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## **ELDER BRICE C. HAIGLER**

Elder Haigler was born in 1935 and passed from this life in 1994. He was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry at Union Grove Primitive Baptist Church in February 1958 and served among the churches of this area for some time. He later moved to the Atlanta, Georgia area where he served various churches. His gift proved beneficial across a wide region of the Southeastern United States.

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## **ELDER J. L. HAIRE**

Was born April 17, 1858 in the state of Georgia. He joined at Piedmont Church, Decatur, Georgia, January 21, 1882, was baptized by Elder P. E. Everett of Florida, February 18, 1882; received a letter from Piedmont Church in November 1883 and put his letter in Zion Church, Medina County, Texas, in March 1885. He was liberated to preach in August of that year, and was ordained to the full work of the Ministry in December of the same year, the Presbytery being Elders R.B. Whitehead, C.P. Galloway and W.S. Dubose. He served Zion Church one year, then drew his letter out and went into the Constitution of Ebenezer Church in Frio County, Texas, in April 1890. He served Ebenezer Church as Pastor until May 1894, when he moved his membership to Cibolo Church in Wilson County, Texas. He later moved his membership to Pilgrim's Rest Church in DeWitt County, Texas, where it remained until his death July 31, 1947.

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## **ELDER W. Y. HAIRE**



Elder Haire was born April 21, 1878 in Florida. He joined the Primitive Baptist Church at Georgetown, Texas in 1909 and was baptized by Elder S.N. Redford. He was ordained to the full work of the ministry by Harmony Church near Bolivar, Missouri, the fifth Sunday in October 193\_.

At the time of his death, December 4, 1963, he was a member of Mt. Zion Church at Nixon, Texas and had lived at Stockdale, Texas for the past fifteen years.

Elder Haire was elected Moderator of the Southwest Texas Association in July 1951 and served through July 1955.

He was truly a humble and faithful servant of our

### **ELDER DONALD (DONNIE) HALBGEWACHS**



I was born in Lexington, Nebraska August 24, 1943. I was reared at and attended the Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Church in Cozad, Nebraska. From an early age, my spiritual identity was a concern to me and I experienced scattered efforts to determine my purpose of existence for many years. I had thoughts of filling the role of a minister of the gospel throughout my early years and into my 20's, yet nothing concrete enough to change my other pursuits. After graduation from Texas A&I University I taught school and in 1963 married my college sweetheart Barbara Ann Huffstutler.

Circumstances with employment and events through my late 20's brought us back to Cozad, Nebraska in 1969. Being greatly troubled, and having less and less confidence in secular security I was brought to rely on prayer and seeking purpose in my life from the Bible. This led to my baptism and membership at Mt. Zion Church in Cozad NE. A year later my wife came before the congregation seeking baptism and membership, which was one of the dearest days of my married life.

In 1970, I began to experience a heavier burden to pray, study the Bible and speak before the congregation. This arrangement continued for 4 years until Mt. Zion called for my ordination in September 1974. I was blessed to share a double ordination to the gospel ministry with my brother, Elder Richard Halbgewachs, and later took the responsibility of Mt. Zion after Elder Clayton Berkypile, a position I still hold today.

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### **ELDER RICHARD (DICKIE) HALBGEWACHS**



I was born to Harold and Edith Halbgewachs in Gothenburg Nebraska on July 21, 1951. Having the blessing of parents full of faith, I have been under the preaching of the gospel all of my life. In the summer of my twelfth year, however, the commandment came, sin revived, and I died to any hope of personally meriting favor with God. Thanks be unto our gracious God, His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering led to repentance and then the knowledge of the riches of the glory of the mystery, which is Christ, the hope of glory, brought deliverance to my troubled heart. Time has only proved I am still a great sinner. As the day when I was convicted of my wretchedness, so today when I would do good I find evil present with me. Yet, I have never been sorry that that same summer, I professed my faith and made a commitment in baptism to serve my blessed Lord.

When I was eighteen years old the conviction of personal sin, and yet the enlivening hope of Jesus Christ having begotten me to an incorruptible, undefiled, unfading, and reserved inheritance was deeply accentuated in my mind, and upon my heart. After this experience I especially desired to proclaim to whosoever feared God, the word of this great salvation. I "exercised" for five years, and was ordained as a minister of the gospel September 28, 1974, at Mt. Zion Church, Cozad, Nebraska.

On June 3, 1972, Charlotte Anderson, became my loving bride, closest friend, ardent encourager, faithful laborer, dutiful follower, and help meet. We have been blessed with three children, all who are now married, and with their spouses have a hope of salvation through the redemption of our Lord Jesus Christ. Life in the Lord has been and is so rich. During the years of ministry I have had the joy of caring for churches in Combes, Texas; Franklin, North Carolina; and Cochran, Georgia. At the present I am blessed to pastor Oak Hill Church, Austin, Texas. The brethren of the past congregations and the saints here at Oak Hill are in my heart. Their faith in Christ, labor of love, and hope of heaven is

noteworthy. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with them all. They have laid down their necks for my life, and have bestowed much labor on us.

I pray that utterance may be given to each of us today who preach the gospel, that we may open our mouths boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel. I pray that thereby Christ may dwell in hearts by faith, that being rooted and grounded in love, many may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that many might be filled with all the fullness of God. As we labor may we remember that the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then, we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

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#### **ELDER BAXTER HALE**



Elder Hale was born in Virginia on Nov. 5, 1874, the youngest child of James Hale.

He began to have serious thoughts of death and eternity right after his mother's death, and soon he went into religious work with the Methodist people. Although the doctrine of the Methodist church did not agree with his experience, he went on and worshipped with them.

On March 4th, 1897, he was married to Alvonie Smith, and they became the parents of twelve children, seven girls and five boys.

In May 1897, he took his singing class from the Methodist church to Holston Primitive Baptist Church to sing for them while they washed feet, and it was that day that he united with the Primitive Baptists. Soon after this, the strong impression came that he must preach the gospel, but he rebelled from this call for several years. Then finally, in May 3, 1909, he submitted to ordination, and served as pastor of several churches in the East for many years before coming to California for his health. He joined Shiloh Church of Bell, Calif., Oct. 7, 1945, and was chosen pastor Oct. 6, 1946, and served faithfully until death. He was a man of good sound judgment and a lover of peace, and had the ability as a moderator to speak at times when confusion seemed evident, and his voice and speech seemed to calm the troubled waters.

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#### **ELDER A. B. HALL**



Elder Hall was born on February 5, 1911 at Talking Rock, GA. He married Fay Blevins on April 9, 1933. He joined the Rocky Mount Church at Arab, ALA on May 3, 1953 and was baptized by Elder H. P. Copeland. He was ordained to the ministry on November 1, 1959 and has served the Rocky Mount and Harmony Churches, both in the State of Alabama.

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#### **ELDER HUGH HALL**

SUBMITTED BY NORMA HASLAM: Elder Hugh N. Hall was born October 26, 1917. He was married July 5, 1942 to Lea Anna Drew. He was ordained to the ministry in about 1957 at Old New Garden Church in western Missouri. He served as pastor at Beulah Church, Leeds, Ala., Sardis Church, Talledega, Ala., Chockoloc in Anniston, Ala.; and also served pastorally in the state of Missouri while he was in the Air Force, soon after he was ordained.

Elder Hall died February 2, 1971. He was a brother to Elder W. G. Hall.

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**ELDER WALTER GLENN HALL**



Elder Walter Glenn Hall was born September 14, 1919 in Jasper Alabama. He was the son of O.B. & Roberta Brasscale Hail. On August 17, 1947, he married Beatrice McMichens. To this marriage, four children were born: Danny Lee, Glenda Sue, Walter Steven and Debra Ann.

Elder Hall joined Bush Hills Church on the fifth Sunday in March 1952. He was later baptized on Easter Sunday, the second Sunday in April 1952.

Elder Hall played a major role in the Constitution of Westwood Church. He was later called as pastor of Westwood. He was ordained into the ministry on July 23 1966. Attending his ordination were Elders J.C. Justice, L.L. Farris, L.H. Popwell and his brother

Elder Hugh N. Hall along with many others.

Elder Hall passed away at his home on August 20, 1991.

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**ELDER JAMES BLACK HAMILTON**

Elder Hamilton was born in 1800 in South Carolina and moved to Georgia when he was nineteen. He joined the Primitive Baptist Church at Union, Crawford County, Georgia between the age of twenty-five and thirty, and was baptized by Elder Asa Bell, and commenced preaching in 1835. He was the husband of four wives, and out-lived them; he married Louisiana Whittington in Crawford County, Georgia, April 25, 1824; Martha McGhee in Crawford County, Georgia, January 7, 1836; Adeline Frances Coursey in Taylor County, Georgia, November 12, 1852; and Anna Jane Coursey in Taylor County, Georgia, August 28, 1864. He was the father of twenty-three children, thirteen of which were still living at the time of his death. He died May 13, 1887, in Macon County, Georgia.

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**ELDER J. W. HAMMOCK**

Elder Hammock was ordained at Pilgrim's Rest Church in May 1953. For a number of years, he was a member in the Sand Mountain Association.

Elder Hammock's ministry was very effective. He was pastor of several churches in the First District of the Mount Zion Association. He died in 1967.

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**ELDER T. M. HAMPTON**

FROM A RESOLUTION OF RESPECT BY MUD CREEK CHURCH IN THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST: Elder Hampton was born February 17, 1867 in Carroll County, Tennessee, and departed this life on March 21, 1956. He was married to Mary Ellen Hall on February 17, 1895. To this union six children were born. He united with the Primitive Baptist Church at Mud Creek in 1899 and remained a faithful member until his death. He was ordained to the work of the gospel ministry the fourth Sunday in October 1905. He spent his life as a faithful soldier of the cross. He was highly respected and loved by all.

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## **ELDER JOHN B. HANCOCK, SR.**

WRITTEN BY JOHN ACREE (FROM ATLANTA AREA NEWSLETTER): Elder Hancock was born in Laurens Co. Ga. on January 16, 1916, and departed this life on February 10, 1988 at 72 years of age. He is survived by his wife, the former Maggie Elizabeth Stokes, whom he married May 14, 1938.

Elder Hancock joined Adrial Church on October 1933, being ordained as deacon in 1945. He was ordained to the ministry October 30, 1966. Following his ordination he faithfully pastored the following churches: Hopewell in Fayetteville, Beth in Jackson, Mt. Gilead in Madras, East Point, Emmaus in Hogansville, Flat Shoals in Stockbridge, and Tallapoosa in Carrollton.

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## **ELDER WILLIAM H. HANCOCK**

I was born on June 12, 1902, in the little town of Chester, Georgia, the second son of Henry Mobley Hancock and Edna Earl Williams Hancock.

Our family was very poor, so brother, James, and I did not get to school regularly. During 1919, one Saturday evening, "my sun went down at noon." I was seized with fear and really thought I was doomed to die and felt that God was going to send some dreadful thing upon me, On the following day, Sunday, a good friend asked me to go to church with him. I thought, "This will cause God to withhold this awful thing until He sees whether I will reform and go to church regularly." (I did not know that God already knew how faithful I would be.)

At church that day, their revival meeting was in session and they had a great evangelist with them. I was baptized and, at once, I began to try to help the Lord save sinners, for I was told that for every one I helped the Lord save, I would receive a star in my crown and great merit, and I did very greatly feel the need of much merit with God. I have no criticism of others for doing as I did if they feel the need of much merit, and I try to pray that God will give them light and let them see we can't merit God's love and prove we are not worthy to be saved. When I learned the debt already was paid, "being justified by faith," I felt at peace with God--Christ paid all the debt. When I believed the testimony God gave of His Son, I left the Missionary Baptists. So I found myself without a church home. I walked the streets at night crying because of this.

The first bookkeeping job I obtained, I quit after a month because they wanted me to work on Sundays and I could not go to church. I wanted to join the Old Baptists.

The second Sunday morning, I asked for a home in Adrail Primitive Baptist Church at Hawkinsville, Georgia, The precious old pastor, Elder John M. Woodward, told the church I had related a Bible experience, and I was received unanimously and that afternoon, I was buried in the liquid grave and was raised to walk in newness of life. This was on July 7, 1923.

In 1924, on June 8, I married the most wonderful, little lady, Miss Louise Simmons, and she has borne me four sweet daughters.

In 1926, we moved to Macon, Georgia, and put our membership at Elizabeth Church and, on August 6, 1927, I was ordained to the office of deacon. On November 10, 1935, I was set aside and ordained to the ministry. I have served thirteen or fourteen different churches and a few years I doubled up on Sunday afternoons and preached for two or three extra congregations.

The Lord blessed our labors and we were able to assist in organizing and constituting several churches; for example, Columbus Church and Little Union Church, and were the first pastor of each.

My precious wife joined Elizabeth on June 22, 1930, and has been a faithful member and has shared with me whatever was our lot to share. When it was necessary for some of the family to wear patched clothing, she wore them so

that the children and I had new clothes. Notwithstanding our age and afflictions, we still have an anxious concern for the cause of Christ and the spiritual welfare of the churches.

NOTE: Elder Hancock passed away on March 11, 1986.

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#### **ELDER W. P. HANCOCK**

W. P. Hancock, son of John and Lucretia Hancock, was born April 1, 1838, was united in matrimony to Emeline Thomas July 13, 1862. He professed faith in Christ and joined the church at Farmersville, Indiana, in the year 1866. He was ordained to the gospel ministry in 1875 and lived a consistent Christian life. He was a loving and true husband and a real faith to his children. He has been afflicted for many years but has borne his afflictions, and desiring to be with the Lord, he clapped his hands for joy when he realized that he was dying. He died at a quarter of twelve noon on June 18, 1920.



#### **ELDER BERWYN FRANKLIN HAND**

I was born in 1925 to Edward Corbin and Exer Sheppard Hand. My mother's father was Elder G. W. Sheppard of south Georgia, who labored in the late 1800's. His son, Elder Taylor Sheppard, was a pastor in the Moultrie, Ga., area from the early 1920's to the 1950's when God called him home. I grew up around Loop, Texas, and we went to church at Brownfield Church where Elder V. F. Lowrance and his brother pastored. We also were in Arkansas two years where I was blessed to learn the truth from such men as Elders Rube Pyles, DeWitt, and Norman. I was blessed to be baptized into the church at Carlsbad, N. M., in the year of our Lord 1960. I was ordained there and in 1965 was called as pastor of this church, which I have tried to serve since. We have been able to help build two churches: this at Carlsbad and at El Paso, Texas. The God of mercy has blessed me to serve El Paso since 1970 on the first and third Sundays, while serving Carlsbad second and fourth. Before El Paso I served as pastor at Brownfield, Texas, and Hobbs, N. M., and helped some at Andrews, Texas.

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#### **ELDER GERALD HAND**

I was instrumental in the constitution of three Primitive Baptist Churches in the Pecos Valley area of New Mexico, serving as pastor of each during their active years. The Primitive Baptist Church of Carlsbad, New Mexico, was founded the fourth Sunday in January 1947. Elders present were J.B. Hardy and Marvin Smith, and deacons from the Churches of Lamesa, Texas, and Perryton, Texas. Members were lettered in from Churches located in Arkansas, California, and Texas. I was ordained to preach the fourth Sunday of May 1947 by a presbytery consisting of these same two elders and generally the same deacons. The Primitive Baptist Church of Roswell, New Mexico, was established July 3, 1949. Elders present were Jimmie Bass, J.P. Jackson, and myself. Members were lettered in from Arkansas, Texas, and New Mexico. The Primitive Baptist Church of Artesia, New Mexico, was established June 8, 1957. Elders present were Ben Howze, George E. Griffin, Dennis Taylor, and myself. Members lettered in from other Churches located in New Mexico.



I joined the Bethlehem Church of Sacramento and San Francisco, California in January 1944, during World War II. I was baptized by Elder Tom Elliot and made my first effort to speak in the Church there. My wife, Adell (Bryant) Hand, joined Littlevine Church of Berkley, California, in 1945 and was baptized by Elder D.A.

Lane. I lettered in to that Church at that time. We eventually lettered in to the Church at Carlsbad, New Mexico, when that Church was constituted in 1947, after the war ended. We moved our membership with our three oldest daughters (Marion, Donna, and Carol) who were baptized into the Church at Artesia when it was constituted. Eventually our four remaining children (David, Janet, Larry, and Lori) were baptized and joined the Artesia Church.

I have served as the pastor of the Artesia Church since it was constituted. As of this writing, that Church has not met regularly in recent years. I am presently serving as Pastor-Moderator emeritus. I am currently 86 years old, and I preach when asked to do so while visiting various Churches.

As to my life generally, I was born March 4, 1914, in Cleburn County, Alabama. My parents were Edward Corbin Hand and Exer Anna (Sheppard) Hand. My paternal grandparents were Edward Soloman Hand (a deacon) and Eliza (Babb) Hand, both of the Primitive Baptist faith. My maternal grandparents were Elder Jerry Sheppard and Sally (Usury) Sheppard, both of the Primitive Baptist faith.

At age 14 our family lived one year in Georgia, near Fitzgerald, where we attended Church under the preaching of Elder McDonald and Elder Taylor Sheppard. We lived on a farm adjacent to Mr. Tom Denson, a long-time Sacred Harp singer, teacher, and song writer. We attended a Sacred Harp singing convention at Fitzgerald. At age 15 we moved to the western part of Texas. Here we heard Elder Hester and Elder Owens preach at Lamesa, Elder L.J. McCarty preach at Tahoka, and Elder H.G. Richards and others at Brownfield. We attended the West Texas Association at Brownfield in 1933.

In 1938 we moved to Logan County, Arkansas, for which I am very thankful because it was here that I met my future wife, Adell Bryant. She and I were joined in marriage on July 17, 1938, with our first two children born here. We moved to Richmond, California, in 1943 to help with the war effort. I worked in the ship yards there. Adell and I moved to Carlsbad, New Mexico at the end of the war in September 1945. We stayed in New Mexico, and I lost my dear wife and long time companion in death on May 29, 1993.

The two most influential people in my life in terms of character and religious convictions were my mother, Exer Hand, and my wife's mother, Mattie Lou Bryant. Both had a very strong faith in God and were devout to both God and family.

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#### **ELDER J. OLIVER HANDLEY**

Elder Handley, age 77, passed from this life on October 16, 1998. He was born May 15, 1921. He originally joined Little Branch Church, later moving his letter to Old Clear Creek. At the time of his death Brother Handley was a member of Mt. Moriah Church and served as Assistant Pastor. He served very humbly—comforting God's little children.

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#### **ELDER L. M. HANDLEY**

Our loving Father in Heaven called Elder L.M. Handley home on Wednesday, August 5, 1987. He was born in Childress Texas on July 17, 1911 to Harvey Brown and Nannie Kate Handley. They, along with two sisters moved from Childress County to the Crosbyton area in 1918. He met Myra Lee Clark from McAdoo, Texas, and there, they were married on October 30, 1931. To this union four children were born three sons, and one daughter.

He graduated from Crosbyton High School in 1929, and then was a graduate of A&M, and later was a teacher at Lubbock High School when it was the single high school in Lubbock. He was an income-tax consultant for a big part of his life.

He was ordained to preach in 1944, with the Cone Church, being his first church to pastor. He recently had served as pastor for the Rule, Tuscola, Kokomo, Crosbyton and Cross Plains Churches.

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### ELDER CHARLIE ZEBULUM HANKS

WRITTEN BY JESSIE KOEN WICKER: Elder Hanks quietly passed away May 30, 1939 at his home in Mullen, Texas after about 2 1/2 days of illness. He was born May 3, 1885 in Bastrop County near Smithville, Texas. He was married to Miss Lora Lee Nunn December 22, 1910. To this union were born three children, two having passed away in infancy.



Brother Hanks received a hope in the Lord when a small boy about 10 years of age. He joined the Primitive Baptist Church June 16, 1912. He and his companion were baptized June 17, 1912 by Elder Franklin Baker. In fall of 1912 he was ordained as deacon. On Saturday before 3rd Sunday in November 1915, he was licensed to exercise his gift anywhere God in his wisdom might cast his lot. In January 1923 he moved his membership to South Fork Church in Hunt, Texas, which is in Kerr County. There he was ordained, July 21, 1923, by Elders G.W. White and M.L. Barrett and served that church as pastor for sometime. He moved his letter back to New

Providence October 30, 1927 and remained there until his death.

About fourteen months prior to his death he was run into by a car, breaking both legs below the knees. He suffered unexplainable misery but very patient. In February 1939, he had to have his right limb amputated above the knee at a hospital in Houston, Texas. For some reason God in his infinite wisdom and mercy spared his life a few more days. He apparently improved rapidly and was very anxious to return to their home here in Mullen. He had been here just sixteen days when he passed away. Twelve days before, which was on a Sunday, he was at Mt. Olive Church (communion time) to preach. His text was first verse 133 Psalms. Behold! How good and how pleasant it is to see brethren dwell together in unity. The next Sunday morning, he took bad sick and expressed his feelings as being ready to go on and it being the Lord's will and asked his dear companion not to grieve, for he longed to go on and be at rest.

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### ELDER LEE HANKS

WRITTEN BY HIMSELF FOR "THE GOSPEL MESSENGER" IN 1889: I was born in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, June 13, 1861, and was the youngest of twelve children, of whom were nine boys and three girls. My parents, William and Frances Hanks, were not members of any denomination. (I baptized my mother last summer.) My parents were extremely poor. My father was badly afflicted and died of consumption when I was a very small boy, leaving a wife and eight children. When my father died we were very destitute; he did not have a hat or coat to wear and we were destitute of provisions. We made one little piece of meat do us from April until late in the fall, and of course had but little meat and but very little bread. I suffered greatly with hunger, and have gone to neighbor's houses and begged for a morsel of bread. I have suffered so greatly that I could eat lard or candles, or almost anything. The first hat I ever had I was going on fourteen. I have had to labor in the winter, and my feet cracked open and the blood would run out on the cold ground. I was turned out without a home at the age of eight years and six months, and have had to wander from place to place and receive the severe abuse of infidels and wicked persons. My clothes were so ragged I have often had to tie them on me with hickory bark. I knew nothing of the advantages of going to school or even associating with good society, but was looked down upon by those who had superior advantages. I cannot find language in so short a space to tell of the severe abuse and the sufferings of hunger



and cold. My mother was feeble and went from place to place.



At the age of fifteen, while living in Bland County, Virginia, where I had taken my mother, and we had cleaned out an old stable and split slabs for a floor, and we were living in the stable and a portion of the time had to exist on Irish potatoes, I was there enabled one night to see that I was forever lost and to view the justice of God in my condemnation, yet previous to this I had been very moral at times, and had had many serious impressions about my eternal welfare, yet I did not think it would take long for me to get religion (as it was called). But there I saw the elect of God in their glorified state all adorned in heavenly draping and I was cast off with the wicked where I soon had to forever make my abode in an endless perdition with demons. Oh! the deep agony of soul that I was in! My sins were as mountains before me day and night. My heart, I saw was a sink of sin, being deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. I would go away off to find a place to pray, but no place was secret enough for me. I would fall upon the earth and my tongue would cleave to the roof of my mouth. My heart was as hard as adamant.

I tried to cry but could not cry; I tried to pray but could not pray; yet that awful burden was pressing me down as a mighty weight that I could not get rid of. I could not wear it off in society; the more I tried to work the deeper in sin it seemed to sink me. I was brought to see that I was helpless, my strength gave way, and I looked around me and the earth was shrouded in darkness; there were no charms on earth for me. I felt that I should soon die and be forever lost, and I started to go to the woods to pray once more before I died, and my strength gave way and I was sinking down, it seemed. While there in that awful dilemma I cried as I thought for the last time: "God be merciful to me, a poor, lost sinner." My burden was taken away and my whole being seemed to be filled with love sweeter than ever before, and all things in creation seemed to be praising God.

A rain soon came up and I went to an old house in the field and lay down upon a plank, and I looked at my ragged and dirty clothes and it came to me: "These clothes are too filthy for you to wear," for I felt to be clean; I felt that Jesus had cleansed me and clothed me with his righteousness as with a garment. The church was then presented to me as a home for God's elect, and the doctrine of election, predestination, salvation by grace and final preservation and resurrection of the dead was presented to me. I never felt that it was simply an angel that took up its abode in me, and that it was the child of God, but I felt that I, Lee Hanks, was changed; not that I was changed from flesh to spirit, or that my natural appetite for natural food ceased, but I loved things I once hated and hated things I once loved; I had a desire to do right, but evil seemed to be in my flesh so that I could not do the things I desired. I never had stayed under the roof of a Primitive Baptist up to this time; I knew nothing of them.

But there was an irresistible impression for me to leave and go to West Virginia. I knew no one there, but I arose and went, though very poorly clad, and had to beg my way and was looked upon as a tramp. When I got to a certain place I had to stop, and I hired to a Methodist, and soon got to hear Baptists preach for the first time, and it seemed to me that they were the loveliest people I ever saw, and I could say of a truth, these are my people if I were only fit to be with them. But the next Sunday I went eleven miles and told the dear Baptists what I hoped the Lord had done for me, yet I could not see how they could receive me, but to my surprise they did. I was baptized in New River by Elder William Dobbs, October 14, 1877. (I had to borrow clothes of a Methodist to be baptized in.) I there received the answer of good conscience; I trusted and felt that all was well. But soon an impression which seemed worse than I could bear was upon me, bidding me to go and tell of the works of the Lord, but O, how can I? I am too poor! I know nothing but Negro language, such as "gwine," "dis," "dar," etc. I cannot read anything correctly. I am not acquainted with the Primitive Baptist doctrines well enough, and if I was I cannot tell it; I have no education and have such a miserable bad stammer in my speech, hence I could not see a qualification I possessed, and I thought the Lord would not call me.

The Scripture was continually on my mind. "Upon me necessity is laid, and woe is me if I preach not the Gospel." The burden was so heavily upon me I prayed to die to get rid of it, and I went on until my mind was almost gone and I was stricken down in my field in September 1879. While lying there I was made willing to go and do the best I could, and on the Sunday following I made my first effort, though it was a mighty cross, yet I received an ease of mind. I have been hobbling along trying to quit and trying to talk a little ever since. I was ordained in August 1886, by Elders J. W. Parker, John Purvis and William Galloway. I am trying in weakness to serve four churches, and have baptized about eighty-three since I was ordained. I have many ups and downs to contend with, and realize more and more of my weaknesses, but I desire a home among God's people while I live, for whenever I travel among them I feel at home, and would to God that I could see His saints united, but while some may be separated here, ere long they will all be one.

OBITUARY WRITTEN BY ELDER J. A. MONSEES: After arising from his slumbers and eating his breakfast, on the morning of April 16th, 1947, Elder Lee Hanks was suddenly stricken with a cerebral hemorrhage, and before help could be summoned he was dead. A blessed way to go. He had lived nearly eighty-six years, and from his early life, had preached the glorious gospel of Christ. He had preached acceptably to the Primitive Baptist people in about thirty or more of the States of the Union, baptized more than seven hundred of the Saints, assisted in the ordination of many of God's dear ministers, and founded many of our strongest churches of today. He loved devotedly the doctrine of grace, and the order of the House of God, for which he urgently contended. For this reason, he had to endure strong opposition, and sometimes bitter persecution, all of which he bore patiently and kindly. Perhaps the greatest of these persecutions arose from his efforts to make reconciliation among estranged brethren. God blesses the peacemaker, but in this Laodicean age of indifference, apparently the greatest and professed follower of the author of this doctrine find fault and make charges, many times unsustainable, against their brethren. None of these things ever moved him, but he continued steadfastly in the Apostles' doctrine, and gave his life's energy to his last days that he might acquit himself with a good conscience toward God.

Elder Hanks had a powerful analytical mind, convincing the erring of the truth, and showing every other way to be false. He was tender and forgiving to all repenting ones. He had an experience that humbled him under the mighty hand of God, and of which he most lovingly gave the church the benefit. His book, "Conflicts of a Poor Sinner," has been widely read and many have found comfort in it, and led in the right paths thereby. His book, "Church of God," is a brief history of the church of great value. His other voluminous writing, his Old School Church Hymnal, which we now publish, are some of the many works that follow him.

He wished that he may have the confidence and fellowship of the people of God, and for this reason he did not claim perfection, but surely we can now see if more had followed his loving counsel, we would have more unity with those who are now denominated Primitive Baptists, and we would be more like the church he joined in his youth. We then were one people; had no instruments of music in the churches; Sabbath Schools, Aid Societies, etc., for which there is no scriptural warrant. We were with him in the most painful days of the conflict with the Progressive brethren in Georgia. This was the most trying part of his long and useful career. Painful because he had to give up many with whom he had held sweet counsel, and that he should be so cruelly attacked by them, and charged with insincerity. Yet God sustained him, the Baptists of other states sustained his position, and it was surely by this fight that the Baptists of Georgia were not swallowed up by that movement. It succeeded, however, in making a scar that followed him to his grave. We know Jesus better by the scars, the wounds in His hands, and side than by His many loving services.

He loved his brethren, and trusted them implicitly in all things. His worst mistakes made in life, perhaps, were to take the word of his brethren whom he had so fully trusted, without first making investigation. His influence was most powerfully felt, and everywhere many sought his approval, and many times they were not what they represented themselves to be. When this was proven, he would very quickly correct his error, but could not always remove the influence left by it.

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#### **ELDER GALE F. HANOVER**



The son of Elder Jackson and Cynthia Hanover, he was born on May 19, 1888. He married Mistie Peters, the daughter of Elder Robert and Marthe Peters, on September 3, 1908. He joined Turkey Run Church in Fairfield County in August 1910 and was the clerk of the Scioto Association from 1913 to 1918.

Elder Hanover was ordained to the ministry on June 4, 1921. He was Moderator of the Scioto Association for 50 years having been chosen in 1929 and served until 1980. His labors were with churches in the central Ohio. He also traveled in Virginia, Indiana and Illinois.

To this day, he is held in high esteem by his fellow yoke members in the ministry.

He passed from this life on October 7, 1983.

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**ELDER JACKSON C. HANOVER**



The son of Elder Lymon B. Hanover. He was born on November 17, 1856. He married Cynthia Ruffner in July 1881. He joined the church at the Association held in Middle Run Church in 1877 and was baptized by Elder William Ruphard of Kentucky. He was ordained to the ministry at the Refuge Church in 1888. He served churches in the central Ohio area.

He passed from this life on November 11, 1918.

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**ELDER JOHN HANOVER**

Migrated from Ohio County, Virginia to Ohio about 1829 and settled in Harlem Township, Delaware County, Ohio. He passed from this life in 1860.

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**ELDER LYMON B. HANOVER**



The son of Elder John Hanover. He married Mary Clark on January 20, 1848, and lived near Center Village, Ohio. He united with the Refuge Church in 1860 and was ordained to the ministry in 1863. He was the pastor of Refuge Church and served churches in the Owl Creek Harmony Association.

He passed from this life on November 11, 1911.

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**ELDER RICKY HARCROW**

I was born on Jan.28, 1951 in Gadsden Alabama, Etowah County to Mr. and Mrs. Jack Harcrow. I have lived in the general area where I now live most all of my life. I have been acquainted with the Primitive Baptists all of my life and reared in the church. I began preaching in 1970 and was ordained that same year by the order of Pilgrims Rest Primitive Baptist Church at Rainsville Alabama, my home church at the time. I was 19 years old. From that time until now I have served churches in a four county region of North Eastern Alabama the Sand Mountain area of the state. On August 9, 1974 I was married to Miss Susan E. Rosser at the Zion Hill Primitive Baptist Church near Boaz Alabama where I was pastor at the time and am still the pastor at present. My wife was a member of the church there then together with many



past generations of her family. Our family has been blessed with two children, Sarah and Jackson. I have baptized them both and we are all members at Zion Hill in Marshall County Alabama. I also serve New Clear Creek Primitive Baptist Church in the same community.

I attended High School at Plainview High School near Fort Payne Alabama in Dekalb County, Northeast State Jr. College and Jacksonville State University at Jacksonville Alabama. I have been employed by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) for 22 years the power distributor for a five state region. I have been elected to the City council of my hometown, elected Mayor and presently serve on the Dekalb County Board of Commissioners being elected from district one of Dekalb County Alabama. May I say that the Lord has richly blessed me in so many ways. I have been blessed with a wonderful family, in-laws who are wonderful people, and church members and people whom I serve who have been so gracious to me. I have been blessed to travel and preach extensively and Gods people have been so wonderful to invite and receive me. My friends in the community are dear and I covet their prayers and affections.

I love the church today more than I ever have. It is more precious today than it ever has been to me and mine. We want to be nothing more than plain and simple Old Line Primitive Baptists. We are satisfied with the order of the House of God and want nothing added to it from the religions of this day. I love the people I serve, as poor a servant as I am, and want to continue in the best way that I can.

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**ELDER L. B. HARDEN**

L. B. Harden was born in Arkansas of Primitive Baptist parents. He was the last of his siblings to pass on to his heavenly home. His ordination was carried out in the Dallas Texas Church of which Elder N. M. Casey was the pastor. He was ordained in the early 1950's and faithfully contended for the faith, carrying the gospel of Christ among the churches of New Mexico, Colorado, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas. His tenure of preaching always embraced the doctrine of Salvation by grace until his death at age 88 on January 10, 2000. He was laid to rest where he had resided over 50 years. He pastored the Dallas and Quitman Texas Churches. He lies in Oak Grove Cemetery of Irving Texas beside his wife, Josephine and son, Leonard, awaiting the resurrection.

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**ELDER W. H. HARDEN**

FROM "GOODWILL" MAY 1963: Elder Harden was born on 8 December 1879 at Banks, Alabama. He was affectionately known everywhere as "Brother Willie." Brother Willie married Miss Mary Lougenia Garrett on 10 December 1896.

In the year 1919, he moved his family of one daughter, Berta, and three sons, Albert, Hezekiah, and H. Fonzer, to the city of Okeechobee, Florida. He and his beloved wife moved their church letter and membership from Ramah Church to Okeechobee Church on 1 April 1921. Brother Willie had joined Ramah Church at a very early age. In the year 1938 he was ordained to the ministry by Okeechobee Church. He lived to see two of his sons also ordained to the ministry. Brother Willie passed away on 27 December 1961 in Okeechobee, Florida.

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### **ELDER BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HARDESTY**

Elder Hardesty was born on April 9, 1942 in Winfield, MO and passed from this life on August 5, 1923. He united with the Sandrun Church in Wright City, MO. He was ordained in August 1874 and served the Sandrun Church as pastor.

He served in the Confederate Army and was captured and imprisoned by the Union Army. He was a school teacher and was first ordained by the Missionary Baptists before joining the Primitive Baptist church.

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### **ELDER JOSEPH BYRD HARDY**

Joseph Byrd Hardy was born December 16, 1869 in Crittendon County, Kentucky. His father was a Primitive Baptist minister.



He joined the Primitive Baptist Church at age 16 and began to preach the next Sunday. He was ordained to the ministry on May 7, 1888 at Wolf Creek Church in Eldorado, Illinois.

One of his first converts was Rachel Bourland. Joseph and Rachel were married on May 26, 1889 in Cottage Grove, Illinois by Elder R. Fulkerson. Joseph farmed and also studied Greek and Hebrew to better prepare him for preaching. He preached at two churches during this time. Joseph and Rachel had eight children. One daughter died at age two of scarlet fever. A set of triplets died shortly after birth. Four sons lived to adulthood.

In 1905 he moved from Illinois to Kiowa County Kansas to be close to his aging father. He organized a church there and also taught school at Pratt, Kansas. After his father passed away in 1913, he moved to Arkansas to farm. He organized a church there and also preached once a month at the Goshen Church in Lewis County, Tennessee. In 1925 he moved to Perryton, Texas. He continued to travel to Tennessee to preach. In 1940 he organized the Perryton Primitive Baptist Church.

At age 82 he was making a monthly preaching circuit of 2,500 miles. He traveled by bus to Kentucky to serve a church near Manchester on a monthly basis. The churches he served consisted mostly of poor and destitute people.

He was involved in the constitution of 49 churches and baptized 2,684 people during his 70+ years of active ministry. His last sermon was preached in 1962 at the Amarillo Primitive Baptist Church when he was 93 years old.

His wife died in 1953. He survived all of his children except one son. He died in Spearman, Texas on December 12, 1968 and was buried on what would have been his ninety-ninth birthday.

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### **ELDER JAMES B. HARDY**



FROM NUTS FOR ARMINIANS TO CRACK: Elder James Byrd Hardy was born near Clarksville, Montgomery County, Tennessee, January 6, 1837 and died on January 30, 1913. He was the youngest son of a family of ten children. He was married November 4, 1858 to Miss Willabour Jane Wood. In the year 1865, the blessed Lord manifested unto him his heirship to eternal glory and laid the burden of preaching the gospel upon his heart. He was baptized in October of this same year by Elder P. L. H. Walker at Pleasant Hill Church of the Primitive Baptist Faith and Order. One month later, the church feeling that a dispensation of the gospel

was committed unto him, they liberated him to exercise his gift wherever the Lord might direct.

Elder Hardy was ordained to the ministry on April 4, 1870 by a presbytery composed of Elders Richard Fulkerson, John H. Gammon, and William M. Wood, with Deacons E. P. Wood and T. W. Sivals. He served from one to three churches as long as he remained in Kentucky, besides traveling hundreds of miles every year on horseback, preaching the gospel. He engaged in several public discussions with those who set themselves in opposition to and in defiance of the principles for which he contended. In the spring of 1884, he went to Wichita, Kansas, from where he traveled 100 miles on foot to what was then Edwards County, near Wellsford, and filed on a homestead, bringing his wife and family to their new home in spring of 1885. He was instrumental in planting many churches in Kansas and Colorado, one of which was near Kingman, Kansas where he and his wife were charter member and continued there until their deaths. Published works by Elder Hardy include "A Five Days Debate Between Elder James B. Hardy, of the Regular Baptists, and Rev. Isham E. Wallace, of the Missionary Baptists, Upon Church Identity" published in 1881, and "Two Hundred and Ten Questions, or Two Hundred and Ten Nuts for Arminians" first published in 1882, republished in 1896, and enlarged and republished in 1905 under the title "Nuts for Arminians to Crack."

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#### **ELDER JOHN H. HARDY**



Was born near Greensburg, Mo., November 15, 1875, to James H. and Elizabeth (Shriver) Hardy. He was married to Sue Wheeler, July 13, 1897, and they had one son, James.

Eld. Hardy graduated from the American School of Osteopathy at Kirksville, Mo. in 1898, and in 1901 he located at Lamar, Colo., where he united with the Bethel Church in November 1902.

In 1911, they moved to LaPlata, Mo. and placed their membership with Little Zion Church, where in 1914 Bro. Hardy was licensed to exercise his gift in the ministry. In June 1917, they moved to Columbia, Mo. The following September this church called for his ordination to the work of the ministry, which took place in October. He had served as pastor there since 1915, and had also served at Rocky Fork, Union, and Sharon Church in St. Louis for some years.

From the time of his graduation, he practiced in his profession as an Osteopathic Physician until about 1940, when he gave that up to devote more time to his ministerial work. Elder Hardy died July 7, 1959, in Macon. Sister Hardy died one week later.

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#### **ELDER VINCE B. HARDY**



Elder Vince Braden Hardy was born May 18, 1963 in Perryton, Texas to Ernest and Patricia Hardy. While residing in College Station, Texas, he was baptized by Elder W. R. Daniels Jr. on October 27, 1987 and became a member of Bethel Church in Caldwell County, Texas. The first time he was called upon to speak publicly in the name of the Lord was in 1988 at Bethel Church. On November 25 of that same year, he was married to Miss Kristy Dawn Boen, the daughter of Elder Freddy Boen, and made their home in College Station. On January 13, 1991, Vince and Kristy moved their church membership from Bethel Church to the Luling Primitive Baptist Church in Luling, Texas. In March of that same year, Luling Church liberated him to the exercise of his preaching gift. In May 1993, he was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry by Elders W. R. Daniels, Freddy Boen, J. P. Dale, Jeff Harris, Ronnie Hedges, David Montgomery, Dwayne Shafer, and Steve Wilkinson. Elder Hardy

has held regular appointments at the Primitive Baptist churches located in Big Spring, Lawn, Belton, Cameron and Luling, Texas. From December 1996 to February 1998, he was the pastor of Philadelphia Primitive Baptist Church in Big Spring, Texas. Elder Hardy is currently the pastor of New Providence Primitive Baptist Church near Cameron, Texas, and has preaching appointments at the churches in Luling and Belton. Over the past ten years, Elder Hardy has driven over 190 thousand miles in preaching the gospel and ministering to the Lord's people.

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### ELDER J. W. "JIM" HARDWICK

A TRIBUTE BY ELDER SO4NNY PYLES: Elder Hardwick was born February 8, 1891. He died at his home in Booneville, Mississippi on October 30, 1961.



He was a man of keen intellect and great physical strength. His unusual knowledge of the scriptures, his gift as a powerful orator, and God-given powers of logic made him one of the ablest debaters to ever represent the Primitive Baptists.

I have pictures and written accounts by eyewitnesses of one of these debates held in 1938. At the close of this debate with a Church of Christ minister, a woman jumped up and declared that she had been converted to the Primitive Baptist position. She had brought a crown and ribbons to award his opponent. Instead, she placed the crown and ribbons on Elder Hardwick. There was much cheering and applause from the audience. The woman was a faithful member until she died. Eyewitnesses, some still living, said he did not want to wear the crown and ribbons, but he allowed the picture to be made. Since the picture is so famous, I include it here. Elder Hardwick's expression shows that he was not comfortable wearing the crown and ribbons. I wish I had space to write about his other debates, baptisms and labors.

I have preached annual meetings for over thirty years in two churches that Elder Hardwick served. I have never known of a minister anywhere who is held in such reverence, loving memory and high esteem by the people he served and by the ministers who were his sons in the ministry. He also served the people of north Mississippi in the State Legislature.

I treasure the many experiences told to me by people he baptized, others he influenced from childhood, and those who heard him defend the truth in preaching and public debate.

Like Abel of old, "He being dead, yet speaketh." Hebrews 11:4

Friendship Primitive Baptist Church, near Carthage, Tennessee, appointed a committee to write the following resolution of respect, which is recorded in the church records:

"From the time Elder J.W. Hardwick was first called as pastor of Friendship Church in May 1940, until May 1961, the Church called him once each year. If there was ever an Elder considered in this call with him, we, your committee, do not know of it.

"During these years of services, 101 were added to the Church by experience and baptism, by restoration or by letter. During these years, he pastored churches in Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee. He filled many appointments during the week days between these churches. Truly, he was a yoke fellow in the Gospel with all true and tried Elders in the Primitive Baptist Churches. He, like every other mortal man, had his limitations, but by faith he proved by his works that he loved God, by his constant and continually preaching that Jesus shed His blood to redeem His people. That He gives them eternal life in the new birth, that He redeemed them to God by His death, that He arose for their justification and will finally glorify the last one for whom He gave His life.

“Elder J. W. Hardwick and wife united with Friendship Baptist Church by letter January 14, 1950. This Church was his home until he fell asleep in Jesus October 30, 1961.

“Jesus, who is the source of all light, inspiration, wisdom, grace and love said “and whosoever loveth and believeth in me shall never die.” We all, like Elder Hardwick, go to sleep, pass from this house of mortality, but his spirit and the spirits of all God’s children will go at death to be with Jesus.

“Thank God, there is a heaven and we long and hope to go there. We believe that in spirit, Elder Hardwick is there this very day. True, we are sad and lonely that we shall see him no more here, but glad that he is forever free from care, toil, hardships, suffering and death, thank God. He lived and labored among us.

“More than 20 Primitive Baptist Elders paid respect by attending the funeral in Booneville, Mississippi, November 1, 1961. Elders Shain, Thetford, Boyd, and McCuchens officiated in the funeral service. The casket was covered and surrounded with flowers from churches and friends from several states in demonstration of the love and high esteem in which he was held by his many friends. His body sleeps in the silent tomb. His spirit rests in peace with his God.”

Elder H. L. Golston, Moderator Pro Tem Deacons: Ester Kemp, Thomas Grigg Charles L. West, Church Clerk

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### **ELDER ROBERT HARLAN**

TAKEN FROM HIS BOOK, “PREACHING THE GOSPEL WITHOUT CHARGE” PUBLISHED JULY 1957: It was on the day of March 7th, 1920 in a mud chinked log farm house in the state of Tennessee, and about three miles from the little town of Bonnettown, that I first saw the light of day.

The burden of the ministry stayed with me all through the years of my childhood, and when I began to look around with the thought of taking a wife, and some day having a little family of my very own, being by now about seventeen, or eighteen years of age I had sworn that as long as I should live no one would know I possessed this desire toward the ministry. Yet of every fair girl I would look upon there was always the question in my mind, would this girl be a good helpmeet to a minister? I could never be sure though, and this irritated me greatly.



So at the age of twenty-one I left the state of Tennessee, and came to California where two brothers were then living, hoping to leave my burden behind. This was the year of 1941, and in the fall of the following year I met the young girl who is my wife, who then bore the name of Ruby Womack, and who was born and raised in the state of Arkansas.

In November 1943 we were married, and from this point on my burden pressed me sorely. I labored with it until September 1950, when I united with Bethel Primitive Baptist church at Lindsay, California, and about six months later I made my first attempt to preach the gospel. I was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry by prayer, and the laying on of hands by five ministers, and twelve deacons fifth Sunday in June 1952.

At the close of that meeting my precious helpmeet united with the church, and was received amongst many shouts of praise while she wept on the shoulder of dear old Elder Baxter Hale who has ever since been a dear old father to me in the ministry.

One son, and two daughters have blessed our lives by the loving kindness of our God, and our son, now twelve, and eldest daughter now nine years of age have found sweet rest in the loving embrace of the grand old church.

While I feel so unworthy of such blessings yet my Lord has so wonderfully blessed this poor servant to see my wife as a fruitful vine, and my children as olive plants around about my table.

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### **ELDER WILMER E. HARPER**

Elder Wilmer Ervin Harper son of John Wesley and Rosella Jackson Harper, was born October 22, 1908 at Harper, Missouri. He passed away September 2, 1986 at St. Luke's Hospital, Kansas City.

On May 21, 1932, he and Geneva Jane Murray were married and made their home at Harper for 21 years. To this union two daughters were born. While helping at the store Brother Harper also had a wood-working shop and made beautiful walnut furniture, making many of the tools he worked with. In April 1953 he moved his family to Osceola, and continued his shop work along with his work in the ministry, never neglecting his duties in the ministry.

He joined the Goshen Church in December 1939 and was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry in May of 1942. He served several churches as pastor during his years in the ministry, serving his home church at Goshen 44 years. At the time of his passing, he was pastor of Goshen Church at Harper, Fellowship Church at Marshfield, and Round Prairie Church at Louisburg. His whole life was spent in helping others. He had many talents, as he composed gospel songs and was a leader in the song service at the church services.

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### **ELDER ROBERT W. HARRELL**

SUBMITTED BY GAYLON POWELL: Elder Robert Wallace Harrell was born January 6, 1853, in Warren County, Georgia. His family moved to Cuero, Texas, after the death of his mother and the close of the Civil War. His oldest brother and father died fighting for the South during the Civil War. The family plantation in Warren County, Georgia, was burned with only a few slave cabins left after General Sherman's march to the sea.

He and his first wife, Mary, had eight children: four boys and four girls. After the death of his first wife, he married Alma Lois Nixon September 10, 1910 in Llano County, Texas. They had six children: four girls and two boys.

He was ordained to the ministry in August 1885 at Lebanon Church, Pottsville, Hamilton County, Texas by Elders W C Burks, W S Harris, and Nathan Barrow.

He was in the constitution of Primitive Church at South Bennett Schoolhouse in Hamilton County September 26, 1885 and was called as pastor. He served churches in Hamilton and Mills County until 1897 when he moved to DeWitt County, Texas, where he was called to serve as pastor at Pilgrim's Rest Church. In 1910 he moved to Austin and served Little Vine Church as pastor from 1915 until his death June 12, 1925.

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### **ELDER ASA HARRIS**

SUBMITTED BY ELDER JAY HARRIS USING INFORMATION WRITTEN BY ELDER JETHRO S. HARRIS, THE SON OF ASA HARRIS: Elder Harris was born in Floyd County, Virginia on July 9, 1859, and died September 24, 1919. He was married to Lucy Manning on August 25, 1879; to which union 10 children were born, 7 sons and 3 daughters. Three of his sons were ordained as Primitive Baptist ministers.

He joined the Primitive Baptist Church at Indian Creek, Floyd County, Virginia, and was baptized by Elder P. G. Lester on June 22, 1884. He was liberated to speak in public April 1886; licensed to preach in December 1888; and regularly ordained to the work of the gospel ministry on in October 1889.



In January 1909, he was chosen as pastor of Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church in Indian Valley, VA, which he served faithfully to the end of his life.

He spent the last two weeks of his life away from home. He traveled to Illinois on a preaching trip. He left for home unexpectedly and the family thought he was still in Illinois, but news came that walking home from the train station he had died just a few miles from his home. He is buried in Indian Valley, VA. At the time he was pastor of Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church, it had over 150 members.

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**ELDER E. BLAINE HARRIS**

The son of J. R. and Susan Harris, was born April 22, 1884 and died Jan. 21, 1955. He was married to Miss Bertha Bobbitt Nov. 15, 1911 to which union were born two daughters, Mrs. Elmer Webb, Mrs. Andy Howlett.

He joined the Primitive Baptist Church at New Hope Aug. 10, 1912, was ordained deacon June 8, 1828, liberated to speak in public May 9, 1912, licensed Aug. 7, 1943, ordained October 13, 1945.

He served New Hope and Panther Creek Churches jointly with Eld. Delmon L. Nester; Worrell Memorial and Belspur, jointly with Elders W. L. Gardner and Wilbur F. Worrell.

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**ELDER HORACE EDWARD HARRIS**

Elder H. E. Harris was born February 27, 1908, to James and Minnie Cook Harris. He united with Bethel Primitive Baptist Church on June 23, 1940. He was ordained to the ministry at Bethel on August 31, 1941. He was married to Sister Lela Wells on June 13, 1929.

Elder Harris was brought up among the Free Will Baptists and at the time of his marriage, he held the Old Baptist doctrine in the greatest of contempt. He used to tell his wife, "I would to God that the lawmakers of our land would wake up to a sense of their duty and pass a law to prohibit such damnable doctrine from being preached in the presence of our children." But in process of time it pleased God to show him his wretched condition by nature and to give him a lively hope in those very truths which he had once sought to destroy. The church recognized his gift and soon began calling on him to speak in the name of the Lord.



During the course of his ministry he served as pastor of five different churches: New Mt. Zion, near Samson, Alabama; Tired Creek, near Cairo, Georgia; St. Andrews, in Panama City, Florida, in the St. Andrews section of town; New Hope, near LaCross, Florida; and Beulah, later named Enterprise, Enterprise, Alabama. The providence of God led him in his travels to become quite well known in the states of North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and in his home state of Florida. He was an able ministry of the gospel, blessed with a powerful voice and a clear and forceful delivery. He had much in wisdom and discipline matters, standing firm on the principles of our faith.

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**ELDER JAMES R. HARRIS**



James R. Harris, born October 6, 1925, near Hannibal, MO, the son of Grover C, and Sarah Shipley Harris. I have spent most of my life in or near Palmyra, Ill. I graduated high school in 1944, and was a World War II veteran in the Navy with an honorable discharge.

I joined the Pleasant View Church in Palmyra, Ill on November 1947. I was ordained to the ministry May 1955 by Pleasant View Church, Palmyra Ill. I have served as many as four churches at one time and was instrumental in the organization of Little Flock Church

near Edwardsville, Ill in 1966. Married Hilda Mae Prior, in Bentley, Ill, May 19th, 1951. We have four children and five grandchildren.

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### **ELDER JAY S. HARRIS**

Elder Harris was born in Floyd County, Virginia on April 27, 1938. He was the son of Marvin and Blanche Harris. He was married to Reba Hatfield from Dunlap, Tennessee on February 10, 1957. They have one son, Craig S. Harris.



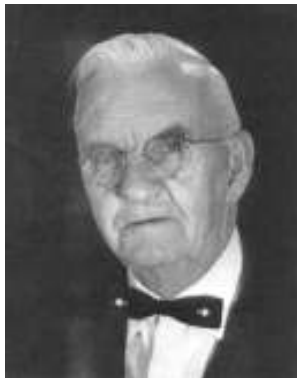
Elder Harris joined Indian Creek Church, Indian Valley, VA and was baptized By Elder Jethro Harris on April 17, 1955. He was ordained as a Deacon at Indian Creek Church on October 2, 1960

Jay and Reba became charter members of the Pulaski Church that was constituted on November 28, 1964. On March 16, 1975, he was given liberty to preach. On May 29, 1976, he was ordained a Primitive Baptist Elder and was called to serve Pulaski Primitive Baptist Church, Pulaski, Virginia on the same date. Elder Harris is still the pastor (January 2000). Most of his labors have been at Pulaski Church with occasional trips to other churches. Pulaski Church, even though small has been blessed to be almost a mother of preachers. Five ministers have been ordained from our church, the last two in 1999. Jay worked a sales territory for a tire manufacture until 1995, when he took an early retirement to spend all his time to being a pastor.

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### **ELDER JETHRO S. HARRIS**

WRITTEN BY HIS DAUGHTER, PAULINE H. HODGES: Jethro Snoman Harris was born March 1, 1886 in the Indian Valley section of Floyd County, Virginia. His parents were Asa and Lucy Virginia Manning Harris.



Jethro S. Harris joined the Indian Creek Baptist at Indian Valley, Virginia on April 28, 1912, and was baptized by his father, Elder Asa Harris on April 28, 1912. The church gave him liberty to begin in the ministry on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in October 1919. He was licensed to preach on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in May 1922 and ordained in the full Ministry of the Gospel on October 8, 1923. He served churches in Floyd County and other surrounding counties in rural Southwest Virginia and the city of Roanoke, Virginia.

He was Moderator of the Indian Creek Church from 1933 to 1969 when he was chosen Honorary Pastor, and remained in that capacity until his death. He served as Clerk of the New River Association for seven years, then as Moderator for seven years. He traveled as much as possible attending church services and preaching when called upon.

In 1909 he purchased a used set of surveying tools, taught himself to use them and this was his only means of income outside of the small amount of money he received from the churches he served. He received less than \$12.00 in one year from one of the churches he served, but an old sister in the church gave him a five-pound bag of chestnuts for Christmas.

In 1909 he met and married Martha Ella Moore. He had already purchased a farm and house and they lived there until the mid 1930's. They had nine children, all born in this home, before they moved to Willis, Virginia, about 10 miles away. They lived in the Willis area for their remaining years.

He served as an officer in the first telephone company that was formed in Indian Valley, Virginia; was active in gaining a right-of-way for electricity into the community; served as administrator of estates; recorder of births and deaths for the Commonwealth of Virginia; wrote wills, deeds and letters for people in the community.

Jethro S. Harris died January 16, 1970 after declining health had restricted much of his activities, but he remained alert and in very good spiritual memory.

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### **ELDER JOHN E. HARRIS**

CONDENSED FROM AN OBITUARY PREPARED BY ARNA CHURCH: Elder John Evander Harris was born in Bell, Fla., on April 21, 1909 to Elder Stephen and Dottie Hodge Harris. He married Ella Green on April 24, 1937. To this marriage, four children were born: two sons and two daughters. Elder Harris at a reasonably early age united with the Missionary Baptist Association and was ordained a minister among them but he quickly became disenchanted and asked for a home with Wayfair Primitive Baptist Church near Bell, Fla. He was ordained to the ministry by that church in 1944. He remained faithful to the cause, went far and near preaching the unsearchable riches and bringing good news and glad tidings to God's humble poor until 1986 when he was confined to his place of stay by ill health. On November 30, 1987, he passed from the scenes of this life.

Brother John lost the sight of both eyes. He would have to be led into the stand, and then led out again once the service was over, but was still blessed to preach and praise his Jesus. He never seemed to feel sorry for himself at all.

At the time of his death, he was a member of Arna Primitive Baptist Church. Over the years of his ministry he served many churches in the North Florida area, including Crawford Lake, Corinth, and Blue Springs, among others.

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### **ELDER JOHN R. HARRIS**



FROM FOR THE POOR, AUGUST 1952: According to our family record, I was born near Thornton, Ark., Aug. 17, 1879. I am the oldest son of Lewis C. and Laura C. Harris. My father never united with the church, but was a believer in the Primitive Baptist faith.

I had serious thoughts about the hereafter from childhood. I have loved the Old Baptists ever since I can remember, and felt like they were the true church. Finally, as the years went by, I asked for a home with them in the year 1913. The church liberated me to exercise my gift in indeed I had one, in 1915. I was ordained to the full work of the ministry in 1917. I have been trying to serve churches ever since. Now, at the age of 73 years, I am serving five churches in the bounds of the South Arkansas Association. We have never had any serious trouble in any of the churches I have ever served as pastor. Peace and fellowship seem to abound in all of the churches, for which I feel thankful to our God.

FROM MARK GREEN: I heard a statement once which testified to the wonderful influence that Elder Harris had among the churches of southern Arkansas. A sister said that when she was young and would see Elder Harris coming on the church ground or in the meeting house, she was have a sense of calmness come over her, a feeling that everything would be all right now.

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## ELDER L. JEFF HARRIS



On September 26, 1957 I was brought into the home of Elder and Mrs. Moses Leonard Harris, Jr. in the northwestern corner of the state of New Mexico. The Lord blessed me to experience conversion at the early age of nine and I was the first to experience baptism at the hands of my father. I joined the Primitive Church in Waco following outstanding preaching by Elder Jessie Bass and my father. I remember well that five others came forward to join after my profession of faith that special night so long ago. I left a burden of my poor soul in that water that has never returned after all these years.

I was married to Donna Jo Meyer on July 2, 1977. Donna and I were married in the Albuquerque Church and made our first residence together in Farmington near my father's home at Fruitland. God blessed my faithful companion and I to have four healthy children while living in New Mexico: Rebekah, Jefferson, Timothy and

Ashley.

In December of 1978, the Portales Primitive Baptist Church called for my ordination and at the same time called me to serve them as pastor. We moved from Farmington to Clovis (near Portales) in January of 1979 and my ordination was set for July 28th of the same year. Elder K. B. Martin examined me and my father brought forth the charge. Other ministers that composed the presbytery were Elders Allen Millican, Glen Lauderdale, Rip Morrisett, Johnny B. Rogers, E. L. Griffin, T. C. Lawrence and Jerry Christian. It was a solemn and yet joyful day in the Lord. It was my privilege to serve the precious flock at Portales for seven years. During two and one half of those years, I attempted to help the Church in Roswell every other Sunday. The churches and ministers of New Mexico seemed to love and respect one another and there were no divisions that occurred during those days. All of the Churches then existent in the State were located at Bloomfield, Albuquerque, Roswell, Tucumcari, Clovis, Hobbs, Artesia, Carlsbad and Portales, which shared regular times of fellowship meetings that were, for the most part, well attended. May God be pleased to preserve the witness of truth in that part of this nation until our Saviour's coming. Amen.

In 1986, the Lord sent me to pastor a wonderful group of people in Big Spring, Texas where I was blessed to labor for six and one half years.

All of these dear saints are yet upon my heart to this day and it was one of the most difficult decisions I ever made in my life when I left this church to pastor the Eureka Church near Chula, Georgia.

We moved to South Georgia in the summer of 1993 and I have continued at Eureka Church since that time. Eureka was constituted in 1910 and met one Sunday a month until June of 1992. I rejoice in spirit to think how far these faithful brethren have come the last seven years in their journey of faith. God has certainly blessed them in every way. We also have been instrumental in the establishing of many churches in the Philippines, where over 1100 baptized believers now worship each Sunday under the banner of Primitive Baptist, for which we thank the God of our fathers above.

Thus far in my little journey, the Lord has led me on and I would be less than honest if I were to say that it has all been joyful and easy, because it has not. In over twenty years of pastoral ministry, I have learned to trust God's promise (I Cor. 10:13) and not to fear the judgment of men (I Cor.4:1-5). I have felt that God and God's people have been far better to me than I could possibly deserve and that, no matter how dark the valley or intense the storm, nothing shall disengage God's faithfulness to His people in the earth! Great is His faithfulness unto me. Blessed be the name of the Lord Jesus Christ who ever, "causeth us to triumph" (II Cor.2:14).

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## ELDER MOSES LEONARD HARRIS, JR.

WRITTEN BY HIS SON, ELDER L. JEFF HARRIS: The opening leaf of his personal Bible read, "Elder M. L. Harris, Jr., S. S. (Sinner Saved). Old Line Primitive Baptist Minister/Preacher, by the effectual working of His power (Eph. 3:7),

according to the light he had, served his God in his generation." These words appear to be an appropriate summary of a faithful ministry that spanned a period of nearly forty years among the Old Baptists.

He was born into the home of a sharecropper named Moses Leonard Harris and his good wife Lottie Bernice (Moseley) Harris on September 11, 1930, near Crockett, Texas. He attended several different school systems, but finally graduated from Franklin High School of Franklin, Texas. He attended one year of college before entering the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. Following his honorable discharge in 1956, he married Ruthie Charlene Glover of Haskell, Texas. God blessed him to raise five children to adulthood: Brenda, Jeff, David, Samuel, and James.

Although he was raised in an Old Baptist home, he did not join through baptism until November of 1960 in Cortez, Colorado. Elder Jimmy Smart was the able pastor at the time. Soon after joining the Church, he began to feel an intense burden to preach the gospel of sovereign grace. He was permitted to exercise his gift for six years before his ordination on April 16, 1967. Elder Smart pastored the Primitive Baptist Church at Cortez as well as Desert Hope Primitive Baptist Church in Aztec, New Mexico.

Shortly after his ordination, Elder Harris felt a burden to move back to East Texas, where he faithfully served Primitive Baptist churches in Waco, Henderson, Texas City, and Crockett. He was also blessed to travel among the Baptists of Louisiana, Oklahoma and Mississippi during this special time of his ministry. After only four years in East Texas, he was again impressed to move back to New Mexico and in 1971 moved his family to the north valley of Albuquerque. He pastored the church in Albuquerque until they ordained Elder Lonnie Wright and called him for pastor in 1974. In 1976, Elder Harris moved back to northwestern New Mexico, where his ministry had begun and continued to fill appointments at both Cortez and Bloomfield--the Aztec congregation moved their meeting place to Bloomfield. He pastored in Bloomfield from 1992 until moving back to Crockett, Texas (the home place) in November 1994.

Elder Harris was called to be pastor of the Primitive Baptist Church at Weches, Texas in 1996 and labored in this capacity until his death on October 28, 1998. During the final years of his ministry, he was blessed to travel among the Baptists of Georgia, Alabama and Arizona for which he was thankful. He loved the old church and the old gospel story of salvation by the sovereign grace of God alone. He sought to be a faithful servant to "his God in his generation."

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### **ELDER OSCAR HARRIS**

SUBMITTED BY HIS SON MILES S. HARRIS: Elder Oscar A. Harris was born in Floyd County, Virginia on Jan. 2, 1913, the son of Jethro S. and Ella Moore Harris and the grandson of Elder Asa Harris and Lucy Manning Harris. He married Linda Bell Surratt May 28, 1936. They joined Indian Creek Church the 3rd weekend in August 1946 and were baptized by his father, Elder Jethro Harris the 3rd Sunday in September 1946.



Oscar Harris was granted liberty to speak at his home church the 3rd weekend in March 1948, licensed the 3rd weekend in July 1949, and ordained Saturday before the 3rd Sunday in Sept. 1950. In the spring of 1956 he was blessed to baptize all 5 of his children. He served several churches in the New River District Primitive Baptist Association, and was moderator of the association several years. I can remember when he was in 5 services the 3rd weekend of each month at: Jacks Creek on Sat. afternoon, Indian Creek that night, Indian Creek on Sunday Morning, Jacks Creek that afternoon, and at Mount Olive in Roanoke on Sunday night. Today (Feb. 2000), he is the Pastor at Jacks Creek Church and New River Church.

Elder Harris worked as a saw miller, merchant, farmer and builder, and after retirement he built Grandfather Clocks and has them in several homes, mainly in the southeastern states.

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### ELDER RALPH E. HARRIS

Elder Ralph Edward Harris was born August 24, 1938 in Washington County, Florida, the middle son of Elder Horace Edward and Lela Wells Harris. He united with Bethel Church near Bonifay, Florida, on April 19, 1959 and was baptized the following month, May 3rd, by his father in Holmes Creek at Vernon, Florida.



Elder Harris began speaking in the church from the floor when he was 21. The first time he was called on to speak in the name of the Lord was on Dec. 13, 1959 at Beulah Church near Enterprise, Alabama. He was liberated on Oct. 1, 1960 and ordained April 1, 1961. He was married to Melba Jones on Dec. 24, 1961, and baptized her into Bethel Church on April 1, 1962.

Elder Harris has served several churches in some capacity over the course of his ministry. These include New Mt. Zion, near Samson, Alabama; Enterprise, in Enterprise, Alabama; Antioch, near Texasville, Alabama; El Bethel, in Tampa, Florida; Pleasant Hill, in Graceville, Florida; Harmony near Barwick, Georgia; and Corinth, and New Home, both near Red Level, Alabama.

In 1976 Elder Harris was asked by the Board of Trustees of the *Advocate and Messenger* to assume the editorship of that publication, which is a Virginia-based Primitive Baptist periodical dating back to January, 1854. He has served in that position up to the present time.

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### ELDER RICE HARRIS

Elder Rice Harris was born in Adams County, Illinois in 1844. He united with Bear Creek Church in 1860. He soon moved to Kansas, where he lived until 1870. While there he helped organize several churches of the Primitive Baptist order and preached for them.



In 1870, he returned to Illinois and settled near old Bethel Church, where he held membership for fifty years. His membership was with this church until the church disbanded in 1912. He then united with Smyrna Church at Bentley, where he remained until 1920, when he moved to Missouri, where he remained until his death.

He preached much among the churches of Salem Association and was held to be very able in council. His death occurred in Hannibal, Missouri in 1933.

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### ELDER WILLIAM FRANK HARRIS

Elder Harris was born in Hancock County, Illinois, August 3, 1864, and died November 3, 1901. He joined Rock Creek Church near Ferris in 1892, and was ordained to the ministry there in 1894. He served Rock Creek Church as pastor from the date of his ordination until his death. At the time of his death, he was also serving as State Senator for his district of Illinois. He was considered a young minister of great promise by the brethren of Salem Association.

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### ELDER ALDEN LYTON HARRISON

WRITTEN BY ELDER C.W. MILLER: Elder Harrison was born April 3, 1872, died at 5:30 P. M. Friday, Feb. 9, 1951 at his home in Front Royal, VA.



Elder Harrison was the son of the late Isaac and Sabra Emily (Allsbrook) Harrison, and the youngest of fourteen children. He was a Primitive Baptist Preacher for 54 Years. He received a hope at an early age and was baptized by the late Elder Newsome H. Harrison, his brother in the flesh, and joined Morattock Church, NC in Jan. 1894. He was licensed to preach in March 1897 and ordained an Elder in May 1900 by Elders N. H. Harrison and M. T. Lawrence, his father-in-law.

On Dec. 21, 1898 Elder Harrison married Miss Hattie P. Lawrence, great-granddaughter of that old soldier in Israel, Elder Joshua Lawrence, who flourished among our people from about 1800 to 1843, the year of his death.

Elder Harrison's life work as a gospel minister—and he did nothing else—was unusual. He resigned the care of four churches in North Carolina in 1911 to become pastor of churches in Virginia. He immediately accepted the care of Battle Run and Browntown Churches, and later Bentonville and Happy Creek (Front Royal) and in 1921 accepted the care of Thumb Run. He served all these except Browntown until his health failed in 1945. He served as Moderator of Kettocton Association for 21 years.

We had no other preacher like him. Others as good and as able perhaps; but none who gave his whole life, attention and energy to the true work of a gospel minister as this man did. He married, baptized, visited the sick; those troubled over their hope and fearing they were mistaken, the discouraged, the young and the old: he was their friend. In his years of sickness, he was not forgotten. Brethren and friends came from far and near to see him and minister to him of good cheer and of their substance.

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**ELDER THOMAS HARRISON**

According to Elder Arlie Larimer, Elder Harrison pastored the Original Mt. Moriah Primitive Baptist Church in Marshall County, Kentucky from 1880 until 1913.

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**ELDER THOMAS CLIFTON HART**



I was born October 14, 1931 in Marshall County, Alabama. I was the third of four children born to Ralph and Lucille Triplett Hart.

I attended grade school at White Oak School, about three miles from my home. When I was eight years old, the annual revival was going on at White Oak Missionary Baptist Church. I don't recall much about the singing but when the preacher begin preaching it seemed he was talking to me. I could not stop the tears from coming. I begin attending Sunday school each Sunday and preaching was on second and fourth Sundays. Later I was made treasurer of the Sunday school.

In the August meeting of 1948, I went forward for membership and I was received for baptism. I was asked to give an experience of Grace. I told the experience of the morning when school was let out when I was eight years old and how I was saved. The church rejoiced with me.

I made my first effort in the stand in September of 1948 at White Oak. My text was from I Cor. 9:16. I was licensed to preach by White Oak Baptist Church on June 25, 1950 when I was 18 years old. That year, I left home to Nashville, TN where my sister was going to Business College. One Sunday, we went to North Edgefield Baptist Church.



I later moved my membership there. They placed me in a mission where I tried to preach for several months. I was ordained on March 18, 1951.

I first heard Elder Lasserre Bradley in April 1959. I began listening to his program every Sunday night and eventually wrote him a letter in May. I told him in my letter that the singing warmed my heart, but as far as the gospel they preach and we preach, it was as far as the east is from the west.

Later in May I was told that a long lanky fellow with an Ohio license plate was looking for me. A fellow church member had taken him to see the Olmstead meeting house. I told Brother Bradley that if I believed what he believed, I wouldn't have any zeal to preach. Brother Bradley said, "I once preached what you now preach and I have a greater zeal now to preach than I did then."

Brother Bradley said he believed our meeting was in the providence of God. He asked me to go with him to Axton, Virginia, as he couldn't do all that driving by himself. He was headed to Greenfield, Tennessee and would be back to hear me preach and pick me up on Sunday. As I thought of Brother Bradley hearing me preach, I felt closed up as though I had no light on the scripture. When he arrived I asked him to speak for us that night. He preached from II Samuel, Chapter 9 on salvation by grace.

I traveled with him for a week. After that trip, I preached at Olmstead until the first Sunday in September 1959. I began searching for a Primitive Baptist church to attend. The only directory that was available at that time was published by Elder W. J. Berry. I found Bethel Primitive Baptist Church listed in the Directory. I started attending and was baptized at Bethel Church on the third Sunday in September 1959 by Elder Verne Jackson. Elder Jackson had the spirit of evangelism forty years ago. He was indeed a man of God with a vision to see the fields white unto harvest.

Later, I moved to Dawson Springs, KY and preached in the churches of Western Kentucky. Elder J. D. Shane had been preaching there over fifty years. I was called to serve Providence. Elder Shane can be called my father in the ministry. He had a deep love for truth and discernment of people.

In October 1960, Brother Bradley was preaching at Rocky Mount Church. Service was over for that night and everyone was leaving. I saw three women talking--they were sister Couch, Sister Hall, and Joyce Hall. Sister Couch asked if I had met Sister Hall and her daughter. After they had left, Sister Couch said, "That is the girl I have picked out for Brother Bradley." I asked her whom she had picked for me. She said, "I thought you were married." But after a pause she said, "I haven't told him yet." I said, "Well don't."

Joyce Hall and I were married on May 2, 1961

The last forty years I have lived among the Primitive Baptist Churches. I have served churches in Kentucky, Tennessee and Alabama. The preachers, deacons and church member who have been very encouraging to me are many. The first preachers I met with were Elders J.D Shane, Elder Russell and Eddie Beshear.

In Tennessee, I met Elders Avery Land and David Graves. These two brothers were full of God's love as can be. I met Elders Charles Sandage and Raymond Cagle at the Mud Creek Association at Scottsboro, Alabama in 1960. They too have been a support through the last forty years. I was blessed to have many hours of conversation with Elder H. P. Copeland of Arab, Alabama, and Elder J. E. Johnson of Sardis, Alabama, who was an equal to the all the above.

NOTE: Elder Hart passed away in September 2006.

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**ELDER TOMMY HART**



I was blessed to be born into a loving home June 28, 1940 with parents who were anxious to be in church and to live Christian lives.

At some nine years of age, I had gone to the pasture to bring the cows home for milking as was my daily chore for the afternoon. This particular day as I was walking along quite some distance from the house, a voice (audible or in mind I cannot tell) came to me telling me that God loved me and that He gave His son for me, and that He had a work for me to do.

I remember crying and praying aloud. I have always been strengthened and motivated by the experience. Upon my return to the barn with the cows, my mother asked what was going on in the pasture, as from the house she could hear me crying out.

I felt a burden to join the church and be baptized. As I observed the brethren, I kept a great concern about my worthiness and wondered what would happen if they felt the same way. Finally, the second Sunday in June 1956 at age fifteen, I felt I had to submit myself to the church, and much to my joy, they accepted me for baptism. Elder Gilbert Dalton baptized me into the Mountain View Church at Brownwood, Texas, which was my home church for some years.

At age eighteen, I began to exercise publicly and was later licensed by the church. I was ordained Sunday, October 13, 1963 at Brownwood, Texas at age twenty-three.

I was elected moderator of Old Harmony Association at Lamkin, Texas in 1968 and served through the 1978 session. I was elected Editor and Publisher of *The Baptist Trumpet* in 1973 following Elder Troy Corley, as his health began to fail. I served in that position until 1982 when we discontinued the publication.

Through the years I have served the following churches (some have run concurrently): Lebanon Church—Lawn, Texas; First Primitive Baptist—Abilene, Texas; Bethlehem Church—Munday, Texas; Mountain View Church—Brownwood, Texas; Bethany Church—Stephenville, Texas; Fairview Church—San Angelo, Texas; Spring Grove Church—Houston, Texas; Dallas Fireside Church—Dallas, Texas.

Currently, I am serving Providence Church—Corsicana, Texas and Lebanon Church—Cross Plains, Texas.

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#### **ELDER GUS HARTER**



I was born in Orlando, Florida, January 24, 1939, and reared in Winter Garden, a small town dominated by citrus farming. I was the last child born in my immediate family. My father, Bernard Paul Harter, was a physician in Orange County for over 35 years. He was of conservative German stock. My mother, Ruby Condon Harter, was of Scotch-Irish heritage and possessed a gentle and loving spirit. God in His kind providence gave me parents who loved and cared for their children. My parents were members of the Episcopal Church. Both my brother Fritz and I were christened into this denomination at an early age. Our parents modeled a strong work ethic, good morals and a love of education. However, I was not privileged to be reared in the faith of the Primitive Baptists, or shown in my early years a view of our exalted, sovereign Savior.

For those not blessed to be trained in Zion it is often a long, hard road from Babylon to Jerusalem. At the age of 13, in the summer of 1952, I had my first memorable experience of grace. As I walked home from a local preaching service, the words of the sermon weighed on my heart. I felt myself to be a great sinner, deserving only the wrath of a holy God. Then, the wonderful thought came to my mind that Christ loved and died for sinners like me. Tears of joy filled my eyes and I was given the blessed experience of sins forgiven. I did not understand the theology of this experience, but I knew that I was a great sinner and my Lord was a great Savior.

My Christian witness was weak through my high school years. I graduated high school and began attending the University of Florida, where I planned to study as an engineer. After my first year of college our Lord by His providence brought into my life a beautiful Christian lady, Betty Jo Moch. We were married June 21, 1958.

After much consideration, we decided to change the direction of our lives. In order to establish a proper foundation for both my life and my marriage, I enrolled in Southeastern Bible College in Birmingham, Alabama.

During the last two years of college, I served a small Methodist Church in the country, about an hour's drive from campus. Each Sunday morning while in transit I would listen to the Baptist Bible Hour from Cincinnati, Ohio—the radio ministry of Elder Lasserre Bradley, Jr. In the fall of 1962, as my time at Asbury drew to an end, my wife and I visited Lexington Primitive Baptist Church on a Sunday evening, where Elder Bradley served as pastor.

That evening Elder Bradley chose as his text 2 Timothy 1:9: "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began." Brother Bradley preached the sovereign grace of God in salvation with delightful clarity and without apology. It was like stepping back in time. The a cappella music was melodious. I particularly loved the minor hymns. The preaching was powerful, apostolic and biblical; the membership was warm and inviting.

In December of 1965, I moved with my family back to Florida, hoping that we could serve the Primitive Baptists in our native state. We quickly grew to love all the Primitive Baptists throughout the region. Then, to my sorrow, much division and difficulty arose among the churches. In spite of these troubles, it was my joy to serve New Hope Church in my hometown of Winter Garden; El Bethel Church in Tampa; Providence Church in Cocoa; and Little Union Church in Lithia. My Lord gave me during these turbulent years a liberty in preaching above any that I have experienced before or since. Our congregations were filled with young couples and many children; baptisms were almost weekly events; I rejoiced to see my four oldest children unite with the church. The Lord also blessed us with the birth of our fifth child, Stephanie, in 1968. My memories of this time in my life are filled with warm, united, growing churches. Added to these blessings from God were a supportive wife and loving children; ours was a close family.

Again, I pleaded with the Lord to give me a direction for my life, and a place where I could serve. After visiting Bethany Church in Atlanta, Georgia, I felt confident that this would be my area of labor. Elder Elzie D. Speir, Sr. shared with me his vision for Atlanta. I can both see and hear this wise and kind servant of God as he transferred to me his burden for the cause in the Atlanta area. He said, "Many of our most able ministers have died and the best of our young gifts have moved away. We Primitive Baptists are at a crossroads, and we are bleeding from every pore. If the Lord is leading you in our area, please come. We need zealous gifts among us." In November of 1971 I moved to the Atlanta area, and that same month Bethany Church called me as pastor.

From the moment I understood the message of grace, it has been a burning fire shut up in my bones. I love to tell the story of the finished work of Jesus Christ. When the Lord opens new doors, I long to press through them and plow new ground.

Over the years I have attempted to plant churches in various cities in different states. Most of these efforts did not last. One excellent work was in Toccoa, Georgia, where Elder R. E. Cagle and I began working with a faithful few. Many others aided in the effort. Together we planted a wonderful and flourishing congregation, Faith Primitive Baptist Church. Another work began in 1993, when one of our ministers received a letter from a Baptist minister in the Philippines. Through the study of the Word of God, this man and several other Baptist ministers had embraced our doctrine and requested some of our men to come and examine them. They desired to be baptized, if they were found to be sound in the doctrine. Elders Jeff Harris and Norvel Mann immediately responded and found a fertile field of labor halfway around the world. Six months later, in July 1994, Elder Harris and I returned. Since that time, many of our men have traveled among our churches in the Philippines.

At this time, all of our children were married and our nest was empty. We were blessed with 21 grandchildren, but we missed the laughter and the love of little children in our home. We seriously considered adoption. From 1994 to 1998, we adopted nine children from four different families. The effort of molding these children into our family was monumental. The credit for this belongs to my wife, who gave a constant balance of love and discipline. The delight of

becoming parents again has brought new fulfillment and joy to our lives. These nine have all joined the church and love the message of grace. As of this writing, their ages range from four to seventeen. From oldest to youngest, their names are Beatriz, Samantha, Hope, Laura, Crystal, Jeremy, David, Helena and Joanna.

NOTE: Elder Harter resigned the care of Bethany Church in March 2000 and later moved to the Philippines where he continues to live and minister to the Lord's people in that land.

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#### **ELDER HERMAN HARTMAN**

Elder Herman H. Hartman, son of John and Mary Smith Hartman, born in Pickaway County, Ohio, July 12, 1881, departed this life February 2, 1962.

On September 28, 1904, he was united in marriage to Miss Maude Peters, to which union was born one.

He was active in civic affairs in the community in which he lived. He and his companion united with the Newark (Friendship) Church in May 1917. In August 1938, the church saw fit to ordain him to the full work of the gospel ministry. To this calling, he labored willingly, joyfully, serving churches as their pastor for ten years, and he was faithful to this work as long as his health permitted.

Elder Hartman was stricken with an affliction soon after the passing of his companion but remained in their home for five years, when he was compelled to leave. He went to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Phillips in Fredericktown and there remained for seven years until it was necessary for him to go to the nursing home. He never complained nor questioned the trials that came upon him. During his last days he was found singing: "Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, but trust Him for His grace. Behind a frowning providence, He hides a smiling face."

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#### **ELDER A. C. HARTSFIELD**

FROM A RESOLUTION OF RESPECT IN THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST: Elder Hartsfield died March 2, 1957. He was a devoted husband, father and a loyal friend and brother. He was faithful to the call as a minister, in which capacity he served for 18 years. He was ever ready to serve God's humble people in any way he could. He traveled far and near, in heat or cold, to feed the flock, comfort the bereaved and counsel the distressed. Elder Hartsfield was loved and respected by all who knew him.

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#### **ELDER GARY HARVEY**



I was born in Kokomo, Indiana on February 25, 1960. My parents are Richard and Jane Harvey. In Indiana, we attended Taylor's Creek Church. I joined when I was eight and was baptized by Elder Albert Pratt. When I was twelve, we moved to Dalark, Arkansas and joined Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church.

In 1987 my parents moved from Dalark to Siloam Springs, Arkansas and started attending Little Flock Church in Rogers, where Elder Don Farris was pastor. I date my ministry from June 4, 1988 when Elder Farris and one of the men of the church helped me move to Siloam Springs. I joined Little Flock and began to exercise immediately.

Shortly after I moved, I also met Elder Harold Stumbaugh, who tried to help me find a job in the Russellville area. He introduced me to Becky Fulmer; she took me around to the area schools to

apply for teaching positions. Although I didn't find a job there, I did find a wife. Becky and I were married on December 31 that same year by Elder Stumbaugh, her pastor.

After being ordained in 1991, I briefly pastored Zion's Rest Church in Bentonville, Arkansas and Fort Smith Church in Fort Smith. Both of these congregations were very good to Becky and me. We then moved to Russellville and joined Point Remove Church, where again I feel tremendously blessed to have Elder Stumbaugh as another father in the ministry. I am currently living in Russellville with my wife and two sons, and I attempt to pastor Shiloh Church in Conway, Arkansas.

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### ELDER WILLIAM A. HARVEY



WRITTEN BY HIS DAUGHTER, DOROTHY SHREWSBURY: Elder W. A. Harvey departed this life Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 1974 after being bedfast for almost a year.

Dad was born June 21, 1889 in Mercer County. He was the eldest child of the late John Henry and Susie Hill Harvey. First married to Bertha Craddock who preceded him in death, leaving behind six children.

He later married Gertrude Shaw who survives. To this union were born six children, all surviving. They are William A. (Bill) Harvey, Jr. of Beeson, Samantha Laxton of Baltimore, Md., Martha Goings of Spanishburg, Roerbertha Taylor of London, Kentucky, Dorothy Shrewsbury of Beeson, Wanda Faidley of Gardner Road, Princetoil. Also surviving are five brothers and one sister who are Laura Thompson of Princeton, Velda Harvey of Princeton,

Earlie and Arlie Harvey of Narrows, Va., Ray Harvey of Peterstown, W. Va., and Roy Harvey of Pearlsburg, Va.; 41 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren.

Dad professed a hope in Christ at about the age of 18 and soon after began preaching.

He pastored the Friendship Church for 18 years. Before that, he walked for miles through the country to take care of other churches. The weather never seemed too bad or the walk too long, because Dad hardly ever missed a Sunday being in church, until the last year of his life.

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### ELDER ENOCH JAMES HARVILLE

Elder E. J., as he was affectionately known, was born to William G. and Margaret Harville in Taylor County, Shady Grove Community, Florida on May 20, 1869. After growing up in Taylor County and serving one term on the Florida Legislature (1913) he left for Plant City, Hillsborough County, Florida where he continue to ply his occupation as a farmer. Before he left Taylor County he was ordained to the ministry in January 1903. He had been exercising since 1901. All this took place at Fellowship Church, which he joined on June 26, 1897.

During his ministry, he served several churches in North Florida as their pastor: Shiloh, Rock Ford, Fellowship, and Sharon Primitive Baptist Church. After his move to Hillsborough County, Brother Harville united with Mt. Enon Primitive Baptist Church in 1914 and during his later years he pastored the following congregations: Salem, Orange, Hebron, Little Union, Mt. Olive, Providence, Mt. Carmel, Corinth, and Empire Churches of the Mt. Enon Association.

Brother Harville was first married to Wiltha Wilson and after her passing he married Ila Hampton Bishop. He fathered three sons and six daughters.

While Brother was resting in his rocking chair on July 31, 1947, the Lord of Providence called him home to rest.

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## ELDER SYLVESTER HASSELL

FROM "ADVOCATE AND MESSENGER," SEPTEMBER 1928, BY ELDER R. H. PITTMAN: "**BROTHER HASSELL**



**IS DEAD!"** These sad words were first heard by me as they were whispered in my ear during the morning service at the Kettocton Association Sunday, August 19, 1928, and as the news spread many hearts were saddened and tears of sorrow shed. And upon reaching home Sunday night I found a telegram from Charles Hassell awaiting me, and regret very much that I could not attend the funeral services of this dear man of God. He was very near and dear to me. For thirty-five years, we have been very close friends, and during the last years of his life, we were closely and intimately connected. His editorial service on the staff of the *Advocate and Messenger* was a blessing to thousands and an inspiration to his co-workers with whom he was in perfect harmony. The writer was last with him in January in a meeting in which he labored for reconciliation of estranged brethren; and on July 16<sup>th</sup>—his last letter to me—he said "I would be glad to see you again." But no more shall we meet in this life. He has been called up higher; and heaven to me is a little dearer, because of his going.

Elder Sylvester Hassell, of Williamston, N. C.; minister, historian, teacher, was doubtless the best authority on church history in North Carolina, and possibly in this age. He stood among the foremost thinkers and writers of the United States. His ancestors came from England to North Carolina in the Eighteenth Century. His parents were Elder C. B. Hassell and his first wife, Mary Davis. He was born in Williamston, N. C., July 28, 1842, and died there August 18, 1928, having reached the ripe age of 86 years and 21 days. He was educated at the Williamston Academy and the University of North Carolina, taking a high stand at both, and graduating with honors. He was proficient in several languages, was principal of a school for young men in Wilson, N. C., and professor of languages in a northern college for some years. He published, in 1886, the Church History, the most complete work of its kind ever published by our people, and a monument more lasting than granite, to him and to his father, who began the work. In 1892 he became associate editor of the *Gospel Messenger*, and in 1896, its proprietor and managing editor, which position he retained nearly twenty years when the paper was sold to Elder Z. C. Hull, of Atlanta, Ga., from whom it was purchased by the writer in 1923, and all this time Elder Hassell has been on the editorial staff. He was twice married; first to Mary Isabella Yarrell, in 1869; and second to Francis Louisa Woodward, in 1876.

Of his religious experience he recently wrote: "At the early age of ten years I knew and felt that I was a sinner. When about twenty years of age, I thought, I had consumption; and I fled to the law for justification, but found only condemnation. I was then led to feel, while alone in my bedroom at my father's house, that Jesus bore my sins in His holy death on the cross. I wept bitterly over this impression, but I waited five months to be assured of the reality of a blessed change in my soul. I then went to Skewarkey Church near Williamston, related my experience, and was received into membership. I was baptized the next day, January 11, 1864, by my father, Elder C. B. Hassell, in Roanoke River, when the ground was covered with frozen snow, and the ice in the river was more than an inch thick. It was the happiest day of my life. I began speaking in public in December 1871, and was ordained in August 1874. \*\*\*\*\*I have served Shewarky, Jamesville, Hamilton, Great Swamp, and Coneto Churches, but now serve only Skewarkey Church. I feel myself to have been only a poor sinner, an unprofitable servant, saved only by Sovereign, free, electing grace, if saved at all."

Thus wrote this great man in the last editorial from his gifted pen. Truly, he was a Prince in Israel. As I am able to judge, it has not been my privilege to know one who bore more marks of real greatness. In manners, humble and retiring as a little child; in general information, he has been called "a walking encyclopedia;" in service, untiring and unselfish; in character, irreproachable and unstained; in deportment, gentle, kind and tender.

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### **ELDER ARTHUR LEE HATCHER**

WRITTEN BY HIS GRANDDAUGHTER, MARTHA BARRINGTON: Arthur Lee Hatcher was baptized by Elder Joel Marshall. My mother heard him preach when she was a little girl. He evidently was plagued with stuttering. But, as Granddaddy used to tell it, the Lord delivered him every time he got in the stand except twice. Once, he forgot to pray before he entered the stand and he was stuttering so bad that he had to call on a deacon to dismiss the services with prayer. The other time, he was mad at a brother in the church and the Lord withheld liberty until he made things right. On the occasion that my mama heard him, there was evidently a storm coming up and the leaves were moving so much you couldn't hear. Brother Joel raised his hands in the air and said "I believe in a God so powerful that He can calm these winds." Immediately, there was calm. He was a humble man but mightily used by God. The Association that my mother was a member of had over 1500 members when she was a girl. The meetings were held under a brush arbor. The churches wouldn't have held that big of a crowd. She was from Southern Virginia.

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### **ELDER W. C. HATTEN, JR.**

FROM THE HISTORY OF THE LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION, PUBLISHED IN 1988: I was born January 3, 1956 in West Monroe, Louisiana, where I was a member of the Missionary Church for many years. In 1978, I married and was exposed to the Primitive Baptist Church. In 1979, the Lord opened my eyes to what I felt to be the true sovereign Grace of God and I united with the Primitive Baptists that year. The Lord permitted me to grow in His grace and shortly afterward, I felt the calling to preach. I began to exercise those feelings and was ordained in November of 1981 to the full work of the ministry at Salem Church in Natchez, Mississippi, where I was a member. Shortly afterward, I moved my membership to New Prospect Church in Monroe, Louisiana, my home being in West Monroe, Louisiana.

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### **ELDER JOHN CLIFTON RICHARD HAWKINS**

SUBMITTED BY HIS FAMILY: Bro. Hawkins was born in 1899 and passed from this life in 1960. He joined Pilgrim Rest Church in the fall of 1935.

In May of 1937, Bro. Hawkins went to work for Exxon Refinery. His work name was "Preacher." He advanced to pipe fitter first class and pushed a gang of pipe fitters. When work was slow someone would say tell us something about the Good Book. Sometimes work would interfere and he had to finish the next day. On the 24th day of November 1938, his 38th birthday his last child was born, which made two sons and three daughters.



World War II came along. Military, he was too young for World War I and too old for World War II but served in the Sea Bee's.

He was liberated to exercise in May of 1945 his first public effort after liberation he said he was going to introduce and let Bro. Carroll do the preaching. He read his text and preached to 1:15 PM. One of the Brothers that worked with him said "Preacher" does this all the time at work.

He was ordained to the full work of ministry in May of 1947. The next week wealthy church at Normangee, Leon Co., Texas, gave him Third Sunday Appointment (this was his first appointment) in which he held until death. In May of 1948 he was called to serve Point Enterprise Church, Limestone Co, Texas. (This was his first pastoral care.) He pastored Pt. Enterprise Church, Mexia, Limestone Co., Texas, Pilgrim Rest Church, Baytown, Harris Co., Texas, Bayhaven Church, Texas City, Galveston Co, Texas, Mt. Avant, Henderson Co., Texas.

He was in the presbytery that constituted Mt. Zion Church, Teague, Freestone Co., Texas, Bayhaven Church, Texas City, Galveston Co., Texas, Grace Church, Houston, Harris Co., Texas, and Mt. Avant Henderson Co., Texas.

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**ELDER O. L. HAWKINS**

Elder Olney Lyndon Hawkins of Memphis, Tenn., was born Oct. 2, 1895, near Huntingdon, Tenn. He was raised in the Presbyterian Church. He married Dura Orr, whose family were Primitive Baptists, on May 25, 1918. Elder Hawkins was a veteran of World War I.



Vonnella Cayce.

The Hawkins' eventually moved to Memphis, where he worked for the U. S. Post Office delivering mail, from which employment he retired years later. Sometime during these years he and his wife joined another order of Baptists and were due to be baptized the following Sunday. During the week they both began to feel they should not go through with this baptism, so they called and cancelled the plans. They then started going to a Primitive Baptist Church in Memphis and joined under the ministry of Elder James Duncan, who was pastor of Morris Memorial Church at that time.

Elder Hawkins was ordained to the ministry in August 1942. He served churches in Tennessee and Mississippi for more than 40 years. His wife died in 1982 and Bro. Hawkins the following year, on March 22. He left two daughters, Elnora Pistotnik and

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**ELDER W. E. HAWKINS**



EXCERPTS FROM LETTER OF DAUGHTER OF ELDER W. E. HAWKINS: Dad was born October 2, 1893 and died on December 31, 1980. He was born and grew up in Chambers County, Alabama. He was ordained to preach at Emmaus Church, Chambers County, in 1924.

His first wife was Bernice Fuller--her father was a Primitive Baptist preacher. She died in 1922. They had two daughters, Grace and Alice.

He married Lydia Avery on December 26, 1926. The first church he pastored was Darien between Wadley and Roanoke. He was called to pastor Weehadkee Church at Rock Mills, Alabama, in 1933, and he and Mom transferred their membership to Weehadkee. He served there 34 years.

He also pastored Canaan, Zion's Rest, Mt. Pisgah, Concord, and others. He was clerk of the Beulah Association for many years. He worked as a farmer, painter, insurance salesman with Mutual Savings Insurance and as an agent with the Progressive Farmer magazine. He and Lydia had three children; Ruth, Lavelle, and Nora.

FROM "THE CHRISTIAN PATHWAY:" Elder W. E. Hawkins was born in Chambers County, Alabama on October 2, 1893 and departed this life on December 31, 1980, making his stay on earth 87 years in length. In 1928, he was married to Sister Lydia Avery.

Elder Hawkins joined the Church at Emmaus in Chambers County and was ordained while a member of this church in 1924. He served churches until he became unable to, due to having suffered a stroke. His ministry consisted of serving 14 churches in Eastern Alabama and Western Georgia. This included serving Wehadkee 34 years, Mt. Pisgah 28 years and Canaan 28 years. Other churches that he served were Tallapoosa, Emmaus and Little Mt. Carmel, as well as the remaining churches in the Beulah Primitive Baptist Association.

He served in the ordination of 10 ministers and 30 deacons. It was his privilege to baptize more than 30 members into the Primitive Baptist Church. For several years he was co-editor of the *Christian Pathway*.



Elder Hawkins was faithful in his service to the Lord and at one time the only minister in the Beulah Association.

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**ELDER ROBERT F. HAYNES**

Elder Haynes held membership in Middle Creek Church and was at one time clerk of the church. He was liberated by that church in 1840, and was ordained to the ministry in 1844. He was granted a letter the same year, and moved to northern Illinois, where he labored for over fifty years in the Sandy Creek Association.

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**ELDER JACK HAYS**

WRITTEN BY ELDER NORMAN JONES: Elder Hays of Wheeler Texas was born on Feb 9, 1913 in Oklahoma to Wesley and Lilly Witt Hays. He moved to Wheeler County Texas in 1929. He married Doris Aderholt in 1933 at Mobeetie Texas. He passed away on September 28, 2000.

Brother Jack served Churches in the Texas Panhandle and Western Oklahoma. I know that he served the Churches at Wheeler, Wellington, and Borger Texas, also Erick, and Snyder, Oklahoma.

He was a faithful servant as long as health permitted. Brother Jack was very dear to me, since it was while he was preaching that I first understood the doctrines of election, predestination, and salvation alone by God's grace. When I first began to attempt to preach Brother Jack was there again to encourage me.

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**ELDER WALTER J. HEARD**

This prominent minister of Georgia was also well known and beloved by many Baptists in Northern Virginia and Maryland. He was instantly killed in an automobile wreck near Titusville, Florida, on the morning of Dec. 22nd, Elders Monsees and Swain conducted the funeral services at his home church--Sardis, near Macon, Christmas eve, where was gathered the largest number of sorrowing friends possibly ever seen at this old historic church.

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**ELDER DOUGLAS WILSON HEARE**

Elder Heare of Romney, West Virginia was born August 19, 1912



ELDER HEARE WRITES: I was the son of Robert Newton and Ella May (Shanks) Heare. Brother Robert was already a church member and then mother joined later at Bethel Primitive Baptist Church, Kirby, West Virginia. Of the nine children, two sons were baptized the same day. I was fifteen years and my brother seventeen; Elder J.W. Smoot, pastor of Bethel Church performed the baptism in 1925. I remember the day, as it was one of the happiest days of my life. These joys I remember seventy-five years later. It was not until the summer of 1955 that Elder Charles W. Alderton called upon to speak the first time.

To the union of Douglas and Virginia (Pepper) Heare in December 28, 1935, four children were born. We as a family have been blessed beyond measure.

A NOTE FROM HIS SON-IN-LAW, ELDER ELVA LOWERY: This family has many remarkable traits. This family is a God-fearing family. I married one of the daughters and I truthfully admire the love for one another.

The years have come and gone and each year has taken its toll. They aren't physically able to entertain company in their home, provide food for all day meetings, travel as they once did and remember names and places as before, but on a country hillside near Romney, West Virginia, resides two soldiers and faithful servants of God. Sister Virginia had a serious stroke and has almost completely recovered and Elder Douglas has difficulty with short memory. There is no complaining of hurts and afflictions, but praise to God for the many blessings of life in past years and trusting in for every need of future life.

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**ELDER GORDON T. HEARON**

FROM AN OBITUARY IN "PRIMITIVE MONITOR:" Elder Hearon died January 18, 1967, at his home in Clay, Ky. He was born March 28, 1908, and was married September 19, 1930 to Neva Ford Playl. He was baptized and united with the Primitive Baptist church at Providence, Ky., in 1938, and was ordained to the ministry in November 1943. He was serving as pastor of the Providence Church at his death, of Mt. Moriah Church for eight years previously, and had served the church in Evansville, Ind. At his death he was also pastor of New Hope Church in Marshall Co., which he had served since October 1957. During his ministry he baptized 92, conducted 174 funerals and performed 29 marriage ceremonies.

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**ELDER G. W. HEATH**

FROM "A HISTORY OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS OF ALABAMA, MT. ZION ASSOCIATION" BY ELDER E. B. WATTS: G. W. Heath joined New Hope Church in 1915. He was ordained in the Hillabee Association sometime earlier than this. Although he remained a member of New Hope Church until he died in 1932, we find no record that Elder Heath ever pastored a church.

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**ELDER IRVIN G. HEAVEN**



Elder Heaven was born on August 18, 1923 in Atlanta Georgia. He was baptized (sprinkled) when a he was a young two-week old baby in the Episcopal Church.

The family moved to Birmingham in 1940. In the year of 1946 he met and married Mildred Watts. In 1952 he joined Mt. Vernon Primitive Church and was baptized by Elder E. B. Watts. He later moved to Cullman, Alabama and joined Mt. Olive Church where he was ordained June 13, 1964, where he is still a member.

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**ELDER JOE C. HELMS**

Elder Helms was born on September 15, 1928 in Marshville, NC. His parents were Thanny and Effie Helms. Both of them were members of Lawyer Springs Primitive Baptist Church. A drunk driver hit Thanny, a farmer, when Elder Helms was 5 years old. Thanny was hospitalized for nearly a year, as his leg became infected and had to be removed. His son, Joe, had to learn to plow and take on the responsibilities of being a man at a very young age. Thanny's hospitalization during the depression caused the Helms family to experience poverty, with Elder Helms often wearing his mother's shoes to school.

Elder Helms graduated from high school in Marshville, then attended and graduated from NC State University. After graduating from NC State, he taught vocational agriculture for five years. During this time, he met and married Lou Outen on May 28, 1952.

In July 1952 Elder Helms was drafted into the United States Army. While serving at Fort Lee, in Petersburg, VA, Joe and Lou began to hunger to hear the God of Power preached. One weekday, they started driving in the Petersburg area looking for a Primitive Baptist Church. They pulled up into the driveway of the house of a stranger, who they saw outside working. Joe inquired of the stranger if he had ever heard of any Primitive Baptist churches in that area. The stranger said, "Let me get my wife." The wife informed Joe and Lou that they were having a church meeting in their home that night. They met their "parents away from home" at that time, Deacon and Sister, Dr. D.L. Kaufmann, who took them to the churches in that area. During that time, Elder Helms became impressed to join the church, and promised the Lord that if He would allow him to return to Lawyers Springs, he would join the church on his next visit.



On the first Sunday in August 1953, after the communion service, Elder Helms asked for a home in Lawyers Springs Church. It was a day of rejoicing, for after he asked for a home, his wife and four others offered themselves to the church. Elder V.V. Williard baptized Elder Helms the first weekend in September. Elder C.M. Mills was at the baptizing, and commented, "Today, we have baptized a Primitive Baptist preacher."

In 1956, Elder Helms was ordained as a deacon at Lawyers Springs, but Elder Helms had another burden, and the members of the church soon began to inquire of him if he felt the Lord had called him into the ministry. In October 1957, as a licentiate, Elder Helms preached in a home in Hamlet, NC. Members were there from New Hope Church in Columbia, SC, and they invited him to come preach to them. He went in January 1958. New Hope called for Elder Helms ordination in September 1959, and he was ordained in November 1959. For several years Elder Helms has also pastored 3 other churches in the Bear Creek Association. They are Pleasant Grove where he has served since 1968, Lawyer Springs, since 1975, and Mountain Creek since 1982.

At the time of this writing, he is 71 years old and is blessed to pastor three churches. His greatest joy is in serving the Lord's people.

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**ELDER W. E. HEMBREE**

Elder W. E. Hembree of Georgia joined the Church April 1904; died February 17, 1958. He remained a faithful member of Corinth Primitive Baptist Church fifty-four years.

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**ELDER A. H. HENDERSON**

FROM "THE CHRISTIAN PATHWAY:" Elder Henderson was born May 11, 1878, to Elder John Elbert Washington Henderson and Louisiana Murphy Henderson in or near Camp Hill, Tallapoosa County, Alabama. He passed from this life on November 30, 1955. His first marriage came about the year 1901 to Jeffie Gertrude Faulkner. To this union two children were born. After the death of his first wife in September 1924, Elder Henderson was married again about the year 1926 to Sarah Amarintha Barron, but no children were born to them.

Elder Henderson and his wife moved into this section in 1952. They brought their church letters and united with Hopewell Church on March 22, 1953.

He stated that he was ordained in 1916. His father was the editor and publisher at one time of a monthly religious periodical known as *The Primitive Pathway*, and later he became the associate editor of *The Gospel Messenger*. Elder Henderson was never known in all of his life to be involved in any church controversies, but would even stay at home if necessary to stay out of such unbecoming things.

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**ELDER J. E. W. HENDERSON**

In sacred memory of our beloved Brother, Elder J. E. W. Henderson, who so faithfully and earnestly contended for the glorious principles of the doctrine of God, our Savior; patiently bearing the cross of persecution and afflictions, despising the shame, not willing at any time to compromise with error. His life was an open book, known and read of all men, and while in the pleasure and providence of God, he hath seen fit to call him from the cares of this life, we are deeply impressed, while convened in union meeting at Mt. Zion, Banks, Alabama, that the loss of such a faithful servant of the Lord is keenly felt.

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**ELDER V. R. HENDERSON**

WRITTEN BY HIS DAUGHTER, PEGGY MAXFIELD: V. R. Henderson was born on September 20, 1919, in Groesbeck, Texas to John S. and Willie Mae Davis Henderson. The family moved to Paducah, in Cottle County. There he met and married Martha Jane Evans on April 18, 1939, in Paducah, there were three children born to them, Mickey, Lucricia, and Peggy. He was baptized into the Missionary Baptist church as a young man. He later joined the Primitive Baptist church after he married Martha Evans, who was raised in the church. He served in armed forces from June 14, 1945 until December 7, 1945, where he was given an honorable discharge because of his migraine headaches.

He was ordained by the Fairview church at Paducah, Texas in Cottle County, the 12th day of April 1964, which he served faithfully until his death on December 8, 1981. I believe at the time of his death he was pastor at Wellington, Hamlin, TX, and Eric, OK



He was truly picked by God--he was such a good man and man of great faith. I remember as my sister lay dying he was holding her hand and praying and when she was gone, he just said there now, you rest in the hands of Jesus and we will see you again one day in our Father's heavenly home that awaits us. He never wavered in his belief; it remained strong through all things. He was in bad health most of his life. I remember asking him one day why he had to suffer so being such a good man and following God's teachings like he did and he said to me, "Peggy, we all have a cross to bear. This is my cross and I bear it proudly, because through my suffering I am more able to help those who are also suffering." He found sunshine in everything. He never complained about his afflictions and always only had good things to say about others.

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**ELDER EUGENE WILLIAM HENDRICKS**

Elder Hendricks was born on November 10, 1903 to George Washington and Mary Elizabeth Hendricks and passed from this life on May 16, 1979. He was ordained on June 3, 1950 at the Bethlehem Church in Oklahoma City.



On July 14, 1929, he married the former Martha Christine West. To this union 2 children were born: Martha and Eugene, Jr.

Elder Hendricks worked as a "ruff neck" in the oil fields of Oklahoma, rising to an executive position. He pastored churches in Oklahoma City, Elmore City, Rockie and Earlboro all in the State of Oklahoma.

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### **ELDER MADISON HENDRICKS**

FROM "A HISTORY OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS OF ALABAMA, MT. ZION ASSOCIATION" BY ELDER E. B. WATTS: Holcombe first mentions Elder Hendricks as being connected with Mount Tabor Church in 1832. In 1840, he was called to pastor Siloam Church and may have been a member there. Elder Bazel Roden was co-pastor with him.

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### **ELDER JOHN HENRY**

FROM "A HISTORY OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS OF ALABAMA, MT. ZION ASSOCIATION" BY ELDER E. B. WATTS: Elder Henry is first mentioned by Hosea Holcombe as a licentiate when the Cahaba Association was organized in 1818. He was ordained in 1819. He was likely a member of Enon, one of the churches that was dismissed from the Cahaba Association to form the Mount Zion. He helped ordain George Roberts at Mount Moriah in 1825, and was in the organization of Mount Joy Church in 1826.

Hosea Holcombe, in his history of the Alabama Baptists, states that Elder Henry came from Tennessee and was a member of Canaan Church when it was organized in 1818, and was ordained there in 1819. He later joined Enon Church.

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### **ELDER LESLIE HENRY**

CONDENSED FROM AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY IN THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST IN 1944: Elder Henry was born April 30, 1909, to Manuel and Carrie Henry, who then lived in DeKalb County, Missouri. He was married to Miss Wilma Troxel on May 30, 1934, by Elder W. S. Craig. They began attending Primitive Baptist services and on the second Sunday in October 1934, following a discourse by Elder A. G. Johnson of Greeley, Colo., he and his wife offered themselves to the church for membership and were baptized that afternoon, along with sister Lucille Jackson, by Elder Craig.

After his baptism, the desire to tell God's little children about Jesus and His shed blood grew until in the following June when Bro. Henry unburdened his mind by telling Elder Ira M. Fry of Colorado Springs, Colo., some of his feelings. That night, just before meeting, he saw Elder Fry whispering to Elder Craig, who then came back to where Bro. Henry was and asked him to open meeting. He did the best he could, and continued to exercise his gift publicly. He was ordained the second Saturday in June 1937 by a presbytery formed of Elders W. S. Craig, C. L. Crouse and Ira M. Fry and Deacon Preston Troxel.

Elder Henry has served churches in Nebraska, Iowa and Idaho.

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### **ELDER JAMES L. HENTHORN**



WRITTEN BY HIS SON-IN-LAW, ELDER TRAVIS BROWN: Elder James Leonard Henthorn was born May 29, 1925 at Frost, Navarro County, Texas to George Cleveland and Dora Lee (Horn) Henthorn, the last boy of ten children. His father, George, served as church clerk for many years, until his death, of the Ebenezer Primitive Baptist Church in Hubbard, Texas. Bro. James and four of his sisters, by a gracious action of the Spirit upon their hearts, became members of the Ebenezer Church. He was baptized in March of 1958 by Elder Isaac W. Thornton. Eld. Henthorn has said many times "I don't remember the first time I loved the Lord. If I ever loved the Lord, I've loved Him all my life."

He and Evelyn Recie Brown were married September 2, 1948 in Hillsboro, Hill County, Texas and set up house in Itasca, Texas where they have remained all their married life. To this union was given one daughter, Sylvia Ann. Eld. Henthorn began going to a church of another order and faith, and eventually joined, knowing this was not where the truth was preached. When his daughter joined the same church, he realized he was rearing his daughter in the wrong church, which deeply troubled his heart and mind. This bore on him until, one night, he promised the Lord that if He would let him get to the true church again, the next time he went, he would join. This, the Lord allowed him to do the next Sunday. He joined the Ebenezer Church one Sunday, was baptized the next, and was requested to take part from the pulpit the next Sunday. His prayer being mercifully answered, he reared his daughter in the Primitive Baptist Church. He always prayed that his daughter would marry a Primitive Baptist boy, and the boy she married eventually became a Primitive Baptist minister. After that, upon relating this occasion to people, he would sometimes admonish them to "be careful what you pray for."

After being baptized, he regularly exercised from the pulpit until he was ordained to the ministry nine years later, April 30, 1967. Those in the presbytery were Elders Isaac W. Thornton, Len Dalton, William (Buck) Preslar, Gerald Stanford, Luther Webb and J. A. Webb. Eld. Henthorn has served four churches through the years of his ministry. He was pastor for one year of the Northside Church. He served the Bethel Church at McMahan, Texas; Little Flock Church at Temple, Texas as their assistant pastor for a total of ten years; and as pastor of Ebenezer Church at Hubbard, Texas for approximately twenty-five years.

If the church has ever had a peacemaker in its midst, Eld. Henthorn is certainly one. It has been seen by witnesses of Eld. Henthorn smothering a potentially volatile situation in the church by his kind, wise and loving manner, as if removing the oxygen supply from the fiery darts of the wicked one, in such a way, as many did not even realize what had happened. We can thank God for such men in our midst. As Eld. Henthorn has never desired to bring attention upon himself, only to the Lord, this biography has been written and submitted by his son-in-law. A more humble man I have never known.

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#### **ELDER J. W. HERRIAGE**

FROM "MANY GREAT MEN" BY ELDER AFTON RICHARDS: Brother Herriage had the physical appearance of a country-farmer that belied the shrewd mind he possessed. I heard my grandfather say many times if people were out trying to kill preachers by their looks, Jim Herriage would die of old age.

Also, I heard him admit he had very little formal education. The fact he said when he first had the great urge to preach, he could not read, and his wife had to read the Bible for him. But, in spite of all this, he became one of the best-loved and most respected Primitive Baptist ministers of the twentieth century.

He grew up in the age when debates were very common, and engaged in many such endeavors, and had the reputation of being one of the very best at this. When a very young boy, I heard him in two debates. Of course, I don't remember anything he said, but I do remember when he took to the pulpit in such encounters he thinned out the adversaries very quickly with his great knowledge of the truth, and his sharp wit.

I don't know how he would have fared in our present day of hustle and bustle and hurry, but he was a man that was not excitable, and never got in a hurry. Many times he took to the pulpit, announced his subject, and did not finish for two hours, and the best I can remember, people listened to him almost spellbound through it all. I remember as a nine or 10 year-old boy I got pretty hungry before he finished, but it did not get boring.

In 1927, when Primitive Baptists of Texas and Oklahoma had the peace meeting in Dallas, wherein so many good people who had previously been separated, came together, the ministers in the meeting had the respect for Brother Herriage of his counsel and wisdom they made him moderator of the meeting.

NOTE: Elder Herriage passed from this life in 1932.

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**ELDER J. J. HERRING**

FROM "A HISTORY OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS OF ALABAMA, MT. ZION ASSOCIATION" BY ELDER E. B. WATTS: Elder J. J. Herring was born December 3, 1854, and died January 24, 1947. As far as we know, Elder Herring was a member of Salem Church from the time he joined until his death.

Elder Herring was licensed in 1893 and ordained in 1894 or 1895. From 1895 to 1914, Elder Herring pastored, at one time or another, most of the churches in the first district of the Mount Zion Association, usually as co-pastor.

In 1915, Elder Herring's name was dropped from the list of ordained Elders. He is not mentioned again until 1931 when he is listed again and also as co-pastor at Siloam. In 1932, he was co-pastor at Salem where he continued until 1942, at the age of 88 years.

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**ELDER TOMMY HESTER**

FROM "GOSPEL APPEAL:" Elder Hester was born April 12, 1931, in McKenzie, Al. to Protor Hester and Viola Nail Hester, who were members of the Primitive Baptist church for many years. He passed from the scenes of this life on July 17, 1987. Elder Tommy united with Peace River Church at an early age. He was ordained a deacon August 23, 1959. Later years he moved his membership to Sharon Primitive Baptist Church where he was ordained to the ministry June 7, 1981. He served Sharon Church for two years.

Tommy and his wife, Jean, came to Hebron Church asking if they could have a home with them; he felt that he wanted to come home where he remembered being raised to love the old church. Hebron welcomed them with open arms and a bond of love grew between Elder Tommy and the church that we will all remember and cherish. He was called to serve Hebron Church for about three years. He was a faithful pastor. Our young people and little children loved him. On September 12, 1974, he married Jean Jordan, who survives him. His wife was a true and faithful companion, always standing by him.

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**ELDER CARL HEWATT**

Elder Hewatt was born Oct. 7, 1906, died July 15, 1989. He joined Friendship Primitive Baptist Church on September 3, 1950. He was baptized Oct. 2, 1950 by Elder M.M. Morton. Brother Hewatt was ordained to the ministry June 1956. He remained a faithful member at Friendship Church until death.

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**ELDER ISAAC HEWITT**

Isaac Hewitt was born in Bragg Hollow, Delaware County, New York in 1810. He was ordained an elder in 1840 and preached widely throughout the Lexington Association until his death in 1892. He preached as far west as Illinois, travelling by foot, horseback, train and stagecoach and staying with Old Baptist brethren along the way. In the course of his ministry, he is reported to have performed some 400 marriages and conducted a similar number of funerals.

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**ELDER R. E. HIBBS**

Elder Hibbs was born on December 23, 1924. He recalls his first conviction of sin and experience of God's healing grace in his early teen years and united with the Salem Church in Madisonville, Kentucky in October of 1960. He first

felt a calling to preach about twenty years before his ordination in January of 1969, with Elder J. D. Shain officiating. He is married with one daughter and states that he has seen “a good number of God’s people being baptized.”

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**ELDER W. H. HICKMAN**

FROM “PRIMITIVE MONITOR:” The subject of this sketch, son of Albert and Amanda Helen Hickman, was born at Dunkirk, Indiana, March 28 1843, departed this life October 28, 1919, at his home in Newark, Ohio. In early manhood, he attended college at Muncie, Indiana, expecting to enter the field of law, but God called him to preach his word. He was ordained to the work of the ministry in the Primitive Baptist Church at the age of 31 years. In June 1871, he was married to Martha Kirkpatrick, and to this union, one daughter was born who died in infancy, the mother passing away soon after. In 1876 he married Miss Rosetta Wallace of Dunkirk, and to them were born five children, three daughters, Myrtle, Leona, and Nellie, and two sons, Fred Roland and Albert. In 1894, Elder Hickman and Miss Emma Dollison of Logan, Ohio, were married.

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**ELDER DAVID YANCY HICKS, SR.**



WRITTEN BY SISTER BETTY ANN GRANT DENTON: Elder Hicks was born on September 26, 1880 and passed from this life on April 21, 1953. He was married to the former Virginia Pearl Wright. To this union was born 2 children: David Yancy Hicks, Jr., MD and Wright Grant Hicks, MD.

Elder Hicks was pastor of Salem, Friendship, and Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Churches located near Macon, Bibb County, Georgia. He was moderator of the Echeconne Association with perfect attendance for 30 years.

He was a wonderful pastor of Bethlehem Church as long as I lived in Macon. He baptized me the fourth Sunday in August 1939.

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**ELDER G. E. HIGDON**

Elder Higdon was born on June 12, 1850 at Wapello County, Iowa and passed from this life on October 10, 1929. He united with the Marion Church in Knoxville, MO in April 1886. He was ordained by Arion Church in August 1893. He served the New Hope Church in Richmond, MO; Marion Church in Knoxville, MO; Pleasant Grove Church in Independence, MO; and Mt. Zion Church in Clay County, Mo.

He moved from Iowa to Dekalb County, MO in 1873 and then to Ray County, MO in March 1886. He served as moderator of the Fishing River Association from 1920-1928.

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**ELDER JESS B. HIGGINS**



I was born November 6, 1934 to J. Edgar & Fannie V. Higgins of the Baywood Community Grayson County, VA.

I joined the Air Force in November 1953 and was honorably discharged in October 1957. During this time, I was married to Jenetta McKenzie in May 1955. We had two children Pamela & Eric. About 1963 Pamela asked me why we did not go to church like other people and for reasons best known to God, this was like a sword to my heart. We



began to go to church at different places. During this time, we were listening to Elder Lasserre Bradley on the radio and I began to read and study the Bible. I worked second shift and would sometimes read the Bible until late hours at night.

Jenetta was converted to the Primitive Doctrine through Elder Bradley's preaching—she joined Pine Grove Church in 1966 located in Hillsville, VA. Jenetta's baptizing was set for the third Sunday of December 1966. I was greatly troubled at this and struggled with this situation. I tried to pray and beg GOD for direction in my poor troubled life. Elder Rotenizer and the folks at Pine Grove were kind, but still I wanted to be sure if this was the right way to go. One evening as I started fox hunting, the scripture, "For He Shall Save His People From Their Sins" came to my mind. Before I knew what was going on, I began to preach aloud. I had not planned this, but what a joy filled my heart. I traveled approximately four miles to where I was going. I have wondered many times, how I got to my destination. So when Jenetta was baptized, the third Sunday in December 1966, I too was baptized and became a member of Pine Grove Church. I asked for liberty to preach in March 1967 and was ordained in October of 1967. Immediately I began to pastor Galax Church in Galax, VA and Crab Creek Church located in the Ennice Community, N.C. I began pastoring Walnut Cove Primitive Baptist Church located in Walnut Cove, N.C. in 1975. I am still pastoring, or at least making the effort to pastor, all three of the above churches.



#### **ELDER ROBERT BRUCE HIGGINS**

I was born on June 16, 1926. At age 18, I was drafted into military service for 27 months, and was discharged in September 1945.<sup>7</sup>

In the spring of 1946, I went back to school in an effort to obtain my High School diploma, but could not settle down and study so I dropped out of school. However, I met my future wife and we were married November 12, 1949.

Convicted of sin at about 23 years of age I started going to church and joined the First Baptist Church at Galax, VA. I then joined the Methodist Church at Woodlawn, VA. Then on to a Missionary Baptist Church where I was ordained and preached for them about 10 years before becoming dissatisfied. The Lord led me to the Primitive Baptist Church. I was granted liberty to speak by the church and later ordained as an Elder. I have now been pastor of Cross Roads Primitive Baptist Church for about eight years.

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#### **ELDER JOE F. HILDRETH**



Elder Hildreth was born October 18, 1931 in Birmingham, Ala. At the age of seven months he was adopted by Johnnie and Birmer Hildreth of Opelika. His adoptive father died on May 17, 1933. His mother then married Jesse B. Hildreth, the younger brother of her first husband. They, like their forebears, were members of Pleasant Grove Church at Paul, Ala. Elder Hildreth lost his second adoptive father as a result of a brain tumor, and his mother was left with six children ranging in age from six to seventeen. She took them regularly to Hopewell Church near Opelika and surrounding churches.

As a boy of about ten, Elder Hildreth felt very strongly that he was a sinner. He dreamed he was in a deep pit and a heavy stone was about to be dropped on him from the opening; there was no escape. Suddenly, the stone was taken away by a great power, and he was delivered from the pit. From that time he knew, as never before, the reality of that Great Deliverer, Jesus Christ. He was baptized in August 1947 at Hopewell by Elder L. O. Walker. He began speaking in the worship service in 1950 and was ordained at Hopewell on October 20,

1055. Two churches, Griffin and Shoal Creek, had called for his ordination. There were 28 elders and 33 deacons in the presbytery.

Elder Hildreth was called to serve his home church immediately after his ordination. However, soon after his graduation from Auburn Univ., he accepted employment in Atlanta, and felt impressed that his field of labor would be in that area. One very blessed time was with Shoal Creek. The church had only six members, and had not received a member for baptism in 26 years. What a day of rejoicing it was when one Sunday in 1956 when seven came forward for baptism.

Elder Hildreth served these churches in the Atlanta area Liberty, Collins Spring, Nancy's Creek, Ebenezer and Utoy. In 1971 he relocated to Chattanooga and has served churches in that area Sweeten's Cove, Friendship, and Chattanooga. He continues to pastor Chattanooga Church where he is now in his 29th year.

Virginia Ruth Huffman, daughter of Lester and Ruth Mann Huffman, became Elder Hildreth's wife on June 12, 1965 at Utoy Church. Elders Roland Green and E. D. Speir, Sr., performed the ceremony. They have been favored with three children Joanna, Ethan, and Jonathan, and six grandchildren.

In 1954 at the age of 22, Elder Hildreth was instrumental in the beginning of *The Christian Pathway* and was editor until 1974. In 1957 he became associated with Elder J. A. Monsees in the publication of the Old School Hymnal and with several others organized the Old School Hymnal Co., Inc., which has published the tenth and eleventh editions of this hymnal, as well as Elder Wilson Thompson's autobiography and Hassell's History. Elder Hildreth now serves as the president of the company. For nearly fifty years, banking was his secular occupation. In 1998 he retired as Senior Vice President and Trust Officer of First Tennessee Bank in Chattanooga.

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#### ELDER GEORGE A. HILL

FROM "GOODWILL" JUNE 1960: Elder Hill, an able minister of the Pulaski Association of Georgia, was born on 1 May 1884 near Pineview, Georgia.



At the age of 21, he asked for a home in Christian Hope Church and proved to be a faithful member. He was ordained to the ministry in 1927 and called to pastor of Christian Hope Church in 1928. He served his church well until the Lord called him home. He was also the pastor of Providence and Eureka Primitive Baptist Churches.

On the 23rd of June 1959, Elder Hill was called home to be with the Lord. He was a good citizen, an upright businessman, a loyal and devoted husband and father.

Elder Hill was born May 1, 1884 to Ben Franklin and Sally Boatwright Hill on a farm a few miles west of Pineview in Pulaski County, Ga.

Brother Hill was married to Miss Nannie Dunn on June 26, 1912. To this union five children were born, four daughters, and one son who preceded his father in death almost 21 years.

Elder Hill was a successful farmer and had also held a number of political offices and positions in his town and county. He will be missed in his community, and among the Primitive Baptists; no one can know how much he will be missed.

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### **ELDER H. V. HILL**

WRITTEN BY E.T. COLEMAN, M. D. SWAINSBORO, GA: Elder Hill was born June 15, 1856, and died Sept. 7, 1921. He was united in marriage to Miss Mary Lucinda Brown, June 11th, 1877, and to this happy union were born 10 children, 9 of whom are now living as follows: --W. B. Hill, Bessie R. Reid, Annie L. Hill, Geddie F. and Eddie H. Hill, Lennie M. Duckworth, Virgil V. Hill, Inez Lamb and Iris Hill. In 1877, he united with the Primitive Baptist Church at Canoochee and was baptized by Elder D. J. Lamb. He was ordained to the ministry 1904, the presbytery being composed of Elders H. Temples, S. M. Anderson and W. J. Brown. He possessed, in a remarkable way, those peculiar qualifications that eminently fitted him for the work of a real pastor, and during the last several years of his life his time was occupied largely serving the various churches.

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### **ELDER JOSEPH HILL**

FROM "A HISTORY OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS OF ALABAMA, MT. ZION ASSOCIATION" BY ELDER E. B. WATTS: Elder Joseph Hill was a charter member of Mount Zion Church when it was constituted in 1817. He was born in Union District, South Carolina in 1779. He joined the church there in 1799. He later moved to Tennessee and was ordained about 1812 and about 1816 moved to St. Clair County, Alabama.

There is no mention of Elder Hill aiding in the constitution of Mount Moriah Church in 1820, but he was called as their first pastor. He was the principle in the organization of Big Springs Church in Blount County.

In 1833, Elder Hill, together with Elders Sion Blythe, Phillip Archer, and William McCain, constituted the Coosa River Association in Talledega County. Elder Hill continued to labor in this association as long as we have any record of him. Elder Archer was a co-laborer with Elder Hill in that part of Alabama.

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### **ELDER ROBERT L. HILL**



Elder Hill was born on March 25, 1904 and passed from this life on June 19, 1984 Elder Hill was a member of Mt. Lebanon Primitive Baptist Church, Hillsville, VA, and began his ministry in January 1953. He was ordained December 1954 and served his home church as moderator from March 1957 until his death.

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### **ELDER W. T. HILL**

W. T. Hill, born June 3, 1870, died February 18, 1958; joined the church July 24, 1895; ordained to the ministry February 25, 1997. He remained a member of Collins Springs Primitive Baptist Church sixty-three years.

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### **ELDER IVAN P. HINDALL**

Ivan P Hindall was born March 13, 1900 in Amanda Township. He was the son of Lemuel and Mary Eudora (Line) Hindall. He married Violette Ruth Cameron on December 27, 1919.

He was ordained and preached the gospel for 21 years and was a member for 40 years. He served the Liberty Primitive Baptist Church in Los Angeles California. In Ohio, he served eagle Creek Primitive Baptist, Hancock County, Van Buren, Thompson, Honey Creek. Also at Newark, Ohio and Fort Wayne.

He was married to Violette Ruth Cameron on Dec. 27, 1919. They had a son and two daughters, DeWayne, Deonna Ruth and Fama Dee.

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**ELDER J. W. HIPP**

Elder Hipp passed away January 1, 1951 at the home of his son in Newport, Arkansas. He was faithful as long as his health permitted. His Resolution of Respect was written by the authorization of Hopewell Church near Heber Springs, Arkansas.

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**ELDER D. L. HITCHCOCK**

FROM "THE GOSPEL MESSENGER:" My parents, John and Susan Hitchcock, were born and reared in North Carolina. They immigrated with their parents to Georgia. My grandfather, David Hitchcock, was one of the early settlers in Hancock County. My mother's father was one of the few men who fought through the Revolutionary war, and came home alive, though with many wounds, and lived somewhere in Southwest Georgia, and died at the advanced age of 111 years.

I was born on October 9, 1813 in Hancock County, Georgia. When about two years old, my mother was left a widow almost penniless, to struggle through life, and raise her children the best she could. When I was five or six years old when my mother moved to Putnam County, where the most of her people lived, but none of them were able to help her much. So when my brothers and I were old enough to work, we were hired out for what we could get. Though my lot was hard, I always bore it the best I could and did the work assigned me. I never had any trouble in finding work, but no time to go to school until I was about 19 years old. I went to school about two months.

I passed a period of about four years of trouble and anguish of soul. Around the 1st of June 1834, my troubles were so great I could not hide them. One evening I was standing looking at the setting sun, it occurred to me look well at it; it is the last sight of it, when it sets it seals your condemnation. When it went out of sight I had to say, "farewell sun, and all earthly things; this night thy soul shall be required of thee." It was a night of darkness, mourning and grief to my poor burdened and condemned soul. But God through great mercy spared my life through the night; and long before day I was up looking for the sun with greater anxiety than ever before. I walked the yard round and round, trying to praise God for sparing my life to see another day. I was for a few moments with my back toward the East, and turning, there was the sun with all its brightness and glory! In a moment it was revealed to my poor soul, this is Christ, the Son of God, rising for your justification! He was delivered for your offences and raised again for your justification! And there is the righteousness you have been trying to work out. I cried out, "Glory to God in the highest." Peace was in my soul! I felt that my sins were all forgiven and they would never be a burden to my soul more.

But another burden soon got on my mind and whispered, "you ought to go to the church and be baptized." I was afraid to go, but could not stay away satisfied; so I went to the church at Harmony, Putnam County, Ga., and was received into the fellowship of the church August 1834, and baptized by Richard Pace.

It was not my privilege to live in this happy frame of mind long at a time. I soon found that there was a new and dangerous element making its way into the church. Fuller's followers began to come in with their new inventions, preaching free will, and a general atonement, etc. Some of the members were already soft enough to receive them, and their new doctrine. Those who could not endorse their doctrine, but contended against it were admonished not to oppose it, lest they be found fighting against God. Though I was young and ignorant, having never up to this time read a chapter in the Bible, nor heard much preaching, my own experience taught me that salvation was of the Lord and by

grace alone. I could not endorse those new ideas. In 1837 we withdrew from them and were constituted into a church called Mt. Zion.

I was married December 1834, to Miss Sarah Moore. The first impressions that it was my duty to preach for the comfort and edification of God's people, was made the same morning that I obtained a hope in Christ. It seemed to grow stronger and stronger until it became a constant burden to my mind.

The brethren from time to time would offer me a chance to preach and being so well acquainted with my rebellious nature and timidity, they concluded to try a plan. In conference, the brother Deacon arose and said, "Brother Moderator, I move that we give Bro. Hitchcock license to preach." In a moment nearly every other brother said, "I second the move." Before the Moderator could speak, I was on my feet and said, "Good Lord, Bro. Winn! Who ever heard such a move? What, license a man to preach that you never heard try?" The Moderator said, "Sit down, Bro. Hitchcock, you are out of order." The same brother arose and said; "Now Brother Moderator, I propose to appoint the 3rd Sunday in this month for Bro. Hitchcock to preach" which was the 3rd Sunday in September 1846. I only had two weeks allowed me before I had to preach, or fail. I spent almost the whole time in prayer. The time came and several brethren came a distance of eight or ten miles, and were at my house by 8 or 9 o'clock. They said that they feared that I would run away; and they came to carry me to the place of meeting. Being late in arriving, we found the whole grove crowded with horses and vehicles, and enough people to fill the house quite full. I felt that I could not face them and try to speak but they commenced singing praises to God. I arose from my seat and started towards the table, the Deacon jumped up and opened the pulpit door and said, "Go up there, that is the place for preachers." I said, "I know that, but not for me." So I took the floor and lined out a hymn, and the brethren and congregation sung. I tried to pray, and when I closed, I arose from my knees and set down, saying in my mind, "What shall I do?" The Deacon spoke and said, "Get up and go to preaching." I arose and commenced talking. I would not quote a text; but thought I would work on in a way that they would not know that I had any text. But the one I thought I would use was, "loose him, and let him go." I spoke about forty-five minutes. When I sat down, old Bro. Akin, from Crooked Creek Church, arose and began to speak, though so full he would pause awhile from emotion, and then go on again. I soon found that he knew what my text was and would apply it to me. He said, "Brethren you have done right. Loose him and let him go. The Lord has a use for him." Old Bro. Barnes followed and seemed to be much in the spirit. So, upon the whole, we had a good meeting and many went home rejoicing; wife and I went home somewhat surprised. I felt that I had lost a burden that I had carried for twelve years. She seemed to be more serious for a time than I had ever seen her before. She had been a member of that church for two years. That was the first time and the last she ever heard me preach, as she departed this life Oct. 11, 1846. I was left alone with two little children to do the best I could. I was invited to every church that was near, so that I tried to preach every Sunday for a long time.

On September 17, 1847, the Brethren formed themselves into a Presbytery, and I was set before them for examination; and afterward they expressed their satisfaction and proceeded to ordain me by prayer and the laying on of hands. The Presbytery was James Henderson, Cary Cox, and James H. Montgomery.

NOTE: Elder Hitchcock passed from this life on October 1, 1903.

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#### ELDER DAILY HITE



Elder Park Daily (P.D.) Hite of Marion, Ohio was born on December 1, 1906, to the late Elder Levi V. and Adah Williams Hite. Elder Levi Hite baptized his son October 1925, and was moderator of the presbytery and delivered the charge in October 1937, when Daily was set aside as a minister of the Primitive Baptist faith and order. Elder Hite served as pastor of Rocky Fork Church, his home church, from January 1953 to December 1980. He also served as pastor to several other churches in the state of Ohio during his ministry, as well as clerk of the Sandusky Association from 1933 to 1941. From June 1942 to 1952, he served as moderator of the association. He was a lifetime resident and farmer of the Brush Ridge community for 59 years with his wife, Cora, whom he married on April 22, 1934. They retired from the 200-acre farm in

1976 and moved to a home just north of Rocky Fork Church, so they could be close to the church and God's people. One son and four daughters comprised the family. Elder Hite was taken from this world on June 19, 1993.

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### **ELDER ELZA HITE**

WRITTEN BY HIS GRANDDAUGHTER, WINIFRED FARMER: Elza Ray Hite was born February 26, 1887 in Fairfield County, Ohio to Samuel and Samantha Peters Hite. He married Lulu May Brown on December 20, 1908. They had two daughters.



He often said he could not remember a time when he did not love the Lord. He was baptized into the Harmony Church in Alexandria Ohio at an early age. Many generations of the Hites were Primitive Baptist. He served as church deacon for 25 years and was liberated to preach on September 19, 1936. He was ordained on April 29, 1939.

Elza served as clerk of the Muskingum Association of Ohio from 1933 to 1949 and as moderator from 1964 to 1968. He pastored several churches in central Ohio as well as his home church. He was a kind, loving man with a sense of humor. Elza and Lulu's home was always open to those who loved the Lord and they entertained many. He loved to preach the gospel and to discuss God's mercies and mysteries to anyone that would listen. After a massive stroke, he passed away on April 23, 1969.

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### **ELDER LEVI V. HITE**



FROM "PRIMITIVE MONITOR" APRIL 1952: On October 25, 1890, Brother L. V. Hite came forward asking for a home with the Rocky Fork Church and was gladly accepted. On Sunday, October 26, Brother Levi was baptized by Elder L. E. Thomas.

On September 23, 1899, having previously shown evidence of a gift of God, he was liberated to exercise his gift among the Brothers and Sisters of the Primitive Baptist faith and order.

On February 22, 1902, Brother Levi was again presented before the Church and ordained as a Gospel Minister in full fellowship. The presbytery was composed of Elder A. L. Shoemaker, Elder L. E. Thomas, Elder A. F. Dove, with Deacons Brother Harvey Bibler, Brother J. S. VanBuskirk and Brother Peter Line. Elder Shumaker offered the ordination prayer and Elder Thomas delivered the charge.

Then on December 26, 1903, Elder Hite was chosen Moderator of Rocky Fork Church for one year and was rechosen and served until December 25, 1905. On December 25, 1909, he was called for Moderator again, which position he has filled until the present time.

A FEW NOTES TAKEN FROM THE RECORD OF ELDER L. V. HITE--The first funeral discourse he preached was of a man who died in his arms, one Robert Gamble, April 1st, 1901. The last funeral discourse he preached was on January 19, 1952, Mrs. Cora Nelson Wirick. In this span of time he has preached 989 funeral discourses. At one time he had four funerals on four successive days, and in four different counties this in the time he was driving a horse. He started driving an auto in 1910. Traveled in fourteen states and preached in thirteen of them.

He has been called on to help to ordain 25 ministers in four different states. He has married 121 couples, and baptized 158 persons

NOTE: Elder Hite passed from this life at the age of 82 in June 1952.

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**ELDER MEREDITH HODGES**

FROM "THE GOSPEL MESSENGER" WRITTEN BY J.W. REDDICK: Elder Hodges died on Sunday, the 16th of December 1888, in the 95th year of life, having been born in Franklin County, Va., February 17, 1794.

He was the fourth son and sixth child of Isham and \_\_\_\_ Clay Hodges, and with his father and family emigrated to Tennessee, Sumner County, in the spring of 1812, where he ever afterward resided.

He was happily united in marriage With Miss Catharine Sarver, December 10, 1819, with whom he lived until July 28 1877, when she passed away. Since that day he lived among his children.

On the 18th of December 1822, he received a hope of the pardon of his sins, and of eternal life through Christ Jesus; and very soon felt the necessity of obedience in joining the church. He says he loved the Cumberland Presbyterians, and was told that he had been sprinkled when an infant, and, so if he could find that sprinkling was baptism, he could unite with the Presbyterians. This was all brought to his mind from the scripture: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, and he that believeth not shall be damned." He says he then commenced to search the scriptures to see in sprinkling was there; and after reading through the New Testament, and failing, he re-read the whole book, determined to mark every place that intimated anything like sprinkling. In writing on this subject, March 13, 1888, he said: "I concluded to read again, and be more careful, and mark every place that favored the idea of sprinkling being baptism, but found it not. And I now say and have ever since said, it is not there, nor anything like it." He was baptized into the fellowship of the Primitive Baptists in March 1823. He was ordained to the full work of the ministry, June 8, 1839, by a presbytery composed of Elders Robert Norville, Eli Briant and Benjamin Bailey. He continued to preach as long as he was able; indeed. I have heard him deliver interesting discourses to large congregations while sitting in his chair. His style was usually doctrinal, and it is conceded by both friends and enemies, religiously, that he could present a point of doctrine, and prove it by the scriptures with fewer words than any speaker or writer ever known in this country.

In politics, Brother Hedges was a life-long Jeffersonian Democrat, and always took a lively interest in the welfare of his country, and good government, keeping himself well posted on the current issues of the day.

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**ELDER E. A. HOGARTH**

On August 16, 1938, it pleased God to take from us our beloved brother, Elder Edwin A. Hogarth in his 95th year. Elder Hogarth was born in South Carolina, Dec. 18, 1843. While young, he entered the Confederate Army under Gen. Bragg, and was with that army when it surrendered to Gen. Thomas at Franklin, Tenn. Many years ago he moved from South Carolina to Crescent City, Fla., and was for several years pastor and member of Mt. Zion Church, Pierson, Fla. Coming from there to Winter Garden, Fla., where he lived and died a true faithful servant of God. He was married three times. His last wife was the former Mrs. Cynthia Davis.

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**ELDER R. J. HOLCOMBE**

Elder R. J. Holcombe was born in Georgia and moved to Alabama when he was young. His father, Elder George Holcombe, was the founder of the Fellowship Association.

Elder R. J. Holcombe was first a member of the Fellowship Association. He joined Little Vine Church in May 1916, and in 1917, he joined Mount Vernon Church. Elder Holcombe was ordained in 1924. Churches that he pastored were Mount Vernon, Little Vine, and Dripping Springs. He died February 8, 1947.

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### ELDER E. C. HOLDER

WRITTEN BY ELDER S. T. TOLLEY: Elder Elmer C. Holder passed away June 5th, 1968. Elder Holder was 77 years of. He is survived by his faithful companion, Bula H. Holder. (They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on last Dec. 25th.) Elder Holder was the father of four children by a former marriage. There were two children born into the last union.

It was told to us that Elder Holder had carried a burden to preach since he was 17 years of age, but did not submit



until later in his life. He was ordained to the ministry in 1938 by Morris Memorial Church where he preached until the time his health failed. During his ministry he served churches in the local area including Elizabeth Church, in Arkansas; New Salem Church, Little Hope Church, Antioch Church, and Chewella Church in Mississippi; Indian Creek Church, and Brown's Creek Church In Tennessee.

Elder Holder was a faithful minister of the gospel and was loved and appreciated by the Primitive Baptists everywhere. He was a good pastor-- being faithful to teach all the counsel of God. As we have been told by many of his home church (Morris Memorial), very few men have been blessed to preach more ably, or have had God's presence more radiantly demonstrated in their preaching than Elder Holder. Elder Holder was also a Streetcar Operator for the city of Memphis, for 39 years before his retirement.

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### ELDER JOHN DAVID (J. D.) HOLDER



SUBMITTED BY MOISE HOLDER BEAN, DAUGHTER: Elder Holder was born on March 27, 1898. He was baptized in 1922 at the Little Flock Church, Tishomingo County, MS He was ordained on April 28, 1929. He was married to Dana Ross Brown in 1918. She died in 1923. They had one daughter, Moise H. Bean. His second marriage was to Lyda Wren in 1925. She died in 1984. Elder Holder died June 14, 1978.

He received the call to the ministry in early life, but did not answer the call until a few years later. He did not feel that he could carry the heavy responsibility of preaching at the time of his wife's death. The burden, however, became so heavy that he began exercising in the ministry in 1929 and was ordained at Little Flock the same year, where he served as pastor for several years.

Churches he served beginning in the 1930s: Pleasant Hill Primitive Baptist Church, near Mantachie, MS, for forty-two years. Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, near Ecu, MS, for thirty-six years. Tupelo Primitive Baptist Church for several years. Mt. Moriah Primitive Baptist Church, Friendship, TN, for several years.

He was a debater, having had nine or ten debates, one of which was published in book form by the Church of Christ in 1950. He wrote a book entitled Principles and Practices of the Church in 1961. He died in 1978 with grace and dignity as he had lived his life for eighty years.

ELDER HOLDER ONCE WROTE: "Through the years, I have believed strongly that the Bible teaches, and the experience of the saved teaches, that salvation from the guilt of sins is alone through Christ and by grace...I have no doubt but that God will judge righteously in disposing of all things contrary to truth, save His people from sins, and



punish the wicked for the guilt of sins...I am perfectly satisfied with the dear people with whom I live, and what they believe and teach."

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**ELDER JOSEPH R. HOLDER**

I was born on July 10, 1941, at Thrasher, Mississippi. Although I had no deep religious convictions until I was about twelve years old, I always respected the churches and people for their desire to follow Bible patterns.

At about thirteen years of age, I attended New Hope Church near Booneville, Mississippi, where I saw a young lady submit to the ordinance of baptism. A heavy burden descended on me, which I could not escape nor satisfy. Shortly thereafter, I heard my uncle, Elder J. D. Holder, preach a touching sermon on the afflictions of David. After going to bed that night, I felt another burden -- this time to speak in the Lord's name. Relief came only when I sat up in bed and preached out to myself the thoughts on my mind regarding David. This burden did not return until after I was baptized.

The burden to take up my cross in the Church became progressively heavier, and I felt more overwhelmed with fears than ever, until in December of 1955, I was baptized by Elder J. D. Holder, my uncle.

In February of 1956 I was asked to open the services at my home Church, Sardis. My efforts seemed weak and unprofitable, but I felt a blessing in making them, and the Lord's people who heard me were kind and encouraging, which gave me much strength. In May of 1958 I was ordained to the ministry. For the next few years I preached at the Churches near home and made a few trips among Primitive Baptists in other areas, but as time passed I began to feel that the Lord had a ministry for me in some other location. The love and kindness of the people in Mississippi made me feel a sense of sadness at the thought of leaving them but I continued to feel that conviction. I traveled from Maryland to Florida to Texas, but I could not feel that I had found my place. In 1961 I made a trip to northern California where I met some wonderful Primitive Baptists. Shortly thereafter, I moved to that area where I labored primarily at the Church in Ceres.

I had not been there long until I met my wife Sandra. A desire for the Ceres Church and proximity to Sandra's parents were strong, but I still felt sad at having left my people in Mississippi. I thought I could go back and be satisfied, but soon the Lord began to stir my nest, and I realized that I must follow the leadership of the Spirit, regardless of where it led me. That Fall Sandra and I (we were married on July 7, 1962) moved back to California. I felt many doubts about myself, but I could not be satisfied until I followed the sense of leadership I felt. We settled in southern California, where I found a job and began serving Churches in the area.

The Lord has blessed us with three daughters and a happy home, for which I feel extremely thankful.

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**ELDER ELBERT HOLDREN**

FROM AN OBITUARY IN THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST, WRITTEN BY ELDER IRA M. FRY: Elder Holdren, the eldest son of Henry and Mattie Holdren, was born in Belford County, Virginia on Sept. 24, 1884. His family moved, when he was two, to Marion County, Kansas. He was married to Nanny Feezor on Feb. 2, 1933 by Elder L. E. Thompson at Las Animas, Colo.

Elder Holdren was baptized by Elder Charles Bexler into Providence Church on May 12, 1923. On September 7, 1929, he was ordained as an elder. He at once began serving Providence as a pastor, and did so until death claimed him on February 13, 1956.

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### **ELDER B. F. HOLLAND**

FROM "A HISTORY OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS OF ALABAMA, MT. ZION ASSOCIATION" BY ELDER E. B. WATTS: A member of Zion Hill Church, Elder Holland was licensed in 1890 and was ordained in 1906. Elder Holland was co-pastor at Salem for several years before he was ordained. Other churches he pastored were Zion Hill, Mount Moriah, and Shiloh.

Elder Holland died May 10, 1915, at the age of 57.

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### **ELDER BENJAMIN EZEKIEL HOLLAND**

SUBMITTED IN LOVE BY TWO WHO LOVED HIM UNTO DEATH—SISTER MARY ELLEN BLANTON AND BRO. AMOS RAULERSON: On Feb. 2, 1891 in Madison, Fla. our Lord and Saviour gave to Elder E. S. W. Holland and wife Jennie Holland a precious son.

Elder Holland was joined in marriage on Nov. 22, 1916 to a wonderful and faithful companion, Sister Pearl Storman Holland. Born to this union were one son, Rufus E. Holland, two daughters, Mrs. Geneva Pepper and Mrs. Edith Jones.

Elder Holland joined the Okeechobee Church, Okeechobee, Fla. on the 4th Sunday in April 1934 and was baptized by Elder Ben Crawford. He was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry at Hebron Church on Feb. 9, 1941. He served in the ministry from then until his death Dec. 16, 1972.

Elder Holland lived in Plant City, Fla. for 32 years, being active in the grocery business about 20 years. Many had confidence in him and his ability. This was shown to him in the political field by his election to the Florida State Legislature in the 1943-1944 session.

Elder Holland served Salem, Mt. Enon, Bethel, El Bethel and Providence Churches. He served Salem Church from Dec. 20, 1941 until October 18, 1957, was called back to Salem Church October 17, 1964 serving until September 16, 1972 at which time he asked to be relieved because of his age. He had served Salem Church 24 years faithfully as her pastor.

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### **ELDER E. S. W. HOLLAND**

FROM "GOODWILL" FEBRUARY 1955: Elder Holland was born on 16 October 1861 in Jasper, Hamilton County, Florida. He is the son of John J. Holland who was born in Edgefield County, S. C. on the 9th of August 1815. John, son of an Irish immigrant, was a major in the Florida Indian Wars of 1836. After the war was over John came back to his home in Georgia and married Miss Nancy Tedder.

Elder Holland lived most of his adult life in Hamilton and Madison Counties in Florida. He was baptized in the Primitive Baptist Church on March 11, 1888. He was ordained about the year 1898 and preached until his death the 19th of July 1953.

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### **ELDER SAMUEL HOLLAND**

Elder Samuel Holland was born March 10, 1845 and died August 1, 1908. He was a charter member of Zion Hill church located on the Marshall and Blount County line in Alabama when it was constituted in 1871. He was ordained in December of 1877 at Zion Hill by Elder Champion Farris, Elder Clabourne Whitworth and Elder George F. Ballew.



Elder Holland was Pastor at Zion Hill from 1877 until the time of his death. Other churches he pastored were Drum Creek in Marshall County, Alabama; New Prospect in Blount County; Salem in Blount County; Clear Creek in Marshall County; New Hope in Marshall County; and Mt. Joy in Blount County.

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### **ELDER JOHN C. HOLLANSWORTH**

WRITTEN BY ELDER J. F. SUMNER: Elder Hollansworth was born May 26, 1860 and departed this life Dec. 16, 1924. He united with the Primitive Baptists at Indian Creek on Oct. 25, 1885.

He was a deacon about 15 years, for the last twelve years had been speaking in public, and greatly comforted the dear people of God in this section. He had been ordained a little over one year. He was twice married. His first marriage was to Vienecia Phillips, March 23, 1876. To this Union were born seven children, four preceding him to the grave. One son and two daughters are yet living. His last marriage was to Amanda Gardner, Nov. 27, 1895. To this union were born 11 children, six sons, and five daughters.

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### **ELDER R. V. HOLLEMAN**

FROM ELDER AFTON RICHARDS IN THE "BANNER OF LOVE" OCTOBER 1961: Our Profile this issue is of Elder R. V. Holleman, a pioneer minister of Southeast Texas.



I have not been very closely associated with this good man, but have corresponded with him for some 20 or more years, and heard him preach a few times.

He is counted as one of the truly great old fathers in Israel. While he retired a few years ago, he is still a great influence for good among Primitive Baptists.

My father, who was more closely associated with him, especially in the mid 40's, said the courts missed one of their best gifts when Brother Holleman did not study law. He said that he had a brilliant technical mind. And my observation of him has proven to me that this is true.

I remember some two years ago some time after he retired, at a session of the Primitive Association, Brother Rowell, the moderator, whom custom said should preach Sunday morning, in his kind way bowed out and gave the time to Brother Holleman. His mind was so clear, and he took a subject and discussed it from a technical standpoint, like an attorney briefing his case. This too, presented in the spirit of the Lord. It could not be put into words the great worth to the cause of Christ of such able old soldiers as Brother Holleman.

WRITTEN BY ELDER HOLLEMAN: I was born in Rusk County, Texas, August 28, 1874 and moved to Leon County October 1884. I have lived in the Wealthy Community since. I united in marriage to Miss Eva Mae Gilbert (who was born Dec. 25, 1884) Dec. 15, 1907. She has been loyal.

I united to Union Church in Leon County on Saturday before the second Sunday in October 1894 and was ordained Dec. 15, 1905. I was in the constitution of Mt. Zion Church at Wealthy in April 1904, and I am the only living charter member.

During my ministry, I have served the three churches in Leon and Madison Counties, one of them (Shiloh) for 47 years. I have served as moderator of our association for 19 years. I have united in marriage 210 couples. I have estimated that I have been in 750 funerals. I have baptized 169 persons.

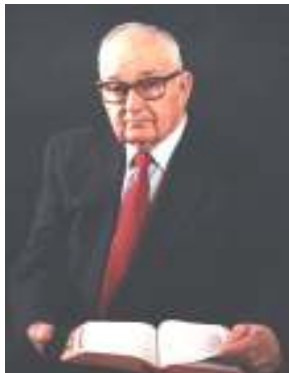
WRITTEN BY DAVID MONTGOMERY: Elder Holleman had a wide influence in southeast Texas, and the memory of his ministry still lingers in the hearts of the Primitive Baptists in that area. He served the Fellowship Church in Madisonville, Texas for 45 years. He was a civic leader, being instrumental in the extension of rural electrical service into his area. He was postmaster of Wealthy, Texas from 1905 to 1914. He ran a general store at Wealthy for several years and almost went bankrupt when he accepted cotton for more than its value in lieu of money just to help his neighbors out. He served as a school trustee and was a member of the Leon Country Volunteer Parole Board. He was well respected in the church and in his community. He was laid to rest September 12, 1969 at the age of 95 years and 14 days.

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### **ELDER DENVER HOLLINGSWORTH**

Elder Denver Hollingsworth was born on January 16, 1919 near Statesboro, Georgia to A. W. and Effie Hollingsworth. In 1941, he married Ms. Janie Martin and left the next year for the Army. He arrived in Europe in the D-day invasion and spent the remainder of the war there, rising to Staff Sergeant in the Quartermasters. He was present at the liberation of at least one of the concentration camps.

After the war, he returned to the grocery business until his retirement. He and his wife had one adopted son, James. He was baptized at Upper Mill Creek Church near Statesboro in 1955 and soon began exercising. Emmaus Church of Claxton, Georgia called for his ordination and he was ordained February 15, 1957 and began to serve them as pastor, a position he held for 24 years. In 1983, Janie Hollingsworth passed away. He married Nina Mathis in 1992 and moved near Moultrie, Georgia where he currently lives.



During the course of his ministry he was pastor to Emmaus for 24 years, Ephesus (south of Statesboro) for 14 years, Mt. Carmel (near Milledgeville) for 3 years, Pleasant Grove (southwest Georgia), and Refuge (southwest Georgia) where he still serves. He is currently a member at Cat Creek Church near Valdosta where he also preaches. In the years since the death of his first wife, he has traveled extensively throughout Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, West Virginia, and Mississippi among the Primitive Baptists.

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### **ELDER DESSIE WINIFRED HOLLINGSWORTH**

Elder Hollingsworth was born on November 16, 1923 in Newton, Mississippi. He was the son of Mrs and Mrs. Dessie Labom Hollingsworth of Lake, Mississippi. Winifred lived most of his life in the rural area of Scott County. He was married to Juanita Welborn on August 3, 1942. Winifred was called into service for the United States Navy in November 1942.

He served on the U.S.S. New Jersey battleship and was involved in several battles, but God was watching over him and brought him home safely to his family.

After his return home Winifred and Juanita became parents to a beautiful baby girl named Wanda Diane. Unfortunately, she became ill and passed away 23 months later. Several years later Winifred and Juanita became parents again to another daughter named Cheryl. They also later had a son named Dessie Winifred Jr. Winifred would later

become a loving Grandfather to his four grandchildren, Bradley and Carrie Glaze and Jessica and Jennifer Hollingsworth.

The first church he served was Lebanon Church in Hickory, Mississippi. He also served Fellowship Church for several years; as well as churches in Amory, Mississippi and Mobile, Alabama. He was always willing to fill the stand when called upon. Winifred's home church was Sharon Church in Newton County, where he served for thirty years and right up until his death. Winifred was very true to his studies and would stay up all night to study the Bible. He loved the word of God.

Dessie Winifred Hollingsworth passed away on July 21, 1999.

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### **ELDER KEITH HOLLINGSWORTH**



Elder Keith Hollingsworth was born on May 11, 1967 to Harry and Lorna Hollingsworth in Bellville, Georgia. At the age of 10, he went through a difficult emotional time in school. After the Lord delivered him, he was so thankful he joined the Lord's church and was baptized the fourth Sunday in February 1978. His pastor and uncle, Elder Denver Hollingsworth, baptized him as a member of Emmaus Primitive Baptist Church.

After leaving home, he attended Georgia Tech in Atlanta, receiving his Bachelor's, Master's, and Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering. While in graduate school, he became active in Bethany Church in Atlanta and began speaking in the various churches. Keith received his Ph.D. on Friday, September 1, 1995 and was ordained a minister at Bethany the following Sunday, September 3. Elders Gus Harter and Richard Halbgewachs delivered his charge. In February 1996, Mt. Paran Church of Social Circle, Georgia called him to be pastor and he remains there at the present time. He also works as a professor at Morehouse College in the business department.

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### **ELDER M. C. HOLLINGSWORTH**

FROM "THE GOSPEL MESSENGER" WRITTEN BY ELDER G. W. STEWART: Elder M. C. Hollingsworth was born in Chambers County, Ala., March 1, 1847, and died Feb. 19, 1918, near Amory, Miss. He entered the War between the States in November 1864. He united with the Primitive Baptists at Liberty Church, Pickens County Ala., by experience and baptism, Aug. 5, 1883, and was ordained to the work of the ministry May 26, 1895. For the last few years he has been afflicted, and in the summer of 1916 he became partially but seriously paralyzed, but later on improved in health so that he could with a stick get about over the house and yard very well, but became worse in the past winter, and died at the time I have already stated.

Elder Hollingsworth was an industrious and energetic man, making a good living and securing a good pleasant home for him and family. He served a number of churches during his ministry, and baptized a considerable number of persons. Content with the simplicity that is in Christ and with the goodness and high order of God's house, he was opposed to the new Fullerite movement under the sugarcoated name of "Progressivism." He was considered gifted and able in prayer, and was a man of pleasant and pleasing address, kind and tender toward all in his general deportment; and as a man, citizen, and minister possessed an upright and blameless character among men.

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## ELDER S. J. HOLLINGSWORTH

FROM A RESOLUTION OF RESPECT IN THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST: Elder Hollingsworth was born November 7, 1857; died September 18, 1941. He was married to Miss Tammie E. Brand. To this union were born ten children. He joined the Primitive Baptist Church in early life and was ordained to the work of the ministry soon afterwards. He was an able preacher in his day, far above average, not to have had any learning. He was baptized by his brother in the flesh, Elder A. Hollingsworth.

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## ELDER WILLIAM HOLLINGSWORTH

WRITTEN BY ELDER HOLLINGSWORTH IN MARCH 1, 1910: I, William Hollingsworth, was born in Twiggs County, Georgia, on the 6th day of October, 1834, the fourth child of my parents, Cornelius and Sarah O'Neal Hollingsworth.



In my sixteenth year, I left my father's house one Sunday morning to join my young friends to attend a protracted meeting, expecting to have a good time with those like me. But I had walked but a short distance when as sudden as lightning there came a feeling over me that I have never been able to express. I there had a view of myself that I was a poor, lost sinner.

Shortly after, my father moved from middle Georgia to Thomas County and then on to Decatur County in the southwestern part of the state. Here I met a little seventeen-year-old girl, Elizabeth, the daughter of Sarah Coker, a very poor widow woman but a devoted member of the Primitive Baptist Church. I dearly loved that young girl, and thinking it would bring some relief to my feelings, we agreed to marry on May 20, 1852, by Elder James McLendon. Alas, my feelings did not abate.

The anguish of internal turmoil continued for a space of about two years before relief came to me and I could view my Saviour as altogether lovely. Thereupon, I offered myself to the church called Mizpah, in what was then Baker County, now Grady County, and was received and was baptized the next day by Elder James McLendon. Relief and joy was temporary, for new trouble set up in my breast. I felt there was something else for me to do, to preach to God's people. I was almost illiterate, never having been to school but nine days since I was nine years old.

In 1861 I was liberated and was given license to preach wherever my lot was cast.

When the conflict of the cruel war became eminent, Mizpah Church suggested that the Church call a Presbytery and have me ordained. Rather than submit, as I should have, I bade farewell to my dear wife and five little children, and went to Macon and joined Company A, 59th Georgia Regiment, CSA. From there I was sent to Richmond, Virginia and was there in Lee's army for three of the longest years of my life. Surely, I there learned obedience by the things I suffered. After the surrender at Appomattox, I made my way home and arrived to my wife and children on May 6, 1865.

Upon my return home, Mizpah again called for my ordination and I was ordained on January 29, 1866 by a presbytery consisting of Elders Eli Holland, Pryor Lewis, and James McLendon.

NOTE: Elder Hollingsworth died March 3, 1923. His funeral was held at Trinity Church with Elders J. J. Turnipseed, D. M. Moneyham, and N. M. Cook officiating. Bainbridge, Ga., March 7. This funeral was one of the largest ever seen in this section. Ministers and friends of the deceased came from all parts of Georgia to pay homage to him who had served in the Confederate army, and who had preached throughout the state for sixty-six years. He was a native of Twiggs County and enlisted in 1862 in the Fifty-ninth Georgia regiment, Anderson brigade, Longstreet corps, Lee's army, northern Virginia, and served throughout the war.

During his ministry he served churches as follows: Mizpah - 57 years, Tired Creek - 46 years, Trinity - 28 years, Pisgah - 20 years, Union - 15 years, Hopewell - 10 years, Poplar Springs - 10 years, Piedmont - 5 years, Little Rock - 3 years, Mt. Pisgah - 1 year, and Shady Grove - 1 year, all located in southwest Georgia.

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### ELDER IRA HOLLIS



WRITTEN BY HIS WIFE, SISTER JULIA HOLLIS IN "THE BANNER OF LOVE," APRIL 1960: James Ira Hollis was born on Feb. 15, 1872. His mother died when he was seven years of age. She was a loving mother and he always cherished her memory. His father died when he was eleven, leaving five children to be handled and handed around. His was a rugged life.

He fell in a pot of soap when he was four and had to live wrapped in medical cotton for some time. Medical care was so scarce at that time it seems like a miracle that he lived at all.

When he was eleven the doctor gave him up as dead. But aunt and uncle got busy and applied home remedies and the dear Lord blessed their work and he lived. He had other narrow escapes and broken bones. We are Oklahoma pioneers.

When he was twenty-two he was riding along on his little horse where there were no houses and fell to the ground as he thought to pray for the last time. The little horse seemed almost human to us, so he nuzzled his master's back while he prayed. When he ended his prayer, he began to sing "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds in a believer's ear." He sang a verse and cried two or three and then looked around and it seemed the blades of grass were praising the Lord. He called it a sweet deliverance from sin.

But I think when he lost the great burden he gained another one, so great that he wanted to tell every one But when he had time to study about it, he decided he just could not measure up to what he felt it took. So he took the pattern of poor Jonah to go by.

We were just getting a start in life, but there was no sea or big fish so he loaded his wife and four children in a covered wagon and went five hundred miles in the dead of winter on his way to Edwards County.

He told his wife not to tell any one that he felt he had a burden to preach, not even to men that he was a church member. It leaked out, but his wife did not tell. In six months, they were back in the old neighborhood, and in about six move months the church liberated him to preach.

He was ordained to preach the gospel the fifth Sunday in July 1911 at Bethesda Church, which was then held in old Cottonwood Schoolhouse.

He was pastor there for a number of years. He was also pastor of four other churches at different times. He seemed to be a happy man but he was happiest when he was serving others.

He was struck with a heart ailment in 1945 that took his health and so weakened his body that his mind was weakened too.

He died April 15, 1949 in the arms of his faithful companion. At his request he was taken to Mountain View, Okla. and was buried near his children and other relatives on April 17th. His stay on earth was 77 years.

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### ELDER LONNIE HOLLOWAY

FROM "THE GOSPEL MESSENGER" WRITTEN BY ELDER W. H. HOWELL: Elder Lonnie Holloway was born January 13, 1890, and departed this life August 27, 1910. He united with the Primitive Baptist Church at Rosemary August 11, 1905, and was baptized by Elder H. Temple. He was elected clerk May 10, 1907; licensed to preach May 9, 1908; ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry November 7, 1908, by Elders H. Temple, S. M. Anderson and H.



B. Wilkinson. It was my privilege to visit his home church last August and to visit his home during his illness. He did not talk much during his sickness, but seemed perfectly resigned and bore his affliction with patience and Christian fortitude. Brother Holloway was serving Rosemary, his home church, at the time he was taken. He was esteemed very highly by his acquaintances everywhere and had not an enemy on earth that I know of. His life was a bright and shining light throughout middle and southern Georgia. He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Morgan Holloway.

His stay on earth was twenty years, seven months and fourteen days. Brother Holloway was serving Pilgrim's Rest Church, in Johnston County, Georgia, at the time he was taken sick. The last time he was at Pilgrim's Rest he preached one of the ablest sermons we ever heard. It was instructive and edifying to the people of God, and glorifying to God our Saviour. It was on the fourth Sunday in July 1910, and he was chosen by the church for another year as pastor.

NOTE FROM DAVID MONTGOMERY: Elder Lonnie Holloway was the youngest minister in the 1909 Pittman book. He died a year after its publication

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### ELDER CHARLES E. HOLMES



I was born into this world May 21, 1932, about 4 miles east of Mena, Arkansas.

From my very first recollections, I have believed there is a God. Having been born into a Primitive Baptist family, I was blessed to have good examples set for me. Later, I served in the U.S. Navy for my country, thinking that I could always find a time to please God.

At age of about 30 years, I found myself a poor sinner before God. My works and a good family up bringing were of no benefit to me in my case before the God of Glory.

My wife and I joined Harmony Church in Mena, Arkansas in September of 1962. I began speaking soon after, and with much fear before God and his Church.

I was ordained to the ministry on April 25, 1971 at Bethlehem Church in Bee Branch, Arkansas. I was a pastor of this Church for about six years.

I have pastored churches in the Mt. Springs, Salem, South Arkansas, Rich Mountain and Center Creek Associations. I am presently the pastor of New Prospect Church near Board Camp, Arkansas.

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### ELDER WILLIAM ANSON HOLMES

FROM "PRIMITIVE MONITOR:" Elder Holmes, 89 died October 3, 1965, in Newton, Iowa. He was born April 23, 1876, in Newton, and was baptized by Elder M. E. Young in April 1912, at Liberty P. B. Church west of Grinnell, IA. He later transferred his letter to Pleasant Grove P. B. Church at Barnes City, IA. He was married March 24, 1896, to



Margaret Linda Freeman, who died in 1911. In May 1922, he married Rachel Atterbury Wood, who died in November 1954. Elder Holmes was a dairy farmer most of his life. On August 23, 1925, he was ordained to the gospel ministry at the request of Pleasant Grove Church, and served this church, together with Harmony, at Winfield, Iowa; Des Moines River at Eldon, Iowa; and Sharon at Guthrie Center. Elder Holmes had not served a church for about three years prior to his death, but was active in the ministry until that time, and served on the Board of Directors of the *Gospel Witness*.

An excerpt from an account of his life that Elder Holmes wrote some ten years before his death: In 1911 I saw myself a sinner and was made to cry to God for mercy, and after much distress of mind, my burden was lifted and I saw Christ, our Sin Bearer, as my only hope. With this sweet hope in Him came the impression to tell to others the saving power of Christ, that it is the power of the Holy Spirit that begins the work of grace in the heart of the poor sinner, thereby evidencing to him (the sinner) that the good work begun in the heart will be performed until the day of Jesus Christ.

My inability and unworthiness to preach and occupy the sacred place of the minister bothered me much, but after much prayer and studying the word of God, I desired to do the Lord's will, trusting Him for a sufficiency of grace to meet every need. I was ordained August 23, 1925, at Pleasant Grove Church near Barnes City, IA, by a presbytery composed of Elders A. J. Conlee, G. E. Edwards, G. J. Jones, W. M. Jones, B. L. Nay, C. L. Crouse, F. M. Jordan, and H. G. Andrews. I have had many seasons of sorrow and much joy in the Lord; He has been very good to us along the way, unworthy as we are of His blessings.

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#### ELDER SAM HOLT



OBITUARY WRITTEN BY ELDER WELDON WALKER: We at Mt. Zion Church in Fort Worth, Texas have indeed been saddened by the passing of our dear pastor, Elder S. J. Holt.

He passed away on March 22, 1967. He was our pastor for about fifteen years. He was a faithful pastor and dearly loved by all and especially the children. He had been in poor health for the past several years and was not able to be with us much of the time. Many times he has said, "all I can do is pray for you, but I can do that."

Brother Holt spent his life in service to God. He was born January 31, 1884. He was ordained around the year 1937.

He will be missed for his for his sound preaching and able leadership. He has been a father in the ministry for several of us. It is hoped that fruit of his labor will continue as a blessing to the church, even though he is now enjoying all the blessings of heaven.

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#### ELDER THOMAS HONEYCUTT



Elder Honeycutt is originally from the State of Florida. He now resides in Albuquerque and attends the First Primitive Baptist Church in that city.

Elder Honeycutt is known and loved for his bold stand in the cause of Lord Jesus Christ. He is also well regarded as a peace-maker and his efforts have done much good among the churches in New Mexico and west Texas.

We regret that we could not obtain more information on this dear brother.

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### **ELDER R. V. HOOD**

FROM "A HISTORY OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS OF ALABAMA, MT. ZION ASSOCIATION" BY ELDER E. B. WATTS: Better known as Elder Virgil Hood, he is listed as a licensed preacher at Hopewell in 1879 and as an ordained Elder there in 1880. In 1888, Elder Hood was a member at Siloam. He pastored, at one time or another during his lifetime, most of the churches in the eastern part of the Mount Zion Association. In 1913, Elder Hood moved to the Albertville area and joined New Hope Church. He died in 1914.

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### **ELDER V. H. HOOKS, SR.**

FROM AN OBITUARY IN GOSPEL WITNESS, WRITTEN BY V. H. HOOKS, JR: Elder Hooks died Wednesday, Feb. 17, 1971, in the Georgia Baptist Hospital in Atlanta after a short illness. He was born in Emanuel County, a son of the late John F. and Calcia Strange Hooks. He was a veteran of World War I. After the war, he returned to Emanuel County and began farming.

Elder Hooks was ordained as a Primitive Baptist minister and was active for over 46 years. Among churches that he served as pastor were: Mt. Zion for 39 years, Rosemary for 18 years, Avera, Hebron, Augusta, Vidalia, Pilgrims Rest, Union and New Hope.

He was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives in 1940 and served four terms, and as then elected Senator and served one term. He was president of the first Farm Bureau organized in the state. He was an active member of the board of Directors of the Ogeechee Production Credit Association, and a past member of the Emanuel County Board of Health. He served as trustee of the Wesley School Board. He served on the Governor's Staff of Carl E. Sanders, Lester Maddox, Ernest Vandiver and Herman E. Talmadge.

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### **ELDER VERNON R. HOPKINS**

Elder Vernon R. Hopkins was born in Bureau County, Illinois, May 21, 1924. On July 20, 1943, he married Betty King of Tampico, IL. In September of 1944, he and his wife united with Smyrna Church at Bentley, Illinois. In 1950, he and his family moved to Hancock County, IL to be nearer the church. He was ordained to the full work of the ministry on October 17, 1959.



In his thirty years in the ministry, he served his home church from 1959 to the time of his death on November 30, 1988. He also served Mt. Pleasant Church at Grinnell, Iowa, 1959-1988; Mt. Zion Church, Astoria, IL, 1961-1988; Maryville Church, Maryville, MO, 1980-1988; and Mt. Tabor Church, Hurdland, MO, 1987-1988. He also pastored Chicago Church, Chicago, IL, 1961-1987; Kansas City Church, Kansas City, MO, Feb.-Dec. 1981; and a congregation in Davenport, Iowa, 1959-1962.

In addition to pastoring these churches, Elder Hopkins furthered the Primitive Baptist cause by publishing a monthly paper, *The Comforter*, from January 1969 until his death.

He was a most faithful and dedicated servant of God, often making long trips in bad weather or when he wasn't physically able. In October, just one month before his death, he traveled 200 miles to hold communion service for one of the churches he served, in spite of serious health problems. He preached a beautiful sermon and helped with communion while seated in his wheel chair.

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### ELDER DENNIS HORN

Elder Calvin Dennis Horn was born September 13, 1954, at Russellville, Arkansas. His parents are Calvin Ray and Beatrice Irene Owens Horn.

Some of Elder Horn's earliest memories are of attending at Fellowship Church at Waldron, Arkansas. In September 1971 he joined Mt. Pleasant near Waltreak, Arkansas. On June 5, 1977, he married Miss Nancy Ann Russell of Mena, who was a member of Harmony Church there. On September 15, 1979, a daughter was born to their union, and on July 2, 1981, a son was born.

Elder Horn was ordained February 29, 1992 at Mt. Pleasant Church, of which he is now pastor. He also serves as pastor of Fellowship Church. He writes and publishes *Roses Among The Thorns*, a quarterly paper written for the praise of God and the benefit of His people. He and his family live near Danville, Arkansas.

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### ELDER JAMES ALFRED HORN

James Alfred (J. A.) Horn was the son of James Albert Horn and Prudence Virginia Paslay. He was born August 08, 1896 in Kirby, Pike Co., AR. He married Minnie Belle Atchley in Hamilton, Texas on August 08, 1918. They had thirteen children and raised ten to adulthood.



J. A. Horn exercised for many years before he was ordained. While raising a large family and trying to share crop for a living, he was very faithful in meeting his appointments. Often there was more "will" than funds. He was not deterred when he did not have money, he rode a horse, hitch hiked or walked.

He was ordained November 18, 1939 into the regular Primitive Baptist Church known as Lone Pilgrim situated in Chaves County at Greenfield, New Mexico. Members of the presbytery were: Elder W.R. Dale, Elder Martin Foshee, Elder P. L. Jones, Deacons: Charley Wright, H. S. Williams, D. R. McCarty, A. H. Stern, W. B. Richards, W. J. Pricer and W. J. Richards.

During his many years as a minister, he served churches in Muleshoe, Texas; Roswell, Clovis, Edgewood, Hobbs, Portales and Tucumcari, New Mexico.

In 1953, Elder J.A. Horn moved to Portland, Oregon. While in Oregon he suffered a serious heart attack and was in poor health for a number of years. It was at this time that he shared with family and friends that he felt God had about ten more years of ministry work for him; then he was meant to finish out his life on the West Coast.

In the fall of 1957, he returned to Roswell, New Mexico. According to church records, upon returning, he placed his membership in the Primitive Baptist Church in Muleshoe, Texas. In January of 1962, the New Hope Primitive Baptist Church in Roswell, New Mexico called him as pastor. He moved his membership there and pastored that church until he moved to Washington in 1968.

In 1968, Elder J.A. Horn advised church members, family and friends that it was time for him to move to Washington. He felt he was meant to finish his ministry on the West Coast. On October 6, 1968 he moved to Dryden, Washington where he would live out his life and serve the Mt. Calvary Church.

His mobile home was located on the church property and he and his son-in-law, Art Scalzo, were roofing the new addition onto his mobile home. He came off the roof to visit briefly with a church member. He came inside the mobile home and handed his daughter a small metal file containing all his personal papers saying, "you will be needing these" then he went back upon the roof and in just a few minutes suffered a fatal heart attack on December 1, 1968.

Interestingly, Elder P. L. Jones was a member of the Presbytery at his ordination. Elder J. A. Horn preached Elder P. L. Jones' funeral. Elder P. L. Jones' son, Elder Victor Jones, preached Elder J.A. Horn's funeral.

All of his children, except Wilburn who joined his wife's Baptist Church, were members of the Primitive Baptist faith. During J. A. Horn's life as an Elder, he baptized his parents, some of his children, grandchildren and conducted the wedding ceremony for many of them. He has always been an inspiration to his whole family. His grandchildren can still be heard saying, "I know what grandpa would say about that" when troubled by life's problems.

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### **ELDER JOHN HORN**

FROM "HISTORY OF MUD CREEK ASSOCIATION" BY JOANN THOMAS ELKIN: Elder Horn was a messenger from Mud Creek Church in 1821 when the Mud Creek Association was constituted. He was moderator of the association in 1822, 1823 and 1824 and preached the Introductory Sermon in 1824. No further mention is made of Elder Horn in the association minutes.

From Volume 2 of The First One Hundred Years of the Baptists in Jackson County, Alabama, compiled by J. Nelson Varnell in 1982, Elder Horn was mentioned in the early minutes of Old Salem Church, one of the oldest churches in the state of Tennessee, founded in 1807. This church was located in the town of Liberty in DeKalb County, Tennessee. In 1814, John Horn was mentioned as being a deacon in this church. In 1819 he was ordained as an Elder. Liberty, DeKalb County, Tennessee is due north of Scottsboro.

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### **ELDER LONNIE E. HORN**

WRITTEN BY HIS NEPHEW, ELDER HAROLD HORN: Lonnie E. Horn was born January 25th, 1845 in Pike County Arkansas to James B. and Temperance A. Horn. He was the youngest of ten children. Lonnie moved to Hubbard Texas with his mother and three of his brothers. He united with Ebenezer Primitive Baptist Church in 1927 and was ordained to the ministry in 1933. Brother Lonnie was baptized by Elder E. L. Kemp of Dallas, Texas. He was called as pastor to Ebenezer Church in 1938 and served until his death in June of 1955. He preached in churches in central, North and East Texas and in Arkansas.

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### **ELDER FRANK E. HORNBERGER**

WRITTEN BY BROTHER JOHN T. BROOKS: Frank E. Hornberger was born Sept. 17, 1919 to Franz and Anna Hornberger in New Jersey, and it pleased the good Lord to call from the scenes of this life our beloved brother, Elder and friend on Feb. 4, 1992.

Bro. Frank joined the Primitive Baptists at the age of 27. He was ordained to the life and work of an Elder and all the burdens of the ministry in February of 1958. He bore these responsibilities willingly and unselfishly until the end. During his pastorship of Liberty, he was always ready to comfort the sick or dying, to perform the marriage ceremony, to encourage the prospective candidate of the ministry and to help us lay our departed friends to that final resting place. He was a member of Liberty Church until ill health claimed his earthly body. He attended church services up until only a short time before, using the assistance of portable oxygen.

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### **ELDER E. L. HORNE**

Elder Horne is the son of Elder James Alfred Horn and Minnie Belle Atchley Horn. He was fifth in a family of thirteen children. He was born November 2, 1927 in



Frost, Texas. Note: The older children added an "e" on to Horn when they started school. His father was exercising for many years before he was ordained as a Primitive Baptist Minister in 1939. Having been raised in this manner, E. L. has continued in the faith. He was married to Victoria Gertrude Copeland on June 21, 1947. In July 1947 they were both baptized into the Lone Pilgrim Church at Roswell, New Mexico by his father, Elder J.A. Horn. He and his wife have four children.

He moved to Portland, Oregon in 1950 and joined the Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Church around 1952 or 53. He was ordained as Deacon in 1962.

On July 30, 1977 this little flock was constituted into the New Hope Church in Albany, Oregon by a duly formed presbytery of ordained ministers: D.A. Layne, L.O. Moore, and Robert Wall. Deacons: Jennings Aden, Arthur Scalzo, Kenneth Hendrickson and Delmas Jones from affiliated churches in California, Washington and Oregon. He has pastored this same little church over the years always holding to the old ways of singing, prayer and preaching only, never adding anything new, as God directed.

For approximately twenty-five years E. L. Horne has watched over, held together and encouraged the growth of the churches in Oregon and Washington. He has traveling many miles between churches in the Pacific Northwest over the years. He also pastors the Mt. Calvary Church in Dryden, Washington. On the Fourth Sunday of each month, he meets with and pastors the Mt. Olive Primitive Baptist Church in St. Helens, Oregon.

In 1975 Elder Horne supported the formation of the Old Line Primitive Baptist Churches of the West Coast and encouraged both the Mt Calvary and New Hope Churches under his pastoral care to become part of this Annual Meeting.

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#### **ELDER ROY LEE HORNE**



Roy Lee Horne is the son of Elder James Alfred Horn and Minnie Belle Atchley Horn. He was third in a family of 13 children. He was born August 31, 1922 in Alba, Texas. Roy became a member of the Primitive Baptist faith when he was young. He married Gladys Delma Crouch February 24, 1944 in Tempe, Arizona and had four children.

Roy settled in Phoenix, Arizona following his discharge from the US Army. Roy and wife joined the Salt River Church in Phoenix and traveled into California to sister churches for many years. On July 4, 1968 he was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry in Santa Paula, California. Members of the Presbytery were, Elders: V. W. Huckaby, J. W. Goforth, Billy G. Lawrence, Paul McClain, James Henthorn, Thurman L. Huckaby, W. F. Burlison, J. L. Coldwell, A. S. Abernathy, J. N. Smith, Ray Pipkin and Lacy Fried; Deacons: H. S. Gilmore, Lee R. Ivey, Allen D. Abernathy, Fred L. Craig, James O. Tabor, Charles E. Walton, Audrey Roberts, Aaron O. Staggs, Dewey Reif and George A. Wall. Roy served as Pastor of the Salt River Primitive Baptist Church in Phoenix, Arizona. He also served the churches in Riverside, Santa Paula, and San Diego, California for many years.

His wife had cancer so they moved to California for medical treatment. On August 09, 1994, while serving the churches in Riverside and San Diego, California he suffered a disabling stroke. He lost all of his memory of the last forty years of his life as a result of the stroke. He could only remember his childhood and young adult years. Although he never lost his understanding of the Bible, he was not able to continue his ministry.

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### **ELDER H. E. HORNSBY**



FROM "A HISTORY OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS OF ALABAMA, MT. ZION ASSOCIATION" BY ELDER E. B. WATTS: Elder Hornsby was born in Marshall County on October 23, 1915. In 1936, he was married to Trudy Fullerton. To their union one son and one daughter were born.

After his first wife's death, Elder Hornsby married Dean Lockridge and to them was born a son.

Elder Hornsby joined Rocky Mount Church in 1939. In 1952, he was licensed to preach. He later moved his membership to Providence Church where he was ordained in 1959. He pastored Providence, Shiloh, and Mount Moriah Churches.

Elder Hornsby died quietly in his sleep on February 20, 1972.

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### **ELDER O. J. HORTMAN**

Was born July 21, 1881, and died Dec. 1, 1928. He received a hope and joined the church at Providence, Roberta, Ga., at the age of twenty-nine, and was baptized by Elder T. J. Bentley. Shortly thereafter moved to South Georgia, and began preaching and served churches around Doerun, Georgia. At the time of his death, he was serving four churches and stood well as a minister of the Gospel. He was married to Miss Exie Mitchell at the age of twenty-two, to which union there were born twelve.

Four months before his death he had told, his wife that he only had a few more months to live, and then he would go home to his beautiful home of rest beyond. He had also made the same statement from the pulpit at Pleasant Grove, the church that he was serving, and on the second Sunday before he died, he told his wife he was going to meeting for his last time. He was taken, sick immediately thereafter and died after an illness of seventeen days on December 1, 1928.

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### **ELDER ANDREW J. HOUK**

FROM "HISTORY OF MUD CREEK ASSOCIATION" BY JOANN THOMAS ELKIN: Elder Andrew Houk was a member of Clear Creek Church and was ordained as a minister in 1908. He resided at Garth, Alabama near this church. He often attended corresponding associational meetings in the Mt. Zion, Sequatchie, Powell's Valley, Collins River, Flint River and Sand Mountain Associations from 1908 through 1930. Elder Andrew preached the Introductory Sermons in 1915, 1917, 1920, 1924 and 1927, and lettered out of his home church and the Mud Creek Association in 1930, moving to Bessemer, Alabama, where he was called to pastor Antioch Church. Elder Andrew was a grandson of Elder Simeon Houk; his parents were George Washington Houk and Viney Nelson. While in the Mud Creek Association, he pastored Clear Creek, Union, Bethel and Mt. Pisgah Churches.

Elder Andrew married Cornelia St. Clair, who was a sister to the wife of his brother, Elder Harvey Houk. Elder Andrew was a school teacher and father of two sons, Carl and Alva.

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### **ELDER HARVEY P. HOUK**

FROM "HISTORY OF MUD CREEK ASSOCIATION" BY JOANN THOMAS ELKIN: Elder Harvey Houk was born October 29, 1876 and died November 29, 1956. He married Minnie St. Clair, born May 24, 1881, and died March 1, 1948. They are buried in Union Cemetery, Woodville, Alabama.

Elder Harvey's membership was first at Clear Creek Church, Garth, Alabama, where he was ordained to the ministry in 1908. He and his wife moved their membership to Union Church, Woodville, Alabama in 1930, a year prior to Clear Creek Church dissolving and its members joining other churches by letter. Elder Houk was probably the best known elder of his contemporaries. He was an able speaker, an affable person, a true shepherd of his flock, one who pastored the churches where he was called and visited among the church families as well as traveling extensively to other associational and church meetings. From 1909 through 1953, Elder Houk attended from three to six different associational meetings, each year, with whom the Mud Creek Association corresponded. Elder Houk served as moderator of the association for forty years, from 1914 until 1954. During his ministry, he preached the Introductory Sermon fourteen times, more times than any minister in the association from 1821 to the present- 1910, 14, 18, 28, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 42, 43, 46, 49 and 54. He pastored Clear Creek, Union, Bethel and Mt. Pisgah Churches.

In September 1954 and 1955, Elder Fred Stewart, Assistant Moderator, served as Acting Moderator on account of the condition of Elder Houk's health. The following note appears in the 1956 minutes:

“A motion was made, seconded and carried, that the members of the Mud Creek Association tender their appreciation to Elder H. P. Houk for his faithful service as moderator for the past forty years. We feel thankful for the peace and fellowship that prevailed during the period of his leadership. The prayers of the Mud Creek Association are that the Lord will richly bless Elder Houk in his declining years.”

The Houk family lived at Garth, Alabama until 1919 when they moved near Gurley, Alabama in Madison County. His occupation was a school teacher and later, rural mail carrier. He and his wife had four children, Roy, Lillian, Kenneth and Katherine. Elder Houk was a grandson of Elder Simeon Houk; his parents were George Washington Houk and Viney Nelson.

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#### **ELDER SIMEON HOUK**

FROM “HISTORY OF MUD CREEK ASSOCIATION” BY JOANN THOMAS ELKIN: Simeon Perry Houk, son of Michael Preston Houk and Lydia Layman, was born on May 15, 1818 in Sevier County, Tennessee. He came to Jackson County, Alabama about 1820 and settled in Schiffman's Cove near Limrock where he lived until his death on January 4, 1879. He married Tobitha Murray, born December 24, 1818; died July 12, 1912. Both Simeon and Tobitha are buried in Peters Cove Cemetery between Woodville and Limrock on County Road 30.

Simeon Houk was a licentiate in 1841 and was ordained as a minister at Union Church in September 1842 by a presbytery composed of Elders John Williams and Elijah Berry. He and his wife were charter members of Union Church in 1835; he was first shown as a messenger from Union Church to the association in 1839.

In June 1844, Bethlehem Church in Schiffman's Cove was constituted as an arm of Union Church and was composed of members lettering out from Union Church: Simeon Houk, Tobitha Houk, Jackson Stevens, Mary Moon and Austen, a man of color. Simeon and Tobitha remained members of Bethlehem Church from 1844 until 1867 when they returned to Union Church.

Elder Houk was a prominent minister and businessman. He was a woodworker and his brother, Salathiel, was a blacksmith; they conducted their businesses jointly in Woodville. As a minister, Elder Houk performed many marriages and conducted many funerals as recorded in courthouse marriage records and newspaper obituaries. He participated in several presbyteries to ordain other ministers and deacons, attended corresponding associational meetings and district meetings; was pastor of several churches and served as moderator of the Mud Creek Association from 1861 through 1867. His name is often found in the association minutes from 1839 to 1878; he preached the Introductory Sermon in 1852, 1860, 1870 and 1872.

Four of Elder Simeon Houk's grandsons were ordained as Primitive Baptist ministers: Andrew J. Houk, 1908; Harvey P. Houk, 1908; Fred Stewart, 1922 and William David Rousseau, 1932. Several of his children were members of Union Church: George Houk and his wife, Viney Nelson Houk; Lydia Ann Houk and husband, Rubin Rousseau; James

Houk and wife, Sarah; William M. Houk and wife, Henrietta Bowers Houk; son-in-law, James Rucks; Mildred Houk and husband, William McDonald Stewart. Several of his grandchildren were also members and several of his descendants are presently members of Union Church.

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### **ELDER BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HOUSE**

Elder B. F. House was born in Opelika, Lee County, Alabama on June 3, 1888.



He was the third child of the seven born to Ophelia Bell Rice and Richmond Alonza House.

At the age of eighteen, he joined Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church in Chambers County, Alabama and was baptised on the Second Sunday of September 1906, by Elder J. T. Satterwhite.

Elder Satterwhite married him to his wife, Carrie Lee Cummins, on December 1907. Sister House was also of the Primitive Baptist Faith and was his faithful companion for fifty-seven years.

Elder House was liberated to the ministry January 1916, and ordained June 13, 1917 at Macedonia Church by Elders J. T. Satterwhite, C. W. Welch, and M. Shaddix, their pastor. In August of 1917, he was called to serve Macedonia where he still had his membership.

According to his records, in his first year of service to the churches and his Lord, he drove a horse and buggy more than twenty five hundred miles. He served many churches throughout Alabama and Georgia during the next fifty years of his life, the longest being at Beulah and Turkey Creek Churches at Parrott, Georgia for some forty years. He was pastor at Bethel Church in Phenix City, Alabama, for some thirty years, until his health failed. He stayed at Bethel as Pastor Emeritus until his death on July 9, 1964.

Elder and Sister House were blessed with six children, two daughters, one of whom died in infancy, and four sons.

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### **ELDER TRAVIS D. HOUSLEY**

Elder Housley was born on March 25, 1943 in Purvis, Mississippi. He and his wife, Elaine have two children: Josh, and Lisa (married to Jeff; three grandchildren--Elisabeth, Emily, and Amanda)

He was baptized in 1958 at the Jackson Church in Jackson, Mississippi. He was ordained to the office of Elder in 1973 at the Salem Church in Madisonville, Kentucky.

He has served the following churches as pastor: Fyke's Grove Church--Springfield, Tennessee; Old Beech Church--Solitude, Indiana; Trinity Chapel Church--Clinton, Kentucky.

Since 1984, he has served the Dawson Springs Church in Dawson Springs, Kentucky as pastor.

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### **ELDER JERRY HOWARD**

Elder Howard was born on June 18, 1958. Elders Paul Keeten and Paul Guilett baptized him at the Elk Fork Church. He is married to Pamela Litteral and they have three sons and one daughter. Elder Howard serves as assistant moderator of the South Fork and White Oak Grove Churches in Eastern Kentucky.



ELDER HOWARD WRITES: God came to me said, "You are mine, I have redeemed you." One day, I opened my Bible and I read the verses of the Lord telling Peter to feed his lambs and sheep. I am a firm believer in grace and a God who is able to do all things according to his divine will.

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### **ELDER JOHN HOWARD**

Elder Howard was born on October 29, 1869 in Foraker, Kentucky and passed from this life on January 12, 1937. He joined the Licking River Primitive Baptist Church and was ordained on October 10, 1925. Elders in the presbytery were J. M. Walters J. L. Arnett and K. K. Spencer. He married the former Liddie Arnett on February 4, 1892 and to this union 14 children were born.



Elder Howard saw the heavens open up and saw God. His father, Dick Howard was a preacher also and told him he would take his place at his death. He preached his first sermon at his father's funeral. Elder Howard lived in Magoffin County, Kentucky and preached in the hills of Eastern Kentucky.

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### **ELDER RICKY HOWARD**

Elder Howard was born on February 9, 1959. Elders Owen Blanton and Crockett Howard (his father) baptized him at the White Oak Church in October 1989. He was ordained to the ministry in October 1994. He is married to Mabel Robbins and they have two daughters and one son. Elder Howard serves as moderator of the South Fork and White Oak Grove Churches in Eastern Kentucky.



ELDER HOWARD WRITES My father, Elder Crockett Howard was baptizing someone and I pulled off my shoes and practically jumped into the creek. I told him, "I have stood it as long as I can." He baptized me. Later, I was called to preach and as ordained in 1994. I have preached salvation by the grace of God ever since

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### **ELDER SARGENT JEHU HOWARD**

FROM "ANCESTORS AND DESCENDANTS OF MATTHEW A. B. HOWARD" BY NORA S. WOODWARD: Elder Howard was born on February 3, 1859 in Georgia. Some information has him marrying first in Lawtrey County, Florida on November 4, 1880 but a marriage license issued in Baker County, Florida on November 4, 1882 has him marrying Miss Mary Ellen Crawford, daughter of John and Charity (Winn) Crawford.

He married a second time on April 28, 1889 at Sanderson, Florida to Laura Henrietta McKinney Andrews, daughter of James and Celia (Bohannon) McKinney. Altogether, he fathered 12 children.

Elder Howard was a minister for about 40 years preaching most of the time at Old North Prong Church in Baker County, Florida He died on March 31, 1935 at Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida and was buried in Oak Grove Cemetery north of Macclenny, Florida.

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**ELDER BOBBY HOWELL**

I was born in Amory, Monroe County, Mississippi on November 8, 1943 and lived in the Amory area until I married Martha Jean Kimbrough in 1965. We are the parents of two children, Jeffery Howell, and Kathy Wilson and at this time we have three grandchildren.

I graduated from Amory High School and from Mississippi State University in 1965 with a degree in education. School teaching and administration was my occupation until I retired in 1994.

The Primitive Baptist Church has always been close to my heart from my earliest memories. I joined Harmony Church in 1972 and was ordained as a deacon a short time later. We moved back to Amory, MS in 1977 and moved our membership to Saint Union Church where I was ordained as an Elder on August 8, 1982.

Since my ordination I have served as pastor to Pleasant Hill Church, Itawamba County, MS for ten years, and Hamilton Church, Monroe County, MS for seven years and at the present time I serve Enon Church, Itawamba, MS.

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**ELDER J. A. HOWELL**

Elder Howell pastor of the church at Coosa River, Elmore County, Alabama died on March 18, 1936. He was the son of Elder Joel W. and Nicy Ann Howell. Elder Howell was born in Coosa County, but moved to the Coosa River Community of Elmore County in early manhood, where he has lived since. God-fearing parents taught him high principles and ideals from which he never departed. The Holy Bible was his guide and he endeavored to live according to its teachings. He was loved and respected by all that knew him. He was a forceful and convincing speaker, and no one who listened to his preaching could doubt the sincerity of his convictions.

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**ELDER J. W. HOWELL**

Near Tallassee, Alabama, on August 18, 1854, to William and Louisa Howell was born a son whom they named Joseph W. This boy's father died when he was quite young, leaving "little Joe" to be reared by his widowed mother. At the age of seven years, the Lord saw fit to bless little Joe with a sweet hope in Jesus, and for three days he sang, "A story most lovely I'll tell," etc. When he was thirteen years old, he joined the Primitive Baptist Church at Tallassee, Alabama, and was received amid the shouts of joy.

At the age of twenty years he was married to Miss Nicy Anne Sayers, and to this union was born one son and three daughters. In April 1893, his wife, died, leaving him and his four children. Prior to her death he had been ordained to the ministry by Swamp Creek Church, Coosa Co., Ala., where he was a member. In 1900, Elder Howell was married to Mrs. Sarah Elland Kicker, and to them were born two children. Elder Howell served, in all, about fifteen different churches as pastor, baptizing quite a number. He served as moderator of the Wetumpka Association from 1899 to 1933. He always labored for peace and union among all the churches and always contended that "love" was the strongest weapon in warfare for the saints. During his sixty-six years among the Baptists, his department was without a charge. Elder Howell was known far and near, and his wise counsel was often sought to help adjust troubles. In January 30, 1915, Elder

Howell was instrumental in the constitution of Zion's Rest Church in Augusta County, Ala., which he served as pastor for sixteen years, and where his membership remained until his death, which occurred April 7, 1934.

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**ELDER PHILLIP HOWELL**



Phillip Howell was born to James and Martha Howell June 15, 1960. In August of 1970, Brother Phillip united with Harmony Primitive Baptist Church in Bawick, Ga. and was baptized by Elder Leon Wiggins.

Bother Phillip began to exercise in April of 1993 and was licensed to preach in October 1996.

At the request of his home church Harmony, a presbytery was formed on November 31, 1997 to ordain Brother Phillip to the full work of the ministry.

In August of 1999, he was called to pastor Harmony Church were he now serves. Brother Phillip currently resides in Thomasville, Ga. with his wife Pam.

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**ELDER RALPH B. HOWELL**



FROM PERSONAL AND FRIENDSHIP CHURCH MINUTES SUBMITTED: FEBRUARY 12, 2000: Ralph B. Howell was born July 22, 1911, in Varnell, Georgia. Ralph was raised in a Christian home but had not heard about the Primitive Baptist faith until he met and started "courting" Lena Mae Peters. If they wanted to see each other on Sunday, her father requested that they attend church. Her family attended Friendship Primitive Baptist Church in Ringgold, Catoosa County, Georgia, where most of her family were members. Ralph feels the Lord led him to Lena Mae and the Primitive Baptist Church.

Ralph and Lena Mae were married on August 3, 1940. They are the parents of three children (Larry, Lynn, and Faye) and make their home in Ringgold. Ralph and Lena Mae joined Friendship Primitive Baptist Church together on December 9, 1945, and were baptized near the church in Hurricane Creek by Elder Paul Childers.

Brother Howell was ordained as a deacon on September 7, 1946, with Elder J. W. Dempsey as Moderator. In 1952, he began speaking publicly and was ordained to the full ministry of the gospel on June 12, 1960, by the following presbytery: Elders Roy Mitchell, Fred Stewart, Earl Meyers, J. W. Dempsey, and Paul Childers as Moderator. In 1965, Elder Howell followed Elder Childers as Pastor of Friendship Church. He faithfully served as Pastor until 1983. The church called Elder Wayne Peters as Pastor and Elder Howell as Honorary Pastor. Elder Howell served as clerk for the Marietta Association for thirty-two years. At the age of eighty-eight, he continues to preach and fill appointments for Primitive Baptist Churches.

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**ELDER THOMAS HOWELL**

He was a lay-member of Middle Creek Church in 1835. He was ordained by that church in the year 1838, and was granted a letter of dismissal the same year. He removed to Iowa, where he labored in the churches of the Des Moines River Association, his name appearing in their minutes as late as 1872.

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### ELDER W. D. HOWELL

SUBMITTED BY FAYE MITCHELL: Elder Willie Davis Howell was born October 12, 1910. He was married to Dovie Barger on November 14, 1931, and they were blessed with two daughters, Faye and Mary. He was baptized August 5, 1939 by Elder J. W. Dempsey; and was ordained August 31, 1946.

Elder Howell served as pastor of Macedonia Church for 27 years, and Cross Roads Church in Atlanta for 37 years. He also served at Euharlee and assisted Elder Jason Davis at Harmony Church.



During his ministry, Elder Howell had the sweet blessing of baptizing his two daughters, a son-in-law and a grandson. He lived and preached the holy truths in God's word. The fruits of his labors, through God's grace, are living in his family today. Four of his grandchildren joined the church after his death, a great-granddaughter joined in 1999, and a great great granddaughter in February 2000

WRITTEN BY ELDER received a sweet hope in lived with them until April baptized by Elder W. J. were baptized the same

I made my first effort appointment for some was ordained (at the Strickland, and E. V. ordination.



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### ELDER B. R. HOWZE

HOWZE, CIRCA 1960: I was born June 3, 1904, and Christ at an early age. I joined the Methodist people and 1929, I joined the church at Medlan Chapel and was Chambers on the second Sunday in April. Wife and I day.

to preach in July the same year. I had a regular time. I have no idea how many I have baptized since I Colorado City, Texas Church) in August 1942. Brother O. Gibson are all the preachers that are left that were in my

I now serve the Big Spring Church, which was constituted in October of 1943. I dare not claim all the credit for assembling this church. Brother (Elder T. A.) Dunn played a great part here. He is gone but his work lives on. Brother Dunn took me, just as a boy, and has never let me go until his last breath left him. I cherish his memory.

NOTE: Elder Howze passed from this life in 1987 at the age of 83. He pastored churches in Midland, Andrews, Lamesa, Big Spring, Merkel and Abilene, all in the State of Texas and the church in Sulphur, Oklahoma. He was the Moderator of the West Providence Association from the early 1940's to 1959.

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### ELDER WILLIAM M HUBBARD

SUBMITTED BY GAYLON POWELL: Elder Hubbard was born in South Carolina, April 22, 1809. His parents, John and Mary Hubbard, moved to Hall County, Georgia, in 1818. Elder Hubbard was raised to manhood and married his first wife, Margaret Morgan, in Hall County, in 1829, and from that union one son was born, who died in the Civil War in Virginia. His conviction of his sins took place while he was witnessing the solemn service of feet washing in which his first wife, who was a member of the Baptist Church, was participating. After his conviction and deliverance, he joined the church called Liberty, in Lampkin County, Georgia, and was baptized by Elder James Whitten on the fourth Sunday of June 1831, and soon after was ordained to the ministry.

In 1843 his wife died, and soon afterwards he was married to Miss Sarah A Whitten, of Murray County, Georgia, and of this union five children were born. At the time Elder Hubbard was ordained there were no Missionary Baptists, but shortly afterwards the great question of foreign missions and the institutions of the day sprang up to the dividing of

the Baptist denomination. And in this, as well as on all other questions which threatened the destruction of the church, he took the right side—that of the Primitive Church—and maintained it until the day of his death. In this great controversy public sentiment and prejudice ran so high that he was threatened by a mob; and on one occasion, when threatened at Valley Grove Church, in Murray County, a company of young men rode up by him, when he was nearing the church, with clubs in their hands, and saluted him very politely. They rode along together on horseback, and when they arrived at the church, he hitched his horse, and the young men hitched theirs close to his, and all went in the church together, he taking the stand and the young men taking their seats nearby. After services, a conference was held in which considerable confusion and discussion on the mooted question of missions, etc. After conference the meeting adjourned, and he and the young men who sat by so attentively, rode away. Upon inquiry it was ascertained that these young men had heard that certain citizens, and perhaps some members of the church, who were favorable to the Arminian cause, intended to mob him, and his opinion was the Lord put it into the hearts and minds of these young men to protect him. This, however, was unknown to him until after it happened.

He preached for the Primitive Baptists for fifty-three years, and served as moderator of the Upatoi, Harmony, and Flint River Associations. He died October 23, 1884, in Terrell County, Georgia.

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#### **ELDER ASA S. HUCKABY**



Elder Huckaby was born on May 3, 1913 to Elder John Thomas and Beulah Huckaby in Boswell, Oklahoma. He went to be with his Lord on April 27, 1974 at his home in San Angelo, Texas.

He was married to Madelie (Madie) Eckerman on February 8, 1942. They had three children, Tracy, Louis, and Pamela.

Elder Huckaby united with Fairview Church in San Angelo in 1954. He was ordained to the ministry on April 2, 1960 by the Fairview Church. He served churches in Sweetwater, Lawn, Wingate, San Antonio, and San Angelo.

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#### **ELDER B. W. HUCKABY, SR.**



TAKEN FROM "THE BAPTIST TRUMPET" JUNE 1970: I was born November 29th, 1928, near Frederick, Oklahoma, the youngest of nine children born to Elder and Mrs. Rhuea (Brown) Huckaby.

While living in Arkansas, the load was placed heavily on me to join the church, and at the age of ten I asked for a home with the people that I now try to serve and want to hold in fellowship. My Daddy baptized me on Sunday morning of the Rich Mountain Association, in a little river near Oden, Arkansas.

When we moved to California, we placed our membership with the church at Oakland, which only a short time before, Elder S. F. Moore and Elder A. J. Roberts, along with some deacons had constituted. Uncle Pat (Elder M. E. Brown) was also our pastor, and I learned to love and respect him as I had never known, and still hold him in the very highest esteem I know how.

In August, 1946, while attending the First Primitive Baptist Association in Oklahoma, I met Miss Lee Reid, who I thought to be the most beautiful and wonderful girl in the world, and still think so, because on September 6th, 1947, at the ages of 17 and 18, my Daddy united us in marriage at the home of her parents, Brother and Sister Robert D. Reid, in Santa Paula, California.

The burden of talking to the Lord's people seemed to have grown stronger in my life. The church called for my ordination to the office of deacon, I think, the first Sunday in December 1957. I received some ease from the load I was carrying, and thought perhaps if I had a calling, this was it. I enjoyed trying to function in this sacred office, and the humble help received from the other deacons in the church.

On the first Sunday in October 1960, the church called for my ordination to the ministry. I must confess I had a suspicion of this from bits of conversation I had heard, but felt I was not ready for ordination, and asked the church to please let things go as they were. I could help out in the absence of our pastor, but still remain as I was. The church did not feel that way, and called for ordained help to set me aside to this work January 28th, 1961.

A few years from this time the church at Caruthers called me to serve them as pastor. In the few years we lived in Caruthers Church the Lord increased it abundantly, but there seemed to be a burning desire to move on. The latter part of 1966, some of the brethren of the church in Oklahoma City asked if I would accept the care of the church there. Their faithful pastor, Elder Luther Lewis, had passed away earlier that year.

On a cold Sunday afternoon, my wife and children took me to the bus station in Fresno where I took my leave for a two days and nights ride to Oklahoma City, praying as I went, "Lord show me what is right. If we should make this move, while I am there on this trip, allow someone to join the church in Oklahoma City, requesting that I baptize them." On Saturday night before I was to leave and go back home Sunday, Brother James Thomas came to the church. I almost shouted at this time, doubting nothing in the Lord, but to move here. Before I got back home though, doubts and fears came in my mind, going so far from those I love, no job when I got there, no house to move into, no money in the bank to make the move. Thanks to the church in Oklahoma City, funds were made available for us to make the move, a house provided for, and we were moved.

The Lord has been so good to me, blessing me with a wonderful wife, and two children, Teresa Lee and Bill Jr.

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### **ELDER BILLY W. (SONNY) HUCKABY JR.**

I was born on July 4, 1953, to Billy W. and Elva Lee Huckaby in Oakland, California. I have one sister, Terry, who is 3 1/2 years older than I. As a young child I had problems with the development of my feet, and had to wear a brace with a bar going from on shoe to the other. The doctors stated that unless my parents took this action, I would be in a wheel chair early in life. Through my parent's diligence, the doctor's good care, and especially the Lord's providence, I have very little problems with my feet today.

We attended Golden Gate Church, where my first memories of the Old Baptist are still precious to me. Elder Henry Cash is the first minister that I can remember, since he pastored the church during the 50s. My uncle, Elder T. L. Huckaby began pastoring Golden Gate in 1958, and became an extremely strong influence in my life. I still mourn his death of April 28, 1980.



My love for the Lord and His Church began so early in my life that I can not remember a time when it was not present. Golden Gate was made up of a lot of my father's family. Church became a special place to me as I began to listen more and feel the effects of the Gospel as if fed my poor heart. Finally after several months of carrying a burden and talking to my father about it, I presented myself to Golden Gate and was baptized on June 12, 1960. My uncle, Elder T. L. Huckaby baptized me and I saw the Church in such glory, even as a young person.

In the summer of 1965, my family moved to Fresno, California, about 150 miles away. My father had accepted the care of a church in Caruthers, California, and felt the need to live in her midst. It was there, at Caruthers, that I first felt the call to the ministry. At 11 or 12 years old, I sat under the preaching of Elder A. D. Abernathy one evening, and had such a burden come over me. While I cannot say I heard an audible voice, I did feel as

if something said to me, "One day my child, you will be preaching." I wept much and began trying to study my Bible. Soon after I made my first attempt to speak in my Lord's name, opening service for my father.

In July of 1967, my father again feeling impressed to accept the pastoral care of another church, we moved. Only this time, the move was to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The Lord greatly blessed the faith and efforts of my father as the Church grew immediately after we moved. I continued to feel the need to speak in my Lord's name, and Dad continued to call upon me. Soon after, Brother Larry Webb and his family moved from Dallas to Oklahoma City, and I soon discovered a brother I never had in the flesh. Brother Larry was struggling under the same burden to preach, and we soon were sharing our secret and burdens with one another. The Lord blessed brother Larry and the Church to the point of finally ordaining Brother Larry Webb to the full work of the Gospel Ministry. Elder Webb continues to be a great blessing to the Primitive Baptists, and will forever have a special place in my heart.

At Oklahoma City, I met Sharon Sliger, the granddaughter of Elder Troy Corley, the daughter of Brother Chester Sliger. I begin to pray that the Lord would bless me with a loving wife, and one that loved the truth as much as I. I promised the Lord that if he would only answer my prayer, then I would do whatever he bid me in His service. Over the course of just a few months, Sharon became a special person to me. I saw my father baptize her, and I began to wonder if Sharon would be the answer to my prayers. We began "going together" when she was only 13, and we married when she was 17. My father united Sharon and me in marriage on December 21, 1973. I had to confess to her my impression to preach before we were married, just to make sure she knew what might befall our life together. Much to my surprise, she said she had known of my impression for several years.

We finally moved to Little Rock, Arkansas in June 1975. I enrolled once again in college, working part time, and Sharon took a full time job to put me through school. Soon Sharon and I moved our membership to Bethel Church in Little Rock, where Elder Everett Abernathy so lovingly and carefully served as my pastor. Before long the Lord blessed me with liberty for the first time and soon the Church liberated me to speak. Some in the area wanted my ordination, but Elder Abernathy stood tall and firm and said that the growth I could have in the next year would justify the wait. Of course, I knew nothing of this, as Elder Abernathy stood as a buffer between me and almost everything. I enjoyed such freedom as the Lord provided such a loving environment for me to grow. On July 29, 1978, I was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry. Elder T. L. Huckaby, my uncle, delivered the charge, with my father Elder B. W. Huckaby praying the ordination prayer.

My membership remained at Bethel for a few years and was called to pastor them for a short time. I resigned as pastor and moved my membership back to Old Union. Old Union had gone through the trouble, but the scars were present. However, God in His tender mercies allowed me to bypass this trouble. It has been told to me that God's providence both led me away from Old Union, and then led me back to Old Union. However, on September 11, 1982, I was called as pastor at Old Union. God has been so good to us. Sharon and I had one more child born to us, Billy Joseph, on March 8, 1981. Our two daughters are married to precious Primitive Baptist brethren.

As I look back through my short 46 years, God's providence has ever been present. I continue to learn of His precious truths for they are new every morning. I continue to long for the fellowship of God's saints, and pray that I might spend my life in service unto my God and His dear Church.

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#### **ELDER JAMES ADDISON HUCKABY**

Elder Huckaby was born in Sumner, Texas to Elder Loren R. and Sister Rhuea Huckaby. He joined the Primitive Baptist Church at Mountain Park, Ok. in 1932, and was baptized by Elder C.R. McClure. He was ordained a deacon by at Stephenville, TX in 1974 and was ordained to the ministry in August 1981. He was married to Eunice Mae Ellison May 17, 1940 at Mena, Ark. She was born at Oden, Ark. She Joined Primitive Baptist Church, Big Fork Ark. Baptized by Eld. L.R. Huckaby

Elder Huckaby was beautifully and wonderfully talented. He was a strong bass singer, spiritual song leader, song writer, gifted in prayer and compassion, and his gift to the ministry was recognized in his teenage years in Arkansas. He wrote many songs, and his published song "I'm Going Home" is well known and a favorite in many parts of the country.



Though he used his other talents freely when called on, he buried his talent to the ministry. Neither he nor the church ever realized the fullness and beauties of that talent. He began to exercise it later in his life, and was ordained to the ministry in his sixties.

He suffered many health problems, and was stricken suddenly in his home in Oklahoma City. He went to his "long-sought home" apparently without suffering the pangs of death in the presence of his wife, Eunice, son Danny, and brother Bill.

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### **ELDER JOHN T. HUCKABY**

Elder Huckaby was born Sept. 13, 1852 and died April 27, 1929. He was a minister of the Primitive Baptist Church in Mississippi, and moved with his family to Texas in the late 1800's. In the History of Churches by Elder J. S. Newman it is recorded that he preached at the Bosque River - Little Flock Association held at Salem Church, Corryelle County, in Texas on Sunday, July 20, 1894, and was called to pastor a church in the Pilot Grove Association in 1896. In November 1896, joined Mt. Olive Church and was called to the care of that church. He continued his ministry in Texas and Oklahoma until the time of his death April 27, 1929 in Tipton, Oklahoma.

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### **ELDER LOREN RODGERS HUCKABY**

Elder Huckaby was born Dec. 27, 1885 in Pontiac, Mississippi to Elder John T. and Sister Alphasyne "Alpha" Huckaby. He died August 20, 1952. He was married to Rhuea Mae Brown on March 18, 1908. To this union eight children were born.

He was a large and dynamic person, yet gentle and fair in his judgments. He was very strong on discipline both with his family and in the church, which some times caused his to be unpopular, yet his opinion was often sought and respected. His word was binding in the church and in the community.

He was ordained to the ministry in 1919 or 1920 by the Primitive Baptist Church at Powderly, Texas, near Paris, Lamer County. He was active in the community where he lived, serving on school boards, community committees, and in any way he could be of service to his fellowman. He studied political issues carefully, and was not afraid to support his convictions.



He had a strong faith in God, preached loud and strong doctrine, sang with a powerful voice, filled with the spirit and determination of teaching! He traveled extensively, often on "Preaching Tours," sometimes alone and sometimes with another preacher.

He was, and is still held in high esteem by those who knew him. He is still remembered over 40 years after his death.

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### ELDER THURMAN L. HUCKABY

Elder Huckaby was born in Sumner, Texas to Elder L. R. and Sister Rhuea Huckaby. He joined Primitive Baptist Church August 1932 and was baptized by Elder Henry Cash. He was ordained to the ministry Sept. 1946 at Mt. Paron Church, Homer, La. He married Marguarite Christine Bolton in Frederick, Okla., on Oct. 9, 1937. Sister Christine was born in Grandfield, Ok. Oct. 28, 1920. She joined the Primitive Baptist Church in 1940, in Oakland, Ca. and was baptized by Elder S.F. Moore of Maud, Texas. To this union five children were born.



he was known. He is still held in high esteem for his steadfastness in the doctrine of the church and his deep spiritual preaching.

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### ELDER J. C. HUDDLESTON

TAKEN FROM AN ARTICLE IN THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST, MAY 1941: In June 1984, when he was a little over sixteen years old, Elder Huddleston realized the sinfulness of his heart. He was going along, thinking he was about as good as anyone and comparing himself to the best people he knew. Little did he know that he had his fill of sin, for about that time he heard a voice call his name as plainly as he ever heard it called. He turned to see who it was, but saw nothing except his sins heaped up before him as mountains. For the first time in his life he felt to be a sinner in the sight of God. He carried that burden for about nine years and spent many sleepless nights during that time. During that time he was married to a Methodist girl, whom he loved as well as a man ever loved his wife.

In September 1903, he left one morning, not expecting to ever see his family again, for he thought he was going to die and that eternal destruction would be his doom. By about nine o'clock that morning, his load got so heavy that it seemed unbearable. He had quit trying to pray for about a week, but his burden was so heavy that he tried one more time. The first thing he knew he was down on his knees with tears flowing from his eyes. Everything looked so lovely that he thought his trouble was over, and he felt like he would be willing to do anything that would please his blessed Lord. It was not long before he realized that the Old Baptists were the true church.

About this time, he felt that it was his duty to preach the gospel. How little, sinful and unworthy he felt. He went on in this way for about three years, longing for a home with God's people, and yet feeling too unworthy to even be in their presence. Finally, after he had had a wonderful dream in which he saw the beauty of the church, he went forward with two others on the first Sunday in September 1906, after preaching by Elders E. W. and J. E. Shackelford. Everything suited him for a while, but alas! that same impression of duty came back to him with double force. "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God," was constantly on his mind. He began to promise the Lord that he would try to discharge his duty, then just as often he would break the promise, until he got to the place he was afraid almost to stay at home, afraid that the judgment of God was going to overtake him for his disobedience. He went on until he was forsaken by his companion and lost almost everything he had. Finally, in June 1911, he promised that, if the Lord would spare his life until the next meeting, he would ask the brethren at Sardis Church to let him try to talk some. But when the time came for preaching, Brother Miller asked him to go up in the stand with him, and he would not go. So he had broken another promise. The next day Brother Miller spent the night with them. When he left for home Brother Huddleston went part of the way with him and when he started back home something got wrong with him. He thought his time had come to die. He began to promise and beg the Lord for another opportunity, and by the time he got to the

house he was talking, and talked, his family said, for nearly an hour. From that time until now he has been going in his weakness to tell the sweet story of Jesus and His love for sinners.

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### ELDER J. ANDREW HUFFMAN

Andrew was born on August 20, 1970, in Atlanta, Georgia, the eldest of three sons born to David Lester Huffman and Rebecca Guess Huffman. David was born on August 3, 1947 to Lester Langdon Huffman and Ruth Mann Huffman of Atlanta, and Rebecca on November 25, 1947 to E.A.M. Guess and Eunice Rushing Guess of Memphis, Tennessee.



Andrew remained the first year of his life in Georgia, until his parents embarked on extended overseas travel. During this period they sojourned throughout Europe, Asia, and Australia, finally returning to America after Andrew's sixth birthday. His subsequent childhood years unfolded in several areas of Georgia and, after age ten, in his mother's hometown in Tennessee. He grew up in blessed contentment alongside his brothers Justin and David Markham ("Mark").

In Memphis, Andrew enjoyed not only the benefit of his parents' loving, diligent care and instruction, but also the Spirit-blest ministries of Elders Zack M. Guess (his mother's eldest brother) and Jimmy K. Barber in the Grace Chapel Church. At eleven years of age, he found a sensitivity to his own sin that led him, in genuine ignorance, to question whether it was creature sin or the grace of God through Christ that extended the further. Finally being brought to a moving, personal apprehension of the immeasurable efficacy of the Saviour's covenant mercies, he discussed with the elders of the church "what must I do?" Through their tender but firm influence the Holy Spirit impressed on him something of the gravity of taking up his cross to follow Christ in baptism and discipleship, particularly through the Lord's words "No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." At last he laid his case before the church and was received into communion with them, upon a public profession of faith.

Andrew was baptized by Elder Guess. In the very moment of rising from the waters, he felt that he could never bear to sin again, and that he would surely follow after the Lord with his whole heart from that day forward. He soon learned the shortcoming of his convictions, saw again the ugliness of pride and rebellion welling up from within, and found himself even questioning at times whether it had not been better for him never to have sought to take up his cross than to take it up so badly and inconsistently.

Yet the Lord still dealt graciously with Andrew, so that even his sins and adversities were overruled for good, as the force of his own inescapable wickedness continued persistently to erode a measure of his pride. Andrew graduated from high school in 1987, attended college in Memphis from 1987 through 1991 to study electrical engineering, worked briefly as a computer software engineer, and then enrolled in law school in Lexington, Virginia from 1991 through 1994. These years were marked by pits of rebellion and despair, tempered by moments of victory and blessed seasons of peace. Thanks be that, despite Andrew's neglect in searching out a sound church home in Virginia before beginning his schooling there, God led his feet to the haven of Mt. Olive Church in Roanoke, Virginia, and the Spirit-enlivened pastoral care of Elder Thomas B. Mann. God used these influences to further cultivate spiritual graces in Andrew's life, to forge strong bonds of kinship with the saints, to make him feel accountable for the sin he brought forth, and to help restrain him from the remainder of sin.

Second only to the Lord's direct, inward, spiritual dealings with him was the blessing of Andrew's providential union with Rhonda Faye Stewart (b. May 17, 1971), of Jackson, Mississippi, the youngest child of Charles and Virginia Stewart. Though they had lived only three hours apart for many years (he in Memphis and she in Jackson), they had no idea of one another's existence until the Lord graciously brought their paths to cross while Andrew was studying law in Virginia. It "happened," as they say, that Andrew and Rhonda both were visiting the Mt. Carmel Church in Bel Air, Maryland, and Andrew was immediately drawn to her beauty, character, and demeanor. He pursued her with purpose,

ultimately winning her devotion and the consent of her parents. Wed just three months after first meeting, they continued in Virginia until he completed his study of law and then moved to New Jersey. As of this writing, the Lord has blessed them with five children: Seth Aquila, Annabelle Joy , Priscilla Lynn, Adelaide, and Joel Lester.

The Huffmans lived in Secaucus, New Jersey, for one year (1994-1995) while Andrew practiced law in New York City. During this period Andrew and Rhonda were gladly numbered with the Mt. Carmel congregation in Bel Air, Maryland. They then moved to Maryland and Andrew practiced patent law in Wilmington, Delaware (1995-\_\_\_\_). Elder Steven W. Boyd, their pastor at Mt. Carmel, encouraged Andrew in the study and application of God's word and occasionally had him speak before the congregation. Elder Boyd inquired whether Andrew had any thought that God had called him to publicly preach the word, and for a season Andrew's very definite thought was that God had not so called him – preferring rather to limit his exercises to what he considered a possible gift of exhortation.

But about this time, in September 1996, the Wilmington Church in Wilmington, Delaware, began asking Andrew to fill their pulpit regularly, in the absence of their pastor Elder W. Dwayne Fletcher, who was recuperating from certain struggles of health. From the first moment that Andrew visited the Wilmington congregation, he felt his heart knit closely with theirs and desired to help them however he could. For their part, the church graciously received the Huffmans and warmly encouraged Andrew in his efforts to speak the truth in love. He rejoiced greatly during seasons of felt liberty, but also doubted the validity of his effort at times. Elder Guess encouraged him to consider as marks of a true calling whether he had received spiritual teaching gifts from God and whether he had a real desire to use such gifts for the good of God's people. Finally, as Andrew listened very late one night to a recorded message brought by Elder Mann from the tenth chapter of Romans, his direction became clearer. He was overwhelmed with a sense that Paul's heartfelt burden for his countrymen was his very own burden as well, in particular for the saints at Wilmington. The church there already had called for his ordination to the office of a bishop, and in due time Mt. Carmel assembled a presbytery to that end.

Thus it came to pass that on August 16, 1997, following a powerful morning of public worship with the Mt. Carmel church, Andrew received the laying on of hands of a presbytery comprising Elders Stephen R. Aquino, Jimmy K. Barber, Steven W. Boyd, James L. Compton, Zack M. Guess, Thomas B. Mann, and Chuck Smith. On the following day he accepted the Wilmington congregation's call to serve them as pastor, and he and Rhonda presented themselves and were warmly received as members of that church. He has enjoyed the blessed privilege of cooperating with several fellow laborers in the region, including Elders Boyd, Aquino, Smith, Michael A. Stewart, and Barnabas Brammer, in efforts to declare the gospel again in several northeastern communities where once-faithful churches had died away over the course of time – including Berwick, Maine; Hopewell, New Jersey; New York, New York; London Tract, Pennsylvania; and Southampton, Pennsylvania. Elder Huffman is now serving the church in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Andrew is deeply grateful for the benevolent influences and sound examples of the many saints and ministers of the gospel whose lives and labors have directly affected his, including the persons mentioned above, and Elders Lasserre Bradley Jr., Timothy Cannon, H.D. Fulmer, Joe Hildreth, Langdon Huffman, Jerry Hunt Sr., David Montgomery, Wayne Peters, Bobby Poe, David Pyles, Dwayne Shafer, Mike Strelvel, and others too numerous to name here. He also is very thankful for the uplifting influence of his brothers Justin and Mark, and for evidences that God may be preparing them for the work of publicly ministering the word.

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### **ELDER LANGDON E. HUFFMAN**



1966.

Elder Huffman was born on April 6, 1938. In November 1950 he was baptized at the East Point Church by Elder Roy Mitchell. On December 31, 1966, he was ordained to the ministry at the Utoy Church. He married his wife, Andrea, on March 27, 1965 and they have one son, Noah and one daughter Leah.

ELDER HUFFMAN WRITES: In October 1950, at age 12, I was made aware of my sinful nature and of my need and love for Jesus. My eyes were opened to the beauty and purpose of the church. God's mercy flooded my soul.

At age 27, I realized an overwhelming desire to preach the Gospel for God's people. Utoy Church soon liberated me (Aug 1965), followed by my ordination in December

I pastored Sardis Church near Monroe GA from January 1967 to October 1968; Rome Church in Rome GA from September 1967 to the present time. I was interim pastor of Utoy Church in Atlanta, GA from September 1971 to September 1972.

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### **ELDER LUTHER LANGDON HUFFMAN**

OBITUARY WRITTEN BY MT. HOME PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH: Elder Luther Langdon Huffman departed this life on May 20, 1957, making his stay on earth 77 years. He was the oldest son of Jefferson and Frances Hunt Huffman. On October 27, 1907, he was united in marriage to Ada Belle Knighten. To this union were born five sons and twin daughters.

Elder Huffman was baptized near Philadelphia Church, Caldwell County, N. C., on May 12, 1911; his wife and her sister Fannie Maude Knighten were also baptized at the same time, and these three together with three others later became charter members in the constitution of Mountain Home Church at Asheville, N. C., on May 22, 1926, at which time Elder Huffman was first liberated by the church to exercise his gift of God in preaching the gospel. He was duly ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry on November 24, 1929.

Elder Huffman was later elected Assistant Pastor of Mountain Home Church and still later held the position of Pastor in the same church, being assisted the last several years of his life in that capacity by his son Elder Orvin J. Huffman.

WRITTEN BY ELDER JOE HILDRETH: Elder Huffman grew up in the Lutheran Church in Hickory NC, and converted to the Primitive Baptist faith after his marriage. He and his wife were instrumental in the formation of Mountain Home Church at Asheville, which met in their home for several years until funds could be raised for a meeting-house. His ministerial labors were primarily at Mountain Home. He was blessed to baptize six of his seven children. His son, Orvin Huffman also became a minister. His son, Lester was a faithful deacon for 52 years until his death, January 18, 2000.

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### **ELDER CHRISTOPHER C. HUGHES**

Elder Hughes was born in 1871 in Illinois. His parents were James and Lucinda (Brown) Hughes.

Brother Hughes was a member of Little Wabash Church near Crossville, Illinois and pastored that church for some time. From 1922 until his death in 1940, he pastored Carmi Church at Carmi, Illinois.

The cemetery at Maple Ridge became the final repose of Elder Hughes when he died in 1940. No further information is available on this minister.

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**ELDER MICHAEL FRANKLIN HUGHES**



Elder Hughes was born on May 5, 1951 to Frederick William Hughes Fae Franklin Hughes. He was ordained on October 29, 1988. He married Marilyn Kaye Newman on August 1, 1981. To this union two children were born: William Zane Hughes and Rachael Faye Hughes.

Elder Hughes has served the Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church of Purcell, Oklahoma and the Zion's Rest Primitive Baptist Church of Tecumseh, Oklahoma

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**ELDER W. J. HULL**

WRITTEN BY HIS SON, ELDER Z. C. HULL: Elder Hull was born in Illinois December 12, 1849. He passed away November 8, 1928. He was first married to Miss Melissa Rowland who died March 9th, 1903. Nine children were born to this union.

Elder Hull dated his experience in the month of May 1869. In relating his experience he said: "If I was born again, it was while plowing in Yell County, Arkansas. The shadows of darkness and eternal death began to hover over me, and every pulsation of my heart seemed to be a mass of sin and corruption—lost was my cry for weeks, but to my surprise, and at a time unexpected, in the midst of great sorrow, the burden of sin was rolled away from my poor burdened soul, and joy and peace flowed like a river through my poor heart which had been crushed down." He joined the church at Chikala, Yell County, Arkansas, Saturday before the third Sunday in December 1869, and was baptized by Elder Thomas Moudy. In the year 1881 he made his first effort to preach. In September 1882, he was ordained to the full work of the ministry. He served churches in Arkansas for many years. It was pioneer days, ministers were few. He traveled on foot and horseback. Churches were scattered and his services required great sacrifice. The churches prospered under his care. According to the records, he baptized over three hundred in that section during his ministerial work. In later years he moved to Western Texas. He served churches in this section for several years. He also traveled in different states. While on a tour he met Mrs. Josie Bennett at Mesquite, Texas. They were married in October of 1908. She was a companion to him, and loved by the children, and all who knew her. She was a faithful Baptist, always interested in the peace and welfare of the saints. In later years Elder Hull located in Southern Alabama and served churches in Alabama and Georgia. He also traveled through the Southern States. He had a great zeal for the cause. In 1923, he moved back to Arkansas.

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**ELDER THOMAS (TOM) J. HUMBLE, SR.**

Elder Tom Humble was born on February 17, 1921, in Quinton, Oklahoma and passed from this life on January 27, 1998. He joined Pilgrim's Rest Church of Arkoma, Oklahoma in 1954 and was ordained to the full work of the ministry on October 27, 1984. At the time of his death,



in addition to the church of his membership, he served Enon Church near Ozark, Arkansas and Little Flock Church near Paris, Arkansas.

His wife of 57 years, Bertha, was partner with Elder Humble in hospitality. Preachers from all over the country were welcomed into their home and fed abundantly with spiritual conversation and large meals.

One text that would best describe Elder Humble would be Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." Elder Humble's last name described his walk as he labored for peace among the Primitive Faith. Brother Tom was blessed to see long-standing factional lines, in Arkansas, removed prior to entering into his long sought home in glory.

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#### **ELDER ARCHIE LEMUEL HUNT**

Elder Hunt was born on December 24, 1891 and died May 7, 1967. He was the eldest of nine children of Elder Parriet and Rhoda Hunt. He was united in marriage to Nora Fay Vandevener October 14, 1915. To this union were born four children: Mary Agnes, Olgie, and one son, Lowell. One daughter died at birth.

Bro. Hunt united with the Primitive Baptist Church in Pikeville, Ind. at the age of 12, and was ordained to the ministry in September of 1924. After moving to Missouri in 1925, he pastored Sandrun Church in Lincoln County for 32 years, and concurrently Elkhorn Church in Montgomery County 24 years. He pastored Old Cedar Church in Calloway County for the last 17 years of his life.

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#### **ELDER GEORGE R. HUNT**

Elder Hunt was born in Houston County, Georgia on 10 May 1904. This most beloved minister, pastor, writer, and friend of the Primitive Baptists everywhere was born the son of Jefferson M and Sara Josephine (Andrews) Hunt.



As a young man he joined Beaver Creek Primitive Baptist Church near Perry in Houston County, Georgia. He was ordained to the ministry in November 1937. The ministers used in the ordination presbytery were: Elders Joshua Chance and J. Harvey Daily.

Elder served as pastor of the following churches: Mt. Carmel in Crawford Co., Ga; New Hope in Taylor Co., Ga; Fellowship in Peach County, Ga; Beaver Creek in Houston Co, Ga; Shoal Creek in Newton Co., Ga; Shiloh in Bibb Co., Ga; New Providence in Wilcox Co, Ga; New Bethel in Wilcox Co., Ga; Zion's Rest in Ben Hill Co., Ga, Cedar Creek and Lebanon, both in Crisp Co., Mt. Olive in Dooly Co., Mt. Pisgah in Worth Co., Ga., and Sycamore in Turner Co., Ga.

Elder Hunt has written articles for many Primitive Baptist publications including *The Oasis* and *The Christian Baptist*.

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### ELDER GUY HUNT

I was born in Cullman County, Ala., on June 17, 1933. My parents were Elder and Mrs. W. O. Hunt. In August of 1946, I united with Mt. Vernon Church. In February of 1951, I was married to Helen Chambers. We have four children.



I began taking part in the service at Mt. Vernon in 1953. I entered the U. S. Army in 1954 and served until 1956. I was ordained in September 1958 to the work of the ministry.

Like many others, I cannot tell the time I first realized I had a love for the Lord. My first notice was a dear love for the church. I do not know when I first began to note a fear that I was called to preach. I do recall a time at the age of 15 when one of our elders was left by himself on a Saturday. He asked several of the brethren to introduce service for him. He did not ask me. I was very glad he did not, for I found at that time my thought was, if he called on me I must get up and do the best I can. From that time forward, I carried a heavy burden until Elder E. B. Watts asked me to take a part in the service when I was 19.

Since that time I have tried to do what I was called upon to do in serving God's people. I find there to be as a fire shut up within me, from which I find no relief except in the service of God's people and praising Him. I hope I am not deceived in the entire matter. The Lord has been good to me.

NOTE: The preceding was taken from *Identity of the True Baptist Church*, published by Elder Wiley Sammons. Elder Hunt served for many years as the moderator of the Mt. Zion Association, has traveled widely among our people and dearly loved and respected by them. He served as Probate Judge of his home county of Cullman, and was twice elected Governor of the state of Alabama.

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### ELDER HAROLD HUNT

I cannot tell for certain when I first received an impression that I must preach. I only know that when I was a small boy, I knew that someday I must assume this awesome responsibility.

When I first realized a hope in Christ Jesus, I united with the Missionary Baptists. I only remained a member with them for a short time. After a while, I moved my membership to another body of people, who like to refer to themselves as Primitive Baptists. But, in doctrine and practice, they were nearer Freewill Baptists than they were to anybody else I can think of. They are arminian in doctrine; they have Sunday schools and instrumental music; they have revivals for the purpose of saving souls for heaven; and some of them have the notion that a person can fall finally away and be eternally lost after he has been born again.

It was after I joined those good, but thoroughly confused, people that I first endeavored to preach. I preached for them for several years before I discovered the truth of salvation by grace. I had met a brother from the Chattanooga Church. He and I discussed what Primitive Baptists believed. Being with a body of people who called themselves Primitive Baptists, I thought I was one; but, when I began to compare our doctrine with the doctrine that this brother advocated, I saw that we were poles apart. After we concluded our conversation, I went back home intending to find enough scriptures to completely refute the doctrine of predestination, studied my Bible, looking for verses which say point blank that it was up to the individual whether he went to heaven or not. I was able to find several verses which I thought said that, in a general way; but, I was never satisfied, either then or before, with generalities about anything. I wanted something that spelled it out, clearly and plainly. I went to all of those texts which I had used to preach conditional salvation, looking for the one that would spell out the arminian position, word for word, clearly and logically.

But, as I examined those old proof texts, one by one they failed me in my quest. Not one of them would say what I wanted it to say. While it became increasingly evident, that I was not going to find even one text that said what I wanted it to say, I was finding texts scattered all over the Bible that stated just exactly the doctrine I was trying to disprove.

Discovering the doctrine of election was the happiest moment of my life. For a long time, if anybody within speaking distance of me, I wanted to know, "Have you heard? Have you heard about predestination? Have you heard that all the elect are sure of eternal heaven?" I had just heard the good news, and I wanted everybody to know about it!

Becoming convinced that the doctrine of predestination was the truth, I began to preach that doctrine among the churches with whom I was affiliated; it became evident that they did not have the same that I did in discovering that God had chosen a people. Before long, I realized that I could never again be happy where I was.

I had joined those people by letter from a Missionary Baptist church. I left them and went by letter to a Progressive Primitive Baptist church. I was pastor of that church for two years. For a while I was happy. I had found a people who loved the doctrine salvation by grace as much as I did, and I could preach it just as earnestly as I wanted to and they would bask in the joys of it. They were precious people I still have a warm place in my heart for them.

But, it was not long, before the practice of the churches became too burdensome for me to endure. I came to see that there was no Bible warrant for instrumental music and Sunday schools. I saw that those who believe in salvation by grace have no business belonging to lodges that teach salvation by works without grace.

I offered myself to the Primitive Baptist Church at Knoxville, the first Sunday in January 1963. The brethren asked me when I wanted to be baptized I told them that I had brought my clothes and I wanted to be baptized as soon as we could get in the water. I had waited so long for valid baptism did not want to wait another day. Elder J. L. Wolfenbarger baptized me that afternoon.

After I came into the church, I discovered I had never known friendship, so rich, and full, and deep, as there was to be found in the church. It is no wonder that members of the Primitive Baptist Church say that Primitive Baptists are the most wonderful people on Earth.

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#### **ELDER JAMES ROBERT HUNT**

SUBMITTED BY GAYLON POWELL: Elder Hunt was born in Houston County, Georgia, September 3, 1888, and died in Perry Georgia, April 12, 1928. He united with the Primitive Baptist Church at Beaver Creek near his home at the age of seventeen, and was ordained to the full work of the ministry June 30, 1917, by Elders W J Greene and J M Woodward, and at the time of his death was serving his home church, Beaver Creek, Pleasant Hill and Fellowship Churches of Houston County, and Bethel Church of Taylor County, Georgia. November 26, 1908, he was married to Miss Geraldine Barker. To this union were born four children, two of whom preceded him to the grave at an early age. He was buried in the family lot in Bonaire, Houston County, Georgia.

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#### **ELDER JERRY MACON HUNT, SR.**



Elder Jerry M. Hunt, Sr. was born May 7, 1932 in Memphis, Tenn. He was born to a woman who was not married named Thelma Massey, who had fled there from her home in Barwick, Ga. The great depression was heavy upon the nation, and having no means of support, she gave her child up to the welfare (combination of State and Catholic church) agency, who promptly sent him back to Georgia, since the mother was not a resident of Tenn. Jerry was placed in a welfare home in the city of Atlanta and was there when he was adopted into the family of Macon and Gertrude Hunt. He was told that he was just over one



year old when Macon and Gertrude, who had lost a baby after three days of life, and several previously still born ones, came to Atlanta to see if there was a baby that they thought they might like to adopt. They said when they got to his bed that he pulled himself up in the bed and reached out for them, and in that moment their heart was touched. They applied for him and filled all the required laws and finally took him home to the Hogansville, Ga. area to live with them in 1933.

Macon had a desire to preach but he fought against it and put all of his energy into his business and finally lost all his health and his business. He started preaching around 1940-41 and Jerry went many places with him. As he went, Macon talked with everyone he could get to listen to him about being saved by the grace of God alone and election. Jerry thought all this was foolish for it made no sense to him. When Macon was ordained and started pastoring Fellowship Church at Tucker, Ga., for some time Jerry thought very poorly of the services and the people. He hated to attend church during this time in his life. This continued until the Saturday before the fourth Sunday in August 1947. It was meeting weekend at Fellowship and conference was held on Saturday, as well as preaching. Being as bored as ever, he took a seat and proceeded to go to sleep so the services wouldn't seem so long. Somewhere in the middle of the sermon, he awoke. The first thing he remembers was the sermon was making sense to him for the first time in his life. He then looked around at the folks that he previously thought were old and ugly and they appeared very beautiful to him. Soon the preaching was over. A song was begun and where the singing was so bad in his ears before, now sounded like a band of Angels. The invitation was given and he responded right then. He was surprised, but they took him in and all seemed to love him in spite of his sinfulness. He asked for his uncle W.O. Hunt to come over from Alabama and baptize him. He came and Jerry was baptized on the fourth Sunday in August 1947. During the waiting time, the girl that would later become his wife, June Brand joined, and so did his uncle Charlie Hunt.

Jerry married June Brand on October 24, 1948. They both were in love with God, Christ, and the Church and each other.

Jerry felt a call to preach the gospel sometimes in the year of 1950. He began in earnest to exercise among the churches of the Beulah Association. His father, Elder Macon Hunt, Elder Ed. Hawkins, Elder H. Roy Avery, Elder Elzie Speir, Sr. and Elder J. A. Monsees were loving ministers that tried to help him and teach him all they could about the important responsibility that went along with being a preacher of the gospel.

He was ordained to the ministry on August 31, 1958 at Utoy Church. The following Elders sat in the presbytery. J. A. Monsees, Clyde L. Waldrip, Rufus C. Brantley, Walter L. Allen, W. Ed. Hawkins, Cecil E. Darity, J. B. Lord, Jr., Macon H. Hunt, Joe Hildreth, H. Roy Avery, John T. Todd, J. M. Speir, Floyd P. Thompson, W. Otto Hunt, O. C. Oden, W.S. Kelley, Clarence A. Keaten, Chalmers L. Cochran and Elzie D. Speir, Sr.

He has preached all over the eastern half of the U.S.A. and a little in the western part. The churches that he has served as pastor are, Rock Springs at Lithonia, Ga., Collins Springs at Smyrna, Ga., Hopeful, near Fairburn, Ga., Shoal Creek, near Newborn, Ga., Ozias, near McDonough, Ga., and Providence, McDonough, Ga., where he is still actively serving at this writing.

He has lived to see his only son ordained to the ministry and serving at the church where he first joined. He has lived to see one of his grandsons ordained and serving Pine Hill Primitive Baptist Church in Mississippi. God has blessed him to see several young men called to preach and come up in the church that he was pastor.

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#### **ELDER J. R. HUNT**

Was born in Houston County, Georgia, September 3, 1888, and died in Perry, Georgia, April 12, 1928. He united with the Primitive Baptist Church at Beaver Creek near his home at the age of seventeen; was ordained to the full work of the ministry June 30, 1917, by Elders W. J. Greene and J. M. Woodward, and at the time of death was serving his home church, Beaver Creek, Pleasant Hill and Fellowship Churches of Houston County, and Bethel Church of Taylor County, Georgia.

On November 26, 1908, he was married to Miss Geraldine Barker. To this union were born four children, two of who preceded him to the grave at an early age. Brother Hunt was sound in the faith and doctrine of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and was ever ready and did earnestly contend for that faith once delivered to the saints. Just how he was loved by the membership of the old church and by all those who knew him, cannot be expressed in words.

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### ELDER OWEN HUNT

I was born August 20, 1925 in Cullman County, Alabama, to William Otto and Orene Holcombe Hunt. Both my parents were members of Holly Pond Church. My earliest memories include going to church with them and my four brothers and one sister. I had a hope in spiritual things from early childhood, and remember I had a tender heart in these matters.



I served in the U. S. Army from January 1944 until May 1946. About 15 months of this time was spent overseas in Europe. While in the army I read my Bible while sitting on my bunk at night. I prayed for myself, my family and my country, and eagerly awaited coming home. I promised the Lord I would join His church if blessed to return home. On the first Sunday in July 1946, I was baptized, along with my brother just older than me, as a member of Mt. Vernon Church of the Mount Zion Association of Alabama. I was baptized by my father, Elder W. O. Hunt.

From 1946 until 1948 I attended St. Bernard College, then attended the Univ. of Alabama, where I earned my B. S. and my Masters degree in 1950. During this time I fell in love and married a wonderful young girl whom I had known since childhood. Her name was Juanita Patterson. We were married September 15, 1948. She became convinced of the truth of the Old Baptists and on a very happy day of our lives joined Mt. Vernon Church. We had been married about five years at the time. She has been a loving and faithful companion and mother to our two daughters and one son: Kend, Beth and Stuart have been a wonderful blessing.

In the early 1950's, I was ordained a deacon at Mt. Vernon and in 1959, I felt a strong inclination to preach the gospel. I started speaking publicly at that time. In February 1962, because of severe asthma and pneumonia, I moved my family to Phoenix, Arizona, where I taught school. We became members of Phoenix Primitive Baptist Church, where I continued attempts speaking in the Lord's name. In April 1963 I was ordained to the full work of the ministry in the Phoenix Church. We moved to Prescott, Ariz., in 1964 for the benefit of clearer air. We continued with these dear brothers and sisters until we returned to Alabama in 1972, where we placed our membership back at Mount Vernon. I was called as a co-pastor with my brother, Elder Guy Hunt, where we have served together 28 years. During these years I have served Mt. Joy and New Clear Creek Churches in the same association.

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### ELDER W. O. HUNT



FROM "A HISTORY OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS OF ALABAMA, MT. ZION ASSOCIATION" BY ELDER E. B. WATTS: Elder Hunt was born in Georgia on November 21, 1892. In 1912, he was married to Miss Orene Holcombe, a daughter of Elder R. J. Holcombe. To their union were born six sons and one daughter.

In 1914, Elder Hunt moved to Alabama and in 1923, he joined the Fellowship Association. In 1936, he and his wife joined Mount Vernon Church and shortly thereafter, he was licensed to preach. He was ordained in 1939.

Besides Mount Vernon, Elder Hunt pastored Gum Pond, Mount Olive, Clear Creek, and assisted others from time to time. Elder Hunt was a very effective pastor and churches generally prospered under his care. To the writer, he was a father in the ministry. Elder W. O. Hunt lived to see two of his sons ordained to the ministry - Owen and Guy. His younger brother, Macon, was also an ordained minister.

Elder Hunt's health began to fail a few years before his death. On October 9, 1967, he died suddenly while out for a morning walk.

Elder Hunt was assistant moderator and moderator of the Mount Zion Association from 1950 until his death.

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### ELDER ALPHONSO HURST



NOTE: ELDER HURST ENTITLED HIS SKETCH, "AM I A SOLDIER OF THE CROSS?" During World War II, I was in the Air Force in Alaska. I was a soldier all right, but not of the Cross. I was a sinner and the more I thought my condition, the more I feared the war and that I might not see my loved ones again. As the days and weeks went by, I mourned because of my sins.

When the war was over, I married Naomi Rector, a loving Christian who has stood by me as a minister and pastor.

Shortly after marriage, I found the Cannon Creek Church of the Powell's Valley Association. One week after I was baptized, I was called to open services. In 1951, I joined the Mt. Zion Church in Blanchester, Ohio where Elder Otis Wilder was pastor. He called me to the stand shortly after I moved my letter there. In 1953, I was ordained—Elder Wilder was my father in the ministry.

Since I have been ordained, I have either conducted services or preached over 2000 times. I have baptized about 30 of God's children. I have served four churches as pastor or co-pastor, namely: Mt. Zion in Blanchester, Ohio; Phoenix, Tucson and the Lone Pilgrim Church in Mesa, Arizona. I have married about twelve couples and am the president of the Harmony Canyon Singing School.

Yet....Am I myself a soldier of the Cross?

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### ELDER CALVIN INGRAM HURST

WRITTEN BY C. F. MARTIN: Elder Calvin Ingrain Hurst, was born to the late Calvin and Virginia Hurst, on September 1, 1875, and died September 26, 1962. He was married to Miss Arminta Marshall in 1905. To this union six children were born.

His first wife departed this life in March 1920. He was then married to Miss Lucinda Carolyn Brinkley, in 1922. To this union five children were born, two having died in infancy.

Elder Hurst professed a hope in Jesus Christ and united with the Primitive Baptist Church at Bethel in Pulaski County, Virginia, during the year of 1897. He began to speak in the name of His Lord in 1898 and was ordained to the full functions of the gospel ministry in 1910. Elder Hurst, at one time in life, when trouble and confusion was among the membership of his church, would go to the church house and sit on the door-steps alone, on meeting days--contending that faithfulness was the only course to pursue. Later, others began to meet with him at the church house, and at the time of his death, the membership of his church was large, is faithful and very active.

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**ELDER DOYLE DEWARD HURST**

I was born December 7, 1952 in Chester County of West Tennessee. My family moved to Nashville when I was a baby, and I have lived in middle Tennessee all my life.



I joined the Fairview Church and was baptized on July 5, 1981 by Elder James Read. In May 1985, I was ordained to the ministry. When questioned by my pastor, Elder Read, about my calling to the ministry; the best way that I could describe my feelings were that I was afraid to preach and afraid not to preach. My most terrifying experience in preaching came in my early efforts. Once while in the pulpit, I became so fearful that I was on the brink of passing out. And I had to sit down to prevent completely falling down. The congregation stood and sang “Amazing Grace” and soon, I regained my composure and was able to finish the preaching. On another occasion, I passed out completely. During my drive home, I felt so ashamed of myself and pulled off the road. I sat for an hour and felt that I would never make another attempt at preaching. I prayed that God would deliver me from the burden of preaching; but before that prayer ended, I had resolved to God that I was willing to endure the difficulties of preaching if at least, His people would be fed.

In 1989, I accepted a call from Big Harpeth Church in Franklin, TN to serve as pastor. I continue to serve there.

I married Mary King on November 4, 1972 and we have four children, three sons and one daughter: Mike, Mitchell, Korie and Sidney. As of this writing, my most severe trial has been the death of our 17-year-old son. The Lord’s answer to Paul has proved true for me as well in coping with this: “My grace is sufficient for thee.”

On a higher note, I conclude that throughout my life, I have been blessed by the riches of God’s grace. He has embraced me in His arms and has upheld me by His mighty power. I have received no greater joy and honor in my life than to have the privilege to serve Jesus Christ and preach his glorious gospel to the Lord’s people. He has done exceeding abundantly above all that I could ask or think according to the power that worketh in us.

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**ELDER HARVEY HURST**

FROM “THE CHRISTIAN PATHWAY” WRITTEN BY WILLIAM C. MOSLEY: Elder Harvey Hurst departed from this life December 12, 1981. Brother Hurst was born September 12, 1917 in Chester County, Tennessee as the son of the late Harmon Hurst and Etta Manness Hurst. He was married to Sister Bonnie Garner on February 1, 1941, and of this union seven children were born.

Brother Hurst united with Friendship Church of Gwinnett County, Georgia on June 3, 1956. He was ordained to the full work of the Gospel Ministry on January 1, 1978. Elder Hurst was a faithful member and attended church as long as he was able.

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**ELDER RUFUS F. HYDE**

RESOLUTION BY ORDER OF THE CHURCH AT NEW HARMONY SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 1947: Elder Hyde was born October 27, 1881, in Shelby County Alabama, and died July 19, 1947. He joined the Primitive Baptist Church

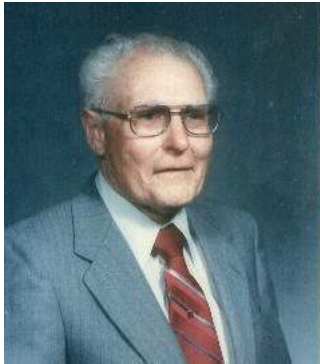
in 1912 and was ordained to the ministry December 9, 1923. He married Amy Viola Williams, July 20, 1902. To their union eleven children were born.

He preached his last sermon at his home church, New Harmony, on Saturday, July 19, 1947. His text was, "The church is established in the top of the mountains exalted above the hills." He suffered a heart attack a few hours later and practically died in the arms of his pastor, Elder J. B. Williams, remarking, "Farewell vain world I'm going Home," also expressing his love for Elder Williams.

FROM ELDER WAYNE CROCKER: Elder Hyde was my wife's grandfather and the father of her uncle, Elder Rufus Herman Hyde. He was pastor of the Primitive Baptist Church of Lanett, Alabama at the time of his death. I have heard Elder Joe Hildreth speak of how Elder Hyde encouraged him when he was a young boy. I do not remember Elder Hyde, but my mother loved to hear him preach.

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### ELDER RUFUS HERMON HYDE



SUBMITTED BY HIS WIFE, (SISTER) GLADYS HYDE: Elder Rufus Hermon Hyde was born May 19, 1915, in Shelby County, Alabama, son of Elder Rufus and Mrs. (Sister) Viola Hyde. He died August 23, 1991.

Elder Hyde joined Mount Olive Church of the Little Hope Association in Perry County, Alabama, the 4th Sunday in August 1933. In later years he moved his membership to Coosa River Church in Elmore County, Alabama.

On October 6, 1951, he was ordained to the ministry of the gospel. The following named Elders and Deacons met as a presbytery for the ordination: ELDERS: J. L. Burke, A. T. Davis, A. C. Hartsfield, S. L. Hyde, J. M. Kelley, L. G. Warren, and J. B. Williams. DEACONS: J. H. Blankenship, J. B. Crowe, J. B. Deason, W. F. Griffith, A. A. Hyde, W. L. Johnson, A. D. Mitchell, R. P. Nobles, and M. Jack Woodfin.

During the time of Elder Hyde's early ministry, most churches met only one weekend a month. This allowed a minister to pastor more than one church at a time. Part of the time Elder Hyde was the pastor of four churches a month and working five days a week as a carpenter.

The churches and the dates which he pastored during his ministry were: New Home, Clanton, AL, Aug. 1951 - Aug. 1965; Hopewell, West Blocton, AL, Nov. 1951 - Aug. 1991; (at his death); Mt. Olive, Lawley, AL, July 1952 - July 1955; Zion's Rest, Verbena, AL, Aug. 1955 - Aug. 1957; Bethel, McKenzie, AL, June 1957 - June 1970; Coosa River, Deatsville, AL, Aug. 1961 - Aug. 1968; Coosa River, Deatsville, AL, Aug. 1969 - Aug. 1991; Bethel, McKenzie, AL, June 1976 - June 1978;

During his ministry Elder Hyde was blessed to baptize 125 into the church. He sat in the constitution of five churches. He took part in the ordination of 17 ministers and 58 deacons. He performed the marriage of 54 couples and conducted 256 funerals. He served as Moderator of the Wetumpka Association of Alabama for 25 years, from September 1962 until he resigned September 1987.

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### ELDER ANDREW JACKSON HYLTON



WRITTEN BY ELDER PHILLIP JOHNSON: Elder Andrew J. Hylton was born Jan. 13, 1922 and passed away on June 4, 1994 outside his cabin at Willis, Virginia.

Elder Hylton was serving four churches at the time of his passing--Blue Ridge near Willis, Va., Martinsburg in Martinsburg, W. Va., Thumb Run near Marshall, Va., and Mt. Carmel in Luray, Va.

Brother Andy was baptized on the second Saturday in August 1943. He was ordained on Saturday before the second Sunday in March 1948. He and his wife, Dora, were blessed with three children. He was much loved and respected among his brethren and acquaintances. He had served as an associate editor of the *Advocate and Messenger* from September 1979 until his death.

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