Elder Milton Barnett was born near Booneville, Mississippi, in 1909. He died July 7, 1959, at the age of fifty years, he was married to Reba M. Wilson March 2, 1931. To this union three children were born.

He was ordained to the ministry in October 1957, and made a splendid record as a true servant of God ever since. He was pastor of New Bethel Church at Niangua, Missouri, also co-pastor with his brother, Elder Coy Barnett at Lone Pilgrim Church in St. Louis, Missouri.

Brother Milton was an exceptionally talented elder and was held in high esteem by all who knew him.

The churches here in Ozark Association will miss him very much.

ELDER J. A. BARRINGTON



WRITTEN BY HIS DAUGHTER, RUBY BARRINGTON MARINER: According to the family record, Jim Barrington was born Jan.13, 1898 to John Edwin and Christina Whitley Barrington.

At age 12, he united with the Mt. Olive Church in 1910 and was baptized by Elder J.H. Aldridge.

On May 26, 1918, he married Bonnie Beatrice Self, the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tilmon Self, and to their union six children were born, one of whom was stillborn.

He made his first effort in public at Mullen, Texas in 1923 and he stated, "I felt I had done so poorly that I never tried again until 1928." At that time, the family lived at Crosbyton, and later, on June 7, 1930, he was ordained to the ministry.

His life was suddenly taken in an elevator accident in a building in Midland, Tex., February 9, 1943.

He pastored churches at Portales, N.M., Stegall, TX, Midland, TX, and Robert Lee, TX.

ELDER J. E. BARRINGTON



I was born April 28, 1923, in Goldthwaite, Texas to Elder and Sister J. A. Barrington.

I was ordained into the ministry on June 11 1960, at Midland Primitive Baptist Church.

The presbytery consisted of Elders Harold Russell, Fred Boen, J. S. Kirkpatrick, George Burt, W. J. Chambers, C. L. Casey, O. C. Floyd, James E. Robertson Jr., and Weldon M Walker. The Deacons were; R. T. Drummond, J. D. Beauchamp, Roy Lee, M. G. Bass, Robert Smith, J. H. Shelton, Bea Powell, R. T. Fuller, W. T. Hillard, T. B. Harris, Raymond Young, W. F. Haynie, Wilborn Bingham, M. W. Herman, Lesal Parker, P. G. Beauchamp, Crockett C. Brown, Alton Mayfield, M. W. Randolph, O. R. Lee, J. L. Hester, Preston Daniels, and T. L. Andrews.

ELDER TROY W. BARRINGTON

Troy W. Barrington was born on November 13, 1958 to Elder and Mrs. James Elvis Barrington, Sr. of Midland, TX. He grew up in Midland and joined the Primitive Baptist Church.

He started taking part in the services while he was in college and had regular appointments to preach in Abilene. He married Martha Lawrence on December 18, 1982.

In June of 1984, he moved to Seminole, Texas and united with the Andrews Church continuing to take part in the services from time to time.

In 1986 his daughter, Sarah, was born. In 1988 he was blessed to have and then lose his first-born son, James Edward Barrington. He moved to Ft. Worth in July of 1988, and stayed until August of 1993 when he was strongly impressed to move to Midland. His parents were starting to fail in their health. Because of their health, Brother Barrington resigned the church in 1993. Troy filled appointments in Midland and Colorado City until he was ordained by the Midland Church on September 9, 1995. He was called as pastor of the Midland Church on September 10, 1995 and has tried to serve that church faithfully since that time.

Brother Troy has been blessed with four more daughters and one more son since the death of his firstborn son. He is a wonderful father, husband, pastor, son, and friend.

ELDER ROBERT L. BARRON

Our dearly beloved Brother, Elder Robert L. Barron, passed away October 18, 1945. He was in feeble health, for five years, and retired from serving churches, in October 1943. He was born September 29, 1876, in Carrole County, was reared in Upson County, moved to Pike in 1906 and lived there until 1944. Moved back to Upson County, he united with the Primitive Baptist in 1907. He was a gracious father, a loving and devoted husband.

ELDER E. B. BARTLETT

WRITTEN BY ELDER LEE HANKS: With sadness of heart, I write a brief sketch of the life of our esteemed yokefellow in the Gospel, Eld. E. B. Bartlett. He was born April 8th, 1867, -- was married to Miss Rhoda Christie Newland, in Garrard County, Ky. -- his native state. To this union five children were born, --three boys and two girls, -- who survive him. In the month of June, 1887, he became burdened on the account of his sinful condition, saw himself justly condemned by God's holy and righteous law and begged for mercy until he came to the conclusion that there was no mercy for one so vile as he. After giving up to die in that condition, God's love was manifested to him, his burden was removed and he as made to rejoice in salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. Later on he became burdened with preaching, but felt that he could not, after sore afflictions he was made willing to go and do the best he could. He began speaking in public in 1893, and on Aug. 1897 was ordained to the full work of the Gospel ministry by the following presbytery: Elders A. C. Newland, H. J. Clark, J. J. Gilbert, and J. N. Culton. He served churches and traveled and preached in about nineteen different states.

In the fall of 1910 he moved to Missouri and served churches and was Moderator of Cuivre-Siloam Association for about fourteen years. He moved to Headland, Ala. in 1925 and served churches in Ala. and Ga. until the Lord called him home.

ELDER WALKER BARTLETT

FROM "A HISTORY OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS OF ALABAMA, MT. ZION ASSOCIATION" BY ELDER E. B. WATTS: The association record shows Elder Bartlett as an ordained Elder at Clear Creek Church in 1879, 1880, and 1881. His name does not appear again until 1885, which shows him to be a member at New Hope Church in Marshall County. His name disappears from the list again in 1893.

Elder Bartlett's address is given first at Friendship post office and then Bartlett post office.

ELDER ELBERT BARTON



Elbert Barton was born February 8, 1930, the oldest child of Willie and Lena Barton, in Walker County, Alabama. He grew up occasionally attending Pleasant Grove Church where his Granddad was clerk. In August, 1947 when he was 17 years old he felt a need to join the group of people in that church and was baptized in a nearby lake. The following February he joined the U. S. Navy and spent 22 years in the service of his country being in both the Korean Conflict and Vietnam.

December 10, 1950 Elbert married Willie Alexander. They had five children: Marie, Steven (who died at age 3 months), Shirley, Michael and Susan. In August 1969 Elbert retired from the military and moved the family back to Alabama. He was living close enough then to regularly attend the church where his membership had been all these years. Within a short period of time he was asked to introduce and was ordained as a minister of God on Nov. 2, 1974.

Over the years Elder Barton has been co-pastor at Pleasant Grove Church (Walker County, Alabama) and Gum Pond Church (Morgan County, Alabama). He has also served in various capacities at Zion Rest (Jasper, Alabama) and Harmony (Morgan County, Alabama).

In September 1999 Elder and Sister Barton moved to Wakefield, Virginia to live closer to their children. They presently attend Tidewater Church in Norfolk.

ELDER W. W. BARTON

FROM "A HISTORY OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS OF ALABAMA, MT. ZION ASSOCIATION" BY ELDER E. B. WATTS: When Elder Barton came into the association in 1894, he was a member of Liberty Church. However, when Pleasant Grove joined the association, in 1895, Elder Barton was listed as a messenger from that church,

Like Elder McCormack, Elder Barton was raised up in the Five Mile Creek Association and came out due to the spread of Absolutism in that area. These two Elders were joint pastors of Liberty and Pleasant Grove Churches for several years.

Elder Barton died in 1919 or late 1918.

ELDER CLEVELAND BASS



Elder Jimmie Cleveland Bass was born on February 7, 1938 to Elder Jimmie Bass and Lora Mae (Miller) Bass in Plainview, Texas. He joined the Primitive Baptist Church in August 1949, at Rule, Texas at the Mount Zion Unity Association and was baptized by Elder Sam Holt. In 1960 he married the former Dora Faye Roberson in February. To this union four children were born.

I do not know if I ever really had an experience of the call to the ministry. I do know I had a feeling from an early age that I might have to stand before God's people someday. Several times I was asked to open the services for my father, but I would always refuse, and then feel worse than if I had gone ahead and tried. I finally told the Lord that the next time that I was called on to open the services, I would do the best I knew how, Elder Vernon Venable was my pastor and he took me outside just before preaching service and asked if I would introduce for him that morning. I hesitated then remembered what I had told the Lord, so I said that I would try, and I have been trying ever since. I was ordained to the ministry in March

1964. I was so scared that day that the only part of the service that I remember is the charge delivered by my Father and his questions that he asked me during the charge

ELDER GROVER CECIL BASS

Elder Bass, was born August 17, 1909 in Madison County, Florida; the only child of Claude and Darkes Pollyanna Bass.

At a very early age Brother Cecil moved with his mother to the East Hillsborough County area where he lived the remainder of his life.

Brother Cecil met Miss Delsie Mae Harvill, the daughter of Elder Enoch James and Ila Harvill, and on November 19, 1927 they were married. Seven children were born to this union. Mount Enon Church became their spiritual home on the first Sunday of September, 1934. The church recognized a gift in Brother Cecil and in 1951 began using him in the preaching services. He was ordained into the ministry August 31, 1952. He served the Primitive Baptists well in Central Florida by holding pastorates at Mt. Enon, Hopewell, Gethsemane, Mt. Carmel Churches of the Mt. Enon Association and Shiloh Church at Perry, Florida. It is estimated that this faithful servant baptized over two hundred believers, married over three hundred couples and conducted an undetermined number of funerals. He had the pleasure of seeing his son, Curtis, ordained in the ministry.

On October 13, 1977, Sister Delsie Mae Bass was called home to heaven. Just eleven weeks later Brother Cecil joined her in that heavenly home. He passed from this life on December 29, 1977. Both are buried in Mount Enon Cemetery.

ELDER HULAN F. BASS



I was born to Jesse and Georgia Bass on March 21, 1931 at Crosbyton, TX.

My first church memories are at Gravel Hill P.B.C., Afton, TX. I joined the church in 1942 at the West Texas Association convened with the Tulia, TX P.B.C. My uncle Jimmie Bass baptized me. I was raised in the P.B.C., as Dad's Family of 13 children were all P.B.'s.

I met Jacquelynn Ann Bovell of Muleshoe, TX in the late fall of 1950. We married in 1952. We have three children, David, Eddy and Sherrye, and 7 grandchildren. Jacque was a Missionary Baptist, but joined the P.B.C. in 1954. Dad performed our wedding ceremony, and baptized Jacque and our three children. I had early impressions and burdens of the ministry in my twenties; however, I kept them to myself. My secular profession moved me to the Odessa, TX area in the mid 1950's where our membership was in the Odessa P.B.C.

My first public speaking in a worship service was in the Odessa P.B.C. about 1956. In Jan. 1958, we moved to Lubbock, TX as my employment demanded. We moved our membership letters to the same church. Lubbock Church called for my ordination as a deacon in 1961, which I refused, as I had no impressions for such. They then gave me a regular 1st Sunday appointment there for several years. I was ordained at the Lubbock Church to the ministry on July 1972. I served as Pastor at Levelland, TX. P.B.C. for 17 years and concurrently at Brownfield, TX P.B.C., also, for 8 years, and with regular appointments at Muleshoe, TX, for 7 years, then again a regular 1st Sun. appointment at Lubbock for several years. Bethel P.B.C., McMahan, TX, called me as Pastor in the Spring of 1988, where I have now tried to serve since then to the present – 1999.

ELDER JEREMIAH BASS



I have always attended church, but the Lord did not deal with me personally until around the year 1990 or 91. Before that time, I was very rebellious against my parents, desiring to walk in my own ways. However, around the dates mentioned above, my pastor, Elder Mark Burress, gave me a book by A. W. Pink entitled *The Sovereignty of God*. I had never read religious books like that before (except the Bible, and I only read that because I had to), but decided to read it just to please my pastor. I even began at the introduction. For the first several chapters, the reading was boring to me, but one day I remember that suddenly the truths pronounced in that book became real to me. I felt myself to be a changed person, a "new creature." Shortly thereafter, God began to convict me of my sins, one by one. During this period of conviction, I attempted to gain God's favor by doing good works. I began to fast, pray, and read my Bible often. I thought that if I afflicted myself enough, that somehow God would finally accept me. But the more I did these things, the worse I saw myself to become. In attempting to get to heaven in my own strength, I only became more in bondage to the very sins I was trying to escape. However, one day by God's grace, I was shown the true way to salvation. The Holy Spirit through the Word led me away from Mount Sinai to Mount Calvary and led me to trust entirely upon the Lord Jesus Christ and His righteousness for salvation. I was shown that it is simply by faith in the dying Redeemer that we are justified. And as soon as I looked to Jesus, the chains of sin's enslavement fell off. I felt myself to be truly liberated both from the guilt and power of sin. And by God's grace, one day I shall be freed from the presence of sin as well.

At this time, I simultaneously began to feel a desire to preach. It was not too long before I was given several opportunities to do so, and felt some measure of success to attend my feeble efforts. Nevertheless, what really sealed the matter for me was on a trip I took with Elder Billy Lawrence to Mexico to visit some churches there. During this trip I was given opportunity to preach twice: the first time I failed miserably, and began to wonder why I was in Mexico to begin with. But the second time I preached, the Lord attended the ministry of the Word with such blessing, even in the conversion of souls, that I was greatly encouraged.

Another thing that has encouraged me towards devoting my life to the ministry of the Word, is in the means of preparation for the work. Even before having any opportunity to preach, I began to feel a burden to study the Greek language. This burden became so strong on me that felt I would be in disobedience to God if I did not pursue a study of the language. So down to the Christian book store I went, remembering that I had seen some books about Biblical Greek there. As I was perusing the aisles, a total stranger came tip to me, having noticed that I was looking over a Greek grammar manual, and asked me what I was doing. He did not belong to the store, and I had never seen him before. But after telling him I wanted to learn Greek, and was looking for a grammar to do so, he offered his services. Later I found out he was the pastor of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church in town. He told me that he would teach me Greek for free, that all I had to do was to buy the books. So not only did the Lord give me a burden to study Greek, He also gave me a teacher! If this was not a sign of what the Lord had in store for me, I do not know what it was.

I have been preaching now for about five years. I was ordained on July 10, 1999, at the Primitive Baptist Church in Lawn, Texas.

ELDER JESSE BASS



WRITTEN BY HIS SON, ELDER HULAN F. BASS: Elder Jesse Bass was born in 1907 as the 8th child of 14 children to H. I. & Mary Evelyn Bass, in Brown County, Texas. The environment in that day and time was that of pioneering. Each evening after the field work was done, Grandpa Bass would read a chapter from the Bible, discuss it, and then answer questions. This teaching was very effective. The entire family were members of the P.B.C. As a teenage boy, Dad began, with much interest, studying the Bible. He loved to discuss it with the family, and others, especially, those of other denominations.

Dad married in 1929, Georgia Alldredge of Durmont, TX near Snyder. They lived at Crosbyton, TX farming for hire, then moved to Dickens County, TX – Afton, TX and dry-land farmed a place rented. He was first ordained as a Deacon, then in 1950 finally submitted to being ordained to the ministry in the Crosbyton P.B.C. He then began in serious earnestness with much zeal and motivation to fill appointments.

He served as Pastor of several churches, namely Anson, TX; Stephenville, TX; Tinney's Creek, McMahan, TX; Mt. Olive, Goldthwaite, TX; Valley Springs, TX; Texas City, TX; Culp P.B.C., Aquilla, TX; This pastoral work continued until about 1982. He traveled, to some limited extent among the P.B. people in Texas and some of the surrounding states. His health began to fail with Alzheimer's.

Dad was a very intense studier, and was especially ardent and able in the Old Testament, with a great understanding of the O.T. types, figures, shadows, etc. pointing to the N.T. Substance as a realized literal fulfillment. He held only one public debate with a Church of Christ Minister, in 1954 at Comanche, TX. History would reveal that he was quite successful. He literally gave his life to the "Cause of Truth in Christ" for the P.B.C. He was in a rest home in Elgin, TX for about five years, and died Oct. 3, 1990. His body awaits the Resurrection in Jeffrey Cemetery behind Bethel P.B.C., McMahan, TX.

My memories are very clear and strong concerning the many Bible lessons his teaching provided me. I still listen to many of his cassette tapes. They are still rich. He was very well studied in the Holy Scriptures, though not with even a completed High School education. He loved almost everyone and they loved him.

ELDER JIMMIE BASS



WRITTEN BY HIS SON, ELDER CLEVELAND BASS: Elder Jimmie Bass was born May 10, 1909, in Brown County Texas to Henry Isom and Mary Evaline Bass. As a child he attended Church in Anson, Texas, where he was baptized at the association in Anson in 1925, by Elder J. J. Edwards.

Brother Jimmie was married to Lora Mae Miller on December 25th 1934. Of this union three sons and three daughters were born.

The Church at Stegall, Texas, called for Brother Jimmie's ordination on April 16, 1938. He was ordained on May 28, 1938, with ordained help from Plainview and Crosbyton Churches. This church called him to serve them as their pastor shortly after his ordination. Other Churches which he served were: Portales, N.M., Clovis, N.M., Muleshoe, Amarillo, Lubbock, Levelland, Brownfield, Anton, Rule,

Brownwood, Weches, Plainview, and Odessa. He also had appointments at various times in Hobbs, N.M., Arlington, TX. Floydada, Dallas, Joseph Lane, (Ft. Worth) and Lamesa. He co-pastored with Elder W.L. Jackson in the Muleshoe Church. He also preached in fellowship in the West Texas Association and the West Providence association. He traveled from coast to coast preaching the gospel. His gift for counseling was a blessing and comfort to God's children everywhere.

He married Alyne Lookadoo on February 7, 1980. They lived together in Amherst, Texas until his death on November 23, 1985.

ELDER WILLIAM FLEMING BATES

WILLIAM FLEMING BATES (1802 - 1879) was born in what is now Oconee County, SC, in 1802, the son of Stephen and Sarah Cox Bates. In August of 1830, he became a member of the historic Shoal Creek Baptist Church, organized in 1795, in Oconee County and his wife, Mary A. Whisenant Bates, became a member there in 1832. Later they were members of the nearby Liberty Church. Shortly before 1840, William, his family, his parents and many other members of his extended family, moved west and settled in Cherokee County, GA, where in June of 1841 he was ordained to the ministry by the Sweet Water Baptist Church. Shortly after 1850 the family again pulled up stakes and relocated to the Big Fork Community near the Montgomery and Polk County line in western Arkansas. Here Brother Bates pastored widely over the next twenty - five years and organized several churches. His preaching circuit took from Mount Ida in the east to the border of the Indian Territory on the west. He died in September of 1879 and was buried in an unmarked grave at Big Fork.

ELDER JOSEPH E. BATTLE

Elder Battle was born March 4, 1854, in Marion County, Georgia. He was convicted of sin in his youth, united with Shiloh Church, near Prattsburg, in Talbot County, in 1880, and was baptized by Elder John Dickey. He was a traveling salesman and seldom had the privilege of association with his brethren but had great love for them and for twenty-four years carried the burden of an impression to preach the gospel. On July 23, 1903, he was liberated by the church to preach, and having suffered sufficiently to be made willing he entered boldly into the proclamation of the gospel. Soon his gift made room for him, and October 10, 1905, he was ordained by Elders J M Murray, D F Woodall, and S T Bentley. While his ministerial life was very short, it was characterized by faithfulness in contending earnestly for the doctrine of his Lord, never for a moment willing to compromise truth with error, ever manifesting a desire to know nothing among the people but Jesus Christ and Him crucified for salvation; claiming no honor for himself, but magnifying the name of the Lord. Brother Battle was a man of high moral character, faithful in all the relations of life, true to his convictions of right. None who knew him doubted his integrity. He died at his home near Junction City, Talbot County, Georgia, May 15, 1908. He is buried at Shiloh Church Cemetery.

ELDER C. P. BEADLE

Elder Beadle was born in 1867 and passed from this life on May 16, 1937. He was pastor of the Sugar Creek Church at Gilman City, Missouri.

ELDER E. M. BESHEAR

According to Elder Arlie Larimer, Elder Beshear was originally from Dawson Springs, Kentucky and pastored The Original Mt. Moriah Primitive Baptist Church in Marshall County, Kentucky from 1914 until 1942.

ELDER WILLIE J. BEASLEY

FROM 1947 PRIMITIVE BAPTIST YEARBOOK: Elder Beasley was born July 30, 1871 and spent most of his life in Stokes County, North Carolina and Patrick County, Virginia.

In 1913 he united with State Line Church in Stokes County, North Carolina and a year later was ordained a minister of the Gospel. He served as pastor of State Line Church, Dobens Church, Arons Korner Church, and Kerners Grove Church where he had moved his membership. Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Association asked Brother Beasley to serve as Assistant Clerk for some time. He departed this life on August 15, 1945. His wife, Pearl, said he told her just before his death that his life had been fulfilled and that he would be made like Christ.

ELDER T. EVERETT BEAVERS



WRITTEN BY ELDER RALPH CULY: Elder T Everett Beavers (93) of Mt. Summit, Indiana, passed away July 25, 1995, in Ball Memorial Hospital, Muncie, IN, after an illness of a little more than a year. He was born Nov. 10, 1901, a son of the late Oscar C. and Mila Beal Beavers. He was a life resident of Mt. Summit and retired from the Chrysler Plant in New Castle, IN, in 1965 after 45 years of service.

He united with Lebanon Church of Mt. Summit in July of 1926, and was ordained to the ministry in Oct. 1957. He was a faithful and devoted member throughout and after his ordination served his home church until the beginning of his last illness. He was, however, able to attend church up to the last month of his life.

Elder Beavers joined the editorial staff of the *Advocate and Messenger* at the request of Elder W. T. Daily in March of 1974, and was a regular contributor as long as health permitted.

ELDER D. H. BELL

Written by Elder Bill Stewart: Elder Bell was born on June 28, 1914. He was married to Annie Mae Hall, and they had three children.



until God called him home.

He was a member of Gravel Hill Church. They recognized his gift and calling to the gospel ministry on September 11, 1948. The church granted Brother Bell license authorizing him to exercise his gift wherever God in His providence led him. Elder Bell was ordained to the full gospel ministry at Gravel Hill on May 7, 1949. He was called to the pastorate of Gravel Hill and many other Antioch Association churches over the span of his ministry. Among his many talents was his ability to sing and lead the gospel songs of praise to his God. He was a faithful servant serving God's people and churches

ELDER ARNOLD HILL BELLOWS



Elder Bellows was born January 26th, 1884 in Halcott Center, Greene County, New York, the eldest of fourteen children of S. K. and Harriet D. Hill Bellows, who removed to Roxbury, Delaware County, New York in 1900. He was a schoolteacher with a gift for poetry, but his worth to those who loved him for Christ's sake seemed uppermost in his mind.

He was baptized by Elder George Ruston into the fellowship of the Second Roxbury Church on May 23, 1920, where his membership remained until his death.

Elder Bellows was well exercised in the Scripture, having been ready at all times to talk about better things. In covenant meetings he frequently expressed his mind, but it was not until the year 1929 that he was licensed to speak. He was ordained to the full work of the ministry in September 1930, and was called to the pastoral care of the churches comprising the Lexington-Roxbury Association. Elder Bellows was a welcome visiting minister to the various associations, and was frequently invited to the Covenanted Baptist Church of Canada, where his ministry was much enjoyed. Elder Bellows, for several years, was pastor of the Baltimore Old School Baptist Church, Baltimore, Maryland, where his ministry was proven to be of the Lord.

On April 30, 1935, he was married to Sister Florence Beebe Paxson, of Leesburg, Virginia, and they then settled in a home in West Hurley, Ulster County, New York. She lovingly cared for him until he departed this life on February 7th, 1957, aged seventy-three years.

ELDER ALFRED BELMEAR

Was born in Kentucky, Feb., 1819, the son of William and Mary Lavemia (Ford) Belmear. He died June 20, 1880 at Callao, Mo. He moved with his family to Arkansas, then to Missouri. Farming was his profession.

He was converted from the Presbyterian to the Primitive Baptist faith by his father-in-law, and later became an Elder. He was an Elder of Chariton Church, north of Callao, first date unknown, to June 1880.

ELDER EUGENE BENNETT

I was born March 31, 1923, near Mocksville in Davie County, N. C., the youngest of 13 children born to Drew D. and Carrie Flinchum Bennett. Both my parents were members of the Primitive Baptist Church.

On March 25, 1947, I dreamed I was baptized by Elder Fletcher Moore in Dutchman Creek. I tried to ignore it, but could not. In August of that year I presented myself and was baptized the fourth Sunday in September, just as I had dreamed. I wrote a few articles for some of the Primitive Baptist publications. Sometime later some of the elders began calling on me to open service.

I was liberated to speak by the Church at No Creek in May 1963, and was ordained to the ministry in October 1964. I was called to serve as joint pastor at No Creek with Elder Fletcher R. Moore in February 1965, and have served as pastor since the death of Elder Moore in 1973. I served as pastor at White Oak Springs, Star, N. C., about 15 years. I have served as pastor of the church at Little River, Sparta, N. C., since 1993.

My wife joined the church at No Creek in 1962. It has been a good home for both of us.

ELDER ZACHARIAH H. BENNETT

Elder Bennett, the son of Zachariah and Elizabeth (Nevil) Bennett and grandson of James Bennett, a Revolutionary Soldier of North Carolina, was born in Bulloch County, Georgia on July 4, 1833.

During the War Between the States, the younger Zachariah Bennett enlisted in Company I, 9th Regiment, Georgia Volunteers. He enlisted on June 10, 1861 and was discharged on November 6, 1861 due to a disability.

Later in life Brother Bennett removed to Ormond, Florida where he began holding church meetings in his home. These meetings grew and another church joined the Pilgrim Rest Association. Brother Bennett was soon ordained to the ministry and has proven a faithful Soldier of the Cross. For seventeen years he served as moderator of the Pilgrim Rest Association and preached among the Primitive Baptists throughout East Central Florida.

ELDER CYRUS E. BENSON

CONDENSED FROM "A TRIBUTE TO CYRUS BENSON" WRITTEN IN 1957 BY HIS DAUGHTER, MARY RUTH BENSON BLEST: Father is of English settler parentage, who came and homesteaded on the southeastern part of Delaware. He was reared a Southern Baptist and a Democrat.

For many long years (perhaps his entire lifetime) Dad was being spiritually exercised, but it was not until the summer of 1919 that he requested baptism and was baptized in White Clay Creek, Welsh Tract Church, near Newark, Delaware, by Elder J. B. Eubanks, August 10, 1919. He united with the Wilmington Church, where he was made Deacon, and where he has always maintained his membership.



In 1923, Dad again felt the need of a quieter life, so they sold the house in town and bought a farm near Elam, Pennsylvania. It was here that Mother suddenly left us, January 20, 1925. She contracted diphtheria and died after a three-day illness.

In the early winter, November 14, 1926, that he married a widowed member of the Church, Mrs. Sarah Cubbage, who is his faithful companion yet.

His life since then has been one of dedication to the Church, for he was given the call to preach. He served a long probationary term, and then was given a license to preach. He was ordained "Minister of the Gospel" in the solemn and impressive ceremony of the "laying on of hands" with all the simplicity and beauty of meaning in the Primitive Baptist faith, and given the title of "Elder." Almost immediately he was issued, and accepted, an invitation of the Justus Primitive Baptist Church to be their pastor.

In 1950, upon the death of our Pastor, he accepted the call of the Wilmington Church and again moved. Through the goodness of divine providence, he is retired from the necessity of earning his daily bread, and enabled to devote his full time and energy to his ministry. The fifth of June, 1957, he was 80 years old, yet he is actively engaged in going his appointed rounds, filling his regular, as well as many extra appointments, still preaching the Word and "feeding his flock" to the best of his physical strength and mental ability.

ELDER SAMUEL T BENTLEY

Elder Bentley was born in Crawford County, Georgia, on January 11, 1845. He was the son of Elder Samuel Bentley. On October 24, 1867, he married Miss Elizabeth C Calhoun. In his young manhood, he began to be burdened with the impression of having to preach the doctrine of God our Saviour, though he had never united with the church. These impressions he fought against for some time, but, as the Stronger had come, he must yield. So, on August 19, 1883, he went to the Old Baptist Church at Mt. Carmel, near his home, and asked for a home with them, and was received into their fellowship and love, and in December 1885, was ordained to the full work of the ministry. For thirty-two years this faithful man of God served the churches, over which the Holy Ghost had made him overseer, most of the time four churches, some of this time five and six. The Lord called him home October 21, 1917. Many times he would say that if it could be the will of the Lord, he desired to die at his post. So the Lord let him attend his regular appointment at his home church (Mt. Carmel) the day he died. After returning home from meeting and enjoying dinner, he and his dear wife walked down to a near neighbor's house. When returning, walking leisurely along, holding his wife's arm, he just sank down and died without a struggle. His body was laid to rest at the Mt. Carmel Church cemetery on the fiftieth anniversary of his marriage.

ELDER WINFORD JENNINGS BERRY, SR

CONDENSED FROM INFORMATION PROVIDED BY HIS LOVING COMPANION, MABEL BERRY: Elder Winford Jennings Berry, Sr., (77) was born October 10, 1908 at Coleman, Texas, and passed away February 10, 1986. He was the son of John F., and Lucy (Holmesly) Berry.



Elder Berry's entire adult life was dedicated to the cause of his beloved Lord and His little ones. He began speaking in public in 1932. He will best be remembered for his editorship of *Old Faith Contender*, which he published from 1936 to January 1981. He was the printer for the *Advocate and Messenger* for several years during the 60's and 70's.

He founded the Primitive Baptist Library at Elon College, N.C., in 1950, and authored and published *Tracing The True Worship Of God*, and *Cults*. His ministry was a searching one, contending, in love, for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints, humbly refusing to compromise any principle he felt to be God-honoring. He contended for a practical godliness, which must accompany salvation.

He was a tender, devoted husband, very protective, a loving father. But he become so weary and we are consoled by the assurance that he is at rest. His body now awaits the resurrection and the coming of our Lord in the Mausoleum in Memorial Park, Burlington, N.C.

ELDER JAMES SHANNON BIBLER

WRITTEN BY SISTER MARGARET BIBLER: Elder James Shannon Bibler was born in Newark, Ohio, August 27, 1906, to the late Durward J. Bibler and Nellie Shannon Bibler. He was in Credit and Collection business since 1926. He was a Trustee of Licking County Mental Health Association for several years and manifested his interest in other civic groups. He served in World War II in England and France.



The late Elder J. Harvey Daily baptized James Bibler into the Primitive Baptist Church. He filled his first appointment in 1936 at St. Louisville Church in St. Louisville, Ohio. Soon after that, he was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry.

He was pastor of St. Louisville Church 21 years; the Beulah Church, 26 years; the Donora Church, Donora, Pennsylvania, 20 years, and also conducted services in Cleveland, Ohio for several years.

He was privileged to visit several churches in England and churches in 26 states in our country. He was married to Margaret E. Price, June 24, 1941, and to this union was born one daughter, Nellie Anne.

Elder Bibler passed away suddenly and unexpectedly at the Licking County Memorial Hospital, July 6, 1973, age 66 years.

ELDER J. C. BIGGS

FROM "PRIMITIVE MONITOR:" In April 1829, the writer was born. I never saw my father. Mother, with her six children, moved to Licking County, Ohio, in 1834. On the way my brother, nine years old, was run over by a stage and instantly killed. This was to us a sad affliction.

When I was seventeen years of age, I became much alarmed about my sinful condition. I would think that I need not be so much troubled. I had always been a good, moral boy, had tried to be a comfort to my dear mother, but I was soon made to realize that being naturally good did not satisfy the law. Not until about the age of twenty-seven years did I receive a hope, when I felt that I was delivered from the bondage of the law. My wife and I then joined the Campbellite church and remained with them five years. I found that that church was not the church Christ set up. In the fall of 1863 we joined the Old School Baptist church and were baptized. Soon I was chosen clerk of the church and also one of the deacons. I engaged in the work of the ministry in the year 1865, depending on the Lord for support. In the year 1877, the Lord saw fit to take my dear companion from our fond embrace. In 1878 I married again, and in 1906 my second wife was called away, leaving me alone again, but I feel to say, "The Lord's will be done." I will be eighty-one years of age April 16, 1910.

ELDER R. A. BIGGS

WRITTEN BY ELDER BIGGS, SHORTLY BEFORE HIS DEATH IN 1915: I was born in Rusk County, Texas, June 2, 1849. My father, B. F. Biggs, was a native of Tennessee. My mother's maiden name was Alsa Jane Starr. She was a native of Illinois. My father was a farmer. I grew up on the farm, grew up during the War Between the States, and consequently had no opportunity to receive an education. Never attended school but very little, only enough to learn to read and spell imperfectly. I worked on the farm and took care of the family during the War.

In my nineteenth year, I was married to Miss Kisiah Crauley, a native of Alabama. In the winter of 1867, we moved to Collin County, Texas, where we lived for eight years. Here I first saw myself a sinner in the sight of God. For two years I labored under a great burden of sin and guilt, trying every effort I could for relief; but like the woman we read of in the Bible who spent all she had with physicians, got no relief until she came in touch with the Savior. So I seemed to grow worse and nothing I did brought me any relief until one day in the month of March 1870, as I plowed along in the field in dark despair and under a heavy burden of sin and guilt praying to God to be merciful to me, a sinner.

This was my condition as near as I can describe it. I did not see how God could remain just and save such a sinner as I was. The next thing I realized I was singing the song, "Jesus Thou art the Sinner's Friend." My burden of guilt that had rested so heavily upon me for the past two years was gone. I was happy and rejoiced in the hope of the glory of God, and for the first time was enabled by an eye of faith to see, as I humbly trust, how God could be just and save a poor sinner like me. My sins had been transferred to Jesus and he had borne them in his own body on the cross for me. And now righteousness was made over to me, and God, for His sake, had forgiven me my sins. So I realized that I had peace with God through Jesus, who loved me and gave himself for me. So I could sing with the poet "E'er since by faith I saw the stream thy flowing wounds supply, redeeming love has been and shall be till I die."

From this time on, I had a burning desire in my heart to tell what a precious Savior I had found. So if I have any call to preach, it came in connection with my deliverance from the burden of guilt. In May following (1870) I presented myself to Orchard Gap Church in Collin County, and after relating my little hope to them, was received and baptized by Elder J. E. Dethrage who was their pastor at the time. For awhile I felt easy and greatly enjoyed our meetings, but ere long that burning desire of my heart to tell others what a precious Savior I had found became a burden to me that I could not throw off. I was poor, imperfect and so unfit for such a high and holy calling that I could not be reconciled to it; so I thought I would move to other parts and perhaps get rid of this burden.



She was a native of Texas.

In 1876, we moved to Erath County, Texas, but that burning desire and burden to speak in His great name followed me here. In July 1877, I took my first text and tried for about an hour to tell the people some of the wonderful works of God in the salvation of sinners, From this time on I had regular appointments, and the brethren and sisters gave me great encouragement, so I pressed on as best I could.

About this time Damascus Church was organized in Erath County and wife and I became members of it, and in the winter of 1879, this church called for my ordination. It was with great reluctance that I submitted. In January 1880, I was ordained by this church by a presbytery composed of Elders W. S. Harris and F. London. Was soon called to the care of this church and other churches, and up to 1896 I served four churches most of the time.

In the spring of 1881, I lost my wife by death, leaving me with five little children, the oldest a boy about ten years old, and the youngest an infant girl. A neighbor lady took my youngest children and took care of them for me while the three little boys stayed at home and finished our little crop. The following winter, 1881, I was married to a Mrs. Sarah E. Hackler, whose maiden name was McGee.

Up to 1900, I kept a record of all my ministerial work, but after my health gave way, I paid no further attention to theft. Up to 1900, I had tried to preach 1,623 times since being ordained, assisted in the organization of 10 churches, assisted in the ordination of 8 ministers and 15 deacons, baptized 170 persons, and married 55 couples. Since the above date, I have assisted in the ordination of several, baptized some 25 or 30, and married several couples, but have no record of the number.

In all my serving of churches none of them have had any serious trouble, most of them have prospered and built up in number, and I have enjoyed their services, The brethren, sisters and friends have been good to me, and have borne with my many short comings, imperfections and weaknesses, and have manifested that they have enjoyed my feeble efforts in trying to preach to them. I have tried as best I could to read and search the Scriptures for the truth contained in them, and not for the purpose of trying to bolster up some pet hobby, or vain speculations or theory of some man. I have tried to avoid hobbies and vain speculations, and have tried the best I could to present the truth of the Bible on doctrine, experience, and practical godliness. To what extent I have succeeded, those I have tried to serve are the judges.

While I have had many pleasant seasons and enjoyments in my association with the dear saints of God, I have also had many crosses and losses and bitter cups to drink. I have been up against many hard places and have seen many sore trials, which space forbids me relating in this short sketch, but amid them all the Lord has been good to me. Praise His holy name.

NOTE FROM DAVID MONTGOMERY: Elder Biggs was a man of deep humility and wisdom. His labor for the peace of the Baptists in Texas in the early 1900's was significant and far-reaching. He was held in great respect by all that knew him. He has many descendants in the Primitive Baptist Church, including my dear wife who is his great great granddaughter. Elder Biggs died at Santa Anna, Coleman County, Texas on June 1, 1915.

ELDER W. L. BIGGS

EXPERIENCE WRITTEN BY ELDER BIGGS IN APRIL 16, 1884: I am now turned into the sixty-third year of age, and up to my twenty-third year I can truly witness with the inspired writer, that I was a stranger and an alien from the commonwealth of Israel, and without hope, and without God in the world. All I desired or cared for was good health and more of the wealth and pleasures of this world. At that time I lived about one mile from my father, and had a wife and two children. A brother older than myself, who lived about a mile on the other side of my father's from me, was struck under conviction at meeting on Sunday. The Lord was pleased to open his eyes to see his condition, that he was a condemned sinner, and Monday morning he went to his plowing in the field. He had not plowed long before he returned to his house, and falling prostrate in his yard, told his wife he was going to die, and wanted an old Methodist man living in three or four hundred yards, to come and pray for him before he died. He also sent for my father to come and pray for him. My father had gone home and written a note to the old preacher at my brother's request, and had laid it on his desk, and had gone from the house, and all his family also was absent, (such an occurrence I never knew of before at my father's house). I picked up this note, opened and read my brother's request, describing his condition, and what a horrible feeling it caused me to have! My whole body shook as if I had a hard chill; it shook me to the very center of my dead soul; such feelings I never knew before. My ease grew worse and worse; my companion and associates were now no company for me; I sought to be off to myself, in some secret spot, to try to ask God to have mercy on me. I felt myself a wretched sinner. One day, I was walking out through some underbrush half a mile from my house, and all in a moment of time, this weight of condemnation was lifted off my burdened soul, and the happiest feelings that I ever felt came in their place. Then I thought, now I could tell to everybody what a loving Saviour I found, and before I got home to where my wife was, the tempter came and whispered, "You may be deceived." My wife said to me, "You have found your Saviour;" seeing my countenance was changed, and that I acted differently. I did not deny it, but would not own it then to her, thinking I might be deceived.

I have often since this change took place with me, (in 1844) wanted or felt it so to talk about this lovely Saviour Jesus, what he did for me, what he is now doing for me, and what he will do for me; and not for me only, but all that ever have or ever will come unto God by him. I have tried every way I could think of to get these feelings from my mind by coming away from my brethren and church I lived in Eastern Texas, and came to the far West, thinking I would leave these impressions behind me. I thought I could get rid of these impressions by coming to Western Texas; and I did not know at that time a Primitive Baptist in the West. But in the portion of the country I stopped I found a good many, not knowing it until I stopped. I did not so much as call for my letter from the church I belonged to, thinking I would have no use for it, and if I ever did, I could send for it, and did so in about six months. These impressions still kept with me. It seemed "woe was unto me if I preached not the gospel of Christ." I have now for about six or seven years been trying to preach. I thought after I got to preaching, if the church would let me preach and put no other responsibilities upon me, I would be reconciled. But they could not be satisfied, but must have me ordained to the full work of the ministry.

I have now the care of one church, but attend three others almost regularly with my brother and fellow servant in the gospel, D. W. Russell, whom is an able minister in the gospel.

NOTE: Elder Biggs, of Washington Territory, Texas, perished in a snow slide, January 25, 1888.

ELDER GILBERT BIRDWELL

WRITTEN BY ELDER L. L. LEWIS: Elder Gilbert Birdwell departed this life on January 9, 1957.

He united with Yellow Springs Church at the age of 23 and was ordained to the full work of the ministry at 27. He rode mule back through the Cumberland Mountains, through rain, sleet, cold and heat to proclaim the sweet gospel of God's eternal love, His salvation by grace, His sovereign election, predestination and justification.

ELDER L. O. BISHOP

Lifley O. Bishop was born May 7, 1913 in Odum Ga. He was the son of Willis O. and Lizzie Edenfield Bishop. He married Alene Childers in the early 1950's.

On November 13, 1955, he joined Bethel Church at Butler, Ga. and was baptized by Elder M. A. Hall.

He joined Columbus Church in Columbus, Ga. by letter on October 6, 1963. In 1967, he was licensed to preach and on November 10, 1969, he was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry.

Elder Bishop served as pastor of Mt. Pisgah, County Line, Shiloh and Mt. Paron. He served as moderator of the Upatoi association from 1984 to 1990.

He was a resident of Columbus, Ga. most of his life. He retired from the U. S. Army after 20 years of service in World War II and the Korean War.

Elder Bishop died on November 5, 1995.

ELDER THEODRIC E. BISHOP

Elder Bishop was the son of J. D. and Charity A. Bishop. He was born on February 18, 1875 and died July 25, 1932. He was the brother of Elder W. A. Bishop. We regret a more thorough sketch of his life could not be secured.

ELDER W. A. BISHOP



Elder Bishop was the son of J. D. and Charity A. Bishop. He was born on October 17, 1872 in Fayette County, Tennessee. His mother was a Primitive Baptist and his father was a strong believer but never united with the church.

Elder Bishop received a hope in Christ in the Spring of 1894 after which he united with the Mt. Pisgah Church in Fayette County, Tennessee. He was baptized by Elder D. J. Chambers.

He was ordained a deacon and then in 1904, he was ordained a minister. The Presbytery consisted of Elders D. J. Chambers, J. C. Sammons and J. W. Wilson.

He placed his church letter in Robin Street Church, Jackson, Tennessee in 1922.

Elder Bishop died August 31, 1955.

ELDER W. G. BISHOP

I was born July 12, 1887 in Alabama. I moved to Texas in 1904. I was married to Miss Annie Ginbery, June 9, 1907 and lived around Killeen until 1925. I joined the Primitive Baptist Church July 1912 in Pearl, Texas. I was baptized by Elder W. T. Norman. I moved my membership to Bethel Church at Killeen, Texas.



doing the best I could since that time.

When I joined the church, I thought my troubles were over, but soon after, I found myself in trouble. While in the field at work thinking of the Lord and his goodness to poor lost and ruined sinners, I had an impression to go cry unto Jerusalem. How could I so poor and unlearned go before so great a people as the old Baptist, I couldn't tell them anything they didn't know, but the impression to cry grew stronger. And cry I did, but my troubles grew worse until I promised the Lord if he would cause my Pastor to call me and request me to take part with him, I would do the best I could. At our next meeting he did just what I requested and I have been

Those that were in my ordination are as follows: Floyd Griffin, Lee Griffin, Ira Hollis, M. M. Moran, Deacons R. S. King, P. M. Downey, J. T. Gray, H. H. Rogers, Lon Cook, Emmet Cook. This was by the authority of the Primitive Baptist Church of Memphis, Texas, July 20, 1947.

ELDER CHARLES R. BIXLER

FROM "MESSENGER OF PEACE" NOVEMBER 1929 WRITTEN BY ELDER W. F. MCCORMICK: The subject of this sketch was born in North Mo. Jan. 26, 1852. Died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Delpha May Palmer, Drywood, Kansas, Aug. 18, 1929. He moved to Illinois near Springfield in early childhood with his parents, later coming to Crawford County, Kansas, settling on Bone Creek where he grew to manhood and where he met his future wife, Miss Sarall Ann Rourk, whom he married Oct. 18, 1878. To this union six children were born. Elder Bixler, or "Uncle Charlie," as he was known at Drywood, received a hope in Christ in the early 80's and united with Drywood Church and was baptized on the fourth Sunday in December 1887, by Elder R. M. Jones. He soon began exercising in public and his efforts were so gladly and joyfully received by the brethren that he was soon liberated, and conducted services regularly at the Lane schoolhouse and neighborhood, which were crowned by many additions. On the 23rd of December 1924, he was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry.

At the time of his death he was a member of Providence Church near Hatton, Kansas, where he served as pastor for several years. He has had since his ordination the care of from one to four churches and all have made a prosperous growth under his ministry.

ELDER JOHN BLACKBURN

Elder John Blackburn was born May 10, 1900, and passed away January 8, 1990, at Red Jacket, West Virginia.

Dad was the son of late Elder Andy Blackburn and Syrenia May Blackburn of Hurley, Virginia. He was married to Myrah Wolford and to this union eight children were born. After the death of our mother, Dad married Sarah Thacker

and after her death, he married Vickie Simpkins Blackburn. They spent their time traveling to church, which was their life.

Dad was a retired coal miner. He was the Assistant Moderator of the Mates Creek Primitive Baptist Association for many years, which he loved and worked so hard for the peace in the Church.

ELDER HORACE L. BLACKMON

Elder Blackmon was born July 28, 1920. He and his wife, Geraldine were united in marriage on September 28, 1940. Brother Blackmon joined the Primitive Baptist Church in 1944 and was ordained to the ministry in October 1963 at Zion Hill Church at Douglas, Alabama where he served as co-pastor until 1969.

Elder Blackmon served as pastor of Mt. Olive P. B. Church near Lawley, Alabama from 1969 to 1986. Shortly after giving up the pastorate of Mt. Olive, Elder Blackmon began to experience failing health, which left him inactive in the ministry for several years.

Elder Blackmon served his country in the armed forces in 1945 and 1946. He was a schoolteacher for a good number of years.

ELDER SAMPSON BLACKMON

Sampson Blackmon was born August 8, 1896, in Nacogdoches, TX. He was the son of Joshawa and Mary Anna Blackmon. He was one of five children.

The family later moved to Logansport, LA, where he met Georgia Renfro. They were married March 16, 1919, and together they had six children.

Elder Sampson and Georgia united with Cool Springs Primitive Baptist Church near Logansport, LA, in May of 1929, and was baptized by Elder W. J. Puckitt. He was ordained to the work of the ministry in June of 1948. His brother in the flesh, Elder W. J. Blackmon, delivered the charge.

Elder Sampson was clerk of Cool Springs Primitive Baptist Church for several years prior to his ordination to the office of an elder.

He pastored Cool Springs Primitive Baptist Church in Logansport, LA, from Jan. 1963-1966. He also pastored Little Flock, Forest Hill, Dry Prong, and Rosepine.

Elder Sampson served a short while in the U.S. Army in World War 1. He worked for Louisiana Public Utilities and Nabor's Trailers. He was always willing and ready to help out in his community in any way possible.

Elder Sampson died December 3, 1988, in De Soto General Hospital in Mansfield, LA, at the age of 92. He was buried beside his beloved wife, Georgia, in the cemetery of Cool Springs Primitive Baptist Church in Logansport, LA.

ELDER WALTER BLACKMON



Elder Blackmon was ordained to the ministry on September 24th, 1961 at Bethlehem Church of Dallas Texas. He held numerous appointments with churches in Central Texas and at the time of his death in 1975, was the pastor of Cameron Church. In his ordination were Elders; M. R. Altom, R. E. Wilson, M. P. Harris, A. D. Wood, H. D. Cash and J. C. Collins.

He was baptized by Elder W. R. Blackmon.

Walter married Opal Weems. To them 3 children were born, all of whom were members of the church.

ELDER W. R. BLACKMON



WRITTEN BY HIS GRANDDAUGHTER, SUZANNE BLACKMON STULL: Elder Blackmon was born September 15, 1888 and died September 28, 1966. He was baptized into the Little Zion Church of Navarro County Texas in June of 1905, by Elder A. F. Grafton. He married Caroline Hodge January 20, 1908. To them 11 children were born.

Elder Blackmon received a hope in his sixteenth year while hearing his sweet mother sing, "How happy's every child of Grace that feels his sins forgiven." He made his first attempt to speak in the name of the Lord the first Saturday in November of 1913. He was soon licensed by the church and was ordained to the ministry in November of 1918.

When Elder Blackmon was physically able, he was a faithful and devoted pastor and always a most confident counselor on the Holy Scriptures.

He served many churches during his ministry. To name a few; Mt. Zion in Teague and New Providence in Cameron Texas. He also held numerous appointments with other churches in Texas. One might remember the story of a preacher who fell in the baptistry at First Church in Dallas while preaching. He simply said, "Bring on the candidate, I'm already wet." This was Elder Blackmon. He was blessed to baptize 9 of his 11 children and a host of others.

ELDER JOHN MILES BLACKSHEAR



WRITTEN BY HIS BROTHER, WENDELL BLACKSHEAR: One of five sons, John Miles Blackshear, was born to Johnnie Meadows Blackshear and Elder Rufus King Blackshear on July 17, 1924 in Clay County, Georgia. He passed from this life of sorrow on December 3, 1987 at his home on Glenwood Street, Dothan, Alabama.

It was not long after beginning his service in the U. S. Navy that Brother John could no longer find rest outside the Primitive Baptist Church. So, while home on leave, on October 19, 1945, he presented his case to Bethel Church near Bonifay, Florida and was received as a member.

On October 24, 1945, he was united in marriage to Sister Cloyce Samnons. To this union one son, Alan, was born.

Brother John was received by letter into Little Vine Church on May 5, 1963 as an ordained deacon from a sister church. On April 15, 1965, Brother John was ordained to the full work of the ministry by the request of Little Vine Church.

After being called to serve Lockhart Church in Lockhart, Alabama, Elder Blackshear moved his membership to that church in January 1973 where it remained until his passing.

Elder Blackshear had served Little Vine Church since August 19, 1984. He was a devoted and faithful pastor and was always ready to serve or defend the truth of God's sovereign grace. He was happiest when in the service of his Lord, even when the task was not a joyful one. In addition to his preaching ministry Elder Blackshear also ran a laundry and later sold insurance to help support his family.

ELDER RUFUS KING BLACKSHEAR



WRITTEN BY HIS SON, WENDELL BLACKSHEAR: Rufus King Blackshear was born January 9, 1899 in rural Terrell County on a farm near Dawson, Ga. He was one of five children born to Miles and Fannie Everritt Blackshear.

Rufus married Johnny Beatrice Meadows December 24, 1921. They had three boys, Thomas Clifton, John Miles and James Paul. Rufus joined Mars Hill Church.

Rufus was ordained to the ministry on December 4, 1927 at Elizabeth Church in Macon, Ga. by a Presbytery of ordained ministers including Elder J. A. Monsees, Elder J. M. Woodward, Elder T. Gordon Wright, and Elder Clifford M. Green.

Elder Blackshear's wife, Johnny B. died April 23, 1935 and he married Martha Frances Brooks September 13, 1935. To this union came two boys.

The churches Elder Rufus Blackshear served as pastor include Shoal Creek, Newton County, Ga.; Emmaus near Cordele, Ga.; Crooked Creek near Eatonton, Ga.; Mount Enon, Edwin, Al.; Piney Grove, Headland, Al.; Piedmont, Calvary, Ga.; Bethel, Blue Springs, AL.; Union, Miller County, Ga.; Beulah, Leeds, Al.; New Hope, Montgomery, Al.; Bethel, near Jakin, Ga.; Mt. Parch, Box Springs, Ga.; Philippi, Ellaville, Ga.; Poplar Springs, Preston, Ga.; Hopewell, Opelika, Al.; and Olive Grove (Rock Pond), Iron City, Ga. Elder Blackshear baptized at these and other churches approximately 149 people and performed 48 weddings. He was a good singer and taught singing schools and also led singing in church services.

Elder Blackshear died at home in Columbus, Ga. of a heart attack on March 12, 1961 after having preached at Hopewell Primitive Baptist Church that morning. At his death Elder Blackshear was serving Hopewell PB Church, Poplar Springs PB Church and Olive Grove (Rock Pond) PB Church. His membership at that time was at Rock Pond PB Church.

ELDER W. S. BLACKSHEAR



Elder Wells Simeon Blackshear, Sr. was born Jan. 28, 1887 and passed from this life August 31, 1972. Elder and Sister Wells Simeon Blackshear were married by Elder J.A. Monsees, in Atlanta, GA, on December 15, 1912.

Brother Blackshear served as clerk, deacon, and was ordained to the full work of the ministry May 29, 1949 by Waco Church.

He served as minister for first Sunday and as assistant pastor for many years.

All that knew Brother Blackshear loved him for his wonderful ability to sing, lead songs, and teach others to better sing the sweet songs of Zion. Also his fervent prayers and able teachings of God's word were enjoyed by all.

ELDER H. B. BLACKWOOD

FROM "A HISTORY OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS OF ALABAMA, MT. ZION ASSOCIATION" BY ELDER E. B. WATTS: Elder Blackwood was born in Blount County on July 14, 1871. He joined Harmony Church in 1911. When Dripping Springs Church was constituted as an arm of Harmony Church in 1918, Elder Blackwood was a charter member. In 1921, he moved to Blount County and joined Zion Hill Church.

Elder Blackwood was licensed in 1919 and was ordained in 1929. He pastored Zion Hill and Providence. He died in 1934.

ELDER DAVID H. BLAIR, SR.

Elder Blair was born on May 21, 1934. His parents were Elder W.F. Blair (10-27-1896, - 3-31-1989), Laura Lee Blair. He was baptized on February 1949. He was ordained in 1982.

He is pastor of Mt. Pisgah Church (Duck Hill, Mississippi) and Mt. Hebron Church (Aberdeen, Mississippi). He is also retired banker, and schoolteacher

He is married to Sarah H. Blair. They have two children, and 4 grandchildren.

ELDER FRANK BLAIR

Elder Blair lives at North Little Rock, Arkansas. This kind and faithful brother was for several years pastor at Bethlehem Church at Bee Branch, Arkansas, of the Mountain Springs Association. His dignity and gracious demeanor make him a welcome visitor among the churches of Arkansas and other areas.

ELDER GLENN A. BLANCHARD

Of Melbourne, Florida was born on August 23, 1948 in Chicago, Illinois. He is the son of Clyde and Ruth Blanchard. He was married to his wife Patricia on December 1, 1969. They have one son, Richard. In February 23, 1991 he was ordained at the Pilgrim's Rest Church, Vero Beach, Florida. He is currently the Pastor of New Hope Church, Winter Garden, Florida.

Elder Blanchard says, "Having been born and raised in Chicago, I knew nothing of the Primitive Baptist. I was drafted during the Vietnam War and was sent south. While there, I met and married a young lady that was a Primitive Baptist As the years rolled by I attended church with her on occasion. Since I had been a musician all my life, and was one then, I had many worldly ideas to overcome. I was also involved in politics.

"On August 14, 1982, I felt the conviction of my sins and asked for a home in the old church. I joined Indian River Church in Winter Beach, Florida. We only met once a month, used



the little Lloyd's Hymnal, had no air-conditioning and had about eight members but I knew the doctrine preached there was the truth, and that was more important to me.

"Later, I moved my membership to Pilgrim's Rest, in Vero Beach, as they were willing to meet more often. I was ordained there on February 23, 1991.

"On November 6, 1994, I accepted the call to pastor New Hope Church in Winter Garden, Florida. One of the greatest blessings in my life has been to watch that church go from 36 members to 79 members in just under five years. I praise God for His blessings on us."

ELDER ALBERT BLANKENSHIP

WRITTEN BY BROTHER THOMAS FUTRAL: Elder Albert Blankenship united with Smyrna Church August 18, 1951, was ordained a deacon September 20, 1952, and ordained as an Elder on November 20, 1954. Before he joined the church he assisted greatly with the church financially, physically and spiritually, and continued as long as he was able. Elder Blankenship was called to serve Fishpond Church on August 16, 1957, August 15, 1958 and August 14, 1959. He was called by Smyrna Church on September 20, 1980 and served them until August 15, 1986, when due to declining health, he asked Smyrna to call someone else. He also preached at many different places in Georgia, Alabama and South Carolina. After an extended illness and stay in the hospital Elder Blankenship was called from this walk of life on January 19, 1993. He is buried at Smyrna Church Cemetery.

ELDER CHRIS BLEVINS



Christopher Karl Blevins was born November 27, 1970 in Houston, TX. He joined the church in 1981 and was baptized by Elder J. A. Rowell, Jr. at Grace Church, Houston, TX.

Elder Blevins was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry October 21, 1995. On February 19, 2000, He married Catherine Amanda Case of Germantown, TN (Shelby County). He has been the pastor of Corpus Christi Church, Corpus Christi, TX, since January 1999. As of this writing (2000), Elder and Sister Blevins are expecting their first child, due February 10, 2001.

ELDER KENNETH BLEVINS



Elder Blevins was born on January 24, 1955, in 1973 was married to Norma Gosser with whom he has raised three children: Melissa, Joshua, and Abigail. He united with Cold Springs Church and was baptized on March 21, 1982. He was ordained by that same church on August 24, 1986, with Elders Orville, Pennington, Roger, and Price officiating.

ELDER BLEVINS WRITES: I was born to, and trained up by, wonderful Primitive Baptist parents. By my early twenties, I felt a burden to walk closer to my Lord, but having many doubts and misunderstandings about God I felt sure the doctrines of the

Old Baptists were wrong. I could not see how a sovereign God, who had the power to save all mankind, could possibly condemn some to an eternal torment. Many such questions troubled me greatly. I started visiting area churches of various denominations, but came away feeling more frustrated and troubled than ever. I soon concluded that everyone was wrong. I decided to figure it out for myself. I began to study God's word with such intensity, with every free moment, that some closest to me thought I was going insane. I found myself continuously returning to texts such as Ephesians 1 and 2, Romans 8 and 9. After two years of intense prayer and study, God began to reveal to me His great love "for His people," not for all mankind. My wife and I asked for a home in the church in March of 1982.

I am presently serving as pastor of the Salem Primitive Baptist Church in Madisonville, Kentucky.

ELDER STEVEN BLOYD



Elder Steven Wade Bloyd was born on November 17, 1960, in Gaines County, Texas, the son of Donald and Nancy Bloyd. He was introduced to the Primitive Baptists, at an early age, by his grandparents, Steve and Winnie Bloyd. In January 1976, at the age of 15, he was received into the fellowship of Lubbock Primitive Baptist Church and was baptized by the late Elder Afton Richards. On December 9, 1989, he was ordained as a deacon along with Bro. Michael Rodgers and Bro. Jack Denton.

After exercising several years under the direction of Elder George Johnson, he was ordained, again with Bro. Michael Rodgers, to the full work of the ministry on July 20, 1991. Their ministerial charge was delivered by Elder Gus Harter. Elder Bloyd was called by the church at Crosbyton, TX, to be their pastor. In 1992, while pastoring the Crosbyton Church, he received a call from Mt. Carmel Primitive Baptist Church in Bel Air, MD, where he is currently the pastor. The Lord has given Elder Bloyd a great desire to see a revival among the churches in the Northeast region of the United States. Recently, meetings have been held in Maine, New Jersey, and New York; regular services have commenced in Southampton, PA.

ELDER SION BLYTHE

Elder Blythe was born in western North Carolina, in January 1781. Mr. F. W. Helmbold, librarian of Samford University, writes of Elder Blythe -- "He was baptized at the age of 21 and ordained to the ministry when he was 23 years old. He preached in Buncombe County, North Carolina, and in other parts of that state. He was one of the three preachers who in 1803 had constituted Locust Old Field Church in the French Broad Association of western North Carolina." THE ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORIAN, July 1967.

Elder Blythe moved to Alabama in 1816 and settled on Canoe Creek in St. Clair County. After Mount Zion Church was organized, he labored in the establishing of several other churches throughout what are now St. Clair, Blount, Shelby, and Jefferson Counties. Elder Blythe was the principle in the constitution of Mount Moriah Church.

Elder Blythe was moderator of the Mount Zion Association when it was constituted in 1823. The Alabama Baptist State Convention was organized the same year and for several years Elder Blythe was appointed messenger to the convention; however, he seemed to have given it little support. In 1833, when seven churches withdrew from the Mount Zion Association to form the Canaan Association, a Missionary body, Elder Blythe was not present, although Mount Zion Church was among those which withdrew. Whatever the reason may have been, we do not know.

In 1834, Elder Blythe left Alabama and in April, 1835, settled in Texas, which at that time was a part of Mexico. On August 23, 1835, Elder Sion Blythe and one of his children died of a fever. He was survived by his wife and nine children.

ELDER J. N. BOBO

FROM "A HISTORY OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS OF ALABAMA, MT. ZION ASSOCIATION" BY ELDER E. B. WATTS: Elder Jimmy Bobo was a charter member of New Clear Creek. He was born May 26, 1872, and died November 22, 1946. Elder Bobo began to exercise about the time of the constitution of New Clear Creek Church in 1910. However, he was not licensed until January 1913. In November of the same year, the church voted to ordain Elder Bobo, but for some reason not shown, deferred the matter until March 1915. He was ordained by Elders Yancey, Dendy, and Butler Moon.

Besides New Clear Creek, Elder Bobo pastored New Hope, Mount Moriah, and Little Branch.

ELDER FRED BOEN

WRITTEN BY HIS SON, ELDER FREDDY BOEN: Fred Herman Boen was born June 13, 1915, in Comanche County, Texas, to Frank and Mattie Boen. He was one of twelve children. In his early childhood years the family moved to Fisher County Texas, where he would live for many years. On October 5, 1932, he married Reva Moffett and they had two sons, Freddy and Tommy. One daughter was stillborn.

He loved farming and followed this occupation for many years. His father, Frank Boen, was a deacon in the Primitive Baptist Church, Roby, Texas. After marrying, he did not attend church, until, receiving an invitation from his sister, they began to attend the church in Roby, Texas. In the fall of 1950, he and mama joined the church at Roby, Texas, and were baptized by Elder Ben Howze.



In 1953, Daddy was ordained to the office of deacon in the Roby Church and served in that capacity for two years. About the time he was ordained a deacon, he began to exercise in the ministry. In October of 1955, he was ordained to the full work of the ministry.

He was instrumental in constituting a church in Hamlin, and DeLeon, Texas. He served both of these churches for several years before moving to Tuscola, Texas, where he served the church there for well over twenty years. He preached his last sermon in October of 1985. During that time, in addition to working to constitute two churches, he delivered charges to six ministers and a number of deacons. Those ministers include: Elders W.R. (Dickie) Daniels, J.E. Barrington, Boyd Chambers, Hugh Montgomery, Afton Richards and Freddy Boen. He also served churches in Hamlin, DeLeon, Brownfield, Wichita Falls, Munday, Brownwood

and Tuscola, Texas.

Daddy left this world on October 30, 1987, and left a legacy of having helped many people and being loved by the Lord's people. Not only was he my father in the flesh, but also he was my father in the ministry and has saved me countless heartaches and dead ends.

ELDER FREDDY BOEN

I was born in Fisher County Texas, on April 10, 1938, to Fred and Reva Boen.

In the fall of 1950 my parents united with the church in Roby, Texas, and from that time we attended services regularly. In 1953, my father was ordained a deacon and during the ordination service I began to shed tears. From that time I began to feel the burden to be baptized. I rebelled for a period of two years. At the West Providence Association

in Andrews, Texas, August 1955, I told them my need to be baptized and become a member of the church. The next Wednesday, late in the afternoon, Elder Ben Howze, baptized me and a cousin of mine. Needless to say my life was never the same.



On September 19, 1959, I meet Ella Walker at the Old New Garden Primitive Baptist Church, of which she was a member that same night I asked her to marry me. She said, "Yes!" On May 29, 1960, we were married in the home of her parents.

In November of 1959, I opened services for the first time at Old New Garden Church, Excelsior Springs, Missouri, for Elder Leon Clevenger. This precious minister taught me much. In fact, I have been blessed with several other good fathers in the ministry including: Elders Ben Howze, Fred Boen, Afton Richards, and Sid Ellis. I was ordained at the church in Brownwood, Texas, February 4, 1968.

Since that time I have served churches in Texas, Arkansas and North Carolina. I have been blessed to preach in twenty-four states, also Germany and the Philippines, which has resulted in the making of many friends.

ELDER CHARLES BOGARDUS

Elder Bogardus was born November 19th 1843, in Tompkins County, New York, where he lived nearly all his natural life. He was united in marriage to Miss Frances Lane of the same county April 1st, 1862. They had one daughter, Mrs. Bertha Beard.



Elder Bogardus received a hope in Christ at the age of twenty-six years, and was received and baptized in the fellowship of the Old School Baptist Church called Caroline, or White Church, in Tompkins County, New York.

After a few years of faithful and loyal service the church saw a more beautiful and wonderful gift had been bestowed upon him by the God of heaven, and he was ordained in the same church to the full work of the ministry November 11th, 1884, which position he filled as long as health permitted. He was pastor of several churches, among which was his home church in Caroline, Burdette Church in Schuyler County, and others. Elder Bogardus went to be with our Father in heaven October 12th, 1925.

ELDER RICE BOLENDER



Elder Rice Bolender was born August 15 near Neville, Ohio on the banks of the Ohio River. He married Hazel Smith in December 1920. He first joined the Missionary Baptists in Newport, Kentucky in 1922. They both joined the Primitive Baptist Church near Waltz, Kentucky July 17, 1932.

Soon after this, he began to speak in public and was ordained to the ministry on the 10th of October 1936. In the late thirties, he was called to serve Mt. Zion Church in Blanchester, Ohio. He served this church for thirteen years. In April 1945 he was called to serve Old Rays Fork Church near Corinth, Kentucky. Elder Bolender also served Flat Lick Church near Tyner, Kentucky, Little Bethel Church in Richmond, Kentucky, Mt. Salem Church near Mt. Sterling, Kentucky and the Irvin Church in Irvin, Kentucky.

About ten years before his death he was able to organize a new church near his home near Bethel, Ohio.

Elder Bolender traveled many miles in serving churches in Kentucky and was faithful in doing so. He was a much-appreciated minister of the gospel.

Elder Bolender died August 15th, 1979 and was preceded in death by his wife in 1972.

ELDER C. J. L. BOLINGER

FROM A RESOLUTION OF RESPECT IN THE "PRIMITIVE BAPTIST:" Elder Charles Jesse Lee Bolinger was born in Lamar, Mo., on Dec. 4, 1885. He united with the Primitive Baptist Church at Afton, Texas, in about 1906, and was ordained to the full work of the ministry in May 1924. He married Miss Clara Pearl Barton on June 28, 1908. Elder Bolinger died Nov. 9, 1956 and was laid to rest in the Old Emma Cemetery.

Brother Charley, as he was known by so many, possessed a devotion to the faith once delivered unto the saints. It can truthfully be said he spent his life in service to the cause of Christ. He was indeed a deep man in the knowledge of the teachings of God our Father, and did so love to talk of God's richness and mercies. To be with him and hear him talk, one could not deny that he studied to show himself approved unto God.

Elder Bolinger so often said, "When you see me lying cold in death, you can tell them I'm a sinner saved by the grace of God, if saved at all."

ELDER THOMAS E. BOND

Elder Bond was born on November 22, 1953. He was baptized on June 11, 1967 at the Piney Grove PBC in Alabama by Elder S. J. B. Dallas. He was ordained on January 8, 1977, at the Piney Grove Primitive Baptist Church. He was married to Virginia Elaine Bond on October 19, 1973 (she is the daughter of Elder Lonnie Wright of Albuquerque, NM). To this union one son was born, Thomas Dale Bond; and one daughter, Tammy Janeigh Oliver.



ELDER BOND WRITES: As far back as I have a memory, I have realized the condition that I am in because of sin and its consequences. I began to pay attention to the preaching at an early age. Oh, how my poor, little soul would rejoice whenever the preacher would speak of the wondrous grace and mercy of God! At the age of 13, I united with Piney Grove Church in June of 1967.

From the time I was 7 or 8 years old I knew that someday I would be preaching the gospel to the Lord's people. My first effort to speak occurred when I was 15 years old. Elder John M. Blackshear was the first minister to recognize the burden I had and give me an opportunity to preach in His name. I was liberated to preach at Bethel (Blue Springs, AL) when I was 18 and ordained at Piney Grove when I was 23.

Union PBC (Crawford, AL) invited me to preach for them in the fall of 1976 and soon called me as their pastor. At this time they sent a committee to Piney Grove PBC to call for my ordination, which took place on January 22, 1977. There were 15 ministers in the presbytery. I served Union as pastor until sometime in 1979.

In March of 1981, Concord PBC (Wadley, AL) called me as their pastor and I was blessed to serve them until August of 1990.

Piney Grove PBC called me to serve as pastor in October of 1990 and I serve as their pastor at the present time (2000).

Truly one of the highlights of my ministry was when my wife and I were blessed to become involved in the work in the Philippines. We made our first trip in 1998. We made a trip of 12 days the end of January and the first of February. It was such a wonderful joy to experience the workings of God among the Filipinos.

ELDER THOMAS BOONE

FROM "ZION'S ADVOCATE," 1855: Elder Thomas Boone, a minister and faithful servant of Jesus Christ, died on Saturday, the 22nd of September 1855. For many years, Elder Boone presided over the deliberations of North District Association, Clark County, Kentucky, where his whole life and labors were spent in the service of his divine Master. He was a useful and humble servant. Elder Jas. W. Dudley said of him: "The character of his ministry was more that of a 'Barnabas' than a 'Boanergus,' for he was indeed a son of consolation to the sons and daughters of Zion." His great humility as a minister of Jesus Christ was greatly demonstrated during his life.

ELDER G. B. BOROUGHS

WRITTEN BY ELDER W.G. FLETCHER: On June 9th, 1938, an All-Wise God saw fit to remove another of His precious jewels from this world when the spirit of Elder G. B. Boroughs was wafted to the portals of eternal glory. Brother Boroughs was born in Randolph Co., N. C., July 17, 1864. On Feb. 22, 1891, he was married to Miss Ella Jane Garrett, and to this union eight children were. In 1882, Brother Boroughs was brought under the burden of sin and condemnation. He labored under this burden until 1893 when he was enabled to sing with the way-worn traveler, "Deliverance Has Come." But with this deliverance came the impression to preach God's word. Soon after he was baptized, in 1900, he was liberated to preach, and in 1906 was ordained to the full work of the ministry. From the time of his ordination till 1930 he served from one to four churches. In Nov. 1928, he became a member of the church at Eureka in Irwin County, Ga., and remained a member till death. He served this church from its organization till 1929--a period of 25 years. In 1930, he gave up the care of all of his churches because of declining health.

ELDER ELMER D. BOTTS

FROM MESSENGER OF PEACE: I was born in Pettis County, Missouri, on January 27, 1878, and have lived my entire life in that county except for five years in Warrensburg, Johnson County, while our only child, a daughter, attended college there.

One day when I was about 16 years of age there came over me a very strange feeling, one which I cannot describe. There was a great burden of mind and with it a great dread of death. This remained with me for months, and sometimes it seemed that it was more than I could bear, but there was no escape from it. After laboring under this awful condition for more than a year, almost two years perhaps, this burden began to slip away, and a great desire for heaven to be my home took its place.

On January 1, 1907, Miss Gracie Austin and I were married in Clinton, Missouri. In 1911, we joined Walnut Branch Church and were baptized by the late Elder John Teague. In 1929 we moved our membership to Sardis Church, Leeton, Missouri. Elder Cash was then pastor of that church, and he often called on me to take some part in the service. Elder William Pollard followed Elder Cash as pastor, and during his pastorate the church spoke of giving me license to preach. I told them that had been done by Walnut Branch Church a number of years before.

In 1939, the church called me as pastor and requested my ordination.

On July 30, 1939, I was ordained. I have continued to preach for this church ever since. I have had the care of Crooked River Church since 1942 and Bethlehem Church since October 1948.

NOTE: Elder Botts passed from this life on May 10, 1967.

ELDER B. E. BOURLAND

FROM "PRIMITIVE MONITOR:" I was born in the year 1838. My parents were members of the Primitive Baptist Church at my earliest recollection, and were true and faithful. Father was a deacon of the church for some fifty years of his life. I learned that it was impossible for me to bring myself into nearness with God, having no power to change my vile heart or nature. I could not give satisfaction to violated law, and I realized if I ever reached a better state than this, it must be a greater power than of myself or sinful man. So I realized that I was hereditarily and totally depraved. But there was help laid in One who was able and mighty and willing. The hope of an inheritance among the redeemed is based on what Jesus has done.

ELDER ROY W. BOWLES

Elder Bowles was born in Patrick County, Va. in 1932, he was the second of three children. His father and mother were Primitive Baptist.

From his first memories in life he remembers the meetings among the Primitive Baptists in Va. and North Carolina. As early as 9 and 10 years of age he felt a desire to praise the Lord while he plowed the field and looked toward the sky.

He eventually tried two or three other denominations to find relief but could not.

In August 1950, he was married to Marjorie Ann Witt and together they were baptized by Elder L. J. Corns in 1957. He made his first effort to preach one month later and was ordained one year after uniting with the Good Home Church in Axton, Va.

Elder and Sister Bowles have three children.

ELDER EDWARD BOWMAN



Elder Bowman was born on March 23, 1941. Elder Bowman joined Mt. Lebanon Primitive Baptist Church, Hillsville, VA, February 1979. He was ordained to the ministry on July 3, 1993. He is currently moderator of Mt. Lebanon Church, Meadow View Church, Dugspur, VA, and Conner's View Church, Meadows of VA.

ELDER NORMAN BOWMAN



Elder Bowman was born on November 18, 1908 and passed from this life on September 8, 1993. He joined Lebanon Primitive Baptist Church, Hillsville, VA in June 1940. He was ordained to the ministry in December 1960.

ELDER SAMMY BOX

I was born June 14, 1928 in Gorman, Texas to Robert and Nellie Box. We soon moved to the area south of Abilene where I attended the South Taylor schools and where I spent the greatest part of my young life. I first joined the Primitive Baptist Church at Tuscola and was baptized by Elder H.H. Garrett, in 1948. I later moved my membership to the First Primitive Baptist of Abilene and was rebaptized by Elder R.V. Sarrels.



I was ordained to the ministry at Abilene in 1967. My pastor at that time was Elder Tommy Hart. The first church I served in this capacity was the Dixie Church near Whitesboro, Texas. Later I worked beside Elder Gerald Stanford to constitute White Settlement Primitive Baptist [now Indian Oaks]. In June of 1970 I accepted a call to pastor the Northside Church in San Antonio. I served there until 1979, at which time land my family returned to Arlington, Texas. I received and accepted a call from Brentwood Hills of Fort Worth in April of 1980 and that is my present post.

God has been very gracious to me and my family to be in sweet fellowship with these dear brethren who I feel hold the standard of the truth of God's word. I praise Him for His bountiful blessings in my life!

ELDER BILLIE N. BOYD

WRITTEN BY HIS WIFE, VIRGINIA: Billie Boyd was born February 24, 1919. He was baptized October 8, 1938 by Elder J. W. Hardwick into the St. Union Church in Amory Mississippi. Billie was ordained to the work of the ministry August 11, 1946 by the Harmony Church where his membership is at present. He married Virginia Bolding June 11, 1938. They have three sons, Elder Marshall Boyd, Vernon and Randy Boyd. Also they have 10 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.



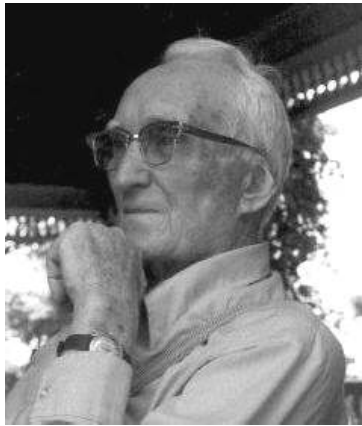
Bill had never heard of the Primitive Baptist until he had his first date with Virginia. Brother Hardwick was preaching at a home service for Virginia's invalid Grandmother who was confined to her bed for 30 years. Although Virginia's mother did not want the young man to come, Brother Hardwick said, "Joy, let the young man come on to see Virginia, if he wants to come even if we are having preaching." Bill came and loved what he heard. He asked to go inside the house and shake hands with the people and continued to come back almost weekly to go to church with Virginia. They were married June 11, 1938 and were baptized together October 9, 1938. Bill was ordained to the ministry August 11, 1946.

His first efforts to speak to God's people were at Morris Memorial Church in Memphis Tennessee. Bill has served as pastor of churches in Mississippi, Tennessee and Alabama. He has always been deeply loved and respected by those

not only in our churches, but also by people wherever he has gone. During his younger years, he traveled and preached across the nation. As of now, we still go to church each Sunday but Alzheimer's and Parkinson disease has slowed him down considerable. The church and God will always be our first love, though not allowed to participate as freely as we once did.

By previous arrangements by his brother, a Mormon, Bill once preached for the Mormons in Wyoming. Many came out to hear this Primitive Baptist preach. Bill's brother wanted those people to hear this wonderful doctrine. I do not know if there is a Primitive Baptist Church in Wyoming now, but in 1951, there was not one, nor did the people there know anything about such a doctrine.

ELDER CHARLES WILLIAM BOYD, JR.



Elder Boyd was born February 2, 1901, in Tazewell County, Virginia. He died at his home in Mt. Vernon, Ohio, March 21, 1980. He was one of eight boys and seven girls born to Charles Boyd, Sr., and Mary Jane Hankins Boyd.

He was first married to Correll A. Downing, and to them four sons and one daughter were born. After the death of Correll, he married Nevada C. Robertson.

Although he grew up in a Primitive Baptist home, it was in the early 1940's that he became deeply concerned about their welfare and his own. In 1946 Mt. Pisgah Church granted your unworthy writer the sweet privilege of baptizing him into the membership of the church for which he had shown a great love. In 1953, Mt. Pisgah ordained him as an Elder. He served Owl Creek Harmony Church as pastor faithfully for 27 years; also St. Louisville Church. He also served as moderator of our association for several years until his health and strength began

to fail.

The above was from an obituary written by Elder Clarence M. Boyd. Of Elder Charles Boyd, his son notes that "my father has always been to me the perfect example of a Godly man."

ELDER CLARENCE M. BOYD

FROM "PRIMITIVE MONITOR" WRITTEN BY ELDER DAILY HITE: Elder Boyd was born September 29, 1904 in Washington County Virginia to William C. and Milly (Hankins) Boyd. He passed from this life May 31, 1982. In 1931, he was married to the former Ona Hall. To this union one daughter was born.

Elder Boyd professed a hope in Christ Jesus as his Savior and was baptized by Elder Tommy Osborne, and received into the fellowship of the Friendship Church in Newark, Ohio in 1939. Then, later, feeling the burden to tell of the wondrous love of his Savior, he was ordained to the work of the ministry at New Garden Church, near Honaker, Virginia in 1941. At present he is Pastor of the Beulah Church near Taboso, Ohio and the Friendship Church in Newark, Ohio. He served as assistant pastor at his home church, Owl Creek Harmony, for several years. He also served as pastor at the Hebron Church (and the Harmony Church near Alexandria) for a few years.

ELDER HUGH MARSHALL BOYD

Hugh Marshall Boyd was born July 7, 1939 to Elder Billie and Sister Virginia Boyd. He was baptized in 1949 into the St. Union Church of Amory Mississippi. Marshall was ordained to the ministry December 29, 1974 by the Harmony Church of Mississippi.

Marshall married July 19, 1959. They have two daughters, Pam Foster and Marsha Harrell and three grandsons.

ELDER ONUS BOYD



Elder Onus Boyd was born in Clark County, November 5, 1897, the son of Robert Lee and Louvella Wilson Boyd. He died in a Little Rock Hospital, Sunday, February 18, 1973, after a short illness.

Elder Boyd joined Ebenezer Church May 7, 1931, and was a faithful and devoted member until his death. He was ordained to the full work of the ministry on Saturday, November 29, 1969.

Elder Ersel Tillery made a statement during the funeral service that was very fitting to Elder Boyd. He said, "He probably did more preaching out of the stand than he did in it." No matter where he was, at home, on the street, or at church, his conversation was on the scriptures.

ELDER A. M. BRADEN

FROM AN ARTICLE IN DUNCAN COUNTY PRESS, JAN. 3, 1954, REPUBLISHED IN THE "PRIMITIVE BAPTIST:" Elder A. M. Braden, now 85 years old, is the oldest pastor in Senath, and has set a record here for time, as he has been pastor of the Primitive Baptist Church for 40 years, the longest time any minister has ever served here.

Elder Braden is known and loved and respected by all as a man whose every day life has been in full accord with his vocation. Though now retired from active manual labor, he gets around like a man much younger and has only begun using eyeglasses a little the past month to read. In his earlier years, he farmed in addition to his ministry.

Elder Braden recounts with pride that he was born in Hamilton County, IL., in 1868. When he was nine years of age his father sold out most of his belongings and loaded his family in a covered wagon and started for Arkansas. The first night out they camped south of Marion, in a wooded section. The next day they traveled in through Dexter and Malden and Old Four Mile. They crossed the St. Francis at Chalk Bluff on a flat boat that was pulled across the river with a rope. Reaching the Arkansas side they set up camp.

ELDER WALTER L. BRADFORD

Elder Bradford, son of George Isaac and Melissa Jane Bradford, was born near Edgar Springs on Feb. 22, 1877. He was one of six children.

He was united in marriage to Miss Pearl Arthur on May 22, 1902. Four children were born to this marriage

Elder Bradford united with Bethel Church (now Big Piney-Bethel) of the Primitive Baptist faith in December, 1914. He was baptized by Elder A.J. Conlee. He was ordained minister of the gospel on October 9, 1926 and was called pastor

of the church in June 1929 and served faithfully until his death. He also served as pastor of Dry Fork Church, Lake Springs, Mo., and Pine Church Licking, Mo. for several years.

As a young man, Elder Bradford was a schoolteacher, and later a public official of Phelps County, then of Rolla Mo. He was serving as City Treasurer of Rolla at the time of his death on February 16, 1961.

ELDER ERNEST BRADLEY

Elder Ernest Bradley was born May 13, 1908, the son of Henry and Louella Bradley, and passed away January 2, 1955.

He was married to Martha Martin on March 1, 1932, and to them two sons were born, Eugene and Freddie. He taught in the public schools for over twenty-five years.

Elder Bradley united with the Mt. Moriah Church January 29, 1928, and was baptized by the pastor, Elder Earl Daily. Elder Daily was moderator of the presbytery that ordained him, performed the ceremony at his marriage, and in sorrow it became his duty to preach the funeral discourse. Bro. Ernest began preaching about two months after joining the church, and was ordained to the ministry in March 1931.

In December 1941, he was injured critically when a tree fell on him. He was crippled from that day, and was never completely well again. After this accident, he had to depend on Martha so much, but in this she never failed him. On December 12, 1954, Elder Bradley delivered his last sermon at his home church, where nearly twenty-seven years before he preached his first. Both morning and afternoon he preached from the twenty-third Psalm.

ELDER J. W. BRADLEY

Elder Bradley was born on October 14, 1845 in Macon County, MO. He was ordained on December 7, 1890, at the Brush Creek Church at Goldberry, MO. No other information could be obtained.

ELDER LASSERRE BRADLEY, JR.



Lasserre Bradley, Jr. was born in Lexington, Kentucky, May 6, 1935. At an early age he made a profession of faith in Christ and joined the Baptist church where his parents were members. At the age of 13 he felt the call to preach and became active in filling speaking appointments. At age 16 he was called to pastor a church and was then ordained at the church of his membership, which was affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

At age 17, he was called to pastor an independent Baptist Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. While serving this church, he began to see that the doctrine of God's sovereignty and the principles of election and predestination, as taught in the scriptures, were not consistent with many of the things he had been preaching. When these doctrines were preached on his radio broadcast, the *Baptist Bible Hour*, which he started in 1953, people wrote stating that he was preaching the doctrine held by Primitive Baptists. After attending meetings among the Primitive Baptists for over a year, he became satisfied that these people held the doctrine and practice of God's word.

In October 1958, a number of the people, who were members of the congregation that he served, followed him in constituting the Cincinnati Primitive Baptist Church. In addition to serving as pastor of this church since that time, he has traveled extensively among the Primitive Baptists throughout the United States. He is editor of *The Baptist Witness* and continues to conduct the *Baptist Bible Hour* radio broadcast.

He and his wife Emily have three children, Leanna Tomlinson, Peggy Stewart, Lasserre Bradley III, and ten grandchildren.

FROM DAVID MONTOMERY: Elder Bradley has written a very brief synopsis on his life and ministry; but to this writer, so much more could and should be said. He has traveled thousands of miles to preach the gospel. He has spent much of his time counseling those in need. Many a young minister, including the writer, has benefited from his sound advice and the example of his life. He has continually put himself last, the Lord first, and others second.

ELDER WILLIAM BRADLEY

Elder Bradley was born in Virginia in about the year 1780. In early life he united with the church in the bounds of Little River Association of Kentucky, where he was ordained to the work of the ministry in 1820. He united with Middle Creek Church of Salem Association in 1835, but later moved to Iowa, where he faithfully labored among the churches of the Des Moines River Association until his death, which occurred February 26, 1850, of lung fever. At the time of his death his membership was with Sugar Creek Church, in Lee County, Iowa.

ELDER BARNABAS BRAMMER



I was born in Campbell County, Virginia on November 11, 1942. For most of my early years, I lived in Henry County, at which time I resided in the Bassett area and later the Collinsville area.

It was early in my life that I was exposed to the Old Baptist teachings, primarily because my father, Elder Thomas Brammer and my uncle, Elder Leonard Brammer, were both Primitive Baptist ministers. I had spent many hours at home listening to Dad and many others sharing their beliefs, experiences, and callings. We children were taken to "meeting" every week and very often we had also attended the associations that would last for three days. I can still remember sitting outside on those hard benches, the ones without the back to lean up against, from around 9:30 in the morning until two or three in the afternoon.

At some point in time I decided that when I was old enough to be in control of my own life, that I would never attend another Primitive Baptist meeting.

It was many years after I had moved from my home state to Baltimore, Maryland that the Lord worked a work in me that caused me to be convicted of my sins. After a long period of living in this condition of emptiness, unable to pray, the time had finally come upon me when I found myself able and blessed to pray as it were "God be merciful to me a sinner" as I was retiring for the night. As I awoke the next morning all was peace and joy, the sun had shone brighter than ever before, the birds sang sweeter, and even as Pilgrim in the "Pilgrim's Progress" the burden was removed. I then found myself gladly driving 650 miles round trip to attend those meetings I spoke of earlier.

I now am a member of Rock Springs Church in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania where I joined on October 4, 1981 as they were singing the words "Thy Blood can cleanse the foulest stain and can avail for me."

I served as deacon from July 5, 1987 until May 30, 1993 at which time I was ordained to the full work of the ministry. I serve as pastor of Newport News Primitive Baptist Church in Virginia and as co-pastor of Black Rock Particular Primitive Baptist Church in Butler, Maryland.

ELDER F. P. BRANSCOME



Elder Branscome was the son of John and Mary Frances (Mayberry) Branscome, of Laurel Fork, Carroll County, Va., was born March 14, 1860, and died 1:30 a. m., Jan. 5, 1922. His father was made a prisoner of war at the battle of Missionary Ridge, November 1863, and sent to Rock Island prison where he died of fever. His mother was unable to educate him and he entered school at the age of sixteen years, not knowing anything of letters, except the names of characters forming the Roman alphabet, and could not even spell words of one syllable. He was the "Big boy in the little class." Notwithstanding the embarrassing conditions, he went to work in earnest, and in a most thorough manner. In the way of advancement those who were far in advance of him at the outset were soon passed by and left behind; and he finally became their teacher. In all, he attended only four sessions of three months each. He had nine months vacation each year during which time one or more of his text-books were with him continually; and every day and everywhere he was drawing from them knowledge. While his hands were too busy to hold an open book, his mind was working over what he had read and storing away for future use the finished thoughts. He did not study without an aim in life, or labor to finish a lesson as a slave would to end a task for he was digging after knowledge, just as the owner of a mine would delve for gold, knowing that all the gold found would be his own.

Oct. 5, 1881, he was married to Miss Orlena E. Marshall daughter of Deacon Daniel W. Marshall. From Nov 1881, until March 1893, he was engaged in public schools of Virginia as teacher. While teaching, he studied surveying and became the court's surveyor, holding the office for eight years. Besides this, he did much work under orders from the United States Court, and by it was commissioned to determine and settle a number of difficult controversies. He held the office of Notary Public for about thirty-six years, and other positions of trust imposed on him by those among whom he was born, raised and lived. In 1884, having, through reigning grace, received a good hope in Christ; he united with the Primitive Baptist Church at Panther Creek. Just one year later, he made his first attempt to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ our Redeemer. At the same time, the next year (1886) he was licensed to preach wherever God in His providence should cast his lot; and, in October 1887, he was ordained to the full functions of the gospel ministry. In January 1897, he founded the *Messenger of Truth*, which he edited and published, until it was merged with *Zion's Advocate* January 1920. His writing and preaching has done much toward building up and keeping churches in their unity of faith and in the bonds of peace. He was the clerk of the New River Primitive Baptist Association for a number of years and ever proved a safe counselor to his brethren and a loyal servant to his Master.

ELDER WILLIAM T. BRANSON

FROM THE "PRIMITIVE BAPTIST," WRITTEN BY JEANETTE BRANSON, HIS WIFE: William T. Branson was born June 25, 1866, in Harrison County, Iowa; convicted of sin at an early age, and received a hope in Christ in 1883. He united with the Primitive Baptist Church in February 1887; was baptized the following April by Elder Isaac Skelton; and felt the call to preach the gospel in June of the same year. In September 1887 he went to Indiana to evade the call and joined Otter Creek Church in Eel River Association in 1888, and was soon licensed to preach. He was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry in Otter Creek Church on July 22, 1889; pastored churches for twenty-two years; and went far and near to preach.

He was called to rest in that eternal home early in the morning of Sept. 3, 1939. His death was a shock, as he was run over by a car.

ELDER J. W. BRANTLEY



Brother Brantley was born April 17, 1907, in Harrison, GA, and died April 22, 1990.

He asked for a home with Mt. Gilead Church July 23, 1939, and was baptized that afternoon. He became an active member and displayed a gift toward the ministry.

On April 26, 1947, a letter was received from Mt. Horeb Church to ordain Brother Brantley to the full work of the ministry of the gospel. He was ordained June 21, 1947, at Mt. Gilead, his home church.

ELDER B. R. BRAY

FROM PERSONAL AND FRIENDSHIP CHURCH MINUTES SUBMITTED: FEBRUARY 14, 2000: Elder B. R. Bray along with Elder J. A. Mims formed the presbytery and constituted Friendship Church in Ringgold, Catoosa County, Georgia, on June 9, 1893. Elder Bray became the pastor of this church and received four more members the next day. In the year 2000, Friendship Primitive Baptist Church stands on this same property and meets every Sunday for worship services.

Elder Bray faithfully served as Moderator for conference meetings (almost never missing a meeting as documented in the church minutes) and as church Pastor from 1893 until 1908, at which time the church called Elder C. A. Clemons. It is believed that Elder Bray's membership was at another church and that he also served as Pastor for other churches.

ELDER WILLIAM MARION BRECHEEN



Elder Brecheen was born near Clarckburg, Tennessee on October 26, 1862 to William David and Martha Jane Eubanks Brecheen. His parents move in an ox driven wagon to Holly Springs, Mississippi when he was nine years old. They lived there ten years. From there they moved to Greensburg, Louisiana, which was his home until he passed away on March 10, 1962 at the age of 99 years.

On March 10, 1886, he was married to Elrena Victoria Lowery. They raised eight children of their own and three children of a daughter that had passed away. They were married 66 years. She preceded him in death by 12 years.

He was ordained to the ministry on June 7, 1898 at Bethlehem Church of East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana by a presbytery consisting of Elders R. S. Kirkland, J. C. Wilkinson and W. D. Brecheen. He preached in several States. Once, he preached 18 sermons in 16 days in Florida at the age of 98 years. He served many churches, the last being New Bethel in Tylertown, Mississippi.

He was not able to see to read for several years before his death, but could quote scripture with the best. He often said the Bible seemed as fresh in his mind as though he had read it the day before.

He preached until three months before his death when after a fall, he went to live with a son in Abilene, Texas, where he passed away.

ELDER GEORGE A. BRETZ



WRITTEN BY ELDER W. S. CRAIG: Elder George A. Bretz was born in Michigan, Dec. 7, 1860, and died at his home in Los Angeles, Calif., Oct. 9, 1938. He died rejoicing and praising the Lord. His parents and all of his grandparents were Primitive Baptists.

On Nov. 9, 1879, he was baptized by Elder T. B. Sherwood into the fellowship of Honey Creek Church, Seneca Co., Ohio. In Nov. 1884, he was ordained in Van Buren Church, Hancock Co., Ohio, by a Presbytery composed of his grandfather Lewis Seitz, L. B. Sherwood, J. J. Van Horn, Ephriam Barker, J. B. Smith and Harvey Biblet. During his long ministry he baptized nearly 300 persons, preached over 8000 sermons and wrote many poems. On March 3, 1883, he married Miss Augusta Jordan.

In 1889, at the solicitation of Elder R. W. Thompson, he became an associate editor of the *Primitive Monitor*, and continued in that position until called from his labors.

REMARKS FROM ELDER R. H. PITTMAN: Eld. George Bretz was a man of many Christian graces, a sweet preacher, an able writer of prose and poetry, a lover of good men and a faithful defender of God's eternal truth. For many years, he was associate editor of this paper. He served churches in the east, in the Middle West, and during the last years of his life was pastor of Liberty Church in Los Angeles, Calif. And it would be difficult to find a servant of God among our people anywhere more loyal to the cause of truth and righteousness, more tender-hearted, and more willing to "spend and be spent" in the cause of our Master.

ELDER DAVID P. BRIDGEMAN



FROM THE MAY 11, 1959, ISSUE OF THE ALABAMA JOURNAL: One of 11 children, Dave was born 55 years ago in the house he now owns near Tallassee. He was born an albino --white hair, white eyes and no coloring in the skin. In addition, he was extremely near-sighted, so much that he was not able to finish high school. Neither could he hunt, fish or play ball. Except for school days, his early years were spent entirely at home.

At 14, he left home to work for an older brother. A year later he started to work in the cotton mills. At 16 he returned home, but left within a short time to begin work as a door-to-door salesman of a nationally-known line of kitchen products. This was his first real contact with the outside world.

Shortly before his 21st birthday, he took a job as assistant to his sister-in-law in a large country department store. The next year he met and married Mary. C. Short of Andalusia, and soon went into the department store business for himself. To his chagrin, he had to learn everything the hard way. Then the depression hit, the bank broke and Bridgeman lost everything he had. But in losing his material possessions, he found the church. Because of his secluded life, he had seldom attended church although his parents had been devout Old Baptists. His eyesight had deprived him of reading the Bible with any understanding. But after his first business failure, he turned to the church.

He joined the Sharon Primitive Baptist Church in Tallapoosa County in July of 1933, and since then has failed to attend weekly services only four or five occasions. He started in business again, this time on a smaller scale, and it grew rapidly. He prospered, but after deciding his business was interfering too much with church, he sold it.

Within three or four years after joining the church, he was ordained a deacon. He transferred his letter to Salem Church in Tallassee, and attended as many services at as many churches as possible.

Elder Bridgeman has written a book, *The Way the Lord Has Led Me*, which contains a brief autobiography, a number of articles and a number of poems, which he has written. He writes articles for five Primitive Baptist publications, is assistant editor of *The Christian Pathway* and is widely in demand as an opening speaker at services throughout the state and in several other states.

ELDER JESSE S. BRINSON

FROM AN OBITUARY IN "PRIMITIVE MONITOR:" Elder Brinson passed away at his home in Clay Township, Owen County, Indiana, June 9, 1960, at the age of 66 years, 5 months and 17 days. He was ordained in January 1937 and was faithful to his calling as long as his health permitted. His funeral was conducted at the Little Flock Church, Owen County, Indiana, Sunday June 12, by Elder Omer Chastain, assisted by Elder Raymond Adkins.

ELDER CHARLES EDWARD (EDDIE) BRIZENDINE



SUBMITTED BY THE FLINT RIVER CHURCH: Brother Eddie was born April 28, 1932 and passed away May 17, 1990 from complications during by-pass heart surgery. He was 58 years of age.

Brother Eddie was ordained at Flint River Church, Brownsboro Alabama, and pastored the Church for several years. He took a vow to put on the whole armor of God when the Church recognized that he had a calling to preach. He kept that vow as best that any man could. Besides preaching grace that was shown so abundantly to us, he visited and was invited to preach to brethren of like faith in Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, and Georgia. Brother Eddie sought the old paths and walked there in. He preached the covenant of grace of the Father with Jesus Christ to save his people and of the hope of salvation that is instilled in each of us by God the Father. Brother Eddie preached that we let our light so shine that others might see our Father in Heaven and glorify his name.

He did this as well as anyone we know.

ELDER S. T. BRITNELL

FROM AN OBITUARY IN THE "PRIMITIVE BAPTIST," WRITTEN BY F. M. FREDERICK: Elder Britnell was born Dec. 16, 1908 and died June 17, 1945. He was married to Miss Gladys McCullough in May 1929. To this union two children were born. Elder Britnell united with Mars Hill Church, in the Little Vine Association, in 1922, and has been a faithful member since. The church ordained him to the full work of the ministry in November 1937. He was elected moderator of the Little Vine Association in 1940, and served until death. He was stricken with paralysis while in the stand the first Sunday in June, and had to be carried home, from which he never recovered. He bore his afflictions with patience, always talking of the goodness of God; and in his last moments, amidst the great suffering he was having to

undergo, he told his family and friends present that as long as he could raise his voice to be heard he wanted it to be in praise to God.

ELDER JERRY LEE BRITT



I was born September 27, 1936, near Pace, Mississippi. My parents were Harvie Lee Britt and Virginia Katherine Reynolds. Two more boys were born into the family.

I feel that I always loved God and had a desire to do those things that were good. In my early teens I felt an impression to preach and spent hours talking about the things that I had read in the Bible. I did this as I worked in the fields.

In 1949 and 1950 we built a new church in Cleveland, Mississippi, New Prospect Church. I can remember driving nails and helping build the church. I never realized that I would one day join the church and even preach in it.

We were living in Cleveland, Mississippi in 1962, when I had a great desire to join the church. All of these years, even though I felt to be called to preach, I ran, my excuse being if I am not a church member I won't have to preach. On July 28, 1962 I finally followed my Lord in baptism.

On August 18, 1963, I married Jo Ann Herrington. She was not a Primitive Baptist but joined the Church in Cleveland on May 29, 1966.

One Saturday night our preacher could not be with us. We had singing and I asked if I could speak to the church. I believe that this was in October 1963. The Lord blessed me to speak this night and he has never failed to bless me whenever I was called on to speak in his name. I was ordained November 29, 1969. The ministers in the service were Elders W.C. Moak, Oden Jolly, O.L. Hawkins and Stanley Wade.

I continued to visit Churches in South Mississippi now that I lived in Vicksburg. I was called to fill a fourth Sunday appointment at Salem Church in Natchez, Mississippi starting in January 1971. On March 5, 1972 I was called to serve Goodhope Church near Mendenhall, Mississippi on first and third Sundays. In January 1973, I was called to fill a second Sunday appointment at Plymouth Primitive Baptist Church near Gloster, Mississippi.

We had no children of our own and in April 1985, we adopted a beautiful five year old girl. She was the pride of our lives. Surely, God blessed us with this daughter. In March 1992, Christi, our daughter, asked for a home in the church. On May 17 I was blessed to baptize my daughter into the church. Christi died on November 19, 1998. We thank God for the years that we had Christ, and yield to his will.

I resigned the care of Goodhope Church on January 31, 1993. On February 21, 1993, I was called to serve Ephesus Church at Lorman, Mississippi on first and third Sundays. At the present time I am serving as Pastor of Ephesus Church, Plymouth Church, and continuing to fill a fourth Sunday appointment at Salem Church.

ELDER EMANUEL BRITTON

Elder Britton was born April 11, 1810 in Jasper County, Georgia. He was the ninth child to John B Britton and Mary Baker. He married Jane L Smith, July 13, 1828 in Butts County, Georgia. They made their home near the town of Houston, Georgia, located on the Heard-Troup County line; and to this union the Lord blessed them with eleven children.

Emanuel was ordained to the full work of the ministry in April 1846 by Darian Church of Houston, Georgia. Darian Church later became known as County Line Church. He served churches in Western Georgia and Eastern Alabama.

After his wife died in 1864, he married Mrs. Lucy Smith. He died December 9, 1874 in Coweta County, Georgia and is buried in Whatley Cemetery in Troup County, Georgia.

ELDER ATLAS E. BROADWAY

FROM "GOSPEL APPEAL:" Elder Broadway was born in Union County, N.C. on May 19, 1914, the son of Mrs. Bessie Broadway Huneycutt and the late Elder W.R. Broadway. He was 71 years old when he passed from this life. He had served as pastor of Jerusalem Church in Anson County, N.C. for almost 30 years.

ELDER GARLAND BROADWAY

I was born on March 13, 1941, on Cedar Creek in Perry County, TN. In 1951, our family moved to Camden, TN. This is where I graduated from High School and where I met and married my high school sweetheart. My father, Elder Guss J. Broadway, married us on June 6, 1959.

We have three children Tony 39, Randy 36 and Tammy 30. We now raise and have adopted our grandson David 11.

In 1969 the Lord put me on my knees begging his forgiveness. I joined the Missionary Baptist Church that I had been attending for some time with my wife. I was not satisfied with the gospel that was preached at that church and began looking for a Primitive Baptist Church. In December of 1973 we moved back to Camden. I joined the Cedar Creek Church (the old Simmons Church) on the 4th Sunday in July 1974, and was ordained as Deacon on the 4th Sunday in October 1974. On the first Sunday in July 1979, I was ordained as minister by the Cedar Creek Church. The Elders present were Elder Joe Burcham, Elder Robert Hinson, and Elder Guss J. Broadway. The Deacons present were Lloyd Ward, Clement Meridith and Cole Thompson.

I began to preach both at Coon Creek and Cedar Creek in Perry County, TN and later at Hollow Rock in Carroll County TN (in 1987) and presently I am serving both Coon Creek and Hollow Rock. Both my wife and I are now members at Hollow Rock Church.

ELDER GUSS JOHNSON BROADWAY

Elder Broadway was born to John and Ella Thompson Broadway on August 19, 1902. As a young man he hoboed around the country until he finally settled down at the place of his birth in Perry County Tennessee. There He met and married Hessie Loudean Clifton in 1937. He joined and was baptized by Elder Cross into the old Simmons Church on Cedar Creek, Perry County TN on the 4th Sunday in August in 1942.

He was ordained as minister on June 21, 1958. The Elder that sat in the ordination of Bro Guss was Elder R. G. Rhodes. The deacons were C. B. Meridith, Floyd Broadway, Ollie Inman, R. C. Smith, C. M. Holland, R.L. Shepard and Bob French. At the time of the ordination Cedar Creek Church was in the Buffalo River Assoc. He served as pastor of that church until 1980. Because of poor health he insisted that the church call someone else to pastor the church. Guss passed away on March 7, 1982.

He had two children, Frances Naomi Broadway Orr and Garland Perry Broadway.

ELDER CHARLES ERNEST BROOKS

FROM AN OBITUARY IN "PRIMITIVE MONITOR:" Elder Brooks died suddenly just outside New Hope Church, which he pastored, on July 29, 1968. On the day previous to his death, he had preached from Hebrews 6:13, the subject being, "The promises of God." He was born August 21, 1916, near Benton, Kentucky. He was baptized September 14, 1958, by Elder Gordon Hearon, and was received a member of New Hope Church.

He was ordained and pastored Blakemore Church in Nashville, Tenn., for a time, and served New Hope and Mt. Zion Churches.

ELDER CLESTON MARSHALL BROOKS

Cleston Marshall Brooks was born March 20, 1941. He was baptized July 22 1960 by the Hartsfield Church of South Georgia, by Elder L. M. Brooks, his father.

Cleston Marshall was ordained to the ministry April 22, 1978 by the Hartsfield Church. He married Linda Thomaston. To this union were born: Lynn Green, Cindy Weaver, Scott Brooks and Tina Brown.

Elder Brooks pastored Hartsfield Church from April 22, 1978 until it closed in 1993. He also served as pastor of Providence, Thomas County Georgia for two years and he pastored Providence Church of Worth County Georgia.

ELDER LONNIE BROOKS



Lonnie Marshall Brooks was born August 4, 1899. He was baptized February 13, 1932 into Mt. Pisgah Church, by Elder S. W. Cox. This church is a member of the Pulaski Association of South Georgia. He was ordained to the ministry November 24, 1956 at the Hartsfield Church.

Lonnie married Willie Lee Hancock who was born November 2, 1901 and she died January 21, 1975. To this union were born; Georgia Langley, Junior Brooks, Cleston Brooks, Louise Bartley, Jack Brooks, Terry Brooks, his twin, Berry Brooks, Jewel Burksdale, David Brooks, Joyce Thomaston, Charles Brooks.

He was pastor of Hartsfield from 1956 till his death in 1978. He also pastored Providence in Thomas County and New Hope near Curio Georgia until his death. He was a spirit filled man of God and was blessed to preach in power and demonstration of the Holy Spirit. Brother Lonnie was a very humble man and was loved by all that knew him.

ELDER W. S. BROOM

Elder Broom was ordained to the full work of the ministry fifth Sunday in September 1894 by Philadelphia Church, located near Gober in Fannin County, Texas. He was dismissed by letter February 16, 1901. Where he went from there, is not known to us.

FROM DAVID MONTGOMERY: Elder Broom was a true Biblical evangelist, going to distant and remote areas to preach the Gospel. He was mentioned several times by Elder S. F. Moore in his autobiography, *This Is My Life*. He and Elder Moore went on many preaching trips together, often undergoing dangers and perils to fulfill their God appointed task. In my travels in Texas, I have visited with our people across the state that remember Elder Broom and have interesting anecdotes on him. Elder Broom stayed and preached in their homes, he preached in their churches, and baptized many of them. He may have not left much of a written record, but his ministerial record is immense, and worthy of our esteem.

ELDER COY RAY BROTHERS

I was born the second of seven children to the union of Arthur H. and Louise (Bowlin) Brothers. That birth took place on July 7, 1933, at the residence near Ball Mt., Ball Mt. Rd Gallant, AL, the western part of Etowah Co.

It was after serving in the military service, the Army Signal Corp., for two years that I begin a career in aerospace work. I spent most of my military time in Korea and Japan.

After I returned from the Military Service, in Dec. 1955, I spent the next 35 years working in aerospace. I have been retired now for 8 years. I spend the most of my time serving the Primitive Baptist people and their churches. I now serve in a labor of love, in three churches.

My experience and baptism and call to serve the Lord's people were when I was twelve years old. I joined the church at Old Clear Creek, Marshall County, Al., Oct. 16, 1945. My sister, Ruth, and I were baptized by our Dear Pastor, Elder Otto Hunt at the same time. I declared the gospel to my younger brother, Roy Cecil there on the creek bank, while going a fishing. I never answered the call to preach the gospel of my Lord, Jesus Christ to the public, until 30 years later, at the age of 42 years. I began to preach at Rocky Mt. Church at Arab, AL in Jan 1975. I was liberated in 1978 and ordained in Mar. 1980. This being the 24th year in the ministry, plus 54 years as a church member.

I was one of the 18 charter members to form Pilgrim Rest Church of Attalla, AL, in Aug. 1951. My wife to be, Ms. Dorothy (Dot) Cook joined that church in Jan 1952. Elder WM Cook, my wife's grandfather performed our wedding Dec. 24, 1952, 47 years ago today, Dec. 24, 1999. I served as clerk at Pilgrim Rest Church for about 6 years. We moved our membership to Rocky Mt. Church of Arab, Al., in Jan 1975. The year I begin to preach. I have served as one of the pastors at this church for over 20 years, presently. I served as an assist pastor to Elder H.L. Thompson at Little Vine Church at Ryan, AL, 1978-1980. I was called to pastor Harmony Church in Morgan Co., in 1980. I served this church 7 years, 1980-1987. This was a very joyful and fruitful service. During Aug. 1998, I was called to pastor Little Branch Church of Albertville, Al., and up to the present time. I was called to co-pastor Briar Fork Church of Hazel Green, Al., in Oct. 1998. After Elder Howard McNelly's death in Feb. 1999, I was called as pastor of that church, and up to the present time. Therefore, these three churches, plus the 3rd Sun. AM radio program, keeps me busy. I wrote articles for our Primitive Baptist papers, for over 20 years, most of these articles were published by Elder Guy and Owen Hunt in the *Pathway of Truth* paper. Thank God, through our Lord Jesus Christ for His unspeakable gift.

ELDER A. E. BROWN

Elder A. E. Brown of Minden, La., was born in Missouri in 1891 and departed this life March 5, 1959. The son of a Primitive Baptist minister, Elder Brown was ordained to the ministry in 1911, and vigorously proclaimed the truth for forty-eight years serving churches constantly. He was pastor of Mount Paron Church in Claiborne Parish, La., for the past thirty-two years, also serving New Providence and Bethel Churches at the time of his death.

Known as "Preacher," to thousands of people in Northwest Louisiana, Elder Brown was radio dispatcher for the Webster Parish Sheriff's Department. His firm deep voice was familiar to law officials throughout Louisiana. It was not uncommon for dozens of people to file into the Sheriff's office during the day to speak to the friendly minister.

ELDER ARCHIE BROWN



Elder Brown was born on January 5, 1859 in White County, Illinois. He united with Little Wabash Church in White County, IL in 1877. He was ordained in August 1884.

He served Bethlehem Church at Syracuse, MO; Old Cedar Church at Columbia, MO; Chariton Church at Callao, MO, as well as several others.

He traveled considerably among the Primitive Baptists in many States, and was associated with the publication of the *Church Advocate*. In 1879, he married Miss Lucy Potter, a daughter of Elder Lemuel Potter, and they had four sons.

ELDER BARRY BROWN

I was born November 6, 1963 to Barry Lamar and Anna Darlene (Moore) Brown in Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama.



I vividly remember my mother taking me to the Tuckaleechee Church where my maternal grandparents were members. Later my grandparents moved their membership to the Knoxville Church where Elder John Robbins was pastor. On May 22, 1977, I stepped forward and entered the chilly waters to be baptized.

My family moved to Texas New Year's Day, January 1981. I moved back to Tennessee later that year around Thanksgiving and lived with my grandparents.

About February 1983 I moved back to Texas and was fairly consistent about attending worship services. Elder George Walker took my family and me to Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Church and introduced us to Elder Weldon Walker and his lovely wife Sister Arlee. A short time later I moved my membership from Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church to Mt. Zion.

The desire within moved me to stay in the word! On the second Sunday of October 1984 Elder Weldon Walker asked me to introduce for him. Inside I wanted to decline, but at the same time, I wanted to speak. I told Elder Walker that I would try. I took for a text Acts 2:37-38. The congregation and our pastor, dear Brother Weldon, supported me and prayed for me. I would travel from Arlington to Brother Weldon's home in Aledo weekly to study the scriptures with him. He was truly a "Father in the Ministry" to me.

Over the next several years, Brother Weldon would call on me to introduce services for him. After a couple years, I was given liberty to fill appointments at churches in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

In September 1988, Mt. Zion called for my ordination to the full work of the ministry. The church called a special weekend meeting on November 18, 19 and 20, 1988, with the ordination being Saturday the 19th. Elder J.P. Dale, Jr. examined me before the presbytery. Elder Mike Montgomery prayed the ordination prayer and my own pastor and "Father in the Ministry," Elder Weldon Walker, delivered the charge.

The next day, on Sunday, November 20th, 1988, the Gorman Primitive Baptist Church called me as their pastor. In April 1994, I resigned the care of the Gorman Primitive Baptist Church. Just a short time later, the Philadelphia Primitive Baptist Church called me as their pastor. I accepted and moved my family to Big Spring in June 1994.

I resigned my pastoral care of Philadelphia Primitive Baptist Church in the late summer of 1995.

Upon returning to the Dallas-Fort Worth area, we moved our membership to Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church soon after returning to the area. In June 1996, the Gorman Primitive Baptist Church called me again as their pastor. I served these dear ones at Gorman in a pastoral way and preached for them until the end of October 1999.

The death of dear Elder Weldon Walker of Mt. Zion in August 1999 took us all by surprise. The church at Mt. Zion met in conference in September 1999 and unanimously voted to call me as their next pastor. I began first Sunday of November 1999 to endeavor to pastor these sweet saints at Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Church. I pray God's blessings for us in the years to come.

ELDER GENE BROWN

Elder Brown was born on March 29, 1951 in Fort Sill, Oklahoma to W. L. and Rosie (Koen) Brown. He lived in Mills County, TX until he was three years old. The family moved to Burnet County, TX later moving to Lampasas, TX where he graduated in 1969.

He joined the church when he was sixteen and was baptized by Elder James E. Robertson at Mt. Olive Church. He later moved his membership to the Lampasas Church, where in 1984, he was ordained to the ministry. He was called pastor of the Glen Rose Church.

Elder Brown traveled many miles to serve the churches and always held fast the profession of his faith, without wavering, while enduring a great fight of afflictions. Whenever he was asked, "How are doing Brother Gene?" he would answer, "I'm just fine."

He became ill with cancer in 1977, which eventually led to his passing on June 28, 1987 at the age of 36. At the time of his death, his wife Mary, two sons, John O. and Joshua, and two daughters, Jamie and Jacque survived him.

ELDER JERRY BROWN



Elder Jerry Brown was born Sept. 5, 1864, near Crossville, Illinois. His death occurred February 17, 1930 in Evansville, Indiana at the age of 66.

He moved with his own family from Ill. to Oregon in 1909. While living in Marcola, Oregon he was ordained to the full work of the Gospel Ministry. He served churches in Oregon, Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana. One of the churches that he served was "Little Pigeon" Church at Lincoln City, Indiana, where Abraham Lincoln's parents were members.

ELDER JESSE BROWN

Elder Brown was born in Duplin County, North Carolina on September 30, 1846. The names of his parents have been unobtainable because both of them died while Brother Brown was very young.

On July 21, 1867, Mary Caroline Smith became the wife of Brother Brown in a ceremony performed near Warsaw, North Carolina. She was born October 26, 1844.

Brother Brown became convinced of his sins about the year 1875 and united with Sandy Bottom Church in Lenoir County, North Carolina about the year 1880. This same church performed the ordination act which set Brother Brown apart as a minister of the Gospel in 1888.

Sometime after 1900 Brother and Sister Brown moved to Chancellor, Alabama where they both lived the remainder of their lives. Elder Brown died on November 21, 1918.

ELDER J. J. BROWN

FROM AN OBITUARY IN THE "PRIMITIVE BAPTIST," WRITTEN BY ELDER J. H. O'NEAL: Elder James J. Brown was born Feb. 18, 1870 and departed this life March 15, 1942. He was married to Miss Maniza Ann Middlebrooks on August 6, 1889. To this union seven children were born. He was born near Clarksville, Ark., where he spent his entire life. He united with New Providence Church, near Clarksville, in 1903, and was baptized by Elder W. J. Hull. He was ordained to the full work of the ministry in June 1919. He served as pastor of Providence Church until his health failed and he was unable to go among the churches.

ELDER JOHN W. BROWN

WRITTEN BY ELDER R. H. PITTMAN: This dear brother fell asleep in Jesus on November 4, 1929. He was born in Summer County, S. C. and spent his life in the country and in the town of Bishopville. Brother Brown had served as pastor of the church for about fifteen years and was held in high esteem by his people. He was a sweet singer and delighted in the song service at the little church as well as in preaching of the wonderful grace of God, which alone saves poor sinners.

ELDER PAUL A. BROWN

Elder Paul Allen Brown, eldest son of Eld. Thomas A. and Margaret Brown, was born Nov. 24, 1903 on a farm near Richmond, Ray County, Missouri. On July 15, 1923 he was married to Lora E. Durnal, and they became the parents of one daughter, Eron Juanita.



He and his wife united with Mt. Vernon Church, Kansas City, Mo., in May 1930, and were baptized by the late Elder M. M. Shumate. He was liberated to preach Sept. 21, 1935 and ordained to the ministry by Mt. Vernon Church Sept. 28, 1941, at the Fishing River Association.

Elder Brown served Bethel Church, Bates County, Mo., from 1947 to 1951. He served West Union Church, near Orrsburg, Mo. from 1949 to 1957--part of this jointly with Eld. Cecil Judd. He was a member of Mt. Vernon Church, Kansas City for forty-eight years, and was pastor there for twenty-eight years. He also pastored New Hope Church in Richmond, Missouri, for thirty-four

years.

At the death of Eld. Roy Barnes, the Fishing River Association chose Eld. Brown as Moderator, in which capacity he served for thirteen years. He later served as Moderator from 1963 to 1965 or 66, at which time the Association voted that the pastor of the host church should serve as Moderator.

He passed away July 21, 1987 following a stroke on July 8.

ELDER THOMAS ASHLEY BROWN



Elder Brown was born on June 8, 1877 in Ray County, MO. He was the son of John F. & Amanda C. (Malotte) Brown.

He graduated from Chillicothe Business College in 1895 and taught in the public schools in Ray County a few years.

He was licensed to preach in December 1906 by New Hope Church in Richmond, MO. The family moved to Kansas in 1916, later moving to Arkansas.

In 1922 he was ordained to the full work of the ministry by White Oak Church near Wheeler, Ark. A few years later he went to California and later returned to Missouri where he passed away May 3, 1940.

ELDER TRAVIS E. BROWN

I was born April 14, 1950 in Tokyo, Japan to Travis Vernon and Mary Elizabeth (McGough) Brown, the second of five children, all of whom became members of the church and my two brothers became deacons, by the grace of God.



During my youth, we attended church in Fresno (now disbanded) and the San Joaquin Valley Church, where I joined in 1961. Prior to my uniting with them, I remember very clearly in my early days, crying myself to sleep, begging God to be merciful.

While in the military, I married Sylvia Ann Henthorn, daughter of Elder James Henthorn, November 11, 1972 in Itasca, Hill County, Texas by Elders Henthorn and Paul McClain. We have been blessed to have three healthy, wonderful and beautiful children.

Upon leaving the service in 1973, I began to feel a great burden that I was supposed to speak to God's people in a preaching way. We moved to Houston, Texas to find work. We helped constitute the Spring Grove Church in 1974, where we joined and I was ordained as a deacon. Our pastor was Elder J.R. (Toby) Smith and it seemed this was where I diligently began to study the Holy Scriptures. Moving from there to Itasca, Texas, we joined the Ebenezer Church at Hubbard. The weight of my burden growing greater, I finally submitted to the task, and began to speak to the Lord's people. I thank the Lord for the kind patience of my pastor, Elder James Henthorn. The brethren saw fit to ordain me, and a great burden was lifted from my soul. I was ordained in October of 1988 by Ebenezer Church in Hubbard, Texas. The presbytery consisted of these elders among others: Elders James Henthorn, Isaac W. Thornton, Harold Horn, Paul McClain, Wayne F. Burleson, Ersel Tillery and Bill Caraway.

I eventually accepted the pastorate at Ebenezer, but the little flock at New Providence Church at Ringgold, Louisiana stayed on my heart until I felt as if I was going to smother to a spiritual death, so I resigned and we moved to Louisiana so I could pastor there. The Lord working in the hearts of the brethren there toward a spirit of peace and charity to one another, after six years as their pastor, I received a call to the Abilene, Texas Church, which I felt a burden to reluctantly accept, where we reside at this time.

ELDER W. J. BROWN

COPIED FROM GOODWILL - AUGUST 1954 ISSUE: Elder Brown was born in Stokes County, N. C. on 10 August 1888. He is the son of Martin and Cora (Booth) Brown. On the 24th of November 1912 he married Miss Nannie Bennett. They had three sons and five daughters.

On 1 September 1923, Elder Brown joined Piney Grove Primitive Baptist Church. On 1 December, he was granted license to preach by his home church. He was ordained on 6 June 1925 by a presbytery consisting of Elders Paul Priddy, Watt Tuttle, Watt Priddy, and J. A. Fagg. He served as pastor to four churches, Piney Grove, State Line, Volunteer, and Cedar Hill.

On 3 June 1953, Elder Brown died following a heart attack.

ELDER WILLIAM T. BROWN

FROM AN EXPERIENCE IN MESSENGER OF PEACE: In April 1876, it pleased the Lord, as I hope, to give me a view of my sinful condition. When I got a view of it, I could see how I had sinned against God with a high and uplifted hand. I thought I would reform my life and quit some of my out breaking sins, and all would be well.

I remained in this condition for months, trying every way for deliverance from the vengeance of God. At last I gave up hope of being saved; I gave up all for lost. I found myself praying God for mercy.

I was not left in this condition. On September 27, 1868, having been 18 months in this awful condition, it pleased the Lord to move my burden from my mind. The whole house seemed to be lighted with the glory of the Lord, and Jesus standing in the midst.

I went to the church at New Hope, of Regular Baptists, in company with my brother-in-law, James M. Campbell, and we were received on the second Sunday in July 1869, and baptized on the second Sunday in August following by Elder Allen Sisk, a bold defender of the truths of the gospel.

A RECOLLECTION BY ELDER EMERSON MCAFEE IN "MESSENGER OF PEACE:" Brother Brown as ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry on November 10, 1870. He served as moderator of Fishing River Association from 1886 to 1898, and was re-elected moderator in 1912 and served until his death May 10, 1920. Elder Brown was a great reasoner, and very able in the preaching of the gospel.

ELDER GARDNER BRYAN

FROM "THE GOSPEL MESSENGER" WRITTEN BY M. W. BROWN: Elder Bryan was born in Onslow County, N. C., February 7, 1849. He died of paralysis December 20, 1912. He was baptized August 24, 1878, licensed to exercise his gift in preaching February 22, 1879, and was ordained November 28, 1886.

He was married February 27, 1870, to Miss Eliza Fountain. There were ten children born unto them, five boys and five girls.

ELDER B. D. BRYANT

Elder Bryant, of Tiptonville, Tenn., passed away Thursday, May 26, 1994, at the age of 90, and was buried at Milan, Tenn. Funeral services were conducted by Elders Edward Harris and T. L. Webb, Jr. He was ordained to the ministry at

West Plains Church near Milan on October 28, 1928. He united with the church there in 1922, was baptized by Elder J. W. Adams, and had served that body for over 60 years. He also served many other churches in the West Tennessee area and also Bethel Church near Morehouse, Missouri, and Rector Church in Rector, Arkansas. His companion, Eula Bryant, preceded him in death in February 1985. He was survived by two sons, Edwin and Erwin.

Elder Bryant was an able minister of the Gospel of Christ, and one of the most humble and sound men among us. He was indeed a Prince in Zion, a great man in the church of God, dearly loved by many.

His counsel and advice were sought by many. He obtained a large library of religious books during his lifetime, many purchased from sources in England. Not having a college education, he read constantly and applied himself to his ministry by diligent study of the Bible and the writings of men of the past.

ELDER ELZIE DILBON BRYANT



Elder Bryant was born on May 10, 1893, in Appling County, Georgia. His parents were Joel J. and Mary Arnold Bryant.

Elzie was baptized in June 1916 at Oak Grove Church in Bleckley County, Georgia, and was ordained an elder on March 8, 1924. He preached until he was forced to retire at the age of 67 because of health problems. He served many churches in the middle Georgia area: Pleasant Plains at Danville, Fellowship at Monticello, Oak Grove at Cochran, Pleasant Hill at Warner Robins, Camp Creek at Milledgeville, Bethlehem at Statesboro, Reedy Springs

at Cadwell, Bethany at Fort Valley and Cool Springs at Danville. He pastored Cool Springs from November 1934 to January 1960.

Elzie and Thelma Eura Collins were married January 23, 1921. Eight children were born to that union. Two died in infancy.

Elzie and Ruby Deal Smith were married March 17, 1937. Six boys were born to that union. One died at birth, and four of those sons were ordained Primitive Baptist Elders: Franklin, Daniel, E.D., Jr., and Samuel.

Elzie died December 15, 1966 in Bibb County, Georgia.

Elder Elzie Bryant labored for many years in the ministry without much financial support from the churches, but according to Elder Cecil Darity, Brother Bryant was among the first in his day to teach the responsibility of the church toward their pastor, amidst much criticism. However, in time he, along with many other ministers in central Georgia, reaped where he had sown.

ELDER E. D. BRYANT, JR.

SUBMITTED BY VIRGINIA D. LORD: Elzie D. Bryant, Jr. was born in Twiggs County, GA, on Oct. 11, 1944, to Elder Elzie D. Bryant, of Cochran, GA, and Ruby Deal Bryant. E. D. was the 14th of 15 children in this family.

In May, 1965, E. D. joined Cool Springs Church in Danville, GA. Very soon he began speaking in services and was "liberated" to exercise his gift. In August 1966, he was ordained to the full work of the ministry by Cool Springs Church. He immediately began pastoring Lebanon Church in Cordele, GA, and Mars Hill Church in Edison, GA. In 1971, he left Lebanon and became pastor of Trail Branch Church in Cochran, GA. In 1975, he gave up all other churches and began pastoring Rosemary Church in Metter, GA, where he served for 12 years. He felt very strongly that a pastor should live near the flock he served.

On July 27, 1969, E. D. married Virginia Donaldson. E.D. and Ginger had 3 children.

In Sept. 1989, after experiencing some loss of coordination and memory, E. D. learned he had a malignant brain tumor. He underwent surgery, followed by radiation. Depending greatly on prayer and support from churches and family, he fought desperately to overcome his affliction. Following a second brain surgery, a massive blood clot ended his life on Nov. 30, 1990.

ELDER FRANKLIN BRYANT

Elder Bryant was born to Elzie and Ruby Bryant on December 11, 1937, in Twiggs, County Georgia. From early childhood he loved the Lord and often called out for help from God. He had a burden to join the church for many years but did not do so until he was 27 years old.



In January of 1965, he joined the Cool Springs Church located one fourth mile from his home. Shortly after he joined, his pastor Elder C. E. Darity started calling on him to speak in the church. It was evident to the church that God had given him a gift and burden to preach the Gospel. In August of 1966, Brother Franklin Bryant, along with his brother, E. D. was set aside by the Cool Springs Church to be ordained to the gospel ministry. His membership has remained at Cool Springs until the present time. He has pastored Canney Creek Church near Round Oak, Reedy Springs Church near Cadwell, Beaver Creek Church near Perry, Elizabeth Church in Macon, Trinity Church near Wigham and Bethel Church in Dublin, all in the state of Georgia.

ELDER JACOB TOLEN BRYANT

FROM THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST, OCTOBER 1939, WRITTEN BY ELD. W. C. DAVIS: Jacob Tolen Bryant, youngest son of Willis and Polly Bryant, was born Dec. 10, 1854 and departed this life August 31, 1939. He was united in marriage to Bell Sugg in 1894. She preceded him in death by three years. To this union two girls were born.

He united with the Primitive Baptist Church thirty-two years ago; preached about twenty-five years. He was a devoted member throughout his church life; was loved by all who knew him, always having a kind word for everyone; enduring his suffering with patience and expressing himself as being ready for the life beyond.

ELDER LAWRENCE L. BRYANT

Elder Bryant was born December 25, 1917 in Ray County, Missouri, the youngest of a family of thirteen.

In 1951, he joined the church of which his wife was a member. Shortly after, he began to study the Bible. He became very dissatisfied with the church he was attending. About that time, he received a letter from home telling him of an Old Baptist Church in Portland, Oregon. He was living in Camos, Washington at that time. The next first Sunday,

he visited that church. He joined Mt. Zion at Portland in June 1960 and was ordained to the Gospel ministry on November 4, 1962.

After returning to Missouri, he had the care of Sardis Church at Leeton, MO and Little Flock Church at Pleasant Hill, MO.

He passed away on March 30, 1995 after a long battle with cancer. At the time of his death, his membership was with Old New Garden Church in Excelsior Springs, MO.

ELDER LEE L. BRYANT

Elder Lee L. Bryant was born in Tennessee April 4, 1886. He came to Missouri in early manhood. He was married to Isabel Smith.

Elder Lee Bryant joined the New Garden Church near Excelsior Springs, Mo., August 1909 and took an active part in the church. He was ordained to the work of the ministry in July 1925.

He served the church as pastor for three years 1934-1937, then served the church as co-pastor from 1937 until the time of his death.

ELDER LLOYD BRYANT

Elder Bryant of Cowgill, Missouri, was the son of Judge A. and Esther (Clevenger) Bryant, one of thirteen children. He was born October 1, 1908. He was a farmer and lived all his life on the farm where he was born.



He married Eva McBee on March 18, 1933, and they had one daughter and two sons. He and Sister Eva joined Log Creek Church, Polo, Missouri, in June 1946, and were baptized by Elder R. Merle Willerr. Brother Loyd was ordained to the ministry at Log Creek Church in June 1953.

Elder Bryant pastored Little Flock Church, Pleasant Hill, MO; West Union Church, Bucklin, MO; and Log Creek Church, Polo, MO. His down-to-earth manner of preaching endeared him to all. Elder Bryant passed from this life December 18, 1993, and was buried in a cemetery near the farm where he had spent his entire life.

ELDER SAMUEL BRYANT



Elder Bryant was born to Elzie and Ruby Bryant on December 5, 1948, and was raised on a farm in Twiggs County, Georgia. He was the youngest of 17 children. His father was a Primitive Baptist minister for 42 years and pastored several churches in central Georgia. His mother was a faithful and devoted wife and mother and a strong supporter of the Primitive Baptist Church.

Samuel had no interest in spiritual things until he was about 14 years old. He came under a strong conviction of sin during that time and came to see through the gospel that Jesus Christ was his only hope. He joined Cool Springs Church in Twiggs County, Georgia, when he was 15. He was licensed to preach when he was 16 and ordained to the ministry when he was 18. He has served a number of churches in Georgia. The first church he served was Ephesus at Juliet, Georgia. He then served Mt. Horeb near Cochran. When he was 21, he was called to serve Bethlehem Church in Statesboro. He moved to Statesboro, Georgia, and lived there for 15 years. While he lived in Statesboro, he also pastored Hebron Church at Garfield and New Hope at Lixy, Georgia. When he was 37 years old, he was called to serve the church of his childhood, Cool Springs near Danville, Georgia. He and his family moved to central Georgia where they now live. He also served the August Old Line Church in Martinez, Georgia, for nine years. He is presently living in Allentown and serving Cool Springs and Trail Branch.

He was married to Pamela White of Independence, Missouri, in May of 1972. They were blessed to have two precious daughters born to them, Betsy Ann and Amanda Grace.

ELDER SAMUEL ADDISON BRYANT

Born November 26, 1929 in Caldwell County near Braymer, MO. I am the son of the late Milton Lee, and Cloe Christina Tripp Bryant, the third of four children.



On August 5, 1948, I joined the US Navy. While on leave in June 1951, I joined Log Creek PB Church near Palo, Mo. On March 1, 1952, I married Mary M. (Dolly) Durham of Strathmore, Ca after my discharge from the Navy. In July 1952, we settled in Strathmore, Ca. My wife joined Bethel PB Church at Lindsay, CA and was baptized by the late G.E. Griffin. I moved my membership to Bethel Church also.

My wife and I were blessed with three daughters, Jeannette, Laura, Alison. I moved my family to Holtville, CA in 1958 and we moved our membership to Little Valley PB Church. I was ordained a deacon in 1966, the same time our late pastor Elder Robert Wall was ordained to the work of the ministry.

I was ordained to the work of the ministry in January 1993 and was called to pastor Little Valley PB church and Holtville and Little Bethany PB Church at San Diego, California.

ELDER L. T. BUCHANAN

FROM "PRIMITIVE MONITOR:" I was born in Hendricks County, Indiana, August 18, 1836. Eleanor J. Barker, my faithful companion and I were married September 15, 1856. To us were born twelve children, six boys and six girls. My

wife joined the Primitive Baptist Church at Danville, Indiana, December 1859. I joined the same church the fourth Saturday in March 1866 and was baptized by Elder E. D. Thomas.

My first effort to exercise in public was at my home church, after being strongly urged by our pastor, Elder E. D. Thomas. I was ordained to the work of the ministry June 4, 1867, after being examined by the council called by the church.

In the past forty-three years I have served from two to four churches as pastor---most of the time four. When I joined the church fifty years ago, I did so because I believed they were contending for the faith and practice of the Bible, and I have seen no reason to change yet.

ELDER OTIS BUELL

WRITTEN BY HIS WIFE, NEETCIE BUELL: Elder Buell was born to Herbert and Caroline Green Buell on January 22, 1940 in Calvin, Kentucky in Bell County. He was the fifth of nine children.



Otis graduated from Bell County High School in 1958. He moved to Newport News, Virginia for six months. While there, he joined the Missionary Baptist Church.

The love of God was in Otis' heart from the time he was a child. As a young man Otis didn't believe that he would ever join the Primitive Baptist because he said they prayed the longest, sang the slowest and said the least of anybody he ever knew.

At the age of nineteen, he moved to Livonia, Michigan and met his future wife, Neetcie Bernice Wilson. On September 3, 1960, Otis and Neetcie were married in the Pontiac Primitive Baptist Church by Elder Saylor.

They adopted a baby girl, and named her Sharon Ethel Buell. In 1989, they adopted a son, and named him Justin Tyler-Otis Buell.

Otis and Neetcie both joined the Pontiac Primitive Baptist Church in Farmington Michigan and were baptized on April 14, 1968 by Elder Robert Mayhorn and Elder Jim Whittington. Otis came out of the water preaching. On June 15, 1969, he and his brother-in-law Kenneth Wilson were ordained to the ministry.

He served as Assistant Pastor to Elder Mayhorn from 1972 to 1982 of the Pontiac Church. In October of 1982, he was made Pastor of the Church. In 1984, the church changed the name from Pontiac to Good Shepherd (because of confusion due to a city nearby named Pontiac).

Otis is still in the year 2000 serving as Pastor of the Good Shepherd Church.

ELDER CORNELIUS BUIE

This minister is mentioned as living in Ware County, Georgia about the year 1868. Rehoboth Church was established in the home of William Bagley by this minister. A new church building was built near Bickley, Ware County, Georgia.

ELDER J. M. BULLARD

Elder J. M. Bullard was born July 10, 1895 and died on May 2, 1979.



He preached for over fifty years. He served New Hope Church for 48 years Hopewell Church in Pontotoc County, Ms. for 47 years. He also served other churches and helped in the constitution of several churches over the years.

Elder Bullard was an educator. He served as classroom teacher, principal, superintendent of high schools and was the first Business Administrator of the Northeast Miss. Jr. College in Booneville.

He served in the Mississippi Legislature from 1944-48. During this time he was instrumental in introducing the legislation for the Jr. College in Booneville, Ms. and saw his efforts rewarded with the establishment of a community college that has contributed much to the education of Northeast Mississippi children. Also, during this time, he was instrumental in getting the support for the Northeast Mississippi Hospital in Booneville.

Elder Bullard and his companion were very close friends of Elder J. D. Holder and his companion. They traveled together, visiting many sections of the country.

He did considerable writing. Some of his most outstanding works are: "Ministers in My Day," "The Order of God's House," "Ministerial Qualifications," and "The Atonement."

ELDER RAYMOND BUNCH

Pastored the Lebanon Church, Lawn, TX. Breckenridge, Dublin, Brownwood and others in Central Texas towns during the years 1930 to 1980. We regret that we could not obtain more information on this good minister.

ELDER WILLIAM FLOYD BUNN

FROM 1947 PRIMITIVE BAPTIST YEARBOOK: Elder Bunn, son of Frank and Annie Bunn, was born January 23, 1861. The place of his birth is unknown. He professed a hope in Christ about 1901 and joined the Primitive Baptist Church where he was baptized by Elder Isaac Webb.

He was ordained as a deacon in December 1902, licensed as a minister on April 13, 1907, and ordained into the full work of the Gospel ministry on November 13, 1909. No further information is available about this minister.

ELDER GLENN LAMAR BURDETTE

WRITTEN BY ELDER JOE WILSON: Elder Burdette was born on August 8, 1930, in LaGrange, Ga. He joined Pleasant Grove Church, Heard Co., Ga., in 1967. He moved to Conyers in 1972 and became a member at Bald Rock Church there.

Elder Burdette was ordained to the ministry on Sept. 9, 1973, by Elders Albert Moss, Jerry M. Hunt, Carl Hewett and Tom Perry. He pastored Bald Rock for a time, then moved to the state of Virginia and pastored several churches there. He then returned to Georgia and pastored Poplar Springs Church at Preston. He served churches in Georgia, Virginia and Alabama during his ministry. He passed away on Dec. 6, 1994, in Lee County, Alabama.

ELDER PARKER ROSS BURGIN

SUBMITTED BY DORIS DESPAIN, KNOXVILLE, TENN. Born in March 1890 in Quihi, Texas. Died in March 1980. Some of the churches he served were Cibolo (near Stockdale, Texas), San Antonio, Sandia and Gonzales. He was ordained in May 1918. He was a farmer by trade and also managed grocery stores.

Elder Burgin read and studied the Bible daily and also wrote down the results of his studies. An early memory of mine is seeing him seated in a rocking chair with his Bible in his lap and writing on a scrap of paper. When he finished writing he read the subject, then wadded the paper and threw it in the wastebasket. That was his way of committing scriptures to memory. He was also a shaped-note singer (Sacred Harp) all his life.

ELDER FLOYD BURKEPILE

Elder Burkepile was the son of George and Jane Burkepile, and the great-grandson of Elder Benjamin Green. He was born April 22, 1877 and departed this life Feb. 15, 1955. He was united in marriage to Kathryn Carty on April 11, 1900.

He united with Harmony Church on 1812 and was ordained to preach the Gospel November 3, 1917. He was faithful to his church and pastored different churches in Ohio and preached in several other states.

He suffered much the last few years of his life and was cared for by his faithful wife.

ELDER WAYNE F. BURLESON



WRITTEN BY ELDER TRAVIS BROWN: Elder Wayne Franklin Burleson was born June 17, 1911 in Mead, Oklahoma to Spencer Green and Effie Burleson, attending high school in Byers, Texas. He married Olive Faye Prince in 1932 and to this union was given three daughters. Elder Burleson was baptized by Elder Henry Cash after joining the church at an association at Wilson, Oklahoma, in 1933. He and his family moved to California in the late 1930's where he worked for several years as an inspector for the Ford Motor Company Assembly plant in Milpitas, retiring in 1971.

Eld. Burleson was ordained in April 1943 in Oakland, California by L.R. Huckaby and M. E. Brown by the Golden Gate Church. After passing of his first wife, Olive, in April 1981, he married Mary Elizabeth (McGough) Brown June 5, 1982 in Caruthers, California.

He faithfully pastored the Carquinez Church in Napa, California from 1957 to 1989, a span of 32 years. He also pastored the San Joaquin Valley Church in Caruthers, California from 1982 to 1989, seven years. The years of his ministry, 45, were spent in the Pacific Primitive Baptist Association.

Elder Burleson was a wonderful, kind and compassionate servant who truly loved his Lord. He loved the Word of God and when he wasn't talking about it, he was lost in wonder, thinking about it. He once admonished his stepson to "bury yourself in the Word of God," an admonishment we could all use.

Elder Burleson passed away August 31, 1989 to be with his Lord.

ELDER HARRY H. BURNS, JR

Elder Burns was born on June 19, 1925 in Pelly, Texas He is married to the former Elaine S. Smith on February 15, 1947. He united with Shiloh Church in Rosepine, LA in September 1955, and was baptized by his father, Elder Harry Burns, Sr. He was ordained on June 12, 1964 at the Mt. Pleasant Church in Grayson, LA. The presbytery consisted of: Elders L. N. Faught, L. B. Harden, James Lamb, Claud R. McClure, N. L. Martin, C. H. Mayo, T. J. Pittman, L. B. Ramsey, and J. F. West.

Elder Burns has pastored churches in Quitman, Arkansas, Winona, Mississippi, and Grayson, Rosepine and Homer, all in Louisiana. He currently serves the Mt. Paron Church in Homer, LA.

ELDER HARRY H. BURNS, SR

Elder Burns was born on April 8, 1901 in Marion County, Texas and passed from this life on September 26, 1963. He was married to the former Alice J. Ashley on November 4, 1922. He united with Ephesus Church in Houston, Texas in 1920. Later he and his wife were charter members of Pilgrim's Rest Church in Baytown, Texas. He was ordained a deacon at Pilgrim's Rest in early 1928 and was ordained a minister later that year at the Fellowship Church in Warren, Texas.

Elder Burns pastored churches in Warren, Texas and Merryville, Rosepine, Pickering, Dryprong, Grayson and Springhill all in Louisiana.

ELDER WAYNE BURNS

Elder Burns was born on February 27, 1941. He was ordained on September 17, 1989 at the Salem Church in Big Fork, Arkansas by elders Barton Harden and Conway Wood.

We regret that more information could not be gathered on Elder Burns.

ELDER G. W. BURSON

FROM "THE GOSPEL MESSENGER" WRITTEN BY ELDER W. P. MERRELL: Elder G. W. Burson was born in Randolph County, Georgia, Dec. 2, 1849. He moved with his parents to Carroll County when a small boy. About February 1864, he saw himself a condemned sinner, before a just God. On Thursday after the third Sunday in that month he received a good hope through Christ. He immediately received strong impressions to preach the gospel. He joined the Primitive Baptist Church at Bethlehem, Carroll County, March 23, 1895. Was ordained to the ministry in May, I think, 1898. He was twice married, first to Miss Sallie Huckeba, who died 12 years ago. To this union 12 children were born, eight sons and four daughters. On September 1, 1904, he was joined in marriage to Miss Lucy J. Parker. To this union one child was born, Mary E. He quietly fell asleep in Jesus, August 27, 1915.

He preached the faith of God's elect, lived the faith and died in the faith.

ELDER G.W. BURT

OBITUARY WRITTEN BY ELDER B.R. HOWZE: On June 26, 1983, the blessed Lord called to one of his beloved and said, "Come home."

Brother George came to our little church in 1977, from the Midland Church, after he moved to Mitchell County. As long as he had the strength, he came and preached the sweet gospel on certain Sundays.

He was born Sept. 10, 1910, in Arkansas, to Brother and Sister R.L. Burt, who were charter members of our church. Brother George and Sister Sudye were baptized by Elder Howze at Midland in March, 1945, and his membership was there many years.

ELDER PERRY GREEN BYARS

SUBMITTED BY NORMA HASLAM: Elder Byars was born Nov. 22, 1845. He was ordained Sept. 12, 1886 to the full work of the ministry at New Bildad Church, Smithville, Tennessee, by a presbytery composed of Elders W. D. Agee, J. B. White, L. P. Potter, and S. B. Davis (Clerk). He served churches in the area of the Round Lick Association. The last record of his preaching was the second weekend in December 1907. He died Feb. 25, 1908, and was buried in New Bildad Cemetery.

ELDER JOSEPH BYERS

FROM "A HISTORY OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS OF ALABAMA, MT. ZION ASSOCIATION" BY ELDER E. B. WATTS: The earliest account we have of Elder Byers is that he was an ordained minister in the Broad River Association in 1805. He was listed as a minister in the French Broad Association shortly after its constitution in 1807. He was pastor of Mud Creek Church in 1812.

We do not know when Elder Byers moved to Alabama. He was connected with the churches that withdrew from the Mount Zion Association to form the Canaan Association in 1833. He was pastor of Mount Zion Church from 1840 to 1851.

ELDER H. A. BYINGTON

WRITTEN BY HIS DAUGHTER, MRS. F. C. HUTTON: Elder Byington of Adel, Ga., died Sunday evening at 5 o'clock, May 19th, 1957. He had been a member of the Primitive Baptist Church some fifty odd years.

Although feeble for several years, he died suddenly--conscious until the very last. He looked at his loving wife and told her he could see his way clear, and waved farewell. 'Tis a sweet thought to leave with loved ones, three sons and one daughter. He was born January 26, 1877, and lived to be eighty years old.

ELDER PAT BYRD



WRITTEN BY LYNN PYLES BRUCE: Patrick Henry "Pat" Byrd of Twin City, Georgia will always be one of the most quoted ministers among all who knew him. He is remembered for his quick wit, his ability to condense years of wisdom into a short proverb, his broad scope and deep insight in the scriptures. Elder Sonny Pyles often refers to him as "the greatest systematic theologian I ever knew among the Primitive Baptists." At age 58, Elder Byrd married Miss Bossie Cowart, a spinster schoolteacher who is also vividly remembered as a faithful minister's wife and a true Southern lady given to hospitality. He was mentally sharp and spiritually profound to the time of his death at past ninety years of age, in 1976. Elder Byrd was a great influence on several ministers who still serve in the 21st Century.

WRITTEN BY ELDER MANNING TEMPLES IN "GOSPEL APPEAL:" Brother "Pat," as he was affectionately known by the host of church brothers and sisters who knew him, experienced a call to preach the gospel at an early age. He had been reared in a Methodist family, and preached about a year for the Methodist. However, after being enlightened to the doctrine of the depravity of man and the doctrine of sovereign grace he felt he could no longer remain with those who preached a universal atonement and the free will of man. He accordingly united with Hebron Primitive Baptist Church in November 1906. In June of 1908 he left Hebron and went to Baptist Rest Church of the Progressive Primitive Baptists in Twin City, Ga. He was ordained to the ministry at Baptist Rest Church on May 22, 1909. He remained with the progressive order until the year 1916, when he returned to Hebron Church, and was subsequently ordained to the ministry there on October 21, 1916. In September 1920, he moved his membership to Old Canoochee Church, where it remained until November of 1941, at which time he moved it to the Vidalia Church. In 1945 he moved his membership back to Old Canoochee, where it remained until the time of his death. He served as Pastor to many churches in southeast and central Georgia during the 66 years he preached for the Primitive Baptists. He also traveled extensively in the South, Midwest, and Eastern sections of the country, and was highly esteemed wherever he went.
