
G

ELDER CALVIN M. GAGE

FROM "A HISTORY OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS OF TEXAS" BY ELDER J. S. NEWMAN: Very little information has been obtained about this minister. He was a beloved minister and faithful pastor in and around his home county of Caldwell, Texas.

He departed this life on December 1, 1851 in Caldwell County, Texas.

ELDER JAMES G. GARDNER

Brother Gardner united with Valley View Church in 1937 and was baptized by Elder Lonnie Cummings. Later he moved his church membership to Goblintown Church where he stayed for a short time. Upon moving to North Carolina to live, he moved his church membership to Macedonia Church in the Lower Mayo Association. His stay at Macedonia was until February 8, 1958, when he removed to Matrimony Church and there he remained until his death December 26, 1983.

Brother Gardner served as pastor of Matrimony Church for nearly 40 years, jointly serving with Elder J. W. Wyatt as co-pastor. He also had the responsibility of Moderator of the Lower Mayo Association from 1960 until his death. All the churches of this area held Brother Gardner in the highest regard and esteem.

ELDER JOHN P. GARDNER

WRITTEN BY ELDER J. C. DUNBAR: Elder Gardner was born July 25, 1864, died Dec. 19, 1924. He was married to Miss Julia Cox Sept. 25, 1883. To this union ten children were born--five girls and five boys. He received a hope in Christ thirty-two years ago and joined the Primitive Baptist Church. Soon afterwards began preaching and continued until he was laid on the operating table. His last remarks were about his faith in God. He was honest and truthful, and kind to the sick, poor and afflicted. He spoke touchingly to his children before going to the hospital. He said "You all have been good and obedient, never gave me any trouble, I am proud of you all and you have been a great pleasure to me. Just live as you have lived, and trust in God. Don't believe in the works of men. Wait on the Lord for God knows every one of his children. He is a great comforter, --is worth more to me than all the doctors. I am getting old and am not afraid to die, for God gave me that little hope years ago and prepared me for this. I am not complaining, but always wanted to die easy if it is God's will. If it is God's will I will come back home."

ELDER A. J. GARLAND

FROM "HISTORY OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH AT COLUMBIA" BY ELDER STEPHEN R. AQUINO: Born Fulton County, PA May 26, 1880. Moved to live in Front Royal, Virginia. Convicted of sin early in life and given a hope in the Saviour, but these exercises of a burdened heart for sin and the relief of that burden was so gradual in its



nature that, like many others, he cannot date the exact time. When about sixteen years of age the preaching of the gospel by the Primitive or Old School Baptists became very precious to him and he went before Tonoloway Church, asked for a home, was received and baptized by Elder T.N. Alderton.

About two years later, he was impressed with the duty of preaching Jesus to others, but endeavored to rid his mind of such impressions, and to keep it to himself. The church discovered his gift and licensed him in 1902 and the following year - on December 19 - he was ordained to the full functions of the gospel ministry. Three days before this he was married to Miss Rosa Ashpaugh. Elder Garland moved to Front Royal in 1904. In 1908, he had the care of six churches.

ELDER JAMES GARNETT

Elder Garnett, son of Captain Anthony Garnett, was born in Culpepper County, Virginia in November 1743. Early in life he married a Miss Rowe of the same county.

As James grew up he began attending the Baptist Church in Culpepper and eventually united with Crooked Run Baptist Church where Elder Elijah Craig was pastor. After his baptism, he was ordained to the ministry and later called to pastor the same church he joined. This church was constituted in 1774 and was a member of the Kettocton Association.

In point of morality and correct Christian deportment, few have surpassed Elder Garnett; in public or in private life he was always the same. Religion was always his theme, and for nearly fifty he was an active laborer in the Master's vineyard. He died in 1830 still contending for the principles set down by the Apostles.

ELDER A. A. GARRETT

MEMORIAL WRITTEN BY ELDER T. R. CRAWFORD: A son of Billington Malone and Susie Garrett, was born August 25, 1863, and died January 1, 1941. He was married to Miss Maude Lewis on May 8, who lives to mourn the loss of a kind and affectionate husband, and their two children, Ben A. Garrett and B. M. Garrett. He was a successful farmer, and because of his honesty and manner of living among his brethren, neighbors and friends, he had the esteem and confidence of them all.

Fifty-eight years ago, he joined the old line Primitive Baptist Church and was baptized by Elder P. L. York, and since that time he has been a loyal and faithful member. Elder A. A. Garrett was ordained at the age of nineteen, and served as pastor for fifty-eight years. Elder Garrett served our little church from 1914 to 1920, and it prospered under his service. His advice as moderator to the church proved him a good disciplinarian, always striving for peace and harmony among the Baptists.

Elder and Sister Garrett joined Shady Grove Church by letter from Antioch Church, in the Harmony Association on January 4, 1930, and have been faithful members with us.

ELDER EDDIE K. GARRETT, SR.



WRITTEN BY THE MEMBERS OF THE THOMPSON MEMORIAL PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH.

Elder Garrett was born February 20, 1933 in Lee County, Kentucky and moved to southwestern Ohio when he was 9 years old. He served in the Korean War and was decorated for valor in combat. Early in 1955 Elder Garrett united with the Missionary Baptists at 21 years old. He preached for them for 11 years, and then he joined the Old Baptists. In 1966 he led his entire church over to the Old Baptists. He has been a prolific writer over the years for many Primitive Baptist papers. He was on the editorial staff of *The Christian Baptist* for several years and also edited his own paper, *The Hardsbell Baptist*, for several years. Elder Garrett has pastored the Thompson Memorial Church in Franklin Ohio throughout his entire ministry. He is an able debater and has conducted more than 30 debates with respected ministers of other orders. In his debates, he conveys the trait of meekness under undue pressure from his opponents. He preaches what he believes and believes what he preaches and is an exceedingly courageous servant of God.

ELDER W. A. GARRETT

I was born March 27, 1897, near Lowell, Arkansas, the youngest son of David E. and Zerilda E. Garrett. I grew up to manhood in two or three miles of the place of my birth.

In December 1915 I received a hope in Christ and united with Little Flock Church the following February, and was baptized by my brother in the flesh, Elder J. S. Garrett in March 1916.

I was married to Lucretia Jane Morgan on October 7, 1917. This union was blessed with two daughters, Edith Laverne and Loretta Ruth. Edith Laverne met with a tragic death in November 1928. She was severely burned, living only about four and one-half hours.

In June 1930 we moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma where I had obtained work as a city mail carrier. In 1932 we moved our membership to New Hope Church in Tulsa. Soon after the church ordained me to the office of deacon. I served in that office until I was ordained to the full work of the ministry the fourth Sunday in November 1949.

While attending the South Arkansas Association in September of this year (1972) we became involved in a car accident, my wife being killed instantly. Bro. and Sister Omar Anderson and I received only minor injuries. The wonder of it all was how any of us escaped death. The car was a total loss. Wife and I would have celebrated our fifty-fifth wedding anniversary had she lived until the seventh of October.

ELDER W. C. GARRETT

Elder Garrett was born in 1822 in Kentucky and passed from this life in November 1894.

He united with Bethlehem Church in June 1842 by Elder John M. Evans. He was immediately licensed to preach and was ordained in March 1845. He was very active and energetic in the ministry. He was very stout physically and possessed a wonderful intelligent mind. He states in his memoirs that at the end of 30 years in the ministry, he had traveled 30 thousand miles, mostly in Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska.

ELDER JAMES CLOVIS GASSAWAY

Elder Gassaway was born on February 19, 1901. He married Miss Rozelle Leslie on January 1, 1927. They had four children. Elder Gassaway united with Pleasant Hill Church near Fulton, Mississippi in May of 1931, and was ordained to the ministry on November 15, 1942 by Beulah Church in Saitillo, Mississippi with Elder J. D. Holder officiating.



During his ministry he served not only Beulah Church, but also Laodicea Church in Lafayette Springs, Mississippi; Antioch Church in Ripley, Mississippi; Antioch Church in Oxford, Mississippi; Elam Church in Water Valley, Mississippi; Pilgrim's Rest Church in Water Valley; Mt. Hebron Church in Hamilton, Mississippi; and Poplar Springs Church in Winfield, Alabama.

He departed this life on June 2, 1977.

FROM DAVID MONTGOMERY: Sister Gassaway, who submitted this sketch, also included a list of all the ministers who have stayed in their home. As the list was very lengthy, I could tell that Elder and Sister Gassaway were truly given to hospitality. Elder Gassaway's daughter, Sister Mary O'Gwynn, and his granddaughter, Sister Leah O'Gwynn, confirmed to me that he was a prince in Israel. His memory is certainly cherished by many.

ELDER P. E. GETSINGER

FROM THE: LOCAL NEWSPAPER: Elder Perlie Eugene Getsinger, 81, died Sunday in the Beaufort County hospital after an illness of three days.

He was a member of Smithwick Creek Church and was pastor there for many years.

He was a native of Martin County, (N.C.) and was a retired farmer. He was the husband of Mrs. Fannie Daniel Getsinger and a son of John Conrad and Sarah Brown Getsinger.

ELDER HARVEY W. GIDDENS

WRITTEN FOR THE INDIAN CREEK PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH BY BROTHER LEWIS: May On the 14th day of April 1981, it pleased the Lord to call Elder Harvey W. Giddens from this vale of sorrows to his home in Heaven above. The following is a brief account of the life of this great man of God.

Elder Giddens was born in Early County, Ga., July 12, 1909, and lived most of his life in Colquitt County, Ga. In early manhood he took for his wife Lillian Regan Giddens who was a faithful companion until she was called home, December 15, 1979. They were married March 30, 1930; they leave three sons and three daughters. Brother Giddens joined the Free Will Baptists soon after his marriage and was ordained to the ministry. On Sept. 16, 1972, Brother Giddens asked Indian Creek Church of the Primitive Baptist faith and order for a home; he was received and duly baptized Sunday, Sept. 17, 1972, by Elder H. Vickery. Brother Giddens was liberated to the stand Oct. 14, 1972; and was ordained Dec. 16, 1972. He was called to serve Indian Creek Church, Jan. 20, 1973, and served the church faithfully until Sept. 15, 1979. He also served several other churches, including Live Oak, Sardis, Oaky Grove, and Mt. Paron.

ELDER J. J. GILBERT

Elder Gilbert, of Winchester, Kentucky, died April 1, 1924. He was born January 13, 1844 in Owsley Co., Ky. He was brought under conviction in early life and was given a hope the tenth day of January 1868. Quoting from his own account of his experience: "On that morning about 8 o'clock I was riding along, all alone, meditating over my lost condition when all at once it seemed that the whole of my life was laid open before me as one dark page of sin and transgression against God, in which I could see no good thing I had ever done to merit his favor. While thinking over this terrible picture, in a moment the veil was lifted and Christ was presented to my view as my Savior, the chief among ten thousand and altogether lovely. His praises poured forth from my heart, while tears of joy and down freely over my cheeks."

He united with Station Camp Church April 1868, was ordained in 1874 to the ministry and gave himself to the service of the churches. Among the churches served were Cane Spring, Dry Ridge, Ray's Fork and Stony Point, in which his membership had been for many years before his death.

He was married to Mrs. Sallie Hunt Stuart, June 3, 1872

ELDER MOZELLE L. GILBERT

On the 15th of January, 1951 the death angel visited the home of this faithful and diligent servant and took from our midst one of the most beloved ministers ever to serve the Primitive Baptists of Florida.

Elder Gilbert was born September 16, 1857 in Graves County, Kentucky, near Mayfield in the Panther Creek Community. "M. L." as he was better known, began teaching in the public schools in Kentucky and at the age of 26, removed to Pasco County, Florida because of ill health.

Before leaving Kentucky, Brother Gilbert married Miss Gency L. Redwine on June 12, 1881.

Mount Enon Church near Plant City, Florida became the spiritual home of Brother Gilbert in May of 1886. The church recognized his call into the ministry and set him aside for ordination. A presbytery of Elders Lucius Register, J. W. Futch, and D. S. Stover ordained Brother Gilbert on April 27, 1889. During this time he helped ordain 43 ministers, 36 deacons, and baptized over 500 persons.

After the death of his first wife on November 14, 1936, Brother Gilbert married Mrs. Levia Bennett on April 18, 1941.

Elder Gilbert was a firm believer in the faith as expressed by the Primitive Baptist doctrine. And he lived and practiced what he believed. His interest in *Zion's Landmark*, as an organ of the Primitive Baptist faith, was shown by his editorials that appeared regularly in the paper as long as he was able to write. He was also editor-in-chief of the *Baptist Watchman* and associate editor of *the Spiritual Land Council* and the *Primitive Baptist*.

ELDER NATHAN GILBERT

Elder Gilbert was born in Anson County, North Carolina on January 30, 1768. His father was Jesse Gilbert, one of the earliest Baptists in North Carolina.

Elder Gilbert and Charity Ricks were married on July 10, 1794, probably in Tyrrell County. He was living there at that time.

In the year 1793, he was ordained at Scuppernong River Church in Tyrrell County. The Kehukee Association was blessed to have Elder Gilbert as the messenger from his home church for several years. On October 3, 1806, Skewarkey Church in Martin County hosted the associational meeting and Elder Gilbert preached the introductory sermon. More than 1700 persons attended this meeting.

In August 1795, Elder Gilbert joined Falls of Tar River Church in Nash County, North Carolina on a letter of dismission from Scuppernong Church. His new church home called on him to supply as pastor since their pastor had recently died. In 1798, the church unanimously voted to call him as pastor but he did not accept the call until 1802. He continued this pastoral care until his death on August 1, 1808.

ELDER EDWARD F. GILLILAND

FROM "A HISTORY OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS OF ALABAMA, MT. ZION ASSOCIATION" BY ELDER E. B. WATTS: Elder E. F. Gilliland was born January 18, 1845. He was a grandson of Elder John Gilliland, one of the pioneer preachers in the Mount Zion Association. Elder E. F. Gilliland was ordained at Bethlehem Church in 1876 or 1877. When the Allgood-Ballew division took place in 1878, Bethlehem Church divided on the same issue (secret orders and alien baptism). The faction of Bethlehem disfavouring the so-called "institutions of the day," was annexed to the Mount Zion Association together with Elder Gilliland.

Elder Gilliland was a very able minister in his day. He pastored several churches in the eastern section of the Mount Zion Association and was the moderator of the association for a number of years. He lived in the vicinity of Bethlehem Church until 1908 when he moved to Straight Mountain. Elder Gilliland died September 1, 1923.

ELDER JOHN GILLILAND

FROM "A HISTORY OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS OF ALABAMA, MT. ZION ASSOCIATION" BY ELDER E. B. WATTS: According to the church record, John Gilliland joined Mount Moriah on July 15, 1823, by experience and baptism. His labors extended to the southeastern part of the Mount Zion Association, particularly in St. Clair and Benton Counties. He organized Lebanon Church in Cherokee County in 1835. Lebanon was in the bounds of the Tallasseehatchie Association. Elder Gilliland was a leading Elder in the organization of the Will's Creek Association.

ELDER PHILIP R. GILMORE



Philip Roland Gilmore was born October 12, 1960 in Jasper, Alabama to Arthur and Jimmie Gilmore. He joined Mt. Olive Church in Cullman, Alabama on July 9, 1972 at the age of eleven, and was baptized by Elder I. G. Heaven. Philip married Paula Alexander on November 16, 1974. They have three children; Rebekah, John and Grace. Philip was ordained on March 10, 1991. Currently, he and his wife are members of Zion Hill Church in Douglas, Alabama and he serves Little Branch Church in Albertville, Alabama.

ELDER RONALD GILMORE



I joined the Liberty Grove Church in April 1957 at the age of 18. In March 1976, I joined the Pleasant Grove Church of the Mt. Zion Association of Alabama. I was ordained to the ministry in July 1977. I went back to Liberty Grove Church in March 1991.

I introduced services for a long time. I made it a vow to be submissive to my feelings. God has blessed me in the effort.

ELDER CLEMENT I. GOBLE

Elder Goble was born March 21, 1870, and departed this life Feb. 12, 1955. He was married to Daisy M. Pence March 12, 1893, and she died in 1924.

He was again married to Libbie Saul on March 4, 1925, and she left him a widower again in December 1952.

Elder Goble was a well-known minister of the Primitive Baptists in the northern part of Indiana, and had a special gift in preaching from the Old Testament scriptures. For a great number of years he served his home church, Taylor's Creek, as pastor, also Lafontain and Fowlerton churches

ELDER J. W. GOFORTH

Pastored the Church at Brownfield, Texas during the year 1970 and other north Texas churches for many years. We regret that we could not obtain more information on this good minister.

ELDER PLEASANT DANIEL GOLD

This able minister must have meant a great deal to the Primitive Baptists of the Southeastern United States because many families named their male children Pleasant Daniel or P. D. G.

Elder Gold, the son of Milton and Martha (Fortune) Gold, was born in the present Cleveland County, North Carolina on March 25, 1833. On January 22, 1863, Miss Julia Pipkin, daughter of Willis Pipkin of Lenoir County, became the bride of Pleasant Daniel Gold.

Many churches in the Kehukee Association called Elder Gold as their pastor and he faithfully served for a number years. Elder Gold was the editor of *Zion's Landmark*, a Primitive Baptist periodical which is still in print today. Elder Sylvester Hassell in *History of the Church of God* wrote prolifically about the ministerial life of Brother Gold. Brother Gold passed from this life near Mebane, North Carolina on June 7, 1920. He was preceded in death by his wife, Julia, on March 22, 1913.

ELDER H. L. GOLSTON

FROM AN OBITUARY IN GOSPEL WITNESS BY ELDER BILLIE BOYD: Elder Horace Leander Golston was born on September 13, 1881, at Cedar Springs, Marion County, Tennessee. He was the son of William and Sarah Condra Golston.

In July 1902 he was received into the Primitive Baptist Church at Cedar Springs. Three years later he was ordained to the full work of the ministry on the fourth Sunday in October 1905. Soon thereafter he was preaching in many churches in Sequatchie Valley and in Lookout Valley. From 1905 to 1906 he traveled over some 18 southern states preaching. It was while on these long and laborious trips he was called "The Tennessee Preacher." He moved to Brush Creek in 1921 and lived there until his death on December 4, 1964 - excepting two years at a rest home in Carthage.

While living at Brush Creek he served churches in the immediate area and traveled extensively, as mentioned above. During these years he was Moderator of the Sequatchie Valley Association and was the first Primitive Baptist minister to broadcast a discourse at Chattanooga.

On September 20, 1962, he moved his membership from the church at Chattanooga, and united with the Friendship Church near Carthage, Smith County, Tennessee. Elder Golston served Friendship Church as pastor, from May 1920 until May 1927, and from May 1935 until May 1936. In addition he also served Testament Church near Lafayette, Tennessee.

ELDER L. V. GOODMAN



INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY VERNON HURN: Elder Luther Vernon Goodman of Alabama was born March 11, 1912 the son of Winfred Oakley and Molley Vandella Goodman. Vernon married Wilma Irene Jackson and to this marriage five children were born. He united with Hurricane Springs PB Church at Anderson, Lauderdale County, Alabama July 23, 1938, in the bounds of the Second Creek Association.

Brother Vernon Goodman made his first effort to speak to a group of God's people at Elgin Crossroads Church on the second Sunday in August 1952 and took for his text, Romans 8:1-4. Hurricane Springs Church called for and ordained Elder Vernon Goodman to the full work of the ministry on September 27, 1953. He was a beloved minister who delighted in speaking in the name of his Lord about the great truths of salvation by and through the finished work of Jesus Christ. He served as pastor of numerous churches in the Second Creek Association as well as Hurricane Springs as long as health provided him strength. He preached the wonderful doctrines of grace up until he was fallen by a stroke which left him virtually unable to stand before God's people to proclaim the name of Jesus, but he did make efforts to sit in a chair and speak for a time until he was further stricken with infirmities that left him to suffer for several years before the Lord took his spirit back to Glory, May 15, 1992.

Elder L.V. Goodman was a man of love and peace, one who loved God's people and above all, he loved his Lord.

ELDER JOHN E. GOODSON, JR

Elder Goodson was born on November 15, 1853 in Carroll County MO and passed from this life on August 19, 1890.

He united with Chariton Church at Callao, MO in May 1880. He was ordained to the ministry in May 1884.

He assisted his father in the publication of the *Messenger of Peace* becoming the business manager in 1880. He was remembered as an unselfish and zealous laborer until his death.

ELDER JOHN E. GOODSON, SR

Elder Goodson was born on December 30, 1819 in Seventy-Six, Kentucky and passed from this life on September 16, 1892.

He united with El-Bethel Church in Buchanan County, MO in 1844. He was ordained to the ministry in 1853.

He came to Missouri in 1836 and united with the Primitive Baptist church. In 1847, he began practicing medicine and in 1850 was elected to the State Legislature from Carroll County, MO. In 1870, he began the first of three terms representing Macon County in the State Legislature. He founded the *Messenger of Peace* on November 15, 1874 and served as moderator of the Yellow Creek Association for many years.

ELDER BERNARD GOWENS



Elder H. Bernard Gowens, of Friona, Texas, was born in Crosbyton, Crosby County, Texas, on April 29, 1934.

He is the son of the late Elder Sylvester B. Gowens and Minnie B. Gowens. As of June 1999, his mother is yet living at the age of 96. He was ordained to the full work of the Gospel Ministry at the Muleshoe Church on September 15, 1968. For several years, he served as pastor of the Primitive Baptist Churches at Muleshoe, Texas and Tucumcari, New Mexico. For some seven years, he filled regular monthly appointments at the Perryton, Texas Church. He has served as pastor of the Fairview Church of Clovis, New Mexico from 1972 to the present.

On September 17, 1957, he married M. Lynn McBride. Three sons were born to this union, David, Michael, and Daniel, all of which are members of the Church. Bernard Gowens is a retired Certified Public Accountant having served in that profession for some 38 years.

ELDER CLIFFORD GOWENS



Elder Clifford B. Gowens of Wylie, Texas, son of Elder Sylvester and Minnie Gowens, was born in Crosbyton, Texas, on July 14, 1942. Realizing the need for baptism and seeing the beauty and comfort of the church, he sought a home with the Primitive Baptist Church at Lubbock, Texas, in September 1950 at the age of eight years, and was baptized by Elder Willie Fox.

He was married on June 5, 1965 to Lenora Winfield, and to this union two girls were born, Nikki and Dena. Moving to the Dallas, Texas area in 1970, he and his wife soon thereafter joined the First Primitive Baptist Church of Dallas, while making their home in the nearby suburb of Wylie.

He was ordained to the office of deacon in 1974, and then to the full work of the gospel ministry on May 8, 1977 at this same church in Dallas. He was soon called to pastor churches at Blossom, Texas, and Farmersville, Texas. In April 1979 he was called to pastor the First Primitive Baptist Church at Dallas, and serves them in this capacity to the present day in 1999.

Feeling the weight of sin, and unworthiness to preach the gospel, he resisted the call to the ministry for sometime. But while meditating upon the sacrifice and death of our Savior, he penned the words to a song "He Died For Me." Realizing that he was exceeding sinful, and the Savior was perfect, yet He gave His life for such worthless beings, the thought came to him, "Since He gave His all for me, even His life, who am I that I should refuse to preach His gospel, and to tell of His wonderful saving grace?"

ELDER MICHAEL L. GOWENS



I was born in Swisher County, Texas, July 19, 1962, to (Elder) Bernard and Lynn Gowens. My earliest religious memory is a day in 1968, standing on a pew so that I could witness my Dad's ordination to the ministry at Muleshoe Primitive Baptist Church. I recall thinking it strange to see my parents seated in front of such a large congregation and sensing that this was a solemn occasion. Two years later, in September 1970, I was baptized by my Dad into the fellowship of the same church.

Family life in the Gowens home provided numerous formative experiences and opportunities toward my spiritual training. It was not uncommon to entertain ministers and their families--visits that inevitably were characterized by "talking Scripture," as my folks called it. Early in my eleventh year, I became intrigued by these regular discussions, and would generally spend significant periods listening to these men discuss the subtle nuances of one passage after another. At this time, I felt all inner compulsion to study the Bible. One afternoon, I committed John 10:26-30 to memory and recited it for my father when he arrived from work. It was not long before he asked me if I would share "whatever might be on my heart" at a Saturday evening service in Tucumcari, NM. I spoke on "Predestination" for approximately five minutes. This was my first public effort.

At the age of fifteen, I was given "liberty" by my home church to speak at churches that needed a pulpit supply. Various ministers in the area continued to provide gentle encouragement and substantive instruction during these precarious years of physical, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual development.

Out of high school, I married Karen Cunningham from Florida on July 26, 1980. One year later, on July 11, 1981, I was ordained to the gospel ministry. In November 1983, I accepted the pastoral charge of Liberty Church, Smithville, Georgia. We relocated to Georgia early in 1984 with our two-year old daughter. Over the next eleven years, the Lord blessed us with four other children.

In April 1995, I agreed to try to serve the church in Lexington, Kentucky. We moved that summer and have rejoiced to see God's endorsement on our labors.

ELDER SYLVESTER GOWENS

Elder Sylvester Bernard Gowens was born in Coleman County, Texas, July 17, 1897. He was the son of a Primitive Baptist Deacon, General Washington Gowens; a grandson of Elder William Newton Phariss; and a great-grandson of Elder Moses R. Jackson. He spent the earlier part of his life as a farmer. In his earlier life, he attended church at Medlan Chapel, in Graham, Texas, under the pastoral care of Elder J. H. Fisher. After moving to the South Plains of Texas, he

as



had membership in the Crosbyton and Lubbock Churches. He was ordained to the work of the gospel ministry at Lubbock Church in 1955. He served for a short time co-pastor of the Lubbock Church and served many years there by appointment. He also served by appointment churches at Tulia, Texas, and Roswell, New Mexico. He was a plain doctrinal preacher, and loved to preach the doctrines of grace.

He was married to Minnie Belle Bass on December 7, 1929. Their first child was stillborn. They raised 6 children, 4 boys and 2 girls.

He passed from this life on August 3, 1984.

ELDER ISAIAH DAVID GRANT



Elder Grant was born in Georgia on May 8, 1844 and passed from this life on October 9, 1921. He was baptized on April 25, 1882 by Elder Wilde Cleveland. Elders in the presbytery at his ordination were A. P. Koen, B. F. Driver, S. A. Paine, W. H. Richards and Isune Gutery. He was married by Elder B. F. Redford and had nine children. He served in the Civil War, Company K under Stonewall Jackson and Captain Rutherford of the 45th Georgia.

He was a faithful pastor of Salem Church in Crawford County Georgia near Knoxville, for 39 years.

ELDER DAVID GRAVES



WRITTEN BY ELDER J.B. FENTRESS: Elder David Graves was called to pastor Franklin Church on January 28, 1968. He pastored there until October 27, 1985 when his health would no longer allow him this great privilege.

Elder Graves pastored Mt. View Church in Smithville, Tennessee from June 1954 until May of 1963. He also pastored McMinnville Church in McMinnville, Tennessee from 1957 to 1959.

WRITTEN BY SISTER FAYE RUSSELL: He passed away April 25, 2000. He was my pastor. I shall never forget a baptizing at a lake, where there were boats going by, I wonder if we had picked a right place for the baptizing; as the time came, the people in the boats gathered around to watch the baptizing taking place.

ELDER G. E. GRAVES

FROM "A HISTORY OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS OF ALABAMA, MT. ZION ASSOCIATION" BY ELDER E. B. WATTS: Elder Graves was born July 30, 1885.

According to the records, Elder Graves was licensed in 1915 and was ordained in 1921. In 1933, he was elected moderator of the association, a post that he served until his death in September 1944.

Among the churches Elder Graves pastored were: Salem, Shiloh, Mount Moriah, Siloam, Zion Hill, Mount Joy, Bethlehem, Mount Olive, Little Branch, and Harmony.

ELDER NORMAN. F. GRAVES

FROM OBITUARIES IN THE "PRIMITIVE BAPTIST," WRITTEN BY ELDER WRIGHT AND HIS CHILDREN: Elder Norman F. Graves was born January 21, 1887, to Ben A. Graves and Mattie McWhirter (Sprouse) of Marion County, Ill. He departed this life May 7, 1944, very suddenly with a heart attack. He married Clara B. Southers, of Marion, County, in 1914. To this union nine children were born, three dying in infancy.

He joined Liberty Church at Alma, Ill., in April 1902, under the precious guidance of Elder S. I. Gardner. He was ordained as a deacon in May 1920 and served for as such until he was ordained an elder in August 1930.

He had the privilege of baptizing all of his six children. In 1926, he and his family moved to Champaign. He was employed at the University of Illinois in 1928, where he worked until his death. He was pastor of our church here, made the plans and helped build our new building, which was dedicated in 1941. He was also pastor of Indiana Hopewell Church.

ELDER R. M. GRAVES

According to Elder Arlie Larimer, Elder Graves was originally from Eagleville, Tennessee and pastored the Original Mt. Moriah Primitive Baptist Church in Marshall County, Kentucky from 1944 until 1948.

ELDER DALE GREATHOUSE



Dale Greathouse was born July 20, 1914 near West Salem, IL, to Oren F. and Dora (Kempton) Greathouse. When he was four, the family moved to western Nebraska because of his mother's health. He married Ruby Muhr on May 24, 1936; they had four children--3 boys and 1 girl.

In June 1950 he joined Shiloh Primitive Baptist Church near Kimball Nebraska. He was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry in 1955. He was co-pastor of Shiloh with Elder Ira Fry until 1970 and has pastored Shiloh from 1970 to this time. He also pastored Mt. Zion Church at Cozad for twenty years. He pastored West Union Church near Maryville, MO for several years.

ELDER EDWIN A. GREEN



Born February 10, 1946 at Waco, Texas. I married Johnnie McCune Aden in 1968. She was a Primitive Baptist widow and had two children from that marriage. My wife's family has a rich Primitive Baptist heritage and this was instrumental toward my conversion to the biblical teaching of salvation by grace and subsequent membership with them in 1975.

The Shiloh Primitive Baptist Church of Bell, California called for my ordination in September of 1987. The West Coast churches have been my area of service.

ELDER GUY B. GREEN

FROM AN OBITUARY IN THE "PRIMITIVE BAPTIST:" Elder Green, pastor of Joan Thompson Church, of Indianapolis, Ind., passed away Saturday, March 29, 1943, at the St. Francis Hospital, after a brief illness. Elder Green was born in Clay County, Indiana, September 14, 1883, and spent the greater part of his life there.

He united with the Little Flock Church in his youth, and was ordained to the ministry at this church. He was married to Miss Arlee Mitchell in 1903, in Texas.

ELDER MARK GREEN



I was born August 6, 1953 to Logan and Roberta Green. At least four generations of my family before me have been identified with the Primitive Baptists, a heritage for which I am most thankful. I grew up under the influence of the church, as my family attended regularly. For several years I was blessed to sit under the strong teaching of Elder B. Isaacs, who served churches in the area until he was well into his 90's.

Until the age of about twelve I had little concern for the things of God. Religion was mainly a hindrance to my youthful inclinations toward recreation and foolishness. At about that age, however, I began to have thoughts concerning my interest in God's eternal covenant, and began to talk with some of the ministers about that subject, several of whom exhorted me to do my duty and follow the Lord in baptism. Finally I presented myself for membership in Reveille Church near Magazine, Arkansas, at the close of their Saturday afternoon services the fourth weekend in June 1968. I remember distinctly that my heart was beating as heavily as if I had been running a race. When I reached the front of the church and turned around, there was my brother, Robert, right behind me. Our cousin, Wayne Green, came forward that night, and the three of us were baptized in Reveille Creek by Elder Garvin Green the next day.

After a few years, I would take part in a small way in public worship by offering prayer, reading scripture and perhaps making a few comments. During the mid-1970's, I moved my membership to Russellville Church, which later merged with Point Remove Church, the oldest body in the state. The pastor, Elder H. D. Fulmer, began to insist that I take part on a regular basis. After I had done this for a while, I began to have a desire to express myself more forcefully than I had thus far felt that I should, for I did not know if I was called to preach and did not want to be presumptuous in my manner. Finally, after struggling with it a while, I determined to go ahead and say it like I felt it, and let the results be what they might. I experienced some relief in my feelings when I began to do that.

In 1973 I was married to Pamela Sue Adams, who has been a faithful companion for over 26 years now. She has shared my sorrows and joys, not the least of which is being blessed to live to see our first grandson.

I was ordained April 29, 1978; was called to the service of Paris Church in early 1980; and have served that body as pastor since that time. The church has since moved to Caulksville, Arkansas, and changed its name to Six Mile Creek Church. In December 1999 I was also called to pastor New Hope Church in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, succeeding Elder M. R. Altom, who had served them for many years. In late 1998 I assumed the editorship of *The Christian Pathway*

at the request of Elder T. L. Webb, Jr., who had edited that paper for several years. I was also an Associate Editor of the *Advocate and Messenger* for three years. Both papers have had a fine history of usefulness to the Primitive Baptists, and I have counted it a privilege to serve God's people through them.

I heartily confess that I live and breathe only by the mercy of a kind and just God. My greatest desire is to serve Him among the people known as Old Baptists the rest of my days here. I have no desire to be anything but a plain Primitive Baptist.

ELDER MICHAEL GREEN



Michael David Green Jr. was born April 12, 1977 in Jacksonville. In 1998, he married the former Sarah Michelle Semadeni.

Elder Green writes, "I feel like I have known the Lord all of my life. In fact, I cannot remember a time when I did not know that Jesus had saved me from my sins. I felt an impression to proclaim God's word at around the age of 18 and have been preaching since April of 1996. I was ordained in November of 1998 at Macclenny Primitive Baptist Church. The Lord has blessed wonderfully. Currently, I am working in the field of secondary education, teaching World History. My desire is to serve the Lord for the rest of my life and follow wherever He would lead me. I lean completely upon the grace of our sovereign God and realize that all my strength is in Him."

In 1999, Elder Green was called to serve the Palm Chapel Primitive Baptist Church in Crestview, Florida. The Lord has blessed his labors there.

ELDER ROLAND U. GREEN



As far back as I can remember, I have been concerned about myself, death and the hereafter.

In September of 1942, I entered the University of Arkansas on a Sears Roebuck agricultural scholarship with the idea of becoming a veterinarian in my mind. But I was a backward introvert, and while there I became more lonely, and more concerned about religion. I would go home to church every time I could. Also, while at the University I was classified 1-A draft status. This caused me much concern, because I could not bear to think of going off into the perils of World War II without doing something about my religious feelings. So one month, before completing my freshman year, I applied for and was granted a farm deferment.

So, I went home to farm for the 1943 season. The Salem Association was held with Little Vine Church that year. When preaching had ended on Saturday night and the invitation was given I found myself walking up the aisle. Elder J. L. McClellan baptized me next morning and I became a member of Reveille Church, near Magazine.

I was now ready to serve my country, so in March 1944 the Army took me, and the Navy took my twin brother, Logan. I went to France in October, was wounded on December 9, and was discharged from the veteran's hospital near Tuscaloosa, Alabama, in September 1945 in time to get home for my association being held at Reveille Church. What a pleasant way to celebrate my second anniversary as a church member!

I made my first effort to speak from the pulpit at Enon Church near Ozark, Arkansas, the home of Elder McClellan, in 1950. On this particular Sunday that I went, Elder McClellan failed to get there. The little group insisted that I "take the stand" and speak to them.

The home of Elder Wiley Sammons and wife in Collierville, Tenn., became one of my "homes away from home." When Elaine started making plans to be married - I met her at the College of the Ozarks in Clarksville - we chose the college chapel as the place for the wedding, and Elder Sammons to perform the ceremony.

Four years later Reveille Church saw fit to call for my ordination to the ministry, which took place on October 24, 1954. Elder J. P. Dale, of Dallas, Texas, preached a charge that has been an inspiration, and if heeded, will serve me well.

In August of 1957 we moved to Birmingham, Alabama, with our three children. A group of Primitive Baptists who lived on the east side of Birmingham started meeting to worship. In due time they organized themselves into a church and called me to pastor it - East Lake Church.

A new group of Primitive Baptist people in the area started holding services in Russellville and soon organized a church there. It prospered and became a strong church.

On July 4, 1976 a small group met at our home - we had built a house on Highway 7 south of Dardanelle - and organized Gateley Hill Church.

WRITTEN BY ELDER MARK GREEN: Elder Green was born July 8, 1924 and was married on Dec. 2, 1951 to Miss Elaine Burton.

Elder Green has for a number of years served as the Music Director of the Old School Hymnal Company, and has in that capacity been instrumental in the publication of three hymnals. In addition, he has taught singing schools all over the country during the summers, and two generations of singers have grown up under his instruction and influence. His contribution to hymn-singing among our people has been incalculable.

ELDER W. D. GREEN

FROM "A HISTORY OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS OF ALABAMA, MT. ZION ASSOCIATION" BY ELDER E. B. WATTS: Elder Green joined the Mount Zion Association in 1938 and was ordained in 1939. He had been an ordained minister in the Fellowship Association for a number of years before coming to the Mount Zion. His membership was at Hopewell on Straight Mountain.

It was my privilege to have Elder W. D. Green deliver the charge at my ordination. He died in late 1963 or in 1964.

ELDER W. J. GREENE

Elder W. J. Greene, who was a lifelong resident of Jones County, Georgia, was born May 3, 1868. For about fifty years he preached the glorious Gospel of Christ, served many churches, preached numerous funerals and baptized many individuals, and for many years served as Moderator of the Ocmulgee Association. He died in Lubbock, Texas, August 31, 1951. He is buried at Highview Cemetery, Gray, Georgia.

ELDER JOHN W. GREER

FROM THE "PRIMITIVE BAPTIST:" Elder Greer was called to rest July 28, 1940. He is greatly mourned by all the Baptists in this country. He joined the Primitive Baptist Church in September 1901, and was ordained a minister June 24, 1928. He was a humble servant, faithful until the end. We feel we have lost a great man in the Lord. Funeral services were conducted by Elder G. W. Lewis at Union Church. He was laid to rest in the Greer Cemetery, near Ruth, Mississippi.

ELDER M. S. GREGG



Elder Merritt Stephen Gregg was born on August 18, 1906 in Marion County, Alabama to James David and Emma Roxanne Gregg. He was the eleventh of fourteen children raised in the Primitive Baptist doctrine.

He married Ola Boyd, also from Hackleburg, Alabama, on January 23, 1927.

They brought their family of four from Iowa in 1943 to Portland, Oregon in 1943. He founded his roofing contracting company in 1944 in Portland while establishing a home in Camas, WA.

In 1966, he and Sister Gregg were baptized the same day under the hands of Elder Thomas R. Collier, and became very devoted members of the Mt. Olive Church in St. Helens, OR. Elder Gregg was ordained as a minister July 1984 under the hands of Elder Jerry Newman. He assisted Elder Collier in pastoring the Mountain View Church in Milton-Freewater, Oregon and Mt. Olive Church in St. Helens, Oregon. He continued to attend services all over the northwest until his health failed in 1995.

ELDER W. A. GREGORY

FROM THE "PRIMITIVE BAPTIST," OCTOBER 1939: I was born in Cades Cove, Blount County, Tenn., on March 30, 1861, the son of Walter and Ruth (Oliver) Gregory. I was the youngest of four children. I was married to Mary E. White on October 23, 1881. To us were born five boys and two girls.

I professed faith in Christ and united with the church in Cades Cove in September 1879. I was baptized by Elder J. B. Brickey. The hardest stroke of my life was when the Lord called my wife in death on July 12, 1935.

I was licensed to preach on February 23, 1884. Churches began to call for me to preach for them, which brought on my ordination on June 27, 1886. I have traveled in seven different states. My labors have been principally in the Tennessee-Nolachucky and Powell's Valley Associations. I have served from one to four churches as pastor ever since before I was ordained. I have served as moderator in our association for many years. I am now connected with four churches as pastor and joint pastor.

ELDER J. H. GRESHAM

On December 28, 1929, in the providence of God, Elder J. H. Gresham departed this life at Milledgeville, Georgia. Had the Lord spared his life, until Jan. 2nd, 1930, he would have been 83 years old. Elder Gresham was the son of Harris and Mary Smith Gresham. When the Civil War broke out the subject of this sketch was not old enough to enter the army, but when he reached seventeen years of age he enlisted in Blount's Cavalry Battalion at Macon, Ga. in 1864

and served until the end of the war. In his young manhood, he realized that he was a sinner and that if he was saved, he must be saved by grace. He united with the church of New Hope in Jones County in June, 1874, and, was licensed to exercise his gift the following April, and then in November, 1875, he was ordained to preach. The presbytery that ordained him was Elders David L. Hitchcock, Benjamin L. Grace, Wilde Cleveland and Thomas J. Bazemore. Mount Zion Church called for his ordination in the fall of 1875 and this great and good man faithfully served this church as a minister until his bodily and mental afflictions forced him to give up the care of the church. Elder Gresham was moderator of the Ocmulgee Association for more than twenty years

ELDER L. J. GRESHAM

Elder Gresham was ordained at the request of Jones Creek Church of the Brazos River Association in October 1886 by a presbytery composed of Elders P. M. Lancaster and W. H. Swindell and deacons J. S. Smith and F. M. Nelson.

He briefly joined Concord Church in the Little Flock Association in 1887. He served Bethlehem and Antioch Churches in the Regular Primitive Baptist Association in the 1890's, and Roane Church in the Chambers Creek Association.

Elder Gresham helped constitute Liberty Hill Church in the Wise County Association in 1903, and also served Salem Church in the Brazos River Association about that same time.

ELDER ASHLEY GRIFFIN

WRITTEN BY ELDER BOB DICKERSON: Elder Ashley Griffin, age 89, of Ocilla, Georgia, died Feb. 22, 1989. He was born Dec. 21, 1899, in Irwin County, Ga., the son of the late John Jackson and Ophelia Hunter Griffin. He was preceded in death by his wife, Emma Gray Griffin.

Brother Griffin lived nearly all of his life in Irwin County, Ga., and served for a number of years as the Irwin County Tax Receiver. He united with Zion Rest Church in Fitzgerald, Ga. in 1933 and on May 1, 1934, moved his letter to Old Valley Grove Church near Ocilla, Ga., where he remained a faithful member until his death. Valley Grove Church soon recognized the great gift God had given him and on Dec. 5, 1936, he was ordained to the gospel ministry by a Presbytery composed of Elders J.W. McMillan, G.A. Hill, J.B. Luke, and Duncan McCranie. Mt. Paron Church had called for his services as pastor in 1935. During the next 41 years, he pastored many churches in Tift, Berrien, Cook, Bacon and Irwin Counties. Among them were Oaky Grove, Ty, Concord, Zion Rest, Midway, New Beulah, Liberty, Damascus, Mt. Paron and his home church, Valley Grove. He pastored Mt. Paron and Damascus for 18 years each, and pastored Valley Grove for 28 years. He also served as Moderator of the Union Association in the 1940's.

ELDER EMANUEL L. GRIFFIN

Brother Emanuel was born on July 19, 1899, in Medina County, Texas. He was the third child of Dave and Minnie Griffin. On the fourth Sunday in September 1917, he joined the South Fork Church and there he was ordained in 1920 to the full work of the ministry. On July 7, 1926, he married Miss Nettie Jones, and six years later they moved to a ranch near Gonzales where they lived many years until her death.



On October 4, 1966, Brother Emanuel married Mrs. Mary Mauldin. Brother and Sister Griffin enjoyed attending Churches near them, as well as travelling all over Texas

and other parts of the country as well. They loved to be in service with God's people everywhere. They also enjoyed and worked hard on their publication *Adventures with Jesus*.

Brother Emanuel Griffin was a conscientious minister of sound doctrine and tireless dedication to the cause. He was likewise a good and gentle person, one who cared deeply about others.

Elder Griffin passed from this life on November 24, 1981 in Kerrville, Texas, at the age of 82 years.

ELDER FLOYD GRIFFIN



FROM "THE CHRISTIAN BAPTIST" MARCH 1971: I was born to Elder and Mrs. F. M. Griffin on January 13, 1907, in Amarillo, Texas. My parents brought me to the Indian Territory in August 1907.

At the age of eighteen, I went back to Texas, and in 1925, at Hedley, Texas I met Miss Opal Hicks, who one year later became Mrs. Floyd Griffin, a true and faithful wife indeed and has proven that she is willing to give her life for the cause of Christ.

We have two children, Louie Griffin of Amarillo, Texas, and Mrs. Shirley Anderson of Snyder, Oklahoma.

At about the age of fifteen I became very interested in the Word of God. Greatly desiring to learn what it might contain for me, from that time until now the Bible has been uppermost in my life.

My wife and I joined the church at Memphis, Texas, on the third Sunday in May 1938, and were baptized by my father the third Sunday in June. Soon after I was baptized, the church desired that I take part in the stand as I was deeply impressed to tell the children of God, of his tender love for them, I so greatly desired them to know that their Saviour was not a failure. In my little way, I began speaking in the name of Christ to the best of my ability.

On the third Sunday in May 1945, my oldest brother Elder Lee Griffin and I were ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry. Two ministers were selected to give our charge--Elder W.H. Fox, and my father. I was blessed with the privilege of working two years in the stand with my father after my ordination. He passed from this life on August 24, 1947.

I have served from one to four churches. At present, I serve the church at Tecumseh, Oklahoma, although I am only with them about nine months of the year, as I have much work out of state.

I had the privilege of speaking over radio the two years, endeavoring to put gospel into the homes of those that would not come out to the Primitive Baptist Churches. I am glad that more of our ministers are speaking over radio. They are contacting many children of God that otherwise would never hear the true gospel of Christ.

I have given full time to the work of the ministry since I was ordained and God has been so good to me. It has not all been roses, there are many hills to pull but could there be a greater cause of one giving his life?

ELDER GEORGE GRIFFIN

FROM AN AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH PUBLISHED IN THE "CHRISTIAN BAPTIST" AUGUST 1970: If my memory serves me right, it was in the year our Lord 1926 when my soul became distressed. When I had this great



experience there was no one near me; one of our neighbors had hired me to work in a large cotton field, and about 10:00 A.M. in the month of June - somewhere about the middle of that field - this happened to me, and in a very short time my body was lying prostrate on the ground trying to beg the Lord for mercy. This was the first time in my life that I had ever tried to pray, or felt the need of prayer. I was 21 years of age at the time. I began working on a railroad for an uncle, Mr. Roy Lawrence, who was foreman at the time. Uncle Roy was a devout member of a Nazarene Holiness Church. After going with my uncle to his church a few times, they persuaded me to go up to what they called the "mourners bench" and pray, and they would pray with me, and for me, that God would save me. While on my knees trying to pray with all my power (others around me were praying, but my mind was not on them) for God to save me and relieve me of my sinful condition and troubled soul; my Saviour appeared in front of me dressed in a white robe - my head was bowed but I saw my dear Lord more clear than anyone that I had ever looked upon. He raised His loving arms, and when He did all my troubles were gone, unspeakable gladness and joy filled my soul, and I began

shouting praises to Him.

I lay down on my bed one night and before I closed my eyes a soft light appeared on the wall, and a picture of a house was in that light; some people were walking about, and as I observed that wonderful scene, I recognized some of the people and the building. The people were Primitive Baptists, and the house was the old schoolhouse East of Eldorado, Okla., the place where my father and mother carried me when a child. As I lay there on my bed in that dark room viewing that wonderful picture, I heard a voice in a soft clear tone say to me: "THIS IS MY CHURCH." There were some Old Baptist churches near me, but my mind was on the one the Lord blessed me to see; I knew several members of that church, and they had known me most all my life, and knew the kind of life I had lived. I doubted very much about them receiving me, but this was the church I wanted to join. On the second Sunday in May 1930, the church there did receive me, and I made my first attempt to speak of His grace and mercies. Uncle France baptized me a few months later, and I came up out of the water shouting and praising God.

A burden to preach the gospel had been burning in my heart and mind since that day in June, 1926, when I lay prostrate on the ground in that cotton field of Mr. Chambers. In the early thirties I visited the church at Oriel, Tex., where Elder O. Strickland was pastoring, and after he had preached a wonderful discourse, my soul was in flame to preach, so I asked Brother Strickland to let me talk, and he gave me permission; I preached as loud and as fast as I could for some twenty minutes, and taught very little if anything (I did not know when to preach), but my soul was relieved. In the year of our Lord 1933, my wife and I moved to Amarillo, Tex. I asked for my church letter and joined the church there.

In February 9, 1936, I was ordained by the following: Elders J. R. Sims, A. D. Wood, J. T. Elliot, A. R. Alldredge, and F. M. Griffin. Soon after I was ordained, the church at Amarillo called me to pastor her, and since the church at Amarillo called me I have been trying to pastor from one to five churches - except when we moved to Calif. - up to the present time. I am the acting pastor of three churches at present: New Hope, McFarland, Calif.; Mt. Zion, Lennox, Calif.; and the church at Grants Pass, Oregon. I have pastored the following churches: the church at Tucumcari, N. M. the church at Mountainair, N. M.; the church at Rupert, Idaho; the church at Bell, Calif.; the church at San Diego, Calif.; the church at Beaumont, Calif.; and the church at Lindsay, Calif.

NOTE: Elder Griffin passed from this life in February 1978.

ELDER JAMES VERNON GRIFFIN

WRITTEN BY TRACI EUDY: James Vernon Griffin was born September 3, 1918 to Elmer and Ina Griffin. He grew up in Queen City, TX., and attended Enon Church, where his grandfather J. S. Griffin was pastor (1893-1933) and his father a deacon.



On December 25, 1938 he was married to Delphine Graves by Elder J. S. Griffin. Vernon and Delphine had three children: Ina Marie Griffin Culver, James Vernon Griffin, Jr. and Shelba Graves Griffin Kennedy.

In the late 1960's, Brother Vernon and Sister Delphine started going to Enon Church and was baptized by Elder Henry Cash on July 19, 1970.

Vernon was liberated to preach on November 21, 1971 and then was ordained to the full work of the ministry on July 30, 1972. Elders R. Smith, Troy Corley, Owen Rushing, Gerald Stanford, Lowell McClain, M. A. Allen, Eugene Hendrix and Wes Proctor were present.

Elder Griffin was called pastor of Enon Primitive Baptist Church in 1974 and served until 1985. He was called pastor a second time and served from 1987 to 1995 when Parkinson's disease rendered him unable to continue. During his time at Enon, he also pastored Rose Pine Church in Louisiana for two or three years.

Elder Vernon went to be with the Lord on February 2, 1998.

ELDER L. P. GRIFFIN



Elder Griffin was born on January 26, 1891 at Lexington, Tennessee. In 1912 he came to Texas. His search for the Church of Jesus led him to the Primitive Baptist Church at Waco, Texas, which he joined in 1927 or 1928. He was ordained to the full work of the ministry on December 21, 1931 by the Waco Church. He was married to Miss Irene Johnson of Dallas, Texas on January 5, 1916. To this union one child was born, Mrs. Inez Gibson of San Antonio. He was elected Moderator of the Southwest Texas Association in 1946 and served until his death. He was serving four churches at the time of his death. He departed this life at Leesville, Texas on January 28, 1951.

ELDER LEE GRIFFIN



WRITTEN BY ELDER JIMMIE BASS: Elder Lee Griffin was indeed a sweet and able preacher and a good singer in Israel. The doctrine of the resurrection was his choice subject, one of which he was blessed so ably to set forth.

Elder Griffin began his ministry at Clovis, N.M., a church he was then serving. He was highly respected, and much loved by all who knew him.

FROM ELDER GEORGE GRIFFIN: Elder W. Lee Griffin was born December 14, 1896 in McKinney, Texas and passed this life at Phoenix, Ariz. May 5, 1958.

Elder Lee Griffin was a first cousin of mine, yea and more than a cousin, he was more like a brother in the flesh, and if I ever had a true yoke-fellow in the ministry, Lee was one.

Lee and I have been like Jonathan and David and our souls have been knit together, also our love for each other since we were boys, we have walked the Jericho road together. We have also walked the King's highway hand in hand. Never has there been any an unfriendly word spoken between us, which can be said by very few who lived together.

ELDER JOHN WALTON GRIFFITH



SUBMITTED BY ELDER LYNN H. RUSSELL: Elder John Walton Griffith was born September 15, 1888 in Greenfield, Tennessee, the son of Richard William Clark Griffith and Winnie Hazel Tillman Griffith. On April 11, 1914 he married Minnie Lee Waterfield. To this union were born Virginia Lee Griffith Lowe and Dr. John W. Griffith, Jr. He was a retired railway postal clerk. Elder Griffith died January 7, 1970.

He was ordained to the ministry in 1940. In his early ministry he was pastor at College Street, Nashville, Tenn. He was pastor at Mt. View, Smithville, Tenn. 1948 to 1950. He was long time pastor at Blakemore, Nashville, TN. He was a kind man; well loved by young and old.

FROM (SISTER) PEGGY HAMRICK: My grandfather was a wonderful person and radiated the love of Christ throughout his life. I was blessed to have grown up knowing and loving him.

ELDER JOHN GRIST

Elder Grist was born Dec. 8, 1852 and died Dec. 9, 1939. He was convicted of sin in his twenty-fifth year and carried a burden for years. He tried to get relief by moving to Logan County, Ark., but in vain. Not until 1880 did he find rest in Jesus. He united with the Primitive Baptists in 1885. He was licensed to preach in 1887 and in January 1889, was ordained to the work of the ministry. About 1899 he moved to Tennessee where he pastored churches and served as the moderator of the Forked Deer Association.

THE FOLLOWING WAS PUBLISHED IN THE "PRIMITIVE BAPTIST" BY J. R. SCOTT: I received a phone message late yesterday afternoon that Elder John Grist died at the home of one of his daughters in western Arkansas Friday night about eleven o'clock.

About two years ago his health failed him and he left Tennessee and went to western Arkansas to live with his children, and when the time came, it almost broke his heart to leave his precious brethren and friends he loved so well, especially the church at Union City. The writer shall never forget his farewell address to his church in Union City as he began to tell them about his plans to leave them, telling them how much he loved the church and how it grieved him to leave us. His eyes filled with tears and, though almost overcome by emotion, he spoke of the goodness and mercy of God, also of his hope of meeting the dear saints of God over on the other side of life, where partings never come and farewell is never spoken. He and the writer have been closely associated for over a quarter of a century. It was to him that I first related my experience and call to the ministry (if I have one) and I shall never forget the comforting words he spoke and good advice he gave me. Ever since that time, he had been very near to me and I have looked upon him as a father in the ministry.

ELDER HARLEY GROOM



Elder Groom was born at Clarksdale, Mo. November 30, 1907, the son of Elijah Moore and Mary Kelley Groom. On June 4, 1930, he was married to Miss Crystal McCartney, and to this union three children were born.

He united with Little Flock Church, St. Joseph, Mo., March 5, 1942, and was baptized by Eld. William Pollard. He was ordained to the work of the ministry at this church November 6, 1943, after which he served the church at Gilman City, as pastor, and the churches at St. Joseph, Pleasant Hill, near Plattsburg, and Savannah, as associate pastor with Eld. J. C. Jones. He passed away, as the result of gasoline burns, on July 23, 1946 at the age of 38 years.

ELDER FLOY F. GROSS



Elder Gross was born April 1, 1913, near Atlanta, Mo., the son of Elmo and Lora (Grubbs) Gross. He united with Chariton Church in 1931 and began almost immediately to take a public part in the service. He served as moderator of the church for a short while, before moving away from the area. In August of 1936, he was married to Naomi Ratliff of near Unionville, Mo. After marriage, they remained on a farm in Macon County for a period of two years. During this time their daughter, Carol, was born.

Soon after leaving the bounds of Chariton Church, Bro. Gross had his membership moved to Hazel Creek Church, near Greentop, Mo., where his wife already held membership.

In October 1947, Bro. Gross was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry, and began almost immediately to serve churches. He served the churches, West Union, Brush Creek, and Little Zion. He served as editor of the church publication, *Gospel Witness* from 1962-1977, at which time he suffered a stroke which caused him to be unable to speak. He still very much enjoyed attending the area churches, and very clearly made everyone know when he agreed with the preacher. Elder Gross passed away on April 15, 1988. Many of the articles he has written have been compiled in the book, "Sovereign Grace."

ELDER CLIFFORD GUESS



Elder Guess was ordained by the Fairview Primitive Baptist Church in San Angelo, Texas on May 30, 1965. He served as pastor of Fairview Church for fourteen years. He also served as pastor of the Stanton and Wingate Primitive Baptist Churches for twelve years.

He was born on December 24, 1907 in Coleman County, Texas and died on July 27, 1983, in San Angelo where he is buried.

ELDER ZACK GUESS



My name is Zack Meaders Guess. I was born on April 18, 1941, in Memphis, Tennessee. My parents, E. A. M. Guess and Eunice Rushing Guess, were very dedicated Christians and Primitive Baptists.

I made a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus and was baptized into the fellowship of Morris Memorial Church, Memphis, Tennessee on July 18, 1954. The man who baptized me was my pastor, a very sweet preacher, Elder E. C. Holder.

I began to be uncommonly interested in the welfare of the church soon after I joined. I felt a great desire to encourage and exhort the brethren. The man who actually discovered my preaching gift and encouraged me in it was a Spirit-filled deacon, who would later become my father-in-law, Brother A. C. Machiavello. I came under the influence of a very devout and godly minister of the gospel, Elder Hassell Wallis. He set a very good example and gave me wise counsel. Under his leadership I was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry at Whitehaven Church, Memphis, Tennessee. Two other men were ordained with me, Elder Bobby Poe and Elder James Allen Rushing. The date of the ordination was April 9, 1967.

The first church I pastored was Pine Hill Church at Ripley, Mississippi. I left there after a few years to pastor Whitehaven Church.

I was married on August 23, 1969, to a precious woman who has turned out to be a virtuous woman and an ideal preacher's wife, Judy Carol Machiavello. The Lord has graciously blessed us with twelve dear children, one of whom died in infancy. I have been blessed to baptize nine of my children.

After I left Whitehaven Church, I moved to Clinton, Kentucky, where the Lord used me to establish Trinity Chapel Church. I was in Kentucky for three years. After this I moved back to Memphis and became pastor of Grace Chapel Church, where I have been blessed to labor for over twenty-five years.

I have been blessed to spend most of my time in the ministry. I had intended to be a college professor of history, and have, in fact, taught history at the University of Memphis. However, after I received my Master of Arts degree, I lost interest in history, as the Bible became more and more important to me. I thank God for a wife and family who have been willing to sacrifice so that I could spend my time in the ministry.

ELDER DAVID GUTTERY

WRITTEN BY DAVID MONTGOMERY AS TOLD BY DAVID GUTTERY: Elder Guttery was born April 6, 1961 in Centre, Alabama. On October 27, 1979, he was married to the former Marlene Nelson.

Brother Guttery was raised in the "Church of God" which is based in Cleveland, TN. He first preached for this group at the age of 16 in 1977. He served as an evangelist and preached "revival meetings" for a period of years in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Texas, Florida and New Mexico. At the age of 24, he took the pastorate of the Centre Church of God. He served there some time and later served other churches.

In 1991, he had ceased pastoring churches and was living in Auburn, AL, working at an insurance agency. His brother (also a Church of God minister) had recently heard the doctrines of grace and shared these doctrines with Brother David. David searched the Scriptures and began to see things that he had never seen before. He asked members

of the church about these things to which they rebuked him. He began to be disgruntled with the Church of God. He and Marlene would discuss these things and she was blessed to see them as well.

It came to the point that he began to wonder where he could go to church. He felt all alone in his beliefs of the sovereignty of God. In 1993, he moved back to Centre and decided to express his excitement about the doctrines of grace to others. When he was invited to preach he preach these doctrines and was called into question by the pastor of the church. Later, he was summoned to district office in Birmingham to answer to his theology. After questioning him on various Bible doctrines, the district overseer gave him 30 days to submit in writing what he believed—however one week later, he was summoned to appear at an examination before a council of ministers to answer their questions. There, he was charged with believing heresy and his credentials were taken from him. He was excluded from the Church of God as being “detrimental to the salvation of sinners” and was to be counted as a “bastard and a heathen.”



Not knowing what to do, he started a radio program in the hope of reaching out to others with the truth of God’s grace. He continued this for 2 ½ years.

In 1994-95, at a Sovereign Grace Baptist church meeting, he first heard the name “Primitive Baptist.” The church had invited Elder Jerry Hunt, SR and David visited with Elder Hunt at length. Through Elder Hunt, he met Elders Gene Thomas and Harvey Fulmer. Brother David questioned these men and found that the Old Baptist doctrine was what he felt to be taught in the Scriptures. He asked these men to preach in his home, which they did several times. David was also invited to preach to preach in the home of Brother Leonard Fulmer and all the Primitive Baptists that attended were satisfied with his theology.

In February 1996, he joined the Nancy’s Creek Church in Atlanta, GA and was baptized by Elder Fulmer. He was liberated to preach that same day. In April 1996, he was ordained to the minister at Nancy’s Creek Church. Elder Gene Thomas delivered the charge and Elder Gus Harter interrogated. On the same day, he baptized his wife, who had joined the church and participated in his first Communion and feetwashing service.

In August 1996, he began to preach at the Mount Olive Church in Cullman, AL upon the death of their pastor, Harlan Smith. Brother David was called pastor there in December 1996. In June 1998, he was called pastor of the Nancy’s Creek Church.

ELDER ROLANDO G. DE GUZMAN



I was born February 8, 1971 in the province of Bulacan. I am the second and the youngest of two siblings. My parents are Ernesto and Rosalina. Rolando was the name given to me and they call me Rolly for short. My father was a Protestant while my mother a Catholic. I remember when I was still 5 years old that my mother brought me to her church and on another Sunday my father to his church. I was very confused. I will never forget where I first heard the story of Jesus and the song, which until now is very memorable and has been an inspiration, which entitled “This Little Light of Mine.” But at the age of 10 my mother and I moved to her province in Nueva Ecija and since then I never heard the story of Jesus that I loved. I grew up without a father’s image. I mingled with the wrong crowd and have engaged myself in different vices, which cause me to be kicked out of the private school I was attending. I was transferred to a public school and while I was there I met a new friend who was a Bible believer. He shared with me the word of God and invited me to his church. That was July 1986, when I heard the name of Jesus my Lord. After a month I joined his church (Fundamental Baptist). I came home with a new Bible and

growing in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But it is not easy doing what the Lord wants us to do. There are precautions and sometimes it will come from those close to you.

I was able to finish my high school. After graduation, the church I was attending then held a youth camp and I was able to go. I was challenged by the message and surrendered my life to the Lord to use it as He pleases. I enrolled and studied in a Bible school and graduated in 1992 with a degree in theology. There in the Bible College I met my wife, whose name is Analiza Cunanan. We got married in 1992 of November 5th. God has blessed this union with three boys, JR, EJ and Jiji.

I began a pioneering work in Northern part of Luzon called Cagayan Valley, specifically the town of Piat. After more than two years it was organized into a church and became a self-supporting and independent. The year 1997 I engaged myself in business where I planted a 6 hectares farmland of sugarcane. Our country was struck with the El Niño phenomenon and I was not able to harvest. July 1998 I resigned as a pastor of my church. My wife and I decided for a while to come and see Davao City, for my wife has a relative there. We arrived in Davao City August 11, 1998. The first thing I did was to look for a church. At first we went to our relative's church but I got curious when I saw the Primitive Baptist signboard which is situated very near to the place we are staying. One time I attended their Wednesday Prayer Meeting and met Elder Leo Ramirez. Many questions were formed in my mind and I was offended at first with Brother Leo's explanation, especially regarding the doctrine of grace. I decided not to go back.

One day I was invited again and was told that there were American elders coming. I was able to attend the service and after the service I met Elders James Pruitt and Don Farris. Our discussion ended the following night in their hotel room and found myself crying like a baby for I had seen the grace of Almighty God and that God alone can save His people from their sins. Baptism was in my mind but I was at first hesitant because I was thinking of my wife, if she will be convinced too and what my friends and relatives would say. But I realized that I could not deny my Lord who saved me. So I got baptized and after 2 months my wife, upon having understood and being convinced of the doctrine of grace, followed also the Lord in water baptism.

Year 1999 Elder Jeff Hams and Gus Harter came to strengthen the brethren here and they gave me books and taped messages of which I listened 5 to 10 times each. These materials have helped me a lot spiritually.

I would like to thank the Lord for enabling me to become one of His ministers. As what Paul said in Gal 1:15, "But when it pleased God who separated me from my mother's womb and called me by His grace."

ELDER HENRY GWALTNEY

Henry Jasper Gwaltney, 93 formerly of Bloomington, Indiana, died May 21 at the home of his daughter, Ida Mae Taylor. He was born June 1, 1883, in White County, Illinois.

He was ordained a Primitive Baptist minister at Mt. Pleasant Church in White County, Illinois, in 1903. He preached his first sermon in 1901. In his early ministry, Elder Gwaltney participated in the church debates that were taking place at that time in history. At the time of his death, his membership was in the Union Primitive Baptist Church near Stanford, Indiana.
