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ELDER EDDIE C. OAKS

WRITTEN BY WIDOW, MRS. ROXIE OAKS: My loving companion was born April 27, 1872, and departed this life March 5, 1944.

He united with the Primitive Baptist Church at old Straw Berry, in the state of Virginia, in about the year 1893. Later on, he moved his membership to Sugar Tree Church, in the same state, and soon thereafter began to exercise his gift as a minister. It was while he was a member of this church that he was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry, on the first Sunday in August 1901, by a presbytery composed of Elders J. M. Lewis, J. B. Dallas and J. J. Beck. The remainder of his life was devoted to the cause of his master as a humble, yet faithful, sound and unassuming servant of God. Later on in life, he again moved his membership. This time to the church in Danville, Va., a church he himself was largely instrumental in organizing. He served this church as pastor for nine or ten years, later moving to North Carolina, in Cashwell County. Soon after moving into North Carolina, he again moved his membership to Ebenezer Church in Person County, and immediately thereafter was called by that church to serve as her pastor which church he served for the remainder of his life, a period of more than forty years.

ELDER O. E. O'DELL

FROM AN OBITUARY IN "MESSENGER OF PEACE," WRITTEN BY ELDER W. A. GARRETT: The subject of this sketch was born July 14, 1867, in Ray County, Missouri; joined the Primitive Baptist Church in June 1891; was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry the second Sunday in November 1897; and continued faithful until the end came on April 15, 1950.

Elder O'Dell never traveled extensively, but as well known and highly respected among the Baptists of his own country and wherever he labored. He served Center Creek Association as moderator for several years, until

his health failed. Prairie Valley Church at Centralia, Okla., was constituted under his labors, which church he served as long as he lived. New Hope Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma, was also constituted under his labors, which he also served as long as he lived. He was the first Primitive Baptist preacher to have continued appointments at Tulsa.

Elder O'Dell was an example of faithfulness during his ministry, and always responded to the call of his brethren when it was at all possible for him to do so. His very presence lifted us up and filled our hearts with joy, although we realize that he was not perfect. No one was willing to confess himself a sinner more than he, yet his life stood out as a shining example for us to follow.

The last time he was permitted to be with us here at Tulsa, he was blessed to preach about 40 minutes, although he was not able to stand while speaking.

ELDER WILLIAM JASPER O'DELL

FROM AN OBITUARY IN "MESSENGER OF PEACE:" Elder O'Dell was born March 24, 1893, to Newton and Rachel O'Dell near Excelsior Springs, Missouri. During his youthful days, he had respect unto the kingdom of heaven. In 1909, he confessed a hope in Christ Jesus and united with New Garden Church. In 1917, he moved his membership to New Hope Church in Dallas County, Missouri. In 1935 he was ordained to the full work of the ministry, and continued faithful in duty and in full fellowship until his death, November 3, 1948. Our dearly beloved brother and pastor left behind him a living testimony to the reality of religion.

He was married to Elza Davis on August 23, 1912, who faithfully shared his troubles and joys with him. Unto them one dear son, Osmond Cayce O'Dell, was born.

ELDER A. G. ODEN

Was born September 25, 1822, and died February 3, 1887. He obtained a hope in the Lord in 1844, and united with the church at Hepsiba, Kemper County, Mississippi, in 1848, and in a short time began

to exercise his gift in the church. In 1859 he was set apart to the full work of the gospel ministry, by the following brethren to wit: Elders William Allen, Gilbert Joiner and W. H. Crawford. In a short time he moved to Leake County and settled near New Bethel Church, was called to the care of it, and served there until his death.

ELDER N. J. ODEN

FROM AN OBITUARY IN THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST BY GERTIS MCCOLLUM: The subject of this sketch, Elder Nathaniel James Oden, was born October 7, 1882, to James Andrew and Mindy Oden, in Marshall County, Ala., and died June 1, 1944, at Eva, Morgan County, Ala. Uncle Nat, as he was called by all that knew him, was married to Elizabeth Thompson on November 19, 1905. He joined Little Vine Church in August 1915 and was baptized by the late Elder W. A. Childers. He was ordained to the office of deacon in June 1923, which he filled until he was ordained to the full work of the gospel in November 1930, in which he served until he was called home. He moved his membership to Harmony Church in 1941, and remained a faithful member.

FROM "A HISTORY OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS OF ALABAMA, MT. ZION ASSOCIATION" BY ELDER E. B. WATTS: He was co-pastor with Elder Holcombe at Little Vine for several years. Other churches pastored by Elder Oden were Mount Vernon, Providence, and Mountain View. In 1938, Elder Oden moved to Steele, Alabama, when Mountain View was constituted. In 1940, he moved near Oneonta and in 1941, he moved to Eva in Morgan County. He did not pastor any churches after 1940. He died in 1944.

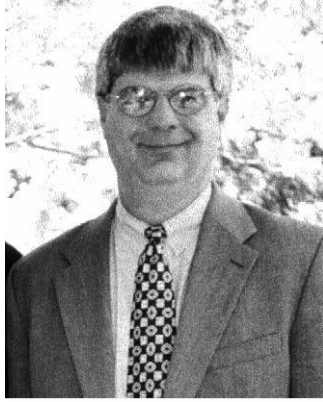
ELDER O. C. ODEN

Elder Oden was baptized in October 1930 at Little Vine Church in Morgan County. He was ordained in 1953. He exhorted the Lord's people to seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. He manifested a deep abiding love for the Lord and his church and for family and friends.

As his health declined and his capacity to communicate failed him, his faith obviously became a very private one, but no one doubted that in his

heart a fire still burned, an eternal flame, born of God, and now gone to God to abide in his presence forever.

ELDER SAMMY ODEM



Elder Odem was born on December 26, 1953 in Runnelstown, Mississippi to Brother and Sister William H. Odem. He grew up attending the Ideal Primitive Baptist Church near Hattiesburg, Miss and was baptized there at age fourteen by Elder Lonnie Mozingo, Sr. In November 1990, he married the former Laura Wicker.

Elder Odem was ordained at Ideal Church in 1987 by Elders Lonnie Mozingo, Sr., Lonnie Mozingo, Jr., Steve Wilkinson, Lamar Wilkinson, R. B. Johnson, Jim Poe, Jerry Britt, Bob Brubaker, Thomas Floyd, B. T. Bishop, W. A. Bounds, and Russell Lewis.

Elder Odem served the Gulf Coast in Gulfport, Miss as pastor for four years. Currently, he serves Ideal, Mt. Zion and Mt. Hebron Churches.

ELDER R. M. OGLE

Elder Ogle was born on April 6, 1839 in Tennessee and passed from this life on April 19, 1932. He moved to Missouri in 1841. He united with the Little Flock Church in Carroll County MO in 1877. He was ordained on December 6, 1874 by Crooked River Church of Rayville, MO.

ELDER JAMES H. OLIPHANT

FROM C. W. MATTOX WRITING IN THE "PRIMITIVE MONITOR," DECEMBER 1925: Elder J. H. Oliphant is, I feel, one of the most useful and able ministers that ever bore the name of Primitive Baptist. Indeed,

few men have ever lived that have penned or published to the world the glorious doctrine of salvation by grace with more beauty and in all its fullness. One whose life has been a splendid example of true piety, sober mindedness, spotless integrity, and devoted service. Few of the Lord's servants of today; I fear, are making so clean a record as this dear departed father in Israel. O that our tongues might be as free from backbiting, evil communications, idle and meaningless conversation, that our hearts were as free of envy, malice, and hatred.

For more than half a century, his life has been almost wholly devoted to faithful and untiring service. His able writings in book form are read and loved throughout our land, for he has truly fed the flock which Christ has purchased with his own blood. While his labors on earth are done, he will long live in the memory of those with whom he has come in contact, more especially with those in the churches which he pastored and visited.

We do well remember his visits to our home in our youthful days, where his wise counsel was so much sought, and his friendly manner so highly respected and esteemed. Would that the younger ministry of today would study as incessantly to show themselves approved unto God, workmen that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth, shunning profane and vain babblings, for such things saith the apostle, increaseth unto more ungodliness. Then our many churches so richly blessed in temporal things, would undoubtedly bear more fruit unto the Lord, thus reciprocating their energy and zeal to the called servants of the Most High.

FROM A LETTER TO C. W. MATTOX BY MABEL OLIPHANT:
Grandfather's last visit to our house was in May. His physical condition had weakened him mentally until he became unable at time to converse intelligently. On subjects pertaining to the Bible or religion, his mind remained clear, and during the visit, he sang distinctly for us his favorite song, "Savior, more than life to me." On the first Sunday during this visit, he preached his last sermon publicly, speaking in power and demonstration of the Spirit for about thirty minutes. After being confined to his bed, he sang and prayed and preached as long as strength permitted.

What a wonderful, precious, loving father he has been. In my acquaintance of more than thirty years not a fault have I ever detected, but in wisdom and love and gentleness has he sought to encourage, uplift, instruct, and comfort rather than amuse and gratify the desires of the flesh. How sweet to me is the memory, when only a child he took me in his

arms, making me feel that he loved and cared. This interest never abated, but grew stronger with the oncoming years. He it was who taught me in childhood, spiritually. Through him was life brought to light in the gospel he preached, then came my baptism at his hands, and because of these things I have felt bound to him by cords stronger than any earthly tie.

ELDER JOHN THOMAS OLIPHANT

WRITTEN BY ELDER E. W. THOMAS: Elder Oliphant of Fort Branch, Ind., the son of William and Mary Oliphant was born July 23, 1841, died after a brief illness Nov. 30, 1925. He experienced a hope of salvation in the Savior when a boy of only 12 years. The travail of his soul under conviction, and the rejoicings of his heart when enabled by faith to believe in Christ as his Savior were so marked, and wonderful, that he found much joy and comfort in talking and meditating upon experimental religion. Shortly after, he united with Little Flock Church in Clinton Co., Indiana. He was ordained Aug. 7, 1869, and actively engaged in the service of his Master until old age and frailty of body compelled him to desist. He attained a great knowledge of the Bible and although he had few equals in a clear understanding of its fundamental doctrines, yet, he loved, and emphasized much, both in his daily life, and ministry, experimental and practical Christianity.

He was married to Mary Caroline Musgrave in 1866, with whom he lived happily 59 years.

ELDER E. E. OLIVER



WRITTEN BY ELDER A. L. HARRISON: Elder Oliver, Of Franklin Park, Va., near Washington, D. C., died of pneumonia, Feb. 28, 1923. He was born in Fairfax County, Va., Jan. 2, 1861, and raised by Primitive Baptist parents. At the age of seventeen, Elder Oliver was convicted of sin and made to mourn on account of it, but he who began the good work continued it and in a few months Jesus was revealed to, him as his sin bearer and he

received a good hope through grace, united with Bethel Church in 1879 and was baptized by Elder Benj. Bridges. Elder Oliver was married to Miss Marietta Reid in 1885. Licensed to preach in 1890 and ordained the following year. After the death of Elder T. N. Alderton he served as pastor of Bethel Church several years and also served Columbia and Seneca Churches. He served several times as Moderator of Kectocon Association. Elder Oliver preached in several states and was well received.

ELDER CLAYTON C. O'MARY



Clayton O'Mary was born on August 10, 1920 in Fayette County, Alabama. His parents were Marion A. O'Mary and Pearl Hamilton O'Mary. He joined Moriah Church, (Hull, Georgia) March 1956 and was baptized by Elder Walter Allen. He was ordained July 29, 1972 at the request of Mt. Calvary Church, (Dryden, Washington). Elders in ordination: F. E. Kays, D. A. Layne, Robert Wall, and Elvin E. Layne

Elder O'Mary has pastored Mt. Calvary Church (Dryden, Washington); Poplar Springs Church (Winfield, Alabama); and Hamilton Baptist (Hamilton, Alabama).

ELDER MARION O'MARY

FROM AN OBITUARY IN THE SOUTH ARKANSAS ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF 1977: Brother O'Mary was born March 17, 1924, the son of Brother Madison and Sister Dora O'Mary. He passed away on March 17, 1977. He was married to Nell Gardner O'Mary and they had two sons, Mark and Marion, Jr. Brother O'Mary was ordained to the ministry April 10, 1955, and served Bethesda, Sardis and Mt. Zion Churches at various times as pastor, as well as filling regular appointments and visiting other churches of our association and in other parts of the country.

Brother O'Mary seemed to be especially gifted in his visitations among the churches he served and among the sick. He will live on in the memory

of many whom he ministered unto and his influence on the lives of others will bear fruit in the years to come.

ELDER J. H. O'NEAL

THIS ARTICLE WAS COMPILED FROM INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY ELDER HAROLD STUMBAUGH AND OTHER FRIENDS OF ELDER O'NEAL: Brother O'Neal was born on April 8, 1876, a native of Newton County, Arkansas, and had residence in Atkins, Arkansas, since 1930. He had been a minister for forty-two years. It is estimated that he performed one thousand marriages and conducted that many funerals. Brother O'Neal was admitted to practice law in 1911, and served as Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for Van Buren County. He gave up his law practice when he accepted the call to the ministry. In addition to serving as pastor of the Primitive Baptist Church at Arkins, Arkansas, he cared for churches in Conway, Little Rock, Bee Branch, Ozark, Scotland, and Fort Smith.



As friends and family relate, this man was blessed with a brilliant mind and there were great possibilities for him to attain to high honors and great monetary gain if he had pursued his law practice for which he was trained and well qualified. But instead of pursuing the treasures of this world, he gave himself to the Lord God who had called him into the services of preaching the Word of God and ministering to the needs of the children of God in a spiritual way.

In Elder O'Neal's later years, he became blind and could not read. But many of those who knew him have told me that he could stand in the pulpit and preach more ably than most who could read for he could quote (accurately) most of the New Testament and much of the Old Testament from memory.

IN 1957, ELDER O'NEAL WROTE: In September 1912, Elder J. S. Newman of Texas came through our country and preached. I walked six miles to hear him and while listening to him so ably explain the word of God, I for the first time heard of the gospel of my salvation. At the close

of his discourse, I requested a home with the church and was baptized by Elder Newman. On January 5, 1914, our pastor Elder J. M. Coleman died and we were as sheep going astray with no shepherd. However, we met for our regular conference meeting and spent the time in singing and prayer. I was urged by the church to take the lead in admonishing them. On the third Sunday in July 1917, I made my first attempt to preach and was called for at other places. I was ordained to the ministry on September 5, 1920 and have taken care of two to four churches from then until 1951 when I had to resign on account of losing my eyesight. However, I have continually preached in different places though not as a pastor. How well I have succeeded in this work will have to be answered by the people among whom I have labored.

ELDER GEORGE D. OWENS

Elder George Dennis Owens was born on May 24, 1888. He was the father of six children. He died December 10, 1958.

Elder Owens was ordained on August 12, 1928. The Presbytery consisted of Elders G. W. Reed and R. L. Piles and Deacons H. B. Emberson, Sam Nelson and W. T. Kitchens. He pastored Mt. Pleasant Church near Waltreak, Arkansas; Little Vine at Blue Mountain, Reveille near Magazine, and Fellowship at Waldron.

In his early years Elder Owens would walk or ride a mule to the churches that he served. Many times he would ride or walk through the hills, often times encountering winter storms or summer showers and heat. Upon returning home from one winter trip through the mountains, his wife discovered that his overcoat had frozen to his saddle. On another trip, this time on foot, upon arriving at the Petit Jean River, he discovered it had flooded. In order to keep his clothes dry, it was necessary for him to take them off, roll them in a bundle and hold them over his head while fording the river.

In those days Elder Owens pastored Little Vine Church at Blue Mountain. He became acquainted with a family who lived on top of one of the mountains. It wasn't very long until Elder Owens began to preach the gospel in their mountain home. Always after services the family would insist that the preacher eat supper with them. On one trip they had chicken and dumplings. Upon his arriving home after dark that night, Sister Owens

asked if he had been to supper. He replied he had, and went on to say that the chicken that the meal was made from was a Dominicker. Sister Owens said, "How did you know?" He replied, "Because there were feathers in it." Sister Owens asked, "What did you do?" "I ate them."

One Sunday morning, after walking ten miles to Mt. Pleasant, he found there were only two old sisters who came to meeting that day. When time came for service to start, no one else had come. Elder Owens told the two sisters that it was apparent no one else was going to be there, so he would offer prayer and they would be dismissed. At this point one of the old sisters said, "Brother George, doesn't the Bible say where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them?" He replied, "Yes, that is what Jesus said." "Well, Brother George, why don't you try to preach, for we have there here who have met to worship." He later said if the Lord ever did bless him to preach, it was at that time when there was the Lord, two old sisters, and himself.

Once at the Salem Association at Mt. Pleasant, there had been some that had joined the church, and on Sunday evening they gathered at Dutch Creek to baptize them. He and Elder M. A. Norman had baptized the new members, and had gone to a patch of woods to change clothes. A runner came bearing the message that more wanted to join the church. They went back, received and baptized them, and again had returned to the wooded area, when here came the runner again, stating that more wanted to join the church. So they gladly returned, received and baptized them. In all, they baptized 17 that evening.

One of the final blessings that Elder Owens experienced was just before he departed this life. He was dying from complication of a heart attack while at home. But before he passed this vale of sin, sorrow and tears, he sang the old song, "Afflictions, though they seem severe, in mercy oft are sent," in its entirety, offered prayer, and those who were around his bedside said that in a little while he fell asleep in the Lord.

ELDER J. B. OWEN

FROM "THE BANNER OF LOVE:" I never heard an Old Baptist until I was twenty-two years old. When I was seven years old I was afflicted with white swelling in my right leg, and was a cripple for a long time. It was

about this time that I began to have various thoughts about what would become of me if I were to die.

Of course I was taught, as all Arminians teach their children, to seek Jesus, and thought that was right. But I was different from some. I thought God would warn me some way when to start seeking. There was a Missionary Baptist church in about two miles of me, and I began going up to the mourners' bench at the beginning of the meeting, and went on all the time. The meeting went on ten days, and I began to think it was an outside case and had sinned way past my day of grace, as had been taught and was condemned to hell. I heard them say the meeting was going to close, and I was worse than I was at the first.

After they had made every proposition, a young preacher by the name of Jones got up and said that there was a young man who was in earnest and one whom the Lord had begun to work with, and he described my feelings so much that it struck me.

After he had talked a while he said: "Now if I have told anyone's feelings, come and give me your hand and return to your seat." I thought it would do me no harm to go, so I started, with all my trouble just as heavy as ever in life. It seemed to me just as I rose from my seat something said: "peace be unto you" and all the troubles left me at once. I went and took the man by the hand and told him I was just as happy as I could be, and it was what Jesus had done for me, for I had tried and could not do anything for myself.

It seemed to me that every thing I looked at was praising the Lord, and I thought I would never have any more trouble. Then I began to search for the church, comparing what they preached and practiced with the Scriptures.

About this time, everyone called me "Hard-shell" every time I told what I believed. I became dissatisfied at home and everywhere else. At that time I was in Pontotoc County, MS and being bothered as I was about the church, I was trying all the time to ask God to direct me to the church.

In a few days I started for Texas. Every time I told anyone what I believed they would tell me "You are a Hard-shell" and it made me mad for them to call me that, but I was called that often. Finally I was near a church and decided I would see. It was Old Savana. The preacher seemed to preach to me and no one else till I thought that he had found out I

believed as I did and that he was trying to catch me. That made me mad with him and all the rest. I did not go hear him again for a long time.

Then I moved to Fisher County, Texas, and I heard I was near a church again. After a long time trying to stay away, I went again and found them to be preaching the same thing the first did. So I decided it was the church I was hunting for. I went to hear them every time I could and the more I went, the more I became satisfied that they were the church. I thought I would never join them for I was afraid I would have to preach as they did. At last I offered myself to them, almost, before I thought what I was doing I was received.

Then my greatest trouble started—feeling impressed to try to preach.
