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## **ELDER D. M. VAIL**

OBITUARY WRITTEN BY HIMSELF, SEPTEMBER 28, 1927: I, Elder D. M. Vail, was born September 1, 1845, was a sinner when born and to the end of my journey here below. The son of Daniel S. Vail and Margery E. Vail. Experienced a hope in Jesus Christ in 1872, united with the Old School Baptist Church in Waverly, Pennsylvania, 1874, baptized by Elder S. H. Durand, of Herrick, Pennsylvania. Licensed to speak in public October, 1876, ordained in October, 1878, to preach the everlasting Gospel of the Son of God, by Elders Gilbert Beebe, Wm. L. Beebe, Silas H. Durand, and Balas Bundy.

I now confess that I have been a poor, weak, sinful, erring, straying, sinner all of my natural life up, on Earth, with not one grain of merit in myself, but my all is in Jesus Christ. I love God, His people, His blessed truth or doctrine, and His order, and no other will stand.

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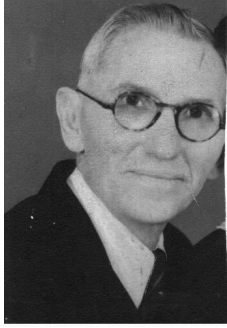
## **ELDER J. B. VANDEVENDER**

FROM AN OBITUARY IN THE "PRIMITIVE BAPTIST:" Elder Vandevender was born in Indiana. He moved to Missouri with his parents when six years of age. He united with the Primitive Baptist Church at about the age of twenty. He was married to Miss Sarah Jane Wilks on April 15, 1877. He was ordained to the work of the ministry Nov. 9, 1895, at Mt. Pleasant Church, near Hazen, Ark., by the following presbytery: Elders J. L. Halbrog and E. C. Kirk, and Deacons J. Davis and S. B. Minton.

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### **ELDER CHARLES VERNON VANDIVER**

SUBMITTED BY HIS GRANDDAUGHTER, ROSA LEE JOHNSON STEPHENS: Elder Vandiver was born Aug. 18, 1880 in Giles Co., Tenn., the son of John Marion and Mary Calvinie Johnson Vandiver. He married Rosa Lee Brown on April 28, 1901, and to this union seven children were born - two boys and five girls.



He joined Lynnville Church in October 1908 under the preaching of Elder C. H. Cayce and was baptized by him at the Lynn Creek Association in Tennessee. In 1920 his wife died, and on May 10, 1924, he married a widow, Jennie Brown McClanahan. In 1925, he moved to Nashville. In 1923, he was listed as a member of Leipers Fork Church.

In 1927, he helped organize Richland Church in Nashville from members lettered out in order from Leipers Fork. That same year he was ordained a deacon at Richland, and on November 24, 1929, was ordained as a minister. He served Richland (Cumberland Association) and Oak Grove (West Tennessee Assoc.) Churches. Elder Vandiver died on September 2, 1944 in Nashville.

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### **ELDER NOBLE P. VANDIVER**

FROM AN OBITUARY IN "PRIMITIVE MONITOR:" Elder Vandiver died in April 16, 1970 at 2:00 p.m. in Jesup, Ga. He was born November 28, 1888, in Limestone County, Alabama, but his family moved to Tennessee when he was an infant. He was baptized at 18 years of age by Elder J. M. Johnson at County Line Church in Alabama, and he belonged for a time to the Nashville Church, as well as to Beulah Church, Leeds, Ala. He was ordained, however, at County Line Church by a presbytery including Elders A. L. Graves and J. H. Britton in May 1921, and served churches in Tennessee, Alabama and Texas. He was an alumnus of Vanderbilt University in Nashville, and worked as an accountant for many

years, but spent a number of years in the ministry full time. He was married in 1934 to Beulah England of Luling, Texas. She died September 11, 1952. Later, he married Pearl M. Bennett of Screven, Ga.

Elder Vandiver had been in failing health for three years, and was taken to Wayne Memorial Hospital the 6th of April. His wife was hospitalized for bone surgery in Augusta, but was carried in a wheelchair to visit him twice. At the time of his death he was attended by his two stepdaughters and their husbands. He continued to repeat until he lost consciousness, "Thy will be done."

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#### **ELDER ROBERT PRICE VASS**



8/07/1881 - 3/12/1967.  
Elder Robert Price Vass (referred to as Price or R. P.) was the grandson of Elder Isaac Webb. He lived in the area of Carroll County, VA. He was a bricklayer by trade, and there are many, many homes in the county which stand as monuments to his fine workmanship.

Elder Vass married Etta Bowman in 1900 and they had seven children.

At the age of eighteen, he professed a hope in Christ and united with Fellowship Church at Snake Creek. He was a gospel minister about sixty years and remained faithful to his calling until his death. He preached his last sermon one month prior to his death.

Elder Vass pastored Laurel Fork Church 1915-1926, Snake Creek Church for 35 years, 1916-1951, and New Fellowship Church from 1953-1965.

Elder Vass usually maintained a very serious composure and was not given to much foolishness. However, he manifested a sense of humor from time to time.

He told this story on himself. He referred to a time during his childhood -he was the seventh of fourteen children - that the children were asked what they wanted to be when they grew up. He responded, "I'm going to be a preacher, by God." His mother kindly responded, "If you are a preacher, it will be by God."

Even in his declining years and in poor health, when he entered the pulpit to proclaim the gospel, his mind was very clear. His last sermon was preached at Harmony Grove Church, just one month before his death.

During his ministry, he preached in eight or more states, pastored many churches in Virginia and North Carolina and baptized numerous persons into the fellowship of the church.

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**ELDER EARLY C. VAUGHAN, JR.**

Elder Vaughan was born September 30, 1921. He was united in holy matrimony to Hazel Pennington on November 12, 1942.

He joined East Lake Church on February 16, 1975, and was ordained as an Elder on July 19, 1975. He united with the Primitive Baptist Church at Center Point on January 17, 1985. At the time of his passing, he served as pastor at both Center Point Church in Birmingham, Alabama and Sardis Church at Talladega, Alabama.

He passed from this life on November 21, 1993.

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**ELDER CHARLIE THOMAS VENABLE**

WRITTEN BY ELDER C. V. VENABLE: In 1957 a tornado destroyed all of our records of special events such as the ordination of my father to the gospel ministry. However he was an ordained Elder in the Primitive Baptist Church. He pastored several churches, the last being the church in Brownwood, Texas. He was born May 8, 1889 and died February 22, 1983.

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### **ELDER C. V. VENABLE**

I was born October 29, 1922 to Charlie Thomas and Lucy Venable.

I was ordained an elder by the Anton, Texas Church on the fourth Sunday in May 1961. I am presently the pastor of the Brownfield, Texas Church.

Elders Jimmy Bass, who was my pastor, and Elder Hilton Crain delivered the charge. I cannot recall the elders and deacons who were present, since a tornado destroyed my records of that day.

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### **ELDER THOMAS WAYNE VENABLE**

WRITTEN BY ELDER C. V. VENABLE: My son, Elder Thomas Wayne Venable was ordained an elder on January 29, 1994 at the Fairview Church in Clovis, New Mexico. He is presently serving the Portales Church in New Mexico as their pastor.

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### **ELDER J. P. VIA**

John Peter Via was born June 29, 1871. He was twice married, first to Miss Ida Lee Atkinson, on Jan. 22, 1896. To this union 10 children were born, one died in infancy, and another in early life. Sister Via passed away in May 1916. Later he was married to Mrs. Lou Zettie (Stone) Mitchell.

Bro. Via united with Spoon Creek Church, in Patrick County, Virginia, May, 1896, (the second Sunday), and was baptized by Eld. S. R. Biggs and remained a faithful member until death. He was licensed by the church to preach in July 1900, and was ordained to the full work of the ministry in Sept. 1901 and called as pastor of Spoon Creek Church in Oct. 1904, which he served until death. Other churches he served were Buffalo and Acton in Upper Mayo, Old Center in Smith River, Leatherwood in Dan River, and High Point in Bear Creek Association. All of them prospered under his care.

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## ELDER EDWARD H. VICKERS



Elder Vickers was born on September 7, 1962 in Clarkesville, GA. His present residence is Auburn, GA. He has served the following churches: Friendship Church, Snellville, GA (pastor) Ivy Church, Buford, GA (co-pastor).

He was ordained on July 1, 1995 at Friendship Church, Snellville, GA by the following Elders: Elzie D. Speir, Sr.; Lawrence Mooney, Paul Mooney Dan Newman, James F. Blair, Clyde D. Meek, Charles Westbrook.

ELDER VICKERS WRITES: I have always had the desire to be counted among God's people, though much of my life. I have not been able to communicate that desire very well. When I was a very young child, I joined Tickanetley Primitive Baptist Church where my Grandfather, Elder T.C. Mooney served for many years, and my uncle, Elder Lawrence Mooney, continues to serve.

When I moved to Texas after finishing college, I remained a member at Tickanetley, but often thoughts of the Lord were far from me. The Lord blessed me to meet the good people of Bethlehem Church of Dallas, TX. These people took me, a stranger among them, and treated me like a member of their families. Elder Dan Newman, the pastor, was blessed in the service of the Lord. I moved my membership there and soon felt the desire to speak of the goodness of the Lord, though I thought I kept this secret. However, Elder Newman one day asked me if I did not have something on my mind to say. I do not remember the words that I spoke, but from that day I began exercising in the service of the Lord and was blessed to speak at several churches in the Dallas area.

After my job brought me back to Georgia, Elder Brice Haigler, who was suffering from cancer, asked me to assist him at Friendship Church. After Elder Haigler's death, Friendship called Elder Charles Westbrook to be their pastor. I continued to assist Elder Westbrook. In 1995 the church called me to the full work of the ministry and was ordained on July 8. I served as co-pastor until 1998 when the church called me as pastor. Ivy Church called me as co-pastor the same year.

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## ELDER PAUL VIOLET



I was born in Lawrence County, Tenn., on October 10, 1939. My parents were both members of Second Creek Church, about 40 miles from home. Being so far away, with very little money and with four sisters, it was hard to attend very often. As far back as I can remember, I loved the Lord. I felt to "safe" in the church. Oh, how I was thrilled to hear those old sisters shout for joy when the Gospel was being proclaimed in Spirit and power! I began to feel strongly about joining the church at about six years of age.

Finally, at the age of 13 I found myself up front with my arms around Elder White asking for a home with these humble people. They seemed so happy to receive me and scheduled my baptizing the following month in a little creek not far from County Line Church, a log building, standing today. It seemed that Sunday would never come, but come it did, and it was cold, with ice on the ground. Some suggested that I put it off, but that never entered my mind. I rode the back of our truck twenty miles that morning, and as we came up out of the water and I saw those precious brethren and sisters standing on the bank singing "How Firm a Foundation," I was finally at peace and so overcome with joy I thought nothing would ever mar my happiness again.

The Lord blessed me to marry one of our deacons' daughters, Mary Kathleen Mattox. She has been a wonderful helpmeet all these 41 years.

In my early teens, I began to be burdened about speaking in the name of the Lord. I tried to keep this hidden, but my dear mother and Elder O. L. Newton were well aware of my burden. Elder Newton began to call on me to offer prayer at Goshen Church, and finally asked that I open services for him one Sunday morning. I took as my subject Psalm 23 and stood about fifteen minutes. We moved to Cookeville, Tenn., started looking for an Old Baptist Church, and found Mt. View Church. It just seemed we had come home. Elder Avery Land, the pastor, recognized my burden and began to call on me to offer prayer. As he grew weaker in health, my burden became stronger. Elder Rupert Nobles, whom I

consider to be my father in the ministry, recommended to the church they use me as often as I felt inclined to speak. I began to exercise and after eight months was ordained and called as pastor of the church that day, March 27, 1994.

I hope it can be said when my Maker calls me home, that I was faithful and a peacemaker. May God help us in our efforts to keep the old paths, neither adding to nor taking away from the perfect work of the Savior.

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**ELDER JAMES M. VIPPERMAN**



Elder Vipperman was born on March 25, 1906 and passed from this life on January 4, 1997

Elder Vipperman united with Conner's View Church, Meadows of Dan, VA, on June 8, 1930 and was baptized on June 9, 1930 by Elder W. M. Conner. He began his ministry May 7, 1932 and was ordained on November 11, 1934. He was named Moderator on June 13, 1942, and served the church until his death.

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