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ELDER C. D. TALBERT

I was born August 13, 1923, face down, feet first and one month premature. Despite the fact that Mother had not the accommodations of a hospital of miracle drugs and the incubators of today, I survived. I am the son of Bertie Milo and Henrietta Cecil Talbert and reside near Greentop, Mo.

Throughout my youth, I had a deep feeling that someday I would be called upon to labor for the Lord. Then, in early manhood I received conviction and a sweet hope in Jesus. Just before my 25th birthday, I was ordained to the full work of the Gospel Ministry, having joined myself to Liberty Church in Grinnell, Iowa, some little time earlier.

Now, after near 25 years in the vineyard, enjoying God's sweet promises and strength, I feel my little labor is quite inadequate and much of the time ineffective; but I am more convinced than when I first began--Salvation is all of grace. It just cannot be of works.

NOTE: Elder Talbert passed from this life on April 6, 1989.

ELDER W. B. TALLEY

FROM "A HISTORY OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS OF ALABAMA, MT. ZION ASSOCIATION" BY ELDER E. B. WATTS: Warren B. Talley was born October 6, 1888. In 1912, he was married to Miss Joycie Davis and to this union one son and four daughters were born.

Elder Talley joined Mount Vernon Church in July 1923. He was licensed to preach in 1932 and was ordained in August 1933. Elder Talley died June 2, 1941, at the age of 52.

Among the churches pastored by Elder Talley were: Mount Vernon, Mount Olive, Gum Pond, Providence, and Harmony.

Elder Talley was a very effective pastor and well loved by all. It was the writer's privilege to be baptized by Elder Talley in 1929.

ELDER CHARLES S. TATE

WRITTEN BY ELDER W. M. MITCHELL: He was born in Bedford County, Virginia, May 18, 1871, and was received into the fellowship of the Baptists before the division, when he was about 22 years old. He died March 5, 1888 at his home near Dunlap, Morris County, Kansas, in the 77th year of his age.

It was, we think, about 1847 when we first met with him at Enon Church, in Chambers County, Alabama, shortly after he had moved from Virginia to Alabama. Some of the brethren had learned by conversing with him that he had exercised in preaching a little before leaving Virginia, and insisted that he should go into the pulpit and preach, which he did, very satisfactorily from the text Heb. ii. 9. Soon after this he became a member with the brethren at Shawn, in Chambers County, Alabama, which church was then under the pastoral care of Elder Josephus Barrow. Some time after this he moved and became a member of the church at Hephzibah, in same county, and by request of sister churches for his pastoral services, he was ordained and had, for a time, the pastoral charge of two churches. But being poor in the world, and a tanner by trade, he had to move about to get work. Thus his ministerial work became more transient and unsettled. Finally, he landed in Kansas, and for the last nine years of his life was greatly afflicted until he became exceedingly feeble both in body and mind, and for six months previous to his death he did not seem to know anything except for a moment or two while any one would be talking with him. He had to be fed and cared for by Sister Tate almost like a little infant, till at last he fell asleep to wake no more in this mortal state forever.

Brother and Sister Tate had lived together for many years, but never had any children born unto them.

We had quite an intimate and personal acquaintance with Elder Tate for many years. We regarded him as a sound and consistent minister, and so far as we know, he was so regarded by brethren generally, and not only sound in doctrine, but he was faithful, zealous and orderly in his deportment.

ELDER GEORGE T. TATE

FROM "HISTORY OF MUD CREEK ASSOCIATION" BY JOANN THOMAS ELKIN: George Tate, son of Haynes Tate and Edith Machen, grandson of Elder T. H. Machen, joined Mud Creek Church about 1945 when he is shown as a messenger to the association. He was ordained to the ministry at Mud Creek Church (meeting held at the Hollywood School building) on the 5th Sunday in December, 1950 by a presbytery composed of Elders H. P. Copeland, W. O. Hunt and E. B. Watts, of Mt. Zion Association; G. A. Stephens and K. W. Yeager, of Flint River Association; M. M. Morton, of Little River Association of Georgia; Milton Lillard, of Cumberland Association of Tennessee; Paul Childers, of Marietta Association of Georgia; H. P. Houk, Fred Stewart and Gene Thomas, of Mud Creek Association, along with 15 deacons from the above associations and others.

Elder Tate requested a letter from Mud Creek Church in 1952, moving to the Friendship Association of Georgia.

ELDER W. H. TATUM

FROM "HISTORY OF MUD CREEK ASSOCIATION" BY JOANN THOMAS ELKIN: Elder W. H. Tatum was a member of Mt. Pisgah Church where he was licensed to preach in 1879. According to the church minutes for the October term 1881, a motion was made and seconded to ordain Brother W. H. Tatum. On Sunday, November 20, 1881, a presbytery met and W. H. Tatum was ordained to the ministry by Peter Maples and George Bulman. In January 1886, Brother Tatum called for his and his wife's (Sarah) letters and they were granted.

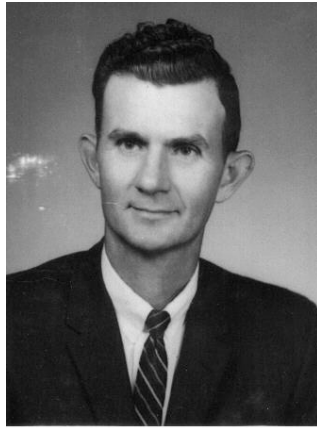
ELDER CHRIS TAYLOR

Elder Taylor was born in Kissimmee, Florida. Elder Paul Law baptized him at the age of 15 at the Little Zion Church in Lithia, Florida.

In December 1989 he married the former Sheri Lynn Croreton. They are blessed with two children: Isaac and Sofia.

Elder Taylor currently resides in Vero Beach, Florida where he serves the Antioch Church.

ELDER DENNIS DALTON TAYLOR



Elder Taylor was born on Dec. 2, 1919, and passed from this life on October 27th, 1980. He was baptized in the summer of 1939 at the church near Cone, Texas, by Elder Cy Denton. He was ordained to the gospel ministry in June 1955 at the New Salem Church at Floydada, Texas. He was married to the former Rachel McClure on December 24, 1939. To this union three sons were born: John R. Taylor, Joe D. Taylor, Tom D. Taylor.

Elder Taylor felt like he had always known himself to be a child of grace, but he resisted to be baptized until age 20, when he attended an association at Hale Center, Texas. Elder Monroe Denton preached; Elder Cy Denton baptized him that same day—and later that year, Elder Lloyd Denton married Dennis and Rachel.

He labored primarily in the area of West Texas and was pastor of Brownfield Church for a time. He later pastored a church Grinnell, Iowa until 1979.

ELDER FREEMAN T. TAYLOR

FROM "PRIMITIVE MONITOR:" Elder Freeman Thomas Taylor was born in Boston-Spa, Saratoga County, New York, April 21, 1816, and died at his home in La Fontaine, Wabash County, Indiana, February 19, 1911, at 11:18 P.M., after a brief illness. The immediate death cause was double

pneumonia. A life of sober, careful living and free from intemperate and excessive habits, awarded him with physical vigor and enjoyment of good health to his last day on earth.

His father's name was Joseph Taylor, and his mother's maiden name was Abigail Thomas. His parents moved from Saratoga County to East Bethany, Genesee County, New York, in 1818.

Joseph Taylor died May 1, 1828. The mother was left in the new home with her family of six boys, upon her own resources. Freeman, then twelve years old, was the oldest. Freeman served two years as an apprentice in a tannery in Connersville, Indiana. He afterwards conducted a farm for his near relative, Honorable William W. Thomas, near Harrisburgh, until his first marriage December 13, 1836, to Anna Tyner.

He began to realize religious experience at the early age of twelve years. The story of his travel from darkness to spiritual light is best expressed in his own words. He said, "In that period of uncertainty and doubt in my mind, I remember of hearing a sermon preached by Elder William Tyner, then a leading Baptist minister in Whitewater Valley. The sermon left a deep impression on my mind. It was the first sermon in which I had spiritually heard the gospel. The text was, 'Add to your faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge.' During the consideration of the subject that followed, I began to see that I was a sinner, and that unless I was saved by grace; I was undone and lost.

In this undone condition, I had a view of Christ as my Savior. I read in my Testament that it was a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance that Christ came into the world to save sinners. I believed, and in that belief, I found hope. I united with and was baptized in the faith of Williams' Creek Baptist Church when sixteen years of age. I joined, by letter, Second Lick Creek Church in 1847, and was licensed to preach by this church in 1852. In August 1856, I joined Ross-Run Church by letter, and was ordained in this church in October 1856. I assisted in the constitution of Pleasant View Baptist Church at Elko in the winter of 1859 and 1860, and became one of its charter members. I moved my membership to Antioch Church in July 1869, where I have since lived."

His funeral occurred February 22, 1911.

ELDER HAROLD TAYLOR

Was born May 19, 1927 near Milan, Missouri, the son of Wiley and Faye (Thresher) Taylor. In August 1948, I united with Mt. Moriah Church and began taking part in church services shortly thereafter. April 1954, Grace Ford of Ethel, Missouri and I were united in marriage. We have two children, Jeffery and Jennifer. It was January 1965 when I felt a call to the Gospel Ministry and was ordained on a fifth Sunday in June 1968.

ELDER HENRY TAYLOR

WRITTEN BY ELDER W.F. PRUITT: Elder Taylor was about seventy-seven years old at his death, and had been preaching for about fifty years; and in his last years when his strength had failed him to such an extent that he could hardly stand to deliver a discourse, yet he would still try as long as he was able to get to his meetings. Brother Taylor was one of those who kept the faith, he could not be wavered.

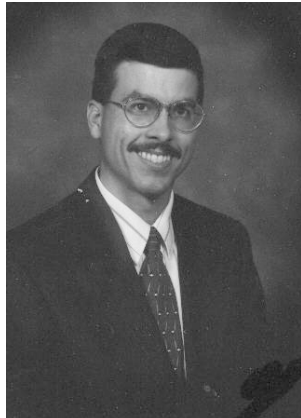
ELDER ISAAC TAYLOR

FROM "PRIMITIVE MONITOR:" Elder Taylor, after an illness of some months, passed peacefully away from earth's transient hopes and joys November 5, 1911, at his home in Coles County, Illinois. Brother Taylor was born in Tennessee March, 1829, and at the age of three came with his parents to this county and settled near the present site of Janesville where he lived continuously up to the time of his death, thus placing him in the ranks of the early pioneers of this section. He was a man widely known and highly respected for the honorable life that he lived, having had the full confidence and respect of every one whom had the pleasure of his acquaintance. Brother Taylor professed a hope in Christ quite early in life and was baptized in the fellowship of the Big Spring Church, Cumberland County, Illinois, by Elder Thomas Threkill along in the 1850's. In 1867 or 68 he was ordained to the work of the ministry and was ever active in the work up to some three years ago when his physical force began to decline. He traveled in many states and preached Christ and him crucified in a simple, straightforward way, never for a single moment shunning to declaring the whole counsel of God as the Spirit gave him utterance.

Brother Taylor was united in marriage with Miss Sarah Ryan in 1857, who died in less than a year thereafter. On April 1, 1860, he was married to Miss Eliza Jane Erwin, and to this union ten children were born. A peculiar trait of his character in life was his even and unexcitable temperament, which was seldom if ever ruffled by the ordinary happenings of life.

ELDER JAMES DAVID TAYLOR

I was born on October 19, 1970 in Grinnell, IA to Tom and Kathy Taylor.



We lived in Iowa until 1978 where my grandfather, Elder Dennis Taylor, pastored a Primitive Baptist Church outside of Grinnell. From Grinnell we moved to Comanche, TX and eventually to Crosbyton, TX in 1980 where we attended the Crosbyton Church. Sometime during my teenage years I became keenly aware of my sins and rejoiced to hear the message of God's redeeming grace through the blood of his dear Son, Jesus Christ. Upon my baptism, I enjoyed great peace of mind and eagerly took my place in the church.

I was 19 when I first began to struggle with a burden to preach. Elder Steven Bloyd asked me to introduce the services several times but I was hesitant to make mention of my inner struggle.

I soon went back to college and did not begin to speak again until after my graduation in 1994.

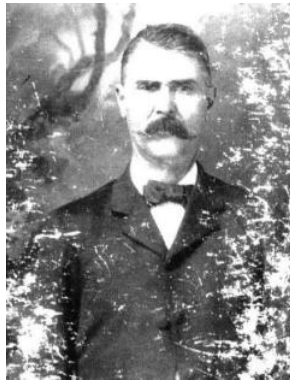
After graduation, I moved to Ripley, MS to teach at the Ripley School and joined the Ripley Church, where Elder Mike Strevel pastored.

After moving to Mississippi, I started to struggle with a burden to preach again. In September 1995, the church began to call upon me to speak once or twice a month and the following year they voted to liberate me.

On September 20, 1997, I was married to Julie Latimer from McDonough, GA. and as one good brother put it, "James, you've married above yourself."

In 1998, I became involved in a series of Bible studies, led by Elder Herb Hatfield, with some of our church members who had moved two hours south to Aberdeen, MS. Eventually, we felt led to organize a church in Aberdeen with the full consent of the Ripley Church. As a result the Ripley Church voted to ordain me to the full work of the gospel ministry. On December 12, 1998 I was ordained in the morning and the Aberdeen PBC was constituted in the afternoon. I currently serve as co-pastor to the Aberdeen Church where Bro. Herb is the pastor.

ELDER JOSEPH BURNETT TAYLOR



Elder Joseph Burnett Taylor was born on August 26, 1846 in Bienville Parish, Louisiana and passed from this life on December 20, 1930 in Hopkins County, Texas. He was ordained August 13, 1880, Elder J. M. C. Robinson officiating. In the presbytery were Elders W. S. Harris, W. C. Burks, L. W. Harley, F. Loden, R. A. Biggs and M. H. Hutchison. He married January 22, 1871 and had three sons and five daughters.

Elder Joseph Taylor's ministry was central and southern Texas. He strove to establish new places of worship, organize new churches, comfort those in sadness or distress, assist the needy, and visit the sick, the widowed, and the orphans. He was a courteous but powerful opponent in public discussions defending Primitive Baptist faith.

He was a Confederate cavalryman in the civil war, serving mostly in the southern end of Texas. He was a talented wood craftsman, cabinetmaker, and furniture maker.

ELDER RICKEY TAYLOR

Elder Rickey Taylor was born on November 4, 1957, to Earl and Jewel Taylor, in Prentiss County, MS. He was the fourth of five children born to them.



At the age of 24, and blessed with a wife, Melinda, and two children, a son Malcolm, and a daughter Jessica, Brother Taylor felt a conviction to begin to seek out the Lord and his church. His first stop was in the Freewill Baptist Church, where he soon became a member, and was active in the church.

But after a while, God in his kind Providence saw fit to give him an elder friend and neighbor, Brother M.P. Holder, who had been for almost all of his life a member of the Old Baptist Church. After some discussion with this older brother, he met his pastor, Elder Herman Clark. It was here, that the Lord used Brother Clark, in showing him the true church. Then finally on April 1, 1984, with a heavy heart, and tearful eyes and after 2 years of searching, Brother Taylor asked for a home in the church, at Little Flock Church, in Tishomingo County MS.

A short time had passed after his joining the church at Little Flock, that Brother Taylor felt the call to the ministry and began to fill appointments at churches in North MS. His first appointment was at Antioch Church, in Oxford MS, where he also pastored for a period. He was ordained at Little Flock Church, on November 9, 1985.

He has served New Prospect Church, at New Albany, Little Flock Church, and New Salem Church, at Walnut, MS. He anchored a radio broadcast, called The Primitive Baptist Broadcast, for several years on WBIP Radio Station, in Booneville. MS.

In 1992, New Salem Church at Walnut, MS, voted to start having services every Sunday, and called Brother Taylor to serve them. He is still serving this church at this time.

ELDER TOM TAYLOR

Elder Taylor was born September 20, 1947. He was baptized in the spring of 1970 at the Mt. Pleasant Church in Grinnell, Iowa by Elder Dennis Taylor. He was ordained March 29, 1997 at the Zion Church in Crosbyton, Texas. He married the former Kathy Henderson on December 27, 1969. They have four children, three sons and one daughter: James, Aaron, John, and Barbara.



I cannot remember a time not believing in God or not having some thoughts of God. But it would not be until later in life, as a teenager, not feeling worthy to be among God's people or of God dealing personally with me, that I struggled with trying to be content with the outward man and with the world in general and hold at length the working of God inside. In the fall of 1987 in questioning in my mind, if I were the older or younger brother, in Christ's parable about the prodigal son, Christ assured me that I was the prodigal. As a weight of heavy sinfulness bore upon me sorely, a great relieving of forgiveness from God lifted me to where Jesus is and I could do nothing more than to be drawn ever close to this salvation of God in Christ, even to the point to preach His gospel. I count it a great privilege to have seen many factions drop bars of fellowship, particularly in Texas. I have also seen an outpouring of genuine concern among God's people for repentance and revival of true godly perseverance and Christian living among all people wherever God may lead.

ELDER D. R. TEMPLES

The passing of Elder D. R. Temples on January 14, 1965 has saddened the hearts of his brethren and friends throughout this section, and elsewhere. He was widely known and highly regarded as a minister of the Primitive Baptist faith, a man who stood four-square for the things he believed to be true and right, a person with unusual ability and strength of character.

Brother Temples had been in poor health for sometime, but his going was sudden and unexpected, living a little more than four months after the death of his companion, Sister Trudie Temples.

He joined Old Canoechee Church on September 2, 1916, and was ordained to the work of the ministry on June 23, 1937. Previous to his ordination as a minister he served as deacon of the church for some years. He was a mail carrier until his retirement several years ago.

Having an unusual gift of preaching he was at his best in teaching the deep things of God's word, and making them clear to the mind and heart of his hearers. His life was an ornament to what he strove to do in his varied channels of activity. He was a great teacher seeming to know what to say and how to say it.

HUMBLY SUBMITTED BY THE COMMITTEE: ELDER P. H. BYRD,
MRS. LOIS ROUNTREE, AND MRS. P. H. BYRD.

ELDER NEWTON W. TERRY

TAKEN FROM A NEWSPAPER CLIPPING: Elder Newton W. Terry of Hampton, S. C., passed away in the Orangeburg Regional Hospital, early on March 19, 1959 after an illness of several days.

Elder Terry was born in Hampton, S. C., son of the late M. E. and Sarah Rentz Terry. He was first married to Miss J. Emma Rivers. He was later married the second time.

Elder Terry was ordained to the ministry in 1922 and has been pastor of St. Paul Church since 1929. In 1919, he was made Moderator of the Prince William Association in which place he served until his death.

ELDER JOE B. THACKER

INFORMATION GATHERED BY SHARON (BUELL) MANIS: Elder Thacker was born December 19, 1900 to Albert and Polly (Smith) Thacker in Pike County, Kentucky. He married Ethel (Fuller) Thacker on

May 13, 1925. To this union five girls were born: Hazel, Joyce, Polly, Dixie, and Marie, and three boys: J.B., Harold, and Clifford.

In the year of 1919, Elder Thacker lay very ill with the flu that was sweeping the country and causing many fatalities. He was very near death



and was bleeding from his mouth. His mother entered his sick room thinking that her son was going to die. But Brother Joe said, "Ma, I'm not going to die! There's something I have to do! See, there's an Angel standing by the stairs!"

Brother Joe joined the church and was baptized in 1935. In the following years he served as Clerk and Treasurer. He was ordained as a Deacon in 1936. It was at this time that he began to take the stand to preach. He was ordained as an Elder in 1940, and served as Pastor of the Big Creek Regular Primitive Baptist Church in Pike County, Kentucky for 31 years (until his death on April 8, 1978).

During his many years of great service, he had the joy of baptizing his wife Ethel, in 1945. He would read the Bible aloud as his children played around him. Often he would wake the household, preaching and singing in his sleep.

Even in his last years, his body feeble with Parkinson's Disease, he would humbly approach the stand to preach. As he began his message, his hands and arms would tremble immensely, but as he was lifted high in the Spirit, the shaking in his limbs would cease!

He was a gentle and quiet man but he served the Lord in a great way.

ELDER WHEELER THACKER

WRITTEN BY HIS WIFE, UTHA THACKER: Elder Wheeler Thacker was born August 29, 1925, and passed from this life on November 24, 1989.

He was the son of the late Thomas Jefferson (T. J.) and Martha May Thacker. He was the co-owner of Wheeler and Gary's Refrigeration and Appliance at Millard, Kentucky. He was a Primitive Baptist Minister for twenty years.

Wheeler was united in marriage to Utha Coleman on August 27, 1946. They were blessed with nine wonderful children, five sons and four daughters.

ELDER J. N. THARPE

Was born in Tipton County, Ind., Dec. 9, 1849, united with Primitive Baptist Church in early youth and began preaching before he was of age. In Oct. 1872, he was married to Mary Ann Newhouse, of near Morriston, Ind. Had one son, who died at birth, and one son now living, Charles W. Tharpe, Jacksonville, Fla. Elder Tharpe was the son of Samuel and Elizabeth Tharpe. He was for many years a member of Shiloh Church, near Morriston, Ind., where he was ordained to the ministry in 1878, but about 1892, moved his membership to Bethlehem Church, near College Corner, Ohio, and later removed to Fairfield Church, and in January, 1919, he united with Sugar Grove Church at Goodwin Corner, Ind., where his membership was until his death. He traveled extensively through many states, proclaiming the unsearchable riches of God. He was truly a spiritual-minded man, deeply interested in his church, and disclaiming any merit or trust in works of righteousness which he had done, relying wholly and entirely in the free grace and mercy of God. He was a lover of children and found his greatest joy in their companionship. On July 18, 1924, he was taken with his last sickness and though he received all the care that kind hands and skilled physicians could do, he died in peace on September 4, 1924.

ELDER BRUCE THOMAS

WRITTEN BY ELDER JESS HIGGINS: Elder Bruce Thomas was born in Surry County, N.C., to the late Grover C. and Zilpha Jones Thomas, on March 15, 1915 and passed away July 2, 1987. Elder Thomas united with the Primitive Baptists in 1943 and began preaching in March 1947.



It was my happy privilege to know Brother Bruce since 1957. He was one of the most gentle people you could ever know. Elder Thomas was very special to many people and was very special to this writer. We did not have to wonder where he stood on things because he always was for peace and truth,

He pastored four churches most of his ministerial life: they being Rock Creek near Independence, Va., Cedar Hill near Pilot Mountain, N.C., Hogan's Creek near Pilot Mountain, N.C., and Chestnut Grove, Lamsburg, Va., of which he was a member at his death.

ELDER GENE THOMAS

I was born on January 3, 1929, in Scottsboro, Alabama. My parents were Joe and Minnie Thomas



On the 4th weekend in September 1940, the Mud Creek Association convened with Union Church. On Friday I was in a quiet, meditative mood. That afternoon my mother decided that we would go home with Brother and Sister Jim Wilborn.

Some others went on to Brother Wilborn's by car, but mother and I and a few others rode in Brother Wilborn's wagon. As we bounced along, tears were formed in my eyes as I became resolved to offer myself for membership in the church the following day. My mother discerned that something was bothering me. She finally asked if it was about the church. I nodded in the affirmative. Not knowing what to say, she could only pat my shoulder.

After the preaching services on Saturday morning an opportunity to unite with the church was given. The services were held in a grove of trees and a stand had been erected for the ministers. As the invitation song began, I walked forward to the stand. I was only eleven years of age and very small for my age. The stand was too high for me to climb into and Elder H. P. Houk, the Moderator, did not notice my coming and standing at the edge of the stand. I then reached up and caught the cuff of his pants and began jerking it to gain his attention. He looked down, picked me up, and put me in the stand. Six others, including my older sister Kathryn, also came forward. My sister and I were baptized by Elder H. P. Copeland.

My first effort in a public way took place on the 3rd Sunday in June of 1948 at Bethlehem Church near Limrock, Alabama. The deacons of my home church approached me on the churchyard a few minutes before the time of the preaching service. Brother W. H. Butler spoke to me and asked if I would take part in the services that day. Feeling that it would be right to be obedient to the desires of my brethren, I replied that I would do so. When the time came, dear old Elder J. W. Page led me into the pulpit. I opened the Bible to Ezekiel 16:1-6 and read those verses. I spoke for about ten minutes on the subject of original sin and depravity. Amid tears, I took my seat with a mixed sense of relief and a realization that a heavy weight of responsibility was being assumed. From this time forth there has been no place to turn back.

In November of 1948 Union Church, while in regular conference, expressed their desire that I should be set apart as a gospel minister. According to the arrangements, we met at Union Church, Woodville, Alabama, in the Mud Creek Association, on Sunday morning, December 5, 1948, at ten o'clock, for that purpose. The presbytery was composed of the following: Elders H. P. Houk, John Page, H. P. Copeland, K. W. Yeager, Henry Autry, B. A. Stephens, M. M. Morton, and sixteen deacons. Elder Houk was chosen as moderator and Brother W. M. Butler, clerk. The Moderator appointed Elder Yeager to offer prayer, Elder Autry to question the candidate; and Elder H. P. Copeland to deliver the charge.

I have served as a pastor of Union Church continuously from my ordination to the present (February 1998). Through the years I have been called at various other churches as pastor or to fill regular appointments. Among these are Bethel, Mud Creek, Pilgrim's Rest, Bethlehem, Sweeten's Cove, Hurricane, New Home, Mount Pisgah and Macedonia. At the present time I am serving Union Church and Macedonia Church.

In conclusion, it has been my sincere desire to uphold sound, scriptural principles of doctrine as well as clean, godly principles of practices in all our churches. I believe in facing the problems of our day with the answers as provided in the Bible. It is my humble desire to be numbered among those who "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

ELDER MARK THOMAS

I was born on June 23, 1955, Scottsboro, Jackson County Alabama to Elder Gene and Sister Ann Thomas. My earliest reflections and memories are of my family and Church members going about the activities of worship and fellowship in the Church.



My father baptized me in the waters of Spout Spring in November of 1963. I found a sweet and abiding relief in obedience to the ordinance of baptism. I cannot enter one of our Churches to this day without that same feeling of amazed delight that I have a home with the Lord's people here below.

Following High School, I enlisted in the United States Army and went through the Academy of Health Sciences at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, TX for training in the field of Radiographic or X-ray technology. I continued to work in this field after my tour of duty ended and still enjoy this type of work today. I am married to the former Janice Norean Miller of Huntsville, AL. She was a member of Flint River Church near Huntsville. I have been blessed of the Lord with five children, three girls and two boys: Marie, Amy, Rebecca, Jared, and Joel. Jan and I feel to have been richly blessed of the Lord to have these gifts from the Lord in our watch-care. I have had the sweet privilege of baptizing each of my children as they came asking for a home in the Primitive Baptist Church.

I was first called upon to speak publicly in the Church in October of 1978 at Union Church. I was ordained to the work of the ministry on June 6, 1981. I served Union Church and other churches in the Mud

Creek Association until 1989. During that year, I accepted the call to serve Ebenezer Church in Dunwoody, GA and have been with them ever since.

ELDER TROY THOMAS

Troy Eugene Thomas was born on October 19, 1960 in Scottsboro, Alabama, the son of Elder Gene and Sister Mildred Ann (Rushing) Thomas. Troy united with Union Church of Woodville, Alabama, and was baptized on April 6, 1969 by his father. He graduated from Scottsboro High School and attended Northeast Junior College and Memphis State University receiving a BS degree in Math and Social Science.



After graduation from college, he took a job in Nevada at an U.S. government test site. He had to drive many miles to be able to attend church--the nearest was located at Phoenix, Arizona. Troy found a few Primitive Baptist friends in Las Vegas and began to have services in their homes on Sundays when they could not make the long trip to Phoenix or to churches in California. Among the friends he found were Coy and Lynn Thomas. Coy and Lynn were members of the Progressive Primitive Baptist Church but all these friends had a desire to worship God. Various Primitive Baptist ministers visited and preached in the homes from time to time. Brother Coy Thomas and wife moved to the Atlanta, Georgia area in June of 2000 and Coy is now a member of Bethany Church.

Jobs for Troy have kept him somewhat on the move. He has worked some at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and at Piketon, Ohio, and at Miamisburg, Ohio. At all places of employment he has sought out Primitive Baptist Churches and has regularly attended them. Soon after moving to Nevada, Troy began taking a speaking part in the church services. Sometimes Troy has been in areas where the churches have had problems in recognizing each other. Troy's father has always advised Troy to attend all of them that he could and to be ready to speak if called upon and to remain seated if not called upon. This advice was given because the differences in the

areas where Troy has lived have not involved doctrine and there were no major practical differences.

Union Church called for a presbytery to meet on July 1, 2000 for the purpose of examining him and ordaining him to the ministry. The following ministers gathered on July 1, 2000 and examined and ordained Troy to the full work of the gospel ministry: Elders Joe Hildreth, Gene Thomas, J.Leon Etheredge, Wendell E. Robertson, Beryl Williams, Mark Thomas, Ricky L. Siniard, George Denmark, Darrel Chambers, K.L.Hall, and Eddy A, Flick. Upon the completion of the ordination Union Church called Troy Thomas as a joint-pastor of the church.

Troy is engaged to be married to Rebecca Case who is a member of Raleigh Church in the Memphis, Tennessee area.

ELDER F. E. THOMPSON



Elder Floyd Everett Thompson, born on March 18, 1895, a native of Laurel Springs, North Carolina, died on July 14, 1982. Elder Thompson married Miss Maude Johnson on January 17, 1917. To their union were born three children: one boy and two girls.

Brother Thompson joined Center Church of Ash, County of North Carolina. Elder C. B. Kilby performed the service with Elder Ed Davis assisting. In March 1924, Brother Thompson began his ministry and was ordained to the full work of the ministry in June of the same year. "(This is quite an unusual thing for one to be ordained three months from the time of the first effort was made)," *Christian Baptist Autobiography*, April 1976. Center Church called for his ordination, with Elders C. B. Kilby, Ed Davis, Bynum Bierins, and Elder Graves assisting in his ordination. The first ten years of his ministry in North Carolina, Elder Thompson served Center, Roan Creek, Bear Creek, River View, North Fork, and Piney Creek Churches.

Several members who had moved from North Carolina to Maryland desired to erect and organize a church near Bel Air. These members were instrumental in encouraging the Thompsons moving to Maryland in 1934. Elder Thompson assisted in organizing Mt. Carmel Church in September 1934, and Elder R. H. Pittman was chosen as associate pastor. In September 1935, Elder Thompson was chosen as pastor and Elder Pittman was chosen as associate. He served Landmark or London Tract (PA); Old Brick or Old Harford Church (MD); Mt. Carmel, Luray (VA); Hawksville (VA); Robinson River, Brightwood (VA); Battle Run and Grace Churches of Virginia.

Until his illness and confinement to the hospital, he served Mt. Carmel and Old Harford Churches.

ELDER FLOYD P. THOMPSON



WRITTEN BY ELDER JOE WILSON:
Elder Thompson was born on August 14, 1898. He joined Hephzibah Church, Lee County, Alabama in 1921. He married Lorene Dixon on August 3, 1923. To this union two children were born: Floyd Jackson Thompson and Martha Irene Thompson.

Elder Thompson was ordained to the ministry at Hephzibah Church in 1947. He then served his home church and several others in his area for many years. He was a very able minister, knew the Scriptures well and was well loved in his community. He passed away in April 1966.

ELDER S. A. THOMPSON

FROM A MEMORIAL WRITTEN IN "ADVOCATE & MESSENGER"
BY ELDER JOEL E. MARSHALL: This useful minister was born Nov. 18, 1869. In childhood he lost one eye. Soon after, he suffered a severe illness, which left him a cripple for life. Most young men in Brother

Thompson's condition would have been a burden to their families. Instead of this, with his strong willpower and determination, he sought and obtained an education that few in his day surpassed or equaled. Beginning his high school at Vesta and Stuart, he then went to William and Mary College. Then he graduated in law at Washington and Lee University, was admitted to the bar in 1882 and made a success in his practice. However, during this time, the love of God was overshadowing him.

He was convicted for and delivered from sin and given a sweet hope in the Lord Jesus, joined the church in 1895 and was ordained to the full functions of the gospel ministry in 1910. He served as pastor of Green Hill Church for many years and by his influence a church was constituted at Stuart of which he was pastor until his death. He was Assistant Clerk of the Mayo Association for years.

Elder Thompson was married to Miss Martha Ruth Wright on Aug. 17, 1896. To this union were born four children. They, together with the dear companion and a host of relatives, brethren and friends are left to mourn his death, which came July 8, 1934.

He was mayor of the town twenty years, represented Patrick County in the Legislature, and was commissioner of revenue and clerk of the School Board, always advocating and promoting the higher ideals of life.

FROM A NOTE IN "ADVOCATE & MESSENGER" BY ELDER R. H. PITTMAN: Elder Thompson was a great and good man - one of Nature's noblemen, tried and polished and refined by life's trials and hardships but sustained by the strong arm of God and used for His glory. He was a kind husband, an indulgent father, a true friend, a wise counselor, a humble Christian and an able gospel minister. I knew him in his home and in the dear church and loved him for his real worth and for the truth's sake, which he so ably defended.

ELDER SAMUEL L. THOMPSON

Elder Thompson, a native and former resident of Fairfax County, departed this life at his residence in Laurel. Elder Thompson was a son and last surviving member of the family of Frances A. and Elder Lawson Turner Thompson, a lifelong resident of Fairfax County. He is survived

by his widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Dorsey Thompson. No children blessed the union.

When a young man he was sheriff of Fairfax County for a number of years.

Elder Thompson was a minister 42 years, having served churches in Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland and D. C. None knew him but to love him as an ever helping and kind friend and a devoted husband. His life was spent in the services of his fellow-beings. In the late war, (WWI) although his age did not permit active service he entered the Adjutant General's office at Washington and served until his health gave way. This was the cause of his death. He was an able and eloquent expounder of the doctrine of Jesus Christ.

ELDER WILLIAM THOMAS



I was born April 4, 1821, in Jones County, Miss. My parents, John C. and Sarah Thomas, moved to Jasper County, Miss., when I was small. I was reared there to manhood. My parents were Baptists. I was brought up in a Methodist neighborhood, and in my eighteenth year I attended a protracted meeting of theirs, at which there was a great deal of noise. One night a preacher

requested silence saying he would address himself to the careless and unconcerned, and I said to a youth sitting by me, "let us listen to him; he is going to talk to us now." He said we "were liable to die at any moment, that we were exposed to the wrath of God to hell and damnation," etc., and was eloquent on the subject. I thought if these things be so, I am in a desperate condition. At this meeting was my first serious impression about death and a judgement to come, and I then commenced to do better so to appease the wrath of God so that He would not send me to that horrible place that the preacher described.

The Baptist Church to which my parents belonged was about eight miles from our house. Father was going one day, in the spring of 1841, and asked me if I would not like to go. I went. When the door of the church was opened, a little girl, eleven years old, went up and told my feelings so exactly that I wanted to talk to the church, which I did, and was received, and baptized by Elder E. Y. Ferral the next day. The name of the church was Salem, in Jasper County, Miss.

August 24, 1843, I was married to Barbara Touchstone, and in the fall of 1846, we moved to Arkansas, Drew County. I put my church letter into a church called Pilgrim's Rest, Elder Stephen Berry, pastor. He would ask me to open or close the service, I was no preacher and never expected to be, so I got along very well for a while. One day I was not at meeting on Saturday; when I got there Sunday morning the clerk of the church handed me a paper stating that the church believed that God had called me to the work of ministry, and that they authorized me to preach the gospel wherever God in His Providence should cast my lot. When I read that paper, the date of which was October 28, 1849, I thought I never would open my mouth again in the way I had in the church, and I said so, and did not for twelve months. Soon I became willing to occupy wherever the Lord orders, and say and do whatever he commands. Meantime, Union Church was constituted in our neighborhood; the brethren frequently spoke of my ordination, but I would invariably tell them that I had all the liberty I wanted.

January 3, 1857, I was ordained to the full work of the ministry, by a presbytery called on by Union Church, composed of Elders Othniel Weaver and E. Y. Ferral. I was kindly received by the Primitive Baptists and the people generally wherever I went; and after all this, although the Lord had been so good and merciful to me, I turned back to the beggarly elements of the world, and in 1861-2 joined the Masonic fraternity--which is a good, moral, worldly institution--for which the church excluded me from her membership. I was just as blind to the sin that I had committed as if I had never been born again. You will remember this was during the war. I did not understand then that the scriptures are full and complete in reference to the faith and practice of the children of God, and that nothing is a good work unless commanded of the Lord; and that He has commanded us to come out from the world. Brethren, I was taught this important lesson by the reception of many stripes. Not long after my exclusion Union Church dissolved, and many of the members moved away. In 1863 I moved to Bosque County, Texas, and Saturday before the first Sunday in June,

1855, I went to Little Fork Church, Bell County, Texas, Elder O. W. McDonald, pastor, and told them my condition, and that I wanted to get into the fellowship of the Primitive Baptists, showing them a corroborative statement made by Elders C. B. Landers and J. M. C. Robertson, of Arkansas, who were very well acquainted with me. I was received into the fellowship of Little Flock Church, and the church sent an order to the ex-clerk of old Union Church for my ordination credentials.

In the fall of 1865 I moved from Bosque County to Milam County, Texas, rented land near Mayfield, on Little River, and in 1866 New Providence Church was constituted, and I was in the organization. January 1867, I bought a small piece of land on Knob Creek, Bell County, Texas where I yet live, and cast my lot again with the brothers and sisters of Little Flock Church. I have tried to fill any place the brethren have seen proper to assign me, whether in the church or Association. I don't think I am egotistic when I say that I have been received with favor by all the Primitive Baptists and the people generally, with but few exceptions.

Note: Elder Thomas passed from this life in 1893.

ELDER ISAAC W. THORNTON



WRITTEN BY ELDER HAROLD HORN:
Isaac W. Thornton was born in Limestone County Texas March 1, 1904. He passed away July 18, 1990. He was a barber by trade.

Isaac united with Salem Church of Oglesby, Coryell County, Texas in 1945 and was baptized by Elder J. P. Dale Jr. He later moved his membership to Ebenezer Church at Hubbard, Texas in 1949.

He was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry on a Saturday before the fourth Sunday of the year 1951. He served as pastor at Hubbard from September 1955 to 1976. He also pastored at Temple, Texas with appointments at Dublin, Anson and Queen City, Texas.

Elder Isaac Thornton was a man of God, full of wisdom and knowledge. He was loved and respected by all that knew him.

ELDER JIMMY THORNTON. SR

I was born on Jan. 6, 1946 to Clarence and Leona Thornton. My parents united with the Primitive Baptist Church when I was young and I was raised in the church.

My wife, Linda, and I were married on April 3, 1965, and raised five children. We both joined Bethlehem Church on Feb. 18, 1968, and were baptized on Mar. 16, 1968. I was ordained as an Elder on Jan. 16, 1971. I was called to serve as pastor of Little Springs, Lake Butler, FL, in January 1998 and I am currently serving them.

ELDER JOHN E. TIDWELL, JR.

John Edward Tidwell, Jr. was born on October 2, 1940, in Nashville, Tennessee. The oldest of two sons born to Anabel Easley and John E. Tidwell, he was brought up in a staunch Southern Baptist home.



Brother Tidwell graduated from Nashville's Central High School, in 1958, and went on to pursue a degree in Civil Engineering at Vanderbilt University, graduating in 1962. Upon graduation, he accepted a position with the United States Bureau of Public Roads. He was active in the planning, design, and construction of the Interstate highway system in several states.

Soon after graduating from Vanderbilt, he married Janet Elizabeth Malone. Sister Janet was a Primitive Baptist when they married, and Brother John thought he would quickly straighten her out in the area of religion. Little did he realize what a "hard-shell" she had.

In 1973, in Jackson, Mississippi, the Primitive Baptist doctrine finally began to make sense to John, at a time when one of the largest Southern Baptist churches in Jackson had invited him to join their deacon body. He had been ordained a deacon several years earlier while they were living in Nashville.

Brother Tidwell took this invitation as a time of decision, and he embarked on a year long study of the Scriptures. After this in-depth study and through much prayer and meditation, he came to the conclusion that eternal salvation was based on the Sovereignty of God.

After coming to this conclusion, during a meeting conducted by Elder Lasserre Bradley, Brother John united with the Jackson Church, where Elder R. B. Johnson was the pastor, in June 1974. Elder Johnson began to ask him to take part in the worship services by offering prayer and introducing services for him.

After about a year of this type of activity brethren from the Vicksburg Church invited him to come and fill in at their services on a regular basis, since they were without a pastor. In response to their request, the Jackson Church liberated him to preach the Gospel, and he filled in at the Vicksburg Church every Sunday until they called for his ordination. He was ordained to the full work of the Gospel ministry at Jackson Church, on March 7, 1976.

Elder Tidwell pastored the Vicksburg Church until 1978, when the Federal Highway Administration selected for a full time graduate study program at The University of Tennessee, in Knoxville, Tennessee. He had obtained a Masters of Science in Civil Engineering, in 1969, while working full time and attending classes at night. The additional graduate work at The University of Tennessee and research conducted after hours resulted in his receiving a PhD in civil engineering, in 1980.

Upon completion of his course work at the University, he was transferred to the North Carolina Division Office of the Federal Highway Administration, in Raleigh. He and Sister Janet moved their church membership to the Angier Church, in Angier, NC, where Elder Devon Harris was the pastor. During the eleven years he lived in North Carolina, he was called to pastor two churches at various times. He served Gift Church, in Coats, NC and Newport Church, in Newport, NC.

Elder Tidwell retired from the Federal Highway Administration in 1988, and immediately went to work for the University of North Carolina, teaching and conducting research at the Institute for Transportation Research and Education. In 1990, he accepted a position at The University of Tennessee Transportation Research Center, in Knoxville, TN. During his eight years in Knoxville, he was a member of the Smoky Mountain Church, in Pigeon Forge, TN, and later at the Knoxville Church.

In 1998, the university transferred him to the Nashville, TN area where he now resides, in Greenbrier, TN. He is currently pastoring the Fairview Church, in Fairview, TN, in Williamson County.

Elder and Sister Tidwell, his wife of thirty-seven years, have two adult daughters.

ELDER CECIL TILLERY



Brother Cecil was ordained to the ministry January 22, 1960 after serving four years as a deacon at Old Union Church. He served as pastor of Sweet Home Church, Alpine, Arkansas from his ordination in 1960 until his death in August 1993. Pastored Ebenezer Church, Kirby, Arkansas from 1962 until it disbanded in 1991 and pastored and co-pastored Old Union Church, Lonsdale, AR for many years. He served as Moderator of the Rich Mountain Association for 25 years.

Elder Tillery was a loving, devoted member, deacon, and minister who cherished and proclaimed the message of Salvation by Grace all the years of his church life. He was a cheerful person who loved the truth and believed smiling and cheerfulness help other with the loads they have to carry. He loved the saints, the songs of Zion and the blessed truths laid down in God's Holy Word.

ELDER ERSEL M. TILLERY

Elder Tillery born August 11, 1927 to Miles L. and Madge Tillery in Antioch Community, Saline County, Lonsdale, Arkansas.



ELDER TILLERY WRITES: I first joined Oak Hill Missionary Baptist Church at age 19. I was young and full of zeal for the Lord. It was one sunny day when I looked up and saw as though the face of Jesus appeared between the heaven and earth. I felt the Lord had a call for me to preach his word. Later I acknowledged to the Missionary Baptist Church at Oak Hill and I was liberated to preach.

It was one Sunday morning that I met Uncle Will and Aunt Della and others in Hot Springs to go with them to a Primitive Baptist Church at Meyers Creek, Arkansas. I was not satisfied with my church home at Oak Hill anymore. I quit the work of my hands to trust the merits of His changeless grace, and on that day when I went to Myers Creek Church and heard Elder L. B. Ramsey preach, I offered myself to membership to Hurricane Grove Church located at Mount Ida, Arkansas. I was received and Baptized at a later date at Williams Creek at Mt. Ida by Elder Jesse Abernathy. At age 23 I was ordained at Alpine, Arkansas to the full work of the ministry. I preached by appointment at Ebenezer Church at Kirby. Pleasant Hill at Mt. Ida was the first church I endeavored to serve.

During all this, I had met a young lady at Oak Hill Church who I couldn't forget. Her name was Margaret Helen Duncan. I was 23 and she 16 when we were married one cold November 11th at Antioch Church. Shortly afterwards, she joined the church and was baptized in January in Charley Creek. Ever since, through joy, sorrow, disappointments and hardships, she has been by my side for better or for worse.

The church at Old Union had gone down 1936 and during my childhood was nonexistence, only once in a while there came a visiting minister by to preach by appointment. Soon after my experience in joining the church at Mt. Ida, the Lord, I trust, impressed upon me to seek to get the church reestablished at home at Antioch. The old church

was established first in 1844 and went down in 1936. The Lord for his own reason removed the candlestick for a time. The task was too great for a boy alone, but if God be for you who can be against you? He did bless and impress. I began the task by visiting Brother and Sister Curtis who were former members of Old Union Church. I'll never forget, I borrowed a car and got stuck on the way to see them. It cost me \$10 hard earned dollars to get out. I could have been discouraged but God led on. They were interested. Bro. L. B. Ramsey was the Elder who guided our way. I tried to serve as pastor for 31 years until God ended my labor there.

During our labor of love, there was also the birth of First Church of Hot Springs. Feeling an impression that there was a need for a church and there was a field of labor in Hot Springs. We met each Wednesday night for Bible discussion and a sharing of our experiences. The Lord smiled upon us with a good interest. Soon we began preaching there. How crude were the homemade benches and pulpits furnished by Bro. Roland Moore, but they did not take away from the serenity and holiness of the assembly of God's people.

The day came that the church was to be established; much work and labor of love had been ours to share. Men, women, boys and girls shared in the experience of clearing of saw briars, honeysuckle vines, bushes, and rocks were removed. A place was cleared and a tent set up for the organizational meeting. There were 12 charter members there on the formation of the church. God blessed our labor, our toils and tears.

I served the church at Mt. Ida for 47 years. At one time there were only three sisters to carry on. Sister Jeanetti Shaw, Sister Era Black, and Sister Lydia Baker, in whom God did verify His promise, that the labor is not in vain in the Lord and we shall reap it in due time, if we faint not.

NOTE: Elder Tillery now continues to serve the church at Hot Springs known as First Church of Hot Springs. He has outlived all of the charter members and continues to strive to feed the few sheep that meet to worship in spirit and in truth. He and his beloved wife remain faithful to the Cause and live in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

ELDER CHARLES NEWTON TILSON

WRITTEN BY ELDER W.G. FLETCHER: Charles Newton Tilson was born February 17, 1888, in Smythe County, Virginia to Francis and Laura Bishop Tilson. He spent most, if not all, of his life in the same community. He passed away in the afternoon of August 29, 1960.

Elder Tilson was first married to Miss Pearl Anderson on November 14, 1919. To this union two children were born. This union was broken on March 4, 1924, when Pearl passed away, a victim of tuberculosis.

On April 5, 1929, he was married to Miss Kate Porter. Surviving this union are his widow and three children: David C. Tilson, Mrs. J. H. Chambers, Charleston, S. C., and Miss Lois Tilson.

On October 11, 1913, he united with St. Clair's Bottom Church, the church recognizing in him a gift of the ministry, he was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry on June 10, 1916. During his ministerial life, he traveled extensively among the churches in several states and had the pastoral care of churches until the end of his life here on earth.

ELDER R.A. TINDALL

Elder Tindall, son of L.L. and Delma Tindall; bom January 23, 1933 in Webster County, Mississippi; married Shirley Avery August 21, 1952. Then Missionary Baptist, he was ordained by them, on February 21, 1953, educated in their schools, and preached for them for 23 1/2 years, though differing with them doctrinally. After years of diligent study, prayer, and seeking God's guidance as to where his church remained, he came to see the Primitive Baptist Church as the Lord's Church while he was pastoring in Perth, Kansas. Having pastored there five years and teaching the doctrines of grace, they too were blessed to see. He, and they, desired scriptural baptism and membership with the true church. Inquiry and preparation led to a meeting at Perth, February 1976, to constitute them into a church.



Elders came from Oklahoma and Mississippi; among them, Elder W.E. Fulgham, pastor of Clear Springs Church, Maben, Mississippi, and others from there. Elder Lonnie Mozingo, Sr. moderated, presbytery was formed and proceedings began. Clear Springs Church sent a letter that was presented by Elder Fulgham giving them authority to receive members, baptize them, and extend an arm to constitute a church at Perth. R.A. Tindall and two other men joined Clear Springs and were baptized by Elder Fulgham forming the arm. Perth Church was then constituted; called R.A. Tindall pastor; and called for his ordination. He was ordained February 28, 1976.

Since 1976, Elder R.A. Tindall has traveled extensively among Primitive Baptist Churches. He pastored Perth 12 1/2 years, has pastored Amarillo Church, Amarillo, TX 22 years and remains pastor there at this time.

ELDER HAROLD TIPTON

WRITTEN BY ELDER MILTON LILLARD: Elder Harold H. Tipton, was stricken with a heart attack on July 2 and passed away July 5, 1974.

I first met Brother Tipton shortly after he united with Tuckaleechee Church, Townsend, Tennessee, in March 1949. He was ordained to the full work of the ministry one year later. When he was able physically to do so, he visited quite often among the Primitive Baptists. He had preached in at least 16 states and the District of Columbia, and was always well received wherever he went.

Elder Tipton was a gifted speaker, and was blessed with a wonderful memory and understanding of the Scriptures. I never heard him on a text or subject that I could not fully agree with his viewpoint, and I, together with many others throughout this area, felt free to go to him for advice and instruction on many occasions.

Elder Tipton was born January 17, 1919 in Cades Cove, Tenn. When land was being purchased for the Great Smokey Mountains National Park, it was necessary for the family to move, so they purchased a farm at Townsend and moved there in 1929. His father, Elder Shade Tipton, also an able minister, was ordained in the Cades Cove Church and was its last pastor.

Elder Tipton served in both the European and Far East theatres of World War II. He was in some of the fiercest battles, which later contributed to his poor state of health. Following his tour of duty with the Armed Forces, he trained as an accountant and worked at that vocation as long as he lived. He was married in 1954 to Miss Cassa Ritter, who has ever been a faithful minister's wife and helpmeet.

Elder Tipton had served as pastor of the Gatlinburg and Tuckaleechee Church in the Tennessee and Nolachucky Association, and Knoxville, Salem, Rose Hill and Union Churches in the Powells Valley Association. During his pastorate of Knoxville Church, he was blessed to baptize more than fifty members. One of the highlights of his ministry was helping the Cave Creek Church, Kington, Tennessee, to come to the Primitive Baptist order. He was blessed to baptize most of the members on the date of the constitution of this church as an orderly Primitive Baptist Church. He was also in the constitution of the Oak Ridge and McMinnville Churches.

ELDER SHADE TIPTON

FROM "THE CHRISTIAN PATHWAY:" Elder Shade Tipton passed this life on November 30, 1958. He was well known by a host of Primitive Baptists and their friends in several states, Many here in this section have told me of the times they were blessed so abundantly under his able preaching.

Elder Tipton was engaged in the gospel ministry for thirty-seven years. He was held in high esteem not only by his brethren, but also by his neighbors and fellow citizens.

ELDER CARLTON WATSON TODD

Elder Todd was born in Clay County, Georgia on August 5, 1916 to Sibley W. and Mary Lizzie Eubanks Todd. He married Martha M. Peavy of Coleman, Georgia on June 6, 1935. He joined Mars Hill Church near Edison, Georgia the third weekend in June 1935. His recent bride joined the same church two weeks later.

Elder Todd was liberated in 1939, and was ordained at his home church on the first weekend in October 1940. The following month he was called to serve Pleasant Hill Church in Graceville, Florida. He served this church for seven years. He was called to serve Bethel Church near Bonifay, Florida during the third weekend in January 1941. He moved his family to this community and this became his home and his home church for the remainder of his life. He served Bethel for fifty-seven years.

In 1941, he was called to serve Shady Grove Church, located near Arlington, Georgia. He served this band of faithful believers for fifty-seven years.



In 1942, he was called to serve Union Church located near Colquitt, Georgia. He served this flock for fourteen years.

Trinity Church near Whigham, Georgia called him as their pastor in 1946. He served them for forty-three years.

County Line Church located near Abbeville, Alabama called him to serve them as pastor in 1956. He served this church for forty-seven years.

Elder Todd did not keep records but we do not know that the many baptisms, funerals, and weddings he performed would be an astounding number. The youngest member that he baptized was seven years old, the oldest was ninety-eight.

Elder and Sister Todd had three children Joan, Aaron, and Jeanell.

He taught school for three years, drove a school bus for thirty-nine years, and also was a licensed barber and cut hair in the community for several years.

Elder Todd was diagnosed with lung cancer near Christmas in 1986 and under-went surgery. He recovered completely and everyone prayed it would never come back. However, the cancer appeared again near Christmas in 1997. This time it had too great a hold on him before he

knew it. He fought it valiantly and never lost his great sense of humor. God was merciful to him and took him home February 5, 1998.

ELDER S. T. TOLLEY

Born on September 20, 1929 into the family of Sam L. and Janie E. Tolley, in the county of Gibson, near Milan, Tennessee. Being the youngest of seven children, which included four boys and three girls. My father was a member of the Primitive Baptist Church and mother was a believer but I never learned much about the teachings of the church since my parents did not carry me to church, as they should have. I became acquainted with the Primitive Baptists after I was married to Altie Mae White in the year of 1949. My wife's brother was a member of the Primitive Baptist Church, and through my contact with him and some others, I became converted to the truth of the Bible.

There has not been a great change in my life from my early childhood with regard to the matter of spiritual conviction and interest in God, the Creator. In early life, at about the age of six, I would try to preach--not knowing anything about the true teachings of the Bible--but there were sincere thoughts in my heart. Several people had said that I would preach someday but this made no impression on me at the time.

Shortly after becoming acquainted with the Primitive Baptists, I offered myself to the church at Harmony, and at the same time, I told them of my impressions to preach. They received me and gave me opportunity to speak some three times before I was baptized--since there was no ordained minister available for this service. Later I was baptized by my brother-in-law, James White, after he was ordained. The church ordained me on the first Sunday in November 1951 at the age of twenty-one. Since that time I have served several different churches, one of which was my home church, Harmony, which I tried to serve for some 17 years.

After a business career of several years, I sold out and begun publishing a religious periodical, THE CHRISTIAN BAPTIST, which I am presently engaged in publishing in addition to my pastoral work. It is my sincere conviction that I should give myself as completely to the work of the ministry as possible.

ELDER ROBERT M. TORRANCE

I was born in Jones County, Georgia near Gray on September 24, 1926. My parents are William Robert Torrance and Ebbie Mason Torrance. Our family consisted of five girls and one boy.

In 1946 I married a girl I first met on the school bus, Miss Janie Adams. To this union three sons, Terry, Bill and David, were born.

In 1952 I was much burdened and had a very lonely and fearful heart. I began to attend a Missionary Baptist Church, feeling a need for peace and rest, and was baptized into their fellowship. I received a short time of peace until I began to study their Articles of Faith, which had not been changed since the division in 1832. I soon realized that they were not preaching what their Articles of Faith stated they believed.



I began to attend the Primitive Baptist Church and I was converted to the truth under the preaching of such men as Elder Elzie Bryant Sr. and Elder Jesse Burch. In hearing and learning more about my Saviour, The Lord Jesus Christ, I found rest for my soul.

I asked for a home with Pleasant Hill Church in Warner Robins, Georgia in June 1961. Janie, my wife, joined in June 1962. We were both baptized by Elder Carlos Watkins.

I began to speak in my Master's name a few weeks after my baptism. A few months later the brethren felt I had a gift and voted to liberate me to the stand. I began to fill in for Pastors who had to be away.

In October 1962, Griffin Church in Griffin, Georgia called for my ordination. Two other churches, Camp Creek near Milledgeville, Georgia, where my membership is now, asked me to serve them on fourth weekend, and Providence Church in Roberta, Georgia on second weekend.

Pleasant Hill Church voted to grant Griffin Church's request and set Dec. 9, 1962 as the date for my ordination. I am still pastor at the three churches that called for my ordination thirty-seven years ago.

ELDER HENRY HOUSTON TRACY



SUBMITTED BY ELDER KENNETH CLEVENGER: Elder Tracy of Neosho, Missouri, the son of Winton Bascomb Tracy and Mary Etta (Harris) Tracy was born June 14, 1915 in Fairview, Missouri. He was the fifth born of eight sons. He married Maxine Miracle on July 27, 1935, in Fairview. He was the director of Public Works for the city of Neosho, Missouri, for thirty years.

Brother Houston joined Clear Creek Church near Fairview, Missouri on September 8, 1946. He was ordained to the work of the ministry on March 16, 1958, and served Little Flock Church, Hurley, Missouri; Pisgah Church near Marshfield, Missouri; a congregation at Wichita, Kansas for several years; Loveland Church, Rocky Comfort, Missouri; and Clear Creek Church, Fairview, Missouri, during the years of his labors.

Elder Tracy also traveled to several different states and preached in many different Primitive Baptist Churches and was held in high esteem by all that were privileged to know him. Elder Tracy passed away in Joplin, Missouri, August 20, 1993.

ELDER PAUL T. TRAUTNER

In the heart of the Badlands, at Lemmon, South Dakota, on February 2, 1933, I was born the seventh of nine children into the family of Fred and Bertha Martin Trautner. My father was a German Baptist minister who served churches in both North and South Dakota. In the spring of 1951, I finished high school in Beulah, North Dakota, and that fall left

home for Lexington, Kentucky, to attend a Missionary Baptist Bible College.



In March of 1953, I was ordained to preach for the Missionary Baptists. Soon after, I began to question the Arminian doctrine they preached under the guise of "Calvinistic Articles of Faith." At this time, I did not know of a people called Primitive Baptists. I had heard the term "Hardshell" used in a derogatory way and was warned to avoid the anti-missionary movement of a Daniel Parker. He, at the end of the eighteenth century, advocated "Two Seed in the Spirit Predestination." As students, we were warned that these

people were heretics who taught a no eternal hell or non-resurrection of the body doctrine, as well as infant damnation; also they were against spreading the gospel. I soon learned this was not the case.

At the invitation of my brother, James Trautner, who had been baptized into the fellowship of Friendship Church in Newark, Ohio, I attended my first meeting at Naomi Church in Charleston, West Virginia. At this time, I still believed God used the preaching of the gospel to call His elect into divine life. It was a powerful experience to be in the midst of a people who practiced and taught the New Testament principles. During the year after my first visit among the Primitive Baptists, I traveled many miles with Brother Lasserre Bradley. We visited in the churches and homes of these dear people. They embraced us with open arms, showing us great love and hospitality. God in His gracious providence led me to the "House of my Master's Brethren."

Along with Brother Bradley, before the Salem Church in Madisonville, Kentucky, in August of 1958, coming as a poor sinner, I asked for a home with the church. They voted unanimously to receive us, but suggested that we postpone baptism until we returned to the congregations where we served, to let them know of our decision and to inquire if any would like to come with us.

In October of 1958, I was baptized into the fellowship of the newly organized Cincinnati Church. Several of the members from the New

Testament Missionary Baptist Church, where I was then pastor, came for baptism with me. One of the happiest spiritual moments of my life was, when Elder Ben Lord, a faithful and humble servant of the Lord, baptized me. He along with Elder J. A. Monsees and Elder Cecil Darity were authorized by their home churches in Georgia to come and do the official work of constituting a church and baptizing believers. Fifty-five people from groups in Cincinnati, Berea and Lexington were baptized at this unforgettable meeting. In August of the next year churches were constituted in both Berea and Lexington, Kentucky.

In the October of 1958 meeting, I was liberated to preach the gospel. The ministers who were with us at that meeting returned to the Cincinnati Church in April of 1959 and were joined by other ministers from Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana. A presbytery was formed to ordain Brother Bradley and me to the full work of the Gospel Ministry.

Later that April, I met a young lady at a church meeting in Lexington, Kentucky. She was a college student and attended the meeting with her mother and father. Her father, Walter J. Amburgey, was a faithful deacon at Old Salem Church near Mt. Sterling, and her mother, Myrtle, continued to serve faithfully as a deacon's wife even after his death.

Patsy and I were married on October 3, 1959, and our union has been blessed with four children, Paula Michelle, Lisa Dawn, Pamela Jermaine, and Patrick Timothy. Our little Lisa lived only 3 months and 2 days.

During my thirty-one years in the ministry with the Primitive Baptists, I have been blessed to pastor four churches. I was at Berea Church from October 1958 to January 1966, at Lexington Church from March 1966 to September 1988, and Shady Dell Church in Paris from January 1989 until the present, all in Kentucky. I also served Testament Church near Lafayette, Tennessee from June 1961 to September 1970.

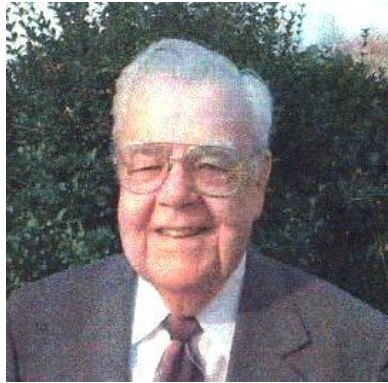
I have also been blessed, along with my life's companion, to travel extensively among the Lord's special and peculiar people in twenty-four states and the District of Columbia. I have found the churches to be sound in faith and practice, much as the New Testament believers.

ELDER G. M. TRENT

FROM 1947 PRIMITIVE BAPTIST YEARBOOK: The information on this minister is very scarce. He was born July 25, 1853, place is unknown. He pastored Cross Road Church for over 35 years. He resided in North Carolina. Elder Trent died on July 9, 1946.

ELDER C. E. TUCKER

I was born April 9, 1909, in Elmore County, Alabama, near the town of Eclectic. My father, Elder E. B. Tucker, was ordained to the ministry about 1930.



I married my school girl sweetheart, Mary Taylor, in August 1927. I was 18 and she was 15 years old. Mary and I joined Bethel Church, Clanton, Alabama, on August 12, 1928, and we have been members there ever since. Mary died February 17, 1993. We raised two children, a son and a daughter.

I began exercising in public almost from the time I joined the church, but circumstances held me back. If I attempt to go into all that, it would just be excuses; however, I was always active in the church.

I was ordained to the ministry and called to serve my home church, Bethel, on September 10, 1961. I also served two other churches, Zion's Rest, 23 years, and New Harmony, 13 years.

Although I am 91 years old April 9, 2000, I am still in good condition and still drive my car anywhere I want to go, even as far as over 200 miles. I know God will soon call me home, but I am happy to leave Bethel in the care of Elder Mike Smith.

The Old Baptists have been good to me in every respect, also my friends here where I live. I have conducted funerals in most of the

churches of other denominations here and even in other states. I haven't traveled so much as some brethren. I have always felt my duty was here; however, I have preached in six different states.

I have had a good life. I hope to finish my life here, then have my family and friends to have a little service at Bethel, and lay me beside my Princess in Bethel Cemetery. I am a wonderfully blessed man.

ELDER PEARL D. TUCKER

I was born Nov. 1897 near Mission in Stanley Co., N.C. I am now the only one living of Daniel D. and Sarah Tucker.

As far back as I can remember, I had a love for God and I loved to hear the old songs of Zion sung. I loved to hear about Jesus and if there ever was a change in my heart, it must have been in my early childhood. I understood very little then, but feel I have better understanding now of the doctrines I heard them preach, In my early life I always paid close attention to what was being, said and I had a desire in my heart to know the truth, The doctrine that I heard preached was all about the same and that was that salvation depended on what a sinner did in order to get life, They would say that Christ loved you and died for you but left it up to the sinner where he would spend eternity. Of course, I didn't get much satisfaction out of that kind of preaching so a few years later I went to hear the Old Primitive Baptist and right then and there I found the true salvation and the true church that served our Lord and Saviour. I asked for a home with them and was baptized in full fellowship.

ELDER GREENVILLE L. TUGGLE

Was born in Patrick County, Va., October 11, 1834, and united with the Primitive Baptist Church at Jack's Creek, Patrick County, Va., on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in May, 1854 (was baptized by Elder Daniel Conner), where he remained a member till his passing. Elder Tuggle was licensed by the church on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in July 1858, and on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in August 1859, he was ordained by a presbytery of Elders Joshua Adams, Daniel Conner and Claiborne Plaster to the administering of ordinances. He was the

pastor of two churches at the time of his death. He has served the church at West Fork, Floyd County, Virginia some 24 or 25 years; he served the church at Jack's Creek, Patrick County, Virginia, near eight years with much faithfulness and promptitude. He was a gifted minister of the gospel, and also possessed an extraordinary gift as a disciplinarian. His



manner was to go straight forward in what he believed to be in accordance with the word of God and turn neither to the right or left to court the favor or applause of any, and thereby got many enemies. Probably no one whom we ever knew suffered more persecution for truth's sake than he did, though he seemed to bear it with much patience and Christian fortitude, and we believe was often made to rejoice that he was counted worthy to suffer shame

for Christ's sake. Our dear brother also seemed possessed to a degree with a spirit or gift of prophecy, many instances of which could be referred to all along through his Christian life, but we pass on to those relative to his death. The first we will mention was on Tuesday before he was stricken down on Saturday with his death sickness; he told the writer that there was something unusual going to take place with him very soon. That he was going to be taken from time or called to another portion of country, or something very unusual. On Thursday following he visited our aged brother in Christ, John Conner, who was rapidly declining, and expected in a very short time to be released from this house of clay. When Brother Conner spoke to Brother Tuggle the following words, "Brother Tuggle, I am almost gone, and when I am gone I want you to preach my funeral." Elder Tuggle made no reply. Brother Conner repeated the same words, to which Elder T. answered: "Brother Conner, when one of us is gone the other will be very close behind," and so it was; there were only some fifteen hours between the deaths of those two faithful soldiers of Jesus. Elder Tuggle was the first to go.

On Saturday following Elder Tuggle was called upon to visit the house of mourning to preach on the occasion of the death of Mr. Gabriel Bowling; he left his home on that morning quite unwell. He succeeded in reaching the place where preaching was expected, but in a few minutes was conveyed to a private room, and took his bed to rise no more. His younger brother (Brother C. S. Tuggle) informs us that he (Elder Tuggle)

told him during his death sickness that it was revealed to him seven years ago that in the year of 1885 he would be laid beside his brother William, who had died several years before. His disease was pneumonia, and his always weak lungs grew weaker, and on Saturday night near midnight. February 11th, he fell into a slumber for probably an hour, and when he awoke he extended his hands for assistance to rise up in bed, and that being done the writer noticed that his face wore a smile, and said to him, "You feel easy, don't you," to which he replied, "Oh, yes; just as easy as I could wish; oh, how grateful for such a calm and pleasant feeling;" and then quoted the following text of scripture: "Great and marvelous are thy works Lord God Almighty, just and true are thy ways thou King of saints." A short time before he breathed his last he raised his arms up over his head and tried to talk, but his tongue was so palsied in death that nothing could be understood but the last words, which were, "And glorify God in heaven. Amen."

ELDER WILLIAM TURNAGE

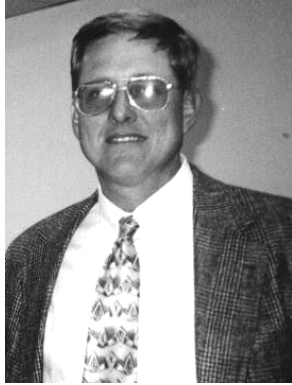
FROM "ZION'S ADVOCATE," JAN 15, 1876: Elder William Turnage died on November 17, 1875 at 85 years of age. Elder Turnage was baptized in the state of Indiana about the year 1813 and on the day of his baptism repaired to the house from the water and by the request of the preacher open service by singing and prayer. He was soon licensed to exercise his gift, and in the year 1816 moved to Missouri and finally settled in Ray County, where he was ordained to the full work of the ministry, and where he labored faithfully for the long term of 55 years. He was a safe, sound, doctrinal preacher of the Gospel. He was sweetly gifted in experimental exposition of the great doctrinal truths he taught, and was blessed in an eminent degree with the gift of exhortation. Combining this variety in his gifts, he was eminently useful, and had more to do with the collecting together and building up churches than any other one man in that region of Missouri.

ELDER DALE TURNER, JR.

I was born in Limestone, Maine on September 13, 1958, coming to Texas at the age of three months where I have spent the remainder of my

life. I am a carpenter by trade. I have two children, a son, Heath and a daughter Ashley and one grandson.

I began exercising at the age of 17 and was ordained on November 2, 1985 at the Ephesus Church in Rule, Texas. I was called as their pastor the following year. In 1987, the church at Grandfield, Oklahoma called me as pastor. I have served these churches since that time.



When I was starting out in the ministry, I became very depressed and thought about laying my gift aside. Soon after, I was made to realize that if the Lord called me to preach the gospel, then I must accept that great calling. There have been many trials along the way, but the blessings have far outweighed the trials.

BY DAVID MONTGOMERY: I was blessed to have grown up with Brother Dale. We first met when we both seven and eight years old. We both began exercising about the same time and were ordained one year apart. In 1971, our families (our fathers worked in the same occupation) were transferred to the State of Utah. The experiences we shared together in that location closely bonded our friendship together. Brother Dale and I do not get to see each other very often now, but our mutual love and affection is still very strong. He is a fine minister and an asset to our people.

ELDER IRA TURNER

Elder Turner was born on November 30, 1843 in Gobson County, Ind. He united with the church in Owensville, Ind. in October 1860.

He pastored churches in Indiana from 1872--1875, in Illinois for 14 years, and in Missouri for 30 years.

He began preaching in Kansas in 1868. He helped organize two churches in Kansas and two churches in Illinois and he helped re-organize a church that his grandfather Miller had originally organized. He baptized more than 300 people, helped ordain six elders, preached more than 600

funerals, and while in Missouri, he married 151 couples. In 1874, he was paralyzed, but continued to preach and records show that he was still preaching in 1922.

ELDER JAMES B. (JIM) TURNER, JR.

I was born September 22, 1935 at Russellville, Arkansas, to James Benjamin and Meda Pearl McCain Turner, her only child. I was brought up under the sound of the gospel at old Point Remove Church, Atkins, Arkansas. My father was a deacon in the church and served as church clerk for many years.



At about the age of 12, I first felt to be a condemned sinner in the sight of a just and holy God. I soon had a desire to unite with the church, but refused to give in to that desire. Finally, the fourth Sunday in June of 1951, I asked for a home in the church, and to my surprise, was joyfully received. I was baptized that same afternoon, by our pastor, Elder J. H. O'Neal.

On November 27, 1955, I married Owreta Fay Patton of Havana, Arkansas, and less than one year later, we moved to Little Rock, where we still live today.

I became involved in the life insurance business, and soon became one of the top salesmen in the district. I thought I had found my profession for the rest of my working life, but on May 2, 1968 something happened that changed my life forever. I was driving my car that day, when I felt that the Lord was requiring something of me, and I did not know what to do. At the same time, I had this burning desire to get home and open my Bible. When I finished my day's work, and got home, I immediately opened my Bible. What I saw just about scared me to death. Everywhere I looked, I could see the doctrine of salvation by grace. I felt that I knew then, what the Lord was requiring of me, but I did not see how in the world I could ever do what I felt that He was requiring of me. I went to our pastor, Elder Ernest Woodall and told him my experience

and his first words to me were: "Brother Turner, the Lord will never require anything of you that He does not first give you the grace to perform it." I have certainly found this to be true.

On the second Sunday in December, 1971 (Dec. 12th) New Hope Church, ordained me to the work of the ministry. The Elders in my ordination service were Elders: B. Isaacs, Garvin Green, Ernest M. Woodall, Elmer Calton, R. H. Attaway, J. R. Haymon, Howard Cartwright, Andrew J. Isaacs and Nathan Langley. The deacons present were Brethren: John Isaacs, V. J. Rutledge, Starling McCarty, Cephas Matthews, and James Smith.

The churches that I have served are Bethlehem Church near Lincoln, Arkansas from 1971 to 1977, Pilot Mountain Church near St. Joe, Arkansas from 1972 to 1988, and my home church, New Hope here in Little Rock from March of 1981 to the present time.

ELDER RUPERT W. TURNER

Born August 29, 1918, son of Creed William and Annie Light Turner, one of nine children. He married Irene Roberson, Henry County, Virginia, in 1938, and had one daughter, Ann. He and his wife were baptized in 1960. He was ordained in 1962, and pastored: Community Church, Stuart, VA; Good Home Church, Axton, VA; and Angier Church, Angier, NC. He traveled to many churches during his ministry. He died June 29, 1990---faithful to the end.

ELDER WALTER A. TURNER

COPIED FROM GOODWILL - OCTOBER 1952: Elder Turner was born on the 29th of April 1880 in Colquitt, Georgia. He is the son of Isaiah S. and Mary Turner. In September of 1902, he married Miss Sally Kent.

He united with Pleasant Grove Church in Moultrie, Georgia in 1912 and was a faithful member until he moved to Wauchula, Florida in 1913, at which time he placed his church membership in Mount Carmel Church. Some years later he moved his church membership to Paynes Creek

Church but just before his death he moved to Peace River Church in Fort Meade, Florida. Elder Turner was active in farming most of his life. During his later years he was employed by an insurance company.

During his lifetime, Elder Turner raised three families of children. After his first wife died, he married Mrs. Amanda Holland.

Elder Turner passed away on June 7, 1952.

ELDER J. J. TURNIPSEED

Elder Turnipseed was stricken with paralysis on May 6, 1929 and lived until the afternoon of May 13, when he passed away. He was an able and useful minister.

ELDER WILLETT TYLER

FROM "PRIMITIVE MONITOR:" Elder Tyler was born near Lexington, Kentucky, February 26, 1808. When he was twenty years of age he was married to Miss Rachel Montgomery. To this union ten children were born. In 1838 he moved to central Indiana, where his wife died in 1853.

In December 1859, he was married to Miss Nancy Nay. To this union five children were born.

As an expounder of the gospel, he was a man of more than ordinary ability. He was a rapid speaker and a very earnest defender of the truth, as he believed. His address was pleasing and impressive; all of which made him a man much admired by his friends, whether in the church or out.
